



Williams Park

MEMO

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS

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

MEMO NOTES

We encourage contributions to the MEMO. Deadlines for future issues are February 15 and May 15. Send material to Casey at dingoblue@earthlink.net or 770-333-9995.

A HAPPY FALL FEST TO ALL, AND FOR ALL A HAY RIDE!

Twelve chillis simmering, eleven families riding, ten tons of groceries, nine hungry eaters, eight helpful servers, seven kids a-crafting, six cooks and judges, five gold balloons. Four kids in strollers, three Chili judges, two proud new daddies, and a partridge on a paper plate.

As I finish up this issue, Thanksgiving is behind us and winter holiday decorations are already twinkling on some houses after dark. In just one month, 2008 will be over. Because this is the last MEMO of the year, let me take this opportunity to wish all of you and yours a good holiday season, whatever holiday you celebrate. Life is pretty good here in our neighborhood, but it's not so for many elsewhere. So at New Year, let's all raise a glass and say a little prayer for progress in the coming year toward peace on earth and goodwill the world over.

—Casey Clavin

Chili Cookoff and Hayride—Fall Festival

SANDY HAMBY PHOTOS



wpn happy hour
friday, december 19
7:00 pm
robyn phillips
2647 gilbert street
(678-844-4441)

wpn book club
none in december

wpn happy hour
friday, january 16
is still available. if
you want to host a
happy hour call
Sandy and grab this
slot (678-435-5613).
the only other date
still open in 2009 is
november 20

wpn book club
sunday, january 25
3:00 pm
Moloka'i
by Alan Brennert
host, debbie savage
2583 old roswell road
(Leanne 770-863-9580)

wpn happy hour
friday, february 20
7:00 pm
janelle & john lampp
2730 gilbert street
(770-437-8985)

wpn book club
sunday, february 22
3:00 pm
Little Women
by Louisa May Alcott
host, madge jackson
(Leanne 770-863-9580)

wpn happy hour
friday, march 20
7:00 pm
sue hunt
1389 roswell street
(770-757-3585)

wpn happy hour
friday, april 17
7:00 pm
jill and daniel huitron
2622 devin court
(404-376-5114)

continued on next page...

Kudos to neighbors...

SANDY HAMBY PHOTOS

THANKS to recent WPN happy hour hosts — Myrna and Larry Evans in September, Suzie Lee in October, and Jessica and Fernando Askins in November. Normally, neighbors are asked to bring their own booze and a snack to share. Not so when Myrna and Larry host us—the hosts with the most served up dinner and all imaginable beverages. Suzie Lee, pictured here with her daughter Catherine has been in her Whitfield Court home only about six months and already she's in the WP groove.



Jessica and Fernando, who travel frequently and shoot lots of (really good) photographs, ran a sort of year-in-review slide show on the television as a back drop to their happy hour. You could miss it entirely if you were caught up in conversation, but those who watched a while were rewarded with some wonderful images.



THE HAMBY'S HOUSE has been immortalized on a Christmas card. Vinings artist Margaret Hathaway spotted the house all decked out for Christmas last year. "It was over the top," she told Cathy Johnson reporting for neighbornewspapers.com, "full of whimsy and happiness." This is one



of 12 cards offered this year by Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (www.choa.org) which raised \$75,000 dollars through last year's holiday card program. Proceeds will benefit the Aflac Cancer Center. The Hamby's learned of this just a couple of weeks ago when the artist knocked on their door to give them a print of the painting and some of the "Christmas Cheer Home" cards. Congratulations, Sandy and Sam, your chachkes hit pay dirt!"

CONGRATULATIONS to Sue Hunt for her recent 30 seconds of fame when she was interviewed by Diana Olick for an appearance on NBC's Today show. A housing counseling manager at CCCS of Greater Atlanta, Sue spoke about the nationwide foreclosure crisis and the response of loan servicers to this growing problem. The interview took place by telephone at CCCS' corporate headquarters in downtown Atlanta. "It was an interesting experience—talking to a faceless voice in the phone while looking at the camera." To see Sue's national television debut and learn more about the important work CCCS does for financially distressed homeowners, go to www.cccsinc.org and click on the Media room.

Let's hear a big "WAY TO GO" for Susan Bentley regarding her appearance on stage with Barack Obama at Powder Springs High School. That makes Susan the closest thing we, here in Williams Park, have to a world leader—physically, anyway. Her daughters were there, too, but just off camera. "We should have swapped seats. I simply sat quietly and listened to him speak.

Hope and Miriam were very animated, cheering and waving, though nobody can see her in the video. I sat there on camera like a bump on a log." If you want to see Susan in action (or inaction, as the case may be) go look her up at YouTube.com.



