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The West Ender

By and for the West End Neighborhood

April 2006

Ann Listokin on West End Birds

Spring Bird Watch

Have you gone out to your car recently and found lots of dark blue berry spots on your roof and hood? Thank the cedar waxwings. This year was a bumper year for the fruit of the ligustrum shrub, often called the inkberry. They hang in grape-like clusters from the branches, and are dearly loved by the waxwings. These smallish, buff-colored birds with a crest and a black bandit mask have been present in large flocks in the West End. One chilly day I counted forty-five plus in our ligustrum cluster. PLUS means I stopped counting at forty-five because the number was so incredible. At one point, seven of them crowded around the bird bath at once, drinking companionably. No fighting, no shoving. I find this good-tempered behavior really endearing.



What the cedar waxwing craves....

RETURNED today – mid-March – flocks of goldfinches bounding along with their melodious warbles and brilliant gold plumage. Robins, mockingbirds, towhees, woodpeckers, cardinals, wrens – are all sharing our backyard. It's still a little too early for mating and nesting, so the birds are not yet territorial. No one is being chased off the property yet, and peace and sharing reigns at the bird bath. – Ann Listokin


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WEA SPRING FAMILY EGG HUNT
 Sunday, April 9, 2006*
 Grace Court Park
 2 p.m.
 Egg hunters and their favorite adults should meet on the lawn of the Tise House on 4th Street. Egg hunt begins at 2:00 sharp and will be followed by lemonade, cookies and games!
 *Rain date: Saturday, April 15

The West End Association meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm at
The Cicero Tise House
 952 West Fourth Street
 Winston-Salem, NC 27101
 336.462.0850

In this Issue:
 - Spring Egg Hunt
 - March Meeting Highlights
 - President's Message
 - JLWS Kitchen Tour, Library Gardening Presentation
 - Listokin's West End Birdwatch

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West End March Meeting: A RiverRun Through It

The Association was pleased to have Dale Pollock, Executive Director of the RiverRun International Film Festival, as guest speaker at our monthly membership meeting. Mr. Pollock stated that the RiverRun festival is one of more than seven hundred film festivals being held throughout the United States. RiverRun is gaining national attention and this year it was the beneficiary of a cash donation by The Academy of Arts and Sciences of Motion Pictures. Dale mentioned that RiverRun had received more than eight hundred film solicitations from local, national and international artists. Fewer than eighty films will be presented compared to last year's total of more than one hundred thirty films. Fewer venues and fewer films will make it easier for people to decide what films to see. President Steve Joiner was pleased to present Dale with a check from the Association. West End provided much needed community support in a year in which RiverRun experienced the loss of a major corporate sponsor.

George Bryan announced that this year the West End will be providing window decals for members of the West End Association. Members get a free decal with any annual membership purchase and can purchase additional decals at a cost of \$2.00 per decal. Please see George for West End decals.

Captain Bill Cobb of the Winston-Salem Police Department discussed the recent activity of vandals in West End and surrounding neighborhoods and he was pleased to announce that four teenagers have been arrested in connection with these crimes. Over four hundred charges will be brought against the youth by the Kernersville and Winston-Salem Police Departments.

All West End Association meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Tise House on West Fourth Street at Grace Court. All board meetings, which are held on the third Tuesday of each month, are open to members. The location of the meetings is 1224 Glade Street.

APRIL 4 WEA MEETING – Speaker will be WFU's Dr. Steve Boyd, talking about West End's involvement with the community action group CHANGE in advance of that group's Delegates Assembly on April 30.

Rick Pender
 Secretary

RENEW YOUR WEA MEMBERSHIP!
West End Association 2006 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: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ New Member () Renewal ()

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

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President's Message

Don't Be Home Alone! Give the West End Your House!

