



Williams Park

MEMO

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS

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

MEMO NOTES

I was lunching with a friend last week who lives in a nice subdivision in Alpharetta. I happened to mention something to her in passing, on the way to make some other point, about one neighbor doing some little favor for another—when my friend interrupted. She said, “I wish I lived in a real neighborhood. You live in a neighborhood like neighborhoods used to be. I tried to say ‘hello’ to the woman across the street recently and she just looked at me as though to ask, ‘Who are you and what do you want?’ I thought, lighten-up lady, I’m your neighbor, not an ax murderer.”

We always encourage contributions to the MEMO. Deadlines for future issues are November 15 and February 15. Tell us something about yourself — tell us something about your neighbor — send your contributions to Casey Clavin at dingoblue@earthlink.net

Don't be left out when we send WPN e-mail updates. If your e-mail address changes (or has changed), please let us know. Send your new address information to lrdavis1351@bellsouth.net

Williams Park's End of Summer BBQ—by Alicia Banos



ALICIA BANOS PHOTOS



As neighbors gather and socialize, Callie Duelmer snacks, Madge Jackson hands out door prize tickets, Lem Ward flips burgers, and Witt Huneycutt smiles for the camera.



While thoughts started turning to football, the thermometer still read 95 degrees, so the Williams Park Neighbors gathered for a final farewell to summer, BBQs and baseball on August 13th. Despite hazy summer heat, about 125 neighbors came out, including many old faces, new faces and new old faces (Catherine Porch is back from Vermont!)

Lem Ward and Matt Bennett cooked up hamburgers and hot dogs and the sides and desserts were plentiful. While there was no official cook off, many people took the opportunity to show off their best BBQ and picnic fare. Deviled eggs, potato salad, bean dishes, mac & cheese, casseroles, fruit salads and desserts filled the three tables so thoroughly there was barely any room left.

A bouncy house, bubbles, stickers, crayons and assorted Braves-themed toys were on hand to entertain our littlest neighbors. However, the “big ticket” items (pun intended) were the Braves tickets thoughtfully donated by our favorite

local coffee house, Rev Coffee. Seven neighbors left with a pair of tickets each, but everyone was most happy to see our newest neighbors, the Rayos, win a set. And while we were giving stuff away, Wade Ingle donated his homegrown okra for a special surprise drawing, won by Lem Ward. Yes, even when there's not a cook-off, Lem manages to win.

In addition to all the food and fun, the neighborhood was called upon to provide

2011 CALENDAR

wpn garden club
sunday, sept. 11, 3 pm
host, Liz Davis
1351 Roswell St.

wpn happy hour
friday, sept 16, 7 pm
Myrna and Larry Evans
1320 Roswell St.

wpn book club
Sun, sept. 25, 3pm
host, Liz Davis
1351 Roswell St.
Garden of Angels
by Lurlene McDaniel

wpn chili cookoff
october 15, 4 pm
at Durham Park
judging at 4pm
chili feasting at 5pm

wpn happy hour
friday, oct 21, 7 pm
Leon & Linda McElveen
1562 Whitfield

wpn adopt-a-mile
Sat october 9, 8am
(Mike 678-698-0987)

wpn general assembly
meeting
tuesday, oct. 25, 7 pm
city council chambers

wpn book club
Sun, Oct. 30, 3pm
host, Susan Bentley
2651 gilbert st
Remarkable Creatures
by Tracy Chevalier

wpn garden club
sunday, nov. 13, 3 pm
host, Nancy Smith
2611 gilbert st

wpn happy hour
friday, nov 18, 7 pm
Lee and Joan Friedman
1428 Wright Street
770-310-0960

continued on next page...

Williams Park's End of Summer BBQ—by Alicia Banos

donations to MUST Ministries. It was wonderful to see so many neighbors walk up practically stumbling under the weight of their bags of donated goods. Between donations brought to the cook out and Sunday night's collection, Liz Davis reported that 130 bags of groceries, plus \$30 were delivered to MUST the Monday after the BBQ.

Thank you to all the neighbors who donated to MUST and who helped set-up and breakdown for our cook out. These wonderful events wouldn't be possible with out the willingness of so many to pitch in - proving again what a special & unique neighborhood we have here.



