



A CLASSIC AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD

WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

JULY 2008

West End Annual BBQ

Saturday, July 19th

3 p.m. To dusk

At DeMeo Park

Corner of W. 7th and Polk Streets

Our July is "meeting" is always our annual BBQ and social at DeMeo Park. Our BBQ has something for everyone- bocce, food, facepainting and socializing. We'll have the latest news from SMART, the Greater West End Handcar Regatta and other news that affects our neighborhood.

If you have extra plants or a bumper crop of fruits or vegetable- bring them to share.

The West End Neighborhood Association will supply the main course. Bring a side dish (appetizer, salad, fruit or dessert) to share. Remember to bring serving utensils and to write your name on your dishes.

West End email address has changed!

New address is:

Westend@sonic.net

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: Lea & Allen Barron-Thomas 477-8422

Hewitt St: Michael & Becky McGinnis 526-6868

Polk St: Tom Post 578-0345

W. 7th St: Will Jenny 292-1144

W. 6th St: John Mendes 575-0321

11th St: Fritz Wisor 573-3967

9th St: Sher Ennis 545-8677

Pierson St: Luke & Tiffany Kampmann 571-8987



President's Report

By Lea Barron-Thomas, WNA President

It's summer and a glorious time to enjoy the West End Neighborhood and downtown has to offer... and it's all within walking distance!

If you haven't made it to Bocce- make it a point to stop by on a Friday evening. You'll be surprised to see how many neighbors are heading to DeMeo Park to play bocce, talk and enjoy potluck offerings.

On the 4th of July, the neighbors enjoyed the first Movie Night at the park. Thanks to Sam and Aaron Jacobs and Dr. Deb Crippen for coming up for this fun event.

July 19th is our Annual BBQ and promises to be an event that makes you proud to live in the West End. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely, Lea Barron-Thomas

Calendar

West End Meetings for 2008

July 19th Time 3 p.m. Annual BBQ

November 20th 7 p.m. Fall Meeting

Events:

West End Rosie Tour- July 30th 6 p.m and 7 p.m.

(During Downtown Market) Tour meets at 4th and D r
Greater West End Hand-Car Regatta

Sept. 28 Human powered rail bound vehicles- race and festival 11 to 6 p.m. Handcarregatta.com

Bocce Friday: Every Friday at DeMeo Park 6 to dusk
Pug Sunday 3rd Sunday of each month at 3p.m.

DeTurk Round Barn dog park lhoward@sonic.net

Downtown:

Live at Julliard Sunday afternoon music at Julliard Park

Saturday Music at Depot Park: 12 to 2

First Friday Art Walk 5 to 8p.m.

For info on all downtown events go to

www.ci.santa-rosa.ca.us then "Downtown Santa Rosa"

www.6thstreetplayhouse.com

Sweetest Swing in Baseball Aug 29 to Sept 21

Music Man Aug 15 to Sept 14

firstsaturdaycleanup.org

Volunteer to clean up the creek- sgow@gct21.net



CLASSIC NEIGHBORS ♦ Aileen Bianchini

By Jacquie Smith

Aileen Bianchini was born to Frank and Mable Michetti in 1925 while living in Cotati, California. Her family moved to 206 Boyce St. in the West End Neighborhood in the early 1930's. They rented the home for 15 dollars a month and eventually bought it for \$1500.00. The Michetti's turned the bottom floor into a grocery store and ran the store until the mid 1940's. They sold meat, staples and home-made sausage for .25 lb and some people thought that price was too high. Can you guess what it was called.....yup "Michetti's Grocery". Aileen recalls hearing the neighbor's ring the bell for service and one of the family members would run downstairs to provide help.

Michetti's Grocery would close each year during hop and prune season when the family was operating a store in a "tent city" at the Bussman Hop Ranch on River Road. The store closed when during WWII when Frank had to work at the Mare Island Shipyard.

206 Boyce St. has had many identities. Originally the home was a bungalow and was eventually raised over a new ground floor (where the future Michetti Grocery would be). It had also been a "speakeasy" during prohibition. During a remodel they found a recess in the floor where they would hide the liquor. In 1946, the Michetti's remodeled the building into 3 separate apartments (2 on the bottom level and one large apartment upstairs). Both Aileen and her sister (Marie) got married this year and moved into the bottom apartments with their new husbands. In 1950, Aileen moved out of the apartment and started a family with her husband in their new home in the JC area.

Aileen is a rich resource for our neighborhood history. (Aileen refers to the neighborhood as the Westside). Neighborhood family names included Canevari, Bastoni, Delucchi, Babbini, Bassignani and Traverso. There was a blacksmith shop on Decker St., the bowling alley on Adams (now the New to You Shop), the Garbage Barn on Boyce and the ravioli shop on Prince St. She recalls that Boyce St. was a gravel road until the late 1930's.

"Tar Flats", that's a sticky issue Aileen would like to clear up once and for all. There were no tar-paper roofed houses- repeat NO tar-paper roofed houses as reported by a misinformed local historian. The reputed neighborhood name of "Tar Flats" actually came from the tar weeds growing in the fields. Enough said.

