

# WILLIAMS PARK

# MEMO

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS

We're on the web at [www.williamsparkneighbors.org](http://www.williamsparkneighbors.org)

PHOTOS BY SUSAN BENTLEY

## MEMO NOTES

WPN membership now stands at 220 families.

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

You don't have to be a member to attend our events. But if you haven't already joined, you should.

For an application go to [www.williamsparkneighbors.org](http://www.williamsparkneighbors.org)

When a new neighbor moves in near you, contact Joan Friedman at [friedman1500@gmail.com](mailto:friedman1500@gmail.com) or 678-239-4987 so WPN can welcome them.

Join us on facebook—Williams Park Neighbors. We have over 200 members reporting coyote sightings, planning golf outings, giving away free stuff, and finding a good quick plumber. Check it out.

### We encourage contributions to the MEMO.

Tell us something about yourself — tell us something about your neighbor — send your contributions to Casey Clavin at [dinblue@earthlink.net](mailto:dinblue@earthlink.net)

Thanks!

## Williams Park events in review

On April 12, the Easter Bunny and helpers hopped onto Liz and Ron Davis's lawn to hide 1,200 treat filled eggs for the children of Williams Park. And the children came...and they came...and they came! Liz wondered if 1,200 eggs would be enough. The children walked and rode in wagons, strollers, baby carriers, and in parents' arms. They carried Easter baskets of all sizes and descriptions from classic baskets to baskets shaped like Thomas the Train. Warren Bennett collected eggs in the basket his dad Matt used when the Easter Bunny came to his house many, many years ago!

After the hunt, children enjoyed refreshments as they began checking out the contents of their baskets. Older children were seen sharing eggs with their younger neighbors. It was a beautiful day of fun with our beautiful Williams Park children.

Many thanks to neighbors who brought refreshments and candy; to Easter Bunny helpers Mike Engel, Gavin Carpenter, Drew Stipe, Dan Pratt and Bob Crifasi; and to stuffing crew members Liz Davis, Sonya Ingle, Debbie Savage, Kacey Modlin, Tricia Barfield, Kelli Wolk, and Susan Bentley.

Neighbors gathered next on May 3, to celebrate two events—Cinco de Mayo, dating back to 1862, and the formation of Williams Park Neighbors, dating back to 2005. Becky Freedman hosted the event.

The savory portion of day's fare centered around the theme of Mexican culture. WPN provided tacos and neighbors brought top-



Emmie Modlin



London Stewart



Ava Luther



Hadley Mangas out in front of Vena Tilley at left and Lottie Hearn at right

# 2014 CALENDAR

wpn book club  
Sun, August 24, 3 pm  
Susan Bentley's house  
2651 Gilbert St.  
**Tell the Wolves I'm Home**  
by Carol Rifka Brunt

wpn Board Meeting  
September 3, 7 pm  
Bentley residence  
2651 Gilbert St.

wpn happy hour  
September 19, 7 pm  
Lee and Joan Friedman  
2814 Wright Street  
678-239-4987

wpn general assembly  
September 23, 7 pm  
City council chambers

wpn book club  
Sun, Sept. 28, 3 pm  
Leanne Fey's house  
1496 Spring St.  
**Until Tuesday**  
by Luis Montalvan

wpn happy hour  
October 17, 7 pm  
Leon and Linda  
McElveen  
1562 Whitfield Street  
770-431-0292

wpn chili cook off  
October 11, 4 pm  
Details tba

wpn book club  
Sun, October 26, 3 pm  
Thelma Hancock  
1419 Hawthorne Street  
**Tumbleweeds**  
by Leila Meacham

wpn happy hour  
November 21, 7 pm  
Keith and Susan  
Bentley  
2651 Gilbert Street  
770-433-0350

continued on next page

## Williams Park events in review *cont'd*

PHOTOS BY SUSAN BENTLEY  
AND BECKY FREEDMAN

pings and side dishes all of which was laid out on tables colorfully decorated with ponchos, sunflowers and a donkey piñata serving as centerpiece before later being bludgeoned to smithereens by the children.

