



The Lowdown on Clifton's Slowdown

by Randy Byrd

The newly-formed Pedestrian and Bicycle committee of Candler Park Neighborhood Association, chaired by Richard Ford, hosted a meeting on February 9 at Epworth Methodist Church on McLendon Avenue to discuss potential traffic calming options for Clifton Road. It had been described as a follow up to a PEDS-sponsored meeting at Mary Lin back in September of 2005.

Clifton Road concerns both Lake Claire and Candler Park since the road straddles both communities, involves two City Council districts, and any changes to Clifton could positively or negatively impact nearby residents on Harold, Hardendorf, Page and Clifton Terrace.



With very short notice, several concerned residents on Clifton and surrounding streets called dozens of their neighbors, sent hundreds of emails, and distributed over 600 flyers on Clifton and the surrounding streets. Attendance was estimated at 80 to 100 people. A show of hands revealed a healthy balance of folks from Candler Park and Lake Claire. Residents of Clifton Road were a sizable part but not a majority of the attendees. Also included were representatives and cyclists from SOPO (a bicycle co-op), the Southern Bicycle League and the Atlanta Bicycle Campaign. The sign-in sheet, with phone numbers and email addresses, was left with Ford after the meeting, so a count of names must await his announcement.

The meeting began with a presentation by Dianne Olensky of PEDS and focused on the use of medians and on how the road might be carved-up among its various uses. In the past PEDS has suggested narrowing Clifton using medians and/or bulb-outs, even though lane narrowing is known to pose problems for cyclists. Several residents fundamentally disputed Olensky's conclusion that a "consensus opinion" had arisen at the September 2005 meeting supporting medians along Clifton Road. The PEDS summary simply was not what many recollected as the outcome of the September 2005 meeting. It was of opinion that stop signs - not medians - had been the favored approach.

As the meeting became heated, the city's traffic engineer, Lorne Whitaker, began explaining the policies of the city regarding traffic calming, stop signs and a recent speed study for Clifton - which showed an 85 percentile speed of 41 mph. For bicycle safety, the city prefers 14-foot widths if cars and cyclists share a lane. Presently, the lanes on Clifton

see p.2

Lake Claire Neighborhood Meeting: MARCH 16

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

Lake Claire Neighbors meets every third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Meetings are open to all and cover:

- Planning neighborhood events
- Reviewing variances to city zoning within Lake Claire
- Providing a community voice to city elected representatives
- Allowing neighbors to voice their concerns, meet and/or share interests

Meetings from past months' meetings, upcoming meeting agenda and more can be found at www.lakeclaire.org.

from p.1

are 13 feet wide and are part of the PATH bike route. The proper taper of medians (15 feet of taper per single foot of width) was also highlighted, with Whittaker explaining that a 4-foot wide median would require 60-feet of lane taper. Lots are typically 50-feet wide, so a 4-foot wide median would produce the loss of on-street parking for at least the residents of each corner lot, and perhaps a bit more. Whittaker emphasized that the city would insist on meaningful resident involvement in the process, noting as an example that major changes could require a petition showing support for further consider-



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ation by at least 75 percent of the Clifton Road residents.

There was no official vote taken at the meeting, but Whittaker presented several non-controversial steps that would be undertaken by the city. These steps, as confirmed by Karen Brown of Lake Claire after the meeting, were: (1) The side lane stripping on Clifton Road is to be completed; (2) ADA-compliant curb cuts installed at crosswalks; (3) the installation of center-street pedestrian signs; and (4) undertaking a study of traffic speed and volumes after steps 1 to 3 are completed to learn what had changed. Concerning any potential medians or stop signs, Whittaker assured that if they are to be used, the city would provide a clear answer on stop signs and drawings to scale of proposed median designs. Whittaker said after the meeting that it would likely take up to 4 months before these tasks could be accomplished.



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CORRECTIONS: The following names were inadvertently left off of last year's list of dues paying neighbors: Ruth Dinkins & Robert D. Carr, Chris Runken, Glenna Stone & Marilyn May and Jennifer Campbell & Christine Martin. Thanks for your contributions!

