

Gerstle Park

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Summer 2013



2013 GPNA Garage Sale, Sat. June 15th from 9AM – 2PM.

New this year: SALE CHOICES!

Option #1: **GARAGE SALE AT YOUR HOME (\$20)**

Registration includes: Use of (1) yard sign, inclusion of your sale on the official GPNA Garage Sale Map w/highlights of a few of your major sale items, advertisements on Craigslist & the Marin IJ classifieds, and on posters throughout the neighborhood. NOTE: Yard signs will be available for pick up at 109 1st Street either Thurs. 6/13 from 6:30pm-8:30pm or Fri., 6/14 from 3:30pm- 8:30pm (Stacey: tel 272-2073). After the sale (no later than Sunday) please return the signs back to the same address for reuse next year.

Option #2: **RENT A PLACE IN GERSTLE PARK (\$30)**

For just \$10 more, you can be guaranteed sales! You will be assigned a minimum 10' x 10' area in Gerstle Park. Buyers will be able to shop multiple sales in one stop. Ideal for Gerstle Park neighbors who don't get a lot of foot traffic on Garage Sale Day. Large signage will be posted outside Gerstle Park (no need to pick up a yard sign), in addition to mention of your items on Map & advertising on Craigslist + Marin IJ. *Apply early—first come first served, space is limited. Tables not provided.*

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Please list 4-5 key sale items:

GARAGE SALE REGISTRATION:

At your home \$20 _____

In Gerstle Park \$30 _____

RENEW YOUR ANNUAL GPNA MEMBERSHIP: :

2013 Regular Membership \$20 _____

2013 Membership - SENIOR \$10 _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Complete and return form and check to: GPNA, Attn: Garage Sale, PO Box 150644, San Rafael, CA 94915

Registration also available online: www.gerstlepark.com

IMPORTANT:

For guaranteed inclusion in Garage Sale MAP registration must be received by Tuesday, June 11th



Fun at this years Spring Fling.

President's Column

Happy Summer time to everyone!

We have had an active spring in the Gerstle Park neighborhood, our beautiful, interesting and caring community. The annual Spring Fling event was visited by a wonderful bunny in her antique flower bower truck. Also greeting about 200 neighbors were friendly San Rafael Police and Fire Department representatives. We thank volunteers who made the egg hunt happen: artists Kale and Lumiel at egg coloring, Ann the jelly bean count mathematician, Judy and Bob premier membership promoters, Kearsley at the refreshment cornucopia, Jay at the bunny stand, and to our intrepid Board who work very hard for you. We very much appreciate contributions from our friends: Muffin Mania, Starbucks, the Panama Hotel, San Rafael Pacifics Baseball, Girl Scout Cadette Troop # 31522, Jeannie for decorations, and Bob/Amy M. for the bunnies. Everyone went home with a balloon and a smile and some with special prizes.

Please thank our volunteers who worked two long mornings in sweltering heat to spruce up the D Street entrance to Gerstle Park for **Earth Day**. There are many opportunities to beautify our historic neighborhood. info@gerstlepark.com

For goings on in San Rafael, including Falkirk greenhouse restoration, wetland recognition, homelessness action plan and more, see our City Manager's informative monthly communication <http://www.cityofsanrafael.org/citymgr-snapshot/> The San Rafael Public Library has many offerings: story hours, a book club, technology training and my favorite, an enlightening free monthly art lecture highlighting local exhibits. See you at "Impressionists on the Water" at City Hall, 1 pm June 5th, <http://srpubliclibrary.org/services/>

June 15th is our HUGE neighborhood-wide Garage Sale.

Exciting change this year! In response to suggestions from many, we bring back the option of a sale either at your home OR in Gerstle Park. Read the details in this newsletter and sign up right away. If you or your group would like to help before, during or after the sale, contact garagesale@gerstlepark.com

For timely **information about Marin County, Handy Community Help Phone numbers and a great photo gallery**, see our website, www.gerstlepark.com

You are welcome to our **monthly Board meetings** (see website.) We are looking for new Board members, dedicated neighbors who care, so contact me with your interest. The Board is a terrific team to work with!

It's always a great time to join, volunteer and contribute to our wonderful neighborhood group. Renters and property owners alike, please send in attached membership form.

Yours truly,
Amy Likover
president@gerstlepark.com, C: 415.450.1520

Save the date - Bocce Saturday, July 27th !

1st Annual Neighborhood Bocce Event.
At 550 B Street. More information to come soon.

From the Short School

Over the past three years Short Elementary School has been open and operating a variety of programs to support our students. When we re-opened in the 2010-2011 academic year, we started with 3 Kindergarten classes and 2 Early Intervention classes (3 and 4 year old students.) The Kindergarten classes have now grown into 1st Grade and next year we are happy to announce that we will be introducing 2nd grade at Short School.

As we continue to matriculate our students we have seen a need for additional facility improvements. Over this summer you will see construction crews on site adding handicap accessible ramps, building teaching walls in all of our classrooms, and adding landscaping to beautify the campus. We are thrilled about the improvements that will be taking place this summer.

