



# 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

Sandy Hamby (right), having organized our happy hours for several years, is retiring and we want to thank her for a job fabulously done. Not only was she generous with her time and thorough while in the role, she's laid future groundwork to prevent a vacuum—she already has host homes lined up for all of 2010, plus eight months of 2011. Thank you so much, Sandy, for all you've done for the neighborhood, and welcome to the civilian side of WP.

Thanks also to Jill Huitron for stepping up to carry on the happy hours. Jill can be reached by email at [jill.huitron@harrynorman.com](mailto:jill.huitron@harrynorman.com) or at 404-376-5114.

I can't begin to count how many people told me that our June MEMO was the best one yet. Why? It's the multiplicity of input—varied subject matter, varied approaches, varied writers' voices. The greater the diversity of contributions, the better the MEMO will be. We all have interesting stories to tell—consider sending one of yours to share with your neighbors. And to those who have contributed—thanks for your participation.

— Casey Clavin  
[dingoblue@earthlink.net](mailto:dingoblue@earthlink.net)

## Putting the happy in the WP happy hours

SANDY HAMBY PHOTOS

These monthly gatherings are low-key opportunities to meet and chat with neighbors. For the price of an hors d'oeuvres to share (and your beverage of choice), you get a few relaxed hours in one of Williams Park's unique and varied houses. Visiting a home is like glimpsing inside its owners' heads. It's always interesting.



Sam and Sandy Hamby hosted us in June in the spacious old turn of the century home where Sam grew up. People tended to congregate in several areas. On the front porch, men lounged at one end

while women gathered and danced at the other. But the real action tends to be where the food is so lots of people nibbled and sipped around the table in the very Victorian dining room.

Doug Erickson and Tom Haley hosted us in July. Their house and yard are very well laid out for entertaining. There's lots of art to look at and always good music. Notable in the back yard, Franky and Lillie's spacious new dog house complete with swimming pool—very nice. These guys are veteran hosts so everybody has a good time at their place.



Kevin, Tom, Doug (snuggling with Roo) and Vic lounge on the north end of the porch while Jill and Julia bugaloo on the south end. Judy delivers delicacies while Karen and Dante smile for the camera

Tiffany and Harris are very good about bringing baby Savannah and sharing her with the rest of us.



Our hosts Tom and Doug (first and third from left respectively) in a happy moment with Jerry and David (second and fourth)

Neighbors congregated around feeding station #2 in the kitchen.



continued on following page...

# 2010 CALENDAR

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

keep smyrna beautiful  
document shredding  
sept. 25, 9am-noon,  
behind city hall  
770-431-2863

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

wpn happy hour  
fri., oct. 15, 7pm  
suzie lee  
1010 whitfield court

wpn adopt-a-mile  
Sat oct. 16, 8am  
(Mike 678-698-0987)

wpn fall cookout and  
chili cook off  
sat., october 16  
more details later —  
watch your email

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

wpn book club  
sun, oct. 31, 2 pm  
book, tba  
by Patrick Taylor  
1496 spring st  
(Leanne 770-863-9580)

wpn happy hour  
fri., nov. 19, 7pm  
casey clavin & vic koch  
1475 roswell street

wpn book club  
sun, nov. 21, 3 pm  
*Tomorrow River*,  
by Lesley Kagan  
2611 gilbert st (Leanne  
770-863-9580)

continued on next page...

## Happy Hours ...continued from page 1

Nick and Meredith Smyth hosted us in August. A few neighbors stayed as late a midnight while nine month old Mallory slept quietly just above the party banter. We had a wonderful visit with you guys. Thanks for hosting us.



Above, our August hosts Nick and Meredith Smyth.

Right, Gavin and Michelle — finally seen at a happy hour after nine months of calendar conflicts.



