In an effort to help the growing number of homeless men, women and children in downtown Atlanta survive the bitter winters, over 75 volunteers of all ages in the Lake Claire/Candler Park community gathered at Kashi Atlanta on December 14-15 to prepare and deliver over 500 gift bags with necessities for people living on the streets during the winter. The gift bags are part of Kashi’s Holiday Street Meals, which is part of it’s regular Street Meals Program. The packages contain blankets, scarves, hats, cough drops, chapstick, toiletries, and homemade cookies and candies, donated by local businesses and individuals throughout the community.

“Kashi Atlanta was created on a foundation of service to humanity, of helping the less fortunate in the community” said Kashi Atlanta Executive Director Jaya Devi Bhagavati. “It is amazing to see how people who participate for the very first time really enjoy themselves. It definitely awakens the desire to serve.”

This is true for volunteers of all ages.

“This is my favorite thing all year,” says 8 year old J.J. Verre, who has participated in the program for the past 3 years. “This year,” she says, “I only worked on putting the gloves in the bags.” In previous years, she has done a variety of tasks, from putting blankets into individual bags to preparing cookies, to gathering trash after the event.

The packages are definitely needed. Peachtree and Pine shelter staff reported that “the word got out. People began lining up at 7:00 am to spend time with the volunteers and make sure they got their packages.”

In addition to bringing the packages, Kashi volunteers spent time with the residents of the shelter. They even brought instruments and sang Christmas carols.

Kashi has a variety of service programs. In addition to its regular Street Meals programs, Kashi provides free yoga classes to children at Eggleston Children’s Hospital, Seniors at Fulton County Seniors Centers, and residents of local penal institutions. Kashi also has a KidsArt programs for patients at Scottish Rite and Eggleston Children’s Hospitals. For more information on these programs, visit www.kashialanta.org or contact Kashi Atlanta at 404.687.3353.

Lean, Mean and GREEN

For those of you who want to keep up-to-date on the water shortage, check out this web site www.atlantawatershortage.com.

How is your water consumption going? Don’t forget – keep working at reducing your household’s use of fresh treated water and enter the results of your efforts by January 20th. The Household with the greatest per cent reduction over last year’s usage will win a Lake Claire banner! When submitting your entry, please include the CFUs used on your billing cycle as well as the CFUs used one year ago (apologies to those who will not have that information) as well as the number of individuals residing in your household for the months cited. You can get it from your water bill OR look it up on the www.lakeclaire.org.

Questions? Contact editor@lakeclaire.org.

Pets ARE people, too!

Announcing the finalists in The First Ever Lake Claire Pet Photo Contest (more photos on page 7:)

Albis and Leeloo Jackson of Arizona Ave.
Dingo Siebenaler (with Niland) of McLendon Ave.
Ranger Bryan (with James) of Harold Ave.
Red Evans of Hardendorf Ave.
Tillie Hausser (with Sophie) of Clifton Rd.
Kola Salmon, Wonder Dog of Nels Ave.

And the winner is... Bailey! (shown above)

Who could resist such a face? Thanks to her owners for submitting Bailey’s photo. And many thanks to all participants. As you can see we had a wealth of photos of our charming pets. What a difference they make in our lives.

Feel free to send in a photo of your pet(s) any time (editor@lakeclaire.org) so we can admire and enjoy your “extended family” as well.

Honorable Mention goes out to:

Boots of McLendon Ave.
EmmaBelle Anton
Glowie Kelley of Delaware Ave.
Greta and Duke Veazey of Leonardo Ave.
Kim Anton
Murphy and Bentley Greenfield of Harold Ave.
Murphy Greenfield
Roscoc and Sip Davis-Russ of Almeta Ave
Voodoo Anton
Sir Chloe Hennessee of Dekalb Ave.

From Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

Former Lake Claire resident Pat Marsh sends us this photo of a wacked out Wendell the Werewolf.
From Lake Claire to the heights of Mount Everest

It's official! Jim Curtin of Palifox Ave. is heading to Everest in just 4 months!

Please check out his mountain climbing website (link below). He has recently returned from Ecuador training for his spring 08 Mount Everest climb (the photo below shows Jim in the center in Ecuador).

