



# Williams Park

# MEMO

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS

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

## MEMO NOTES

The MEMO should have been done by the first of the month. My failure to meet that deadline, though, enables me to report on last night's Lighting of the Pergola at Williams Park. About 40 neighbors turned out (despite cold weather) to roast smores and drink hot chocolate. It was a family friendly event with lots of kids. A few years ago, when we gathered to sing carols for the first time, it was almost exclusively an adult event.

It was fun to have the wee ones among us as their enthusiasm is contagious and we'll probably tailor this event more toward the kids in coming years. Mia Merritt helped plug in the cord that lit the lights strung on the pergola, the maple tree, and a couple of deer.

Taking advantage of the gathering, Gavin Carpenter announced that he and Michelle Robel are officially engaged (as of Dec. 1). They're great neighbors and we're happy they shared their joy with us in this way (cool neighborhood, huh?).

People stayed, warming hands by the fire and chatting until about 7:00 before heading off toward home.

— Casey Clavin  
dingoblue@earthlink.net

## Yo ho, yo ho, it's a pirate's life for me!

On August 28th William's Park Neighbors gathered on a beautiful late summer afternoon for a Summer Swashbuckle.

*How much did the pirate pay to get his ear pierced? A buccaneer!*

Organizers, Suzie Lee and Linda McElveen (right) handled the planning for the pirate themed event. Suzie planned the food, with neighbors bringing salads, desserts and drinks. The Spring Street Smokers (or is it Scorchers?), Matt Bennett and Lem Ward, grilled the spoils of our last raid, "chaaarred" hot dogs and hamburgers.

Linda organized kids games including magnetic fishing (below), painting treasure chests and the ever popular jumpy (decorated with a pirate theme). Linda learned that it's better not to use a metal tub for the magnetic fishing game since the kid's lines kept getting snagged on the tub. Hey, you live and learn.

*What did the pirate say when his wooden leg got stuck in the freezer? Shiver me timbers!*



SUSAN BENTLEY PHOTOS



was a big hit with kids large and small, complete with fire hoses and siren blasts.

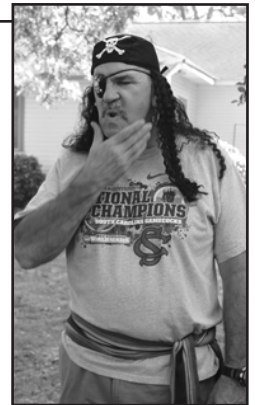
*What does a pirate's dog say? Aaaaarrrrf!*

Some of the best adult costumes were Matt and Dru Bennett decked out in full pirate attire (left) and Robyn Phillips (below, right) whose costume included a shrunken skull of Jack Sparrow. Keith Bentley (above right) complained that his hair kept getting caught in his earring (a phrase he never thought he'd utter). There were lots of eye patches, scarves, pirate hats and even a couple of swords. Wade "Take-no-prisoners" Ingle arrived decked out in his best pirate gear including a real dagger. But, because he came late and the party was pretty much over, the scurvy sea dog was forced to walk the plank.

Pirate Booty door prizes, donated by Smyrna area merchants including a gift certificate from Carrabbas, were given out and food-stuffs were collected, brought by neighbors for donation to MUST ministry which is in desperate need — we provided a pickup truck load, altogether.

Those who stayed late were treated to great fun watching Ron, Liz, Suzie, Ted, Linda and Leon crawling and rolling around on the ground, trying to deflate and roll up the

continued on following page...



# 2010-'11 CALENDAR

wpn carolling and pergola lighting  
saturday, december 4  
at williams park, 5:30

wpn happy hour  
friday, dec 17, 7 pm  
Robyn Phillips  
2647 Gilbert St

wpn happy hour  
friday, jan 21, 7 pm  
Andrea Kling  
1461 Mimosa Circle

wpn general assembly  
meeting  
tuesday, jan 25, 7 pm  
city council chambers  
Tim Stolz, our newly  
elected school board  
representative will  
update us on the sta-  
tus of the new school

wpn book club  
Sun, Jan 30th at 3pm  
Debbie Savage hosting  
2583 Old Roswell  
West With The Night  
by Beryl Markham

wpn happy hour  
friday, feb 18 21, 7 pm  
Sue Hunt  
1389 Roswell Street

wpn book club  
Sun, Feb 27th at 3pm  
Susan Bentley hosting  
2651 Gilbert Street.  
The Physick Book Of  
Deliverance Dane  
by Katherine Howe

wpn happy hour  
friday, march 18, 7 pm  
Rich and Jenine Merritt  
2620 Gilbert Street

wpn book club  
Sun, March 27, 3pm  
Jane Sarajian hosting  
1578 Spring Street.  
Sarah's Key  
by Tatiana deRosnay

continued on next page...

