



Free Lake Claire Bags! – and Thank You



Pen Sherwood's Lake Claire Bag Free with Yearly Dues Payment

Thank you to many of you for paying your voluntary neighborhood dues recently. For those who have paid through PayPal or sent in checks, we invite you to come to a neighborhood meeting soon (3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at The Frazer Center; the next one is March 21) to pick up your free cloth bag – and to take part in the meeting and neighborhood to whatever extent you feel comfortable. The reusable bag features a clever and snappy design by Lake Claire's Pen Sherwood.

And there is still time to pay your dues, and get your own free bag, if you have not done so, yet! Dues are \$20 per household per year. You may pay using Pay-

Pal (see instructions at www.lakeclaire.org) or you may send a check to Treasurer, Lake Claire, PO Box 5942, Atlanta, Georgia, 31107. Some of the initiatives that our dues support are: improvements to Lake Claire Park, the annual Lake Claire Halloween Parade, improving and protecting the Harold Avenue Greenspace, fine neighborhood programs and institutions such as The Frazer Center, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, Mary Lin Elementary, and communications with the neighborhood -- such as our website, newscast, and our newspaper -- this Lake Claire Clarion. Thanks for helping to support your neighborhood.

Little Free Libraries

by Beth Damon

The most recent discovery I made on one of my walks through Lake Claire is The Little Free Library on Lakeshore Avenue. I had heard about these, but I did not know we had any in Lake Claire; I am surprised at how many times I passed it by and didn't notice it. Little Free Library, Ltd. began in 2009 as a program of the non-profit, tax-exempt organization Wisconsin Partners for SustainAbility, which has incubated several nonprofits projects and organizations. They have a board of directors and a clearly defined non-profit mission. The founders sought to honor their mothers, both of whom were librarians.



Edmondson's LFL on Lakeshore - photo by Jodi Dick

Little Libraries cont. on p. 3

Lake Claire Runners – Take Your Marks

You might have seen the signs along McLendon announcing the running club. Several residents of Lake Claire and Candler Park have formed a community running club that brings together enthusiasts of varying abilities for safe, group outings on neighborhood streets that are often concluded with a convivial gathering at a local eatery. The idea is the brainchild of Anna Kilinski, a real estate agent with the firm of Keller Williams Intown, who moved to Candler Park from Cabbagetown a few years ago.

"When I moved here, I couldn't believe Lake Claire and Candler Park didn't have something like that," said Kilinski. "I started asking around to see if there was any interest, and I put the word on Facebook and in newsletters that I wanted to start one." Part of Kilinski's motivation is self-centered, she admits; "I love to run, and I need to do it as an outlet because I work too much," she said. "I also know that if it's on my schedule, it will hold me accountable to do it."

The first group outing came together a couple of years ago, and since then, a small cadre of regular runners shows up regularly. Some meetings have drawn as many as 20 participants, from the Lake Claire and Candler Park neighborhoods -- and beyond. At 7:00 p.m., runners in well-soled shoes and running gear start gathering at the Candler Park Market, and Kilinski sketches out the routes for the night. She tries to vary the length and difficulty, while ensuring that everyone finishes the course. "Right now, we usually do 3-5 mile loops through the neighborhoods, maybe even into Inman Park," she said. "I'd like to have a fast-paced and slower-paced group to run three or five routes, if possible, so that we can

encourage all types of runners to come. Three miles can be quite far for some, so I try to make sure everyone is comfortable." The group has drawn up to twenty five people at times.

Brian Dechant, who has lived in Lake Claire for 12 years, saw signs around the neighborhood for the new group and decided to give it a try. "For the last few years, I've been running by myself, so it's nice to get together with people you have something

Running cont. on p. 3



Anna Kilinski, Organizer of Lake Claire/Candler Park Running Club

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The Clarion is published monthly. The deadline for advertising and editorial consideration is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Letters to the editor should be limited to 300 words or fewer. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not those of Lake Claire Neighbors, Officers, or the Clarion Staff.

The Clarion (including its predecessor Neighbors Monthly and its predecessor Lake Claire Neighbors Flyer) has been written, edited, and distributed by volunteers since 1989.

