Arizona Avenue Parking Issue Resolved
City Plans to Enforce Current Regulations

Our neighbors on Arizona Avenue received notice in June that the City of Atlanta intended to limit parking on their street to one side as a result of complaints from sanitation crews who were unable to navigate the entire length of the street on a number of garbage collection days. In response to the notice, residents worked with each other, NPU-N representatives, and City officials to propose more moderate solutions.

At the July NPU-N meeting, Department of Public Works Commissioner Richard Mendoza announced that instead of limiting parking on one side of Arizona Avenue, the City will simply enforce current parking regulations. To do this most effectively, the curbs within 30 feet of stop signs will be painted yellow and No Parking signs will be installed (see the regulations below). Comm. Mendoza made this announcement before any public comments and before receiving the petition from Arizona Avenue residents—and his announcement was greeted with applause.

Comm. Mendoza also described a new, more resident-friendly process for addressing transportation access problems and parking changes. He was applauded numerous times through the discussion, and the Arizona residents I spoke with afterwards were very pleased. He also said that he will let us know the regulations concerning the distance from the curb a vehicle must park to avoid getting a ticket.

While parking will be limited in comparison to the recent practices on the street, there will be no change to current regulations. ParkAtlanta will receive the enforcement notice once the painting and signing are completed and come out to the neighborhood again. They should issue warnings on Arizona in the first month before writing tickets with fines.

As a reminder to residents, below are some important parking restrictions that will be enforced more strictly going forward in our neighborhood:

- Stopping, Standing or Parking is not permitted under the following conditions at any time:
  - Within an intersection
  - On a crosswalk
  - At any place marked by a no-parking sign
  - Against the flow of traffic (wrong-way)

- Stopping, Standing or Parking is permitted only momentarily to pick up or drop off passengers under the following conditions:
  - In front of a public or private driveway
  - Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
  - Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection
  - Within 30 feet of a stop sign, yield sign, or traffic control signal
  - At any place where official signs prohibit standing

—Sarah Wynn, Lake Claire Neighbors President

THIRTY+ (!) YEARS in Lovely LAKE CLAIRE: From Tie-dye to Khaki

Part 4

In the earlier parts of this series I highlighted several long-time residents of Lake Claire, sharing their memories and thoughts on the changes they have experienced—and the similarities they see—in our neighborhood in the last 30-odd years. I hope to hear from and feature many more of you. After the first two issues, in which I included my e-mail address, I received a letter in my mailbox that said “I love your articles on us old timers, but some of us don’t use computers.” Since then I’ve added my phone number to the contact information (see below). This episode features two longtime residents, both of whom moved to Lake Claire in the 1970s from Decatur.

Alice Bliss, Gordon Avenue

Last week on a comparatively cool evening (80s instead of 90s), I had a wonderful visit with Alice Bliss on Gordon Avenue. I had been given her name by another resident on Gordon, but told nothing about her, and I had no idea what a unique experience I was in for. We sat on her porch as she shared memories from 35 years ago. Alice bought her home on Gordon in 1976, moving from Decatur with her eight cats; within a short period of time she adopted a dog she found nearby with

Beth Damon interviewing Alice Bliss on her front porch on Gordon Avenue. Credit: Beth Damon.

Thirty Years cont’d page 2
By showing me her Neighborhood Broadside that she began publishing in 1981; the last one was dated May 2010, and they became progressively less crinkly and yellowed as the years approached the present. The Broadside reported the news of the neighborhood, written factually but peppered with Alice’s wry sense of humor that would emerge more as we spoke. For example, one paragraph reads: “Neighbor’s Tools Stolen: Tools were taken from the front porch of Iris Hale and Terri Stewart on Gordon Avenue sometime last Thursday. Since tools don’t walk, presumably they were removed.

Too bad, Iris and Terri!”

Alice spent much of the time sharing many examples of burglaries that used to be common in the neighborhood, including a cluster of 12 in her immediate area and four in her own house. One night she was reading and drinking a cup of tea and heard noises in her house that she assumed was her dog. Later she found a $10 bill missing from the top of her dresser. Another night in bed, she looked out the window and saw a man climbing up the stairs of the apartments behind her; she was familiar with the residents, all of whom were African American, so she knew that the Caucasian man sneaking up the stairs didn’t belong there, and she called the police. The man convinced the police officer that he was a relative of someone who lived there, but after the policeman left, the burglar replaced the things he had stolen and removed from the home. Later the policeman apologized. The stories seem the stuff of novels. As is still true, the neighbors knew the policemen’s names, and the police assigned to the neighborhood knew the neighbors, most of whom were vigilant in watching out for and helping to protect their neighbors—as we are still today. In one of the burglaries of her home, Alice lost a coin collection spanning forty years, and again she entered her house to hear the man departing out the back. She was able to retrieve some of her coins back by going from pawn shop to pawn shop. In yet another burglary of her home, the thief took three rings including her wedding and engagement rings, her mother’s engagement ring, and real pearls. Often the burglars were quite professional, Alice said, leaving no prints, though the police made an effort to find prints and find the burglars. Some were caught and given light sentences. Many of the burglars lived nearby and became known to their neighbors, as I also experienced here in the 90s.