SANDY HAMBY PHOTOS

## News in and around Williams Park

On July 12th, **Thelma Hancock** celebrated her eightieth birthday at the home of Nancy Smith on Gilbert Street. Friends gathering to offer Thelma their best wishes, enjoyed delicious refreshments—Nancy decided that such a birthday deserved not one, but two birthday cakes so she made a beautiful coconut cake as well as a butterfinger cake. Surprise birthday gifts reflected Thelma's interests in gardening, reading and taxidermy. Thelma, who has lived on Hawthorne Street for fifty-five years, is a member of the WPN book club and co-chairs the WPN beautification committee with Robyn Phillips. She's also helping start the WPN garden club. — *Susan Bentley*



No doubt the "development" at the corner of Walker and Walker has gone very badly and that **Ann and David Whited**, living adjacent to the downhill side of that property, have born the brunt of it. Buffer trees the developer committed to save are gone, and water run-off has been a problem since grading started. The project stalled out with the economic down-turn and who knows when it will move forward. But given the debacle it has been, David took an opportunity to train and get certified by the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission as an Erosion Control Inspector. "I'm a card-carry-

ing inspector now," he says. David doesn't currently do this as his job (though he could) but, most importantly, he now knows how it's supposed to be done. "If theres ever a concern with future developments in WP, feel free call on me and I may be able to help a bit." He hastens to add that he's not soliciting business.

Understood, but it's nice to know we have this resource in the neighborhood now. Kudos, David, and thanks for sharing.

Thanks to Keep Smyrna Beautiful, Smyrna now has a **community garden!** Different sized plots are available for lease right now. There are only 25 left so hurry for your chance to garden shoulder to shoulder with other Smyrna residents. For more information, contact Ann Kirk at 770-431-2863 or akirk@ci.smyrna.ga.us.

Green thumbs are not required. Fall is right around the corner—celebrate by joining the new **WPN Gardening Club**. Interesting conversations, field trips and speakers will make this a fun group. Our first meeting will be at 3 pm on Sunday, September 12th, at 2647 Gilbert Street. The groups Co-chairs are Thelma Hancock and Robyn Phillips. . — *Susan Bentley*

continued on following page...

# 2010 CALENDAR

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

wpn book club  
does not meet in  
december

wpn happy hour  
fri., dec. 17, 7pm  
robyn phillips  
2647 gilbert street

Jennifer Matthews is now  
handling the MEMO's calen-  
dar listings. If you have  
something to list, email it to  
jennifer.matthews@gmail.com

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. For  
an application go to  
[www.williamsparkneighbors.org](http://www.williamsparkneighbors.org)



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.

2840 Atlanta Road  
770-435-1887  
[www.atkinspark.com](http://www.atkinspark.com)

## News in and around Williams Park

The Jonquil Garden Club (JGC) is hosting Karen Lindauer for a talk on **native plants of Georgia**. The free event will be at the Smyrna Library on Tuesday, September 28, at 9:30 am. The mission of the JGC is to beautify and preserve the environment by encouraging conservation and planting, not only in our own yards, but in public places as well. The club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month. For info, call Marilynn Parker at 770-949-6640.

SANDY HAMBY PHOTO



If you're not in this photo you might be missing something you'd really enjoy. Not only do participants get to wear day-glo yellow and orange vests, they get to stroll up the street chatting with co-workers and playing with long-handled trash picker-upper things. It actually is fun. **Mike Engel** (at left) organizes the quarterly event—all the rest of us have to do is show up at Williams Park for equipment. A couple of hours of comradery, then we're all done and feeling good about helping out. To those in the photo—thanks for making our neighborhood a better place.

Here's a pat on the back and a heart felt 'atta-boy to **Gavin Carpenter** for his impromptu community service as "mower man." When Gavin sees a needy yard, he springs into action — and I don't mean he calls the city to start a slow ball rolling toward resolution of the issue. Nope. Gavin saddles up his trusty riding mower and commutes to the problem site with weed whacker laying across his lap. That's right—he mows what needs mowing—and he asks for nothing in return. When asked about it, he simply said, "Keep Smyrna beautiful, right?" Right indeed, Gavin, and thanks for being such a good Williams Park neighbor.

