

# 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

Please join me in welcoming Joan Friedman to the MEMO staff. She is taking over our regular column, "Meet Your Neighbor." In her first installment (see page 4), Joan exposes the curious case of the duplicate Chris Kuhns.

This issue, we have the second in our series about the oldest houses in Williams Park. See page 9 to read about the circa 1884 Whitfield-Hood house.

Occasional contributor Alicia Taylor has been researching free and affordable activities to do with your toddlers. Read what she's learned starting on page 5.

**We 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 [dingblue@earthlink.net](mailto:dingblue@earthlink.net)

**Thanks!**

## A "desserted island" in WP— by Louisa Cohn

PHOTOS BY BRIGIDA SEVILLA

Hey Mon, I must be in Jamaica! What are those delicious aromas? And look at all the colorful shirts My, my, jerked chicken, plantains, spicy creations. Well no, I'm just at Williams Park "Desserted Island" cook-out. What a great turnout. Keith Bentley counted 92 adults and there were lots of children including a three-month old and an eight-week old baby. Lots of familiar faces, many new comers. The many dishes were colorful and delicious. Kudos to Jamaica Mi Krazy restaurant ( 2517 Spring Road) for the wonderful Jamaican flavors.

The highlight of the afternoon was the dessert contest. Fourteen people submitted desserts (how lucky are we that our neighborhood has such fabulous cooks). Our three judges were Catherine Campbell (Grandmother to Bates Pratt), Chris Holland (nephew of Susan Bentley), and Mary Moore (new Director of the Smyrna Library). What a thankless task (do you think they were able to eat dinner?) After much tasting, numbering and assessing, winners were declared. First place went to Melissa McWilliams (Spring Street) for her Tropical Carrot Cake, second place to Nancy Smith (Gilbert Street) for her Key Lime Cake and third place to Brigida Sevilla (Marston St. ) for her Black Bean Chocolate Cake. Congratulations to all three.

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Limbo winners, Grace Holland, Eric Sevilla, and Warren Bennett. Oh, to be so flexible again!



Dessert winners, Brigida Sevilla at top, Nancy Smith receiving her award from event co-chairs Suzy Miller and Christine Powell above, and Melissa McWilliams, left.

See page 8 for Christine's first place Tropical Carrot Cake recipe. The others can be found on our website.

# 2013 CALENDAR

WPN book club  
Sun, Sept. 29, 3pm  
at Leanne Fey's house,  
1496 Spring Street  
Book: *Where'd You Go*  
**Bernadette**  
by Maria Semple

WPN Annual Chili  
Cookoff and Mustache  
Bash!  
Sat., October 19  
4 pm, 1351 Roswell St.

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: *Ordinary Grace*,  
by William Kent Krueger

wpn happy hour  
November 15, 7 pm  
Gil & Susan Morgan  
1345 Roswell St.  
770-434-7533

November Book Club:  
Sunday, November 17th  
at 3pm at Nancy  
Smith's house, 2611  
Gilbert Street  
Book: *The Good House*,  
by Ann Leary

Pergola decorating  
December 1st, 2 pm  
Williams Park

Pergola lighting  
December 6th, 6 pm

wpn happy hour  
December 20, 7 pm  
Robyn Phillips  
2647 Gilbert St.  
678.844.4441

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## WP "desserted island" *continued*

PHOTOS BY BRIGIDA SEVILLA

The highlight for the children was a limbo contest (Now why didn't any adults participate?). The winners were Grace Holland in first place, Eric Sevilla in second place, and Warren Bennett in third place. Hooray! Really, anyone who could get under the stick at all was a winner. Jill and Daniel Huitron were kindly in charge of the limbo contest.

The weather was wonderful until 6:30 in the evening when the skies opened up for an island deluge. While most neighbors scattered for home, a hardy bunch braved the downpour to clean up, fold tables and huddle under beach umbrellas (which, by the way, don't keep out water). It was a wonderful day. Thanks to event co-chairs Suzie Miller and Christine Powell who did a magnificent job. To quote Suzie, "What a great neighborhood and what a great turnout."



Anxious limbo contestants stand by as WPN President Keith Bentley prepares to announce the winners. Newcomers Jonathan and Jenni Stroble smile for the camera as Joan Friedman and Bernadette Lee sample desserts.



## News in and around Williams Park

Williams Park's own **Gavin Carpenter** **aced this year's Max Bacon Golf Tournament**, an annual event which began about two decades ago named for then Smyrna Mayor Arthur Bacon. As it grew over the years, its name transferred from father to son. Participants, numbering between 80 and 100, play Legacy Golf Links on the first day and Fox Creek Golf Club on the second.