The Conscientious Gardener

from the Lake Claire Gardening Club

What (or who) is a "conscientious gardener"? One who considers the impact of their plans and actions on the environment and on their neighbors. For example: Will a plant you install obstruct a driver's view of traffic or pedestrians as they attempt to back out of their driveway? Will removal or installation of certain plants affect the predominance of sun or shade in a neighboring garden? These and other questions can have safety, practical, as well as aesthetic ramifications. As you plan your personal paradise, ask yourself how you would feel about the plan if you lived on the other side of the property line. Another topic that affects the neighboring yards is weed control. Are you seeding the block? A well-timed application of a quality weed'n'feed product may solve the problem. Do you have dead limbs hanging over utility lines or neighbors' property? Get them trimmed. Be aware of invasive plants migrating from your yard. Species such as English Ivy can be particularly difficult and annoying.

There is no question that Atlantans love their gardens. In fact, Lake Claire has its own Garden Club, a delightful

mix of individuals of broadly varying knowledge sharing their love of gardening and fellowship. One thing we in the Garden Club know from experience is that the fun and delight of gardening is magnified when we share the experience. So we encourage you to share from the get-go. In the spirit of sharing this interest, the Lake Claire Garden Club will be contributing occasional articles of interest covering a wide range of topics. Requests for topics are welcomed. Please submit any related news, articles, questions or requests to garden@lakeclaire.org. In future articles we will address particular issues or questions as

dictated by your interests and the season. Do you have or know of an interesting garden or spot to share? Let us know! Information on meeting times can be found by emailing garden@lakeclaire.org.

This month's Garden Tips:

If you have not already pruned shrubs, now is the time, EXCEPT for the spring flowering species such as azaleas. Also clear dead undergrowth and the weeds that have come up in the warm spell, and apply mulch. Plan your transplanting, veggie garden and annual plantings now, before you get too busy. Stock up on the first application of weed'n'feed for the lawn.



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KEEP AN EYE ON THE CRIME AND THE TIME

January crime listing for Lake Claire and immediate surrounding area

Special Note: Please be aware that the apparent suspects involved in the four separate pedestrian robberies at gunpoint and the armed robbery of Zesto's reported below are in police custody. Please continue, however, to use common sense when you go out for a walk—all of these attacks occurred after dark, and the victims were usually rushed from behind. We live in one of the safest neighborhoods in the City of Atlanta, but please always be aware of your surroundings.

AUTO THEFT

- Mon. 1/2 — Evening – 2100 McClendon Ave. – Subaru – Vehicle was parked on the street; as victim was about to leave the listed address, victim noticed car was gone.
- Fri. 1/27 – 2:00 a.m. – 400 Page Ave. – Toyota – Victim heard sound around 2:00 a.m. but did not look outside. When Victim went outside in morning, vehicle, with personal property inside, was gone.

BURGLARY

- Sat. 12/31 – 300 Ferguson St. – Residence – Jewelry stole from house while owner out of town.
- Mon. 1/2 – Daytime – 300 Candler St. – Residence – Suspects entered house through open kitchen window. Taken: computer equipment.
- Mon. 1/9 – 400 Euclid Ter. – Residence – Suspect entered house through open side window. Suspect used kitchen for cooking. Prints taken by police.

LARCENY FROM AUTO

- Tues. 1/3 – Evening — 800 Springdale Rd. – Lawn mowers were taken from truck parked on street.
- Sun. 1/15 – Early Morning – 2000 McClendon Ave. – Passenger window of Mitsubishi parked on street broken, attempt made to take stereo; only stereo faceplate taken. No prints recovered.
- Mon. 1/16 – Daytime – 200 Dekalb Ave. – Top of convertible Jaguar down, parked on street; stereo and speakers stolen.
- Thurs. 1/19 – 1300 Banning Place – Rear window of Saturn parked on street broken, stereo stolen.
- Thurs. 1/26 – Nighttime – 1800 Almeta Ave. – Window of Ford parked in driveway overnight broken, personal property taken.