Kudos to **Heather Teilhet** on her recent appointment to the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism. In covering Governor Perdue's announcement of the appointment, the *Marrietta Daily Journal* sited Heather's educational, professional and civic affiliations. She sounds so impressive on paper, it's hard to imagine she lives right here in the 'hood. Congratulations, Heather.

Besides coyotes, which continue to be seen, many other wild critters are commonly spotted around here. From the common to the sublime, these guys make our environment rich by their presence and activities. Recently, I saw a squirrel making off with a box turtle shell (a bit of decor from my front porch). I noticed it because it's unusual to see a squirrel carrying something the same size as itself! I was so busy calling, "hey come back here—that's mine," that I never thought to go for a camera.

**Sandy Hamby** is never far from a camera so she caught her thieving squirrel in the act. Tough she knew they'd been eating the apples from her tree, she was surprised to see this guy such a distance from the tree, on top of the pergola, chewing away. OK, so the photo is fuzzy, but imagine the weight of the apple that little guy carried all that way



**Jerry Luzar** was really on the ball when he spotted a hawk eating a squirrel. He came upon it suddenly as he walked past a large tree—he and the large bird were both surprised to see each other suddenly so close at hand. Jerry actually walked home to get a camera, then returned to get several photographs before leaving the hawk to eat his lunch in peace.



## WELCOME

new members:

— on marston —  
Josh and Sarah Bonner  
Brad & Stephanie Huff

— on riley's walk —  
Alyssa & Travis Luther

— on roswell street —  
Katrina Stewart

— on whitfield st —  
Edna and Candy Sparks

## WPN BOARD

president  
Ron Davis  
770-431-9786

vice president  
Jim Duellmer  
770-434-3536

recording secretary  
Lem Ward  
770-863-9580

corresponding secretary  
Liz Davis  
770-431-9786

treasurer  
Madge Jackson  
770-432-3563

## 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](mailto:kbentley8068@gmail.com) or 770-433-0350 so they can welcome the newcomers.

Thanks!

# 5 Free Cobb Toddler Excursions

by Heather Teilhet

If your oldest child is back in school on weekdays, or you're a stay-at-home-mom with a toddler, you might be looking for close by, fun activities during the week. You need something that's fun, stimulating and will, hopefully, ensure a good, long nap. Music and gymnastics classes, the Georgia Aquarium, and Zoo Atlanta are all pricey. So, how to get the little guy out of the house... without dragging him to the grocery store again? Cobb County is full of indoor and outdoor outings for inexpensive toddler fun. Check out these five free toddler excursions in Cobb. You can be there faster than you can pack a diaper bag and buckle the car seat!

**#1** Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. Pack the tricycle, push toys, baby-doll strollers or wagon. If you're feeling ambitious, pack the jogging stroller. Head over to the Chattahoochee River for wide open trails, wildlife and fresh air. You can let your little one run wild without worrying about traffic, except the occasional 10-speed pedaling past. Bring your binoculars and sit on the riverbank to spot ducks and other wildlife. If you're energetic enough to accomplish mommy exercise and toddler entertainment simultaneously, you'll notice the trail is wide and flat, perfect for the jogging stroller, and clearly marked every .25 miles. There are several Cobb County entrances. For more information, go to [www.nps.gov/chat](http://www.nps.gov/chat).

**#2** Smyrna Library & Playground. Rainy days mean cabin fever, restless toddlers and frazzled mommies. The Smyrna library comes to the rainy day rescue with story time for children of all ages. Not only will your toddler learn that reading is fun, he'll burn some energy singing songs, doing crafts and exploring. The Smyrna Library offers free story time for toddlers ages one, two, three and older on weekday mornings for anyone with a valid Smyrna Library card. Story time for one-year-olds is held on Thursdays at 10:00 and 11:00 a.m., with a reservation. Story time for two's is offered Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. Threes and up are scheduled for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. Bilingual stories are offered on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. When the group activities end, steer your toddler to the library's children's section for his first lesson on using a computer, with his friends Elmo, Dora and Big Bird. If the computer, puzzles and board books don't keep him occupied, there's even a train engine playground outside. To confirm the right story time for your toddler, go to [www.smyrnalibrary.com](http://www.smyrnalibrary.com).

