



JUNE 1999

EDITOR NOTES

Our event at Grace Court on May 12th was greeted with great weather and a diverse crowd. Mothers with babies, the lunchtime "suit and tie" crowd and others gathered around the gazebo to listen to West End Association President *Eric Elliott*, Alderman *Wanda Merschel* and Mayor *Jack Cavanaugh* speak about our city and the West End. Some notable faces in the crowd were WSSU Chancellor *Alvin Schexnider*, Downtown Development Corporation President *Rence Callahan*, and Alderman *Joycelyn Johnson*. West End resident *John Hauser* dressed in clothing from the mid 1800's and impressed all with his reenactment of the transfer of deeds. Over 75 people attended the celebration and enjoyed cake with ice cream afterwards. A special thanks goes to Winston-Salem Events for supplying sound equipment, tents and help setting up tables and chairs. Also thanks to the RJ Reynolds High School Stage Band for entertaining us prior to the presentation.

One of the people who helped start the West End Association and guide it to where it is today is Ellen Yarborough. The following is a brief history of how the Association got started.

THE "BIRTH OF THE WEST END ASSOCIATION"

As a way to bring together West End folks who have been talking informally (both positively - regarding the advantages of our neighborhood, with its diversity - and negatively - regarding City Recreation's dropping summer staffing of Hanes Park for schoolkid activities, the intrusion of too dense apartments and the possibility of an I-40 to US 52 link cutting through Hanes Park), Ellie Clayton and I scheduled a potluck dessert meeting at the YWCA. The Yarborough and Clayton kids put flyers around the neighborhood, and we asked Dan Ashe of the Winston-Salem Housing Foundation to speak (just so there would be some sort of "program"). I worked at the YWCA and the YW was happy to offer this site to the community. We visited and had a fellowshiping good time. Nobody was much interested in Dan Ashe's possibilities, because we were into keeping our homes and not investing. What he described, though, was somewhat related to the three-family investment in getting Zevely House started soon after, as I remember. I think that project was by Ray Troxell, Pete Smitherman and another family.

Although we knew there were some threats to the residential integrity of the neighborhood, we emphasized that our reason for gathering was not defensive, but rather to show our appreciation for what we had. The fact that not all people here (or all houses) were alike was considered a plus.

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There had been yearly potlucks in Hanes Park to mark the end of the Summer Rec. worker's assignment there, with a smattering of folks participating. The meeting at the YWCA on May 21, 1969, though, the true history of the West End Association began. According to the article in the next day's edition of the Journal, about 45 people were there.

We decided to meet again and become a real organization. I believe Pete Smitherman was the first Association president, but by the time we had to fight City Hall to rezone, the president was Tom Ross. We got support for the back-zoning from residents of other parts of the city, which we needed and appreciated. Our success was encouraging to other neighborhoods, some of which later formed resident's associations, so we felt proud that we had produced "offspring" *Contributed by Ellen Yarborough*

MINUTES FROM THE MAY MEETING

George Bryan is collecting information regarding the YMCA decision to demolish the 3 homes they own on West End Boulevard in order to extend the incredibly beautiful parking lot for all West Ender's to enjoy. Once the data has been gathered, a group will meet to develop a strategic response. Anyone interested in helping should contact George or a board member.

The main topic of discussion was the upcoming celebration at Grace Court of the 150th Anniversary of Winston-Salem. Funds were approved for the event. Volunteers were volunteered to help with getting things set up.

Ideas were exchanged regarding the West End Fund Campaign. We plan to have a series of block parties in different parts of the West End over the next 2 months. You'll get a chance to meet new people and learn more about the Campaign. Call me at 722-9804 or send me an e-mail for more info.

Some residents of Fourth Street expressed concern over the new outside deck at the Burke Street Pub adjacent to their building. A possible increase in noise and foot traffic in the alley are some of the problems that may occur during the summer months. The deck just opened, so it's too early to gauge how bad thing might get. Hopefully all parties involved can work this out.

We got to look an artist rendering of the proposed "new" Grace Court. Some of the changes will be plantings of trees, shrubs, and the addition of the Millenium Clock.

The next meeting, will be Tuesday, June 6th 1999 at St Paul's Episcopal Church, 520 Summit from 7:00 to 8:45 Everyone is invited.

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From Eric Elliott -

What a wonderful way to start the West End Community Fund Campaign! On May 12 the West End told the town about our plans to raise funds for historic district signage throughout our neighborhood and for the placement of a Victorian-style clock in Grace Court with a celebration of the 150th Birthday of the City of Winston - complete with a band playing, a history lesson re-enacted before our eyes, and good words and well wishes from the Mayor and leaders from across the community. A few folks put in some major work to make that happen and we are greatly appreciative. In case you missed the event, or the stories on TV or in the paper about it, we'll replay the Channel 12 report and TV 13 tape - about 10 minutes overall, at the next West End meeting.

The kickoff was just that - we now have to raise the funds to make our dreams come true. For that we need your help. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for information on other special events planned to learn more about the Community Fund and ask questions of us.

