



A CLASSIC AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD

# WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

MARCH 2012

## West End Neighborhood Association Spring Meeting March 15th 7 p.m. At DeTurk Round Barn

Say "hello" to spring and to all your friends and neighbors at the West End Neighborhood Association's Spring Meeting. Our first meeting is a good time to discuss any ideas, plans or projects for the upcoming year. See you there!

### President's Report

On the horizon-The Bodean Asphalt Company's silo project and changes for the DeTurk Round Barn's use permit are the two issues that the neighborhood will consider this year.

Also in the works- on April 14th (Time TBA) a joint cleanup at DeMeo Park with Chop's Interact club. It's time to spruce up the park and the bocce court needs some TLC.

The Luther Burbank Parade is on May 19th- Anyone interested in participating in a West End entry?

On June 30th, the White Water Rodeo returns to the S. R. Creek at the Pierson Street bridge. This excellent family friendly event is right on the creek.

The W. E. Neighborhood Association email updates are your best source for info on events, updates and crime alerts. Sign up at [www.srwestend.com](http://www.srwestend.com)

Sincerely,  
Lea Barron-Thomas



### West End Calendar

A complete calendar at [www.srwestend.com](http://www.srwestend.com)  
**March 15<sup>th</sup>, Thursday- West End Neighborhood Association Spring Meeting.** It's time to get together and talk "neighborhood". **Location:** DeTurk Round Barn Park 819 Donahue St. **Time:** 7 p.m.

**March 21- April 18<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday mornings- Flying Crane Quigong.** Classes held at the DeTurk Round Barn! [santarosarec.com](http://santarosarec.com) to register. **Location:** DeTurk Round Barn 819 Donahue Street **Time:** 10am

**March 18<sup>th</sup>, Sunday "Under the Influence of Tennessee's Women"**- Reception/art show features over 30 local women artists and guest speaker. *Free admission.* [6thstreetplayhouse.com](http://6thstreetplayhouse.com) **Location:** 6th Street Playhouse Studio Theatre **Time:** 5 p.m

**April 14th, Saturday- DeMeo Park Clean up with Chop's Interact Club.** **Location:** DeMeo Park **Time:** TBA

#### Repeating:

**Every first Saturday-** Clean the creek with First Saturday Cleanup. [www.firstsaturdaycleanup.org](http://www.firstsaturdaycleanup.org)

**Every 2nd Sunday- West End Poodle Party.** Like to party. Rain cancels event. **Location:** DeTurk Round Barn Dog Park 819 Donahue St. **Time:** 11 a.m.

**Every 2nd Sunday- West End Small Dog Hour.** Little dogs play in a small scale party. **Location:** DeTurk Round Barn Dog Park 819 Donahue St. **Time:** 11 a.m.

**North Bay Hootenanny every Wednesday at the Last Day Saloon.** Come see traveling acts, up-and-comers, and local favorites! **Location:** Last Day Saloon 120 5th St. **Time:** Show starts at 7:30pm

**Wine Down, Eat Up Thursdays-** Wine, music and food. Dog friendly! Facebook **Location:** Vintner's Square 1301 Cleveland Ave. **Time:** 5- 9 p.m.

### BBQ, Events and website....

...are funded by neighbor dues and newsletter sponsors. Our dues are \$10 a year. Make check to: West End Neighborhood Association and send to: Dan Wright 512 Jefferson Street, S.R. CA 95401 or **pay your dues online at the website with paypal.** Easier to remember if you pay on your birthday month!



#### The West End Neighborhood Association Board:

**President** Lea Barron-Thomas **Vice President** Guy Dean  
**Secretary-Treasurer** Dan Wright **Board of Directors:** Pat Bailey, Kernan Coleman, Rob Cox, Carol Dean, Susan Hayes and Allen Thomas **Newletter & email updates:** Lea Barron-Thomas

## Classic Neighbors ♦ Nello Bassignani

By Allen Thomas

Nello Bassignani and his family symbolize a true American success story. Nello's parents Antonio and Jenny Bassignani grew up in a small Northern Italian village in the late 1800's. After hearing about opportunities in the far away lands of Santa Rosa, California, United States of America, Antonio said good bye to his family in 1906 to reach for the American dream for his own family. Jenny, his wife, and their newborn little girl (Nella) were left behind and later joined Antonio in 1911 in Santa Rosa.

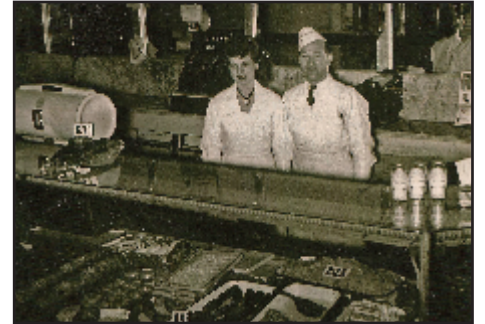
Both parents worked at the Del Monte Cannery and the family lived next to the Santa Rosa Creek across from the cannery. Nello was born in 1912 at home on Pierson Street. After Nello, Jenny and Antonio added three more children to their family for a total of five. In the 1940s, his younger brother ,Alberto, and his uncle started the long standing Bassignani Nursery.



Bassignani Family

His other brother, Peter become a carpenter and still lives in the West End. Nello's youngest sister passed away as a child after becoming ill with influenza.

