



Williams Park MEMO

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS

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

MEMO NOTES

What a diversity of content we have in this issue. Thank you to each of you who took the time to put pen to paper in support of our neighborhood newsletter. Variety of material makes a more interesting MEMO and we encourage contributions from everybody.

Deadlines for the next two issues are November 15 for our December issue and February 15 for our March issue. Share a story, a poem, a photo, a drawing or anything else you'd like.

Send contributions to Casey Clavin at dingoblu@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 KEITH BENTLEY

New twist for our August event — by Keith Bentley

Buck and Mae Bryan, who have hosted a block party at their home on Spring Street for the last couple of years, combined their third annual event with WPN's 10th annual August cookout to create a huge success. Our really hot recent weather moderated a bit and about 120 neighbors enjoyed a pleasant afternoon and evening of BBQ and socializing. Neighbors got to know folks they hadn't previously met, or just caught up with friends they haven't seen in awhile.

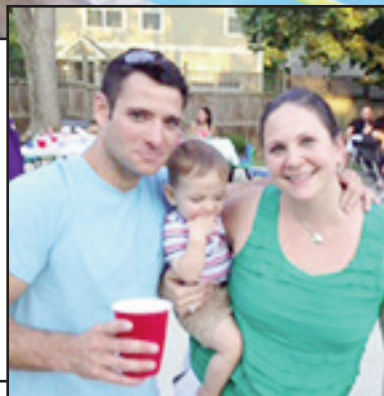
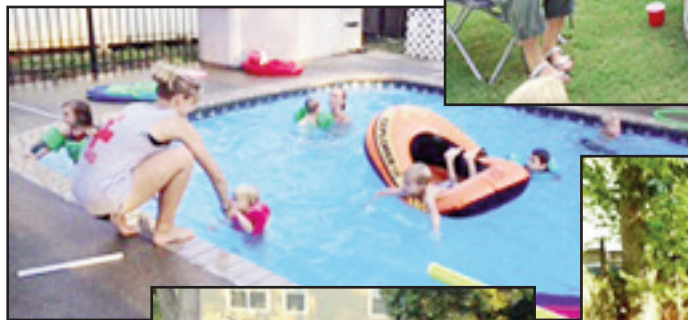
The Bryan's pool added an entirely new feature with kids and adults alike enjoyed the opportunity to frolic and splash. Some who didn't get wet, felt a little cooler just hanging by the pool while others kept cool in rocking chairs on the wrap around porch or in shady spots on the lawn.

Neighbors brought all varieties of

BBQ — chopped, sliced, pulled and ribs. Grilled hot dogs, PB&J and other sandwiches were also available. There were also lots of delicious salads, side dishes, and cold drinks to wash it all down.

We had a couple of corn hole games going and some hula hoops twirling. While it was somewhat surprising (to me anyway) that the kids even knew what a hula hoop was, a few turned out to be quite advanced

Continued on next page...



Buck and Mae Bryan hosted some hot summer fun at their 107-year-old house on Spring Street.

2015 CALENDAR

wpn board meeting
Sept. 2, 7pm

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.
The Water's Edge
by Sara Gruen

wpn general assembly
Sept 22, 7pm

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

wpn happy hour
October 16, 7 pm
Brian & 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 happy hour
November 20, 7 pm
details TBA

wpn book club
Sun, November 22, 3pm
Nancy Smith
2611 Gilbert St.
Circling the Sun
by Paula McCain

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

New twist for August event *continued*

"hoopers" (is that a word??). Kids from tiny new borns to teens participated in all kinds of activities—swinging, coloring, running, blowing bubbles and really miniature golf. Older kids passed the football or kicked a soccer ball. The babies mostly blew bubbles without the benefit of soap solution.

Buck says he wants to make this an annual neighborhood party at their house. I'm not sure if he has asked Mae about that—but let's keep our fingers crossed because we all had a great time!



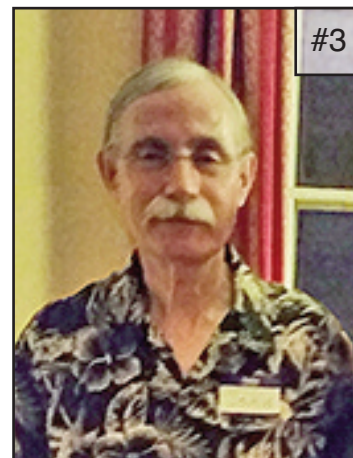
Other events in the WP

Thanks to all who have hosted us recently. **Mike and Michelle Penny** (1) opened their Gilbert Street home for our June happy hour. This was a real treat because everybody got to see inside the extensive remodeling they did after an electrical fire caused extensive damage a couple of years ago. They achieved a very nice outcome, indeed.

