

on the web at www.williamsparkneighbors.org

whichever you celebrate

Deadlines for the next two issues are February 15 for the March issue and May 15 for the June 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 McElveen@msn.com

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.

## Lighting Williams Park's Pergola... by Susan Bentley



This year's Lighting of the Pergola took place on December 2nd with an estimated 100 neighbors attending. Shortly after dark descended, the group commenced a rousing countdown, the switch was thrown, the lights came on, and a chorus of "oohs" and "aahs" rang out.

While all kinds of neighbors enjoy this event — fun for kids of all ages — it's really fun for kids who actually are children. They respond with delight and amazement when the lights come on. And one precious little boy was observed having an earnest conversation with Santa Claus while patting Rudolph's head.

Precautions were arranged in light of our recent drought different fire pit locations, water buckets, extra fire extinguishers — but turned out less critical than expected when, thankfully for all of Smyrna, it rained a couple of days before the party. The weather was just cold enough for attendees to enjoy a cup of cocoa or cider and the warmth from the fire pits while they toasted franks for hot dogs and marshmallows

for s'mores. Other munchables included holiday cookies in abundance, popcorn, and little cheese sandwiches for the tots.

What does it take to make this party happen? Keith and Susan Bentley, Lee Friedman and Jonathan Stroble decorated the pergola and the maple

tree and set up Santa Claus, Rudolph and Frosty. Nancy Smith made new bows for the pergola wreaths. Ryan Garrett cleaned up the pergola area and put out new pine straw. Gavin Carpenter produced a great big pile of leaves which was a huge hit with the children! Leanne Fey and Lem Ward and Laura Ellen and Tom Christian delivered their fire pits to the park. Cara and Patrick Thurman, Linda Mahanes and Michelle and Michael Penny provided wood for the fires. Robert Harrison loaned us fire extinguishers (just in case). Becky Freedman, Liz Davis and Susan Bentley planned, organ-



KEITH BENTLEY

# 2016 CALENDAR

WPN HAPPY HOUR Jan 20, 7 pm Bonnie & Chuck Bagdy 2862 Bernard Lane 770-329-0469 bonnie.barker@yahoo.com

WPN ADOPT-A-MILE Sat., Jan 21, 9 am Williams Park pergola

WPN BOOK CLUB Sun, Jan. 29, 3pm Mary Helen Ellet 1021 Windy Oaks Ct My Life on the Road by Gloria Steinem

WPN HAPPY HOUR Feb 17 - TBA

WPN GENERAL **ASSEMBLY** February 23, 7pm

WPN BOOK CLUB Sun, February 26, 3pm Hhost:TBA Book: TBA

WPN HAPPY HOUR March 17, 7 pm Robert Harrison 2889 Alexander St 770-616-2728 robert@lairdmckee.com

WPN BOOK CLUB Sun, March 26, 3pm Liz Davis at her mountain home Book: TBA

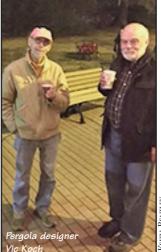
WPN EGG HUNT Saturday, April 15

WPN HAPPY HOUR April 21, 7 pm Marcia Gipson 2622 Devin Court 404-229-6906 marcia\_gipson@att.net

### Lighting Williams Park's Pergola... cont.

ized and purchased items for the event. Help during and after the event was given by Leanne Fey, Cara Thurman and Judi Kessler and Keith Bentley. Hopefully I haven't left anyone out. Thanks to them and to all our neighbors — especially the children — who came to enjoy the fun and make the effort worthwhile. Happy Holidays — whichever of them you celebrate — to all!

