



# 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

### LIVING WITH COYOTES

Because we've had repeated reports of coyotes in the neighborhood, WPN Security and Safety Chair Jim Duelder provides the following information compiled by Wildlife Resources Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

**Never, under any circumstances, feed a coyote.**

**Keep items such as grills, pet food or bird feeders off-limits. Clean and store grills when not in use. Keep pet food indoors or feed pets indoors. Refill bird feeders with small amounts only as needed.**

**Make trash cans inaccessible. Fasten lids securely or store trash cans in the garage until trash day.**

**Take pets indoors at night, as this is the coyote's primary hunting time.**

**If the pet must be kept outside, install fencing and flood lights to discourage predators.**

**Never approach a coyote that shows no fear of people, acts aggressively or appears uncoordinated or sick.**

## Right here in the neighborhood!



Vic and I recently visited a wonderfully interesting business right here in Williams Park. Driving along Atlanta Road a few weeks ago, I pointed out some rustic wooden tapered structures on a roof, track-side east. Vic suggested we go investigate. What we found was SFA, a small business manufacturing rustic furniture inspired by the National Park Movement developed largely by the depression era CCC and the WPA.

Daniel warmly invited us in for an impromptu shop tour where we saw many different furniture forms, mostly built of eastern red cedar incorporating some portions of the natural rough tree exterior while also featuring the lively color and grain of highly finished cut surfaces.

Daniel clearly enjoys this

work and the various other projects SFA fulfills. The project currently occupying the shop was a group of massive fence posts and gates, a restoration of a mile long structure. They also create on site structures, masonry and landscape design. Would we like to see photos? You bet.

So we went upstairs to Aline's office where the windows look out over the shop roof and a half dozen garden trellis' of various sizes — these are the objects that drew Vic and I to the place. The photos documented truly remarkable projects — pavilions, water features, patios, fireplaces, fences, bridges, gates, furniture, and an amazing play structure that must be forty feet long.



The company is Sports Fields & Amenities. The proprietor is designer and wood sculptor Mike Williams. They relocated to the end of Alexander Street early this year, downsizing from their previous location. You can look them up on line at [www.sfamenities.com](http://www.sfamenities.com) or walk over there and have a look. They produce wonderful objects. — Casey Clavin

**NOTE:** We encourage contributions to the MEMO. Deadlines for future issues are August 15. and November 15. Send material to Casey at [dingoblue@earthlink.net](mailto:dingoblue@earthlink.net) or 770-333-9995

# 2009 CALENDAR

wpn happy hour  
friday, june 19, 7 pm  
linda & leon mcElveen  
1562 whitfield street  
(770-431-0292)

wpn children's  
playtime  
thursday, july 9  
3:30 pm  
whitfield park

wpn kids' popsicle  
social  
sat, july 11, 10 am  
durham park  
storytime, games,  
crafts, fun!

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

wpn adopt-a-mile  
saturday, july 18  
assemble in williams  
park at 9 am  
mike engel  
(7678-698-0987)

wpn general assembly  
meeting, 7 pm  
tuesday, august 4  
smyrna community  
center

wpn cook out  
saturday, august 8  
4 pm  
durham park on spring  
there will be kids'  
activities, too!

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

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

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## Kudos to neighbors...



THANKS to recent WPN happy hour hosts — Sue Hunt in March, Jill and Daniel Huitron in April, and Dru, Matt and Warren Bennett in May.

Sue, a regular happy hour attendee, turns out to be an excellent hostess as well, unfa-



ingly gracious even when a couple of hangers-on stayed nearly until midnight.

Jill and Daniel happened to host us on Michael's birthday so there was cake and the obligatory off-key singing. The Huitron's collection of primitive art provided many interesting objects to peruse.



Dru and Matt really raised the bar. Not only did they provide a band for listening and, in the case of Don and Helen Porch, for dancing, but their son Warren hosted children's activities in his bedroom.