It's pretty exciting - but also nerve-wracking for wife Hlee Vang. It's pretty exciting - but also nerve-wracking for wife Hlee Vang.

He created the website so that friends, family and anyone else interested could follow along. He's got some pretty cool stuff planned and great info posted already.

You’ll catch some great blogs of his latest Ecuador adventure.

We will be following Jim with updates on his training, briefs on the folks he plans to profile, photos, and anything else we can pass along. As our readers come up with questions for Jim you may contact him or forward your questions and comments to us at editor@lakeclaire.org and we will print your Q&As.

Blog excerpt from December 8, 2008:

“Climbing a mountain in the dark is a surreal experience. On Cayambe, the first hour was spent hiking and climbing through rock and scree. The only light came from the little torches mounted on our helmets and the only sound, other than heavy breathing, was the almost chiming like tones resonating from the ice screws hanging from my harness as they bumped into each other. The stars were incredibly bright... many shooting stars, the Milky Way, and the Southern Cross all accompanied us as we climbed higher and higher into the night.

Before long, we reached the glacier’s edge, strapping on our crampons and roping up to ready ourselves as the rest of the journey would be on ice and snow.... “We continued upward, finding a steady rhythm... a combination of crampon placements, ice ax plants, and breathing.

We had two rope teams of each, Felipe and Tom on one, Jose Luis and I on the other. Collectively, we climbed as single entity... and today we have decided to call our unit Team Condor in honor of the up-close encounter we had with the mammoth bird and the good fortune it was bringing our way. Higher up the mountain, we reached the milestone Jarrin Peaks. If you were making good time and had left at midnight, you may hit this spot at around 4:30 am. For our group, we made it by 3:30 am... Team Condor was really flying! At this point, as Felipe later confessed, he thought ‘Wow, we are reaching here very early... will these guys be burnt out as we near the summit?’” Jim’s website is www.mounteverest2008.com.

Important Clarion Distribution News

Troy Nielsen, Clarion Distribution Coordinator

Volunteers donate their time to bring the Clarion to your door every month. They are a dedicated group and should be recognized for their efforts. The volunteers and I work to deliver the Clarion as close to the first week of the month as possible. As with any volunteer effort, life events and necessary reprioritization impact the Clarion’s production and delivery. To improve delivery timeliness in 2008, I will make minor changes to some delivery routes. Another factor at play is that the distribution information (kept only on my work PC) has been lost, necessitating delivery of the Clarion myself in December and the need for volunteers to sign up once again.

In January, I will test the new routes by delivering the Clarions myself. The routes will be presented in the February Clarion such that everyone has a chance to volunteer for a route. There will be about 20 routes (instead of the current 25) available for volunteers. If one out of 50 house-holds volunteers, Clarion distribution will be in great shape!

Note: If you know that you’d like to donate about 60 minutes a month delivering newsletters, please let me know before the end of January. We’ll work together to assign you to a route for February’s delivery. Contact me at distribution@lakeclaire.org

From the Editor: Troy has made a streamlined operation of the delivery operations. The delivery volunteers make it happen. We thank you for your dedication and patience while we address issues that affect all-volunteer operations. And thanks in advance for your help!

Greening the Greenspace

Residents are beginning to make plans for the Harold Avenue Greenspace, near the dead-end of the 4-block street north of McLen don. Lake Claire Neighbors is responsible for maintenance under a memorandum of understanding with the City, which owns the property... The site, ecologically speaking, is an extension of the adjacent forested acreage owned by The Frazer Center and is being protected for its ecological significance and as a “viewscape;” the site is designated for “passive use”. Maintenance, per se, is therefore limited, but includes an effort to eliminate invasive species such as kudzu, ivy, privet, and mahonia and to prevent stormwater run-off damage. It also contains spring-fed headwaters of Peavine Creek, a mature tree canopy, and wildlife habitat. We hope to manage the property to enhance these natural qualities.