Who is "us", you ask? Well, folks like you who live in and or care about the West End. In looking over the newsletters you've gotten the last few months, I realize you may not know anything about the folks who have put this effort together. Actually, the ideas of neighborhood signage and park beautification go way back locally - but who are some of the current leaders in the West End? In the next few months, I want to make sure you know who your neighbors are that are leading the efforts to "share the pride" in our community at the edge of downtown.

In this transient life, it may seem to most that "place" isn't important anymore. Commerce and romance have gone virtual, and everything else seems to have gone global. But folks in the West End know "place" is very important - and value this special place when other locations they could have lived in, shopped at, done business from, beckon other conveniences. West End is a special "place". Our West End Community Fund celebrates that, and will help keep it so.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS APPLICATIONS

West End Historic Overlay District

Zevely House Restaurant LLC, Applicant


Van Nemen Zevely House
901 West Fourth Street

Installation of a trash/dumpster area surrounded by a 4'-0" wood picket fence in the rear, northeast corner of the lot

JoAnn Mount, Applicant

William H. Holcomb House
1238 West Fourth Street

Replacement and expansion of existing wood deck with new deck to the rear of the structure




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Robert W. Ulery, Jr., Applicant

Owens-Nissen House
929 West Fifth Street

Installation of 4'-0" high wood picket fence along the existing stone retaining wall to the rear of the structure

The following is a list of the Certificate of Appropriateness applications for West End reviewed by the Winston-Salem Historic Commission last month (May 05, 1999). The Commission's vote on each application is shown in italics.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Applicant

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
520 Summit Street

Installation of 6'-0" wide wood lattice screen to conceal existing electrical junction box on south elevation of sanctuary building
Commission voted to Approve with Condition

HAVE A GREAT MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND!!



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West End Association Community Fund Campaign

For the past 30 years, the West End Association, Inc has worked tirelessly to preserve downtown living as a viable alternative in Winston-Salem. In 1968, the Association was formed to protect and enhance the quality of life for the neighborhood and to curb impending encroachment from unplanned growth. It was the first neighborhood association in the U.S. to qualify for 501(c)3 not-for-profit status. Recognition of the neighborhood's efforts came in 1986 when the West End neighborhood was awarded the status of a National Register Historic District, and in 1993 with establishment as a Local Historic Overlay District. The association has been instrumental in coordinating beneficial zoning changes and in funding the redevelopment of Grace Court. Looking to the future, a new long-range plan was recently developed around the principles of historic preservation, neighborhood beautification and community responsibility. The West End Association Board of Directors recently voted to pursue two of the key elements of this plan. Our goal is to have both projects completed by the new year.

NEIGHBORHOOD DEMARCATION

Demarcation of the West End neighborhood is essential to define and preserve the identity of the historic district. Signs reading "West End Historic District" will be placed at high auto and pedestrian traffic boundary areas and along streets and contributing historic homes within the neighborhood. The signs will develop awareness of the Historic District with both local residents and tourists and give visitors an opportunity to explore the turn-of-the century neighborhood. Two West End residents, professional graphic designer David Poythress and local architect Craig Dishner, donated their talents to design signs.

VINTAGE TOWN CLOCK

Grace Court serves as the focal point of the West End neighborhood, and a turn of the century styled clock erected in the park will help serve as a citywide symbol of Winston-Salem's glorious past and thriving present. Planned in conjunction with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of Winston-Salem, the announcement of a town clock will be a publicly celebrated event, complete with a time capsule encased in the base of the clock. Bill Gould, the landscape architect brought in to redesign Grace Court when the W. A. Armfield family provided funds for a gazebo in 1980, is again working with the West End in re-landscaping the southwest corner of the park for the clock. The Association will work with city agencies to install and maintain the clock.

MILLENNIUM CLOCK

A gift to the citizens of Winston-Salem from one millennium to the next, with hope that each generation will find a way to make of its neighborhoods "their own special place".

Dedicated 12 May 1999

Time Capsule to be Opened 12 May 2049

THE COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

The West End Association board of directors has authorized a \$28,000 capital campaign for the signage and the town clock. \$15,000 from previous fund raising efforts has been committed to this project, and a fund raising campaign is being launched to raise the remaining \$13,000. Neighborhood residents, friends of the Association, companies, and foundations will be asked to participate in this effort to build a broad base of support and to involve as many citizens as possible. All donors will be recorded within the time capsule.

West End Association Community Fund Campaign

The West End is more than a historic district for the city of Winston-Salem. The neighborhood is one of the last remaining strongholds of residential living in a downtown that is struggling to define itself. Through its extended efforts such as the recent Burke Street beautification project or its investment in other downtown allies, such as a recent gift to the YWCA, the West End is positioned to continue to advance the cause of downtown economic and cultural development.

The Community Campaign is a critical step in the next phase of the life of West End and of the greater community. The historic signage and vintage town clock will add greatly to the efforts to enhance the downtown. They will offer tourists a clearly marked scenic, picturesque, glimpse of life during the early 20th century in a town that was booming into what was for a period the state's largest community. The campaign offers downtown planners something to build upon as they develop an identity for Winston-Salem. Most importantly, it offers residents another sign of the comfortable, affordable quality of life in the West End, unparalleled in Winston-Salem and neighboring cities.

Yes! I/we want to be a part of Winston-Salem's history by supporting:

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- Permanent signage marking the West End Neighborhood Historic District

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