



Over 100 Residents Show Support at City Hall

by Kathy Evans



A dozen or more Lake Claire kids and their friends sat in laps and played on the floor between the rows of seats in the City Council chambers during the July 5 Council Meeting. Hard to say whether the youngsters took in the civics lesson as some 100 Lake Claire residents and other supporters of the Harold Avenue greenspace acquisition attended the early afternoon Council meeting.

Residents of Lake Claire, Kirkwood, Edgewood, Candler Park, and elsewhere in the city took to the podium to voice support for the neighborhood-initiated request to protect parcels on Harold Avenue, and therefore the spring-fed headwaters of Peavine Creek that cross the property and the adjacent 33-acre old growth Frazer Center Forest.

Mayor Franklin had vetoed the ordinance that would have finalized the City's purchase of the Harold Avenue greenspace, culminating several years of work by Lake Claire residents and the office of Councilwoman Natalyn Archibong. The Mayor cited procedural concerns and concerns about how the City would manage the space. While the veto was sustained at the July 5 Council meeting, a new "paper" was introduced to address the Mayor's concerns. Later in July, this revised ordinance was sent forward by the Council's Finance Committee. The Mayor's office subsequently met with representatives of Lake Claire to learn more about the site. At press time, the full Council had not yet considered the revised ordinance. Not too often do we get a 100 people from Lake Claire to do anything!

New Library opens in East Atlanta

On Saturday July 9, 2005 over two hundred citizens from Council District 5 attended the dedication of the new East Atlanta Library on Flat Shoals Rd in the East Atlanta Village. This 5000 sq ft branch library features soaring open spaces, great natural lighting, a community plaza and all the state of the art technology libraries are now showcasing. Elected officials Councilwoman Natalyn Archibong, Rep Joanne McClinton, Fulton County Chair Karen Handel, all stressed the value of this quality of life resource to the neighborhoods of District 5. Judging from the happy expressions on the faces of everyone in attendance this new library is going to be a tremendous asset to our part of the city. I encourage you to visit and use this convenient and beautiful new facility. *Submitted by Dan White*



Lake Claire Neighbors, Agenda for General Meeting: August 18, 2005

Frazer Center - 1815 S. Ponce de Leon or back entrance at end of Ridgewood Rd.

Social Time 6:30-7:00 PM (pizza and beverage)

Meeting Starts 7:00 PM

Guest Speakers & Announcements

*Recognition of elected officials and special guests that are present

Current Issues for Discussion

*Update on Harold Ave. greenspace

*LCNA exec comm. mtg Tues Aug. 9, 7:30pm - 362 Connecticut Ave

*Dues drive/fundraising

*Pavilion update in Lake Claire Park

*Stop sign update

Officers' Reports

*Public Safety-Randy Byrd

*Treasurer's Report

Volunteer & LCNA Member Reports

*Anyone with issues they wish to bring to the membership

Variances & Zoning Requests

*1971 Palifax Dr.: Todd Bradshaw requests variance to build a garage

*1950 DeKalb Ave & 255 Southerland Terrace (Site of Hayes Auto)

*Change zoning to allow construction of 18 townhouses by Plinth Group

July Meeting Decisions

*Approved conditional variance request of proposed plans for 9 unit condo development at 1812, 1820 & 1826 DeKalb Ave.

*Approved Exec Committee to enter into memorandum of understanding with the City of Atlanta for passive greenspace on Harold Ave.


Buy a Piece of Natural History!

Bold, bright, and rife with natural wonder... Not the words you think of when you hear DeKalb Avenue? Help change that! We are working with a professional muralist to design and paint a 340-foot mural that will be attached to the wall spanning the block between Connecticut and Arizona Avenues. The mural will highlight the natural history and environmental infrastructure that underlies and supports life in Atlanta, and right here in Lake Claire.

Atlanta is the meeting point for ten stream basins, which supply two very different River basins – the Chattahoochee which carries water into the Appalachian River and ultimately into the Gulf of Mexico; and the South River, which flows into the Ocmulgee and Altamaha Rivers and ultimately into the Atlantic Ocean. The two major river basins converge in Atlanta’s downtown business district. The resulting ridgeline, known as the sub-continental divide, runs along the ridge line that originates east of Atlanta and travels westward along DeKalb Avenue.

