

The West End

By and for the
West End Neighborhood

OCTOBER 1984

IF YOU MISSED IT, YOU BLEW IT

The Annual West End Pot Luck Picnic was held on Sunday afternoon, September 23rd, and, by golly, a good time was had by all! Or, if anybody didn't have a good time, they at least had the good manners not to bitch and moan and ruin the party for everybody else.

There was the usual scrumptious food, legal beverages, and (yes) napkins. And there was more -- a bluegrass band that would have played the paint right off the gazebo if we'd let 'em, and a clown from the North Carolina School of the Arts (whaddaya mean, they're all clowns at the School of the Arts?!?!? What are ya, some kind of Philistine???) that had the kids enthralled.

Speaking of blowing it, Terrell Young had a lot to blow at that picnic-- the candles on her 90+th birthday cake. For those of you who didn't see the Sentinel on Monday the 24th, Terrell celebrated her 94th birthday at this year's potluck. Terrell certainly serves as an inspiration for us all with her mental tenacity and physical vigor. When one woman offered to get Miss Young's supper from the serving line and bring it over to her, Terrell smiled patiently and said, "No thanks, I'll go up and get my own."

*****You can go up and get your own at the West End Christmas Party -- look for details in next month's Newsletter *****

JUST WHAT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

That's right. Due to popular demand, West End Board meetings will be moved from the second Tuesday to the First Tuesday of each month. This will help us avoid having to call special meetings for Zoning Board matters plus the regular meeting, as was necessary this past month (see page 2 for details). Therefore, the October meeting will be (OK, wuz) held at the Elliot/Reynolds' house, at 8:00 P.M. on the 2nd.

Let's hope that nothing important will be (OK, wuz) decided at that meeting, because as you can tell, you got this newsletter after the meeting was long since over. I'm sorry, but your newsletter staff has been too busy to get the darn thing out on time this month. As you all know, we are involved in an election year, and for those of us who are committed to the re-election of Jimmy Carter, we've just been too busy . . .huh? . . . you mean he's not the Presi. . .? Well . . . who is? . . .Oh, really. You've got to be kidding. . .And he's gonna win again? Hmmm, no wonder we can't get the newsletter out on time. Well, anyway, we are sorry. . . Oh, you agree. Is that good?

Well, anyway, the next meeting will be held on November 5th, but I can't tell you where yet 'cause I just don't know.

ZONING LAWS AND OTHER RUBBISH

Your incumbent President Bill Wise recently penned a missive to Martha Wood (who, by the way, showed up at the potluck with a bowl of salad and a burst of energy) articulating our community's concern about the apparent disjointedness of the various ordinances dealing with issuance of building permits, electrical permits, plumbing permits, single v. multi-family use permit, variances for this, that and the other. There seems to be such confusion in the law that well-intentioned people can't figure out how to comply and the hustlers can figure out how to do what they damn well please.

If you've been appalled by the trash and the illegally parked trailer behind the Burke Street businesses, you're not alone. Complaints are being made to the

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proper municipal authorities, who in turn are serving violation notices and clean-up notices to the offending parties. Unfortunately, at press time, the responsible parties have not responded as responsibly as we believe they should. We're gonna start naming names next month if the situation has not been cleared up.

SPEAKING OF NAMING NAMES

In the September Newsletter, Wendy, the West End Windbag, named "my friend Darryl (sic) Siefert" as a person behind a decision to cut down trees, a decision that Wendy passionately disagreed with. Well, Daryl Siefert didn't appreciate being called a blockhead (and who can blame him?) and just as passionately felt the need to defend his actions. Therefore, over on page 3 is Mr. Siefert's thoughtful response to Wendy's (equally thoughtful?) attack. The West Ender thanks Mr. Siefert for caring enough about this issue to respond, and -- just like zoning--the question will continue to merit attention in these pages.

Editor's Note: To the extent that Mr. Siefert could interpret Wendy's prose as an attack on his person rather than on the decision, we do apologize to him, and we want all of you to know that Wendy has been encouraged to vent her spleen more cautiously in the future.

SPEAKING OF TREES

First, re-read the last paragraph of Daryl's letter and PLEASE take it to heart, even if you disagree with his point of view in the four paragraphs of his "defense."

Second, the developer of the condos on Brookstown at Jersey, Jim McChesney, has invited suggestions for tree and shrub planting from West End residents. There will be a meeting at Becky Gibson's (1315 Brookstown) on Tuesday, October 16th, at 8:00 to receive and discuss any suggestions that you might have about that project, or about any other beautification issues in our neighborhood. (The newsletter ought to be in your hands before that meeting, so please attend if you've got some good ideas.)

VARIANCES ALLOWED AT ZONING BOARD MEETING

As you are probably aware, the Zoning Board of Adjustment waived yard-size requirements back on September 6th for Jules Smythe, Jr. and for Richard Fireman/Mosely Waite. This action allowed these owners to continue renovations to buildings on their properties. Your Association's officers and board members took an active part in trying to resolve the disputes that had risen between neighbors and to decide what to suggest to the Zoning Board. As we anticipated in last month's newsletter, the Association remained officially neutral in the Fireman/Waite dispute with Robert Hill, although its members attempted to mediate the differences.

It came as somewhat of a surprise to the Zoning Board that the Association did not oppose Mr. Smythe's application. Instead, we endorsed his plans, provided that the group of buildings along First Street remain residential and that the work be completed within six months. The Board agreed with our view, but reasonably gave the developer eight months.

