



Neighbors

Monthly Newsletter

The Monthly Newsletter of the Lake Claire Neighborhood Association

Written and distributed by volunteers since 1991

Neighborhood Meeting

Thursday, July 20, 7:30 p.m.

Frazer Center - 1815 S. Ponce de Leon
(or use back entrance at the end of Ridgewood Road)
Auditorium in front of building

Agenda

- * *Denotes issues which may be voted upon at meeting; please read accompanying articles within newsletter for details.*
- **Announcements**
-Seven Stages Event
- **Tour of Homes**
-Appropriation Request*
- **Freedom Park Conservancy**
-Delegate Appointment*
- **Planning Committee Report** - Geoffrey Dunne
-432 Hardendorf Ave - sideyard setback*
-Night Hospitality Shelter Clifton Presbyterian Church*
- **NPU Report** - Bob Schreiber
- **Treasurer's Report** - Dennis McCarthy
- **New Business**
-McLendon Gardens

From the Executive Board
by Dennis McCarthy, VP Finance

Neighborhood "Value"

A few years ago on a trip to Ireland I was introduced to the "Tidy Town Competition." This is an event with local, regional, and national awards. Some winning towns I visited were tourist destinations and had a vested financial interest in winning the competition, but others were practical residential towns through which I just happened to drive. I am not entirely certain of the judges' criteria, and probably they focus on the outward appearance of a town. But perhaps intangible impressions of harmony and civic pride weigh heavily on the decision too.

Recent attention has been focused on opinions of *retail* values of houses in Lake Claire (their causes, benefits, and burdens). These thoughts are certainly worthy of discussion. But "value" is about more than monetary appraisals--it perhaps more properly refers to *sentimental* value and a general sense of the significance of happiness and friendships relating to where one lives. There are many ways that neighbors can increase these *other* values of their homes.

One way is to participate (either officially or unofficially) in the **Lake Claire Tour of Homes**. It is a chance to show-off the neighborhood while meeting neighbors and learning a bit more about what make Lake Claire unique. The tour is scheduled for **Sunday, September 10th** from Noon to 6:00pm. So far the tour includes nine houses plus several gardens and lawn-art sites. Peg Zeigler, (404) 373-2913 is organizing volunteers to house-sit and otherwise participate in official tour activities. Peg will be at the July meeting to answer questions about the tour and make a motion to establish a tour fund for printing and other start-up costs. The association is also looking into reserving Lake Claire Park for **recreational activities** concurrent with the tour. If you would like to organize something (kid's games, volleyball, tennis, Hooverball, or something completely different) please contact Dennis McCarthy at (404) 378-2870. Other ways to unofficially contribute include simple things like sprucing up your yard or garden a bit and making sure your sidewalk is clear for our guests.

We also welcome new **newsletter distributors**. We are quite grateful to our current neighbors who have combined this service a nice walk and a monthly chance to chat with passers-by. For more information on distributing this newsletter contact Georgii Billiris at (404) 373-4523.

And of course one final way to increase your home *value* is to get to know your neighbors, particularly any new neighbors. Make them feel welcome and keep each other informed about local activities. Lake Claire Neighbors has prepared a **welcome flyer** (<http://www.lakeclaire.org/docs/welcome.pdf>) for new residents.

Garden Club Update - We are planning for a **special speaker** on Tuesday, **September 19**, at 7pm. Mr. Gary Peiffer of DeKalb Extension will speak in the Auditorium at the Frazer Center on **drought resistant plants, low water use or xeriscaping**. We invite you to mark your calendars and attend the event. We will ask for a small donation at the door to cover our cost to the Frazer Center, located at 185 S. Ponce de Leon (use the back entrance at the end of Ridgewood Rd).
~ Carol Mercer

Epworth's Can-Do! Vacation Bible School - It's time again for our annual Vacation Bible School and all children are invited July 24th through 28th. Activities will begin at 6 pm and will end at 8:30 pm. Epworth has been serving The Lake Claire neighborhood for over a hundred years. It is a "kid-friendly," inclusive community of folk. Epworth United Methodist Church is located across from Candler Park. Call **Jan Oglesbee** at **404.525.4746**.

