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, some schools will be closed. Some schools will be 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

Looking for the Next Editor of the Clarion!
By Leslie Slavich

Clarion Editor: I have loved serving as the Clarion editor this year. It has been a fantastic way to get involved, meet my neighbors, and learn more about this wonderful neighborhood. But I need to hand over the role to a new editor. I recently had my second child and returned to work fulltime. Beth Damon has volunteered to co-edit the newsletter, so if you are interested in sharing the job, please email me at editor@lakeclaire.org.

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5 Clifton News
7 Classifieds
8 Halloween Parade
10 Land Trust News
15 LCN Minutes

THE CLARION IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.
Lake Claire Officers for 2011
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VP: Zoning: Dan White, zoning@lakeclaire.org
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Don’t Forget: Lake Claire Has a New Website!
www.lakeclaire.org

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!

Frazier (Center) Bling
By Sherri Breunig, Communications and Marketing Associate for the Frazier Center

Here at the Frazier Center, we have a vision of starting several new micro-enterprises that will be staffed and operated by Frazier Center adults. The first of those endeavors is a jewelry making business called “Frazier 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, Frazier 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 Frazier 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 Frazier Bling.

We would like to invite the Lake Claire Community to visit us at The Frazier 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 Frazier Center, please visit our Web site at www.thefrazercenter.org or call us at 404-377-3836.
It is not clear when raising chickens became an idea in my head, but once the idea was laid, it stuck. Living in this neighborhoood 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 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.

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 Wheaton 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.

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...
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
Victim lives in AL
1999 Honda Civic, GA Tag# EF400
Someone broke out front passenger side window and stole listed property.
Taken: Flat Screen TV, Wii, Recorder

414 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 10/26/2011 (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
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) Sun 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.

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
2003 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

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.dekalbcountygovga.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.dekalbcountygovga.gov or call DEMA at 770-270-0413.
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.

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.

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.

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 “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: 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: 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.

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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.

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!

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.
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. Therefor, 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. 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” 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 attic insulation requirement 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, knee wall areas. Often times the ducts will have to cross the existing 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 cost 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.
Fun had by all at the Annual Lake Claire Halloween Parade

Credit: Tim Harrison

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

Credit: Tim Harrison

Scary Moms; Credit: Tim Harrison

Sam Fisher and Addison Baer
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

Some of the pre-parade crowd
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. 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 surrounds 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 Land 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 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.

Yearly Membership

The Lake Claire Community Land Trust

Individual
$3/month or $35/year
Couple/Family
$6.25/month or $75/year
Student/Senior
$2.10/month or $25/year

All membership dues are tax deductible!
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.

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.

Gardening cont. p. 12

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.

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 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

The author’s composter bins; Credit: Elizabeth Knowlton

Gardening cont. p. 12
As soon as green appears (and flower seedlings in particular are tiny), remove the plastic wrap and put the pot directly on the heat register nearest the furnace. But use the resources of your own home. Perhaps you have a big pot 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 I have used them.

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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 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?

Grady High School portables, Credit: Alicia McGill

Woodside Park Elementary and its portables Credit: Alicia McGill

Inman Middle School and its portables; Credit: Alicia McGill

- 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 significant number of enrollees are attending fraudulently and do not even live in the City of Atlanta. Could we all continue to attend Grady if APS cracked down on fraudulent enrollment? So where does this leave Lake Claire? APS cannot redistribute 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 currently, 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 at 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 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.

Mary Lin Elementary and its portables Credit: Alicia McGill

What can YOU do? Get informed!

- “Like” 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.
- E-mail our board member, Cecily Harsch-Kinnane: chkinnane@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 (mmurunga@atlanta.k12.ga.us) for scheduled dates in December.

There are many interesting possibilities. Above all, let’s keep talking, stay positive, and remain constructive.
In the 70s, Patrick Edmondson & Gabi Ujhelyi in front of "ol’ Weird Harold Avenue"  

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 or 404-727-0608 (daytime number). I am having so much fun hearing from longtime residents.

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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 Black fellow. 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 carjackings 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 homeowner. 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 internning, 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 handled 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

b. Planning: no report
d. Zoning: variance tonight
- Dan Wright let LCN know about plans for the parcel along DeKalb Avenue adjacent to Howard Circle.

e. Announcements & current issues
a. Hiram Maxim – volunteer liaison between neighborhood and 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 “sharrow” 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 Pub has designated the Candler Park Market for donating drinks. A suggestion was made to have the route start at the Candler Park Market for donating drinks. A suggestion was made to have the route start at the park, then proceed to the school for new neighbors and rising kindergartener parents.

b. Dan White asked about food running out, which raised about RSVPs in order to bring a dessert. Question was on street to indicate that lanes are shared with cyclists.

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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
Treasurer: Kathrine Arrington

b. Variances.
Location: 2074 McLendon Ave.
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.

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

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.

Concerned Citizens of Lake Claire