The staff, students and families at Short School are also excited about becoming more involved with the Gerstle Park Neighborhood. We are interested in your ideas, such as play dates and incoming student orientations, so please send them to me.

I encourage families with school age children to tour our school, to see all that good learning taking place. Please contact the front office at or email me to set a time.

Have a great summer,
Pepe Gonzalez, Principal
pgonzalez@srcs.org Short School 485-3793

Earth Days In Gerstle Park

Thanks so much to Mary, Patricia, Amy, Nancy, Mark, Hugo, Diantha and Ross for your time and efforts on our Earth Day GP Beautification Project, April 20 and 21st! The D Street/ Antoinette Avenue white wood fence looks really great now that it's sanded, scraped and painted. Some of the women even got a jump on weeding. What good neighbors you all are. A special shout-out to Hugo for long hours and taking charge of transporting paint, brushes, cleaning tools, etc. and for the clean up. When the autumn rains come, we'll do some fun planting. Contact president@gerstlepark.com to get on our planting list.



So Much More Than Muffins- 30th Anniversary of Muffin Mania

by Dotty LeMieux

I meet Ilona Galante at 3 PM precisely as Muffin Mania closes for the day. We sit in the two comfortable leather chairs in the sunny front window which are part of the renovation and modernization of the restaurant inspired by her son Dylan's moving into the family business. Ilona tells me how people rallied to help get Muffin Mania up and running again after a major leak from damaged equipment. "Everyone was so generous; they really pitched in," says Ilona, and that is the story of the little Muffin store that could.

Muffin Mania, now an icon of Gerstle Park at the intersection of B, Bayview and Taylor Streets, began as a supplement to founder Rocky Sullivan's work as a musician. Rocky and Ilona moved from New York to Marin in 1976 so he could be near the music. "We had one suitcase each, one child (Dylan), a cat and a dog," says Ilona.

"Rocky (born Anthony Galante) took the name Rocky Sullivan because he wanted a new start in a new place." It comes from the James Cagney character in the 1938 movie *Angels with Dirty Faces*.

Rocky started Muffin Mania with a Brooklyn diner recipe for cornbread, quickly revamped into vegan fare by Rocky. The vegan muffins immediately became popular and remain among the most ordered item on the menu today. Later came sandwiches, soups and salads.

The famous Rocky rolls come from his Dad Tony's pizza parlor in Brooklyn. Early on, Muffin Mania was a hit, profiled in local newspapers and magazines as the only muffin bakery in Marin.

A second son, Jarrett, was born in 1979 and Ilona had her hands full with kids and helping in Muffin Mania. So did Rocky and before long, he found himself as a full-time baker, rising at 3 in the morning to get the rolls in the oven.

Ilona knows all her customers if not by name then by what they order and has seen the children of her early customers grow up and become regulars themselves. She fosters longstanding customer loyalty by "always introducing myself to new people, so they know they are coming into a familiar place."

"I have formed many friendships here over the years," says Ilona, "friendships that go beyond these walls." When her husband, Rocky, died in 2007, "there was so much love and concern" in the customer base, she says.

Son Dylan attended the Culinary Institute of America, and after Rocky's death, expanded the menu considerably to include items like gourmet pizza, fruit and gingerbread-filled buns, and delicious authentic ciabatta bread.

Over the years a host of musicians and other celebrities have stopped by, including Pete Seeger, Sean Penn and members of bands like Santana. Until recently there was a Bill Graham wall memorializing the Bay Area's rock entrepreneur. Now original artwork graces the newly painted wall, and art shows and occasional wine tastings are held.

"I am extremely grateful and always have to be thankful for what I have received" says Ilona.

Gerstle Park Welcoming Group Forms

New to the area? Want to meet your neighbors and introduce yourselves? Join us for coffee as we get together to welcome neighbors. Rsvp: president@gerstlepark.com

Saturday June 22, 10:30-11:30 AM, Muffin Mania, 2 Bayview St.

The Pacifics Rookie Club

Children up to the age of 12 who love baseball and want to get connected to our local club can sign up here http://www.pacificsbaseball.com/pressbox/?article_id=273 or contact Rosie Aguilera at: rosie@pacificsbaseball.com

GPNA Thanks the Department of Public Works for Repaving D Street by Cynthia Landecker

Everyone knows that GPNA actively connects with many issues that face our community. It was over 100 years ago and well before GPNA was even thought of that a long and hard-fought battle transpired to pave D Street for the first time. City



Hall did not want to do it. After all, those were the days when the residents used horses and buggies. The residents won the battle and the photo below shows the conditions before it was paved for the first time. It is believed that it was this photo that convinced City Hall of the necessity to pave D Street.

Fires in San Rafael's Hills by Chief Gray

The City has been aggressively working in Open Spaces areas to minimize the threat of illegal camping.

