



Wildwood at Meadow Gate

November, 2009 Community Newsletter wamg.org

Pet Party, Take II

After the rainout on September 20th, the WAMG Pet Party was re-visited on Sunday, October 11th with three pets present. All three pets were winners in different categories. The pet greeters and judges were Barbara Burel, Pat Sheehy, and Sandy Murray.

Leading the style show again was Marion Markham and her collie, Sassy. Sassy was the winner of the Pet-Owner Look Alike Award, but politely refused to accept another prize package. Hope and Matt Woodard and son, Joshua, brought their boxers, Baylee and Cyrus.

Both Baylee and Cyrus were quite accomplished, performing tricks such as sitting, shaking hands, and lying down, but both had apparently decided that "mum's the word" when encouraged to "speak". Baylee broke the tie and won the Most Talented Pet Award with her Frisbee catches. Cyrus was quite happy to take home the Friendliest Pet Award.

Each pet received a certificate and prize package consisting of coupons, coupon booklets from Pet Smart, and treats. Cookies and lemonade were on hand for the pet owners and greeters. Joshua was very happy to take home some balloons along with the tattoos.

Again, the Social Committee would like to thank the PetSmart store in the Lowe's shopping center on Highway 78 for the coupon booklets, containing \$300 worth of coupons and the window stickers for the fire department.

The hard work of Pat Sheehy and Barbara Burel to decorate the pavilion area and prepare for the Pet Party is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Barbara for the photographs seen at right. Perhaps next year the word will spread among all the pets and kids in the neighborhood and more will come to the Party.



WAMG Happenings

By Sandy Murray

Congratulations to [Andy and Jennifer Ahart](#) of Wild Barley Way who have a new baby. The new arrival is baby boy [Maddox Theodore Ahart](#) who was born on October 12th. Maddox is already a big boy, weighing 9 lbs and 1 oz and measuring 22 inches long at birth. He was born with lots of dark brown hair and looks a lot like his daddy! His big sister [Taylor](#) is very interested in Maddox and has accepted him as part of the family. Welcome to the neighborhood, Maddox.



Way to Go Grayson Rams!! The football team is still undefeated and has one more regular season game before the play-offs. We are all proud of the residents who are football players, cheerleaders, and head coach [Mickey Conn](#). As you drive through the neighborhood, watch for the yard signs identifying the player or cheerleader who resides there. We are very proud of your success, which is a result of the hard work and mental preparation that makes up excellence! Let's all support the team as they go into their final regular season game and the playoffs. RAMS RULE!!!

Speaking of ball players, we would like to recognize [Kyle Smolarsky](#) (son of [Jill and Kirk Smolarsky](#)) who played on a 12 year old football team for GAA, [Nicholas Tate](#) (son of [Cheri and Shay Tate](#)) who played on a 7 year old football team for GAA, [Jack Guillory](#) (son of [Vince and Christina Guillory](#)) who played on a 5/6 year old baseball team for GAA, [Cole and Lucas Murray](#) (grandsons of [Charles and Sandy Murray](#)) who played on 5/6 and 7 year old baseball teams respectively for GAA, [Christopher Burel](#) (grandson of [Barbara Burel](#)) who played on a 7/8 year old team for West Walton, and [Joshua Miller](#) (son of [Tim and Lisa Miller](#)) who played on a 7 year old baseball team for GAA. These young men are learning a great deal about self-discipline, sportsmanship, and teamwork in addition to the skills of the game they play.

We have a number of new neighbors in our neighborhood that we have not yet had a chance to meet! We will be contacting you to gather information about your family that can be shared with the community, so we can do a proper introduction. Until then, welcome to WAMG!



MDA Fundraiser Bake Sale

The neighborhood kids on Sweet Basil Lane would like to thank all the people who donated baked goods for the Bake Sale they had a few weeks ago.

They were able to raise \$200 that will go towards the upcoming MDA Walk of Hope that will be held on November 7th at Zoo Atlanta in honor of Stephen Miller. Thank you to all who supported this fundraiser !!

