



Santa Rosa
WEST END

Neighborhood + Historic District



News

October 2019

9th Annual Halloween Block Party

Thurs. | Oct. 31 | 5:30-8pm | Coulter St. (btw W. 8th and Boyce)

Halloween in the West End

by Veronica Jordan (West 6th)

Have you ever danced Michael Jackson's *'Thriller'* with your neighbors? We have! Have you tried to snag a donut off a swinging string (no hands)? We do! Been spooked in a haunted bus? So cool. Hula hooped in the street? Yee haw. Paraded with a giant eyeball? That was last year! Danced down Boyce street? Yup. Launched rolling tires into hula hoops? Woo hoo.

The West End is known for its historic Italian homes, the aroma of the Franco American Bakery, Bocce Nights at De Meo Park, the beautiful DeTurk Round Barn, our fierce advocacy, and a general sense of community. But community doesn't happen without community coming together— to foster connection, laugh with our neighbors, and be a little bit festive. This year marks our 9th year (yes nine years!) of coming together to celebrate the strange, magical and mysterious holiday of Halloween in the West End. There is no better place to bring your kids, your grandma, your dog, or just yourself. All are welcome. Costumes appreciated, but not required.



Join ghosts, goblins, princesses, and fairies. We will gather to stuff our faces with cheese and crackers, goggle at one another's amazing costumes at 5:30pm, parade around the block at 6pm and then hit the streets to get candy on your own trick-or-treating as you (or your younger appendages) wish. Well behaved pets totally welcome, as well as well behaved children of course. Adults— best beware.

[OVER]

[Halloween cont.]

Please feel free to bring a healthy snack to contribute (think oranges, carrot sticks, or cheese— there will be plenty of sugar everywhere else that night) . Or if you have an extra table, a good party game, some mad skills party trick or party idea, let me know at jordanpoling@gmail.com.

Invite friends (you certainly don't have to live in the neighborhood to attend, but certainly if you are, you have NO excuse). Dress up. Be silly. Don't miss it. Heavy rain will cancel, light rain the show must go on!

Photos will be posted on www.srwestend.com.

ADUs Accessory Dwelling Units in an historical district

Affordable housing has been in short supply in our community for a long time and the devastation of the Tubbs fire pushed that problem into an acute crisis. Many of the rules and regulations that preserve what makes Sonoma County great, have also made it incredibly difficult and expensive to build enough housing for all. As traumatic and destructive as the Tubbs fire was, it also galvanized our communities into finding ways to make more housing and keep it affordable. One solution that is gaining momentum across the state is the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU), more familiarly known as a Granny or In-Law unit. They are typically smaller cottages built in peoples' backyards, a converted garage or barn, or sometimes built within an existing home.

ADUs offer many advantages for both the homeowner and the community at large. They are able to provide additional housing without sprawl, a second source of income for homeowners, and relief to a strained rental market. Thanks to recent changes in state law, as well as local government efforts, permitting fees and requirements have been greatly reduced

for ADUs. On the construction side, great innovation has come up in the form of modular and prefabricated designs. Now really is a great time to build an ADU! If the ADU is used as a rental, they typically are repay their investment within about 10 years, and that is while keeping the rent affordable! ADUs can also provide temporary housing for friends and family while they try to navigate today's difficult market for something permanent. Some homeowners, particularly retirees, decide to move into the smaller ADU and rent the main house, which gives them a steady monthly income, and greater freedom to travel while their property remains occupied and looked after. ADUs are truly a versatile thing!

Although the rules around ADUs have gotten easier, it is still a complex project and interested homeowners should do as much research as they can in preparation for taking on such a project and would benefit from the help of a design professional. One *great* resource is the Sonoma & Napa ADU Calculator to estimate the costs, returns, and benefits of building an ADU at www.sonomanapa.aducalculator.org.

Fall Meeting | Round Barn | Thurs Nov. 21

West End Neighborhood Fall Meeting • Thursday Nov. 21
7-9pm • DeTurk Round Barn
Block Captain meeting 6:30pm prior to the meeting

Clean the Creek • Every 1st Saturday • 10am • Meet at Olive Park • Information at www.firstsaturdaycleanup.org.



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