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**Notable Trees of the West End:
The Hemlock**



Hemlock: not what killed Socrates, but the large, evergreen tree with graceful swooping branches, small flat needles and a pyramidal shape that you can find throughout West End. This is a native tree found primarily in our mountains and north into Canada, hence its botanical name "tsuga canadenses." Although I have seen native stands as far east as Durham along the Eno river, I'm sure all of West End's hemlocks were planted.

A particularly nice specimen is found in a secret garden along the alleyway going from Summit back over to Manly Street. This hemlock stands to the left of a private drive as you go up the hill. It's probably about 50 years old and amazingly is not infested with the wooly adelgid, a sap sucking insect inadvertently brought over from Asia, which is decimating our hemlocks. A problem up north for decades, the adelgid has only in the last few years migrated to our neck of the woods. It appears as a white fuzzy substance where the needles meet the branches. Unfortunately there is little we can do short of spraying, which can be costly and dangerous. I recommend planting other species.

If you know of a notable tree that you think should be featured or would like more information contact Kevin Lindsey at 722-2881.

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MAY 2002

Notes from the April 2 meeting of the West End Association:

- Guest speaker – Jeremy George of Pepper Stone Masonry
Jeremy spoke about the history of stone walls in the West End and repair techniques
- By Laws Review – Bill Gibson explained proposed changes to the bylaws
- Police Report – A resident reported the theft of a gas grill from his back porch
- Communication Towers – George Bryan discussed the possible placement of a 450' tower on Brookstown Avenue and what the neighborhood might do to prevent it
- South Central Planning Committee – Amy and Kevin Lindsay reported on proposed changes to traffic patterns on First Street, Second Street and Brookstown Avenue
- First Street Zoning – George Bryan reported on proposed changes to zoning on First Street near Five Points that could allow businesses to move into a residential area
- Historic Homes Tour – Nora Garver discussed plans for the December Homes Tour

TO VIEW THE FULL MINUTES OF THIS MEETING, PLEASE VISIT
WWW.THEWESTEND.TRIPOD.COM OR CONTACT ANDREA THOMAS 723-9893

Are you interested in finding out more about the history of your home? Historic Nomination books are available from George Bryan for \$10. These books contain a survey of all West End historic homes with details such as original ownership and architectural features. They also include an in-depth history of the West End. Contact George Bryan, tel: 724-2706 or bryandoherty2@yahoo.com

MAY WEST END EVENTS – COME JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS!
May 7: Monthly Meeting, Tise House (on 4th St across from Grace Court), 7PM (details in the president's letter)
May 10: Neighborhood Social, 1510 Jarvis St, Sandra & Robert King, 6-8PM

West End Association Membership Application

Join the West End Association and help create a friendly and beautiful neighborhood. Membership is as low as \$15 for families in 2002. You will help support the newsletter, park and roadway enhancements, and monitoring of zoning and the Historic District Commission. You can join the West End email list (<http://www.thewestend.tripod.com>) to receive information on houses for sale and their prices, notes from your Alderman, crime statistics, invitations to monthly gatherings, and much more! **Annual Dues for 2002 are due NOW. Send to: WEA, POB 10055, W-S, NC 27108**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

() New Member () Renewal **Enclose \$15 for Family Membership; \$75 for Business Membership**

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From our Co-Presidents:

Spring is back in full swing and the West End is in bloom! There are many events within walking distance. Don't forget that "Alive After Five" is at Corpening Plaza downtown on Thursdays. And on Fridays 4th St. Jazz & Blues will fill the city with more good music. Both events are great ways to support a vibrant downtown.

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Our last Association meeting was a huge success -- one of the largest -- with a presentation on the repair and rebuilding of stone walls. This month we will have two important presentations. Eric Elliott will discuss the campaign to market the West End throughout the state as "Winston-Salem's Front Porch". Eric's devotion to the West End is only matched by his knowledge of the area. Don't miss him! The second presentation will be on the city of Winston-Salem's South Central Area Planning. This involves all long-term plans for the West End including development, zoning and traffic patterns. All residents will want to be aware of what the city might have in store for us!

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The West End Board is following and advocating on several issues. We are watching the communication tower issue and the rezoning request on First St. and Stratford. I (George) met with the new Director of the YMCA recently to talk to him about the neighborhood and fill him in on some history. I invited him to join our meetings.

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If you have any issues or concerns that you would like to bring to the attention of the West End Association board, please do not hesitate to contact us. The next two board meetings will be held on May 21 and June 18.

Blessings
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We hope to see you uptown listening to good tunes as well as at the upcoming West End Association Meeting!

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Are you interested in joining a neighborhood playgroup that would meet once a week at Hanes Park? If so, please contact Andrea Thomas at 723-9893 or laowai99@aol.com



Portrait of a House



When Martha Harper put 909 West End Blvd on the house tour in the early 80's, a woman in her 70s arrived at the front door. "I was married in this house," she said, "and I thought you should have this photo." She handed Martha a picture of the house not long after it was built in 1912 by Ellen and Jonathan Gregg. Mr. Gregg was a traveling salesman. Mrs. Gregg, it should be noted, purchased the property in 1911. The woman with the photo was their daughter. The house remained in Gregg family ownership until 1955. Before Martha and Bill Harper bought the house in 1976 it was used as a boarding house for medical students and the front parlor was a bedroom. The Harpers raised three boys at 909 until the Thomas family arrived in April 2000. Stuart Thomas is with BB&T Insurance and Andrea is a journalist. Scout, 9, Emma, 7, and Bibi, 6 months, like to swing on the front porch.



Top photo: 909 West End Blvd early last century.
Bottom photo: The Thomas family on the same front porch. Left to right: Andrea, Bibi, Emma, Scout and Stuart.


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