

We're on the web at www.williamsparkneighbors.org

PHOTOS BY IOAN FRIEDMAN

### MEMO NOTES



Deadlines for the next two issues are May 15 for our June issue and August 15 for our September issue. Share a story, a poem, a photo, a drawing or anything else you'd like.

Send contributions to Casey Clavin at dingoblue@earthlink.net

Don't be left out when we send WPN e-mail updates. If your e-mail address changes (or has changed), please let us know. Send your new address information to Irdavis1351@bellsouth.net

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.

## Right here in Williams Park — by Joan Friedman

Is this a great neighborhood, or what? We figure you already appreciate the many social and other benefits of life in Williams Park, but did you know we also have some great small businesses within the boundaries of our little neighborhood? I'd like to introduce you to two of them, both run by friendly, affable proprietors: **The Grateful Bread Company**, located at 1600 Roswell Street, Suite 9, and **Neighbors Feed and Seed Supply Company**, just across the street at 1565 Roswell Street.

Alex McDaniel, a native of the Chicago area, has operated Grateful Bread at its current location in the small commercial strip for a surprising 15 years, supplying restaurants. It's been open to the public for almost

a year now, selling delectable breads and desserts, among other items, from the front of the bakery two days a week (Thursday and Friday, 11-6, but customers can also make special arrangements to pick up items on other week days). Alex continues to supply local restaurants as he has for these many years, such as Loconda Firenze, Porch Light, Elliott Street Pub, and Muss and Turner's. At

one point, with over 100 restaurant clients in the greater Atlanta area, he had 26 employees and ran the bakery 24 hours a day to keep up with the demand. Currently, he's happy to keep three people working to supply a pared down list of mostly local restaurants, stating that the very physical nature of the business, with days starting at 3 a.m., made it a welcome change.

Grateful Bread's decision to open to the public can be mostly attributed to Alex's



girlfriend, Laura Spencer. (Both look a good 10 years younger than their stated ages, but you'll have to ask them yourselves if you

want to know those secrets.) Laura, who bakes the irresistible desserts now offered, came on board about a year ago, pleased to create the pastries that Alex admits are "too messy" for his preference.

Items available on a regular basis are a variety of staple breads, including multigrain, sourdough, and ciabatta; croissants; soft pretzels; cinnamon rolls; chicken pot pie; three types of cookies (Mega

Watt Chocolate Chip, Grandma's Ginger Spice, and Oatmeal Cranberry Walnut); and an assortment of specialty cheeses and artisanal crackers. If not available on a given day you may place special orders for apple, pecan or other seasonal pies, cheese cake, pound cake, and sweet breads. Is your mouth watering yet?

Numerous other gift-worthy items can be picked up as well, including GB tee shirts,

Continued on next page...



### 2016 CALENDAR

wpn happy hour March 18, 7 pm Kimberly & Russell Currie 2794 Morris Circle 617-519-3954

wpn easter egg hunt Sat., March 26, 4 pm

wpn book club Sun, March 27, 3pm Leanne Fey 1496 Spring St. Last Bus to Wisdom by Ivan Doig

wpn board meeting Wed., April 13, 7 pm

wpn happy hour
April 15
Robert Harrison
2889 Alexander
robert@lairdmckee.com
770-616-2728

wpn Adopt-A-Mile Sat., April 16, 9 am

wpn book club Sun., April 24, 3pm at Nancy McGee 1389 Roswell St Book: TBA

wpn Spring Social Sat., May 14, 4 pm

wpn happy hour May 20, 7 pm Wendy Amundson & Tony Graves 1335 Marston Street 770-865-2347

wpn book club Sunday, May 29, 3pm Louisa Cohn 1450 Whitfield St. Book: TBA

## Right here in Williams Park continued

handmade napkins and aprons, decorative gourds grown by Alex's mom, and an assortment of accoutrements such as specialty mustards and honey.

Both Alex and Laura are excited about recent additions, upgrades and planned renovations. They've converted to King Arthur flour, higher quality and doesn't use bleached or bromated ingredients, deeming it a better tasting and healthier option. They're considering remodeling the front of the shop with a larger interior window, providing customers a view of bakers at work in the bakery. And, of particular note to WP residents, GB is now a drop off point for Moore Farms and Friends. They are a group of small-scale sustainable food producers delivering locally and regionally grown vegetables, flowers, meat and other items, to GB every Thursday. Orders can be placed at www.moorefarmsandfriends.com.