## Pirates

...continued from page 1

jumpy. It looked a lot like the old "I Love Lucy" episode where Lucy and Ethel were stomping grapes. Be forewarned, this is not a job for amateurs or the faint of heart.



A pirate walks into a bar and the bartender says, "Hey, I haven't seen you in a while. What happened, you look terrible!" "What do you mean?"

the pirate replies, "I'm fine." "But what about that wooden leg?" the bartender says, "You didn't have that before." "Well," says the pirate, "We were in battle at sea and a cannon ball hit my leg but the surgeon fixed me up and I'm fine, really." "Yeah," says the bartender, "But what about the hook? Last time I saw you, you had both hands." "Well," says the pirate, "We were in another battle and we boarded the enemy ship. I was in a sword fight and my hand was cut off but the surgeon fixed me up with this hook and I feel great, really." "Oh," says the bartender, "What about the eye patch?" "Well," says the pirate, "One day when we were at sea, some birds were flying over the ship. I looked up, and one of them pooped in my eye." "So...what happened?" the bartender asked, "You shouldn't have lost an eye just from some bird poop!" "Well," says the pirate, "I really wasn't used to the hook yet."

We had about 100 neighbors and friends turn out," Suzie said, "and we had a good time with the Pirate Theme." Linda, still recovering from recent "stab" wounds, added, "Aargh!"

— Keith Bentley



## The chili cook-off

LEANNE FEY PHOTOS

On Saturday October 16th, the annual WPN chili cook-off and Fall Festival was well attended by over 100 WPN friends and neighbors. Was it the great fall weather that brought everyone out, or was it the chance to win bragging rites for best chili? Thirteen contestants joined the battle: Brigida Tellez-Sevilla, Lem Ward, Liz Davis, Nancy Smith, Wade Ingle, Paul Carpenter, Dru Bennett, Larry Evans, Dickie Cook, Eileen Schara, Meredith Smythe, and Leslie ???.

Our judges were Stan Hooks, Smyrna Chief of Police; Roy Acree, Assistant Fire Chief; and Jason Black, owner of Da Vinci's Pizza, now in a new location very near our neighborhood. Da Vinci's brought pizzas (which disappeared as fast as they were delivered) and provided

generous coupons to all who entered a chili. The winners received beautiful medals of honor.

First place went to a most delighted Nancy Smith (top, right), Dickie Cook (above) came in second, and third place went to Lem Ward (left) who went to sleep that night clutching his

medal and dreaming of victory.

Wade Ingle (left), WPN head vegetable, showed up with a necklace of red peppers and a big sombrero. I didn't see him do a "hat" dance, but I bet he could! As always thanks to Judy Brassfield for use of the bounce house. It was full of kids having great fun right up to time to pack up. Thanks to Leanne, Susan, Robyn, and Thelma for all their hard work putting this fun day together.

— Robyn Phillips



# 2010-'11 CALENDAR

wpn happy hour  
friday, april 15, 7 pm  
Tom Haley and Doug  
Erickson  
2610 Old Roswell St.

wpn happy hour  
friday, may 20, 7 pm  
Jill and Larry Jones  
1423 Spring St

wpn happy hour  
friday, june 17, 7 pm  
Sam and Sandy Hamby  
1312 Roswell St

You don't have to be a member to attend our events. But if you haven't already joined, now is a good time to do so. For an application go to [www.williamsparkeighbors.org](http://www.williamsparkeighbors.org)

## WPN BOARD

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treasurer  
Madge Jackson  
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## News in and around Williams Park

SANDY HAMBY PHOTO

Fall of 2010 brought changes to the Teilhet family (Anderson Circle) as both **Rob and Heather** started new jobs. In October, Rob was appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue as the Executive Director of the Public Defender Standards Council. The Council is the state agency that ensures and coordinates legal representation in accordance with the Georgia Indigent Defense Act of 2003. Rob manages a staff of state employees in downtown Atlanta, and coordinates legal defense for the indigent through circuit public defenders across the state. Heather began work with the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation (GEMC) in September. She is in government relations, lobbying on behalf of 42 EMC electricity providers on the state and federal level.

