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The West Ender

By and for the West End Neighborhood

Red-Tails in Our Sunsets

Recently I drove past the YMCA and spotted a streaked brownish bird on a pole by Hanes Park. Two crows, smaller in comparison, were hazing the bird. The hawk rested calmly on its perch and the crows disappeared. I drove on, did my errands, and started for home 25 minutes later. On Clover, under the #40 overpass, a large brownish bird flew across my car, literally three feet in front of the windshield. As it zoomed past, I glimpsed a grey furry creature with a hairless tail clutched in its beak.



Was this a lunch stop for the same hawk I had just seen at the Y? Probably. The red-tailed hawk (BUTEO JAMAICENSIS) is our largest West End bird, has a nest near Manly St., and is often seen in treetops or even on a roof. Their presence can be loudly broadcast by crows and other birds. The rufous red tail can be seen from below when the male veers while soaring. Otherwise we see the whitish breast and the buffy tail. In the West End any large brown hawk is likely the red-tail. These red-tail hawks have made national headlines nesting on a ledge of a Fifth Avenue Apartment building in New York City. This site, just across from Central Park, assures the birds of boundless meals of grey furry creatures with hairless tails. In December of 2004, the building's owners decided to clean off the ledge, and were faced with large crowds of protesters who knew and loved the hawks, and loved that bit of wild Nature, in the midst of the huge city, that the nesting red-tails represented. After picketing with "Honk-4-Hawks" signs, and headlines in the press like "Hawk Celebrities Evicted on Fifth Avenue," the bird lovers succeeded in getting the nesting site restored. The story is told in the book "Red-tails in Love," which also gives a good look at fanatical birdwatchers, of which I am one. Any sightings? I'd like to hear. - Ann Listokin


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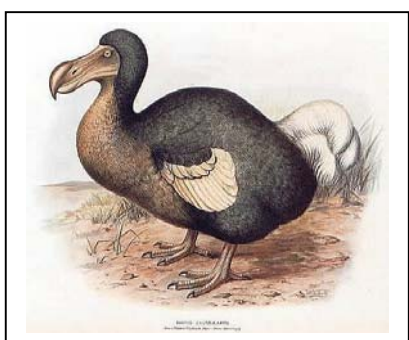
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I've sometimes wondered what it was like to step off the boat in Mauritius 500 years ago and be the first European to behold the unusual oversized Dodo bird. Seeing an injured bald eagle at Grandfather Mountain recently reminded just how imposing a sight an unusually large bird can be (and how the larger the bird the less imagination it takes to imagine them as living dinosaurs). Ann Listokin talks about our own native super raptor on page four. Ed.

August 2005 West End Association Not Extinct, Just on Holiday!

(Ed. There is no monthly meeting of the WEA in August. Here's the last board meeting notes.)

The West End Board met on June 28th at the home of Steve Joiner. Several items of interest were brought before the board. Steve mentioned that the Association has received several complaints from our members that identify houses in West End who are in violation of city ordinances. The board agreed to present these concerns to the Historic Preservation/Neighborhood Improvement Committee for action. The Downtown Development Committee reported that several key neighborhood associations are having planning conversations that are designed to address quality of life issues that are impacting residents in the Western Downtown area of Winston-Salem. Noise, littering, and panhandling are social disorders that can slowly erode the vibrancy of a community. If you would like to know more about this effort, please feel free to contact Rick Pender at the Center for Community Safety. George Bryan and Jack Smith continue to work on park beautification projects in and around West End. Hanes Park has two benches that will be replaced. The Board feels that having monthly socials is still the best way for folks to get to know each other and their community. We still have a vacancy for a Social Committee Chairperson. If you know anyone who would be interested, please contact Steve Joiner. The West End Initiative has identified Burke Street as a crime concern for the surrounding neighborhood. The Winston-Salem Police Department has had several meetings with the merchants on Burke Street asking them to become more of a stakeholder in the fight against crime and public disorder. Please stay tuned for additional developments with the merchants. As a reminder, all Board meetings are open to the members of the West End Association. Please contact any Board member for dates and times.

