

The West End

By and for the
West End Neighborhood

NOVEMBER 1984

MUCH OF THIS IS GOING TO BE WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL A "WORKMANLIKE" NEWSLETTER

Like Lake Wobegon, it was a quiet month in the West End. The only difference will be that the chronicler of the former can make something amusing and beautiful out of a quiet week, while the chronicler of the latter is going to bore you to death with a bunch of worldly details about the concerns of your neighborhood and its elected officials, such as they are. In other words, I dare you to continue reading this newsletter.

ITEM # 1 -- CONGREGATIONS . . .

Last month we promised you that the next meeting of the West End Association Board will be held on the first Tuesday of November, i.e., the 5th. We are going to keep that promise, and the meeting will be held at the home of Margaret Savoka and Steve Yeagy, at 154 Piedmont Avenue, at 8:00 P.M.

ITEM # 2 . . . AND OTHER PARTIES

Last month we promised to give you the details of the annual Christmas Party. Well, we're not really ready to do that quite yet, but I'll tell you what I know. We are shooting for December 14th, but December 7th is an alternate. We have a secret plan as to where the party will be, but it might be at the Y-W. After the election (the U.S., not the neighborhood), we will, I promise, reveal to you our secret plan about the Christmas Party details. Really. Meanwhile (praying as we do that this letter comes to you before 10/31), plan on going over to the Y-W for the Halloween Party; the announcement appears on the back page.

(Dear Reader, if you perceive a cynical tone here, perhaps e'en a Carterian malaise, please realize that your writer has been trying to become fully informed so that it may exercise its franchise intelligently in early November. There are times when ignorance is indeed bliss. And although knowledge may be power, one will suspect on Election Night that ignorance also has a power of its own.)

"What's this guy talking about, Herman?"

"I don't know, Martha. I can't even figure out which party he belongs to."

LET'S GET TO THE PART ABOUT WHAT THEY TALKED ABOUT AT THE MONTHLY MEETING

OK, if you insist. There was a meeting at the Elliott/Reynolds' House on October 2nd, and, yes, we talked about:

ZONING!

specifically, the request for another variance by the developers of the condominium at the corner of Jersey and Brookstown. It seems that the surveyor offset some stakes by 18 inches, which ended up with one of the buildings being 18" too close to the border of Mr. Power's place on Jersey. There was also a problem about a retaining wall being out of place. Well, the developer had already worked out a deal with his next-door neighbor to screen the property line with some (additional?) plantings and to do some other horse-trading which would compensate the neighbor.

The question facing the Board was, How do we respond to this at the upcoming Zoning Board meeting later that week? Obviously, the infraction was minor, and the neighbor most directly affected was assuaged. Do we get all upset by having to deal with the principle of the thing -- another variance from the zoning scheme which is, theoretically, supposed to protect us from uncontrolled change?

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Some members suggested that we try to extract some serious landscaping out of the developer as the price for our support. Others suggested withholding our support for the variance as a protest against the principle of the thing.

Flash ahead, if you will, to the Zoning Board meeting a couple of days later. Your President, Bill Wise, voiced support for the variance, given the accomodation achieved with the affected neighbor; he also suggested to that Board that there should be a review of the structure and funding of the City's Inspections Department, on the ground that a city the size of Winston-Salem needs an adequately staffed enforcement department, as well as modern ordinances, if the zoning system is to work the way it's supposed to. In short, lately Mr. Speas seems to be doing a pretty good job with the resources available to him, but he doesn't have enough to work with.

Of course, some of us considered this response to be reminiscent of the Iranian hostage cri. . . What? . . . Help! They're taking my typewriter away . . . You can't do this to me. . . .

A BRIEF, BUT OBVIOUSLY NECESSARY INTERRUPTION

Friends, perhaps some of you have been watching the World Series this year. Well, if you did, you'll remember how pathetic the starting pitchers were for the San Diego team. It seems like one of those boys has been writing your newsletter so far, and it's clearly time to bring in a relief pitcher, or writer, as the case may be. It's not that what he's told you so far is a lie or anything. The boy just appears to be suffering from an attitude problem. So, we're sorry, and we sure hope that the rest of this month's West Ender will be more pleasant and at least equally informative.