Alice’s Broadside gives a flavor of the time. For example, Alice reported on the “resident burglars” and gave their names. She also mentioned many instances in which people had their clothes stolen from their homes, cars stripped of belongings, and other items stolen, and how more and more neighbors began installing alarm systems. There were two local teenagers who had been trained as burglars by their grandmother, who lived in the street had lived in the house across the street since 1955. Many other elderly people were longtime residents by the 1970s, at the time that people that I have interviewed, including Alice, bought their homes. Alice knows the sales history of many of the houses around her, including one that was purchased in 1976 for $16,500, sold for $41,000 with a new kitchen, then for $141,000 in 1988, and finally for $720,000 in 2001. These price jumps were typical over the past thirty-plus years.

Alice Bliss is what I would call a Renaissance woman; a native Atlantan, she has self-published more than ten books about her travels, her friends, and her mother; she is an artist (see her drawing herein of McLendon at Clifton Avenues), a musician who plays piano and organ, and a former teacher of music composition. As I left her home, she gave me a gift of a book she wrote in 2008, Sex and Salvation. She would welcome you to contact her and buy a book, and I encourage you to do so. I am sure the books

Joe Agee, Harold Avenue

Joe Agee says that his arrival in Lake Claire was by pure luck. He was living in a garage apartment on Montgomery Street in Decatur when his first wife and he decided to buy a house. He explained that the only reason they could consider it at the time was that he was covered under the G.I. Bill that included a loan guarantee for housing for veterans. The other factor was that an Army companion just happened to be working as a real estate agent in Lake Claire. Some of you may remember him,
Lake Claire Officers for 2011
President: Sarah Wynn, president@lakeclaire.org
VP, Finance: Cara Stevens, treasurer@lakeclaire.org
NPU Rep: Kathy Evans, npu@lakeclaire.org; alternate: Jennifer Sams
VP, Zoning: Dan White, zoning@lakeclaire.org
VP, Environment: Robby Handley, environment@lakeclaire.org
VP, Safety: VACANT, safety@lakeclaire.org
VP, Communications: Heidi Hill, comm@lakeclaire.org
VP, Fun(d)raising: Cynthia Baer, fun@lakeclaire.org

Clarion Newsletter Staff
Editor: Leslie Slavich, editor@lakeclaire.org
Advertising: Jeanne Marie St. Romain, newsletter@lakeclaire.org
Distribution: Katie Brady, distribution@lakeclaire.org
Layout: Lore Ruttan, layout@lakeclaire.org
Webmaster: Tish Ganey, comm@lakeclaire.org

Meet Lore Ruttan
New Clarion Layout Editor in Her Own Words

We moved into Lake Claire with my family in February 2006 after fleeing a rougher neighborhood. We had friends on this street and the neighborhood seemed to fit us perfectly; it is urban but safe, leafy and progressive. In another month or two, I will have lived in this house longer than any other house in my life!

I live on Hardendorf Avenue with one husband, two sons, one dog, two cats, three fish and a variable number of hens (two currently). My older son goes to Inman Middle School while my younger will be home-schooled this year.

Until now, most of my volunteer activity has centered around Mary Lin Elementary, but I have been wanting to do something for Lake Claire. The layout position seemed a perfect fit for me given my artistic bent, and it is an opportunity for me to learn some computer based graphic design skills.

Until last year, I taught in the Department of Environmental Studies at Emory University. However, I started taking art classes at the Botanic Gardens and pretty soon I was hooked. I left Emory last summer in order to start a business in natural science illustration and fine art. You can see my work at www.lorenuttanillustration.com or at Donna Van Gogh’s. I also play bass guitar for a local band named SHED that was formed by fellow Lake Clarion, Steven Blondeau. I joined the band after answering an advertisement on the Land Trust listserv. At the time I didn’t even own, let alone play the bass, but I sweet talked my way into the band. Come and see us play at the Candler Park Fall Fest! I also love to garden and I tend a plot at the Land Trust since we enjoy lots of shade at our house. —Lore Ruttan

Lore playing bass with the band SHED. Credit: Chris Hunt Photography

Thank You!

Current and past Clarion staff, left to right: Leslie Slavich (editor), Lore Ruttan (layout editor), Tim Harrison (former layout editor), and Heidi Hill (current LCN VP Communications and former editor)

The Clarion staff and the Officers of Lake Claire Neighbors would like to thank our outgoing Layout Editor, Tim Harrison, for his fantastic work on the Clarion and his service to the neighborhood. Tim’s aesthetic and editorial contributions will be missed!

Don’t Forget: Lake Claire Has a New Website!
www.lakeclaire.org

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No registration required

All free seminars are held at the Neal & Wright LLC office conveniently located in Downtown Decatur. Visit us online for directions and more information.

We’re in the neighborhood!