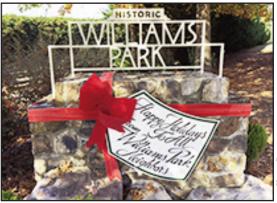
















#### WELCOME

- on alexander Andrea Burns
- on anderson Ed & Linda Heck
- on bernard lane Chuck & Bonnie Bagdy
- on bernard way Wesley & Janelle Heysek Arisika Hammond
- on devin Justin & Jennifer Smith Alex & Stephanie Mueller
- on gilbert Collin & Meredith Bromley
- on hawthorne Gregg & Caroline Willett Chad Renegar & Rachel Holm
  - on ivy spring Ryan & Antoinette Pulver Kim Maloy
- on marston Alan & Kandie Henry Drew & Samantha Downey
  - on mimosa Joe & Lisa Hurd
  - on spring Dillard & Janet Westmoreland
- on telfair Jonathan Levy & Jingru Sui
- on walker street Jason & Rachel Lee David Luke & Darian Hopkins
- on windy hill place— Tim & Stacy Trautz
- on whitfield st Christopher Jacob

## Once upon a time,

in a town not very far away, there was a pleasant little neighborhood with picket fences, cherubic children, and a possible coyote problem. Suddenly, under the towering pines of the local park, a dragon appeared.

As the townsfolk cautiously investigated, it became apparent to some that this was a fire-breathing dragon. And that provided the first clue that neighborhood pyrotechnician, Robert Harrison, just may be ture who all pehind this.

Though Sangbu the Dragon is not one of Robert's creations (combustion sculptures many of us are familiar with), but that's actually where this story starts. Invited to display one of his own pieces in a Macon park, Robert was so pleased with the concept and reception that he wanted to bring a similar "art in the park" program to Smyrna.

Presenting his idea to Smyrna's City Council, Robert learned they were on board but that there was no budget for such an installation. Undeterred, he began collecting private donations which were graciously matched by the Cumberland Home Depot, thanks that store's manager. These efforts were enough to lease Sangbu the Prayer Dragon for a six month period. After a few more coordination calls with

the City, Sangbu arrived at her new home where she'll stay through April.

Sangbu was created by artist Ryan Mathern for the 2009 Burning Man Festival in Nevada. Leaving there, she traveled to Tennessee, North Carolina and several locations around Georgia — like all great dragons, she likes to survey her lands.

Those who have studied her have noticed the six cylinders on her back and correctly guessed that this dragon can be ignited, but many are still curious about the unique designs on them. Ryan explains that in Tibetan Buddhism

by Alicia Taylor

the dragon represents the "sound of compassion awakening us from delusion." Fire Prayer Wheels, bringing purification of negative karma, can facilitate realization of the path to enlightenment. When Sangbu is lit, participants may write prayers, wishes and

Artist Ryan Mathern is an

Atlanta artist working in

large-scale metal sculp-

ture who also runs a suc-

cessful cabinet and furni-

ture business for com-

mercial and residential

clients. Besides this sculp-

ture in Durham Park,

Ryan's work is currently

also installed along

the Atlanta Beltline.

www.RyanMathern.com

goals for their own evolution on small pieces of wood which are placed in the dragon. Heat from the burning wood turns Sangbu's wheels, releasing the written prayers to all those touched by the dragon's light and warmth and the power of wind.

Though the current drought has prevented Sangbu's lighting thus far, a meet-the-artist celebration planned for the Spring should see Sangbu set ablaze (drought conditions permitting), accompanied by several of Robert's creations.

Robert is now working with the Smyrna Arts and Cultural Council to expand placement of sculptures, but community involvement is needed, too. If you'd like to see more sculptures at Durham Park and other such spaces around Smyrna, please let SACC know and keep your eyes open for fundraising opportunities, which will be posted to the WPN page.



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> Happy Hour Jill Huitron 404-376-5114

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Traffic Calmina Stephen McQuade 404-993-7803

At Large Havli McQuade 404-502-1116 and Jonathan Stroble 678-414-8316

#### News in and around Williams Park

Thanks to the following hosts of our recent Williams Park happy hours. Repeat hosts Lem Ward and Leanne **Fey (1)** welcomed us into their circa 1894-built Spring Street home in October. Real "hands-on" types, Lem and Leanne enjoy conceiving and executing home projects which they've been doing almost continually since they bought the place in 1998. So it's always fun to see the current iteration of their intriguing home and garden.

