



Williams Park

MEMO

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS

Back issues of this newsletter are available at www.williamsparkneighbors.org

WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS — P. O. BOX 813811, SMYRNA, GA 30081-8811

MEMO NOTES

MEMO
now
hiring
→

The deadline for the next issue is November 15 for the December issue. Share a story, a poem, a photo, a drawing — surprise us.

Send contributions to Casey at dingoblue@earthlink.net or to Laura at laura.n.fine@gmail.com

When a new neighbor moves in near you, contact Jane Caniff at jfcaniff@gmail.com or 404-210-2394 so she can welcome them to WP

Find us on the web at www.williamsparkneighbors.org.

Join us on facebook—Williams Park Neighbors.

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

This newsletter needs your help —

In April of 2005 Williams Park printed the first piece carrying the masthead you see above. In the 13 years since, we've published 53 issues encompassing 422 pages comprised exclusively of content from, about and for neighborhood residents.

I've been at the helm throughout. Editing and publishing this newsletter has been fun and engaging but now it's time for me to hand the MEMO over to a new editor or co-editors. Might that be you? I'll retire after the March issue — that should provide adequate time to pass the reins along responsibly.

Realistically, there are two positions that need to be filled, both of which I've been handling.

Content Editor: communicates with contributors to maintain a stream of newly created content, organizes submitted material, edits text as needed, passed files on to Layout Editor.

Layout Editor: chooses images which best illustrate the stories, determines where items occur within the issue, and executes the page layouts.

The issue then goes to proofreaders, after which the editors make corrections and create a final PDF file to be sent out to the community. For each issue, this takes approximately 10 to 15 hours of volunteer time and

the schedule repeats every three months.

Laura Fine, who has been an editorial assistant for the past year, has agreed to step up into one of these roles. (Though, since she's six months pregnant, she won't be available for the March issue). She and I both feel that a committee of three people (including her) would work best, accommodating fluctuations in people's schedules while still maintaining the newsletter's consistency and quality. Unfortunately, if we're unable to find new editors, the December MEMO will likely be the last.

We have a wonderful group of writers, photographers, proofreaders and behind-the-scenes infrastructure that contribute to this newsletter regularly, and great ideas about various directions in which the MEMO could be taken. I hope you'll consider helping to continue this neighborhood tradition. If you have questions or want more details, feel free to contact me (dingoblue@earthlink.net), or Laura (Laura.n.fine@gmail.com) or Keith (kbentley8068@gmail.com). We will be having a meeting with any interested parties in early November.

— Casey Clavin



2018 CALENDAR

WPN HAPPY HOUR
Oct 19, 7 pm
Ken Kmiecik and
Barbara Copes
2590 Old Roswell Road
bcopes@i_cmg.com

WPN ADOPT-A-MILE
Sat, Oct 20, 9 am
Williams Park pergola

**WPN COOK OUT AND
CHILI CONTEST**
Sat, Oct 20, 3 pm
Robert Harrison's
Firehouse
2889 Alexander Street

WPN YARD SALE
Sun, Oct 27
Neighborhood-wide with
maps and signs.
Linda McElveen
organizing. Stay tuned
for more info.

WPN BOOK CLUB
Sun, Oct 28, 3 pm
Mary Ann Marchione's
new home at
1629 Mohawk Place
Underground Railroad
by Colton Whitehead

WPN HAPPY HOUR
Nov 16, 7 pm
Jenni & Jonathan
Stoble
1338 Roswell St
jennifer.stoble@gmail.com

WPN BOOK CLUB
(and Madge's B'day)
Sun, Dec 2, 3 pm
Nancy Smith
912 Forest View Ct.
Canton, GA
A Redbird Christmas
by Fannie Flagg

continued on page 3

News in and around Williams Park

WPN SUPPORTS SMYRNA ELEMENTARY

Williams Park has been conducting an annual school supply drive for several years now. Usually we do it around the time the school year starts. This year, however, we've decided to hold off until the new year, then help restock supplies that have dwindled down. We tentatively plan to hold a drive some time around the middle of January to early February. We'll be collecting and/or buying things like #2 pencils, glue sticks, reams of paper, etc. We're also going to support this year's 5th grade trip with rain ponchos as well.

