



December 2011

Newsletter of the Lake Claire Neighbors • A Neighborhood Association • www.LakeClaire.org

V.19, #11

What is Lake Claire's Community School?

By Alicia McGill and Boyd Baker

Some would say it's Paideia, some Mary Lin, some Waldorf, and others call home the ultimate school. In the end, your property value, and for some possibly your reason for choosing to live in Lake Claire, revolve around the great public schools. Mary Lin has had its ups and downs over the years, but is one of Atlanta Public Schools' shining stars. Depending on how you crunch the results, it is definitely in the Top 10 -- or even Top 5 -- elementary schools. Not bad for a system with 100 schools.

Let's not forget the "next step" that is represented by Inman Middle School. There are even

fewer middle schools in the Atlanta Public Schools (APS), and Inman is in the Top 2. Bragging rights again are based on your view of data and value added. Moving to the "upper deck" is Grady High School. Fewer high schools exist in the system, but Grady has been at the top of the heap for a long time.

So what does all this mean to me? It means that you need to start paying attention if you haven't yet. Even if you don't have kids, solid public schools build strong communities, great local businesses, and dependable home values. By the time you read this, APS may--or may not--

have announced possible scenarios to change the school attendance zones. December 1 was the date set by APS to talk to the community about the demographer's report that has been commissioned.

Whatever the outcome of that meeting, there will be more discussions. Decisions by the Board of Education will be made this year and could change the feeder school pattern -- elementary, middle, high schools -- of our community's children. Most likely, schools will be closed. Some schools will be



Grady High School, Credit: Alicia McGill

redistricted. Some new schools will be built. If you haven't been able to gather all the pieces to this educational challenge, here are some basics:

- APS has many under-

utilized schools, some as little as 30% of potential capacity.

- APS has a portion of its 100 schools that are over-utilized

Schools cont. p. 13



Mary Lin Elementary portables
Credit: Alicia McGill

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

Part 7

By Beth Damon, resident "only" since 1990

In this series I highlight long-time residents of Lake Claire, sharing their memories and thoughts on changes they have experienced --and 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 in-

formation (see box below). This month I feature Pat Edmondson, who first moved to Lake Claire in 1969, which with FORTY TWO years in the neighborhood, except for those who grew up in Lake Claire, makes him the longest term resident so far.

When Pat finished his degree at Emory University Oxford College, he and his then girlfriend moved to Lake Claire, in June 1969. They rented a home on Ivy Place, and they stayed there for about three years. Soon after, his girlfriend's sister saw a place for

rent on Harold Avenue, and they moved. The house functioned basically as a commune. Pat, his girlfriend, his girlfriend's mother, and the members of a rock-and-roll band (when they were in



Patrick Edmondson
Thirty Years cont. p. 14

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Don't Forget: Lake Claire Has a New Website!

www.lakeclaire.org

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Lake Claire Neighbors

P.O. Box 5942 Atlanta, GA 31107
 (404) 236-9526
 Visit www.lakeclaire.org to sign up for the newscasts—timely updates on happenings in Lake Claire!

Next LCN Meeting/Holiday Party

Thursday December 15

Come celebrate the holidays with folks from around the neighborhood at the Lake Claire Neighbors holiday potluck dinner/meeting on Thursday, December 15 at 6:30 pm in the atrium of The Frazer Center. The dinner will have a purchased main dish and we neighbors will bring the vegetables, salads, and desserts. Those with addresses ending with an even number should bring a side dish, vegetable, or salad that will feed at least 6 people; neighbors with address ending with an odd numbers please bring a dessert that will feed at least 6 people. Contact Genise Spenle (genisejoy@earthlink.net) or Kathy Evans (kathyevanz@comcast.net) with questions and hopefully, offers of assistance with set up and cleanup, or any other task. See you there!

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Frazer (Center) Bling

By Sherri Breunig, Communications and Marketing Associate
 for the Frazer Center



THE FRAZER CENTER
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Here at the Frazer Center, we have a vision of starting several new micro-enterprises that will be staffed and operated by Frazer Center adults. The first of those endeavors is a jewelry making business called "Frazer Bling." The idea was born when several of our adult participants and a staff member expressed an interest in jewelry making. Thanks to a generous donation made by Michelle and Jimmy Jarrard, we were able to purchase supplies and make their dreams a reality.

After a few months of practice and skill learning, Frazer Bling is going strong! The adult participants have been busy making a variety of lovely jewelry items. They made their debut at a Gardens Breakfast on October 19 and were very well received. They also had a booth at the Frazer Center Fall Festival held on October 30 Elicia Westbrook-Thomas (our jewelry expert staff member), the "Blingers", and the rest of the Adult Program participants are very proud of the success of Frazer Bling.

We would like to invite the Lake Claire Community to visit us at The Frazer Center on December 13 from 9:30 – 11:30 for our 1st Annual Lake Claire Community Holiday Bling Bazaar. The Bazaar will be held in the Adult Dining Room – guests will have a chance to personally meet all of our talented jewelry makers and peruse the specially designed, handcrafted jewelry. We hope you'll join us for this special holiday event. We look forward to meeting you and building a relationship with members of the Lake Claire community.

For more information about The Frazer Center, please visit our Web site at www.thefrazercenter.org or call us at 404-377-3836.



The Tale of My Backyard Chicks

By Jesse Sturm



Lucy Sturm with neighbors Sari and Elena D'agostino and baby chicks;
Credit: Alison Sturm

It is not clear when raising chickens became an idea in my head, but once the idea was laid, it stuck. Living in this neighborhood and frequently seeing chickens at the Land Trust and hearing them daily from our neighbor on Connecticut was certainly an impetus. But after we lost our beloved cat to old age and had a home with no animals, I decided to move forward -- with my wife's grudging assent. We have a relatively large backyard that was not being used for any specific reason; no dog to torment our chickens, and it was already fenced, so I was ready to go.

I did not have any close acquaintances that were actively raising chickens, so first-hand advice was hard to come by. My first step was to decide where they would live. I researched online for free chicken coop pictures and plans. There are a plethora of books available and premade coops galore, with hefty delivery fees. The premade coops range from simple structures that house 3-4 chickens to elaborate

saltbox coops with workman-like detail. On mypetchicken.com I found building plans for a coop capable of handling 8 chickens or so, which seemed somewhat uncomplicated. After I ordered the pdf plans, I was surprised to have a 45-page document e-mailed to me -- a lot more complicated than I had thought it would be. Although the 'build it yourself' option was theoretically less costly --with a purported cost of \$400 in supplies compared to \$700-1000 for a premade coop--practically, it was undoubtedly the more expensive option. By the time you factor in ferrying 36 - 2x4's on multiple trips to and from Lowes in a 1997 sedan and having to buy new tools when one doesn't have a jig saw, the cost was considerably more. The total construction time was probably 100 hours at least. With the coop nearly completed in mid summer, but sort of in a construction lull, I decided the best impetus to complete the coop was to buy chicks.

