



Williams Park

MEMO

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS

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

MEMO NOTES

Last issue, we asked for a volunteer to handle our calendar listings — and Jennifer Matthews stepped up to take the job. WPN members with something to list, email the info to jennifer.matthews@gmail.com.

Dru Bennett, whose first contribution was in last issue, has agreed to write on an ongoing basis. Generally using an interview and opinion approach, her tone will range from easy-going to serious according to the nature of the subject. She'll usually be picking several people for input and providing specific questions. So, if you get a little email from Dru asking for your views or opinions on something, please take a moment to write back. Variety of input will make for a more interesting exchange of ideas.

And we have a new gardening columnist, The Garden Sprite, who'll be writing articles in her typically playful tone covering the four seasons of the garden as they play out here in Williams Park.

Welcome to the staff, y'all. And thanks to all our contributors, be you regulars or one-timers like Jen Shifflett with her great story at right.

— Casey Clavin
dingoblue@earthlink.net

15 minutes of fame and a future in WP by Jen Shifflett

In Spring 2009 Rich and I began the daunting process of looking for a new home. We were already residents of Smyrna and wished to stay in the area. As we narrowed it down to the final few of houses, our realtor threw in a pitch for a TV show. Would we be interested? Because 1.) the show was *House Hunters* on HGTV and, 2.) we are huge fans of HGTV, agreed to put in an application. I filled it out in a hurry one day, giving it little thought or effort because, really, what were the chances we'd be chosen?

A couple of weeks later we were called for a screen test to see how we would look on camera. That's when the excitement began — we might possibly make the show. After the screen test we were doubtful, but in August we got the call saying we'd made the cut.

After that, the process went quickly. Within a month, we had week-end-long date with the camera crew. Mornings started very early and the days ended late. Our biggest issue was getting comfortable in front of the camera and crew — it's hard to pretend there's not a big bright light shining on you and a producer coaching you along the way. As time progressed, our nerves diminished, and we developed an ease enabling us to repeat a single phrase four times over as if taking a walk in the park.

The premise of the show is to find positive



and negatives points for each house while keeping the audience guessing until the very end. Ultimately, we picked the house on Walker Street for its uniqueness and the builder's attention to the interior details. Looking back, I think Rich and I had no idea how complex this process would be and how much time would be involved. When it was all said and done, we shot roughly 34 hours of tape to produce 22 minutes of airtime.

It was an opportunity of a lifetime and we're glad that we got to experience being on TV. We certainly have a new appreciation for the hard work of those who are on TV every day.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEN SHIFFLETT



2010 CALENDAR

wpn happy hour
june 18, 7pm
sam and sandy
hamby
1312 roswell street

family happy hour
Sat June 19, 5 pm
Jean and John
Hanighen
2876 Bernard Way

wpn happy hour
july 16, 7pm
tom haley and
doug erickson
2610 old roswell

family happy hour
Sat July 17, 5 pm
Hayli and Stephen
McQuade
1555 Roswell St

wpn book club
sun, july 25, 3 pm
Cataloochee, by
Wayne Caldwell
2583 old roswell st
(Leanne 770-863-9580)

wpn general assembly
tuesday, july 27,
7 pm at city hall

wpn summer cookout
saturday, august 7
more details later

wpn happy hour
august 20, 7pm
nick and meredith
smythe
1613 walker street

family happy hour
Sat Aug 21, 5 pm
Amanda and Mike
Blackwelder
1522 Walker St

wpn book club
sun, aug 29, 3 pm
book tba
1419 hawthorne ave
(Leanne 770-863-9580)

continued on next page...

WP's 5th Anniversary Fiesta *by Keith Bentley*

SANDY HAMBY PHOTOS

WPN celebrated it's 5th anniversary on Sunday, May 2nd with a Cinco de Mayo themed fiesta on the lawn beside the home of Ron and Liz Davis. About 90 neighbors turned out on a warm spring afternoon to enjoy food, fellowship and games. Kids had a great time banging on piñatas filled with candy and toys and played for hours with a big batch of hula hoops.



Really getting into the fiesta spirit, several neighbors donned sombreros of various designs. (Top to bottom at right) Kimberly and Brandon Test, Larry Jones, Larry and Myrna Evans, Liz Davis (momentarily), Joe and Judy Brassfield, Wade Ingle, and Sam and Sandy Hamby, all sported the distinctive headgear.