In November we visited with first-time happy hour Patti and Ron hosts Rowland (2) in their Roswell Street home. The fire pit on their back deck has a group of comfortable chairs around it. This was a much gathering enjoved throughout the evening as neighbors circulated in and out of the house.

Williams Park Neighbors gather on the third Friday of each month to share food, drink, and stimulating conversation. If you'd like to host,

contact Jill Huitron at 404-376-5114.

Williams Park Neighbors had a great turn-out for its October Adopt-a-Mile clean-up. As one of 37 groups participating in Keep Smyrna Beautiful's 22-year-old litter pick-up program, we not only reduce the presence of actual litter in our environment,

but also reduce the impetus for others to litter in the future (people are more likely to litter where litter already exists).

Many thanks go to Rob Allen, Brooke Batch, Jose Carrillo, Daniker Floyd, Mark Groves, Mary Groves, Madge Jackson, Marin Katicic, Eric Neas, Lauryn Neas, Phil Qualter, Seamus Shaw, Eric Walberg, Alicia Wood, and Clint Wood. We would also





like to thank Atkins Park, The Grateful Bread, and Neighbors Seed & Feed for providing gift certificates for our drawing. Our next clean-up will be Saturday, January 21st.

— Lee Friedman WPN Adopt-a-Mile Guy

Believe it or not, Williams Park's book club celebrated its 10th anniversary at its November meeting this year. For our "good deed" this year, we all brought gifts for homeless children in Cobb County Schools. We've done this for about five years, donating to many different organizations, always with an emphasis on children.

Looking at the long list of books we've read (110 books), brings back memories of good company, good food, and great discussions. The variety of subjects broadened our knowledge

of different points of view and enlarged our choices of types of books to read.

Please come and join us on the last Sunday of each month (except December), from 3 to 5. To find out more information call Leanne Fey at 770-863-9580 or email her at leannefey@hotmail.com.

> Louisa Cohn WPN book club charter member



COURTESY OF DANIKER FLOYE



#### RECIPE

Autumn Surprise Chili

4 tbls vegetable oil 4 pounds beef chuck, coarsely ground (chili grind) 3 large yellow onions, chopped 3 red jalapeno chilies, chopped 8 cloves garlic, minced 2 tbls ground cumin 4 tsp ground oregano 2 tsp ground coriander 1 tsp ground cinnamon 1/2 cup chili powder 3 tbls ground Guaillio chili 1 tbls chili de Arbol 2 cans beer (dark Mexican) 2 cups beef stock 1 (28 oz) can crushed tomatoes 3 (15-oz) cans hot chili beans

In a large cast iron frying pan over medium-high heat, warm 1 tbls vegetable oil. Add meat and brown, stirring occasionally, until no pinkness remains, 5-7 minutes. Transfer to a colander over a bowl to drain off the fat.

2 tsp salt

In a 6-quart pot over medium heat, warm remaining oil. Add onions and saute, stirring occasionally, until softened, 5 - 8 minutes. Add jalapenos, saute 1 minute longer. Add garlic, cumin, oregano, coriander, cinnamon and chili powders; stir to combine. Cook 1 minute longer.

Add reserved beef, beer, stock and tomatoes with juices, bring to a simmer. Reduce heat, cover partially and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 1 hour.

Stir in beans and continue simmering, uncovered, until slightly thickened, about 30 minutes. Add salt and stir to blend. Taste and make adjustments.

Refrigerate overnight. Remove any fat from the surface. Reheat. Check seasoning. Serve.

Yield: 12 servings

 $^{**}$  You'll have to ask the butcher to grind this for you.

