

The West End

By and for the
West End Neighborhood

August 1992

FESTIVAL AT GRACE COURT IS NIGH UPON US

This ancient celebration, begun in the year 1991 A.D., will take place on Saturday, September 12th, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Better yet, show up early to see the end of the Twin City Track Club's 5-mile road race. Then, browse (with pocketbook in hand) among nearly two dozen exhibits of arts and crafts and the famous Historic West End T-shirts (lots of X-L's are on order). Enjoy food and drink and a cornucopia of live musical offerings. Please show up, and bring several friends.

We can still use a few more volunteers, so call Wanda at 631-3910 (H), 722-6092 (H), if you want to help out.

WEST END HOUSE GUEST

It's Sunday afternoon, the wife's off doing good, you're sitting at a dining room table paying bills. The door bell rings. Wife must be home, so you go to the front hall to greet her. Surprise. Strange man in front hall. Says he's there to visit an old friend. A glance through green door shows neighbor from across the street with knee against door keep intruder from escaping. You signal neighbor to move aside so this guy can flee before he freaks and kills you both. Door opens, stranger calmly walks down the street. You two call 911. 10 minutes later, police car arrives and officer starts filling out forms. 5 minutes later, another car arrives, with the intruder sitting in the back seat. Within more minutes, 5 more police cars show up. (It's helpful, but not necessary, to be the former D.A.)

Whew! The police did their job wonderfully. Neighborhood Watch worked -- the neighbor saw the stranger walk through an unlocked door, and the neighbor rang the door bell. The stranger turned out to be a breaking-&-entering-&-larceny specialist out on parole. The police found someone else's cash, credit cards and wallet on him. They also found a long-blade knife in his pocket.

Sadly, we live in an age when it's prudent to keep your doors locked, front and back. Given the world we live in, it's helpful to be a seamy neighbor, but it's wise not get too macho about it. Fortunately, no one was hurt. The guy out on Stratford Road wasn't so lucky. 911 is a good thing. So are neighbors who care.

IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE ABOUT IT.

Our neighborhood school, Brunson Elementary, needs tutors: math and reading tutors, grades 1-5; read-a-story tutors for K-1; and do-whatever-necessary-in-the-classroom tutors. The key here is working 1-on-1 or one-on-a-few kids regularly. Time commitment can be as little as a half-hour per week, or more if you have the time and energy. We're flexible.

Our schools need personal input; so many kids need our personal attention. Tutoring is quite rewarding for everyone involved -- ask Mary Beth Blackwell-Chapman. Better yet, call her at 723-7620 and give tutoring a try. The 21st Century will thank you for it.

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A GATHERING OF GEEKS (or, Minutes of the August Board Meeting)

Our Enterprising President, Wanda Merschel, gave the "Foot Soldier of the Month" award to Glenn Simmons, who had done most of the color-coding of a really nifty map of the West End showing the location of owners, occupiers, owner-occupiers and "institutions." This production will help our neighborhood convey more information about itself to such august bodies as the Boards of Planning and Aldermen.

Wanda announced that two of the recommendations made to The Powers That Be by the "Wake Forest Leadership Student Mentor Program" were that (1) there be a moderate promotion of the West End neighborhood as part of the city's tourism efforts, and that (2) the Historic District Overlay be approved. [Meanwhile, at the request of a certain citizen, the Aldermen have delayed for a month their consideration of the overlay proposal. Thank you, Mr. Ogburn, for allowing our neighborhood to become even more historic before the crucial vote!!!]

The Great West End Neighborhood Clean-up and Trash Pick-up Day will be on Monday, September 28th. That previous week-end, empty those basements and attics of all your junk and pile it on the curb. Thanks to Julie Mayberry for arranging the pick-up with the City.

The Board voted to approve a wine tasting and sale of wine at the Festival in Grace Court, if responsibly managed. The Social Committee outlined plans for the August 19th picnic and jazz band performance in Grace Court. Did you go? Did you enjoy yourself?

Seven fascinating houses have been lined up for the December House Tour (2 in Crystal Towers, one in WE South, and four in WE Center). There will be refreshments and a "Holiday Market" at the Women's Club on 4th St. Call Missy Vaughan to volunteer (724-4579).

Florabundant. Several people expressed pleasure over the recent planting of flowers in Grace Court. W.A. Armfield deserves profuse thanks for his generous gift to the City which made this public beautification effort a reality. Also deserving of a few kudos are those West Enders who've been planting flowers at the YWCA.

The Board has been asked by the City to express written support for the Hanes Park Restoration Project. Many members are troubled by the divergence between what appears on the Plan (a lovely design) and what shows up on the ground (bulldozers and riprap). We decided to table the matter until we engaged in more dialogue with Parks & Recreation.

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Notice: Remember, the next board meeting will take place at Lea
 stis's house on Jersey Avenue, on Tuesday evening, September 1st, at
 8:00. The October meeting will be at Billye Keith Jones' (West End Blvd,
 across from the Hanes Park tennis courts) on Tuesday the 6th.

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BUT . . . WHY ME?

If you're getting this newsletter and you're not sure why, it's because you live in the west End or own residential property here. You have a stake (emotional, financial, both) in what happens in our neighborhood. We invite you to become a member of the West End Association and to take an active part in its affairs.

Editor: Bill Gibson -- 724-0776
Business Manager: Bill Wise -- 761-0906
Circulation: Brenda Penney -- 722-2905

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