



## Will this be Lake Claire's new landmark?

"I knew the mural sounded like a good project but I had no idea it was so elaborate. It'll be a landmark for the whole area," said Pat Marsh when she took a first look at the proposed design for the Watershed Mural. The mural will be a full color work of art covering some 5,000 square feet of the retaining wall that belongs to Lake Claire Community Housing and runs along DeKalb Avenue between Connecticut Avenue and Arizona Avenue. It will combine techniques of painting directly on the wall as well as painting on panels that will be cut out and incorporated into the design, giving emphasis and a three dimensional effect.

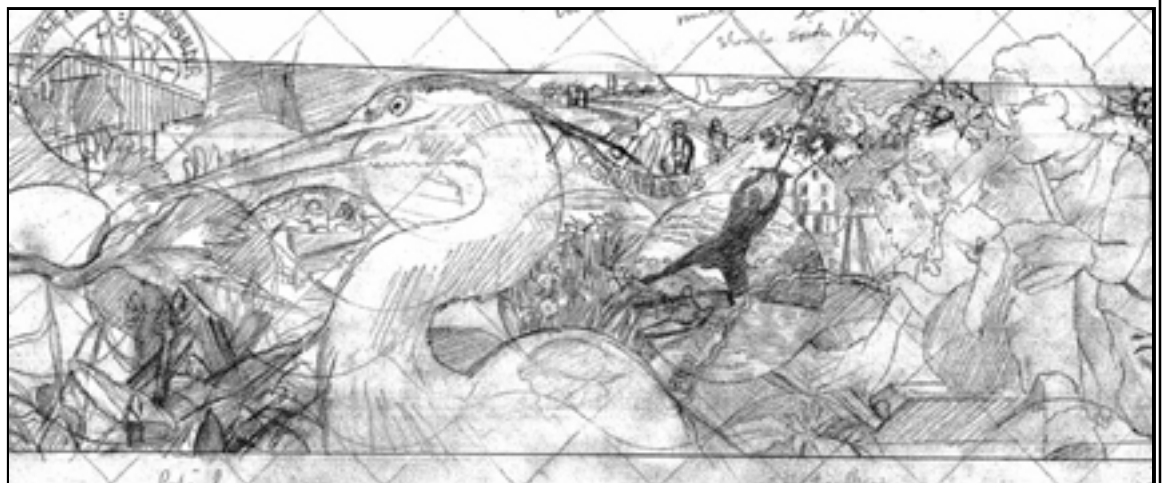
The idea for the mural project originated when neighborhood volunteers in the Frazer Center Forest were examining the source of storm water that is causing stream bank erosion in the forest. They learned that the "top" of the watershed lies in Lake Claire since the Eastern Sub-continental Divide runs along the neighborhood's boundary at DeKalb Avenue. The Sub-continental Divide separates water that ultimately flows to the Atlantic Ocean from water that flows to the Gulf of Mexico.



Kathy Evans, one of the Frazer volunteers recalls, "I thought, this is such an interesting and unique piece of information about our neighborhood that everyone should know. It's one of those natural features that gets buried under the modern infrastructure. I would like to see a tangible reminder that we are at the edge of these two watersheds, and that through them are connected to so many other forms of life and natural features from here to the Gulf and from here to the Atlantic. It's easy to forget the natural infrastructure that supports our life in this urban environment, especially when you drive or ride the train along an urban corridor like DeKalb Ave. "

Kathy was contemplating the idea of a mural to illustrate all of these connections when she bumped into neighbor, Bill Fleming, while out walking her dog. She began to tell Bill about the concept, not knowing that Bill had worked on several other Atlanta murals and that he knew the nationally renowned muralist, David Fichter. Bill was so enthusiastic about the idea that he wrote a proposal the very next day, volunteered to submit it to Marta to get permission to place the mural on one of the many walls they own along DeKalb Avenue. The original concept would have been to do a mural on each side of DeKalb, illustrating the respective watersheds of each side. Marta, however, would not grant permission to place public art on their properties and Community Housing was happy to offer its massive wall for a single large mural.

The Frazer Center Forest volunteers, after evaluating erosion problems in the forest, developed an acute awareness of the important connection between trees and the watershed, and all of the benefits that tree provide for the urban environment in terms of storm water management, reduction of



water and air pollution, aesthetic enhancement, shade, and reduction of energy consumption. Fittingly, the project received its major funding from an Urban Forestry Grant from the Georgia Forestry Commission. The Watershed Project included the creation of the mural itself as well as a series of workshops on watersheds with elementary and pre-school children, and adults.

