



A CLASSIC AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD

WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

MARCH 2010

Spring Meeting

Thursday, March 18th -7 p.m.
At Assistance League of So. Co.
New to You Shop 5 W. 6th Street

Our two special guests are Santa Rosa's new police Chief Tom Schwedhelm and our County of Sonoma Supervisor for District 3, Shirlee Zane. We will offer updates to projects, plans, details and events.

The West End Neighborhood Association holds only **two** general meetings a year. Don't miss out! Perhaps we can meet for a neighborly drink at STARK'S afterwards?

President's Report By Lea Barron-Thomas

The West End Neighborhood is hard to beat for downtown living with easy access to dining, entertainment and miles of creek trails. Not long ago, we were considered run-down, blighted and dangerous.

Today's West End is known as active, hip and "green". Residents live in small, historic homes. Home businesses are common. Artists, musicians and designers abound. Walking and bike riding are popular modes of transportation. Energy efficiency and carbon emissions are a big interest. These changes are the result of many years of hard work and dedication from neighbors like our Classic Neighbors, Dan & Patsy Wright.

Our sponsors support our neighborhood. The West End Neighborhood Association is run by volunteers but incur costs for our events, meetings, newsletter, website and yearly BBQ.

We could not do it without our wonderful sponsors. Remember to support them in return - use their services, visit their stores or restaurants.

Sincerely, Lea Barron-Thomas

West End SPRING Calendar

West End Meetings for 2010

March 18th 7 p.m. Spring Meeting
July 17th Time 3 p.m. Annual BBQ DeMeo Park
November 18th 7 p.m. Fall Meeting

West End Neighborhood Garage Sale

May 1st 9 a.m. -4 p.m. (Rain date May 8th)

It's time for Spring cleaning! To help motivate you, we will have a neighborhood wide garage sale on May 1st (rain date May 8th). The garage sale will be advertised in the Press Democrat, Craig's List and Twitter. Participating households are asked to contribute \$5.

West End Summer Bocce

April 24th Sat. 11 a.m.- Annual Bocce Court clean up at DeMeo Park bocce courts. Bring tools and gloves. Don't forget a hat and sunblock!

2010 Bocce season dates- May 14th to Sept. 17th Friday nights at 6 p.m. West End Bocce is a favorite tradition. Friends, neighbors and their dogs spend lovely summer evenings socializing, eating and ,of course, playing bocce!

Important events to put on your calendar:

September 26th, Sunday 3rd Annual Great West End & Railroad Square Hand Car Regatta

October 24th, Sunday 2010 Full Moon Tour

A complete calendar at www.srwestend.com

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY/POLICE 911

(On Cell phone dial 528-5222)

Non-emergency Police 528-5222



Neighborhood Watch Leaders

Decker St: Tracy Humphrey 570-0396
Boyce St: Chad Gallagher 332-7172
W. 8th St: Allen Barron-Thomas 477-8422
Hewitt St: Michael & Becky McGinnis
526-6868
Polk St: Tom Post 578-0345
W. 7th St: Josh Dillman 546-4831
338-4565
W. 6th St: John Mendes 575-0321
10th St: Jennifer Watson 568-3735
9th St: Sher Ennis 545-8677
Pierson St: Luke & Tiffany Kampmann
571-8987
Ripley St: Kay Sullivan 526-5502
6th St.: Betsy Hall 481-2130



Due you support WNA?

Our 3 newsletters a year, 2 general meetings, yearly B.B.Q., Bocce expenses, updates and an awesome website are all funded by neighbor dues and newsletter sponsors. To pay membership dues, make a check to: West End Neighborhood Association and send to: Dan Wright 512 Jefferson Street, S.R. CA 95401 or **pay your dues at online at the website with paypal**. \$10 suggested but any amount appreciated.



This newsletter printed courtesy of City of Santa Rosa on recycled paper

By Lea Barron-Thomas

Smog, subdivisions and the potential for long commutes drove Dan & Patsy Wright from Southern California to Santa Rosa in 1973. Dan, a civil engineer, had 2 job offers and wanting to live in a coastal county selected Santa Rosa for less pay. Dan hoped to live somewhere in the country. Patsy, mother of a 6 month old, wanted to live close to town. They became the proud homeowners of a new duplex in an older downtown neighborhood.