Residents are advised to contact the Police or Fire Department if you see any suspicious activity in your neighborhoods or the hillsides. With an abundance of vegetation this year due to the winter rainfall, fire season is here early this year. Residents are encouraged to maintain defensible space around their homes. When the dry vegetation is combined with higher temperatures, lower humidity and wind...it creates a deadly fire threat.

Please follow this link to learn more about what you can do to help us protect the community from wildfire:

[Fire Season 2013: Ready, Set and Go!](#)

Residents should also be vigilant concerning potential unsafe conditions or activity that could result in a fire and to contact the fire department for questions or assistance. Call 911 immediately for any fire or police emergency. To report suspicious activity, call the Fire Department 485-3393 or the Police Department 485-3307.

Planning News- Proposed Dialysis Clinic, 1411 3rd St. by Ross Parmenter

Four weeks into discussions with city planning, developer Meridian Group and Architects Harriman Kinyon had a preliminary meeting with neighbors. On display were a front elevation (facing north to 3rd St) and a floor plan only including current outlying parking and new parking 'under' the building. In a few weeks all four sides drawings will be available electronically.

The existing structure will be razed as it does not meet any standard required for their services. It needs to comply with a government entity similar to OSHA but specific to medical standards called OSHA PA. There will be 24 "stalls" with 3 shifts per day. They plan to be open 6AM to 6PM except Sunday. Their research says most clients will live with in 4 - 5 miles from the facility and will need 3 treatments per week minimum.

Developers expect, if approved, the project would be at least two years away from servicing clients. Meridian owns the building and would lease it to a dialysis provider. The initial lease is 15 years with terms to renew. To sign up for Planning information, http://acm.cityofsanrafael.org/Government/Community_Development/Planning.htm

San Rafael Service Day

June 1, 9:00 AM - 12 PM.

Meet at the entrance to the Mahon Creek Path on Andersen Dr. near Lindaro St.

Bring: Reusable water bottle, sunscreen, layered clothing, sturdy closed-toed shoes.

Help clean up of Mahon Creek and Path, an oasis adjacent to downtown San Rafael. You'll know that you're making a difference when you see birds and other wildlife near the creek; on occasion you can even see egrets and river otters. Afterwards, you can visit nearby Wildcare animal sanctuary, or walk downtown for lunch or shopping. Tools, gloves and bags will be provided. Volunteers, sign up on www.sanrafaelvolunteers.org, or just show up. Youth under the age of 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. To volunteer all youth must have a Volunteer Service Agreement form, available onsite signed by a parent. Carla.koop@cityofsanrafael.org 485-3071

Wild Turkey in the Open Space - From Hugo Landecker

Today as I usually do each morning during the rainy season, I was pulling the invasive species, French Broom in our open space not too far from D Street. Thought I heard a turkey. The gobble gobbles were getting closer and closer. Soon I could see a very large tom turkey. Never did see any hens. Okay, I just kept pulling broom. There was a long silence. Then I said gobble gobble and the turkey answered gobble gobble. This was followed by a long silence. Gobble gobble and another answer. This must have been repeated twenty times. I have since learned that I can talk turkey too. See our website for maps of hiking trails on Gerstle Park's 14 acre Open Space.

GPNA Financial Corner

Current balance: \$3,576.49

GPNA Calendar of Events

Tentative schedule

June 15	Garage Sale
July 27	Bocce Event
August 6	National Night Out in Gerstle Park
September 15	Annual Picnic
October 31	Halloween Haunted House Contest
December 9	Winter Social, Panama Hotel
January 23	Annual Meeting

Board Meetings: June 13, July 25, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12.
Contact president@gerstlepark.com for details

GPNA Board

Amy Likover, President
Gina Silvestri, Vice-President
Hugo Landecker, Treasurer
Ross Parmenter, Member-at-Large
Needed: Board Secretary, Board Members, Event Coordinators
Contact info@gerstlepark.com





Gerstle Park

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Annual Membership Form

Membership year runs from January 1st - December 31st

One Vote Per Individual - \$20/year (\$10 seniors age 65+)

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

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____ Date: _____

all GPNA correspondence is via email

Payment Type: CHECK CASH

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Interested in volunteering for the following events or committees?

If so, please indicate with one or more checks.

Descriptions can be found on our website, www.gerstlepark.com.

COMMITTEES

- Membership Committee - promotion, organization and staffing membership tables at events
- Open Space Committee - weeding of invasive species (French Broom) in neighborhood open space, Nov-May

EVENTS *includes planning, decorating, helping day-of:*

- Fall Picnic
- Christmas Caroling
- Garage Sale
- Halloween Decorating Contest (judging)
- Spring Fling Egg Hunt

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVOCACY IN SAN RAFAEL

- City Planning
- Homelessness issue
- Large Group Home Regulation(s) Committee
- Parks
 - Gerstle Park Albert Park
- Zoning enforcement

NEWSLETTER *Quarterly*

- Distribution
- Editing
- Graphic Design

PHOTOGRAPHY

WEBSITE

Welcome to the GPNA!