

WILLIAMS PARK

MEMO

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS

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

MEMO NOTES

Spring is time for Renewal! Now that the azaleas are beginning to bloom, it's time to renew your Williams Park Neighbors membership. This year renewal notices went out to existing members via email. If you're not currently a member, you're missing a lot—this quarterly newsletter, the Memo, e-mail news, security alerts and updates in between, monthly happy hours, neighborhood cook-outs, book club, garden club, and loads of other neighborhood activities.

Not bad for \$20 a year.

To join or renew, see page 7 of this issue. You can fill out the form printed there and return with a check to the address noted. Alternatively, you can use the link printed there or go to our website to pay by Paypal or credit card.

We encourage contributions to the MEMO.

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

Thanks!

WP Baby Boom verges on explosion

You don't usually think of babies as front page news but, at some point, the sheer volume makes newborns newsworthy. If we haven't already reached that point, it can't be far off as there are due dates scattered all over Williams Park.

In particular, the boom is in full bloom on Devin Court. Pictured below, left to right, are Kristie Burch, Amanda McKinney, Grayson Campbell and MacKenzie Schoolmaster, four eerily synced up mothers-to-be, living in four houses in a row, and due to give birth in May, June, July and August! The lucky dads are Paul Burch, Craig McKinney, Dan Pratt and Jeff Schoolmaster. As my own father would say, "If you saw it in the movies, you wouldn't believe it."

Here follows the births we know of since our last publication.

Congratulations to parents Jeremy and Cara Fort as well as big brother Kosh (Bernard Lane) on the arrival of Celia Rose on July 19 2012. She arrived weighing 6 pounds and measuring 19 inches.

Congratulations to Glenn and Meredith Caldera (Devin Court) on the birth of their daughter Elizabeth Hope. She was born July 31, 2012 weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces and measuring 18.5 inches.



Bella Claire and Finn Crowley carefully cradle newborn twins Benjamin and Analivia.

Welcome to Rhys Morgan Fielding born August 21, 2012 at 6 pounds, 7 ounces and 20.5 inches. Congratulations to his parents Richard and Jennifer (Walker Street).

Tyler and Amy Pike (Roswell Street) brought their first child into the world on October 11, 2012. The strikingly good looking Preston Smith arrived weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces and attended his first WPN event just eight days later.

Congratulations to Claire and Brendan Crowley (Old Roswell) on the birth of twins on November 7, 2012. Analivia Lee weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces at 3:20 pm. Benjamin Oliver arrived one hour later weighing 12 ounces more. Older siblings Finn and Bella Claire, pictured above, are super excited!

Meredith and Nick Smythe (Walker Street) welcomed John Cagigal on January 25, 2013. The 7 pound, 8 ounce boy, likely to be called Jack after Nick's grandfather, has bestowed big sister status on an elated Mallory.

continued on next page

SUSAN BENTLEY PHOTO



2013 CALENDAR

wpn happy hour
April 19, 7 pm
Beverly and Jimmy Denny
1460 Roswell St
770.231.6274

WPN book club
Sun, April 28, 3pm at
Susan Bentley's house,
2651 Gilbert
A Land More Kind Than Home

WPN Spring Social
May 4th, details TBA

WPN happy hour
May 17, 7 pm
Mike and Letha Bullard
2655 Devin Ct
770.436.2921

WPN book club
Sun, May 26, 3pm at
Louisa Cohn's house,
1450 Whitfield Street
Book: TBA

WPN happy hour
June 21, 7 pm
Rich and Jenine Merritt
2620 Gilbert Street
770.431.1659

WPN book club
Sun, June 30, 3pm at
Christine Powell's house,
1588 Walker Street
Book: TBA

July 16
WPN Board Meeting

wpn happy hour
July 19, 7 pm
Jill and Daniel Huitron
1539 Roswell St
404.376.5114

WPN adopt-a-mile
Sat, July 20 8am
(Mike 678-698-0987)

WPN book club
Sun, July 28, 3pm at
Madge Jackson's house,
1449 Spring Street
Book: TBA

continued on next page...