Legacy, designed by Larry Nelson (current Senior PGA star), is a Par 58 course while the neighboring Fox Creek is a Par 62. Each offers a quick but challenging round of golf for players of all abilities just half a mile north of Williams Park.

Gavin golfed a 52 at Legacy to finish the first day in third place. Then his 62 at Fox Creek put him in first place by one point. Congratulations, Gavin—way to go!

Two WP neighbors, **Jennifer Stroble** and **Joan Friedman**, are trying something new this year. Both have been volunteers for the charity Operation Christmas Child, now in its 21st year, which serves less fortunate children around the world by deliv-

ering gift filled shoe boxes to those suffering from famine, war, or disaster. Joan and



Jennifer who have been collecting an array of school supplies, small toys, and hygiene items all year long, now invite neighbors to have the fun of personally packing boxes which will be delivered directly into the hands of an appreciative child. The packing party (complete with goodies)

is on Sunday, October 6th at 4 p.m., 2814 Wright St. (Friedman's house). If you can't make it but still want to help out, call Joan 678-239-4987 or Jenni 770-862-6712.

Mark your calendar for the evening of October 9. WPN and the City of Smyrna Tree Board are partnering to offer an **evening of information regarding our tree canopy**. Our speaker will be Certified Arborist Gretchen Musser. As part of the team who mapped all of Smyrna's street tree inventory a few years back, she's very knowledgeable about the Williams Park neighborhood.

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## how to BUILD A COMMUNITY

- Turn off your TV
- Leave your house
- Know your neighbors
- Look up when you walk
  - Greet people
- Sit on your porch
  - Plant flowers
- Use your library
  - Play together
- Buy from local merchants
- Share what you have
  - Help a lost dog
- Take kids to the park
  - Garden together
- Support neighborhood schools
  - Fix it even if you didn't break it
  - Have pot lucks
    - Honor elders
    - Pick up litter
- Read stories aloud
- Dance in the street
  - Talk to the mail carrier
- Listen to the birds
  - Put up a swing
- Help carry something heavy
- Barter for your goods
  - Start a tradition
  - Ask a question
- Hire young people for odd jobs
- Bake extra and share
- Ask for help when you need it
  - Open your shades
    - Sing together
  - Share your skills
- Take back the night
  - Turn up the music
- Turn down the music
  - Listen before you react in anger
  - Mediate a conflict
  - Seek to understand
  - Learn from new and uncomfortable angles
  - Know that no one is silent though many are not heard; work to change this.

## News in and around Williams Park *continued*

Ms. Musser's presentation will cover the following topics: mature trees and their life stage characteristics, maintenance issues and protection needs for mature trees, how to tell if your tree is in trouble, tree risk assessment components (likelihood of failure and its consequences), and how to hire an arborist.

Please join us October 9, from 7 to 9 pm in Council Chambers and bring any questions you may have. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn how to better understand the mature trees in our neighborhood from a highly qualified source.

—Robyn Phillips

The new Smyrna Elementary School's first day of school was August 7, 2013. To welcome teachers and let them know how much they are appreciated, **Williams Park Neighbors collected school supplies** to give to the teachers. Many times teachers use their own money to buy needed supplies. A bag was given to each homeroom teacher in kindergarten through fifth grade, including special ed classes. Bags were also given to teachers in music, art, PE, media, computer lab and Target (the program for gifted students).

A master list, combining individual supply lists for each grade level, was sent to the WPN membership. Some parents with children attending SES took their donated supplies directly to the school. Other supplies, collected here in WP, were sorted and packed into large paper grocery bags decorated with ribbons in the SES school colors. All bags carried WPN note cards with notes written by WPN's book club members. Forty-seven bags were assembled in all.

On August 20th, Principal Brett Ward called the teachers to the media center where the bags were presented. The teachers seemed to be touched and most appreciative. It was a nice welcome to teachers from their neighbors across Atlanta Road. Thank you notes from teachers and students will be on display at the chili cook off October 19th.