Calling Lake Claire Artists

Lake Claire needs a new design for our neighborhood hanging banners. Put your creativity to work for the neighborhood. If you're an artist and are interested in donating a design to the neighborhood, please let us know, or start thinking about it. If we have multiple entries, even if your work is not chosen, it will not go to waste – we intend to use all the artwork submitted, for future projects, such as our reusable cloth bags (see page 1). We know that if more than one artist enters, it will be a tough call. We will publish the designs in the Clarion, and voting will be open to residents of Lake Claire. We will follow up soon with more details (e.g., deadline). For more information, write to fun@lakeclaire.org.

March: Mark your Calendars

Known, Little Known, and Unknown about March: March is National Nutrition Month, Irish American Month, National Women's History Month, and Social Workers Month. It is also (of special interest to Kiki McGill) National Adopt a Guinea Pig Month!! March 1 is Peanut Butter Lovers' Day, and March 2 is Electronics Recycling Day.

1 - 31 Registration open all month for summer camp at Oakhurst Coop Preschool in June. <http://oakhurstcoop.com/summer-camp>

1 -2 Kids' Five & Dime Consignment Sale, need volunteers, sellers. Epworth United Methodist Church, Fri., 9 a.m.-3pm & 5-8pm; Sat., 9 a.m. -1 p.m. (1/2-price day). <http://www.fiveanddimekids.com/index.html>

1 - May, Frida & Diego Exhibit at The High Museum. ("Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera: Passion, Politics, and Painting"). Clarion Editor's Choice.

2 and 16 - Land Trust drum circle, dark until midnight. Please walk, bike, or carpool.

3 and 17 (the day after each drum circle) – Land Trust "Keep the Trust" Volunteer Work Day, 11:00 am-2:00 pm. Note new time! Volunteers get free pizza and a drum circle pass.

8 and 9 - Decatur Consignment Sale at First Baptist Church of Decatur. Complete information - <http://www.decaturconsignment.com>

16 Soapbox race in Lake Claire, details p. 3. Limited slots/sign up at www.CowabungaDude.org.

16 The first fundraiser for the Nelms Corner Project, 4:30 p.m., bremen.james@gmail.com

16 Styrofoam Recycling & Shredding, \$10 fee for TVs. See list at www.safeshredatlanta.com, Sean.

Woodson@decaturga.com or call 404-377-5571. Callaway Bldg, 120 W. Trinity Place.

17 Lá Fhéile Pádraig, "the Day of the Festival of Patrick" – Green eggs and ham, here we come.

21 and the third Thursday of every month - Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting, The Rose Room at The Frazer Center, 7 p.m.

22 Dekalb History Center Fundraiser/Silent Auction, 6-8 p.m., Historic Dekalb Courthouse, 101 East Court Square, open and free to the public. To donate an auction item, call 404-373-1088, ext. 20, or email Leslie at borger@dekalbhistory.org.

23 Party for Councilwoman Natalyn Archibong, 4-6 p.m. at 545 Harold Avenue, at the intersection of Harriet and Harold. See details on Page 3.

26 Mary Lin Elementary School tours for new parents will be held on March 26 at 9:30 a.m.

30 Land Trust: family fun at the Spring Peace & Love Fest, from 1:00 to 11:00 pm, with live music all day, food, drinks, local artists vending, a bake sale, and oodles of raffle prizes.

31 Land Trust: Annual Easter Egg Hunt & potluck; 9-10 hide, 10-11 hunt, 11:00 a.m. potluck.

Send calendar items for APRIL Clarion by MARCH 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org



An evening out to benefit the Frazer Center



goodness in
the gardens

Friday, April 19, 2013

7:00-10:00 pm

Cator Woolford Gardens

1815 S. Ponce de Leon Ave. NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30307

www.goodnessinthegardens.org



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Save the Date



Skiing In And Around Lake Claire

WEIMAR CONTINUES TO DISTRICT SPELLING BEE!

On February 7, the Atlanta Public Schools District Spelling Bee was hosted at Gideons Elementary School. Contestants from 25 elementary schools competed for the top spot. The APS Spelling Bee is sponsored annually by the Atlanta Association of Educators (AAE), with Ramon Reeves as President and Martha Henderson as the Spelling Bee Coordinator. **Theo Weimar**, from Mary Lin Elementary, will advance to the Georgia Association of Educator Distinct Spelling Bee on February 23!