Kudos to the fourteen volunteers who came out for the May 9 Adopt-a-Mile trash pickup up, particularly Mike Engel (second from left) who has stepped up to take charge of this monthly event. Thanks also, to David Whited who's hanging up his bags and picker after more than two years of running this show.

Congratulations to the winners of the "Anything made with pecans" contest at our Spring picnic. Ashley Taylor took 1st Place for her pecan pie. Alicia Barrios took 2nd Place for her pecan chicken salad. And Debbie Savage took 3rd Place for her pecan slaw. Thank you to judges Jim Motes from North Georgia Trophy and Mike Hornigold from right here in WP.

Thanks to Linda and Leon McElveen for organizing and running WPN's part in the big yard sale. This event was more fully organized and managed than in past years. Thirty six families participated here in WP, plus twenty more in Smyrna Heights. If you'd like to participate next

year, mark your calendar for the weekend after Memorial Day. Thanks to all who participated. After the sales concluded, we

were able to donate several truckloads of useable items to the Good Will.



# 2008 CALENDAR

...continued from previous page

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

wpn chili cookoff  
sat, oct 17, 3 pm  
location tba  
there will be kids'  
activities, too!

wpn caroling and  
pergola lighting  
sat, dec 5, 7 pm  
williams park  
hot cocoa and treats  
family fun

## WELCOME

new members:

— on devin court —

Marla Franks &  
Susan Zoller

— on elizabeth st —

Jed & Angela Dorsey

— on highland ave —

Jason & Melissa  
Bonner

— on mimosa circle —

Allison Jolly

— on north avenue —

David & Jennifer Hasler

— on spring street —

Jan & Brian Dempsey

— on walker street —

William & Leidih  
Stafano

— on whitfield st —

Phil & Amy Qualter  
Holly Schneider &  
Gregg Corbon

## News in and around Williams Park

Jared and Anna Swafford (elizabeth street) are moving to Florida. Though they'll be gone, they'll leave a little bit of themselves behind in



SANDY HAMBRY PHOTOS

the form of our WPN coffee mugs which Jared designed. It's been good to know both you guys. Goodbye, y'all, and good luck in your new adventure.

Kevin Meckes has executed a daring new paint scheme on his house (corner of roswell and gilbert), more appropriate to its period than it's previous subdued livery. The Queen Anne style house, built in the last decade of the nineteenth century, falls within the wider Victorian style of architecture which often carried paint schemes of many bold colors.



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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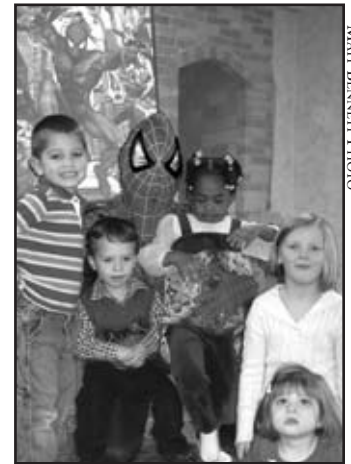


Janelle Lampp (gilbert street) is going back to her roots and her childhood passion for the French language. She's offering private French lessons, from beginner to advanced levels, from her home on Gilbert Street. In case you didn't know, Janelle has a B.A. in languages with a major in French and an MBA in International Business (Accounting and Finance) with a minor in French. She has also studied, worked and traveled extensively in France. If you want to chat with Janelle about French (or in French) you can call her at 770-330-0019 or email her at [jjlampp@bellsouth.net](mailto:jjlampp@bellsouth.net)

Matt and Dru Bennett (spring street) want to give a special shoutout to Michael "Spiderman" Thomas

(ivey springs drive) for taking the time to entertain at Warren's 3rd birthday party in January. Michael volunteered his time, going above and beyond to make it a special day for all the kids. Apparently, Michael's also available for bachelorette parties and "Bunko" night. And while we're at it, another shoutout to Michael "Play That Funky Music"

Thomas and the rest of the band, The Ninth Order, for playing at Matt and Dru's happy hour in May. Everyone enjoyed the music and the police only showed up once! Thanks, Michael! You're a great Williams Park Neighbor.