The event was planned and run by Greer Gallagher and Meredith Smythe (below) who evidently spent

quite some time cooking beef and chicken for the tacos. The bounty overflowed to the point that many neighbors took home leftovers. Meredith said "I won't be cooking chicken tacos anytime soon. It was a lot of fun, but I think Greer and I have a lot of respect for cooks in a kitchen now!" Other folks brought various side dishes including salads, fruit, cookies and desserts. Myrna Evans brought burritos.



Topping everything off was a big birthday cake marking the Fifth Anniversary of the Williams Park Neighbors. The "founding families" of Ron and Liz Davis, Lem Ward and Leanne Fey, and Casey Clavin and Vic Koch were recognized by Meredith and were each presented a model of the old ice house that occupied the site where Williams Park now sits. From the humble beginnings of a few neighbors gathering socially and wanting to beautify the neighborhood, WPN has grown to a membership of

over 150 households.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this fun event. Liz and Ron provided their great yard. Judy Brassfield provided a moon walk for the kids. The Hambys supplied tables and chairs and many other goodies adding comfort



and refinement to the event. Lem Ward brought his tent. Sandy did a fine job of documenting the event with the photos seen here and many others. A big thanks to all the neighbors who helped set up and break down! None of this would be possible without the great people of WPN!



Nick Smythe, toting Mallory, chats with John and Jean Hanighen, toting Will.

Mommy Jenine takes a romp in the jumpy with Mia



2010 CALENDAR

wpn happy hour
sept. 17, 7pm
myrna and larry
evans
1320 roswell

wpn book club
sun, sept 26, 3 pm
An Irish Country
Doctor,
by Patrick Taylor
1449 spring st (Leanne
770-863-9580)

wpn fall cookout and
chili cook off
sat., october 16
more details later

wpn general assembly
october 26, 7 pm
council chambers
program tba

wpn carolling
and
pergola
lighting
saturday, december 4
more details later

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A WP Elementary School: Too Good to Be True? by Heather Teillet



I am a product of Georgia public schools. Although at times it was a bumpy road, overall, I think my education was a good value for taxpayers, and certainly a good deal for me.

While I may have spent more time fine tuning my social skills, I can truthfully attest that my taxpayer-funded education prepared me academically for undergraduate studies and beyond. I honestly believe that I graduated high school as academically equipped for the real world as my fellow graduates from Georgia's many excellent private schools.

Perhaps equally as important, at the tender age of five, public school exposed me to a diversity of opinions, people and ideas. I count myself blessed to have made lasting friendships during those 13 years of public school. Some friends looked like me and came from families similar to my own. Others did not look like me, but taught me lessons about ethnicity, religion and beliefs that weren't printed in school textbooks.

Now, as a parent considering school options for our own young family, I counter balance my own good experiences in public school with the question: What parent wouldn't be willing to sacrifice a limb, much less spend every available red cent to ensure their child had the highest quality education out there? What could possibly rank higher on our budget priority list than ensuring our children's future through educational opportunity?

At last count, Williams Park is blessed with something like 80+ children who will start kindergarten in the next five years. (Couples not wanting to add to their family are being advised to not drink the water in Williams Park.) Many of us will soon face the difficult choice of where to send our young children to school and, thereby, also where we'll invest our own time, effort, support and money.

Everybody knows that schools with active PTAs are markedly better learning environments. If you aren't sure, just ask one of Williams Park's many teachers and administrators for their own anecdotal evidence.

If the April Easter Egg Hunt is any indication, the potential for parents from WP who will begin to volunteer, participate, and provide community leadership to an elementary school in the next five years is abundant. The truth is, any school that can count on the parental support of WP families is virtually a guaranteed success. What a blessing if all that potential parental prowess were concentrated and funneled into a "downtown Smyrna" elementary school. Especially if that school were zoned to include all of Williams Park, unlike the current zoning lines that divide WP into multiple school districts, diluting the neighborhood's strength and parental impact.

Imagine Williams Park parents walking hand in hand with their kids to a neighborhood school within walking distance. It's almost too good to be true. But anyone else with their fingers crossed should be encouraged by Cobb School District officials' recent promises.

A few months ago WPN President Col. Ron Davis, Vice President Jim Duelder and I met with Cobb School Board Member Holli Cash and Cobb School District officials to discuss the issue of WP being split into two, half zoned for one elementary school, and half zoned for another. The result of the meeting was a firm commitment from Cash and other school officials ensuring that a brand-new elementary school will be built by 2012, and the entire Williams Park neighborhood will be re-zoned for it.

