

The West End

By and for the
West End Neighborhood

April 1985

ANNUAL BATTLE AT ST. PAUL'S -- SEVERAL PRISONERS TAKEN

RULING ELITE PERPETUATES ITSELF, MORE OR LESS

Following the election held at the West End Association's annual meeting on March 5th, these people are now your association's Officers and Directors:

President-- Bill Wise, 1113 West Fourth St., 761-0906

Vice-President-- Warren Sparrow, 1117 W. 4th St.,
725-8953

Secretary-- Martha Harper, 909 West End Blvd., 722-2641

Treasurer-- Sam Matthews, 1220 Forsyth St., 748-1066

Immediate Past President-- Glen Gravlee, 1205 Clover
St., 724-3982.

(Well, actually, Glen is not all that "immediate" a past-president, because that's what he was last year. But since Wise got re-elected, as did Matthews, and Martha was the Veep and Warren was a board member, the whole thing is pretty incestuous, if you ask me. But if you don't like it, you and your friends should have showed up in force and thrown the bums out! And you didn't, so grit your cavity-filled teeth and live with 'em!!!)

Oh yes, there are these new board members:

Felice & Keith Avery, 1120 W. 4th St., 761-0228

Liz & John Gilliam, 1129 W. 4th St., 723-2242

Anne Johnston, 300 West End Blvd., 725-3711

Claudia & Paul Shepard, 1406 Jarvis St., 722-8253

Jeanne Wine, 820 Carolina Ave., 725-8571

Tom & Sue Davis, 804 West End Blvd., 723-6900

Now, some of these so-called "new" board members are actually old ones who wormed their way back into positions of awesome power, namely, Avery and Gilliam, plus the Shephards have been around before, too. In any event, their terms expire in 1987.

In addition, the following named human being was elected to fill Warren Sparrow's old position, which expires in 1986:

Paula Locklair, 1149 W. Fourth St., 724-0912.

She joins:

Chris & Marybeth Chapman, 520 Jersey St., 723-7620

Jay & Janine Cutchin, 1028 West End Blvd., 724-3077

Jim & Betsy Gregg, 1219 W. Fourth St., 723-3552

Grace Humphries, 1124 W. Fourth St., 725-1595

Suzanne Reynolds & Rob Elliott, 608 West End Blvd.,
723-6675

Fortunately, the candidates who were not present at the meeting did not receive enough votes to win, and them that was, did. That saved everybody a lot of embarrassment.

In addition to serving as officers and directors, these people will be "Block Captains" in our Neighborhood Watch program (even though many of them live on the same block), and they will be laboring on various committees. They will be calling upon you for help. You can say no all you want, but don't complain if things around here start to go to rack and ruin because you won't get off your hind end and get to work.

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OTHER HOT TOPICS

The TREASURER'S REPORT showed a total fund balance of \$10,759.07. The vast bulk of that is in the Historic Preservation District Fund, which holds \$9,755.60. In the first two months of 1985, fifty-five (55) of you good people have renewed your membership; this represents 27% of the present membership, which suggests we are off to a good start. However, the present paid membership of 203 probably represents about half of the realistic potential in the neighborhood. Therefore, what I'm asking you to do is to renew your own membership, if you are not among the first 55, and please get one new member to join.

There were several developments on the ZONING and BEAUTIFICATION fronts. The best news is that the Inspections Division of the city government has helped apply pressure on Grubbs' Carpet store to clean up the mess they had made and to move the trailer that had been creating an eyesore. Thanks to the city, and thanks to Grubbs for making things more pleasant for us all. Thanks, too, to the YMCA, which has done a considerable amount of planting during the past few weeks. Anne Freeman counted 39 pears, 44 pines and 2 hollies. (There were also 3 catatonic joggers and one undercover police officer which confused the inventory.) Presenting a more mixed issue was the development with Antoine's Hair Studio on Summit Street. Because of lack of parking spaces, the studio was held by the Zoning Board to be out of compliance with the ordinance requirements. What happened next was that the proprietor rented a parking space in the daytime which allowed him to then go to the Zoning staff and get permission to run his business. What was troubling to some people was not that the fellow can now do business at that site. We wish him well, as long as he remains in compliance with the substantive law. The issue is really a procedural one: whether any person, you or I, can lose at the Board and then take ex parte action to remedy the situation and get staff approval, without going through a subsequent public hearing. It could lead to abusive end-runs.

The membership learned about a meeting attended by several members of our Association, concerning TREES and the BOND REFERENDUM MONEY. This meeting was called by Alderman Martha Wood, with Assistant City Manager Joe Berrier and Darryl Siefert, the City's landscaping man. The genesis of the meeting was primarily the outraged complaints of the Holly Avenue Association, which had heard about the City's plan felt that it was getting seriously short-changed. So, along with a representative from West Highlands Association, we all looked at the plans and palavered about the situation. Essentially, we felt that the West End was getting its fair share of the trees, but that maybe the good citizens of West Highlands could share a little bit of their allocation with the folks in Holly Avenue, especially along First and Second Streets. These "gateways" to downtown can be a source of enjoyment or dismay (continued next page)

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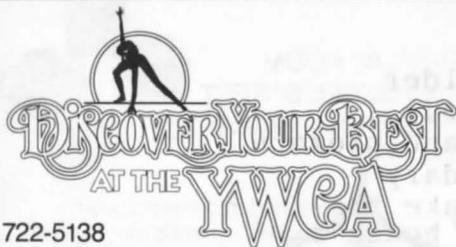
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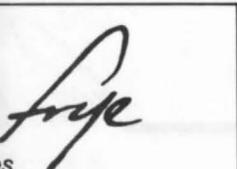


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to residents of all three neighborhoods. The point of all this is that your Association is actively involved in decision-making at the grass-roots (or, in this instance, tree-roots) level, on matters not just within our borders, but in surrounding areas as well. This fact recognizes that no neighborhood, like no man, is an island -- the economists called these benefits and costs "externalities," and they are just beginning to figure out how to measure them.

Speaking of externalities, we have sent formal notice to the Board of Directors of the Child Guidance Center of our intent to seek back-zoning of the property on which that non-profit, publicly supported agency's facility now stands. You can anticipate being asked to sign a petition supporting this change, and to go to a Zoning Board meeting some day in the future to further demonstrate your personal support. If we are to preserve the primarily residential character of our neighborhood, we must pursue this and related remedies with intelligent vigor. It's your home, my friend.

The next meeting of the Board will be at the Gilliams' house at 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 2nd.

CORRECTION: Last month's newsletter contained a report on David Neal's purported purchase of an old house on Brookstown, along with some of the preservation issues raised by his intended use as a possible adjunct to McDonald house. It turns out that the actual conveyance to Neal was never completed, for reasons having nothing to do with porches, parking spaces, or the intended use. So, as far as we know right now, the property is still on the market.

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"WENDY GOES TO BUENA VISTA"

The concluding chapter in what can only be called a tale of woe, but could also be called a waste of time.

By I.B. Gyle

Following her successive defeats at the Zoning Board and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Wendy, the West End Windbag, has abandoned her re-development plans. She has also abandoned her stately old home in the West End, having moved in to the tasteful Buena Vista residence of her daughter, Mary Elizabeth ("Muffy") Buffington (Mrs. Van Dyke ("V.D.") Buffington). "Things over here are just a lot more sensible," Wendy told this reporter. "If you don't like something, you just tell somebody down at City Hall what to do, and it gets done. No more petitions, no more requests. And" she added, her knitting needles cracking like typewriter keys, "if Muffy gets rebellious, I can always move down the street to Arbor Acres."

Good-bye, Wendy. And good riddance.

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