The sweets, referencing WPN's birthday, were provided by neighbors who entered the birthday cake contest. These were arranged on a separate table, surrounding a special three layer "cake" centerpiece Becky made specially for the occasion, decorated with bright colors and topped with a miniature donkey piñata. Attendees enjoyed trying to figure out just how Becky made the "cake" which will be available for future WPN events.

A wide variety of delicious cakes were judged by Tony Strangolagalli, Chef Pierluigi Tartaglione and Lem Ward. Tony and Chef Luigi are well known as owners of Mezza Luna Pasta and Seafood restaurant. WP neighbor Lem Ward is a favorite choice for judging because that privilege renders him ineligible to enter to compete in the contests he has so frequently won in the past!

This year's first place was a decorated three layer carrot cake made by Korey Whitchurch (Hawthorne Ave.). Judi Kessler (Highland Ave.) claimed second place with her divine chocolate raspberry sour cream cake. Sonya Sallis (Highland Ave.) made a banana cake with buttercream frosting and chocolate ganache to win third place. Neighbors eagerly awaited the end of official judging and commencement of casual version whereby they decide their own favorites.

Young attendees enjoyed the bounce house, piñata, art projects and a visit from our good friends at the Smyrna Fire Department. Children of all ages enjoyed wearing hats for the occasion—miniature sombreros, regular sombreros, large sombreros, red fire helmets and pink fire helmets.

It was a good day with good friends, good food, delicious cakes and precious children. Williams Park is indeed a great place to live.



Los tres amigos are, left to right, Warren Bennett, Jack Merritt and Drew Duellmer. Korey Whitchurch holding his first place cake baking prize. Vivian Crifasi wears a tiny sombrero. Elani Sevilla and Rachel Brantley are just hanging out while Shannon Luzar carries an armfull of baby Finley.



continued on next page...

# 2014 CALENDAR

wpn book club  
November 23, 3 pm  
Nancy Smith  
2611 Gilbert Street  
**Orphan Train**  
by Christina Baker Kline

wpn pergola decorating  
November 29, 10 am  
Williams Park, Roswell  
Street

wpn pergola lighting  
December 5, 6 pm  
Williams Park, Roswell  
Street

wpn happy hour  
December 19, 7 pm  
Jonathan & Jenni  
Stroble  
1318 Roswell Street  
678.414.8316

wpn book club  
no meeting in December

## Williams Park events in review *cont'd*

We gathered most recently on July 26 for a Summer picnic hosted by Wendy Amundson and Judi Kessler. Neighbors enjoyed lovely summer breezes under the trees, cold salads in many variations, chilled watermelon and tropical fruit flavored popsicles from a cooler cart.

Adults socialized in a sensibly low-activity manner given the warm temperature. Children, seemingly immune to the heat, happily burned calories in the jump house generously brought to our events by WP neighbor Judy Brasfield.

—Wendy Amundson



Finn and Charlie McQuade smile for the camera



Finn and Charlie McQuade smile for the camera while Reagan Berger eats watermelon, Bates Pratt marvels at crayons and Vivan Crifasi plays in the grass. Two cool chicks hosted our hot summer picnic: Judi Kessler and Wendy Amundson (in hat).



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## WELCOME

to these new members:

- on anderson —
  - Ron Day & Keli Wolk
  - Clarence & Courtnee Williams
- on bernard way —  
Syreta Ekelton
- on gilbert street —  
Chris & Kate Moore
- on highland ave —  
Dave Chambers
- on ivy spring —  
Barbara Rothschild
- on marston —  
Jennifer Henry Lothar
- on mimosa circle —
  - Sage Perry
  - Jon & Val Gardner
- on old roswell —  
Leslie Rosner
- on roswell street —
  - Ryan & Wendy Judge
  - Jeff & Margie Miller
  - Priti Kolhe
- on spring street —
  - Jane Bunn
  - Chandra Kenyon
  - Mae & Buck Bryan
- on telfair drive —  
Brian & Blaire Frey
- on windy oaks ct. —
  - Breeanda Grey
- on walker street —
  - Will & Jennifer Smallwood
  - Steven & Justine Ashworth
- Nancee Franklin & Jay Little
  - Matthew Trial
  - Tammy Cantrell
  - Hillary McManus
- on whitfield parc —  
Ryan & Harriette Elliott

## 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 Light Between Oceans**

by M.L. Stedman ★★★★★

Set on an island off the coast of western Australia, a lighthouse keeper and his wife find a baby washed ashore in a boat. The book explores the consequences of their decision to keep the child as their own.

