



Williams Park

MEMO

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS

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

MEMO NOTES

Thanks to all those who took a moment to tell us they enjoyed the last issue because it contained such a wide swath of subject matter. Diversity of content make a more interesting newsletter and we encourage contributions from everybody.

Deadlines for the next two issues are August 15 for our September issue and November 15 for our December 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 lrDavis1351@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.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN BENTLEY

WPN: Ten Years and Counting — by Nancy McGee

For Williams Park Neighbors, May 2 was a day to remember. It was a celebration of our tenth anniversary and a salute to the next ten years. Since 2005, WPN has expanded from 80 to more than 250 families. In ten years, volunteers have beautified parks with landscaping and structurals, regularly volunteered for Adopt-a-Mile, installed street sign toppers, established a neighborhood crime watch, supported Smyrna Elementary, and contributed to local charities. All of this has been accomplished in addition to the many social events for both children and adults.

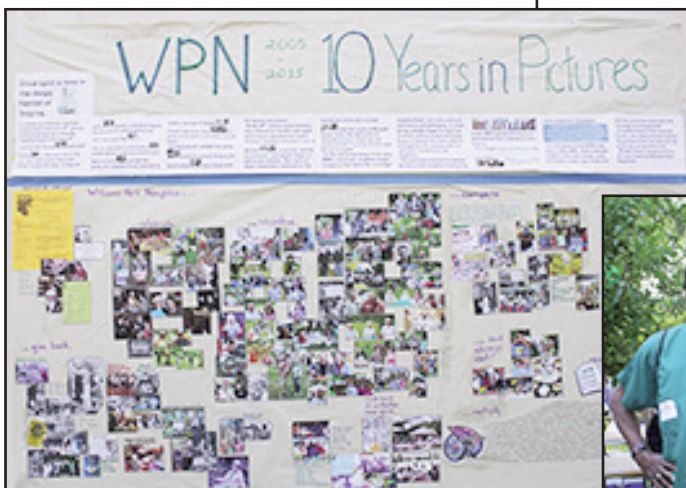
At the outdoor event on that lovely spring Saturday, guests were greeted with bunches of balloons, large letters announcing the anniversary party, and a display of WPN's history. Some neighbors have referred to the

and the community spirit in a collage of photographs taken between 2005 and 2014.

On the reverse side, the board offered an opportunity to add favorite memories of Williams Park. One person wrote, "All of the interesting people who live here... someone who played with the Allman Brothers, someone who goes to Savannah for half rubber tournaments, someone who collects and rebuilds old tube radios, someone who builds tiny houses, someone who builds flaming sculptures, an 84-year-old former taxidermist, someone who designed cars for General Motors, a civil war buff, a retired college professor, someone who works for the Braves, well respected chefs, professional wrestlers, amateur musicians, someone whose home is always available for a party, people who have lived 70 years here and others who arrived last week."

Continued on next page...

Casey Clavin and Vic Koch review WPN history they helped to make, while Keith Bentley gets newcomer Tom up to speed on the place he now calls home.



development of the community spirit in Williams Park as a fairy tale. That fairy tale was illustrated on a large board. Attendees could see the fun, the work, the volunteerism, the contributions, the friendships,



ONCE UPON A TIME

in the sleepy hamlet of Smyrna, a smattering of houses was built. Established in the mid-19th century and blossoming into a friendly neighborhood in the early 20th century, the houses and small farms on the east side of the railroad tracks grew into a full-blown residential area. In days of yore, people walked to nearby houses to visit on front porches. As cars became common and most adults worked outside the home, this place reverted to simply a group of houses. People had little time to know or socialize with neighbors. People felt alone, even in a crowd, longing for the kinship that comes with familiarity of place.

As the 20th century raced toward a new millennium, residents saw rapid development in the area. Concern arose over density, amenities, the environment... and people began to talk to one another. One result was that the old ice plant near the tracks on Roswell Street, dilapidated and collapsing, was razed and the land used for a city park.

With the real estate boom of the early 2000s, neighbors began expressing a desire for a stronger neighborhood — one with a sense of community and belonging. In small groups, people reached out, friends began to spread the word and the “people who lived next door” emerged as true neighbors.