Boom *continued*



Alan and Kim Dickerson (Spring Street) proudly announced the January 29 birth of Jonathan Larsen who arrived weighing in at 8.5 pounds, measuring 20 inches long, and making Maret a very proud big sister, see above.

Congratulations to Jack and Leigh Easter (Roswell Street) on the birth of their daughter Ashleigh Grace on February 11, 2013.

Congratulations to Tony and Sarah Legge (Gilbert Street). Together with son Silas, they welcomed Layla Rose to the family on February 16, 2013.

Congratulations to Nic and Sonya Sallis (Highland Ave.) on the birth of Evaline Marie, born on March 15. Despite arriving a couple of weeks early, she weighed 6 pounds and measured 18" inches.

Congratulations to Tiffany and Harris Sudderth (Old Roswell) on the birth of their son William Harris IV, born March 20, weighing 7 pounds 5 ounces. Big sister Savannah and grandparents Bill and Judy Sudderth (Anderson Circle) are very proud too!

Congratulations to Shannon and Jerry Luzar on the arrival of their second daughter. Finley was born March 21 weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces, getting a big hug from big sister, Beila.



Our New School

This Fall, when the brand new Smyrna Elementary School opens its doors, many of our children will enter as students in this beautiful, state of the art, LEED certified facility.

In order to open a dialog between Williams Park parents and the new school's principal, Hayli McQuade (Roswell Street) organized a meeting for the evening of March 7th in Smyrna Council Chambers, inviting surrounding neighborhoods to attend as well.

At the meeting Principal Brett Ward, some members of his current staff at Brown Elementary, as well as Parent Teacher, Student Association members, enthusiastically discussed plans for the new school and presented floor plans for the new facility.

Mr. Ward invited our neighborhood to get involved in this unique process. He encourages everyone to attend two upcoming meetings that will allow the community and staff of Brown, Argyle and Belmont Hills Elementary Schools to become informed about chartering the new Smyrna Elementary PTA. These meetings will provide opportunities to hear important news about the new campus. **The PTA Organizational Meeting will be held April 2nd at 6:00 pm at Campbell High School Auditorium.** Appointments will be made during that meeting for Bylaws and Nomination Committees. School officials are eager to find officers and stake holders will-



SUSAN BENTLEY PHOTO



SUSAN BENTLEY PHOTO

ing to serve on PTA. **The PTA Charter Meeting will be held Thursday, May 9th at 6:00 pm at Brown Elementary School.** The purpose of this meeting will be to sell charter memberships, vote on the bylaws, elect officers and officially form the Smyrna Elementary School PTA.

As Williams Park Neighbors, this is our opportunity

continued on following page...

2013 CALENDAR

WPN Summer Social
August 3
details TBA

Sat., Aug 3, 6p-10p,
Smyrna Birthday
Celebration with
fireworks finale!

wpn happy hour
August 16, 7 pm
Lem Ward & Leanne Fey
1496 Spring St
770.863.9580

WPN book club
Sun, August 25, 3pm
at Debbie Savage's
2583 Old Roswell Rd
Book: TBA

WPN Board Meeting
September 3

WPN General Assembly
meeting September 17

wpn happy hour
September 20, 7 pm
Myrna and Larry Evans
1320 Roswell St
770.434.5094

WPN book club
Sun, Sept. 29, 3pm
at Leanne Fey's house,
1496 Spring Street
Book: TBA

WPN Fall Social Event
October 19

wpn happy hour
October 18, 7 pm
Wendy Amundson
and Tony Graves
1335 Marston
678.575.0842

WPN book club
Sun, October 27, 3pm
at Thelma Hancock's
1419 Hawthorne Avenue
Book: TBA

Smyrna Elementary—our new school *continued*

nity to support our new neighborhood school and take part in creating its culture. Let's all play an active role in our community and the future of our kids!

The following are a few important questions and answers from the March 7th meeting.

Q: Will there be a chance to meet the new staff and tour the new school before school begins?