**Rich Merritt** (Gilbert Street) has opened his own law firm in downtown Smyrna, right across from the Charter Cable Office and next to the nail salon (at 1265 West Spring Street, Suite A). It's both a civil and criminal trial practice. Rich handles wrongful death, medical malpractice (as well as other professional malpractice), nursing home negligence/elder care abuse, premises liability and vehicle collision cases. He also defends those charged with DUI and other misdemeanors, as well as many felonies, plus he handles business litigation. While much of the practice is in the Cobb County and greater metro counties, he also handles cases statewide, in State and Federal Court. Rich welcomes you to stop by and check it out in person or on the web ([www.rvm-law.com](http://www.rvm-law.com)) If you wish to call, the main office number is 770-433-9345, or you can email Rich at [rmerritt@rvmlaw.com](mailto:rmerritt@rvmlaw.com).



**Don Porch** (Roswell Street) has joined the choir at the First Baptist Church of Smyrna and will be singing in this year's Christmas performance. The three shows — Friday December 10 at 7:30, Saturday the 11 and Sunday the 12th, both at 6:00 — include dramatic sections as well as choral parts. If you have a date open, you should go — it's a nice way to bring in the holiday season.

In a world where very few things last any time at all, we have at least one couple in the neighborhood showing us the value of the long haul. On December 10, **Don and Helen Porch** (Roswell Street) will celebrate their 50th anniversary. They met in college after Helen's roommate reported she'd met a guy named Don who was a good dancer. He was, indeed, Helen decided, and the two have been kicking up their heels ever since. Congratulations, you guys, and happy anniversary.



**Louisa Cohn** (Whitfield Street) has joined the board of the Friends of the Smyrna Library and is volunteering at the Library in Technical Services. She brings to these roles a Master's in Library Sciences (Rutgers) as well as work experience as a records manager for Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant and a technical writer for Coca Cola. Besides books, Louisa's interests include movies and wine.



**Gus Jones** (Spring Street) had his picture in the October 13 edition of the *Marietta Daily Journal*. He was reading a book in his school's new library when reporter Marcus E. Howard arrived to tour the facility. The Shreiner Academy's old library and its books were destroyed when heavy rain flooded the building in September 2009. Now, just over a year later, the new building opened to great acclaim and 11 year old Gus was there to witness it.

Many of you noticed the big squash vine taking over the front yard of the vacant house at ??? Roswell Street this past summer but few know where it came from or where it went. A couple of pumpkins set out by the mailbox as seasonal decor in October of 2009 sat undisturbed past season's end. As

continued on following page...

## WELCOME

— on bernard lane —  
Heather Klinzing &  
Scott Meldrum

— on nelson lane —  
Sarah & Tony Legge

— on old roswell —  
Rob & Lesley Arnold  
Ron & Melissa Steiger  
Blake & Laurie  
Somerville

— on roswell street —  
John Bagwell

— on whitfield court —  
Darren & DJ Shaffer  
Jason Blondin  
Jason & Carolin  
Andrise

— on whitfield st —  
Mike Harbert

— friends of WPN —  
Robert Harrison

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Our membership now  
stands at 165 families

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

## Hey, can you do us a little favor?

When a new neighbor  
moves in near you, let  
us know. Contact Susan  
and Keith Bentley at  
kbentley8068@gmail.com  
or 770-433-0350 so they  
can welcome the  
newcomers.

Thanks!

## News in & around WP

fall turned to winter, the vegetables turned to mush, releasing their multitude of seeds to the ground. "Pumpkins," I say, because that's what they looked like -- real orange and jack-o-lanternish. So a plant sprang up in Spring, but what it bore in the summer was as much squashish as pumpkinish. **Gavin Carpenter** kept mowing that lawn all summer so the place wouldn't look unloved. By autumn the vine was looking a mess so Gavin whacked it back leaving three large squash -- two rotting and one perfectly good. That set **Sam Hamby** into action, snagging the good one and delivering it to **Judi Kessler** for recipe development. Judi created a kind of beef, raisin and nut stew

SANDY HAMBY PHOTOS



which she cooked in the Squash, serving it at the Hamby's on November 4th by ladling out a portion of stew along with a scoop of the squash flesh for each of the diners. The general concensus was that the stew was great but the squash was rather blan. So the seeds won't be kept and replanted, but it's a nice story anyway.