Based on a recommendation



Grown-up chickens eating rye grass from Alison Sturm's hand while "free ranging"; Credit: Alison Sturm

from a friend, we visited a farm store in Canton, Georgia, where 1-week old chickens were available. We could also buy them online with a better selection of breeds, but the shipping fees were considerable. We decided to start small and initially bought three chickens - which due to their inability to thermoregulate - have to be raised inside for five weeks. When introducing them to the backyard for their transition outside at about five weeks the "tragedy" happened. One afternoon while finishing up the coop and allowing the chickens to range in the backyard immediately over my shoulder, a large hawk descended from a nearby tree and targeted the chickens. He dive bombed the group of three chicks who were defenseless, and in my stunned state, I could do nothing but watch as he flew off with our Easter Egger chicken. The whole thing lasted probably 30 seconds, but I can still remember every vivid detail. I am told I was screaming the entire time but remember none of it. It was clear at this point that the nearly completed coop, with a plan to allow them to free range for several hours a day, was not a viable plan (at least not for the chickens). I quickly finished the coop and added a 30-foot attached run to the coop to give them adequate protected space to range. In general, the goal of space is about 3-4 sq feet per chicken if they can free range during the day, although if they do not range they need considerably more.

To replace our missing chicken and fill our now much larger space

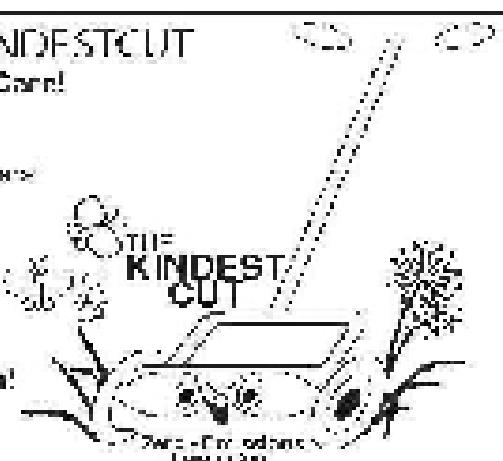
we went to Farmer D Organics, which has a large collection of supplies and an intermittent supply of chicks. There, guided by some online guides about what types of chickens thrive best in the heat and in confinement, we bought 2 more chickens a French Favorelle and a Wheat-en Maran, famous for their dark chocolate colored eggs. Given our fatigue of raising baby chickens, we also wanted an older chicken that would expedite arrival of eggs so we purchased an 8-week old chicken that was deemed to be a female by the salesman. Just shows how inexact chicken sexing can be. After raising this older chicken for about five weeks, he started to crow regularly every morning at 7:30 a.m. We gave him several more days, and after five consecutive days of crowing, we admitted that he was definitively a rooster. We thought briefly about attempting to eat him, but realized that as much as we enjoyed animal husbandry, we were not yet ready to end the life of a chicken for food. Instead, we returned him to the store in trade for a bag of food.

The saga continued when in my continuing search for new chickens to add to the flock of four, we searched Craigslist for chicken sellers. We purchased a young bantam chick (when full grown they are about half as large as regular chicks) and an Easter Egger to replace the one lost to the hawk. After about two weeks I realized why the online chicken forums warn against buying from "backyard suppliers." After

Chicks cont. p. 6

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Mark Your Calendar

December

13: Frazer Center Holiday Bazaar. See article in this month's Clarion for details.

14-16: Holiday caroling with Clifton. See article in this month's Clarion for details.

15: Lake Claire Neighbors meeting and holiday party, 6:30 p.m., Frazer Center atrium, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Ave. (enter at the back entrance at the end of Ridgewood Road).

18: Clifton holiday program. See article in this month's Clarion for details.

25: Christmas Day

31: New Year's Eve

Safety Report

October-November

THEFT FROM AUTO

2058 Palifox Dr NE 10/21/2011 (21:20-22:00) Fri Eve

Not stated

Victim lives in AL

2007 Ford F-150

Someone broke out front passenger side window and stole listed property.

Taken: 9MM handgun, GPS, cell phone

300 Oxford Pl NE 10/16/2011 (22:45-23:00) Sun Unk

Not stated

Victim lives on Piedmont Rd in Atlanta

2010 Mazda 3

Someone broke out driver's side window and stole listed property.

Taken: I-pod

322 Connecticut Ave NE 10/23/2011 (01:00-07:30) Sun Unk

Not stated

Victim lives on Glendale Ave in Atlanta

2003 Toyota Land Cruiser

Someone broke out driver's side window and stole listed property.
Taken: GPS

1709 McLendon Ave NE 10/28 (21:00) 10/30 (09:00) Sun Unk Street-Victims live in Marietta, GA and SC

2004 Toyota 4 Runner / 2009 Toyota Corolla

Someone broke out front passenger side window to the Corolla and stole listed property. A short distance away at 496 Lake Shore Dr someone broke out front and rear passenger side windows and stole listed property.

Taken: GPS, I-pod, \$10 in change, debit card, ID

AUTO THEFT

431 Hardendorf Ave NE 10/10 (19:00) 10/11 (09:00) Unk Street Victim lives at location

1997 Honda Civic, GA Tag# BGT6547

Victim advised she parked her vehicle at location and when she returned it was gone. Victim was still in possession of the vehicle keys and it was not impounded by the city. Vehicle placed on system as stolen.

315 Mathews Ave NE 10/11 (22:30) 10/12 (07:50) Unk Driveway Victim lives at location

2007 Honda Civic, GA Tag# 2540ANJ

Victim advised she parked her vehicle at location and when she returned it was gone. Victim was still in possession of the keys. Vehicle placed on system as stolen.

521 Harold Ave NE 10/26/2011 (04:00-05:00) Wed Morn Not stated

Victim lives at location

1999 GMC Suburban, GA Tag# 579PBH

Victim advised his motion lights went off between 4AM and 5AM. When he checked on his vehicle he noticed someone had damaged the steering column in an attempt to steal the vehicle.

443 Ridgewood Rd NE 10/31 (20:30) 11/1 (05:30) Unk Driveway

Victim lives at location

1999 Honda Civic, GA Tag# EF400

Victim advised she parked her vehicle at location and when she returned it was gone. Victim was still in possession of the keys. Vehicle placed on system as stolen.

BURGLARY

414 Hardendorf Ave. NE 10/21/11 (1020-1150) Fri Day Residence

Damaged Door

House entered through door (not specified in report) listed items taken.

Taken: Flat Screen TV, Wii, Recorder

Prints Attempted

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).

Sign Up for DeKalb Emergency Management Agency CodeRED Call Alert System

DECATUR – The DeKalb County Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) will be utilizing the CodeRED Emergency Notification System. William Z. Miller, the DeKalb County Public Safety and DEMA Director, suggests that "All individuals and businesses should take the time to visit our website and add contact information to include cellular phones and other non-traditional phones as well as email and text addresses. If your contact information is not in the database you will not receive a call when an urgent message is sent."

It is especially important that businesses register their phone numbers, as well as those who have unlisted phone numbers, those who have changed their phone number recently, and those who use a cellular phone exclusively or have VoIP phones (such as Vonage) as their primary numbers.

