

Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association

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

ANNUAL GPNA GARAGE SALE JUNE 14

Well it's that time of year again! GPNA's annual neighborhood-wide garage sale will be held on June 14, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you are in a shopping mode, this is an opportunity to stroll through the neighborhood (after stopping at Gerstle Park to visit the sellers there, buy a hot dog or goody, and get a neighborhood map of home-based sellers.) Or, if you are in a selling mode, go through all that clutter you have hiding away in your closets, garage, drawers, and storage areas. Your junk will become someone else's cherished treasure! Of course, you can be in both selling and buying modes in our GPNA super sale fundraiser!!

If you would like to participate as a seller, you have two options:

Option 1: If you want to sell your items at your home, a contribution of \$20.00 to GPNA will get your address and a description of the items you are selling printed on the official GPNA sale map, and you will receive an orange sign to hang in your yard or apartment to attract buyers.

Option 2: Reserve a space at Gerstle Park and bring your items there. You can have a 6' by 12' space for \$25.00 or a larger space of 6' by 20' for \$40.00. The advantage of using the Park location is more buyer traffic, as the Garage Sale hub is at Gerstle Park. All buyers will be stopping by there first to acquire sale location maps.

We will also be placing ads in local papers to draw buyers. And we will happily accept any home-baked goodies you would like to contribute toward this fundraiser. Just drop your items off at Gerstle Park on the morning of the sale.

To participate, fill out the registration form on page 3 and send it to the address on the form BEFORE JUNE 9 so you can be included in the neighborhood map. Any further questions please contact Chandra Murphy at 482-8033 or email murphdtm@yahoo.com.

ARE WE HAVING AN EARLY FALL?

Have you noticed that the street trees are shedding an unusual amount of leaves, and it is still only spring? GPNA has found out that primarily sycamore trees are infected with a fungus (anthracnose) that causes an early leaf drop. We usually experience this disease somewhat every year, but it is especially apparent this year due to the late rains. There are very toxic sprays that can be used with marginal results. Hence, the City doesn't spray. The trees will overcome this disease as the season progresses and eventually will leaf out normally. Do not be alarmed!

2003

A VERY ZINGY SPRING FLING

The annual Gerstle Park Spring Fling was held April 19th and was well attended! We lucked out with a beautiful day! Neighborhood "bunnies" hid well over 700 eggs of all colors and flavors for the youngsters to hunt, and boy, they did! There was a special area for the littlest ones to enjoy while the amazing "White Rabbit" led the big kids throughout the upper areas of the park. Jan Bishop was busy painting little faces, and we had a visit from two real bunny rabbits, who were brought by the 4-H for everyone to pet and ask questions. We provided cakes, cupcakes, and refreshments for everyone! A BIG THANKS to all of the folks who donated time, eggs and help to make this the BEST Spring Fling ever! Please remember that YOUR membership dues support this event every year, so don't forget to re-new or join the GPNA!

SAN RAFAEL'S GENERAL PLAN 2020

Your Association has been actively involved in helping with the process of developing San Rafael's new General Plan, which is being developed by a Steering Committee assisted by City staff. GPNA often participates in the public comment portion of the committee meetings. Eventually the plan will go to a series of public hearings before the Planning Commission and the City Council. The intent of the plan is to address needs and goals of the City up to the year 2020, as mandated by state law. Gerstle Park residents, particularly property owners, should be aware that this plan will definitely affect all of us, and it would benefit everyone to get involved in the process.

The Plan consists of a number of elements, each of which is addressed separately. Currently there are some elements that will affect the future of our community. For instance, the Culture and Arts Element includes historic/architectural preservation (see the GPNA Historic Preservation article). The Traffic Element is dear to all of us. It deals with the traffic impacts of providing more housing as well as needs for regional increases. The Housing Element covers the amount and placement of additional housing, a hot issue for high-density Gerstle Park. The Neighborhood Element gets more specific with the needs of individual neighborhoods.

GPNA Board members have been working hard to try to represent neighborhood interests in the above elements, as well as many others. Please call Hugo Landecker at 456-0221 for ways that you can help.

NEW HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETS

In response to the GPNA Board's interest in identifying and protecting the facades of Gerstle Park's wide array of older homes, a committee of interested neighbors met on May 6 to discuss ways to achieve these goals. At least partly at GPNA's request, the City of San Rafael has already listed in its proposed General Plan 2020 the goal of updating and expanding its 1986 Architectural/Historical Survey. Gerstle Park would like to participate in that effort, which in its final phase will have to be done with professional input under California Office of Historic Preservation guidelines. The time frame for the City to accomplish this survey update is not yet known.