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**Louisa and Ben Cohn** want to start a dominoes club here in Williams Park. Dominoes is an enjoyable, easy-to-learn game played around the world. It's about 60% luck and 40% skill — you can learn it in 15 to 20 minutes, then, as you play, it becomes obvious which tile you should play first. It's not intensive, allowing ample time for conversation, gossip, and laughter. It's intended that the club would play one Sunday afternoon a month at the Community Center for two to two and a half hours. We've already taught five people and they've all enjoyed the game. If you're interested, please send an e-mail to Ben at [olliega@bellsouth.net](mailto:olliega@bellsouth.net) and put "Dominoes" in the subject line. We plan to start in January.

## Smyrna's Gem

Did you know that Smyrna has a gem right in our neighborhood? I'm talking about our library. City owned, resident friendly, and open seven days a week. If you haven't been there yet, take the time to visit. You'll be happily surprised at all it offers.

If you have children (of any age) there's a place for you. One end of the library is dedicated to very young and beginning readers.

A large variety of books are available and the children's Librarian holds story time readings. For older school children there's an area that includes biographies, travel, science, and fiction. Young Adults will find their own section which includes books for teenagers.

Do you have a favorite author? The fiction section is large and up-to-date with the latest books. Also included in the fiction area are science fiction, westerns, mystery and detective novels. One lovely little perk — three circular racks in the front of the library let you take romance, detective, and travel paperbacks. Just let the librarian know how many you're taking and off you go!

The frequently used newspaper and magazine area provides comfortable seating for reading the latest magazines and various newspapers. Also included is a large selection of DVDs, CDs, VCRs you can check out.

And this is just the downstairs!

Upstairs is an extensive non-fiction area including biographies of everybody, a reference desk to help you find things, and computers available for your use. There's also a genealogy room if you want to look up your family history.

One lovely area is the gallery where art is displayed on walls and glass front display cases. Exhibits, such as wood turnings, photographs, and unusual collections, change every two months. Many local artists display their works (offering items for sale).

If you're interested in volunteering, the library support group "Friends of the Smyrna Library" will welcome you and offer a wide selection of jobs.

So, take advantage of this wonderful resource. The librarians are friendly and helpful — you'll never feel like someone is going to pounce on you and whisper Shhhhhhhhh.

— Louisa Cohn

## MILESTONES

### births

Nevin and Sonaly Wadehra (Devin Ct) have a new baby girl, Karina Rani Wadehra

Sally and Alan Hearn (Anderson Circle) have a new baby girl, Lottie Kathryn Hearn, born October 6, at 7lbs 10oz

Jed and Angela Dorsey (Elizabeth St.) have a new baby girl, Riley Claire Dorsey ws born October 7

Mike and Lesley Hornigold (Hawthorne Ave) have a new baby girl, Megan Victoria, born October 20

Josh and Sarah Bonner (Marston Ave) have a new son, Joshua Brett Bonner.

### marriages

Steven & Shawne Jacobs (Hawthorne Ave.) got married October 9 in Louisville Kentucky

### illness

Linda McElveen (Whitfeild St) has recovered well from spleen surgery this past summer

Vic Koch (Roswell St) is walking well after a total knee replacement

Ron Davis (Roswell St) has recovered from eye surgery in the summer

Helen Wilgus (Spring St.) has recovered well after serious complications from kidney stones in September

Madge Jackson (Spring St.) is doing well after double by pass surgery in September

## Williams Park Travels — New Orleans and Cajun Country... by Ben Cohn

Four friends, two from Canada, two from New York, flew in to join us on a trip to Acadia. We rented a minivan, drove to New Orleans, and stayed at the Super8 Motel approximately two miles from the French Quarter. Good place, clean, and priced right. Unfortunately, we took a front desk recommendation on where to have dinner instead of going to the Acme Oyster House. The food was fine but the bill was \$190 without drinks. Having been to New Orleans three times, we recommend Mother's for delicious poor boys, Acme Oyster House, and Jimmy Buffett's Margueritaville for drinks.

