



# Lake Claire

LAKE CLAIRE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 11, NUMBER

# Neighbors

## HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!

**W**e're starting the new millennium with newly elected officers, a different meeting time for our monthly gatherings, and a re-designed newsletter. Robbie Collins, Carol Mercer and Pat Marsh begin their term as President, VP-Public Safety, and VP-Communications, respectively. Dennis McCarthy remains our VP of Finance and Geoffrey Dunne continues his duties as VP of Planning and Zoning. Bob Schreiber will remain our NPU Representative, and has been named Chairman of the NPU. Beginning January, **the LC neighborhood meetings will commence at 7:00 p.m. We will still meet on the third Thursday of each month at the Frazer Center.** Pat Marsh, Ellie Diaz, Susan Beeching, Georgii

Billiris and myself will work collectively to bring you the newsletter. Ellie gets credit for the newsletter's new look. Pat will handle the advertising while Susan will focus on neighborhood activities with an emphasis on school and church activities. I'll be reporting the rest of the news and activities. Georgii Billiris will continue to get the newsletters delivered throughout the neighborhood. Many thanks go out to Marci Reed who has single-handedly produced the newsletter this past year. Marci has generously offered to stay involved with the newsletter on an as-needed basis. We're not going to let her off the hook that easily! Please contact me with any comments and feedback.

*Diane Moore, Editor (editor@lakeclaire.org)*

## LETTER FROM "EL PRESIDENTE" . . .

**T**he beginning of my term of office coincides with the New Year and so naturally I think of "resolutions" that I'd like to accomplish during 2001. I'd like to present them to you for your consideration and feedback. Please email me your comments to [prez@lakeclaire.org](mailto:prez@lakeclaire.org), write me in care of our post office box, or give me a call if you'd rather chat.

First, I'd like to revamp the newsletter to make it more newsy and less wonkish. We need info on legal and zoning hassles to be sure, but we also need to spotlight interesting neighbors, find out who teaches piano or tutors math, learn of neighborhood softball/soccer/baseball leagues, as well as who wants to play in a neighborhood band (me!). In other words, a neighborhood is people and we need to emphasize people in our newsletter.

Second, I think we need to organize yearly

neighborhood events that bring us face-to-face such as perhaps a street dance, a pool party, a Halloween costume contest, Christmas/Hanukah luminaries, maybe even a yearly Tour of Homes. Any ideas or interest in being on the events committee? Email our VP-Communications and Event Committee Chair Pat Marsh.

Third, I'd like to do a land-use evaluation of the DeKalb Avenue corridor from the Clifton Road to DeKalb Place. This area is ripe for redevelopment and rumors abound. Obviously, we would like to see neighborhood friendly development along DeKalb that ties into the neighborhood, but does not intrude. Perhaps we even need a Neighborhood Commercial District. Want to participate? Contact our DeKalb Avenue Committee Chair Stephanie Sansom at [dekalb@lakeclaire.org](mailto:dekalb@lakeclaire.org).

*(continued on page 2)*

### Neighborhood Meeting

Thursday, January 18, 7:00 p.m.

Frazier Center - 1815 S. Ponce de Leon

(or use back entrance at the end of Ridgewood Road - Auditorium in front of building)

### AGENDA

- Announcements
- Officers' Reports
- Variance Request: 1778 McLendon Avenue\*

\* Denotes issues which may be voted on during the meeting please read accompanying articles within the newsletter for details.

# LETTER FROM “EL PRESIDENTE”

(continued from page 1)

Fourth, I'd like to complete the McLendon Gardens Traffic Amelioration plan. Between the redevelopment of McLendon Gardens and future DeKalb Avenue developments, Hampton Terrace, Southerland Terrace, Gordon Avenue, and Oxford Place will be inundated with traffic and pedestrians. Will Griffin, chair of this committee, has identified some necessary infrastructure improvements to keep the situation manageable. These improvements include a 4-way stop at Gordon-Oxford-Southerland, a traffic light at either Southerland/DeKalb or Hampton Terrace/DeKalb, speed humps, and sidewalk improvements.

Fifth, I'd like to start the lobbying process to get our neighborhood plan implemented. I'd like to start with McLendon Avenue which needs narrowing, sidewalk completion and repair, repaving, and other items.

