



St. Rose Neighborhood Assoc.

Winter 2003 Newsletter

Good Neighbors

When you think of your neighbors, does it occur to you that they aren't all residential? With our historic district's location so close to downtown, many of our neighbors are commercial. One of these is the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) located in the old Hamlin Medical building at 600 B Street. This Art Deco building was constructed in 1938 and, together with the adjacent Thurlow Medical Building at 576 B Street and the downtown Rosenberg Department Store (now Barnes & Noble), is among the few examples of this important architectural style in Santa Rosa. The Exposition des Arts Decoratifs, held in Paris in 1925, supplied the impetus for the Art Deco style which emphasized modernity and a rectilinear pattern of exterior ornamentation. At over 65 years old, this building needed major updating to be a viable office space for a 21st century company. While other businesses might have succumbed to the temptation to modernize the outside of the building, ignoring its significance to Santa Rosa's history, the SEIU performed an impressive and sensitive remodel (both inside and out) that preserved the building's original style. The result is a modernized commercial building that contributes to our historic district rather than detracting or clashing with it. Congratulations on a job well done!



**1938 Hamlin Medical Building
600 B Street**

Reunification of Courthouse Square Revisited

The push to reunify Courthouse Square is back on the front burner again as a result of a \$110,000 study funded by a \$55,000 grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission matched by the City of Santa Rosa. Over 75 stakeholders have attended each of two community workshops to help determine the design for the Square and the adjacent area. A Community Advisory Committee appointed by the City Council has also been meeting. Greg Parker has been attending these meetings as a representative for our neighborhood (thanks, Greg!).

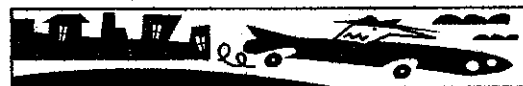
The current popular design is to close off the Square to through traffic on Mendocino Avenue and reinstate

Hinton and Exchange Avenue, two streets that use to run just east and west of the Square. In addition, Mendocino Avenue north of the square to College Avenue would be made more pedestrian friendly with the addition of traffic calming

structures, street trees, street furniture, etc. College Avenue to Third Street via Healdsburg Avenue to B

Street would become the main artery for traffic (replacing Mendocino Avenue) and Healdsburg Avenue would become two-way to accommodate busses.

This will put a lot more traffic directly next to the east





side of our neighborhood prompting concerns from St. Rose residents. We're asking for ways to encourage the north-south traffic to stay on the designated collector streets along with methods to reduce opportunities for drivers to use our neighborhood streets (Lincoln, Tenth, Eighth) as east-west shortcuts. With these protections, we support the plan as it's outlined today. It would be a huge improvement over the current situation. The goal is to have Mendocino Avenue resemble Fourth Street all the way to College Avenue and create some type of "gateway" to downtown in that area. Funding is always the challenge for these types of projects. The final presentation to City Council in April will include options to phase in this project in stages so that it can be implemented as funding is made available. There will be one more community meeting in March to present this final plan. It is all very exciting and our neighborhood could certainly add to this project's success as heritage tourism is embraced in Santa Rosa.

For more information, visit the City's website at: <http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us> and click on the Courthouse Square Study link. Comments can be e-mailed to the study consultant, Erin Miller: erin@vmwp.com and city staffer, Nancy Adams, at NAdams@ci.santa-rosa.ca.us.

Permits Online

The Community Development Dept. now allows homeowners to take out permits online. The types of building permits available online are: Basic Electrical (service replacement, electrical outlet and switches), Plumbing (water heater and water closets replacement, lawn irrigation systems), Mechanical (includes wall heaters), and Simple Re-Roofing Building permits that *do not require plan review*. For Inspection Requests, please call (707) 543-3230. For information on all permits and fee schedules, visit: www.ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/cd.



*Mark
your
Calendar*

Annual Neighborhood Meeting!

Our *annual* neighborhood meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 7th, 7-9pm, at the Saturday Afternoon Club (430 Tenth Street across from the EDD building).

We will have updates on projects affecting our neighborhood including a presentation on the Museum Place Townhouses from the architect Irvin Klein. We also hope to have Nick Baker from the Morgan Street Homeless Service Center and a representative from the Santa Rosa Police Department available to answer questions.

Other Dates of Note:

January 15, 1 pm -Design Review Board Meeting to include review of Museum Place Townhouses.

February 28, 6-9pm Crab Feed - \$25/person at the Saturday Afternoon Club, 430 Tenth St. Help support the maintenance of this 1908 Craftsman Style building - the home of Santa Rosa's first women's club. Send checks to Barbara Behnke, 1627 W. Third St., Santa Rosa, CA 95401

If you would like to be on our mailing list, please contact Joe or Denise at faire@sonic.net or call 544-5713. If you would like to receive e-mail updates between newsletters, e-mail us at:

faire@sonic.net

Visit us at: www.StRoseDistrict.org

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