



# Williams Park

# MEMO

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS

## 2006 CALENDAR

**williams park  
planting project**  
(see article on page 3)  
saturday, march 4  
11 am at Williams Park

**wpn happy hour**  
friday, march 24  
7 pm at 1318 roswell st.  
Pam Adams  
770-436-7281

**wpn bridge club**  
sunday, march 22  
call Mary Helen at  
404-771-4452 or  
770-437-8620

**kids' spring celebration**  
saturday, march 25  
2 p.m. Williams Park

**wpn book club**  
sunday, march 26  
at 2568 highland ave.  
Kim Marin 438-6596

**smyrna spring fling**  
saturday, april 8  
10 am at Tolleson Park

**wpn happy hour**  
friday, april 21  
7 pm at 1423 spring st.  
Jill & Larry Jones  
770-435-5494

**kids' easter celebration**  
saturday, april 15  
details tbd

**general assembly  
neighborhood meeting**  
tuesday, april 25  
7 p.m. at smyrna  
community center

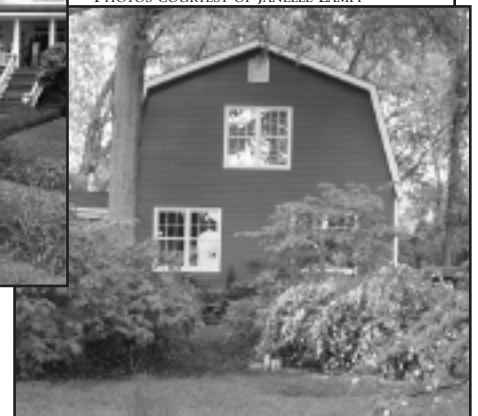
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## The Whitfield House — built in 1884



Above, the yard is spectacular in the spring with thousands of day lilies blooming along the front path. Right, John and Janelle were married in 1996 at the house they'd just bought. Far right, the garage barn they added. Below, Miss Mazie Whitfield Nelson's house in 1971.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JANELLE LAMPP



IN THIS ISSUE, we inaugurate a series of articles about some of the interesting houses in this, Smyrna's oldest residential neighborhood. One shouldn't be misled by the prevalence of newer houses here, architecture in our neighborhood dates back to the late 19th century. Indeed, taking a mental walk, I can find houses in Williams Park representing almost every decade from the 1880s to the present — a real "mixed bag." Given that long history, it seems

only natural to begin this series with the oldest house in our midst which belongs to John and Janelle Lampp. The address is 2730 Gilbert Street, though you must go to Atlanta Road to see the front of the house. The background behind that little oddity is only one of the many interesting things about this property.

JOHN AND JANELLE tell a great story about finding their home. Looking for a

## CALENDAR

continued from previous page

**jonquil city jog**  
tuesday, april 29  
8 a.m. & 9 a.m.  
details ([www.mymacity.com](http://www.mymacity.com))

**wpn anniversary party**  
saturday, may 6  
4 p.m. 1351 roswell st.  
(see article on page 3)

**wpn book club**  
sunday, april 30  
call Leanne, 863-9580

**wpn anniversary party**  
saturday, may 6  
4 p.m. 1351 roswell st.  
(see article on page 3)

**yellow couch jazz**  
saturday, may 13  
7 pm at village green

**wpn book club**  
sunday, march 26  
at 2568 highland ave.  
Kim Marin 438-6596

**wpn happy hour**  
friday, may 19  
6 pm at 1312 roswell st  
Sandy & Sam Hamby  
770-435-5613

**school's out celebration**  
saturday, may 27  
6 pm at Atkins Park  
details tbd (404-556-5282)

**memorial day celebration**  
monday, may 29  
veteran's memorial  
downtown smyrna

for more event information,  
please contact Jill Jones at  
770-434-5494 or Sandy  
Hamby at 770-435-5613. For  
children's activities, contact  
Shaun Latimore-Martin at  
404-556-5282