New neighbors, Mary, Cara and RJ Rayos (above) won a pair of Braves tickets. Jack Brian dressed according to the event's baseball theme wearing his best Braves shirt.



Wade Ingle and Lem Ward laugh about Lem's uncanny luck winning prizes



MUST Ministries provides food, clothing, financial aid, education and employee assistance and referral services to individuals and families in crisis. They have centers in Marietta, Smyrna and Cherokee. Special events include the Summer Lunch programs, Back to School Drive, Holiday Meals and Christmas Toyshop. If you're interested in learning more, or if you have items to donate between our WPN drives, visit www.MustMinistries.org.

News in and around Williams Park

Once again WPN is exploring hosting a **Home Tour event in our neighborhood** next year, possibly in conjunction with the Jonquil Festival April 29th. It would be an opportunity to offer the public a peek into our great neighborhood, show some pride, pick up spirits in these down times, and hopefully raise some funds. We have begun trying to identify homes for the tour so if you're interested in having your home on the tour, or if you have other suggestions please contact Debbie Savage at savagedebbe@bellsouth.net.

Save the Date for the 2011 Chili Cookoff! Get out your chili recipes and crockpots! Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 15 at 4:00 p.m. for the Annual WPN Chili Cookoff. We're moving the venue to Durham Park this year, which is located at the corner of Spring Street and Anderson Circle. The party will start at 4:00 p.m. with the official judging of the chili contestants, and then a chili dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. We'll have a bouncy and some games for kids. Be thinking of ways you'd like to get involved, whether it's by bringing a dish to share, helping set up or take down, or offering your decorating expertise. The event is being organized this year by Beth Studley and Heather Teilhet. Questions or suggestions can be sent to: bstudley@holder.com or heatherhedrick@yahoo.com.

news continued on following page...

2011 CALENDAR

wpn book club and
Madge's B-day
Sun, Nov. 20, 3pm
host, Nancy Smith
2651 gilbert st
Then Came You
by Jennifer Weiner

WELCOME

to these new members

— on bernard lane —
Christine Manning

— on devin court —
Ray & Christine Miller

— on gilbert street —
Rebecca Wall

— on princeton trail —
RJ and Mary Rayos

— on roswell street —
Brooks & Dawn Neely
Tyler & Amy Pike

— on spring street —
Kathryn & Jim Williams
Jim & Linda Blackstone

— on windy hill place—
Chris Williams

— on whitfield court —
Rick Orwig & Janet
Pippin

— on whitfield st —
Jennifer Scholz Smith

You don't have to be a member to attend our events but why wouldn't you want to be? If you haven't already joined, now is a good time to do so. For an application go to www.williamsparkeighbors.org

News in and around Williams Park

Thanks to our recent Happy Hour hosts. **Leanne Fey and Lem Ward** hosted us in July. Their recent efforts on their house and garden are really paying off. In particular, the new exterior paint colors are a huge success. **Jill and Daniel Huitron** hosted us on short notice in August when another couple had to cancel. Thanks y'all for stepping up.

WP has a Trivia team. The Killers meet on Thursday nights at Mexico Lindo on South Cobb Drive—and we invite you to come join us for a rousing game of team Trivia. The core of our team is Dickie Cook, the man with a head full of random facts, and myself Cat Porch as team strategist. A shifting group of other neighbors comes out to play, but we'd like to get a big WPN team coming out regularly on Thursday nights.

Trivia officially starts at 7:00 pm and goes until 9:00 pm, but if you arrive early, you can enjoy a round or two of margaritas or beer at happy hour prices until 7:00. Patrick Davis, the Trivia host, takes requests for songs you want to hear. Depending on the season, there are anywhere from eight to fifteen teams playing. A team may be just one person or a table of 20 people. You never know what the competition will be, but it's always fun.

There are plenty of good teams out there—Drain Bamage, The Twins, Superfriends— but for us, the one to beat is whatever team has Len Luza on it. An old Trivia nemesis of both Dickie and myself from over 10 years ago, he's hard to beat. But once, several weeks ago, with a large WPN crowd, the Killers did beat him. And if more neighbors come out and play, we'll win more often.

What do we win? House cash from Mexico Lindo, the top prize being \$50. Win or not, it's loads of fun— the food is cheap, the servers are friendly. With the weather cooling off, we'll soon be sitting outside on the deck, watching the sun set, eating chips and salsa, drinking a nice cold beverage, and playing a fun game of trivia.