In late 2004 a group convened to address their longing. This congenial group named itself Williams Park Neighbors (referencing G.B. Williams’ humble local landmark) and defined its purpose thusly: To promote community among neighbors through social interaction emphasizing the unique character of Smyrna’s oldest neighborhood.

Over the decade since WPN’s May 2005 launch, residents have seen houses razed and houses raised, trees felled and trees planted, amenities improved, and camaraderie strengthened. This neighborhood of the new and historic, the traditional and modern, the young and old has matured into a thriving, caring community.

— a fairy tale, come true.

Ten Years and Counting *continued*

PHOTOS BY SUSAN BENTLEY



Savannah Sudderth wore pink stripes and red beads. Greg Martin plays a mean mandolin. Myron Todd, who played the guitar and sang throughout most of the event, enjoyed some improptu accompaniment as seen here by Amy Zuspan and her son Eli



Above, Nala Ndiritu offers to share flag waving techniques with a new friend.

Enjoying fruit popsicles, left to right, Vena Tilley, Hadley Mangas, and Melissa Downey (behind shades and under a floppy brim).



Williams Park is named for local rags-to-riches entrepreneur G.B. Williams. Among his many businesses was a small eatery alongside the rail road tracks at Spring Street. Sam Hamby, who worked there as a teenager, made us a pot of same chili served at GB's Place from 1936 to 1974.



Common words used to tell favorite stories included neighbors, fun, family, friends, love. One attendee “from the outside” offered this plea: “Somebody! Anybody! Sell me your house. I want to live in WP!” The other comments would explain why.

Thanks are due to the committee of volunteers who planned and coordinated the celebration. The festivities included live

music, a bouncy house and games for the kids, and tables laden with pot-luck dishes set alongside hot dogs, a pot of GB’s original chili recipe, popcorn, and popsicles. This party acknowledging ten years of camaraderie simply opened the door to the next ten. Stay tuned for the next event, the next new neighbor, the next accomplishment for our neighborhood!

2015 CALENDAR

wpn book club
Sun, May 31, 3 pm
Susan Bentley
2651 Gilbert St.
Lost Lake

by Sarah Addison Allen

wpn happy hour
June 19, 7 pm
Mike & Michelle Penny
2601 Gilbert Street
404-432-8154

wpn book club
Sun, June 28, 3 pm
Joyce Stancil
2655 Devin Ct.
Big Little Lies
by Liane Moriarty

wpn happy hour
July 17, 7 pm
Kimberly & Russell Wright
2794 Morris Circle
617-519-3954

wpn book club
Sun, July 26, 3pm
Louisa Cohn
1450 Whitfield St.
The Girl on the Train
by Paula Hawkins

wpn board meeting
July 29, 7pm

wpn happy hour
August 21, 7 pm
Dan Kissner & Korey
Whitchurch
1562 Hawthorne Ave
612-889-4990

wpn book club
Sun, August 30, 3pm
Suzy Miller 1610 Ivy
Springs Rd.
Book: TBA

wpn board meeting
Sept. 2, 7pm

continued on next page...

News in and around Williams Park

Congratulations to **Kenzie Shay** (Mimosa Circle) who graduated from Johnson Ferry Christian Academy in May. She'll be pursuing an accounting degree in the fall from West Georgia.

Her mom Amy commented that it seemed like only yesterday Kenzie wore her first mortarboard when graduating from kindergarten... and I couldn't resist sharing that photo.

Myself, I recall Kenzie's three years of input to this publication as our **Pet Profile** columnist. Starting when she was ten, Kenzie (with her mom) visited and interviewed WP pet owners, took notes and photos, then returned home to write her column. Dogs were her most common subjects but she also covered a pig and a group of parrots.

After three years on the beat, Kenzie's interests moved elsewhere and we've been without the column many readers said was their favorite. If any body reading this thinks they know a good candidate to follow in Kenzie's footsteps, please send an email to dingoblue@earthlink.net. You could write one on a trial basis without a long term commitment.

