

The West Ender

By and for the West End Neighborhood

The regular meeting of the West End Board of Directors was held October 12 at Barbara and Rence Callahan's house. Four of the five officers, eight of twelve directors and four general members were present. We had two special guests.

Nick Dumas, owner/operator of the Lighthouse Restaurant at Brookstown and Burke Streets presented architects plans and a scale model of the building he plans to have built on the site formerly occupied by the gasoline station at Brookstown and Burke. The new building will follow the general design of the restored Burke House, will provide seating for 70 patrons, and will have a parking lot behind the building. (Entrance to lot from Brookstown). Mr. Dumas concluded his presentation with his reason for coming to our meeting - his plan is four parking spaces short of the code requirements and he wanted us to know that he was going to request a variance to permit the planned construction. His line of reasoning is that the present 30 seat Lighthouse across the street has no parking lot (it is operating under a Grandfather Clause) so the net result of the new Lighthouse will be 26 additional on street parking spaces. The motion to support his request for a variance was passed by unanimous vote.

We then heard a report from Dr. George Glazer, Outreach Pastor at St. Paul's Church, on the proposal to provide emergency overnight housing for up to 30 indigents at St. Paul's and four other churches in the Fifth Street corridors over the winter months. Each church will provide the space for one month. The need is driven by 30% above normal population of the regular facilities for these people over this summer and fall. The present housing is usually operated at full capacity during the winter months thus some provision must be made for the unusual load.

These temporary spaces will be available from 8 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. when the doors will be locked. The spaces must be empty by 7:30 a.m.

Members of the community expressed concern about a number of items but were able to come to terms on all but two: control of people who are turned away from the overnight facility due to: late arrival, no room, or failure to meet discipline requirements and control of the indigents who will be forced to the streets at the time many children will be walking to schools at 7:30 a.m.

Dr. Glazer agreed to take our concerns to the agencies involved. Representatives of the churches, social agencies, City government and Police Department met on Monday, October 28, 9182, where the problem

of those are denied entrance, are disruptive and/or are turned away during the night was solved by Chief of Police Powell who agreed that the police will respond to a telephone call from the church and take control of those turned away. Chief Powell feels that the situation at 7:30 a.m. will not be a problem. Two factors will combine to force the street people to their normal haunts downtown. First, the church facilities will permit no food or beverage so there will be a strong motive to get to the agencies who provide free breakfast, and the street people have their normal locations for "hanging out" during the day and these places must be claimed early to protect their claims. The police will monitor the 7:30 a.m. situation and, if they begin to get a number of calls about this daily migration, a police escort will be provided on a regular basis.

Experience has shown that these street people are not generally involved in crimes other than panhandling and being a public nuisance. The people who are involved with them on a daily basis are very strong in the belief that the street people will not be a problem to the neighborhoods.

We had some success with the campaign to collect past due West End Association membership dues. Almost fifty dues checks have been received plus a nice donation from the Wachovia Bank. The list of delinquents includes some who are still residents of West End and now we are holding some IOU's for T-shirts purchased at the potluck supper. In spite of these trials and tribulations, we seem to be going into the expense of the house tour with enough cash to establish credit. Please keep the house tour in mind - we need all the word of mouth advertising we can get - we will have an advance ticket sale program and any ground work you can do at the office or church or club or in the car pool.

Glen Gravlee reported on the House Tour plans which are moving along at an orderly pace. The major concern this year is the same one which has plagued previous tours: finding volunteers to serve as host or hostesses at the tour homes. This years tour will require about 100 staff people. There will be a 2 hour training session - probably on Thursday or Friday before the tour - and then we will need your time for about 2 hours sometime between 12 noon and 6 p.m. on tour day December 12. Each person will have one assignment in a specific home. The job is a combination of information source, traffic mover, security guard, safety marshal and welcoming host. We would like to have folk who are 25 or older because the tour crowd tends to be in that age group and enjoys an easier rapport with its peers. We have a number of positions in the main welcoming center at St. Paul's where young people can serve under more favorable conditions. So don't be put off - we need your help! Anyone who can lend a hand please call Joyce Gravlee at 724-3982 or Bill Wise at 761-0906.