Special thanks to school bag assemblers: Hayli McQuade, Nancy Smith, Liz Davis, Thelma Hancock and Debbie Savage. Thanks to our special note writers



Thelma Hancock, Liz Davis and Nancy Smith. Thanks also go to Nancy who brought the ribbon in SES school colors! Finally thanks to all of our WP neighbors who helped make the bags possible. We really do live in a great neighborhood! —Susan Bentley

Williams Park has a **new Security Liaison**. **Wendy Amundson** is now the primary contact between the neighborhood and the Smyrna Police Department's Neighborhood Watch program. As such, she'll soon be looking for individuals to serve as Block Captains, the points of contact between the neighbors and the Liaison, and scheduling an introductory/refresher meeting with our Crime Prevention Officer. Anyone interested in the role of Block Captain, should contact Wendy at [wendyamundson@att.net](mailto:wendyamundson@att.net) or 770-865-2347.

Remember, for an emergency, always call 911. If you wish to talk to the Smyrna Police concerning a non-emergency, call 770-434-6666. In either of those cases, you may choose to follow up by notifying Wendy so that she can share information with the neighborhood as a whole. Also, if you become aware of suspicious activity, you may want to notify Wendy so she can share your information with our Crime Prevention Officer at the Police Department.

On July 20, WPN's **Adopt A Mile volunteers turned out** to clean up Matthews, Hawthorne and Roswell between Five Points and Windy Hill Road. Our team included fearless leader, Mike Engle, Brandon Test, Ron and Liz Davis, Lee and John Friedman, and Phil Quarles, Nichole and Finn Bennett and yours truly. Liz helped with neighborhood beautification by weeding the planting in front of the pergola. Thanks to all who helped keep Williams Park looking good. —Keith Bentley

## Meet your neighbor — the Kuhns (all of them!) — by Joan Friedman

JOAN FRIEDMAN PHOTO

Here at WPN we like to think of ourselves as friendly folks: we take gift bags to welcome new neighbors, we help find lost pets, and we have many social events, including our famed monthly Happy Hours. Lots of people even hear about our wonderful neighborhood association before they move here—such was the case for my husband and myself.

And such was the case for Chris and Amy Kuhn of 1534 Spring St., whose soon-to-be neighbor Jeremy Fort alerted them to the benefits of WPN membership in January 2013. They met him while touring their contracted home and he gave them our web address. When they logged on, Amy tells with a laugh, they were utterly surprised to find that this gung-ho neighborhood already had Chris Kuhn slated to host a happy hour before their house was even finished with construction!

A few months later, Chris and Angela Kuhn, who'd hosted the February 2013 Happy Hour at 1590 Walker St. (aha, there's the Chris Kuhn on the calendar), heard of a mysterious Chris Kuhn from one of Chris Kuhn's coworkers (are you getting confused too?) at Delta Airlines where Angela's Chris works in IT. "I just had a meeting with someone with your exact same name, who came to show me an upgrade to our elevator system." Huh.

It's not like Chris David Kuhn (Walker St.) was used to running into other Kuhns—in fact, his family were the only Kuhns around his home town of York, Pennsylvania. Not so for Chris Lee Kuhn (Spring St.)—there were many Kuhns in Shelbyville, Indiana. And, while Chris wasn't related to most of them, they all seemed to be related to each other. As far as we can tell, our two Chris Kuhns aren't related either. According to HouseOfNames.com, Kuhn is "German (or Jewish) and a proud sign of a rich and ancient ancestry."

Chris David's family was here first. Peter Kuhn, born in Wurtemberg,

Germany, arrived in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1760, was hired by a farmer and worked as a cooper. Chris Lee's great great grandfather Jacob Phillip Kuhn immigrated to Shelby County, Indiana, in 1847 from Rheinland-Pfatz, Germany. Chris Lee and his brothers still own part of the Kuhn farm in Shelby County.

Yes, they all experience the same dumb questions, misspellings and mispronunciations of their name—like Coon or Khun (now erase those incorrect spellings from your memory, please). Chris David has a nickname he was brave enough to share with me, garnered from the many times his name was wrongly written—some friends call him "Q".

And no, the Chris Kuhns and their wives didn't meet at that Happy Hour. They were introduced by mutual friends (who knew?) at a Market Village event a few months later. They all take all this Kuhn stuff in stride. After all, Chris David and Angela already had phone calls, texts, emails and even a letter from a local business congratulating them on the birth of their son, when their son wasn't due to be born for another five months. Meanwhile, just a few hundred yards away, Chris Lee and Amy were happily settling in with their little Collin, born in May.