Next up **Kimberly and Russell Wright** (2) hosted us in their Morris Circle home in July. They're both good storytellers which made for fun conversation— plus they put out some really nice cheeses.

John Lampp (3) opened his Gilbert Street doors on August first for what has become the neighborhood's annual fireworks party. Smyrna graciously foots the bill for the show (celebrating the City's "birthday") while WP residents benefit by virtue of the fact that there's no better viewing place than John's front yard. This event was special because we finally got to see John's hair in the queue he's been working toward for several months. John's letting his freak flag fly.

WPN's August happy hour was on Hawthorne Avenue at the home of **Dan Kissner and Korey Whitchurch** (4) who always host a good party. This year we enjoyed their lovely patio which was not quite complete last time we visited. It's a great place to sit and chat—good job, y'all.



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dingoblue@earthlink.net

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Beverly Denney at
770-231-6274

beautification
Thelma Hancock and
Robyn Phillips
678-844-4441

at large member
Jeremy Fort
404-993-4774

News in and around Williams Park

Public Safety Foundation's Benefit

Have you ever needed a firefighter or police officer for yourself, your family or your business? Maybe you're just thankful they're readily available if you do need them. If so, you'll want to attend the Smyrna Public Safety Foundation's (SPSF) sixth annual Smyrna Heroes Benefit celebrating the men and women who keep the community safe. It's a fundraiser – for community safety initiatives, Shop with a Hero, the Benevolent Fund and much more – being held Saturday, September 12, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Remington Hall, Adventure Outdoors.

Pull on your favorite jeans, shine up your boots and join your Smyrna Heroes for a boot scootin' good time. Attendees of this "country chic" event will enjoy a delicious dinner, ice cold beverages and country music while bidding on silent auction items. There will also be exciting new additions to this year's event, to be announced closer to the event date.

The SPSF is a 501(c)(3) organization supporting both the community and Smyrna's Public Safety employees. This event is SPSF's major fundraiser, providing 85% of the organization's annual funding. If you want to become a sponsor or donate an item to the silent auction, send an email to admin@smynapsf.org. To learn more and purchase tickets, visit <http://www.smyrnapsf.org/event/heroes-benefit-2015/>

WPN Trivia Team Update

Our neighborhood team plays Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00, at Mexico Lindo on South Cobb Drive. Trivia host, Patrick Davis, covers everything. And whiles our team has people who specialize in sets of knowledge – U.S. presidents, the Civil War, geography, children's literature, pop culture, current events, and sports – sometimes, having the right answer is just a fluke. Prizes are \$10 for third place, \$20 for second place, and \$50 for first place (all in house

cash) and we win our fair share. When our winnings accrue to \$600 or \$700, we hold a party where we eat and drink until the money runs out.

If you'd like to play, please join us – all are welcome. Adding variety helps

catch those obscure questions and we could use more young people.

To reserve a seat at our table, just text Cat at 770-595-3849 anytime before 4:00 pm on Thursdays. She uses the head count to reserve the right size table for our group. Hope to see you soon.

— Cat Porch



That's a whole lot of school supplies

This year was Williams Park's third annual school supply drive brought in a good number of donations, mainly consumables such as markers, glue, pencils and crayons —items which teachers often purchase for the classroom using their own money. Thelma Hancock, Nancy Smith, Nancy McGee and Susan Bentley sorted and grouped items, then packed fifty-two bags. Each bag was tagged with a handwritten note from a Williams Park neighbor offering teachers thanks and good wishes for the upcoming school year. Hayli McQuade, Nancy Smith and Susan Bentley delivered the bags to Smyrna Elementary where they will be distributed to each classroom teacher, as well as the specialists in art, music, PE and computer lab.

— Susan Bentley

Neighbor tweaks corn hole

Many thanks to Patricia Barfield (Gilbert St.) who took our "not quite finished" corn hole game (given to WPN by Vickery Hardware a couple of years ago) and made it shine. The game now has new, easier to use supports underneath and several coats of Williams Park green paint. Neighbors enjoyed playing the game at the WPN/Bryan block party last week. Way to go Tricia.

— Susan Bentley

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WELCOME

to these new members:

— on anderson —
Kevin Bray
Monique Packer

— on mimosa circle —
Daniker Floyd

— on nelson lane —
Ray & Amanda Vogel

— on roswell street —
Sam & Sandy Hamby

— on telfair drive —
Ashley Darnell
Nick Goldberg

— on whitfield circle —
Stephanie Wilcox

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.