A: Yes, on May 10th Brown Elementary invites all WPN students to attend a family movie night and start getting to know each other (as well as the two meetings described above).

That will include opportunities to tour the school. Mr. Ward projected that tours will be possible as early as April when construction and floors of the building would be completed.

For more information and to set up a tour, you can contact Mr. Brett Ward at james.ward@cobbk12.org

Q: How many students are projected to attend the new school?

A: Current projections; including 200 students from Belmont Hills Elementary, 175 students from Argyle Elementary, and the 275 students from Brown Elementary; anticipates enrollment of 700 students at Smyrna Elementary for this fall. The school's capacity is 950 students.

Q: How many classes per grade level and how many floors are divided between grade levels?

A: There are 61 classrooms in the new school. Current plans project five or six classrooms for 5th and 4th grade, five classrooms for 3rd grade, eight or nine classrooms for K through 2nd. The 1st floor will house wings for kindergarten, 1st grade, and Special Education. The 2nd floor will house a 2nd and 3rd grade wing and a 4th and 5th grade wing. All of the wings are color coordinated to help the students find their way around the building.

Q: When is the registration

process if children are not currently enrolled?

A: This summer registration will be held in July, for upcoming students in 1st through 5th grade, at the new Smyrna Elementary School. Kindergarten registration will be held March 27th from 8:00-11:00 and students will need to register at the schools where they are currently zoned—their records will transfer to Smyrna Elementary by the start of the school year. You can find more information and the requirements needed to register on the Cobb County website <http://www.cobbk12.org/aboutccsd/enrollment/>

Q: What time does the school open? Will there be an after school program available?

A: The school will open at 7:15 am and students have the option to purchase breakfast or go to straight to their classroom. The school day begins at 7:50 am

and dismissal begins at 2:10 pm. The after school program (ASP) will be available to students each day until 6:00 pm, at a cost of \$7.00 a day. Mr. Ward is hopeful that the school will be able to partner with businesses in the community to offer after school learning clubs for students.

Q: Will there be PE, recess, or other types of enrichment programs for the students?

A: The students will participate in a daily rotation of Specials including art, music, physical education, and media. Students all receive a 15 minute, teacher supervised, recess each day in addition to PE.

For more information on the upcoming school and to get involved please plan to attend the scheduled meetings. For specific questions about the new school, you may visit Brown Elementary website @ <http://www.cobbk12.org/Brown/> or contact (Mr. Brett Ward @ james.ward@cobbk12.org and for general information about Cobb County schools such as curriculum, class sizes, nutrition, testing, etc.. visit www.cobbk12.org.

—Kimberly Hardman Test



SUSAN BENTLEY PHOTO

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Cell: 678-231-1826
myrna@ottmancpa.com
ottmancpa.com

4551 Lemon St.
Acworth, GA 30101

GARDEN TIPS

february... Enjoy your spring flowering shrubs by forcing them to bloom. Fertilize camellias as they come into bloom/ Start spraying azaleas for petal blight. Buy and read a good gardening book. Prune monkey grass (liriope).

march... Clean off flower beds and remove winter mulch. Prune spring flowering shrubs after bloom. Feed boxwood as it comes into new growth.

april... Divide chrysanthemums and other perennials. Sow annual seed in open beds. Prune late summer blooming shrubbery just before growth starts.

may... Shasta daisies should be divided. Dust or spray roses every week. Special attention to weeding and watering young plants is helpful throughout summer. Pinch or prune mums until July 15.

—Thelma Hancock



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

Williams Park Gardeners take a hike

On a recent sunny Sunday, members of the WPN Beautification Committee took a field trip to Ball Ground, Georgia, to see Gibbs gardens, a 300 acre estate garden that opened to the public last year. Susan Bentley, Louisa Cohn, Thelma Hancock, and Robyn Phillips spent the day in near perfect weather, just taking in the sights. Upon arrival, and after crossing over the first of many natural streams and waterways, the group made their way out to the docents who provided a short orientation of what was in bloom that day. They then took a tram up the hill to see the Daffodil Garden, one of the 16 different gardens in bloom throughout the year. With upwards of 30 million Daffodils, over 50 acres, this garden is spectacular.

