



Williams Park

MEMO

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS

'05 - '06 CALENDAR

story time
tuesday, november 8
6:30 pm at Italo's

happy hour
friday, november 11
6 pm at Vintage Tavern

book club
sunday, november 13
3 pm at Kimm Martin's

story time
tuesday, november 22
6:30 pm at Italo's

smyrna tree lighting
tuesday, november 29
at the village green

smyrna santa
saturday, december 3
at the village green

**holiday caroling
hayride**
7 pm friday, dec. 9
meet at Williams Park

children's holiday party
saturday, dec. 10
1 pm fire station #1

story time
tuesday, december 13
6:30 pm at Italo's

happy hour
friday, december 16
6 pm at Atkins Park

**general assembly
neighborhood meeting**
tuesday, january 10
7 p.m. at City Hall
first floor

continued on next page

Harvest — What a Blast — Fest!



Above, a dozen chili variations. Below, Gus welcomes kids aboard the wildly successful hay ride while Abigail, Kinsey, and Naima take a break (center bottom). PHOTOS BY GREG MARTIN



The WPN's October 29th event was a huge success. Over a hundred neighbors gathered near Williams Park to enjoy hay rides, children's games, and the signature event — a chili cook-off judged by (center photo, foreground to background) Smyrna Mayor Max Bacon, City Councilman Bill Scoggins, and

local restaurateur, Amir Askarian, owner of Café Michel. Lori and Bob Goulder took home first prize for a white bean and chicken chili they call Chili Polo de Bolo, the "Bolo" standing for Bob and Lori. First prize was the one-off custom-designed chef's apron modeled above by its new owner.

CALENDAR

continued from previous page

gourmet dinner
thursday, january 12
7 pm at Café Michel,

story time
tuesday, january 24
6:30 pm at Italo's

happy hour
friday, january 27
6 pm at Vintage Tavern

for more information about events on this calendar, 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

WELCOME

to these new members

on highland avenue
Mike and Heather Kemp
+ daughters Abigail(6)
and Ellie (2 1/2)

on roswell street
Richard Kumnick
Bill and Gerrye Scoggins
Nell Conley
Geert and Renee Loeffen
Pam Adams

on old roswell street
Kevin Killimett

on mimosa circle
Guido and Sherri Reyes

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

Our membership is now at 85 families and growing.

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. There is a membership form on page four.

WPN Report — Membership Goal a Reality

Our quarterly general membership meeting (October 11) revealed several news worthy tid-bits and a peek at the future. (President) Ron Davis's opening comments brought news that our first year's membership goal of 80 families has been met even before the end of the year. **All memberships end with the calendar year, so let's keep the momentum going with renewals from everybody** plus a good number of new members in the coming year. **Please use the membership form on page four to renew now for 2006.** By the way, the board is considering producing a neighborhood directory, so the new membership applications (included in this **MEMO**) ask each household to indicate if they'd like to be included in it. You can choose individually which pieces of info you want included (name?, + address?, + phone?, + email?).

Given success in our membership numbers, a bank balance of \$1,215.76 (reported by Treasurer, Madge Jackson), and the grand calendar of events we had this past year, the nominating committee decided to re-nominate the current slate of officers to serve a second term. Apparently all present saw the wisdom of the committee because a call for nominations from the floor brought none for any office. One motion, one second, and one unanimous vote in the affirmative assured us that we'll enjoy the same quality leadership in 2006.

That doesn't mean the board of directors will remain unchanged, however, due to the fact that our bylaws have undergone their first amendments. Through a group of related amendments, the Government Liaison has been removed (those responsibilities being absorbed by the president and vice-president) and Hospitality, formerly a subcommittee under Social, is now a stand alone committee, its chair now filled by Dru Bennett. Dru's plans include greeting new neighborhood residents with a gift of baked goods, a WPN calendar, the latest issue of the **MEMO**, and a membership form. She'll welcome new WPN members with a welcome card. She'll acknowledge births with a baby book. Weddings, graduations and special awards will be marked with cards, as will illnesses and deaths. Dru certainly has her work cut out for her, but she can only do it effectively with your help. Please let Dru know what's happening near you by phone at 770-805-8668 or by email at starfish805@hotmail.com.

