

Santa Rosa  
**WEST END**

Neighborhood + Historic District

# News

July 2022

## PICNIC & BIKE PARADE!

July 16, 2022, Saturday | 12-6pm | DeMeo Park

**BIKE DECORATION** 12pm

**BIKE PARADE** 1pm

**POTLUCK PICNIC** to follow


**LIVE MUSIC** 3-5pm

3 Acre Holler / Also Sarah Overton and Friends

Face Painting and Hula Hoops.

West End Neighborhood Association provides hotdogs / hamburgers / veggie burgers, and fixings. Also lemonade / hibiscus tea / ice water.

Bring a dish to share and liquid refreshments that you prefer (don't forget to mark your serving dishes and utensils).

**Zero Waste** event. Bring your own utensils, plates, napkins, cups, etc. 

Neighbors, family, and friends are invited.

Volunteers needed to help with set-up, clean-up, monitoring bike parade, and more.

Contact: Deborah Crippen (707) 696-2734  
DebCrippen@sonic.net



WHERE URBANISM, PRESERVATION, ART, AND PEOPLE COME TOGETHER

# A Lasting Legacy of Stan Gow: First Saturday Cleanup

by Stephanie Lennox

For the past 15 years, on the first Saturday of every month, enthusiastic volunteers have gathered to clean-up Santa Rosa Creek where it runs through the heart of downtown. This long-standing Cleanup event was founded in 2007 by Stan Gow, beloved West End resident, volunteer, and advocate for Access For All.

Around 2007, Stan began noticing issues of unkempt vegetation and loads of trash on his regular, daily rounds in the West End, along the Prince Memorial Greenway (PMG) and Santa Rosa Creek. He clearly saw the need for more action in our shared community spaces. Stan imagined these environments improved through community volunteers pulling weeds, planting, sweeping, stopping litter in its track. He saw us together making our city more beautiful, safe, and happy. Then Stan did more than imagine, he began what is now the well-established "First Saturday Cleanup."

It took years of dedication to become a successful event even though the concept was to simply hold a regular monthly time to join in community caring actions. For the first year the momentum was slow to build. Often a monthly meeting saw no one else showing up to help. On these days Stan, his good friend Dan Logan and the City of Santa Rosa's Creek Stewardship Program, would put a small dent in the work needed to be done. The lack of community involvement didn't deter Stan's resolve, he knew it just needed time to catch on. A "build it and they will come" kind of energy came with Stan to every First Saturday.

Cleanup became a well-attended event. Every month an average of 20 volunteers showed up. What helped to make this happen? Was it the pizza Stan bought for the group out of his own pocket each month? Was it his connection with Chop's Teen Center and other downtown businesses encouraging them to get involved?

Our hearts are deeply missing Stan Gow who passed on May 7, 2022. We will continue honoring the incredible person Stan was and keeping his caring legacy going. Together we will clean-up Santa Rosa Creek and then complete it with a pizza celebration giving cheers to our good work and to Stan Gow who showed us the way to get here. Read more about Stan and his caring legacy in the June 1 issue on [pressdemocrat.com](http://pressdemocrat.com).

**Please join us for a special First Saturday Cleanup in Stan's honor, August 6, 2022  
10 - 12pm at Olive Park.**

## **Study: Crime rates are lower in neighborhoods with many pet dogs**

Neighborhoods where people walk dogs have lower crime rates than comparable neighborhoods with few dogs, as people who walk dogs act as patrols, researchers reported in Social Forces. Walking a dog offers opportunities for neighbors to interact and build trust and puts more eyes on the street, deterring crime, lead author Nicolo Pinchak says.

## **Our Board Members & Volunteers**

President: Deb Crippen [DebCrippen@sonic.net]

VP: Sher Ennis, Secretary: Jim Bergmann

Treasurer: Allen Thomas

Directors: Kevin Anderson, Susan Hayes, and  
Jessica Heatherington

Newsletter: Pat Power

**Stay Connected** check [www.srwestend.com](http://www.srwestend.com) for listings of events and meetings. And last but not least, check the Facebook page [www.facebook.com/groups/srwestend](http://www.facebook.com/groups/srwestend).

## **\$10 It's a Bargain!**

Our newsletter, website and events are funded by neighbors and W. E. Sponsors. Suggested neighbor contribution is \$10 a year. Make a check to West End Neighborhood Association and mail to Deborah Crippen, 619 Polk St. Santa Rosa, CA 95401 or give at our meetings.

## **Oh No! Not receiving email updates?**

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