It is fascinating to see who knows what. I always say, "You never know what you know that somebody else doesn't know." Actually, I've never said that, but the point is that everyone can contribute. While I'm pretty decent with anatomy and geography, and

Dickie's practically unbeatable with history and presidents, we're completely lost when it comes to certain types of music, sports, and current pop culture. Questions come from a whole range of categories and games are often won (or lost) by just one or two questions – questions you might be able to answer for us!

For us, though, it's not so much about winning as it is about playing. Come on out and join us—it costs nothing to play. Just show up and look for us—we'll be glad to pull up another chair. See you at Mexico Lindo, Thursday nights, 7:00 – 9:00 pm for Team Trivia with the WPN Killers.

—Catherine Porch

Kudos to **Beth Studley** for her role in LEED certification for our new elementary school. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Cobb County is among a handful of districts in the state seeking LEED certification for a school. Atlanta Public Schools have a few certified schools, along with DeKalb County, private schools in the area and several Macon schools.

While the School Board had already asked the project architect, Ray Moore with Cunningham Forehand Matthews and Moore Architects Inc., to design our school to meet LEED standards, they didn't intend to apply for certification due to cost. Then our neighbor Beth Studley (Anderson Circle), a LEED-accredited professional, talked to SPLOST administrator Doug Shepard, letting him know that Southern Polytechnic State University students in the school's International Knowledge and Research Center (IKRC) for Green Building program can do the requisite research and documentation for filing the LEED application.

Clint Mays, chief administrative officer with IKRC, says LEED certification covers five areas: the site, water usage, energy usage, materials used for the structure and indoor air quality. Nationally, the average LEED school has about \$100,000 in annual direct savings, \$47,000 of which is energy costs.

Plans for the \$22 million two-story elementary school should go before the school board for approval of construction bids in November. The schedule has the new school opening in the autumn of 2013.

Williams Park Travels Trip to East Africa... by Alan Wilgus

Dateline: June 14, 2011: Helen and I landed in Nairobi, Kenya exhausted but full of excitement and anticipation. We'd studied our African travel guide, had yellow fever inoculations, and were on a daily regimen of anti-malarial drugs. We were traveling light due to limited space on our safari vehicle. Our tour company sent us each a black duffle bag, our only luggage, with instructions that they not exceed thirty-three pounds each. We were ready to explore a part of the world totally different from anywhere we'd ever been.

Nairobi And Beyond — Nairobi, a large, diverse, bustling city of four million people, is the commercial center of East Africa. While its central business district and upscale suburban neighborhoods are neat and modern, poorer parts of the city are littered, dirty, and in disrepair. Kenya, having gained independence in 1963, has maintained a strong British influence—they drive on the left, serve afternoon tea, and obsess over football (soccer) and cricket.

Traffic is a nightmare with many intersections seemingly unregulated. Traffic pushes, nudges, weaves, and honks its way through crossroads from all directions at once. Road construction adds to the chaos. Outside the city many roads are nothing more than hard-packed dirt, impassable in the rainy season. The main road we took between Masai Mara and Nairobi is considered one of the worst in Africa—six hours bouncing along this rocky wash-board will rattle your fillings loose.

In the city the most common form of public transportation is the privately owned minibus with fourteen or more people crammed inside. In the country motorcycles serve as taxis. Many earn a living transporting goods to market using bicycles; often so heavily laden the operator can only walk along side pushing his load. They carry tall bunches of bananas, huge bags of charcoal, hang plastic containers of cooking oil or "home brew" from their bicycles in such quantities as to defy the laws of physics.

We spent a day touring around Nairobi. Those in our small group who read or saw "Out of Africa" were excited to visit the Karen Blixen Museum located in her former plantation home at the foot of the Ngong Hills just southwest of town. It provided a glimpse into nineteenth century colonial life. We also visited an elephant orphanage caring for abandoned newborns whose mothers were killed by poachers. In the past these infants would die in captivity, but today through the efforts of Daphne Sheldrick who developed a formula resembling mother's milk and individual caretakers who tend the baby elephants 24/7, most grow healthy and are returned to the wild. We also visited a nearby giraffe center where we learned there are three different types of giraffe in Kenya each with distinctive markings; the Maasi, Rothschild, and Reticulated. The biggest thrill was letting them eat out of our hands from a raised platform. We didn't mind a little slobber.