The Kuhns' similarities continue with their birthdays. Chris Lee and Angela were born May 16 and 26, respectively, while Chris David and Amy were born November 20 and 11, respectively. (Note: these are not the married couples sharing the same month. Perhaps this is a good time to ask, how are you doing with the names; are you hanging in there so far?) Then there's little Collin, also born in May. Chris and Angela's baby is due October 25—only seven days away from November. And Angela, forgive me for saying so, but lots of first babies come a week or so late... I'll be watching to see if we keep this May and November thing going!



The Kuhns—Angela, Chris, Amy, Collin, Chris

And there's more. Both couples were married in 2009 with destination weddings: Amy and Chris Lee marrying in Charleston and honeymooning in Riviera Maya, Mexico; Chris David and Angela tying the knot and staying to honeymoon in Costa Rica. All of them love to travel. Chris David and Angela have been fortunate to see many great places courtesy of his Delta job, though Angela still has Italy on her wish list. Amy and Chris Lee haven't been to as many foreign destinations, but they can tell Angela all about Italy—they were there a couple of years ago and, of course, loved it.

It might take a bit of effort to get their names straight, but it's well worth getting to know all four Kuhns—they're really nice, interesting people and a definite plus to our neighborhood. I do have one word of warning, however, concerning possible future name confusion. Since Angela won't go with Chris David's idea to name their baby Ty Kuhn or Tycoon, they've settled on Kellan Baker Kuhn—a name chosen before they knew of their neighborhood "cousin," by the way.

I was happy to learn both couples love their homes and neighborhood, and plan on raising their families right here. So we can all look forward to two little boys, almost the same age, toddling around the Easter egg hunt, taking flight in the bouncy house, starting school together, and keeping us all guessing as we try to remember which one is Collin Kuhn and which one is Kellan Kuhn. Maybe, every so often, their dads will give us a hint.

## WELCOME

to these new members

— on anderson —

- Ron Rosenthal & Dan Bugg
- Jonathan & Jessica Perez
- Josh & Jen Suggs

— on bernard lane —

- Brett & Katie Moore
- Jane Schwarze
- Jim and Waika Embry

— on bernard way —

- Jeff & Susie Griffin

— on hawthorne —

- Don Kissner & Korey Whitchurch
- Greg & Anita Moncrief

— on ivy spring —

- Alex White
- Peggy Shippee

— on marston —

- Russell Currie & Kimberly Wright
- Jeremy Haines

— on roswell street —

- Melissa Downey
- Bob & Jenny Porter

— on spring street —

- Melissa & Keith McWilliams
- Bill Kaiser

## Hey, can you do us a little favor?

When a new neighbor moves in near you, let us know. Contact Joan Friedman at [friedman1500@gmail.com](mailto:friedman1500@gmail.com) or by phone at 678-239-4987 so we can welcome the newcomers.

**Thanks!**

## Toddler To Dos— by Alicia Taylor

There was a time when I loved our neighborhood simply because we were walking (or stumbling) distance from Atkins Park. But, as the cliché goes: my, how times have changed! These days I've fallen even more in love with the neighborhood and it has less to do with drink specials and more to do with parks, storytimes, and duck ponds.

WP is a great place to raise kids and, based on the numerous "new arrivals" in every newsletter, this is old news to many WP families. With so many babies and toddlers in the neighborhood, I wanted to compile a list of the free or inexpensive toddler activities around Smyrna and Marietta. For the most part, this list doesn't include activities that require advanced registration (like The Music Class or Little Gym), so they're perfect for when you just need to get the kids out of the house for a bit.

### Tell Me A Story:

The easy and obvious one is storytime. These usually follow a similar format: two to three books, interspersed with songs and a craft or activity of some sort. There are storytimes for babies, young toddlers, and preschoolers. Between the Smyrna Public Library and the Cobb Library System, you can find one nearly every day of the week. Or, if you're feeling like you need a treat as well, you can always skip the libraries and go to the Barnes & Noble storytime where you can enjoy a coffee and maybe get a book of your own. The dates, times and locations for a few local ones are listed on the calendar below, but it is by no means a complete listing.

Smyrna Public Library  
100 Village Green Circle, Smyrna  
770-431-2860  
[www.smyrnacity.com](http://www.smyrnacity.com) (find the library link under the "services" tab)

Cobb County Public Libraries  
Locations throughout Cobb. The branches closest to WP are Lewis A. Ray (Smyrna), Vinings (Atlanta), and Charles D. Switzer (formerly the Central Library, Marietta)  
<http://www.cobbcat.org/>

Barnes & Noble, Cumberland  
2952 Cobb Pkwy., Atlanta, GA 30339  
770-953-0966

### Little Artists:

If you've been meaning to get to the Toddler Thursdays at the High Museum of Art but never seem to make it,

try one of our closer options. These aren't free like the storytimes, but the price of admission gives access to the full museum, so you can make a morning of it.

