



Happy Independence Day!

Once a year, Lake Claire residents will join the rest of the country in red, white and blue garbs to celebrate their freedom and independence with friends, neighbors and family on July 4th. Fireworks will burst into spectacular blooms in the night sky, parades will drown the streets with band music and cheering crowds, and tables will overflow with summer feasts as the young and young-at-heart gather to enjoy the pleasures that life in a country like the United States has been fortunate to be able to preserve and offer its people.

Remember to keep those who can't be home during this holiday in your thoughts and enjoy this special day with loved ones or near ones.

More Inside:

-Independence Day isn't just about the good times. It's also about the past times. Test your knowledge of U.S. History and government with this quiz.

-Some places around the country celebrate Independence Day every day – by taking on a patriotic name.

Neighborhood Banners Coming Soon

Want to show just how proud you are to live in Lake Claire? Coming in August, the newsletter will print the design of a banner that residents can purchase to display at their homes. Not only will the all-weather banner be a symbol of what makes Lake Claire the unique neighborhood that it is, but its purchase will benefit the Lake Claire Neighborhood Association and its mission to preserve and better the best of Lake Claire for its residents. Roger Swift, an artist who lives on Harold Avenue has donated the use of his design on a banner. The neighborhood association approved the design at a May meeting based on its reflection of the unique and free-spirited character of this neighborhood as well as its depiction of the ethereal existence of the mythic lake that lives on in the neighborhood's naming. All proceeds from the sale of this banner will go back into neighborhood betterment projects.



Help deliver the Newsletter

The Lake Claire newsletter is in need of volunteers to help deliver the paper to households in the neighborhood each month. Without volunteers, the newsletter cannot get out to residents. Please e-mail lakeclaireclarion@yahoo.com or call 404-441-5704 if you are interested in helping deliver newsletters to streets around your home or around the neighborhood.

Lake Claire Neighborhood Meeting: JULY 20

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.

What's in a Name?

Thirty places nationwide have "liberty" in its name. The most populous one is Liberty, Mo. (28,528). Iowa, with four, has more of these places than any other state: Libertyville, New Liberty, North Liberty and West Liberty.

Thirty-two places are named "eagle" — after the majestic bird that serves as our national symbol. (Places include cities, towns, villages and census-designated places.) The most populous such place is Eagle Pass, Texas, with 24,847 residents. There is also Eagle County, Colo., with a population of 47,530.

Eleven places have "independence" in their name. The most populous of these is Independence, Mo., with 111,023 residents.

Five places adopted the name "freedom." Freedom, Calif., with 6,000 residents, has the largest population among these.

There is one place named "patriot" — Patriot, Ind., with a population of 195.

And what could be more fitting than spending the Fourth of July in a place called "America"? There are five such places in the country, with the most populous being American Fork, Utah, population 22,387.

- Provided by the U.S. Census Bureau

U.S. History Quiz (Sample from questions asked during the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Naturalization Exam)

1. What were the original 13 states?
2. Which president is called the "Founder of our Country"?
3. What are some basic beliefs of the Declaration of Independence?
4. What is the national anthem of the United States?
5. What is the most important right granted to the United States citizens?
6. What is the Constitution?
7. What is the name of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America?
8. What do the stripes on the flag mean?
9. What country did we fight during the Revolutionary War?
10. What holiday was celebrated for the first time by American colonists?

Answers on the next page!



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

A: Access to late breaking really local news

& Monthly meeting reminders and agendas with voting items that affect YOU and your family

& Public safety alerts

It's easy! Go to www.lakeclaire.org and click "email alert" to sign up. Check out all the new changes to the website. You'll never get more than a few messages per month - just the news you need to know.



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The Conscientious Gardener

by Gay Arneri



By now the garden growth should be slowing down and you just may be able to catch up with weeds. The heat and diminished water will slow the growth and perhaps begin to parch your lawn. If you have some shrubs or trees you have been meaning to install, it would be better now to wait until the temperatures start to come down in the fall. If you plant in the heat, the higher “metabolism” of the plants will stress them even further in the heat and potential scarcity of water. This is when a generous layer of mulch will make a huge difference in the health of flower beds, vegetable gardens and newly installed larger plants. It is never too late to apply mulch so if you have not done so yet, go for it.

In years past, I was a “sink or swim” gardener when it

comes to watering. I just let the plants make it on what water they got from rain and a rare watering from me. Now that I also enjoy vegetable gardening, I have changed my tune. It is so satisfying to walk out to the garden, pick fresh green beans, spinach, and tomatoes to add to dinner. You don’t need a formal veggie garden to enjoy such pleasures, either, just an unused patch of earth or flower pot that gets plenty of sun. Regular watering is essential and generous mulching in the vegetable garden will help your plants resist problems from excessive heat and irregular watering.