Additional funding has been received from the DeKalb Council for the Arts, The Atlanta Mural Project, Lake Claire Neighbors neighborhood association, and individual supporters. Countless hours have been given to the project by Glen Frankel, Barry Stewart-Mann, Dan White, Doug Barlow, Kathryn Kolb, and many others. Please join the effort!

David Fichter will be here from Boston for the first two weeks of January to begin painting. We need volunteers during that period as well as when he is gone so that we make progress before his next visit. The wall was just primed and prepared for his January trip when the application of the Gulf side (left) will begin!

The artist has created the design with input from participants in the workshops and researchers here. It will include some of the most picturesque of the flora and fauna of the waterways of the southeast, woven onto a river map the emanates from the center image of the Sub-continental Divide. To view a sketch of the mid-section to the Gulf, see the Watershed Mural at [www.lakeclaire.org](http://www.lakeclaire.org).

We need artists of all skill levels to paint 5,000 square feet! We need help especially during the month of January when the muralists will be here to give direction. If you or your group would like to pitch in, please contact Kathy Evans at [mural@lakeclaire.org](mailto:mural@lakeclaire.org) or 404.234.9603.

All supporters of the mural will be listed on the mural itself, with donors featured in categories ranging from Water Strider (\$50), River Cooter (\$100), Water Tupelo (\$250), Great Blue Heron (\$1,000) and up! Please join the effort and add your name to this landmark mural. Mail donations to **Lake Claire Neighbors Treasurer, P.O. Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107**. Beautiful certificates of ownership will be issued if you'd like to make gift donations. **For more information on the mural and an example of Fichter's past work see [www.lakeclaire.org](http://www.lakeclaire.org)**



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The Clarion will run a column by a different officer of the Lake Claire Neighborhood Association each month, where officers can briefly introduce themselves and the latest issue in their area of representation for the neighborhood.

## Meet Your LCNA Officer: Dan White, President



Dan White will be serving his third term as President of LCNA in 2006. Raised in Yatesville Georgia, Dan is a carpenter by trade specializing in energy efficient housing. He is co-founder of the Rural Library Project ([www.rurallibraryproject.org](http://www.rurallibraryproject.org)) a non profit that helps small rural cities build energy efficient new public libraries. Dan serves on the Atlanta Tree Commission and volunteers at Our Lady of Perpetual Help cancer hospice and with Friends of the Frazer Forest. Dan Has lived in Lake Claire since 1987.

### A Review of 2005 in Lake Claire

2005 was another good one for Lake Claire Neighbors. Several major projects were initiated and others were completed or advanced toward completion. Below is a partial list of the year's projects and events:

- \* Pedestrian Crossing Signs were installed along McLendon Ave creating a much more pedestrian-friendly streetscape. Secondary street stop signs were installed on Ridgewood Road and Connecticut Avenue. Neighborhood representatives are participating efforts to create safer walking routes to Mary Lin School, including safer crossings at Clifton Road.

- \* The Pavillion at Lake Claire Park was renovated.

- \* Lake Claire Park received a \$2,000 grant from Home Depot and Park Pride Atlanta, allowing the park to be spruced up with fresh paint and new benches, arbors and plantings.

- \* The north side of Lake Claire Park along McLendon Avenue is on schedule to have invasive plants and kudzu removed.

- \* The 3,400 square-foot Watershed Mural along Dekalb Avenue was started and will be completed in 2006.

- \* A Lake Claire delegation attended the 26th Anniversary Celebration of the success of our neighbors at the Clifton Sanctuary Ministries homeless shelter. LCN also made a financial donation to the shelter.

- \* Harold Avenue Greenspace was approved unanimously by the Atlanta City Council and removal of invasive plants has begun. A small street side garden and seating area was installed. A celebration of the completion of the long effort to preserve this ecologically significant parcel and its headwater stream is planned for 2006.

- \* Frazer Forest improvements include installation of sandbags at critical points along eroded stream banks, minor repairs of the storm water detention pond, and extensive trail improvements and mulching, thanks to the weekly efforts of the senior class of the Howard School and Lake Claire volunteers.

- \* Lake Clairians marched in a neighborhood Easter Parade, sent a delegation to the Little 5 Points Halloween

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Parade, and over 100 costumed kids and their families paraded to Lake Claire Park on Halloween night.

\* Lake Claire held its first "Progressive Potluck," where neighbors socialized with each other and our Councilwoman Natalyn Archibong, as we progressed through dinner, with each course hosted by a different Lake Claire neighbor.

\* The Clarion operated profitably for the year, thanks to the work of Sarah Wynn and Gay Arnieri in building advertising sales.

\* A Lake Claire parents group was initiated.

\* In 2005, we continued to have neighborhood representation on the boards of Freedom Park Conservancy, Olmstead Linear Park Alliance (now open seat), the Peavine Watershed Alliance, and Clifton Sanctuary Ministries homeless shelter.

