

The West Ender

By and for the
West End Neighborhood

July 1993

PLAN TO ATTEND THE THIRD ANNUAL FESTIVAL IN GRACE COURT

ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th.

Yes, fellow whiners, we know it can be quite warm in early September. That's why the West End Association starts this popular late-summer event in mid-morning. That, and the fact that it's tied into the Twin City Track Club's 5-mile road race, which has to be really early, or else runners will fall out and croak on the streets of the Twin City.

As is traditional at the festival, you can browse among and purchase from nearly two dozen exhibits of art and crafts. There'll be good food and drink and all sorts of terrific live music. And you can buy yourself a T-shirt depicting a glorious scene in your very own neighborhood! How many people in Buena Vista or Ville de Lewis can do that???

NEWS FROM THE BRIDGE-BUILDING FRONT

Several residents of the West End attended the recent "Cross 52 Initiative" held at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in East Winston. Altogether, about 300 citizens of this city participated in the gathering, the purpose of which was to encourage grass-roots efforts to substantially eliminate racism, in its many colors and manifestations. West Ender Hoppy Elliot was one of the members of a multi-racial task force which helped make the event a successful next-step.

WHILE OTHERS PLAYED, WENDY SLAVED IN THE VINEYARD OF DISCONTENT

Wendy, the West End Windbag, quietly slipped away early from the recent Fourth Street of July Party to conduct a survey among your neighbors who chose to pass up the event entirely. "Why hast thou forsaken us?" Wendy asked, in her customary detached, social-scientist manner. What follows are the typical responses she received:

"I don't like to go to those things, because I don't know many people in the neighborhood and it makes me feel awkward."

"M_____ and I are so tired of these incessant neighborhood social functions. You see the same people over and over again. Why don't new faces ever come and liven up the place?"

"Well, you know how pot-lucks are. The food is so bland and boring, and there's never anything good to drink."

"Holy _____! Whenever I go, I eat like a pig and drink like a fish and have to go back to my cave and sleep it off like a bear and I'm no good for anything for the rest of the week-end."

"I hate to be critical, but, well, you know people in West End . . . all they do is stand around and drone on and on about keeping out undesirables and protecting their property values. Give me a break!"

"I just can't relate to the people who live here. They're just a bunch of bleeding-heart liberals who make me feel guilty about being a responsible adult. Give me a break!"

"Like, uh . . . what party?"

"Say, Toots, didn't we meet in Chicaaaago back in the spring of '34?"

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Fortunately, the agenda was limited, for the 21 adults and 1 little kid who met at the Gazebo on 6/6. Catherine Hendren made a presentation in her capacity as Stewardship Chairman at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. No, she did not pass the offering plate. But she showed us really nifty, landscape-architect-created drawings and models of the church's proposed play space and outdoor worship area on the Jersey side of the property. A group of Paulists had already consulted with members of the Historic District Commission to make sure the church was not about to violate any secular prohibitions in the new Local Historic Overlay zoning ordinance. The Board thanked Catherine for sharing the plans with us and gave the proposal its support.

Carly Hughes presented a well-crafted proposal to curtail parking abuse by folks who work downtown, particularly at Wachovia. She suggests

(1) there be restricted 2-hour parking in the upper-Brookstown/ Grace Court area during weekdays, unless you have a neighborhood sticker, and (2) the trolley stop at the corner of Brookstown and Fifth street be removed, and that no new stops be added in our neighborhood. These suggestions provoked a vigorous discussion.

The consensus of the Board was that our immediate response should be to remind the powers at Wachovia that numerous bank employees are simply not using the park-and-ride lots, and this preference for our residential streets causes many West Enders a daily nuisance and some an occasional hardship. The Board resolved (1) to appoint a special committee headed by Bill Wise to confer with Wachovia management and (2) to invite Wachovians to our September meeting, along with Nancy Pleasants and Brent McKinney.

The Board thanked Social Chairman John Bills and his better half Sami Ousley for the hard work they put into making the Fourth Street of July Party a success. John announced the Association's official entry into the annual "Chili-cook-off" at Tanglewood in mid-September. Proceeds from our efforts, and those of beaucoup others, will go to the benefit of the March of Dimes.

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Notice: the August Meeting of the West End Association will take place at Buck Skillen and Trish Pegram's bed-&-breakfast at 618 Summit Street, on Tuesday, August 3rd, at 7:30 p.m. Come vote on a proposal to ask the "West End" member of the Historic District Commission to sit as an ex officio member of your Association's Board.

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Exclusive photos inside, next to the usual dinosaur and Elvis pix.

Yes, readers, it's that time of the year again when we all get to whine about how hot it is, and how we have no energy to do anything worthwhile, and how much we wish we'd stayed in Buffalo. Forget your corn-fed cousins fending off the Mighty Mississip. Go ahead and whine -- it's good for you, even if it drives everyone around you nuts.

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