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Birds of the West End: Winter Visitors

Home feeders are a gathering place for the common seed-eaters in the West End. All colors and all sizes congregate for food, and are a delight to observe. Red, blue, spotted, crested, iridescent, streaked – with a window and binoculars it's easy to watch a varied, ever-changing panorama of our neighborhood birds. In the winter season many of them are members of the finch family, noted for their melodious songs and conical finch bills. These stout bills make short work of cracking seeds. Three of these finches are seen only in the winter: the slate-colored junco, white-throated sparrow, and purple finch. The junco (*Junco hyemalis*) is charcoal above with a white lower breast, reminiscent of the formal men's tails attire. The song is a loose trill and one-note chirps. The white-throated sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) has a white eye-stripe with a black stripe above and below, and a clear white throat patch. The song is a clear sweet whistle thus: one note rising up a major 3rd, to three or four repeated quavering notes. (A major 3rd sounds like *doe* and *deer* in this popular musical phrase, *Doe, a deer, a female deer...*). This is a very distinctive whistle, easily imitated. The third winter-only visitor is the purple finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*). This bird looks like a sparrow whose head, breast and rump have been dipped in raspberry juice. It has a melodious, finch-like warble. A similar finch also comes to the feeder year-round. The house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) is more slender with an orange-red hue, and with more brown on the body than the purple finch. The song is a bubbling warble. At the feeder these two birds are hard to tell apart. Another familiar bird is the song sparrow. It is year-round in Winston-Salem and to our west. In Greensboro and to the east it is a winter resident only – the dividing line is right here. Its familiar song always begins with three notes on the same pitch, then rollicks into a buzzy warble. The brown-streaked breast converges into a central brown spot, making it easy to identify the song sparrow. Other visitors to our feeders are more familiar: cardinals, doves, blue jays, chickadees, titmice, and so on. The special rewards of backyard feeders are seeing these beautiful birds up close. The feisty and aggressive house finch. The always friendly chickadee. The large and domineering jay. The portly, just "there" cardinal. We can watch them daily at length; the scene always changing and never quite the same as the day before.

If you have ideas for newsletter topics, please contact us:
Amy Lindsey (general) and Kevin Lindsey (trees): 722-2881; Ann Listokin (birds): 724-7957



Junco



White-throated Sparrow



Song Sparrow by Larry McQueen

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The West Ender
By and for the West End Neighborhood

March 2004

Reminiscing

Ann and I have enjoyed being your West End Association presidents for the past two years. We have worked hard and enjoyed it! We feel that the West End neighborhood has definitely made some progress over these years. Key in our time as presidents was the desire to re-emphasize the social aspect of being neighbors. We began monthly socials where we can meet informally and share each other's homes. The 4th of July continued as a strong event in addition to a Valentine's Day social last year and a Winter Social this year.

Funding remains strong. The 2002 House Tour was very successful. Linda Kirby continued to provide leadership for business sponsorship of the monthly newsletter, bringing in revenue to support the printing and community projects. Memberships grew with a strategic recruitment drive in 2002 allowing everyone to share in community projects. Our revenues have grown significantly.

Communication was a high priority. We moved the meetings to the Tise House with much appreciation for their generosity. This provided a visible and graceful setting for the meetings (and events). The newsletter continues to be a strength of the neighborhood and requires so much work: writing, layout, printing/producing, inserts, and distribution. Thank you to all those who make this a regular part of our neighborhood, (we distribute about 1,100 each month). While we had struggled with a listserv to facilitate communication, email distribution proved more successful. Over 100 households receive emails almost weekly. Communication is the key to confronting crime. Monthly crime maps and listings have been shared at meetings. The police have worked closely with us and I have done a some "ride-alongs" to help the police learn our issues.