There's no action required now. But some time after the new year we'll be contacting our neighbors requesting monetary donations to support our school and our teachers. When you see that request, dig deep and help out knowing that WPN will match raised funds up to \$500.

— Hayli McQuade

COMING SOON TO A PARK NEAR YOU

Our new Beautification Chairs Ed and Linda Heck have been working on a few projects. First, they are just putting the finishing touches on a couple of Little Libraries. One is 90% built and the other is not too far behind. Here's a sneak preview

in primer paint. The finished items will be more colorful. Expect to see one installed very soon in Durham Park and the other not long after in Whitfield park.

Ed is also talking to AT&T about cleaning up their property. He's made contact with the regional property manager with specific items. He's asking that they replace dead and dying shrubs with new plants, including the large dead tree at the front of the property, trim back several overgrown shrubs, and spread mulch in all bedding areas.

These are both great projects. Thank you Ed and Linda for your efforts on our behalf.



COURTESY ED AND LINDA HECK

ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN US AND THIS...



...are these generous and happy neighbors.



ROB ALLEN PHOTO

Our new WP Adopt-A-Mile guru Rob Allen led his troops into battle against litter Saturday July 21 and came away victorious. Thanks to everyone for turning out to help keep our little corner of Smyrna Beautiful. Great job and good looking crew.

Participants were Rob Allen (not pictured), Keith Bentley, Daniker Floyd, Ed Heck, Linda Lee Heck, Seamus Shaw, Nancy McGee, Leon McElveen, Brenda Aussner Eaddy, Logan Eaddy, Amy Howard, Cara Koshlap Fort, Derek Kaighin, Lucy Kaighin with Benny, Phil Qualter, Matthew Bennett.

Thanks also to sponsors Rev Coffee Roasters, Grateful Bread Company, and Cafe Lucia Smyrna for donating prizes for participants.

UPCOMING CHILI CONTEST

One of our most popular events spurs some earnestly competitive cooking. But that's not all there is to it. Social Chair Susan Bentley can always use some help so if you want to pitch in you can contact her (sbentley0350@gmail.com) to offer your help for the October 20th event.

See event details on page 4 of this issue.

continued on next page

2018 CALENDAR

continued from page 2

**WPN PERGOLA
DECORATING**
Sat Nov. 24, 10am
at Williams Park
Join in bedecking the
neighborhood's signi-
fure structure

**WPN PERGOLA
LIGHTING**
Fri, Nov 30, 6 pm at
Williams Park
wood fires, hot dogs,
s'mores !!! Fun for the
whole family

WPN HAPPY HOUR
Dec 21, 7 pm
Catherine Bowen
2583 Old Roswell Rd
cbowenO@hotmail.com

COOL NEW BIKE RACK JUST OUTSIDE WILLIAMS PARK

If you haven't already seen it, have a look next time you're sitting at the corner of Spring Road and Jonquil Drive (waiting interminably for the light to change). There's a cool looking new sculptural structure spelling out the name of our little town, and providing a place for cyclers to park their bicycles when they patronize the local package store across Jonquil and Rev Coffee across Spring.

KEITH BENTLEY PHOTO



News in and around WP

continued from the previous page

UPCOMING WPN YARD SALE

Mark your calendar — WP is hosting a neighborhood-wide yard sale on October 27. Linda McElveen is leading and organizing. WPN will cover the expenses for signs, maps, etc. Stay tuned for more information via email and Face book.

WILLIAMS PARK GETS HAPPY

On the third Friday of each month WP residents gather in neighborhood homes to share food, drink, and conversation.

Marcia Gipson (1) welcomed neighbors into her Devon Court home for the July happy hour. It was a festive evening with a good mix of old and new neighbors attending. Marcia's house is perfectly laid out for entertaining a good sized group. The back deck provided a great place to relax with neighbors on a soft summer evening.

