



Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2002

Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 150644, San Rafael, Ca 94915-0644 <http://www.gerstlepark.com>

Eighth Annual Garage Sale Fundraiser on June 22

GPNA is preparing for its big annual fundraiser, so it is time to clean out your closets and garages and participate in our annual garage sale. We are changing the venue this year from Short School to Gerstle Park. This is our major fundraising effort of the year and your help and/or donations are needed, since our ads will draw in a large crowd of shoppers. You can participate as a vendor, as described in the flyer below, or by volunteering your time or donations. Either way, you can have a lot of fun at this event, when Gerstle Park will be bustling with people.

Volunteers are needed to distribute vendor location maps at Gerstle Park to browsers or to sell snacks and refreshments. Donations of soft drinks, cookies, cupcakes, pretzels, chips, hot dogs, buns and condiments are sought. Food donations can be dropped off at the main entrance of Gerstle Park on Friday June 21 between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. or on Saturday, June 22, before 11:00 a.m. at Gerstle Park's entrance. Maps showing the locations of all sale participants will be available at Gerstle Park on Friday evening June 21 between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday June 22.

If you can contribute food items or volunteer some time on June 22, please contact Betsy Dalpino at 459-4803 (between 10:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. only, please).

GPNA Starts Density Survey

As we mentioned in our Spring issue, the GPNA Board has been monitoring the development of San Rafael's 2020 General Plan, as well as working on revising our own Neighborhood Plan. You may be aware that the City is under a state-mandated obligation to plan for 2,051 new housing units over the next eight years, 652 of them to be for low and very low

income families. In researching the impact such requirements could have on an older, close-in neighborhood such as ours, which is already densely populated, the Gerstle Park board will be canvassing the core area of Gerstle Park to determine our current density in terms of the percentage of single family homes compared to multifamily homes, apartments, etc.

Of additional interest is the Short School site, which is in the heart of the oldest part of the neighborhood, surrounded largely by Victorian and Arts & Crafts bungalows. Short School's long-term future is unknown, but if the school district should ever divest itself of the site, the City has identified it as a potential future site for high density affordable/workforce housing of up to 46 units.

The questions we have posed are: 1) With its current density, Is our neighborhood already doing its fair share for the City in terms of providing a mix of housing? 2) How will adding more housing density to the core of our neighborhood affect traffic, parking, and noise concerns? 3) Would an increase in density in Gerstle Park be detrimental to the neighborhood's ambience and to the peaceful life of its residents? 3) When planning future density changes, will the City be sensitive to the legacy of the many architecturally historical buildings that lend Gerstle Park its character and uniqueness?

Board member Jennifer Stroman is readying maps and survey forms for Board volunteers to use as they walk our streets in the next couple of weeks. We will share the results with you in our Fall issue.

GPNA Needs Your Help!

It takes a couple hours every three months to walk a few blocks and drop off newsletters to your neighbors. We have lost several of our newsletter delivery persons and need volunteers! If you could lend a hand, please call Eve at 482.8391.

Spring Fling Wrap-Up

Once again the Spring Fling was a huge success! The GPNA “bunnies” hid over 650 eggs in Gerstle Park; the throng of over 100 children made short work of the lot! Extra big thanks to all of you that left bags of eggs on my porch, or brought them up to the park and helped hide them! Special thanks to Carol Hughes and the 4-H for again bringing their wonderful bunnies for the kids to pet and hold, to Melissa Daly for her delicious home-baked cupcakes, to LaFayette Bakery for a neighborly discount on cupcakes, to Rafael Lumber for a last-minute loan of tables and chairs (the lock was mysteriously changed on our old storage closet), to Jan Bishop for her talented face-painting skills, and to Megane Bishop for donning the bunny costume and makeup for the kids!

GPNA Clean Up Day

A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated and who volunteered in our annual Clean Up Day on May 4. Special thanks to the folks at Marin Sanitary and to Supervisor Hal Brown for arranging for the debris boxes. Neighbors showed great respect and cooperation by delivering only ‘green trash’ and helping to compact it down to make room for everyone’s efforts in the neighborhood clean up. We wish also to thank the new members who joined that day and all those who gave a donation. It was a very successful effort and we enjoyed seeing all of you that day.

Open Space Broom Pull

On March 23, nine volunteers from Center Point spent the day helping to pull French broom in the Gerstle Park open space near D Street. Great progress was made in ridding one area of this pesky invasive plant. Special thanks to Board members Steve Schoonover for arranging this event and to Krystyna Barron for making delicious lunches—and of course to Center Point for their outstanding labor efforts! If you would like to learn more about becoming involved in the ongoing effort to keep our local open space open, call Hugo Landecker at 456-0221.