School officials say the funding is already allocated, and the school system is taking unprecedented steps to search for the perfect location. Cash has committed that the new school will be open for business by fall 2012.

I hope that Williams Park parents will continue to remind Cobb school officials of their commitment to WP. And once the new school begins to take form, I hope you'll join me to be one of the first to offer my time, effort and money to support the new "downtown Smyrna" school through volunteerism, regardless of where you choose to send your rising Kindergartener.

Who knows, it might not be too good to be true.

WELCOME

new members:

— on anderson —

Bill & Jennifer Pinto

— on devin court —

Beth Hoffman

— on roswell street —

Gavin Carpenter &
Michelle Robel

Phillip Rutledge &
Julie Huckaby

Dean & Christine
Singley

— on spring street —

Shannon & Rasha
Watkins

— on windy oaks ct. —

Eazel Strickland

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

WPN BOARD

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Ron Davis

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vice president

Jim Duelder

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recording secretary

Lem Ward

770-863-9580

corresponding secretary

Liz Davis

770-431-9786

treasurer

Madge Jackson

770-432-3563

News in and around Williams Park

Williams Park was honored recently by the inclusion of two neighborhood properties on this year's Keep Smyrna Beautiful Garden Tour held May 15. Congratulations to the gardeners and thanks for representing us so well. We can't do better than to use these flattering excerpts from the tour brochure to describe these lovely gardens!

The Crigers — 1407 Spring Street. Cottage Garden: A short walk from Smyrna's Village Green in Williams Park, a local artist shares her indie garden with urban chickens. Heirloom vegetable beds are decorated with found objects and antique bricks. The sunny organic garden cycles back to nourish a flower-cutting garden and wildflowers.

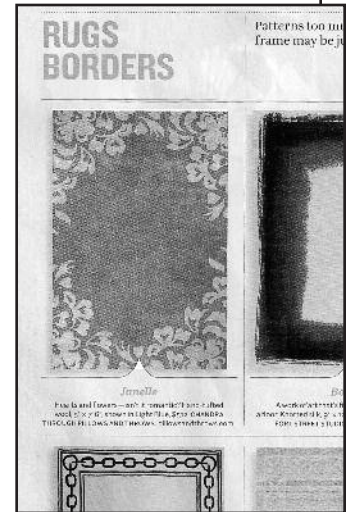
Cindy Hannon — 1338 Roswell Street. Private Escape: Also in Williams Park, enter this garden through a metal arbor draped with fragrant vines into a tranquil setting. Evergreens and flowering shrubs naturally obscure mechanics of the pool area built to resemble a small pond with waterfalls. Use of the outdoor entertaining area extends beyond seasons with professional lighting and a mosquito system too.

Keep Smyrna Beautiful is holding a document shredding event again this year. It's scheduled for September 25th from 9 am until noon, behind City Hall. Iron Mountain will have a mobile unit on site and will shred documents for Smyrna residents at no charge. Mark your calendar and dig out all those old banking and tax documents that are taking up space at home. If you have questions, call Ann Kirk, Director, Keep Smyrna Beautiful at 770-431-2863.

Beware of a soda bottle laying on your lawn. People (in various states) are finding so-called "works" bombs in mailboxes and yards that look simply like a recapped, unfinished sodas. The contents are actually an acidic liquid and a piece of foil in chemical reaction. Once disturbed (such as being picked up to put in the trash) the volatile build up of gases detonates with a force adequate to sever fingers, cause second and third degree burns, and possibly blind the unwary. According to Snopes, this urban legend is true (<http://www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/bottlebomb.asp>). If you see a plastic bottle with liquid inside and a cap on it, do not disturb it by moving it. Call 911 and let the police handle it.

Did you notice the sound of silence? The quiet rail road crossings at Roswell Street and Hawthorne Ave went into effect 12:01 am on Monday June 14. Love 'em or hate 'em, train whistles are theoretically a thing of the past in Smyrna — no more hobo's lullaby.

Janelle Lampp (Gilbert Street), who has been designing various home furnishings for some years, recently saw one of her rugs published in *House Beautiful*. In a brief article highlighting the benefits of bordered rugs over patterned or solid rugs in certain settings, an *HB* editor pictured six rugs including Janelle's (upper left in the photo). And it's in good company, too. The other five were designed by big prestigious firms which routinely make the pages of national magazines. Congratulations, Janelle — you're running with the big dogs!