August had us reconvening with hosts Cara and Patrick Thurman (2) on Gilbert Street for a much anticipated look at their remodeled house. This was a complete makeover of the interior and a good bit of exterior work as well. The new kitchen has a vaulted ceiling and an expansive new island. There's a new sunroom, new floors and a newly enclosed garage. These were all interesting to tour and discuss but the most exciting highlight was the new pool in the back yard. Adults and kids alike were drawn here to chill by the pool, soaking up the health benefits of those negative ions.

When our slated September host had to cancel at the last minute, we feared the worst until Linda and Leon McElveen stepped up to save the day. Their's is a really good house for happy hours — 793 square feet of wraparound porch with plenty of



#1

WENDY AMUNDSON PHOTOS



#3



#2

seating, a big table for the spread, and a grill at the far southeast corner always roasting something.

In thirteen years, WPN has never missed hosting a monthly HH, despite a few hiccups that required a last minute contingency plan. Thanks to L and L for stepping up on short notice — y'all saved our perfect attendance record.



#3



WPN ANNUAL CHILI CONTEST

October 20th, 3pm to 6pm

Who? YOU and the rest of your WPN neighborhood friends.

What? Annual chili contest and WPN officer elections

Where? Robert Harrison's Firehouse at 2889 Alexander Street

When? Saturday, October 20th from 3pm to 6pm

Deadline for chili entries is 2:30 pm

Why? To have fun, collect food donations for MUST Ministries, and eat our weight in chili!

In order that we have enough food, we need EVERY family attending to please bring a side dish or dessert.

More details below. If you have questions, or would like to volunteer, contact Susan Bentley, sbentley0350@gmail.com



Join us for the Williams Park Neighborhood Annual Chili Contest on Saturday, October 20th from **3pm to 6pm** at Robert Harrison's Firehouse.

- ◆ Bring your favorite chili in a slow cooker and get ready for some stiff competition among all our gourmet chefs in the neighborhood! **Entries MUST arrive by 2:30pm - No exceptions!** Winners will be awarded with trophies to proudly display in their kitchens and, of course, bragging rights.
- ◆ More interested in tasting than entering the contest? No problem! Just bring a side dish or dessert to share and a beverage. WPN will supply hot dogs, waters, paper products, chili fix-ins' and plenty of fun for the kids! In order to have enough food, we need every family attending to please bring a side dish or dessert!
- ◆ **NEW THIS YEAR, we are collecting donations to benefit the MUST Ministries food bank.** For each item you bring, you'll get one raffle ticket entry for some awesome prizes! (Hint... you could win a meal from Porch Light Latin Kitchen!) The more items you bring, the greater your chances to win! Some most needed items include: Boxed dinners, canned soups, coffee, canned meats, pancake mix, canned pastas, dry potatoes, canned tomatoes, cereal, and cooking oil.
- ◆ We'll also be holding WPN officer elections, so be sure to attend and make your voice heard. We can't wait to see you at this great event!

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

— on north avenue —
Lauren Anderson &
Alex Raposa

— on roswell street —
Clark & Kym Bailey
Megan Lopes
Mick Ward & Maggie
Moser

— on spring street —
Eric Messer & Theresa
Miller

— on telfair drive —
Nathaniel Hofman &
Kathryn Shirley

— on walker street —
Gaby Bowers
Eric & Stephanie Welles
Matt & Melissa Ivie

— on windy hill place —
Derek & Lucy Kaighin

— on whitfield parc —
Mark & Gina Piersanti

— on whitfield st —
Steve & Rachel Waldron
Bolan & Cathleen Young

Our membership now stands at
301 families

You don't have to be a member
to attend our events. If you
haven't already joined, howev-
er, now is a good time to do so.

For an application go to
www.williamsparkneighbors.org

Williams Park Block Party — August 25, 2018

ALANA WICKHAM AND SUSAN BENTLEY PHOTOS



Don't be distracted by the little diva with the hula hoop — the real action here is tying up dad's feet!



