

The West End

By and for the
West End Neighborhood

May 1993

WEST END RESIDENTS PROVING TO BE LESS ECCENTRIC

THAN HERETOFORE BELIEVED!!!

No one, absolutely no one, has entered the 1993 West End Spring Limerick Contest announced in last month's newsletter. Oh well

NEWS FROM THE ZONING FRONT: WHITHER THOU PARKEST, I PARK.

-- a Special Report from Bill ("the Variance") Wise

You may have noticed zoning signs in the windows of West End Cafe and Bistro To Go in April and May. Bistro To Go was granted a waiver of off-street parking spaces as a "Grandfathered Retail Business" in the Low Traffic Generator Classification. That was routine.

Not so routine was the significant public outrage at undisciplined parking on West Fifth Street from Broad to Glade, on Summit from Fifth to beyond Sixth Streets, on Brookstown from Burke to Fifth, and on West Fourth Street from Broad to Glade. [Editor's note: perhaps "outrage" is a little strong, but "annoyance" or "unhappiness" would suggest how those most affected are feeling. For a few, of course, "blind fury" would be accurate.] The general complaint has been "Where are the police?" Seemed to be a good question. Surprise answer: parking regulations and their enforcement have, for more than a year, been the responsibility of the City's Traffic Engineering Department. Stan Polanis is the man in charge of the "Meter Maids" (some are men -- "Butlers?") and the signage. [Editor's note: that was Wise's parenthetical question, not mine.] [I would not interrupt his report unnecessarily.] The normal problems in learning the new "ropes," staffing, et cetera, seem to have occurred. But some good things are beginning to happen. The political insiders, those with "friends," and just plain scoff-laws are about to get a wake-up call -- in their pocketbooks. Tires are showing chalk marks, wipers are getting flags (sometimes two or three). One-hour meters and more meters are coming, as are more No Parking and time limit signs. Stan says that his people have many boxes of blank tickets and a lot of new pens.

One alternative is "Residential Parking Only" and stickers for legal residents. We have gone galloping down this trail two or three times over the past ten years, only to pull up long before sticker time. It's simply too much Mickey Mouse trouble, AND it is expensive for the City (read "we taxpayers") to run and police.

The basic problem is Wachovia West End Center. Wachovia is trying to tell its employees that the honeymoon is over, but if past performance is of value, the bank's parking lots will be slow to fill up. They have enough parking lots. It's just that people don't want to walk two or three blocks to their cars. Yes, it's a bummer in the rain, and most of us would not like walking to those remote lots after dark. (The Center runs 24 hours a day.) Wachovia continues to provide alternative plans for night-time concerns. The rain problem is open to anyone's suggestion.

N. Selaw Wachovia sections

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BUT, WHERE ARE THE POLICE?

Among other places, right here in your neighborhood. Your Editor recently received the following letter, dated April 28, 1993:

"I would like to provide you with a brief synopsis of two recent housebreakings investigated by the police department that occurred in the West End area. The first housebreaking and larceny occurred at 1209 Forsyth Street. Frederick Marvin Sutton was arrested and approximately \$1,230.00 in property was recovered. Detective L.J. Rose investigated this case. The second housebreaking and larceny occurred at 1120 West Fourth Street. Billy Royal Bolt was arrested and approximately \$50.00 in property was recovered. Detective J.A. Emerson investigated this case. If I can provide any further information please call me at 773-7870."

G.L. Sweat, Chief of Police

Off. N.L. Key, Crime Resistance Unit, Investigative Services Bureau

With so many thefts going unsolved, it's nice to see a couple of arrests. Of course, what's particularly discouraging nowadays is the problem of rampant recidivism, i.e., "he did it before, and he'll probably do it again." For example, the above-mentioned Mr. Sutton was convicted in March 1991 in connection with a housebreaking at Roy Hantgan's and Julie Edelson's home on Carolina Avenue. He was put on probation, but I believe he soon he committed other thefts for which he received active prison time. Upon his release, he picked up almost exactly where he left off. This surely increases your justifiable anger at this guy, but if you ever had a chance to speak with him, you'd probably find him to be a likeable, lost soul, suffering as do most of his fellows in the Forsyth County Jail from the ill effects of, among other things, the now-epidemic "absent father syndrome" and an affinity for crack cocaine.

Given the difficulty of all this, let's not forget the irreplaceable value of active caring for one's neighbor, and for one's fellow human being, that characterizes Neighborhood Watch.

MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

[Another Editor's Note: I missed the meeting, so I don't have a clue as to what went on. I'll let you find out next month. Like, oh wow -- a newsletter with minutes from two meetings! Can you contain your curiosity for another 30 days?]

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Notice: the June Meeting of the West End Association will take place at Kerry & Anne MacLeod's at 634 N. Spring St, on June 1st, at 7:30 p.m. Come see what "sweat equity" can do for a great old house. I can't remember where the July meeting will be held, but check this space next month to find out.

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