

The West End

By and for the
West End Neighborhood

April 1984

THE ELECTION'S OVER . . . YOU FOLKS CAN RELAX NOW

At the Annual Meeting of your West End Association on March 13th, new officers and nine new board members were elected to their positions. The following people now serve as officers and directors:

President -- Bill Wise, 1113 W. 4th St., 761-0906
Vice-President -- Martha Harper, 909 West End Blvd., 722-2641
Secretary -- Bill Gibson, 1315 Brookstown Ave., 724-0776
Treasurer -- Sam Matthews, 1220 Forsyth St., 748-1066
Immediate Past President -- Glen Gravlee, 1205 Clover St., 724-3982
Directors (terms expire 1985)

Keith & Felice Avery, 1120 W. 4th St., 761-0228
Thorns Craven, 1232 Glade St., 725-9832
Ben & Julia Wilson, 817 West End Blvd., 727-1110
John & Liz Gilliam, 1129 W. 4th St., 723-2242
David & Evelyn Speedie, 1219 Forsyth St., 722-3309
Steve Yeagy & Margaret Savoka, 154 Piedmont Ave., 777-8260

Directors (terms expire 1986)
Chris & Marybeth Chapman, 520 Jersey Ave., 723-7620
Jay & Janine Cutchin, 1028 West End Blvd., 724-3077
Jim & Betsy Gregg, 1219 W. 4th St., 723-3552
Grace Humphreys, 1124 W. 4th St., 725-1595
Suzanne Reynolds & Rob Elliot, 608 West End Blvd., 723-6675
Warren Sparrow, 1117 W. 4th St., 725-8953

In addition to serving as officers and directors, these people will be "Block Captains" in our Neighborhood Watch Program, and they will labor on various committees. In those endeavors, they will be calling on you for help, because there is a great deal to be done to further the interests of the West End and maintain this neighborhood as a lively, open, dynamic community where the increase in property values is exceeded only by the increase in human values (and all that sort of thing).

OTHER TOPICS ON THE AGENDA

Several other topics merited discussion at the annual meeting. There is more on the Tree Seminar and on GWENYS in this newsletter. Sam Matthews presented a financial report showing a total fund balance of \$6,035.95; the most significant activity during the past few weeks was in the Grace Court Park Fund, which received over \$1,200 in contributions and spent \$1,976.39 for iron chain and post fencing around the garden at the Gazebo.

Zoning continues to occupy a lot of attention, especially the proposed changes to the R-1 areas county-wide, which would affect parts of our neighborhood. The Board voted to support those changes. Strong opposition is expected from many R-1 property owners who contemplate or wish to be able to change their residential properties to businesses. The prevailing view of board members present was that, while these competing interests are reasonable, it is also reasonable for us to insist on maintaining the West End as a mixed, but primarily residential, area, and to support those laws which further that aim.

Historic Preservation also occupied some discussion at the meeting, particularly the choice between local, state and national status, and the varying degree of regulation that each entails. These issues have been voiced in past newsletters, and will continue to be for months to come.

The next meeting of the Board will be held at Bill Wise's house on Tuesday, April 10th, at 8:00 p.m. Generally, board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, at eight, though the location (like any good floating crap game) varies. You are encouraged to show up and share your ideas or even vent your spleen, although spleen-venting should be done with a certain amount of tact, if you please.

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"GWENYS" -- The Great West End Neighborhood Yard Sale.

Within the last few weeks, you probably found a flyer on your doorstep that said something like this:

WHEN?	Saturday, May 5th; 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
WHERE?	Strategic Locations within West End
WHY?	To raise funds for the West End Historic Preservation Project

Your neighborhood needs your help. The Historic Preservation Project will require a substantial amount of funding. If we are successful, the neighborhood could enjoy many benefits such as more control over zoning variances and appreciation in property values. In addition, another unique, historical area would help to attract tourism to our city. Please join us in our neighborhood yard and bake sale. Contact your block chairman, [Wanda Sellars?] to acknowledge participation and for more details.

Yard Sale- Volunteer carpools, porches and yards are needed to set up the main areas on each street. In addition, we need volunteers to man each area for certain periods of time. Each person is responsible for tagging articles with price and initials, getting their own merchandise to and from the central sites, and providing their own tables for display. 20% of all proceeds will be collected from each site at 3 p.m. the day of the sale. Funds, of course, go towards the Historic Preservation Project. Articles may be donated (tax deductible). All advertising in newspapers, the WE Newsletter, posters, etc. will be handled by your West End Association.