A Greenspace Committee of 10 residents held its first meeting December 10 at The Frazer Center. The initial focus of work this winter will be streetscape enhancements in the small area at street level above the stream; mitigation of stormwater damage through the repair of a broken headwall; and mistletoe removal from one of the mature trees (Did you know that mistletoe isn’t necessarily a sign that a tree is in poor health, but that in times of drought it can be especially harmful to a mature tree because it competes with the tree for water).

If you are interested in helping care for the greenspace, please contact Dan White at zonings@lakeclaire.org. Next meeting in January, date and time TBD.

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Greating the Greenspace

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If you are interested in helping care for the greenspace, please contact Dan White at zonings@lakeclaire.org. Next meeting in January, date and time TBD.
Next LCN Meeting
Thursday January 17
Lake Claire Neighbors meets every third Thursday of the month at 7 pm. Meetings are open to all. Past months’ newsletters and updates to agenda can be found at www.lakeclaire.org.

Lake Claire Officers for 2008
President: Diane Moore - president@lakeclaire.org
VP-Zoning: Dan White - zoning@lakeclaire.org
VP-Finance: Diane Moore - treasurer@lakeclaire.org
VP-Environment: Jonathan Lewis - environment@lakeclaire.org
VP-Safety: **VACANT** - safety@lakeclaire.org
VP-Communications - Glenn Frankel - comm@lakeclaire.org
NPU Rep: **VACANT** - npu@lakeclaire.org

Newsletter Staff
Editor: Gay Arnieri - editor@lakeclaire.org
Advertising: Emily Veazey - newsletter@lakeclaire.org
Layout: Tish Ganey - layout@lakeclaire.org
Distribution: Troy Nielsen - distribution@lakeclaire.org
Webmaster: Glenn Frankel - comm@lakeclaire.org

Mark Your Calendars For Traffic - and Ways to Escape It
From The Clean Air Campaign
The New Year is upon us, and a look at the 2008 calendar reveals a wealth of opportunities as well as potential crisis points for the harried, over-caffeinated, creeping along solo metro Atlanta commuter.
Let’s roll our way through January of 2008, tongue-in-cheek, eyes on the road, right foot frequently applied to the brakes:

January
International Quality of Life Month – How difficult it is to appreciate this concept in metro Atlanta with so many of us spending more than an hour a day in our vehicles just traveling to and from work.
Random Action Month – Reminiscent of the commuter who jumps, without warning, into your lane in front of you. Another, much more positive random action is a decision to try transit.
National Take Back Your Time Week (Jan. 20-26) -- You’ll be astounded how much of your time you can take back if you become a teleworker. Your productivity is likely to jump so much your employer will think they somehow took more of your time.

For information on how to be more optimistic about your commuting future, contact The Clean Air Campaign. Visit www.cleanaircampaign or call 1-87-RIDEFIND.

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Challenge Class students from Mary Lin Elementary School recently planted over 30 native plants in the Freedom Park Bird and Butterfly Garden at the corner of North Ave. and Candler Park Drive. Pictured are the two classes and their teachers:

First picture: (Top row-left to right) Ms. Manning, Ian Hawkings, Isabelle Carson, Grace Hawkins, Ben Lashley, Conor Downey, Maddie Herbik, Zachary Clay, Josey Allen, Joshua Ortega, Max Rafferty. (Bottom row) Ms. Caller, Logan Mann, Hank Persons, Katy Williams, Marlena Hager, Sophie Ledden, Sohan Dongal, Will Taber

Second picture: (Top row-left to right) Gabriel Kupersmith, Zoe Byrne, Caroline Olsen, Nia Clark, Will Taft, Miles Archer, Mac Leonard, Max Grum, Kyle Mulholland, Theodore Roper, Nick Hamilton, Ms. Manning. (Bottom row) Skye Brilliante, Ms. Caller, Jack Ericson, Hannah Ferguson, Grace Dusenbury, Assata Eubanks, Graham Kidd, Alex Cameli.

The garden is a joint project of the Atlanta Audubon Society and the DeKalb Master Gardener Association with the support of the Freedom Park Conservancy, Park Pride and the Atlanta Parks Department.