The Wild Animals — After Nairobi, it was time to head out to the "bush." Viewing animals in the wild was the major purpose of our trip and we were not disappointed. We drove over sixteen hundred miles during thirteen days, visiting the world's best game reserves. There were no physical barriers in the vast area we covered, animals roamed and migrated according to natural patterns. We traveled in a circuit, staying at each place two nights, going on early morning and late afternoon game drives when animals are most active. Starting in Nairobi we drove southeast to Amboseli National Park in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro. Crossing into Tanzania, we traveled south and west through the city of Arusha and on to Lake Manyara National Park, home of the world's only tree-climbing lions. From there we continued west to the Ngorongoro Crater a huge volcanic caldera containing the highest concentration of animals in the world. After a stop at the famous anthropological dig of Louis and Mary Leakey at Olduvai Gorge, where some of the earliest humanoid remains were discovered in 1959, we headed for the vastness of the Serengeti. We caught up to the trailing elements of the "Great Migration" of wildebeest heading north. There is nothing like the thrill of being surrounded by thousands of animals for as far as you can see. After a brief stop at a fishing village on Lake Victoria, our final stop was the great Masai Mara National Park back in Kenya.

Our safari vehicle's pop-up top allowed us to stand and observe, protected but without obstruction. For the most part, the animals did not fear us—they came so close you could almost reach out and touch them. We saw the famed "Big Five;" lion, leopard, elephant, rhinoceros, and cape buffalo, as well as a huge variety of other predators, scavengers, antelope, giraffes, hippopotamus, warthogs, baboons, and monkeys. We witnessed the cycle of life in all its violent glory. The predators wake up every morning looking for that day's meal. They take a weakened or slow animal, eat their fill, and leave the rest to scavengers (hyenas and buzzards). Nothing is wasted. The thousands of animals we saw in the wild, unlike in zoos at home, looked remarkably healthy and beautiful. After this trip it will be difficult for us to ever go to a zoo again.

Seeing animals in the wild afforded an opportunity to observe their natural behavior. Topi antelope herds have sentries posted on termite mounds scanning for any sign of danger. We witnessed three Topi charge toward two cheetahs chasing them away from the herd. They would charge three abreast at full speed, abruptly stop and loudly snort at the cheetahs.

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Williams Park Travels Trip to East Africa... by Alan Wilgus

They continued a series of these charges until they had driven them a sufficient distance. Among the wildebeest and impalas there is a constant struggle between males for possession of their "harem." We saw this "survival of the fittest" play out as two male impalas fought by repeatedly slamming their heads together and locking horns until the stronger male drove back the challenger.

To our delight we spotted a leopard relaxing in a tree. There was activity in the grass at the base of the tree which we thought were cubs playing. Suddenly, the leopard jumped to the ground, snatched a gazelle in its teeth and leaped back up the tree in one fluid motion. The cubs had been feeding off the kill and now it was Mom's turn. This powerful animal had to be carrying close to its own weight in its jaws.

The vistas over which the animals roam is varied and breathtaking. The plains are seemingly endless dotted with termite mounds and acacia trees. I was surprised to see palm trees where there was water. For some reason I didn't expect them. One morning we took an early morning hot air balloon ride over the Serengeti. As the sun rose we marveled at the sheer vastness of this special place.

Roughing It On The Savannah — After hours of rough, dusty roads, and squinting through binoculars, we spent each evening in first-class hotels. We were met on arrival with hot towels to refresh and wash the dust from our faces along with champagne and fresh fruit juice to sooth our parched throats. I was pleased to see that each modern hotel was distinctive yet designed to visually blend with its surroundings, located on escarpments, hilltops, or the ledges overlooking a volcanic caldera or other incredible view.

All the hotels were in game reserves, most surrounded by electric fence for guest safety. Even with this precaution we had visits from monkeys, baboons, an elephant and, one night, a stampeding herd of zebra a few yards from our patio. One person in our party returned to her room to find a black-faced Vervet monkey ripping through her belongings! She had neglected to lock her sliding glass patio door. At two locations in the Serengeti there was no fence and we were told to call for an escort before leaving our rooms after nightfall. They didn't have to tell me twice after I saw a large pile of cape buffalo dung twelve feet from our door.

