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The West Ender

By and for the West End Neighborhood

September 2005

ARTSfest 2005 is October 1, Plan to Join Us!



"Come out to our Porch"

The 2005-2006 version of a local visitor's guide and map of West End is set for release in September. Playing off the label the brochure gives to West End, calling it "Winston-Salem's Front Porch", this year's theme for the ad campaign is "Come out to our Porch."

Developed by former WEA President Eric Elliott in cooperation with nearly thirty area merchants and supporters, this is the third version of the brochure to be released since 2002. Twenty thousand copies of the brochure will be distributed through the Visitor's Center and around the state, as well as at local merchants.

This year's brochure features photographs of West Ender Martha Bassett enjoying West End scenery in period costumes from the 1890s and early 1900s. More photos of Martha in West End will be posted soon at the revised website accompanying the brochure, www.w-sfrontporch.com


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This month we again meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the *The Cicero Tise House*
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In this Issue:
 - West End ARTSfest returns
 - President's Message
 - FurrBall appears in neighborhood (and its not from editor's cat)
 - HRC Schedule for September
 - ARTSfest Volunteers Needed
 - New Demolition by Neglect Rules
 - Latest "Front Porch" visitor's brochure out this month

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Two years ago ARTSfest burst upon the Triad art scene in a gala celebration of North Carolina art that brought talent from the distant corners of the state, and an audience from as far away as New York. This year the West End festival will highlight some of its musical depth as upbeat sound joins upscale art in this uptown quarter. Ask Burke Street Music Academy director Mike Clinton why he chose his West End location and he will tell you "it's an artists' quarter...". Mike and his St. Peter's Praise Band will tout their musicianship on the gazebo stage at ARTSfest, as will his colleague and NCSA pianist Anthony Felton. West End resident Nora Garver hones her fiddling skills in Scotland but she'll "take the high road" to Grace Court to entertain with her fellow Triad Scottish Musicians. Triad native Mary Olive Smith and fiancé Danny Weiss now call the NYC area home. But they'll interrupt their busy performance schedule there to grace the hometown stage at ARTSfest. The crowd-pleasing Morris Family will awaken "the Irish" in all of us. And nostalgic rock favorites The Bi-Coastals will round out the day of art in one of the Triad's loveliest venues.

This year's line-up of artists will feature born-and-bred North Carolinians alongside "newcomers" to the Carolinas hailing from Alaska to Poland. Their juried creations will offer a range of art from the functional to the purely aesthetic, and from everyday ware to the avant garde. Artists will contribute an array of handmade door prizes to fill the hearts and shopping bags of visitors. Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines will present this year's cash awards to artists earning honors for selected works of art. The piece of art earning the much coveted "cover award" will be highlighted on posters, postcards and T-shirts advertising the event. The limited edition T-shirts will go on sale in early September.

The public can experience ARTSfest through the mystique of "horsehair pottery" and "whisper benches," explore intriguing new fiber works by a NY fashion designer, discover whimsical water colors and beaded reptiles, stroll through the sculpture garden and pose for a caricature. Children will have their own choice of art activities. Come hungry to enjoy the delectable treats vended by some of the areas best eateries. The event lasts from 10AM until 5PM, and ARTSfest co-chair Cathy Stanley encourages visitors to "make a day of it. Allow enough time to enjoy the many features of ARTSfest." "ARTSfest is a celebration of the arts for all ages combined with the 19th century charm of Grace Court and West End hospitality," says event co-chair Kathleen Ramich. "It's a great place to find something truly original."

Title sponsors of this year's biennial event include the West End Association, The Winston-Salem Journal, and The Cicero-Tise Mansion, together with several neighborhood and local businesses. Grace Court is located at the intersection of Glade Street and W. Fourth Street in Winston-Salem, NC. Parking and admission are free. — Kathleen Ramich

West End Photos on Display at Visitor's Center in September
 During September, photos from West End will be featured in an exhibit along the walls of the Visitor's Center Board room. Photos include some historic shots from Eric Elliott's book on West End as well as images of current West End locations.