SUSAN BENTLEY PHOTO



Robyn, Louisa and Thelma in the tram.

From there it was off to the Japanese Garden, the largest in the U.S. Forty acres with seven spring fed ponds, the mix of decades-old bonsai, Torii gate and pagodas, whimsically carved Buddhas, and the fragrance of Oriental paper bush made a stroll along its gentle paths a feast for the senses. In just a few weeks the azaleas, rhododendrons, cherry blossoms, and dogwoods will be in bloom bringing a changing tableau of color and fragrance to the garden.

After a few hours of sight seeing the group capped off the day with lunch in the open air cafe. Sandwiches on fresh baked artisan breads and homemade desserts was for a fitting end to an enjoyable day. Plans are already being made for another trip in May to see and enjoy some of the other 16 distinct garden venues. These trips are open to all WPN—watch your email and plan to come along next time.

—Robyn Phillips



ROBYN PHILLIPS PHOTOS



These three photos were all shot in the Japanese garden. At top, one of many water features. Above, Thelma and Susan traverse the zig zag bridge—it's good luck to travel in a path which is not a straight line. Left, a laughing Buddha, one of many rock carvings.

WPN BOARD 'D

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Keith Bentley
770-433-0350

vice president
Lee Friedman
678-239-4987

past president
Ron Davis
770-431-9786

recording secretary
Lem Ward
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corresponding secretary
Liz Davis
770-431-9786

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Madge Jackson
770-432-3563

security
Alan Dickerson

membership
Leon McElveen

communications
Casey Clavin

hospitality
Susan Bentley and
Joan Friedman

beautification
Thelma Hancock and
Robyn Phillips

**Laugh... it's good
for you!**

sent by Ben Cohn

HOW TO INSTALL A SOUTHERN HOME SECURITY SYSTEM

1. Go to Goodwill and buy a pair of size 14-16 men's work boots.
2. Place them on your front porch, along with a copy of Guns & Ammo magazine and four large dirty dog food dishes.
3. Put a note on the door that reads: "Bubba, Be back in an hour— Me, Virgil, T-Bone, and Jimmy Earl went for more ammo and a gallon of sweet tea. Don't mess with the pit bulls—they got the mailman this morning and messed him up bad. I don't think Killer took part, but it was hard to tell from all the blood. Anyway, I locked all four of 'em in the house. Better wait outside. Be right back. Cooter

Ordering in — Shane Touhy

I've been asked all the usual questions you could think of to ask a professional chef—what is my favorite restaurant?, my favorite type of cuisine to cook?, my favorite dish?, do I have any advice on how to cook a particular thing? Sometimes they're hard to answer, sometimes they're easy. And, needless to say, they change as time goes by.

I was asked by a neighbor recently, "What's your favorite place to order delivery from?" Now, that's a new one, I thought to myself.

If I have the day off, and don't feel like cooking, I have two options. I can take the time and go sit down at a favorite restaurant, or I can enjoy the comforts of home and order in. Not all restaurants I like have delivery service, so sometimes take out is the best option—I still get to enjoy all the comforts of being at home.

There are a few factors in deciding where to order from. Do they deliver? If not, how far away is the restaurant? What kind of food am I in the mood for? How much do I want to spend? The biggest question of all is, does the restaurant have something my wife Vicky can eat? She has a multitude of food allergies which makes it a little more challenging. We're fortunate as residents of Williams Park, to live so close to several great restaurants—we even have the ability to walk to many of them. Here are a few of our favorite places to consider.

A favorite of many people when ordering out is pizza, and I happen to think that Smyrna has two of the better pizza joints in all of Atlanta. Vicky is gluten intolerant and, luckily, both of these places offer very good "gluten free" pie crusts. We like

Bella's Pizzeria for delivery, and Zucca's which does not deliver, but is close enough to walk there. I love a New York style pie, and these both have great examples of that!