The Marietta Museum of Art hosts Toddler Tuesdays with an art-related story, and then an art and craft period that goes well beyond crayons and coloring sheets. It's become so popular, they now offer sessions at 11am and 12 noon on Tuesdays. Adult admission is \$8 and kids under six are free. The Marietta Museum of History hosts their Mouse Tours on the second Wednesday of every month. This program, modeled after the Smithsonian's Early Learning Enrichment Program, features two cartoon mice who teach your toddler history through games, art, colors, counting, and motion. This one requires you to reserve your space in advance, and the cost is \$7 per family. Finally, the Southern Museum has Mommy and Me classes every Thursday at 10am and 11:30am. The session, a full hour, includes a tour of the train portion of the museum, an instructor-led activity and then plenty of playtime at the train tables. This one is in Kennesaw, so it's definitely a drive, but the allure of trains can easily fill a full rainy morning. Admission is \$7.50 for adults. Children under four are free.

Marietta Museum of Art  
30 Atlanta St SE, Marietta, GA 30060  
770-528-1444  
<http://www.mariettacobbartmuseum.org/>

Marietta Museum of History  
Georgia 120, Marietta, GA 30060  
770-794-5710  
<http://www.mariettahistory.org/>

The Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History 770-427-2117  
2829 Cherokee St NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144  
<http://www.southernmuseum.org/>

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# WPN BOARD O' D

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Joan Friedman

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Thelma Hancock and  
Robyn Phillips

at large member  
Jeremy Fort

## Toddler To Dos— cont'd

### Hammer it Out:

The Home Depot has a free kid's workshop the first Saturday of each month. It's parent-led and actual tools are used. It's recommended for ages five+ but, if parents do the hammering, younger kids can still have fun sanding, tapping, and decorating.

The Home Depot  
2450 Cumberland Pkwy SE  
770-432-9930  
workshops.homedepot.com/workshops

### Take it Outside:

We're surrounded by a variety of parks and playgrounds within walking distance. But beyond that, the Silver Comet Trail and the Chattahoochee River Trail at Cochran Shoals are stroller friendly and offer new scenery for parents to jog or walk. There are even accessible Kennesaw Mountain trails

only about six miles away (near Windy Hill and Powder Springs), if you don't want to make the drive to Kennesaw. Not generally stroller friendly, they're best if your child is small enough to comfortably fit in a carrier, or old enough to walk on their own.

### Silver Comet Trail

<http://www.silvercometga.com/>  
The 4th bullet at the bottom of the page is an interactive map that shows several Smyrna entry points. Parking is free

Chattahoochee River Trail at Cochran Shoals  
599 Interstate N. Pkwy SE, Marietta GA  
Parking is \$3

Kennesaw Mountain National Park Trail  
649 Cheatham Hill Drive, Marietta, GA  
Parking is free

Want to add to this list? Email me at [AliciaSTaylor@gmail.com](mailto:AliciaSTaylor@gmail.com) and I'll include your ideas in a future recap.

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
10:30am Toddler Storytime at Vinings Library	11am and 12pm Toddler Tuesdays at the Marietta Museum of Art	10:30 and 11:30 Movers & Shakers Storytime (1 & 2 year olds) at Smyrna Library 11am Storytime at Barnes & Noble 10:30am Mouse Tours at the Marietta Museum of History (2nd Wednesday of the month only!)	10:30 and 11:30 Lapsit Storytime (3 & 4 year olds) at Smyrna Library 10am and 11:30 Mommy and Me at The Southern Museum 11am Mr. Bobby's Baby & Toddler Storytime at Lewis A Ray Library		9am - 12pm Home Depot Kid's Workshop (1st Saturday of the month only!) 11am Storytime at Barnes & Noble	

## More babies.....

SUSAN BENTLEY PHOTO



Jeff & Mackenzie Schoolmaster welcomed baby girl Elin Rose on July 23. Devin Court's summer babies have now all arrived!!

Here's the final chapter on the eerily synced up moms living in four houses in a row. With due dates in May, June, July, August,



Congratulations to Gavin and Michelle Carpenter (Roswell St.) on the birth of their daughter Aubrey Lee Carpenter born July 19, weighing 6 pounds, 10 ounces.



those babies tried to fool us. As reported here last issue, the first three deliveries all came a calendar month early in April, May, and June (whited out in photo), so we predicted the fourth would come before July was over—and we were right! MacKenzie Schoolmaster completed the consecutive month quartet with eight days to spare. Congratulations.

