



Williams Park

## MEMO

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS

We're on the web at [www.williamsparkneighbors.org](http://www.williamsparkneighbors.org)MEMO  
NOTESThe end is  
past!

The WPN membership year ended March 31, but we still have some members who haven't yet renewed. If you're one of them, please take a moment to complete and mail the membership form on page 5 to renew your membership today. We have lots of activities and events planned including participation in a home tour (see page 2), so don't jeopardize your place on the distribution list for the MEMO and for the WPN e-mails.

We encourage contributions to the MEMO. Deadlines for the next two issues are August 15, and November 15. We'll accept submissions in almost any form (though we prefer electronic). Send material to Casey at 770-333-9995 or at [dimgoblu@earthlink.net](mailto:dimgoblu@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 [ldavis1351@yahoo.com](mailto:ldavis1351@yahoo.com)

## Belmont Hills redevelopment in trouble?

**B**ELMONT HILLS IS A RUN DOWN, worn out, tired old shopping center. It's been that way for years. Forty-four acres of ball and chain hampering Smyrna's movement toward a positive future. To encourage its redevelopment, the Mayor and Council proposed a Tax Allocation District (TAD) program similar to those working in other cities across the country. When the referendum went on the ballot in 2002, the citizens of Smyrna voiced overwhelming support of a Belmont Hills TAD.

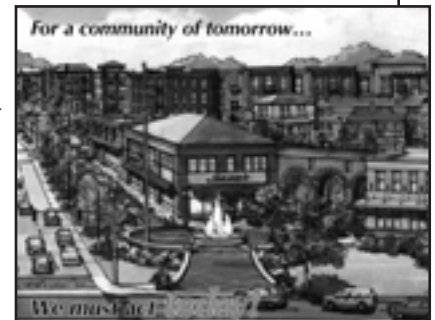
Of course, there's a chronology which must play out between the conceptual "yes" to use a TAD and the actual "yes" to fund a TAD. Therein lies the stumbling block this project now rests against. To gain approval, a TAD request must have the blessing of the Smyrna's Mayor and Council, Smyrna's Downtown Development Authority, Cobb County's School Board, and Cobb County's Board of Commissioners. The process should be simple: each body evaluates the proposal from its individual perspective and area of expertise. The Belmont Hills request passed both City bodies without problems and, it's believed, will be approved by the County Commissioners if it can get to them.

The problem lies with the County School Board and their objections, some contend, lie outside their proper area of consideration or review. "We're being thrust into being real estate developers." - school board member Johnny Johnson, as quoted in the *Marietta Daily Journal*, January 11, 2007.

Georgia Senator Doug Stoner, acknowledging "the situation was confusing," introduced Senate Bill 225 "to clarify the school board's role and provide training for officials who are involved in approving TADs." SB 225 passed the House of Representatives (126 to 36) and Senate (46 to 1), but was vetoed on May 30 by Governor Perdue, apparently feeling it too specifically targeted one case.

Probably every person reading this MEMO has received one of these brochures in the mail. It takes a pro-Belmont-redevelopment position, encouraging citizens to contact their County Commissioner

Joe L. Thompson in support of TAD funding for the project.



Meanwhile, in February, the school board approved a moratorium freezing any TAD action for the time being.

Now it appears Smyrna will take the discussion to the County Commission. "Lnenicka said if Cobb commissioners approve Halpern's Belmont Hills project for TAD funding, it would send a positive message to the school board to do the same," according to Jon Gillooly writing in the May 31 *Marietta Daily Journal*.

This is of real consequence to residents of Williams Park. Belmont Hills owner Halpern says they can't afford to execute the redevelopment without TAD funding. The shopping center is largely emptied of tenants now, in anticipation of the project, and Halpern is losing money. Without the TAD, they say, they'll have no choice but to fill the space back up as is and begin collecting rent again. In its current state, the property will likely only attract down-scale businesses.

If you have an opinion, let it be known.

## Cobb Board of Commissioners

Chairman Samuel S. Olens: 770-528-3305  
[solens@cobbcounty.org](mailto:solens@cobbcounty.org)

District 2, Joe L. Thompson: (our district)  
770-528-3316 [jthompson@cobbcounty.org](mailto:jthompson@cobbcounty.org)

District 1, Helen Goreham: 770-528-3314  
[hgoreham@cobbcounty.org](mailto:hgoreham@cobbcounty.org)

continued on page three...