Anybody who's been to any of the WPN events knows that the Social Committee has performed Herculean feats in its (our) initial year. Well, at the meeting we learned that it was all done at \$0 expense to our treasury! Social Committee co-chairs, Jill Jones and Sandy Hamby enthusiastically reported (and repeated) that all the food, drinks, decorations, door prizes, party furniture and equipment, games, kid's books, trash bags, you-name-it — everything — it was all loaned, given, or donated by neighbors and area business-

es! And they aren't done yet: the long and varied 2005 calendar of activities was just the starter. New events being discussed for 2006 — a garden tour, a dog show, an art show, wine tastings — will be slotted in among the 2nd annual editions for most of our big 2005 events, plus ongoing happy hours, dinners, and bridge and book gatherings. Jill's goal is to double the participation at each event.

But wait, there's more. Shaun Latimore-Martin (Children's Social Committee) has organized a whole raft of events for the small among us, most notably Story Time Under The Stars twice each month. Shaun's events are fun imbued with character building (teaching kids social responsibility in areas such as recycling and conservation). For one event, Shaun paired up with Paula Kraemer (Beautification) and their rapt audience of kids learned how to plant Jonquil bulbs, the official flower of Smyrna.

Speaking of Paula — she has the next beautification event planned. She's in communication with the Smyrna Parks Department regarding the south end of Williams Park where that ugly old CSX box stood until recently. Nancy McGee (possibly the best gardener in the neighborhood) has agreed to design something for a Fall installation which will probably constitute a first phase of a larger plan making the primary entrance to our neighborhood more aesthetically appealing. WPN has budgeted \$300 for project, moneys raised for this general purpose by Paula's big Clean Sweep event last Spring.

Doug Erickson reported on the developing plans for the Williams Park Home Tour tentatively scheduled for April or May 2006. Ideally, there will be a variety of home types included (old, new, remodeled) representing the architectural diversity of neighborhood. We already have four sponsors, half the number desired. The next steps are signing up homes (probably six) and volunteers — we'll need lots of volunteers! Interested? Call Doug at 404-307-8997. (Don't let the area code fool you — he lives right here in Williams Park.)

From the Communications committee we learned that our website is up and running (see related article on page three) and that the **MEMO** is now scheduled for quarterly publication. Deadlines for submissions in 2006 are the 15th day of February, May, August and November for distribution on the first of the following month. Contributions are greatly appreciated — send them by email to Casey at dingobrown@aol.com.

It was a good meeting and didn't last too long. At the end, to reward those who stayed though the whole thing, there were drawings for door prizes which were all car-related. One lucky person won a bag of Maguire's premium car care products with which they can pamper their car. One luckier person won a certificate from Car Nuts with which they can get someone else to pamper their car.

births

Katrina and Shawn Stewart (Roswell St) have a new baby girl. Lailah Skye Stewart was born April 16 weighing in at 7 lbs 1 oz and 20.5".

Steve and Rene Robinson have a new baby boy. Zachery was born September 5 weighing in at 7lbs 6oz and 20".

weddings

Rob and Heather Tielhet (Anderson Cir.) April 30
Kevin and Tracy McGowan (Spring St) May 14
Rene and Jeert Loeffen (Roswell St) July 1

deaths

Stephanie Deneen Briscoe (Roswell St) died at home and surrounded by her family on Sept. 10 after a long battle with Cancer. She was 41 years old. She is survived by her two sons, Jonathan Noah Simmons and Julian Alexander Cooper; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William J. (Marie) Briscoe; her sister, Mrs. Vanessa Winston (Emory); her nephew, Juval Winston; her niece, Juton Winston; two dear friends, Mr. Johnell Gainey and Mr. Melvin Cooper; five uncles, seven aunts, and a host of other relatives and friends. Her warm disposition and cheerful optimism will be missed. Donations in her honor can be made to Silent Alarm Breast Cancer Awareness Group.

We're on the Web

Our webpage is up and running www.williamsparkneighbors.org. The contents currently include the WPN calendar of events, an archive of minutes from our meetings going back to June, the last issue of the *MEMO* and news updates from the Board. Future content will include all issues of the *MEMO*, neighborhood photo albums, general information, the by-laws, and downloadable membership forms and flyers. We'll also have a link to Smyrna's website. All this is thanks to Mike Kemp who recently moved his family back to the neighborhood after a couple of years away. We're glad Mike and Heather packed the kids up and returned, especially in view of his help with this project! Thanks, Mike — and welcome back.