## Williams Park housing — my, how the market has changed — Jill Huitron

It had been a buyer's market for so long that none of us saw it coming! Slowly but surely, properties on the market were bought up and, by the beginning of this year, there were a lot more ready buyers than good available properties. The market had turned, and it had caught a lot of people off guard. Builders started building again and, with the increased demand for building materials, materials costs went up. As an example, when Daniel and I were building our house on Roswell Street in the summer/fall of 2012, plywood was \$10 a sheet. When we started building the detached garage in the spring of 2013, plywood was \$15 a sheet!

Properties in the \$100Ks to mid \$400Ks, priced correctly and in a desirable location, are not staying on the market long. Sometimes unique design features keep a house on the market longer than expected—master up and the rest of the bedrooms down. Another challenge is a lot of square footage needing total renovation. Most buyers out there are looking for a house that's "done" or close to it—they want "move in ready."

Let's just look at what's happened in Williams Park in the last six months. Right now we have 12 houses on the market ranging in price from \$477,000 to \$60,000. The average list price is \$272,709. These properties range from close to 100 years old to brand new homes. We also have six houses under contract and they range in list price from \$443,000 to \$40,000 with an average list price of \$319,717.

Now for the sold properties in the last six months. The average sold price is \$296,605 with an average time on market of 79 days. However, the quickest a property has gone under contract was one day, and the longest was 430 days. As you can see from that last number, when we ran out of properties all the ones that had been on the market for a while started to be bought up. We've seen six properties go under contract in less than nine days that are now sold. The highest price paid in the last six months for a single family home or townhouse in Williams Park was \$446,000 and the lowest was \$53,000. We've seen 27 WP

houses and townhouses sold in the past six months, that's an average of 4.5 houses a month. In all of 2012 there were 41 WP properties sold, an average of 3.4 a month. So far in all of 2013, 76 WP properties have closed with the average price being \$264,219 and the average time on market being 114 days. Of those, ten properties have closed in ten days or less.

We've come a long way since 2012, but only if the property is priced right. Williams Park is a top location in Smyrna because we're in the new Smyrna Elementary School district and within walking distance of Market Village. Once you move here and start investing in this wonderful neighborhood, its people, gatherings, and activities... why would you ever want to leave?



An Espresso Bar

1680-B Spring Road  
Smyrna, GA 30080  
770-573-4434

[www.revcoffee.com](http://www.revcoffee.com)



**Tony Legge**

VP Sales & Operations

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[ottmancpa.com](http://ottmancpa.com)

4551 Lemon St.  
Acworth, GA 30101



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)

## WP Reads

The WPN Book Club, meets the last Sunday of the month at 3:00 pm at a host home. We always welcome 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*

### *Little White Lies*

by Gemma Townley ★★★★★

The story of a young woman who moves from rural England to London and takes over the glamorous life of the woman who previously lived in her Notting Hill apartment.

### *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher*

by Tim Egan ★★★★★

A biography of Edward Curtis, the famous turn of the century photographer from Seattle who made it his life's work to document and preserve the images and cultures of all the Native American Indians of North America before they disappeared.

Our rating system:

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

1295 Concord Road • 770-434-8578

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GIFTS & GARDENS

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## Tropical Carrot Cake *Melissa McWilliams*

Cake

- 2 1/3 cups sifted all purpose flour (sifted, then measured)
- 1 cup sweetened flaked coconut
- 1 cup dry-roasted macadamia nuts
- 3/4 cup chopped crystallized ginger
- 3 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 4 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla bean paste
- 2 cups finely grated peeled carrots
- 2 8-ounce cans crushed pineapple in its own juice, well drained

Frosting

- 3 8-ounce packages Philadelphia-brand cream cheese, at room temp.
- 3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 3/4 cup canned sweetened cream of coconut (Coco López)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla bean paste
- 1/2 teaspoon (scant) coconut extract
- 14 whole dry-roasted macadamia nuts
- 1/4 cup chopped crystallized ginger

Preparation

For the cake: Preheat oven to 350°F. Butter three 9-inch-diameter cake pans with 1 1/2-inch-high sides. Line bottom of pans with parchment paper. Combine 1/3 cup flour and next 3 ingredients in processor. Process until nuts are finely chopped. Whisk remaining 2 cups flour, cinnamon, baking powder, salt, and baking soda in medium bowl to blend.