Meals were fantastic, there was a full bar at each location, and we had local entertainment most evenings. On two occasions we were treated to a "bush breakfast." Once after our hot air balloon ride over the Serengeti and later, along the crocodile-infested Mara River in Masi Mara. A sentry armed with a high-caliber hunting rifle stood guard to insure we did not become someone else's breakfast.

Cultural Connections — Much of the population lives in poverty. HIV/Aids is rampant and hunger not uncommon. When I gave a teenager a piece of cheese, he looked at me quizzically and asked, "how do you eat it?" Despite poverty the people we encountered were friendly and helpful.



On our way to the Serengeti we stopped at one of the many Maasai villages we passed. This African tribe has a reputation as fierce warriors and has preserved their distinctive customs and bright red dress. The Maasai live in circular shaped thatched huts the exterior of which is packed with cow dung to make it waterproof. The only light enters through a small hole in the ceiling to vent smoke and a narrow entrance. The inside is dark and confining. A small cooking fire burns almost constantly leaving smoke permeating everything and burning one's eyes and lungs. Their villages are a collection of family huts arranged in a circle surrounded by thorn-bushes. The bushes serve as a protective fence around the village. Within the circle of huts there is a smaller circle of bushes which serve to corral their livestock at night making them safe from predators. The men tend cattle and women weave baskets and do colorful beadwork; making bracelets and other jewelry items.

Wood carvings are popular souvenir items. I purchased a beautiful foot-tall carving of several intertwined people in a "tree of life." This type of carving originated with the Makonde tribe, is passed on to children who start carving as young as nine years old. The artist who carved my piece was Charles Bies. Later we actually met Charles at his workshop and had our picture taken with him. Helen found a small carved elephant and asked about the price prepared to start bargaining, Charles, knowing we had earlier bought one of his pieces told her "there is no charge".

Heading for the village of Mto Wa Mbu in Tanzania to visit an orphanage, we purchased food at an open-air market to bring as a donation. I bought a live chicken and Helen bought dried sardines. She had an easier time carrying her donation than I. The items were greatly appreciated by the children.

The Modern World Intervenes — How long the natural beauty of Africa will last is uncertain. Modernization is changing things at a rapid rate. Cell phones are everywhere in East Africa. I was surprised to see our guide pull out his phone in the middle of the Serengeti and make a call! Cell towers can be seen on hilltops in Masi Mara. The movement of the "Great Migration" is no longer as predictable due to global warming. There is a controversial plan to build a major road through the Serengeti that many feel will disrupt the migratory patterns and endanger the animals. Fortunately there is a very strong national commitment to preserving these natural habitats and protecting the animals. I only hope that our children and their children will one day be able to experience the same thrilling adventure that we enjoyed.

Williams Park Travels Awe Inspiring New Zealand... by Jill Huitron

New Zealand is an awesome country! There is so much to see and do there. We've spent over four weeks exploring the two islands in the last two years and have loved every inch of that country. What is not to love when you have glaciers, fiords, geysers, the southern alps, beaches, and rain forests, not to mention, wineries to explore!

With a population lower than metro Atlanta's spread over two islands, sometimes you can drive for hours and never see a soul. Lakes on the south island have a tealish green shade because of the glacier material suspended in the water... beautiful! Geysers and sulfur lakes on the north island... beautiful but smelly!

Auckland, highly populated, is spread out, over, around, and between bays and channels. Built on a fault line, it's very susceptible to earthquakes. Most of the city is within a few minutes of water or looks out over the water. Bridges connect the northern end of the city with the southern end. It's located on the upper end of the north island and is the largest city, by far, in New Zealand.

Living on the outskirts of Atlanta, we experience enough city life at home, so Daniel and I prefer to explore countryside whenever we can. One of our favorite things on the north island was to walk the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. It took about 7.5 hours, going from 1500 feet above sea level to almost 6000, and back down. It was amazing, hard and exhausting but we made it! It was about 11.5 miles—the last three hours was all downhill, a killer on the knees. Remember Mt. Doom from the *Lord of the Rings*? We walked right by it for several hours. It is very severe, up close and personal, not a friendly mountain at all.