Over at Neighbors Feed and Seed, open Monday through Friday from 9:30 to 5:30 and Saturday 9 to 5, you'll step into a colorful business with some local history. JD and Megan Smith, who both grew up in Smyrna, have been owners and operators since March 31, 2015. JD, a Lieutenant with the Smyrna Fire Department, has served our community as a First Responder for ten years, prior to which he was stationed with the U.S. Army in Iraq. They are parents to Stella, age three and a half years, and Eden, six months. The frequent presence of both girls adds to the welcoming, homey atmosphere of Neighbors Feed and Seed, as do two affectionate resident cats, Poppy and Chia, and three Society Finches. Last year the kids and adults alike could enjoy watching the toy train go around the store Christmas tree.

There's been a Feed and Seed in this neighborhood since about 1917. Originally a division of Marietta's Standard Mill, it was housed in a large single story frame building on the triangular lot where Spring Street meets the railroad tracks. In 1953 Otis Dobbins returned from service in Korean War and bought the business, renaming it Dobbins Feed and Seed and running it with his wife Mary Jo. When a 1973 train derailment damaged the building, the Dobbins decided to construct a new building at the



less vulnerable spot on Roswell Street.

Megan remembers coming to the Feed and Seed as a child — she has strong memories of the peculiar smell from the chemical fertilizers they carried. She also remembers the wonderful white horse, now once again displayed in the front window where Mrs. Dobbins used to demonstrate the bridles and saddles they sold at the time. Happy to bring back a neighborhood memory, the Smiths cleaned and repaired the dust-covered horse they found seemingly forgotten in the back of the building.

Mrs. Dobbins recalls that back in the day, before the existence of big box stores, they sold ten tons of feed a week, meeting locals' need for pet food and lawn fertilizer. This was a very different place back in the 1960s and 70s — many people in the area still had horses, chickens and rabbits. There were a number of small farms also, which made it reasonable for the Dobbins' store to have a full tack shop.

After Mr. Dobbins died in 1999, Mrs. Dobbins sold the business which then became Backyard Feed and Seed specializing in wild bird seeds and feeders. When

Continued on next page...



## WPN BOARD O'D

president Keith Bentley 770-433-0350

vice president Lem Ward 770-863-9580

past president Ron Davis 770-431-9786

recording secretary Suzy Miller 770-757-4275

corresponding secretary Liz Davis 770-431-9786

treasurer Myrna Evans 770-434-5094

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membership Leon McElveen 770-856-1544

communications Casey Clavin dingoblue@earthlink.net

> hospitality Beverly Denney at 770-231-6274

beautification Thelma Hancock and Robyn Phillips 678-844-4441

at large member Jeremy Fort 404-993-4774

adopt-a-mile Lee Friedman 678-239-4987

When a new neighbor moves in near you, contact Beverly Denney at bevmden@aol.com or 770-231-6274 so WPN can welcome the newcomers.

## Right here in Williams Park continued

those proprietors retired in 2015, JD and Megan seized the opportunity.

Among the items available at the Feed and Seed are bird feeders, wildlife food (for birds, deer or squirrels), pet food (including goats), chicken feed, gardening supplies, soil amendments, and seed. Seasonal items include local produce hand-chosen by JD at the Farmer's Market, firewood, vegetable plants in the Spring and Fall, and Jonquil bulbs from Keep Smyrna Beautiful, NF&S now carries flag stands for the recently released WPN yard flag (see page 4 of this MEMO for flag availability information). There's a propane exchange at the Feed and Seed. And just so you don't have to wander far for a last minute birthday gift, they carry handmade wooden toys and metal yard art (Alex's Uncle Jim constructs both). Have a yearning for some baby chicks? They're

coming, and, because NF&S is the only place in southern Cobb County selling organic chicken feed, they have a customer base from all over the Atlanta area.

The Smiths plan to add local, especially WP-produced, products on a consignment basis. While they can't accept edible items not produced in a commercial kitchen due to health regulations, they do welcome products that go along with their theme of "Goods for Good Living," the official name of their enterprise. Items that support sustainability, life without chemicals, and a stronger community are of particular interest.

With all of the local traffic in and out of both businesses, you just might have the pleasure of running into a neighbor. And who wouldn't mind a warm reminder of a time gone by when things were a little less stressed, a little friendlier?