### **The Death of Santini**

by Pat Conroy ★★★★★

The final installment of Pat Conroy's tragic family memoir.

### **Wild**

by Cheryl Strayed ★★★★★

Cheryl Strayed, a young woman who's life is a mess, recounts her efforts to pull herself together by hiking over 1000 miles on the Pacific Crest Trail.

### **The Time Between**

by Karen White ★★★★★

Set in Charleston and Edisto Island, South Carolina, this novel explores the bonds of sisters, secrets, and forgiveness.

Our rating system:

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



An Espresso Bar

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### Can you do us a little favor?

When a new neighbor moves in near you, let us know.

Contact Joan Friedman at [friedman1500@gmail.com](mailto:friedman1500@gmail.com) or by phone at 678-239-4987. She'll make sure we welcome the newcomers.

Thanks!



Atkins Park enjoys a colorful history as Atlanta's oldest continuously licensed restaurant and bar. Whether you're looking for a great place for brunch, family dining, or late night drinks Atkins Park has something for everybody. We're located in Market Village...Come and enjoy a meal on our gorgeous climate controlled patio!

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Smyrna's oldest residential neighborhood.

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# News in and around Williams Park

## births

Congratulations to Amy and Bob Crifasi. Their second daughter Virginia James arrived July 16, 2014 weighing 8 lbs. Sister Vivian is thrilled to have a real live baby doll.



## deaths

Our neighbor Amy Shay (Mimosa Circle) has sadly lost both her parents after protracted illnesses. Hubert Curtis Minor, Sr., 78, succumbed on July 25, 2014. Gay Ingram Minor, 75, followed 12 hours later on July 26. He loved fishing and football (Roll Tide!). She loved portrait painting and sewing. After 57 years of marriage, they departed this world together from their Smyrna home. We extend our condolences to Amy, husband Allan, son Riley, and daughter Kenzie. Curtis and Gay were lovely people, devoted parents and grandparents. You were fortunate to have them.

Our happy hour events are well established—we've been holding these monthly gatherings for over eight years now, meeting on the third Friday of each month to wind down in the comfort of various Williams Park residences. These low-pressure events don't require much preparation on the part of hosts because attendees all bring their beverage of choice and a dish to share. There is clean-up the next day, however, and the occasional later-than-expected finish time. Most recently we owe our gratitude to the following happy hour hosts.

**Kimberly Wright and Russell Currie** hosted us in their Morris Circle home in April. They stepped up on short notice when another couple had to cancel at the last minute—thanks, y'all.

In May repeat hosts **Jill and Daniel Huitron** put out the welcome mat again—they've hosted us once in their first WP home and twice in their second WP home—this one on Roswell Street.

**Daniel Kissner and Korey Whitchurch** put on a nice June hh on Hawthorne Avenue. Because brutally hot weather delayed the completion of their new flagstone patio, we enjoyed touring the nice design and quality craftsmanship of a work in progress. The photo at right is not from their hh—it's from their last annual Halloween fundraiser (but who could resist using it?).



**Cara and Patrick Thurman** were scheduled to open their Gilbert Street house in July. When business kept Cara away, Patrick bravely flew solo, hosting the group and even introducing us to the family's chicken flock and opening his diminutive but workable shop to the curious. Again, this photo of Patrick is not from his hh but from **Meredith Cagigal's** February hh—certainly nobody wore a sweater to the July event.



So this raises a question. We like to print

photos of our hh hosts in the MEMO but we don't currently have anybody signed up to shoot these. How about volunteering to do this job? Just show up at the happy hours (which you're doing anyway), make a few pictures of our host(s), and email them to the MEMO. You can sign up for the job by email to [dingoblue@earthlink.net](mailto:dingoblue@earthlink.net).

