



# Gerstle Park

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Winter 2014

### Upcoming Events

## Winter Social

**Monday, December 8th, 2014 6:30-8:30 PM**  
Panama Hotel, 4 Bayview St.

Complimentary appetizers and hot apple cider! Thanks to GPNA Member/Panama Hotel Owner Dan Miller.

There will be a cash bar. It's time to renew old friendships & meet new neighbors. Join us! Adults only, please.

## Christmas Caroling

**Thursday, December 11th, 2014 6:30-8:30 PM**  
**Where:** Gather/practice at 127 San Rafael Ave.  
**When:** Meet at 6:30 PM, Depart at 7 PM  
**What:** GPNA provides hot apple cider and songbooks  
**Bring:** A dozen cookies to share and your own flashlight



We've dusted off the GPNA songbooks and invite you to join us serenading the neighborhood, led by the talented guitarist Greg Barnett.

Caroling needs both carolers and an audience. Would you like to BE caroled? Email [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com) or call Gina Silvestri (716-0130) to be on the caroling route, or to suggest a neighbor we could contact who might like to be caroled. We ask that you be at a window or door where we can see you enjoying our joyful noise.

**Weather:** If light rain, bring an umbrella and dress accordingly. If heavy rain, we'll reschedule following Wednesday, same time, same place. This is an especially great event for children, so bring them along!

## Like to Garden?

The triangular shaped green space at Antoinette and D Street is ours to care for. Our manzanita are thriving and a huge crop of native poppies are about to "pop"! Many thanks to Janis, Diantha, Bill and Amy for watering during our long dry season. Now is the time to weed! With moist soil, invasives pull easily. A fun job to do with neighbors. Amy: [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com) or 450-1520



## GPNA Annual Meeting

**Monday, January 26th**  
**6:30-9:00 PM**

**Elks Club: 312 Mission Ave., San Rafael**

Guests: Mayor Phillips, Police Chf Bishop, Fire Chf Gray  
Contact [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com) to volunteer

Cash bar opens at 5 pm

6:30-7:00 PM Meet and greet; homemade refreshments

7:00-7:45 PM The Year in Review slideshow and reports

7:45-9:00 Guest Speakers and Q & A

## Halloween Decorating Contest Results

**1st Place:** 235 Marin St.

**2nd Place:** 217 Bayview St.

**3rd Place:** 508 D St.

**4th Place:** 12 Ross St.

**5th Place:** 533 D St.



### Honorable Mentions

127 C St

31 Clorinda Ave

421 D St

538 D St

101 Marin St

23 Ross St

217 Ross St

114 San Rafael Ave

128 San Rafael Ave

109a Taylor St

### Prizes Donated By:

Muffin Mania

Brushless Car Wash

Marin Bocce Federation

Body Kinetics Health Club

North Bay Dental

Panama Hotel & Restaurant

GPNA

## President's Column

The rains have come, along with the promise of a lovely fall and winter. Already, moss is thriving on the Gerstle Park bluestone wall, part of the original Gerstle family estate.

Speaking of the Park, neighborhood leaders meet there on a regular basis to prepare for emergencies, and we encourage you to join us – read on about ReadyGerstlePark. The Board is proud that we have stepped up to organize, meeting the exigencies of living in earthquake country. The knowledgeable San Rafael Fire Department and CERT program representatives lead our drills.

Our neighborhood looked downright spooky at Halloween, and we thank you for decorating your home, and also to the merchants who provided prizes to 17 homes. Join the fun next year, and decorate!

The annual September picnic was a great success, with close to a hundred neighbors in attendance along with local officials, a terrific band, entertainment for the children, and a delicious barbecue provided by the GPNA. Thanks to our trusty volunteers!

December is an exciting month: the annual Winter Social at the Panama Hotel is always a great time to meet new people and to catch up with old friends. That same week GPNA's friendly troubadour, Greg Barnett will lead singers to carol the neighborhood. We hope you join us!

