



Williams Park

MEMO

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS

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

WELCOME

to these new members

- on anderson —
 - Diane Hartwig
- on devin court —
 - Marcia Gipson
- Tracy Presepe and son Max
- on morris circle —
 - Roger & Colleen Zuberbier
- on old roswell —
 - Jo & Jeremy Brekke
- on roswell street —
 - Jeff & Jessica Jorgensen
 - Nancy McGee
- on walker street —
 - Brent & Shelly Holmes
 - David & Julia MacCarroll
 - Micah & Dawn Rapoport
- on whitfield court —
 - Cheri Wiesman
 - Betsy & Jerod Stewart

Hey, can you do us a little favor?

When a new neighbor moves in near you, let us know. Contact Leon McElveen at McElveen@msn.com or by phone at 770-856-1544 so he can welcome the newcomers.

Thanks!

Oh My! Cinco de Mayo Party in Williams Park

SUSAN BENTLEY PHOTOS



Our hosts were Lee (monitoring the piñata) and Joan (foreground at right) Friedman, along with Michelle and Gavin Carpenter (background at right). Thanks y'all.



This year the Cinco de Mayo party actually fell on the fifth of May. That saved this intrepid reporter from having to search Spanish dictionaries to figure out the right words for the 16th of May. But on to other issues like— is it pronounced May-O, like the sandwich spread or My-O, like “Oh my” backwards? You start thinking about things like this if you have too many tequila laced cupcakes.

Now where was I? Oh yes, we had a fiesta. It was a warm beautiful day with a nice light breeze, perfect weather for a picnic. Joan and

Lee Friedman and Michelle and Gavin Carpenter planned and hosted the event and did a great job. There were decorations of dangling little sombreros and giant sparkling chili peppers along with ribbon covered flowerpots on the tables and paper lanterns. Thanks to Matt Bennett, we had mariachi music adding to the festive atmosphere.

Wade Ingle wore the largest sombrero, though he said he left the “big one” at home. The neighborhood garden club held a plant sale as a fund-raiser. Members of the club, led



Kim Dickerson won the Golden Sombrero, Wade Ingle's was the biggest (yeah, right), and Leah Umberger modeled the starter model.



2012 CALENDAR

Saturdays, weekly,
8 am—noon, Smyrna
Fresh Produce Market

Saturday, July 14th,
Smyrna Summer
Concert Series on the
Green at 7pm, featur-
ing Soulhound

wpn happy hour
July 20, 7 pm
Bill and Judy Sudderth
478-951-8329
2935 Anderson Circle
wpn adopt-a-mile
Sat, July 21 8am
(Mike 678-698-0987)

Sat., July 21st, 2 - 4
Star Wars Saturday at
Smyrna Library. The
Georgia Garrison of the
501st Legion will
return to the library
and patrons will have a
chance to meet their
favorite Star Wars
characters! The library
will also provide Star
Wars-themed crafts
and trivia for kids and
adults. Be sure to
dress up as a Star
Wars character. No reg-
istration required

WPN book club
Sun, July 29th, 3pm at
Leanne Fey's house,
1496 Spring St.
Book: "Language of
Flowers," by Vanessa
Diffenbaugh

Sat., Aug 4th, 6p-10p,
Smyrna Birthday
Celebration, Smokey's
Farmland Band and
firework finale!

WPN Cookout August 11
at Durham Park. Mark
your calendar and stay
tuned for more details.

continued on next page...

Cinco de Mayo *cont'n.*

by Thelma Hancock and Robyn Phillips, prepared over 50 plants in a variety of pots and containers. Profits will go to landscaping around our next neighborhood sign.

There were plenty of kids activities including a bouncy house, provided by Judy Brassfield, a fire truck from the City of Smyrna and a chili pepper piñata. There's nothing more fun for a kid than beating a big box of candy with a stick until it breaks open.



Charlie McQuade, a firefighter fan for a few years now, talks with the men he hopes to be one day. But hot on his heels, Jase Latham (pictured at left as one of four generations of his family) and Sam Swift are walking the walk and wearing the hats.



Michelle noted that everyone seemed happy and attributed much of that feeling to the success of the kid's zone. "When the kids are happy, the parents are happy", she said.

Fiesta food was plentiful with lots of salads, chips, dips, salsa, guacamole, tortillas, tamales and tacos. Boca Mexican Grill on Jonquil Drive donated a tray of their specialties. Joan said "I learned a lot by hosting the event—like how much cheese to buy." There was lots and lots and lots of cheese—some probably ending up in somebody's freezer. As Lee noted, "No one went home hungry."

WPN also made sure a few others Smyrna citizens were less hungry by collecting a pick-up truck-load of food items donated by neighborhood residents to MUST Ministries.

Fiesta attendees also enjoyed the cupcakes war. Six competitive bakers entered the friendly contest with creations named things like Speedy Gonzales Cupcakes, Chili Cupcakes, Colorful Cupcakes, Maddy Crumb

Cupcakes, and Margarita Cupcakes. The Speedy Gonzales cupcakes had little character heads on them which were a bit creepy. You had to bite their little heads off before you could eat the cupcakes—which were delicious, by the way. There were also two adult-only cupcake recipes that actually included tequila. Judges were John Freidman, John Bagwell and Robert the Fireman. Kim Dickerson won the golden sombrero and a \$25 gift certificate from McEntyre's Bakery for her first place Margarita Cupcakes. I guess Kim can use the prize to buy something other than cupcakes.