Watering tips: Make sure you know how watering restrictions apply to your property. If you have not already done so, apply mulch liberally. Water in the evening or early morning to reduce evaporation.

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U.S. Quiz Answers

1. Virginia, Massachusetts, Maryland, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Georgia.
2. George Washington.
3. That all men are created equal and have the right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.
4. The Star-Spangled Banner.
5. The right to vote.
6. The supreme law of the land.
7. The Mayflower.
8. The first 13 states.
9. Great Britain.
10. Thanksgiving.

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KEEP AN EYE ON THE CRIME AND THE TIME

Crime-avoidance tip: Trust your inner alarms, even if there is no apparent reason. If you don't like the "vibes" someone is giving off, don't let that person approach you. Withdraw from the area and return to "the lights and the noise." Reason: Your unconscious mind has recognized something amiss. If your alarms go off, something set them off, even if you don't consciously recognize what it is. Your subconscious is picking up "nonverbal leakage." This part of you recognizes intent. Source: www.nonnonsenseselfdefense.com

AUTO THEFT

*Monday 5/22 – morning – 300 Mell Ave – Acura stolen. Resident of Hosea Williams left note and several items that had been in car on Victim's front porch.

*Thursday 5/31 – overnight – 400 Callan Cir – Plymouth stolen from street.

*Sunday 6/4 – late morning – 300 Glendale Ave – Chevrolet stolen. Victim reports vehicle did not start and therefore must have been towed.

LARCENY FROM AUTO

*Tuesday 5/16 – early morning – 2000 McClendon Ave – Radio stolen from car. Vehicle had been left unlocked.

*Friday 5/18 – overnight – 300 Mell Ave — Rear window of VW broken, stereo stolen.

*Saturday 5/20 – 2:00 p.m. – 200 Arizona Ave – Phone stolen from car.

*Thursday 6/1 – 9:45 a.m. – 1900 McClendon Ave – Items taken from bed of pick up truck. Suspects: 2 black males; departed in Blue Mercury Sable, Tag # 140NDM.

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

Sunday 5/21 – overnight – Paideia – Window to classroom removed, stereo system taken.

ROBBERY—PEDESTRIAN

Tuesday 5/16 – 7:46 p.m. – 1600 Dekalb Ave – Victim confronted as he was washing his car by Suspect with handgun. Suspect took cash and fled westbound on Dekalb Ave. Suspect: Black male, approx. 15-17 years of age, 5'6"-7", 130-140 lbs.

****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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An Explosion of Fun, Food and History

by Henry Bryant

July 22nd will mark the 142nd Anniversary of the Battle of Atlanta. To commemorate this important date in Atlanta's history, the neighborhoods in the 5th Council District on the east side of Atlanta have teamed up to organize B-ATL on the weekend of July 21st-23rd. These neighborhoods are where the Civil War battle occurred. This will be a day of remembrance but also fun with something for everyone including: a Golf Tournament, a Gala Dinner and House Tour, a 5K run, Van and Walking Tours, a re-creation of the Frontlines with Re-enactment Soldiers, Historic Music, Civil War Ghost Stories, A Taste of East Atlanta and more.

The event will be kicked off on Friday with the First Annual B-ATL East Lake Family YMCA "Golf or Kids" Tournament. Golfers will tee off on ground where troops once marched and fought, and raise money for youth programs at the Y. Friday evening will feature the B-ATL Gala with a dinner spread at Fernwood, the classic summer cottage near the East Lake Golf Club. Dinner at this Arts and Crafts Style home built in 1914 will celebrate the early 20th century growth of Atlanta, capital of the New South. The 3rd Annual Double Quick 5K Race will kick off Saturday's events drawing runners from across Georgia to traverse the battleground in the Kirkwood neighborhood. Runners can register for the race online.

Van tours will be offered again this year all day on Saturday following the path of The Battle of Atlanta. Additionally, there will be walking tours along the battle lines. Both tours will highlight interesting facts and personal stories about the events that took place in that fateful battle. Civil War re-enactors will be positioned along the actual front lines in the East Atlanta Village to tell stories of their days in the war. There will be a special lecture and tour in the afternoon at Historic Oakland Cemetery. There is also a limited free tour of Oakland Cemetery near the Cabbagetown neighborhood and limited free tours of nearby Cyclorama. The Oakland and Cyclorama Tours will also be offered on Sunday. Reservations for the free tours will be at B*ATL ticket locations. For the first time this year the Sylvester Cemetery Foundation will be offering tours of its historic 1842 burial ground.

The East Atlanta Village which hugs the Flat Shoals Ave. and Glenwood Ave. intersection will host concerts through-



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out the day by fiddler Danny Ray Cole. A fife and drum ensemble in authentic dress will also entertain the troops in the Village and march them to nearby monuments for wreath-laying ceremonies.