Thanks to our recent happy hour hosts. Andrea Kling hosted us in January, Sue Hunt in February, Jane Canniff in March, John and Janelle Lampp in April, and Jim and Traci Duelder in May.

Coyotes continue to be sighted in the neighborhood, so please keep your small pets in the house at night.



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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births

Matt & Jodi Duncan (Highland Ave.) have a baby boy. William Cason Duncan was born 26 May, weighing 6 lbs 6 oz. and measuring 20"

Andrew and Lisa Walker (Anderson Circle) have a baby girl. Adaline Walker made her entrance May 28.

Warren & Mickie Huneycutt (Bernard Way) have a baby boy. Williams Prewitt "Witt" Huneycutt was born 6 June, at 7 lb. 2 oz. and measuring 19.5"

Barbara and Tim Koval have a baby girl. Adelynn Grace arrived June 8 weighing 7.15 lbs and measuring 21"

Tiffany & Harris Sudderth (Anderson Circle) have a baby girl. Savannah Marie entered the world June 9 weighing 6lbs, 13oz and measuring 20".

unions

Brandon Test & Kimberly Hardman (Gilbert St.) were married in March

Ryan Farnsley (Ivy Springs) was married in April but we don't know the name of his betrothed. Send us a note, Ryan, and we'll print a proper notice in the next issue.

Local Flora Chronicals *by The Garden Sprite*

Let me tell you the story of a magical place nestled in the heart of Williams Park, at the corner of Spring Street and Mimosa Circle, a place full of wonder and whimsy affectionately known as Reilly's Magic Garden.

This friendly oasis leads you on a circular journey starting with a wisteria draped arbor, a tangle of twirling branches and twining vines reaching ever farther out, begging to protect guests from the mid-day sun. An ornamental vegetable garden sits squarely below the patio, built from Tennessee fieldstone, vintage bricks and dirt rescued from an old Atlanta estate. The potager, also known as a kitchen garden, offers homage to the property owners' daughter, Reilly Jane. A very special tree is planted at the center of the vegetable garden — this treasured gift arrived on the day Reilly Jane was born and represents the very essence of the garden. A crimson stone path traces the shape of a chalice as if to hold, protect and keep her close. A fairy statue stands at the base of the tree, offering colored gems to wish upon for one's heart's desires. A curvy corner island contains a cutting garden that overflows with southern wildflowers. Included in the island is a large spot dedicated to a favorite perennial vegetable, asparagus, which can prosper and produce for as long as thirty years. An aged metal arbor nestled between the towering maple trees is covered with a rambling vine dripping with red raspberries. A shady spot in the corner shelters hostas, moss and a once-loved rustic child's toy. Passing through a tall gate into the backyard, little ones are charmed by the sight of hens, Annabelle and Ballerina. On any given day they may be found happily clucking while free-ranging for icky worms and bugs. The girls give back by faithfully laying eggs every day for their favorite humans. Alongside the chicken coop stands a bamboo teepee with sweet potato vines climbing to meet in the center. It provides enough shade to grow sun intolerant lettuces throughout the summer. Coming back full circle, guests are always delighted by the large pond, boasting eight generations of bright goldfish and lively koi, water lilies, fairy moss encircled by creeping rosemary and lizard's tail. The pond lies under the watchful eye of Oscar the Ocean God, whose weathered face has taken on a turquoise patina over the years.

Not just a pretty place, this garden strives for an environmentally sound, green, eco-friendly



approach. Each element of the garden somehow assists another through its by-products. The hens provide organic fertilizer from their droppings which are tilled into the soil in their coop and eventually recycled back into the garden, restoring the natural balance of elements required to produce blue ribbon fruits and vegetables. The pond sustains a robust community of wildlife including chartreuse finches and amethyst dragonflies. When the pond needs a water change, the nutrient rich water is siphoned into all the flower beds giving an organic boost to the grateful plants. All vegetable trimmings, eggshells and coffee grounds are utilized to nourish a compost bin adjacent to the chicken coop. This goodness is buried every week in a recycled bunny hutch and after basking in the sun for few weeks gets turned under to continue its curing process. Countless found objects are re-purposed in unexpected ways; hopefully inspiring others to reconsider abandoned objects and celebrate the recycling movement.