Something else we really enjoyed on the north island was the Waitomo Caves. The tour called Spellbound was incredible! When the lights are off in the caves, surrounded by darkness, the "worms" on the ceiling and walls just glow... a remarkable sight. It feels like you're outside on a dark night with no light but just the stars above your head, a constellation to yourself.

The north island is dryer than the south island, and few trees until you get to the southern part of the north island. There are several wonderful National Parks you can explore, as well as geysers and sulfur lakes. Most of those are centered around Lake Taupo. We stayed there several nights and really enjoyed this pretty town nestled around the lake. Across the lake are views of Tongariro and Mt. Doom. Sitting at one of the open air cafes, watching the sailboats on the lake and looking at the mountains across the lake is a great way to spend an evening.

Matamata is just below Auckland and Hobbitown is located there. *Lord of the Rings* was filmed throughout the

two islands. You can even take tours around to the different locations where the films were shot. Actually Mt. Doom from the movie is two different mountains super imposed upon each other, Mt. Ruapehu is the base and Mt. Ngauruhoe is the top that you know from the pictures.

The Southern Alps run along the west coast of the south island—trekking and hiking there is wonderful. Because there's more rain on the south island, you find tropical rain forests on most treks. Glaciers awaiting you on mountain tops, after walking through rain forests, are amazing to see! There are glaciers you can trek on the west coast also. We kayaked at Able Tasman National Park on the north end of the south island and saw lots of seals and a penguin swam right in front of us! Most of that park is not accessible by car, only hiking and by water.

There are many wineries on both islands and we made a point of taste testing through several regions. One of our favorites was the Marlborough region on the north end of the south island, known for its Sauvignon Blanc and its Chardonnay. The Martinborough region on the south end of the north island was another favorite, producing wonderful Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc. Unfortunately, the best of the wineries do not export to the states.

Another adventure worth doing is boating through the fiords. We went to Milford Sound—the hour plus

drive to get there was breathtaking at times. At places along the way, you could detour and go on short treks, see beautiful waterfalls, natural lakes and 15 foot high glacier ice masses even in the middle of summer. The boat trip from the interior of the fiord to the ocean was so beautiful and relaxing. You get right up under a waterfall, smell those sea lions on the rocks and get blown away by the height and roar of waterfalls, definitely something you don't want to miss.

One of our favorite places to unwind on the south island was a little town called Wanaka. It has a lake right beside it with several good restaurants. If it is too small for you, Queenstown has a similar feel but a lot more people and a lot more busy.

Another cute place is Arrowtown on the south island. It has several wineries. During the frantic gold rush days there in the 1860s, an influx of Chinese came to work the mines and there's still a Chinese settlement you can walk through. Most of their houses were only about five feet tall inside—Daniel looked like a giant standing beside one.

The people of New Zealand are so nice and we really enjoyed our travels there. Interestingly, they only take about 20,000 or so new immigrants a year and you have to be fluent in english or don't even bother to apply. You must also have a job already or show you can support yourself. Those two islands are very protective of what they have but they love to share their beauty with the world. If you ever decide to visit, I know you'll come to love it as much as we do.



WPN BOARD 'D

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770-431-9786

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770-434-3536

recording secretary
Lem Ward
770-863-9580

corresponding secretary
Liz Davis
770-431-9786

treasurer
Madge Jackson
770-432-3563

These board members have been carrying the load for a few years now. We should all think about stepping up to give some of them a break. They have things running smoothly, and can provide "training." If you think you might like to serve, give one of them a call to talk about it.

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 or 770-433-0350 so they can welcome the newcomers.

Thanks!

WP Cooks — Ben Cohn

As football season approaches, appetites turn toward heartier fare. Here are a couple of easy crock pot dishes that may appeal to you. Bon appetite!

Mushroom Steak Diane Stew

Put everything in the crock pot at one time. Cook for 5 hours on high, then one hour more on low.

- 1 1/2 lbs. stew meat
- 2 medium onions cut into thin wedges
- 2 small pack button mushrooms cut in half
- 1 can condensed Mushroom soup (Campbell)
- 1 can tomato paste
- 1 tsp dry mustard
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1/4 cup bar-b-que sauce
- 2 tbs Worcestershire sauce
- Salt to taste

This can be served over noodles, rice, or with a chunk of bread.