Newsletter Distributor Needed - Leonardo and Marlbrook, from Clifton to Ridgewood. Contact **Georgii Billiris** at **404.373.4523**.

Shame on Lake Claire Neighbors for its biased coverage of the commentary on the May, 2000 article by Robbie Collins, entitled "No Man is an Island." By printing Collins' response to each of the three comments written on the original article, LCN has sided with Collins' point of view over the points of view articulated by other neighbors. A volunteer newsletter is not expected to produce professional quality journalism, but such cynical disregard for differing opinions is simply uncalled for and serves only to discredit LCN as a voice for this neighborhood. A single, brief and appropriately non-inflammatory, response by Collins should have sufficed.

Gabriel and Melissa Kuperminc
1836 Indiana Ave.

Neighbors responds:

Dear Gabriel and Melissa,

The June issue of *Neighbors* included all "points of view articulated by other neighbors" addressed to the Newsletter Editor which were received by the June newsletter deadline. Including Mr. Collins' complete responses to those letters did not exclude any opinions received from being represented.

Mr. Collins and I also decided, in the editorial style of many respected publications, to print the author's reply to each letter rather than issue a general response, in order to respect the same thorough and thoughtful manner that the neighbors employed in their correspondence to us.

I believe our coverage adequately and fairly represented and concluded an important dialogue.

Thank you for your letter.

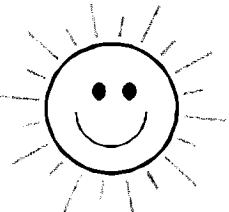

Marci Reed
Newsletter Editor


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Be a Good Neighbor to Mother Earth & Recycle

Guess what? Atlanta is NOT recycling that cardboard you leave out with your trash . . . nor your phonebooks or magazines. But there are ways to recycle all that and more. But first, let's examine some benefits of recycling.

Everyone knows that recycling saves valuable landfill space. But did you know the benefits of recycling to our air and water? Two examples: 1) Recycling aluminum creates 95% LESS air pollution, 97% LESS water pollution, and uses 95% less energy than producing aluminum from ore. Also, the ore (bauxite) is strip-mined, which destroys the landscape, area environment, and everything down stream from it; 2) Besides saving trees, producing recycled paper creates 74% LESS air pollution and 35% LESS water pollution than producing paper from trees. (These facts provided by the Alabama Environmental Council.)

As you probably know, you can recycle glass, aluminum and tin cans, plastic milk and soda bottles, and newspaper using your Atlanta recycling bin. But to recycle other things, you must either pay for another service or find other places to take recyclable items. After saving up my junk mail, magazines, paper cracker, cookie, etc., boxes until they mildewed in the basement, I found out I could conveniently have someone pick up all my junk paper twice a month for only \$8 (or \$15 weekly). Southern Recycling (770-854-8800) services both residences and businesses at various rates, and will pick up multiple types of paper (cardboard, magazines, office paper, junk mail, etc.), as well as the number 1 and 2 plastics that Atlanta recycling will not take.

They estimated that they recycle over 800,000 lbs. of paper a year!

But if you are more disciplined than I at keeping your basement cleared out, you can also take all of the above items to the recycling site next to the DeKalb Farmers Market on E. Ponce de Leon past the Avondale MARTA station. This recycling site also has scrap metal recycling (for all those remodeling and plumbing scraps), a drop for used books, and a composting demonstration (built using those wooden crate platforms you always see with the trash around here . . . And speaking of those crates, some businesses listed in the Yellow Pages under "pallets" will pay \$.50 - \$3 a crate for crates delivered to their warehouse.)

Packing peanuts are really easy to recycle. Many packmail or postal services will take donations of your used packing peanuts. This is really important because the Styrofoam will not biodegrade in our lifetimes and is toxic if incinerated. Some are now made of cornmeal. If you can't tell the difference, put one in a glass of water and stir it for about 10 seconds. If it dissolves, it's cornmeal, and can be tossed on your compost pile if you don't recycle it.

The Publix Supermarket at the corner of Clairemont and N. Decatur Rd. has recycling bins outside the store for foam egg cartons and plastic grocery bags. Or call the different recycling businesses in the Yellow Pages under "recycling" to find out where to recycle almost anything.

But I have yet to mention one of the most important aspects of recycling, closing the loop. This means buying recycled goods to ensure that there will be a demand for recycled products. Look for recycling messages on products such as toilet paper, napkins, tissue, gift-wrap, and garbage bags. And note the post-consumer content. This means the % of that product actually produced from consumer recycling, not industrial recycling. (Industrial recycling means recycling of excess materials normally done anyway. Think of the dough in the middle of a doughnut. It is either recombined with other dough or sold as doughnut holes.) So, the higher the % post consumer, the better. The paper products mentioned can be found at health food stores such as Sevananda on Moreland next to the post office or at Rainbow Groceries at the corner of Clairemont and N. Decatur Road. If there are no recycled goods where you shop, ask why.

So, please be a good neighbor to planet Earth. I hope to stop seeing all that cardboard on trash days!

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Zoning Variance Application No. V-212 - to permit **sideyard setback** variance for construction of a detached garage at **432 Hardendorf Ave.** Applicant: Elizabeth Davidson (represented by Serge Watson) BZA Hearing Date: 04-Aug-00 (City of Atlanta Board of Zoning Adjustment) Applicant is seeking support from Lake Claire Neighbors to present to the BZA. Neighbors must be present at the July LCN Meeting for their vote in favor or in opposition to be recorded.

Night Hospitality Shelter - Leslie Withers, Director of Missions, Clifton Presbyterian Church has asked for the opportunity to make a presentation at the July LCN Meeting. The night shelter at Clifton Presbyterian Church has applied to the City of Atlanta for **block grant** funds to continue operating their night shelter for homeless men, which has been located in the church for twenty years and has enjoyed the support of LCN in the past. They provide food, shelter and hospitality 7 nights a week for 30 elderly, sick or disabled homeless men. A local show of support from LCN is needed for the grant application to move ahead to the next step in the process.

~ Geoffrey Dunne

Special Note: Effective August 24, 2000 **NPU-N meetings will begin at 7:00PM** instead of what has been a long standing practice of starting at 7:30 PM.

The NPU-N by-laws are still a work in progress. But a different matter of similar importance has emerged, one which may draw **NPU-N** and another NPU into to conflict regarding a project which is moving forward in **NPU-M** (immediately west of us, including the downtown Central Business District).

A 7.68 acre parcel of land has been assembled at the southeast intersection of Highland Ave. and Sampson Street (immediately adjacent to NPU-N and near the **Mead** plant). The developers have proposed a project which now calls for 405 residential units and 101 thousand square feet of commercial space. In **NPU-M**, this project, for a variety of reasons, is perceived as one which is consistent with other developments. After several months of committee meetings, this project has received support at the **NPU-M** monthly meeting. The project will go to the Zoning Review Board (ZRB) for a recommendation, and then the final decision will be made by City Council.

Increased density in the in-town neighborhoods may be appropriate in a city which is being pressured to transform from a mega-suburbia into a true urban area. However, the high density of this particular project could set a precedent which will adversely impact the single-family neighborhoods in Inman Park, Poncey Highland, Reynoldstown, and Cabbagetown. There is an additional 50-70 acres of underutilized land in Inman Park and even more in Reynoldstown which is potentially eligible for rezoning to high density residential/commercial use. Ancillary impact could extend into Candler Park and Lake Claire which have a few similar parcels, although of less acreage.

Complicating the **NPU-M** project even more is the fact that, while most of the assemblage is currently zoned **Industrial**, a portion (less than 0.5 acres) is currently zoned **Residential (R-5)**. If the entire assemblage is rezoned to the highest usage of the **Commercial** categories, then this sets a precedent for rezoning of a residential area into a district which allows high density and a broader range of development alternatives. The R-5 parcel may become one of those "bizarre" land battles that causes people who do not understand the issues to shake their heads in disbelief.

More information will be available at the next Lake Claire meeting regarding the project and any response being considered by NPU-N.

~ Bob Schreiber

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Lake Claire Crime Statistics for June, 2000

06/02 6:30pm-12:30a - 2000 blk DeKalb: front door kicked in; TV, VCR, stereo, CD player, laptop stolen

06/14 12:00pm-4:00pm - Dogwood Cir: car vandalized, stereo stolen

06/16 after 9pm - 1800 blk New York Ave: car stolen

06/20 10:30pm - 200 blk Oxford: pickup broken into

06/24 after 7pm - 200 blk Oxford: car stolen

06/25 4am-10am - 300 blk Clifton: camera, bag, flash, and film stolen from car

06/26 8am-3:45p - 400 blk Leonardo: front door kicked in; TV, VCR stolen


~ Elizabeth Hamilton

Planning for *Styling in Lake Claire* Tour of Homes 2000 is well under way with 9 houses committed to date plus Lake Claire Cohousing, Land Trust and 6 garden/yard art sites. A number of advance-ticket sales sites have been confirmed, posters and tickets are designed already, and advertising plans are in place.

The Tour Committee will meet **July 25** at 7:00 pm at Susan Beeching's home at 301 Connecticut. All interested neighbors are welcome!

Volunteers are needed to help at houses on tour day. A pre-tour party is being planned so homeowners and their volunteers can see the other houses.

Mark your calendar now for **Sunday, September 10**. Participate in the pre-planning and/or as a tour day volunteer and get to know other great people in Lake Claire. There will also be an after-tour party - AfterGLOE (Great Lake Claire Tour Organizers Event)! Contact **Peg Zeigler** at **404.373.2913**.



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This is a painless way to contribute to the education of the children who live in the neighborhood and this is an issue which affect all of us even if we don't have any children. These are the children who are growing up all around us, the ones who live next door, the ones we see playing in the parks and on the sidewalks. I do believe that it takes a village to raise a child and my village is the communities that Mary Lin serves - Inman Park, Candler Park, and Lake Claire. We want you to care about our kids and we will teach our kids to care about you and our community. You can pick up cards for Kroger and Publix on the front porch of **454 Seminole Ave.** or stop by Mary Lin and visit the school and pick up grocery cards in the front office.

Thanks for all your help.

~ Julia Murray

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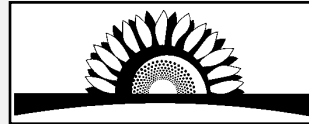
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THANK YOU!



Lake Claire Neighbors
Organization

www.lakeclaire.org/e-mail: lakeclaire@juno.com

Regular Monthly Meetings

Third Thursday, 7:30 pm Frazer Center Auditorium

VP-FinanceDennis McCarthy, 404/378-2870
imprimatur@mindspring.com
VP-Public SafetyElizabeth Hamilton, 404/370-0744
Elizabeth.Hamilton@webmail.bellsouth.net
Zone 6 Precinct404/371-5002
APD Officer Bud Watsonpgr. 404/225-7085
VP-CommunicationsRobbie Collins, 404/377-9553
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DistributionGeorgii Billiris, 404/373-4523
PrintingFranklin's, 404/525-0406

Submissions are invited and welcome. Advertising rates are \$12 per column inch. Issue deadline is the 25th of the month preceding publication.

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