## 2007 CALENDAR

wpn clean sweep  
saturday, june 9 huge  
yard sale  
& sunday, june 10  
put junk out for  
trash amnesty pickup  
(see page 3 for details)

wpn book club  
sunday, june 17  
3:00 pm  
(Leanne 770-863-9580)

wpn happy hour  
friday, june 22  
6:30 pm  
location tbd

wpn bridge club  
wednesday, june 20  
7:30 pm  
(Mary Helen 770-437-8620)

wpn happy hour  
friday, july 20  
6:30 pm  
location tbd

wpn general assembly  
neighborhood meeting  
tuesday, july 24  
7:00 pm at smyrna  
community center

wpn bridge club  
wednesday, july 25  
7:30 pm  
(Mary Helen 770-437-8620)

wpn book club  
sunday, july 29  
3:00 pm  
(Leanne 770-863-9580)

MEMO submissions  
due august 15  
(casey 770-333-9995)  
dingoblue@earthlink.net

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

## Kudos for neighbors

The indefatigable **Dru Bennet** (spring street) is back in the hospitality chair. After the birth of son Warren, she left the chair temporarily to get up to speed on the motherhood thing. ??? months later, she 's back welcoming new neighbors, handing out baby gifts and sending cards. Welcome back to the pack, Dru.

Also, we offer gratitude to **Nancy Smith** (gilbert street) who stepped up to fill in while Dru was changing diapers. Rather than do simply an adequate job, Nancy took it on as though it was paid employment and really rose to the task. Thank you, Nancy.

**Bob and Lori Goulder** (gilbert street) have left the building. A business opportunity took them to Charlotte, NC. As we wish them luck for the future, we give them thanks for all they've given Williams Park in the past. Our new Gilbert Street block captains are **Jim and Tracy Duelmer**. Thanks fro stepping up, you guys.

Thanks to the following people who turned out for the April **Adopt-A-Mile walk**. Matt Bennett, Cindy Hannon, Sandy Hamby, Cythina Vinion, Debbie Savage, Anne Whited, and Judy Kessler all braved the weeds and misperceptions (one onlooker near Five Points commented, "It's better than being in jail - ain't it?") to get the job done. We also got a very warm "thank you and bless you" from a nice old lady who was walking along Mathews Street. That last encounter made it all worth it for me.

We picked up 20 bags of trash. We did stretch to include Mathews again, so that street also figures in the volume — officially, WP has only adopted Roswell Street. If anyone would be interested in personally officially adopting Mathews Street it's available. Meanwhile, we'll try and cover it whenever we can.

— David Whited, WPN Beautification

## Home Tour... on again

Williams Park will be participating with **Emory Adventist Hospital** Holiday Home Tour this year and we're looking for a few of our homeowners to participate. The tour is Sunday, December 2nd, from 12:00 noon to 6:00pm. We expect about 300 people to visit each home walking or utilizing a shuttle within the neighborhood. There will be no cost to the homeowner and you'll be treated to dinner and tour of the other homes the night before. Also, we can arrange for borrowed holiday floral arrangements and poinsettias if you want help with holiday decorations. It's for a good cause, the proceeds going to benefit our local hospital.

We have so many nice homes in Williams Park — old, new, and in between — it will be fun to have the public come see what a great neighborhood we are. If you're interested in opening your home for the tour, or if you have any questions please contact Debbie Savage (Old Roswell Street) 770-436-2610 [savagedebbie@bellsouth.net](mailto:savagedebbie@bellsouth.net)

## Party resource in WP

If you're the busy parent of a 3-10 year old wondering what your going to do for the next birthday, you've got a friend in Williams Park who can help. Christa Owens (old roswell road) runs the local Oogles n Googles offering unique and zany "all inclusive" themed kids birthday party packages. "From set-up to clean up, we do the work so parents don't have to. They can enjoy their child's party, visit with guests and even have time to snap a picture or two," Christa says. "We provide each child with an unbelievably memorable birthday party experience." Christa can be reached at (770) 436-ZANY (9269). The website is [www.ooglesn-googles.com](http://www.ooglesn-googles.com).