## News in and around Williams Park

2016's first WPN **Adopt-a-Mile** clean-up (#1) took place on Saturday, January 30th, led by new committee chair, Lee Friedman. As always, there was plenty to pick up on the streets bordering our neighborhood. Thanks to participants (pictured left to right) Alicia Wood, Jimmy Denny, Keith Bentley, Jody Betts, Robyn Phillips, Blake Bradley, Phil Qualter, and Gavin Carpenter, as well as (not pictured) Lee and Joan Friedman, Mark and Mary Groves, and Sandy Vazquez. These last three are residents of Windy Hill Forest on the east side of Matthews Street (just outside of WP).

A new incentive has been implemented, in the form of drawings for prizes, available to all who show up to work. This time, Phil was pleasantly surprised with a \$10 gift certificate to Rev Coffee.

Why don't you mark your calendar and join us on the next date, Saturday April 16th at 9 a.m. It's a great way to get some exercise and fresh air while helping to keep WP nice.

— Joan Friedman

While the **WPN book club** meets eleven times each year, our November meeting is special in that we take that opportunity to



celebrate the birthday of book club participant Madge Jackson. The presents we bring are not for Madge, however — they're donation items for a chosen charity.

Accordingly, the WPN book club met November 22, 2015 at the home of Nancy Smith. After an interesting discussion of *Circling the Sun*, book club participants enjoyed Italian cream cake, chocolate cake and other party foods while opening "gifts" for the Homeless Education Program (part of Title I) in Cobb County schools. In this

Continued on next page...



#### MILESTONES

births

Congratulations to Jessica and Matt Miller. Their son Max Harrison Miller was born August 29, 2015 weighing 8 lb 12 oz.



Congratulations to
Hania and Alan
Hibbard. Son Hudson
Steven Hibbard was
born December 1, 2015
weighing 8 lbs 14 oz.



Congratulations to Beth and Jason Loudermilk. Daughter Marlene Adair Loudermilk was born Christmas Eve 2015 weighing 6lbs 13oz.



Congratulations to Katie and Brett Moore. Their daughter Evelyn Grace Moore was born February 5, 2016 weighing 7 lbs.

## News in and around Williams Park

program, School District personnel work with school social workers to provide emergency clothing, food and gas cards, educational items, and instructional supplies to specifically identified individuals. Already this year, they've identified over 900 homeless children in our County schools.

Susan Bentley and Nancy delivered twelve bags of "Madge's birthday gifts" to the program including school uniforms, coats, socks, underwear, hats, gloves, shirts, pajamas, educational items, and Kroger gift cards. Homeless liaison Mrs. Brenda Degioanni later informed us via letter that two of the gift cards had been distributed to a family of five which had been evicted over the Thanksgiving holiday. The rest of the items are being stored in school offices for distribution as tutors and social workers working directly with homeless students report specific needs to Mrs. Degioanni.

The WPN book club is very happy to partner with this much needed program.

— Nancy Smith

Thanks to the following fine folks for hosting recent Williams Park happy hour events. **Beverly** (#2) **and Jimmy Denney** hosted the crowd in December despite the date's proximity to the hectic holidays. **Julia Oliver** (#3, seen here stealing another woman's man) welcomed us in from the cold in January. **Monique Packer and Kevin Bray** (#4) hosted us in February when our official photographer was out of town. WP residents have been gathering on the third Friday of each month for ten years now. We share some food, raise a glass, and

generally enjoy the company of neighbors. We've never missed a month in all this time due to the generous hospitality of hosts who throw open their doors and welcome us in for an evening. Thanks to everybody who has hosted any of these 120 gatherings.



There are now about 25 Williams Park flags flying in a scattered pattern through-

out the neighborhood. We still have a small inventory, available for a \$40 donation to WPN. If you want one, contact Susan or Keith Bentley at 770-433-0350.









WENDY AMUNDSON PHOTOS



## Gray-Hamby House 1312 Roswell Street CRAFTSMAN STYLE BUNGALOW

#### Historic homes within the Williams Park neighborhood

The greatest concentration of surviving older buildings in Smyrna lies within Williams Park. Nineteen houses still stand that were built before the First World War. This is PART ELEVEN in a series of articles covering these houses based on research done in 2012 by WPN members Casey Clavin and Vic Koch.



of the new style. While it's overall mass and form clearly reflect Arts and Crafts styling, its interior does not. The floor plan, consisting predominantly of a central hall

with flanking rooms, is unlike a typically asymmetrical Arts and Crafts floorplan. And some exterior details are reminiscent of Stick Style, a subset of Victorian architecture built in the 1880s and 1890s.

