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August 2002

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



This month's featured tree is the first that has been brought to my attention by a reader. When I rode my bike over to Jersey Avenue to take a look, I was very impressed. Between 621 and 625 Jersey is a huge Water Oak (*Quercus nigra*). Its massive trunk branches into three main parts, forming an open, rounded crown that is typical of a full-grown member of this species. Other identifying characteristics include dark green, oblong, slightly lobed leaves that usually have three indentations on the fatter tips – but the leaves can vary. Another characteristic is the bark, which starts out smooth in younger trees, but develops narrow, furrowed, scaly ridges. This tree is fast growing for an Oak. As its name implies, it likes wet soils, but is adaptable. Water Oaks are commonly used as shade trees. This tree is growing on the property line between 621 and 625 Jersey. It is actually growing into and through a chain link fence, but neither the tree, nor the fence, seem to be adversely affected by this arrangement. Since the tree is on the property line both property owners have agreed to share the cost of its upkeep, which mostly consists of pruning dead or dangerous branches. When you're dealing with a tree of this size, (I would estimate 80 feet tall), it can be rather expensive! The benefits far outweigh the cost, however. A study of a tree planting program in Chicago found that the value of trees when measured by such things as increased property values and decreased energy use, is nearly three times greater than the total cost of the tree throughout its life. Of course to achieve a rate of return as great as that, it would have to be properly sited and maintained.

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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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://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; \$30 for Business Membership**

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Notes from the July 2nd meeting of the West End Association:


- **Police Report:** A resident reported that her husband had caught trespassers going into residents' backyards and called police. Another resident on West End Blvd reported that someone knocked out the window of a vehicle parked at her house, but nothing was taken. Yet another West End Blvd resident reported a "peeping Tom" peering into her windows at dawn. Also on West End, a man has been going door to door asking for work. He shows a drivers license. Police were called from one house where he stopped.
- **Renovations/Building at St. Paul's Episcopal Church:** Catherine Hendren, West End resident and member of St. Paul's, discussed building plans at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, which will include a major addition to education building and loggia from current front of church to rear. She noted that many of the church members on the planning committee are residents/supporters of the West End. Catherine asked what West End residents' concerns would be so that those issues would be addressed at the July meeting at St Paul's. Issues that West End association attendees noted included: parking; landscaping and appearance on Fifth St side; removal of trees; closure of alleys and streets; where square footage will be added; timetable; permits and certifications. Amy Lindsey noted that she had heard that plans and staging will require large trees to be cut down.
- **Report from Board of Adjustment Hearing:** Dave and Marilyn Poorbaugh reported on their hearing with the Board of Adjustment. Dave and Marilyn have been working to return their home, the Thomas Welch house, to a bed and breakfast with 3 rooms. At today's hearing, the BOA turned down their petition on two points: 1) Summit St. is already too congested and 2) Location of handicapped parking. The Poorbaughs noted that their house has sufficient parking in the rear for the 3 rooms they propose; that handicapped parking is as convenient there as at most bed and breakfasts. Their proposal complies with all regulations, but BOA's reasons for denial don't seem to be valid. They have to apply for the variance because the house has not been a bed and breakfast continuously. They have received no objections from neighbors. The BOA would not let the Poorbaughs address the BOA during the hearing. BOA said that the Poorbaughs have no reason to go further with proposal of bed and breakfast because they need variance. The Poorbaughs asked if the WEA would support their proposal and appeal. George noted that if the Poorbaughs decide to appeal, the WEA could take up the issue at a board meeting and, if the board approves, make a motion of support for the Poorbaughs. With such a motion, WEA could provide a letter the Poorbaughs could take to an appeal. The question was asked what the recommendation was from the Planning Board, which the Poorbaughs noted was for approval. The Poorbaughs were given the suggestion of a lawyer they might want to contact if they choose to appeal.
- **House Tour:** Nora Garver reported that the House Tour is proceeding on track. There are currently eight houses under consideration for the tour. Much interest from area businesses that will be open that Sunday for meals, drinks, shopping, etc. She requested that members volunteer to help work in houses, etc. Lynette Matthews-Murphy has volunteered to help with press releases and publicity.

--Minutes submitted by Lee Ann Manning

**AUGUST 6th - WEST END ASSOCIATION MEETING
7PM, Tice House, 4th St (near Grace Court), Presentation by W-S Symphony on new programs**




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A Letter From our Co-Presidents:

West Enders,

What a great 4th of July picnic and parade! Seemed like the biggest in many, many years. I'm not sure whether it was a feeling of patriotism or just some good planning by Alex Flowers. In any case, it was lots of fun and great to have so many neighbors out together celebrating our country. Kudos to David Phillips who entered his first pie baking contest and WON with a delicious apple pie. Ann and I had to run out for more ice twice to cool all you folks off! Thank you to Engine Company #1 for attending and thrilling the kids (and adults) with the ladder demonstration. Let's hope WOOF is off to a good start with the dog parade (next year the dogs should receive prizes for costumes as well).

On to other matters -- many residents in the West End received a notice that the city was going to blow smoke up our sewers (I believe to look for leaks but it would have been a good joke as well). Did anyone or any street become smoky? Let us know.

The dog days are here and we urge you to conserve water in and out of your house. School will be here soon and everyone will be back in the swing of life.

We hope the rest of your summer is enjoyable.

George Bryan and Ann Doherty

The West End is Winston-Salem's front porch! Check out the new website that highlights our corner of the city: www.w-sfrontporch.com

September 11th at St. Paul's
St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Summit St will be holding a Service of Music and Remembrance on Sept. 11th at 7PM. A chamber orchestra and choir will perform the Faure Requiem. St. Paul's welcomes the public to attend its services. For further information, please check the St. Paul's website: www.stpauls-ws.org

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