Monday, January 26 is our Annual Meeting, and we look forward to welcoming you at the Elks Club majestic meeting room. We have a great array of guests. There will be delicious homemade snacks and of course our annual "Year in Review" slideshow, along with Board elections. Now is the time to submit a paragraph about why you'd like to serve! It's a fun and "happening" way to contribute to your community.

Thanks, and I look forward to hearing from you!

Amy Likover  
GPNA President

## Treasurer's Corner

**Greetings, Gerstle Park Neighbors!**

Balance (as of 08.31.2014): \$5150.05

Expenses: \$1909.95

Income: \$375.85

Balance (as of 11.12.2014): \$3616.40



## ReadyGerstlePark — Emergency Preparedness Drill

**Saturday February 7th, 9:00 AM Sharp  
Gerstle Park Playground**

This is our 3rd Drill and you are all invited. The San Rafael Fire Department will demonstrate three simple life-saving skills: stopping bleeding, splint-setting and moving an injured person away from danger. GPNA supplies disposable gloves.

The GPNA sponsors drills every two months. In August, block leaders talked through disaster related scenarios and de-briefed with our first responders and CERT specialists. In November, leaders learned the three medical skills we will help teach in February.

For more training, consult the CERT program:  
[readymarin.org](http://readymarin.org) or the SRFD 485-3307





# Neighborhood Interview

With Dotty LeMieux

Kevin Stockman and his wife Sharon Barnett live in a charming small home at the elbow of Elford and Willow Streets. Both make their living as naturalists, Kevin as a fishery observer for the National Marine Fisheries Service, while Sharon teaches science at Marin Country Day School. Together they run Marin Nature Adventures, leading bird watching and wildlife tours, and hikes of Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Last summer they led a Hiking & Natural History of Costa Rica trip and this summer they will lead a nature tour of Alaska. Their website is [www.MarinNature.com](http://www.MarinNature.com)



I meet Kevin on a gloomy November afternoon. The sun has just come out so we sit outside and talk. "I've been a Fishery Observer since 2009," says Kevin. His job entails going out on commercial fishing boats, collecting data

and biological specimens that the Fisheries Service needs to optimally manage our fisheries. As a "Ground-fish Observer" Kevin tracks fish that live on the bottom of the ocean. Because some species such as rockfish and Lingcod have been mostly depleted, they are considered a priority for monitoring and as a result are making a comeback.

Kevin is typically called to meet a fishing boat at 4 AM at San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf, Bodega Harbor and occasionally, at Half Moon Bay or Moss Landing. He works about 12-15 days at sea each month and he loves it even though it means being ready to go at a moment's notice. And he never gets seasick, although he did have one harrowing experience. "A few years ago I was aboard a small fishing vessel that developed a big leak. The crew did not speak English so I had to make the Mayday call to the Coast Guard. We weren't far from Point Bonita and the Coast Guard was on the scene quickly and towed us back to Fisherman's Wharf."

Kevin says that the "variety of vessels and experiences keeps the job fresh and exciting." He feels he is providing a service to the fisherman by keeping the fisheries well managed. People often ask him for good sustainable fish choices to buy.

"The best way is to buy local," he says. He recommends sable fish, often marketed as black cod. It is tasty and has a higher Omega-3 content than wild salmon.

One of Kevin's favorite things about our neighborhood are the beautiful trees on C and D Streets. "I love watching them change through the year and [appreciate] the character they bring to the neighborhood."

## BioMarin Expands Input Needed by 12/4

### A Bit of History

BioMarin is a biotechnology firm that develops and commercializes biopharmaceuticals for rare diseases and medical conditions. They now own the San Rafael Corporate Center at 770 Lindero St., a 15.54 acre site, where they are the largest tenant. The remaining spaces are leased. As the leases expire, other businesses will relocate. BioMarin intends to ultimately occupy the entire campus.