New Initiatives

Lesley and Mike Hornigold (Hawthorn Ave) want to start a neighborhood **babysitting co-op**. It would work on a point system where families trade babysitting for nights out. Participants might start with four points, for example, then call or email the coordinator saying when you need a sitter, whether at your house or their house, and for how many kids. As you use the system, your points are deducted and as you sit for others, your points multiply. The coordinator can call the families with the least points first to keep things balanced. This structure is not chiseled in stone: Lesley invites input from others. If you have ideas or you're interested in joining such a co-op, contact Lesley at 770-436-1284 or lesleyhornigold@yahoo.com.

We have a new **WPN book club** which has gathered once for an organizational meeting and book selection. The first read is called *Goodnight Nobody* by Jennifer Weiner which is getting rave reviews. Mary Helen did some investigative work with Chapter 11 and it looks like we'll be able to purchase future selections from them at 20% off (details to follow). We'll discuss this book at Kimm Martin's house (2568 Highland Avenue) on Sunday, November 13th at 3pm and we'd love to see you there. Please let Kimm know if you plan to attend so she can have snacks and drinks for everyone. She can be reached at 770-438-6596 or flehamity@yahoo.com. The next book after that will be *The Red Tent*.

Kudos for neighbors

We have cool news to share about several of our neighbors who've chalked up impressive achievements in some very different arenas. In chronological order, they are:

Congratulations to two households for winning several **awards despite tough competition** at this year's North Georgia State Fair in Marietta at Jim Miller Park. Sandy and Sam Hamby (Roswell Street) won first place Blue Ribbons in canning for their Regular Apple Butter, their Spiced Apple Butter, and their Strawberry/Cranberry Jam. They also won a second place for their Apple Jelly and third place awards for their Strawberry Preserves and for their Whole Figs. Judi Kessler (Highland Avenue) also brought home two Blue Ribbons, one for her Spaghetti Sauce and another for her Spiced Beets. Her Pickled Squash took a second place.

Congratulations to Naima Martin (Anderson Circle) for her successful **fundraising efforts**. She and her classmates at Riverstone Montessori Academy initiated an idea to raise money in a different way to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina. Naming the event "combo-a-thon," the children solicited donations from friends and family who pledged based on the number of basketball hoops shot, the number of laps run or bicycled around the school, etc. Eight-year-old Naima personally raised \$137.50 (over 75% of which was contributed by individuals in our neighborhood) helping the school exceed their goal of \$1,000. The kids were excited about making a difference. Naima made a huge difference!

Congratulations to Amy Shay (Mimosa Circle) who recently ran and completed the 26 mile **Chicago Marathon**. It all started back in April when the thirty-something mother of two joined a running group called "Get Fit Atlanta." Since then, she's been running four times a week in preparation for the Windy City's long-distance race. Race day, October 9th — the weather was perfect, though a little windy (especially around Lake Michigan), when Amy and 36,000 like-minded souls assembled near the starting point. The mass of participants was so great that it took eight minutes of foot shuffling after the starter pistol went off for her part of the crowd to reach the starting line! Amy ran six hours and three minutes, covering a good part of the City's real estate, to complete her first marathon. "I did fine for the first 21 miles," Amy said, "but struggled for the next three. Then I decided I was going to make it — 2.2 miles later I got my medal crossing the finish line." Did it feel like a long way? "Yes," she says, "all 26 miles of it!" Will she run another one? "I've signed up for the Disney Marathon in Florida in January." Qualifying that statement in view of recent problem with shin-splints she says, "If my screaming shin will quiet down, I'll run that one." You have to admire Amy's drive and determination in her running. Last month she started taking Spanish language classes — the smart money says she'll be fluent by this time next year.

WPN OFFICERS

president
Ron Davis
770-431-9786

vice president
Lem Ward
770-863-9580

secretary
Kimm Martin
770-438-6596

treasurer
Madge Jackson
770-432-3563

NOTICES

We owe Judy Brassfield (Gilbert St) a debt of gratitude for her support of our events. Judy, owner of Atlanta Moon Walk, has provided her company's equipment (free of charge) for all our parties. The popcorn and snow cone machines, and those inflatable jumping environments the kids love so much — they're all her contributions. Thank you, Judy — our events are better because of your generosity.