Montessori In Town
NOW ENROLLING Primary and Elementary Programs
Montessori In Town announces Expanded After School Care with Garrison After School Program
1068 North Highland Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30306

Contact Nikki Torres - Educational Director
niki@montessoriintown.com • 404-784-1038

Niki Torso is the A.M.P. Montessori School
www.montessoriintown.com

Lake Claire Clarion @ www.LakeClaire.org
September 2011

Lake Claire Clarion @ www.LakeClaire.org
September 2011
Mark Your Calendar

September

5: Labor Day

10: Lake Claire Land Trust Fall Fest, 1 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. For details, see the article in this month’s Clarion.

14: Land Trust Benefit at the Arizona Pub. Arizona Pub will donate a percentage of its sales to the Land Trust. All you have to do is bring your family, children, friends, co-workers and yourself. This is a great way to support the Land Trust and a local business while enjoying a meal or drink with your neighbors. Best of all, your food may have been prepared with vegetables from the new Land Trust community garden beds tended by volunteers! Produce from these beds has been made available to neighbors via our Yahoo list as a fundraising venture, and the Arizona Pub is one of our steady customers. Located on Arizona Avenue in Kirkwood, across from the soccer field. No coupons accepted.

16: Celebrate Biscuits & Bellyrubs with Anna Trodglen at JavaMonkey in downtown Decatur. For details, see the article in this month’s Clarion.

15: Lake Claire Neighbors meeting, 7 p.m., Frazer Center atrium, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Ave. (enter at the back entrance at the end of Ridgewood Road).

22: NPU-N meeting, 7 p.m., Little Five Points Community Center, 1083 Austin Ave. NE.

Safety Report

July 2011

OTHER LARCENY
482 Hardendorf Ave NE 7/13 (16:00) 7/14 (09:00) Unk
Someone stole 2 A/C units from side of location. Neighbor advised he saw a white Ford pick-up truck parked in front of location, but was unsure of the time he saw it.

AUTO THEFT
303 Nelms Ave NE 7/17/2011 (00:00-00:35) Sun Morn
1994 Nissan Quest
Victim advised he parked his vehicle in front of location and when he returned it was gone. Victim stated a neighbor said they saw an individual drive off in his vehicle. Vehicle placed on system as stolen.

262 Casson St NE 7/27/2011 (06:06) Wed Morn
Residence - Strangers
Victim: B/F, 32 YOA, lives on 12th St in Atlanta
Weapon: Handgun
Victim advised she was in the laundry room at the rear of location when she heard a noise. Victim thought it was her boyfriend (owner of residence), but when she turned around suspects were standing there. She stated the male suspect told her to shut up, grabbed her by the throat and threw her on the ground. Suspects moved her to a back room, struck her in the face with a handgun and kicked her in the stomach several times. Victim's boyfriend entered location causing suspects to flee out a side door. Victim's cell phone was taken, but later found on the floor. Victim suffered bruising and swelling to the side of her face. She was transported to the hospital by EMS. Victim believes this occurred due to a pending lawsuit she has. Suspects made entry through an unlocked front door.

Taken: Cell phone (recovered)
Suspect: B/M, 6’00”, light skin
Suspect: B/F

Out of Town – Special Patrol Request
If you plan to be out of town and would like to request a special patrol, please contact APD, Zone 6, 2025 Hosea L. Williams Dr., SE, (404) 371-5002 (phone), or (404) 378-6554 (fax).

How To Support Mary Lin Elementary

For Credit Card donations please go to www.marylinfoundation.org and click on Contribute.

To donate by Check, please send your contribution, along with your name, address and email to the Mary Lin Education Foundation, 586 Candler Park Drive, Atlanta, GA 30307. Also, please let us know if your employer matches contributions.

Thanks again for your support!
News from the Land Trust

Fall is coming—and so is our annual Fall Fest fundraiser at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust with fun for the whole family! It’s happening on Saturday, September 10, from 1 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. A requested donation of $10 per person benefits the Land Trust. Kids are free, of course.

Please join us for a full day of live music with nine bands, including several local neighborhood kids’ bands. The kids really bring the house to their feet and it is so sweet to watch them learn and grow through their various performances at the Land Trust.

The Gorilla Grill will be serving all day, and as always our neighborhood bakers will be supplying a Bake Sale for dessert. (This means you—donations of homemade goodies are always welcome and needed!) We will also be having an ongoing Raffle all day with oodles of fun prizes, with chances to win for only a $1 donation (or 12 for $10).

And we will be kicking off our annual Membership Drive. Join the Land Trust at the gate or renew your membership and get in free!

Please walk, bike or carpool. If you drive, please park at Clifton Sanctuary (369 Connecticut Avenue at McLendon) and enjoy a short four-block stroll in the beautiful autumn weather.

Last but not least, like everything the Land Trust does, this is a community effort. If you’d like to volunteer for a two-hour shift, get in touch by calling me at (678) 508-6632. Visit our website, LCCLT.org, for more information on the Land Trust and why it is worthy of your support.

—Sunshine Allard

Land Trust Calendar Update

SEPT. 4 and 18, 3 to 6 p.m. ~ “Keep the Trust” volunteer work days. Pizza will be served. Volunteers will also receive a free Drum Circle pass.