We also had door prizes. Ted Harper won a hand made necklace that matched his eyes. Susan Bentley also won a necklace made by Joan Friedman and Brigida Sevilla won two tickets to the Keep Smyrna Beautiful garden tour.

At the end of the day Gavin said, "It was all worth it. Michelle and I had seen other neighbors get involved and figured it was our turn to step up. It was a lot of fun!"

And, by the way, Joan says it's pronounced My-O. So until next year, adios amigos!

— Keith Bentley



LIZ DAVIS PHOTO

2012 CALENDAR

wpn happy hour
August 17, 7 pm
the Crigers
404-934-1912
1407 Spring St.

WPN book club
Sun, August 26th,
3pm at Debbie Savage's
house, 2583 Old
Roswell St.
Book: "The Night
Circus," by Erin
Morganstern

August 30
Architecture of
Williams Park, a presen-
tation at Smyrna City
Hall, 7:30pm

wpn happy hour
September 21, 7 pm
Myrna and Larry Evans
770-434-5094
1320 Roswell St.

WPN book club
Sun, Sept. 26th, 3pm
details tba

wpn happy hour
October 19, 7 pm
Gavin and Michelle
Carpenter
678-392-5880
1450 Roswell St.

wpn adopt-a-mile
Sat, Oct. 20 8am
(Mike 678-698-0987)

WPN book club
Sun, Oct. 28th, 3pm
details tba

We encourage contributions to the MEMO

Deadlines for future
issues are August 15 and
November 15. Tell us
something about yourself
— tell us something about
your neighbor — send your
contributions to Casey
Clavin at
dingblue@earthlink.net

News in and around Williams Park

Williams Park pet discovers long lost brother at local bar. **Scooter Bentley**, walking with his Dad in the Village recently, ran into his long lost brother, Gator, who was hanging out at the Vintage Tavern. The photo below shows the reunion of the two boys. Obviously very emotional, both declined to make a statement.

—Keith Bentley



It's time for Hydrangeas in Williams Park. **Thelma Hancock**, chair of the Williams Park Garden Club, has tended the hydrangeas in her back yard for many years and she says she has watched them change over the years. One of the hydrangeas started out as blue and now is a beautiful deep purple. Thelma says it's because she has spent so much time "playing" in the same dirt that magic has happened there. She's tried them in several locations in her yard, moving them until she's satisfied they are happy. She now has a white, a blue, and a deep pink almost burgundy hydrangea all right next to each other, amazing. So the rest of us just have another 20 years of "playing" in our own yards to finally get something other than pale blue. Thanks for showing us what's possible - way to go Thelma!

—Debbie Savage

On June 5th nearly forty Williams Park Neighbors attended a meeting regarding the new **Smyrna elementary school** which is scheduled to open fall 2013. Brett Ward, current principal at Brown Elementary School and future principal of the new school, along with two of his teachers, a parent, and a school community staff member also gave remarks. The main reason for the meeting was to give our neighborhood information about the new school and to begin a dialogue with key contact persons. The primary message from the five Brown Elementary representa-

tives was the importance of good communication between the school and parents and a caring relationship for each child. On a logistical note, the three schools that will constitute the new Smyrna elementary school will be Argyle, Belmont Hills, and Brown. The new building will be a state of the art, LEEDS certified building. The expected enrollment for the opening is 750 students. Brett Ward wanted our group to know that his door is open for questions and concerns. He can be reached at 678-842-6838. In the months to come, it will be important for those of you with elementary aged children to get all the information possible so that you can make a choice based upon fact and not on rumor.

As a side note, I have seen the power of involved parents and the positive impact they can make on a school. As a former elementary principal for nearly twenty-five years I have experienced this first hand. I, along with my teachers and parents at an Atlanta public school, moved our school from 50 percent neighborhood enrollment to 95 percent. We also became a Georgia School of Excellence and a National Blue Ribbon School. One of the major factors in the success of our school was the parents who made a commitment to each other and to their children when the school was only a 50 percent neighborhood school.

— Lee Friedman

Former principal of Sarah Smith Elementary
(Atlanta Public Schools) and Westminster Elementary.

In his Cinco de Mayo story, Keith Bentley mentioned that WP residents donated a pick-up truck of food items to MUST Ministries. This is a project spearheaded by **Ann and John Carr** for the last several years. This time, their efforts netted over 100 bags of groceries plus checks totaling \$420—all delivered to MUST by Ann and Susan Bentley on May 7. Thanks for your generosity, WP.

MILESTONES

births

Congratulations to Stacey and Hill Scott. Their son Henry Hill Scott was born March 9th weighing 7 lbs, 15 oz and was 21 inches long.

Congratulations to Shane and Brooke Latham. Their daughter Ada Bradley Latham was born April 26 making Jase a big brother.