**#3** Glover Park & the Marietta Square. You don't have to wait for a concert or festival to enjoy Glover Park in the center of downtown Marietta. Let your toddler run and climb on the train engine playground. Teach him to make a wish and throw coins into the multi-tiered fountain. He'll enjoy climbing the steps to the gazebo and performing on the stage for the amused bystanders. When he slows down, unpack the sidewalk chalk and draw pictures together on the bricks. Don't forget your picnic basket. When he's tired you can spread out a blanket in the sun for a snack and some juice. For more information, go to [www.marietta.gov](http://www.marietta.gov) and select Parks.

**#4** Kennesaw Mountain & Battlefield Park. You don't have to road trip to north Georgia to give your toddler an exhilarating mountain top experience. Cobb's Kennesaw Mountain provides lots of options for toddler-friendly mountain exploration. Climbing the entire mountain is probably too ambitious for a toddler, so try taking the mountain drive to the top. Park at the summit and let your toddler check out the panoramic view. Then take a toddler-sized trek to the top and stop to see the cannon exhibits along the way. Though your toddler might not appreciate the history exhibits in the Welcome Center Museum, you'll find changing tables, vending and water for refueling. Then unpack your lunch at the scenic picnic tables. Once his belly is full, your little one might spot some wildlife or enjoy throwing sticks off the bridge into the shallow creek. For directions or information, go to [www.nps.gov/kemo](http://www.nps.gov/kemo).

**#5** Silver Comet Trail. This is a great place for kids and moms of all ages to breathe deep and stretch your legs. This free, paved and flat trail is perfect for teaching your toddler how to ride his tricycle, or loading him into the jogging stroller to burn some calories of your own. Just be mindful that the trail is mostly used by cyclists and runners, and try to keep your little one from causing a pileup. Many of the Cobb trailheads have covered picnic tables where you can rehydrate and share a snack after your hike. The 61-mile trail stretches through Cobb, Paulding and Polk Counties. For directions to the Cobb trailhead closest to you, go to [www.silvercometga.com](http://www.silvercometga.com).



## births

Carl and Anna Streck have a baby girl. Georgia Rose was born June 21.

Debra and Keith Umberger (Anderson Circle) have a baby girl. Leah Jane was born July 30, weighing 6 pounds and 10 ounces



Debbie and Tim Savage (Old Roswell) are proud to welcome their new granddaughter Audrey Fay Dane born on July 30th and weighing 6pounds, ounces

## unions

Attempting to lure Catherine Dievendorf from her home town of Charlotte, James Hardy strived to fulfill these requests: no traffic, no skyscrapers and a family neighborhood. So, he bought their home in Williams Park, then proposed to Catherine on the doorstep. James and Catherine were married on May 8th.

## My mama told me - you better shop around *by Dru Bennett*

We're more than halfway through 2010, the economy is still in recovery mode and we probably have a way to go before we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Most folks I know are always looking for good deals anyway, and in order to do so you must put time and thought behind each of your purchases. Grocery shopping can be an expensive weekly chore. Here's my review of several favorite stores where you can always find great deals. I've asked two of my WPN friends, Joy Crane and Tracie Duellmer, to weigh-in on the subject as well. Our top faves are:

The Kroger on Atlanta Road and the Kroger on S. Cobb Drive have great deals each week. It's easy to grab a flyer out of the Sunday paper or go online to view their weekly ads and download coupons. If you match your weekly menu to the current sale prices, and use your Kroger Plus Card, manufacturer and store coupons when checking out, you're sure to save a good amount. The Kroger on Atlanta Road is the newest, so you'll find it to be the nicer choice. We like their 10 for \$10 deals. Kroger has better prices than Publix and customer service is just as good.