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ROBBERY-PEDESTRIAN

-Wed. 1/11 – Evening – 600 Oakdale Rd. – Victim was walking down Oakdale when suspect approached from behind. Suspect pointed a silver handgun at victim and told him to “get on the ground.” Suspect took wallet, cell phone, and checkbook. Suspect struck victim on back of head, then fled on foot. Suspect description: black male, 20-25 years of age; 6’0” / 6’1”, 200-210 pounds; thin, brown eyes.

-Wed. 1/11 – Evening – 1700 McLendon Ave. – Victims were walking on sidewalk when suspect accosted them and asked for money. Male victim said he didn’t have any, and victims kept walking. Both victims heard handgun being cocked. Suspect pointed silver handgun at male victim; female victim put purse on the ground. Suspect grabbed the purse and left in a white Ford Taurus. Suspect description: black male, 6’2” / 6’3”, 180-220; suspect had dreadlocks.

-Mon. 1/16 – 10:16 p.m. – Intersection of Dekalb Ave. and Whiteford Ave. – Victim was walking when two black males grabbed him and threw him to the ground. One male pointed a greyish gun at victim, the other demanded his wallet. Suspects took victim’s wallet and book bag and ran away. Suspect description: black males, one 6’3” / 6’4”, the other 5’8” / 5’9”, both wearing hooded jackets.

-Mon. 1/16 – 11:00/11:15 p.m. – 1500 McLendon Ave. – Victim was walking through Candler Park when two black males approached from the rear. The older black male pointed a silver pistol at victim and demanded his money. Victim had no money; younger male reached in victim’s pockets, took out and threw to the ground sunglasses. The two suspects then ran away. Suspect description: black males, one 5’10”, 190, 18-21 years of age, average build, medium complexion; other suspect 5’7”, 160, 14-16 years of age, average build, medium complexion.

ROBBERY - COMMERCIAL

-Sun. 1/15 – 9:00 p.m. – 300 Moreland Ave. (Zesto’s) – Suspects walked into Zesto’s with guns drawn and demanded money from the cash registers. After cash registers were opened, suspects grabbed cash, put it in their pockets. One suspect leaped onto the counter and demanded the safe be opened. Suspects then fled on foot eastbound on McLendon avenue. Cash taken. Police were able to recover prints. Suspect description: (1) Black male, 19-20 years old, 6’1”, 215 pounds, with gold teeth, wearing silver parka jogging pants; (2) Black male, 5’9”, 130-150 pounds, wearing black pants and wielding silver pistol.

—compiled/reported by VP—Public Safety, Dan Wright



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UPCOMING Events

An evening with former Vice-President Walter Mondale Tuesday, March 14, 2002 at 7:30 p.m., at Carter Center's Ivan Allen III Pavilion. Free and Open to the Public

Mary Lin Auction at the StoveWorks on Krog Street on April 22. Come away with a real deal on services, dinners out, art, and more.

A Bible study for the Lake Claire/Candler Park neighborhoods has formed and people of any belief or faith are welcome to participate. The study meets at the home of Scott and Kerstin Armstrong, Thursdays, 7:30 to 9 pm, at 405 Clifton Rd. If you have any questions or need more information, please call Scott Armstrong at 404-840-7498 or e-mail, karisdaddy@hotmail.com.

Grady High School's First Annual Grady High School Dinner Dance/ Silent Auction Fundraiser will be held at Park Tavern on Friday, March 24 from 7:30 to 11:00pm. If you can help with this or raise funds to support the Grady PTSA continue its work in making Grady an even better environment for learning and achieving, please contact Jennifer Cohen (jcohen6474@bellsouth.net) or Gena VanDerKloot (genavdk@mindspring.com).

The Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools (CINS) will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, March 15 at 7 pm at Grady High School. The topic will be

"Preparing for College – from Choice to Finances." This meeting will have useful information for any family that has a child planning to attend college. Free and open to the community. Grady High School is located at 929 Charles Allen Drive, N.E. Call 404-802-3001 for more information.

