



Williams Park

MEMO

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS

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

MEMO NOTES

Late Summer and early Autumn were a very busy time for me personally. One of the casualties in the battle for my time was the September issue of the MEMO. All is not lost, however — though September was not published as a stand alone issue, its content is included here in this great big double issue. So let us not consider that MEMO missing, but simply delayed.

I'm very happy to welcome a couple of new columnists to our little newsletter. Heather Teilhet (Anderson Circle) will be contributing regularly, writing generally about living and raising a family here in Smyrna. Sometimes humorous, sometimes current events, and hot topics, Heather's column will mix it up and keep us curious about what's next. Keith Bentley (Gilbert Street) is now our WPN events columnist. He'll be covering our larger events — spring anniversary party, fall cookout, annual yard sale. Don't miss their debut articles in this issue. To Heather and Keith — thanks for chipping in.
— Casey Clavin

WPN August Cookout



It was a sizzlin' day with temperatures approaching 100 degrees but the weather didn't prevent a big turnout for the annual WPN neighborhood cookout on August 8th. This year was the first time it was held in Durham Park and was an all round big success due to our outstanding social committee.

Thanks to Sandy Hamby, arriving folks were greeted by the site of tables covered with red gingham table cloths and surrounded by chairs. WPN also unveiled our brand new banner which added to a festive tone to the occasion — it will become a regular part of WPN activities (good work and many thanks, Ron Davis).

Neighbors and friends used all modes of transportation to come to the park. Some came by car, some by foot, and some by everything in between. There were bikes, trikes, skate

boards, single and tandem baby strollers, a rickshaw, and a Radio Flyer wagon. A few neighborhood friends even came by fire truck.

Kids (including some pretty tall ones) enjoyed croquet, bocce ball, face painting (donated by Cheri Weisman who does this professionally), sidewalk chalk, sno-cones (donated by neighbor Judy Brassfield), a moon walk and just plain running around. Kids and dogs of all ages were there including two sets of twin girls. Perhaps the youngest was a 7-week-old dachshund puppy named Riley. The biggest entertainment was the fire truck provided by the city of Smyrna.



SANDY HAMBY PHOTOS



NOTE: We encourage contributions of all types to the MEMO. Deadlines for future issues are February 15 and May 15. Send material to Casey at dingoblue@earthlink.net or 770-333-9995

'09-'10 CALENDAR

wpn happy hour
friday, nov 20, 7pm
Wade & Sonia Ingle
2642 highland ave.

wpn book club
sun, nov 22, 3 pm
The Help
by Kathryn Stockett
Nancy's, 2611 gilbert
(Leanne 770-863-9580)

wpn caroling and
pergola lighting
saturday, dec 5,
5:30-7:30 pm
in williams park
hot cocoa, hot dogs,
smores, family fun

wpn happy hour
friday, december 18
7:00 pm
Tom Haley & Doug
Erickson
2610 old roswell
(770-863-9742)

wpn happy hour
friday, jan 15, 7pm
Andrea Kling
1461 mimosa circle

adopt-a-mile
saturday, january 16
(Mike 678-698-0987)

wpn general assembly
meeting
january 19, 7 pm
council chambers

wpn happy hour
march 19, 7pm
Jane Caniff
1490 roswell

wpn happy hour
april 16, 7pm
John and Janelle
Lampp
2730 gilbert street

wpn happy hour
may 21, 7pm
Tracie and Jim
Duelmer
2635 gilbert street



Kids got a chance to climb all over the truck, operate the fire hose and come away with a souvenir fireman's hat. At one point one of the tables was filled with sippy cups, water bottles and fire hats. Thanks to our great Smyrna firefighters who brought their truck and stayed to enjoy hot dogs and hamburgers with us.

Everyone enjoyed veggie burgers, hot dogs and hamburgers grilled by Lem Ward and Matt Bennett (talk about a hot job!) and watermelons from Wade Ingle's garden. Neighbors brought all sorts of cool delicious salads, slaw, baked beans, cookies and chips to share.

And, of course, there were desserts! Thirteen contestants entered their efforts for judging. Krissa and Howard Garnel from The Village Café and Chris Hilgeman from The Great Harvest Bread Company judged cupcakes, pies, brownies, tarts, parfaits, cakes and puddings. Prizes (provided by Car Nutz and CVS) went to: first place Jenine Merritt for her banana pudding, second place Kim Dickerson for her key lime tarts, and third place Dru Bennett for her Cool Whip chocolate pound cake. But the real winners were those who saved room to sample all the wonderful desserts.