WAMG Social Committee Activities



It seems that "BOO" was pretty busy this past month. He visited many homes, leaving special bags of surprises for everyone within. If you were "Booed", did you keep things going? Did you find two friends or special neighbors that you wanted to treat? Lots of fun can be spread very easily just by doing these things that take little time or money. The Social Committee hopes you enjoyed October fun with "BOO".

The last Social Committee activity of 2009 will be the December Santa Sneak. The Jolly Old Elf works the same way that BOO did. When you find a surprise package at your front door, send the holiday cheer on to two more houses in the neighborhood. Don't get on the Naughty List; keep things going to be Nice. Remember, Santa is making his list and checking it twice.



Helping Hands

In our neighborhood there are several neighbors that are getting older and may need a little assistance with leaves or lifting a heavy object. Some might use a little help with picking up an item or two at the grocery or need a ride to the doctor or dentist. Each of us needs to ask ourselves, "What can I do to help those around me?"

Hopefully, everyone will keep an eye out for those in our community who live alone or are limited in mobility (long-term or even temporarily). Being good neighbors is more about caring and communicating than anything else. Many young people are working to earn Service credits for high school (some are just genuinely interested in others) and this may be a good way to earn them. There are many people with very big hearts, so let's let our assistance start with our neighbors and within our neighborhood.

We can also help each other by supporting the businesses of our neighbors. Do you need yard work, trees trimmed/cut, mechanic work, or painting, etc. done? If so, let's get information about those in our subdivision who can do these things. We encourage those who live here to advertise their skills or business in our newsletter so that we may know about them.



WAMG Board of Directors Notes

On a weekly basis, we are all finding that our water bills, gas bills, electricity bills, food costs, etc. are going up while our wages are remaining the same or being reduced. Dealing with such issues means that we have to increase our income, reduce our usage, do more things ourselves, or a combination of all these. The past two years have been difficult for everyone and it does not look to improve in the immediate future. It appears that local, state, and, probably, federal governments will increase taxes for most of us.

The WAMG Board of Directors has been dealing with these issues on a community basis, as well as on a personal basis. The costs of our community utilities and other expenses have exceeded the projected budget for these items for the year and the Board is faced with difficult decisions. Everyone wants the amenities and common areas that our subdivision offers to be well maintained and fully available for our enjoyment. Property values have already taken a hit from the economic situation, but providing these amenities and keeping up the common areas will help forestall greater loss in each resident's property value.

The Board of Directors is working diligently to make the available funds stretch as far as possible. The Board members, several committee members, and some residents have done things for the community without compensation, such as replacing light bulbs, picking up litter, mowing yards at vacant houses, taking out the clubhouse trash bins and putting them back, spraying for bugs, providing prize items, treats, and decorations, etc. The POA dues have remained at the current level for the past three years, but the time has arrived to assess the need to raise dues to meet the rising costs. Do we maintain the current level of service and amenities? If so, how do we handle the rising costs? If not, what should be reduced? Difficult times require difficult decisions.

Emergency Preparedness

By Sandy Murray

In light of the September floods that caught so many families by surprise, it stands to reason that all of us should learn some important lessons about preparing for emergencies. Many families either found themselves without running water, gas, electricity, food, other necessities, or worse, without a place to live for several days or weeks. They had little time to prepare for the situation or gather things together to evacuate the area.

If that had happened to any of us, we would probably be just as unprepared as most of those folks. It just goes to show that no matter where you live, disaster can strike, whether in the form of a flood, tornado, power outage, fire, or whatever else may happen. It is very important to have an emergency kit fully stocked and up-to-date for your family.

A sale flyer from Ace Hardware early last summer contained an article about this very subject, which serves as a great reference for preparing for the unexpected emergency. The article listed the suggested items for a core kit, an extended kit, and some optional items to help pass the time for four people. These lists can be adjusted according to your family's needs and size. You can have some items already assembled and other items that would have to be gathered as the situation approached. Keep a copy of these lists with the items that you pre-assemble to help you think, should an emergency arise. In case you did not keep the article, here is a copy of their lists for your benefit.