The highlight of this visit was the World War II Museum which covers D-Day and the war in Europe plus a new building covering the Pacific. We spent three hours there but could have used more time. We stopped at Jackson Square so one of us could have their tarot cards read — parked and waited across from Cafe Du Monde where we watched a street vendor hoodwink tourists. There was a silver painted man sitting on a box without moving — tourists would throw money in his bucket and get their picture taken. Along came a guy, picked up the man, took him to the side and put a new head on him. What a business — set up a fake man in the morning, let him collect money all day, and take him home at night!

We took a ride down St. Charles Avenue to see the beautiful homes of the Garden district — recommend taking the trolley car ride. We left town to go see San Francisco plantation. It was wedged in among refineries and was overpriced — would recommend Oak Alley plantation.

A two hour drive took us to Cajun country in Lafayette, Louisiana. Had a great time at the Festivals Acadiens et Creoles, a three day event on the LSU campus. There were five stages with Cajun and Zydeco music, music, music. People brought couches and easy chairs and left them there. As a band played the dirt in front of the stage served as a dance floor. Between bands, they had to water down the dance floor to keep the dust down.

While in town, we went on a swamp tour at McGee's Landing and made a side trip to the Tabasco Factory on Avery Island — very interesting. Everything you could possibly have with Tabasco on it was in the gift shop. News to me — Tabasco produces six different Tabasco sauces. We bought the Sweet and Spicy which is not firey hot but very good.

We ate a lot of great food and recommend the following. Don's Seafood and Steakhouse — the night we were there the special was the \$22 seafood platter for \$12.95 — no way could you eat it all. Randol's Restaurant and Cajun Dance Hall had a band, a dance floor, and lots of fried foods. Poor Boy's Riverside Inn had giant shrimp poor boys and the best hot baked bread, like a feather. Took it back to the motel and ate it the next day — still great. Mulate's Cajun Restaurant in Breaux Bridge — band, dance floor, good food, fantastic gumbo.

When you say Louisiana, everybody thinks New Orleans, but Lafayette is true Cajun country. You could do worse than plan a trip there during the festivals.

## Laugh — it's good for you!

A guy was driving along with his grandchildren one day when a fire truck zoomed past with a Dalmatian dog in the front seat. The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep crowds back," one said. "No," said another, "he's just for good luck." The youngest child brought the discussion to a close. "They use the dog," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."

**WOMAN'S PERFECT BREAKFAST** goes like this —  
She's sitting at the table with her gourmet coffee.  
Her son is on the front of the Wheaties box.  
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Her boyfriend is on the cover of Playgirl.  
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**MILESTONES**

**deaths**

Sara Henrietta Goss Waddell, of Walker Court, died at home Tuesday November 30, 2010. She was 74 years old. A member of the First Baptist Church of Smyrna and past President of the Professional Secretaries Association, Sara worked passionately in recent years as a volunteer for the Make A Wish Foundation, personally completing 40+ wishes and earning the Hope, Strength, and Joy Award in 2008.

Mrs. Waddell is survived by her husband of 52 years, Ronald Waddell, Sr.; daughter and son-in-law, Terrie and R.S. Buel of Stone Mountain; son and daughter-in-law, Ron and Ginger Waddell of Douglasville, five grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

An anonymous benefactress to WPN has passed away. The unnamed client of Sandy Hamby's made several contributions (including name badges for original board members) to our organization, asking in return simply to see the photos of our neighborhood activities. She was a beautiful lady.

Judi Kessler's beloved companion, Tabby, passed away on October 13. She was 18 years old.



**Local Flora Chronicals** *Bringing the kitchen garden inside*

For those of you with a fair to middlin' interest in cooking, pull up your chair and let's talk herbs. It's pretty tough to beat fresh herbs in your culinary pursuits. Admittedly, a dried oregano flower head packs a flavorful punch but, more often than not, fresh is better. Fresh herbs can be a splurge, especially when your dinner party shopping list calls for sprigs of thyme, chopped marjoram, sage leaves and a rosemary spear. That's easily \$15-20 worth of packaged herbs from the store and, usually, the unused portion withers away in the fridge.