Using electric mixer, beat sugar and oil in large bowl to blend. Add eggs 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in vanilla. Beat in flour-spice mixture. Stir in coconut-macadamia mixture, then carrots and crushed pineapple.

Divide batter among pans. Bake until tester inserted into center of cakes comes out clean, about 30 minutes. Cool in pans on racks 1 hour. Run knife around edge of pans to loosen cakes. Turn cakes out onto racks; cool completely.

For the frosting: Beat cream cheese and butter in large bowl until smooth. Beat in powdered sugar, then cream of coconut and both extracts. Chill until firm enough to spread, about 30 minutes.

Place 1 cake layer, flat side up, on platter. Spread 3/4 cup frosting over top of cake. Top with second cake layer, flat side up. Spread 3/4 cup frosting over. Top with third cake layer, rounded side up, pressing slightly to adhere. Spread thin layer of frosting over top and sides of cake. Chill cake and remaining frosting 30 minutes. Spread remaining frosting over top and sides of cake. Arrange whole nuts and ginger around top edge of cake, chill 1 hour. If made a day ahead, cover with cake dome and chill. Let stand at room temperature 1 hour before serving.



## Historic homes within the Williams Park neighborhood

*The greatest concentration of surviving older buildings in Smyrna lies in Williams Park. Twenty houses still stand which were built before the First World War. This is PART TWO in a series of articles covering these houses based on research done in 2012 by WPN members Casey Clavin and Vic Koch.*

# circa 1884 Whitfield-Hood House

2720 Gilbert Street **GABLE AND WING COTTAGE**

We're calling this the Whitfield-Hood house. It's a Gable and Wing Cottage we believe to have been built circa 1884 and occupied by an African American family who worked for the Whitfield family next door.

Of all the late 19th century house types in Georgia, there are probably more examples of the single story Gable and Wing than any other. Sometimes referred to as "gabled front and wing," or "gabled-wing," or "gabled ell," this house type consists of a gabled front at one end, with a recessed side-gabled wing at right angles. In plan, it's a T or an L shape, and a shed roofed porch is typically placed within the recessed area(s) made by the two sections. The isometric drawing here clearly shows the relationship of the two sections without porches. The front door, located in the wing, may lead into a hallway or directly into a room. Evenly distributed across Georgia, the Gable and Wing Cottage was popular in both rural and urban areas and in both modest and well-to-do neighborhoods. Its greatest popularity was from 1875 to 1915.

The Whitfield-Hood house was built as a minimum Gable and Wing Cottage—three rooms and a hall, plus front and back porches. The original portion of the house is balloon framed, built of dimensional lumber and joined with cut nails. It sits on stone piers inboard, and brick piers infilled with brick around the perimeter. It retains the original clapboard and trim boards. The windows are old but, oddly, are of varying types—6 over 6, 6 over 1, and 8 over 1. The ceilings are 9' 10".



This house was originally sited facing Atlanta Road and that's the side we're looking at here. It sits between the rail road tracks and Gilbert Street and, having been accessed from Gilbert Street for many years, now has a Gilbert Street

address. That change of orientation, pushed in part by the automobile, caused additions to the "back" to be styled as a front elevation. So the Gilbert Street side is almost a mirror image of this side and the house is roughly twice it's original size. You can see in the large picture below that the gabled section at the left of the house looks very deep where originally it was only two rooms deep. The isometric drawing shows chimney locations which were typical but not standard. This house has one interior chimney serving two fireplaces—one in each of the gable section's two rooms.

There are two doors on the front porch. The door on the left, located near the juncture of the gable and the wing, opens into a hallway running through the wing to a back door just 18 feet away. Through it, what was an open back porch similar to the front porch you see here, is now part of the interior.



# circa 1884 Whitfield-Hood House

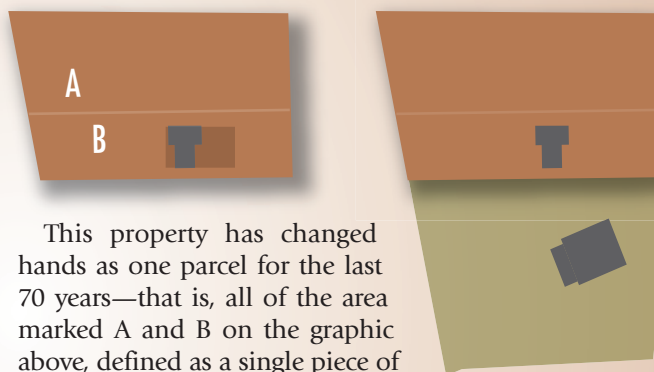
The fireplace in the front room has a newer brick veneer so it's impossible to say what kind of mantel it had originally. What's interesting, though, is that while there's brick further up, the lower portion of the structure is built of stone—there's a stone foundation under the house and, as you can see here, a stone firebox area.