Chinese is another favorite for a lot of people, and we are no different. Our favorite place to order from right now is Chin Chin. Again, with Vicky's allergies, rice noodles are a great option instead of regular pasta, and rice works well too. She is partial to the Mango Walnut Shrimp. I think the chicken lettuce wraps are really good, and the pork Lo Mein is excellent as well.

We have three other spots we like for take out. Mexico Lindo, on South Cobb Drive, has great Mexican food. It's consistent and has a bit of Colombian influence as well. The second is L'Thai Organic Cuisine in the West Village close to I-285. Thai food is so light and fresh, and any

kind of curry gets me excited—they have a few really good ones. Lastly, another place we can walk to and pick up some tasty victuals is Atkins Park. There's a little something for just about anyone on their menu.

Those are just a few of my favorite places around Smyrna for take out or delivery. If you haven't tried these, stay in one night and give them a call. Take it from a professional. I didn't stay at a Holiday Inn Express last night, but I don't think you'll be disappointed.

Thanks to my neighbor Keith Bentley for asking me to share this with all my Williams Park neighbors. See you around the hood.



Shane Touhy (Gilbert Street) is a graduate of Johnson and Wales College of Culinary Arts. He first made his mark in Atlanta as executive chef at Blue Ridge Grill before opening his own Dogwood Restaurant in 2008, serving a sophisticated farm-to-table new southern cuisine. In 2009 he was awarded the high honor of being invited to prepare a dinner at the James Beard House in New York City. Currently, Touhy is the executive chef at the five star Milton's Cuisine & Cocktails in historic Crabapple, Georgia as well as The Big Ketch in Buckhead.

WELCOME

to these new members

— on bernard way —
• Daniel & Nicole Brennan

— on devin court —
• Dan & Grayson Pratt

— on gilbert street —
Chris & Kim Morrison

— on highland ave —
• Lauren & Greg Welch

— on ivy spring —
• Suzy Miller

— on old roswell —
• Mendy Smith

— on roswell street —
• Jonathan & Jenni Stroble

— on whitfield st —
• Jim & Nikki Newbill

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 see page 7 or go to www.williamsparkneighbors.org

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!

News in and around Williams Park

Smyrna's new biodiesel operation, the first and only such municipally run program in the Atlanta metro area, is up and running. The facility, located at the Public Works Complex, was built over 18 months using a \$210,000 Federal Grant.

The equipment takes used cooking oil, heats it, filters it, washes it, and turns it into biodiesel in a process that takes about two hours—up to 160 gallons per day. The fuel, used to run some 70 diesel powered City vehicles such as garbage trucks and bulldozers, works just like fossil based diesel except that it burns cleaner and smells like french fries.

So far oil is coming from restaurants, hospitals and homes. Containers for collecting used vegetable oil are available at Smyrna's fire stations, Public Works and Recycling Center. When full, they can be left at the curb for pick up. City officials hope that residents who sometimes dump oil and fat down the drain (which ends up clogging the sewers), will collect it instead for recycling. They'll even go into apartment complexes to collect the vegetable oil.

So this program will save money on two fronts. First, costing about \$1.21 per gallon less than standard diesel fuel, this biodiesel is projected to save Smyrna \$25,000 per year in fuel costs. Secondly, recycling it chanelns this oil away from sewers where it wrecks havoc and requires repair.

Williams Park's own Keith Bentley had some personal involvement in the early stages of this project a couple of years ago so we all owe him a debt of gratitude for helping make this happen. —Casey Clawin



WPN Cleans Up! On January 26, a dozen or so neighbors turned out on a frosty morning to pick up litter as part of Keep Smyrna Beautiful's adopt-a-mile program. Our regular leader for this activity is Mike Engel but he couldn't make it this time. So Brandon Test, Lee Freidman and Liz Davis organized the event and got the group going. Within a couple of hours our team, assisted by about a dozen Kennesaw State students, had collected 38 bags of trash from our roadsides! Other neighbors who helped include David Whited, Matt Bennett, Leon McElveen, Ray Miller, Howard Chery, Phil Qualter, Chris Kuhn, and Carol Coleman. A few other neighbors who helped out but didn't sign in are left off our list (sorry about that). A great big thank you to those named and unnamed who did their part to keep WP looking great!