Director Miller urges citizens to visit the DeKalb County website at www.dekalbcountyga.gov and follow the CodeRED link on the left side of the county page. Those without Internet access may call 770-270-0413 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Required information includes a street address (no P.O. boxes) for location purposes and a primary phone number. Additional phone numbers, email and text addresses may also be entered.

For more information about the CodeRED system, please visit www.dekalbcountyga.gov or call DEMA at 770-270-0413.

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CLIFTON NEWS

Connecting With Clifton – Meet Brenda B. Gales, M.Ed., Health & Wellness Coordinator



The Clarion: How did you come to be involved with Clifton Sanctuary Ministries?

Brenda Gales: I've been involved with Clifton for many years. As a Presbyterian I was involved through various entities of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. This included my congregation, the Presbyterian Church of the Resurrection; the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta; and the National Office of the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare and Health Ministries. In 2007, I took an early retirement from Grady Health System after 31 years of employment in mental health. I approached the staff at Clifton and asked if there were any opportunities for me to volunteer. Alice and Prince took me to lunch and shared the vision of staff and board members of developing a Health and Wellness program. I began to put the program together as a volunteer and was eventually hired as a part-time staff.



Mercer School of Pharmacy students, Clifton guests, and me (Brenda Gales, dark jacket, center) talking about how to manage stress

TC: What part of your job do you enjoy the most?

BG: I enjoy assisting the guests in developing individualized plans to end their homelessness. A picture is worth a thousand words, and I would like to share a couple of our success stories in the accompanying pictures.

TC: What's the hardest part of your job?

BG: The most difficult part of my job is working with so many individuals who are homeless and who have untreated and/or unresolved health issues, both physical and mental.

TC: What do you like about working in Lake Claire?

BG: Many of our guests express that the residential neighborhood brings them a sense of peace, community and belonging. I also like those attributes.

TC: Tell us something about the program partners you work with.

BG: Our collaborative partners include a wide range of agencies that provide services for the homeless including St. Joseph Mercy Care, Grady Hospital, the Good Samaritan Health Center, Crossroads Community Ministries, First Presbyterian Church, Central Outreach Center, Travelers Aid, United Way Path team, AID Atlanta, Jefferson Place and many others. We have two groups from local universities who have been our collaborative partners for over four years: Mercer School of Pharmacy provides two days a month of health education on a variety of health topics and Emory Unite for Sight conducts eye examinations every other month in partnership with the Georgia Lions Foundation. We have an R.N. from Piedmont Hospital who comes to the shelter twice a month to monitor guests' blood pressure and provide education on hypertension.



A "shelter plus" housing for individuals living with a mental illness where several former guests are living under staff supervision

TC: In what ways can Lake Claire neighbors support your work with the guests at Clifton?

BG: The community has been extremely supportive in providing donations for health care. Physicians and residents living in the surrounding areas from Emory have provided health education, consultations, and financial support. My request would simply be to continue what you all are doing.

TC: How can people contact you if they want to help?

BG: I can be reached on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 404-373-3253, extension 306.

TC: What would you like neighbors to know about Clifton and/or homelessness, that they might not know?

BG: Clifton offers services to address the "Whole Person" - mind, body and spirit. We are concerned about every aspect of our guests' lives. I am dedicated to teaching the guests about their health and how to address their health care needs. It is often very difficult for homeless individuals to access health care programs and agencies, primarily because of the stigmas associated with homelessness.

There are no cookie cutter solutions to ending homelessness. We are all diverse and complex individuals and finding solutions for one person may require a different approach for someone else. Lack of knowledge or denial about personal health issues can be just one aspect that delays finding assistance for positive outcomes.

There are lots of positive stories in our "Clifton History" book but not all will look the same. Having a job does not always make homelessness go away.

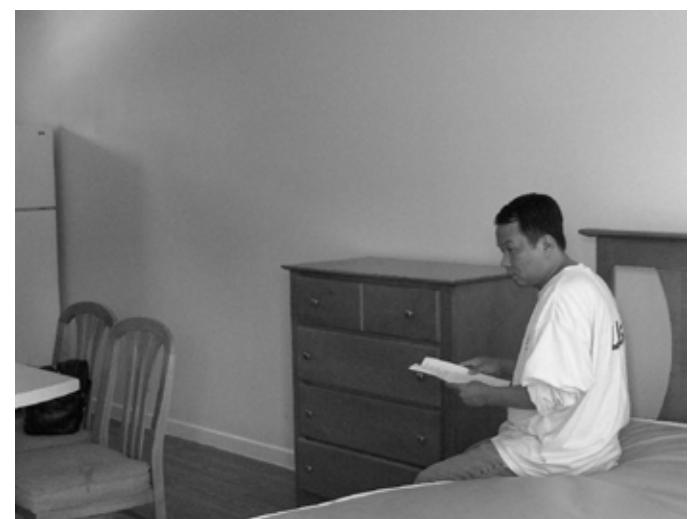
Clifton, this community, and our collaborative partners are committed to working to make a positive impact on every person we serve. This neighborhood community has been extremely supportive and I am very thankful that I have the opportunity to work at Clifton.

TC: What are your hobbies when you're not at working at Clifton?

BG: I enjoy a variety of leisure activities. I love to walk on the trails at Arabian mountain in Lithonia with my dog. I also enjoy "digging in the dirt," better known as planting flowers on my deck and I enjoy crafts.

I also teach crafts classes at the shelter on the 3rd Saturday of the month when the students from Emory and Mercer School of Pharmacy are on holiday breaks.

I feel "all work and no play" makes Jack a dull person and the guests appear to really enjoy displaying their creative talents.



A former guest sitting on his new bed in his new efficiency apartment

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries is a nonprofit organization at 369 Connecticut Avenue that provides shelter and nurture to men seeking to overcome homelessness. To donate or learn more, visit www.cliftonsanctuary.com or call Prince Davies-Venn for information at (404) 373-3253, ext. 7

Sing in the Season with Clifton!

The guests and volunteers of Clifton Sanctuary invite you to join in holiday caroling each evening beginning Wednesday, December 14, through Friday, December 16. Caroling begins at 7:30 PM on the corner of Connecticut & McLendon. Everyone is welcome to come by and join in, no experience or talent is required, only a joyful heart. Lyrics for our favorite carols

are provided and Clifton staff member Prince Davies-Venn is an enthusiastic director. Afterwards all are invited inside for hot chocolate, apple cider, and cookies and other treats.



Credit: Mike Thurmon

play, singing songs, playing music, and presenting poetry in thanks to the staff and volunteers who support them in their efforts to return to independent living. Please join us to celebrate the joy and magic at Clifton Sanctuary (at 369 Connecticut Avenue).

For more information, call Prince Davies-Venn at 404-373-3253, ext. 7, or visit www.cliftonsanctuary.com.

On Sunday, December 18, at 3 PM, the guests of Clifton Sanctuary will present their annual holiday program. The gentlemen will be performing a

play, singing songs, playing music, and presenting poetry in thanks to the staff and volunteers who support them in their efforts to return to independent living. Please join us to celebrate the joy and magic at Clifton Sanctuary (at 369 Connecticut Avenue).

