



Lake Claire

FEBRUARY 2001 VOLUME 11, NUMBER 2

Neighbors

LAKE CLAIRE NEIGHBORHOOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

LAKE CLAIRE GETS A BED AND BREAKFAST!

Lake Claire now has its own bed and breakfast. Late this past October recent arrivals from Houston, Texas (via Florida and Connecticut), **Dona and George Reynolds**, opened the **Amity Bed & Breakfast** at 2007 Howard Circle. Opening a bed and breakfast had been their dream for a number of years and George's recent corporate transfer to Atlanta made it possible.



Amity Bed and Breakfast on Howard Circle

Both Dona and George are committed to creating a "home away from home" atmosphere in their five-year old Victorian. The B&B has two rooms, "Keith" and "Graham", named after Dona

and George's grown sons. The "Keith" room, on the first floor, has a double bed, a lovely sitting area, a huge closet and a private bath accessed via the hallway. The "Graham" room, on the second floor, has a queen bed, a large closet, two antique "thumb back" chairs and a private bath with direct access from the room. Each day a delicious full breakfast is served. Rates are very reasonable.

Dona and George encourage

you to stop by to look at the rooms and get to know what Amity Bed & Breakfast has to offer. Give them a call at **(404) 378-6033** or send them an e-mail at amitybedandbreakfast@yahoo.com

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Valentine's Day arrives the day before our February meeting. I wonder how many people believe it is just another special occasion courtesy of the marketing department at Hallmark Cards? Valentine's Day actually occurs on the ancient Roman holiday that honored Juno, queen of the gods, patroness of women and marriage. The Feast of Lupercalia followed on February 15. Part of the festivities included girls writing their names on slips of paper and placing the slips in jars from which they would be chosen by the boys. Girls

and boys were partnered this way for the duration of the festival. Around 265 A.D. the emperor Claudius II was having trouble recruiting soldiers, and thinking men were too attached to kith and kin, dissolved all marriages and engagements. The priests Valentine and Marius retaliated by secretly marrying couples. Valentine was condemned to death by Claudius for his efforts, though his martyrdom was rewarded with sainthood. Since then, February 14 has been known as St. Valentine's Day and many of the Lupercalian traditions have survived.

submitted by Robbie Collins

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING Thursday, February 15, 7:00 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

- Announcements
- Officers' Reports

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

The January meeting was short and sweet and populated by lots of new faces. I'm always amazed at the number of interesting people who live in Lake Claire. Of course, it could be that every neighborhood is full of interesting people, but I doubt it :-). The new **7:00 p.m. meeting time** really seemed to make a difference...we finished up at 8:30 p.m., if you can believe it. **Please put February 15 on your calendar.** If you can't make it this time, then please try to come to another meeting. Even if you're tied up with another volunteer effort, please support us with your dues. Better yet, come to the meeting and bring your checkbook!

I received several e-mails in response to last month's column. Lake Claire neighbor, **Joseph Pertraglia**, has some very interesting ideas on improving **Lake Claire Park**. He envisions capital improvements including brick walkways, a fountain, and other features to turn our park into a focal point. I walked the park after reading Joseph's e-mail just to refresh my memory. I must say, it's a great space, but sadly neglected. The tennis court needs resurfacing, the tennis net is missing, the railroad ties used to build the stairs and retaining walls are rotted and hazardous, the picnic shed is dirty and covered with graffiti, and many trees are in need of TLC. Our park has received attention in the past:



Robbie Collins

volunteers removed kudzu from the stream bed and replanted native species a couple of years ago. **Paul Hayward** is organizing a **Lake Claire stream cleanup** to take place **Saturday, April 28, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.** We'll keep you posted on the development of this neighborhood initiative.

I attended the President's Meeting hosted by our City councilperson **Cathy Woolard** in mid-January. Ms. Woolard will run for City Council President this November, thereby vacating her seat. I questioned her about this

decision and she said she thought she could be more effective if she could name committee chairs and set the Council agenda. Furthermore, she added, the City is due for redistricting and chances are that Lake Claire and Candler Park will be sliced off of District 6 and joined with either District 2 (Debi Starnes) or District 5 (Sherry Dorsey). I also was able to chat with **Greg Smith**, Candler Park's president and head of **F.A.I.R.** We agreed to work together on several issues including sidewalks.

Finally, if you have community spirit and want to get in on the fun, call or e-mail me. There are only about 10 people (plus our 20 faithful newsletter carriers) who shoulder 99.99% of all neighborhood responsibilities...not many considering the size of the 'hood. We sure could use help or, at least, encouragement. Don't you want to make a difference?

C ya at the meeting... *Robbie Collins*

FROM THE VP OF FINANCE . . .

There has been a good response for dues so far this year, but I know many of you are still holding off on sending them in. Well now's the time! Please send your check for \$70 (\$20 dues + \$50 security patrol) to:

Lake Claire Neighbors Association
P.O. Box 5942
Atlanta GA 31107

Your support helps ensure the association's continued success in serving you.

Lake Claire Neighbors Association

President	Robbie Collins	(404) 377-9553	president@lakeclaire.org
VP-Finance	Dennis McCarthy	(404) 378-2870	treasurer@lakeclaire.org
VP-Public Safety	Carol Mercer	(404) 373-6683	safety@lakeclaire.org
VP-Communications	Pat Marsh	(404) 373-8982	comm@lakeclaire.org
VP-Planning & Zoning	Geoffrey Dunne	(TBD)	zoning@lakeclaire.org
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APD Officer	Bud Watson	(404) 225-7085 pager	
Zone 6 Precinct		(404) 371-5002	

The monthly newsletter of *Lake Claire Neighbors* has been written and distributed by volunteers since 1991. Submissions are invited and welcomed. Contact editor@lakeclaire.org or call Diane Moore at (404) 373-6358. Advertising rates are \$12 per column inch and \$2/line for classified ads. Contact comm@lakeclaire.org or call Pat Marsh at (404) 373-8982. All ads are printed on a prepaid basis. Issue deadline for articles and advertising is the 25th of the month preceding publication.



“IN THE BEGINNING...”

AN INTERVIEW WITH LAKE CLAIRE NEIGHBOR, MR. SMITH

Imagine a neighborhood where you could walk to the drug store, the grocery store, the barbershop, the 5 and 10 store and grab a burger at the lunch counter. Where if you had a mind to, you could have your groceries delivered fresh from the market down the street (at Arizona and DeKalb). Where you didn't own a car and didn't need to—everything you needed was in the neighborhood. If you wanted to go downtown to pay your light bill you hopped on the streetcar at Arizona and DeKalb and rode for a nickel. If you wanted to go see your mother in Kirkwood, you walked, and on that walk you passed open fields and didn't have to negotiate the aboveground tracks because they weren't there.

This is the Lake Claire of the 30's, 40's

and 50's, as remembered by 60-plus-year resident, **Marion Smith**. Mr. Smith originally moved to Lake Claire as a young man in 1936. Since then, Mr. and Mrs. Smith have lived in four different houses on Connecticut Avenue.

Mr. Smith remembers that only three or four families on Connecticut Avenue actually owned cars. Everyone else walked or took the streetcar. When asked what has changed the most in the years he has lived here (besides taxes!) he and his wife both lamented the change in the definition of “neighbors”. Nowadays it seems that “neighbors” are merely people who live in proximity to one another. In times past, neighbors were people who kept an eye on your children as they played together and brought you chicken soup if you were under the weather. Real neighbors

had relationships, something that is missing today.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith can remember who lived in every house on the street, their names, how many children they had, the children's names and what everyone did for a living. (Apparently, this neighborhood was home to a lot of streetcar conductors.)

If you ever want to while away an hour or two, stop and see the Smiths. I had to tear myself away!

Submitted by Susan Beeching, aka Ms. Valerie Neville. Know of an interesting neighbor you'd like to see featured in Lake Claire Neighbors? E-mail your suggestions to editor@lakeclaire.org or call (404) 373-6358 .

FROM NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING UNIT-N...

Last year, new ordinances from the City of Atlanta required that NPU-N begin holding an annual vote, open to all residents, to accept the NPU's By-Laws. New By-Laws were submitted for approval by the Planning Department prior to September 30, as required. This year, the annual vote for By-Laws acceptance will be held in June. As a result of some of the major changes last year, a few issues have surfaced which are in need of remedy. Several amendments to the NPU-N By-Laws will be presented this month for initial discussion by the residents of member organizations. In April, votes at each of the NPU-N organizations will be taken to determine if any of the amendments should be included in the document. Final acceptance of the amendments will be voted on in June.

On a different note, in a few months, a major planning effort will be initiated throughout NPU-N in preparation for submitting a “wish list” of projects/programs to be included in the 2003 Comprehensive Development Plan. Significant changes

throughout the NPU are anticipated along Memorial Drive, Moreland Avenue, DeKalb Avenue, Ponce de Leon, and the old industrial areas which straddle the railroad corridor that crosses Ponce de Leon near Green's Liquor Store and continues south across Ralph McGill, under Highland Avenue and then to the Georgia Railroad on the south side of DeKalb Ave. By analyzing the current uses of property throughout the area, planning for future uses can be anticipated and managed.

The above planning concerns are in addition to the monthly activities of NPU-N. While there are 24 NPUs in the City of Atlanta, last year NPU-N reviewed approximately 1/10 of all variances to the Ordinances in the city and 1/7 of all rezonings. The ambience and amenities that make our neighborhoods attractive are the result of an established tradition of citizen involvement and activism. By getting involved in any of several activities, residents have an opportunity to have their desires incorporated in the planning process while

meeting a variety of interesting neighbors in the process.

Submitted by Bob Schreiber, President of and Lake Claire rep to NPU.

VIRTUAL LAKE CLAIRE...

The Lake Claire Neighbors website has a new look thanks to webmaster **Dennis McCarthy**. It contains some interesting new features. “**Newscast**,” an e-mail alert system, features announcements about happenings in and around Lake Claire, as well as reminders of up-coming meetings and events. To sign up or just learn more about “Newscast,” visit www.lakeclaire.org. An Open Discussion Forum has also been launched at www.lakeclaire.net an independent sister website. This e-mail based neighborhood forum has been created for the purpose of discussing anything and everything about Lake Claire. Good job Dennis!



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SKIING IN AND AROUND LAKE CLAIRE... CHURCH TIDINGS

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Lake Claire stylin' maven, **Ms. Valerie Neville!** From the **Buena Clara Social Club**—Ms. Ellery Whitehead, Ms. Virginia Hamm, Margauxx, Dame Harolde, and Ms. Trixie St. Claire.

GET YOUR FREE 30307 CALENDAR AT THE FEBRUARY LAKE CLAIRE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING. Candler Park neighbor, **Glenn Lopez**, has created a colorful visual guide of cool places in and around the hood. Check out his website at www.freelanceink.com.

Girl Scout Cookies Alert! Junior Girl Scouts and Brownies from Mary Lin will sell cookies at the following locations: **Epworth Church** on Sunday, March 11, at 12:30; **Gilded Angel** (at the corner of McLendon and Oakdale), Saturday, March 17, from 10:00 to 4:00; **Cotton Casuals** and **Pink Flamingos** on Saturday and Sunday, March 10 and 11, from 10:00 - 4:00 (rain date for Cotton Casuals and Pink Flamingos is Saturday and Sunday, March 17 and 18). Don't believe in delayed gratification? Call Brownie troop leader **Ann Shirra (404) 373-6486** and place your order now!

Donations Needed! Drop off that unused cell phone at **Donna Van Goghs Artists Market** located at 1651 McLendon Avenue. Phones are being donated to the **International Women's House**. Please include your name and address with phone. Hours: Mon-Sat 10-7. Sunday 10-6.

Dear **Mi**: Be My Valentine? Love, **Mi**

Dear **Wolfie**: Happy Valentine's Day! Love, **Wendell**

Bangalore Torpedoes rule!

Lake Claire Neighbors welcome the new baby girls on McLendon! **Katharine Marie Smart** was born on January 23, 2001. Congratulations, **Karen** and **Paul!** **Anna Elisabeth Boyden** was born on September 25, 2000. Congratulations, **Laura** and **John!**

To **Lola**: Happy Birthday! Love, **Vilma**.

11th Annual Glenn School Children's Clothing Sale will be held Friday, March 9, 2001, 9:30am-7:00pm and Saturday, March 10, 2001, 9:00am-2:00pm (Half-Price Day) at Glenn Memorial Youth & Activities Building, located at 1669 North Decatur Road. (Please no children or babies before noon!). Items for sale include clothing for girls and boys to size 14, shoes, baby stuff, maternity items, toys, books, games and videos. Bring your own shopping bag or basket. Sale benefits the **Glenn School for Young Children's Enrichment** funds. For more info, call **(404) 634-6494**.

Submit your announcement to editor@lakedaire.org, or call (404) 373-6358. Deadline is the 25th of every month following the LC neighborhood meeting. We need to hear from YOU!

