



Neighborhood events raise disability awareness

Article 1 of 2

By Gloria Svensson, Salon Red Coordinator



It has to go back to the fact that I grew up around Special Olympics. My little sister has Downs Syndrome so I have been exposed to being around special needs children all my life. Since I have been in Georgia, I have been a volunteer coach for swimming on Fridays at the Dynamo Swim Club in Chamblee. I have a mixed group of kids that started at first being mostly Downs kids to as of recently changed over to mostly Austistic kids. The transition has been very interesting to say the least. Well, we train all year for the Summer Games, which happen in early June of every year.

At these games, you will see kids participating in every sport, just like the real Olympics. It will just about break your heart because you see all these kids from all corners of the state come and I would have to say at least half of them come from low-income families. They are the first ones neglected and the last ones to have any type of money spent on them especially for something superficial as a “professional” beauty service. The kids come with bowl cuts from their mothers (nothing against their work) long fingernails, in desperate need of facial waxing maybe. Well, seeing as how I work in a hair salon I started thinking about what *I could do* to make it different, for a small group maybe, but for at least some. I started brainstorming and networking. I guess in all actuality, the guilt trips started flowing. I mean, come on, how can you turn down special needs children?

I started asking around to the local surrounding businesses if they would be willing to donate any and all food for the kids. Goody bag items for the kids to take home with them, furniture to set the food on, manicure stations for the kids to sit at while being worked on, etc. As for the school selection, I work closely with Boni Powell who is head of Special Olympics Dekalb County. She works closely with all the schools in the district and knew who would benefit the most from something like this. We started out small (just to get our feet wet) and, now, this year will be taking on Tucker High with a class size of about 30 to 35 kids along with my swim team. We are looking at around 40 to 42 kids total along with about 6 to 8 teachers/ para’s coming to get some kind of service done. I try to work with the teachers as well. I only coach for one hour on Fridays and sometimes I am physically/mentally spent. (I love what I do - don’t get me wrong, it is just tough sometimes) so I can’t imagine what it must be like day in and day out and we all know what teachers make, right?

Well, I am happy to say that this year will be the biggest and best yet. I plan on having more massage therapists doing chair massages, more aesthetician to be able to do more facial waxing and bigger and better goody bags for the kids. My rep from Columbia Beauty Supply has already donated large backpacks (they look really cool!) little nail polish kits for all

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Lake Claire Neighborhood Meeting: MAY 18

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.

the girls, black caps for the boys, shampoo samples to be stuffed into the backpacks. A friend from The Fun Co. just donated two boxes of toys to also be put into the packs for the kids. Delia from the Flying Biscuit is donating (again for the third year in a row) lunch for all the volunteers afterwards. A friend, who works for Gorins Sandwiches, donated sandwiches and chocolate chip cookies for the kids. There are tons more sponsors.

I think the only thing it is missing that I have been trying to get - but have failed - is entertainment. I have sent letters out to all local clowns, inflatable rides and pony farms but have not gotten any kind of interest from any of them. That would be awesome - maybe we just work harder next year for it?



Q: What do 300 of your neighbors have that you don't have?

A: Access to late breaking really local news

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from p.1

Article 2 of 2

The Frazer Center will hold its 5th Annual Golf Classic on May 8. The cost is \$450 for an individual and \$1,800 for a foursome. Fees include lunch, prizes, greens fees and a post tournament party. Players also have a chance to win a Mercedes in a hole-in-one competition. There are still some spaces available to play in this wonderful event, but they are going fast.

Each player will play his or her own ball. The team score will be the best 2 net scores of the foursome. Each player on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams will receive a handsome reward. Participants have an opportunity to win several prizes. There will also be a hole in one contest where one golfer can claim a brand new car!

The two main goals of this event are to raise money for children and adults with disabilities who attend The Frazer Center and to raise visibility of the vital services that The Frazer Center provides. The Frazer Center is currently soliciting sponsors and players for the tournament. Thus far, the tournament is receiving support from its current sponsors: Wachovia Wealth Management, Georgian Bank, Powell Goldstein, LLP, Bank of North Georgia and Atlanta Classic Cars. The Center hopes to gain many more sponsors in the coming weeks.

The Frazer Center, located at 1815 Ponce de Leon Ave., is a fifty-seven year old organization whose mission is to serve adults and children with disabilities because of cerebral palsy, spina bifida, fetal alcohol syndrome and global developmental delays. While the program began as an agency that served children with cerebral palsy, it has evolved over time to include other disabilities and typically developing children as well.

A major advantage to the program is the staff's ability to serve each child and adult on an individual basis. Classes for the children are small, with the ratio of one to four. Adults are given the opportunity to volunteer in the community and take part in activities like baseball games, Whitewater, Six Flags, trips to Callaway Gardens, attendance at the Opera and now learning to garden.

The Frazer Center has assisted thousands of adults and children and their families over the years as they strive to realize their maximum potential moving through their environment, communicating with their family and friends and becoming as independent as possible. Corporate, individual and foundation contributions help ensure that the program will continue to provide its unique services to the community at large and the disability community in particular.

