

The West End

By and for the West End Neighborhood

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Things have been busy in the West End during the past few weeks. On Sunday evening, about 100 people showed up at Grace Court Park to pig out at the annual Potluck Picnic. Considering the drizzles that characterized September 19th, the size of the crowd was OK, and the NCSA Jazz Band played brilliantly before retiring early due to the reluctance of the members to be electrocuted in a damp gazebo. The food, as usual, was worthy of 4 stars in the Michlin Guide to neighborhood potlucks. Perhaps the best thing about the event was that when the rain started and the band stopped, the assembled multitude did not rush off each into his own abode. Instead, with patience and good humour, neighbors grouped together beneath tent and tree and toughed out the squall. . .without such customary social inducements as spiritous liquors or tax deductions. Thanks go especially to Brenda Penney, who was in charge, and to Mark Land for landing the band, and Grace Humphries for the banner which graced the gazebo.

ETERNAL VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

It is also helpful for security. On Wednesday evening, September 22nd, the northern part of the West End joined its southern half to become a Neighborhood Crime Watch Community. This is not the kind of thing that calls for a celebration exactly, unless it becomes something other than a low-level vigilante phenomenon. And it can, because the same concerns that most of us share in this neighborhood anyway logically extend to this more formal expression of responsibility. That is, there has always been a sense of caring for each other in this neighborhood, of being concerned about the security of your neighbor's person and property as an extension of your concern for yourself. "Neighborhood Crime Watch" is nothing more than formalizing this concern insofar as it relates to communicating with each other and the police when there exists apparent danger.

Bill Wise is the chairman of our neighborhood committee; Bill Gibson is his assistant. There is one thing we need to do right away, and again it fits into what we are already interested in accomplishing -- we need to reinstitute a "block captain" system, so as to speed communication among neighbors, whether it concern crime or the next neighborhood picnic. If you would be interested in serving as a block captain, please telephone Bill Gibson at 724-0776. This invitation is aimed not only at homeowners but also at apartment-dwellers, as it seems particularly useful to be able to set up communication networks between houses and apartment buildings in this neighborhood. As a block captain, you will not be asked to serve as a cop-without-a-badge; you will be asked to act as a communicator with people who live around you and who share your interests in living in a safe, open community.

More information about this new program will appear in future newsletters. In the meantime, remember the police emergency number is 911. Your next-door neighbor's number is 7 -.

Here's the kind of advice that Neighborhood Watch has to offer:

it's a good idea to be a nosy neighbor.

Looking out for your neighbors' house while they look out for yours is one of the best ways to help law enforcement protect your entire neighborhood.

The Neighborhood Watch program is designed to make you and your neighbors aware of what you can do together to make your homes safer.

To start a successful Neighborhood Watch, talk with your neighbors and exchange information. Be familiar with every member of their family and the cars they drive. Then you can easily spot and report strangers or suspicious activities around their house. They will do the same for you.

In order to see intruders better, keep your houses and yards well lighted at night. Keep doors and windows clear of trees and shrubbery.

Tell each other when you're going away. The tips on the next page will help you know what to do when you're going away for a while and what to look for when your neighbors are away.

Being a nosy neighbor is not always a bad idea. Neighborhood Watch can make your neighborhood a much safer place. If you need help in organizing a program on your block, your local law enforcement agency will be glad to assist you.

what to do when you're going away...

- Stop newspaper and mail deliveries, or arrange for a neighbor to pick them up.
- Make arrangements to have your grass cut and watered while you are gone.
- Store extra cash and valuables in a bank safety deposit box.
- Arrange for a neighbor to watch your house. Give them a key, and let them know where you can be reached in an emergency.
- Notify your local law enforcement agency.

what to do when your neighbors are away...

- Know exactly when your neighbors are leaving and when they will return.
- Collect any newspapers, mail and advertising circulars if they are delivered.
- Make a daily check of the premises. Inspect all windows and doors.
- Don't tell any inquiring strangers that your neighbors are away on a trip.
- Keep an eye on their property as much as possible, and report any suspicious activities.