THANK YOU to Suzie Lee for stepping up to take charge of the WPN scrapbook. Living in Williams Park less than a year, Suzie has already hosted

continued on next page...

2008 CALENDAR

...continued from previous page

wpn happy hour
friday, may 15
7:00 pm
dru & matt bennett
1486 spring street
(770-805-8668)

wpn happy hour
friday, june 19
7:00 pm
ann & david whited
1499 walker street
(770-435-1904)

wpn happy hour
friday, july 17
7:00 pm
susan & mike stempek
2584 highland ave
(404-321-3750)

wpn happy hour
friday, august 21
7:00 pm
wendy amundson &
tony graves
1335 marston
(770-366-1714)

wpn happy hour
friday, september 18
7:00 pm
myrna & larry evans
1320 roswell street
(770-434-5094)

wpn happy hour
friday, october 16
7:00 pm
susan & keith bentley
2651 gilbert street
(770-433-0350)

wpn happy hour
friday, november 20
is still available. if
you want to host a
happy hour call
Sandy and grab this
slot (678-435-5613)

wpn happy hour
friday, december 18
7:00 pm
tom haley & doug
erickson
2610 old roswell
(770-863-9742)

WP Reads

THE WPN BOOK CLUB, meeting monthly in various neighbors' homes, always welcomes new participants. To learn more, call LeAnne at 770-863-9580. Here are our reviews of three recent titles.

Three Cups of Tea, by Greg Mortensen

★★★★ The true story of a man who makes it his mission in life to build schools and educate young women in the most remote parts of Pakistan.

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle

by Barbara Kingsolver

★★★★ The author writes about her family's decision to move to a farm, grow their own food and live off the land for one year.

Persuasion, by Jane Austen

★★★ A novel about class distinction and family influence in the life of a young upper class woman in early 19th century England.

— LeAnne Fey

The rating system:

- ★ No one liked it
- ★★ We thought it was ok
- ★★★ It was good
- ★★★★ It was excellent
- ★★★★★ Don't miss it — fabulous

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Kudos *continued...*

a happy hour and taken on this ongoing project. She follows Sandy Hamby who completed the first three annual volumes. The physical volumes are often available for perusing at our happy hour events—the electronic version will soon be viewable at our website .

And speaking of our website, let's give an 'AT-A-BOY to **Bryan Beard** for his ongoing management of our website. He has added functionality, plus he keeps it quite current with dated and of-the-moment material such as upcoming events, found pets, and such. This effort represents a good investment in building a foundation to build over time. If you haven't been there lately, check it out. www.williamsparkneighbors.org

KUDOS to **Lem Ward** who was profiled recently in a *Georgia State* magazine article written by Michael Davis. Many of us know Lem's an attorney in the City of Atlanta's Community Development office. What we didn't know was that he entered law school (at Georgia State) relatively late (age 39) after working in the restaurant business (no wonder he often wins our cooking contests), writing software, and accounting. The article spoke in praise of Lem's work mentoring Georgia State law students and supervising externs in the City's law department through a program he helped found. According to Professor Andi Curcio, "Lem is an amazing mentor. He takes the time to show [students] what they are doing well and what they need to do to improve."

"IN SINCERE APPRECIATION to the employees of the Smyrna Public Works Department for outstanding service to the residents of Williams Park neighborhood. Thank you, from the families of Smyrna's oldest residential neighborhood." That's the text on the plaque presented by WPN at the Ward 3 town hall meeting in November to **Scott Stokes**, Director of the Public Works Department.



CONGRATULATIONS to three WP neighbors who won ribbons at this year's State Fair. Judi Kessler took a second place for her tomato sauce and a third for her beets. Sam Hamby took a second place for his red apple jelly and a third for his apple butter. Sandy Hamby took a first place for growing a two pound pineapple.

WELCOME

new members:

— on bernard way —

Ellery & Heather Mangas

— on highland ave —

Mike & Sue Stempel

— on nelson lane —

Peggy Hagen

— on walker street —

Jenn & Matt Junger

Nick & Meredith Smythe

— friends of wpm —

Rob Sayer

MILESTONES

births

Stacey and Hill Scott (bernard way) have a new baby boy.

Charles Edgar Scott, "Charlie," was born October 15th weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches.

Susan and Keith Bentley are grandparents.

Harrison Mitchell Swift, "Harry," was born to Miriam and Graham Swift October 24 weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces and measuring 21.5".

unions



Matt Junger and Jenn Elwell (walker street) married in September.

Williams Park Drinks...

"Wine is water held together by Sunshine." — Galileo

Ben, at left, and Tony Graves discuss the relative merits of various spirits at a WPN happy hour.

