

# The West End

By and for the  
West End Neighborhood

May 1988

## SUMMER SOCIAL SCHEDULE

The first summer event will be a picnic at Grace Court on June 12th at 6:00 p.m. Bring your children, your neighbors, your goodies and anything else you can think of. Entertainment will be provided. This is a good chance for all the kids to run around and expend their excess energies, and for the adults to sit back on their blankets in the shade of the trees, talk to other neighborhood folks, and enjoy the event.

The traditional July 4th neighborhood parade and other festivities will begin that morning at 11:00 in Grace Court. This is a potluck event. More details will follow in next month's newsletter. For now, just mark it on your calendar.

There will be more social events in July and August, which will be announced in next month's newsletter (or by fliers, if necessary). Please join in all of the neighborly fun.

## CITY CURBSIDE PICK-UP

On Monday, June 20th, we will have the second annual curbside pick-up. This means you can spend the weekend of the 18th and 19th mulling over your household flotsam before placing it on the curb (neatly, in bags or boxes, if possible) for your neighbors' perusal and the Sanitation Department's collection. You can leave just about anything, big or small (but please-- no stumps or rocks), and even old appliances and furniture will be picked up (if too far gone to be given to charity). Please mark this date on your calendar as well.

## WEST END HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Historic District Committee met on May 12th with planning staff member LeAnn Pegram, and Larry Robbs, chairman of the Historic Districts Commission, attending the meeting. The first draft of the proposed guidelines was discussed and LeAnn Pegram will be coming out with a second draft which will be circulated among the various city departments for review and comment. There was considerable discussion as to whether artificial siding, such as aluminum siding or vinyl siding, should be permitted, and the draft being prepared will prohibit such siding in the West End Historic District (but all existing siding would, of course, be permitted under a "grandfather provision"). This might be a little more regulation than the neighborhood had in mind, but apparently the prevailing opinion among historic preservationists is that such a prohibition is necessary to protect the integrity of an historic neighborhood (and all but one of the other historic districts in North Carolina that have enacted guidelines prohibit any more artificial siding). The neighborhood has requested a dozen copies of the second draft, so we hope to have some available in the near future.

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### MINUTES OF WEST END BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 on May 3rd. by Martin Sokoloff, president, at the home of Randy and Lea Loftis. The minutes were approved as they appeared in the April newsletter.

I. ZONING PROCESS - Martin Sokoloff asked that Bill Wise give the members present an updated overview of the zoning process, both how the system works and a classifications summary. The first part of the meeting was devoted to this discussion.

II. THE ARCHES - The appeal from the Notice of Zoning Violation is on the Zoning Board of Adjustment Calendar for May 5th and West Enders will be contacted as to what time to appear at City Hall. (Editors' Note - this matter was continued until July 7th in order to await Board of Aldermen action on the Intensification of Uses Amendment, which has been scheduled for June 6th - see article following these minutes).

III. CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR - The tour has been tentatively set for December 4th. Our valued chairman, David Christenbury, has a large committee of volunteers, with Bill and Dottie Wise as co-chairs. Please call with house suggestions and/or to volunteer your time.

IV. TREE ORDINANCE - Barbara Lister-Sink, Becky Gibson, Martin Sokoloff and Jim Fox have met and discussed how to proceed. It is the strong feeling of the board to develop and recommend an ordinance for the protection of the neighborhood's trees. Other cities will be contacted for their input, and all residents and other interested people are encouraged to contribute ideas to this committee. The board will ask that a representative from Duke Power Company address a meeting in the future.

V. GRACE COURT - Bill Sugg and Johanna Hudson reported on the "state of the park": The city has been replacing the soil in the plantings around the park. Johanna has dug the bulbs planted in the past and will need help in both storing them for the summer and re-planting them in the fall. On November 5th at 10:00 a.m. there will be a bulb planting party at Grace Court. The maintenance of the park is always a concern. The consensus of the board is that we need to elect a park supervisor with a yearly term. The responsibilities would be to keep the events calendar and inform the board of the needs at the park. To help on costs we will encourage donations for use of the park for special events. The Barbara Smitherman fund has been designated for upkeep. All residents can help by being good stewards-- pulling those weeds while enjoying our landmark.

VI. BARBARA SMITHERMAN MEMORIAL - A tree will be planted in the fall, with a plaque on the wall with the appropriate message. Becky Gibson and Johanna Hudson are in charge.

VII. COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION - Chris Chapman has agreed to serve as the West End representative on a committee to be appointed by the City-County Planning Board to develop a Community Appearance Commission.

VIII. TRASH PICK-UP - On June 20th the city will engage in a massive pick-up of all items left on the curb (see article on first page of newsletter). Thanks were expressed to Warren Sparrow for arranging this (legal) heist.

IX. WEST END BIKE RACE - It is scheduled for this Saturday, with the longest race beginning at approximately 1:00 p.m.

X. WEST END HISTORIC DISTRICT - Chris Chapman brought in a copy of the first draft of the proposed guidelines as developed by LeAnn Pegram of the city planning staff (see article on first page of newsletter). The meeting with the Historic District Committee has been postponed from May 5th to May 12th to discuss this draft.