The mural will remind us of these wonderful realities as it illustrates waterways and the flora and fauna waterways support as they meander across Georgia to the Gulf and Atlantic.

Join the effort by providing your financial support or volunteering to help: Giving levels range from the “Water Strider” at \$50 to the “Great Blue Heron” at \$1,500 and up. All contributors will be listed on the mural. (See insert or mail donations to: LCN Mural, PO Box 5942, Atl, GA 31107; call 404.234.9603 or write zoning@lakeclaire.org to volunteer or for more information).



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Fire Creates Need at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

At three in the morning on Monday, July 18 someone broke into the basement at Clifton and started a fire. By the grace of God, no one was hurt, and the building was not destroyed. But the electricity, telephone, water and sewer, all of which run through the basement, were badly damaged. Then two nights later a second fire broke out in the basement. This one was much worse and heavily damaged two offices and the kitchen.

Temporary shelter has been arranged for the men at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church and Epworth United Methodist Church. We're tremendously grateful to both for their hospitality. The program is continuing without interruption. The staff is carrying on the business of running the shelter while coping with the many problems caused by the fire. Volunteers continue to volunteer. Our guests continue to receive hospitality.

We have insurance, and the adjustor and contractor have already been out inspecting the building. But as you know if you've ever had to file an insurance claim, it won't pay for everything. And it won't pay right away.

The fires weren't in our budget. And these extra expenses are coming at the worst possible time, since the donations that support us tend to drop off in the summer, and our cash reserves are quite low.

Can your help? Our ability to survive this setback literally depends on the generosity of the friends of Clifton Sanctuary Ministries.

Donations are tax-deductible and may be sent to Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, 369 Connecticut Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30307. *Submitted by Michael Thurmond, Board President*



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LOCAL DOINGS'

Book donations sought. The Frazer Center is now accepting donations of books of any kind to be sold in September to raise funds for the Center's many programs. Fiction, nonfiction, children's books, books on tapes, and more are needed to make this event a success. Books can be dropped off at The Frazer Center and all donations are tax-deductible. Drop Off Address: 1815 Ponce de Leon Avenue. For more information, contact Jaime Brown, 404.377.3836

Fun Fitness Fall Boot Camp @ Candler Park.

Former Army Reservist and ISSA Certified Fitness Trainer Jaye Crawford is offering her first fall event September 7-October 31. The Level I Introductory Course is ideal for beginner/intermediate fitness levels and first-time campers and will be held 7pm Wed. & 10am Sat. The Level II Advanced Course is for individuals with an above average level of fitness and returning campers, and will be offered 7pm Mon. & 830am Sat. Each 90 minute class focuses on Army-style calisthenics and grass drills, fun team races, and a one to two mile cardio session through the park. The class concludes with meditative stretching. Register by Friday Septem-

ber 2. For more info, call Jaye at 404.378.5775!

Raising Socially-Conscious Children. On Thursday, August 18, at 7:30 pm, Charis Books is hosting the mother/daughter team of Beth-Ann Buitekant, PsyD, B.S.N. and Ruby-Beth Buitekant. This school psychologist and incoming college freshman will discuss how to best equip the next generation to address oppression in all its forms. Charis Books & More, in Little 5 Points, 1189 Euclid Ave. For more information call (404) 524-0304 or go to www.chariscircle.org.

Pavilion Update. Parks Commissioner Diane Harnell Cohen has approved Lake Claire Neighbors' request to update and improve the pavilion in Lake Claire Park. The work to be done includes replacing the rusted metal roof with cedar shakes, installing bench rails on three sides of the structure, painting the posts a cedar color, staining the concrete floor, and installing picnic tables, as well as landscaping the perimeter. We have budgeted \$1500 for the work to be done and invite all carpenters or contractors interested in doing the work to contact me at President@lakeclaire.org. We hope to have it ready by Labor Day.



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How did the churches disappear?

by Megan Gideon Swift

Has anyone else noticed? Clifton Men's Shelter now occupies the former Clifton Presbyterian Church on McLendon. Kashi Atlanta yoga studio has taken over the independent church that was on the corner of Nelms and McLendon. The 100 plus year old Candler Park Baptist Church at the corner of Iverson and Candler Park Drive regrettably announced it was closing its doors this summer. I suspect that ever shrinking neighborhood membership led the congregations to admit their inability to support the expenses of running their churches.