MATT BENNETT PHOTO

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## MILESTONES

### births



Bill and Gerrye Scoggins (roswell street) have new identical twin great-grandsons. Born April 11, David Alexander and Joseph Brandon Stringfield both weighed 4 pounds 6 ounces and were 17 inches long. That makes 16 grandkids and 11 great-grandkids!

### unions



Jason Hamby, son of Sam and Sandy Hamby (roswell street) married Annah Gladden on April 4.

### illness

Betty Crane (roswell street) is up and around after a prolonged battle with a severely broken leg. After about a year of splints and wheelchairs, she is once again walking (carefully) on her own, continuing along the path of recovery.

### deaths

We've lost two neighbors on Mimoso Circle. Mrs. Rayford Virginia Caldwell Cameron died April 6th and her husband Rev. O.F. "Buddy" Cameron followed her on April 25. They were both 81 years old. After the Army during WW II, Mr. Cameron attended Mercer and Georgia Tech, then worked for Lockheed for 39 years. He was a decon

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## Debi Cross nominated volunteer of the year

Our neighbor Debi Cross (Gilbert Street) was featured in a recent *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* article. Here follows a shortened version of the story written by Gracie Bonds Staples (with help from staff writer Patrick Fox) and printed in the Tuesday, May 19, 2009 issue.

### Many who lose a job find a joy: Volunteering

For years at the Coca-Cola Co., Deborah Cross took part in the company's days of service initiatives, volunteering her professional expertise to nonprofits that often couldn't afford her kind of brainpower otherwise. Cross says she enjoyed serving in that way, but that is where her volunteer efforts began and ended. Then, in 2007, [she was] laid off after 20 years. "...losing my health-care insurance was devastating," said Cross, 50, whose husband of 25 years was undergoing cancer treatments.

Walking the halls at Piedmont Hospital, however, she discovered that there were people who were far worse off and she decided to make volunteering part of her new routine... becoming part of a whole pool of well-educated, highly skilled volunteers looking for ways to get off the couch and stay engaged in the real world.

Cross began with Hands On Atlanta, providing marketing and strategic planning, she made recommendations for achieving their short- and long-term goals [with] their limited resources.

"Networking means business contacts," Cross said. "My next employer was one of the people who saw me in action and said, 'Let's go to lunch and talk. I could use someone like you.' " Now Cross is chief marketing officer for a health information technology startup in Atlanta.

Monique Shields, director of community and civic engagement at Hands On Atlanta, said attendance at the nonprofit's volunteer orientations jumped 100 percent during the first quarter of the year. Those volunteers encompass every race and income level, including many who have been laid off or inspired by President Barack Obama's call to service.

Milton Little, president of United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, which [also] operates an online volunteer-matching service, said he too has seen an increase in the number of people seeking to volunteer. The reasons

vary. Some people have been in the private sector and are looking to see what opportunities exist at nonprofits, Little said. Others are looking for ways to make a difference. And some just want to use the opportunity as a way station until a new job becomes available.

Linda Freund, director of the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry, said that about half of the people who come in wanting to help have been laid off. Not only does volunteering make them feel useful, she said, "it looks good on their resume."

Volunteers at Atlanta parks have doubled over the past year, and parks officials in Fulton, DeKalb and Gwinnett counties say volunteerism is up sharply.

Gary Galloway, volunteer services coordinator for Gwinnett County Senior Services, said the increase in volunteers has come just in time. "We're at the point where we've used all our notches to tighten our belt," he said. In 2006, senior services had 30,100 volunteer hours. That increased to 39,800 in 2007 and 45,200 in 2008. Galloway said the rough economy is bringing in a new breed of volunteers. Corporations are finding it smarter to provide labor in lieu of a check, and baby boomers are trading in their exotic vacations for more meaningful experiences locally. "Every week, I hear something about a person who lost his job, and he says, 'I want to keep my mind, body and spirit engaged,'" Galloway said.