Rick Pender
 Secretary
 West End Association

In September we will again meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the
The Cicero Use House
 952 West Fourth Street
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- In this Issue:**
- West End Board Minutes
 - President's Message
 - HRC Schedule for August
 - ARTSfest Update
 - Redtails in the (West End) Sunset

West End Neighborhood Association 2005 Membership Form

Join the West End Association and help support a friendly and beautiful neighborhood.
Membership is \$15 per family or \$30 per business.
 Send to: WEA, PO Box 21054; Winston-Salem, NC 27120-1054

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Enclose \$15 for a family membership or \$30 for a business membership.

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President's Column

A Good Old Fashioned 4th of July in the West End

Every so often you experience something that really puts you back in touch with the core values of life, reminds you of what really is important and just cuts right through the daily din of life in the 21st Century. I had such an epiphany recently when the West End Association had its traditional 4th of July Celebration here in the neighborhood. It was traditional in many senses of the word: it was indeed hotter than the Fourth of July, we played some Bruce Springsteen music (Born in the USA, appropriately enough) there was a parade for the children and covered dish eating for the adults. And let's not forget that Mother Nature also threw in some good old fashioned fireworks of her own. A rousing torrential downpour in mid-afternoon drove the parents onto the veranda and the kids out onto the lawn for some high spirited rain dancing that was a true joy to behold as they stomped about deliriously oblivious to the rain, no, actually *exulting* in it. Yes, this seemed to be the quintessentially American 4th of July neighborhood celebration, one that seemed like many I had attended in lots of different places over the years. One event back in 1976, when our nation celebrated its 200th birthday, the bicentennial, stood out as the most memorable, probably because I watched the fireworks display bursting overhead at the Washington Monument at the National Mall in Washington D.C. Memorable yes, to be sure, but not as fundamentally *moving* as the simple celebration here in the West End when long time resident Warren Sparrow moved to the microphone to read the *Declaration of Independence*, as the grass steamed below us and the sounds of children scampering filled our ears. It was something that had been done before at West End celebrations, but not in the five years I had been here, so it was new to me. And it struck me that it was new to me in another way too, that I had never heard anyone read aloud in person those historic words. And it was like I was hearing them for the first time or at long last in the appropriate context. Warren delivered those few key paragraphs with the reverence and authority they deserved. But perhaps most tellingly these famous lines were voiced from within one of the thousands of communities all across this land that came to be known as the United States of America. All those places, places like our West End, have come into being because of that grand vision which was set in motion so long ago by that bold declaration. It makes you stop and think what our world would be like had they not been written. We do indeed live in a great country!

Enjoy the rest of your summer and try to stay out of the heat!

— Steve Joiner, WEA President

This Month at the HRC
Historic Resources Commission,
Wednesday, July 6, 2005 at 4:00 P.M.; City Hall South Public Meeting Room, Room 530; 100 East First Street, Winston-Salem
This group meets monthly to review applications for repair work and alterations in Forsyth County's local historic districts. Due to our newsletter's production schedule, this month's meeting will have taken place before the newsletter is distributed. You can always check their website at www.ForsythCountHRC.org or call them at the Planning Department at 727-2087 for the latest information or for questions about your property.
No West End Business in August before the HRC.
A Listing of Staff-Approved COA Work will appear in the next newsletter.

Update: ARTSfest 2005

The sponsorship campaign is underway for ARTSfest. Special thanks to **West End Association** and *The Winston-Salem Journal* for their early commitments to be title sponsors. Companies or individuals who would like an information packet may contact Kathleen Ramich (723-9207) or Cathy Stanley (748-0260). **ARTSfest is an excellent advertising opportunity!** Sponsors will be highlighted on hundreds of T-shirts, on 3000 postcards, in West End newsletters (circulation: 1000 homes), in press releases and in special announcements at the festival. Promote your business while supporting the arts in your community. It's a win-win!

Get a preview of ARTSfest attractions later this month in *Artview*. Our thanks to Nora Garver, Mike Clinton, and Jeff Smith for lining up great musical entertainment for the festival. Restaurateurs will be confirmed in August. Some new vendors will join our list of fine culinary providers this year. Several volunteers are working diligently behind the scenes and several more will be contacted soon to help make ARTSfest a success.



Thank you one and all!
— Kathleen Ramich

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