While we all hope that the need to utilize such planning never arises, the best defense for any problem is being prepared. For an even more comprehensive guide to preparing for and recovering from natural

disasters, visit www.acehardware.com or www.ready.gov. Detailed information is available there on floods, heat waves, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, earthquakes, and winter weather. Create your personal disaster plan and discuss it or practice with your children, if appropriate. Plan ahead, prepare, and increase your chance of survival with the least frustration and inconvenience possible.

Emergency Preparedness Core Kit

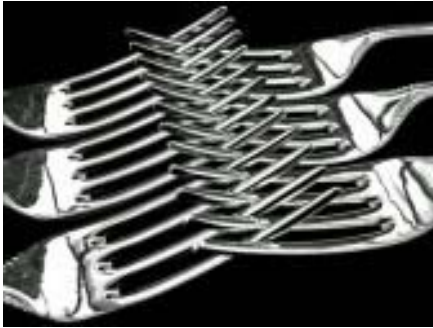
- ❑ 2 medium-sized storage totes to keep the kit contents dry, protected, and tidy
- ❑ 12 gallons of bottled water: two 24-packs of .5-liter water bottles replaced every 6 months (Figure on one gallon per person per day)
- ❑ Non-perishable canned food such as corn, black beans, fruit, and tuna are good food choices because you won't need to cook or heat them. Buy pop-top cans or pack a manual can opener. Peanut butter, non-perishable pasteurized milk, crackers, and energy bars are also good choices.
- ❑ Eating utensils, plates, cups
- ❑ Emergency radio and flashlights: there are hand-crank ones available that power the radio and LED flashlight and rechargeable batteries keep the radio going for hours.
- ❑ 2 blankets for warmth and comfort
- ❑ First aid kit containing bandages, painkillers, compresses, ointment, alcohol swabs, etc.
- ❑ Multi-tool (Swiss army knife) or pocketknife
- ❑ Emergency whistle
- ❑ Garbage bags and ties, toilet paper, moist towelettes or hand sanitizer for personal sanitation
- ❑ Essential medicines (i.e. heart medicine, insulin, etc.)
- ❑ Be sure to include infant and baby food if needed, also snack and comfort food for everyone
- ❑ Pet food and water, if needed

Emergency Preparedness Extended Kit

- ❑ Candles and waterproof matches (Depending upon the situation, an open flame might not be advisable.)
- ❑ Glow sticks or light sticks—use these for comfort lighting without draining the flashlight battery, plus they make fun toys for the kids (pack a few extras)
- ❑ Metal coffee mug (for boiling water if necessary)
- ❑ Duct tape, plastic sheeting (i.e. paint drop cloths)
- ❑ Spare eyeglasses
- ❑ Personal hygiene items
- ❑ Vitamins
- ❑ Needles and thread
- ❑ Wrench to shut off gas and water supplies
- ❑ Copies of personal family documents kept in a watertight bag
- ❑ At some point, you may need to boil water. Use a canned heat source, such as Ace's Magic Heat stove kit

Optional items to help pass the time

- ❑ Deck of playing cards and kids cards
- ❑ Book of crossword puzzles, connect-the-dots, Sudoku, coloring books packaged with crayons, notebook, pencils, and hand pencil sharpener.
- ❑ Travel games
- ❑ Small, age-appropriate block sets, you'll be amazed at how much a new toy can help get your child's mind off the situation at hand.



WOW

The WOW ladies dinner group was held at 6:30pm on Monday, November 2 at Longhorn's at the Avenue in Snellville.

We are awaiting our first critique from the WOW ladies on their dining experiences.

All **Women of Wildwood** (WOW!) are invited to join the group, enjoy the camaraderie and get to know your neighbors.

If you are interested and would like to attend, please contact Rose Taylor at 770-554-0721 or robottaylor@bellsouth.net.



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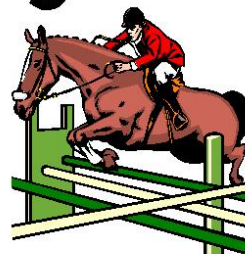
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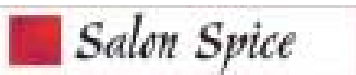
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