**Karen and Dante Pastore** opened their richly decorated Roswell Street home to us in August—one of the five houses promoted as "European style cottages" when built.

When our regularly scheduled summer **Adopt A Mile** was rained out, WPN's intrepid litter pickers simply waited a week. At 9 am on July 26 they gathered at our namesake Williams Park. Vests donned, tools and bags in hand, they headed out. Many hands make small work—not to mention a litter free neighborhood. Pictured are a jaunty WPN President Keith Bentley at top and a working Phil Quarlter at right.



Having sponsored a hole (\$150) for several years at **Campbell High School Foundation's golfing fund raiser**, the neighborhood stepped up its involvement this past April 14. WPN ponied up half of the \$400 to sponsor a hole and enter a foursome in the tournament, then neighbors Ray Miller, Joe Brassfield, Bob Crifasi, and Toney Nunez contributed \$50 each to play for WP. While they finished out of the first three places, they played a respectable 12 under par. Way to go, you guys—nicely done.

Did you know our neighborhood has a **Trivia Team**? We play every Thursday night at Mexico Lindo on South Cobb Drive. The game starts at 7:00 sharp and ends at 9:00 pm (so early risers can be

*continued on next page...*

# WPN BOARD 'D

president  
Keith Bentley  
770-433-0350

vice president  
Lee Friedman  
678-239-4987

past president  
Ron Davis  
770-431-9786

recording secretary  
Lem Ward  
770-863-9580

corresponding  
secretary Liz Davis  
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treasurer  
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security  
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communications  
Casey Clavin  
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hospitality  
Joan Friedman at  
678-239-4987 and  
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 *cont'd*

back home and in bed by 9:30.) The group varies between 8 and 18 players. We have a variable-size reserved table—if you text me by 5 pm on Thursday to say how many you're bringing, I'll take care of the rest. All are welcome. We might not always win, but we always have the most fun!

— Cat Porch 770-595-3849

The **WPN yard sale** was a huge success thanks in no small part to über-organizer Tracy Presepe. She arranged for advertising as well as handout sheets mapping all the participating addresses and listing short descriptions of the offerings. She provided participating address with balloons, mailbox signs and the handouts. And she lined up volunteers to pick up large unsold items after the sale and deliver them to Goodwill.

The date and time was set for June 21, 8 am to 3 pm. It was a very hot, sunny Saturday but, luckily, the rain held off until after closing time. Twenty six WP families participated and hundreds of folks visited our neighborhood to get some great deals.

Afterwards, Tracy said, "Our volunteers made all the difference helping with maps, signage, balloons, and marketing. What an amazing team! Hopefully, this will become an annual event." The volunteers she references were Leon and Linda McElveen, Lee Friedman, Kelli Wolk, Cindy Hannon, Jeanne Schenk. Thanks to all of them and, especially, to Tracy.

There's a great opportunity coming up for **parents of pre-school aged children to check out our neighborhood school**. Area residents are invited to gather on Tuesday, September 9, at 6 pm in Smyrna Elementary's cafeteria to learn about the school. You can tour state of the art features, meet the principal, teachers and staff, participate in a Q&A session, learn about the Leader in Me Program (based on Stephen Covey's Seven Habits of Highly Effective People) and talk, firsthand, with

families whose children are already in Smyrna Elementary. Questions about the event can be addressed to WP resident Hayli McQuade at [hmcquade71@bellsouth.net](mailto:hmcquade71@bellsouth.net). This promises to be an exciting night for all future families of Smyrna Elementary.

—Once again, WP residents have generously supported the new neighborhood elementary, now starting its second school year, by donating such frequently replaced items as tissue, pencils, glue sticks, markers, crayons, composition books, hand sanitizer, and copy paper which often get purchased by teachers, themselves, when County provided supplies run short.

We collected, sorted, counted (whew!), bagged and delivered supplies to fifty-two classroom teachers. Keith and Susan Bentley collected the supplies from participating WP homes, Debbie Savage acquired fifty-two large paper bags, and Casey Clavin produced WPN stationary onto which Liz Davis printed notes. The packing crew—Thelma Hancock, Debbie Savage, Nancy Smith, Nancy McGee, Joyce Stancil, Chris Miller, Wendy Amundson, Beverly Denney and Susan Bentley—worked smart, hard and efficiently under Scooter Bentley's supervision. Hayli McQuade (mother of Smyrna Elementary first grader Charlie) delivered the bags to the teachers.