#### WP Chili Cooking Contest by Leon McElveen

On Saturday, October 22nd, fall arrived just long enough to provide an ideal day for the annual Williams Park Chili Cooking Contest. Approximately 120 neighbors and their guests gathered at "Davis Park" for the competition. A bumper crop of entries, complemented by an array of side dishes, salads and desserts, competed for one of the coveted titles.

BECKY FREEDMAN PHOTOS











This year's judges (pictured left to right, in a group) were J.D. (James) Smith from Neighbors Feed & Seed (right here in WP) and, from Locanda Firenze (in Market Village), Brook Yancosky and her grandfather, Joe Yancosky. Stepping up to the difficult and sometimes gastronomically perilous job of picking winners, they came through in exemplary fashion.

The grand prize went to Judi Kessler (above) for her "Autumn Surprise." The first runner-up, who will assume Judy's duties if she is unable to represent WPN on the chili circuit, was Bonnie Bagdy for her "Butternut Squash Black Bean Chili." Close behind in third place was "Kitchen Sink Black Bean Chili" authored by Beverly Denney.

Additionally, the judges singled out several entries for special recognition. Those favored for especially creative and unique efforts were: Daniker Floyd's "Senorita El Chili" for best use of Fritos; Liz Davis' "Experimental" for most unique ingredi-

> ent; Chandra Hill's "Hot Whip" for best name"; and Dickie Cook's, "Smokies Gold" for most controlled dangerous ingredient. All winners were awarded medals and adorned with hats, sashes, and other accoutrements commensurate with their accomplishments.

> Thanks to our judges and all who helped with food, setup, takedown and the other tasks required for continued success of this much loved event.



#### 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. To learn more, call Leanne at 770-863-9580.

Here are our latest books.

### The Buddha in the Attic ★★★★ by Jute Otsuka

In the 1920s many Japanese women came to America as mail order brides. The novel weaves together the voices of these women in a first person plural narrative that allows all of their powerful stories to be deeply felt.



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#### Jayber Crow ★★★★

by Wendell Berry

This beautifully written novel explores the life of orphan

Jayber Crow and the town of Port William, Kentucky.

#### Dimestore:

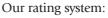
Julie Otsuk

#### A Writer's Life ★★★★

by Lee Smith

The well known writer, Lee Smith, writes about Appalachia and was born in the coal mining town of Grundy, Virginia. Dimestore is the story of her life, a love letter to her Southern roots, an exploration of how mental illness ravages families, and a

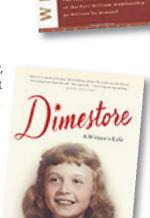
window into the development of a writer.



★ No one liked it

★★ It was ok

★★★ It was good



Jayber Crow

★★★★ It was excellent ★★★★★ Fabulous

LEE SMITH



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

# T.L. Hamby House

1423 Spring Street QUEEN ANNE COTTAGE



This is the T.L. Hamby House, a Queen Anne Cottage built in 1909 and the only extant mansonry house in Williams Park. While some have said this house was

built earlier, we find irrefutable evidence for 1909 in the *Marietta Journal*. In December of 1908 it reported, "T.L. Hamby is having sand

hauled now... to build a concrete house some time in the future." In April of 1909: "T.L. Hamby's new

residence is rapidly nearing completion..." And in May of 1909: "Mr. T.L. Hamby has moved into his handsome new residence... about the prettiest house in town." One hundred and seven years later, many still agree.

While the newspaper was wrong about this being a con-





# T.L. Hamby House

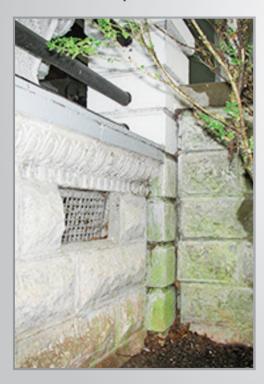
crete house, there is quite a bit of concrete used here. This is a brick house on an ashlar-style concrete block foundation topped by a cast concrete egg-and-dart sill. The porch columns are cast concrete, as are the window sills. Around the front, there are concrete paths and curbs shaped to follow the rounded corners of the porch roof. They join with a concrete front walk which passes between concrete posts at a short concrete wall near the street.