Pictured at right is Floyd Middle School's **outdoor classroom**. While none of our neighborhood kids attend Floyd, there's a WP connection because a few of our neighbors were instrumental in making this dream a reality. Here's how it happened.

In 2013 **Ron Davis** (Roswell Street) corralled eleven area Kiwanis Clubs to execute a joint project at Belmont Elementary School to produce a larger impact than eleven individual projects. It was so successful that Ron was asked to direct a similar effort the following year which turned out to be the refurbishment of a rundown



courtyard at Floyd. When, during that project, Floyd Principle Teresa Hargrett inquired about the possibility of Kiwanis providing an outdoor classroom for the courtyard, the scene was set.

Vic Koch (Roswell Street) visited the site, designed the classroom, and constructed the benches, podium and platform. **Robert Harrison** (Morris Circle) hauled the built fixtures to the school and **Larry Jones** (Spring

Street) advised on tree trimming and shrubbery. Ron and four other Kiwanians installed the fixtures, laid out borders and spread slate chips.

Not only is this outdoor classroom a big hit with faculty and students alike (its time slots are spoken for well into the future), its creation ignited a spark of civic mindedness. The local Kiwanis Club (Greater South Cobb), which had just begun prior to this project, has really taken off. And there's now a Builders Club (the student version of Kiwanis) with 40 members executing community service projects in their school and the wider community.

Engineering and Technology students created a solar reflector device to power a fan for the classroom.



2015 CALENDAR

wpn happy hour
September 18, 7 pm
Cara & Patrick Thurman
2711 Gilbert St.
404-617-6883

wpn book club
Sun, Sept 27, 3pm
Thelma Hancock
1419 Hawthorne Ave.
Book: TBA

wpn general assembly
Sept 22, 7pm

wpn chili cookoff
Sat, October 24, 4 pm
details TBA

wpn happy hour
October 20, 7 pm
Brian and Erin
Sizemore
2913 Anderson Circle
erinesizemore@gmail.com

wpn book club
Sun, October 25, 3pm
Mary Ann Marchione
1505 Whitfield St.
The Burgess Boys
by Elizabeth Strout

wpn book club
Sun, November 22, 3pm
Nancy Smith
2611 Gilbert St.
Book: TBA

wpn pergola decorating
Sat, Nov 28, 10am

wpn pergola lighting
Fri, Dec 4 - 6:00 pm

wpn happy hour
December 18, 7 pm
Beverly & Jimmy Denney
1460 Roswell St
678-361-8008

Smyrna Elementary Stars — by Hayli McQuade

In April (with Cobb County School District's approval), Smyrna Elementary decided to implement a dual immersion program starting with the Fall 2015-2016 kindergarten class. So...what's dual immersion? It's a form of bilingual education in which students are taught literacy and content in two languages. Dual language programs foster bilingualism, biliteracy, enhanced awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and high levels of academic achievement through instruction in two languages. These programs have also been proven to improve test scores where they've been implemented.

Smyrna Elementary has chosen Spanish as its second language. Two kindergarten classes (out of eight total) will spend half the day learning curriculum in English and the other half of the day in Spanish. The Spanish classroom will be staffed with native speaking teacher and paraprofessional (both from Venezuela). The program will grow each year, adding a Spanish teacher and class to each grade level, until the 2015-2016 kindergarteners reach fifth grade.

Participation in this program will likely be determined by lottery in coming years, as demand is anticipated to out pace capacity. Ours is the only elementary school in Smyrna to implement a dual immersion program, although several others have expressed interest.

Cobb County's Foreign Language Directors are already in preparation for a time six years from now — so that when these kindergarteners enter Campbell Middle School, they'll continue to learn cur-

riculum in both English and Spanish. The goal is for these children to pick up another language in middle or high school to become trilingual which, in today's competing global economy, would provide these children an advantage when competing for jobs out of college.

To learn more about dual immersion, visit www.utahdli.org/utahmodel.html. There's a great instructional video on this site that provides amazing research and Utah kids in action. (Georgia follows Utah's dual immersion programs because of their success.)

