

SPARE WOOD COLONY

Dedicated to the preservation of our heritage.

Issue II

E:Mail SpareWoodColony@Aol.com

January 20, 2014



Spare Wood Colony is dedicated to bringing you the most factual news possible for what's happening west of the 99 freeway.

RESIDENTS COME TOGETHER

At the January 7th Modesto City Council meeting, the Colony, our Wood Colony, showed up in organized rows, as if they themselves were a representation of the trees they tend.

Farmers and politicians stood side by side as they waited their turn at the dais. Some spoke of history, some of family, while others were less than complimentary to the situation that's facing us.



School Board members sat quietly in the front, speaking in solidarity while a German Baptist man leaned

against one of the pillars in the back of the room. Here's a link to a video of Pastor Heinrich from the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church located on Dakota Avenue, speaking to the council that evening:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHSLfUgruu4>



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SPAREWOODCOLONY

Upcoming Events

Website

Website is ready!

www.sparewoodcolony.weebly.com



January 28, 2014

Modesto City Council

January 28, 2014 5:30 pm in downtown Modesto. 1010 10th Street. Bring a pillow-it's going to be a long night.

Twitter

Follow us on Twitter soon!

Meanwhile, you can email us at: sparewoodcolony@aol.com



Thank you for your support!

SR 132 expansion

Highway 132/Maze Blvd.

See page 4 for further news about this expansion and possible encroachment into the Wood Colony area.

Future Meeting Date

Wood Colony Meetings

There have been a few already, with more to come! Some organizers are letting people know about those meetings via notes in mailboxes, other through e-mail. Please be a well informed colony resident! Ask questions.

Frohman to Council: Spare Wood Colony

Dear Modesto City Councilmembers:

During the last Modesto General Plan update a little over a decade ago, while serving on the Modesto City Council, I proposed removing the Beckwith Triangle from the updated plan.

My rationale was that the Triangle was isolated from the rest of the community and separated by a freeway that makes infrastructure expensive to provide.

The other even better argument was that the area was on the world's best farm land.



I was unable to convince the Council I served with to make the change. But I never dreamed that a future Council would be even more outrageous and add Wood Colony to the map. The



Wood Colony almond orchard on Woodland Avenue, east of Dakota.

overwhelming majority of Wood Colony citizens do not wish their community to be added to the map. If you poll a majority of Modesto's citizens, your constituents, you would find few who support adding Wood Colony

to the map. So why do you want to upset so many people?

Read more here: <http://thevalleycitizen.com/frohman-to-council-spare-wood-colony/>



Empty buildings on Sylvan Avenue just east of Oakdale Road.

Opinions from the Modesto Bee

“Experts project the fastest growing occupations over the next 10 years to be health care services, research (perhaps for food companies), computer design and construction. Such businesses are not dependent on easy highway access. And though we would never mock City Council members for being dedicated to finding “jobs, jobs, jobs,” we must note that not all jobs are created equal. Is the job of farmer less important than that of a truck-stop cashier?”

Read more here: <http://www.modbee.com/2014/01/18/3140594/reasons-not-to-develop-wood-colony.html>

A Time to Remember A Solace of Comfort

At a time of loss and grief, my brother and sister-in-law gave me sanctuary in their home nestled into the orchards of Wood Colony.

I walked those orchards and found solace in the tree's bare branches of that winter. I could see the buds of spring along the branches. They were talismans, telling me that life endures.

At the foot of one I found a sherd of thick, blue pottery peaking through the soil. It's the edge of a bowl more than one hundred years old. Used by someone who made her bread in a home within the shelter of the orchard. It, too, told me that life endures.

A Red-tailed Hawk would sometimes perch on an old telephone pole, eyes following the dogs I walked. Sometimes the hawk would ride a thermal and once it dove, between the trees behind us, as it hunted. Again, life endures.

I hold in my hand the photograph my brother took, of me and my husband, on an early March day in 2000. It shows two middle-aged people, together for more than thirty years, against a backdrop of The Orchard in

bloom and it's reflection in a pool of water. We had endured. But my husband wouldn't for very long. He died ten months later.

I carry my blue sherd with me. It is a reminder of what I learned in The Orchard. We can endure.



A Comfort

I went into The Orchard and found my way forward. The answer was in the life that has been nurtured by The Orchard for more than one hundred years. The growers and residents, human or other.



A Community

The Wood Colony is not a part of the City.

