

What kinds of community events has the PGHA done in the past?

In the 1960's and 1970's, the Association was very active in planning several annual events, which ranged from children's events at the park to New Years Eve dinner dances at the country club. In the 1990's, the annual schedule included a Halloween parade to Peacock Gap Park with costume judging and treats, an Easter egg hunt in the park, and an annual BBQ in the pocket park at the end of Riviera. A dedicated volunteer, Arlene Van Gessel, tirelessly organized the children's events and the Board members grilled hot dogs for the BBQ. The best available recollections put the annual budget at about \$1,500.

When Arlene and family moved out the neighborhood, the Halloween and Easter events faded. The BBQ was relocated to the "Big Park" and children's events expanded to include a climbing wall and face painting. The hard work for Board members and low turnout, about 100, dampened Board enthusiasm to continue transporting personal grills and doing the grill work.

In 2006, the Board hired a semi-professional grill team and expanded the menu to include chicken and salads, with wine for the adults. The wine was obtained at or below cost from a Peacock Gap resident who owns an organic vineyard in France. Attendance tripled to about 300 and all available provisions were consumed. In 2007, the same grill team returned with more provisions, and attendance reached 400, consuming a record 10 gallons of fiery hot chili.

What is the current budget for community events?

The Association is down to one community event, an annual BBQ. The overall budget is \$7,000 for a BBQ for about 400 attendees, or \$17.50 each. Here's the break down for the budget:

PGHA Frequently Asked Questions - Community Event

Food, grill team	\$4,000
Climbing wall, bounce house	\$900
Magician, face painter	\$400
Wine	\$500
Rented tables, chairs	\$500
Water, lemonade	\$250
Miscellaneous	\$300
<u>Decorations, paper supplies</u>	<u>\$150</u>
TOTAL	\$7,000

Donations

Park Rental, City of San Rafael	\$0
Garbage & Recycling bins, Marin Sanitary	\$0

What are the benefits of Community Events?

The primary benefit is bringing neighbors together with neighbors. Our busy lives these days keep many of us from meeting and getting acquainted with our neighbors. From the abstract benefit of knowing our neighbors, to the more concrete benefit of identifying suspicious visitors to the neighborhood, meeting our fellow Peacock Gap residents in a relaxed family setting improves Peacock Gap.

The community event also provides a forum for issues of concern to the community to be identified and addressed. Specifically, our now three-year long medians project began with a few dedicated volunteers setting up a table at the 2006 annual BBQ and soliciting ideas and committee members. The Committee formed and the actual work will be coming to fruition soon. Here's a photo of the beginning:

PGHA Frequently Asked Questions - Community Event



Another benefit of the annual BBQ is recruiting new members of the Association board. Our current president volunteered to help move tables for the annual BBQ, and ended up the president! This photo is from the 2007 BBQ, and in the background you can see the truckload of BBQ supplies.



PGHA Frequently Asked Questions - Community Event

Finally, the Board has traditionally invited local government representatives, i.e., county and city, to the BBQ to build relationships and discuss issues. The firefighters from the station on Point San Pedro road have also traditionally been our guests.

What changes are being considered?

Homeowners have suggested that more effort should be made to limit BBQ attendance to PGHOA members. We agree and have adopted several measures designed to ensure that any guests of PGHOA members pay a fee for the event. First, though, we should explain how we came to invite non-resident family and friends. Historically, the annual BBQ was not well attended and the thought was that inviting members to bring guests would enhance attendance. As attendance and expenses have grown, we can no longer afford to offer this invitation, which has traditionally appeared on the flyers announcing the BBQ.

The first step to our plan for collecting fees from non-residents is to change the wording on our flyers, and instead announce the fee for friends and family with a way to purchase tickets ahead of time. Next, the Board is working on a ticket distribution system for PGHOA members. The system would require mailing out tickets to homeowners upon payment of association assessments. We are devising a practical and efficient means to ensure that only ticket-holders (either purchased or members) have access to the food line at the BBQ. Due to the “open” logistics of Peacock Gap Park, limiting access will require additional volunteers. We could also have cash purchase options, which would require security and accounting.

Our goal is to host a fun and friendly way for PGHOA members to meet their neighbors and enjoy a day in the park together, while responsibly spending PGHOA funds. We are completely open to suggestions for improvements and especially volunteers to help.

PGHA Frequently Asked Questions - Community Event

Would the Board consider other or additional community events?

Absolutely. We are seeking new and different ideas for events that build neighborhood connections. Send any and all ideas to the web site at contactus@peacockgaphoa.org.