The winners of the 2013 APS Spelling Bee:

- 1st Place- Theo Weimar, Mary Lin Elementary
- 2nd Place – Sydney Ragland, Young Middle
- 3rd Place – Amanda Stevens, Sutton Middle
- 3rd Place – Wen Lu, Beecher Hills Elementary

SOAPBOX RACE IN LAKE CLAIRE

Kids, teens, & adults: sign up to race on Saturday, March 16. No motors or pedals allowed on your homemade racer. Awards for speed AND creativity. Limited slots so sign up NOW at [HYPERLINK "http://www.cowabungadude.org"](http://www.cowabungadude.org) www.CowabungaDude.org.

MARY LIN ELEMENTARY NEWS

- School tours for new parents will be held on March 26 at 9:30 a.m.

Kindergarten Roundup (incoming student tour) is on May 7 from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

From our New Vice President of Environment

by James Ezeilo

As VP of the Environment, I am excited about the opportunity to work on green space projects in our Lake Claire community. Since the November elections, I have taken better notice of the park facilities and the need to upgrade or repair the picnic tables and play equipment. I can envision more colorful plantings and possibly a streetscape beautification project on the roads surrounding the park.

I have spoken with several neighbors about the possibility of connecting the Frazer Forest to the Fernbank Forest through a walking trail that will pass under Ponce De Leon. Such a trail could also link Freedom Park, thereby creating a continuous non-motorized transportation corridor from the East end of Ponce de Leon to the MLK National Historical Site.

My goal is not only to increase the environmental beauty of our community, but also to provide additional avenues to promote healthy activity.

Thank you all for the chance to be of service.

Join Lake Claire Residents in Support of Natalyn Archibong

Our three-term city councilwoman, Natalyn Archibong, is seeking a fourth term on November 5. A native of Dekalb County, whose father was a County Commissioner and mother an APS teacher, she was raised by parents with the skill and love of giving back to their communities. Throughout her time in office, Ms. Archibong has consistently been very proactive and responsive to neighborhood issues and concerns. Atlanta Progressive News scorecard, a measure using 30 decisions over the past 10 years, rates Ms. Archibong at the top of the heap, with a score of 92, reflecting that she, more than her fellow council members, consistently voted the position which best serves the public interest. That has been keenly evident in Lake Claire. Among other things, Natalyn was instrumental in bringing the city onboard with the creation of Harold Avenue Greenspace. And now she needs our support and endorsement.

Please join our Host Committee, Judy Langford and Robert Thomp-

son, Joe Agee, Pat Del Rey, and Christiane French in welcoming Natalyn on Saturday, March 23, 2013, 4-6 p.m, 545 Harold Avenue, at the intersection of Harriet and Harold.

Editor's Note

We are still looking for a layout volunteer for the Clarion. Thank you to Cindy Zarrilli for doing last month's issue, and thanks to Lore Ruttan for doing this month's issue. The requirements are: availability to work under a deadline on each issue around the third week of the month, strong attention to detail, and willingness to work closely with me (on e-mail). Strong computer skills are required and experience with InDesign (the program we use) and/or PhotoShop is recommended. But above all, I want someone to enjoy it – as a labor of love we work on together to produce this product. For more information or to discuss in detail, please contact me at editor@lakeclaire.org, or daytime phone number 404-727-0608.

Running Club cont. from p. 1

in common with. And it gives me the chance to get to know some of the neighbors," he said.

Interested runners are invited to show up at the Candler Street Market, on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. You don't need to live in the neighborhood to join in. Runners of all speeds are welcome. There will be maps for 3- to 5-mile loops. The run starts at the market. In warmer weather, the group sticks around afterwards for pizza, salad, and beer at Fellini's. E-mail Anna at annakintown@gmail.com if you have questions, and see the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CPLCrunningclub>.

Little Library cont. from p. 1

Complete details may be found at the website <http://www.littlefreelibrary.org>.

