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Vol. 3 No. 2 – Spring 2005 ~ Special Edition on *Historic Chula Vista*



Saturday, May 7, 2005
10 am – 4 pm



Meet at the Chula Vista Heritage Museum
360 Third Avenue

Chula Vista s Heritage Threatened

Chula Vista was officially incorporated as a city in year 1911. At that time the boundaries of the city were from Hilltop Drive to the Bay, and from C St. to L St. I-5 did not exist, and all east-west streets led to the Bay. This is the most historic part of Chula Vista...we call it *Olde Chula Vista*. As the city grew, many classic and graceful homes were constructed in this area. These lovely old homes represent the best of our past...our heritage...our legacy.

On Saturday, May 7 you will have a chance to see some of these treasures. The Chula Vista Heritage Museum is hosting a rare opportunity to tour these magnificent homes. Tickets are \$23 per person (\$20 for members of the Chula Vista Friends of the Library or the Heritage Museum). Included with your tour package is tea and sweets in the garden of one of the homes. Period costumes will be worn and vintage autos will be on display.

But these homes and many other historic buildings in Olde Chula Vista are threatened by the city's proposed new *General Plan Update* (GPU). Under the GPU *Preferred Plan*, historic structures could be demolished as long as the property owner *shall complete an historic documentation addressing potential historic significance*. In other words, it's OK to tear down historic buildings as long as you document their former historic significance!

Even if an historic building is not demolished, it could lose its historic setting. Imagine a historic home on Roosevelt St. with a 210 foot wall behind it. This is exactly what would happen to that home if the proposed *Espanada* project is approved. The home would still be there, but its historic character would be destroyed.

Crossroads II believes this is unacceptable. Our history is who we are. If we lose our past we lose ourselves. Luckily, there is an alternative. The *Community Character Alternative* to the GPU offers protection to our historic treasures. Under the *Community Character Alternative*, a new policy is added to the GPU that requires the city to *promote maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, and preservation of historical resources*. Also, under the *Community Character Alternative*, *Espanada* would not be allowed to be built at 15 stories.

Help us protect our heritage. Write or call your City Council members today. **Tell them you prefer the General Plan Update Community Character Alternative.**

E-Mail Addresses

Mayor Steve Padilla

spadilla@ci.chula-vista.ca.us

Councilmember Patty Davis

pdavis@ci.chula-vista.ca.us

Councilmember John McCann

jmccann@ci.chula-vista.ca.us

Councilmember Jerry Rindone

jrindone@ci.chula-vista.ca.us

Councilmember Steve Casteneda

scastaneda@ci.chula-vista.ca.us

"Snail Mail" address for all:

276 F St.

Chula Vista, CA, 91910

To leave a phone message for all:

691-5044

Some Historic Homes in the Urban Core



James Johnson House
525 F Street



Englebretson-Stafford House
640 Fifth Avenue



George Steese House
224 Fig Street

What Are the Major Differences between the *Preferred Plan* and the *Community Character Alternative*?

Preferred Plan

- ☹ Historic buildings can be demolished
- ☹ Potential to destroy character of community
- ☹ Building heights unlimited in some areas
- ☹ Potential for high-rises next to single-family homes

Community Character Alternative

- Historic buildings are preserved
- Keeps traditional character of community
- Building heights limited to 7 stories
- More compatible with single-family homes

Which Do You Prefer?

Survey Questions: Tell Us What You Like/Dislike About Olde Chula Vista

We need your help! **Crossroads II** agrees that northwestern Chula Vista needs revitalization. But we insist that what is appealing about northwest Chula Vista not be destroyed in the process. Therefore, we are conducting an informal survey of your opinions. Here's what we need to know:

1. Tell us your three favorite places in northwest Chula Vista.
2. Tell us the three places in northwest Chula Vista you like the least.
3. In your own words, how would you describe the "character" of Olde Chula Vista?

Call us at 427-7493, e-mail us at xroads2@cox.net, or write us at **Crossroads II**, 262 Second Ave., Chula Vista 91910. Let us know your answers to these three questions. Please know that we protect your

privacy....your identity will not be disclosed to anyone without your express permission.

Crossroads II Steering Committee

Patricia Aguilar, President
Tom Davis
Sandy Duncan
Sharon Floyd
Jill Galvez
Lupita Jimenez
Jim Peterson
Bill Richter
Carlene Scott
Gerry Scott
Peter Watry
Susan Watry

IMPORTANT: For Your Calendar ..

A group of neighbors on Roosevelt Street (between Third and Fourth Avenues) have organized to fight the proposed *Espanada* project. Known as the **Roosevelt Street Coalition**, these good folks have retained renowned architect and planner Michael Stepner of the *Stepner Design Group* to work with the community to produce our own plan for Olde Chula Vista. They have done this because the community's pleas to the city to modify the GPU *Preferred Plan* to bring it closer to the *Community Character Alternative* have been met with at best ambiguity and at worst outright resistance. So we are taking matters into our own hands....

Crossroads II is proud to join the **Roosevelt Street Coalition**, **ACORN**, and the **SOUTH BAY FORUM** in sponsoring a **General Plan Update Community Meeting**. This Meeting will be the first step in developing an appropriate, community-oriented plan for Olde Chula Vista. All residents of Chula Vista are invited. But residents, property owners, and businesses in northwest Chula Vista are especially encouraged to attend. Your future is at stake!

What: Community Meeting on the General Plan Update for Northwest Chula Vista

When: Wednesday, May 11, 2005
6:00 p.m.

Where: Lion's Club
547 Fourth Ave. (between H and I Sts.)

Why: To modify the GPU *Preferred Plan* to develop a new plan that has the support of the community

Not a Member Yet?? Crossroads II is growing by Leaps & Bounds. Join us Today!