



Santa Rosa  
**WEST END**

Neighborhood + Historic District



# News

March 2023

## Spring Meeting

**Chop's Teen Club [509 Adams St]**

**March 16th • Thursday • 7-9pm** (In-person!)

Come out meet your neighbors and hear updates from our city officials etc. Voluntary membership dues of \$10 a year to support the West End Neighborhood Association.



Teen Club

## The West End is LUCKY to have Chop's Teen Club

Chop's is a prevention-based, nonprofit organization that is open opposite of school hours to give Sonoma County teens enriching experiences and opportunities. Chop's mission is to provide a safe, fun and productive place where teens can engage, connect, and discover their true potential.

Located right here in our Historic West End Neighborhood, Chop's modern 21,000 sq. feet facility houses a college and career hub, gymnasium, rock-climbing wall, technology lounge, art studio, music studio, café/nightclub, commercial kitchen, and both indoor and outdoor multi-use areas. Spaces are tailored to the programs: Culinary, Academic Mentoring and Work-Ready, Technology, Fitness & Wellness, Art, Music, and more. Programs are offered year-round for a membership of \$60/year (scholarships available to those who need them).

Beneath the surface of the attractions and programs that bring teens to Chop's are initiatives focused primarily on teaching

respect for oneself and others, developing community, establishing independence, fostering a sense of belonging, and creating exposure to experiences outside of a teens' typical day-to-day scene. Chop's is a unique community resource that affords access and opportunities to many teens they would not have elsewhere.

Since opening in 2001, thousands of teens have walked through the doors and become a part of Chop's lifelong community. Chop's youth members range from grades 7-12, and come from a variety of backgrounds and geographic areas in Sonoma County.

### HISTORY

In 1995, Charles "Chop" DeMeo left the bulk of his estate to Community Foundation Sonoma County to create a safe and productive place for teens. Through a series of public meetings and teen surveys, the plans for a teen club took shape.

## Chop's Teen Club cont.

When a site was identified to build the club, the question of what to call the teen club arose – and the answer was obvious: it would be named after the man who made it all possible, the man who was known to his friends and family as “Chop.”

Chop's Teen Club is the realization of the dream of Charles “Chop” DeMeo, who saw teens as assets to the community, and wished to build a bridge to the future by creating a place for teens to have a multitude of opportunities for personal growth. The organization has continued to grow and evolve based on the needs and desires of teens in our community.

Over half of DeMeo's bequest was utilized to build the space, while the remaining half was earmarked to help sustain the club into the future. Today, roughly 40% of Chop's annual operating revenue is still provided through this generous gift. The remaining 60% of the organization's revenue is primarily generated through fundraising.

**West End Residents**, if you have a teen in your family or know of one please come by Chop's Teen Club Tues-Fri 2:30-7pm for a tour or contact Program Director Kevin Anderson 707-284-2467 x117 or [kevina@chopsteenclub.org](mailto:kevina@chopsteenclub.org). Mark your calendars for Saturday May 6 for Chop's Teen Club's Open House!

## Board Member Election at the March 16th Meeting

Board members Sher Ennis and Allen Thomas, have terms that expire this year. Both are willing to continue serving and we're also interested to see if anyone new wants to step up. Board elections will take place at our next General Membership meeting listed in this newsletter.

Responsibilities:

- Meetings
  1. Two general membership meetings annually (March and November on the third Thursday of said month)
  2. Two Board meetings annually (March and November preceding the general membership meeting)
  3. Additional special general membership

meetings and Board meetings when deemed necessary

- Commit to serve for a three year term
- Involvement in neighborhood activities throughout the year
- Help with newsletter distribution

To get your name on the ballot, please send the following information to [info@srwestend.com](mailto:info@srwestend.com) by Monday 3/13/2023.

- Name / Address
- Language(s) spoken
- Statement of what you “bring to the table” and why you would like to serve

To serve, you must live within the neighborhood and be present at the election meeting.

### Our Board Members & Volunteers

President: Deborah Crippen

[[debcrippen@sonic.net](mailto:debcrippen@sonic.net)]

Vice Pres: Sher Ennis

Secretary: Jim Bergmann

Treasurer: Allen Thomas

Directors: Kevin Anderson, Susan Hayes,  
Jessica Heatherington

Newsletter: Pat Power

srwestend.com

**Stay Connected:** Check for listings of events and meetings at [srwestend.com](http://srwestend.com) or [facebook.com/groups/srwestend](https://facebook.com/groups/srwestend). Our newsletter, website, and events are funded by neighbors and W. E. Sponsors. Suggested neighbor contribution is \$10 a year. Please pay at our meeting or write a check to West End Neighborhood Association and mail to Deborah Crippen 619 Polk St Santa Rosa CA 95401.