My family began attending Epworth United Methodist

Church at Candler Park ("Epworth UMC") several years ago. For many years my husband and I had postponed finding a "church home". We decided that we wanted our children to experience organized religion in a liberal setting. We realized that Epworth UMC was at the heart of our community, in both a physical sense and in our own daily lives. Epworth UMC served us on many levels as a community center. We participated in Cub Scout awards dinners, neighborhood association meetings, community orchestra practices, and after-school care. We voted at Epworth. The Sierra Club meets there. We decided to give back to the church that was already central in our lives.

Like any organization, a church needs money to pay its bills. These funds come primarily from the congregation. Often times, local churches with national affiliation are expected to send funding in support of the national structure. As congregations shrink because families move to the suburbs or devoted older members slowly pass on, the church must survive on contributions from a smaller and smaller group. Expenses do not decrease, but on the contrary continue to mount.

A valued neighborhood institution, Epworth UMC has been a foundation rock for the surrounding community for generations. The education building, sanctuary and fellowship hall are very old buildings that require a lot of

continued on p.6

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THE CATHOLIC SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Churches from p.5

upkeep. Capital improvements like new roof, columns, doors, and paint have proudly been accomplished. The relentless day to day maintenance, utility bills, insurance, etc. finds the Epworth UMC congregation facing the same crisis other in-town neighborhood churches have faced: Too few members to adequately maintain even the physical property.

Since becoming members, we have learned a lot about other programs that Epworth UMC hosts or has hosted, including the Gentle Spirit gay church, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, a needle exchange program, a literacy program, etc. We are proud to belong to a church that opens its doors to people from all walks of life. And we wonder, what will happen to all these programs if Epworth's congregation can no longer support the church and it must close the doors?

If you have ever considered visiting (or supporting) Epworth UMC, don't delay. Whatever your religious convictions, you can probably find a kindred spirit at Epworth. Though not always a perfect fit for me, it is a place of great community where people work together to try and improve the lives of others. The energy of working together with others towards a common goal is magical.

If you wait too long, Epworth UMC may not be there for you or your children. And what will that mean for

our greater community?

Join us for worship at 11:00 a.m. any Sunday morning!
Sunday School begins at 9:45.

YOU can make a BIG Difference!

All it takes is \$20 from 500 of the more than 1,300 Lake Claire households to raise the necessary funds for neighborhood initiatives such as: Improvements in Lake Claire park including a new pavilion; landscaping in the newly acquired greenspace on Harold Avenue; establishment of pathways in the Frazer Center woods; creation of a mural on DeKalb Avenue at the Arizona co-housing; and continued support of the Clifton Sanctuary and Frazer Center. Add your name to the growing list of neighbors who are willing to invest in their quality of life. Please, stop what you're doing and write that check! It'll only take a few seconds. **Make your checks payable to Lake Claire Neighbors and mail to LCN, attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107.**



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KEEP AN EYE ON THE CRIME AND THE TIME

Late June and July Crime Stats For Lake Claire and Candler Park

RAPE

Sat/Sun 7/23 - 7/24 11:30 p.m.-1:00 am – Terrace Ave/ Candler Park Golf Course. A woman jogging alone near Candler Park golf course was severely beaten and raped. A suspect has been arrested.

ROBBERY

Thurs. 7/7 3:20pm – 3:25pm – 400 Freedom - Attempted Carjacking. The Victim stated that she was stopped at the traffic light at Freedom Parkway and North Highland facing Northbound, when an older model SUV, dark blue in color, tapped her car from behind. She exited the vehicle to see if there was any damage. The passenger of the suspect vehicle exited his vehicle grabbed her, and threw her to the ground. He got in her vehicle, and drove away, but stopped approximately 50 feet from where he started, and exited the vehicle, and drove away going Eastbound on N. Highland. Suspect: Male North Carolina Basketball jersey, and blue jeans..

AUTO THEFTS(1), ATTEMPTED(1),

Recovered(0)

--Mon. 6/27 5:00pm - 6/28 4:00pm – 300 Arizona Ave. – Keys left in trunk. 1998 VW Jetta, Black, tag BW244Q.
 --Mon. 6/27 3:00pm - 4:30pm – 400 Sterling St. Unlocked vehicle, steering column broken. Radio taken. 1991 Buick Park Ave.