When Ken Pierannunzi, 49, got a pink slip just before Christmas, his wife urged him to volunteer at Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry. "I went into it thinking I was going to help other people when in reality, the co-op saved me," Pierannunzi said. "After being laid off, I had nowhere to belong. Monday to Friday was a pretty lonely existence." At the co-op, he said, he felt productive helping clients fill orders, stocking shelves and sometimes even holding babies. Three months later, Pierannunzi found a job at an Alpharetta data company, but he said, "I'm going to continue volunteering."

So will Cross, who is described by Shields as a "priceless asset" and who was nominated Georgia volunteer of the year in 2008 by Hands On Atlanta. "I love giving back to people," Cross said.

Thanks to Susan Bentley (Gilbert Street) for bringing this to our attention.

## MILESTONES

...continued from previous page

for many churches and served as Pastor for a couple. Most recently the Camerons were members of Olive Springs Baptist Church where they were both active in Sunday school program. Neighbor Amy Shay says, "It is my understanding that he had kidney failure for a little over a year and underwent treatments so he would 'be there for her.' After she died, he wanted to stop treatments. I thought that was so sweet. They were both very religious and dear people and will be missed." The couple are survived by five daughters, 20 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Condolences to Helen Porch (roswell street) on the deaths of her sisters, Joan in February and Dale in April.

Condolences to Cindy Hannon (roswell street) on the death of her collie Willow in April.

The best dog in the world is gone. Our good friend Dingo Brown died in April, a month short of her 15th birthday. True to her breed (Australian Cattle Dog or Blueheeler), she was a powerhouse of dog, an avid learner, and an intense athlete. She played frisbee with a passion (despite injuries, surgeries and a stainless steel rod in one leg), catching an estimated 53,000 throws before sudden blindness forced retirement at age 13. Sometimes a monster, mostly a joy, always beautiful in body and spirit. Dingo was our dog. Casey Clavin and Vic Koch (roswell street)

## Stop lending your money at 0%

In these historic times, few people can afford to lend their hard earned money to the government at zero% interest but that's exactly what the majority of US taxpayers do every year. A recent AP-GfX poll found that 57 percent of American taxpayers were set to receive tax refunds. The average refund this year is about \$2,700, compared with \$2,500 last year.

"One measure of any person's financial literacy should be to see how small they can manage their IRS refund every year. One measure of any financial counselor or advisor should be whether or not they have already clued you in to this tactic. If they haven't and they know you are lending your money to Uncle Sam at zero%, find a new advisor."

If you are in the 57% of folks getting an average refund of \$2,700, where do you turn for advice? The people you turn to are the people who wrote the rules: the Internal Revenue Service. After you input your information, they will tell you how to set your exemptions.

Here's how to start: Visit <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96196,00.html> or just go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and search for withholding calculator. Have your most recent pay stubs handy. Have your most recent income tax return handy. Fill in all information that applies to your situation. Estimate values if necessary, the results can only be as accurate as the input you provide. Consult the information links embedded in the program whenever you have a question. Print out the final screen that summarizes your input and the results, then use it to complete a new Form W-4 (if necessary), and

keep it for your records.

Continue to the Withholding Calculator. Fill in the blanks using your paystubs and your tax returns and pat yourself on the back for giving yourself a well deserved raise. Go through it once and you'll be hooked. I recommend you do this three times a year: January after you receive your first paystub; April after you have completed your tax returns, and again in October to make any last minute adjustments before the end of the year.

It really boils down to this: should you lend the IRS \$2,700 at no interest or should you (A) give yourself a \$225 net raise every month, (B) increase your 401(k) by \$225 a month, or (C) put that \$225 in a high yield Money Market Account for a year and take it out on April 15th. You'll have closer to \$3,000! This process is so simple you will be mad at yourself for not having done it sooner.

— Doug Erickson

Doug (old roswell road) is a Bankruptcy Program Manager at Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Greater Atlanta.



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june 2009

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