Resembling large birdhouses, the Little Free Libraries (LFL) are weatherproof cabinets filled with books. Borrow one, read it, bring it back, or bring another book. There are no cards and no fines. They have the charm of yard art and the wonder of a mes-



LFL on Arizona - photo by Miriam Herbers

sage in a bottle. Like big libraries, these small ones are built on stories. Michelle Hiskey noted last year in a story on the Decatur Independent Book Festival that the Little Free Libraries mark personal tales of love, "of people, books and the world, and the power of a story to change us." Lake Claire's Patrick Edmondson (whom I highlighted in 2011 in my series 30+ Years in Lake Claire) first moved to Lake Claire in 1969; he built the LFL on Lakeshore to honor his friend Brother John, a Rasta elder who had died at 91. Brother John "was a very spiritual being," Pat said. "Because he had no opportunity for formal education, he knew its value. He called me "Teach," and he spoke of the great good for the world it was to pull back the curtain of ignorance each in our own way. My way is the way of books, and I must spread that love. Thus, I combined the two motivations in one little box."

The library also recalls Pat's grandmother, "a teacher at Morning-side Elementary School, when it was a one- room schoolhouse," Pat said, adding that his grandmother "came from a line of German educators and taught me to read very early."

Little Free Libraries have now surpassed the 2,509 free libraries built by Andrew Carnegie. The two I know of in Lake Claire are the one on Lakeshore and, as Miriam Herbers recently told me, at 300 Arizona Avenue. Check them out -- and borrow and leave a book that you don't have to "check out."

"See my earlier article on Pat Edmondson in the Clarion archives at <http://www.lakeclaire.org/wpsite/clarionarchives/2011/2011-12.pdf> -- Editor.

Keeping An Eye on the Crime – And the Time

Lake Claire Security Report Weeks 2-4

Auto Theft

400 block Harold Ave 1/16/13 2012 black Honda Civic stolen from driveway

Other Larceny

2000 block Palifox Ave 1/14/13 Taken: fine jewelry
Larceny occurred while home was unoccupied and undergoing a renovation from 6/15/12 – 1/4/13.

Residential Burglary

400 block Claire Dr 1/10/13 12:05 Taken: nothing (robbery stopped in progress) Damaged: rear door

Owner returned home to find an SUV backed into his driveway and two middle-aged black males in his LR attempting to remove the TV. Burglars fled through the rear door and departed in the SUV. Prints were submitted.

1800 block McLendon Ave 1/16/13 day time Taken: Apple Macbook Damaged: front door kicked in

What's the one thing you would expect car burglars to steal when they break into your car? The car stereo, a cell phone, or loose change you keep in the ashtray? All of these things may be, but would you think they would steal your catalytic converter? Catalytic converter thefts are taking place because the converters contain several types of recyclable materials that can be easily scrapped for a quick profit. Thefts of catalytic converters increase each time the cost of scrap metal, particularly platinum, increases. The Honda CRV, unfortunately, is a commonly targeted vehicle.

Your vehicle's catalytic converter is a device used to reduce the toxicity of emissions from an internal combustion engine. Catalytic converters have been required by law on every motor vehicle operated in the United States since 1975. It is attached to your exhaust system and is located underneath your car. Catalytic converters contain expensive precious metals like platinum, palladium and rhodium.

Catalytic converter thieves generally target high profile vehicles like

trucks or SUV's because the higher ground clearance allows for easier access underneath the vehicle. However, sports cars and sedans are not immune to converter theft.

So what can you do to protect your vehicle? Below are prevention tips that can reduce your risk.

* Park in areas where your vehicle will most easily be seen by passers-by. For example, park under lights after dark or near windows at a business. Park near security cameras, if possible.

* Park defensively. Park high profile vehicles so they are surrounded by low ground clearance vehicles. This may deter thieves by making it harder for them to access the most vulnerable targets.

* If you have a garage, park your car in it overnight instead of leaving it in the driveway.

* When parking outside, make sure that your car is in a heavily lit, well-trafficked area where it will be hard for a thief to conceal his actions or equipment.

* Install a vehicle alarm system with a shock sensor

* If your catalytic converter is a "bolt on" model, you can have the bolts welded shut and have extra metal welded to the exhaust system.

* Install a catalytic converter protection device that will clamp around the converter.

* Etch your converter with your vehicle's license plate number in several different locations. This will help police track your property if it is stolen.

The Atlanta Police Department provided these tips, after a number of these thefts across the city.