SEPT. 10, 1 to 11:30 p.m. ~ FALL FEST
Our annual fall fundraiser with food, fun and live music all day.

SEPT. 13, 6:30 p.m. ~ Community Potluck at the Gazebo; Rain location: the Gorilla Grill.

OCTOBER 8 ~ THEATRE NIGHT
Rent a table and bring a picnic (Chastain-style) while we entertain you with a variety of performances on the big stage.

DECEMBER 3 ~ HOLIDAY CRAFT SALE
Artists & craftspeople, what are you going to make this year to sell?

BAND SCHEDULE (all times are approximate)

1:00-4:00 Kids’ Bands: ROCKING ROYALE, SPAGHETTI JUNCTION, MY HOMEWORK ATE MY DOG, with special guests MY IMAGINARY BAND
4:15-5:00 5 @ 5
5:15-6:00 THE BROTHERS/CHRIS & GERALD
6:15-7:45 HAIR OF THE DOG
8:00-9:30 WEBSTER
9:45-11:30 DELTA MOON
I first moved to the Lake Claire area in 1983 when I graduated from high school and got my own apartment on Sterling in Candler Park. Things were grittier then, but there was an ethos and vibe that suited my emerging self. I went to potlucks, went Sufi dancing, contra dancing, and basically hung out with the older hippies, often wishing that I had been born a few years earlier. I moved away for many years, but returned to Atlanta in 1995 and shortly thereafter met my husband-to-be, Reuben Haller.

Reuben had just bought a house on Arizona Avenue, and as soon as I saw it and the Land Trust for the first time, I was hooked. Though I had not wanted to stay in Atlanta, being part of the Land Trust community made being in Atlanta tolerable. Within minutes, I was going to potlucks, going to drum circles, contra dancing and hanging out with the older hippies again as well as other varieties of wonderful neighbors. Our fellow potluckers were neighbors of all sorts, many living in various types of communal environments and intentionally creating community while keeping living costs low.

Atlanta became more than tolerable to me; it became home. Because of the Land Trust community I soon knew every neighbor on the block. When I had my first child, I quickly realized that if I wanted to stroller him to sleep I had to go off Arizona because if not, I would stop and talk to too many people and Elijah would stay awake for the party!

The community has always been vibrant in large part because of the Land Trust, the cohousing and Amata. Being part of the evolution of the Land Trust has been a valuable experience on so many levels. It has provided rich connections to my neighbors, hours of fun at festivals, a haven for raising my kids, and so much more. I feel so blessed to live in a community where everyone mostly knows each other, where neighbors come together to play and learn together, to garden, make music, share concerns and steward a haven in the middle of a big city.

And it is not easy! Creating community is hard work and it only happens when people come together in open-hearted communication and a willingness to keep showing up. Those stewarding the Land Trust have been showing up for over 25 years. When I think of the vision those original trustees had and what there is today, I am always amazed. I am amazed when I look at old pictures of the kudzu-covered lot, when I hear Charlie Pope tell me that he planted the large Maple tree that the kids climb in, and that Richard Powers and Wing have been working at drum circles for well over a decade. The Land Trust has had to evolve from a loose-run group to a more formal structure addressing numerous issues while at the same time staying true to what we call the magic of the Land Trust. During my time on the first board of directors, we had heated conversations about development, parking, events, fund-raising, water conservation, dogs, and everything else. And at the end of the day, we walked through the beautiful green space and remembered why we were doing what we were doing. Those conversations continue to this day with new members rotating on to the board, being active participants, making a difference, engaging and creating community.

As I walk through the Land Trust and around the neighborhood I am so grateful to live in a place with such a strong heart, where neighbors know my kids, where we come together throughout the year for so many community events – Halloween pumpkin carving, Easter egg hunts and brunch, Memorial Day yard sale and street dance, July 4th cook-offs, and music festivals with all the amazingly talented local musicians. Part of the reason that these happenings are so vital and rich is because we are the ones who make these things happen. We create them for ourselves and our neighbors. So much of what has occurred has happened because someone had a vision for something and brought it into being.

This is the way this neighborhood has always been, and while of course there are challenges sometimes associated with it, such as a few extra cars on the street or music at night when you’re trying to put a baby to sleep, my hope is that this is the way Arizona Avenue and the surrounding neighborhood will remain: a place where neighbors come together to celebrate nature, community and the arts. — McKenzie Wren
Op-Ed: The Transition Is Coming! What Comes After the Age of Petroleum – and Are You Ready?

No, I’m not talking about the Singularity: that moment gleefully predicted by technophiles when cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence, robotics, nanotech, and genetic manipulation converge to overwhelm nature and seize control of human evolution in a benevolent coup d’etat.

What I’m talking about is a different Transition altogether. It’s the moment when the supply of cheap petroleum can no longer fuel the endless expansion of human industry—including those cutting-edge technologies—and the fossil-fuel economy tips into sudden decline.