Aileen explained that people didn't have many material things when they were growing up in the Westside, but the experience was great and very special. "Our yard bocce ball court was filled with neighbors on Sundays and the children always played in the round barn climbing rafters and roller skated in the depot." The kids had the run of the neighborhood and were known as the "West Side Gang". During the summer days the man in charge of the ice plant on Donahue Street allowed the kids to play inside and spent many hours climbing up and over the large 30 foot blocks of ice that were used to ice the freight cases. The old "west side gang" still share a special bond. In 1992, 158 "kids" from "across the tracks" came together at Lena's to celebrate and reminisce of their days in the West End. Aileen and her childhood friend, Albina Canevari Babbini were the organizers of the event. Aileen has a very fond recollection of 206 Boyce Street. In the winter, they would make a bonfire in her dad's vegetable garden and everyone brought a potato and a pat of butter. They buried the potatoes in the coals and then ate them when they piping hot- enough to burn their tongues. Aileen states that she hasn't tasted a potato as good since.

WEST END BOCCE SHIRTS

Shirts are \$15 each S ,M, L, XL (Benefit West End Neighborhood Assn. and the Great West End Hand Car Regatta).

DeTurk Roundbarn:

The De Turk Round Barn, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a rare surviving example of a round barn. It resides in the West End Neighborhood and has a special place in most neighbors' hearts.

In 2007, Santa Rosa was awarded a grant for the restoration of the DeTurk Roundbarn. On June 25th, a meeting was held at the Barn to discuss the proposals for its future. TLCD, the project architect, Rec & Park staff, Board of Community Services board members, a Railroad Square representative and over 30 West End residents (and at least 10 dogs!) attended the meeting. Marc Richardson, presented a timeline of the DeTurk Round Barn and informed neighbors that the City wants the DeTurk Round Barn to bring revenue to Rec and Parks and to help fund the Downtown Arts District.

The vast majority of West End Neighbor spoke against the proposals as shown (which were not the work of TLCD). Many comments were made by neighbors. The highlights:

Restoration- First and foremost, the grant should restore the barn. The barn should be rehabilitated with the minimum requirements for safety and public use. All other things to be added if future use warrant it.

Out buildings- Use of the building decided on first before any additional buildings are added to the site. Many who felt that a 1500 sq ft additional building that housed a storage area, office, kitchen and toilets were unacceptable. Public restrooms could become an attractive nuisance.. Consider placing bathrooms inside the barn.

Dog Park- The Dog Park is a very desirable amenity for this park. Open to moving it around the park but insisted dog park should stay the same size or even increase in size.

Uses and Revenue The West End could be severely impacted by traffic, noise, parking and the loss of enjoyment of our park.- Neighbors want input into the types of uses and the size of events. Many found it agreeable that DeTurk Round Barn make money to help maintain itself but questioned why it should raise revenue for other things. The Downtown Arts District doesn't even incorporate the entire West End. Larger events (if allowed) can bring in catering tents and additional bathrooms.

Neighborhood Input- This park and building is right in the middle of a neighborhood and historic district. Imperative to get neighborhood input for any plans the have for the site.



Proposition 8 ~ Temporary Decline in Market Values

Are you paying more property taxes than necessary? With home values down up to 30% in Sonoma County, many homeowners who purchased homes in 2005 and 2006 are lowering their taxes by having their homes reassessed by the county. State law, Proposition 8, addresses a temporary decline in market values. Here is how it works.

The homeowner requests a reassessment providing evidence of a reduction of property values with sales and listing information of comparable properties that occurred between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2008. This request form, along with more information on the process, is available online at <http://www.sonoma-county.org/Assessor/index.htm>. Carol Haseltine-Ernst (phone 332-8297), our own West End neighborhood realty resource, can provide you with the property valuation comparables upon request.

How does this effect your tax payment? If you paid \$450,000 for a West End Home in October of 2005, and comparables show that the value in early 2008 was \$315,000, the reassessment would reduce your annual property tax by \$1,688. That's a reduction of \$140 per month!

What happens when values begin to rise again? Reduction in property tax through Prop 8 triggers an annually review by the county for each new lien year. If you disagree with the county's valuation, you may file for an appeal. When the market turns and property values rise again above your original purchase valuation, your property will be valued using one of two formulas, which ever formula results is a lower valuation.

Formula 1) your original purchase valuation multiplied by a State supplied factor that adjusts for inflation based on the year you acquired the home.

Formula 2) the current market value.


Once your value is adjusted above your original purchase price valuation, you will no longer be under Prop 8 guidelines requiring annual review.

The process seems complex, but is worth it if you purchased your home at the height of the market. Consult with the county assessor's office or a real estate professional for further details and guidance.

By Kathy Hoare ~ RPM Mortgage Carol Haseltine-Ernst

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These folks do business or live in the West End.
Thank-You Sponsors!

Due You Support WNA?



West End Neighborhood Association publishes 3 newsletters a year, has 2 general meetings, 1 yearly B.B.Q. and maintains an email list for neighbors who would like late-breaking news. This is all funded by neighbor dues, newsletter sponsors and other donations. If you would like support the WNA- please make a check to: West End Neighborhood Association and send to: Dan Wright 512 Jefferson Street, S.R. CA 95401 \$5 suggested but any amount appreciated.



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 By Lee Torliatt (Local Author)
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