Some very nice door prizes were distributed by Carole and George Scott, owners of Love Street. And, in what has become a tradition for WPN events, several bags of canned goods and non perishables were collected for Must Ministries.

As picnic paraphanelia was packed up and put away, Debra

SANDY HAMBY PHOTOS



and Keith Umberger began setting up their movie screen in preparation for the after dark "Movie in the Park". The movie quality and set up were outstanding — it's amazing what they accomplished with a few sheets and ladders. We look forward to seeing more movies in the future. The feature film was "Some Like It Hot," the perfect title



for this day's event.

Thanks to all who helped make this year's cookout the best ever, including Liz Davis who pulled a lot together while Ron was out of action in the hospital.

— Keith Bentley

MILESTONES

births

Jan and Brian Dempsey (spring street) have a new baby girl. Lauren Dempsey born June 19 weighing 8 pounds, 10 ounces.

Meredith and Nick Smythe (walker street) have a new baby girl. Mallory Cagigal Smythe arrived on Nov 14th weighing 5 pounds, 9 ounces, and 18.5 inches.

Colin and Greer Gallagher (walker street) have a new baby girl. Kathryn Riley Gallagher was born September 12 weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces, and 20 inches.

Heather and Jason Brian (roswell street) have a new baby boy. Jack William Brian was born September 16 weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce.

illness

Larry Jones (spring street) is back up to speed now but in June he was laid up with broken ribs and a punctured lung.

Ron Davis was hospitalized in early August for dangerously low sodium and potassium levels, apparently a reaction to a medicine. It's all straightened out now and he feels much better.

Gerry Scoggins (roswell street) had surgery in early October during which doctors implanted a horse valve in her heart. Her recovery is progressing well and she only whinies when you show her a nice fresh bale of hay.

continued on next page...

And the winners are...



1st
PLACE

First place went to Jenine Merritt, pictured here with daughter Mia celebrating her third birthday at the cookout. Jenine confessed the recipe wasn't her own — it came from Paula Deen.

Not Yo' Mama's Banana Pudding

3 packages Pepperidge farm chessmen cookies
8 oz cream cheese
12 oz cool whip
1 can sweetened condensed milk
5 oz package instant vanilla pudding mix
2 cups milk
5-6 bananas

1. Beat pudding mix and milk with electric mixer until combined
2. In another bowl, beat sweetened condensed milk and cream cheese until smooth.
3. Combine #1 and 2.
4. Gently fold in cool whip.
5. Line 13"x9" pan with one layer of cookies. Slice bananas and place on top of cookie layer. Cover with pudding. Top the pudding with another layer of cookies.

Third place went to Dru Bennet.

Cool Whip Pound Cake with Chocolate Icing

2 sticks of Margarine at room temp
1 stick of butter at room temp
3 cups Swans Down cake flour
3 cups sugar
6 eggs at room temp
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
8 oz of Cool Whip, softened
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
3/4 cup evaporated whole milk
1/2 cup cocoa powder
1 stick of butter
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract



3rd
PLACE



Kim Dickerson, above with judges, took second. Left to right are Chris Hilgeman from Great Harvest Bread Company, Kim, and Howard and Krissa Garnel from Village Café.

Key Lime Pie Cupcakes with Lime Cream Cheese Icing

1 box lemon cake mix
3 oz box lime jello
1/4 cup orange juice
1 1/3 cup vegetable oil
4 eggs
10 tablespoons butter
2 packages cream cheese (do not use low fat, the icing will be runny)
2 teaspoons vanilla
4 tablespoons (approx) Key Lime juice
4 cups confectioner sugar (more if you desire)

1. Combine cake mix, jello, oil, eggs and orange juice. Pour into cupcake pans and cook according to directions.
2. To make frosting, beat butter and cream cheese first until light and fluffy. Add lime juice, vanilla and sugar.
3. Freeze cupcakes overnight before icing and/or before serving. They become more moist (thanks to my dear friend Shannon for that tip).