MILESTONES

births

Congratulations to
Amy and ??????? Kuhn
on the birth of their
second child. Emerson
Rose (Emie) was born
May 7, 2015 weighing
6 lbs. 13 oz., measuring
and 18 1/2 inches.



News in and around WP *continued*

Smyrna Residents Form Arts Council

This past March a group of Smyrna residents began meeting to form an independent organization to support the arts in our community. Under the direction of Acting Chair Bill Marchione, a Williams Park neighbor, support has grown from interested and curious individuals to a group of imaginative and passionate volunteers. Ideas for events and activities began immediately, and the volunteers involved have already begun several initiatives to explore, inventory, attract, and research all the possibilities for making Smyrna a destination for artistic and cultural activities. Among the committees already formed are music, visual arts, art in public spaces, and architecture.

As ideas for arts and cultural activities were developing, some volunteers turned their attention to creating the foundation for operating a non-profit. By April, the group had chosen the name Smyrna Arts and Cultural Council (SACC). By June the mission statement and a logo had been approved, and in July the group adopted a set of by-laws and a membership application. August saw the culmination of SACC's new board of directors elected at the first annual meeting of members. The board includes Williams Park neighbors Bill Marchione, vice president; Shaun Martin, secretary; Casey Clavin, a director; and Nancy McGee, meeting facilitator.

By the end of the annual meeting on August 12, SACC boasted 93 founding members who had paid their annual dues. From the beginning, WP neighbors Bill and Mary Ann Marchione, Louisa Cohn, Nancy McGee, Casey Clavin, Vic Koch, and Phil West participated in meetings, chaired committees and produced the initial results for

this fledgling organization. Since the membership drive began in earnest, other neighbors have joined (as of August 15): Wade and Sonya Ingle, Len and Elizabeth Freedman, Leanne Fey and Lem Ward.

The establishment of SACC and its mission "to cultivate and promote the arts and cultural activities for the enjoyment and enrichment of our diverse community" springs from Smyrna's visioning project conducted in 2014. Last November, when implementation plans from the City's Vision initiative were published, a key "quality of place" recommendation was that opportunities for experiencing arts and culture should be elevated and prioritized. Many participants in the visioning process mentioned the significance of art and culture in making Smyrna a destination, not just for visitors who love art, but also for people to make a home and plan to stay.

SACC has reached an important milestone with the election of its first board and the growing membership. Join today to become a part of this vibrant organization. Annual dues are \$20 for an individual or \$30 for a household.

The SACC website www.smyrnaacc.weebly.com gives more information about the organization and the arts events happening in the area. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram.

— Nancy McGee

Smyrna Elementary News Update

Over the past five years, many schools have implemented S.T.E.M. or S.T.E.A.M. programs within their curricula. This stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (the A is for Arts). Not only did Smyrna Elementary implement Dual Immersion this fall, we now have a S.T.E.M. program for 2nd through 5th grades as well.

So why is S.T.E.M. important for our children? According to **U.S. News & World Report**, "increasingly, business leaders, educators, industry experts, and others are rallying around the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (S.T.E.M.) in education. This

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News around WP *continued*

is a key issue for K-12 education and it's a requirement to create the kind of workforce our country needs. The Obama administration has clearly focused on this as a major education initiative and a business imperative. If the United States is to maintain its economic power, then we will need a STEM-educated workforce that can meet the demands of business in an increasingly complex and technology-driven economy"

The goal of S.T.E.M. is to provide students with problem solving opportunities while covering math and science standards, with an added engineering/technology twist. S.T.E.M. encourages students to think outside the box with problem-based and project-based learning. Smyrna's S.T.E.M. teacher Ms. Katie Sandlin says this program really allows children to be inventors in the classroom. They learn by creating—not by being told how to do something, but by being given parameters to follow. Children learn to investigate, plan, design, and evaluate. If, during evaluation, their invention doesn't work as planned, they learn to correct by re-designing.

Ms. Sandlin gives the following example of a S.T.E.M. project for researching a planet. The students build a 3-D planet design using specific materials which were provided. The design has certain diameter specifications (this is the science, math and engineering piece). Once the planets are built, the students take pictures of their planets and used an app called "chat-terpix" to make the planet talk (technology piece). They display their planets in an art gallery as well as show other students and teachers in the school through the use of school iPads.

Second graders will attend S.T.E.M. special rotation every eight days, third graders will attend every 7 days, fourth and fifth graders will attend once a week. ("Specials" also include art, music, physical education, computers and media center.)