Georgia Tech's Evening Personal Enrichment classes under a program called Tech2Nite will hold the following classes starting in March. Registration is available at www.tech2nite.com or at 404-385-3501.

- Digital Photography Made Simple, Tuesdays/March 28 - May 2, 6:30-8:30 pm \$125
- Managing Your Business as an Asset, Tuesdays - March 28 - May 2, 6:30-8:30 pm \$120
- Wi-Fi Defined: A Basic Introduction to Wireless Networking, Tuesdays/March 28 - April 4, 6:30-8:30pm \$85

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Notes from January 26, NPU-N meeting

* If you have trouble getting a response from the City regarding a sewer leak or road repair associated with sewer repair, call Janet Ward, 404-330-6131, in the Department of Watershed Management.

* At least four armed robberies have occurred in the area involving pedestrians, two in the 1500 block of McLendon Ave. and two near Oakdale and Dekalb near the Candler Park MARTA station. Two brothers (ages 15 and 17) have been arrested and some of the stolen goods were recovered from their home. They also implicated two other people, who may drive a white Ford Taurus. Police are seeking the other two suspects (as of Jan. 26).

* Brian Stone, a Lake Claire resident and professor in the College of Architecture at GA Tech, was appointed to join the Olmsted Linear Park Association (OLPA) board as the Lake Claire/NPU-N liaison.

* The Olmsted Linear Park Association (OLPA) recently received a \$1 million grant from the Department of Transportation for the renovation of Deepdene Park, the last of the linear parks on Ponce de Leon to be renovated. OLPA requests that witnesses report anyone seen damaging light posts or dumping mulch in the linear parks so that a police report can be filed. Approximately ten white oak trees in the park near Clifton Road and Ponce de Leon soon will be removed under the direction of OLPA and the City of Atlanta (street trees) because they are dying and have an infestation of ambrosia beetles. The new playground at Springdale Park currently is fenced until the drainage area adjacent to it can be landscaped.

* Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs) should be amended to include new projects requesting funding under Recreation and Greenspace Bonds (\$110 million). The CDPs will be discussed in public meetings in May and will be reviewed by the Commissioner's Council on Parks and Greenspace.

* Housing code enforcement questions should be directed to Ronald Scott or Anita Hale at 404-330-6131. The Office of Code Enforcement also is initiating a citizen Deputy program for reporting Code Enforcement Concerns. Inquire with Ronald Scott.

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the Atlanta School

active ingredients

from p.7

* At-large City Councilmember Mary Norwood spoke about proposed infill building regulations to regulate the size and height of infill building. The City Council will vote on February 6 on whether to implement a 120-day moratorium on out-of-scale infill in several neighborhoods, including Lake Claire. Proposed new regs will be distributed and voted on in neighborhoods in February, NPU's in March, and the Zoning Review Board in April. (This proposal failed to pass Council approval, but an Infill Task Force will reconvene to review changes to the Zoning Ordinance to help address concerns about inappropriate infill).

* Partners Capstone, Inc. seeks a rezoning of 288 & 292 Gordon Avenue in Lake Claire from C-2 (Commercial Services) and RLC (Residential Limited Commercial) to MR-3 (Multi-Family Residential) to build 13 condominiums on .5 acre. Request deferred until February. (Now postponed for review at March 16 Lake Claire Neighbors meeting).

Reroofing and Uprooting Improve Lake Claire Park

Lake Claire Park has seen many improvements over the 2005, the most recent being upgrades to the picnic pavilion and the removal of kudzu and other invasive on the north end of the park bordering McLendon Ave. Thanks to Nabil Hammam for coordinating the installation of a new roof to replace the rusted metal on the pavilion. The choice of slate grey architectural shingles really improves the look of the pavilion and makes it a much more inviting place to have that picnic lunch. Other improvements coming are painting the columns, new railings, picnic tables. Lake Claire Garden Club is planning to landscape the area with native plants as well.