### What is coming next?

BioMarin is completing a project that was approved in early 2014. This construction consists of a 5-story parking structure located at the southeast corner of Lincoln and Second and an office building at the southwest corner of Lincoln and Second. Anticipated completion of this project is late 2015.

### Proposed Revisions

Proposed is a new Research and Development building at the northwest corner of Anderson and Lindero (across from the Albert Park tennis courts). This is currently open parking for the complex. To accommodate for parking space loss, BioMarin proposes to increase the size of the new parking lot by adding 271 spaces + the previously approved 666 spaces. There will be a shortage of parking by 40 spaces. The proposal will have to pass reviews by the Design Review Board and the Planning Commission, and there will be public hearings.

There are currently 450 employees on site. The already approved office building under construction will have an additional 180 to 200 employees and the proposed Research & Development building at Anderson and Lindero will have 150 to 200 additional employees.

The GPNA has sets of plans for your review and we encourage you to weigh in. Please contact GPNA Board member Ross Parmenter to view the plans in his office before December 4th. [rossp@pacbell.net](mailto:rossp@pacbell.net)



## Short Story About Our Beautiful Open Space

Short School third grade teacher Megan Johnson asked Hugo Landecker to give a brief talk to students about volunteering for the community. Hugo, who has been volunteering to remove non-native vegetation in our neighborhood open space for twenty years, discussed how volunteer efforts have made our open space into an area that can be enjoyed by the public.

Our open space consists of two sites; one is 15 acres, accessible from D Street, Grove St, Clark Street, Gerstle Park and Makin Grade. The second is 33 acres and is accessible from Upper Toyon, Greenwood Avenue, Clorinda Avenue and Spring Grove Avenue.

*"Thank you for helping the neighborhood!"*

Due to dense non-native growth the formerly inaccessible area has become a public asset and accessible to all.

The primary invasive species - but by far not the only one - is the French broom plant. Hugo encourages everyone to consider volunteering. We can help neighbors and our natural environment.

If you would like to organize your block to clear broom from the Open Space near you, contact Hugo at: [clandercker@saber.net](mailto:clandercker@saber.net)

## What's Happening in San Rafael

Read the Snapshot, an electronic journal from the desk of the City of San Rafael's City Manager, Nancy Mackle. Published on Thursdays before every scheduled City Council meeting, you can learn more about the SMART Train, Marin sanitary rates, homelessness, the City Council race, holiday programming and arts events.

<http://www.cityofsanrafael.org/citymgr-snapshot/>

## Update on Start of PG&E Soil Cleanup Project

PG&E's removal of soil impacted by past manufactured gas plant (MGP) operations at 999 3rd Street in downtown San Rafael is now anticipated to begin in spring 2015. Project permitting is currently taking longer than anticipated.

## Join the Board!

Do you enjoy working with others for constructive improvement? Do you follow local issues? Do you enjoy planning and participating in events? Do you have finance, secretarial, administrative, editing or tech skills? Are you interested in an even better Gerstle Park? If so, throw your name in the hat to be a Board member. Terms are 3 years January 2015-2018, and responsibilities include attending a monthly Board meeting and quarterly events. It's really fun!

Contact [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com)

## GPNA Board

Amy Likover, President

Gina Silvestri, Vice-President

Ross Parmenter, Treasurer

Rupi Buttar, Secretary

Leigha From, Member-at-large

Hugo Landecker, Member-at-large

Contact [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com) or Amy at 415-450-1520

## Calendar of Events

December 8 Winter social, Panama Hotel

December 11 Neighborhood Caroling

January 26, 2015 Annual Meeting

The GPNA Board meets monthly, except in December.

Contact [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com) or Amy at 450-1520 for time and place





# Gerstle Park

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### Annual Membership Form

*Membership year runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> - December 31<sup>st</sup>*

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](http://www.gerstlepark.com).

☐ COMMITTEES

- ☐ Ready Gerstle Park, Emergency Preparedness
- ☐ 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!