



A CLASSIC AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD

WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

MARCH 2013

West End Neighborhood Association Spring Meeting

March 21st, Thursday at 7 p.m.

At DeTurk Round Barn 819 Donahue Street

Come on out to find out what's happening in the 'hood. We will have updates on the West End Farmer's Market, BoDean Asphalt issue, Chop's Teen Center and more. We also have a musical treat- Vinyl Revival, a female group that sings in 3 and 4 part Harmony. See you there!

President's Report

The City of SR no longer prints our newsletter. In our November newsletter, I reported on the City Council decision to allow the BoDean Asphalt plant to build 3 new silos. All true and factual information- but the City for their own reasons did not want us to use city council member names. Really? How can we be fully informed if we are required to withhold important information? So I've decided that we not allow outside editing of our news and will pay for the printing ourselves. (BTW Mayor Ernesto Olivares, John Sawyer, Scott Barley and Jake Ours voted for the BoDean Expansion.) We are thankful for the wonderful amenity the City provided for many years.

Imagine the West End in 5 years. If you take a serious inventory of this neighborhood- it is obvious that it is already an awesome place to live. We do have small homes and yards but have room to stretch in 2 neighborhood parks, nearby creek trails and Railroad Square. We can walk to wonderful businesses, restaurants and events. It's all coming together- the SMART tracks are being installed, a West End Farmer's Market is planned and streets are slowly being improved to encourage the walk/ bike friendly environment we crave.

Sincerely,
Lea Barron-
Thomas



West End Calendar

A complete calendar at www.srwestend.com

2013 W. E. Dates:

March 21st, Thursday at 7 p.m.- W. E. Spring Meeting
DeTurk Round Barn

West End Bocce Season- May 17th to Sept. 20th.

July 20th, Saturday at 2 p.m.- W. E. Bike Parade and BBQ DeMeo Park

November 21st, Thursday at 7 p.m.- W. E. Fall Meeting DeTurk Round Barn

Events and Happenings:

April 20th, Saturday 9:30 - 11:30 AM - Earth Day on the Greenway (ages 5 to adult) Help clean up S. R. Creek. Tools and refreshments provided. : Meet at the Olive Park footbridge. Contact: Alistair Bleifuss at 543-3845 or ableifuss@srcity.org

May 18th, Saturday at 10 a.m.- 119th Annual Luther Burbank Rose Parade and Festival- One of Sonoma County's most time honored traditions and one of the oldest and largest events of its kind in Northern California. roseparadefestival.com

May 19th, Sunday- Amgen Tour of CA Overall Finish- The Amgen Tour of California will finish in Santa Rosa! They will blast down Wilson St. TourROSA.com

June 29th, Saturday 10:30 AM - noon - Whitewater Rodeo on Santa Rosa Creek (ages 5 to adult)

Build a toy boat and race it down the shallow rapids. Wear shoes that can get wet (no sandals). Laughs and prizes, everyone is a winner! Don't have time to build a boat? Materials and assistance will be available that morning to craft your own vessel. Meet at Pierson Street bridge, near #5 Pierson St. between W. 3rd St. and W. 6th St. Contact: Alistair Bleifuss at 543-3845 or ableifuss@srcity.org

Repeating:

Every 1st Saturday 10 a.m.- Clean the creek with First Saturday Cleanup. www.firstsaturdaycleanup.org

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

Every 2nd Sunday 10 a.m.- West End Small Dog Hour. Little dogs play in a small scale party. **Location:** DeTurk Round Barn Dog Park 819 Donahue St.

Neighborhood News

Revisiting DeTurk Commons

By Lea Barron-Thomas

DeTurk Commons is a small subdivision located west of the DeTurk Round Barn. It was created as a "mutual self-help" project. The original residents spent a year (and 28 days) building their homes. Cherie Kemp, her husband Jeremy and son Nathan are one of the original families. DeTurk Round Barn Dog Park regulars will all know Cherie and her golden retriever, Peja.

Cherie says that they were very fortunate to be included. After they were accepted, they met with the other families for a safety meeting. They then spent the next year working on the project, each family was required to put in a minimum of 30 hours a week. They had to supply their own tools like shovels,



tool belts and hammers. Everyone did work based on their skills whether it was hammering, shoveling dirt or other advanced jobs. At the last few months, one of the original families had to drop out due to illness and another family stepped in to complete the job.

The DeTurk Commons is a wonderful example of a fill-in project that was designed to fit into the existing neighborhood. There is a story to how we ended up with this small subdivision in the West End. The entire site, once the City of Santa Rosa Corporation Yard, was a fenced, derelict eyesore for many years. It took a long time to figure out the best way to develop the property

in a way that would protect the DeTurk Round Barn, provide housing and still retain the historical feeling of the West End.

It was not an easy road to get to the final design- there were hours of discussion and debate. At one time, it was even proposed that the DeTurk Round Barn itself be turned into housing. Later, a project was proposed for rental housing over 100+ units. It then went into a plan that would place 38 units on the site (with no park). The final plan was 32 homes and a separate park parcel that included the barn. The Housing Authority also provided \$300,000 to the City to stabilize the barn and to create the adjacent lawn and sprinkler system. There was a big celebration for the completion of the DeTurk Commons on June 19, 1999.

In the meantime, the park was redeveloped and it has a very successful little dog park. The DeTurk Round Barn was rehabilitated. West End neighbors have continued to be very enthusiastic in giving input for every proposed development. The neighbors input must have been pretty valuable because DeTurk Commons has been so successful that many of the original residents still live there today.

When they moved into their DeTurk Commons home, Cherie's son, Nathan was 6 years old. Now an adult, he recently moved out into a home of his own.