Proper use of flotation devices for safety and FUN!



The group photo captured only a portion of the turn out — nothing unusual there.



The most color-fully dressed for the day — toenails painted blue, orange, teal, and pink in descending order of toe size, match the ensemble.



Keith Bentley reads out-announcements.

Hosts Mae and Buck Bryan with sons John Nolan and Isaiah.



Kids raced eagerly toward the finish line. Adults raced eagerly for the buffet line.



WPN BOARD O' D

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Keith Bentley
404-906-8853

Vice President
Jeremy Fort
770-560-5224

Secretary
Liz Davis
770-431-9786

Treasurer
Myrna Evans
678-231-1826

Membership
Hayli McQuade
404-502-1116

Hospitality
Jane Caniff
404-210-2394

Communications
Casey Clavin
770-333-9995
and Laura Fine
404-754-0806

Social Events
Susan Bentley
770-329-6175

Adopt-a Mile
Rob Allen
404-909-5253

Development Review
Lem Ward
770-863-9580
and Leon McElveen
770-431-0292

Happy Hour
Jill Huitron
404-376-5114

Beautification
Ed & Linda Heck
770-633-2518

Traffic Calming
Stephen McQuade
404-993-7803

At Large
Jeremy Fort
770-560-5224
and Kristy Barker
678-462-2876

dining out

close to home...by laura fine

You've likely driven past Tasty China a dozen times and never looked twice at it. It's located in a small strip mall on the side of busy Atlanta Road, with darkly tinted windows and a sign that looks more like it serves bad take-out than anything authentic. I was pretty skeptical when a friend suggested we go there for lunch, but when you walk through the door you actually find a nice restaurant behind the facade, complete with a water feature, full bar and a variety of table types including several large round tables (for roughly a dozen people) with the lazy susan centerpiece typical of high-end Chinese restaurants. It was quiet at lunch time, with a relaxing atmosphere.

The menu is extensive, but the chef specializes in Szechuan food, which highlights the Szechuan pepper. This pepper isn't hot like most peppers (although they use plenty of hot peppers as well), but leaves the tongue with a numb, tingly feeling which sensitizes your taste buds and augments the other flavors in the food. We ordered the Scallion Bubble Pancake as an appetizer and both the Sizzling Fish with Bamboo Shoots and the Szechuan Chicken as entrees for lunch. The pancake was exciting to look at when it came to the table and fun to eat, but ultimately just a light piece of savory pastry with a dipping sauce.

The real highlights were the entrees which were, first of all, enormous. The two of us ate a full lunch, then each took home half of what was left. My leftovers lasted another two meals easily! At first I thought it was a little expensive for lunch, but you definitely get what you pay for and then some. Not only that, but it lived up to its name and was tasty to boot.

The Sizzling Fish did just that — it came on a platter similar to fajitas in a Mexican

restaurant, bubbling and steaming as it arrived at the table. There were vegetables in a delicious sauce with the succulent fish that melted in your mouth.

The Szechuan chicken was spicy and numbing with tender-crisp vegetables.

Both were served with a big pile of rice. Full disclosure: the food here is spicy. Even the fish, which was labeled mild, had a good kick to it. The Szechuan chicken was at the limits of my spicy tolerance. I'm not a glutton for spicy pain, mind you, so to give you a better idea, I love adding Crystal's or Cholula to my food but this was much spicier than either of those. If you don't want spicy, choose something from the "American Chinese" section.

The service was almost overly attentive, although it's possible our waiter was a manager-in-training. He was very eager to confirm how our experience was going and I think we were both relieved when I finished my water and he had something to do other than ask how the food was for the fifth time. Although for all his attention, he wasn't particularly knowledgeable about the food when we asked for details about a few dishes before ordering. In his defense, the menu is over a dozen pages long and I got the impression he was new.