## NOTICES

We encourage everyone to make contributions to this newsletter. Deadlines for the next three issues of the MEMO are May 15, August 15, and November 15. We will accept submissions in almost any form. Send your material to Casey at 770-333-9995 or [dingobrown@aol.com](mailto:dingobrown@aol.com)

house to purchase, they lined up a real estate agent to show the a half-dozen old houses they were interested in — mostly in downtown Atlanta. The first one they went to see, in Smyrna, (on Roswell Street) didn't suit their needs. Indulging the agent's curiosity about the area, they turned onto Gilbert Street. There, the three chanced to encounter a "For Sale" sign so they stopped. Nobody was home but this house was listed with the same company as the one they'd just seen so, with lockbox key in hand, they entered the house. By the time the couple walked into the first room, they knew this was "the one." Their purchase made them the fourth owners of the house.

THAT WAS 1996. But what had the house witnessed before that time? In the period from 1885-1895 the town of Smyrna, which had incorporated in 1872, consisted of only 46 buildings — houses, stores, schools, churches — and our subject was one of them. It was built in the 1880s by Thomas P. and Emma Whitfield. Their daughter, Mazie Whitfield (Nelson), who was born in the house on January 1, 1890, verifies that deeds for the house date back to 1884.

The architectural style, with its simple layout and subtle Greek Revival facade, was certainly not new or ground breaking. It looks back, speaking quietly to the past. The original structure was a single story four-square (a square footprint with four basically equal-sized rooms) with a big front sitting porch incorporated within the roofline. A central hall ran through from front door to back door which opened onto a shed-roofed utility porch. Separate buildings (now gone) served kitchen and "out house" functions. Warmth was provided by four coal burning fireplaces. There was no electricity.

Mazie Whitfield Nelson lived in the house until she died in 1977. She left it to a Smyrna firefighter who'd been a border there for several years. He stayed about two more years, selling the house to Stan and Cheryl Sullivan. After living in the house for 16 years, they sold it to John and Janelle Lampp in 1996.

TIME BROUGHT CHANGES. Early in the 20th century, the back portion of the hall was closed off to create an indoor bathroom. Somewhere along the way, the house received



electricity, central heating and an attached kitchen added on at the rear. The Sullivans enclosed the back porch to form a master bathroom, added a sun-room onto the kitchen, put a staircase in the central hall to access the attic, and built a large dormer on the front with small windows to light a small room they finished upstairs.

In 1996 the Lampps added the garage barn. Since then (but less obviously), they've executed many projects upgrading the house for comfort and efficiency while maintaining its historic integrity.

Now, with most of the issues typical of a 120 year old building conquered, the house is well maintained and beautifully decorated.

THOMAS WHITFIELD built his family's house on property consisting of many acres including woods in the back (now the Davis' property). Other buildings included a "cottage in the northwest corner of the yard." He planted apple, peach, pear, cherry and fig trees; quince; strawberries, gooseberries, red and black raspberries; and the grapevines which still live there. The acreage diminished over the years through various sales. Though now less than an acre, it's still one of the largest single lots in the neighborhood. And most recently, the Lampps have been working on the landscaping, revitalizing some of the mature plantings and adding new beds.

While the house has never moved, it's had addresses on three different streets. It was built facing Nelson Lane, a small street east of and parallel to the railroad tracks (and Atlanta Road). When that street was closed, the house was reassigned to the street along its side yard which, at that time, crossed the tracks to become East Powder Springs Street. A third reassignment gave the house an address at the back of its property, on Gilbert Street which, according to Miss Mazie, had originally been just "a sandy little road."

THE WHITFIELD HOUSE has witnessed many changes in these 122 years, both in its configuration and in its surroundings. It has, however, enjoyed continuity in this one respect: it has always been dearly loved by its owners. The good stewardship born of that appreciation has positioned the house well for the changes that are sure to come over the next 122 years.

— BY CASEY CLAVIN

## MILE -

### births

Dru and Matt Bennett (Spring Street) have a new baby boy. Mathew Warren Bennett, II was born January 22 weighing in at 6 lbs and 20.5"

### illness

We're very happy to report that little Ellie Kemp (almost 3 years old) is recovering well from a serious dog bite she received near the end of last year.

