



# The West Ender

By and for the West End Neighborhood

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### West End Association Meetings

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at 6:00PM  
Next: March 26, 2019  
West End Room  
William G. White YMCA  
775 W End Blvd, Winston-Salem

### Historic Resources Commission Meetings

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays at 4:00 PM  
Next: April 3, May 1  
Bryce A. Stuart Municipal Building Room 530  
Winston-Salem  
**Certificate of Appropriateness Applications**  
Submittal deadline no later than 5:00PM the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month before the next HRC meeting.

### West End Collections

Garbage & Yard Waste  
Thursdays, weekly  
Recycling (Blue bins)  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday:  
Maarch 11 & 25

### Bulky Item Pickup 2019

The annual City bulky item pickup comes to West End in June. Our neighborhood is divided into two areas. Addresses on the **south side of Brookstown Ave** (toward Business 40) will be serviced the **week of June 17**. Pick up for addresses **north of Brookstown** will be during the **week of June 24**.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2019!

**Renew your West End Membership Today! Details at [historicwestend.org](http://historicwestend.org)**

*The West Ender is published by the West End Association [thewestender@yahoo.com](mailto:thewestender@yahoo.com)*

[historicwestend.org](http://historicwestend.org)

March 2019

## New Brunson Elementary Promised

by Jan Campbell Wharton

**M**oney to build a new Brunson Elementary School was included in the School Bond voters passed in 2016. The \$27.5 million slated for Brunson is in the second tier of projects to be completed. Funding for this round, \$87 million, will be released March 5.

According to the bond, design work will start in spring of 2019. Construction would begin in summer 2020 with a completion date of 2022, and students would attend the new school in the fall of 2022.

At a community input meeting held at Brunson February 25, Superintendent Beverly Emory said the district is looking at four different parcels of land. Although the actual locations were not revealed, she said these parcels all lie within or are contiguous to Brunson's current residential zone. In a Winston-Salem Journal article from February 24, Superintendent of Operations Darrell Walker said the district has narrowed the field down to two options, which he will share with the school board in closed session soon. He referenced the lack of open land near the school's present location.

A new Board of Education was elected in 2018. Several new board members have expressed interest in reallocating money from the 2016 bond to other projects, including rebuilding Ashley Elementary and accelerating the timeline for the Wiley Middle School Addition and Gym reconstruction that makes way for the Reynolds High School Stadium. In an Ashley Elementary Community Meeting on February 18, Superintendent Emory said the Board has asked for options on how to possibly change bond projects, and at an Ashley Community Meeting on February 21, School Board Chair Malishai Woodbury said another project could be removed from the bond to finance a new Ashley. Building and Grounds Committee Chair, Leah Crowley, has said on several occasions that, "Brunson has no land," but she has since expressed her support for the project going forward.

Teachers, parents, alumni parents, and community members packed the gym at Brunson for the February 26 community input meeting. Six School Board members were in attendance -- Lori Goins Clark, Leah Crowley, Lida Calvert-Hayes, Dana Caudill Jones, Deanna Kaplan, and Elizabeth Motsinger. Superintendent Emory assured attendees the Board was committed to moving forward with rebuilding Brunson according to Bond timeline. She also said there are no plans to merge Brunson with any another school as has been proposed in the past. (cont. next page ->)



MISS GRACE BRUNSON  
Teacher, Principal, Elementary Supervisor  
Winston-Salem City Schools September 1921 - June 1959

*Portrait of Grace Brunson with its plaque displayed in the lobby of Brunson Elementary School.*



## Brunson Elementary, continued from page 1

Participants talked about the strength of the teachers, administration, curriculum, parent support, and the diverse student body. Many asked that the school stay within the current residential zone and serve the same group of students. Others asked that specific academic programs continue at the new school such as STEM, ESL, and HAG.

Teachers and parents expressed concern about the current condition of the school. Built in 1959, Brunson's building has several issues including a leaky HVAC system that heats and cools unevenly, windows that do not latch, and light fixtures for which replacement bulbs are no longer manufactured. Other problems stem from overcrowding. Designed as a 400-capacity school, much of Brunson's student body of 520 is housed in mobile units behind and beside the school, while the only bathrooms are located inside the building. Because of the location by Peter's Creek, large pools of standing water frequently cover much of the playground and the area around mobile units.

In the February 24 Journal article, Operations Superintendent Walker said while there is some maintenance work done at Brunson, installation of newer technology and larger projects, like HVAC replacement, have not been done because there is a new school building coming. At the February 25 community meeting, Walker offered to connect with a group of staff and parents to prioritize projects that would alleviate some of the current concerns. Since that time, WSFCS work crews have completed work on the playground, replaced air filters, and fixed broken windows. Technology upgrades will be completed starting March 20.

