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**The West Ender**  
By and for the West End Neighborhood

**JUNE 2002**

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



As you come down Glade Street and veer left onto West End Boulevard there is a wonderful tree canopy primarily composed of Oaks and Poplars. The Poplars are discernable from the Oaks by their taller, more open, but less wide-spread branches. There are several mature Poplars in this area at 1132 Glade, 800 West End and by the lower driveway of Colonial Arms apartments. The Poplar can grow between 80 and 120 feet tall, and in fact most of these are in that range. Some Poplars have been recorded as tall as 200 feet. Of course if you want to see anything near that size you would have to go to Joyce Kilmer Forest in our southern mountains, one of the few remaining virgin forests in the United States.

The Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) is also known as the Tulip tree because of the yellowish-green blooms with orange splotches that are blooming at this time of year. The tulip shaped blooms are not that showy and are hard to see because they are usually far up the tree. Unless you're a bee looking for nectar you might not notice the blooms. These trees are also identified by light gray, deeply furrowed bark, a tall open crown of branches, and leaves with four pointed lobes that begin light green and turn yellow in the fall. An interesting thing about the leaves is that they are high in calcium. This makes them good for leaf mulch because most plants have trouble accessing calcium in the soil. The Poplar tree stores a form of calcium in its leaves that is more accessible as a nutrient for other plants.

Poplar trees are native throughout the eastern United States, but they particularly like moist, well drained soils on slopes and in valleys such as Glade Street. It is easy to imagine the forested glade that existed prior to the neighborhood when looking up at these majestic trees.

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

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**Select notes from the May 7 meeting of the West End Association:**

- Guest speaker – Neighborhood resident Eric Elliott  
Eric spoke on his efforts to build awareness of the West End as “Winston-Salem’s Front Porch”: West End is one of three historic districts in area: Old Salem, Bethabara, and West End. Development started with construction of Hotel Zinzendorf, near Grace Court, in the early 1890s. The area was the city’s first planned suburb. When the hotel burned in 1902, people started building homes in the area. Area was popular because of streetcar service. After 1930s, streetcar service stopped, and there wasn’t much happening in West End. After WWII, many houses were cut up into apartments. Late 1940s, many West End landmarks (West End church, school) were torn down for new businesses. West End Assoc. began in 1969, residents joined forces to keep a hotel from being built on Summit St 1986 – district earned Historic District status.
- Guest speaker – Robbie King & Margaret Besette of the City/County Planning Board  
Margaret and Robbie spoke about managing the South Central Planning Committee. The South Central Planning Committee is a committee of 25 citizens suggested by area committees. The committee worked since last fall to compile a comprehensive area plan. The plan will complement various area plans (such as Legacy) adopted in the last couple of years.

•Police Report – George Bryan circulated last month’s police report, which included 6 incidents for the month

•WOOF: George noted that the WOOF group is looking at possibility of a dog park

– Minutes provided by Lee Ann Manning, West End Association Secretary

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

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE HOUSE TOUR!**  
All hands on deck! If you would be willing to help with the December West End House Tour, please contact:  
Lee Ann Manning (tel. 748-0105, email manning@salem.edu), Nora Garver (tel. 722-3626, ngarver@triad.rr.com) or Alex Flowers (tel. 761-0108, Alexandra.Flowers@vfsig.com)

**JUNE WEST END EVENTS – COME JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS!**  
June 4: Monthly Meeting, Tise House (on 4<sup>th</sup> St across from Grace Court), 7PM (details in the president’s letter)  
June 11: City Planning Board West End Area committee meeting, YMCA, 7-9PM  
LOOKING AHEAD: JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>, Independence Day parade and party, start decorating your bikes and wagons now!

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

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**From our Co-Presidents:**  
Thank you to the Kings who threw a great May Social! We will skip the June Social in anticipation of a big July 4th -- start decorating your bicycles (and your homes)! We will invite our local fire and police to join the neighborhood fun again this year. Please do join us for the West End Association meeting on June 4th. Neighborhood resident Bill Wise will be giving a presentation on plaster repair in old homes. Seen any cracks in your walls or ceilings lately? Bill will tell you how to make them disappear...