Well, it's Spring again and this morning's dog-walk through Grace Court, a bit brisk weather-wise, was nonetheless filled with ample signs of the season, fields of vibrant yellow daffodils shimmering in the morning sunlight and small outposts of early-to-blossom white tulips scattered about randomly. Yes, a typical West End Spring scene to be sure, but that's not what I'd like to write about... I'd like to talk about the Season of Giving, (the Christmas Season for the politically incorrect), that is still quite a ways off yet. Why? Because this year Westenders have a chance to give back to the neighborhood in a truly marvelous manner - you get to give the community your house for a day! Yes, it's just nine months or so to the bi-annual signature event in the West End - the *Holiday Home Tour 2006*. I was just answering a question from our first Chair-person of the event, Stephanie Abdon, Reynolda House's own Group Tour Coordinator, at the past month's West End Social & St Patrick's Day Celebration at the Home of Ann Dougherty & George Bryan about what we need to get this project in gear. My response was automatic: "Well, first we need houses to put on the tour - that's the biggest hurdle - everything else is just logistics" (colossal, volunteer-based logistics!) Another person chimed in with a comment that it's more about recruiting than it is waiting for volunteers to muster in. It's like planning a campaign before you've got the heavy artillery. So I guess that means we'll have to rely on some good recruiting because it's a cinch we can't draft a house (though a draft house is not a bad idea!) for this tour of duty. So this plea isn't a draft notice so much as a Recruitment Notice: Homes Wanted! No Experience Necessary. Training Provided. Starting Salary Not Negotiable (and not available for that matter) Great Benefits: Build-in excuses to complete all those little honey-do projects you've had piling up all these years - and with eight months to get them done, plus the admiration of your neighbors and the heartfelt appreciation of your community! We're looking for few good homes (maybe 8 or so) willing to show Westenders and a lot of other curious folk from elsewhere what the inside of the historic West End really looks like decked out for the Holidays. Mark your calendars now for Sunday, December 10th and apply by sending me an email at Steven.joiner@truliantfcu.org. I'm counting on you - don't make us resort to conscription!

AT THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Sanders Ridge Farm and Organic Food Guild will be delivering free potted basil plants and a brief presentation at the April 4th association meeting.
Sanders Ridge Farm and Vineyard, is a 300 acre Century Designation farm, located 30 miles west of Winston-Salem in Boonville, NC (within the Yadkin Valley Wine Appellation...) They grow and sell organic vegetables, herbs and cut flowers and are offering West End homeowners an opportunity to form a local collective of Food Guild members. Forming a collective would enable Sanders Ridge to provide West End homeowners membership at a reduced cost as well as free weekly delivery of healthy seasonal fresh produce directly to our neighborhood - throughout a 21 week season (beginning May 1 - through October 29th). Cindy Hinshaw will be at our April 4th meeting to provide a brief presentation about Sanders Ridge Farm and Vineyard, what's growing in the gardens for 2006, and to provide Food guild membership details and applications. For more info see www.sandersridge.com, or contact 336-324-6246.

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AROUND THE COMMUNITY

The Junior League of Winston-Salem proudly presents the **2006 Tour of Fine Kitchens**, April 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit ten professionally designed kitchens where local chefs will prepare food to sample.

To purchase tickets call the Junior League office at 722-9681, or stop by to purchase. The Junior League Headquarters is housed in the Children's Museum of Winston-Salem at 390 S. Liberty St. Suite 100, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. Tickets are \$20 when purchased in advance or \$25 at the door (if still available).

All proceeds from the event will benefit the programs and outreach of the League, an organization of women committed to strengthening families and, through voluntarism, has effected change in Winston-Salem for over 80 years.



Ever wanted to know how to fix that problem corner in the yard where it's just too shady to get anything to bloom? Check out the free yard-lovers class "**How to Create a Mossy Shade Garden.**"

With a mossy groundcover and some carefully chosen companion plants, you can transform a too-dark spot into a cool, shady retreat - the perfect place to enjoy an iced tea on a hot day! The class includes tips on establishing and caring for moss, as well as suggestions for plants that perform well in shade.

To be held *Saturday, April 1, 2006 at 1 PM* in the Central Library Auditorium, 660 W. 5th Street. Part of the Forsyth County Cooperative Extension Service's Successful Gardener series, presented by Master Gardener Volunteers.

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This Month at the HRC
Historic Resources Commission,
Wednesday, April 5, 2006 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. The agenda for this month's meeting was not available at press time. 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. New West End proposed Guidelines available for review now - every homeowner should check these out online now!



"It's better to look good than to feel good."
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