—Keith Bentley

Good news, bad news, good news. The Pipe Farm has been a constant source of curiosity and irritation for a couple of years now. If I had a dollar for every time I heard some one say, "I wish they'd build single family houses there instead of townhouses," I'd be rich. Now that's exactly what's going to happen—good news #1. But it won't be as people imagined it. The Providence Group has been approved to build 76 houses on the property at a density of 7.9 houses per acre—75% higher than any other single family project in Williams Park.

That's the bad news. This builder puts strong emphasis on quality, though, and on landscaping—good news #2. The signage has gone up so you can expect to see some activity before too long. They'll be building in phases over a three year period, starting with a 10-house phase one located internally. Houses ranging from 1950 square feet to 2820 will start at \$260,000. They will be built speculatively—that is, built first and then marketed—rather than being pre-sold.



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ANGIE BOLTON PHOTOS

News in and around Williams Park *continued*

Andrea Maffetone (Mimosa Circle) starred in a short indie film by GSU film students Fernando Mattos and Glen Sutton. Andrea plays the lead in *The Strange Case*, a story about an observant older woman who runs into a young woman she knows and proceeds to tell her about the mysterious behavior of a new neighbor. The viewer, however, is left wondering what's going on, within an atmosphere of longing, distraction, and loneliness. View the film at <http://vimeo.com/54710250>.



Last June Smyrna got its first two listings on the National Register of Historic Places—Brawner Sanatorium, now called Brawner Hall and the Taylor-Brawner House. The house, which was built for the Taylor family in the 1890s, was bought in 1909 by Dr. James Brawner along with the 80 acres of land on which he constructed the first private mental health facility in Georgia.

Local history buff Mike Terry, having researched the Taylor and Brawner families, tells their stories in a book called *A Simpler Time*. It contains 192 pages with over 100 images and proceeds from its sales benefit the Taylor-Brawner House Foundation. To order your copy, send a check for \$25.00 plus \$4.00 for shipping to Taylor-Brawner House Foundation, c/o Mike Terry, 3480 Pinetree Drive, Smyrna, GA 30080.

Let's give a warm welcome to WP neighbor Jo Brekke (Old Roswell) who has recently acquired U.S. citizenship. Born in England, Jo grew up in three different countries; England, Belgium and America. She's always had the travel bug. Experiencing and exploring different cultures is her passion. As a teacher, Jo's had many opportunities to work overseas. Returning to London after a fascinating year in Doha, Qatar, some years ago, she came across VIF, a company which takes teachers from all over the world and places them where there's a need in the U.S. Ever since her childhood years in Virginia, Jo has loved the States; the lifestyle, the weather! She applied immediately.

Jo's lived here for 10 years now (with a year break to take off backpacking around Australia... couldn't resist). "Within that time I have taken some incredible journeys around the US, met some amazing people and married one of them! My husband Jeremy is originally from Washington state." Jo's dad lives in New Zealand, her "mum" and brothers live in England. Despite the distance, they're a very close family—they catch up through Skype and email regularly and try to visit once a year or so.

"After living here so long, I decided that it just made sense to go ahead and get my Citizenship. That way, if Jeremy and I choose to move abroad again, we can always return to the U.S. without all the red tape. I am fortunate to come from a country where dual citizenship is allowed, so I am now officially American and English. I even get to keep both passports... Just call me James Bond.

