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- Window locks deter burglars because smashing glass attracts attention and can leave forensic evidence.
- Visible burglar alarms are a great deterrent - though it's courteous to your neighbours to ensure that they shut off after a few minutes.
- Security lighting is also a good deterrent, but should be placed carefully near entry points so as not to disturb neighbours.
- Timers on radios and lights make it look like you're there when you're not.
- Spy holes and chains on doors let you see who's there without opening up.

When you go on vacation

- Cancel newspaper and mail deliveries.
- Have a neighbour stop by to collect junk mail, and open and close curtains.
- Make sure your neighbours know where they can contact you in an emergency and when you will be home.
- Invite neighbours to use your driveway to make it look like someone is home.
- Lock away garden tools and ladders that could be used by a would-be thief to gain access to your house.
- Make arrangements for family pets to be looked after.
- If you are away for more than a few days, arrange to have your lawns mowed.
- Consider inviting a relative or friend to house sit for you.
- Whatever you do, don't leave a message on your voicemail that you are away. Instead, clear the messages yourself or arrange to have a friend check them regularly for you.



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**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**

DECEMBER

December 10th
Santa In the Park
10:30 am - 1:00 pm
Grace Court Park

December 13th
WEA General/Board Meeting
7:00 pm
YMCA, West End Room

December 22nd
Holiday Pot Luck
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Old Winston Social Club

JANUARY

January 10th
WEA General/Board Meeting
7:00 pm
YMCA, West End Room

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- December WEA Meeting
- Santa in the Park
- 533 Summit Street
- Security Tips
- West End Holiday Potluck
- The West Ender Archives

www.historicwestend.org

DECEMBER 2011

HOT TOPICS AT THE DECEMBER WEA BOARD MEETING
Dec. 13, 7:00 PM, West End Room, Central YMCA

Guest Speaker, Council Member Wanda Merschel
- by Susan Morris

Council Member Wanda Merschel will be our guest speaker at the December West End Meeting. As a continuation of the September Talk of the Town meeting, Council Member Merschel will be answering your questions about issues that affect the Northwest Ward, and more specifically the West End Neighborhood. Please submit your questions via e-mail by December 6th, one week before the meeting to allow Council Member Merschel and her team enough time to get you the best answers from the proper city departments. Please e-mail your questions to Kemona McCarter, Community Assistance Liaison, at kemonam@cityofws.org, using the subject heading, "WEA Meeting Question." We look forward to seeing you at the December meeting for a discussion about the issues that interest you and our neighborhood.



Fourth Street Bridge: NCDOT Reps to Visit WEA
- Contributed by Alisa Keegan

Editor's note:
NCDOT's Division Construction Engineer Keith Raulston and Public Involvement Consultant Karen Simoni will also attend the December meeting to share how the Business 40 rebuild could affect West End streets and hear your concerns on plans to rebuild the Fourth Street bridge. The WEA Board has not voted a position on the bridge - whether it stays as is, is modified in use, or is removed - but encourages neighbors to listen and share their opinions with NCDOT and Council Member Merschel. Alisa Keegan's helpful efforts on the issue are shared below.

The issue of traffic volume and speed on West Fourth Street between Peters Creek and First Street have been a concern of the local residents for more than a decade. With the upcoming Peters Creek widening and Business I-40 construction beginning in the near future, we have an opportunity to achieve a solution that becomes an asset to the community in a cost-effective way. As a concerned resident, I have attended many of the DOT, DWSP, CCC and council meetings pertaining to this matter.