New Board Member

Barbara Schilling, who was elected last October to serve a second term on the GPNA Board, has relocated to Southern California. We’d like to thank Barbara for her many contributions to the Board, particularly the Christmas Caroling Event which was held at the Trinity Lutheran Church last year. We found Barbara to be a pleasant addition to the Board and shall miss her gentle yet clear-headed perspective on the issues which came before us. Thank you, Barbara, and good luck in your new adventure!

As we bid Barbara adieu we would like to welcome new Board member Richard Geist, whom the Board, in accordance with GPNA By-laws, unanimously appointed to fill out the remaining portion of Barbara’s term. Richard and his wife Julia have lived in Gerstle Park for 29 years, and joined GPNA at its inception. Richard is a retired general surgeon, the former Physician-in-Chief at Kaiser San Rafael, and is a retired U.S. Army Reserve Colonel. He has been active as a community volunteer, serving on the San Rafael Task Force for Neighborhoods/Homes as part of the 2020 General Plan, and chairs the San Rafael Paramedic Services Committee. He continues to do volunteer medical work and serves on medical committees. His interests in the neighborhood include preserving the family environment of Gerstle Park, retaining Short School for community or children’s use, continuing the improving alliance with San Rafael Police for security and safety of families, incorporating a mechanism for GPNA oversight into the San Rafael General Plan/zoning/permit process for projects in our neighborhood, and continuing to work with the city on traffic and congestion issues.

Neighborhood Disaster Preparedness Committee Formed

September 11 made us remember that devastating events do occur. Even without a terrorist attack, in Marin we can anticipate fires, flooding, landslides and earthquakes. Officials estimate that after an 8.3 earthquake on the northern San Andreas fault there will be huge numbers of dead and wounded. Fire, police and rescue workers will be diverted to larger cities. We will be on our own for three days. There will be no power, water, sewage disposal or phones for days and grocery stores may run out of supplies. Many people will be separated from their families due to damaged roads and bridges. This means that you and your family as well as the other 1,200 families in our neighborhood will have only ourselves to rely on. Are you prepared? Does your family know what to do?

There is good news for Gerstle Park. A group of residents has formed a Disaster Preparedness Committee to help neighbors get prepared and learn what to do in the event of a disaster. Committee members are carrying out a pilot program with their neighbors on Grove Street, Greenwood Avenue, Woods Street, C Street and Reservoir Road. Working with Fire Chief Brian Waterbury, and based on responses from neighbors on these streets, a plan will be developed for all of Gerstle Park. Chief Waterbury heads up the DART program (Disaster Area Response Team) for San Rafael and is also a Gerstle Park resident.

Members of the Committee have been through the DART training, learning simple fire fighting techniques, basic search and rescue skills, injury assessment, utility control and how to identify hazards and building damage. The neighborhood needs more DART-trained volunteers if we are to prevent injuries and save lives. The training is fun, informative and takes just five evenings. For more information about DART, call 485-3308.

As the pilot program is tested and plans mature, Committee members hope to have the entire neighborhood covered by skilled disaster leaders in the event of a catastrophe. The Committee's progress will be reported in the next Newsletter issue. In the meantime, if you have questions or would like to help, call Tamra Peters at 457-7656.

Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) Membership Application

Please complete the information below and return with your check to:
GPNA, P.O. Box 150644, San Rafael, CA 94915-0644

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Do you wish to receive this newsletter at your home? Yes No

Would you like to be included on our mailing list? Yes No

Email Address: _____ Date: _____

New Member Renewal

Amount Enclosed*: \$_____ *Annual donation: **\$10.00** per household (**\$5.00** seniors) - 1 voting member

Payment Type: _____ Term of membership is from November 1st to November 1st

How did you hear about GPNA? Friend Newsletter Other: _____

Welcome to GPNA!

Did You Know?

Having recently been the victims of a computer virus hoax, we opted to pass along a little information regarding this problem for those of you who have computers. Viruses are a costly nuisance, and you should not discount the value of proper antivirus software (and keeping such software up to date) if you share files with other users or use the internet for browsing the web and/or sending and receiving email. NEVER open anything included, linked, or attached to an email from someone you don't know - and be hesitant to open a file or program if you weren't expecting something from a particular friend or colleague.