I do feel very lucky to count myself as an American citizen. Who knows, I may even start trying to do the accent."



www.williamsparkneighbors.org

Please renew my WPN membership for April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013

I am a new membership

Dues \$20.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____

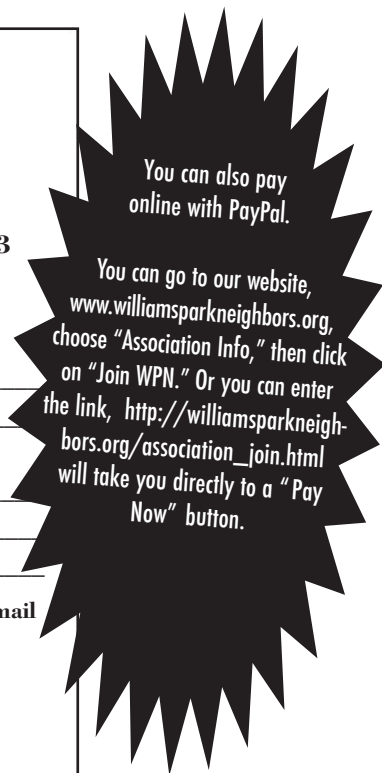
Email 1: _____

Email 2: _____

What information may we include in the WPN directory? Name Address Phone Email

Please make checks payable to Williams Park Neighbors, Inc. and mail with this form to:

Williams Park Neighbors
P.O. Box 813811
Smyrna, GA 30081-8811



births

See page one.

deaths

Our neighbor Nell Conley (Roswell Street) passed away August 9, 2012. She was 85 years old. Most neighbors remember Nell on her front porch (where Walker and Whitfield join Roswell) with her little dog Sassy. Many who stopped with their dogs to sit and chat, became good friends, returning to bring her prepared meals, seek her opinion, or talk politics—her's were liberal to a fare thee well. Nell spent her professional life mostly as a social worker in both hospital and free clinics. Her husband Oris, an engineer, died in 1995.

Nell is survived by her daughter Ann Whited, sons Keith Conley and Phil Dickson, step son Steven Conley, four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Our neighbor Eileen Brown (Roswell Street) died August 19, 2012. She was 71 years old. A member of Rose Lane Baptist Church in Marietta and a home maker, she is survived by her husband Thomas Allen Brown, daughters Holly Galloway and Molly Puckett, son Michael Brown, one brother, one sister, seven grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren

Our neighbor John C. Marchman (Ivy Springs) died December 15, 2012. He was 69 years old. Born in Newport News, Virginia, he graduated from Roosevelt High in Atlanta, then from

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WP Housing Market— Jill Huitron

The housing market started changing this past November and has continued to change over the past 5 months. If you're looking for a "steal," there just aren't that many more out there. Investors are having to bid prices up over list trying to win "highest and best" contests on foreclosures. and owner/occupants are finding the same. Good properties are moving faster than they were in 2008. Banks know this—they're pricing foreclosures closer to market prices and not backing down much if at all.

One of the reasons is that in 2006 we had over 100,000 properties on the market. That number included single family homes, townhouses and condos in the metro Atlanta area. This winter, there are only about 24,000.

People who need and want to buy are pouncing on every new property coming on the market. Those priced right, in good condition and in a good location are being gobbled up within the first couple of weeks. Properties that are not priced right are sitting. Spring is coming and there may be more properties on the market soon. Meanwhile, due to current low inventory, prices are slowly and steadily rising and it's becoming more of a seller's market.

That's a problem for buyers who have not gotten their heads around this fact yet. I still see buyers searching for that great "deal" out there but that time may be gone, especially when it comes to foreclosures. I recently had a client ask me to put an offer on a house the day after it came on the market. When I called the listing agent, he told me he had 21 offers on it already!

Let's take our own neighborhood and see what is happening here. I'll bet you have noticed all the new

construction going on since last fall, and a lot of it's selling too. We had four closings last month in the neighborhood and there are seven houses under contract to be closed by the end of May. Things are picking up in WP.

Some price ranges are moving more rapidly than others and some parts of town are hotter. Smyrna is low on inventory, just like much of the city. I've seen buyers find houses they like, yet wait for another one or two to come on the market so they have more to choice. By the time additional appropriate houses arrive, the earlier ones are under contract.

Advice? If you're thinking about selling, now is a good time... if you're looking to buy, you're still in good shape. Interest rates are still low and good houses are coming on the market everyday. Don't expect to get the "deal of the century," but expect to pay what the house is really worth. You'll still get a good deal, compared to 2006, and you can still find a good house at a good price.