Williams Park is lucky to have five neighborhood kids enrolled in the inaugural year of this dual immersion program. So, when you run into Jase Latham, Savannah Sudderth, Jake Blackwelder, Andre Ryan Gomez or Finn McQuade, ask them to speak a little Spanish to you. They might just impress you!



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WELCOME

to these new members:

- on bernard lane —
Jane Kinyua
- on elizabeth —
Brad Harden
- on ivy spring —
Joe Redmond
Ron & Tracy Hecht
Megan Tanner
- on old roswell —
Kelli Bail
- on roswell street —
Amy E. Howard
Suzanne Tremel
Patti Rowland
Drew & Lindsay Collins
Rodney & Lakesha Covington
- on telfair drive —
Stephen Ndiritu & Barbara
Kihumba
- on walker street —
Katie Jacobs
- on whitfield circle —
Ryan and Tara Hall
Sam Brahmhatt
Tiffany Martin
- on whitfield st —
Derek Golden & Crystal Choi
Viktoriya Moroney

WPN Egg Hunt — by Susan Bentley

Williams Park residents had a beautiful afternoon for the annual Easter egg hunt on April 4th at the home of Liz and Ron Davis. The Easter Bunny's helpers had quite a task to hide the 2,000 eggs stuffed earlier in the week by the Bunny's friends.

Parents, grandparents and friends held children's hands, pushed strollers and pulled wagons to bring our largest number of young egg hunters yet. At one point, there were forty strollers and wagons parked on the lawn. Dozens of kids (seemed like hundreds) roamed the field — they ranged from seven year old veteran egg hunters to toddlers marveling at the wonder of colorful candy filled eggs. After all the eggs were found, everyone enjoyed the many treats families brought to share.

Surely many "sweet" memories were created for our young neighbors on such a beautiful day with friends and family.



Above, hunt hostess Liz Davis totes grandson Landon to the field of eggs.

Left, Maeve Smith enjoys her first WP egg hunt under the watchful eye of mom Jennifer,



Following an exhausting hunt, Kellan Kuhn is fed goldfish by a junior first responder.



Lyndsey Knobloch helped the Bunny hide eggs, then escorted daughter Maggy on the hunt.



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beautification
Thelma Hancock and
Robyn Phillips
678-844-4441

at large member
Jeremy Fort
404-993-4774

Kidbits... The Lost Tooth News — by Claire Crowley

The Tooth Fairy has made two visits to **Charlie Scott**, and with a little more wiggling action, he may get another visit real soon. Over Spring Break, he and his brother, **Henry**, explored the museums and monuments of Washington D.C. (#1), where they also saw the beautiful cherry blossoms along the Potomac River.



Watch out anglers — **Jase Latham**, 4, caught his first fish (#2) during a recent adventure to his uncle's lake. He loved baiting the hook with worms and posing for a photo with his trophy fish, which he thought was a little slimy.



Little sister, **Ada**, 2 ½, modeled her "long dress" (#3) which she just *had* to have after seeing one on her older cousin. Both children enjoyed their first dentist visit, complete with bubblegum flavored toothpaste.



Finn Crowley, 8, received his First Communion during Mother's Day weekend at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. (He reported that the wine tasted a bit strong.)

Callie Duelmer, 12, made the honor roll at St. Joseph Catholic School and enjoys playing fast pitch softball. She plays catcher

and is looking forward to softball camp this summer. Her brother, **Drew**, made the Smyrna Little League All-Star Baseball team and got to play in their first tournament game on his 10th birthday!

With a little help from the dentist, **Charlie McQuade**, 7, lost his first tooth, which he put in a small pirate treasure chest. His brother, **Finn**, went hiking in Blowing Rock, North Carolina, while visiting their Papa's cabin. He learned how to take down a deer stand that Papa left in the woods last year.

Beila Luzar and **Maddie Burch** are excited about starting pre-K at St. Benedict's School in August. They look forward to learning lots of cool stuff as well as making new friends.