Sandy Hamby still has items orphaned at last July's cook-out. If you are missing any of the following, call Sandy at 770-435-5613.

1. a dinner plate — white, blue & green
2. a clear plastic bowl
3. a black plastic spoon
4. a pair of "farm bureau insurance" potholders

dining out

close to home

There's a great Thai restaurant less than a mile from the eastern edge of our neighborhood which Vic and I have been frequenting since it opened in mid 2003. We've probably eaten everything on the menu and I can't remember having anything that wasn't good. In fact, we're so confident in the place that we've taken business associates and visiting friends to dine there.

Last Monday during lunch, I overheard some conversation at a nearby table. The restaurant's clientele is diverse in many ways (professionally, socially, economically, racially) and this particular table was seated with four twenty-something worker guys. You might have expected a discussion about turkey season opening soon, but no... they were talking about food, and in a truly nuanced sort of way. That's the common thread among the diners at Siam Square: we all like good food. The fact that Siam serves it has been verified in the many favorable reviews this restaurant has received.

"Its array of flawlessly prepared curries, soups and salads are as rich as its jewel-toned interior." That's part of Cynthia Wong's opening from her four star evaluation (out of a possible five) written for *Creative Loafing*. For appetizers she suggests the beef salad and the green papaya salad or, for "diners with low spice thresholds," the basil rolls or the "butter-tender" chicken satay. The entrees she enjoyed were the (frequently available) soft shelled crab special; the three-up Curry, Curry, Curry; and the garlic sauteed scallops, peppers and basil. "It's not hard to imagine that the flavors of Thai cuisine could be quite jarring in the wrong hands," she observes, but goes on to say that, "Siam's chefs combine these elements into a perfectly orchestrated medley."

Describing the place in November 2003 as "Fresh, modern and tinged with an unusual sophistication," *Atlanta* magazine said Siam Square "offers a combination of traditional dishes such as the especially fun Curry Curry Curry triple treat, the sleek and gorgeous pad thai, and fish cakes with cucumber salad that is seductive on the tongue." That proved so true for so many that by the next month Siam was voted "Best Curry Deal" in the Atlanta metro area. "This lovely Thai restaurant lets you have three curries for the price of one (yellow, green and red), and you'll get quite a lot of beautifully fragrant rice, too, in a clever dining venue with modern and attractive décor that smacks of sophistication."

"Siam Square strikes a contempo tone that you wish neighborhood Thai places everywhere would copy," according to John Kessler writing for *AJC's* "accessAtlanta." "Every dish is what it should be." He likes the chicken satay, spring rolls, and fish cakes as appetizers, as well as the green papaya salad and nam sod, a "minced pork salad that pops in your mouth with shreds of raw ginger, roasted peanut and hot pepper."

Kessler also speaks to the beautiful presentation of the dishes, a hallmark of Thai cuisine, which is done very nicely at Siam Square. "You'll love the appearance of Curry, Curry, Curry..." he says, and he describes the soft-shell crabs as arriving "poised upright in the center of a large plate like two enemies locked in mortal, deep-fried combat."

Kessler opened his piece, "If you live in the area, this spot should beckon you for a Wednesday night splurge." I don't know why he suggests the mid-week — it's consistently good throughout and, very importantly, not too crowded on weekend nights. He closes saying, "It's a neighborhood restaurant that any neighborhood would be proud to claim." Hallelujah! I couldn't have said it better myself. — Casey Clavin

Siam Square
1995 Windy Hill Road
770-333-1700
Lunch: Mon - Fri
11 am - 2:30 pm, \$6.5 - \$9
Dinner: Sun - Thurs
5:30 - 10 pm
Friday - Saturday
5:30 - 10:30 pm
Dinner prices \$8.50 - \$15
Wine, Beer, Sake

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I'm new and joining WPN for the first time. I'm renewing my WPN membership.

Williams Park Neighbors

name: _____ address: _____
phone: _____ email: _____
children's names and ages: _____
special interests/ hobbies: _____

I'd like to help out with: _____

What info may we include in a WPN directory? your name , +your address , +your phone number , + your email

SEND TO: WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS — P.O. BOX 813811, SMYRNA, GA 30081-8811
SMYRNA'S OLDEST RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD