



Neighbors

Monthly Newsletter

The Monthly Newsletter of the Lake Claire Neighborhood Association

Written and distributed by volunteers since 1991

Neighborhood Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 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**
 - Mary Lin Update
 - Eastland Skyhaven Neighborhood Coalition
 - F.A.I.R. Update
 - Candidates for 2001 Executive Committee
- **Treasurer's Report** - Dennis McCarthy
- **Planning Committee Report** - Bob Schreiber
 - Ridgewood Road Land Use Variance*
 - CDP Update
- **NPU Report** - Bob Schreiber
 - NPU-N Bylaws Update
- **Public Safety Report** - Elizabeth Hamilton
 - Officer's Report
- **New Business**

From the Executive Board by Dennis McCarthy, VP Finance

*'Twas the Banshee's lonely wailing;--
Well I knew the voice of death,
On the night-wind slowly sailing
O'er the bleak and gloomy heath!*

In many forms, and in many cultures, Halloween has been celebrated for thousands of years. What I find particularly interesting of this holiday is its main theme--death. In this country many people explore its more serious aspects: honoring and praying for departed loved ones (All Saints and Souls Days). And many also enjoy the more lighthearted, yet perhaps no less

profound, aspect of making fun of our own mortality by dressing as dead personalities or dangerous and supernatural fiends (Halloween). Surviving a few scary, but harmless, surprises always made the candy a bit more sweet for me when I went Trick-or-Treating as a child. So while we may mock danger that night, please pay attention to some real perils for our neighborhood children. Parents, please consider carefully if your child is ready to go out un-chaperoned. Avoid houses that do not have lights, decorations, or some other indication that trick-or-treaters are welcome. Stay on the sidewalks. Neighbors, please only distribute pre-packaged treats. Also please keep your sidewalk clear of cars and trashcans, and trim projecting branches. If you do not have a sidewalk, now might be a good time to consider adding one, as it will get dark much earlier with the end (finally!) of daylight savings time on Oct 29. Sunset on Oct 31 is 5:44 pm EST. Please drive carefully.

At the Executive Committee meeting we discussed the possibility of the neighborhood hosting a children's **Halloween costume contest**. We decided to leave it to the general meeting to determine if and how to implement the idea, but a probable place and time would be at Lake Claire Court (near McLendon and Howard) from 5:00-8:00pm. The Committee is also recommending that future regular meeting times be moved up from 7:30 to 7:00 pm, so please consider your opinion on the matter before coming to the meeting.

There will also be a **variance request** on Ridgewood (see the Planning Report). Freedom Park is considering the development of a **Cancer Survivors Plaza** and soliciting our endorsement; the Executive Committee would like more information about how the plaza would fit into a master plan for the park and the park's thematic intent. The new NPU by-laws passed, and this will require LCN to review and revise its **by-laws** in the near future.

Also, if time permits, we would like some discussion on a few issues including: a two year budget for the **Tour-of-Homes** proceeds; future direction of the security patrol; and the introduction of a checklist to standardized the **variance request process**.

Schoolpop.com benefits **Mary Lin** - With Schoolpop, shop the stores you love online and benefit Mary Lin Elementary. Go to www.schoolpop.com before you shop online and merchants will provide rebates to Mary Lin. Try it soon!

The **Frazer Center Fall Festival** is **October 26**, from 5-8pm. Kids may come in halloween costumes and a silent auction will be held for adult fun. For more information, call **404.377.3836**.

Come see how talented your neighbors are! On Sat., Oct. 21, from 7:30-11:30, different Lake Claire musicians will provide an evening of music and entertainment at the Land Trust. Stroll over and prepare to be delighted! Refreshments will be offered for sale, and the \$5.00 cover charge will benefit the Land Trust. Some seating will be available, but you may want to bring a lawn chair or blanket. Bill Fleming, Bill Taft, and Reuben Haller are already scheduled, and others are lining up. If you live in Lake Claire and want to be considered for performing, please contact Terri Evans at ktevans@juno.com or **404.377.4707**.

Donna van Gogh's Celebrates 6th Anniversary - Please join Donna van Gogh's **October 14, 2000, 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm**. New work by R. Land, Jen Cleer and Simone Wilson will be featured. Refreshments and beverages will be served. Call **404.370.1003** for more information.

Southface Energy Institute will hold its annual **Environmental Living Conference** on Saturday, November 4 at the Frazer Center. Topics include: EarthCraft House - the nation's fastest growing residential "green" building program, Water Conservation, Passive Solar Design, Alternative Fuel Vehicles and an interactive kid's workshop. Go to www.southface.org for details, or call **404.872.3549 ext 0**.

Tour of Homes Recap - Styling in Lake Claire, Tour of Homes 2000 generated close to \$3,000 to benefit the neighborhood association. Special thanks to tour committee members: **Peg Ziegler, Diane Moore, Pat Marsh, Susan Beeching, Ellie Diaz, Ana Fernandez** and **Marci Reed**, homeowners: **Randy Beck, Jennifer and Tim Steadman, Marci and Robert Reed, Sheri Mann Stewart and Barry Stewart Mann, Linda Robinson and Larry Phillips, Susan and Sean Beeching, Mike Gerber and Dave Delozier, Amanda and Dean Trevelino, Keith Laskey and Bill Bogle, Dr. Jim Fitzgerald, Bobby Grant, James Smith, and Dr. David Epstein**. Thanks also to **Bob Schreiber** for his history exhibit, **Nancy Lowe** for organizing the artist's market, **Horizons School, Clifton Presbyterian Church,** and **Donna van Gogh's** for providing ticket venues on tour day. Additional special thanks to **Beth Martin** and **Lily Desta** at

T&M Market for selling vintage tour t-shirts, bumper stickers, and magnets, and also advance tour outlets: **Little 5 Points Pharmacy, Cotton Casuals, Charis Books, Soul Kiss Imports, The Home Store Futon Gallery, Houseworks, Chapter 11 Books, Gardentopia, Domestic Instincts, Square Roots and Outwrite Book Store**. Thanks to **Tree Climbers International, Arizona Avenue CoHousing Community, Lake Claire Community Land Trust, Laura and Jason Smucker, Teri Stewart, Jane Robertson, and Gary Wehner** for providing entertainment and sites of interest apart from the homes. Thanks to **Jennifer Nagele, Metro Market, Publix** at Emory Commons and **Candler Park Super Market** for help with the pre-tour party for homeowners, and **Claxton Printing and Weiss & Kala, LLC** for assistance with signs and copies. And of course, the tour could not have been a success without volunteers: **Pat Burdett, Norma and Bill Cloe, Katherine and Martha Arrington, Sam and Nancy Schober, Jenny Caine, Terri Evans, Anne Melfi, Bruce Kaufman, George Donaldson, Rita from Decatur Art station - East Howard Ave. - Decatur, Cliff Morrison, Gloria Franzen, Dot Lancaster, Richard Powers and Scooter McLane**.



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To Catch a Thief

One Monday night I fell asleep on the couch and awoke at about 1:30a.m., just in time to notice a man wearing a backpack walking down the sidewalk on the other side of my street. I watched him, and sure enough, he began glancing at the cars parked on the street. As I ran from room to room, turning off lights as I went, I wondered just what would be sufficient evidence to call 911. Then I noticed that he ran up a neighbor's driveway and behind one of their cars to hide from cars passing on the street. He then walked back up the street and went over to the driver's door of the vehicle parked across the street and looked down into the car. I then called 911 and told the operator that a man was trying to break into my neighbor's car. (This is important, as an actual crime gets a higher 911 priority than a suspicious person.) The 911 operator asked me the exact location of the vehicle and a description of the man and what he was doing at that very moment. I told her that he had quickly walked up the driveway of another neighbor's house to hide from traffic he thought he could hear coming. And then he went back to the car on the street; no, he's headed back up the driveway. This went on for what seemed an eternity until he went behind the car on the street, and I heard a crash. I told the operator that he had broken a window and was in the car, and then asked if the police were coming. I then told her what was happening as the robber rifled through the glove box, behind the visors, etc. Then the robber jumped out of the car and ran back behind the neighbor's house. Suddenly four police cars zipped into the scene, two from each direction. Apparently there was a slight delay in transmitting my information to the officers, but soon two of the officers jumped back in their cars to head the robber off if he tried to go down the next street. Suddenly I noticed the white T-shirt of the robber behind the car in my neighbor's driveway. I yelled at the 911 operator that he was still behind the car in the driveway. Soon several policemen ran towards the car and wrestled the robber to the ground. I later found out that the whole 911 call had lasted less than 5 minutes, though it seemed an eternity. And the robber was a convicted felon (breaking into a car is a felony), and went straight back to jail, as he was violating parole. I did, however, still have to appear in court the next morning to identify him.

The police have always said that catching criminals breaking into cars was extremely difficult. I now understand why. The robber would always move away from the street anytime he

heard approaching cars. By the time any car came by, he would be well out of sight. Only with our help can the police be more effective at catching these criminals. And this is not to say that the police have not put away many of them. At a precinct meeting recently, arrest sheets on about 15 people picked up for vehicular robberies were passed around to the safety heads of the different neighborhood groups in our area. But the burglaries continue to occur. I really feel that the only way we can make our neighborhood any safer from these criminals is to revamp a Lake Claire Neighborhood Watch. We already have three donated cell phones from BellSouth Mobility to use for the watch. Anyone who is interested in the watch, please e-mail me at the address on the back of the newsletter. *~ Elizabeth Hamilton*

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Lake Claire Crime Statistics, September

- 9/01 - 1600 blk McLendon - apt burglary of electronics, screen in door and glass broken on patio door
- 9/03 - 2:45 200 blk Nelms - alarm sounded; police found broken window of rear door; robber apparently fled
- 9/02 - after 7pm, Howard Cir - driver window broken, windshield cracked
- 9/03 - after 8:30am 300 blk Gordon - rear window broken, fanny pack, 1st aid supplies and microscope stolen
- 9/02 - noon to 5pm, 1900 blk McLendon - unsecured mower stolen from carport
- 9/04 - 2:30pm, 500 blk Hardendorf - bike stolen from front porch
- 9/22 - after 8am, 300 blk Connecticut - attempted break-in, damage to window

We have \$3,660.82 in the bank, of which \$1,022.76 is in the general fund. The estimate of the net profit from the Tour of Homes is \$3,000, not yet been deposited into our account.

Lake Claire Neighbors is now a non-profit tax-exempt homeowners association. This means that we do not pay taxes on any income we receive or generate. However, as we are not a charity, dues and donations to LCN are not tax deductible.

~ Dennis McCarthy

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At this month's meeting Variance V-00-321 at **441 Ridgewood Road** will be presented for a **reduction of a side yard setback from 7 feet to 3 feet 8 inches**. The existing house is sited along the 3 foot 8 inch setback and the applicant seeks to follow that line in order to build an addition onto the back of the house. Lake Claire Community Watershed Guidelines will be appropriate since an increase in impervious surface will be created by the addition.


A second vote will be taken regarding a project which is being proposed for **Freedom Park**. The Bloch Foundation is requesting space on the east side of Moreland Ave., directly across from the Freedom Parkway entrance for the purpose of building a **Cancer Survivor Plaza**. The Foundation is proposing to contribute funds for the plaza and for landscaping in the nearby vicinity. A representative of the Freedom Park Conservancy will provide a more detailed presentation at our meeting.

The proposed **By-Laws at NPU-N** were overwhelmingly approved at the September vote. The City has already accepted the By-Laws and they will go into effect 1/1/2001. The new By-Laws will allow designation of one representative to NPU-N and as many as five alternates. This increases the probability of 100% attendance at each regular meeting.

The rezoning of the parcel on McLendon (associated with **McLendon Gardens**) which was supported at the last LCN meeting, received unanimous support at NPU-N's meeting. Robert Reed's presentation was unique, concise, and persuasive. Ask Robert for details.

Geoff will be arranging a meeting to prepare Lake Claire's portion of NPU-N's contribution to the 2002 **Comprehensive Development Plan** (CDP). The CDP is the primary policy document in Atlanta and each NPU contributes a "wish list" of projects. A separate meeting for persons interested learning how to participate in the CDP process will be arranged by NPU-N. There will very likely be a **"Quality of Life Improvements"** Bond issue on the November ballot. The proceeds will be divided among four categories, Sidewalks - \$48,500,000, Public Plazas and Greenspaces - \$26,950,000, Streets, Bridges and Viaducts - \$55,500,000, and Traffic Control Devices - \$19,000,000. The funds will be equally allocated to each Council District or to projects that have City-wide applications. While there are several projects in Councilor Woolard's District 6, with the exception of City-Wide bike paths, there seems to not be any specific projects in Lake Claire.

~ Bob Schreiber



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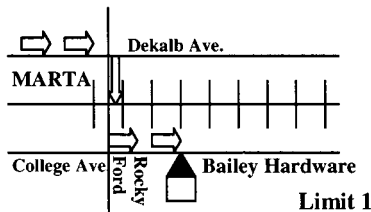
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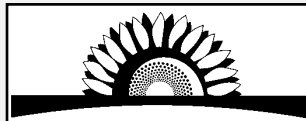
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Regular Monthly Meetings

Third Thursday, 7:30 pm Frazer Center Auditorium

- VP-FinanceDennis McCarthy, 404/378-2870
treasurer@lakeclaire.org
- VP-Public SafetyElizabeth Hamilton, 404/370-0744
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- Zone 6 Precinct404/371-5002
- APD Officer Bud Watsonpgr. 404/225-7085
- VP-CommunicationsRobbie Collins, 404/377-9553
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