Bill Gibson is trying to pump some life into the Community Watch program for West End. There are two groups of West Enders - those who are apathetic and those who have been ripped off. Unfortunately the ripped off number is growing. Three more families lost front porch furniture during the rain storm on Saturday night a few weeks ago. It was no casual hit and run, only furniture of quality was stolen (the junk was not moved) and the locations were separated from one another indicating that the thieves had selected what they wanted by visiting the porches during daylight hours. Two of the porches are not easy to see from the street. Somebody had to walk up the entrance sidewalk and up the porch steps to "case"

the job. Community Watch could have been effective! Both local and national statistics show that the crime rate is lower where Community Watch is active. It seems just common sense to drop the apathy role and get active before you become a victim. Call Gibson on 724-0776 before you get ripped off and need to call 911!

The following is an excerpt from Community Watch in North Carolina, a pamphlet available from Bill Gibson.

1. Watch out for all vehicles, not just vehicles such as vans and trucks. Passenger cars, expensive and inexpensive, are being used by thieves, and drivers should be considered possible suspects. Be prepared to obtain the license number of a suspicious vehicle. Keep your keys handy and a pencil and paper in the car. If you see a slow prowling car in your neighborhood, take the license number. If necessary, follow the car and write down the license number, a general description of the vehicle, and its occupants in order to make a report. Mark also the location, time and data for general reference should this information be needed again. Give the information on suspicious cars to your children. They are out and around the neighborhood and see what is going on. Patrol the area whenever you leave and return home. Street activity is a very good deterrent.
2. Tell your neighbors when you are having work done so they will not be concerned. Tell your Community Watch chairman and/or neighbors when you are going to be away from home, even for a short trip, so they can keep an eye on your home while you are away. Become familiar with your neighbor's cars so you will know who belongs and who does not. Any car that does not belong in your neighborhood should be considered a possible suspect.
3. Engrave your possessions with your North Carolina driver's license number and take a written inventory. Take photographs of jewelry, silver, antiques and art. Take a photograph of the four walls in every room of your home. Keep one copy of your personal property and photograph in a deposit box or somewhere away from your home.
4. Do not give out any information about your home or family over the phone. Do not tell strangers when you will be away. Do not advertise that you are living alone. Single persons should list their names in the phone directory with only the first and middle initials.

5. Never open your door to strangers. Install a door viewer and chain lock so you can properly identify callers before fully opening your door. Do not be afraid to demand proper identification.
6. Do not put a name tag on your house keys. Do not give keys to strange servicemen. Separate auto keys and house keys to avoid duplications. Never leave a key under a doormat, in the mailbox or hanging from a nail. Burglars know all the "secret hiding places."
7. Install double cylinder dead bolt locks on all exterior doors six inches above or below the present locks. If you use the dead bolt lock when you are home, leave the key in the lock to prevent your house from becoming a firetrap. Sliding glass doors should be secured with a pin-type locking device or "charlie bar." Window gates and special window locks that can be opened only with a key are effective; however, if you do install these locks, leave the key in them when you are home. Do not let your house become a firetrap while trying to protect it from burglars.

This months West Ender is sponsored by our newest commercial member THE THIMBLEWEED at 833 Burke Street (that's between Brookstown and West Fourth Street). The shop features weavers supplies plus mountain craft specialties handmade by members of the Highland Guild (Asheville, N.C.). Sarah Deal and her daughter Catheren operate the business as a showcase for Catheren's custom weaving of tapestry, rugs etc. They invite you to stop in 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday - Saturday to watch Catheren work the loom and to see the selection of unique crafts and decorations for the Christmas season. (They will be open during the West End House Tour Sunday, December 12.)

The West End Association Post Office Box 161 Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102

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