On Saturday afternoon, the restaurants and shops of East Atlanta Village are offering "A Taste East Atlanta". Visitors will be able to hop from restaurants to watering hole to shops sampling the cuisine and getting discounts. Tickets for this event will also be in the Village.

Tickets for the Gala, and B-ATL tours can be purchased in the East Atlanta Village at East Atlanta Ace Hardware, Sabra Gallery and Traders Store as well as Oakland Cemetery and Donna Van Gogh's in Lake Claire-Candler Park. For more information, go to www.batlevent.com.

B-ATL is raising money to erect and maintain National

Park-like display signs across the battlefield area to augment existing historic markers. The new signs would have graphics and maps to involve readers more and provide a 365-day-a-year Battle of Atlanta experience for visitors as well as area residents.

Additional information is available at www.batlevent.com or by calling 404-377-6148.

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UPCOMING Events

**Free Yard Signs to promote Safety

Free "SLOW DOWN" yard signs will be available from PEDS, metro Atlanta's pedestrian advocacy organization. These eye-catching 14" x 20" signs send a clear message to those drivers who think your neighborhood street is a highway: "SLOW DOWN! - Kill speed, not kids." PEDS will distribute the signs at its Slow Down Campaign Kickoff event Saturday, July 8th, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Grant Park, next to the Cyclorama (use Zoo parking). These signs work best when displayed in neighborhood front yards, not in PEDS' office closet. So help us get them out!

Any signs left over after the July 8th event will be available for pick-up from PEDS' office at 57 Forsyth St. NW, Suite 222-G, Atlanta, GA 30303. After July 8th, call Michael Orta at PEDS (404-522-3747), and arrange a time to pick them up.

The Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety paid for these signs as part of PEDS' slow down campaign. You may NOT sell them.

**Kashi Yoga Classes at the Candler Park Pool

Class will meet for six weeks at the Pool in Candler Park, doing yoga both in and out of the water: Wed. 6-7 p.m., July 5-August 9 for a six week series for \$48 or drop in for \$10; Wed. 11-11:45a.m., July 5-August 9 for a kids' six week series for \$36 or drop in for \$8. For registration information, call 404.687.3353 or visit www.kashiatlanta.org.

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Meet Mary Lin's New Principal Brian Mitchell

by Mary Jo Bryan



When Brian Mitchell arrives at Mary Lin Elementary School on July 3 as the new principal, he won't need to ask directions to the cafeteria. Brian knows Mary Lin well, having worked there previously for eight years – four as a first grade teacher and four as instructional specialist. For the past three years, he's been at Morris Brandon Elementary School, in the northwest part of the City, as instructional specialist. He's "thrilled and honored" to be coming home to Lin. Teachers, staff and parents who know Brian from his earlier tenure at Mary Lin are equally excited. A common refrain is that Brian inspires people to do their best.

Growing up in New York on Long Island, Brian noticed ways that teachers dampened students' spirits and began to think of positive ways to encourage learning and achievement. He pursued a degree in elementary education at SUNY Cortland and found his first teaching job in the urban diversity of the Baltimore City schools. He met his wife Renee there and followed her to Atlanta when she received a job offer in her field of technology.

A brief time with Brian and it is no wonder that he is a great motivator. He describes his core values as embracing respect for others and the importance of community. He isn't willing to settle for the status quo – if a mess needs cleaning up, he'll roll up his sleeves, even if that isn't what the principal "does." He's eager to do the hard work, with innovation and risk taking, to achieve lofty goals – such as dramatically increasing the number of computers in the classrooms. Brian values the diversity of the Mary Lin student body and recognizes the strength of its faculty and staff and broad parental and community support. His goal is to make Mary Lin a "world-class" school and "promises to work hard for the best interests of the students." He firmly believes in educating the whole child and in preparing children not only for the next steps in their educational careers but also for a life-time of learning.

In his own life, Brian continues to model the importance of education. He received a Master's degree from Goucher College in Baltimore and he obtained his leadership certificate through Georgia State University's Principals Center. He is currently on-track to complete his doctorate degree in 2007 through the University of Phoenix's online program.

Brian and Renee live in Kennesaw, where Renee is currently devoting her energies to raising their two children, Gabriella who is 2-1/2 and Chase, who is 8 months old. With a young family, the responsibilities of being a principal, and the commute, Brian nevertheless sees the personal sacrifices as small for the privilege of leading Mary Lin. He's a man full of energy and vision and will likely be convincing many of us to support him and the school with our time and talents.

Keep a look out on the sign in front of the school for an opportunity this summer to welcome Mary Lin's new principal.

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LOST RABBIT: "Pookie" is a black & white (Dutch breed). Missing from 561 Lakeshore Drive. Call 404-378-4556 if seen.