Roberta Hurley (Roswell St.) is in Delmar Gardens nursing home with an injured shoulder. We send our most sincere wishes for her recovery. Visitors are welcome. The number there is 770-432-4444

Our Ward 3 Councilman, Bill Scoggins (Roswell St.), was hospitalized with cardiac problems. He had a "tune-up" (as he puts it) and is back home recovering.

### deaths

We offer condolences to Mike Hornigold (Hawthorn Avenue) for the recent death of his mother.

**Bernard Horne Hurley** (Roswell Street) died February 23 after suffering a stroke six days earlier. Mr. Hurley and his wife moved to Smyrna five years ago from Dublin, Georgia to be closer to their children. He was a friendly elderly gentleman, outgoing, very active in his church for over 40 years, and always supportive of our community. He is survived by his wife Roberta Hester Hurley; four children – Ed Hatcher (Smyrna), Jimmy Sue Fowler (Norcross), Marcia Powell (Hartwell), Brenda Lamar (Panama City); four grandchildren; and one great grandchild. He was a quiet ray of sunshine in our neighborhood and he will be missed.

## Kudos for neighbors

La dolce vita is over — Doug Erickson (Old Roswell) is settling into a new position as Bankruptcy Program Manager at Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Greater Atlanta. Having worked for MBNA for 18 years in a few different cities and several different capacities, Doug reached the level of vice president before taking early retirement in May 2005. Six months of the sweet life was all he could stand, though, and he went looking for the structured life again. Now he's back at work providing legal services planning for attorneys across the country in accordance with bankruptcy reform legislation which took effect last October.

We now have a voice on the Keep Smyrna Beautiful board of directors. Last Fall, **Liz Davis** (Roswell Street) was elected to that body as a member at large. The multi-award-winning organization, headed by Director Ann Kirk and Associate Director Virginia Davis (no relation to Liz), consists of a 16 member board. Eight members are appointed by Mayor and Council (one each), while the rest are at large appointees.

WPN president, **Ron Davis** (Roswell Street) has been named Mr. Cobb County 2006 for his involvement in civic organizations such as the Kiwanis Club, the Mentor program at King Springs Elementary School, the American Legion, and the 20th Century Veterans Memorial Association. After four years spent focusing on planning and building the memorial site, Ron has since organized and MC'd Memorial Day programs notable for the military and government personnel who have attended and taken part. We all know Ron's "leave-no-detail-unattended" management style from his role in the Williams Park Neighbors, so we understand that his "talent" is tireless work — what we find ourselves wondering, though, is what did nominee Ron wear for the bathing suit portion of the Mr. Cobb County competition.

Our new neighbors on Hawthorn, **Amy Norton and Jennifer Sizemore** recently ran the half marathon. Congratulations you guys.

**Shannon Luzar** (Old Roswell) was in Bangalore, India for the entire month of February. A Senior CPA with Ernst and Young, Shannon travels abroad several times a year on business. This, her longest trip, was for training Indian EY employees on new accounting software. What does she plan to do upon her return? We guess she'll lavish kisses on her husband Jerry and their two dogs, Tallulah and Bowie. Welcome home Shannon.

## Landscape additions to Williams Park

On March 4th (starting at 11 a.m.) Williams Park will be receiving some new planting thanks to a joint effort between WPN and the City of Smyrna Parks Department. The project, spearheaded by our WPN beautification committee (first under Paula Kramer, then David Whited), was designed by Nancy McGee. Taking into account the conditions of the area, Nancy developed a site design and plant selection to provide color and other seasonal interest to the south end of the park throughout the year. Some plants will stimulate the senses with blossoms, butterflies, and fragrance while others will help screen the railroad tracks and bank. The whole will produce an attractive scene for people driving or walking into our neighborhood from Atlanta Road.

The city's Parks and Recreation Department, which approved the design as submitted, is providing plants and manpower. Their personnel will prepare the site ahead of time, then be on hand March 4th to guide our volunteers putting plants in the ground. WPNs will contribute \$300 toward the plants (raised in last year's Clean Sweep for this purpose) and volunteer gardeners on planting day.