In the 1970s, the original Italian families with names like Bonfigli, Callori, Bastoni still lived in the West End (then called the Westside). Michele's and Lena's were busy, popular restaurants. Franco American, a bustling bakery was across the street from the Callori Market. The City's Corporation Yard (DeTurk Round Barn Park and DeTurk Commons site) was still active. Railroad Square was trying to recreate itself. There was the Omlette Express, a playhouse on 4th and Sourdough Rebo's, where Chevy's now resides. In the ensuing years, the Wrights saw the Santa Rosa Plaza built and the freight trains stop. In 1977, the Wrights, now with two daughters, purchased their current home across the street from the duplex that they still own. Their girls, Merissa and Sasha went to Lincoln School (on 9th) and to the Lincoln Arts Center (the original Lincoln School site) for dance classes. The CHOPs magnolia tree was smaller then but still tall enough for little girls to climb.

It didn't take long for Dan to get involved with improving the neighborhood. In 1974, the Westside Citizens Committee, with Dan Wright as chairman, spent hours analyzing the problems in the neighborhood and developing solutions with the goal of a neighborhood vision. This study was funded by HUD. Some of the problems: Multiple housing, especially duplexes were changing the neighborhood character. There was no program to preserve historic structures. The lack of adequate park space for active sports and a tot's playground. The future of the City Corporation Yard was a concern. A general feeling of isolation from the rest of the City.

As a result of the study, the neighborhood zoning was changed into R-1-Pd zoning rather than the existing R-2 and R-3. This was a profound change that would keep

the neighborhood primarily single family. Short and long term goals and a neighborhood vision were set. Some of the goals: • A neighborhood clean up campaign • Street, sidewalk and curb improvements • more street trees • improvements to De Meo park. The long term vision of the West End was: Preserve and enhance the residential character; ensure a sense of community identity; maintain and preserve historic structures & promote and publicize the values of living in and older residential neighborhood as opposed to modern tract housing. It was also hoped that one day, passenger train service would return.

In essence, these are many of the goals that the West End Neighborhood Association strives for today. As the West End developed a formal Association, members changed - but the Wrights stayed put. Forty six years later, Dan still serves this neighborhood as the Secretary/Treasurer of the West End. He also spent many years on the DeMeo Teen Center/CHOPS board. Patsy, has a one woman clean up campaign and walks around the neighborhood with gloves and a trash bag.

The Wrights, now grandparents, enjoy their West End Neighborhood lifestyle. You can often see them walking downtown or on the creek trails. 6th Street Playhouse season tickets holders, they especially enjoy the musical productions. Dan is an avid bike rider. Their rental property is immaculate and always has wonderful tenants.

Many of the original goals from the Westside Neighborhood Study have been achieved, some have not. Only part of the West End is now a preservation district, the mix of residential dwelling types have held steady. De-Meo Park was never enlarged- but had a grand remodel adding a tot lot, bocce and basket ball courts. Dan and Patsy still hope for the return of Railroad passenger service, although they hope they are bit quieter than the original trains.



The Wright Family 1993



Thanks Dan & Patsy for being wonderful West End neighbors!



WEST END UPDATES

Upper West End Zoning- On February 23rd, several West End neighbors appealed to the City Council for a change in the General Plan of the medium density zoning in the Upper West End. For over 40 years, the City's General plan has stated that the vision for the area is multiple housing rather than single family homes. That means that single family homes are now considered NONconforming. Thanks goes to Julie Benion, Victoria Paul, Russ Toran, Rob Cox, Kate Sholl & Ken Rise for waiting for hours for their chance to speak to the City Council. A very special word of congratulations and thanks to Jennifer Watson for leading this effort. This process is ongoing –stay tuned for future opportunities to speak out and help preserve the single family character of this part of the West End.

DeTurk Round Barn Rec & Parks will look to City Council to award a contract for the \$2.1 million project.

2nd Annual Give Us Your Best Shot Santa Rosa amateur photo contest! Enter Santa Rosa's 2nd Annual Amateur Photo Contest! Entries will be accepted through June 1, 2010. Open to all ages, photos must be taken in Santa Rosa. <http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/departments/hr/photocontest/Pages/default.asp>



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

Don't let this happen to you. The West End website is the premier source for West End related news and updates. It also offers a calendar, information about the West End and an extensive gallery of photos. The **ONLY** way to receive these updates is to register your email address at **www.srwestend.com**

Laura's West End reflections

Editors note: Mike and Becky McGinnis moved into this neighborhood in 1997 with their two children Sam & Laura. Laura was 4 years old at that time. The whole McGinnis family is extremely talented- everyone draws and/or plays a musical instrument. Dad, Mike, is an art instructor at SRJC and is our resident toy making genius. In spite of a busy family life, the McGinnis family frequently show up to meetings and collaborated in efforts to improve this neighborhood. I remember seeing Laura and Sam, as very young children, quietly coloring at neighborhood meetings. The family has faithfully handed out our newsletters for several years. They've also improved their historic home. Laura, now 16 years old, is home schooled, and takes group and private singing lessons. This is her West End reflection:



The McGinnis Family

I would like to say thanks, to everyone that has made this neighborhood so great. When I first came here, about twelve years ago, it was a run down, almost cheerless place. The park, for instance, had chain link fences around it. Not exactly a place to feel welcome. Now the park has a cheerful atmosphere, with it's cute white fence, and gorgeous wisteria vines. I remember when my dad was on the design committee to make the new playground, and he asked me and my brother for ideas and approval. I really felt special being a part of the community even back then. Our one unfulfilled wish was swings for children over the age of two. We finally convinced my dad to put some in our own yard. I've been spending less time at the park because of this, but I still love it there.

Many of the amazing changes I have seen were brought about by my parents and neighbors going to major efforts, once even going to court to deal with an absentee landlord. Houses that were once drug drop offs are now charming family homes, improved by the strict perseverance of the Cultural Heritage Board. Though the Board has been ... frustrating at times, (we weren't able to redesign our house to have a full basement and a new facade more to our liking) I've really come to appreciate the Board. Through their efforts and the resident's pride, our once blighted neighborhood is now a bright, friendly, family place.

On our streets, I see kind faces and beautiful homes. I hope to someday see the train station running again. I know there are plans to get it going, but with budgets being cut, no one is really sure when that will be. I've got an idea of visiting

my grandparents in Cloverdale, relaxing in a train car that takes me through the lovely Alexander Valley. I also have plans to attend a college in San Francisco, and I love the thought that I wouldn't have to drive all that way, plus pay the full price of parking, the bridge toll and gas.

There will always be room for improvement, but I like to compare now with when I first came, and think how lucky I am to have been brought up in such a loving community. So, thank you, West End neighbors for creating such a spectacular environment. You've done a great job.



Laura at DeMeo Park 2003

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

Newspaper Editor and email updates:

Lea Barron-Thomas

- WNA newsletter delivery provided by:** Carol & Guy Dean, Margot Cox, Allen Thomas, Michael & Becky McGinnis, Heather & Ben Rosales, Sam Rosales, John & Marcella Mendes, Kathy Hoare, Sher Ennis, Kelly Cowen & Melissa Garcia, Roxanne Trujillo, Andrew Zarillo, Juliet Wilson, Emily Vandever & Betsy Hall.

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The West End Energy

Geeks

Stacia Okura
and Pat Bailey



We are a two people in an old house who have been professional energy geeks for about 25 years between us. We are often asked "How can I lower my energy bills?" There are two ways: reduce consumption or produce your own power. In this issue, we will cover reducing consumption through energy efficiency. This is the most cost effective method of reducing your electric bill and should be implemented first.

In the interest of full disclosure, our electric bills are approximately \$30/month in the summer and about \$10 to \$15 more per month in the winter (largely due to the furnace fan). Our gas bills are about \$15/month when we aren't heating the house (water heat & cooking), and high as \$120/month in the winter.

Because we are geeks, perhaps a physics equation explaining energy and power is a good place to start. $Energy = Power \times Time$ In general, residential electricity is sold in units of energy, namely kilowatt hours or kWh. Your electricity consumption/bill will increase whenever:

- (1) You use more power (large power consumers are an arc welder or an electric furnace), or
- (2) You use a smaller amount of power for a longer time (example a tv that runs many hours).

For those of us that don't construct hand-car regatta™ entries, or own arc welders, our energy bills are usually high because the use many smaller energy consuming devices.

Apart from understanding energy and power, it is important to differentiate between 1) energy that is consumed because of the design of your house and 2) energy that is consumed because of your behavior or the characteristics of your appliances. In the first category, namely design related building physics we put things like infiltration (how leaky is your house), size of your house, insulation levels in your walls, floors and roof, type and age of windows, how efficient is your furnace, do you have south facing windows that warm the house in the winter, and more. In general, West End houses are old and have relatively poor building physics characteristics which push energy use up (single pane glass, low insulation levels, high infiltration levels), but are smaller which tends to push energy use down.

In the second category we put things like appliances and your usage behavior (lights on all the time, windows open with the AC turned on, or TV running 14 hours per day).

PG&E has calculators on their web site that can help you understand how appliances contribute to energy bills and greenhouse gas production.