How can Williams Park Neighbors support the S.T.E.M. program? Ms. Sandlin needs your trash! Please donate items from the list below to the S.T.E.M.-specific covered recycle bin located at the back of the school near the picnic tables (accessed from the parking lot closest to Campbell High School football field). Look for the sign designating the bin as S.T.E.M. recyclables. (The gates are locked on weekends, so please come during the week.)

— Hayli McQuade

Requested items:

- Cereal boxes (flattened)
- Tissue boxes
- Shoe boxes
- Paper towel tubes
- Paper grocery bags
- Old newspapers
- Toilet paper tubes
- Cardboard pizza boxes
- Milk jugs (washed out)
- Plastic lids from bottles

Thank you!

Coast to coast — by Keith Bentley

Last summer my daughter Hope and my brother-in law Carl got the idea that it would be fun to walk across England. It turns out that about 10,000 people a year walk from the Irish Sea to the North Sea. After much research and planning, the three of us embarked, along with Carl's friends John and his son Mac,



on a great adventure to northern England on July 5. (Didn't want to start on July 4 in case any of the Brits held a grudge.)

Wikipedia: "The Coast to Coast Walk is a 192-mile unofficial and mostly unsignposted long-distance footpath in Northern England. Devised by Alfred Wainwright, it passes through three contrasting national parks: the Lake District National Park, the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and the North York Moors National Park". Wainwright... published a book describing it in 1973.

Two weeks walking through English national parks... how lovely. At least that's how I initially thought about it. This wasn't back packing. A shuttle service (aptly named Sherpa) ferried our suitcases from town to town and we only needed to carry day packs of rain gear, lunch, granola bars and water. Hey this is literally a walk in the park! Little did I know how challenging the trip would be.



This sign on the Irish Sea depicts elevation changes along the route.

We started the actual walk on July 7 from St. Bees, one of about 20 little villages we'd pass through with names like Ingleby Cross, Osmotherly, Kirkby Stephen, Shap and, my favorite, Danby Wiske. These towns are really small. I think the five of us increased the population of Danby Wiske by 20% when we tromped into town.

The scenery was spectacular, with each of the three national parks having a distinct character. The Lake District, first on our itinerary, was very mountainous. We climbed "fells" with elevation changes of 2000 feet or more. The climbs up were breathtaking in more ways than one. The descents were extremely steep and very tough on knees, ankles and toes (my feet won't ever be the same). We climbed Dent Hill, Loft Beck, Greenup Edge, Grisedale Tarn and Kidsty Pike over the first five days. We also got lost at one point and climbed the wrong mountain, Rest Dodd. We had to go back down and then climb Kidsty Pike. It was 4 pm and we still had 11 miles to walk to our destination. That was a challenging day!

After the Lake District, I was pretty much limping for the rest of the trip. And we were only 65 miles into the journey. The remainder wasn't so mountainous but we never went anywhere

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Coast to coast *continued*

where we didn't have to walk up a hill and they have a lot of rocks in England that can roll an ankle, cause a slip, or stub a toe. So each day was a challenge and required some fortitude just to get up every morning and do it again.

Locals we met were all friendly and full of good humor. One restaurant/pub advertised that their meat was from their own farm. I asked the bartender if that were true and she replied, "Yes indeed. Tell us what you want and we can tell you what time we killed it." The food was interesting, and much better than I expected. Since we dined mostly in pubs, I expected pub food. And, while we could find fish and chips (with mushy peas) almost everywhere we went, there were also interesting options of various seafood, Cumbrian sausage, black pudding or chicken dishes. We managed to have tea and crumpets at one café. Every place we stayed offered the full English breakfast. We ate heartily. A number of these meals were as good as you would get at some of the better restaurants in Atlanta—surprising given the size of the towns. Oddly, there wasn't much lamb or mutton on offer even though there are almost as many sheep in northern England as there are rocks. Evidently the wool is more valuable than the meat.

We also met many fellow walkers at the pubs and on the trail and, periodically, found ourselves walking along with another group for awhile. Repeated run-ins with a group of four Australians became quite humorous. We stopped to visit the Norman church in a small town. As we went in, out came the Aussies. Unsure of our route at one point, running into the Aussies gave us momentary comfort until, an hour later, we discovered they also had navigating issues and now we were all lost. Once, believing they were ahead of us on the trail, we stopped for a break and saw them coming up from behind. Another time they popped up surprisingly ahead of us when we had left the hotel 30 minutes ahead of them.