**PARTICIPATE:** Two issues back, we published an article by Alan Wilgus (spring street) about a trip he took to the Pacific coast. An accompanying side-bar listed 15 recent trips (across the country and abroad) and the 10 neighborhood families who took them. That information was culled by a casual survey and it was fun to see where WPN had been vacationing. Here's a new survey question: What's your hobby? Send an email to [dingoblue@earthlink.net](mailto:dingoblue@earthlink.net) — and don't forget to tell us your name. You'll read the responses in the next MEMO. — Casey Clavin





## MILESTONES

### births

Micah and Dawn Rapoport (Walker Street) have a new baby boy, Zachary James was born April 21, weighing in at 7 pounds, and 20 inches in length. Skylar has a new baby brother!

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

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. Use the application on the following page.

PHOTO BY VIC KOCH



*That's me standing on the upturned roots of one of Williams Park's big old trees. I'm wondering, why don't we do a better job protecting these valuable assets?*

## Trees...

On May 3, 2007 I wrote the following letter addressed to Mayor Max Bacon, Ward Three Councilman Bill Scoggins, and Community Development Director Ken Suddreth. As yet, I've received no response.

Dear Sirs,

I'm writing about the recent removal of trees from two development sites (in Williams Park) early this week. Through the rezoning process, commitments were made to the community that these trees would be protected through the development and building phases to remain on the property, and in the neighborhood, into the foreseeable future. Now those promises have been broken.

On the Vinings Construction site (at Walker Street and Walker Court), several trees were slated to be saved, most notably a huge old Oak tree due to serve as the centerpiece for a small park and play area. They were all still standing after the site was cleared of the "unwanted" trees. Later, as grading proceeded, a line of trees right along the street were removed which was disappointing. Then last Monday, April 30th, a nice group of trees in the northwest portion of the lot were removed, including the huge old Oak. Four more along the northwest side were due to come down the next day.

Several nearby property owners are unhappy, the grading company is unhappy, the builder is unhappy. None of them wanted those trees removed. So why did it happen? I talked to the builder Bryan Saddler. He says that the City Arborist



ordered the trees be removed because they'd been too heavily impacted by activity around them. Bryan protested, he believed the trees had been adequately protected, and he offered to put up a five-year tree bond. Inflexible, the Arborist said she'd shut him down until the trees were gone. So, unable to wait through a protracted battle, he acquiesced. What a terrible shame.

Who's right? Did activity nearby compromise the trees beyond hope? And if so, why was that permitted to occur? Now those trees are gone and the only person who's happy about it is Smyrna's Arborist. (How ironic is that?) The City's Arborist should be proactively addressing the survival of trees slated to be saved through site visits and builder education, not simply handing out removal orders after impact. And she should welcome an offer of a tree bond in a questionable situation.

On the Coro site (at Roswell, Mathews, and Whitfield) only one tree, a big old Oak, was slated to be left standing on a previously heavily wooded nine acres. Orange tree-save fence was placed around it several months ago when grading began. Though much activity occurred just outside that barrier, the area inside appeared undisturbed to my observations (as I pass there most days). Then Tuesday, April 1st, I drove by and saw this: no orange tree-save fence in sight, and the big old Oak laying on the ground.

During the lengthy process leading to the zoning hearings, I personally walked that property for the purpose of counting trees. There were so many, I decided to count only those with a diameter of 6" or greater. My count surpassed 400 -- and all those were substantially larger than any the developer/builder will replant on the site in the long run. Only the one big Oak could be worked into the development plan according to the developer, but it would get "feature" status, and the absolute best care possible. Now it's gone also.

As redevelopment occurs, we're going to lose some of our large old trees. We all know that. But once a tree is designated to remain, we should be putting effort toward its survival -- not simply hoping things will work out that way. If our plan is to clear all trees off all redevelopment sites, we don't need a City Arborist. If we're going to pay somebody to fill that role, let's get something for our money.

Sincerely,

Casey Clavin

1475 Roswell Street

770-333-9995

## WELCOME

to these most recent new members:

on bernard lane

Scott & Eileen Schara

on marston street

Wendy Amundson & Tony Graveson plus Elizabeth 19, Michael 20, and Stacey 18

ivy spring drive

Peggy Shippe  
beading & gardening

Chas & Barbara Thomas  
gardening, reading & swimming

Ryan Farnsley  
snowskiing, waterskiing & tennis

on old roswell street

Claire & Brendan Crowley  
travel, Ireland, snowskiing, farming, tennis & soccer

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. Use the application below.