Built when the Queen Anne style was waning, this house is largely Queen Anne with a strong Arts and Crafts influence and some classical elements. As per Queen Anne, the house has a square main mass under a pyramidal main roof with gables projecting on front and sides. It's front porch, however, is unlike that on a

Queen Anne house which is usually asymmetrical and supported by slender posts. This porch, wraping around both sides and being the widest part of the house, lends the facade a strong hori-



zontality more in tune with Arts and Crafts styling. The same is true of its stout two-part cast concrete columns. Classical motifs include the dentils on the cornice and the egg-and-dart capping the foundation. Far from a collision of styles, though, this is a harmonious arrangement of elements —







# T.L. Hamby House

the massing of its volumes paired with its restrained ornamentation make this a very handsome residence.

The exterior is largely unaltered. It retains original windows of two types—cottage style with patterned panes on the front (as per the Terrell and Stanback houses covered earlier in this series) and vertical two-over-two elsewhere. The original doors are in place as are the cast iron porch lights. Two chimneys serve four fireplaces. Inside, the rooms are arranged asymmetrically with no central hallway. The ceilings are 11' 2" high and the floors are heart pine.

Thomas Lee Hamby was a railroad fireman living on this same street with his father-in-law's family, the Loves, prior to building this house. He was 45 when he and his wife Mae, 36, moved in here with their daughters Ruby and Emmaline.

Interestingly, though, T.L. was not officially the owner of the 7.6 acre property on which he built his house. Cobb County records indicate it was T.L.'s brother W.B. Hamby who purchased this parcel from A.G. Dempsey's estate (for \$600) in 1899.

Thomas Lee served on City Council in the 1920s. Daughter Ruby grew up to marry Lloyd Carmichael — their nephew was Jimmy Carmichael, president of Bell Bomber during WW II. Emmaline, after a first marriage to a man named Neilson, remarried to John Straton Collier (who served as a Smyrna City Councilman in 1951-55).

T.L.'s wife Mae died in 1939. The following year he addressed the land ownership problem. He bought the property from his brother's estate (for \$2,000), acquiring a warranty deed in his own name at last. The following day, he filed an affidavit stating it was he who bought the property back in 1899, not his brother, then he executed a warranty deed conveying the property to his daughter Emmaline.

Emmaline lived here with her second husband for most of the 1940s. Her widowed sister Ruby may have also lived here with her daughter for some time. During their residency here, the Colliers added a small apartment upstairs, accessed by an exterior staircase at the rear of the house. A couple named Rumsey rented and lived there.

Also, during that time, Emmaline, a realtor, was instrumental in developing Mimosa Circle. She sold off both sides and the rear of her property, leaving this house on 3/4 of an acre, surrounded on three sides by houses built in the late 1940s.

When Walter Gresh bought the house from the Colliers in 1948, the Rumseys remained as upstairs tennants. They stayed until their second child was born in 1958.

Curtis Dobbs, who grew up within sight of this house, bought it in 1983. He built a staircase inside, integerating the two levels into one residence.

Current owner since 1988, Larry Jones served for several years on Smyrna's Planning and Zoning Board. He and his late wife Jill raised their son Gus here.





#### Chain of ownership for parcel 17056000650

year	purchaser	date	book/page
	A.G. Dempsey estate		
1899	W.B. Hamby	7-4-99	Y/328
1940	T.L. Hamby	7-30-40	138/247
1940	T.L. Hamby (correction)7-31-40		138/239
1940	Emmaline Neilson	7-31-40	139/216
1948	Walter Gresh	7-15-48	199/31
1983	Curtis Dobbs	8-30-83	2879/265
1988	Larry Jones	8-19-88	5049/489
			·



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