Personal and Business Classifieds

Part Time HELP WANTED:

Computer Coach for 64 year old lady with "spotty" computer skills. Must be able to explain computer tasks slowly and PATIENTLY. Must be willing to come to my Lake Claire home and demonstrate/teach on my computer & help me build a simple Web Site using the Web host "1&1". Part time Hours: to be scheduled between 1:00pm & 7:30pm. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age. Call Norma at (404)373-8034 to schedule interview.



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From the Land Trust

Did You Know

by Miriam Herbers

Did you know that in 1999 Noah Glassman designed and installed the donation chute by the bulletin board? Donations will be put to good use and appreciated. If you want your donation to go towards food for Lou, the emu, please mark it that way. Or, from the comfort of your home, visit <http://www.LCCLT.org>. www.LCCLT.org <http://www.LCCLT.org>.



Spring, Already? Peace, Love & Music Blooming Early This Year at the Land Trust

by Sunshine Allard

That's right, folks, it's that time again! Over at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust we're getting ready for our traditional day of family fun, the Spring Peace & Love Fest, coming up on Saturday, March 30, from 1:00 to 11:00 pm, with live music all day, food, drinks, local artists vending, a bake sale, and oodles of raffle prizes. We'll also be introducing our deluxe 2013 tie-dyed Land Trust T-shirt.

This year we've got an extra-special line-up. We've been blessed for yet another year with our own awesome neighborhood kids' bands, including the highly sought-after My Homework Ate My Dog, along with some of their parents in My Imaginary Band. We'll also enjoy the dynamic harmonies of the all-female Women of Rock (they will rock your socks off!), the very special treat of Deja Bluegrass Band, and, new to the Land Trust, The Rainmen, with their endless dance tunes keeping us all swaying, swinging, and swirling 'round together. And to top it all off, there will be a special surprise headliner -- not to be missed.

It's another full day of music, dancing, kids playing, and neighbors enjoying nature and each other! Please walk, bike, ride MARTA, carpool, and/or park consciously -- preferably at the Clifton Sanctuary parking lot on Connecticut Avenue (Just follow signs; thanks as always to the folks at Clifton for their support!) In the meantime, help us spread the word about Peace & Love.

And, as always, we need your

help on March 30! We are looking for: volunteers during the Fest, donated baked goods, donated raffle prizes (got anything nice to donate? know anyone who may want to donate? services, goods and/or gift certificates wanted!), help setting up and cleaning up afterwards. Please call or e-mail Sunshine for more info: 678-508-6632 or aimeeallard@hotmail.com.

All proceeds will benefit the Lake Claire Community Land Trust. Past years' fundraisers have gone largely to paying the property taxes, which are considerable and have increased over time as we have acquired more land. At the end of last year the

majority of the Land Trust was put into a conservation easement, which will greatly lower our taxes -- in the future.

Often, any leftover money goes toward special projects and improvements (after general maintenance, etc.). This past year it was used to improve the electrical infrastructure, but as often happens, this ended up costing a lot more than anyone projected. Hopefully this spring's fund-

raiser will help offset our recent financial challenges. Thank you, thank you, thank you neighbors, and namaste! The Land Trust could not exist without your support! PEACE AND LOVE!!

P.S. The very next day is our umpteenth annual Easter Egg Hunt and Potluck -- one of the best egg hiding/hunting spots Atlanta has to offer. This is open to all. See calendar for details.

March Land Trust Calendar

Saturday, March 2 and 16 -- Land Trust drum circle, dark till midnight. Please walk, bike or carpool.

Sunday, March 3 and 17 (the day after each drum circle) -- "Keep the Trust" Volunteer Work Day, 11:00 am-2:00 pm. Note new time! Volunteers get free pizza and a drum circle pass.

Saturday, March 30 -- Spring Peace & Love Fest, music, food and fun at the Land Trust! Help keep your community greenspace in the black. Volunteers needed, as always. See article this page.

Sunday, March 31 -- Annual Easter Egg Hunt and potluck; 9:00-10:00 hide, 10:00-11:00 hunt, 11:00 a.m. potluck.

2013 Membership Drive

Become a "Caretaker" and help ensure the Land Trust stays green (and in the black) for the next generation to enjoy! Note the new lower rate for Couples and Families. Visit us at <http://www.LCCLT.org/> and use Paypal or your major credit card, or mail a check made out to "LCCLT," P.O. Box 5379, Atlanta GA 30307. Include your address so we can send you a Land Trust bumper sticker.