The middle part of the trip was through the Swaledale Valley with the River Swale surrounded by beautiful rolling hills and farmland. We stopped at a place called Ravenseat which turned out to be my favorite spot on the entire trip. As best I could tell, this wasn't a village or town but simply a farm worked by a young couple raising eight children ranging in age from three weeks to 16 years old. The mother of the brood serves tea and scones to passers-by. The day we arrived was just idyllic—a warm sunny afternoon with a light breeze. Picnic tables overlooked a beautiful rocky creek spanned by a stone bridge, a horse grazed near by, a peacock wandered the yard and a couple of small dogs looked for an ear scratch or a treat. The four-year-old girl and two year-old-boy (the older kids were in school) chatted us up, although I couldn't understand a whole lot of what they said. It was so peaceful and relaxing that I just



wanted to linger. But, with more miles to cover, we finished our tea and off we went.

We crossed through many fields and pastures fenced by stone walls which we crossed by climbing over styles or going through "kissing gates." We also made close acquaintance with many sheep and an occasional cow. One morning we awoke to a sheep drive through the middle of town, right outside our window. It was thrilling to watch the border collies driving the sheep and keeping them all together. We also happened upon farm workers engaged in shearing who also used a dog to keep the flock in order while they rapidly generated a truck load of wool.

Our last section was through the North York Moors which is mostly flat, high prairie covered with purple heather. Fans of **Wuthering Heights** can imagine Heathcliff and Catherine carrying on though we didn't see anyone who looked like they belonged in a Bronte novel.

Our accommodations included pubs, guest houses, hotels and B&Bs. Virtually every building in northern England is built from stone (did I mention they have a lot of rocks), many dating back to the 13th century. Some churches have elements dating back to the 11th century, the days of William the Conqueror. The English are very economical with space and our rooms were extremely small. The baths had showers I could barely fit into—but I enjoyed each and every one of them, and even managed a couple of tub baths.

At long last, after 17 days (15 walking days), we reached the end of our trip at Robin Hood's Bay. Per tradition, we dipped our boots into the North Sea, dropping in the pebbles we had picked up from the Irish Sea at the walk's beginning. We all felt a great sense of accomplishment—



not to mention relief that we wouldn't have to put those damn hiking boots on tomorrow. We felt a little melancholy too, as our band of five started to go our separate ways, that our wonderful adventure was over. It was one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences that I would highly recommend to anyone with a sense of adventure.

Local War Hero: Max Parnell — by Bill Marchione

Some months ago I was asked by Smyrna Mayor Max Bacon to organize a cache of papers and correspondence (close to 600 items) documenting the life and career of the mayor's godfather and namesake, Max Parnell, a WWII fighter pilot and Japanese prisoner-of-war. Not only does this collection document the career of a notable local war hero, it also offers valuable insights into the daily life of Smyrna in the period 1922 to 1947. These papers will eventually be deposited on a permanent basis in the Smyrna Public Library's historical archive.

In sorting through and organizing this massive collection of letters and memorabilia, I was struck by the fact Parnell grew up here in Williams Park, on Highland Avenue, and it occurred to me that an account of his early life and military career might be of interest to my neighbors. The house in which Max Parnell grew up no longer stands. It was the sixth house on the west side of Highland Avenue, just above the Roswell Street intersection. A modern two-story dwelling now occupies the site.

Max, his parents, Chesney and Sarah Lewis Parnell, and a younger sister, Madge, lived here throughout Max's youth. This was the home of his maternal grandparents, the Lewises. While small by modern standards, it was apparently big enough to accommodate an extended family. Max's father operated a laundry delivery service. His maternal grandfather, Marcus Dudley Lewis, the family patriarch, was a dairy farmer. The Lewis dairy occupied acreage in and around the present Russell Elementary School, near South Hurt Road.

In the late Pete Wood's richly detailed book, *The Paper Boy*, a description of the Lewis family notes that, in addition to operating a dairy farm, the family cultivated a large garden behind the home of Max's uncle, Sam Lewis, who lived in the eighth house on Highland Avenue. Back then, of course, the neighborhood was much more rural than it is today. Highland Avenue, in common with almost all of Smyrna's streets of that period, was an unlit dirt road.

Max Parnell was born on April 28, 1922 in the Lewis house. He and his family belonged to Smyrna's First Baptist Church. The oldest document in the Parnell collection is, in fact, a "Cradle Roll Certificate" issued to the infant by that church.