An inexpensive solution that will afford you herbs all of the time is to plant your own. You'll need a container with drainage, potting soil and seeds. Add a layer of pebbles at the bottom of your container to provide drainage and avoid soil compaction. Of course, there is a little more to it but your approach will depend on what you're planting. Specific information including planting depth, germination time and light requirements will be on the back of each seed packet. There are lots of garden forums you can visit, as well, to hear other people's experiences including successes, questions and concerns. Remember, it's just gardening — if it doesn't grow, try again.

Here are a few pointers in growing herbs from seed. The seeds need moisture to sprout but too much and the seeds will rot. I use a spray bottle to saturate the soil so they get just the right amount. Also, make sure you place the container in a spot with lots of natural light, particularly a window that gets light for at least six hours a day. In the winter, the sun

isn't strong enough to burn the seedlings, though in the summer they would fry! Let the seedlings establish themselves, then once they do start to grow, keep them trimmed to encourage growth and maintain height. Basil in particular can get tall and leggy fast!



If starting from seed is daunting, live plants give immediate access. They're a bit harder to find this time of year but certainly available. Simply google "live herbs for sale" and you'll find lots of options. For that matter, if your local big box store doesn't stock seeds of the type of herb you want to grow there are tons of seed companies online as well. Newbies might want to start simple.

Obscure and rare varieties, though appealing, can be temperamental and may require a special touch. Herbs can transform simple dishes into elegant entrees, providing an endless variety of flavors and combinations. Herb butters are quick and versatile. Simply soften a stick of butter, chop your favorite herb and add a splash of lemon juice, blend, chill, devour. Use on grilled chicken, steamed vegetables or a baked potato. Voila!

Feel free to email specific questions to [sue@suecriger.com](mailto:sue@suecriger.com). I wish you luck in your horticultural pursuits! — Sue Criger

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## How did we do *as the year comes to an end?*

Granted, the year isn't over yet but we are almost there. Remember a few MEMO's back I wrote about how we kept our home values in Smyrna and especially here in Williams Park? Well, it's time to look again to see if the end of the tax credit in April changed things.

As of the middle of November, there are 18 single family homes, four attached homes, 14 lots, one commercial property and one rental active on the market. The average price of the single family homes (SFH) is \$349,284 with prices ranging from \$520,000 to \$99,900. The average price of the attached homes is \$188,750 with prices ranging from \$335,000 to \$100,000. The average price of lots on the market right now is \$107,071 with prices ranging from \$200,000 to \$60,000.

The positive note is there are more resales on the market now than in the past year. Of the 37 SFH, attached homes, lots and commercial property, only three of those are possible short sales, all the rest are resales. Hopefully those 34 homes will be sold as resales and not turn into possible short sales or foreclosures.

There is only one property that is a pending sale right now and that one is waiting lender approval. No telling when this one will close, it might be this year or next. Ask someone in the neighborhood about living through buying a short sale and they will tell you that waiting is hard. It's hard, not only for the buyer, but for the seller as well. Short sales can take a month to up to two years to close! Usually, however, they take about three months on average to get closed once an offer is put to the bank. We also had eight properties that were leased this year ranging in price from \$2300 a month to \$605 a month.

Now, let's look at what sold in WP since January of this year. We only had 12 SFH that closed ranging in price from \$433,000 to

\$57,500 with the average price being \$315,325. What is interesting is that three of those were short sales and four of those were foreclosures. Only five of those were normal resales, which is not very positive as far as pricing of resales on the market right now. The positive note, as I said before, is the majority of the homes for sale right now are resales. That says to me that our neighborhood seems to be stabilizing again.

Four attached homes sold with prices ranging from \$280,000 to \$31,500. The average price of the attached homes was \$119,125. Nine lots sold, being developed as Walker Manor, for \$98,000 each. There were eight lots sold in Riley's Walk but the sales information is unavailable right now.

What this tells me is that Williams Park is truly a diverse neighborhood in not only prices of homes but, as you know, in styles and ages of homes as well. Personally, I love that! I think that's one of the things that makes this neighborhood work so well, the diversity within its boundaries. It is so rich in history, styles and prices that most anyone can find a place to call their own here. Got some friends that need a place to live? Get them to come look at some of the homes on the market here right now. We can always use a few more great neighbors!