This drive was truly a neighborhood effort. Many thanks to all the neighbors who donated supplies, money to purchase supplies, or time and effort to organize and deliver the bags to the teachers. And finally, I'm sure we all thank the wonderful faculty and staff at Smyrna Elementary School!

—Susan Bentley

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# SMYRNA ELEMENTARY

Our brand new, beautiful, state of the art and LEED certified elementary school opened its doors for the first time last August and we had an amazing first year. Now, as we embark on our second, many of you are asking how can you get involved, how can you contribute as a family or neighborhood. Well, becoming a Smyrna Star Sponsor is one way to do that. As a sponsor, you contribute to our community and help our children excel in school and leadership—you'll truly make a difference. It's also a great way to give exposure to the businesses many of you own. Sponsorships start at a low \$125 and grow from there. Below, you'll see that different levels come with signage, spotlights in the school's e-newsletter, recognition at school events and more. Please consider becoming a Smyrna Star Sponsor (payment plans are an option) and sponsor our wonderful new neighborhood school.

For sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, contact WP resident Cara Fort at [lilmamafort@gmail.com](mailto:lilmamafort@gmail.com)

Our Smyrna Elementary Stars thank you!

### **BLUE Smyrna Star Sponsor**

- \$125 Annual Contribution
- One PTA Membership
- Smyrna STAR Membership Provider List
- Internet Visibility (Logo and Link on the PTA Website)
- E-Visibility-Name Recognition on the e-newsletters\*\*Looks like most PTAs in area do a newsletter once a month with a spotlight sponsor. They can send information in about company, invite families to come to restaurant etc.

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## Speeding and traffic violation in WP

Given increasing concern about traffic and speeding within Williams Park, WPN President Keith Bentley asked me to look at the issues and present our concerns to the City. Talking with neighbors, the top three concerns emerged as 1) the dangerous three way intersection where Highland Ave. and Old Roswell meet Roswell Street (drivers routinely run past stop signs without even slowing down), 2) speeding on Roswell Street, 3) speeding on Whitfield, particularly in the vicinity of the neighborhood park.

City of Smyrna Engineer Eric Randall, in his position only about a year now, spoke openly about traffic calming measures he'd like to see implemented throughout the City, comparing the relative strengths and weaknesses of various methods. To quantify the problems in WP, he had the Police Department post mobile speed signs in certain spots, set in stealth mode so drivers didn't know their speeds were being recorded. Afterwards, I met with Mr. Randall and Sgt. Owens (who oversees Smyrna Police Department's STEP program for traffic enforcement and accident investigations) to pour over the data. Despite some anomalies, it was clear that Roswell Street has speeding problems during the 8 am hour and in the time frame between 2 and 3:30 pm. Mr. Randall wanted to dive deeper but this project was put temporarily on the back burner. In June, I met with Mr. Randall again to learn that some work had taken place. Below are the highlights of where we stand today.

**Semi-permanent speed signs**—Smyrna has two of these on order which will attach to existing speed limit sign posts. They can be set either to display speed or not, but will constantly record data from traffic in both directions (downloaded via bluetooth to City computers). Mr. Randall has committed the first sign will be placed in several different locations within Williams Park, go into rotation elsewhere, then return here again.

**Roswell/Highland/Old Roswell**—Mr. Randall has requested an intersection analysis from an outside consulting firm for this location. Initial talk of a possible round-a-bout seems unlikely due to the amount of land required. One possibility would be to put more of a 90° turn into Roswell Street to reduce the temptation to drive through the stop sign without stopping. Apparently, there are funds available in the current SPLOST to cover that project. The timeline would be nine months from analysis to completion. There were also discussions of other permanent traffic calming measures such as chokers or chicanes to slow drivers down. This would not happen until at least six to twelve months after the first measures were put into place.