Shrimp Creole

Cook same as above.

- 1 14 oz can of diced tomatoes, don't drain
- 1 14 oz can chicken broth
- 1 medium size chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 can tomato paste
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 tsp paprika
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 garlic cloves minced
- 1 1/2 lbs peeled shrimp. Do not add until 1/2 hour before serving.
- 1 package Uncle Ben's rice. Cook separately and serve the creole on top of rice.

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 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

House at Riverton

by Kate Morton ★★★★★

The story of Grace, a 98 year old woman who relives and comes to terms with her past through flashbacks of her youth as a maid to an aristocratic English family.

Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter

by Tom Franklin ★★★★★

Rural Mississippi serves as the setting for the story of two boyhood friends whose relationship is destroyed due to family, race and class issues, yet they come together as adults to confront the past and solve two murders.

The rating system:

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



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

Restaurante Mexicano
678-996-2898 • 1368 Atlanta Road, Marietta, GA
we have a mariachi band every monday night

MILESTONES

births

Congratulations to Sarah and Tony Legge on the birth of their son Silas Cole Legge. Silas weighed in at 7lbs. 12 ozs on July 21, 2011.

Congratulations to proud parents David and Jennifer Hasler on the birth of their baby boy Christian Lee Hasler, born 4 June 2011 weighing in at 6 lbs. 8 ozs.

Please welcome Madison Grace Arnold to our neighborhood. She was born August 15th to Lesley and Rob Arnold.

unions

Congratulations to Tyler and Amy Pike (Roswell Street) married August 20th and now basking in marital bliss.

deaths

William Stafano of Walker Street passed away on August 15.

Harry Sarajian passed away August 28 at his Spring Street home with his wife Jane and family members at his side.

WP Grass — the whys and whens of aeration by Gavin Carpenter

Lawn aeration, a very important, but often overlooked part of good lawn care, is one of the keys to a healthy lawn. Sometimes what looks like insect, under watering or fertilizer problems is actually soil compaction. When the top four inches of soil become compacted, nutrients, oxygen, and water are prevented from circulating around the grass roots properly. Aerating loosens up the soil to allow room for nutrients and air to circulate. Soil compaction often becomes a problem in high-traffic areas where people and pets frequent. An easy way to find out if your soil is compacted, is to take a screwdriver out to your lawn after it's been watered. Try to push the screwdriver into the soil. If it penetrates with little resistance, there's no compaction problem. But if it's difficult to get the screwdriver into the soil, you'll need to aerate. The good news is that for most yards it's very inexpensive.

When to aerate typically depends on the type of soil and grass you have. Warm season grasses should generally get aerated in late-spring to early summer. For cool season grasses, late summer or early fall is best. Clay soil typically compacts easily and should be aerated twice a year (spring and fall). Sandy

soil, which doesn't compact as easily, should be aerated only once a year (spring or fall). If you're planning to fertilize or reseed, it's best to aerate just prior. This will allow the fertilizer, seed, and nutrients to penetrate, producing better results.

Try not to aerate during times of drought or high heat. Instead of helping, it may allow moisture to escape the soil more rapidly and remove small layers of thatch that benefit your lawn by insulating the soil from sunlight and excessive evaporation. Avoid aerating if you have weed problems. Aerating a weedy lawn may actually spread weeds so try to control the weeds prior to aerating.

Try to water or dampen your lawn the day prior to aerating. This will soften the soil—better penetration by the aerator will produce better results.

If you've planted a new lawn or laid sod, wait until your grass roots are well established. Aerating sod prior to root establishment can pull the sod up from the ground. Premature aerating can also cause excess moisture buildup and prevent the grass roots from getting enough air to thrive.

I hope you find these tips helpful so you can enjoy a lush and healthy lawn.

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From a Dog's Diary

8 am - Dog food—My favorite thing! (MFT)
 9 - Car ride— MFT!
 10 - Walk in the park—MFT!
 11 - Got petted—MFT!
 12 noon - Lunch—MFT!
 1 - Played outside—MFT!
 3 - Wagged my tail—MFT!
 5 - Milk bones—MFT!
 7 - Got to play ball—MFT!
 8 - Wow! Watched TV with the people—MFT!
 11 - Sleeping on the bed—My Favorite Thing!