One of the points of contention between Mr. Smythe and the Association has been his apparent lack of concern for careful planning and strict compliance with zoning requirements. After extended communication between Smythe and the Board, including the Zoning hearing itself, it appears that Mr. Smythe has picked up quite an education in the last few months so that his business practices are as good as his renovations. One thing for sure, the man does know how to fix up old houses.

Frank

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE RESIDENTS OF WEST END

Dear Wendy:

I can appreciate your concern and understand the anger you felt when you saw a City tree crew taking down the 3 trees on Summit Street. I have had these same feelings many times when I see developers or unknowing home owners needlessly slaughtering healthy trees. If you check with those who know me well, they will attest that I am opposed to the senseless cutting of trees and am a proponent of saving trees and replanting trees wherever possible.

In defense of my tree crews and our City operations and to 'enlighten' you, I would like to present a few facts about this situation. The reason these trees were removed was because they were no longer safe to leave standing. The removal and replacement of the buckled sidewalk adjacent to the trees severely damaged the root system and left the trees with very little support. One of the trees already was dead in the top, all three had been severely damaged at the base and were dead and decayed in the heartwood. What was left were weak trees with questionable integral strength and little or no anchoring roots. Trees in this condition are certainly predisposed to toppling under even slight wind or ice pressures.

The consequences of leaving these trees in such poor condition could have been very serious indeed. At the least, the trees would have fallen into the street pulling the power lines down and blacking-out your street. A more severe problem would be the damage or destruction of someone's parked car or possibly even a nearby home. The most grave situation could involve the loss of life. Suppose an unsuspecting child or elderly person happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time?


As a professional, I have devoted over 15 years to the nursery and landscape industry. My training includes a degree in Landscape Management from one of the leading universities in the country. I've updated and expanded my education through seminars and conferences. I've worked in several landscape situations that have broadened my exposure and knowledge and I have been in the position of Landscape Planner for nearly 5 years. The responsibilities of my position include keeping the rights-of-way safe for the citizens of Winston-Salem. In cases such as this one, which is certainly not unique, I draw on my experience and education to make a sound, objective evaluation of the condition of the tree and base my actions accordingly. If I were to act solely on emotion, as some people tend to do, then I would probably never give the order to cut a tree and in doing so would be derelict in the performance of my duties. Those who are uninformed or untrained certainly have little ground on which to stand and cast stones.

I would like to address briefly the issue that was at the bottom of this controversy, cutting down trees to put in new sidewalk. Unfortunately, you have not seen the last of this type work. The Bond Referendum money that has been appropriated for Neighborhood Revitalization Projects consists of a great deal of sidewalk repair to remove and replace damaged and unsafe sidewalks. Fortunately however, concurrent with the sidewalk work, there is a large amount of money allocated for street tree plantings. Not only will trees removed because of the sidewalk repair be replaced, but new street trees will be planted throughout the neighborhood area. The new trees planted will be of a type that are better suited to the harsh environment in which they are placed. Trees that won't grow into wires and have to be 'pruned' by Duke Power, trees that won't buckle the sidewalk and push out the curb (Would Moscow do this for you?)

I would like to ask that the citizens of West End join us in our tree planting operations by planting a tree of their own. Certainly a spacious yard is a more suitable home for a tree than a 2' wide strip along the road.

Sincerely,

Daryl Siefert
Daryl Siefert
Landscape Planner



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OK, West Enders, it's back to the regular meeting at Nick's LIGHTHOUSE RESTAURANT for supper! We do the dishes, provide parking, and serve fine food at reasonable prices. Your children are especially welcome to join our family atmosphere, and the rest of you are invited to check out and enjoy our selection of wines that add a touch of class to every cook's best efforts. When the weather gets stormy, look to the LIGHTHOUSE; a trip to this refuge will calm your kitchen down.

The 4½ STREET DELI at 848 WEST FIFTH -- We serve a complete line of deli sandwiches and salads. Open from 9 in the morning to 3 in the afternoon, we deliver to the downtown and West End area from 11:30 to 2. Use our delivery as a catering service for luncheon meetings of up to 20 people.

Hair's another idea -- get coiffed at the G. CARLYLE SALON at 848 W.5th and then ease on over to the deli for a bite to eat. It's kind of like patting your head and rubbing your tummy at the same time. Treat yourself!

WACHOVIA IS TRYING NOT TO WALK OVER YOU

Lots of folks in the West End are grouching about what appears to them to be shaping up as the Eighth Wonder of the World, the Wachovia West End Center. Your Association's President, Bill Wise, has been in frequent touch with Dalton Ruffin, the man-what-am at the bank, concerning parking and traffic problems. We are told that the general site work, underground utility lines and the building itself are all on schedule and follow the plan unveiled to us a couple of years ago. The parking situation boils down to 578 spaces for an employee shift population of 600 people (in 1985, up to 800 in future years) during the day. All sixty second and third shift employees will have free parking spaces inside the building. Car pooling should make it possible to handle all first shift parking inside the building as well; the decision on a parking fee for day shift employees has not yet been made. The discussion with Ruffin and his people focussed on the concerns of residents on 6th and Summit Streets that the parking fee would discourage in-building parking and pour beaucoup autos into the streets and driveways.

As far as traffic congestion and safety is concerned, the bank is conducting a survey among the affected employees to determine commuting patterns, car pool potentials, etc. The bank will work with City traffic control people to set the most workable flow patterns, and they promise to take our suggestions and concerns into their plans.

*****HAVE A GOOD TIME ON HALLOWEEN*****OK?*****

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