**Five (Six) Points intersection**—The city wants to see a traffic circle here. This is on the project list for an anticipated SPLOST referendum in this Fall's election. If approved by the voters, it could be near the top of the project list. This would reduce the speed of vehicles cutting through the neighborhood between Windy Hill and Atlanta Road.

**Speed limit on Roswell**—I am still working with Mr. Randall about reducing the speed limit on Roswell Street from 35 to 25. He believes it won't slow speeders down. I believe it might alert drivers that they're entering a residential neighborhood and it certainly can't hurt the situation. Many areas in our neighborhood already have 25mph limits.

Wheels move slowly when dealing with the government and, ultimately, it's funding that determines what gets done. But, as I told Mr. Randall in no uncertain terms, with the enormous increase in residents and children, plus the music school, plus cut-through traffic, it's only a matter of time before a pedestrian gets hit. I hope that the City understands the seriousness of this safety issue. Stay tuned—I'll provide updates as they become available.

—Stephen McQuade

# SMYRNA ELEMENTARY

- Visibility in your Business – SES Sponsor Certificate to display to all patrons.

Visibility at the School:

- Booth at the 1st PTA Meeting of the Year (if applicable)
  - PTA Banner signage
- Advertisement in Yearbook – size according to sponsorship level
- Invitation to participate in PTA Sponsored events based on appropriateness of your business, (add'l costs may apply)

### **YELLOW Smyrna Star Sponsor**

- \$250 Annual Contribution
- All the benefits of the BLUE level PLUS the following upgrades:
- Your company brochures placed in School Lobby (or other area)
- One feature spotlight in the e-newsletter
- One featured event (evening or day) for which the PTA will advertise the event and encourage SES Community participation (10% of sales to SES, if applicable)

### **GOLD Smyrna Star Sponsor**

- \$500 Annual Contribution
- All the benefits of the Silver level PLUS the following upgrades:
- Two feature spotlights in the e-newsletter
- Choice of discounted sponsorship for one SES Event- Featured Sponsor

### **PLATINUM Smyrna STAR Sponsor**

- \$1,000 Annual Contribution
- All the benefits of the Gold level PLUS the following upgrades:
- Three feature spotlights in the e-newsletter
- One featured event (evening or day) for which the PTA will advertise the event and encourage SES Community participation (10% of sales to SES, if applicable)

Our Smyrna Stars thank you!

—Hayli McQuade

## Market update around WP

A lot has happened in real estate over the last few years. We went from a buyer's market to a seller's market over night, in the winter of 2013. It's still a seller's market but we see more picky buyers willing to wait until they can get closer to the house they really want.

Still, good houses priced right don't last long especially in Williams Park, Forest Hills, Cheney Woods and Smyrna Heights—all of which feed into the new Smyrna Elementary. I'm finding more young families deciding to stand behind our new school with their time, talents and gifts. That gets me excited! The more solid the base of support this new school gets...the stronger it becomes...the better education it can give the children of our community...the more families will want to move to this area and our property values will continue to rise. It's a win win all around.

Let's look at last year—a great come back year for real estate values. From January through July of 2013 we had 791 new listings come on the market in Smyrna with an average list price of \$263,519. Of them, 563 sold with an average price of \$256,563 and an average of 105 days on the market.

This year, from January through July, we had 817 new listings come on the market in Smyrna with an average list price of \$297,619. Of them, 495 sold with an average price of \$291,105 and an average of 94 days on the market.

What a difference! Average list prices from were up 12.94% and average sold prices were up 13.46% while days on the market was down 10.48%. These are averages, of course—not every house can command that kind of increase. It has to be in the right area, priced right and in show-ready condition. Demand and supply is what drives a market—what we call the absorption rate. In a normal market it's

typically a six month supply of houses. Above that, greater competition means the seller has to be more aggressive in providing closing costs, repairs and having a picture perfect home. In July we had almost seven months of supply in Smyrna. However, all of Smyrna does not weigh the same as "downtown" when it comes to how quickly a home sells. The hottest areas are in the school districts of Smyrna and King Springs—those homes tend to sell faster at higher list-to-sell ratio than anywhere else in Smyrna.