Nathan at 6 years

Thanks for sharing your family's story with us. We love having you in the neighborhood!

West African Master Drummer in the West End

One of our newest West End residents, James Ichitey has recently arrived from Ghana, West Africa. He is a master West African Drummer and is teaching classes at AFC. James and his partner Kimberly are both artists and educators with many years of experience performing and teaching. Classes currently emphasize Djembe drumming but will also include Djun Djun, Xylophone (west African Marimba) and other percussion based on student interest. Classes are held on Saturday evenings at 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Arlene Francis Center 99 Sixth Street. 6 week sessions \$108/ Drop-Ins \$20. Ichitey is excited to share his music and culture here in Santa Rosa--his new home! Info at ichitey@gmail.com or 415-410-5859.

Former West-Enders help create a new play space in Santa Rosa.

SR-RC is a race track for battery operated Remote Control vehicles, located at the west entrance to "The Place to Play" park on West 3rd St. Finding that it was not okay to drive vehicles around in open space, or parks, Theo Stater-Calhoun, who grew up on West 8th St. became the liaison to the City of S. R. for creating legitimate race track for remote control car enthusiasts. Petitions were signed, submitted and a piece of land was allocated. Theo and friends rented a tractor to carve out the landscape with a wonderful raceway with curves and bumps, for everyone to enjoy. The city wants to encourage family oriented recreational opportunities. The race track is maintained by volunteers. Go check it out as the racing season is beginning with the nice weather.

Submitted by Gina Stater-Calhoun, proud mother



WEST END UPDATES

What's Happening at 99 6th Street?

By Betsy Hall

"Arlene Francis Center for the Spirit, Art and Politics" is located on the corner of 6th and Wilson Streets and it conducts nonprofit educational programs, cultural events & other charitable community-oriented activities. It seeks to be a center for the community not just for Santa Rosa but all of Sonoma County. AFC is dedicated to bringing people together in the community united by a common purpose of manifesting a theory and practice to foster the creation of a better world. In addition to Nonprofit cultural, educational, social, ethical and ecological activities, the AFC has a café. It serves beverages and light meals and is open from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. For more information arlenefranciscenter.org or call 528-3009.

Save our Homes!

Homes in the Ripley, 10th, 11th, and Lincoln Street area, aka 'upper' West End, are in limbo. The City's General Plan designates this area as Medium Density (multi-family, 18 units per acre) instead of Single Family.

What does this mean? Homes in this area are relegated to "legal non-conforming" status and these homeowners are exposed to the following:

- One-year limit to rebuild their home if it is destroyed;
 - Problems making changes (adding a granny unit or other) because of the non-conforming status a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) is required;
 - Developers can legally build 3-story apartment buildings adjacent to existing homes, larger still if multiple lots were purchased and parceled together.
- Repeated requests for City Council to amend the zoning and change it back to Single Family have been denied or deemed unimportant. We are going to be working on this issue again in 2013 (City Council meetings, petitions, etc). If you are interested in learning more or lending a hand, please contact Rob Cox at robcox@tangramla.com or Jennifer Watson at jennifer@sciencemanagers.com.

The W. E. Neighborhood Association Board:

President: Lea Barron-Thomas **Vice President:** Pat Bailey **Secretary:** Jennifer Watson **Treasurer:** Dan Wright **Directors:** Rob Cox, Deborah Crippen, Carol Dean, Guy Dean, Betsy Hall, Susan Hayes and Allen Thomas

Newletter & email updates: Lea Barron-Thomas

Chops Board W.E. Representative: Leilani Clark

DeTurk Round Barn Committee: Deborah Crippen, Ben Taylor, Allen Thomas



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

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!**

West End Farmer's Market: A group of West End residents along with other members of the S. R. community have submitted an application to the City of Santa Rosa to have a Farmers Market on Donahue St. every Sunday from 10:00 am. to 2:00pm.



The Market organizers want input to the idea of the Market and will presenting some of the concept ideas at the next West End Neighborhood meeting. The group has a parking plan in place but needs your input.

What's going on with the BoDean Asphalt Plant?

A group of concerned residents and community members filed a lawsuit against the City of Santa Rosa last Summer. *Citizens for Safe Neighborhoods* claim that the City of Santa Rosa allowed the heavy industrial Bodean Asphalt plant to expand in a residential area. The plant, owned by Kaiser Sand and Gravel, has been zoned for a less intense use for over 40 years. CFSN is fighting a huge corporation that believe they have the right to expand in Santa Rosa even with any environmental studies. They are also funding the City's defense. Visit CFSN.US for more info and to donate to the legal fund.

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



Pay your dues so we can keep our neighborhood friendly and informed

The West End Neighborhood Association is an independent neighborhood group that strives to provide input to city agencies on anything that affects the West End. We also provide a resource that informs our

residents about West End related news, events and meetings. We organize social events such as West End Summer Bocce, our annual BBQ and Bike Parade, park cleanups and our Halloween Kid's Parade. All the work is done by volunteers. Everything is funded by our Neighborhood Sponsors and membership dues. Dues are \$10 a year, "due" in March but are payable at anytime during the year. Make a check to West End Neighborhood Association and send to Dan Wright 512 Jefferson Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 or you can pay your dues online at the website with paypal. You can also pay at the Spring Meeting.

Our wonderful W. E. Sponsors support helps us publish our newsletter, hold our meetings in the DeTurk Round Barn and our BBQ and Bike Parade. Thank them by patronizing their businesses.

Thank-you West End Neighborhood Sponsors!

We deliver the WNA newsletter: Steven Higbee, 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.



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