

The West End

By and for the
West End Neighborhood

September 1992

THE FESTIVAL AT GRACE COURT . . .

was another lovely example of Small Being Beautiful. The weather was coquettish but kind. The music was great fun -- the Sam Sanger Quartet; Richard Hill and the "Behind the Times" band; and the Charlie Culbreth Duo. The Wheel Theatre performed "Time Traveling," a series of vignettes drawn from the classic traditions of medieval mystery plays, Commedia dell'Arte, French pantamime, Italian opera, and the ever-popular et cetera. Mayor Martha Wood (D) and Alderman Nancy Pleasants (R) graced the occasion. (Hillary, Tipper, Barb and Marilyn weren't invited.) Art, craft and antique exhibitors included: Mike and T.J. Kennedy, Mary Newbury, Annie Van Every, Janice Eagle, Beverly Osborn LaRowe, Keith Brown, James Day, Cindy Poindexter, Lovett & Lovett, Margaret Wilson & Felice Avery, Tom Medlin, Mary Cowan, Leslie Hiatt, Julia Frye, One Way Antiques, Chris Yarborough, The Corners, Desio & Olivia DeCarvalho, Kerry Gonzales, Margie McKenzie, Julia Wilson and your own West End Association. "Chalk for Children," an exhibit of sidewalk art, was glorious. There was lip-smacking food, drink and ice cream. And we enjoyed a wine tasting: the West Bend came to the West End. (You should buy their Seyval Blanc.)

Thanks go to all the volunteers who helped make this 2nd Annual event a success, and particular thanks to Wanda Merschel, our fearless leader, who put it all together and made it fun to be a volunteer.

WEST END GARDEN CLUB

This bunch of rowdies kicks off its season on September 17th with a presentation at Grace Court (unless it rains) by William Gould, Jr., a landscape architect from Mt. Pleasant, SC. A wonderful guy, Gould helped design Grace Court, and I sleep with his daughter.

SEPTEMBER 28th IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF YOUR STRIFE.

Remember, The Great West End Neighborhood Clean-up and Trash Pick-up Day will be on Monday, September 28th. So, on September 26 and 27, clean up your act, your basement and your attic. Pile high the shabby detritus of your miserable lives on the nearest curb. You can bag or box your trash; you can put out bulky items like defunct appliances, lawn mowers, gross mattresses, etc. You canNOT expect the City to pick up hazardous materials such as tires, batteries, liquids, fuel tanks and dirty underwear. And please don't set out rock, brick, concrete, cement, dirt or tree stumps.

THE ULTIMATE QUESTION: If Queen Elizabeth I drove her Miata to Brunson Elementary to help students learn to play the clarinet, would she be called a Tudor two-door tooter tutor? Several people have responded favorably to last month's appeal for tutors at Brunson School. It's not too late to join them. Call Mary Beth Blackwell-Chapman at 723-7620.

NEXT MONTH: LETTERS . . . Cooper on being mugged . . . Mickle on being unidentified . . . Edelson, on being just plain weird.

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A NESTFUL OF NERDS (or, Minutes of the September Board Meeting)
The meeting opened with a successful request for the Board's support on minor side-yard variances sought by John Bills, who has built the new house on Jersey Avenue near Summit.

Tom Harris asked for feedback on some ideas he has for creating multi-family communities in outlying areas of Forsyth County. After kicking around the matter for a while, folks realized that this was too complicated a topic for resolution at any Board meeting, so interested individuals agreed to chat with Tom later. [Wendy, the West End Windbag, suggested that we try to establish a "Sister Cities" program with Vienna (the one known as Vy-ee-na, up the road from Lewisville), but an outraged vegetarian hooted down her proposal.]

Wanda Merschel described final plans for the Festival at Grace Court, including such matters as publicity efforts, libations, visiting dignitaries and appeals to the Almighty for good weather.

As readers of the Winston-Salem Journal know, Local Historic District efforts are now confronted by alleged budget hurdles. Wanda and Bill Wise have met with Robbs, Pegram and Yarborough to find out the facts, to look for creative ways to respond, and to keep the ball rolling. Keep an ear to the ground, folks, and if we need warm bodies at City Hall, make yours one of them.

The Board unanimously authorized the purchase of a new rubber stamp to reflect the change in the Association's P.O. Box several months ago. [Who says neighborhood politics aren't exciting?]

Nancy Dawson-Sausser obtained Board support for a West End-wide dialogue with Sara Lee concerning the unattractive odor and particulates emanating from her (Ms. Lee's) dyeing and finishing plant adjacent to Crystal Towers.

Finally, the Holly Avenue Association had asked our Board to support their responses to FIRST's announced plan to establish a residence on North Spring Street. HollyAvenuers have expressed concerns about on-site over-crowding, sideyard and driveway variances, landscaping, lack of licensing, and -- above all -- lack of community dialogue. (Sound familiar?) The Board resolved to join Holly Avenue's opposition to the variances presently being sought by FIRST. Several members encouraged further dialogue between the interested parties.

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Notice: Remember, the next board meeting will take place at Billye Keith Jones's house on West End Boulevard, on Tuesday evening, October 6th, at 7:30. The November meeting will be on Tuesday the 3rd, but I don't know where.

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If two clean-cut young persons appear at your door in the next few weeks bearing glad tidings, they'll probably be some of those earnest Mormans doing their two years of fieldwork. Deal with them gently.

If a slightly scruffier, more age-burdened person shows up bearing glad tidings, it's likely to be one of your neighbors enlisting your support for the Local Historic District effort, your membership in the West End Association, and your participation in the city's recycling efforts. Deal with him or her gently, too, and say "Yes! OK! All right!"

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

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