Our preservation group would like to help things along in Gerstle Park, by looking at the neighborhood houses currently on the survey, identifying others which should be on it, and establishing a relationship with the appropriate city agencies. In the near future, we would like to walk the neighborhood in small groups, identifying those houses which merit placement on the City's list because of their age and architectural interest. Currently placement on the survey has meant at least some cursory review of any proposed construction plans by the Cultural Affairs Commission, and the committee discussed the possibility of exploring this issue in the future.

One of our committee people is hard at work retrieving from City files the original survey report on each house listed in the 1986 Survey. Others are working on identifying sources of help and information.

This is just the beginning of what may be a long process (and an interesting and fun one). If you would like to help or would like to make a comment and have not yet contacted Cynthia Landecker, please do so at 456-0221 or clandecker@saber.net.

GERSTLE PARK GETS NEW NEIGHBORS!

After encouragement by GPNA, the city of San Rafael has recently included the north side of First Street between D and B Streets and the new homes in the 300 block of C Street within the boundaries of the Gerstle Park neighborhood. GPNA felt that this logical expansion of our boundaries would benefit both the residents and the Association, who can now work together on issues of mutual concern. If you are an owner or a tenant in one of these locations, we are happy to welcome you officially to Gerstle Park! The Association has written a welcome letter to our new neighbors, and we encourage them to join and become active in GPNA.

GERSTLE PARK'S TOT LOT

The City of San Rafael is moving forward with plans for the pre-school tot lot renovations at Gerstle Park. The Park and Rec Commission met on April 17, 2003 and approved plans to install a new tot lot in the lower park area adjacent to, but separated from, the big kids' swings. A small Americans with Disability Act-mandated bathroom will be constructed near the lower playground. This part of the plan will be phase one. Outdated equipment will be removed from the old tot lot with the exception of the dragon. In phase two of the plan, the original tot lot will have a new sandbox and a new rocking play structure. Due to neighbors' objections, there will be no picnic tables placed in the original tot lot.

Park and Rec Director Carlene McCart and the plan's architect have picked out the play - equipment for the new lower tot lot playground. They have picked out some great structures which will be neutral in color, as this equipment will be visible to neighbors and passersby.

The next phase is to draw up the structural plans, which will receive an engineering review. It is hoped that by June or July the plan will go out to bid and the City hopes to break ground for this project beginning in September. If you are interested in looking at the plan for these renovations, they are posted in the GPNA kiosk at the entrance to the children's play area in the park.

If you have further questions regarding this project, please don't hesitate to contact Chandra Murphy at 482-8033 or email murphdtm@yahoo.com, or call Carlene McCart of the City's Park and Recreation Dept. at 485-3333.

NEW SECOND DWELLING UNIT ORDINANCE

On May 19 the San Rafael City Council passed a new second dwelling unit ordinance. This ordinance was mandated by California State Assembly Bill 1866, which dramatically revises the standards and process for constructing second units. The GPNA President and a neighborhood volunteer worked hard to get input into this ordinance, especially regarding our concerns with parking problems and crowding of housing. Given the strictures put on cities by AB 1866, we were pleased that the City staff and Council respected at least some of our concerns in the final version of the ordinance.

A GERSTLE FAMILY COMMUNICATION!

Our GPNA web site received the following communication from Audrey Whiteman, a Gerstle family descendant, and we thought you would all be interested in reading it. First, a little background for those who don't know the park's history: Lewis Gerstle and his partner Louis Sloss were successful San Francisco businessmen, whose wives were sisters. The two families had the wherewithal to escape from the cold San Francisco summers, so they established neighboring summer homes in what is now Gerstle Park, where the families lived gracious lives. In 1930, the property was donated to the City of San Rafael as a park, and the Gerstle house, Violet Terrace, was torn down some years later. The Sloss home fronted on Grove Lane and burned down many years ago. The garage Ms. Whiteman refers to is probably the Sloss "carriage house", one of two Sloss structures still standing. The other is now the Gerstle Inn. We have replied to Audrey Whiteman, answering her queries, describing GPNA activities to her and telling her how proud we are of her family's gift to San Rafael. Here is her letter to us:

I am very interested in hearing about your agenda and what you do. You see, Gerstle Park is my ancestral home. My great-grandparents were Lewis and Hannah Gerstle, my grandfather and grandmother were Mark and Hilda Gerstle, my mother and uncle were Louise and Mark Gerstle, Jr., and I am very familiar with the park on what used to be our Violet Terrace estate having visited twice in the last few years with my cousin, Mark Gerstle, III.

