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



In the West End Oak trees are very well represented. I am partial to the White Oak, quercus alba. There is a huge one in my back yard at 1511 Jarvis Street, and more examples in the vacant lot near Piedmont and Jarvis. Oaks are generally classified as being either red or white. White Oaks usually have shaggier, lighter colored bark that peels off in strips in the upper branches, and they have rounded, lobed leaves. On the other hand, Red Oaks have points on the lobes and the bark is darker and more fragmented. In my front yard there is a nice example of a Red Oak. My neighbor above me at West End and Jarvis has nice examples of both types. Oaks are very important to humans and wildlife alike. Their acorns are a major food source for squirrels and deer. The Native Americans depended on them for sustenance, as well as the early European settlers. Both the acorns and the animals that fed on them were important food sources. Believe it or not, acorns are tasty and very nutritious. White Oak acorns are sweeter and less work is required to leach out the tannins that make them bitter. It is best to grind and then soak them repeatedly in water until the water is relatively clear. The resulting meal or flour should then be dried, and can be used in place of, or in addition to regular flour in baked or fried goods. As most people know, Oaks are also prized as building material. Probably many of you have hardwood Oak floors in your home. Oaks were so important to the Celtic Druids that they worshipped them. Of course the early Christians did not approve of this practice and they cut the beloved Oaks down. It's ironic that a canopy of Oaks reaching toward the sky provided inspiration for Cathedrals.

WEST END CRIME WATCH

Several West End residents have had furniture stolen off their front porches in the last month. In one case, a witness gave the following description of three men that sold furniture stolen from a West End Blvd porch to a consignment shop: The vehicle was a white Ford truck, 80's model, with a door or fender of a different color. Three men were involved, all in their 20's, one short stocky white man with dark hair and a beard, one black man missing two front teeth, and the third a white man but no further description. If anyone spots this vehicle please get the license plate and contact Officer Ford at the Police Department. **IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING STOLEN FROM YOUR PROPERTY PLEASE REPORT THE THEFT TO THE POLICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

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The West Ender

By and for the West End Neighborhood

April 2003

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This contact list is also available at: thewestend.tripod.com

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APRIL WEST END EVENTS

Tues, April 1, 7PM
West End Assoc Meeting
Tise House
952 W. 4th St
(near Grace Court)

All West End residents welcome! Please come meet your neighbors and discuss the future of the neighborhood.

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West End Long-Range Plan Survey (See opposite page)

Your West End Association Board spent a full day studying the current condition of the West End and challenges and opportunities for the future of our neighborhood. There have been (at least) two major Long Range Plans for the neighborhood – 1978 and 1998. This past year we worked on including West End objectives in the South Central Area Plan for the City. The Board is trying to develop a new Long Range Plan and needs your input. Please take a few minutes to fill-out the attached survey. Rank the priorities High, Medium, or Low and CIRCLE your top 5 priorities. Please add other issues at the bottom and you may CIRCLE some of these as your top 5 priorities as well. Pay particular concern to your area of the neighborhood to be sure that all the issues and priorities are listed.

By May 1, please mail the survey to 10055 Salem Station, W-S 27108, drop it by your Co-Presidents' home at 813 West End Blvd., or hand it to a Board Member. Results will be printed in the newsletter and discussed at Association meetings.

Notes from the March West End Assoc. Meeting

Curbside Garbage Pickup Review Committee: Bill Wise reported that his research into the issue found that the reason the city wanted to discontinue backyard garbage pickup involved increased insurance claims by city workers from back injuries of lifting overweight garbage cans and being out in inclement weather. He noted that more homeowners are using oversized garbage cans. The city council has realized that curbside pickup is not feasible in older, downtown neighborhoods where streets are narrow and cars park on streets. The city may begin curbside pickup in newer neighborhoods where streets are wider, and the city may instate regulations against oversize garbage cans. Right now, alley pickups are not to be discontinued anytime in near future. The city council, in executive session, decided to hold off on decision until further notice. Kathleen Ramich noted that some apartment buildings are using larger dumpsters through private companies. There were some complaints about the continued noise and untimeliness of dumpster emptying. George Bryan noted that the WEA had been proactive in looking at the issue of curbside pickup and in getting the important issues to Becky McBride.

Alley Issue: Mike Tyson noted that he wanted to discuss the issue of whether all alleys in West End should be open. As with many residents, he had been unaware his property contained an alley. He noted that opening some alleys might be inviting vagrants into the area. There were many questions and points in the discussion, including:

- City attorney Chuck Green had given the opinion that he was not sure property owners didn't have a right to an alley even if the city closed it
- George Bryan pointed out that historically, West End and Crafton Heights were designed with alleys for access. The HDO refers to alleys as "historical pathways."
- City does keep up some alleys; but not others
- Bill Gibson noted that general consensus in neighborhood is that we don't want residents to build over alleys, but that the idea of opening closed alleys that haven't been used is difficult to ask. The presumption should be that we keep open alleys open as much as possible without lots of work.
- Sandra King noted that if WEA is to hold to policy that people cannot build structures on alleys, then WEA needs to hold everyone to that standard; if someone is in violation, we need to report them
- Lisa Elam noted that before Robbie King left HRC, she discussed issue with him that alleys needed to be addressed, but that project was not completed before he left HRC
- Amy Lindsey noted that we should examine WEA role in process. WEA is not a governing body, and we should give opinion, but we need to remember that we cannot enforce.
- Bill Gibson noted that the benefit of the WEA planning retreat would be to prioritize the values of the community – identify the sense of the WEA role.

--Minutes submitted by Lee Ann Manning. Full minutes are available each month at: thewestend.tripod.com

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WEST END LONG-RANGE PLAN SURVEY

High concern
 Medium
 Low

- Pay attention to Burke St. area and Unity Place development
- Preservation of historical structures
- Increase awareness of, involvement and participation in WEA
- Take passion for and mission of WEA to the next level
- Develop a vision for what the West End should be; research models of examples
- Promote West End within our community and in larger community
- Develop member benefits (ie. education, credit union memberships, contractor list)
- Legislative advocacy against the destruction of historic properties
- Historic Overlay Guideline review and enforcement
- Address issues of noise, bars, dumpsters, highway
- Educate home/property owners about tax incentives and guidelines
- Develop a West End mission statement
- Help get involved in development of downtown
- Establish liaison with city government – esp. Zoning and Planning Boards
- Back zoning opportunity for multi-family to single family zoning
- Greater incentives for, and active involvement of, renters
- Address safety issues, lighting, traffic, crime
- Maintain diversity of W.E. residents by supporting variety of housing options/costs
- Beautification of area, empty lot clean-up
- Undertake/sponsor/underwrite capital improvement projects in area
- Investigate Community Development Corporation option (buying by W.E. grp)
- Vacant lot development
- Traffic calming
- West End "entryway" projects, such as cobblestones
- Give more to Winston-Salem in form of social capital, quality of life projects
- Find appropriate WEA document storage area
- Establish underground or alleyway utility lines

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR TOP FIVE PRIORITIES

Other suggestions:

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