— Jill Huitron

## WP Reads

THE WPN BOOK CLUB, meets the last Sunday of the month at 3 pm at a host home. We're always welcoming 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. — *Leanne Fey*

### *Talk Gertie To Me*

by Lois Winston ★★★★★

A young woman's journey from her small town upbringing to finding love and a career in New York City.

### *An Irish Country Doctor*

by Patrick Taylor ★★★★★

The experiences of a young doctor learning the ropes of country medicine in the 60s in rural Ireland.

### *Franklin and Lucy*

by Joseph Persico ★★★★★

An exploration of Franklin D. Roosevelt's life and his relationship with his longtime mistress Lucy Rutherford.

### *Tomorrow River*

by Leslie Kagan ★★★★★

A young girl from a powerful family in small town Virginia tries to unravel the mystery of her mother's disappearance.

## Atlanta Moonwalk & Party Rentals

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also available, adult & children tables & chairs

# A report from the WP Neighborhood History Committee ...by Bill Marchione

A committee of nine volunteers, calling itself "The Williams Park Neighborhood History Committee" has begun gathering information on WP past and present. We plan to comprehensively photograph all buildings in Williams Park; to do research into the oldest and most historic of these structures; to conduct oral interviews with long-term residents; to comb through public records relating to the locality and its developmental history, and to develop a slide lecture embodying our findings for public presentation next Spring. If you're interested in participating in the WP Neighborhood History Project, or would just like to know more about it, we encourage you to contact Committee Chair Bill Marchione at 857-919-0505 or by email at [wpmarchione@gmail.com](mailto:wpmarchione@gmail.com).

While this "Neighborhood History Project" is barely off the ground, we have already uncovered a host of interesting facts about WP's history, some of which appear below:

1. Williams Park lies in the oldest intact neighborhood in Smyrna.

2. The Western & Atlanta Railroad and depot, completed in 1845, and the adjacent Atlanta Road, account for the area's early development.

3. Many of the residents of the WP area worked for the railroad, serving as conductors, ticket agents, baggage masters, and flagmen on this 136 mile line that linked Atlanta to Chattanooga and points north.



4. Some of the heaviest fighting of the July 4, 1864 Battle of Smyrna Campground was fought in Williams Park. The Confederate defensive line lay just below Roswell Street.

5. The Yankees burned much of the town in the aftermath of this battle, including the depot. Only the 1840 Boy's Academy Building (which was serving as a hospital for wounded soldiers) was left standing in the village. This historic edifice, which later served as Smyrna's first high school and, later still, as a Masonic lodge, occupied the site where the Village Cafe sits in today's Market Village. Sadly, it was demolished in the 1950s.

6. Another of the handful of structures that survived the Federal onslaught was the circa 1850 Lyles-Bowles house, still standing, located at 1550 Spring Street in Williams Park. It's one of the oldest structures in Smyrna.

7. About 1855 the local railroad depot was given the name "Neal Dow," after the nation's leading temperance advocate, the man who had secured passage of the nation's first state prohibition law, the Maine Law of 1850. The temperance

movement was strong in North Georgia and Dow was a widely admired figure. Dow became anathema in Georgia after he accepted command of colored troops in the Civil War. There was apparently fear after the war that the Reconstruction legislature would impose the now hated Yankee General's name on the town. With the coming to power of the Redeemer government in 1872, however, the town was instead incorporated as "Smyrna," after the religious camp ground adjacent to the Methodist Church.

8. When Smyrna was incorporated as a city in 1872, its first Mayor, John C. Moore, a 38 year old railroad conductor, resided in our neighborhood.

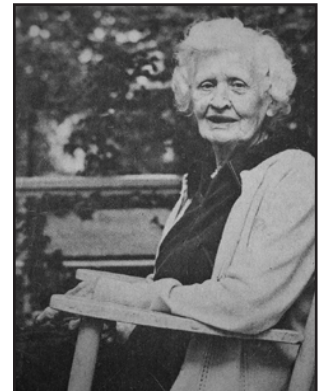
9. Smyrna City Hall once stood on the site of the Williams Park pergola. Later this location accommodated such diverse uses as a cotton warehouse, called the "Jangaree," owned by a Mr. Raswell, who lived nearby, and later still, an ice company.