\* We had a record increase in Lake Claire Neighbors membership. If you haven't joined, please do it now! All of this work is made possible by the generous volunteer labor of civic-minded individuals. Many thanks to Gay Arnieri, Boyd Baker, Georgi Biliris, Mary Jo Bryan, Kelly Crutchfield, Glen Frankel, Pat Marsh, Dennis McCarthy, the current officers of LCNA, and all the other unnamed contributors to the work of the neighborhood. All of the ongoing projects need your help, so bring your ideas and get involved!

## Trecycling makes good sense

Unsure of what to do with your living Christmas tree after the holidays? With millions of real Christmas trees sold in the United States every year, Christmas tree recycling is an important way to give a renewable, recyclable resource back to the environment.

Atlanta residents have TWO ways of recycling their Christmas trees after the holidays:

- Put your Christmas tree at the curb, it will be collected and recycled into mulch through the City's Yard Trimmings Composting Program.
- Bring your tree to one of the following Home Depot locations on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and you can take home a free load of mulch and/or a tree seedling to plant.
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  - Home Depot at **815 Sidney Marcus Boulevard, NE.**

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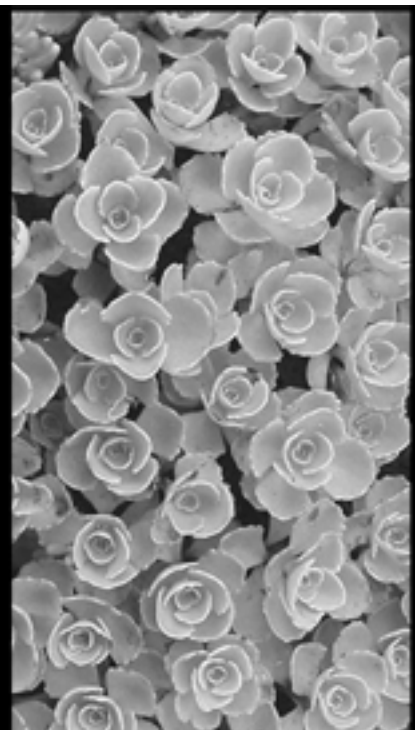


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## MEETINGS & EVENTS

Meetings and events agendas can be submitted to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org)

**What:** Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools "Legislative Agenda" Meeting

**When:** 7 p.m. Wednesday, January 18, 2006 **Where:** Inman Middle School, 774 Virginia Avenue, N.E

**More information:** (404) 802-3200

Elected representatives from the in-town area, including state senators, state representatives and Atlanta Board of Education members, will talk about legislation expected to arise during the upcoming Georgia General Assembly and potential effects on Atlanta Public Schools. This is an opportunity to share your education policy concerns and opinions with your elected officials. The meeting is free and open to the community.

The Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools (CINS) is a not-for-profit organization working to empower public schools in the Grady cluster while enhancing neighborhoods in the heart of Atlanta, Georgia. For more information on CINS and its mission, please visit: [www.cinsatlanta.org](http://www.cinsatlanta.org).

**What:** Free seminar on college funding for in-town parents and high school students

**When:** 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., Tuesday, January 10 **Where:** Little Five Points Community Center, 1083 Austin Avenue

**Reservation:** Required, call (404) 591-2466 for reservation **More Info:** (404) 522-2926

Certified College Planning Specialist Michael J. Lopata's free seminar "How to Choose the Best College for Your Student and Your Pocketbook" will address issues such as: the five questions you need to get answered before applying to a specific college, tips for getting your child into the college of his or her choice, creative college cost reduction strategies, competing for scholarships and financial aid, identifying all the sources of college funding available to you and



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**What:** Financial Aid for College meeting at Grady High

**When:** 7 p.m., Tuesday, January 12 **Where:** Theatre, at Grady High School, 929 Charles Allen Drive, NE

**More info:** (404) 802-3001

Come and find out about the basics of college aid, scholarships, and how to get started. Junior parents - you need to attend this. Senior year is too late to start thinking about the funding process. All parents (and students) are invited to attend.

**What:** Oakhurst Cooperative Preschool open houses

**When:** Various dates in January and February

**More info:** Visit [www.oakhurstcoopreschool.org](http://www.oakhurstcoopreschool.org)

OCP is a non-profit preschool serving families in the City of Decatur and surrounding neighborhoods and will be holding a number of open houses in January and February. The school is located at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 2089 Ponce De Leon Ave NE, Decatur. Founded in 2005 by a group of dedicated parents, Oakhurst Co-op has just completed its first semester and is accepting children aged 2 through 4 years for the 2006-2007 school year. Interested families are invited to the open houses to tour the school, learn about the school's programs and meet the teachers.