Better known by its other name, Peak Oil, this unprecedented shift will be compounded by the reverberations of climate change and an imploding global economy. It will be huge, it will be challenging, and our lives will be irrevocably changed in ways that are difficult to predict. But if we prepare and work together, the sum total of the changes could turn out to be positive. The term “Transition” flips the focus from the paralysis of inevitability to the responsibility of preparing ourselves and our communities.

The Transition is coming, and people all over the world are actively preparing.

In my former job, writing promotional blurbs at a book wholesaler, I noticed the increasing number of books on Transition and related topics hitting the market. Then I got laid off. My new job, stocking the shelves at Sevananda Natural Foods Market, gave me a closer look at the impending crisis. Growing and transporting food, according to a study conducted in 2000, swallows ten percent of our daily fossil fuel binge. Suddenly this is more than a statistic.

Trucks arrive every day at Sevananda’s loading dock bearing natural foods that grace my refrigerator at home. Reordering is easy, and packing them by the case. Multiplying daily or weekly shipments by the number of other grocery retailers out there—then factoring in restaurants and other food sources—gives me a visceral jolt of awareness.

The sheer scale of our dependence on fossil fuels is sobering. Make that “my dependence,” and it really hits home. And as the world’s population grows, it can only increase . . . until something gives.

While the crisis will be worldwide, the solutions are local, varying from place to place, with a twin emphasis on self-reliance and cooperation. Local Transition groups are forming on every continent, linked into a global network, sharing information and ideas via the internet. Books and websites provide guidance and inspiration. Small towns are in the forefront, but some cities in England have sprouted Transition groups in every neighborhood. It’s a genuine global grassroots movement, arguably the most important one yet.

Meanwhile, back in the U.S.A., the vast majority remain plugged into the technosphere, logged in to eternal ignorant bliss. Well aware that increasing scarcity means ever-higher prices, the fossil fuel kingpins are frantically squeezing every last petrodollar out of land and sea. Piping in low-quality oil from the Canadian tar sands, leveling mountains in Appalachia for coal, pumping poisons underground to extract more natural gas, opening our last pristine wild places to oil-drilling, our multinational corporate enablers grow ever richer as the tipping point looms.

Democracy seems irrelevant as long as the corporate media control the flow of information to the voters. Despite victories like the EPA’s decision to regulate carbon pollution, the federal government appears to be in near-total thrall to the fossil fuel lobby. But look closer, and once more the solutions turn out to be local. Municipal governments large and small are beginning to recognize the dangers ahead and take realistic steps in response. But it all starts with alert citizens coming together to sound the alarm.

Transition groups are rated in stages: first, “steering committees” that start the process in a given locale; next, “mullers,” groups that are still mulling over their options and getting organized; and finally, full-fledged “initiatives” that have a plan and are taking action. The only recognized Transition Initiative in Georgia so far is in Sautee-Nacoochee (near Helen). Groups of “mullers” have formed in Canton, Dahlonega, Dawsonville, and Gainesville.

Most recently, a steering committee calling itself the “Tri-State Transition Hub” has taken root in the Clayton area, connecting Rabun County, Georgia, Macon County, NC, and Oconee County, SC. Their first public offering is an upcoming public showing of the documentary The End of Suburbia. Clayton’s mayor and members of the city council have expressed interest in attending. The Clayton Tribune has published an interview with organizer Victor Harris and offered the group a weekly column. In Clayton, the Transition has begun.

In the event of a petroleum shortage, our biggest challenge will be feeding ourselves. Small towns surrounded by countryside like Clayton have obvious advantages over cities like Atlanta. But Atlanta has already begun making local food production a priority, and other U.S. megacities are leaps and bounds ahead.

The Atlanta City Council has approved a measure allowing neighborhood groups to grow food in city parks. Decatur allows gardening on any municipal property. Community gardens, farmer’s markets and community-supported agriculture networks are spreading like kudzu. “Locally Grown” labels are appearing in big-box grocery stores and chain restaurants. And around two dozen government agencies and NGOs, including Georgia Organics, the CDC, Oakhurst Community Garden and Sevananda, have partnered to form the Atlanta Local Food Initiative.

Atlanta does not yet have a Transition group, however. As in England, the actual work of creating urban sustainability is likely to be neighborhood-based. Once neighborhoods begin to take charge of their own sustainability, a citywide Transition network will eventually follow. Could Lake Claire jump-start this process?

Victor Harris has agreed to lend us his expertise. I have invited him to speak to a potluck gathering on Friday, September 16, 7:00 pm, at the Lake Claire Cohousing Common House. Please join us, bring some food if you can, and pass the word to friends and neighbors who might want to take part in the conversation. Victor will share his knowledge of what we face and his experience in organizing his neighbors to face it. We will plan a follow-up gathering, possibly including our own showing of The End of Suburbia, and see what develops.

Meanwhile, it wouldn’t hurt to do a little research. The list of books and websites on the next page gives some good places to start.

—Stephen Wing

You can contact me at (404) 916-8253 or via email at swing1027@gmail.com
Letter to the Editor from Norman Glassman

I read with great interest the letter by Steven Blondeau in the recent Clarion, especially his statement that it is not legal to rent rooms in a house. I checked the R5 zoning regulations and saw nothing about that. I did note the Statement of Intent for our R5 zoning: To provide for the development of medium-density residential areas in a manner which will encourage owner occupancy of individual buildings and lots as well as provide variety in the rental housing stock available to residents of the city.