Antonio organized one of the first West Side Bocce get-togethers on Sunday afternoons at their home on West Third Street across from Imwalle Gardens. Like most West Side men during prohibition (1920-1933), Antonio Bassignani made wine for sacramental use. Nello has fond memories of family gatherings and parties under the family grape arbor. His mother often made polenta with rabbit or chicken with home made bread from their back yard oven and he loved the small pieces of fried dough covered with sugar for dessert.



Nello Bassignani was a butcher by trade

After graduating from Santa Rosa High in 1931, Nello started working at the Pacific Market on 4th Street near Davis. Nello loved to drive so he was a perfect fit as a delivery boy. He soon learned his life long trade as a butcher at Pacific Market.

Nello still had time for fun, so after work he played in a band that performed all over the county from Bodega Bay to Santa Rosa. He and his friends would also roller skate, go to the drive in theater and eat ice cream at the Liberty Creamery on the corner of 4th and Wilson Street.

In 1936 Nello married his beautiful wife Mary and they soon moved to the east side of Santa Rosa. They were blessed with a son, Gary, and daughter, Sondra.



Allen Thomas, Nello and Mike Milano

Today, at 99 years old, Nello is still full of life and a vital part of the West Side Gang. **Nello, your smile is a Santa Rosa Treasure. Thanks for sharing your story.**



1931 Circus Day at S. R. H.S. -  
Nello on Wagon

Nello recalls many things about his childhood in the mostly Italian neighborhood called the West Side (West End). Nello's early life was good. He attended school and explored the Santa Rosa Creek and nearby fields while

America suffered from the toll of World War One and the world wide influenza pandemic of 1918.





## WEST END UPDATES

### Water Wise Upper West End

#### 10th Street Yard Renovation Project

West End denizen Jessica Heatherington brought neighbors together last May for the iGrow Sonoma 350 Garden Challenge. The goal: to help a fellow neighbor convert their yard into a waterwise garden. Jessica procured over 100 donated plants and mulch through the program. Then she coordinated a team of neighbor volunteers to do the digging, transplanting, and mulching. Special thanks to Jessica's mom, Carol (a masterful gardener) who directed the team on the how-to's and plant placement. The result is another beautified waterwise yard on 10th Street!



### Upper West End Block Party - June 30 or July 1, 2012

Neighbors on 10th, 11th, Lincoln & Ripley Streets are hoping to organize a block party on Saturday, June 30 or Sunday, July 1. Details are still being hashed out so look for future announcements. If you are interested in volunteering with the effort, please contact Jessica Heatherington (103 10<sup>th</sup>) or Jennifer Watson (121 10<sup>th</sup>).

### What's Up in the 'Hood?

**West End Homes Rejuvenated:** Check out 133 7th and 135 W. 7th. Both corner homes were dilapidated and forlorn but are in the process of being brought back to life. **WOW!**

**Long time West End Resident, Stan Gow** was recently appointed to the Board of Community Services.

**Ty Jones** was recently appointed to the Community Advisory Board (CAB).



**Neighborhood Watch** Get to know your neighbors and communicate about crime issues. You can also put your crime reports on the West End Facebook Page!

**IMPORTANT  
PHONE NUMBERS**  
**EMERGENCY/POLICE 911**  
**(On Cell phone dial 528-5222)**  
**Non-emergency Police 528-5222**

### Oh No! I'm not receiving my email updates!

The ONLY way to receive these updates is to register your email address at [www.srwestend.com](http://www.srwestend.com)



### DeTurk Round Barn Use Permit

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, a public meeting was held to discuss changes to the DeTurk Round Barn's use permit. An important part of the use permit is that it sets limits to the frequency, size and hours to events held at the Barn. Great care has been taken to control the effects such as traffic and noise to allow us the peace and quiet enjoyment of our homes. Many interested neighbors attended this meeting- an opening discussion about possible changes that Rec and Parks would like to make. Rec and Parks proposal will be presented to the Planning Commission some time in April. We will keep you updated.

In accordance with our agreement with the City, there will be two meetings a year with West End Neighborhood Association representatives to give feedback about the Barn's usage. Our representatives are **Dr. Deborah Crippen, Ben Taylor and Allen Thomas.**

We deliver the WNA newsletter: Steven Higbee, Jacquie Smith, Stacey Murray, Allen Thomas, Michael & Becky McGinnis, Tim Sarter & Kelcey Jacobsen, John & Marcella Mendes, Kathy Hoare, Sher Ennis, Luke & Tiffany Kampmann, Roxanne Trujillo, Juliet Wilson, Jennifer Watson, David Drake & Betsy Hall.

### BoDean Asphalt Co. Update

The City of Santa Rosa held an information meeting regarding a request from the BoDean Asphalt Company to install three new 82 foot storage silos. Neighbors left the meeting with more questions about the project so at this point the community is waiting on the City to determine what type of study or analysis must be done.


David Farr, a representative from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, was at the meeting. The BoDean Asphalt Company has a permit from BAAQMD to operate but they must not cause a nuisance to the surround homes. **So if you smell odors, see blue smoke or see dust coming from the plant and you feel uncomfortable you can get information to David at 1-800-334-6367.** Leave your name if you want a follow up - but you must leave the plant number and name of the operator. The plant number is **13584** and the plant operator is the BoDean Asphalt Company in Santa Rosa.

## Thank-you West End Neighborhood Sponsors!

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**JONWAY**