Neighbors who stop to admire the cottage garden are often invited in for an impromptu tour and offers of fresh herbs to enhance their evening meal! Next time you stroll by the garden stop and say hello. You never know what Mommy Sue will be up to!

Pet Profiles

...by Kenzie Shay



Ella & Etta

Etta and Ella, the sweetest, most lovable dogs live on Bernard Lane with John, Jean and little William Hanighen. They're both rescue dogs named for Jazz vocalists. Fourteen year old Etta (as in Etta James) is a terrier mix. Ella (as in Fitzgerald), approximately four years old, is a chow/huskie mix but, strangely, isn't as big as you would think. They get along extremely well. When rescued, Ella would sit in the corner to make sure nobody could sneak up on her. Though she has since gotten use to her new family, she's still a little skittish when strangers are around. The two don't particularly have anything to do with little five month old William, but they don't like it when he's upset. Jean feels this will change, however, when William is eating on the run.

The girls, who can sit, stay and do basic commands, have discovered how to open kitchen cabinets — a self taught trick!

— Thirteen year old Kenzie is in the eighth grade at Covenant Christian School

Did we hold our value?

Can you believe it — we're one of the four zip codes in the Atlanta metro area in which property values increased from 2008 to 2009! I think it's amazing — at least that's what I said when I was interviewed by Michelle Shaw with the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* a couple of weeks ago. Sometimes it doesn't feel like that when you are trying to sell your house, however.

So, I did a little research on our own Williams Park Neighborhood. It seems that in 2008 we had 30 properties that sold. Of those, eight were townhouses or duplexes, and one was a commercial property (now the Music School). The average price was \$325,802 and the average time on the market was 116 days. Days on the market ranged from two to 346 for those 30 properties.

Now, in 2009 we had 23 properties that sold. Of those, four were townhouses and one was a multi complex. The average price was \$325,173 and the average time on the market was 116 days. Days on the market ranged from 10 to 872 for those 23 properties. So, it looks like we held our value from 2008 to 2009 here in Williams Park. We didn't see the increase in price the *AJC* talked about, but we also didn't see the decrease either.

So, you ask, what's happening in 2010? Well, this is what I'm finding. So far we've had 11 properties close this year. Of those, one was a multi complex. We also have two properties pending; both will close by the end of June. Our average price so far this year is \$300,460 and our average time on the market is 98 days. The average sales price has dropped a little but our time on the market has also dropped — and that's a good sign. Days on the market so far this year ranged from three to 282 for those 11 properties. Remember, the number of days on the market is counted from the time it's put on the market until a property goes under contract, not until it closes.

What excites me is this, by the time we're half way through the year (end of June) we'll have 13 properties sold in WP! If we keep up the pace and sell 13 more by the end of 2010, the total will be more than sold here in 2009. That's good news for the homeowners who have houses on the market right now.

Speaking of what's currently on the market here, we have 24 single family homes and seven townhouses/duplexes on offer for a total of 31 properties. The average list price for those properties is \$326,819.

The other positive I'm seeing is that activity is still high. Buyers are still looking and buying. They don't seem worried that they missed the tax incentive which expired at the end of April. Buyers are still out there looking for the house that makes their heart sing! That's good news for all of us.

— by 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*

Escape From The Deep,

by Alex Kershaw

★★★★ The true story of the men who survived the sinking of the WWII submarine the Tang.

Siddhartha, by Herman Hesse

★★★ One man's spiritual journey.

TThe Nine, by Jeffrey Toobin

★★★★ A close up look at the secret inner workings and dynamics of the modern Supreme Court.

The rating system:

- ★ No one liked it
- ★★ We thought it was ok
- ★★★ It was good
- ★★★★ It was excellent
- ★★★★★ Fabulous



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285 on the left up
behind Vinings Gallery.

We went for pizza and chicken wings and found the best pizza I've had since leaving New York. We also had great honey-barbequed wings. I know everybody has their favorite location for these two items but you should give this place a try. It's a busy family-friendly pizza joint with a large outside patio. They have numerous beer and food specials on different days of the week and beer by the pitcher is priced very reasonably. The couple we were with also thought the wings were very, very good (they didn't have pizza).

Olive Bistro —
Located on US 41, past
Border's bookstore and
into the Kroger's shop-
ping center on the right.