I then checked definitions in the zoning section and found the following:

Family: One or more persons occupying a single dwelling or lodging unit, provided that, unless all members are related by blood, marriage or adoption, no such family shall contain over six persons, with the following exceptions. Domestic servants employed on the premises may be boarded on the premises without being counted as a family. In a dwelling unit, not more than two rooms not containing independent kitchen facilities may be occupied by a total of four or less roomers who may also board with the family. Four or less boarders, including but not necessarily restricted to roomers on the premises, may be accommodated for compensation for any period, including daily, weekly or monthly periods.

So this seems to make it very clear that roomers and boarders are specifically allowed. To verify for yourself, Google “Municode”, go to Georgia, then Atlanta, Part III Code of Ordinances, Part 16 Zoning, Chapter 7 for R5 zoning designation for portions of Lake Claire) and Chapter 29, Definitions (10) (b) “Family.” It is actually easy to do and an empowering experience.

If Mr. Blondeau has information about laws or ordinances in other parts of the Code that contradict this, I would appreciate it if he would share that information and put it in the Clarion for all of us to see, with specifics about how to verify his information.

And now some personal comments:

The issue here is what sort of community we are and want to become. There is a pressing need for rooms for rent in our neighborhood. We have rented rooms in our house for many years and now that the neighborhood has gotten popular and desirable we often have to turn people away. Some of the folks we turn away could never afford to rent an apartment or house with the required deposits and utility activations. Others, who could afford it, prefer to live with other people because they yearn for community and don’t want to live alone.

I encourage any of you who read this to consider renting out space in your house, or apartment. You could start with an agreement that goes month by month so that you can try it out without a long commitment. This arrangement could work well for seniors who want to stay in their home but have financial difficulty or need someone around to help with simple chores or the moment of “help, I’ve fallen and I can’t get up.” Having someone around who can hear you, and also who can help lift or carry things for you, makes a huge difference for seniors. This used to be called “extended family” which sadly is mostly gone for many of us of all ages. I moved onto our block in 1974 and watched as several elderly neighbors got to where it was hard to live alone. I suggested that they consider renting out a room or in several cases an empty basement apartment, and the answer was “I like my privacy.” What happened next, after a few more years, was a move to a nursing home where there was no privacy and they had to share a room with a stranger.

I noted in Mr. Blondeau’s letter an allusion to decreased property values due to people renting out rooms in their house. I guess the assumption is that folks who cannot afford their own apartment or house, but could only afford to rent a room, would be less than desirable as neighbors. In 30 years of renting rooms, I have not noticed any correlation between money and character. I have known folks with little money but lots of character, and I know people who have lots of money but little character.

Mr. Blondeau’s letter also used the term boarding house, or rooming house, to describe homes where rooms are rented. Based on what I’ve found above, the Code does not consider that the case. But there is a real need in our neighborhood for an actual Boarding house, appropriate in size and location, with rooms that vary from tiny to large and rent from $350 to $550 per month, including utilities. I think that the Clifton shelter should consider building something with maybe ten rooms for rent and a manager living onsite. This would create income for the shelter and also allow some of the homeless men to have a chance to graduate to a room of their own. It would also provide very affordable housing to folks who now are on the edge of homelessness and can’t afford an apartment. There used to be a variety of actual boarding houses throughout the city, mostly gone now, and thus more people are homeless.

Well, I’ve had my say. Thanks to the Clarion staff for providing a forum for neighbors to discuss these issues. I look forward to our wonderful neighborhood continuing to be a place that welcomes a variety of folks, and places human values above property values.

Norman Glassman

To Learn More About Peak Oil and the Transition Movement . . .

WEBSITES
www.transitionus.org
www.transitionnetwork.org
www.transitionculture.org
www.transitiontownsnes.org

DOCUMENTARIES
The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion & The Collapse of the American Dream (written & directed by Gregory Greene)
The 11th Hour (produced by Leonardo DiCaprio)
The Transition Handbook: From Oil Dependency to Local Resilience by Rob Hopkins (Green Books, 2008)
The Transition Timeline: For a Local, Resilient Future by Shaun Chamberlin (Green Books, 2009)
Resilient Cities: Responding to Peak Oil & Climate Change by Timothy Beatley, Heather Boyer & Peter Newman (Island Press, 2009)
Food Not Lawns: Turn Your Yard Into a Garden & Your Neighborhood Into a Community by Heather C. Flores (Chelsea Green, 2006)
Peak Everything: Waking Up to the Century of Declines by Richard Heinberg (New Society Publishers, 2010)

It’s not too late to pay your LCN dues!

How? Mail a check for $20 to Lake Claire Neighbors, attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107, or go to www.lakeclaire.org/lcn/members.htm.

Why? Help your neighborhood association clean up green spaces, install signs, organize community events, and publish the Clarion.