However, don't let the fear of viruses lead you astray. You should also hesitate to believe any email you receive that was not authored by a person known to you, and consult one of many available resources on the web for verification (a few are listed below.) Any email telling you to make direct modifications to your computer is likely to be a hoax - the one we received (and unfortunately followed) instructed us to find and delete a file on our computer as "it is a virus". The reality is that the email was a clever scam intended to cause us to delete a program necessary to our computer and then to pass on the misinformation to "everyone in your address book." In this case, it was a malicious person and not a malicious virus that did the damage!

<http://www.nonprofit.net/hoax/>

<http://vil.mcafee.com/hoax.asp>

<http://www.stiller.com/hoaxes.htm>

TINA YESSON
Broker Associate, Marchant Chapman Realtors®

Thirty Year Gerstle Park Homeowner
Gerstle Park Real Estate Specialist
Call me to buy or sell your Gerstle Park home
Direct 451.1494

*this ad paid for by Tina Yesson

Incidentally, there are hundreds of urban legends floating around on the net. Next time someone sends you an email pleading that you pass it on for what appears to be a genuine cause, check first - most seemingly valid causes are either untrue, or have long-since expired!

<http://urbanlegends.miningco.com/>

2002 Calendar of Events

June 22	Garage Sale
September 16	Annual Picnic
October 23	Annual Meeting
October 31	Halloween Contest Judging

Your Neighbors Are My References!!

323 Bayview St	shingle style Arts/Crafts
322 Bayview St	English Tudor bungalow
231 Bayview St	shingle style Art/Crafts
153/155 Clark St	70's style duplex
523 C St	Victorian duplex
112 San Rafael Ave.	shingle style Arts/Crafts
200 Marin St.	shingle style Arts/Crafts
51 Clorinda	Victorian remodel
134 Clorinda	shingle style Arts/Crafts
362 Clorinda	contemporary style
365 Clorinda	contemporary style
2 Antonette	Spanish Style
119 Clayton	shingle style Arts/Crafts
125 Clayton	shingle style Arts/Crafts

Fine Line Painting - "The Gerstle Park Specialist"

~Since 1987 — Estimates 485-1493 — prepped right to last~



GPNA Monthly Meetings

Remember, You're Invited!

Upcoming GPNA meeting dates are: Wednesday, June 12th, Wednesday, July 10th, and Wednesday, August 14th

Check www.GerstlePark.com for time and location.

The Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association Quarterly Newsletter

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SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY JUNE 22

EIGHTH ANNUAL GERSTLE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

It's time to empty your closets, storage areas and garages and sell that stuff that's been taking up space for too long. On June 22, GPNA is sponsoring its eighth annual garage sale at Gerstle Park. If you have too many items to transport to Gerstle Park, you're welcome to have a garage sale at your house and pay a minimal \$20.00 to join in the fun. For your \$20.00 contribution, you get your address and location printed on the official GPNA sale map, a description of the items you are selling, ads in the IJ and the Chronicle/Examiner and a large orange sign to hang in your yard or on your apartment.

If you want to sell your goods at Gerstle Park, pay \$25.00 for a 6' by 12' space or \$40.00 for a 6' by 20' space and get more traffic. The garage sale hub is at Gerstle Park and thus more people stop there to shop. Fill out the registration form below and mail it with your check marked "Garage Sale". If you have questions, contact Betsy Dalpino at 459-4803 between 10:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

**Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA)
Garage Sale Registration Form**

Please complete the information below and return with your check (payable to GPNA and marked "Garage Sale") to: **GPNA, Attn: Tina Yesson, P.O. Box 150644, San Rafael, CA 94915**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Date: _____

I plan to hold my garage sale:

- At my home or apartment building (\$20.00)
- At Gerstle Park (\$25.00) 6' by 12' space
- At Gerstle Park (\$40.00) 6' by 20" space
- I cannot participate, but would like to make a food/drink/baked goods contribution.
- I cannot do any of the above, but would like to make a donation to GPNA! My check for _____ is enclosed.

List of items you want to include on the map (4-5 items maximum please):

If you're not already a current member of the Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association, you may want to take this opportunity to become a member (or renew your expired membership) – Thanks.

- New Member Renewal Annual donation \$10.00 per household (\$5.00 Seniors) – 1 voting member
- Term of memberships is from November 1 to October 31.

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

FOR GARAGE SALE: \$ _____

FOR MEMBERSHIP: _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Remember your garage sale registration fee is per family not per household and should be returned no later than June 20 to be included on the official map. All proceeds go directly toward funding GPNA neighborhood events.