Superintendent Emory projected that the land chosen by the School Board will be revealed at a community meeting held in the next few months.



*Dedication plaque from the opening of Grace Brunson Elementary School in 1959*

## Mary Alice Critz and Robert Edward Follin Houses

By Margaret Supplee Smith

During a record-breaking cold wave, Mary Critz and Robert Follin moved to their brand new house overlooking Glade Street (top photo, next page) soon after their December 12, 1911, wedding, a festive gathering at 533 Spring Street, the home of the bride's parents, Lucy Reynolds and Robert Critz, in which the extended Reynolds family—including the bride's uncles, Richard Joshua and William Neal, and their respective spouses, Katharine and Kate—participated.

Settling into their Dutch Colonial house, with its side-ridge roof and full-width shed dormer across the front, the Follins soon had two daughters, Lucy Reynolds and Estelle Marion, named after their grandmothers. Their African-American cook Effie Hairston was counted as a member of the household in 1920.

The girls celebrated their birthdays and Halloween with parties attended by the crème de la crème of Winston-Salem's younger generation. Their mother hosted the Tuscarora Book Club, the Tuesday Afternoon Club, the Junior Hospital Association, and countless bridge parties. Their father made a successful transition from a newspaper career in New York City to his family insurance company, The Follin Company and the Winston-Salem Building and Loan Association. He assumed leadership positions in civic and professional organizations, local and statewide, facilitated by the writing and speaking skills he had honed in his newspaper years. The Glade Street home was featured in the 1924 Art Work of the Piedmont, a publication that highlighted notable regional architecture.

Thus, the Follins were an established household when they decided to leave the West End and build anew on Club Park Drive in 1926 (bottom photo, next page). Sadly, Robert died 2 years later, on August 4, 1928, in a Washington D. C. hospital, the victim at age 50 of a massive heart attack.

The Follin's new house was originally sited across from the 4th fairway of the new Forsyth Country Club (Robert had been a club founder in 1913 and was considered one of Winston-Salem's best golfers.).

Designed by Reynolda's architect Charles Barton Keen and his partner William Roy Wallace and landscaped by Reynolda's landscape architect Thomas W. Sears, the two-story frame house of white clapboards and green tile roof has a Federal-style entrance and had a brick walled garden reminiscent of Charleston-born Follin's family heritage. Its classic architectural detailing and correct proportions reflect Keen and Wallace's nuanced shift from the informality of Reynolda to formal academic design.

*(Editor's note: This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> in a series of articles by Margaret Supplee Smith about early West End families who later moved to Buena Vista.)*

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# Mary Alice Critz and Robert Edward Follin Houses



The 1911 Follin House in West End, 1232 Glade Street. Photo by Jackson Smith, 2019



The 1926 Follin House in Buena Vista, 2930 Club Park Road.

Photo by Jackson Smith, 2019

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## West End Association News

**February Meeting:** The West End Association held its official Annual Meeting to elect new officers on February 26. Two retiring board member seats were filled. After many dedicated years of service to the WEA, John Merschel and George Bryan finished their terms as members of the board. George also served as Treasurer and has turned that important role over to board member David Elam. Two new board members were elected. Frank Johnson has been re-elected and Alex Helsabeck has joined the board as a new member. The WEA thanks John and George for their tireless service and recognizes that they will still be active participants. We also welcome Frank back and especially welcome some "new blood" with the addition of Alex.

The remainder of the February meeting considered financial reports from the 2018 Homes Tour, a review of pending COA applications before the HRC at its March meeting, an update on the WEA Safety committee by Matt Early, proposed guidelines for posts to the WEA FaceBook site, and finally a brief discussion about the past promises regarding beautification plans for the new Peters Creek Parkway Bridge over Salem Parkway (once known as Business 40).

**March Meeting:** Derek Renegar, the Urban Forester for the City of Winston-Salem, will be a guest at our meeting to talk about his responsibilities to care for our urban forest. Derek works closely with the Department of Recreation and Parks and other city departments to oversee the proper care for our trees. Recent bad weather has kept him and crews very busy just trying to keep the roads open when large mature trees have been falling all over the city. Plan to come to meet Derek and learn more about how we can all be involved in caring for our city trees.

The **March meeting will be at 6 PM on March 26, in the West End Room** of William G. White YMCA. Enter the YMCA from the small parking lot at the corner of Glade St. and West End Blvd.