All in all, I would recommend Tasty China as exactly that — tasty, authentic chinese food. To get better you'd have to make the schlep all the way to Duluth or Buford Highway, and we are pretty lucky to have this right at our doorstep. I think it'd be more economical for a large group of people than just two — Chinese food has a way of wanting to be served family style — but it's worth it either way.

Tasty China
szechuan cuisine

tasty china

Atmosphere: ★★★★★☆
Service: ★★★★★☆
Food: ★★★★★☆

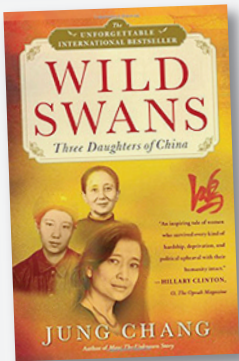
Cost: \$10 - \$20

1860 Atlanta Road SE
Smyrna

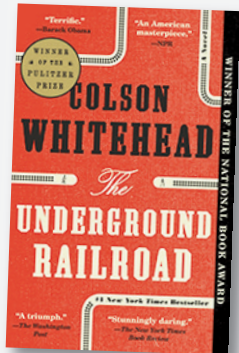
UPCOMING BOOKS

See calendar on pages 2 through 4 for book club dates and locations.

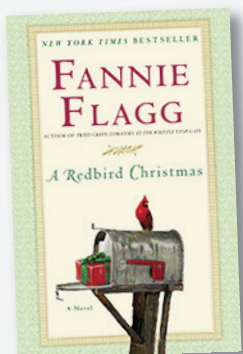
Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China
by Jung Chang



Underground Railroad
by Colton Whitehead



A Redbird Christmas
by Fannie Flagg



Williams Park Reads — by Leanne Fey

The WPN Book Club meets the last Sunday of the month at 3:00 pm at a host home. We always welcome new participants. To learn which books we'll be reading in the upcoming months, see the calendar in the side bars on pages 2-5. To learn more, call Leanne at 770-863-9580. Here are our latest books:

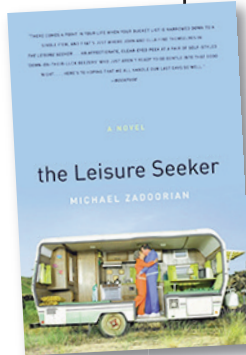
The Good Luck of Right Now
by Matthew Quick

★★★★★
The book follows Bartholomew Neil as he tries to find his footing after his mother dies. He has never known his father and he enlists a quirky cast of characters to go on a quest with him to find his past and his future.



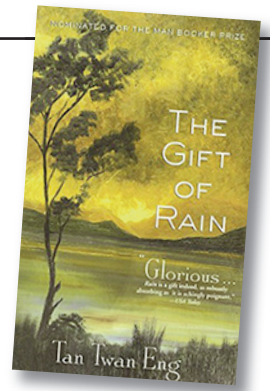
The Leisure Seeker
by Michael Zadoorian

3.5 stars ★★★★★
Ella and John are a couple in their eighties who take one last wild road trip in their trusty leisure seeker trailer against the advice of their children and doctors.



The Gift of Rain
by Tan Twan Eng

★★★★★
Set on the Malaysian island of Penang during WWII, the novel tells the poignant tale of a young man caught up in a tangle of wartime loyalties and deceptions.



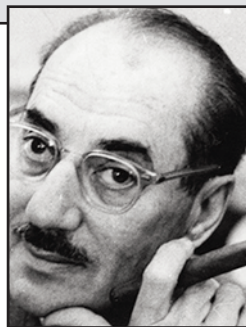
★★★★★
The Keeper of Lost Things
by Ruth Hogan

★★★★★
Following a tragic loss, Andrew Peardew begins a secret life of collecting and documenting lost or discarded items. At his death he turns his collection over to his assistant Laura who, with the help of some unexpected friends, is tasked with returning the items to their rightful owners.



Our rating system:
★ No one liked it
★★ It was ok
★★★ It was good
★★★★ It was excellent
★★★★★ Fabulous

**Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend.
Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.** — Groucho Marx



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