Aldi, on Spring Road, offers great store brands at low prices. Beaumont whole bean coffee is \$4 per pound—a great price and tastes better than Starbucks! Aldi's founder is also the owner of Trader Joe's. While the brands are very different, Aldi carries a lot of similar things like cheeses, dressings, olive oils, vinegars, etc. and it all comes at low prices. The store brand of wine, Winking Owl, is their version of the "2 Buck Chuck" and Joy thinks it actually tastes pretty good. It's a great place to purchase your staples or to buy goods for a party. Tracie buys a lot of fruits and vegetables here so look for great buys on their limited selection of produce and special one-time-deal items. Santa and his Elves have been known to shop here in December. Bring your eco-friendly bags and prepare to bag your own groceries along with a quarter for the refundable shopping cart deposit!

Cobb International Farmer's Market, hands down, has the best prices in town on fresh produce, meats, and seafood. Anything processed or boxed can be triple the price of Kroger, so you'll have to shop somewhere else to cover the rest of your list. Their produce department is vast—they have everything—and their prices will blow you away! Limes, lemons, avocados—anything that's annoyingly expensive at other stores—you'll find here on the cheap. Joy

bought blueberries last week for 25 cents a pint and strawberries for the same price. Tracie loves this place for fruits and vegetables. She recently needed fresh basil. While Walmart charges \$3.74 for a small container of it wilted and brown, Tracie got a huge bag for \$1.29 here at the market, and it's still fresh six days later! Their seafood counter is massive and you can purchase live lobster for \$7.95 per pound. They also have a great selection of dried foods and spices (including many ethnic specialty items). For comparison, Joy shopped several major retail grocery chains for anise over the holidays. Only one carried it and they wanted \$4 for a very small jar. Cobb International carries several brands and Joy bought a 5.5oz jar for under \$2. Whatever purchased, you have to cook it within the next day or so. The seafood and meat must be cooked quickly or frozen. You can usually buy a large quantity, cook ½ and freeze ½ for later. The restaurant, China Station, has relocated here, so now you can shop while your Chinese dinner is being prepared! You can also find some household goods here at decent prices—rice cookers, bamboo steamers and such. A Latin candle always makes a nice gift with a bottle of wine. You'll listen to a good selection of tunes while shopping here, and enjoy the diversity of the store's clientele speaking a dozen languages.

Joy loves Trader Joes and her reason is simple: they sell a lot of high-end things at lower prices. We love their frozen fish, fruit, and vegetables, as well as their snack items, breakfast items, chocolates, cookies and, of course, their wine. Plus, the store is fun to shop in and everyone there just seems happy. The nearest ones are Buckhead and Sandy Springs but it's not too far to drive. Smyrna would, however, be a much better place with its' own Trader Joe's!

We hope you get an opportunity to try our favorite places to shop while saving lots of cash. Here are several websites to visit for more savings around Atlanta:

- Never eat out for full price again - <http://halffoffdepot.com/atlanta/>
- Use Extra Care - <http://www.cvs.com>
- Good deals around the city on everything! <http://www.southern savers.com/>  
[www.groupon.com/atlanta](http://www.groupon.com/atlanta)  
<http://partners.livingsocial.com>  
<http://www.scoutmob.com/application> for iPhone  
<http://www.atlantaonthecheap.com/>  
<http://atlantahalffoffmediawebconnect.com/>

### Tale of two Tapas

Louisa and I met friends at Red Sky Tapas Bar (1255 Johnson Ferry Road, Marietta), a very nice looking place with a reputation for being packed on weekends. We arrived at 6pm on a Saturday, and by the time we left at 7:30 it was full up. Reservations are a must.