As a boy Max was apparently quite active at the First Baptist Church, as evidenced by the following letter of appreciation he received at age ten from G.C. Green, Superintendent of the First Baptist Sunday School:

I am laying aside business for a few minutes to write you this brief letter of appreciation. You were a wonderful help to me while



In aviator gear circa 1944

I was Superintendent of the Sunday School and I want to thank you sincerely. You always responded willingly and cheerfully when I called on you and you would do things just like I wanted them done. You were a real joy to my heart. You were a fine boy and if you will just keep right on some of these days you will be a great man. May God ever bless and keep you.

Max attended the Smyrna School on King Street, where he occasionally appeared in musical productions, performing on a ukulele, an instrument that now forms part of the Parnell Collection. At age 14, however, he transferred to the more academically demanding Marietta High School where he proved

himself adept both as student and athlete — a runner, basketball, and football player. The Parnell collection contains a number of medals and merit badges that attest to his athletic skills. His closest friend at this stage and later in life was Arthur Bacon, father of Mayor Max Bacon, who was Marietta High School's star athlete and the captain of its football team.

Graduating from Marietta High in 1939, Max Parnell was voted the handsomest boy in his graduating class. Surprisingly, he did not enter college at this point, though he was actively recruited by the Athletic Coach at Atlanta's Oglethorpe University. His interests clearly lay in other directions.

Max, who had shown an interest in aviation from a young age, received his first flight instruction at Fort Barrancas in Pensacola, Florida, before enlisting. Later, having just turned 18, Max joined up at Marietta Air Field on November 25, 1940, in company with his pal Arthur Bacon, a full year before the U.S. entered the war.

Max's romantic interests from age 15 focused on Virginia Duckett, a pretty and shapely blonde from Vinings, who was almost three years his senior. He frequently walked the three miles to visit "Jenny" at her home in what is now downtown Vinings. The Parnell papers contain no less than 70 letters that the young couple exchanged during their years of courtship.

Max and Virginia were finally married in a ceremony at Smyrna's First Baptist Church on December 21, 1941, just



At age 15, in 1937

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Local War Hero: Max Parnell — by Bill Marchione

two weeks after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. He was 19; she was 22. This marriage would last 52 years, until Max's death in 2001.

Over the next two years the young couple were often separated as Max underwent additional training at various state-side air fields. During these periods of separation Jenny worked at the massive Bell Bomber plant in Marietta. For a time she served as secretary to Director Jimmy Carmichael's Administrative Assistant.

The couple's longest period of state-side wartime co-habitation was from mid-1943 to September 1944 when Max was stationed at Hillsboro Air Field near Tampa, Florida, serving as a flight instructor. Here they formed a number of close relationships with other airmen and their wives, as reflected in the collection's large number of letters they later exchanged.

On September 12, 1944, Max, still only 20 years of age, was thrust into the thick of the war when the Air Training Command (ATC) transported him and his close friend Carlton Covey to China (via North Africa, the Middle East, and India — passing over the so-called "Hump" of the Himalayas) where they joined the legendary 14th Air Force, formerly known "The Flying Tigers," under General Claire Chennault. Max, eager to see action, had requested assignment to Chennault's command.

The young man from Smyrna, Georgia was soon in the thick of it, as reflected in the following letter written to Jenny on November 24, 1944:

Well, darling, I'll tell you this in case you might hear it through some other source — I had my first real aerial fight the other day and what a time we had. We were slightly outnumbered — 3 to 1 — which I didn't know when the fireworks started and because of that, it caused me a little surprise a short time afterwards. Just as I shot hell out of my first zero all hell broke loose on me. But don't get excited. I got back to the field without a scratch on me. Only had 42 holes in my airplane and very little controls left. What fun! Would write more details but censorship prevents. So don't worry. I've had my close call and luck is with me. "Ding How" (thumbs up) for China. Ha! (underlining in the original)

News of these raids, primarily directed against Japanese shipping in Hong Kong Harbor, soon found their way into the Atlanta papers. One such article noted that the young man from Smyrna had helped "destroy three enemy planes



Max and Virginia Parnell alongside the Lewis House

on the ground and two more were shot down from the air... The pilots, members of the so-called "Black Lightning" squadron, have hit the jackpot on raids to Hong Kong Harbor. On earlier raids they were credited with sinking a 500-foot transport and bombing five freighters, as well as destroying a number of enemy planes."

Max's participation in these punishing raids ended abruptly on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1944, when his plane was shot down over Hong Kong Harbor. Parnell spent the last eight months of the war as a prisoner at the notorious Okuna Prison Camp on the Japanese mainland. While his family had no idea whether he was alive or dead, Max suffered treatment so severe and traumatizing that for years he refused to discuss his experiences.