Clifton Presbyterian Church

Interim Pastor **Carol Rahn** expressed great delight in being contacted by this intrepid reporter. The church is anxious to increase their involvement in our community and one way to do that is to inform the residents about activities at the church. February 28, 2001 will be the **Ash Wednesday service** at 7:30. April 12, 2001 will be the **Maundy Thursday service**, also at 7:30. **Easter Sunday** is April 15, and the service will be at 11:00 with a community lunch afterward. Services every week are Sunday at 11:00 and on Wednesday evening at 7:30. You can contact the church at **(404) 373-3253**.

Epworth Methodist Church

Rev. Guy Kent is also excited about Epworth's increased involvement in the community. While actually located in Candler Park, this church serves our neighborhood as well and has been doing so for many, many years. Their services are at 11:00 on Sundays with church school at 9:45. Epworth will be hosting a concert on the third Thursday of every month beginning in February (except in April). Our own neighborhood string orchestra, **The Four Seasons Orchestra**, will be playing there soon. The Four Seasons is "in residence" at Epworth, thanks to Rev. Kent's commitment to serving the needs of the community. The church office can be reached at **(404) 525-4746**.

Submitted by Susan Beeching

FROM THE VP OF PLANNING & ZONING...

Variance Request - Status Update

Address: **778 McLendon Ave**
Owner/Applicant: **Dan Crnarich**
Application No.: **V-00-416**
BZA Hearing Date: **February 2, 2001**

Owner had 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. Mr. Crnarich presented his plans at the last LCN Meeting. It became clear that the variance was required to replace an old concrete landing originally attached to the side of the house. Construction of the major part of the new wooden deck would be to the rear of the house. It was recorded that the adjacent neighbors

supported the deck addition. It was also noted that there might be some difficulty at the BZA level because construction had already started (although halted until proper permits were obtained). Regardless, the LCN vote was to approve the application. At the subsequent NPU-N Meeting on January 25, 2001, the recommendation was also to approve.



TREE CONSERVATION LEGISLATION

Did you know there is a tree ordinance in effect for the City of Atlanta that is governed by the City of Atlanta Tree Conservation Commission? When a property owner or developer submits plans to the city to remove trees, they must post their property with signage that indicates which trees are slated for removal. This gives other citizens the ability to come to the Bureau of Buildings to view the plans, and to file an appeal with the arborist if they want to contest removal of the trees. These appeals are heard by the Tree Conservation Commission prior to any tree removal being allowed. The following are some of the guidelines:

- A permit must be obtained from the Bureau of Buildings before destroying or removing any tree six inches or greater in diameter at breast height from any private property.
- Failure to obtain a proper permit can result in fines of up to \$1,000.00 per tree against the property owner or developer.

■ Once preliminary approval to remove trees is obtained by the city arborist, the property will be marked to notify the public that particular trees will be removed.

■ Trees that are permitted to be removed during development must be replaced on site, inch for inch, where feasible. Any citizen has the right to appeal a proposed tree cutting or tree replacement plan within 15 days of preliminary plan approval by the city arborist.

In an effort to enhance the effectiveness of the tree ordinance, City Council member **Cathy Woolard** has introduced legislation that increased the number of members on the city's Tree Conservation Commission. If you believe the requirements of this ordinance are being violated, contact the Tree Conservation Commission **(404) 330-6070**.

Parts of this article were excerpted from the December issue of Cathy Woolard's District 6 News, with permission. You can contact Cathy at (404) 330-6049, or cwoolard@ci.atlanta.ga.us

PEAVINE WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Beginning in February, developers and private homeowners in unincorporated DeKalb County will have to leave at least 75 feet of undisturbed land between new construction and a stream. The new law was approved by the DeKalb Board of Commissioners in December as part of an effort to update the county's 25-year-old development code. The new rules also include a provision requiring builders to take into account the effect of storm-water runoff farther downstream when deciding the type of storm-water management structures to use. (AJC, 1/15/2001). Unfortunately for those of us in Lake Claire, this new law does not apply. City of Atlanta laws mandate only a 25 foot buffer between new construction and a stream. City laws take precedence over county laws. We hope that continued education and pressure will help Atlanta see the wisdom in protecting our streams. Numbers to call for erosion

and land buffer disturbances:

- **City of Atlanta (404) 330-6990**
- **City of Decatur (404) 377-6198**
- **DeKalb County (404) 371-2517**
- **State EPD Office (404) 675-6240**

Peavine Watershed Alliance presentation at the next LCN meeting. **Lake Claire stream cleanup — Saturday, April 28, 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon**, location to be announced. Call **Paul Hayward**, Lake Claire liaison to PWA, at **(404) 371-8942** if you would like to help organize this event.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

Mary Lin Elementary School:

On February 16, 2001 from 8:00-9:00 a.m., parents of rising kindergarten students as well as the children themselves are invited to the second **Parent-Child Visit**. They are invited to sit in a class and tour the building. Please call **Lila Bradley** at **(404) 373-3711** or email **Lila** at **lilalynn@aol.com** for more information.

Inman Middle School:

The Inman jazz band, **The Jazz Eagles**, played a second spectacular concert at the new Borders on Ponce on January 20, 2001. **Rick Rodriguez**, the director, led the group in many old jazz favorites. If you have never heard this wonderful group of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders play like professionals, have no fear! You can buy their CD, **First Flight**, at **Borders** on Ponce. All proceeds are channeled back to the school for the band program.

Henry Grady High School:

Grady High School has been named a **Georgia School of Excellence** for the year 2001, by the State Department of Education. They also received a Title I Distinguished School Award from the U.S. Department of Education in recognition of their success with at-risk students. **Sarah Bryant**, President of the PTSA, tells us that their meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month. The next one will be March 6, at 7:30 in the theater. On Tuesday, February 13, Grady's principal, **Dr. Murray**, is holding a coffee in the media center. Everyone is welcome. For more information about the school (and some cool photos), try **www.gradyhighschool.org**.

Submitted by Susan Beeching

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

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NOOK AND CRANNY MAID SERVICE

WE DON'T CUT CORNERS—WE CLEAN THEM!

Licensed-Bonded-Insured-Dependable.

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FOR SALE Beautiful antique cherry roll-top desk completely refurbished. Call Bruce (404) 373-6358.

FOR SALE Ski Lake Claire bumper stickers and vintage Lake Claire t-shirts. Call Pat (404) 373-8982

FOR SALE 1990 Subaru Sedan - white, automatic, A/C, cassette stereo, 107K miles, no rust - Good Condition! Call Allyson (404) 378-2878

Lake Claire Neighbors is now accepting Classified Ads at the prepaid rate of \$2/line. Contact Pat Marsh (404)373-8982 or comm@lakeclaire.org to submit your ad.



Lake Claire Neighbors, Inc.

P.O. Box 5942

Atlanta, GA 31107

www.lakeclaire.org

LCN is a non-profit, tax exempt homeowners association. Dues and gifts are not tax deductible. Membership consists of all residents and homeowners in the Lake Claire neighborhood.





Lake Claire Neighbors, Inc.
P.O. Box 5942
Atlanta, Georgia 31107

February Agenda Update

News Flash: A proposal to reword Article V of the *Lake Claire Bylaws* will be voted on at the February general meeting.

Current Bylaws read:

ARTICLE V: Membership Qualifications

Any person of voting age who resides, owns property in, owns a business in, or operates a business in the Lake Claire neighborhood is eligible for membership in the organization and is thereby entitled to one vote at the organization's meetings.

Suggested Revision of Bylaws:

ARTICLE V: Membership & Voting Qualifications

Any person of voting age who resides, owns property, or owns a business in the Lake Claire neighborhood is considered a *de facto* member of the organization.

Members are entitled to one vote on all motions at the organization's general meetings except for motions that are recommendations to NPU-N . Members are entitled to one vote on NPU recommendations provided they have

- attended 2 general meetings in the past 12 months, or
- attended 1 meeting in the past 12 months and whose dues are current, or
- attended 1 meeting in the past 12 months and contributed 2 hours of community service to Lake Claire.

Other News:

Two new committees need your help:

Park Committee: Joseph Petraglia, Chair, park@lakeclaire.org (email)

The Park Committee will formulate plans for improvements to Lake Claire Park, identify funding sources, coordinate with Parks Department and Park Pride.

Sidewalk Committee: no chairman yet.

The Sidewalk Committee will identify broken and missing sidewalks, formulate plans for repair, fundraising, coordinate with other neighborhood sidewalk groups, etc. If interested contact Robbie Collins, sidewalk@lakeclaire.org (404-377-9553).