1. Cream margarine and butter together. Slowly add flour followed by sugar in the same manner. Add eggs and mix well. Add vanilla extract. Fold in Cool Whip.
2. Fill bunt cake pan 3/4 full. Caution: this recipe makes more batter than needed so make a sample cake or throw extra batter away. If you put all the batter in the bunt pan, you'll have cake all over the bottom of the oven.
3. Bake at 325° to 345° for 45-60 minutes. I set my oven to 335° and bake for 55 minutes
4. For icing, combine sugar, evaporated milk, cocoa powder and butter in a saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Cook 3 to 5 minutes or until soft-ball stage is reached. Remove from heat. Add vanilla extract. Let cool slightly. Beat with mixer until creamy.

MILESTONES

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Judi Kessler (highland avenue) is finally home from a very lengthy hospital stay. Surgery for one problem expanded to address a newly revealed and more serious second problem. Complications during recovery led to additional surgery and left Judy in a very weak condition. After two months in hospital and nursing care, Judy is convalescing at home, basking in the warmth of her no-longer-lonely cats.

Becky Burnaugh (ivy spring drive) broke her ankle in a biking accident during a triathlon. She's now recovering from surgery to repair it.

Charles Thomas (ivy spring drive) is recovering from surgery for bladder cancer as a follow up to Chemo and Radiation.

deaths

Our condolences to Paula Kraemer (walker street) whose mother passed away in October.

Mimosa Circle neighbor William Roy Dobson, Sr., age 84, died November 9th. Serving in the U.S. Navy during WW II, Mr. Dobson was at Normandy Beach. His service, memorialized in a video interview with Bob Babcock, is preserved at the Library of Congress. Retired after 30 years at General Motors, he was a Mason in Ball Ground. He is survived by his wife Geraldine, brother Darwin, two daughters, four grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

Our Annual Chili Cookoff

It was a cold and rainy night...

OK, so it wasn't nighttime... and maybe it wasn't raining — but it was sure enough cold.

Whereas mid-October generally provides very pleasant weather for outdoor events, this year it just wasn't so. Neighbors, bundled up to varying degrees of adequacy, eagerly awaited the judges' pronouncements and the signal for general chili consumption to commence.

Chilis were entered and judged in three categories this year. Joe Brassfield's "Home Chili" won the Traditional class. Liz Davis' "Sante Fe Chili" won the Non-traditional class. And Linda McElveen's "Vote for me Very Vegetable" won the Vegetarian class. Liz' non-traditional took overall best of show.

Over 100 bags of pantry items were brought to the event by neighbors for donation to Must Ministries food pantry. Good job, WP.



Santa Fe Chili

Brown half a pound of ground chicken and one pound ground chuck, add one large chopped onion, one package of taco seasoning, and one package ranch dressing mix along with one can tomato paste. Cook it all in a crock pot on low for 3 to 4 hours. Add one can pinto beans with jalapeños, one can dark kidney beans, and one can kernal corn and water and tomato juice to desired consistency. Simmer for one hour. Add half a package of chili seasoning mix (or more to taste) simmer 30 minutes to one hour. Serve hot.

This recipe is very versatile, in that I make it with whatever beans I have on hand and can use hominy instead of corn. Now my secret's out! Easy is the operative word here.



Judges Anna Steek, a neighbor; Kevin Drawe from Atkins Park; and Susan Williams from Must Ministries worked diligently to whittle it all down to the best in each category.



Several beloved Williams Park pets have left us recently. Our sympathy to these neighbors:

Sheryl Llewellyn lost her whippet friend Missy.

Tricia Barfield lost her beagle friend Sadie.

Ike Perry lost his afghan friend Stetson.

Mike Engel lost his greyhound friend Katie.

WELCOME

new members:

- on anderson —
Kevin & Anita Robertson
- on devin court —
Letha and Mike Bullard
- on elizabeth —
Marie & Jack Lambremont
Jed & Angela Dorsey
Baxter & Joy Crane
- on gilbert street —
Kate & Paul Hall
- on highland ave —
Tony Bondus
- on ivy spring —
Emily & Herman Sasser
Chris Kuhn
- on marston —
Rick Brantly
- on roswell street —
Chris Konopka
Kacey & Brandt Modlin
Carl & Anna Streck
Leigh & Jack Easter
- on spring street —
Graham & Alana Wickham
Tim & Barbara Koval
- on walker street —
Jennifer Shifflett &
Richard Fielding
- on whitfield st —
Catherin Dievendorf &
James Hardy
- friends of WPN —
Dee Brophy

Our membership is now
158 households
Our mission is to promote
community among
neighbors through social
interaction, emphasizing
the unique character
of Smyrna's oldest
neighborhood.