DOT has conducted a recent study of the area and the neighborhood has won the right to have Phase 2 traffic calming installed, meaning a traffic circle or something that would slow down traffic significantly. With the closing of I-40, the road is expected to have a tremendous increase in volume, leading to even more problems expected. Currently, the approximated average speed is 47, even though the speed limit is 45 mph. Volume is already higher than the road was designed for. Our block has gone through many transitions over the years. As a mother of four children, I daily fear for their safety, as my neighbors fear for their children. Currently, there are over 14 children living on our block. Many accidents and traffic incidents have been reported at the intersections. The DOT has asked that we hold a public meeting and document public concern. Our West End Association meeting on December 13th will have Council Member Wanda Merschel in attendance where we will be hearing everyone's concerns. At this meeting, we would also like to present our digital petition. Please send emails to fourthstreetbridge@gmail.com. Cite if you are for the removal of car traffic from the bridge or not in the subject line and write any additional comments in the body of the message.

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My goal is to solve the traffic problem. My opinion is that the bridge is best removed or left as a pedestrian walkway that could help connect the West End to the ballpark. All opinions should be voiced. There are many options for the bridge, with many creative ideas for landscaping and artwork, a community garden, etc. It is the gateway to the bridge renovations, and an opportunity for West End to contribute something fantastic to our City of the Arts and Innovation, while utilizing funding already slated for calming, repairs or demolition, and solve a potentially deadly traffic problem.



SANTA IN THE PARK
Saturday, December 10

Please join Leonard Ryden Burr for Santa in the Park Saturday, December 10th from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm at Grace Court Park. The event is rain or shine. If inclement weather occurs the event will be inside Leonard Ryden Burr Office. Bring your children and/or pets to have free photos taken with Santa.

FINGERS CROSSED FOR 533 SUMMIT STREET

- by Clare Fader

533 Summit Street is under contract! The buyers, who currently live in Winston-Salem, intend to live in the house. This is an exciting change of events given that earlier this year the property was under contract with buyers who planned to turn it into office space.

The new buyers are in the process of doing their inspections and will know by mid December if they intend to close on the property. Let's all keep our fingers crossed this works out. It will be wonderful for the neighborhood to have a family living in that house again.



HOLIDAY HOME SECURITY TIPS -

- Submitted by Clare Fader

Most burglaries are opportunistic and happen when owners are away. Unfortunately, it is necessary to be especially careful at Christmas time, as homes are more often empty with many people out shopping, socializing or on vacation. Burglars are also aware that most houses have presents to steal. While enjoying the festive season, please don't overlook your home security. Taking a few simple precautions will help to deter all but the most determined burglar.

Remember

- Shut and lock all doors, even if you're only going out for a short time.
- Close and lock all windows - burglars don't like to smash glass.
- Do not "hide" keys outside your home, nor leave them in an obvious place near doors or windows.
- Make sure your valuables - including televisions and stereo systems - cannot be seen from outside.
- When you buy new items like DVD players or video recorders, don't advertise by leaving the empty boxes out for recycling, turn the boxes inside out and fold them down.
- Hide or lock away passports and official documents - identity fraud is on the rise.
- Don't leave car keys near doors or windows - car theft through burglary is also on the rise.
- Consider engraving your property - this puts thieves off because it makes it harder to re-sell.
- Ensure you have an up to date list and photographs of your valuables and keep copies in a safe place.
- Homes with good security are much less likely to be burgled than those without.
- Deadbolts make it harder for burglars to get out with your goods if they got in through a window. Don't forget to put a deadbolt on the internal access door between the garage and the house.

-Continued on page 4

WEST END HOLIDAY POTLUCK AT OLD WINSTON SOCIAL CLUB

Come socialize with your friends and neighbors at the West End Neighborhood Holiday Pot Luck at Old Winston Social Club. Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to share. Old Winston has a full bar and friendly bartenders that will create, or uncap, your favorite holiday spirit. Plates, napkins, and flatware will be provided. We look forward to seeing you from 6pm-9pm on Thursday, December 22nd filled with holiday cheer.

THE WEST ENDER ARCHIVES

Many thanks to West Enders Jan Wharton and Rick Pender for contributing copies of old WEA newsletters to be used to fill out the archives on WEA in the NC Room at the County Public Library.

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