

The West End

By and for the
West End Neighborhood

September 1985

THE NIGHT TO REMEMBER: SEPTEMBER 29, 1985

Our Annual Pot-Luck Supper will be at 5:30 p.m., Sunday, September 29, 1985, at Grace Court. Traditionally, this is a great neighborhood outing. Don't miss it. The West End Board meets at 8:00 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is October 1, at the Harpers', 909 West End Boulevard. The November 5, 1985, meeting will be at the Gravlees', 1205 Clover Street.

THE SUMMER OF '85

For most of the summer, the dawn has been coming up "like thunder" in West End. The loudest noise, however, comes from the bulldozers and related construction activity throughout the neighborhood. From Wachovia's Four and One-Half Street monolith to the alley that parallels Burke Street, there is ample evidence of big changes in West End.

The list of projects is varied and lengthy. Wachovia's West End Center is open and is by far the most dominant commercial incursion into the neighborhood since the YMCA. Though not fully operational, the center is open (for those employees with proper credentials) 24 hours each day. Wachovia has provided sufficient offstreet parking for the entire labor force--at a price. There is no question that Wachovia's management is making an extraordinary effort to make a positive contribution to West End.

Griffis and Hollingsworth advertising agency is pressing forward with the renovation at the corner of Summit and Fifth Street.... There is a condo conversion underway at the old Southern Bell building near Fifth and Broad streets.... The Modern Chevy corner of the world is undergoing a facelift of fairly large proportion...Remember those old commercials? "Our world revolves around you!" A little less publicized but perhaps more important to the future of West End as a residential area is the effort of Jules Smythe to spruce up the First Street hill. He's working both sides of the street now, having purchased the two-story brick apartment on the northwest corner of First and Summit. He got a waiver from the Zoning Board of Adjustments to enable him to rebuild the exterior. Jules is by far the most active of the West End residents with regard to residential renewal.

Hanes Park is not being left out of the Summer of '85 building boom. A new tennis support facility is under construction. Lurking in the shadows is a project nobody wants to talk about: AN EIGHT THOUSAND SEAT FOOTBALL STADIUM....with

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lights and an all-weather track. This little jewel is being pushed by some Reynolds High School football boosters and has already gotten a slight nod of approval from the local school board. This came in the passage of a "5-Year Plan" by the board earlier this year, designating approximately TWO MILLION dollars for the construction of football stadiums (with all-weather tracks, of course) at local schools. The original ploy is to put the stadium on Reynolda Road in the undeveloped area across from the Children's Home property. Some might find this site unsuitable. Maybe it will be too expensive to build it in a virtual flood plain. Wonder what the people who live on Buena Vista Road and Thorncliff think? The next best place is Hanes Park! Goodbye softball and general recreation. Hello football Friday night. How do you like this idea? Please let us know... call 761-0906 (President Wise) or write to the Newsletter P.O. Box 161.

In the event you were away when the news broke, the Child Guidance Clinic and the Petree, Stockton law firm have struck a deal concerning the clinic's Glade Street property. The lawyers won the bidding war and will expand into the clinic property in about one year, maybe less. The purchase price is over \$500,000--not bad for less than two acres. Hopefully, the general appearance of the hill will not be altered. So far, the law firm has supported the concept of historic designation for the main structure.

Across the street from Petree, Stockton another neighborhood improvement project is underway at 1096 West Fourth-- the old Gass Rooming House. The 14-or-so tenants are gone and conversion of the structure to a two-family home is progressing. Rolfe Teague, whose heart has always been in West End, is overseeing the construction. She and her husband, Richard, are partners in West End Hotel Company Partners, a group of eight families interested in preserving the residential character of the neighborhood.

On the Historic District front, the City of Winston-Salem has agreed to accept the grant that will enable the process to go forward. For the next several months, data will be accumulated by researchers. If all goes well, West End could be part of a historic district within a year. Former association president Glenn Gravlee deserves a lot of credit for keeping this effort going and helping raise the money to pay for the research.

Duncan-Parnell, Inc., a survey equipment supplier, has moved to higher ground, leaving its First Street

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location across from Food Fair. The new location is 926 West Fourth Street, the building formerly occupied by Holladay Surgical Supply. Duncan-Parnell has some exotic stuff. They also make prints of engineering drawings and provide many support services for architects, engineers and surveyors.

The Summer of '85 has certainly been the most active one from the construction viewpoint in the history of the association. The flap with the Child Guidance Clinic certainly brought into focus just how attractive the neighborhood is to developers. This is a natural result of the improvement of a downtown residential area. Commercial enterprises are naturally attracted. High density residential developers also find such areas attractive. The result is a heightened interest in investment opportunity. If Architect Tom Calloway, a member of the Child Guidance Clinic ad hoc committee, envisions a high-rise building for the Glade Street hill, what is going on in the minds of other Winston-Salem developers? Is it not possible that there are speculators who are looking at other West End locations for big profits? They would not have to look far. Directly across the street from the Child Guidance Clinic is another nonprofit organization that has not been through the best of financial times. The YWCA is a terrific neighborhood asset that has been overshadowed by the YMCA. The Physical appearance of the buildings is attractive and the large trees mask the commercial nature of the facility. But, the exercise trail has been less than a great success. There is a lot of land under the wing of the YWCA and it is one of the hottest locations in town. The YWCA needs the enthusiastic support of every person in West End. The continued good health of the YWCA is critical to the maintenance of the ambiance of West End and the enhancement of the residential character of the neighborhood.

There has been a light side to the Summer of '85: President and Mrs. Wise went to Europe-- Switzerland, France, Holland, etc. They heard from one of their Washington contacts (Bill and Dot used to live in Bethesda) a story about the United States Supreme Court. It seems that the justices were having lunch together at a Washington restaurant. The waiter approached the court's only woman member first, asking Justice O'Conner what she would like to eat. She ordered a hamburger steak. The waiter then asked, "What about the vegetables?" Without hesitating, she answered, "Oh, they'll have the same thing".

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And, a little closer to home a fellow could stop at a gas station near Linwood on the way to High Rock Lake. It's really one of those small grocery stores with gas pumps. Some real Americans are running that store, folks, some real Americans. They have a sign posted inside. It says, "Stealers Will Be Arrested Or Shot, Which Ever Comes First".

FEATURED ADVERTISERS FOR August

YWCA - The new buildings and programs are working very well. Please stop in at the Information Desk at the new entrance where there is a complete lineup of the regular and special programs plus notices of discounts and promotional packages. Your neighborhood YWCA is the place to go for year round exercise, health and fun packages. They have summer camp and after school programs for children 5 through 12. Phone 7225138.

CHAMELEON GALLERY has been in the West End for 16 years. They are allied with seven corresponding offices in the U.S.A. and Europe. They buy and sell period works as well as the finest contemporary art, addressing both beginning and established collectors. They provide full service to corporate collectors. Theirs is one of the finest framing shops, with over 2,000 moldings in-house. Posters, original prints, paintings, water colors and sculpture for your approval. See their ad inside for hours and phone.

ELECTRIC SALES on Burke Street has been an active part of the West End for almost 23 years. Theirs is a family busines, and every day they work to earn the privilege of serving the West End and Winston-Salem for at least another 23 years! If it's in the lighting line, they have it. From Tiffany to track, basement to boudoir, they offer shades, parts, special bulbs, lamps, fixtures, fans, door chimes and more. They also do repair work. Go on in, you'll find friends at Electric Sales.

If you would like to join the West End Neighborhood Association, fill out the following form and send it in with a check to P.O. Box 161.

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