For more information, call Prince Davies-Venn at 404-373-3253, ext. 7, or visit www.cliftonsanctuary.com.

YOU CAN MAKE THE HOLIDAYS HAPPY FOR A CLIFTON SANCTUARY GUEST!

Help provide a holiday gift bag for each gentleman living at Clifton during the holiday season. Santa fills the holiday bags with the following items:

- Underwear (briefs or boxers) - sizes Medium to 3XL
- T-shirts - sizes Medium to 3XL
- Thermal underwear tops & bottoms - sizes Medium to 3XL
- Black dress socks
- Dress slacks
- Belts - all sizes
- Button-down long-sleeve dress shirts
- Sweaters - pullovers, cardigans, vests
- Winter gloves, scarves and hats
- Bars of soap & travel box soap dishes
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- Razors
- Lotion & Lip Balm
- Deodorant
- Odor Eaters for shoes
- Shoe Polish
- Wallets
- MARTA Breeze card holders
- Umbrellas

With 39 gentlemen for whom to prepare holiday gift bags, your help makes a big difference!

Please deliver gift bag donations by December 20th to Clifton Sanctuary Ministries at 369 Connecticut Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30307. Contact Alice at 404-373-3253, ext. 1, for more information.

Wishing you and your family a very happy holiday season!

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Chicks cont. from p. 3

two weeks, one of our new chicks passed away, and the other one developed a severe upper respiratory and eye infection. Again I turned to the internet for the answer, and following numerous recommendations applied antibiotic ointment to her eyes two times a day for several weeks. Miraculously she pulled through. We are slowly introducing this younger chicken to the flock --- although whenever she goes outside with the nearly full grown hens she is pecked at and picked on incessantly. It turns out the "pecking order" is a real phenomena.

We are finally ready for our first egg any day now – the largest of our hens is now about 23 weeks old. Looking back at all the time spent constructing the coop, the traumatic loss of two chicks along the way, and hundreds of dollars in costs to raise them – the first eggs will be worth between \$250-300 each. But on the upside, with a large enough coop and if given enough free range space and time, the chickens are essentially self-sufficient. They need food and water every 2-3 days and some occasional kitchen scraps as treats. But they are unique in my experience -- they are unlike cats and dogs -- they simply do not care if you pay attention to them or not. They do not seek attention - they want food/ water, free time to run around, the occasional treat, but otherwise it seems your existence is secondary to them.

On a recent backyard chicken coop tour in Morningside, Inman Park and Grant Park, I realized how many people are pursuing this as a new hobby. Whether to get back in touch with a natural side of ourselves that we have lost, to get free eggs (with substantial upfront costs), or to introduce our children to the essence of a simpler life, there is no doubt that raising backyard chickens is of growing interest. The coops I visited around Atlanta ranged from delicate manicured backyards with professionally constructed and painted coops to more utilitarian designs by the do-it-yourselfer. In spite of our setbacks and the costs, I would do it all over again, but next time I would watch out for the hawks.



Lucy and Benjamin Strum with chicks in the Sturms' backyard coop; Credit: Alison Sturm

CONTRACTOR'S CORNER

The "Easily expandable attic" myth revealed.

By Steve Goff

We've all seen this realtor tag-line before. Yes, it's often true depending on your definition of "easily". Here are some things to look out for.

FRAMING: Since the existing ceiling joists will soon be floor joists, they need to be at least 2x8's and meet code requirements for allowed spans. Most houses built before 1940's were 2x6's. If needed, the correct sized joists can be laid in between the existing ceiling joists or over the top. Also, code won't allow a plumbing pipe for a toilet to be cut through a 2x8 since the required hole is too big. Therefore, sometimes these pipes may have to be run below floor joists and will have to be hidden with drywall. Typically, new structural loads introduced from the attic build out will have to be transferred to the first floor and basement. This often requires adding some studs in 1st floor walls and columns and footings in basement.

CEILING HEIGHT: Code says ceiling height must be at least 7'-6" for a minimum of 50% of the floor area of the room. Adding framing lumber to the floors or roof may also negatively affect ceiling height. If you have existing 2x6 joists and you have to put in 2x10's then you'll lose 4" inches of height. Also, a lot of old houses have 2x6 roof rafters. Code says you need to add 2" of lumber to these in order to have the space to meet the batt insulation re-

quirement for a roof assembly.

STAIRS: If they exist, they are often too narrow and too steep to meet code. Both can often be rectified, but cost money since 1st floor load-bearing walls are often affected by widening and space is sacrificed by lengthening the run of the stairs. Sometimes non-complying stairs can be "grandfathered" in if there is an existing, build-out room in the attic.

WINDOWS: The attic build-out is easier if it has gables. The gables allow for easy placement of windows as opposed to a bunch of skylights in the roof. Many houses in this neighborhood have a small gable in the front and a "hipped" roof everywhere else. If that's the case, you may want to consider putting in some economical shed dormers. This creates a larger floor area with added ceiling height and an exterior wall for placement of windows.

Code requires a window in each bedroom that must be large enough to meet egress requirements in case of an emergency. Often the existing attic windows are too small to achieve this and a larger opening and window must be installed. Code also requires a minimum glass area (achieved through windows and skylights) based on a percentage of the floor area for a habitable room.

HVAC: A little creativity is sometimes required to run the ductwork for the new AC unit

for the attic. Since the space above the ceiling is often limited or non-existent, the ductwork is usually run around the perimeter in the vacant, kneewall areas. Often times the ducts will have to cross the living areas and false columns or long bench seats will have to be constructed to provide chases for this ductwork.

The moral of the story is to have a remodeling contractor check out the house before you buy and eliminate the surprises. However, by building-out an existing attic area you can save a lot of money and gain tons of valuable space. Not having to replace the existing roof, roof framing, siding and cornice translates to a lot of costs savings.

Steve Goff is the Owner of Intown Revival Construction (www.IntownRevival.com) and a Candler Park resident for over 9 years. He specializes in remodeling older, intown homes. If you have any questions or ideas for future articles, contact Steve at 404.386.7688 or steven@intownrevival.com.

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Fun had by all at the Annual Lake Claire Halloween Parade



Credit: Tim Harrison



Credit: Tim Harrison



Tyler, 3 years, and Ally, 6 years, Bliss as Super Why character and vampire



Scary Moms; Credit: Tim Harrison



Sam Fisher and Addison Baer





Some of the pre-parade crowd



Ally Bliss, Henry Lord Steppe, Tyler Bliss, and Annie Jirak are Little Leos, Leonardo Avenue kids



Ally Bliss, vampire, and Elena D'agostino, Alice in Wonderland, both 6 years and first grade friends



Strawberry Stella Cole



Scary pirate Evan Fisher



Tom Bates (at left) pushes granddaughter Stella Cole



Post Parade Crowd at Lake Claire Park

Halloween cont. on back page



News from the Land Trust



"What the Land Trust Means to Me" (3rd in a series): The Quiet Time

-By Sheila Schurer

From early spring through late fall the Land Trust throbs with color, sound, activity. Glorious red heirloom tomatoes jostle purple eggplants and giant sunflowers. Joyful festivals swell the air with the sounds of musical groups, ranging in age from 7 to 70, playing whatever turns you on. Kids scream with delight at the playground, gardeners huddle and complain about the weather, dogs and their people tromp through the paths. The Fourth of July picnic spread is a magazine picture of culinary pride; the Drum Circle rhythms beat in your head; spring and summer throb with life in the Land Trust. I love all of it. It's what we wait for all year.