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## Lake Claire Announcements

Want to send birthday wishes or congratulate someone on a job well done? From birthdays, anniversaries, deaths or newborns and congratulations, submit your announcement for publishing to editor@lakeclaire.org. Please include a phone number for verification. Announcements that cannot be verified will not be published.

### Got a Spare Copier?

The Grady High School Counselors Office is in dire need of a copier. If you, your company or anyone that you know is able to donate a copier, contact Andrea Bussey Perez by e-mail at aperez@bgca.org or goldenaka@aol.com, or by calling (404) 487-5938 or (770) 655-6480.

## Headlines of 2005 in the neighborhood and around the country by Pat Marsh

**JANUARY:** Gov Perdue proposed state Voter ID law. Suburban anti-evolution textbook stickers declared unconstitutional. Johnny Carson died. Eagles beat Patriots in Super Bowl.

**FEBRUARY:** Due to labor despite no Stanley Cup Final. Million Dollar Baby won Best Picture Oscar.

**MARCH:** Newsletter renamed The Lake Clarion with both print and online versions. Fifth Annual LC Easter Parade. Fatal shootings in Fulton County Courthouse. War in Iraq now 2 years old. Terri Schiavo died.

**APRIL:** Volunteers continue to improve Frazer Forest. Georgia "runaway bride" made national news. Pope John Paul died. North Carolina men and Baylor ladies take NCAA basketball titles. Tiger Woods won The Masters.

**MAY:** Michael Jackson acquitted. Giacomo won Kentucky Derby. Dan Wheldon won Indy 500.

**JUNE:** City of Atlanta proposed downtown panhandling ban. Spurs beat Pistons in NBA finals

**JULY:** One hundred LC neighbors at City Hall to lobby

for Greenspace. Clifton Men's Shelter torched by arsonist. Cold Cream now Dr. Bombay's Underwater Tea Party! London suffered terrorist bombings.

**AUGUST:** Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged the Gulf Coast states. FEMA foul ups and gas gouging ensued. Peter Jennings died. Cindy Sheehan's one-woman war protest.

**SEPTEMBER:** Kashi Yoga celebrated one year anniversary. Atlanta pledged one million dollars to help hurricane evacuees here. Braves won division for 14th time but went no further. Tom Delay indicted.

**OCTOBER:** White Sox swept Astros in the World Series. US War dead now at 2000. Scooter Libby indicted.

**NOVEMBER:** LCN elections. Hayes Automotive on DeKalb to be site of 18 town homes. Atlantic Station and renovated High Museum opened. Natalyn Archibong and Shirley Franklin reelected. Michael Scanlon indicted.

**DECEMBER:** Holiday potluck - festive and fun. Georgia Aquarium opened. Star Wars, Harry Potter and King Kong the big movies of the year!

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## Hello From the Editor

by Hlee Vang



Hi Neighbors,

Welcome to another new year! Now that we've made it through a season of holidays and rung in the new year, it's nice to think that a little time for relaxing is due. Besides, it's cold outside, the trees are bare, the grasses are browned and the dark hours are longer. It's not quite the time of year for inspiration. Or so one would like to think.

Remember those New Year's resolutions? If you're one of the folks like me who start the year out with well-intentioned goals (eat better, exercise more, improve work performance, volunteer more, keep the house clean and save money), this time of the year is a flurry of mental activities in how to set better habits for the rest of the year. This is usually the busiest time for my calendar book – marked with dates with the gym machines, grocery lists of healthy items to buy and a rough budget scribbled out each month to keep the year's goals in focus. In past years, this calendar book – which I bought with care and thought to help me stay on track with goals and plans – doesn't leave my side all year long. The only problem is somehow and somewhere through mid-year, flip through the pages and you'll notice that many (if not most) of the pages are empty and very much unused. Out of guilt for my own good-intentions that I started with, I lug the calendar book around in my bag everyday, still very convinced that I will use it.

This year, though, my things have changed - unintentionally. I didn't go out and spend an hour looking for the perfect calendar book to keep track of my year's progress. In fact, I don't think I've sat down yet to think of what resolutions to pursue this year. The reason for all that? I've been too busy! This past year has been one of changes – moving from Wisconsin to Atlanta, a new job, new house, new neighborhood and new responsibilities as editor of this newsletter.

Through all that, I realized that when one stays busy enough, one doesn't need (nor have time!) to sit and plan out how busy one should be. The key, though, is to do things you enjoy and care about and, somehow, a year of doing becomes lifelong memories.

Please don't hesitate to share your own experiences and thoughts with me, or others in the neighborhood, through this newsletter. All viewpoints, concerns and ideas for creating the best neighborhood newsletter are welcomed. This is your newsletter and I want you to be proud of it.

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