For more information on becoming a sponsor or to play contact Cynthia Byrd Turner at 404.377.3836 ext. 16 or see our website at www.thefraziercenter.org



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KEEP AN EYE ON THE CRIME AND THE TIME

Crime-avoidance tip: It might be common sense, but the lessons gleaned from this dispatch of crime statistics: don't leave your keys in the car and don't leave anything in your car that you would be sorry to lose.

ASSAULT

-Friday 3/10 – 4:20 a.m. – 200 Connecticut Ave. – Victim attacked by acquaintance with baseball bat. Suspect: Colby Cochran, white male, 18-19 years old, 5'5"/5'6", 145-150 pounds.

-Wednesday 3/22 – Evening – 1200 Dekalb Avenue – Victim stabbed with knife by acquaintance known as "spud" after argument over money. Suspect: Black male, 30-39 years old, 5'9"-6'1".

AUTO THEFT

-Monday 3/6 – Evening – 800 Oakdale Rd. – Chevrolet stolen while victim away during lunch break; keys left in car and doors unlocked.

-Saturday 3/18 – Evening – 1600 Mclendon Ave. – Nissan stolen from parking lot.

-Friday 3/31 – Evening – 400 Page Ave. – Dodge stolen; victim left keys in vehicle.

LARCENY FROM AUTO

-Thursday 3/15 – 9:30-9:45 p.m. – 1300 Mclendon Ave. – Convertible top of Mazda cut, sunglasses, flashlight stolen.

-Sunday 3/18 – overnight – 400 Page Ave. — \$2.00 in change stolen from Dodge parked near residence.

-Wednesday 3/22 – 2:35 a.m. – 400 Page Ave. – Passenger side window of Chrysler broken, make up bag stolen.

-Wednesday 3/22 – overnight – 400 Page Ave. – Driver side window of Volvo parked on street broken, radio stolen.

-Tuesday 3/28 – overnight – 700 Lullwater Rd. — Passenger side window of Volvo broken, laptop computer stolen.

-Tuesday 3/28 – overnight — 600 Terrace Ave. – Wallet stolen from Honda parked in driveway; doors were unlocked.

-Friday 3/31 – late night – 200 Ferguson St. – Neighbor of victim spotted in vehicle; ran away from victim when confronted. Change taken from Jeep. Suspect: Michael Wynn, white male, 5'6", 220 pounds, brown hair.

LARCENY—OTHER

-Wednesday 3/15 – morning – 900 Dekalb Ave. – Spool of wire stolen from Pelle Development Group construction site, recovered at 75 Airline St.

-Monday-Wednesday 3/20-3/22 – 400 Page Ave. – Child's scooter stolen from front porch of residence.

****Special Note—Identification of Suspects:*

All information relating to the identification of any suspects as reported by the police to us is included in this report. The goal of providing descriptions is to aid in the arrest of the identified suspects; hence, all identifying information whatsoever is included. Where information appears to be missing, it is because it was not reported and not because it has been edited by this organization.

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

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The Conscientious Gardener

by Gay Arneri

If Spring in Atlanta doesn't open your eyes to your surroundings then nothing will. With the mild winter and cold snaps it's always a guessing game as to whether or not we will get the full beauty of our magnificent flowering plants. Thankfully I for one was not disappointed. Whether or not you merely tinker in your garden or spend blocks of time each season cultivating it, there always seems to be surprises.

This spring we've had a rather sad event tempered by a gardening blessing. Another house here on Harold Avenue was bulldozed to make way for a new house but not before a number of us neighbors were given the opportunity to salvage a number of lovely plants. This is a great way to recycle some of what makes this neighborhood a lovely place to live.

In that same spirit, the April meeting of the Lake Claire Garden Club concluded in our Spring Plant Swap. This is



a very informal and fun show-and-tell, then parceling out of extra plants we have selected from our yards to share. It's an event in which frankly many of us learn what we know about plants and gardening.

This month's gardening tips: Now that the spring blooming shrubs have finished the show, prune them as you like. Don't wait until late summer or fall since they will begin setting next spring's blooms by then.

Editor's Note: Gay Arneri also wrote the March 2006 issue's "Conscientious Gardener" article.

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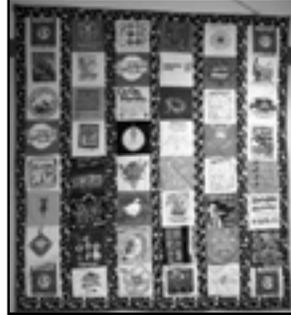


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UPCOMING Events

The Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools (CINS) will hold its annual Grants Showcase on Wednesday, May 10 at 7 p.m. at John Hope Elementary School. At this meeting, CINS will recognize the Grady cluster teachers who received CINS' grant funding this year and will provide these teachers with an opportunity to present an overview of their projects to the audience. This is the 22nd year that CINS has awarded grant funds to teachers serving the Grady cluster. As always, this year's recipients presented outstanding proposals that served to raise the bar of educational excellence in their classrooms, schools and the Grady cluster. CINS will also recognize the Grady cluster teachers, staff and principals who were named to the first annual CINS' Educators Honor Roll by their students and/or schools. Everyone is invited to join us for this very special evening to honor your special educators and show support for the Grady cluster team. 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. John Hope Elementary School is located at 112 Boulevard, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30312,