As time went by it got very noisy. I'm sure that when the dueling pianos started later, you would be unable to talk to your table mates. We had five tapas ranging in price from \$5 to \$9. We all came to the conclusion that the bacon and blue cheese salad (\$5) was the best and the three small pieces of fried manchego cheese for \$9 was a total ripoff. Another disappointment was the stuffed portobello mushroom which turned out to be a 3 inch mushroom with a sprinkling of bread crumbs and a chunk of mozzarella cheese. The other dishes weren't anything worth eating.

The bottom line was we had seven beers and five entrees and the bill came to a surprisingly high \$94. This included their mandatory 20% tip which they add to the bill. We all agreed this was our first and last visit.

I can't help but mention that it's located next door to the Mediterranean Grill where

*continued on next page...*

## Williams Park Travels — down under, over the new year... by Jill Huitron

Down under, over the New Year

Daniel and I love to travel. Last fall we were faced with a decision to make. We had \$1600 Delta dollars that were about to expire and lots of frequent flyer miles. Where had we always wanted to go but never thought we could that would use up that many Delta dollars? The answer: Australia!

The more we talked to friends, family and people we ran into, the more we heard "Go to New Zealand too, the south island." The more we looked into New Zealand, we decided that we had to include it in our trip as well.

We left a couple of days after Christmas, headed to LA to see Daniel's family, then on to Australia. Too many hours later we landed in Sydney with sore bottoms but lots of energy. We walked to the circular Quay and caught a ferry to Watkins Bay. There we had our first fish and chips and hiked some trails where you could see the ocean on one side of you and the bay on the other, really beautiful.

Sydney was very neat and we spent a lot of time walking around and learning some of its history. The most awesome thing is that we got to experience the New Year's Eve fireworks from right next to the Sydney opera house on the 10th floor of a building called the Toaster which was right across the harbor from the bridge. The boats in the harbor were all decorated and the fireworks were shot from the tops of buildings downtown, just to our left, and from the bridge. They were the most incredible fireworks I've ever seen!

The next day we flew to Brisbane and drove up the east coast of Australia to the Great Barrier Reef where we stayed for a few days. We took a boat out to the reef and snorkeled. Daniel got to scuba. We hiked, kayaked, and explored the areas from Brisbane to Arlie Beach, where the Great Barrier Reef starts. Then we flew from Christchurch in New Zealand.

Wow! What an incredible country with beaches, the Southern Alps, fiords, wine country, rain forests, lakes and glaciers all

within hours of each other. Not only that, it has to be one of the most beautiful countries we've ever seen too. Many of the lakes are glacier made and the color is like no other I've ever seen—almost a milky blue/green because there are particles suspended in the water from the glaciers.

We hiked so many fabulous trails, ate at so many wonderful local places, viewed some amazing scenery, walked through rain forests and had the most incredible time. The kiwi people are nice and very helpful and love sharing their country. In fact, the total population of New Zealand, both islands, is smaller than the metro Atlanta area!

On Mt. Cook we hiked over a hill to see a slow moving glacier and glacier lake. The icebergs were probably 30 feet high but looking down on them they seem so small. We also hiked a great trail called Rob Roy that went up a mountain to some incredible waterfalls and a glacier on top of the mountain. Daniel was having so much fun taking pictures that he put half of his sandwich down and one of the Kea birds up on the mountain promptly stole it from the rock right next to him! Poor guy, I had finished my sandwich and had nothing to share with him.

At the fiord, Doubtful Sound, we took a boat out into the ocean and back. The waterfalls, sea lions and scenery were incredible. On the way to and from the sound we drove through a half a mile long man-made tunnel. A snow drift on the mountain side, still there in January (their summer), was about 15 feet tall and kids were out in it throwing snowballs and having their picture taken.