The Mayor and City Council have been invited. There will be refreshments. Please come out — to help or to watch — and show your support for all the work that's gone into this project.

## Pecan contest

This past Fall, pecan trees in our neighborhood produced a remarkable crop of nuts. The many residents in Williams Park who own these trees know that their output is sporadic. But 2005 produced nuts in such huge numbers and of such large size, that those who routinely leave their nuts lay, got out there and harvested.

In celebration we're going to have some form of a pecan competition at our Williams Park Neighbors anniversary party scheduled for Saturday, May 6th (see calendar of events). Details will be provided via email update, but start thinking about it now — what might you contribute? Pecan pie, banana pecan bread, pecan cookies, pecan cake, pecan candy, apple pecan stuffing, butter pecan ice cream? Pecans may be imported from outside Williams Park.





## WELCOME

to these new members

on Roswell Street  
Adam & Kirsten Wittan  
Ann & John Carr

on Old Roswell Street  
Dave & Beverly Appleston  
David & Jamie Ide  
Victor & Christa Owens  
Thomas & Debbie Savage

on Walker Street  
Brian and Kirsten Beard

on Windy Oaks Court  
Martha P. Mitchell  
Anna Branham

on Elizabeth Street  
Jared & Anna Swafford

on Spring Street  
David & Beverly Schrenger  
Janet & Steve Crabb

on Whitfield Street  
Anne Beidleman  
Aaron & Cara Fox

on Ivy Spring Drive  
Becky Burnaugh  
Andy & Nicole Bennett

on Hawthorn  
Amy Norton &  
Jennifer Sizemore

on North Avenue  
Dale Richards

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Our mission is to promote community among neighbors through social interaction, emphasizing the unique character of Smyrna's oldest neighborhood.

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You don't have to be a member to attend our events. But if you haven't already joined, now is a good time to do so. For an application go to [www.williamsparkeighbors.org](http://www.williamsparkeighbors.org)

## Litter & Absolution

BY DAVID WHITED

I've tried to stay out of trouble and mostly I've been successful. That said, most of y'all will probably agree that for every time we got caught doing something we "shouldn't", we probably committed a number of offenses we didn't get caught at. If you drive on I-285, you might break the speed limit daily rather than risk getting run over. You might even be contributing to overall commuter safety by staying with the traffic flow. But still, you broke a law — and maybe you carry some guilt about it.

I have a solution. Why not sentence yourself to some community service? You can set your own hours and level of commitment and you can report to yourself. Currently the WPN beautification committee is looking for litter patrol volunteers. It's easy work and it's rewarding.

For some it's extremely easy — if you're a dog walker, you can carry a small grocery bag with you and pick up a few pieces of litter as you walk. The normal dog walker paradigm is turned upside down — while Fido ponders "putting something out," you can take a moment to "taking something back" in the form of some litter along the way. Small bags can be dropped off at park a garbage cans if you don't want to carry it home. Exercise walkers are encouraged to participate as well. It's not necessary to organize a formal patrol, we can just make it a part of what we're already doing.

I've made a couple of major litter pickups already. It's surprising how many bags one can fill. I'm organizing a periodic major sweep through our neighborhood and the beautification committee will be asking for volunteers for this project a bit later.

People are less likely to litter in a litter-free neighborhood and with just a little effort on all of our parts we can get the problem under control and keep our neighborhood clean and one to be proud of. Please consider carrying a grocery bag when you walk and enjoy the beauty of our area. You can get a good feeling and you can absolve yourself of the guilt for some of the speeding you didn't get ticketed for.

## WPN Pet Profiles

PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY MCGEE



**Gulliver** — Just over a year ago when Jerry and Shannon found a 4-pound puppy near their home and went searching for an owner (or owner candidate), they found Nancy. She adopted the little tyke and, because of his tiny size, named him Gulliver. He has romped, dug, wagged, tugged, barked, chased, sniffed, and guarded her yard ever since. Gulliver's favorite snack and toy is his Kong Ball filled with peanut butter, but he also likes carrots while watching dog commercials and animal programs on TV. Gulliver is pictured here relaxing in the Roswell Street home he shares with Nancy.