Our little slice of Smyrna...by Heather Teilhet

It's hard to believe 2009 is crawling toward the finish line, and it's almost time to celebrate the holidays again in Smyrna. Mother Nature is fickle here. Before Halloween we shivered while kicking up the fall leaves in Whitfield Park. This week in late November we wore short sleeves and ate popsicles chasing the dog in Durham Park.

The sales tax holiday came and went. My summer plants, once green and blooming, are now leggy and brown. (Although that's more likely a reflection on the skill of the gardener, not the season.) Cobb school busses roar past our street. Morning neighborhood traffic is a little heavier. Football season travel is taking over our weekends. I finally got around to the quarterly clothes-closet-clean-out and ritual trip to Goodwill.

The transition from one season to another always makes me reflective. It's been a memorable year. It was a year of making new friends and getting to know neighbors a little better. It's been a year of cookouts, cocktails, playgroups and stroller jogs. It's been a year of community.

As I think back over 2009, I find myself grateful. I'm grateful that houses in Williams Park have front porches, rocking

chairs and porch swings. I'm grateful for snow cones, the "bouncy-bouncy," and the neighbors who worked hard to set them up for us to enjoy.

I'm grateful to live in a neighborhood that would choose to spend a Saturday night together, walking to the Smyrna Market Village to watch fireworks, or watching a movie after dark on the grass in Durham park. I'm grateful for the hosts of our Halloween parties and the creativity my neighbors put into their decorations and pumpkin carvings.

I'm grateful for Bunco night, (although not so grateful for the headache the next morning.) I'm grateful for recipe swaps and loaned maternity clothes. I'm grateful to watch all the little ones covered in sidewalk chalk, with watermelon juice dripping off their chins at the picnic.

I'm grateful for neighbors who throw the ball for my dog, and especially grateful for the neighbors who grab one of my children before they run into the street.

As we begin the last chapter of 2009, I'm grateful for our little slice of Smyrna.



WPN popsicle social ...this was late summer when it was still warm



SANDY HAMBY PHOTOS

ELECTIONS

Over the past few years our neighborhood has grown and evolved into a close knit group of caring and concerned neighbors.

Our accomplishments have been notable and, while we love Williams Park as it is, we continue to strive for an even better neighborhood. In all this, fortunately, we've had a core group of committed volunteers nurturing our association.

If you haven't experienced the joy of working for your neighborhood as a committee member or chairperson, or as an officer, you're encouraged to consider joining the WP team. We need and welcome your help. For information, please contact one of the officers below.

WPN BOARD

president
Ron Davis
770-431-9786

vice president
Jim Duemer
770-434-3536

recording secretary
Lem Ward
770-863-9580

corresponding secretary
Liz Davis
770-431-9786

treasurer
Madge Jackson
770-432-3563

membership & hospitality
Susan & Keith Bentley
770-433-0350

social committee
Sandy Hamby
770-435-5613

beautification com.
Robyn Phillips
678-634-3395

communications com.
Casey Clavin
770-333-9995

security & safety com.
Jim Duemer
770-434-3536

News in and around Williams Park

Congratulations to Riley Shay (Mimosa Circle) on achieving the Eagle Scout award, Scouting's highest rank. Riley started in Boy Scouts in Elementary School and has stayed with it ever since. To reach Eagle Scout, you start at Tenderfoot, then progress through Second Class, First class, Star and Life Rank mastering basic skills in camping, cooking, first aid, swimming and nature study. Riley's work has earned him twenty-one merit badges and taught him leadership skills he's used instructing younger scouts in small groups within the troop, and in planning, organizing, conducting and reporting on an Eagle Scout Project. His project was an outdoor classroom at Smyrna Presbyterian Church consisting of ten benches for seating, a small stage, and a permanently installed podium.

In other Shay household news — we have an Ironman in the neighborhood. In August Amy Shay (Mimosa Circle) completed the Louisville Ironman Race in 14 hours and 59 minutes. An Ironman race consists of 2.1 mile swim, a 112 mile bike ride, and a full 26.2 mile marathon run. You don't just get up off the couch one day and decide to participate in such a grueling ordeal so we asked Amy to tell us about her training.

"I've been working up to this ironman for five years since I started by running the Chicago Marathon. Each year since then I've completed a marathon. Two years ago I added Triathlons, then started sprinting and this year attempted my first ironman. The training is huge. I was working out about 20 hours per week, not including travel time. From January to race date I swam 3892 laps in the pool, (not including 2 5k swims and numerous open water swims); 66.25 hours of spin (indoor bike) sessions, 1785 miles on the bike and 614 miles running."