Then, at some point, usually in November, after the pumpkin carving and frantic late harvests, collards, cabbage and kale sustain the winter gardens; other plots remember summer with lacey remnants of pleasures past. Colder temperatures drive people inside. Dogs seem to walk more quickly in the morning

frost. Shorter days, muted colors, a quieter time.

This is when the Land Trust most reveals itself to me. Walking on the path above DeKalb, my view no longer softened by the leaves or distracted by riotous produce, I am more aware of the closeness of the city that surround us. Down below is the traffic, MARTA trains, fire trucks. But higher up, walking among the silent winter garden plots, I think I experience the Land Trust most intensely. In winter, a garden reveals its bones and this is when I see most clearly the strength and fragility of this urban retreat. I feel the vulnerability and the achievement of the Land Trust.

At such moments, I am grateful for the vision that created this oasis and the community that sustains it. And I know that the Land Trust has deep roots and that spring will come again.



Atlanta Progressive Preschool Field Trip to the Land Trust

By Whitney Hansen, Atlanta Progressive Preschool Teacher

At Atlanta Progressive Preschool, we believe that every place has a soul with a precise identity that is created through the people who contribute to its growth and prosperity. To honor this belief, we have chosen community as the emphasis of our classroom projects this year. The two-year-old Sparkleberry class decided to go to the Lake Claire Community Land Trust on their first field trip to experience this tiny oasis within our big city. We love spending time outdoors and running



Atlanta Progressive Preschoolers enjoy their field trip to the Land Trust and feed Big Lou the emu; Credit: Whitney Hansen

around in big spaces. The sun was warm and shining; it was a perfect morning to spend outside. We swung in the big swing, fed Big Lou, the emu, and set up a slackline to play around on. One of our friends had a birthday recently so we had a tea party for her near the fire pit. We ate lunch together and played around in the sand. Such a special time discovering a new community, spending time with our families, and learning a little about ourselves.

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\$2.10/month or \$25/year

All membership dues are tax deductible!

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If You Love the Land Trust, Be a Part of Our Community!

By Stephen Wing, Land Trust secretary

Have you “friended” the Land Trust? Do you “like” us? Take the next step!

Many people enjoy our magical greenspace and our various events. Some become members and support us financially. But the heart of the Land Trust community is the people who pitch in and help, because as we work together, we get to know each other. That takes fun to a whole new level. Discover what community really means!

– Join a committee! Help with Events, Communications, Grounds or Planning, or any combination that suits your talents. Anyone can attend committee meetings.

– Show up for work days (the day after each Drum Circle) and/or volunteer to help with Land Trust fundraisers several times a year.

– Attend monthly Board meetings, helping to envision our future and make the decisions that get us there. You can even serve on the Board once you see what it involves.

– Contribute any special skills you have, from accounting to carpentry, grant-writing to cooking.

If you'd like to help, or to learn more, contact us at info@LCCLT.org or via U.S. mail at P.O. Box 5379, Atlanta GA 31107. Be sure to include your email address and/or phone number.

For information on joining the Land Trust and becoming a “Caretaker,” click on the link at the top of our home page, www.LCCLT.org.

Thanks for your support, whatever form it takes!

Design a Logo for the Land Trust!

Artists and graphic designers, here's your chance to become world famous - in Lake Claire, at least.

The Lake Claire Community Land Trust is seeking a new logo that symbolizes in visual form what the Land Trust means to those of us who love it: its vision and mission, its varied landscapes and terrains, the multifaceted community that has coalesced around it. The letters “LCCLT” might or might not be included. What's important is that your design visually conveys the beauty of our urban greenspace and its place in our lives. If you're not sure what the Land Trust is about, or to clarify your creative process, please come over and walk the land, and look around on our website, www.LCCLT.org.

We will be accepting entries until February 15, 2012, and the winning design will be unveiled on

March 1, 2012. The new logo will appear on our web site, our letterhead, our bulletin board, our brochure, and so on. You will receive credit as its creator on our web site and wherever else we can fit it in.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE LAND TRUST:

SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 10:00 am-4:00 pm ~ Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair, 300 Arizona Ave.

SUNDAY, DEC. 4 and 18, 2:00-5:00 pm ~ “Keep the Trust” volunteer work days. Pizza will be served. Volunteers will also receive a free Drum Circle pass.

THURSDAY, DEC. 8 ~ Land Trust benefit night at the Arizona Pub, 130 Arizona Ave. (south of the tracks)

TUESDAY, DEC. 13, 6:30 pm ~ Community Potluck at Amata, 317 Nelms Ave.

SATURDAY, DEC. 31 ~ Check our web site (below) to see what's happening for New Year's Eve!

DON'T FORGET! It's time to renew your Land Trust membership or join if you haven't yet. We are a tax-deductible 501(c)3 nonprofit. For more information, click on the link at the top of our home page, www.LCCLT.org.

Growing From Seed, Gardening Tips, and Tasks for December

By Elizabeth Knowlton

It is December, not too early to be thinking about planting seeds in Georgia.

Packets of seeds will soon be appearing in your local hardware store, in Sevananda, and in Lowe's, but consider this year ordering from a seed company that can give you a larger selection and fresher seed because it does not sit out in a store. Some companies I regularly use are: Park



The author's composter bins; Credit: Elizabeth Knowlton

Seed (in SC), Johnny's Selected Seeds (in Maine), Select Seeds (for antique flowers in Connecticut), and Vermont Bean Company (no longer in Vermont), all of which you can find online. I usually order from 6-8 companies, but these are some of the best AND cheapest. You may already have your favorites. Seed catalogs are full of information and allow you to learn about gardening at very little cost.

If you already garden, now is the time to inventory your old seeds, recycle those you believe not viable into your compost area, and perhaps test some from last year.” If you take ten seeds, wrap them in a damp paper towel, put them in a consistently warm place, and check every few days, you can estimate what your germination rate might be on planting. Fewer than five seeds is not worth the effort (unless it is the rare seed handed down from grandma).

In the catalogs, ignore all the stuff that costs so much money. If you are spending more on supplies than on seeds, something is wrong. If you have no supplies, then start collecting old plastic flowerpots (4" diameter is good), Styrofoam cups, small yogurt containers, and all those #1 clear plastic boxes that hold salad mix

and other food. These will make perfect seed-starting and potting up containers. The ONE thing I do spend good money on is germinating and potting soil. I have tried many local things and have never found any as good as what I get from companies such as Garden Supply (Vermont) and Cook's Garden (now owned by Burpee).