## Chain of ownership for parcel 17052100010

year	purchaser	date	book/page
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	Elizabeth & Giles Eidson A		
	Rebecca A Moore A,B		
1879	Noel B. Knight A	11-15-79	E/615
1882	Noel B. Knight A,B	9-6-82	G/709
1883	Trust - S.A. Whitfield A,B	4-13-83	Z/288
1921	Anna C. Whitfield A,B	5-14-21	71/16
1930	R.E. Griggers A,B	2-8-30	101/211
1942	A.S. Carr together	3-26-42	146/267
1950	Sara & Jim Gentry	4-10-50	222/38
1955	Frank K Reeves	10-3-55	331/83
1969	Frank H Wachenheim	7-10-69	1107/357
1983	R. & P. January	—	2531/387
1985	Lloyde & Mavis Gilbert	7-5-85	3557/253
1985	Don & Helen Porch	11-13-85	3744/70



This property has changed hands as one parcel for the last 70 years—that is, all of the area marked A and B on the graphic above, defined as a single piece of property. Before that, it changed hands as two separately defined lots (A and B) on a single deed at least three times. That goes all the way back to the 1883 deed in the name of Savannah Whitfield's trust. While one lot is 100' wide, the other is only 51' and, very interestingly, the house is located within the area of the narrower lot which hasn't been owned independent of the larger lot for over 129 years. While this was never bundled together with the Whitfield-Nelson house property (covered last issue and shown in green on the graphic at right above), it is contiguous to that property and was owned by a member of the Whitfield family from 1883 until 1930. All that supports the idea that this was the house the Hood family occupied.

Covering the Whitfield-Nelson house last issue, we mentioned Mazie Whitfield Nelson's book, *Past, Present, Future*, equal parts autobiography and history of Smyrna. In it, she comments quite matter-of-factly from a position of privilege that, "Each colored family seemed to become associated with different white families, certainly not as slaves but with a love and loyalty to their 'white folks.'" The Whitfields seemed to have been associated with two such families over the years. The fact that the author refers to the first family only by their first names, then refers to their departure as "faded from the scene," implies that the "love and loyalty" she attributes to these African Americans may have been less than fully reciprocated by "their white folks."

circa **1884**  
**Whitfield-Hood House**

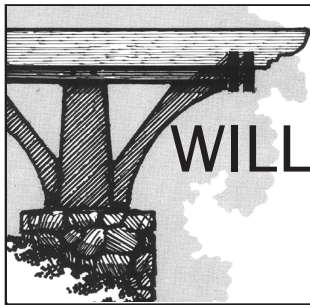


In any case, after that departure, the author tells us, "Uncle Jake and Aunt Mandy and their two daughters...came to live in a nice little cottage in the northeast corner of our yard." As she goes on to describe the various tasks the Hood's performed, it sounds as though the family, as a whole, worked full time for the Whitfields.

Given the nature of the building, its apparent age, and the property ownership connection, We're inclined to say this probably is that house. The Whitfields bought and moved into the larger house next door in 1884. They may have built this at that time to house their employee family or it may have already been here, dating back to a time when its 51' wide lot was individually owned.

In 1930 Anna Catherine Whitfield Ray sold both lots in one deed to R.E. and Victoria Melvina Griggers. She was the daughter of B. F. Reed whose house two doors down we'll discuss in an upcoming issue. The deed for the next sale in 1942 to A. S. Carr describes it as one piece but comments that it previously conveyed as two. By the time the Gentrys bought it in 1950, there was no clue in the deed that it was ever anything but one lot.

During the Gentrys' ownership, Jim was known to comment "there was nothing plumb or square about that house" which disturbed his engineer's sensibility. And it only got worse over the next 35 years. The City of Smyrna had initiated condemnation action when Helen and Don Porch stepped in to save it from the wrecking ball. What was an open back porch is now the kitchen, complete with sloping beadboard ceiling (photo at left). It's unknown whether this fireplace (note it's twisted chimney) was added while the porch was still open or after it was enclosed.



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