10. Atlanta Road, the town's only north-south highway remained unpaved until 1924. This Road was the original Highway 41. Today's Cobb Parkway and South Cobb Drive were built in the early 1940s.

11. In 1905 a trolley line was established connecting Marietta and Atlanta. Many local residents utilized this line to commute to jobs outside of Smyrna. In fact the line employed a number of local residents as conductors. A small trolley depot stood adjacent to Williams Park. This line was discontinued in 1947.

12. The Atlanta Road was so extensively used by tourists traveling from Atlanta to North Georgia that a tourist industry briefly arose along this roadway. With the coming of the Great Depression, however, the industry foundered.

13. Williams Park resident, Mazie Whitfield Nelson, who lived on Gilbert Street, published the first history of Smyrna in 1967 under the title *Past, Present, Future*.



14. As late as 1950, Smyrna's population totaled a mere 1440, with about one-third of this number living in the area that now comprises the Williams Park neighborhood. Industrial development fostered rapid growth in the World War II period and after. First came the Bell Bomber Plant during the war and then Lockheed in 1951, ushering in a period of sustained growth for the city. By 1970 Smyrna's population had increased to 19,157. Smyrna's population now hovers near 50,000.

15. Proliferation of automobile ownership in Smyrna and vicinity had a profound impact on the town. The building of two shopping centers near Williams Park in the late 1950s, Jonquil Plaza and Belmont Hills (the latter reputedly the largest shopping center in the Southeast) sapped much of the commercial vitality of the downtown. Still as late as 1958, when the first Smyrna City Directory appeared, downtown



# History Project

Smyrna accommodated 42 businesses, in addition to a public library and a police station.

16. The railroad crossing points near Williams Park were dangerous for pedestrians and vehicular traffic alike. Many accidents occurred at these points, but the railroad long refused to establish signals. Only in 1966 were signals finally installed at the dangerous Hawthorne Avenue crossing, with the City and County footing the bill.

17. Traffic and parking problems were a major preoccupation in and around Williams Park in the 1960 to 1990 period. Prior to the construction of a bridge over the railroad tracks linking Concord Road to Spring Road directly, east-west vehicular traffic was obliged to negotiate the narrow streets of our neighborhood, chiefly Spring Street and Roswell Streets, causing major traffic problems during rush hour and making those streets relatively undesirable places in which to live. This problem was not finally resolved until 1967.



18. In the mid-1960s the effort to divert traffic around our neighborhood, as well as to widen Atlanta Road through the downtown, was championed by City Councilor James B. "Dusty" Rhodes, who lived on Whitfield Street.

19. In 1989, early in the administration of Mayor Max Bacon, downtown Smyrna was razed to allow for the widening of Atlanta Road and the construction of Market Village, a project completed in 1991. The Market Village project also required the demolition of many residences on the far side of Atlanta Road, leaving Williams Park as the only surviving intact section of the downtown.

20. In 2004 Williams Park was established by the City, named for long-time restaurant owner G. B. Williams, whose popular eatery sat along the same side of the tracks and across the road from the site now occupied by the Smyrna Museum. This was followed in 2005 by the establishment of the Williams Park Neighbors, a flourishing civic organization with a current membership of 165 families.



# WP Happy Hours — now in two flavors

Our popular and well attended monthly Happy Hour events have spawned offspring. Now there are Family Happy Hours for parents of small children who want to gather for a drink without getting a baby sitter. October's FHH, hosted by Haley and Steve McQuade, doubled as a Halloween party for the kids.



November's FHH, hosted by Tiffany and Harris Sudderth, doubled as a football watching party and brought out a bunch of people including this posse of five infantile collegiate football fans.



Meanwhile, the original flavor WPH HHs roll along unabated. Myrna and Larry Evans hosted the September. Wade Ingle came in lederhosen more commonly seen as October Fest attire explaining, "I was affraid it would be too cold next month." He was wrong — the weather was beautiful when Linda and Leon McElveen hosted us in October. Thanks to all these HH hosts for opening their homes.



Above: Myrna, flanked by Kate and Hannah.



Peace, Larry. Mary Ann and Bill Marchione



SANDY HAMBY PHOTOS

Left to right: Linda McElveen, Jill Huitron, Jill's daughter Courtney, Judi Kesler.

Janelle Lampp and Tom Haley, a composition in red and black.





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