Try to have all this ready by January. As to when to start sowing seeds indoors, that is always a game in Georgia. Frankly, I have never found any guide books as good as The New Victory Garden and Square Foot Gardening although there are

many Southern gardening books available. Read widely, and you will develop your favorites. My way of using Northern or English books is to mark them up to reflect our seasons. For instance, in The New Victory Garden, I have the March chapter marked February and continue thus until I reach their June, which I mark May/June/July, and July, marked July/Aug/Sept, August, marked Aug/Sept, and September, marked Sept/Oct. See, the secret of Southern gardening is that you kill yourself most of the winter and early spring while Northerners are looking at seed catalogs. Then in summer we have months to complete most chores and can spend the hot part of the day sipping sweet tea.

December is the time to plan the seed ordering, while in January we start crops like celery, leeks, onions, and the really early tomatoes so you beat everyone else out on the block. In addition, any annual flower that takes over 8 weeks to be planted out should be started now. That includes: browallia (should not be missed), coleus, dusty miller, pelargonium (what people often

call geraniums, tender plants), rudbeckia (also called gloriosa daisies), impatiens, lobelia, annual dianthus, vinca, and wax begonias. Many of these are of course available in six-packs later in the season, but if you grow them from seed you get the colors and varieties you like. And they are easy. You just need to start them in January to have them ready April 1.

Fill your little 4-inch pots or your #1 plastic containers with germinating mix that has been dampened with $\frac{1}{4}$ water (one cup to each quart of mix). I find hot water saturates best and also leaves the soil pleasantly warm for the seeding. Most of the seeds listed above are tiny. Just sift them gently over the top of the soil and then water with the gentlest setting on a spray bottle of warm water. Immediately label your pot and cover it with some plastic wrap secured with a rubber band. Always read the directions on the seed package (sometimes found in the seed catalog also). Many seeds need light to germinate. (Hey, who was around to cover them up when they first appeared on earth?) A few need total darkness, and their pots can be covered with aluminum foil.

Now the seeds need warmth. We used to have stove pilot lights and energy inefficient refrigerators to provide this but no more. My solution is to rig up a set of shelves with fluorescent lights fastened or hung on the bottom of each. This provides lighting for the seedlings as they grow and also a slight warmth on each shelf above them. You can usually find cheap, plastic trays (not with drainage holes) that come with clear covers and will hold about ten pots at a time for sale in local stores. Placed on one of my top shelves, these hold enough heat to allow for germination in the time stated on the seed package. If nothing happens in a week or two, then I subject the pots to direct blasts on the heat register nearest the furnace. But use the resources of your own home. Perhaps you have a heating pad or a yogurt maker or some other source of heat. I do not recommend the seed germinating mats sold in catalogs as they have broken every time after a few uses.

As soon as green appears (and flower seedlings in particular are tiny), remove the plastic wrap and put your pot directly under fluorescent light at a distance of only an inch or two between plant and light. You may need to place the pot on something, change the height of the lighting, or whatever is necessary to achieve this. The bulbs can be special ones for growing plants

or just a mixture of a cool and a warm bulb to provide the needed rays. A full-sized plant may do fine in your window, but tiny seedlings do not fare well on our February sills. They grow leggy and weak.

You can also use this winter down time to create useful things like compost piles. You can NEVER have too much compost. If you think you do, just leave it off at my house (bagged). Many years ago my partner built me the 3-bin wire composter illustrated in the original Victory Garden. The new edition has a 2-bin model that I do not think adequate to even our small neighborhood plots. Several other gardeners have agreed with me that this system, even if just wire cages, is preferable to any kind of single bin or rotating tub. You need to have compost in various stages of breakdown, not adding new material to finished compost. I expect you all know not to put animal matter into your bins. Nowadays any city rat or chipmunk knows how good broccoli stems taste, but a good cat or dog will take care of that problem.

During the times when you have no weeds (and mulch really cuts down on those) or fresh leaves to layer with kitchen waste, you will need stores of leaves gathered in the fall. I used to collect the plastic bags of leaves put out on the street, but those are no more with the new recyclable bags—an excellent practice, but the bags will rot away before you can use up all the leaves, and then you cannot move them. I can still get some neighbors to use the plastic bags I give them. I use those leaves in the composter as needed and am just finishing up 2010's leaves. We now use a leaf vacuum to suck up and shred what

falls on our lawns. These leaves I use as mulch on perennial beds and under shrubs. Think carefully before you send any plant waste off your property. How did plants fertilize themselves before humans arrived? If you scrape the ground bare under plants, you are removing their natural method of fertilization and moisture containment. And why send your leaves away in one dump truck and have bags of mulch delivered in another? (Like making a separate drive to a gym, but don't get me started.)

ChantLanta Sacred Music Festival Secures National Acts Festival dates are March 9-10, 2012



ChantLanta Sacred Music Festival is pleased to announce that the 2012 festival will be headlined by national kirtan acts David Newman & Mira, Wah! and Sean Johnson and the Wild Lotus Band! The 2012 ChantLanta Sacred Music Festival will take place Friday and Saturday March 9 and 10 at the Druid Hills Baptist Church at 1085 Ponce de Leon Avenue, 30306, at the corner of North Highland Ave.

The festival will include top

regional kirtan performers, free yoga and chanting workshops from Atlanta's top yoga instructors and kirtan artists, a high-quality regional artist market and headlining performances by national kirtan acts David Newman & Mira, Wah! and Sean Johnson and the Wild Lotus Band.

ChantLanta is a free festival for all from Friday at 5pm until Saturday at 6pm. Tickets for the Saturday evening headliners are available for \$50. The early ticket discount of \$35 is available until December 31, 2011. Tickets are available at Bhakti Messenger and Namaste Atlanta.

ChantLanta Sacred Music Festival is the largest kirtan festival in the southeast. 2012 charity partners include 50 Cents Period and AiJalon.

Kirtan is a style of group call-and-response singing that originated in ancient India. In the West, kirtan has become a style of world music that combines the practice of Bhakti Yoga, or the Yoga of Devotion, with contemporary rhythms and melodies. The results range from the deeply meditative to the wildly ecstatic, with both the performers and the audience working together to create an expanded consciousness of peace and love.

ChantLanta Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to engage in heart-opening transformative spiritual practice and provide funding for annual charity selections. Since 2010, ChantLanta has quickly become one of Atlanta's most inspiring and uplifting festivals, fostering interaction for all ages through music and yoga. The volunteer-run and donation-driven organization seeks to raise consciousness, be of service, and build community.

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Schools cont. from p. 1

by as much as 130% of capacity.

• APS is facing budget shortfalls due to the recession. Even though the Special-Purpose Local-Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) passed last month, the General Budget will face serious cutbacks next year.

- Under-utilized schools cost more because utilities, facility upkeep, and transportation costs are very high compared to schools at capacity.

- APS areas of growth and decline will be defined by the demographer's report in December. Some schools may not see significant growth to capacity for a long time. Taxpayers like their money to be spent wisely.



*Mary Lin Elementary and its portables
Credit: Alicia McGill*

- Mary Lin is considered at approximately 130% of capacity (600+ students for a school planned for 450) -- with TEN classroom trailers on their playground.

