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Outdoors in the West End

The other day I was riding my bike around Hanes Park when I realized that four large *platanus occidentalis* trees were missing. They are our native Plane trees, related to the London Plane, famous street trees used all over the temperate world. The London Plane tree is a hybrid of our native *platanus occidentalis* and the *platanus orientalis*. There are examples of the London Plane that have been "pollarded" (a style of severe pruning) at the entrance to Reynolda Gardens. They have smooth bark mottled with brown, green, grey and white. This is particularly striking during the winter. Our native Plane tree, also known as Sycamore, has similar characteristics, but its bark peels in thinner strips with more cream and brown tones. The Sycamore grows to be one of North America's largest trees, and likes growing in bottomlands and on riverbanks and streams. In fact, it has the largest diameter trunk of any native hardwood. They can grow over 100 feet tall and 10 feet in diameter, but in this area you're more likely to find one that is four feet in diameter and at most 80 feet tall. The Sycamore has large, triangular-lobed leaves that turn brown in the winter. It has a wide-spreading crown and crooked branches that drop seed balls, twigs and leaves that can be quite messy. The wood is very tight grained and can be used for butcher blocks.

There is one Sycamore remaining at the south end of the park near where Runnymede Creek runs into Peters Creek. I was shocked when I realized the four at the north end of the park were gone. From looking at the stumps it is obvious they were cut at least several months ago. I am curious as to exactly when and why they were cut down. They stood near the pedestrian bridge and the big yellow track mat that I assume belongs to Reynolds High School. This may have had something to do with the trees being removed, but I don't know. These Sycamores were a perfect foil to the bridge and beautifully placed above the creek bank. Of course more would quickly grow on the creek bank if Peters Creek could be maintained as a stream and not a drainage ditch.

On a brighter note, our most recent snow has been the best in years, which means West End is the place to be if you are into sledding. There are hills for all skill levels from gentle, grass slopes to dangerous, luge-like conditions on the steep, icy streets. I've seen people anywhere from 3 to 50 years old equally enjoying this free and exciting sport. You don't even need a sled - boards, plastic lids or any slick surface will do. See you on the slopes!

--- Kevin Lindsey

If you have ideas for newsletter topics, please contact us:

Amy Lindsey (general) and Kevin Lindsey (trees): 722-2881; Ann Listokin (birds): 724-7957

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The West Ender
By and for the West End Neighborhood

February 2004

Last of Historic Homes Lost to Desires for Institutional Expansion

It is with sorrow that we report that the YMCA has razed the last historic home on that block. They had maintained an active Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to raze the Freeman historic home as they had the two others (a fourth home was moved). Before the demolition I again asked if we could buy the house, which we consider very viable rental/residential property. The YM Director said no.

We have spent many hours in negotiations and compromise to save these homes. We offered to buy them, to manage them as rental and give the profit to the YMCA, and even to compromise on the zoning if the YMCA would use the houses as offices without major changes in the exterior structures.

The YMCA has spent over \$500,000 to buy historic homes and simply level them. The YMCA began this acquisition and demolition with the goal of more parking. The West End has shared on-street parking, Hanes Park parking, and Sunset Drive parking with the YMCA, just as we use on-street parking for ourselves. We have consistently rejected attempts to destroy historic homes for parking. The West End guidelines and City/County Planning has consistently rejected this. The Winston-Salem Council voted unanimously to reject the zoning request the last time the YMCA asked. Your West End Board remains committed to the current residential use of that property and will be more than glad to help keep that area beautiful until such time as it is again used residentially.

Sincerely - George Bryan and Ann Doherty, co-presidents of the West End



West End & Sunset (as it used to be) The Bergman House was one of those lost... and the Freeman House as well.

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West Enders!
Mark Your Calendars for the West End Winter Social Saturday, February 7th

In lieu of a holiday gathering the West End will socialize and beat the winter doldrums by gathering for a tasty potluck at the home of Missy and Jim Vaughan. Come one, come all! These occasions are wonderful opportunities to meet new folks. And remember, party-goers don't have to live in the West End to attend.

Share your creative recipes by bringing a heavy hors d'oeuvres or dessert item. West End will provide tingling, tasty beverages and designated drivers. See you on the 7th!

When: Rain or shine on February 7th from 7:00 pm until whenever
Where: The Vaughan home at 814 West End Blvd.
Dress: Festive casual
RSVP: bryandoherty2@yahoo.com.

Call Ann Doherty at 724-2706 with questions.

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Make a Note...
Annual Meeting to Elect Directors
 Tuesday, February 3rd at 7:00 PM
 Tise House; 952 West 4th Street (near Grace Court).

In addition to normal business, the Board of Directors for the new year will be elected at this important meeting of the Association. Please make every effort to attend! As usual all West End residents are encouraged to attend Association meetings. Come meet your neighbors and discuss neighborhood issues.

Welcome Neighbors!

Marilyn Poorbaugh is putting together gift baskets for recent arrivals. If you have a new neighbor, please contact Marilyn at **725-3303**. Please note that you must provide your neighbor's name, address and phone number for a timely delivery.

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FORSYTH COUNTY HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION
Partial Agenda for February 4, 2004 at 4:00 pm
Public Meeting Room 530, City Hall South, 100 East First Street

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS APPLICATIONS

- West End Historic Overlay District**
- Rence and Barbara Callahan, Applicants
 1228 Glade Street
 Lawrence-Shore-Byerly House (Inventory #339)
COA Renewal
 - Catherine G. Hendren, Applicant
 520 Summit Street
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Inventory #111)
Landscape Master Plan
 - Fred Vlasis, Applicant
 871 West Fourth Street
 The Filling Station (Inventory #152)
Installation of Patio Enclosure (After-the-Fact)

MINOR WORK APPROVALS

- West End Historic Overlay District**
- Alaedin and Basima Agha, Applicants
 750 Summit Street
 Non-Contributing Commercial Building (Inventory #143)
Rear Cooler/Freezer Addition
 - Catherine Hendren, Applicant
 520 Summit Street
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Inventory #111)
Tree Removal
 - William Goldsmith, Applicant
 1300-1306 West First Street
 Non-Contributing Building (Inventory #438)
Awning Installation at the Rear Entrances

NEXT MEETING: March 3, 2004

Changes to this partial agenda may occur after the Editor has received it. For more information contact Michelle McCullough at 747-7063 or MICHELLEM@cityofws.org.

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