LANDSCAPING AT THE YMCA

No one has yet submitted a landscaping proposal in connection with the expansion of the Y-M's facilities, or at least submitted one to us. As you might recall, the Y-M was able to obtain a variance for some of its expansion needs, but at the cost of some mandatory landscaping. Several Association Board members expressed curiosity about the status of this plan, and no one could come up with an intelligent answer. (See Ann Freeman's letter, next page.)

JOIN THE NAVY AND SEE THE WEST END

Apparently Crisis Control is trying to lease the Naval Reserve building on Brookstown to be used as a "permanent" refuge for many of Winston-Salem's street people. Burke Street merchants are upset; Trade Street merchants are gleeful at the prospect. Your Board again is presented with the question: how do we stand? At this point, we decided we first need to find out more about the situation. It was the consensus of the group that we are willing to share in the solution of the problems of the homeless, but we don't want our neighborhood to bear the brunt of the solution.

Frank

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The Grace Court flower bed won 4th place in the contest sponsored by the Garden Club Council and the City Recreation Department. Kudos to Barbara Smitherman and Jo Osborne, who did virtually all of the work. More about beautification in the West End in upcoming newsletters. . .

Board members continue to work with Wachovia and the City on traffic from the Colossus. Latest idea (or, actually, an old idea which is worth pressing) is to see to it that all 4½ Street traffic should flow eastward to Broad, not westward to Summit.

The Association's Treasury was increased by \$162 from sales of the new T-shirts at the picnic, plus addition of seven new members. We spent \$200 at the picnic for the entertainment, but altogether our Grace Court events cost the treasury \$500 this year, \$100 under budget. Thanks again to David Speedie for the efforts he made this year, successful efforts, to bring entertainers to the West End.

We now have about \$6,700 in the Historic District Fund, and about \$960 in the general fund.

Does anyone out there have a word-processor that can make labels for this newsletter? We are going to be needing some assistance come next month. It takes about an hour on the machine to do the labels, plus another ½ hour to update the list. Please call Sam Matthews if you can help. 748-1066.

*****The House Tour will be held on Sunday, December 16th, from noon until seven o'clock. There will be about eight places for you and your friends to tour this year in the West End and in Chrystal Towers. Details to come in next month's newsletter. Be on the look-out for promotional announcements in the newspapers and elsewhere. Please lend your support to this Tour!

The Historic District committee is at the point of studying model ordinances and regulations of other historic preservation districts. And we are putting together more grant proposals.

A LETTER FROM ANN FREEMAN ENTITLED "SQUIBB FOR NEWSLETTER"

(Excerpts therefrom)

People ask me: How do you like the YMCA coming so close to you? Well, I'm getting claustrophobia so I've cut the hedge down a lot to let in some sun and air that is cut off. Also there's nothing I can do about it. I don't like to fight, and they're bigger than I am.

The workmen are very nice and the whole thing has been grand entertainment for "Little Folks"--who wouldn't like to have a safe place to watch those big machines and building blocks go up? . . .

. . . I feel like Ernest Hemingway about "all that unfriendly cement" and brick. We need trees -- vertical relief!

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The COLONEL LUDLOW HOUSE, Summit & W.5th, 777-1887.

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NOTICES (of a quasi-commercial nature)

#1 -- You can share your bed with a stranger! The Colonel Ludlow House needs additional bedrooms with private baths to house guests in peak periods (furniture market, special college week-ends, Piedmont Crafts Fair, Old Salem Christmas, etc.). You can earn \$25-35 per night, no breakfast required. Call Ken Land for details at 777-1887.

#2 -- The YWCA is sponsoring a Halloween Party on Wednesday night, October 31st, at the Y-W. It will be from 7 o'clock until 8:30, and the price of admission will be an unopened bag of candy. There will be a parade, games, and prizes. Come on over and enjoy yourself.

-----BOO!-----

DATA:

V
O T E T O V
E

The 1980 Census considered the West End community to include two neighborhoods for statistical purposes. 1,282 persons lived in the "North" sector (# 107) and 365 persons in the "South" sector (# 108). 10.5% of North residents were under 15 years old, as were 8.5 % of Southerners; 21.0% of Forsyth County was that age or under. 19.6% of Northerners were 65 or over, as were 10.1% of Southerners; 10.3% of all Forsythians were in that age group.

Gray Power is alive and well in the West End. . . just ask Wendy.

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