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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

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President's Column
It's Not What You Know It's How Well You can Google:
A Tale of Two West Ends

Do these fine sounding phrases ring with a familiar note to you? "What makes the West End unlike any other area? It offers visitors a window into the past with with beautifully preserved and masterfully renovated historical buildings. The West End also provides a host of recreational opportunities such as retail attractions, exciting nightlife and a variety of cultural events. Visitors enjoy all of this in one of the most "happening" neighborhoods in the city. There is something for everyone and you'll find it along our tree-lined streets and brick sidewalks." Yes, indeed that sounds like the West End, as indeed it should, as it's from the website of the West End Association...of the Dallas West End Historic District. The parallels do not end there, and suffice it to say there are indeed other West Ends and West End Associations - but that's not exactly what I wanted to write about - but it got me started.

The whole thing came about because of an idle airport waiting lounge moment when I heard a youth seated near me say: "No, it's not like that at all. I know I googled it!" And that's what I did too! Yep, Google the "West End Association" and you'll get 4310 hits - our West End comes in at number 14, a respectable showing to be sure, but I think we can do better. Yes better on the internet, with a better website for starters, and one that does more for the citizenry, serves as a resource, a reporter and an informant and also as a living history, complete with a photo record if we can do it. "Send us your home pictures and we'll post them to our archive - Film at 11:00!" And how about a blog? It's certainly trendy or hip or whatever today's replacements for those words are. Eric Elliott's "Front Porch" website is a great valentine for the West End, but it's not the association website - that's at <http://thewestend.tripod.com> in case you didn't know, and yes, it's a bit long in the tooth in places and we have to do some work to update it but surely you'd agree it could be more useful, so tell us what you'd like to see us add and we'll marshall our resources to get us suitably webbed.

Oh, and one more thing - go to the Dallahs Convention & Visitors Bureau's website and you'll find a whole section devoted to their West End Historic District - descriptions, history, pictures, etc. with useful links to other related aspects of the West End. Winston Salem's comparable site will tell you that there are some shops and restaurants in the neighborhood - and there's even a small paragraph describing the West End in far from exciting terms. I don't think that's good enough, do you? We on the board should see if we can do something that's a whole lot better for Winston Salem and the West End. You see, we're not just any West End, this is Winston Salem's West End, and we should both make the most of it!

- Steve Joiner, WEA President



West End FurrBall invites you to "paws" for the cause...
Opening September 1 from 6pm-9pm, West End Art Gallery is hosting throughout the month a group exhibition of 45 animal artists from around the United States. The event will help raise money for the Forsyth Humane Society in Winston-Salem. For further details about exhibitors and how you can contribute, visit www.westendartgallery.com.

Volunteers still needed for ARTSfest 2005

The Congratulations to the steering committee and others who helped contact this year's sponsors of ARTSfest. We have a great group of companies and individuals who are helping to make this event possible! Look for their names in upcoming advertisements.

Our next corps of volunteers are needed to help distribute posters, plan the children's activities, count and/or deliver postcards to the artists, and/or be available the day of the event to assist artists at 7:00 am with set-up and at 5:00 pm with tear down, be "floaters" who help folks in need during the event, sell T-shirts, handle door prize forms, clean up after the party, etc. If you want to help, we can use you. Just call Cathy Stanley (748-0260) or Kathleen Ramich (723-9207) and leave us a message as to when you can help. And let's get ready to showcase our neighborhood and West End hospitality once again!!

In August a UDO text amendment was proposed by the City-County Planning Board staff and the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission to amend Chapter B, Article IV, by adding a new section dealing with neglected properties in Historic and Historic Overlay districts. The proposal seeks to develop provisions to prevent properties designated as Local Historic Landmarks from being demolished due to neglect. It should be repeated the reason for this amendment is to save historic properties before they are destroyed by neglect. This request along with the background, analysis, standards and petition procedures can be viewed at:
http://www.cityofws.org/planweb/Zoning_cases/aug2005/udo141.pdf

As stated in UDO 141 petitions can be filed with the Commission in four ways. One way is through the "appropriate historic district's neighborhood association." The West End's Beautification committee includes Jack Smith and Eric Elliott. If you know a neglected property that meets these standards please email the pictures and detailed descriptions to either Jack and or Eric. They will in turn share them with the board and if so voted will be passed on to the Historic Resource Commission for action at an appropriate time.
Jack Smith - jckdsmith@aol.com
Eric Elliott - echidna@triad.rr.com

This Month at the HRC
Historic Resources Commission,
Wednesday, Sept. 7, 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 scheduled West End Business in September before the HRC.
A Listing of Staff-Approved COA Work will appear in the next newsletter.

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