Sixth, I'd like to revise the LCN Bylaws to take into consideration our incorporation, non-profit status, and the change in the NPU Bylaws that occurred in 2000.

Seventh, I'd like to start planning for our 2002 submission to the Comprehensive Development Plan. This ties in with numbers (4) and (5) above as the CDP is the vehicle for funding and implementing long-range neighborhood improvements, as our able NPU rep Bob Schreiber keeps reminding us.

Eighth, I'd like to get the LCN Website revamp completed. We have a URL and a hosting service, but we are mainly linking to Access Atlanta web pages which are ugly and full of advertisements.

We need to have PDF files available for download on a variety of topics. We have a great Welcome Flyer for new neighbors, but we also need various "how-to" booklets on variances, zoning, and such to take some of the pain out of renovations. Want to help? Contact our Treasurer and Webmaster, Dennis McCarthy, at [webmaster@lakeclaire.org](mailto:webmaster@lakeclaire.org).

Lastly, and most controversially, I'd like to appoint a Neighborhood Deputy who will complete the training sessions given by the Office of Housing Code Compliance. Compared to prior decades, we have few major code violation problems. Nevertheless, I still field a number of phone calls and emails on the subject. In my area (I live on the corner of Gordon, Oxford, and Southerland) there are many illegal triplexes and several houses in great disrepair. Truthfully, I am a soldier for historic preservation. The houses up on Southerland Hill are a great asset to Lake Claire and Atlanta and they should be protected from neglect and remuddling. I certainly believe in property rights and markets, but I also recognize

that the pursuit of self-interest must be tempered by the realization that what is personally optimal and what is socially optimal are not necessarily the same thing.

Finally, I'd like to ask you to make a New Year's resolution to attend at least a few meetings this year, either a general meeting or a committee meeting. We will need to pull together to make these neighborhood improvements. I'd also like to ask you to support the Lake Claire Neighbors with your pocketbook. To merely implement the McLendon Avenue component of our neighborhood plan we may need to apply for grants, seek legal advice, perhaps even write legislation and lobby it through the City Council. We need your support and participation one way or another.

I'd like to wish you a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year and I hope to see you at the January 18<sup>th</sup> general meeting.

-Robbie Collins, President ([president@lakeclaire.org](mailto:president@lakeclaire.org))

## Lake Claire Neighbors Association

President	Robbie Collins	(404) 377-9553	<a href="mailto:president@lakeclaire.org">president@lakeclaire.org</a>
VP-Finance	Dennis McCarthy	(404) 378-2870	<a href="mailto:treasurer@lakeclaire.org">treasurer@lakeclaire.org</a>
VP-Public Safety	Carol Mercer	(404) 373-6683	<a href="mailto:safety@lakeclaire.org">safety@lakeclaire.org</a>
Zone 6 Precinct		(404) 371-5002	
APD Officer	Bud Watson	(404) 225-7085 pager	
VP-Communications	Pat Marsh	(404) 373-8982	<a href="mailto:comm@lakeclaire.org">comm@lakeclaire.org</a>
VP-Planning & Zoning	Geoffrey Dunne	(TBD)	<a href="mailto:zoning@lakeclaire.org">zoning@lakeclaire.org</a>
NPU Representative	Bob Schreiber	(404) 373-1947	
Newsletter Editor	Diane Moore	(404) 373-6358	<a href="mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org">editor@lakeclaire.org</a>

## FROM THE VP OF SAFETY . . .

For many years our neighborhood organization has had a VP of Public Safety whose duties have included compiling the crime stats, coordinating the safety patrol, and acting as contact person with our Zone 6 precinct. I wonder though, if these duties best fulfill the safety interests of LC residents. What purpose does it serve to report thefts if people are not willing to change their lifestyles so they don't become victims of crime? The majority of crime in LC is crime of opportunity. A house is left unlocked, bikes and lawn equipment

are left unsecured, cars are left with belongings in open view for a thief to take. Many persons I've spoken with feel we need a point person for the officers from Zone 6 to call if there is a problem. I can see where that part of "the job" would be very useful. And finally, what about the Safety Patrol? It seems that LC residents are satisfied with the protection offered by their home security systems. The low participation in the neighborhood safety patrol results in a program that often operates in the red. Instead of borrowing money

from the general fund to support this program, why not eliminate it?

If you have ideas or thoughts on what this position of VP of Public Safety should be please drop a note to my email address, call me before 8 p.m. **or come to a meeting.** To make this position work we need and want input from you!

Carol Mercer, VP Public Safety  
([safety@lakeclaire.org](mailto:safety@lakeclaire.org))



# INNOVATIONS IN PARENTING

Right here in Lake Claire we have one of the trained professional leaders of the new state-of-the-art parenting workshop, **Children are from Heaven**. Relationship expert Dr. John Gray of Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus fame, developed the workshop based on his book, Children are from Heaven. Norma Cloe, licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and longtime Lake Claire neighbor, is one of just a few U.S. practitioners who has been personally trained and certified by Dr. Gray to lead this workshop.

The workshop will help parents who want to provide a supportive environment in which their kids can thrive while creating and maintaining

a fulfilling life for themselves. We've all heard the complaint that children should come with manuals. "This is the closest thing to a how-to manual that I been able to find in my 25 + years of leading various parent education classes," says Norma.

In addition to leading workshops and her

private practice, Norma works with youngsters two days a week at Decatur High and Renfroe Middle schools. She also enjoys planting flowers. If you would like to know more about the **Children are from Heaven** workshop, please contact Norma at (404) 373-8034.

**Norma K. Cloe, Ed.S., CAC, LMFT, CCS**  
Counseling & Educational Services, Inc.

Individual, Group, Relationship Counseling,  
Seminars, Supervision, Hypnosis, EMDR

*Mars & Venus*  
Counseling Center

2001 Howard Circle, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30307  
(404) 373-8034  
(404) 373-5402 fax

## CALL FOR MUSICIANS . . .

The **Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra**, in residence at *Epworth Methodist Church*, is looking for string players, of **ALL** ages. We especially need violists and cellists. We could even use a bass violinist. Our group consists of musicians of all ages and abilities—as young as 8 years old on up to ....well, we're not telling. We have several parent-child members and our aim is to have fun. We rehearse every Saturday from 2:00-4:00 at Epworth. **Please come see us or call Susan Beeching at 404-371-1239 for more information.**

## CALL FOR DUES . . .

Neighborhood dues are \$20.00 per household. The Annual Security and Patrol Dues are \$50.00 and can be paid in two installments of \$25.00 each. Please make your check payable to the **Lake Claire Neighborhood Association**, and remit to:

Treasurer, Lake Claire Neighbors  
P.O. Box 5942  
Atlanta, GA 31107

Please help yourself by helping your neighborhood - it's where you live!

## LAKE CLAIRE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST HAPPENINGS

Probably the coolest place in the neighborhood is the Lake Claire Community Land Trust. As most of you know, the Land Trust property is located between Nelms and Arizona Avenues and has been developed as a "green space" for community use and enhancement by a non-profit incorporation of neighbors. The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Land Trust Holiday Craft Fair was held December 9 and 10 and proved to be a successful fund raising event. Then there was the famous Pet Parade led by Lake Claire's resident elf! One would think

that a man dressed up in an elf's costume complete with green tights would stand out in a crowd. That outfit was no match for the festive apparel donned by the dozen or so dogs dressed in regalia ranging from stylish sweaters to tutus. Accessories included hairpieces(!), stylin' collars, ornate jewelry and LOTS of glitter. This group strutted their stuff up and down Arizona Avenue and returned home winners of special prizes selected just for them.

## FROM THE LAKE CLAIRE GARDEN CLUB

Don't throw away those poinsettias! Instead, check out this website: [www.ecke.com](http://www.ecke.com). What do you do in the winter garden? On a wet and chilly December Saturday morning, LCGC members went to work clearing away unwanted plants to make way for a planting of spring bulbs. The planting took place on property tended by **The Lake Claire Garden Club**.