Co-op Quilt is on Display at Sevananda: Every year, quilts made from T-shirts and bags screened for food co-ops traverse the North American continent. They are auctioned and raffled each June at the Consumer Cooperative Management Association conference (CCMA) to raise funds for the Howard Bowers Educational Fund, which supports education for co-op managers through scholarships to CCMA. The Hyde Park Spicy quilt will be on display at Sevananda Natural Foods Market through June. Sevananda is a community-owned natural foods cooperative and is located at 467 Moreland Ave. in Little 5 Points. T-shirts are America's form of tribal identification. It makes sense that the birth of a "new wave" of cooperatives especially food co-ops in the 1970s would have spawned a lot of T-shirt designs in turn.

Charis and Nease's Needlework brings you a monthly Stitch-N-Bitch session! On Wednesday, May 24, at 7 p.m. get out your yarn and haul your latest project on over to the store for an hour and a half of technique-sharing and community-building. All levels welcome. If you are new to needling, hook-saavy craftster Liana Repass will be there to guide you through the next steps. For more events taking place at Charis Books & More, at 1189 Euclid Avenue, visit www.charis.booksense.com or call 404-524-0304.

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Reflections on Lake Claire

by Dana Goldman



"It's just like camp," my friend Rai said two years ago, looking around the house I rented with friends in Lake Claire.

Before her visit, I had been describing the house by telling friends of the peeling paint and corner cobwebs. It was the perfect house for me and my friends Kristina and Coby, all of us just a few years out of college, our furniture salvaged from the sides of roads and from neighborhood garage sales and from my parents' basement floor.

Rai and I sat out front on the porch swing and I saw clearly what she meant by camp: the slightly mildewed couch on the porch, the drying towels hanging from clothesline, the birds that lodge in the branches of surrounding trees and the mosquitoes that nest on any bare skin. I

could envision a parallel world where, instead of just getting home from work, I had just come from spinning the web of a dream catcher or from a swim in a lake – Lake Claire, maybe – clasping my roommate's hand when a lifeguard yelled out "buddy count," water pouring off my back. Maybe our across-the-street neighbor Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, the church sheltering homeless men, was really an adjacent cabin, the window blinds fluttering after a late-night pillow fight instead of from laundry-machine vibrations, twisting and soaking and cleaning.

I hated camp as a kid. Each year was an agony of homesickness, my journal becoming a hagiographic celebration of life with my parents who, normally, were much less exciting than re-runs of educational television shows. I spent each summer in withdrawal from the books that were such good friends to me the rest of the year, abandoned for two weeks in favor of kids who were not.

But Camp Lake Claire – that was different. With a decade separating me from my last camp debacle, I could only occasionally hear the rush of engines on the thoroughfare a street over and only occasionally could muster up unhappy recollections of camp. I woke up every Sunday to the strong voices of men singing creation's praise across the street, and I do a sort of yoga-calisthenics – a remnant from that past time — to the slow rhythm of their melodic beats. In Lake Claire, the difference between the indoors and outdoors felt irrelevant, because the windows were almost always open and the breezes and songs from across the

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street crossed through easily, soothing my skin. My friends and I biked for pleasure and for groceries, and skied Lake Claire with a skill and grace that defied our amateur ranks. We spent weekends meandering through the neighborhood, matching up jasmine flowers with the pictures in our books, clucking to the land trust's lumbering emu and the neighborhood cats. Dinner was communal, naptimes spontaneous and we made popcorn on the stove sometimes, reveling in the pops, shaking the pan so the kernels would coat themselves in the good oils and salt. When the electricity went out, as it seems it sometimes must, it wasn't a far stretch to light candles and tell stories of ghosts and families, stories of camp. At night I fell asleep to crickets and woke to the reveille sounded by birds.

It's been two months now since I left Lake Claire, and I suddenly feel the sort of nostalgia my friends spoke of years ago as they showed off their pictures of camp friends and talent shows and wilderness. My new house a few miles east of Lake Claire has no porch or cobwebs or clothesline; the new neighborhood has no lake to ski on, no brightly colored bumper stickers boasting of a zip code that's also a lifestyle.

My friend Rai came to visit this new house a few weeks ago. "It's not camp," she said, "You've moved on." It's true, and as the weather gets warmer, plants emerging from the earth, I'm also slowly exploring my new neighborhood, my new home. Soon, it'll be summer, my favorite time of year in Lake Claire. I'm sure that some of the same kids I saw waiting for the school bus in the mornings, backpacks bulging and lunchboxes swinging, will be heading off to camps soon. They'll go, but I'll have no need to: right now, I'm learning that any place can be a good camp, a good place to ski. While my new home lacks in camp style, it makes up for in cozy corners good for daydreaming and sidewalk walks leading to long, satisfying walks.

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