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Have you caught a whiff of the delicious scent wafting over the neighborhood recently? If a new smell has delighted your mornings, it may be a roasting day! The Morning Dew café has added its own coffee roaster. Jim Brady is roasting a selection of coffees and hopes to soon have nearly all his coffees custom roasted right in the West End. The smell is great Jim!

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The First Street re-zoning request was NOT passed by the Planning Board in an overwhelming decision in favor of the Runnymede Neighborhood. The decision seemed sealed when a new property owner who had purchased land behind the homes requesting re-zoning mentioned how much had been paid for the property! The Planning Board seemed to appreciate the investment that had been made. The next hurdle in the effort to block rezoning is the June 3 meeting of the Aldermen. Let's show our support that evening.

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Eric Elliott made a great presentation at our last meeting on the history of the West End. The Planning Staff did likewise on the South Central Area Plan (of which the West End is a part). The point was made that this plan will be the guiding tool in planning decisions for at least the next 10 years. This means that it is very important to the West End. One issue that did not receive any discussion that evening is a recommendation that non-related families be allowed to live in single homes or in structures built on a property, such as a garage rooftop. While this "mix" occurs frequently in the West End, any new use of this kind requires a variance. The Planning recommendation was to allow this without a variance while controlling the density. There have been concerns throughout the West End and other neighborhoods that this might lead to the division of homes and absentee landlord divisions of property. In the early 70's this was the plight of the West End. One of our Board reported that their home had been 12 apartments! This recommendation and others should be carefully debated. There will be more opportunities for hearing and reviewing the plans. We encourage you to take part.

**Blessings**  
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Mayor Joines has announced that he will be traveling the Wards to discuss the budget crunch that the city has been put in by the State's budget woes. We will notify those of you who shared your email addresses when I hear the date and place. This has already affected what had become a cultural event in our city -- Bulk Item Pickup -- where we shared our leftovers in a gigantic "free yard sale". Ann and I certainly miss it and wonder when we will have the opportunity to make a run to the dump with those odd items! There are many other services and programs that may have to be cut. We need to express our personal and neighborhood priorities to the city. Please contact us if you would like to be advised of the Mayor's meeting.

**KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP**  
Attorneys at Law  
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**Portrait of a House – The Oldest on West End Blvd: Brame-Still House**



During the top-to-bottom 1991 restoration of their house at 915 West End Boulevard, Tom and Catherine Hendren wished their walls could talk. Although apparently built in the colonial revival style, the renovation revealed Victorian features hidden under the Colonial facade. They wondered who made the changes, and why? One mystery was solved on Easter Monday 1991 when Rom Still, then in his eighties, appeared at the door. He brought a family photograph taken in 1902, just after his parents bought the house.



The family of John and Eva Still was posed on the front steps of a Victorian farmhouse – mom, sister, brother, baby carriage, and family dog. "My mother hated the darkness of the Victorian interior. Each time we sold land on either side of our house, we used the money to renovate," said Still. Eventually, most of the Victorian features were erased. Rom was born in the upstairs northwest bedroom. "Like Eva, we love light, too. Our 1991 restoration added a great room with windows on three sides." says Catherine Hendren. To recapture a little of the house's Victorian heritage, the Hendrens plan to restore the exterior of the house to its original dark Victorian colors. The Hendrens love their house and the West End. Their son, Matt, 18, just graduated from Reynolds High School, and will join Americorps before going to college. Tom, a psychologist, has his office across from Grace Court. Catherine, an attorney, works from the house. Cate Hendren, 10, has lived in the house all her life. She was not born in an upstairs bedroom! Pets include 2 cats, Sarah and Marbles, and a 45-pound "chihuahua mix," Master Splinter.

**Top left photo:** 915 West End Blvd in 1902. Note the size of the trees! A mature tree from this set is shown in the 1993 photo. Also note the barn in the background at lower right. **Top right photo:** Matt and Cate Hendren on West End Blvd in 2000 **Bottom photo:** 915 West End Blvd in 1993  
Photos and article courtesy of Catherine Hendren

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