Each house has its own set of "issues." Sometimes it's across the street from lower value homes or the street is too busy or there's a commercial property within the block. Sometimes it's the only "updated" house on the block. We in WP are used to all these issues but consider them part of the beauty of this neighborhood—we're not all alike and that's a good thing. As a Realtor, I often have to explain to clients and other agents that this is an acceptable part, even the beauty, of this neighborhood. Some potential buyers see it, move here, get involved and make friendships. Others don't.

What can you do to ensure our property values grow? Get involved. The new elementary school could use your support in gifts and/or your time. Get involved in the neighborhood—host a "playtime" for neighborhood kids and parents to create more interaction and a chance for more people to meet. Run for public office to help make good decisions for the City. Help clean up our streets on Adopt-a-mile days. Volunteer to host one of the big quarterly events or just a Happy Hour. Stop a neighbor walking by and have a conversation.

Some of you do this all the time—keep it up! We live in a special place that a lot of people wish they could live in. Enjoy it and share it and I'll see you around the "hood."

—Jill Huitron



Historic homes within the Williams Park neighborhood

circa **1894**  
**Suttles House**

1496 Spring Street **LINKED PARALLEL RIDGE COTTAGE**

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



This is the Suttles house at 1496 Spring Street built prior to 1894. This is our second Linked Parallel Ridge Cottage. As on the Lyle-Bowles House (Part Three of this series published in January of this year), the front roof section is side gabled.

Tax records in Cobb County didn't include build date information on structures until some time around the 1940s. At that time tax office employees assigned build dates for existing structures without consulting an expert. A house in good repair was likely to be seen as newer than one in poor condition even when the two were similar in style and construction.



This house was assigned a date of 1900 but we've found strong evidence to dispute that. As records of land ownership, deeds rarely mention the presence of buildings, but the 1894 deed for this property represents one of those rare instances of finding valuable information where you wouldn't really expect it to be.

That deed conveys the "house and lot," in the northeast corner of Land Lot 559, specifying the lot's dimensions as 150' X 75', defining exactly the property at 1496 Spring Street. The seller of that 1/4 acre and house was Z. T. Terrell who had purchased the complete 40 acre Land Lot 559 ten years earlier. While we know the house stood at the time of sale, we don't know how old it was at that time. We're giving it a date of circa 1894 while recognizing that it was clearly built some time before that date.

We're calling this the Suttles House—the 1894 buyers are the first family we know to have lived in it. Hattie L. and



# circa 1894 Suttles House

Arthur W. Suttles first appear locally on the 1900 census (with no reference to ownership), then are specified as "home owners" by 1910. Smyrna's 1926 and 1927 tax records show their home assessed at \$1000. The house remained in family ownership for 81 years. Living Suttles family members say they always believed the house to have been built in late 1880s.

This is our second Linked Parallel Ridge Cottage. As with the 1889 Lyle-Bowles House (covered in Part Three of this series published in January 2014), the front roof section is side gabled. In the picture, above right, you see the paired ridges terminating in rear facing gables.

Construction is typical of the years leading up to the turn of the century. The house is balloon

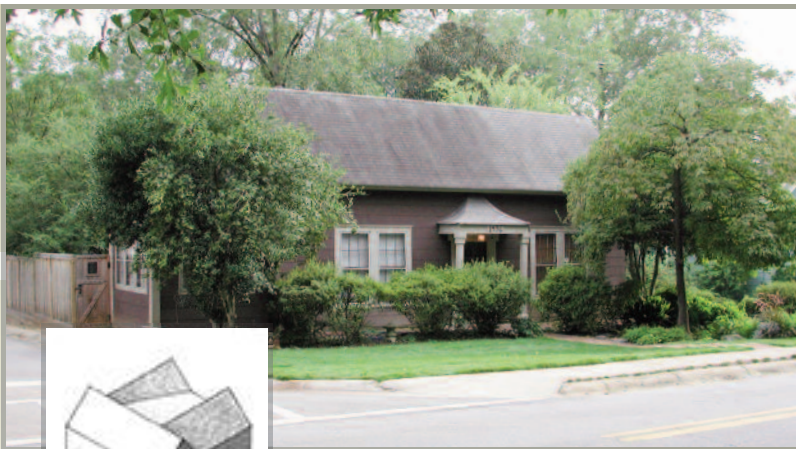


framed using dimensional lumber and cut nails. The foundation is of mortered stone all along the front, and brick piers

infilled with brick or block elsewhere. Parts of the original cedar shake roof were still in tact as recently as 1998. Of three original chimneys, one still stands serving fireplaces in the living room and dining room. The chimney between the original two bedrooms and the one serving the kitchen have been removed and their bricks used for walk ways in the yard.