BOARD, BUT NOT BORING

The West End Board met for a useful, rather low-key meeting on September 14th. The agenda included updates on the picnic and community watch, recent re-zoning efforts in the Hawthorne Road area next to our neighborhood, progress on Grace Court (thank you C.C. for your generous donation) and the House Tour. One encouraging phenomenon was the response to the Board's recent appeal for dues; combined with T-shirt sales and some new memberships at the picnic, the treasury is not quite as pathetic as it had threatened to become in mid-summer. Now, all each of you need to do is to get one person or family to join the West End Association, and we'll be in Fat City. It is particularly useful to invite new arrivals to join in your association.

Please feel free to attend meetings of your Board; they usually occur on the second Tuesday of each month; October's meeting will be at the home of one of the members on the 11th. As a reminder, your officers and directors are:

Bill Wise, President	Dave & Martha Albertson
Glen Gravlee, V-P	Chris & Mary Beth Chapman
Bill Harper, 2nd V-P	Patsy Law
Sam Matthews, Secretary	Pete & Barbara Smitherman
Cort Meador, Treasurer	Ben & Julia Wilson
	Dewey & Ellen Yarborough
	Rence & Barbara Callahan
	Neal Robinson
	Grace Humphries
	Bob Fly
	Bill Gibson
	Carl & Brenda Penney

Neal Robinson has recently replaced Bill Leinbach on the board; Bill had over-extended himself and asked to be relieved of his duties.

Please feel invited to call on any of these people to express your feelings and thoughts on what needs to be done in the West End.

THIS THING IS A MONEY-MAKER, OR IT CAN BE. . .

Joyce Gravlee has made considerable progress on the 1982 Christmas Tour, yet much work has to be done. Here's a gift idea for you to give to people like your kid's school teachers, friends, relatives --people who either have everything to begin with, or who (appreciate them as you do) you can't afford to lavish expensive goodies on. The gift: a ticket to the Tour. Think about it now; order them in a month or so when we give you more information how:

Meanwhile, here's a reprint from last month's newsletter; it's still timely, and we do need your help:

PLEASE call the Gravlee's at 724-3982 if you are interested in working on any of these committees:

HOSTS - Organizing & training those who staff the homes.	SPECIAL EVENTS - Selecting musicians or artists to perform during the tour.
OPERATIONS - Supplying materials to homes, and helping decorate.	PUBLICITY - Contacting the media. Developing posters.
REFRESHMENTS - Organizing and serving food to tourists.	PROGRAMS - Assembling information, artwork and printing programs.
BUSINESS LIASON - Organizing West End businesses to support the tour, and/or stay open on tour day.	BABYSITTING - Developing program for tourists' children and staffing.

WENDY, THE WEST END WINDBAG

Dear Wendy,

I thought that we had gotten rid of you, but wasn't that you I saw doddering down Glade Street the other day?

--Dismayed

Dear Dismayed,

That was me, all right. I do appreciate the airline ticket to Minneapolis and the season pass to the Twins games that some of you gave me last June. But it got too cold up there long about Labor Day, and I thought I'd come home to root for my other favorite team, Wake Forest football. Go Twins! Go Deacs! Go Wendy!

Here's a little letter I had waiting for me in my mailbox when I returned:

Dear Wendy:

Do you have any suggestions about what to do when a neighbor is playing loud music, LOUD MUSIC!!!, late at night? With the windows open to catch the breeze, we hear stuff from half-way down the next block.

--I Can't Go Back to Sleep

Dear Bach,

This is one of those tough situations which comes from living in the city -- after all, none of us wants to make a scene! Fortunately, with the weather getting cold, the first thing you can do is to shut your windows. Then you've got about six months to get to know your neighbors. It's easier to phone someone you know than to grope about trying to divine the number of a perfect stranger. Often, the music lover (like myself) does not realize what she's doing, and a gentle reminder is all that is necessary. If the jerk simply turns up the sound, calling the Police might help, especially since ours is now an official Neighborhood Crime Watch crowd. (Of course, it might be the Police you are hearing in the first place -- ask the first 13-year-old you see.) Scripture exhorts us to make a joyful noise to the Lord, but it also blesses the peacemakers. So, a little patience, a lot of tact, and an idea of just where it's coming from -- these things will help the situation. Meanwhile, I'll turn down my Lawrence Welk's Greatest Hits if you'll do the same with Johnny Rotten's.

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