How did the race go, Amy? "Besides getting a flat and having to fix it myself, race day went really well. The weather was great and I was very

pleased with my performance. There's a limit of 17 hours and I would have been pleased with anything less. But finishing under 15 hours was great for me."

And she's not planning to rest on her laurels. She has a trio of Alabama marathons coming up — Huntsville in December, Mobile in January, and Birmingham in February before switching back to triathlons for next year. If anyone is interested in triathlon training, talk to Amy — she's a member of Atlanta Tri Club.



There's been progress on the street sign top-
per program. Starting with Jill Huitron, then passing to Susan and Keith Bentley, the project is making good progress. Vic Koch's design generated enthusiasm at the general assembly meeting where neighbors approved moving forward. Since then, Vic and Keith visited the likely vendor to gain a good understanding of process capabilities and limitations as well as costs. A few decisions are yet to be made, but it shouldn't be long before these little beauties are gracing street signs all over the neighborhood.

There's more News on next page...



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.

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Rev Coffee

1680 Spring Road (at intersection of Jonquil Dr.)
M-Friday, 6 am to 10 pm
Sat & Sun, 8 am to 8 pm

Given its location in a converted garage next to Auto Cool, Rev Coffee might surprise you by how quiet and comfortable it can be. Patrons can enjoy free WIFI in comfy sofas and chairs, at small bistro style tables or, if you're having a larger meeting, there's even a conference sized table. If the weather is fine you can sit outside with your dog under the covered pergola.

Rev's a great place to study, attracting students from local high schools and universities, and a great place to meet. In the two and half years since they opened the place, Rev's local owner/operators have become very involved in the community. They provide coffee to King Springs Baptist Church on Sunday mornings, and a place for a Cumberland Community Church fellowship group to meet on Wednesday evenings. They're also a Partner In Education with Campbell High School. There's always something going on at Rev. Paintings and sculptures displayed there by local artists change frequently due to sales. (I bought a painting there last year and liked it so much I redesigned my whole house

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News in and around Williams Park

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Debbie Savage tells us it's time again for the population to be counted for the U.S. Census. You may have noticed people walking the neighborhood last May with hand held computers. They were verifying and map spotting each address in Williams Park while the same process was occurring in every neighborhood across the country at the same time. The result is a master list of every address to be used for mailing out the census survey form next spring.

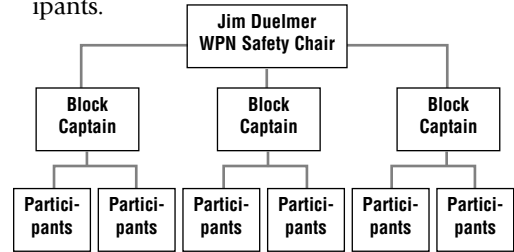
This effort to count every person, one time, where they live is required by the U.S. Constitution. It began in 1790 and 2010 will mark the 23rd such count. The primary purpose is to determine Congressional representation of each state. Subsequent to each new census some states gain representatives while other states lose them. Also importantly, census data is used to allocate federal funds to the states and, locally, it determines how SPLOST funds are distributed to Smyrna. It's important, therefore, that everyone of us be counted. So next April when you receive the census survey form in the mail, please take a minute to complete the simple five question form and return it in the mail.

In May census workers will walk through the neighborhood again following up on forms that weren't returned. The census is currently recruiting in Smyrna for part time workers to help with this effort. If you're interested in working for the census next spring, you can call 678-881-2302. They'll tell you where and when you can take the simple 30 minute eligibility test. (Veterans receive five bonus points added to their score.) Hourly pay rates vary from \$12.25 to \$17.75 depending on position.

Smyrna and Williams Park have grown since the last census, so if we all participate in the survey the funds available in the future should increase too. Let's hope so, since I'm sure each of you can think of improvements we would like to see in our community. This is one of the ways we can help them happen.

Safety and Security Chair Jim Duelmer wants to reiterate the methodology of the Neighborhood Watch program.

1. If you see a crime or suspicious activity, you immediately report what you've observed to the police.
2. Then report the incident to your Block Captain (or to Jim Duelmer if your Block Captain is not available).
3. The Block Captain reports it to Jim.
4. Jim notifies the other Block Captains.
5. Block Captains notify their respective participants.