Tony Legge

VP Sales & Operations

483-A Commerce Park Dr
Marietta GA 30060
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Fax: 770-234-5157
ell: 770-828-6749
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MILESTONES

Georgia State University, with a degree in business and economics. John served aboard the U.S.S.

Forrestal during the Vietnam War and spoke often, in recent years, of a horrific explosion and fire on board in 1967 which killed 134 men. He worked for Mutual of Omaha, Prudential, and the IRS. A dog lover and a kind person, he is survived by his brother Michael Marchman.

Our neighbor Ben Cohn (Whitfield Street) died January 31, 2013. Ben was retired from a business he and his wife ran, called Retro Collections. He loved to laugh and tell jokes. He loved to eat out (with a coupon, of course). He was kind and generous and loved exploring new ideas. Many fun hours were spent playing dominoes with friends or going to the movies. Ben was a terrific cook who loved to pickle vegetables and share what he made. Although he went through many hardships, he always remained positive—he loved life. He is survived by his wife of 30 years Louisa, their children Joyce, Linda, David, Shavaun, and three grandchildren. He will be missed, not only by his family and community, but by the many lives he touched.

Meet your neighbor — Mike Bullard and Firehouse Subs

I guess we're hard to leave behind.

After moving around for years as a self-professed military brat, WP neighbor Mike Bullard and his family finally settled down in Georgia during his high school years. He stayed here, married wife Letha, and went on to enjoy a prosperous, if high stress, job with AGL Resources, a parent of Atlanta Gas Light. After 30 years there he was offered a position he couldn't refuse—Operations Director in Chicago. But refuse he did, preferring instead to stay in what had become home, sweet, home—Williams Park. He negotiated an early retirement package and spent a few months living *la dolce vita* where, no doubt, he enjoyed our north Georgia weather to the fullest.

Eventually, as his thoughts turned to new, more entrepreneurial ventures, he recalled a fleeting idea from years earlier. While on a business trip to Florida, he was eating at a Firehouse Subs and thought, "I could do this one day." Those six little words took on a life of their own, growing from a passing idea to months of research, to an actual free standing Firehouse Subs location on the East-West Connector in Austell. Not one to be deterred by minor little details like a struggling economy and no experience in food service, Mike signed a multi store contract, planning to open additional Firehouse Subs in Smyrna and West Cobb.

And so far, that risk has paid off. His store very nearly broke the national grand opening single-day sales record and has enjoyed a constant stream of new customers and regulars since opening in February. Mike has also used this venture as a platform for growth for both his nephew, who is a night manager, and for his son who helps as a shift manager while finishing college at Georgia State University.

Firehouse Subs

2860 East West Connector
Austell GA 30106

Monday - Thursday
10:30am - 10pm

Friday & Saturday
10:30am - 11pm

Sunday: 10:30am - 9pm

Mike's recommendation: Italian Sub

If you've ever been to a Firehouse Subs, you'd understand why Mike chose to become a part of this company. They combine incredible (and incredibly overstuffed) subs with excellent customer service and strong community commitment. Founded by firefighters, the company is dedicated to raising money for first responders in the communities where they're located. Mike revealed that an astounding \$6 million has been raised and distrib-

uted to date nationwide since 2005. As the founders say, "serving good food and doing good just belong together."

If you find yourself in the Austell area, stop in for a sub and a chat.

—Alicia Taylor



Every Firehouse Subs location has a mural which reflects the owner's life. Ask Mike about Mr. Magoo and Guinness.

In keeping with the firehouse theme, they have to keep it hot! There are over 50 different hot sauces stocked here.

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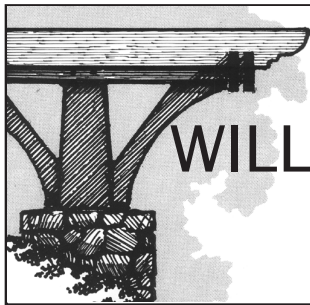
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