## Spilling the Beans



You may remember a picture in the November MEMO of Bob Goulder modeling the chili cook-off first prize apron. We have since learned that the more appropriate model would have been Bob's wife Lori. We hereby offer this correction — a picture of the "blue ribbon" winning Lori showing us her apron while Bob takes the "backseat." Below you'll find the win-

ing recipe (without, of course, the great ambiance of our Harvest Fest). Once again, congratulations to Lori and Bob, and thanks for sharing the secret formula.

### Chile Pollo de Bolo

1 lb boneless, skinless chicken breast cut into pieces  
1 small onion chopped  
1 package McCormick's Chili Mix  
1 15 oz can pinto beans  
1 15 oz can of white great northern beans  
1 6 oz can green chilies  
1 6 oz can diced tomatoes

Brown chicken and onion in extra virgin olive oil. Add chili mix and one cup water, bring to a simmer. Add remaining ingredients. Season to taste with chili powder and tabasco sauce.



I have an old cell phone which, having served me well (enough), retired to a closet. Its batteries should not go to the landfill, I knew, but I didn't know where to recycle them. Meanwhile, it was joined by several assorted spent batteries and another couple of cell phones. Now, they are all setting sail on the next phase of their lives: I found the RBRC (Rechargeable Battery Recycling Center), a non-profit public service organization, which listed drop-off sites near us. Cell phones are the easiest — there's a box in the Smyrna Community Center, right on the reception desk. Rechargeable batteries in general (from your cordless phones and power tools, digital cameras and camcorders, laptop computers and remote control toys) can be taken to the city's recycling center on Smyrna Hill Drive (770-431-2869).

A recent report estimates that over 130 million cell phones are retired in the U.S. each year. It's much better to recycle them than to throw them away. You'll help preserve natural resources and keep hazardous products out of landfills. If you want to guide friends and family to the sites closest to them, call 1-877-2-recycle or go to [www.call2recycle.com](http://www.call2recycle.com)

## Landscaping (on the cheap)

BY DAVID WHITED

Landscaping provides a number of benefits. It can beautify your yard, provide remedies to erosion and add privacy. It can also be expensive so a good deal of thought and preparation is very important.

To follow Norm Abrams lead, I'll start with a safety tip... call before you dig. It can save you more than money. It's not yet as big of a problem here as in some neighborhoods because most of our power and telephone utilities are still mounted on poles at this time. This will eventually change to where all of the utilities are buried and for the newly built houses, that's already the case. The telephone line to your home may be buried even if the main telephone lines are not. Many houses also have buried natural gas lines on the property whether they're still in use or not. Gas service is turned off at the meter mounted by the house so there may still be a pressurized line in your yard even if you don't have active gas service. Water service lines, especially near the meter, are not all that deep and cuts on the owner's side of any meter are usually the home owner's responsibility — and are not cheap to fix.

I'd advise you call the Georgia Utilities Protection Center if you are the least bit unsure about utilities located in an area where you plan to dig. Your backyard is likely not an area of concern, but areas along the city right of way and the distribution lines and pipes running from there to your home certainly are. The UPC asks for a week's notice in advance of any locating you may want done. You can check the UPC website for more information. [www.gaupc.com/home\\_why\\_call.asp](http://www.gaupc.com/home_why_call.asp)

Ideally, a landscape plan should be sketched to an approximate scale so that growth projections can be calculated. Allowances need to be made for the natural growth and expansion of shrubs, trees and spreading plants. You don't want to have to move or cut down landscaping because its spread was not anticipated.

You will generally be better served if you don't expect full-blown instant gratification from your efforts. Three or four years can make a lot of difference in a plant's size and (unlike humans in the work force) a steep premium is usually paid for more mature examples. If you're willing to wait and watch them grow, you can save money. You can even shoot for long term leveling of sloped and eroded areas by planting rows of grasses along a contour of the problem area and letting them spread and do their job over time.

There's always a possibility that plants you buy might die, no matter how well they're cared for. But it's important that you not to kill them by subjecting them to conditions not natural to the plant.