Stick houses frequently display the flared roof overhangs seen here (charmingly referred to as a "cat slide" roof). Also, the quintessentially defining characteristic of Stick Style, the application of flat wood bands over exterior wall surfaces creating panels in which various textures are featured, is used here, though more limited than on an actual Stick house. In the large front gable, wood strips define panels

featuring plain stucco (now green), and brown stained stucco with broken bottle glass. Below that, in a large frieze band running around the front porch, panel areas are filled with ship lap siding.



Gray-Hamby House from a Marrietta Journal mention

on January 24, 1906 stating, "Mr. T. W. Gray's new

This is an early Craftsman Style (also known as Arts

and Crafts) Bungalow. Architecture of this style, rather

new at this date, was spreading across the country by

means of pattern books and magazines. It constituted a

break with the past and a movement toward a more modern house. 1906 is early for this sort of house in

Georgia and, not surprisingly, this house is not purely

house is rapidly nearing completion."



# Gray-Hamby House



The wraparound porch is supported by elaborately detailed square posts. While these sit on the porch floor as per Victorian styling, their design expresses, entirely in wood, what is usually built of separate masonry and wood sections in an Arts and Crafts column — a more massive square base section supporting a slimmer square column.

There are three original window types present. Most are paired or single one-over-one wood double hung. On the front porch, though, there's a cottage style window with square and rectangular panes in the upper portion. Centered in the front gable is a group of three fixed wood windows with diamond-patterned panes of clear glass recently

embellished with colored plastic applied inside to simulate stained glass. The house also retains two original wood and glass doors on the front porch.

The house is balloon framed with 10' ceilings. The floors are 2 1/2" heart pine. The exterior is clad in clapboard. The foundation is brick piers infilled with brick.





## Chain of ownership for parcel 17056000230

	or our moraling for	purcor 17 0300	.00200
year	purchaser	date	book/page
1904	T W Gray	11-1-04	GG/630
1908	B T Frey	8-27-08	NN/6
1910	J W Lyle	4-5-10	NN/409
1911	Anna O. Gray	11-9-11	00/472
1920	David C Hamby	1-2-20	65/564
1928	Clayton B Hamby	12-8-28	97/414
1998	Sam Hamby	9-16-98	11875/245

There are two chimneys, each between a pair of rooms serving four fireplaces. Finished as a single story house, there's adequate attic space to accommodate expansion to 1 1/2 stories.

In 1908 Gray sold the house to B.T. Frey who was acquiring a great deal of local real estate at the time. He held it for two years, then sold to J.W. Lyle who held it a year and a half before selling to Annie O. Gray. She lived there for nine years.

In 1920, David and Jennie Hamby bought it. Coming from north Georgia with only two oxen, he acquired farm land, and owned a dry cleaner in Marietta. They had eleven children, then settled in this house when he was 58 and she 51.

In 1928, the house passed to son Clayton, who worked for Metropolitan Industrial Life of Georgia, and his wife Mary. During the depression and war years, they rented out half the house to make ends meet. They had three sons, Clayton Jr., Quinton, and Sam.

# Gray-Hamby House

The youngest, Sam, took ownership in 1998 and still lives here with his wife Sandy. They shared a group of Hamby family photos which provide evidence of the house at an earlier time. The front porch steps, originally in the center front of the porch, were later moved to the side. The upper right photo shows Clayton Jr. on the original front steps hugging his dog circa 1937. Clayton recalls the house was brown

with lighter brown trim around the windows and doors. In the photos at right and below, we can see a third, darker, tone on the columns and the ship lap panels in the frieze band. That's a typical Arts and Crafts paint scheme — earthtones. The striped canvas awnings were cranked in at night and out in the morning. In the lower left we see Uncle Rush and Aunt May visiting with Mary, Clayton, Clayton Jr., and Quinton circa 1938. At bottom right, Quinton plays in the back yard circa 1941. Behind him





we see an original rear window which is no longer present. It was replaced by three smaller windows higher on the wall above where the kitchen sink now stands. Early on, there was a large barn behind the house. It was gone by the time this photo was made — demolished and burned to heat the house in the depression years.