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Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting: August Minutes

August 18, 2011

Led by Cynthia Baer

Cynthia Baer, VP of Fundraising for Lake Claire Neighbors, opened the meeting at 7:14 pm.

1) Guest speakers.

Cynthia invited officials of the Atlanta Police Department to give the crime report. Lieutenant Bruce informed neighbors of cars being stolen in the Candler Park area and of a recent bust set up to investigate the thefts.

Members of the Atlanta Fire Rescue team from Station 12 were invited to speak next. Captain Boeker talked about the upcoming Fire Resources International, a weeklong visit by fire officials to stations in the city; the recently reinstated Special Ops squad; and the U.S. Fire Administration’s campaign focusing on campus fires. He added that the station had received 100 calls in the past month; most calls had been for medical emergencies.

Valencia Hudson, from councilmember Natalyn Archibong’s office, thanked the neighbors for their help in addressing the parking proposal for Arizona Avenue. In response to a neighbor’s question at a previous meeting, she noted that it is illegal to park more than 12 inches from a curb and to park in front of another person’s driveway.

Ms. Hudson asked how the new garbage collection was working out and noted that the garbage trucks are in each quadrant for a week, to reduce missed pickups.

A neighbor asked about painting a bike lane on McLendon; Hudson said it would be helpful to address the bump-outs, but she would look into it.

Another neighbor noted that speeding was a concern on the MARTA Mobility buses that serve the Frazer Center. Hudson asked her to email her the details, and she would address it.

Another neighbor reported that the new bike rack is causing the neighbors of the technicalities of the Frazer Center. He informed the neighbors of the technicalities of the Certificate of Appropriateness the Frazer Center was seeking and described the workings of the Historic Preservation Commission. He stated that the Frazer Center needed to follow the rules.

A neighbor thanked residents for supporting the second petition and indicated that the article on the Frazer Center’s capital campaign in last month’s Clarion highlighted the fact that the issues of the bridge and the MARTA buses were not included in the campaign. She said that she had pointed out that the issue of the parking lot had not been included on the meeting agenda.

Mr. Ballou asked to speak about his petition as head of the crime watch at www.eastlakeneighbor-hood.org. He invited Lake Claire residents to sign up on the website for crime updates.

Cynthia addressed the concern about Mr. Haythorn leaving the meeting, saying that he had had to leave.

One of the impacted neighbors asked that the center agree to a 50-foot setback around the perimeter of its property to address neighbors’ concerns about noise and visual disturbances. Haythorn said that he was concerned at the center, police and staff carry decibel monitors to ensure noise does not exceed legal limits. He said that the center continues to address issues and is aware of neighbors’ concerns. He then excused himself from the meeting.

Another neighbor asked to speak regarding a petition he had drawn up in support of the Frazer Center. He read the petition, which caused the neighbors. Two neighbors whose properties back up to the parking lot asked for clarification on the historic preservation plan and if the center would be applying for appropriate land use permits. Mr. Haythorn said he had met with someone from the county and was under the impression that the center did not need special permits because it was not looking to expand.

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[Next LCN Meeting]

Lake Claire Neighbors meets every third Thursday of the month at the Frazer Center. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are open to all. Sign up for the newscast at www.lakeclaire.org to get the meeting agenda.

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Celebrate Biscuits & Bellyrubs at JavaMonkey with Artist Anna Trodglen

Perhaps you have seen and enjoyed “Biscuits & Bellyrubs,” the comic strip featured in the Clarion. The strip is by local artist Anna Trodglen, and in September Anna will be celebrating the strip’s first anniversary with a show at JavaMonkey in downtown Decatur. She will also be singing and playing guitar there on Friday, September 16th as part of the celebration.

Anna, who lives in East Atlanta with her husband Dugan, has been drawing and painting her whole life and has always been fascinated by classic children’s book illustration. It is this influence and her deep love of animals that informs “Biscuits & Bellyrubs” as well as her whimsical paintings. Anna’s work reflects a sense of wonder that rarely survives into adulthood.

Prints and greeting cards of her paintings are available around town at places like Donna Van Gogh’s in Candler Park. Anna has also made a name for herself in music, both locally and worldwide, as Grace Braun, singer and front-woman for the band DQE.

After several years painting, including the commissioned stylized pet portraits she continues to do, Anna once more turned to her first love, illustration, and “Biscuits & Bellyrubs” was born. The strip features a rotating cast of dogs and cats (mostly animals Anna has owned or known) as well as some fat little children Anna has dubbed her “Butter Babies.” What began as a weekly strip now appears three times a week on Facebook (“Biscuits & Bellyrubs by Anna Trodglen”) and is now joined by a second, twice-weekly strip, “Dharma Dogs,” appearing on the metaphysical blog www.loveliveandlaugh.com.

To mark the one-year anniversary of her comic strip, Anna will be having her second art exhibit at JavaMonkey. In 2010, the popular Decatur coffeehouse hosted a show of her paintings, and in September the show will be a mix of her favorite strips and signed prints of some of her most popular paintings. She is also excited that her work will be paired in the show with the beautiful nature photography of her father, Richard Bondi.