## Williams Park Cooks! ... Tom Haley (Old Roswell)

I'm no mixologist, but I sure like to drink! It's summertime and the living is easy, if a bit dry. It's a great time for entertaining and what better way to party than to try a new cocktail or two! For this issue, I am going to break away from the food and review two of my favorite summer concoctions sure to have your friends feeling good!

### Southern Magnolia Margaritas

This recipe was provided to me by a friend I ran into at the supermarket, which made stocking up on the ingredients much easier! It's a great take on a traditional favorite and will be sure to have your guests begging for more.

- 1 large can of frozen limeade concentrate (save the can)
- 1 twelve ounce can of 7-Up
- 1 twelve ounce bottle of Corona beer
- 1 can of Tequila (use the can from the limeade)

Combine all ingredients and refrigerate for at least one hour. Serve over ice with limes and lemons for garnish.

### Peach Sangria

I received this recipe from another good friend of mine. You'll probably want to make several batches of this one, as it's awfully good and seems to go fast!

- 1 lemon sliced thin
- 1 lime sliced thin
- 1 peach sliced thin
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1/4 cup of Peach Schnapps
- 1 bottle of white wine (any will do, I use Pinot Grigio)
- 1 twelve ounce can of Ginger Ale

Mix all ingredients, saving the sugar for last, in a large pitcher. Refrigerate for at least one hour. Be sure to pour some of the fruit into the glass along with the Sangria. People will love it!

Next time you're looking for a new drink to try, give these a whirl! Next issue, we'll get back to the food, but in the meantime, have a great summer... Cheers!

**NOTE:** We have a lot of development going on and we will have for awhile. Though developers generally do work within the guidelines, it's up to us, to some degree, to look out for ourselves by monitoring them and reporting infractions which are detrimental to our community. Mud in the streets, silt fences that are broken down by construction, excessive construction waste lying around for too long, and working outside of the prescribed hours are some areas the City Marshal will address. He's here to look out for us. Officer Simon Cardenas, in charge of Code Enforcement, can be reached at 770-319-5490. Or you can file a report at Smyrna's website [ci.smyrna.ga.us](http://ci.smyrna.ga.us).

— David Whited

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

I'm new and joining WPN for the first time.  I'm renewing my WPN membership.

# Williams Park Neighbors

name: \_\_\_\_\_ address: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

children's names, ages and gender: \_\_\_\_\_

special interests/ hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to help out with: \_\_\_\_\_

What info may we include in a WPN directory? your name , +your address , +your phone number , + your email

SEND TO: WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS — P.O. BOX 813811, SMYRNA, GA 30081-8811  
PLEASE SUBMIT ANNUAL DUES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15.00 PER FAMILY

## RAIN DATE SUCCESS

We all had a nice time at the Williams Park Neighbors' anniversary party the day after it should have happened. Rain threatened Saturday, May 5th, so we postponed and had a beautiful day on Sunday.

There were lots of good things to eat but consensus held that Gerrye Scoggins' Fudge Cake was the highlight. So here now, by popular demand...

### GERRYE SCOGGINS' AWESOME FUDGE CAKE

4-1/2 cups sugar  
12-ounce can evaporated milk  
1 stick butter, melted  
pinch of salt  
18-ounces semi-sweet chocolate chips  
7oz jar of marshmallow cream  
1 tablespoon vanilla  
4 cups chopped pecans

Mix sugar, milk, butter and salt in a heavy saucepan. Stir well. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and cook 8 minutes on low heat, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and add chocolate chips, marshmallow cream and vanilla. Stir until completely blended. Add pecans and stir well.

Pour into a Bundt pan that has been sprayed heavily with nonstick cooking spray. Place in refrigerator for several hours or overnight. To remove, place in a few inches of hot water in the sink and turn onto a serving platter. Store in refrigerator.

## New Exhibits at the Library ...Don Kinter (ivy spring drive)

The Smyrna Library Display Galleries have two new exhibitions mounted: artwork by Art & Food participants and artwork by the students of Whitefield Academy. These will run through June 30, 2007.

