



A CLASSIC AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD

WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

MARCH 2009

March Meeting

Thursday, March 19th- 7:00P.M.
At Assistance League of So. Co.
New to You Shop 5 W. 6th Street

The West End is in the center of many proposals, plans and events. The Spring 2009 West End meeting is where you can familiarize yourself with all the West End updates.

Mayor Susan Gorin will be our special guest and our featured speaker will be The Bird Rescue Center.

This is your chance to get out and meet your neighbors. Hope to see you there!

Spring Calendar-A complete calendar at www.srwestend.com

West End Meetings for 2009

March 19th 7 p.m. Spring Meeting

July 18th Time 3 p.m. Annual BBQ

November 19th 7 p.m. Fall Meeting

Bocce season:

May 15- Sept 18 Friday evenings, DeMeo Park

Bocce Court Clean up

Saturday, May 9th 10 a.m. DeMeo Park.

S.R. Bike and Pedestrian update meeting

April 1 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. 45 Stony Point Circle
Fabian Favila 543-3334 for info

www.6thstreetplayhouse.com

La Cage Aux Folles Feb 27 to March 28

True West March 6 to 22

Narrow Way Stage Edgy, innovative theater
New College Building 99 6th Street

"On an Average Day" March 12-29 at 8 p.m.
www.narrowwaystage.com

Due You Support WNA?



3 newsletters a year, 2 general meetings, 1 yearly B.B.Q., email updates and an awesome website are all funded by neighbor dues and newsletter sponsors. To support the WNA- please 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**. \$10 suggested but any amount appreciated.

President's Report

By Lea Barron-Thomas, WNA President

The West End Neighborhood came out in force to hear the Wilson Street Multi Modal Concept presentation given by Fabian Favila (City of Santa Rosa, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator). The multi-modal concept is a wholistic plan that embraces ALL uses that will share Wilson Street while preventing the historic buildings from being placed in the path of destruction from future development - a definite step in the right direction.

Wilson Street, in the very heart of the West End, is subject to many discussions of future "improvements". The Wilson Street area is Santa Rosa's only surviving historic commercial district outside of Railroad Square. At one time, there were so many Italian-owned businesses that it was considered the commercial arm of the Italian West End.

As stewards of this neighborhood, we must be watchful. The pressure of downtown development and future rail service, *if not wise and thoughtful*, can threaten the charm of our neighborhood. The idea of tearing down historic buildings for new "green" buildings is not sustainable design.

As Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation said, "We must realize that any solution to climate change must include the continued use and retrofit of our existing buildings. That's where historic preservation can play a significant role. Retention and reuse of older buildings is an effective tool for responsible, sustainable stewardship of natural resources, including those that have already been expended."

We are a living example of what today's urban planners are trying to recreate- a small downtown neighborhood with local businesses easily accessible without a car.

The West End's vintage way of life has once again become in vogue.

West End Website

Our website is up and running. It is ground zero for all things West End. Featured information include a calendar, a walking map, West End history, info about the Association and a photo gallery of our many events and gatherings. There is also an exciting Classified section where neighbors can post rentals, garage sales, excess fruits and vegetables. The local resource page is packed with useful information.

We'd like to thank website designer Clifford Hill for his creative design

Sassy Monkey Media <http://sassymonkeymedia.com>

www.srwestend.com

CLASSIC NEIGHBORS ♦ Rita Carniglia Hall

By Lea Barron-Thomas

Our classic neighbor, Rita Carniglia Hall, lived on W. 6th Street from the late 1920s to the late 1940s. She has been a generous source of stories, photos and history of the West End.

The West End is the only surviving ethnic neighborhood in Santa Rosa. From the 1880s to the early 1900s - many Italians immigrated to Santa Rosa where they lived in Railroad Square and West End hotels before becoming part of the community. The Italians were industrious. West End Italians established businesses, worked as stone masons, worked in the DeTurk Winery or the California Packing Corporation aka "The Cannery".



114 W. 6th Street
now at 95 W. 6th Street



Charles Jr., Rita and
Alfred Carniglia

Rita is the daughter of Charles A. Carniglia who was Superintendent of the California Packing Corporation. She grew up in the "Superintendent's house" which was at 114 W. 6th (now a vacant field next to the 6th Street Theater's parking lot.)

Rita describes W. 6th Street- "It was a quiet neighborhood. It was a good place to raise children. All the holidays everybody did the same things. They had their big family dinners and family gatherings." The predominantly Italian households had immaculate homes and yards. Everybody had a vegetable garden.

The social center of the neighborhood was Lena's Restaurant. Everybody who came in and out the restaurant door was greeted by Lena Blake Bonfigli. It was part of the experience of eating at the restaurant. The Carniglia family lived right across the street from Lena's family home (113 W. 6th Street). Rita considered Lena a second mother.

The trains were also a large part of the community. They would carry people and produce in and out of Santa Rosa. Rita's mother and father met on the train. As the story goes, Charles ran across the tracks to ask Miss Rose Bertoni, who also worked at the cannery, if he could accompany her on her ride home to Fulton. She agreed. The courtship was very successful and they married in 1921. They had 3 children- Charles Jr., Rita and Alfred.