One of the initiatives of the club is the cultivation and maintenance of this triangular shaped plot of land located where Claire Drive and Lakeshore Drive intersect on McLendon Avenue, and designated by a metal post bearing the words

"Lake Claire Garden Club." New officers for the year 2001 were elected at the December meeting as follows: Martha Berry - President; Jane Merkle - Vice President; Vicki Powers - Treasurer; Diane Moore - Secretary. The LCGC meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of the month during the months of September through May. All residents and persons who live and work in lake Claire can be members.

Please e-mail [msb33\\_30307@yahoo.com](mailto:msb33_30307@yahoo.com) or call (404) 373-6358 for meeting information.







# PLANNING & ZONING UPDATE

## Variance Request - Status Report

Address: 1839 McLendon Avenue / rear of 367 Ivy Place

Owner/Applicant: Jennifer Bowers

Application Number: V-00-390

BZA Hearing Date: 05-January-2001 (Board of Zoning Adjustment, City Hall)

In order to be able to build on the landlocked lot at the rear of 367 Ivy place, the owner had applied for a variance from the zoning regulations which would allow for the elimination of the requirement of an independent driveway off of a public street and allow access through the rear lot of 1839 McLendon Avenue by means of an easement. This plan was presented at the Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting on 14-December-2000. It met with some opposition, but the majority of neighbors attending that particular meeting voted in favor of the application. At the subsequent NPU-N Meeting on 02-January-2001, the NPU Committee also voted in favor. However, at the BZA Hearing on 05-January-2001, the Board examined the plan in detail and found that the property does not meet all of the Zoning Ordinance criteria for granting a special exception. Furthermore, the owner's claim of hardship and "taking" of property which might be caused by denial of the

application was brought into question by one Board Member. Another Member also foresaw problems which could occur during construction of a new house behind the existing property on McLendon. The final BZA ruling on this variance request was - Denial Without Prejudice.

## Variance Request - New Application

Address: 1778 McLendon Avenue (corner of Leonardo Avenue)

Owner/Applicant: Dan Cmarich

Application Number: V-00-416

BZA Hearing Date: 02-February-2001 (Board of Zoning Adjustment, City Hall)

Owner has applied for a zoning variance to reduce the half-depth requirement for a front yard from 17.5 feet to 12 feet to allow for a deck addition. This is to replace an old concrete landing and iron stair-set structure originally attached to the house. Construction was already started on the new wood deck but has stopped completely until the matter is resolved and proper permits are obtained. Please come to the January Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting if you would like to vote on this variance request.

Geoffrey Dunne, VP Planning & Zoning ([zoning@lakeclaire.org](mailto:zoning@lakeclaire.org))

# PEAVINE WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Lake Claire contains one of the three branches of Peavine Creek. Our branch is named Fembank Fork. It begins near DeKalb Avenue, flows north under McLendon Avenue, through Lake Claire Park and the Cator-Woolford Gardens, then under Ponce de Leon Avenue where it eventually joins the Lullwater Fork and the Decatur Fork forming Peavine Creek near Emory Village. The Peavine Watershed Alliance is a group of neighborhood organizations working for improving the ecology of the waterways in our neighborhoods. One of our recent successes was the establishment of the **Druid Hills Peavine Park**, located on Emory University property adjacent to Peavine Creek behind the CVS Pharmacy in Emory Village. Many more events are planned for this new year. Please mark your calendars for the upcoming events:

° **Peavine Watershed Alliance Annual Meeting** - Tuesday, January 23, 2001, 7:00-9:00 pm at the Frazier Center, 1815 South Ponce de Leon Ave. Come learn about our efforts to clean up our streams. The event is free - please RSVP to Patricia Payne White at (404) 508-7603.

° **Adopt-A-Stream workshops** - learn how to use chemical and biological tests to monitor the health of streams, Saturday, February 10 and Saturday, February 17, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, at the Paideia School, 1509 Ponce de Leon Ave. The workshops are free - call Patricia Payne White at (404) 508-7603 to register.

To receive a free newsletter with more information about the activities of the Peavine Watershed Alliance, please call the Lake Claire representative Paul Hayward at 404-371-8942.

## NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTOR WANTED . . .

We're looking for someone to distribute newsletters to 11 houses on DeKalb Avenue every month. Please call Georgii Billiris at (404) 373-4523 for more info.

  
**Lake Claire Neighbors**  
P.O. Box 5942  
Atlanta, GA 31107