The last time I was at Violet Terrace I had a plaque installed on one of the benches with my mother's name - it was Louise Alice Gerstle Stahl, and she lived from 1901-1987.

I found the park to be beautifully cared for when I was there, and this pleased me immensely. I am glad that it was given to the town of San Rafael, and if I lived in California, I am sure I would visit often. As it is, I live in New Jersey on the East Coast, but expect to be in California within the next year or two, and will make another trip to Violet Terrace to see the old family home. I wish that the 3 large houses that were once there still remained, but am glad the garage remains. When I visit, I sometimes "feel" the presence of my departed relatives, and I tell them that the place is well cared for. Is there another place on the Internet

where I can read more about Gerstle Park? Also, I am interested in Gerstle Park Inn - who runs it, and who named it. I am sorry that I didn't get to visit there when I was in San Rafael the last time, but will make sure to include it on my next visit. The relatives who live closest to the Park are Rupert and Cynthia Jernigan who live in Tiburon, CA. Cynthia is my first cousin, and is the daughter of Mark Lewis Gerstle, Jr., my mother's brother.

I hope you respond to this e-mail as I am really interested in your newsletter and what you do in connection with Gerstle Park. Thanks for answering.

(signed) Audrey Whiteman (daughter of Louise Gerstle Stahl)

THE FEDERATION OF SAN RAFAEL NEIGHBORHOODS

A few months ago, the GPNA Board invited members of the Federation of San Rafael Neighborhoods to attend one of our Board meetings to discuss the activities of the Federation. GPNA is a member of the Federation, so we wanted to share with neighborhood residents the following description published by Federation officers:

"Founded in 1992, the Federation has served as an umbrella and advocacy group for all neighborhoods in San Rafael, south of Puerto Suello Hill. The group sees a real need to address multi-neighborhood issues that cross over neighborhood boundaries and impact multiple number of neighborhoods. Often individual neighbors or neighborhood associations have addressed these issues in ineffective and redundant ways and have been unable to gain the attention of the City of San Rafael. The Federation has gotten involved in graffiti abatement, downtown development, street repaving, illegal units, wildfire safety, St. Vincent's dining room and many more issues since its inception. The group is made up of both neighborhood associations and individuals who often care about broad issues that can impact all of San Rafael. The group has established a positive partnership with the City and created a vehicle for solving real problems with positive outcomes. Interested parties or individuals who wish to become involved can contact the Federation at 453-6541 or steve_patterson@mcgraw-hill.com."

SURVIVING A DISASTER, PART II

In the last issue of the GPNA newsletter, Chief Brian Waterbury of the San Rafael Fire Department outlined some vital steps we should all take to effectively prepare for the very real possibility of a serious disaster overtaking this neighborhood, such as fire, earthquake, a terrorist act, or other manmade or natural cataclysms. Below are a few additional tips that Chief Waterbury outlined for us.

- Post emergency telephone numbers by telephones. Teach children how and when to call 911.
- Make sure everyone in your house knows how and when to shut off water, gas, and electricity at the main switches and valves.
- Learn basic first aid and CPR.
- Reduce the economic impact of disaster on your property and your family's health and financial well being.
- Review insurance policies. Make sure they are current and meet your needs.
- Review life insurance policies and consider saving money in an emergency savings account. Keep a small amount of cash or travelers checks at home, in a safe place where you can quickly access it in case of an evacuation.
- Be certain that health insurance policies are current and meet the needs of your family.
- Consider ways to help neighbors who may need special assistance, such as the elderly or disabled.
- Make arrangements for pets. Pets are not allowed in public shelters. Service animals are allowed.

A complete set of Chief Waterbury's recommendations is available by calling 456-0221. A good summer family project would be to review these recommendations and take steps to implement them! Preparedness can only empower you and your children.

Your GPNA Board is working on the possibility of adopting a neighborhood-wide disaster response and preparedness plan, which would dovetail with SRFD's ongoing Disaster Area Response Team (DART) training. The six-week DART classes are offered on an ongoing basis and cover all the necessary basic skills you would need to survive in a disaster. We remind you that GPNA will reimburse half of the \$40 training fee to the first 20 residents who complete the program, and we urge everyone to take this life-saving training!