What was originally a side porch was enclosed fairly early and the wall between it and the living room removed. The house retains large original six over six windows on its original exterior walls, the enclosed porch received smaller six over six. The ceilings are 10' 10" high.

In her book, *Past, Present, Future*, Ms. Mazie Whitfield Nelson recalls Arthur Suttles as a popular and friendly man. The train line from Marietta to Atlanta was called the "Accommodation" and Mr. Suttles used it to commute to his job at the Atlanta Post Office. He often spent his lunch hour downtown shopping for his wife and her friends. As an original member of the organization constituted November 4 1886, Suttles' name is chisled on Smyrna's Nelms Lodge broken column monument (originally in downtown Smyrna, then moved to with the lodge to 455 Concord Road due to redevelopment). Hattie and Arthur now rest side by side in the New Smyrna Cemetary on Hawthorne Avenue.



circa

# 1894

## Suttles House



### Chain of ownership for parcel 17055900010

year	purchaser	date	book/page
1854	William Bennett	12-29-54	A/71
1862	Micajah T Grist	12-1-62	A/71
1869	J.D. Pope	11-29-69	B/131
1871	Dempsey/W.R. Bell	3-4-71	C/258
1876	B.A. Bell	5-1-76	D/781
1884	Z.T. Terrell	9-17-84	H/542
1894	Hattie L. Suttles	9-8-94	S/388
1908	Mrs. A. W. Suttles	9-25-08	56/83
1935	Mrs. W.A. McAdams	6-12-35	115/520
1973	Richard W. Rogers	3-27-73	1406/40
1975	Katherine Rogers	8-12-75	1622/588
1976	Ernest Drinnon	12-17-76	1740/589
1984	Gary Marcus	8-31-84	3241/1
1991	Edward Bouchard	10-9-91	6299/451
1998	Lemuel Ward	7-16-98	11487/105

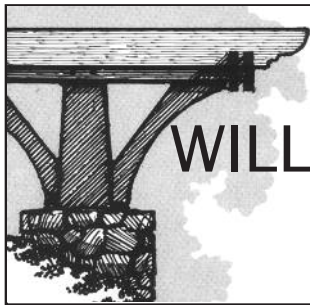
In 1935 the house passed to Virginia Beatrice McAdams, the Suttles' niece whom they raised. Her husband William A. McAdams was a pharmacist who also commuted to work in Atlanta. Then, in 1975, it passed to Virginia's oldest daughter, Katherine B. and her husband Richard W. Rogers. He died shortly thereafter and Katherine raised their three boys alone.

The house moved out of family ownership in 1976 when Susan and Ernest Drinnon bought the place. During most of the eight years they lived there, Susan served as Smyrna Mayor Max Bacon's assistant.

Current owners Lem Ward and Leanne Fey bought the house in 1998 and have been improving it ever since. Among artifacts they've collected is an impressive array of cut nails—possibly every size available in the day—a variety of china and glass shards, and elements of the old knob and tube electrical system. My favorite is a folding ruler found laying inside the bottom of a wall where it had dropped and laid out of sight. When the plaster was applied to the wall lath, the ruler was rendered nonfunctional, doomed to measure 12 1/2" for the rest of all time.

This year marks the 120th anniversary of Hattie and Arthur Suttles' purchase of the house. To celebrate, Lem and Leanne are throwing a party on Saturday, September 6 (starting at 5 pm). They'll serving BBQ, side dishes and, what else... birthday cake. The neighborhood is invited—so mark you calendar now and watch for more details by email in a few weeks. Suttles family decedents will be attending.





# MEMO

august 2014

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