



The West Ender

*By and for
the West End Neighborhood*

January 2001

Thanks again to the 150, or so, of you who attended the dedication of the Millennium Time Capsule at Grace Court on November 12th. We had four Forsyth County Mayors in attendance (Winston-Salem, Rural Hall, Lewisville, and Bethania) and received nice coverage in the Winston-Salem Chronicle and on TV-45. Copies of the event program, which include a list of donors to the fund, can be obtained from Eric Elliott which supplies last (727-9857). Copies of the photographs taken at the event are available at Neuheiser Photography on Burke Street.

Election of new officers for the Association will be at the annual meeting on February 6th. Several board openings, as well as the offices of President and Vice-President, are open. If you have an interest in serving, contact the Association secretary, Kathleen Ramich, before January 17th. Outgoing President Eric Elliott says "thanks" for all the help the neighborhood has given to make the last two years a successful one for our group.

Help the new slate of officers by filling out the neighborhood survey sheet to be distributed with the February newsletter. Help get the year off to a good start by having your Association work on the projects you want to have addressed.

The next meeting of the West End Association will be held on Tuesday, January 9th, at 7p.m. at Brunson School

YMCA News

The YMCA has a proposal regarding future of the 4 historic homes on their property for consideration by the Association. Much of the upcoming meeting will be devoted to discussion of this proposal. This is an important meeting for West End residents. Please attend if at all possible.

House Tour

Jackie Pittman and the rest of the Association extend their heartfelt thanks to the volunteers and homeowners that made this year's house tour a success. She estimates that about 600 people attended the tour. A special thanks to MCreative which donated a significant amount of time and materials to create the beautiful posters and tickets.

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A word (several, actually) from the editor

This is the time of year when people reflect on the past and plan for the future – so what better time is there to think about the direction in which the West End is heading?

We have seen lots of positive changes in our physical environment. The Association has been involved in an ambitious and very successful fund-raising effort to purchase and install historic signs throughout the neighborhood, as well as a Victorian clock and sitting wall in Grace Court. A time capsule, which will be opened in 2049, was recently installed into the base of the clock. Homeowners will soon be able to purchase historic district house signs that match the street signs. The Association also recently collaborated with area merchants to plant trees in the Burke Street corridor.


We have also seen some changes in the operation of the Association. The Association has become involved in grant-writing efforts. The Burke Street tree project was funded by a grant to the Winston-Salem Foundation, along with support from the Winston-Salem Garden Club, and the city's Office of Roadway Appearances. Association members also recently submitted a proposal to the state to purchase period lighting around Grace Court. The proposal was not considered for funding, because of the need for the state to funnel resources to those stricken by hurricane Floyd. It should be submitted again. The newsletter is now hand-delivered to every apartment and home in the West End. Business sponsorship of the newsletter has grown from 12 to 50.

Where do we go from here? Membership, which has been as high as 120, is now 40. Perhaps, the reason for this is that the newsletter is delivered to everyone regardless of whether or not they have paid their dues. However, I believe that many people simply forget when their membership lapses. A membership drive will likely be necessary. Perhaps the Association needs some sort of system to notify residents when their membership renewal is due.

The West End Association has been working so hard over the past couple of years to achieve the accomplishments listed above that, perhaps, we have let the social aspect of the Association fall by the wayside. We need a Social Chairman and Committee to get us together on a regular basis. The block parties that were held in the summer of 1999 were a lot of fun – and several people suggested to me that we should have these on an annual basis. Perhaps we could go out to dinner together the last Friday of every month, carpool to a house or garden tour in the region, plan a picnic at Salem Lake...


I would also like to think that, at some point in the future, the Association would spearhead an effort to install period lighting through the neighborhood. This would be esthetically pleasing, and would enhance the safety of our neighborhood as well. My husband and I frequently take walks in the evening and have noticed that some areas of the West End are very dark – such as on the hill adjacent to the YMCA, and on West End Boulevard. We could start with Grace

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Gateway signage was suggested in the most recent long-range plan, and I think that we should look into the feasibility of purchasing and installing such signs at key entrance points to the neighborhood

Gardens, gardens, gardens. One of the least expensive ways to beautify the neighborhood would be to encourage the planting of period gardens. Perhaps we could arrange to have representatives from the garden club, or David Bare from the W-S Journal talk with us about garden design. We could think about holding a biannual garden tour. I had the opportunity to travel to Australia recently. While I was there, I toured some beautiful butterfly gardens. Wouldn't it be great to plant a big butterfly garden in Hanes Park – in the large stretch of land between the creek and West End Boulevard? There is absolutely nothing there now. We could do this incrementally, adding a new garden patch every year or so – separating them with low-cost gravel paths, adding a bench here or there... Another prime garden spot is the Duke Power strip of land adjacent to the Hawthorne Road & W. First Street exit ramp from route 40W...

I could go on...but just one more closing thought. I think big dreams are important – because that is the only way to realize big accomplishments. The West End was brought back to life by the dreams of people who saw that our neighborhood didn't have to sink into the decay that is so common among downtown neighborhoods. The West End is a truly great place to live today because of their vision and work. We owe it to them and to future West End residents to dream our biggest dreams. As my mother used to say, "Only she who attempts the absurd can achieve the impossible!"

And now a word from our sponsors

Lighthouse Restaurant. The Lighthouse Restaurant has been in business in the West End since 1954. Wow! Owned by the Dumas brothers, Lou and Nick, it is now run by the second generation, sons Harold and Joe. Lou still comes in from 5 am until late afternoon. The reason this restaurant continues to thrive is its ability to meet the tastes of its customers. The Lighthouse offers, daily, 5 or more specials made from scratch featuring such favorites as chicken pan pie, baked meatloaf, and spaghetti. These are offered in a congenial atmosphere with great service and at a great value. The Lighthouse also offers meals for take out for the busy family. Open Monday through Friday at 6 am with breakfast available all day, and closing at 7:50pm.

West End Smoothies. West End Smoothies has been open for about 3 years. It is a cozy place with delightful food. Niru, the owner, is proud of the wide variety of smoothies that she offers. The numerous flavors are listed on a board that greets you at the entrance to the shop. Not only are they delicious, they are good for you too. Recently, Niru added West End Weenies to her menu which are served on fresh-baked pretzel rolls. She also offers hot soups in winter weather – her customers' favorites so far are Smooth Cream of Broccoli and...



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