Terry Sutton has been contracted by LCNA to remove kudzu and other invasive plants in the wooded area south of the pavilion. This is an initial treatment that will continue till early summer when it is hoped adjoining neighbors and the park committee will organize efforts to maintain this effort funded by LCNA, Park Pride, and the Lake Claire Garden Club. A similar effort is underway on the Harold Avenue Greenspace parcel as well. We invite all neighbors to walk to either natural areas and enjoy the improvements.



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Takes Many Hands to Make a Mural!

The Watershed Mural has been an ongoing project for the past several years, organized by Lake Claire Neighbors. The first period involved grant writing and research, with several months of community presentations about the value of urban forests and their relationship to water quality, and solicitation of design ideas. Expenses include commissioning David Fichter, one of the leading muralist in the country to design and oversee the painting of the mural, travel costs for Fichter, support from a local professional artist, printing of informational materials, acrylic paints, special anti-graffiti sealers, sign board for mural "cut-outs" that will be applied to the wall, and rental of scaffolding, levelers, etc.

Send your contribution to help finance the completion of the mural: Lake Claire Neighbors, Treasurer, P.O. Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107. Please include a note about how you'd like your name to appear on the mural!

Mural Work Continues

A tremendous amount of work was completed in January on the Dekalb Avenue Watershed Mural, and prep work continues for our next big push, scheduled for April.

Thanks to David Carter and Robin Singer who volunteered their carpentry skills to cut out the wooden (sign board) white oak tree that will be placed at the center of the mural. The tree and other cut-outs will provide dimension and additional height to the mural, enhancing the overall design. The tree will rise above the wall, creating a canopy under which surrounding neighborhoods, including Lake Claire, Edgewood, Kirkwood, and Candler Park will be silhouetted, orienting the viewer to Dekalb Avenue where the mural's story begins.



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Thanks also to all the volunteers who helped epoxy and seal the intricate cut-outs; to the Horizons School for continuing to generously share their space and supplies; to Hammer Head Construction for the use of their pressure washer; and to Mario Childs for pressure washing the wall on a cold rainy day in February.

David Fichter, the muralist, will return to Atlanta for the second half of April. He will begin work in collaboration with experienced painters and artists to complete the first half of the wall. He will then draw the entire second half of the design and coordinate "All-Painter Workdays" daily from Friday, April 21 through Sunday, April 30! What a great way to spend Earth Day, April 22!

We'll also need volunteers to prep and prime the remaining half of the mural wall in March and create chalk line grids in early April, dates TBD. See the website for updates www.lakeclaire.org or write Kathy Evans at mural@lakeclaire.org. In the meantime, please save your 4-cup yogurt/food containers with lids (they're great for mixing paints!)

Thanks again to all the community members who have pitched in and to our neighbors in the Candler Park Neighborhood Association who pledged at the American Alligator (\$500) level!

Thanks, Contributors!

Primary funding is from an Urban Forestry Grant of the Georgia Forestry Commission, with additional funding from The Atlanta Mural Project, United Way, DeKalb Council for the Arts, the Peavine Watershed Preservation Fund, Lake Claire Neighbors, and the Candler Park Neighborhood Association.

Thanks to the growing number of individuals who have contributed to the mural project!

Patrick Angers and Pablo Aspe
Deborah Baumgarten
Susan and Sean Beeching
Mary Jo Bryan
Christopher Campbell
Liz Curtis
Bruce and Ann Fort
Dina Franch
Pat Marsh and John Goese
Susan Doyle and David Goo
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FREE: Sections of black corrugated drain tubing; Infant wardrobe and misc. toys. 404-428-8991

WANTED: Stationary bicycle. I need a simple bike for knee rehab. Will buy or trade. 404-428-8991

WANTED: Used or new Playstation 2. Will buy or trade. 404-377-2288.

WANTED: Used keyboard/guitar for youth's first music lessons. No room for piano. 404-373-4884.