- Inman Middle is over 100% capacity with two trailers on their soccer field.

- Grady High has ten classrooms in trailers and three teachers who travel from room-to-room because of overcrowding.

- All our schools, and the other elementaries that feed into our middle/high schools, have predicted growth through the next eight years and many – e.g., Springdale Park Elementary (SPARK) and Morningside – are already overcrowded.

Understandably, the vast majority of Lake Claire residents only want the status quo: Mary Lin, Inman, and Grady. Students in all three schools have consistently scored well on standardized tests since 2005. Parents have worked very hard to

ensure that these schools provide quality education. Realtors will tell you that success of the schools has increased property values. But, how can we all fit in Lin, Inman, and Grady?

Lin can be expanded IF APS allocates the funds raised by SPLOST IV. Could Lin undergo a significant expansion that would allow it to convert to a K-8 school? Expansion of Inman would be challenging because it is fairly landlocked. Grady has the capacity to serve 1,325 students, but currently has 1,478 students. According to APS administrators, an undetermined yet significant number of enrollees are attending fraudulently and do not even live in the City of Atlanta. Could we all continue



Grady High School portables, Credit: Alicia McGill

ly, they are forecasted to increase in enrollment through 2021. APS could propose that Lin and Whitefoord or Toomer work together to serve K-5 in centers like City of Decatur Schools and Morris Brandon Elementary. But, this would require children in both communities to cross Dekalb Avenue, which is hazardous any time of the day, any way you look at it.

How could Lake Claire, or all of Lin, continue to be zoned for Inman and Grady? Maybe APS should add another facility and reconfigure the grades without redistricting. If three schools (Inman, Grady, and another) served grades 6-7, 8-9, and 10-12 for current Inman and Grady feeder schools, overcrowding could be solved. APS still owns two former schools in the Old Fourth Ward: Walden Middle and Howard High Building (popular soccer fields along Lake Avenue), which Martin Luther King attended.

If APS denies expansion of Inman or Grady or denies construction of an additional school, redistricting to nearby underutilized schools must occur. For Lake Claire, Candler Park, and Inman Park, the nearby options are Toomer and Hope-Hill Elementary, Coan Middle, and Maynard Jackson High. Coan Middle and Maynard Jackson High currently have about 700 empty seats per school. APS has long ignored the gap in achievement in the predominantly Black schools and predominantly White schools. Will the planned \$30+ million

to attend Grady if APS cracked down on fraudulent enrollment?

So where does this leave Lake Claire? APS cannot redistrict Lake Claire to the east (Dekalb County) or north (overcrowded-Springdale Park Elementary's school zone) to alleviate Lin's overcrowding. Although schools to the south, Toomer and Whitefoord, are underutilized current-



Inman Middle School and its portables; Credit: Alicia McGill

renovation and implementation of an International Baccalaureate program make Jackson High a school of choice for Lake Claire residents? Time, and YOUR ACTIONS, will decide.

What can YOU do? Get informed!

Check out the APS website: <http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/site/default.aspx?PageID=1>.

“Like” APS on Facebook - even if you don’t “like” APS literally, “liking” on Facebook will get you notified of APS postings.

Join 30307 Schools’ blog (<http://www.30307schools.org/>) and “like” 30307schools on Facebook.

Attend meetings of the Council for Intown Neighborhoods (CINS): <http://www.cinsatlanta.org/>.

Visit Mary Lin’s website: <http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Domain/1525>.

Read Dr. Mitchell’s blog. (Dr. Mitchell is Lin’s principal): <http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=6980>.

E-mail our board member, Cecily Harsch-Kinnane: chkinname@atlanta.k12.ga.us.

E-mail our School Reform Team (SRT3) Administrator, Betsy Bockman: bbockman@atlanta.k12.ga.us. She is also a Lin parent and Inman Park resident, as well as former Inman Middle School Principal.

Tour nearby under-crowded schools (Toomer, Whitefoord, Coan, Maynard Jackson) and drive around Walden Middle and the Howard Building.

Attend meetings! As of this writing, APS SRT Community Meetings to discuss over- and under-crowding are scheduled for the last week of November - check the APS website or contact Mikkal Murunga Hart (mhmurunga@atlanta.k12.ga.us) for scheduled dates in December.

Take the on-line Demographic Survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/APS_Capacity_Survey.

There are many interesting possibilities. Above all, let’s keep talking, stay positive, and remain constructive.

Thirty Year cont. from p. 1



In the 70s, Patrick Edmondson & Gabi Ujhelyi in front of "ol' Weird Harold Avenue"

town) lived in the house, as well as a mechanic, who lived in the garage apartment. (See picture on this page of Pat with his girl-friend.) They stayed on Harold Avenue until 1976. Pat finished graduate school, and for four years, he taught school (in the "boondocks"), then moved into the basement of friends Bill and Marilyn Horrisberger (whom I featured in the third installment of this series). Pat stayed in the Horrisbergers' home on Arizona Avenue from 1980 to 1986.

In 1986, Pat and his wife Josette got together, and he moved into her house on Lakeshore Avenue. He and Josette met while teaching at Walker High School (now McNair). Both the Edmondsons have a longterm history in Children's Education. Josette was a special education teacher, and Pat taught gifted children at the time they met. Pat was Head of Dekalb's Computer Magnet School from 1990 to 1996, and after that he stayed at Clifton Elementary as the teacher of gifted children. Pat was a Dekalb Teacher of the Year in 2000. Both Pat and Josette are now retired, but as I said to Pat, his so-called retirement is like that of many of my friends who have retired – they now have several, unpaid, jobs.

On Saturdays, Pat continues to teach Logo to gifted kids at the "Saturday School for Scholars." Pat told me that Logo is the best tool he knows of for teaching children computer skills; they learn logic and reasoning while playing games. It is a

child-friendly artificial intelligence language. Pat has tried to interest other schools in Logo, so as an aside, if anyone knows of a school that may be interested, or to find out more about it yourself, see tinyurl.com/logoworld.

Another of Pat's activities in his "retirement" is working on "The Strip" project. Readers who have been in Atlanta since the '60s may remember that The Strip was the few blocks around Peachtree Street from about 10th to 14th Streets, which was often hailed as Atlanta's own Greenwich Village. The neighborhood was a place where "hip" people congregated (thus the term "hippies"). There is much interesting Atlanta history connected with The Strip, and many might find the website interesting (see <http://www.thestripproject.com>).

Pat has been a neighborhood activist for many years, from the early days of working with the Lake Claire Landtrust, and what has become WRFG and Sevananda. But at the beginning of living in Lake Claire, Pat discussed, this was still a scary redneck area, as others of us

have noted. He said he remembers clearly when a woman alone dare not walk down McLendon, where in front of several rooming houses, people would yell and throw things. It was quite intimidating. Many like-minded people were moving to the neighborhood though, some of whom fled The Strip area. They wanted to make a neighborhood of community minded people, in which a family could be comfortable and safe. Pat and Josette joined that effort, and they raised their sons here, who are now 21 and 23 years old. Pat reminisced about how interesting it has been watching the changes and the development of community. Shops in the area bordering Lake Claire and Candler Park had gone into disrepair, and it has been wonderful for Pat to watch the new flourishing shops such as Donna Van Gogh's. The Edmondsons continue to enjoy the feeling of community here.