**Some factors to consider**

**Soil Ph** — Soil is either acid soil or alkaline soil depending on its ph factor. Trees make acid, so soil under large trees is usually acid soil and it's hard to get alkaline plants to do well under trees. Acid-loving plants are more natural to these conditions. A good (though limited) way to know

what to plant under a tree is to observe what thrives in forests. Ferns, azaleas, magnolias etc are natural to an environment under trees. Acid-loving plants and shrubs such as azaleas do not like lime, so you'd never want to dust them with lime. Concrete contains lime and will, especially when fresh leach lime into the soil possibly killing acid-loving plants close by. (Very old concrete has leached out and won't present the same problem) Some plants don't seem to care much and some flowers, like Hydrangeas can even be made to change colors by changing the soil ph factor around them.

**Sun, Fertilizer, Pruning** — Very importantly, you must insure that you plant in sun conditions which are appropriate to the individual plant. Some do better in morning sun, some in afternoon sun, some need full sun, some need shade, some want part of each. Also, feeding with the proper fertilizer in the proper amounts at the right intervals is important. Once things are established, be sure that you prune correctly and at the right time of year. It's also important to clean pruners as you move through the garden. If you cut down a diseased shrub, you can transfer that disease to other plants via the pruners.

**Take Them Back** — Some plants are pretty expensive and some small percentage will simply not thrive no matter how well you prepared and planned. What you may not know is that much landscaping is guaranteed for up to a year. If you bought your material from a major home improvement retailer or from a nursery and it has a bar code tag, it's best to leave that tag on the plant until you know it has adapted. Often you can take the plant back for a free replacement if it dies.

Lastly, if you want to landscape on the cheap, I'd suggest you take advantage of offers from neighbors willing to share their surplus. Some things like Monkey Grass, Rose of Sharon and English Ivy can be pretty functional. They spread like crazy and are almost impossible to kill. There's usually no need to buy these for planting in this neighborhood. Most anybody who has these things established will likely let you get "starts" of any of it.

Likewise some shrubs, like Euonymus, will often start from cuttings that are just stuck in the ground. I personally started with a few rows of Monkey grass from a neighbor which I have thinned out at least 20 times over the last 15 years. And my neighbor has some huge Euonymus shrubs that were propagated from cuttings many years ago.

The only suggestion I would make about these free-spreading items is this: if you wish to plant them along a common boundary with a neighbor, consult the neighbor first. People who don't like these plants might look unfavorably on the idea of their yard being invaded by quickly spreading plants.

The *AJC* has a lot of good links to information on plant selection, planting and care on this site; [www.ajc.com/living/content/living/home-andgarden/](http://www.ajc.com/living/content/living/home-andgarden/) A site which is linked through the *AJC* site, but you might want to add to your favorites is [www.walterreeves.com/](http://www.walterreeves.com/)

## HOW TO...

### raise a good reader

Introduce children to books early. The sounds, shapes and bright colors in their very own picture books will delight infants. Read together everyday. Set aside time before a nap, or at bedtime, or after meals. Set the stage, turn off the TV and cuddle together; invite your child to "get cozy for a story." Get them involved. Hold the book so that the child can see the pages clearly. Ask them to talk about the pictures and repeat the words. Add drama. Adopt different voices for different characters and sound effects, like tweeting birds or squeaking doors. Read whenever you can. Keep several books in the car for long drives or to enjoy whenever you have to wait somewhere, like in a doctor's waiting room or at the hair stylist. Build a home library. Let them choose some of their own books and store them on a low shelf within their reach. Let them see you read. They'll learn to appreciate books if they see you reading and hear you talk about books that you enjoyed — especially those you loved as a child.

## ZONING

**Roswell Street** — The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval. This item will go before Mayor and Council on March 6th.

**Whitfield Street** — P&Z tabled it and will hear it again March 13th.

**Highland Avenue** (through to Marston) P&Z recommended denial. Item will be heard by Mayor and Council on March 20th.

## Cha-cha-cha-cha-changes

BY CASEY CLAVIN

I found myself telling a story last night (to a brand new neighbor couple at their first WPN happy hour) that hadn't surfaced to my conscious mind in years. The tale recounted my first involvement with a local rezoning issue and served, I thought, to illustrate the difference between obstructionism and community defense.