You can find more on the neighborhood watch program under the Resources heading at our website, www.williamsparkneighbors.org. And here are the Block Captains — make sure you know yours.

- Anderson Circle — Rob Teilhet, 770-435-0568
- Elizabeth Street — vacant (call Jim Duelmer)
- Gilbert Street — Jim & Tracie Duelmer
770-434-3536
- Devin Court — Daniel Huitron, 404-376-5114
- Hawthorne East — Michel DiPiero, 770-432-7229
- Hawthorne West — Greg Moncrief, 404-661-0504
- Highland — Judi Kessler, 770-436-6657
- Ivy Spring — Charles Thomas, 770-333-9355
- Marston — Wendy Amundson, 770-366-1714
- Mimosa — Madge Jackson, 770-432-3563
- North Ave — Dale Richards, 770-333-0733
- Old Roswell — Christy Murray, 770-434-9851
- Roswell (west) — Ann Carr, 678-309-9400
- Roswell (east) — Steve McQuade, 770-333-2100
- Spring — Leanne Fey, 770-863-9580
- Spring — Beverly Schrenger, 404-432-9765
- Walker — Kirsten & Bryan Beard, 678-613-6128
- Whitfield — Nadine Roland, 770-863-9352
- Windy Oaks — Mary Helen Ellet, 770-437-8620
- Bernard — Hill and Stacey Scott,
678-793-5135

NOTE: We've lost two Williams Park pets to coyote attacks in the last few months. Please do your best to keep your pets in the house during the dark hours, particularly those smaller, older and slower individuals.

dining out

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around it.) Wednesday nights are open mike nights (8-10 pm) when somewhere between 10 and 15 musicians share their (mainly acoustic) varieties of music including both original work and covers. It's not only a good time — it's always free entertainment. On Fridays they have live music from 8 to 10 pm. Musicians come from all over the metro area, including Little Five Points, to play to a packed house. Once a month, look for Revved Up Comedy nights when local comedians compete for a cash prize based on audience appreciation. Rev also hosts a Fall and Spring Festival where they have food, artwork, and music.

My favorite things about Rev, besides the exquisite lattes, are their bacon cheddar muffins and the toffee cookies. They serve muffins, pastries, grilled sandwiches, and mouthwatering cookies throughout the day. The house specialty is chicken salad. All of the coffee they serve is roasted locally, so it is always fresh. One nice thing about Rev is that people of all ages are comfortable there because of the friendly and very customer-focused staff. When you go to Rev, be sure to say hello to Nick, Cindy, and Brian, and tell them you are from the Williams Park Neighborhood. They love their neighbors.

—Cat Porch
(anderson circle)

As housing goes...

...by Jill Huitron

It has been a crazy year for a lot of things, but especially the economy! If you have not felt it in your 401K, you have seen it in the housing market. Home sales started slowing summer of 2008 and then almost came to a halt that fall and early winter. Gradually, however, sales are picking back up. A good reference is that starting around May, my office's "homes listed" and "homes sold" volumes were about the same. In fact, more contracts were written this past May than in May 2008.

According to the National Association of Realtors, existing home sales rose for the third consecutive month in June of 2009. Inventory is easing up and home prices are declining less sharply. The increase in existing home sales are not just in the Atlanta area but are occurring in all the major regions of the country. Pending homes sales also rose, for eight straight months now, the longest streak since measurement began in 2001 and home sales have rebounded to their highest level since July of 2007.

There are several reasons home sales are picking up. One is that interest rates have generally fallen. If your credit is good you can get a great rate to buy or refinance right now. Another is the tax credit now available from the federal government — \$8000 or 10% of the purchase price, whichever is less, to a first time buyer or a buyer who has not owned in three years or more. Your income can be no more than \$125,000 if single or \$225,000 if married to qualify. This credit has available until April 30, 2010.

The state of Georgia also has a tax credit — anyone buying a house that's been on the market since May 11,

2009, first time buyer or not, can receive \$1800 or 1.2% of the purchase price, whichever is less, as a tax credit. The property has to be closed by November 30, 2009.

You can apply for your federal tax credit as soon as you close your home. The state tax credit will get paid in three equal installments over the next three years in the form of a tax return.