"Art & Food is a center for training young adults with developmental disabilities," explains Dorothy Sibert, coordinator of the Smyrna Library Galleries. "Creating art and preparing food are key activities used to help the students prepare for entry level jobs in the community. We're pleased to showcase their work here." The "Art & Food" work features self portraits and paintings, a suitcase collage, wax covered pictures and decorated railroad tacks.

The work of the Whitefield students include "Australian Aborigines Paintings," created using sticks, rocks and other nature items as painting tools, and "Dinovision" watercolors capturing the visual perspective of dinosaurs,

believed to see brilliant colors. The Whitefield Academy students have won a number awards locally and this exhibit presents a mix of the kind of creativity that is being nurtured at the academy."

The Smyrna Library Galleries, managed by the Friends of Smyrna Library, showcases the works of local artists, craftspeople and collectors who have something to share with the larger community. The organization is continuously seeking thought-provoking and visually appealing exhibits. They also sponsor "Murder Goes South," a Southern mystery book festival that brings authors and readers throughout the region together for discussions, workshops and more. It is the highlight of the Friends yearly program schedule. To learn more about the Friends of Smyrna Library, visit [friendsofsmyrnalibrary.org](http://friendsofsmyrnalibrary.org).

— Don Kintner (Ivy Spring Drive)

## Who knew? ...David Whited (walker street)

Here are some notes and highlights from the City's Municipal Code Regarding disposal of waste material.

- If trash is of such a nature that it cannot be put in the receptacle, it shall be carefully placed in tied bundles or other suitable containers under 75 pounds so it can be removed conveniently. Trash of this nature including hedge cuttings shall be placed adjacent to the street for easy pickup.

- Curbside recycling. The city or its contractor provides weekly collection of recyclable materials. The plastic recycling container is provided by the city and there is no fee for

recycling pick up. Glass is no longer accepted in the recycling bins. Glass is still accepted at the Recycling Center.

- Chipping program. The city will provide monthly collection of trees and branches. This material is to be no more than 12 inches in diameter, no greater than six feet in length, and must be separated from the garbage and placed at the street curb. The city will then chip this material. The material will be made available to the citizens of Smyrna at no cost at the city public works complex.

- Leaves must be raked to the curb for vacuuming, or placed in paper bags designed for such a purpose. The city will not pick up leaves in plastic bags.

- Heavy accumulation such as construction or remodeling waste, brick, broken concrete, sand and gravel, automobile frames and parts, dead trees and other bulky, heavy material shall be disposed of at the expense of owner or person controlling the same.

- The city will impose a \$10.00 fee per item for the collection of large furniture such as sofas, beds, and tables, and large appliances such as refrigerators, hot water heaters, and stoves placed at street curb. For any special pickups, it's a good idea to call the City as soon as you put the items out. This will minimize the time that the items set at curbside.

PICK-UP SCHEDULE IN WILLIAMS PARK				
STREET NAME	IN GROUND CAN	ROLL-OUT CART	RE-CYCLING	LEAVES
Anderson Circle	mon/thur	mon	mon	wk 2 mon
Bernhard Lane	n/a	mon	mon	wk 2 mon
Elizabeth Street	mon/thur	mon	mon	wk 2 mon
Gilbert Street	mon/thur	mon	thur	wk 2 mon
Hawthorne Ave	mon/thur	mon	thur	wk 2 mon
Highland Ave	mon/thur	mon	thur	wk 2 mon
Ivy Springs Drive	n/a	mon	mon	wk2 mon
Mathews Street	mon/thur	mon	thur	wk 2 mon
Mimosa Circle	mon/thur	mon	thur	wk 2 mon
Morris Circle	mon/thur	mon	thur	wk 2 mon
North Ave	mon/thur	mon	thur	wk 2 mon
Old Roswell Road	mon/thur	mon	thur	wk 2 mon
Riley's Walk	n/a	mon	mon	wk2 mon
Roswell Street	mon/thur	mon	thur	wk 2 mon
Spring Street	mon/thur	mon	thur	wk 2 mon
Walker Court	mon/thur	mon	thur	wk 2 mon
Walker Street	mon/thur	mon	thur	wk 2 mon
Whitfield Court	mon/thur	mon	thur	wk 2 mon
Whitfield Street	mon/thur	thur	thur	wk 2 mon
Windy Oaks Court	mon/thur	mon	thur	wk 2 mon