Pat's favorite thing about Lake Claire is all the great people,

and the variety and diversity our neighborhood supports; though mostly Liberal, he said -- not all – and he finds it intriguing that one never knows what a neighbor might do or might be interested in. Pat concluded emphatically, "I truly believe that Lake Claire is the most livable neighborhood in Atlanta."

In the six months, I have featured a small sampling of folks who have lived in Lake Claire since the 1970s-80s -- and earlier. I hope to feature many more 30+-year residents of Lake Claire. If you are a longtime resident with stories to share, history of your house, places that have gone, or any other special memories, please contact me at [\(playbass-dot-beth@gmail.com\)](mailto:playbass.beth@gmail.com) or 404-727-0608 (daytime number). I am having so much fun hearing from longtime residents.



Current: The Edmondson family: Alex, Dylan (hat), Patrick and Josette last Thanksgiving

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Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting: November Minutes, November 17, 2011

1. Welcome

Welcome from Sarah Wynn
Introductions of attendees (26 attendees, including non-neighbor guests)

2. Guest speakers

a. Sgt. Ski safety report: not much to report. A few break-ins. Stop leaving your laptops in your cars!! Zone realignment. Atlanta in DeKalb County will have its own beat officers. So we will eventually not be Beat 605, but a different beat.

Graffiti update: there have been a couple of arrests. Officer Blackfellow. Dan White asked about law re: graffiti and property owners. Officer Ski didn't know. Valencia reported that owners are supposed to remove the graffiti within a 30 day window, but that time period is not regularly enforced.

b. Valencia Hudson report: No issues in Lake Claire. Be careful – the holidays are coming up. East Atlanta has had 2 car-jackings in the past week in the village. Be aware of your surroundings. If you see any street-lights out, email it to Valencia and she can report it. Georgia Power will repair in 3 days. If there are lights blocked by trees, Public Works will trim the tree or address with the home owner. Housing code enforcement is officially under APD now – Lt. CJ Davis - but it's in transition. Valencia will not be at the meeting next month, but let her know if any issues arise.

c. Genny Castillo, Director of Constituent Services for Rep. Stacy Abrams report: Accompanied by intern, Lauren. If you know students interested in interning, let them know. Minority Leaders Office – has been travel-

ing around state doing meetings on childhood obesity (Georgia ranked 2nd in the country), pre-K & early education – August, Athens, Macon, & Atlanta with next stop in Savannah. Small Business Big Change conference this Saturday for small business owners or those interested in starting a small business. Bank representatives will be there to teach classes about contracts, funding, etc. Also focusing on community engagement by having Representatives visit areas of state to meet with community members and hear their concerns. genny@stacyabrams.com

3. Officer reports:

a. Public Safety: Sarah handed out Directed Patrol Forms. These can be used if you're going out of town and would like your house checked on, but also under

Cara added a YTD comparison with last year.

Income:

Dues:	\$2337
Ads:	\$4003
Banner & Stickers:	\$310
Candler Park Market:	
\$195	
Tour of Homes:	\$ 2841
Halloween Parade:	\$150

d. Planning: no report

e. Zoning: variance tonight

- Dan Wright let LCN know about plans for the parcels along DeKalb Avenue adjacent to Howard Circle.

4. Announcements & current issues

a. Hiram Maxim – volunteer liaison between neighborhood and

VP-Planning (& NPU-N rep): Carol Holiday

VP-Zoning: Dan White

VP-Environment: Robby Handley

VP-Public Safety: Kathie Ryan

VP-Communications (Secretary): vacant - taking minutes & getting to newsletter editor, handling e-blast - Nancy Dorsner nominated by Allyson McCarthy

VP-Fundraising: Mary Williams & Allyson McCarthy

Motion to approve entire slate by Sherry Neal
Second by Allyson McCarthy

In favor: 23

Abstention: 1

Nos: 0

b. Variances.

Location: 2074 McLendon Avenue

Applicant: Chris & Angie Vaughn Request: Variance from zoning regulations to reduce the front yard setback from 35 feet to 32 feet and to reduce the west side yard setback from 7 feet to 4 feet in order to make a second story addition to an existing single family dwelling. Michelle Krahe made a presentation as agent for the homeowners. Variance to build second story over existing walls. Will maintain existing architecture on front of house. Have support from neighbors on both sides, across the street, and two doors down. There was discussion about the exact plans for the expansion.

Vote: approved

6. Other issues:

a. Clifton Sanctuary Ministries: Sarah serves on Board. Holidays are upon us, and the shelter needs our support.

b. Miriam Herbers announced the Lake Claire Land Trust events: Arizona Pub has designated the first Thursday of the month as Land Trust Day. A portion of the proceeds goes to the Land Trust. First one is 12/8. There also will be a craft fair on Dec. 3.

c. Lake Claire Parents: Halloween Parade was a great success. Thanks to Margaret Lewis for making arrangements for the parade route. Thanks also to the Candler Park Market for donating drinks. A suggestion was made to have the route start at the new park area. Be aware of monthly tours at Mary Lin. Great opportunity to learn about the school for new neighbors and rising kindergartener parents.

Next LCN Meeting

Thursday December 15

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.

other circumstances (ex. parent with a new baby whose spouse is out of town). PLEASE FAX and not email over. You can request for a particular street, as well.

b. Communications: Heidi is out tonight. Tish Gainey stepping down. Leslie Slavich stepping down as Clarion editor. Beth Damon will do in partnership with someone else. If interested, let LCN know.

c. Treasurer: Sarah gave the treasurer's report.

Accounts:

Primary checking: \$6,185
Primary savings: \$4,181
Mural: about \$6,300
TOTAL: \$16, 659

Atlanta Bicycle Coalition. See about what can be done about rough pavement between Howard Circle & DeKalb Avenue. Path dead-ends at Howard. Has been asked to approach city about dealing with issue. Has contacted Valencia about. Also interested in getting "sharrows" on street to indicate that lanes are shared with cyclists.

Kathy Evans asked if there was any consideration of extending Path through Lake Claire between DeKalb and Freedom Parkway. Hiram noted that there were signs directing folks to continue through LC along McLendon. Kathy suggested a link with the soccer fields on Arizona.
www.atlantabike.org

b. December Holiday meeting: 12/15 at 6:30 p.m. here. Even # addresses bring side dish, vegetable, or salad. Odd # addresses bring a dessert. Question was raised about RSVPs in order to prevent food running out, which has happened in the past. LCN will work on it.

5. Voting Items/Land Use

a. 2012 LCN officer elections

President: Peg Zeigler

Treasure: Kathrine Arrington



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Mike Mikula begins the Occupy Lake Claire Movement at the Lake Claire Halloween Parade



The Gathering Crowd



Concerned Citizens of Lake Claire

Join the 1% and 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 greenspaces, install signs, organize community events, and publish the Clarion.