Finally, **Austin** and **Ansley Applestone** just finished 5th grade at Smyrna Elementary School, which is cool, but not as cool as both twins earning straight As on their report cards for their *entire* elementary school years! And that's not all folks — Ansley received the City of Smyrna Mayor's Education Award for outstanding academic achievement and citizenship. WOW!

In other exciting news, WPN will have its first "Little Library" starting later this summer. This is an honor-system free library where readers can drop off and/or pickup books anytime. We look forward to this addition in our wonderful neighborhood.

Until next time... catch lightning bugs, sip lemonade, and savor the summer!

1902

Vinson House

1335 Roswell Street

QUEEN ANNE COTTAGE

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 EIGHT in a series of articles covering these houses based on research done in 2012 by WPN members Casey Clavin and Vic Koch.



Queen Anne architecture derives from an English style developed in the 1870s by architects drawing on Elizabethan and Jacobean styles from 16th and 17th century. The style name honors Anne of Denmark the Jacobean era English Queen, wife of James who was King of Scotland as James VI plus King of England and Ireland as James I.

All that is just to explain the name. Here in the U.S., Queen Anne is a subset of Victorian architecture and a very popular 19th century style in Georgia and elsewhere. These houses were built in many variations all over our state from the 1880s to 1910.

A Queen Anne Cottage is characterized by a square main mass with projecting gables on front and sides creating an asymmetrical



1902 Vinson House

shape. The roof, either pyramidal or hipped, is often steeply pitched and the chimneys are usually placed in the interior. A variety of textures and materials are employed to enliven exterior surfaces—gables are often covered with patterned shingles. The porch is usually asymmetrical, wrapping around one or both sides of the house. Inside, the rooms are arranged asymmetrically in an open, flowing plan and there's rarely a central hallway.

The Vinson house is a balloon framed house, constructed of true dimensional lumber, joined with cut nails. The floors are 4 1/2" tongue and groove heart pine. The original door hardware is mortise type. The ceilings height varies from 9' 6" and 9' 9"



The front, oriented according to its original address on Atlanta Road, faces west. This single story house is clad in wood clapboard. It's roof is pyramidal with projecting gables on all four sides. Those on the front and sides have cedar shingles, deeply staggered with long reveals. Those on the front and back have pointed-topped wooden louvered vents.

There are bay windows under both side gables. Though these are very well integrated into the design, there is some evidence to suggest that they may have been added after the house was originally built. Two interior brick chimneys serve four fireplaces.



The front porch, which wraps around the north side, features square reeded spindles in the railing. While the foundation around the rear of the house is composed of brick piers infilled with brick, the front foundation is built of continuous decorative concrete block. These blocks, which have the appearance of ashlar stone, are also used for the tiered side walls flanking the front steps and, rather unusually, the porch columns. Queen Anne porch roofs are usually supported with slender turned posts. If these block-



1902

Vinson House



built porch columns are not original, they were probably added early on.

Both front and rear wood and glass doors are present, the latter on a small rear stoop featuring an exposed rafter shed roof supported by chamfered columns with jigsaw side spindles.

The original wood windows are present. On the sides of the house, the windows are 1 over 1 plain glass double hung. The two windows on the front of the house feature decorative stained glass squares and rectangles arranged around the perimeter of the upper sash. The one on the front porch is a standard double hung while the one on the front gable is a cottage style window—that is, the lower sash is much larger than the upper sash.

Aside from a shed roof addition at the northeast corner, the house is significantly intact, outside and in—a very nice example of an early 20th century middle-class residence.



1902

Vinson House

Chain of ownership for parcel 17055900010

year	purchaser	date	book/page
	Dr G A Vinson		
1912	W E & F W Treadwell	1-10-12	QQ/246
1913	Mrs Mattie F Huggins	8-23-13	UU/113
1914	W Y Allen	1-19-14	VV/166
1918	A J Haygood	6-4-18	59/550
1918	W C Carson	6-5-18	62/54
1929	Pauline Crawford	9-23-29	99/267
1973	Julia Elenore Boothe	3-16-72	1298/14
2002	KDE Investments		13601/824
2003	Kevin W Meckes		13749/2963
2011	Amy E Howard		14846/5140



We believe this house to have been built in 1902 for Dr. Vinson who owned this property at that time. While we don't find him on Smyrna's 1910 or 1920 census, there is a George A. Vinson, a physician, on Atlanta's census in both those years, with his wife Gillin. This is almost certainly the same person, probably maintaining a summer residence in Smyrna which quite a few Atlantans did at that time.