While the City grew and changed, Wood Colony endured. It was cared for and nurtured by those in a community of families, bound together by their beliefs. The members of the Colony lived their lives, born there and buried there.

Those orchards nurtured the community. And both The Community and The Orchards endured.

Now others have taken up the task of helping The Orchard and Wood Colony Community to endure. People who love it for what it is. It's not that change is wrong. It's that this is not the PLACE to change.



Remember

There are not many places like Wood Colony Community left in the US, let alone California. They are more precious now because so many have been lost.

This is an extraordinary place. It preserves a history that needs to be remembered.

[Cheralynne T Kastner](#)

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and here on our E-Newsletter

If you have something you'd like to share, please don't hesitate to contact us via email, or phone.

We'll have a direct number for you in a few days.

While eyes are looking north to Wood Colony- highways are being planned to the South

Construction of the highway 132 expansion is already underway.

There have been heated debates as to the need of this “widening” of one of the main arteries into the city of Modesto.

One of those arguments, of course is the mantra “jobs, jobs, jobs” a mantra that is almost a mocking chant toward some.

But while the chiding has become fodder for a failing tenure, or two, it doesn’t reduce the validity for the need of jobs.

We need money, but at what price?

Would the expansion of this State Route in fact bring in more jobs, and if so, what kind?

The statement is that shovel ready land is needed to provide jobs, yet we have no road on which to drive to get to those illusive jobs.

Then there’s the flip-flop side of that: Mustn’t the road be built first, before the promised jobs are made available?

Read More on Page 5



Wood Colony Bypass



See map here: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist10/environmental/projects/sr132west/>



A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE MODESTO BEE

Save best soil for farming

Good farming land is disappearing under commercial buildings. Can Modesto still claim to be a farming community? Please plant businesses and houses on poor soil. There is plenty available. Save the good soil for the farmers who feed us!



GRACE NORET

MODESTO

Read more at: <http://www.modbee.com/2014/01/15/3135512/grace-noret-save-best-soil-for.html>

Wood Colony Bypass

132 There are those who are fiercely against the widening of 132, which in itself is a misnomer. In fact, it's not only going to be widened, it's going to be moved. Rerouted.



Toxic Waste

Some who write tirelessly to the state of California, and fight ferociously for a safer environment have been doing so for many years. There seems to be some concern over the toxic levels of what's *in* the ground where the new road is to be built. Disturbing that ground could cause some major health risks to those with sensitivity to such things like barium.



Direct from StanCOG

"132 West

The State Route (SR)132 East/West corridor serves as a major access route for an increasing number of central valley commuters traveling to work in and around Modesto as well as a major truck route. Motorists are experiencing a high level of congestion due to the limitations of the existing facilities, as well as an increase in interregional commuter and truck traffic.

This project will construct a four lane freeway/expressway to reroute SR 132 away from downtown. The expressway will extend from North Dakota Avenue to SR 99 and Needham Street along a new alignment."



Yellow Brick Road

What's on the other side? Obviously, according to the city of Modesto, we don't have the kind of jobs that we need, yet, if this road is built, we still won't. Where is this road leading us to? Unless we take a long look in all directions, we're liable to be blindsided. While some are good at rallying the troops with cheers of possible victory, the city holds out hope that we won't turn around and see what's being built behind our back.



Westward HO!

If this expansion goes through, as designed now, it will cut along the lower slice of Wood Colony, and, like most roads, it will run both ways.

Please keep your eye on the transportation planning of California State Route 132 Freeway/Expressway. The widening will affect *this* generation who currently live in Wood Colony.

Keep vigilant, and if you see a "road work ahead" sign, there may be a truck coming down the road ~ to make a highway, possibly through our front yard.

To be continued....

Athens Abell

If you have Comcast or Charter, Scott Calkins will be a guest on the TV show tonight at 6:00 pm to talk in greater length about this.

Channel 15-the Assyrian Channel with replays through Tuesday afternoon.

or at: www.betnahrain.org/kbsv/kbsv.htm

Links to other sites for reference:

<http://thevalleycitizen.com/latest-update-on-modestos-toxic-waste-by-bruce-frohman/>

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist10/environmental/projects/sr132west/>

<http://www.stancog.org/pdf/ftip-amendments/2013-final-FTIP.pdf>

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist10/environmental/projects/sr132west/Stockpiles.html>