We stayed at little mom and pop places and tried to eat more local than touristy. We tried some of the wineries, hiked lots of the trails and saw as much as we could in eight days. We loved it and have dreamed of going back from the moment we got home. There's so much we didn't see, do and experience on the south island. Apparently, the two islands have very different landscapes. Maybe one day we'll get back there and share what it looks like with you.



dining out  
close to  
home

you can get great food at reasonable prices. We've previously had outstanding lamb shank dinners for \$10. Go here, you'll love it. It's not fancy, just great food.

The second tapas restaurant we visited is called *Loca-luna* (555 Amsterdam Ave.). This is a wonderful place and we loved it! Reservations, a must, can be made at [www.loca-luna.com](http://www.loca-luna.com). Their special is a bucket of 5 Red Stripe beers for \$15. The tapas menu is extensive, reasonably priced, and the plates are large. Particularly good are the beef brisket and chicken tacos for \$3. We also had the smoked salmon, a large serving for \$8. The grilled ribs with balsamic reduction were great. This restaurant had the most extensive and unusual offerings of any tapas restaurant we've been to.

Service was great, friendly, and quick. The total bill was \$53 including a \$10 tip. They had a nice guitar and trombone playing BACKGROUND Spanish music. We'll definitely bring out-of-town guests here. Best of all, between 4 and 7pm, all tapas are half-price. You can get here in 25 minutes. Take 75 to 10th St., left to dead-end at Monroe, left on Monroe and go to first traffic light, turn left. You're there. It's the building with the painted sky and clouds. It is worth a trip.

— Ben Cohn

## Local Flora Chronicals

Gardening in the Shade of Summer

Pruning the new wood from rambling vines this morning, I felt a pang of sadness—soon enough garden fresh juicy tomatoes and crisp okra will be only a fond memory. Reflecting on the summer, I surveyed a collection of forgotten garden projects—a dried pineapple crown, a pickle bucket full of wilted transplants, now destined for the compost pile. Were these fallen soldiers a fair exchange for the memory of catching an 11 pound “striper,” plucked from the sea, and onto the grill in a matter of hours? Absolutely!! Gathering up my trimmings, I resolved to reconnect with my garden.

Later that day, as I poured through a cache of seed packets and catalogs, it occurred to me that many people believe fall's arrival beckons the end of the growing season. I'm compelled to debunk this fallacy. Recalling our last snow fall, I picture proud plumes of black kale and regal spikes of leeks towering over a bed of endless lettuces, all covered in a blanket of frosty white fluffiness. While it's true that certain vegetables grow only in the heat of summer, many types of edibles will grow throughout the winter, especially here in zone 7 (gardener talk for hot—early and for a long time). Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale and broccoli will actually taste a little sweeter if harvested after the first kiss of frost. You see, the plant produces sugar to mix with the water in its leaves to prevent freezing (kind of like biological antifreeze). Let us not forget lettuce, which does exceptionally well in chilly weather. Just imagine a beautiful head of chartreuse butter head lettuce sprinkled with dewdrops glittering in the early morning sun... in December.

For you staunch tomato growers with no interest in these pursuits, do your garden a favor—at the very least, plant some type of cover crop. This will keep the soil “alive” and the weeds at bay until the spring growing season returns once again.

Pardon my flowery musings, but writing feeds my soul. If you so desire, follow my path to rejuvenate, renew and nurture my magic garden over the months to come here or on my blog at [ww.sue-criger.com/magic-garden/](http://ww.sue-criger.com/magic-garden/)

— Sue Criger

1295 Concord Road • 770-434-8578

Love Street  
GIFTS & GARDENS

1125B Concord Road • 678-556-3878

Love Street  
HOME

1275 Concord Road • 678-238-0130

Love Street's  
Heart & Sole  
Apparel • Shoes • Accessories

Find us on Facebook!

## 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

*The Lost City of Z,*  
by David Grann

★★★★ The true story of a reporter's obsession with finding the fate of a famed British explorer who disappeared in the Amazon in 1925.

*Cataloochee,* by Wayne Caldwell  
★★★★ Exploring the lives through generations of families from Cataloochee, North Carolina.

The rating system:

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



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