The Treadwells bought the property in 1912 for \$4,300, then sold it 19 months later to Mattie Huggins for \$4,000. Five years and two owners later, W.C. Carson paid \$3,500.

In 1929 Pauline Crawford acquired it through Carson's bankruptcy, paying \$3,500. She lived here for 44 years and is remembered by older residents of the



neighborhood as a beautiful and talented woman who played piano and organ for the First Methodist Church.

Acquiring the house from Crawford's estate, Ms. Boothe used it as a rental property for three decades. KDE Investments owned it only briefly, subdividing the lot for the construction of a new house on the corner of Roswell and Gilbert Streets.

Local residents applied pressure to prevent its demolition in hopes of a new owner occupant. By the time Kevin Meckes bought the house in 2003, it was rather run-down. By his own hands, and with contractors, Kevin accomplished enough restoration work to ensure the survival of this lovely house. Current owner Amy Howard carries on the work.



MILESTONES

births

Daniel and Lauren have a new addition. Ella Lin Rice was born April 7, 2015 weighing 7 lbs 8oz and measuring 21 3/4"



Nic & Sonya welcomed Graham Lee Sallis on April 10, 2015. He weighed 7 lbs, 8 oz and was 19 3/4". Big sister Evaline is happy to have a new brother.



Ryan and Kristin have their first bundle of joy. Brooke Wiley Achord was born on April 12, 2015 weighing 6 lbs 13 oz and being 19" long.

Barry and Casey welcomed Rhett Barry Rutherford on May 6, 2015. He weighed 9 lbs 2 oz at 21.25" long.



MILESTONES

births

Jack and Leigh welcomed Blakely Hope Easter on May, 3, 2015. She weighed 7lbs, 11 oz and measured 21" Big sister Ashleigh is pictured proudly posing with Blakely.



... and catching up on births we missed at the time...

Tony and Candace Smith brought us Brayden on August 15, 2010, and Neela on September 28, 2012.



Maggy was born June 29, 2014 to Lyndsey and Karsten Knobloch.



MILESTONES

births

Bree Grey & Montez Howard welcomed Maleea Grey-Howard on August 25, 2014.



Maeve Beverly Scholz Smith was born November 1, 2014 to Brian and Jennifer.



Amanda and Mike Blackwelder delivered Lucy Kate on December 18, 2014.

Parents Mackenzie and Jeff Schoolmaster brought daughter Elin Rose a brother on February 7, 2015. His name is Sullivan James.

Please let Susan Bentley know of any WPN births! sbentley0350@gmail.com

Safety Update

— by Wendy Amundson

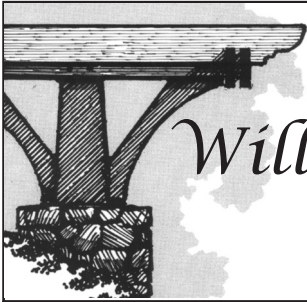
Summer is here and with that comes opportunities for crime. Kids are out of school, people are walking the neighborhoods after dark, homes are empty while folks are enjoying a summer vacation. Please take the time to ensure that your home and vehicles are locked. Let your neighbors or block captain know if you're going to be out of town. If you're expecting packages, please make arrangements to move the packages away from the front door. A package sitting on the front step for days becomes an easy target.

The WPN Facebook page continues to be a great source of information and an easy way to communicate suspicious activity to your neighbors and the Smyrna Police Dept. I encourage everyone to join the WPN Facebook page. It can be accessed at: Williams Park Neighbors.

Officer Graeff follows our Facebook posts and can be tagged when we need to draw his attention to something. He has provided updated information when there is an incident in our neighborhood.

Thank you to Jarrad Hill for volunteering to be the Block Captain on Spring Road.

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.



MEMO

June 2015

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