*Frank*

& associa

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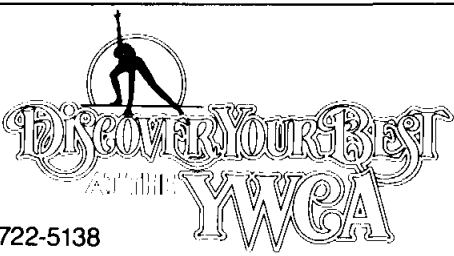
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XI. SUMMER SOCIALS - A summer schedule of neighborhood picnics, potlucks, concerts and get-togethers is now in the planning process (see article on first page of newsletter). Carole Wells and Bill Sugg are working on this.

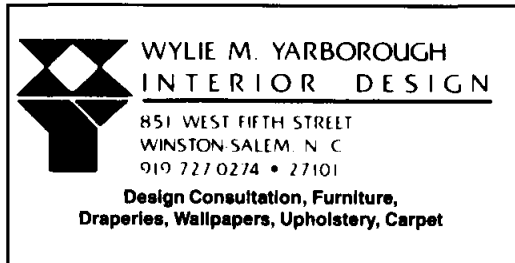
XII. MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - The membership information was delivered April 16th by our reliable delivery system (Colin Shepard). Most of the distribution was to apartments and areas that we felt were under-represented. We have had 32 new subscriptions as of May 10th. This committee will continue to develop a permanent flier for public relations and membership drive use.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**INTENSIFICATION OF USES ORDINANCE**

This matter was before the City-County Planning Board last month. The board adopted the position of its staff and of our neighborhood association to the effect that whenever there is a change of use or a combination of lots as to any multi-family residential property or as to business property bordering residential property, there should be a hearing before the Zoning Board of Adjustment if any variances are necessary as to set-backs, parking, screening or other zoning requirements. Current law requires this for all property (including all business property whether or not it borders residential property), and the purpose of the proposed amendment is to exempt business property that does not border residential property. This section of the zoning ordinance was added a few years ago at the request of the West End Association in order to provide some protection to the neighborhood from properties not meeting setback, parking, screening or other zoning requirement. Bill Wise and Paul Shepard have had several discussions with city staff on this issue and the compromise that was worked out relaxed the requirements of the zoning ordinance for business property not bordering residential property but retained the requirements for residential property and business property bordering residential property.

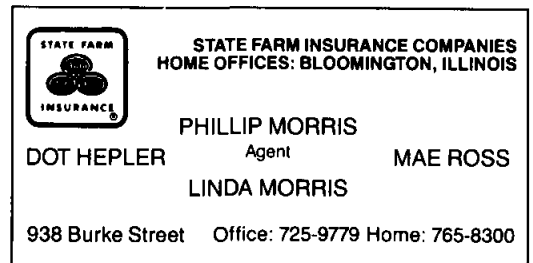
On May 2nd the proposed amendment came before the Board of Aldermen. The attorney representing the Arches appeared with yet another proposed amendment designed to relieve the Arches from applying for a variance to the setback, parking and screening requirements of the zoning ordinance. The Board of Aldermen continued the hearing on the proposed amendment until Monday, June 6th, so that is the date by which we must make our views known to the Board of Aldermen. It does not make sense to rewrite the text of the zoning ordinance, just so the Arches will not have to apply for a variance before the Zoning Board of Adjustment (its appeal of the Notice of Zoning Violation has been continued until July 7th, in order to await Board of Aldermen action on the zoning amendment). The attorney for the Arches has been notified by the neighborhood that we would have no problem with a reasonable variance, but thus far it has refused to apply for one, contending that it is not legally required to do so.



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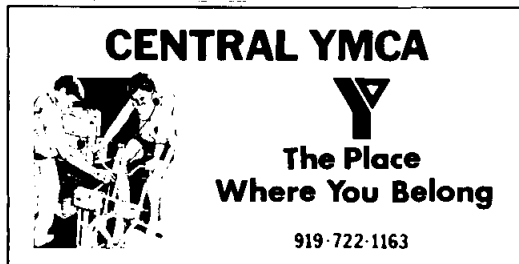
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CITY BEVERAGE - We are so pleased with our new location, directly across Burke Street from the old store. There is plenty of off-street parking and a display room with space to present our wide range of foreign and domestic wines and beers. Carpets and soft lighting will comfort your browsing. Customers who sign our mailing list will enjoy frequent testing parties sponsored by wine distributors (wine seminars coming up this fall). Open 9 to 9 six days a week--come in and see why we are so proud of our new location.

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GLEN & JOYCE GRAVLEE - Our downunder friends want to hear from us. Write them at 165 Botony St., Randwhich, N.S.W. 2031, Australia.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: June 7th at 8:00 pm. at the home of Susan Walter and Walter Ettringer located at 715 Summit Street.

BABYSITTER - Call Emily Penney 722-2905.

MOWING LAWNS AND ODD JOBS - Call Colin Shepard 722-8253.

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Circulation: Lea Loftis and Sue Davis

Contributors: Anyone who will submit articles to any board member before the date of the monthly board meeting.

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