WINE COMPETITIONS ARE HELD in several locations in the U.S.: Chicago, Napa Valley, San Francisco, New York, and Atlanta. At the Atlanta competition, called The Summit, between 1200 and 1400 wines are tasted and judged by a panels of six judges per table. Wineries pay \$50 to enter a bottle in hope of winning a medal which will help in marketing. Louisa and I judged at The Summit for four years (more work than you think). Each judge will taste and pass judgment on 40 to 50 bottles each night. From this judging medals are awarded—gold, silver, and bronze (just like the Olympics). They also designate what is best of class, i.e., best Chardonnay below \$15 or best above \$15.

A favorite place of ours to buy wine in Atlanta is at Total Wines (next to Target on Barrett Parkway). With over 8,000 different wines, over 1,000 beer labels plus liquor, their prices are extremely reasonable. For example, a bottle of wine (\$14) I bought at a local wine store for \$14, cost \$5 less at Total Wines.

Here are some of the wines we've tasted and enjoyed. You may or may not like them. One person's "great" is another person's "I don't like it."

- Castle Rock Zinfandel, 2005, \$10
- Las Brisas Reuda, Spanish White, 2006, \$9
- Red Guitar Old Vine Red, 2005, \$7
- Virginie, French Pinot Noir, 2006, \$9
- Chateau d'Or et de Gueules, Rhone, 2003, \$10
- Pinot Evil, Pinot Noir, , \$6
- St. Cosme, Cotes du Rhone, 2004, \$14
- Chateau de Cornemps, Bordeaux, 2005, \$10
- Chateau de Parenchere, Bordeaux, 2004, \$14
- Lucien Albrecht, Alsace Pinot Blanc, 2006, \$10
- Clayhouse, Cabernet, 2006, \$14

SANDY HAMBY PHOTO



Below are some very good buys judged in San Francisco as best of class and gold medal winners. We've tasted only some of them, but they did receive good ratings.

- Black Swan, Syrah, \$8
- Corbett Canyon, Cabernet, \$10
- Doghouse Cabernet, 2003, \$10
- Fat Cat Cellar, Pinot Noir, 2007, \$9
- Forest Glen, Pinot Noir, 2006, \$11
- Rosemont Syrah, 2005, \$12
- Summer Hill, Merlot, 2006, \$6
- Vogle, Cabernet, Merlot, & Pinot Noir, 2006, \$9-\$11
- Turning Leaf, Merlot, 2006, \$8
- Barefoot Cellars, All, \$6
- Dancing Bull, All, \$12

Wine is a very subjective thing. I hope this is helpful, but don't come hunt me down if you try something from the list and don't like it. No refunds!

—Ben Cohn (Whitfield Street)

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NOTES

Here's a suggestion made recently by a Smyrna Police Officer. When you buy something expensive (TVs, computers, and such), don't put the intact box on the curb for pick-up. It serves to inform potential criminals on the location of "good stuff." It's better to break the box open, rearrange it printed-side-in, and place it under your bin; or cut or fold it small enough to fit inside your recycle bin. You could also knock it flat, save it, and take it to the Smyrna Recycling Center (645 Smyrna Hill Drive, 770-431-2869) when you have a load of glass bottles.

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WPN Pet Profiles ... Kenzie Shay (Mimosa Circle)

Ms. Piggy —

Abigail Kemp on Highland Avenue is the proud owner of Madeleine Petunia (aka Ms. Piggy) a Vietnamese Pot belly Pig. Born on a farm in White, Georgia, Madeleine is now two years old—most pigs live to be about twenty years old. She weights 40 pounds. Abigail feeds her mostly pig chow (from our local Feed and Seed store on Roswell Road). She really enjoys treats, especially apples, and will sit like a dog to get them.

Madeleine is cute and funny and she loves to sleep by the fireplace. Basically house trained, she goes to the bathroom outside like a dog. She only goes to the bathroom inside when it is cold—for that, she's paper trained.

Pigs are wonderful pets for several reasons. You cannot be allergic to them, they don't have to go to the veterinarian annually, they're nice, neat and clean. Low maintenance! Pigs are very loyal animals, they become attached to their owner instantly and can die of a broken heart in a week if you get rid of them.



The Kemp's are very willing to give out more information about pigs as pets if you're interested. George Cloony had a pig for 19 years who died this past May. Madeleine gets along well with Clarabell the family cat and with the family dogs. Recently, she was a big hit at a brownie meeting where the girls brought their pets.



Atkins Park enjoys a colorful history as Atlanta's oldest continuously licensed tavern. Whether you're looking for a great place to eat with the kids, weekend brunch, or a late night drink: Atkins Park has something to offer everybody. We offer the best family dining in Smyrna on the Atkins Park patio. Across the street at Market Village.

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december 2008



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