On Friday September 16th, both Anna and Richard will be on hand to meet and greet, and there will be extra prints and cards available for sale. Anna will be performing a mix of her own material and classic folk songs, accompanied by longtime musical collaborator John Armstrong. It promises to be a fun night.

JavaMonkey is located at 425 Church Street in Decatur. For more information visit “Biscuits & Bellyrubs by Anna Trodglen” on Facebook or write biscuits.bellyrubs@gmail.com.
Thirty Years cont’d from Page 2

way. About 1983, the City of Atlanta approved a highway that would go from the 75/85 Connector, surround the Jimmy Carter Library and eventually cut off the bottom part of Candler Park and a portion of Olmstead Park before entering Ponce de Leon Avenue. As most of the residents of the area knew, this was a smaller scale version of the old Stone Mountain Freeway, a four-lane highway that was going to cut through Freedom Park, the houses along North Avenue across from the park were all razed in preparation for “The Road,” as it was called. Much of the vacant real estate was finally ceded to the neighborhoods for the current green space, park, and network of walking and biking paths.

To make a very long story short, Lake Claire joined with all the affected neighborhoods including Inman Park and Druid Hills and, after years of litigation and protests, finally got an injunction to stop The Road even though construction had actually begun. Joe has a display in his house of DOT markers and pieces of granite rock for the bridge that would have gone over Moreland Avenue (yes, said Joe, “there was a fringe element of neighbors who participated in delay tactics”). He also has some “Road Busters” tee shirts. It was quite a time in the hood, reviving the Lake Claire neighborhood spirit, his neighbors demonstrated their concern, and, in particular, Katie Ryan coordinated an around-the-clock care effort during the couple of weeks of his recovery at home. Joe is very grateful, and asked me to mention it. In his reminiscences, Joe concluded, “I feel extremely fortunate to have spent a large portion of my life in Lake Claire, and I hope to stay on for quite a few more years.”—Beth Damon, resident “only” since 1990

In Parts 1, 2 & 3 of this article, we heard from several long-time residents of Lake Claire, sharing their memories and thoughts on the differences—and similarities—they see in our neighborhood in the last 30-plus years. I hope to feature many more of you. Please feel free to share even a sentence or two about what you’ve noticed, special memories, humorous stories or anything else you’d like to contribute. You can contact me via e-mail at playbassbeth@gmail.com or phone at (404) 727-0608.

About Deadbolt Locks
Suggestions from The Entry Enforcer, A PAID ADVERTISER

When a burglar kicks a door, the usual thing that busts is the doorframe where the deadbolt and latch enter it. Next is the door itself at the deadbolt. Third, the hinge side can be kicked loose. Steel reinforcing hardware arms all three of these vulnerable spots.

But the deadbolt lock is another critical component to the system. Cheap deadbolts will bend and break when force is applied. Locks can also be thwarted by hitting with a hammer, twisting with a pipe wrench, drilling, picking, and lock bumping. Grade 2 or Grade 1 locks are a better choice than the inexpensive Grade 3 residential locks widely available. Specific suggestions are at the end of this article.

The most important thing about a deadbolt is to lock it. 32% of unlawful entries into single family homes are through unlocked doors or windows. Good security features in a deadbolt include:

• Anti-pry shield integrated into exterior housing
• Hardened steel as the exterior casing
• Tapered exterior casing to deter grabbing with a wrench
• A hardened steel pin inside the bolt that spins in response to sawing attack
• Strike box for jamb, with third, long screw inside the box for deeper anchoring into the jamb
• At least one inch bolt throw, the length the deadbolt extends out of the door edge
• Seamless steel construction of shroud around bolt inside door
• Hardened steel ball bearings shield mounting bolts from being drilled out

The ultimate solution is high security deadbolts like Medeco and MultiLock costing about $250 each. However, Kwikset’s UltraMax lock (780 or 980 series) is quality, reliable, and reasonably priced. If Kwikset’s easy-to-rekey Smart-Key version of this is readily available. For Schlage, their B560 series (Grade 2) is the recommended mid-price choice. And locksmiths have a Grade 2 lock from LSDA—Locksmiths Distributors of America.

A strike plate comes with every door lock. Many times these strike plates are cosmetic and not intended to provide much security. High security strike plates are available, sometimes coming with a heavy gauge metal reinforcing plate or box that mounts under the cosmetic strike plate and comes with three-inch long screws that secure the strike to the wall framing, not just to the doorframe jamb. Better yet is the four-foot jamb-reinforcing plate sold and/or installed by The Entry Enforcer—Duncan Cottrell, The Entry Enforcer

Duncan can advise you about door and window security options at your home and install any products mentioned. (404) 289-6960 or Duncan@EntryEnforcer.com

Biscuits & Bellyrubs
Anna Trodglen

Biscuits & Bellyrubs artwork, cards and coloring books can be purchased at Donna Van Gogh’s, 1651 McLendon Avenue. Also, be sure to check out the twice-weekly strip on Facebook “Biscuits & Bellyrubs by Anna Trodglen.”

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