Fortunately for the historical record, Max was eventually persuaded to write an account under the suggestive title "The Hell of Okuna" which appeared

in a 50th anniversary history of Chennault's Flying Tigers, published in 1996. In this article, Max wrote of being fished out of Hong Kong Harbor then tortured in every conceivable manner as his captors tried in vain to pry useful information out of him. Whipped with wet ropes and beaten unconscious time after time with clubs and bamboo sticks, he carried scars on his body for the rest of his life.

Not only beaten, he was also starved, given nothing to eat or drink for days, then only a tiny bowl of rice or barley. After a week, he was sent on a three week voyage to Japan — kept blind folded and handcuffed for the entire trip. Then came a train ride in an open baggage car that left him with frostbitten feet. Parnell wore the same pants and shirt for the entire eight months of his captivity.

By the time he was liberated in August 1945, just after the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Parnell weighed less than 90 pounds and was suffering from beriberi and other diseases. At the time of his capture, his weight had been 170 pounds.

For a fuller account of the life and career of this local war hero, you are cordially invited to attend the October 4, 2015 First Sunday Lecture at the Smyrna Public Library at 3 p.m. that will be accompanied by an exhibit of Parnell Collection memorabilia.

1904

Pace House

Historic homes within the Williams Park neighborhood

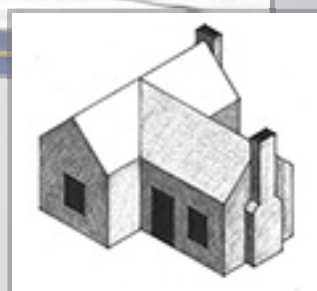
The greatest concentration of surviving older buildings in Smyrna lies within Williams Park. Nineteen houses still stand that were built before the First World War. This is PART NINE in a series of articles covering these houses based on research done in 2012 by WPN members Casey Clavin and Vic Koch.

1308 Roswell Street FOLK VICTORIAN GABLE AND WING COTTAGE



The 1904 Pace House at 1308 Roswell Street is a Gable and Wing Cottage like the (circa 1884) Whitfield-Hood House covered earlier in this series. This house, however, is much more elaborate due to it's Folk Victorian decoration. A good example of its style, the house still exhibits the applied decoration, largely in tact, for which the style is known.

The house retains two matched wood and glass front doors, as well as the transom and sidelights around the main entrance. Its wraparound front porch railing is composed of elaborately jigsawed square spindles captured top and



bottom by u-shaped sections. The porch roof is supported by lathe-turned posts which are flanked by the same jigsawed brackets we saw



1904

Pace House

on the 1901 Reed House earlier in this series. The front gable, filled with fish-scale shingles, carries an attic vent cleverly fabricated from four of the same brackets. Below this gable there's a bay featuring a cottage style window with a very decorative leaded glass upper portion. Other original windows are vertical two over two wood double hung type. An early rear wing addition has six over six wood double hung windows.

There are three chimneys visible. The foundation is composed of brick piers infilled with concrete block of various types—on the front it's the same ashlar style decorative block as used on the 1902 Vinson House featured last issue. Though an over-cladding of hard composite tiles obscures the original siding, corner boards, wide eave and rake trim, porch cornice and ceiling are all still visible.

There was a time when Smyrna's Land Use Plan designated parts of this neighborhood as commercial (here near the railroad) and future commercial (farther along Roswell Street). Most of the surviving old houses which had such designations have reverted to residential by virtue of owner requests. The Pace House is the exception, it's still zoned "Office and Institution". Despite that, the house is maintained in a manner which respects its architectural integrity as well as its residential setting. Driving past, one would believe it to be a residence.

This is one of several structures in the vicinity evaluated in 2002 by Historic Preservationist Annette Carol working on a Georgia Department of Transportation project. In her report she says, "According to field assessment and deed research the Pace House appears to have been constructed in 1904."



1904

Pace House



We've adopted both her build date and first owner's name for the house.

Our own deed research shows W.T. Pace, who was later Mayor of Smyrna in 1912, selling this parcel, presumably with the house on it to T.W. Gray for \$1,800 in 1904.

In 1907 B.T. Frey bought the house. Since he was buying a great deal of real estate at the time, it's hard to distinguish investment purchases from personal. Because he owned it for eight years, though, he is believed to have resided here.