The federal government has just passed a law giving a tax credit to existing homeowners selling their primary residence and moving, either upsizing or downsizing. This tax credit is for \$6500 or \$3250 if you file separate, but has several stipulations. You must have lived in your principal residence consecutively for 5 of the previous 8 years, you must be under contract by April 30, 2010, your income must not exceed \$125,000 if single or \$225,000 if married and filing jointly, and the house price must not exceed \$800,000.

First time buyers are starting to realize what a great deal it is to buy right now. In fact, I believe this spring we'll see a rush on houses as people realize they'll lose the \$8000 if they don't get off the fence and purchase a house soon! As first time buyers buy, they allow those sellers to buy the house they have been wanting and the process starts opening up the market all the way to the higher end prices. Now with the tax credits available for existing homeowners, many people will take advantage of this once-in-a-life-time opportunity creating a major jump start to the housing industry. As the housing industry goes, so goes our economy.

— Jill is an agent with Harry Norman, Realtors

Atlanta Moonwalk & Party Rentals

slides, bounce houses (batman, superman, disney princess castles, rocket, scooby, ocean, dora) snow-cone, cotton candy, hotdog, popcorn, bubbles, fog, snow, karaoke, margarita machines, dunk tank, balloon room, games, skydancers & signs, popular costume characters, airbrush tattooing & face painting, money machine & FLAMINGO YARD SURPRISES!

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Owner

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Phone: 404-729-3452
www.atlantasbesthandyman.com
Smyrna References Available



LOST AND FOUND

A 6" glass mixing bowl was left at the August cookout in Durham Park

A red umbrella, a decorative cutting board, and a silver platter were left at the the August Happy Hour at Wendy and Tony's place on Marston.

To claim these items call Sandy Hamby at 770-435-5613

hey everybody have a wonderful holiday season!

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WP Reads

THE WPN BOOK CLUB, meeting monthly in various neighbors' homes, always welcomes new participants. To learn more, call LeAnne at 770-863-9580.

It's been eight months since I last wrote reviews, so I decided to spotlight our two highest rated books and a book that only rated 3 stars but generated the most interesting discussion in a long time. — *Leanne Fey*

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows
★★★★★ This was our favorite book of the last eight months. The island of Guernsey, off the coast of England, was occupied by the Germans during WWII. The book, set just after the war ends, tells the story of the occupation through letters written by the inhabitants to an English writer who becomes involved in their lives. There were 11 members at this meeting and everyone gave it 5 stars.

Still Alice, by Lisa Genova

★★★★★ This is a poignant story about a Harvard professor who describes her descent into early onset Alzheimer's Disease.

Wicked, by Gregory Maguire

★★★ This book, which spurred our most lively discussion, is a retelling of the classic *Wizard of Oz* tale from the perspective and history of the Wicked Witch of the West. In it, the author delves deeply into religion, mythology, politics, ethics and philosophy.

The rating system:

- ★ No one liked it
- ★★ We thought it was ok
- ★★★ It was good
- ★★★★ It was excellent
- ★★★★★ Don't miss it — fabulous

Pet Profiles ...by Kenzie Shay



Scottie and Scarlet

If you go to Durham Park park often you're likely to see Scottie and Scarlet. You'll know them when you see them because they look like salt and pepper, one is all white and the other is all black.

Scottie, a seven year old white Westie Terrier, and Scarlet, a 5 year old black Scottish dog, live with Laverne and Shawn Sharifi. They get along very well and their favorite activity is going to the park twice a day. Most of their time at the park is spent socializing with their neighbor dogs and chasing squirrels. They know the basic commands; sit, down, and beg. Scottie loves to watch television. He knows all the commercials with dogs and he barks at the TV. Scarlett loves to bite Scottie's tail, to get him to chase her. Life long Smyrna residents, Scottie and Scarlet visit Pet Agree grooming once every five or six weeks to get spruced up. At home they get a bath every ten days and they love getting brushed frequently. Strangely enough, they love carrots and plain nonfat yogurt.

They are extremely happy healthy dogs and would love to say hello when they see you in the park. For anyone considering getting a terrier, remember the saying... "You don't own a terrier, you live with one."

— *Eleven year old Kenzie is in the sixth grade at Covenant Christian School*

BEN COHN'S Q&A: Q: Why are many coin banks shaped like pigs?

A: Long ago, dishes and cookware in Europe were made of a dense orange clay called 'pygg'. When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as "pygg banks." When an English potter misunderstood the word, he made a bank that resembled a pig and it caught on.

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