LARCENY FROM AUTO

--Fri. 7/1 8:00am - 3:30pm – 400 Leonardo Ave. – The victim parked the vehicle on the street and when returned found the car stereo ripped out of the dash.
 --Sun. 7/3 6:30pm – 7/5 11:00pm – 300 Arizona Ave. – The vehicle was parked at the residence and when the owner returned he found the passenger’s window broken out and the MP3 Stereo stolen.
 --Weds. 7/6 2:15am – 1800 Indiana –The victim stated that he heard glass break out in front of his house and saw a W/ M 5’10” 170 lbs 30-40 yrs walking down the street with his audio speakers. Subject dropped the speakers and ran when he saw the victim.
 --Thurs. 7/7 9:00pm – 7:00am – 300 Ferguson St. – The vehicle was parked in the driveway overnight with the doors unlocked. When the owner returned noticed the missing items. Taken: iPod, Cell Phone.

**Seems like a lot of iPods, cell phones and MP3 players are targeted. Don't leave valuables in view, no matter how small.

LARCENY OTHER

--Mon. 6/27 5:00pm - 5:30pm – 300 Southerland Ter. – Herbie Curbie garbage container taken from in front of house.
 --Wed. 6/29 12:00pm to 12:05pm – 1600 McLendon Ave. – Suspect stole items and fled Suspect: B/M 5’7”, 160 lbs., dark complexion
 --Sat. 7/9 11:00pm - 7/10 3:00pm –200 Casson St. – Trailer/ Bobcat/ TAG 72953AB/ Someone cut the lock off the fence securing the equipment. The bobcat has “ Albert Kleinbub and Slaby” on the side.

BURGLARY

Mon. 6/27 8:00am – 7:00pm – 400 Claire Dr. – Garage Window broken. The victim reported that someone broke out the rear garage window with a brick and stole a tool from the garage.



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Kamping Out for Higher Ed

by Boyd Baker

When my wife first told me I thought it sounded crazy. When she admitted she wanted to participate I thought, "Have fun." When she said she wanted ME to camp out I knew I was doomed.

The rumor mill in life usually likes to blow things out of proportion but this is one case where reality is stranger than fiction. If you live in the City of Atlanta and would like your kid to get in a pre-k program like the one offered at Mary Lin Elementary, you're gonna pay. I don't mean you'll have to shell out money because our wonderful lottery funds the Georgia Pre-K program. What you'll have to donate is time...camping time. Since Mary Lin has only one pre-k class of 20 kids, camping out is the method of choice for deciding who gets in and who doesn't. Much fairer than arm wrestling I guess, but just as odd.

There's an above-ground network of parents that talk about this Great Kamp Out for months prior to the actual event. See this democratic process begins with you parking your car near Mary Lin Elementary alongside the golf course. Car #1 means you are #1 in line. Now there is no "official" date to start car camping. One only knows the actual day when registration will take place at Mary Lin and



that is determined by the State. This year that day was on a Thursday morning. Car #1 showed up Saturday night at midnight! The gauntlet was thrown down. Word spread like wildfire through the toddler community. Conversations all started to begin with, "When are you getting in line?"

Fortunately for me, when the wife heard that the Kamp Out began on Saturday night, she wrote it off. We both work and that's just too exhausting on top of raising two kids. Unfortunately for me, when there were only 19 cars lined up on Wednesday, she thought one night's displeasure was worth the cost...to me.

I was to spend the night in the car (or in the side building the school so graciously opened so we could unroll sleeping bags and listen to hushed conversations or the snoring of other desperate parents). The next morning one of the parents brought Krispy Kreme doughnuts, another brought McD breakfast sandwiches and there was hot coffee for all. As the bedraggled stood in line according to their car's position in the street, some latecomers were irate that this system had excluded them but we could not be blamed for their lack of research. "Sour grapes" was the common refrain amongst the kammers.

As the registration began everyone brightened at the thought of a hot shower and a return to creature comforts. Entering the building to fill out my forms the woman asked, "What number are you?"

"21," I responded.

"Just sign the Waiting List with your phone number and we'll contact you if someone drops out. Last year #21 & #22 both got in," she said cheerily.

So now we look forward to the 5% chance that someone's mother will be transferred out of state, somebody's father will decide to take the family on a year-long sailing adventure or some 4-year old willfully demands another year just to be a kid. Keep your fingers crossed.

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