#### COMMENT...

## How to Build a Community

- Turn off your TV
- Leave your house
- Know your neighbors
- Look up when you walk
  - Greet people
  - Sit on your porch
    - Plant flowers
  - Use vour library
  - Play together
- Buy from local merchants
- Share what you have
  - Help a lost dog
- Take kids to the park
  - Garden together
- Support neighborhood schools
- Fix it even if you didn't break it
- Have pot lucks
- Honor elders
- Pick up litter
- Read stories aloud
- Dance in the street
- Talk to the mail
- Listen to the birds
  - Put up a swing
- Help carry something heavy
- Barter for your goods
  - Start a tradition
  - Ask a question
- Hire young people for odd jobs
- Bake extra and share
- Ask for help when you need it
  - Open your shades
    - Sing together
  - Share your skills
- Take back the night
- Turn up the musicTurn down the music
- Listen before you react in anger
- Mediate a conflict
- · Seek to understand
- Learn from new and uncomfortable anales
- Know that no one is silent though many are not heard; work to change this



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#### FAVORITE WP THINGS

- Thursday night trivia!
- All the babies!
- Happy Hours are so much fun!
- The hayrides and other fabulous events!
- This place is home and always will be!
- I love living here...we travel the world and are always glad to come back to WP!
- All the passers-by and their dogs when I work in my garden.
- This is the best neighborhood ever!
- All the Christmas decorations.
- I love roasting marshmallows at the pergola lighting.
- Going on a 15 minute walk and coming home an hour later because I run into so many neighbors and chat.
- All of the interesting people that live here... one who played with The Allman Brothers, one who goes to Savannah for half rubber tournaments, one who rebuilds tube radios, one who builds tiny houses, one who builds flaming sculptures, a former taxidermist, one who designed cars for General Motors, a civil war buff, a retired college professor, one who works for the Braves, well respected chefs, professional wrestlers. amateur musicians, a person whose home is always available for a party, people over 70 who've lived their entire lives here and others who arrived last week.



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www.revcoffee.com

## Spring is the time to renew or join WPN

This newsletter, a benefit of membership in Williams Park Neighbors, is published four times each year with content exclusively from, about and for neighborhood residents. While others are distributed to member households (roughly 268) by U.S. mail, the Spring issue is delivered by hand to all 550 households in our 1.4 mile area in order to also reach non-members who might wish to join.

If you're new to WP you might be interested to learn about the things we do. We're primarily a social organization— our mission is to promote community among neighbors through social interaction, emphasizing the unique character of Smyrna's oldest neighborhood. Monthly we gather in various homes for happy hours and book club meetings; quarterly we pick up litter and hold general meetings; we host a large egg hunt near Easter, cookouts in Spring and Summer, a chili contest in the Fall, and a "pergola lighting" approaching the

winter holidays. Occasionally we organize with the City of Smyrna to execute large projects in our neighborhood these have included design and construction of Williams Park (the park) including the pergola, hardscape and plantings; design and erection of the first neighborhood entrance monument (additional iterations are coming at other points of entry); instalation of WP street sign toppers; landscape projects in our parks; and traffic calming initiatives. We maintain a Facebook page; run a neighborhood watch program with Smyrna Police; keep members informed as necessary through email; run collections for charities; and occasionally organize a mass yard sale and trash amnesty.

Whether you've been with us for a decade or you haven't joined before, Spring is the time to pony up your \$20 and become a part of the neighborhood in which you live. Welcome to WP.

march 2016

## Williams Park Neighbors renewal form

ENEW Please re	www.williamsparkneighbors.	. org
110030 10	new my WPN membership for April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017 www.member	MA
· ———	\$20.00 Y	ou can
Name:		e with Payf Go to
Adress:	williamspar	kneighbors .
	Choose "Ass	sociation In click on
Phone 1:		CHEK ON
		WPN "
Email 1:		WPN."
Email 1: Email 2:	"Join	WPN."
Email 1:	"Join	WPN."
Email 1: Email 2: What information may	we include in the WPN directory?NameAddressPhoneEmail cks payable to Williams Park Neighbors, Inc. and mail with this form to:	WPN."





March 2016

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