Planning has guided the efforts. After hearing criticism of Association meetings being too lengthy we tried a separate Board meeting to do the detail work. In these meetings strategies, nominations, and planning occurred. All decisions were taken to the Association Meetings. The Board members worked very hard (and enjoyed comfy meetings with a touch of wine). The South Central Area Plan was a major part of this effort and required much thought and input into the City's process. Finally the planning of the West End was formally incorporated into the City's plan. The trolley plans were another effort. Now there is a formal effort to present revisions to the Historical Guidelines. The Board led the Association in many issues decided by the Historical Resource Commission (which merged during the year). Last year marked the first time that a zoning decision that had been disregarded was enforced by the City. Our neighborhood continues to be taken seriously when discussing our zoning and Guidelines. The Board went through a strategic planning retreat and with community input decided priorities for the future.

Noise continues to be an issue. Burke Street abuts our neighborhood and the timing of activities there and the noise around 2 a.m. does not lend to residential use. I have spent many nights monitoring the activities there and prompting police, as have many neighbors. The institution of a Burke St. Merchant Association and hiring off duty patrols has helped a bit. This is just one of many pressures of residential living in an urban setting.

See Reminiscing – Inside front cover

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Reminiscing...
 History continues to be preserved. We have shared monthly the house and rental prices. There has been a significant increase in prices, and homes are moving quickly on the market. While we have lost several historical properties – three due to the YMCA, one to lightning and nearly one to fire - many homes have been improved. Nearly all the historical homes in the West End have been renovated at least once. A new push is for façade improvements to make non-contributing homes in concert with the design of the neighborhood. Sam Ogburn Jr. was nominated by the West End Association for an Appearance Award and won this past year for his work on two homes. He has begun renovations on two more. The monitoring of the Guidelines and the focus have helped in the preservation effort. Eric Elliot has continued his West End president's legacy by designing, printing and distributing a West End Tour brochure. This is now a visible part of our visitor's bureau materials.

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The future is bright for our West End. We have more resources than ever and need to spend some of those hard earned dollars to improve our parks and streets. With Krispy Kreme relocating next door new opportunities, higher home prices, and new pressures will come. The neighborhood has more restaurants, better antique shops and a growing downtown within walking. ArtsFest organized by Kathy Stanley and Kathleen Ramich was a crowning West End achievement. Hosted in our signature Grace Court park, operated by West End volunteers, and characterized as a "sell out" with artists and vendors, this event epitomized the West End – hospitable, graceful, creative, aggressive, fun and beautiful. It has been a pleasure to be a part of a caring neighborhood.

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**Finding the Tools, Breaking the Ice:
 Historic Tax Credit Codes, Standards and Practical Applications**
 Local sponsors in Greensboro are hosting a workshop for anyone interested in federal and state tax credits for renovations of historic structures.
When: March 5th from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm and March 6th from 8:30 am – 12 pm
Where: The historic Depot in Greensboro, NC (300 East Washington Street)
What: Learn about tools you can use to earn tax credits. Topics include building codes, the Secretary of the Interior's standards for rehabilitation, tax credit application & IRS rules.
Other: Free parking available on site...lunch on your own.
To register/for more info: Greensboro Dept. of Housing & Community Development; 336-373-2349 or www.greensboro-nc.gov/comp_plan (see events).

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CONGRATULATIONS!
 to former West Ender editor Andrea Thomas and her husband Stuart on the new addition to their family, twins Annie and Jack!

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**PARTIAL AGENDA
 FORSYTH COUNTY HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION**
 March 3, 2004 at 4:00 P.M.
 City Hall South; Public Meeting Room 530
 100 East First Street; Winston-Salem

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS APPLICATIONS

- Kevin and Kristina Ebbink, Applicants
 1412 Clover Street
 Bost House (Inventory #334)
Arbor and Gate Installation
- Gayle Goldsmith Tuch, Applicant
 1407 Clover Street
 Non-Contributing Apartments (Inventory #329)
**Renovation to the Southeast Corner
 (Including partial porch enclosure)**
- William F. Maready, Applicant
 1076 West Fourth Street
 Non-Contributing Building
Sign Installation

MINOR WORK APPROVALS

- Benjamin Fyten
 105 West End Boulevard
 Non-Contributing House
Porch Floor Replacement
NEXT MEETING: April 7, 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.

West End Association monthly meeting: Tuesday, March 2nd 7:00 PM at the Tise House; 952 West 4th Street (near Grace Court). All are welcome!
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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