Please phone Dawn at 485-3308 for more information regarding the DART program.

BEAT ONE OFFICERS

All residents should be aware that San Rafael Police Department officers who cover the Gerstle Park Neighborhood are in the Department's Beat One. We are fortunate to have the following Beat One police assigned to us:

DAYS:

Cpl. Dan Hanlon
Officer Chris Sweeney

NIGHTS:

Cpl. Charlie Metcalf
Officer Aaron Piombo

To contact the police:

Emergency: Call 911

Non-emergency: Call 485-3000

If you want to reach any of the above officers for matters which are not time-sensitive, you can send an email to beat1@srpd.org

All residents should be aware of current SRPD policy regarding citizen complaints. When a complaint is made, the investigating officer can be requested to inform the person making the complaint of any resulting action taken by the police. This policy will avoid the problem of people thinking that because they never heard from the police after making a complaint, no action was taken.

Your Neighbors Are My References!!

Exteriors:	323 Bayview St.	shingle style Arts/Crafts
	322 Bayview St.	English Tudor bungalow
	332 Bayview St.	Victorian Farmhouse
	231 Bayview St.	shingle style Art/Crafts
	153/155 Clark St.	70's style duplex
	200 Marin St.	shingle style Arts/Crafts
	51 Clorinda	Victorian remodel
	134 Clorinda	shingle style Arts/Crafts
	357 Clorinda	contemporary style
	362 Clorinda	contemporary style
	365 Clorinda	contemporary style
	2 Antonette	Spanish Style
	119 Clayton	shingle style Arts/Crafts
	125 Clayton	shingle style Arts/Crafts
	57 Clayton	40's bungalow
	76 Clayton	40's bungalow

Interiors, TOO!

Fine Line Painting - "The Gerstle Park Specialist"

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

SUMMER OPENINGS - don't delay!



The Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association Quarterly Newsletter

Year 2002-2003 Number 3

All articles written by GPNA board members.

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Layout: Ken Goudey

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SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY JUNE 14
NINTH 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 14, GPNA is sponsoring its ninth 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 local newspapers, 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 Chandra Murphy at 482-8033, or email murphdtm@yahoo.com.

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 - Garage Sale, 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 9 if you wish to be included on the official map. All proceeds go directly toward funding GPNA neighborhood events.

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

Your current GPNA newsletter editor, Cynthia Landecker, feels that after three years of mothering neighborhood newsletters, it is time to turn the job over to someone else. We are looking for an eager volunteer who would be willing to shepherd four newsletters annually. Board members write many of the articles and pass them on to the editor, who gathers all the articles, checks content, and passes them on to the "publisher", currently our legendary super-hero Ken Goudey (see below), who does the layout and prints them up into readable form and readies them for distribution by a cadre of neighborhood volunteers. The editor's job, besides fulfilling the Association's vital need for communication, is really satisfying and entertaining, putting the editor in touch with the many interesting issues and interesting people that affect the neighborhood. PLEASE, volunteer!! The present editor's last newsletter will be Fall of 2003, so we will need a new editor in place after the Oct. 30 GPNA Annual Meeting, to prepare the Winter 2003 newsletter for distribution by Nov. 28. Call Cynthia Landecker at 456-0221 or email her at clandecker@saber.net. OR, if you are interested in helping Ken with the layout or production of the newsletter, contact him at 577-0002 or email ken@gerstlepark.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 5: Monthly Board Meeting*
June 14: Annual Garage Sale
July 3: Monthly Board Meeting*
August 7: Monthly Board Meeting*
Sep 4: Monthly Board Meeting*
Sep 11: Annual Picnic
October 2: Monthly Board Meeting*
October 30: Annual Meeting

* If you desire to address the GPNA Board of Directors, or to attend a Board Meeting, please contact Hugo Landecker at 456-0221 (or email: clandecker@saber.net) for meeting location and time.

WEB PERSON, WHERE ART THOU?

We are looking everywhere in the neighborhood for a kind volunteer who can take over the job of keeping our good web site up to date. It should not be an unduly onerous job, and would make GPNA a much more communicative, vibrant, dynamic, 21st-century, with-it, hip, hep, happy, and holistic organization. If you can help, contact Ken Goudey at 577-0002 or email ken@gerstlepark.com.