After Frey, A. Clarence and Annie E. Manning lived here briefly before selling to the Pat Edwards family in 1918. He was in the produce delivering business and served as Mayor of Smyrna from 1927 to 1930. They had two children, son Pat and daughter Evelyn who later married Coach James Pressley. Interviewed in



2012 at 95 years of age, she has fond recollections of her childhood years here. "We were right in the middle of town, we had people over all the time and we really enjoyed living there." While the Edwards lived here for many years, the deed changed hands repeatedly.

In 1940 J.E. Blankenship bought the house from Chatham Savings and Loan which had held ownership since 1934 and continued to hold a loan. In 1943 Jas. Wooton bought it, assuming the Chatham loan. Then, 37 days later, in a sale forced due to unpaid taxes, Annie and William Shipp became the happy new owners, assuming the \$2,437 balance of the loan. William, who worked at the State Capital in Atlanta testing milk, commuted by street car which stopped right near by on Atlanta Street. They had two daughters. While Ovaline seems to have remained single, Jewell married Dick Williams and they stayed in the house. Jewell worked at Atherton, later Atkins Drug Store, owned by

1904

Pace House

Chain of ownership for parcel 17056000240

year	purchaser	date	book/page
	W T Pace		
1904	T W Gray	1-1-04	GG/630
1907	B T Frey	8-15-07	KK/175
1915	A C & A E Manning	7-6-15	TT/423
1918	Pat M Edwards	12-10-18	65/186
1922 - 1934	Chatham S&L, C E Edwards, A C Manning, C E Edwards, P M Edwards, Chatham		
1940	J E Blankenship	9-25-40	138/537
1943	Jas. Y Wooton	11-13-43	116/129
1943	W E Ship & A T Shipp	12-20-43	167/534
	Jewell Ship Williams		
1992	R Carter & B Little	8-4-92	6794/214
1993	Amos & Amy Patton	4-9-93	7357/220
1996	R Dooley & A Hope	12-3-96	10028/351



state legislator Bill Atkins. Dick worked for Atlantic Steel then doing business on the 138 acre parcel on 14th Street at I-75 which was later redeveloped around 2005 as Atlantic Station

In 1992 the house passed to Jewell's nieces, Betty Little and Rosemary Carter. They self-financed a sale the following year to Amos and Amy Patton which did not work out.

In 1996 Robert L. Dooley bought it. While it had been commercially zoned for some years, Robert was the first to utilize that fact. He began renovating it in a manner suitable for his engineering company's office, but died before the project's completion. The house is now owned by his widow Anita Hope.



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 up coming months, see the calendar on pages 2 and 3. To learn more, call Leanne at 770-863-9580. Here are our latest books.

The Ocean at the End of the Lane

by Neil Gaiman ★★★★★

A modern fairy tale that the reader on a journey with a middle aged man who returns to his childhood hometown in rural England for a funeral. After the funeral he drives by his boyhood home and begins to remember and explore a fantastic story from his childhood that draws him back into a magical realm.

Under The Wide and Starry Sky

by Nancy Horan ★★★★★

The story of the tempestuous love affair and eventual marriage of Robert Louis Stevenson and Fanny Osbourne. She was a rich married American fleeing to Europe to escape an unfaithful husband, and he was a sickly aspiring Scottish writer when they met and fell in love in France.

Flirting With French

by William Alexander ★★★★★

A lifelong Francophile who eventually wants to retire in France, William Alexander sets out to conquer French. The story amusingly recounts his struggle to get his middle aged brain to accept a new language.

Lost Lake

by Sarah Addison Allen ★★★★★

A year after her husband's death, Kate flees her controlling mother-in-law and takes her daughter to Lost Lake, her great aunt's dilapidated summer resort in South Georgia. Magical things begin to happen.

Big Little Lies

by Liane Moriarty ★★★★★

Someone has died at an elementary school event in an Australian suburb. The novel takes us back to the beginning of the school year to explore all the relationships that led up to the fateful event.

The Girl on the Train

by Paula Hawkins ★★★★★

A thriller about a lonely divorcee who rides the train everyday and watches makes up stories about the people in the houses she passes. When one of the women she has watched goes missing she gets involved in the investigation.

Our rating system:

- ★ No one liked the book
- ★★ We thought it was ok
- ★★★ It was good
- ★★★★ It was excellent
- ★★★★★ Fabulous -- don't miss it.



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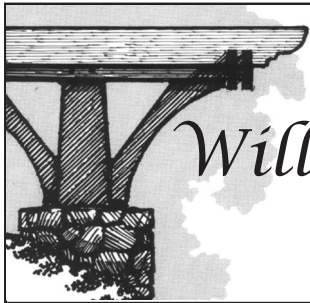
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