Land Trust Update:

For 21 years our small group of friends and neighbors has struggled amongst ourselves to focus and harmonize our efforts as we cultivate a place and an opportunity for friends and neighbors to celebrate nature and cultivate community. We have had no map or instruction booklet but we do have an extraordinary eclectic spirit of collaboration and celebration that has inspired us all to work together. Amazingly we have cultivated a remarkable community sanctuary.

Although the cultivation of “community” has been a major tenet of the Land Trust, in fact, we have been a relatively introverted group of doer’s and decision makers. Although counter-initiative, I am doubtful that the Land Trust would exist today without this initial “tunnel vision”.

We now have a format by which non-trustees of our community have a way to actively participate in the management and planning of the Land Trust. In addition to the institution of a new Board of Directors we are simultaneously assessing a few extraordinary opportunities and challenges that will significantly influence our future course.

2007 has been very auspicious year for the Land Trust:

- Bylaws were amended for the first time in 21 years and now allow non-trustees to serve on the Board of directors and consequently 3 new non-trustees have been added to the board.
- An application was made for the Land Trust to qualify for the 501c3 tax status
- The Land Trust has initiated negotiations to purchase prop-
Lake Claire Security Report

This being my last official year as the Public Safety VP for Lake Claire Neighbors, I wanted to write a brief note to thank all of the residents of Lake Claire for helping me keep up with safety issues around the neighborhood these last couple of years. The key to public safety is community, and I am pleased to report that we have a good one here in Lake Claire. Having said that, I urge all of you to continue doing the thing that most contributes to our mutual safety; get to know your neighbors! Whether it is for the purpose of having someone you can simply notify when you’re out of town (and perhaps request to feed your pets), or banding together to address a local safety issue, keep up with them and make friends of them. Sure, it takes a little bit of time and effort, but the resulting return is tenfold. A little community contribution goes a long way! And speaking of contributing, we still have an opening for VP – Public Safety for 2008. If you are interested in serving, please contact me at lakeclairesafety@yahoo.com or any of our officers at their email addresses listed in this newsletter. Never fear, however; I have volunteered to continue compiling safety statistics in an interim capacity, so you will continue to get the lowdown on crime in the ‘hood. Thanks again! Now, here is the safety report, which I am pleased to report is brief: November, early December 2007 crime stats (Weeks 46-50 2007) for Lake Claire and closely surrounding areas.

KEEP AN EYE ON THE CRIME and THE TIME
Date – Time – Block Address – Description

AUTO THEFT
Saturday – 12/1 – overnight – 300 block Oxford Place – Vehicle parked on street stolen.

LARCENY FROM AUTO
Friday – 11/30 – daytime – 1700 block McLendon Ave – License tag may have been stolen from vehicle. It went missing during the day; victim unsure whether tag stolen or fell off. No prints were taken.

Tuesday – 12/4 – overnight – 1800 block McLendon Ave – Miscellaneous personal property removed from vehicle parked in driveway. Doors were unlocked at time of entry. Prints were attempted.

LARCENY – OTHER
Thursday – 12/6 – late afternoon / evening – 2100 block McLendon Ave – Two concrete ornaments removed from front yard.

***Special Note—Identification of Suspects: All descriptions of suspects as reported by the police to us are 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 Dan Wright, VP-Public Safety

Editor’s Note: Many thanks to Dan for watching out for our safety issues with a constant and caring eye, more so than most of us would know. Folks like Dan and his family make Lake Claire the great place to live that it is. Now it’s time for the next VP for Public Safety to step up. Fear not, for Dan will walk you through the job. Again, Dan, big thanks!

Photo from The Lake Claire Holiday Party held at the Frazer Center in December.

Melanie J. Bliss, Ph.D.
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Dear Editor,

My take on the drought and how some folks are finally practicing water conservation is to ask, what took you so long? It’s amazing all the hype about water conservation that unfortunately ought to be just a natural way of life way before the drought of 2007 got under way. I’ve been conserving our natural resources since growing up in a recycling family in the 1950’s before it was called recycling. Since moving to my house in Lake Claire, 1983, my water bill has never exceeded 1 CCF every other billing period. I have been saving gray water since before 1983, be it from the shower and water conserva-
tion efforts. Neighbors, keep your comments to all, this is not a drill. Come on, let us know how much you are saving. Better yet, enter the water conservation contest and let us know how you manage water conservation. Best regards to all,
Gay Arnieri
Lake Claire Resident