This is a small Mediterranean style restaurant. You can get a great sandwich or full plate dinner with prices usually below \$10. We have been back many times. It's very small with about 8-10 tables so I would not suggest going on a Friday or Saturday as I am sure there will be a wait. The service is great and quality is fresh, fresh, fresh.

Try both these places — you won't be disappointed. — Ben Cohn

Honoring Our Heros —Smyrna's Memorial Day Ceremony by Dru Bennett

PHOTO COURTESY OF RON AND LIZ DAVIS

The Smyrna Veteran's Memorial, completed in 2002, hosted its first Memorial Day Ceremony in 2003. It has grown significantly each year since, and I found this year's Celebration exceptional. The weather couldn't decide on sun or rain so it was a huge decision to move the festivities inside the community center. Crowds filled the gym to hear the outstanding line-up of decorated servicemen who spoke of their experiences and honored the men and women currently serving. It was heart-warming to hear the military band play the anthems for each branch of the military while those who served stood to be recognized. The rain held off, so after the ceremony, everyone headed outside to experience the many military displays from Dobbins and talk with invited service personnel. My family enjoyed seeing the gigantic medic copter and Ron Young, Jr.'s recon helicopter as well. I carried an Army pack (it was heavy!) and learned that whether male or female, you carry the same weight. The old WWII jeep was a real treat along with the array of military weapons. I had an opportunity to ascend the rock climbing wall which the U.S. Army provided for adults and kids. It was quite a challenge, but I reached the top and rang the bell! Everyone was so nice and informative. A big note of gratitude to Atkins Park for being a front runner in supporting the day's event.

Such an event is no small task and one of the main organizers lives right here in Williams Park. I approached Ron Davis to talk about the event and decided to start by asking for some details about his military background, length of service and places served.

Ron received his commission from North Georgia College as a Army 2nd Lieutenant and reported to duty at Fort Benning, Ga. in 1961. He served two assignments there, two at Fort Bragg, NC, (the last as a brigade commander), one in Fort Lewis, Wa. and one at Fort Hood, Tx. He served two assignments in Germany, one as a Mechanized Infantry Battalion commander. He taught leadership and management courses for four years at the Army's Command and General Staff College in Kansas and authored the Army's first unclassified course on the capabilities and tactics of the Soviet Army.

I asked if he was in active combat and learned he'd served two extended tours in Vietnam between 1966-70, both with the 101st Airborne

Division where he commanded an airborne infantry company and later served as the division's operations officer. He retired after 30 years and returned voluntarily (the next day) to train the 48th Ga. National Guard Infantry Brigade for deployment to Iraq. During his career, Ron completed two Master's degrees and had a son (actually, Liz did).

Is there any single event or experience that comes to mind when he thinks of Memorial Day? "The troops killed in Vietnam under my command." The couple has attended many funerals of officers and soldiers they've known over the years. So I asked

Liz about life married to a military man. "I made friends fast because you lose them fast," Liz said showing me a framed quote stating, "Home is where the Army sends us," along with this bible verse, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Philippians 4:11. As I talked with Ron and Liz, I thought perhaps Liz had also signed on — her memories of dates and places they called home were endearing, but it seemed that being a wife of a service man was perhaps just as hard as the job. Liz said Newport, RI was their favorite station (while at the Navy War College) because Ron could go fishing on their boat, 'Miss Balance'. I

could also tell that they're both so proud to call Smyrna their home.

I asked both if there's anything they'd like to change in the way Memorial Day is recognized? They responded: #1, honor those who have given their life; #2, honor those serving, those who will serve, and their families; #3, educate young people in the importance of our freedom — that it's not free.

Regarding the 2010 Memorial Day Ceremony, I asked Ron to detail the planning. It's a one year job, he told me, planning starts the day of one event and continues until the next Memorial Day. It requires daily effort three months prior to the ceremony. He stressed the importance of having three to four speakers from various wars including the one we're currently fighting. Finding local guests helps make a solid connection with civilians, and diversity is an important aspect. Ron's mission is to help the general public relate to the speakers and learn the importance of the sacrifices that these men and women make for us, along with their families.

I salute Col. J. Ronald Davis and Mrs. Liz Davis for their continued leadership and support in our community. Without you, we wouldn't be who we are today. Thank you for a Memorial Day we continue to share with our family and friends.



Liz, Ron, and son Kirk upon deployment to Germany in 1979



MEMMO

Williams Park Neighbors

June 2010

WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS — P.O. BOX 813811, SMYRNA, GA 30081-8811

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