Congratulations to Rashaad and Shannon Watkins. Their daughter Zoie Brooklyn Watkins was born June 6, weighing 6 lbs.

Congratulations to Shaun and Jerome Martin. Their daughter Grace Sophia Martin was born on June 16 weighing 8 lbs. 4 oz. and making Naima a big sister.

Congratulations to Kacey and Brandt Modlin. Their daughter Emerson "Emmie" Delaney Modlin was also born on June 16.

unions

Jennifer Shifflett and Richard Fielding (Walker Street) were married April 21 in Turks and Caicos. "We are over the moon with joy."

anniversaries

Congratulations to Susan and Keith Bentley (Gilbert Street) on their 40th anniversary—or their 47th if you start counting from their first date. Their's is a South Carolina romance that bloomed early in High School and continues to blossom. Happy wishes to them for many many more years of wedded bliss.

continued on next page...

My Fabulous Italy Trip — Andrea Mafftone (with 1 "t")

Arriving in Naples after a long flight we were met by our pre-arranged tour guide. There being 13 of us (cousins, uncle, nephew and wife, and one young teen), we piled into a large comfy van. We stopped for lunch and had, what else, pizza! After eating pizza a few times more that week, I found that only in southern Italy (as opposed to northern) is it excellent. I have never before, even in the best NY pizzerias, tasted such flavorful tomato pizza sauce and such fresh ingredients.

We then headed two hours southwest to a small city named Avellino and stayed four days. This was unique as there weren't any other tourists! The local restaurants were fabulous—it was the season for artichokes, and these were better than any I've had here.

We drove the Amalfi coast one day—absolutely breathtak-

ing! Lemon trees dotted the mountainsides in every direction (this is were Limoncello is made). Even the large rocks by the seashore were beautiful—a charcoal gray color from volcanic ash. We had lunch in the town of Amalfi. Need to mention the food, of course—local fish, pasta, and more. We then traveled to Sorrento and stayed three days, including a visit to the island of Capri.

I must mention it again—yes, food. The food everywhere was excellent—even the bad food there is good. When we left for Rome and took the highway, we stopped at what we would call a truck stop here. The cafeteria had an amazing abundance of fresh, minimally processed food—even a full roasted PIG!

Rome, of course, was amazing—so many sites of pure beauty.



The best experience for me, though, was visiting a small village to see where my grandfather was from. Our tour guide set up a time to look for his birth record in the tiny city office. There were a couple of men checking through a huge stack of old books centuries old. They found it—he was born circa 1896—and we were all given copies. It seems we've been spelling our name wrong! It should have two "t"s—Maffettone. Wow!



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MILESTONES

deaths

Charles Thomas of Ivy Springs Road passed away on Friday May 11. Though born in Tampa, Florida, Reverend Thomas considered Georgia his home. After graduating from Savannah High School in 1960, he attended Emory University, then graduated from West Georgia College (1963) and Candler School of Theology (1966). He was an active member of the North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church for more than 50 years. He is survived by his sister, Sue Aladene Stone; his wife, Barbara Ann; their children, Rebecca, Mary, and Tim; as well as five grandchildren; and a large extended family.

WPN BOARD

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WP Housing Market

This has been an interesting year for real estate. The good homes are not staying on the market long if they're well priced. I know— buying clients of mine in the Smyrna area have had trouble finding a good house. When a new one come on the market well priced, they are pounced on.

In our neighborhood, as of this writing, there are 15 resale houses and townhouses plus six new construction houses on the market. There are also six resale houses and townhouse plus two new construction units currently under contract.

From January 1, 2012 until June 1, 2012, there have been eight resale houses and townhouses plus six new construction houses that have closed. That's a lot for our little neighborhood!

Most of what is selling in WPN is priced from \$250,000 to \$360,000—new construction and resales. We have few properties under \$250,000 currently on the market in WP and only a few over \$360,000. And, like the rest of Smyrna, the good ones go quickly.

The prices of houses and townhouses seem to have leveled out and are rising very slightly. Good houses that are well priced seem to get close to or at their asking price. As sellers gain a more realistic view of what their house is worth, and buyers learn not to expect everything handed to them on a silver platter, we'll see the market stabilize.

Interest rates are staying low and foreclosures are not overpowering the market at the moment. All that also helps to stabilize the market. It's a great time to buy. In fact, you can usually pay less for a mortgage than you can paying rent with these low interest rates!

—Jill Huitron

WP Reads

The WPN Book Club, meets the last Sunday of the month at 3:00 pm at a host home. We're always welcoming new participants. To learn which books we'll be reading in the upcoming 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

The Snow Child

by Eowyn Ivey ★★★★★

The story of a childless couple who move to Alaska in the 1920s to start over and find themselves fighting the elements and raising a young girl they find in the woods.

The Hunger Games

by Suzanne Collins ★★★★★

Set in a postapocalyptic USA, the story follows two teenagers who must fight for their lives and communities in a reality show contrived by the powerful to control the powerless.

The rating system:

- ★ No one liked the book
- ★★ We thought it was ok
- ★★★ It was good
- ★★★★ It was excellent
- ★★★★★ Fabulous -- don't miss it.



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