

The West End

By and for the
West End Neighborhood

June 1993

YOU ARE HEREBY
CORDIALLY INVITED/ORDERED TO ATTEND
THE ANNUAL WEST END FOURTH STREET OF JULY PARTY,
WHICH, By The Way,
WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE FIFTH DAY OF JULY!!!

Did you pay attention to what I just told you? The party, which has proven to be an immensely enjoyable event for those enterprising enough to show up, will take place on Monday, July 5th. And, if you're not there, you risk being dragged out of your home and forced to attend by an angry mob of your neighbors.

Festivities start at 11:30, at Grace Court, for the Kids' Parade and Costume Contest. This event has provided enormous amusement value for onlooking adults. More important, perhaps history will prove that the sense of glorious triumph and euphoric joy experienced by the tyke-like participants (all winners!) will serve as the starting point for future heroic accomplishments . . . like, at the minimum, doing no great harm to the cosmos.

"Has anyone noticed that we seem to have gotten off the subject here?"

OK. After the KP&CC, the assembled multitude will, as is traditional, stagger under the hot sun over to the 1100 block of Fourth Street, where a lively band will be playing away and cool, refreshing beverages -- like brides in Jane Austin novels -- will be waiting demurely for their intendeds. Since you, all of you within the sound of my voice, will bring a covered dish, all good West Enders will enjoy a sumptuous banquet. So, please come to party, and take pleasure with your neighbors.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO THAT BIG OLD HOUSE AT SUMMIT & FIFTH?

Brick walls over time can grow porous,

These let rainfall seep straight through, all o'er us.

So what's best for the bucko

Is to cover with stucco

And replace the slate roof, so cut us some slack here, will ya?

[Segue to Minutes of recent meetings; hope readers will not notice.]

The June meeting of the Board of the West End Association led off with a description of the problems faced by the new owners of the fine old brick house at Summit & 5th. Neighbors worried about possible violations of spirit of the not-yet-effective Historic Overlay ordinance conducted a timely, honest dialogue with the Coopers. While the consensus is one of regret that the building could not be faithfully preserved in an economically feasible way, participants came away believing that the work being done is probably the best thing available under the unexpected, difficult circumstances.

Brent McKinney from the City Traffic Engineering Department graced us with his presence to announce a proposal to install 2-hour parking meters along Grace Court to deter downtown workers from exploiting free, all-day

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[the Minutes -- our equivalent to Good Night, Moon:] parking opportunities in our neighborhood. His proposal kicked off a lively discussion of alternatives. Residents questioned whether this development would simply push the parking problem further into our residential streets, and several people voiced aesthetic concerns. While formally opposing the plan at the present time, the Board invited Brent to return to our September meeting to continue the dialogue, while giving concerned activists a chance to develop ideas for a more comprehensive plan. Brent also helped advance our understanding of the questions raised by the possible closing of the 4th St. bridge over Business-40 as part of the construction work to be done on that artery. These included slowing response times for Fire Department vehicles and prolonging one school bus route. The group again agreed the problem demands more study.

Social Chairman John Bills alerted us to the Party I've Been Telling You About, and he also suggested that our neighborhood consider getting actively involved in charitable events like the annual "Chili-cook-off" in mid-September, which we believe will be held the week after the Festival in Grace Court.

Glenn Simmons offered his treasurer's report, which showed the following fund balances:

Historic	\$9,617.07	B. Smitherman	\$2,802.78
General	1,357.21	Savings	77.64
Postal			9.61

At the May meeting, the Board announced the resignation of members David & Julie Mayberry, who have moved. They were replaced by the elected alter-nates, George & Blake Jacobs. In June, Bill & Holly Welsh formally resigned, citing other commitments. The Board elected Buck Skillen to finish their term.

Also in May, our fearless leader Wanda Mershel described the Historic Trust Survey, in which we participated. The Board kicked around the names of persons who would be desirable additional members for the Historic Properties Commission.

The group also discussed the latest developments in the ongoing (and always controversial) Hanes Park beautification plan, developments which members found generally acceptable.

Finally, the Board took under consideration the West End Cafe's variance request before the Zoning Board, which it supported.

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Innisfree Plant Farm -- Bill Warlick, a Piedmont horticulturalist for 25 years, continues to develop a "Pet Project" inventory of specimen size, container grown, hardy perennials. Hybrid day lilies, astilbe, hosta and more! Over 1,000 day lilies and too many smaller plants to count. Come to the pot field just off Country Club, near Silas Creek. Call 765-4906 and ask Bill or Cindy for directions.

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* * * * *

Notice: the July Meeting of the West End Association will take place at the gazebo in Grace Court, on July 6th, at 7:30 p.m. That's the evening after the morning of the Annual Fourth Street of July Party, to which you are still cordially invited, in case you didn't know.

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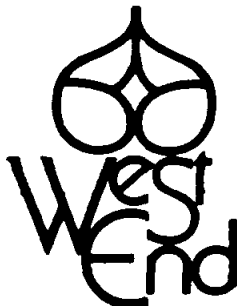
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A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM.

Finally, someone has entered the 1993 West End Spring Limerick Contest. Lucy Lovett, age 14 months, has submitted the following poem, entitled "A Streetcar Suburb Named West End:"

Miss Lucy says, "I can depend
On the kindness of many a friend.
That of strangers is not
A need, 'cause I've got
So many nice friends in West End."

Thanks, Lucy, for your brilliant verse. Your friends are looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Fourth Street of July Party. It's to be held on Monday, the 5th. Come to Grace Court and enjoy.

Editor: Bill Gibson -- 724-0776
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