Jack and Rita Hall on
their wedding day

In 1940s everything changed. Because of the war, all the young men in the neighborhood left. Families began to move. The freeway now split the neighborhood from the downtown. The cannery had closed years before. Lena bought the Superintendent's house, moved it across the street and converted it into apartments. Rita met and married Jack Hall, moved and raised her own family.

Rita has always kept the West End in her thoughts. She is thrilled that the neighborhood is now a protected historic district. Rita remembers the security she felt here as a child. On Mondays, laundry day, she would walk down the street and every one of the homes on W. 6th Street had their clotheslines out, everything hung in order. She's happy that the neighborhood is revitalizing and is once again a safe, comfortable place for families.



Wedding Portrait of Mr. & Mrs.
Charles Carniglia

Thank you Rita! You are a West End treasure.



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



WEST END UPDATES

Bocce Nights

The 2009 West End Bocce season opens May 15th and runs throughout September 18th. Last Year saw our first Bocce shirts thanks to Kernan Coleman our designer from Ranch Seven Creative. For people that want to stay on the cutting edge of Bocce fashion, we will have a new 2009 Bocce tee. You may pay for it on the website when it becomes available.

Saturday May 9th, at 10 a.m., we will come together and prepare the courts and park for the season. Please bring gloves and coffee we will have the tools.

A few thoughts from last year; we had an incredible time last year and we want to be respectful of De Meo Park. Please no glass, pick up after your dogs, and keep your furry friends under control. The Santa Rosa Parks Department needs our help in maintaining the park so let's keep up the good work from last year.

Many of us bring food to share and this has been a great time to bring extra fruits and vegetables that we grow in our gardens. This event brings us together and that is why living in the West End Area is so special.

The West End's ultimate "teen scene":

Many of you may have visited Chop's and are familiar with its mission: *Chop's—a fun, safe teen environment where we can be ourselves and together have the freedom to explore who we are.*

Here's the 411 for those of you not up-to-speed on the great things Chop's has to offer. Made possible by the generous contributions of Charles "Chops" DeMeo, the beautiful facility is 21,000 square feet of multi-use and recreational space, including a gym, climbing wall, computer lab, art studio, recording studio, night club/café and multi-use rooms. It's open from Monday-Thursday 3-7, Friday from 3-11, and Saturday 12-11, providing teens an entertaining and safe place to be.

Membership is available to teens in 7th to 12th grade, whose parents/guardians have signed a membership form – all for \$1 a year. Chop's, provides it teen members with a safe environment where teens can "be teens," shaping themselves among caring staff who have high expectations for their behavior and safety.

If you haven't been to Chop's, you should stop by for a tour. For more information, you can go to www.chopsonline.com. While there, check out their plans for Spring Break (3/23-3/28).

Joan's West End Nursery

The West End Nursery is finally getting started with the addition of a small greenhouse for starting seeds. The purpose is to make the West End even more attractive. The plants will be for *West End Residents only*. No plants will be sold, but small donations to help cover materials will be appreciated. Most of the plants will be in 4 inch pots. Plants of tomatoes and cosmos, etc. will be available, but if there is something that you would especially like to have, please email me your suggestions. It is almost time to send the last order for seeds, and I would hate to miss your favorites. It will take about 2 months from now for the first plants to be ready. Let's make the West End the garden spot of

Santa Rosa! Please contact Joan at: Joan (singfrog@sonic.net)

When Joan's seeds are available, we'll list it on the West End website, classified section.

S. R. Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan

This plan will guide the implementation of bike and pedestrian facilities for Santa Rosa. The next opportunity for neighborhood input will be April 1st (no fooling!). The meeting will be held at the Transit Operation Center located at 45 Stony Point Circle from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. This is the last opportunity to let the consultants hear from you. West End residents have participated in every step of this long process. Residents have asked for sidewalks at the railroad tracks, traffic calming so our streets are safe for bikes and pedestrians and the construction of the pathway along the SMART tracks. For more information call Fabian Favila at 543-3334.

Welcome Baby!

Leo Van Ducker born March 9 at 7:30 a.m. To Emily and Tyson Ducker



Sophia Sarah Rose Vancil-Karpilow February 8 at 6:14pm on February 8, 2009 weighing 7 lbs. 10 oz. and 21" long to Denise and Ben Karpilow

Regatta Volunteers Needed

If you would like to help out at this excellent event register at <http://handcar-regatta.com/support/#Volunteer>

or email:

erasmus@handcarregatta.com

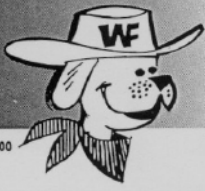
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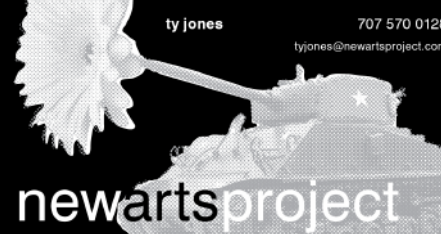
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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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 570-1335
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
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