**The Scene** — It happened about 15 years ago. The property involved, vacant since a fire a few years earlier, had a "Limited Commercial" zoning designation (a real estate agent had done business from a small mid-century house there). The property adjoining to the east, the Feed and Seed Store on Roswell Street, was designated "Neighborhood Shopping," and the lot across the street, zoned "Light Industrial," housed the blue metal warehouse building which still stands. There were a few other commercial uses, including a factory producing fiberglass baptismal fonts, but the rest of the street consisted largely of owner occupied residences with R-15 zoning (a minimum of 15,000 square foot per lot).

Chaos, I know, but that was the situation and here's why: on Smyrna's Land Use Map, this street was designated as "Future Commercial" because of its path leading into the city's downtown area. But because there was no plan of transition from a residential reality to a commercial future, there developed a patchwork based solely on individual zoning requests, which thoroughly disregarded residential quality of life issues.

**The Event** — So an orange sign went up notifying the public of a request to rezone from "Limited Commercial" to "General Commercial" I was anything but involved in the community at the time (hardly knew the names of my immediate neighbors), and highly unlikely to look into the issue or go to the public hearing. But we got a phone call. The woman selling the lot in question had sold Vic his house a couple of years earlier and was soliciting his support of her zoning request. Her buyer, who operated a dry cleaning plant processing smoke-damaged goods on contract with insurance companies, wanted to relocate her business to our neighborhood. It will be good for you, the agent said, your property value will go up. The dry cleaner is really nice, she enthused, you can go visit her current location.

We went. It was a large operation refurbishing truckloads of household goods from homes which had burned. Exhaust fans expelled fumes smelling of smoke and chemicals — it seemed quite inappropriate for a residential setting.

Going door to door, we shared with our neighbors what we had learned, collecting signatures in opposition and asking them to attend the public hearing. It worked and the application was denied.

It didn't occur to me at the time that commercial uses in general should be discouraged — I took the "Future Commercial" use as a given — but as long as people lived here, I thought, only non-offensive commercial uses should be permitted. So when

application was made a couple of years later to rezone a different property for a beauty salon, I gave no opposition.

When Windy Hill Road was extended from (near) Cobb Parkway through to Atlanta Road, traffic on Roswell Street diminished considerably taking the trend toward commercialization with it. The "Future Commercial" label, however, left a damaged neighborhood. Not only did we have spots of (ugly) non-conforming uses, but houses for sale were unattractive as homes due to the ongoing threat that neighboring properties might go commercial at any time. So sales often went to investors who did little maintenance.

That was the situation for many years. Then look what happened — residential redevelopment! Who would have thunk? And where a large dry cleaning plant would have stood, exhaling noxious fumes and discouraging residential rebirth, we now have four new homes built by Ed Hatcher. Opposition and patience paid off well.

**Since then** — Our neighborhood has seen many of these rezoning applications now — the good, the bad, and the ugly. Only rarely have we (the larger group now involved) mounted an aggressive attempt to defeat a project outright. More often we raise concerns and suggest alterations which will produce a better result for the neighborhood as a whole. Builders generally want to maximize their profit — that's only natural. But often they'll amend a plan rather than jeopardize the opportunity to build the project. Sometimes they'll actually become enthusiastic about executing some element which they initially fought aggressively to avoid.

Occasionally I've seen neighbors support a proposal to redevelop a derelict property because the new project would look "better than what's there now." But settling for something marginally better precludes the possibility of something fabulously better. Almost without exception, rezoning requests denied (based in part on neighborhood opposition) have spawned a better proposal from a subsequent applicant. Patience has rewarded the neighborhood

**The moral of the story** — So if you find yourself incredulously wondering why somebody does not support some shiny new something being proposed, picture the dry cleaning plant and the other development its presence would have spawned. What might initially appear to be obstructionism could actually be in the community's best interest.

There are several zoning issues currently pending within Williams Park (see side bar at left). If you're interested in these issues, please get involved. This is where you live: this is your neighborhood.