From a Cat's Diary...

Day 983 of my captivity.

My captors continue to taunt me with dangling objects and dine lavishly on fresh meat while the other inmates and I are fed some sort of dry nuggets. The only thing that keeps me going is my dream of escape. Today I decapitated a mouse and dropped its headless body at their feet, hoping to strike fear in their hearts. They merely made condescending comments about what a "good little hunter" I am. Bastards. Today I was almost successful in assassinating one of them by weaving around his feet as he walked. I'll try this again tomorrow - but at the top of the stairs. The other prisoners are flunkies and snitches. The dog receives special privileges—regularly released, he seems more than willing to return. He's obviously mentally challenged. The bird has to be an informant—communicates with the guards regularly—probably reports my every move. My captors have arranged protective custody for him in an elevated cell, so he is safe. For now...

Emergency Preparedness— a reminder from Robyn Phillips

Recently, we've seen the damage and destruction that natural and man-made disasters can cause and are reminded that preparing for such emergencies is extremely important. National Preparedness Month is an annual September event (founded after 9/11) during which the U.S. government partners with organizations and businesses to encourage citizens, organizations and businesses to take steps to prepare for emergencies. See www.ready.gov/npm

But preparedness is not a U.S. phenomenon, it's a global practice: The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction promotes disaster reduction worldwide, including the 22nd annual International Day for Disaster Reduction event coming up on October 13, 2011 (see <http://www.unisdr.org/>). Japan has held Disaster Reduction events in September since 1961. Canada holds Emergency Preparedness Week each year in May. New Zealand holds a Get Ready Week each year. China, a Disaster Reduction Day. And many other countries staff emergency management agencies that promote preparedness to their citizens.

General Electric (for which Robyn works) has a Security and Crisis Management team operating a Global Operations Center and Global Watch Office at company headquarters in Connecticut. It provides around-the-clock monitoring of worldwide emergencies that could impact GE employees or facilities. The Global Watch Office initiates employee response and notifications in the event of an emergency, including monitoring the GE Travel Advisory System for developments that may affect the safety of GE travelers.

Everyone should take some time over the next month to also prepare your homes so you and your loved ones can be self-sufficient in an emergency. A common practice is to prepare for at least three days without electricity, without water service, without access to a supermarket or local services, maybe even without immediate response from police, fire or rescue if they are overwhelmed or unable to reach you.

Preparedness starts with three important steps: 1. Stock up on emergency supplies or an emergency supply kit. 2. Make a plan. 3. Be informed about emergencies that

could happen in your area and identify resources in advance.

To start, stock up on emergency supplies including three days' worth of:

- Water, one gallon per person per day
- Non-perishable food
- Cell phone with battery chargers, inverter or solar charger
- Battery- or solar-powered radio
- Flashlight
- Batteries
- First aid kit
- Prescription medicines and glasses, etc.
- Supplies for children, and pets
- Cash

Also consider keeping basic emergency supplies in the trunk of your car.

Two, make an emergency communication plan with your loved ones. You may not all be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to plan how you will contact one another, e.g.:

- Identify emergency contacts, including an out-of town contact
- Prepare to use text messaging which in recent disasters has been more reliable than voice calls.

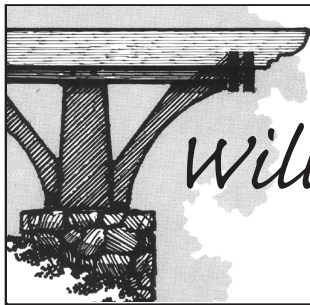
Three, stay informed:

- Learn about the emergencies that could happen in your area
- Learn about public emergency plans and evacuation plans from your community agencies and first responders
- Subscribe to emergency alert services in your community, such as text alerts or e-mails offered by your state and local government.

Please be prepared for emergencies by taking the time to plan now. Here are some online resources: The Ready.gov Campaign Web site is <http://www.ready.gov/> FEMA can be accessed at <http://www.fema.gov/> The American Red Cross has a site called Get Prepared at http://www.redcross.org/services/prepare/0,1082,0_239_00.html

To find other resources, use your Web browser to search by "emergency preparedness," "disaster preparedness" or "disaster reduction."





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