Bake Sale - Everyone is encouraged to donate baked items, such as cakes, pies, cookies, bread, pickles, jam, etc. Snack site munchies sell well also. All proceeds will go to the Historic Preservation Fund. One central area will be designated for the bake sale and we need volunteers to assist. Contact Mary Beth Chapman at 723-7620 for information.

SO - Clean out your attic, basement and closets. Get rid of all that junk for a good cause.

Don't forget to call your block chairman or Dot Wise (761-0906) soon!!

Do's And Don'ts For Successful Yard Sale

- Do expect to have a good time!! There is much fun in bargaining!!
- Do begin the sale with at least twenty dollars in change - 10 ones, the rest change.
- Do tag all items with seller's initial and price.
- Do price in round figures so pennies won't be necessary - (no tax).
- Do place most attractive items near front.
- Do keep all items visible.
- Do keep a good record of sales with initial of seller and amount.
- Don't try to sell clothes with the exception of children's clothes, sweaters, and jeans. Adult clothes are worth more in tax deduction when donated to Rescue Mission or other charities.
- Don't leave display unattended.
- Don't think that any item is too junky, but keep prices realistic.
- Don't try to price used furniture too high - people expect real bargains at yard sales.



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TREE SEMINAR, March 17th at YWCA:

"Without its large old trees, Georgetown would look like just another housing development." Bill Gould, landscape architect and professor at the University of Maryland, began his remarks by stressing the value of trees in the urban landscape. He said that whether we are aware of it or not, trees answer a psychological need we have for a sense of "enclosure" which in turn makes us feel protected and secure in our environment.

It was primarily this psychological need Gould addressed as he discussed creating "enclosed spaces" in our yards. "Major shade trees should be your first concern in creating any environment. Next come understory trees and last shubbery." He finds however that people reverse the process, first putting in shubbery around the base of a house and then spotting a few "faddish" trees around the yard. Then they wonder ten years down the road what went wrong.

What did go wrong?

The answer: not enough shade trees; the large vertical structures that give us a sense of security outdoors, that in fact create "walls" in our landscape.

In fact, he noticed, something has clearly gone wrong in the West End. Many of our large old trees have either died or have been taken down, creating large gaping barren areas which are both ugly and psychologically unsettling (we seek cover elsewhere). Further, he realized that other trees will surely go in the next ten years. His solution: PLANT REPLACEMENT TREES. And he said it is not necessary to wait for a tree to die to plant its replacement. Simply put a back-up tree 6 - 10 feet from the original tree if it is high branched. When the old tree finally dies, the new one will be well on its way to maturity.

In the first and most important group, the overstory or shade trees, he recommends planting the following:

Any kind of oak, but particularly
red oak
scarlet oak
willow oak

(White oaks grow slowly; pin oaks have dropping lower branches and are thus unfit for small areas, over sidewalks and in parking lots.)

(Continued on back page)



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(Continued from page 3)

red maples (Acer rubrum)

sugar maples (though they do better farther north)

(No silver maples. They grow fast, but are extremely brittle; most of the neighborhood trees that are dying are silver maples.)

The smaller, understory trees he recommends are these:

native dogwood (Cornus Florida)

Kousa dogwood (Cornus kousa) (This tree is from Japan: it transplants better than the native dogwood, is hardier, has blooms a month later with its leaves.)

service berry (Amelanchier canadensis) (It has small white flowers and blooms before the dogwoods.)

ironwoods (Ostrya virginiana and Carpinus caroliniana) (He cautions that flowering crab and cherries, though beautiful, have many diseases and also drop fruit.)

Japanese maple (green--particularly good near doorways and walkways)

crepe myrtle (They are hardy, can endure full sun. Let them branch as trees. No chopping back branches.)

(More on the tree seminar in next month's newsletter, incl. HOW-TO)

As this newsletter goes to press, we sadly report the demise of the enormous tulip poplar and the large white pine on the lot at the corner of Brookstown and Jersey, which is being developed into condominiums. Despite a flurry of last-minute discussions with Crowder Realty, the developer, the trees came down. The issue as to whether to save the trees from destruction is one about which reasonable minds can differ, and it appears that the developer had given the matter some thought, though perhaps not enough to satisfy the proponents of keeping the trees on their feet. It is curious that large trees like these two (especially the poplar) are easier to destroy before the hot summer sun creates a need for shade. Whatever, the developer has indicated, if not promised, that it will plant several replacement trees. Let us keep an eye peeled.

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