The Conscientious Gardener

What’s in store for us this coming year? Word is that the drought ain’t over yet. What to do? Planning is where it’s at. Do you have your rain barrels/buckets in place? Have you committed to recycling your household gray water yet? There is a great little gadget called a drill pump (manufactured by Flotec and available at most home improvement stores) that can make gray water recycling easier. It’s a device that you attach to an electric hand drill which drives it. You attach two hoses to it, one “in” (hose from the water you want to move), one “out” (hose to the container/location you want the water to end up). You can move a bathtub or sink full of gray water from the tub to a rain barrel or to the laundry or to the garden in no time and without hauling buckets. Those of us with bad backs or knees will appreciate this. I installed 5 new trees this fall and will be maintaining them with gray water. So far so good. I have rain barrels above the level of the yard so I have a choice of methods to water legally. What about hot tubs? You can use the old water in the yard (I’d let the used hot tub water sit for a few days to dissipate chemicals) and replace it with bath water. The filters should take care of the sediments in the used bath water. It’s all good! I got a hot tub for Christmas last year. I have not changed the water since April. Really. I monitor the chemical levels and pH almost daily and rinse out the fil-
ter more than is recommended. I remove foam by hand which lessens the burden on the filters and reliance on chemicals. The water is clear (no odd rashes, either). Once in a blue moon I add a few gallons of bath water. I plan on removing maybe 1/4 to ½ of the water and replacing it with “fresh” gray water when I have time. That should freshen it up.

Keep thinking about our precious water. It’s a wonder how good our yards look in spite of the drought. It just shows you that gardening is worth the effort and planning even in times like these. Keep the dead stuff cut back and mulch like crazy. Questions or requests? Contact editor@lakeclaire.org.

Mark Your Calendars

January 1 – NEW YEARS
January 4 – Friday – Last day of Winter Break, Atlanta Public Schools
January 7 – Monday – Classes resume, Atlanta Public Schools
January 21 – Monday – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (no classes, Atlanta Public Schools)
January 23 – Wednesday – the Candler Park In-fill/Historic District Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of Epworth United Methodist Church. Note: A committee from Candler Park is recommending that a historic district designation be obtained as a way to address infill development. The district includes a large part of Lake Claire, including Harold Ave. and most of the streets around the Land Trust. For more information, contact Tom Painter, tompainter@yahoo.com, commit-
tee chair. Watch for more details in the next Clarion. To obtain a map of the proposed historic district, contact editor@lakeclaire.org.

Lured to the Lake...

Here’s a belated “welcome” to Miller Greenfield of Har-
old Avenue. Congratulations to Jessi-
ca and Johnny on Miller’s birth (on or about October 27, 2007). The Greenfields moved to Lake Claire last June from their previous home near the Carter Center. Welcome to the Greenfields in installments!

Lake Claire Clarion @ www.LakeClaire.org January 2008
Happy New Year!

This has been a busy year for us all, the Clarion staff and LCNA board included. Among other neighborhood celebrations we dedicated the spectacular Watershed Mural and the Harold Avenue Greenspace. The festivities for these events were wonderful, full of community, and will be remembered for a long time to come. Our Atlanta City Councilwoman Natalyn Archibong repeatedly assisted with and participated in the life of our neighborhood. And we are starting out 2008 with lots of new and exciting changes. Just for starters, we have a new apprentice (baby) at the Veazey household on Leonardo Ave. Marjorie was born to Emily (our Ad coordinator) and Marcus Veazey on October 20, 2007.

Beautiful Marjorie Veazey is pictured above. We have a new print format which has gotten very good reviews. This year we start out with a new LCNA President, Diane Moore. We have a new committee formed to address the maintenance and development of the Harold Ave. Greenspace. And we begin the year with some new opportunities to help by volunteering. There are several notices within this edition announcing calls for volunteers. Please consider one – or create your own volunteer niche. You know there's room and we welcome the opportunity to get to know you through our mutual interests and involvement. Welcome to another wonderful year in Lake Claire where the living is lovely and the news is priceless!
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