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March into April

by Elizabeth Knowlton

Gardeners are hardy souls. We plant our seeds while others shiver indoors. We harvest our crops under the merciless summer sun. We water our plants during the driest heat. Sometimes we even wade around in the rain, checking the overflow from gutters or measuring the accumulation in rain gauges. Weather.com is our friend. Without its handy zip code feature, we actually would have thought it would snow back in January. Checking ten days ahead, we can read that our chances of rain are only 20%, which means zero in our neighborhood. Looking at "weather in motion," we can see the usual pattern that moves precipitation across Atlanta from southwest to northeast, frequently cutting the rain off just west of Lake Claire, usually around Oakdale Road. Take a walk and see for yourself.

This year the spring full moons fall on March 27 and April 24. Easter is March 31, teasing us to put all our tender plants out there first thing in April. Given the past few years, this is probably more than safe. But always have a backup plan for your favorite crops like tomatoes, in this case the handy item called wall o'waters, a soft plastic circle of 18" high connected tubes

that you fill with water once you place it over the plant. Once the tubes are full, it is rigid and a couple of stakes or one of those small teepee shaped tomato cages (useless once the plant begins to grow) will hold it in place. All day the sun will heat the water in the tubes, and at night that heat is released inside the cylinder, making a cozy environment for the plant. You can even pinch the top together with a close pin if frost threatens or throw some row cover over the whole thing to keep out snow or sleet. Just make sure to open it up again once the sun shines. This works for peppers and eggplants too, of course, but it is tomatoes that go out earliest so that you win the First Tomato on the Block prize. You can literally put your tomato plants in the ground in February or March with this device, which can be found in many seeds catalogs plus at Gardener's Supply.

Don't forget to apply mulch to uncovered soil and add to the mulch that has broken down in places like perennial beds. Two to three inches of mulch is plenty and not up against the woody trunks of trees and shrubs. I truly think that some of you must have been keeping your leaves last fall as



Wall'o'Waters surrounding tomatos

I saw fewer bags set out on the street. If they are still dry, you can shred them with a mower or a special blower attachment that sucks them up and then layer them in your flower beds. Pine straw works well around shrubs like azaleas and blueberries as it is acidic. Mini-bark also looks good under shrubs and trees. Just make sure it comes from a renewable source like pine trees and not cypress. I like purchased bales of straw for vegetables, but you can use plastic or leaves if that is what you prefer.

As you lay out your garden, even if it is only a few feet in all directions, try to batch the plants by family so that you can rotate them as a group the next year. For instance, the nightshade family of tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants is a heavy user of nutrients and also attracts many pests and soil-borne diseases. Another heavy eater is the cole or brassica family: broccoli, cabbage, kale, and collards. So is corn, a grass. On the other hand, the legumes, peas and beans, can fix nitrogen in the soil and leave their bed richer at the end of a season. Fortunately, different insects and diseases often attack different families of plants so that giving the soil a rest from a particular group can lower the

incidences of these pests by the time it is planted there again. In consecutive years I plant the same bed with the tomato family, then beans, next broccoli and lettuces, and finally with corn.

In addition, each bed can be used a few times in one year. Barbara Pleasant in her *Warm-Climate Gardening* has examples of succession cropping: for instance, spinach, then bush beans, then cowpeas, and finally leeks, which can sit in place all winter. I plant my Irish and sweet potatoes next to each other. When the potatoes are harvested in early June, I train the sweet potato vines over the empty space.

I expect you have continued to pot up the flower and vegetable seedlings that you sowed indoors. Check frost resistance on the packets. Harden them off in protected shady places outdoors before putting them in the ground. It is not too late to direct sow some radishes, carrots, beets, lettuce, and chard as well as the first bush beans once April arrives.

And it is not too late to think about putting in some more shrubs, particularly our marvelous crape myrtle. Consider the Catawba (purple, 10-20 ft.), Tuscarora (dark pink, 20+ ft.), and Natchez (white with cinnamon bark, 20-30 ft.). Once planted and carried through the first year, they are maintenance free. No pruning, no spraying, these relatively new varieties are usually free of powdery mildew. Imagine our streets lined all summer with every hue from alabaster to darkest plum.

You may contact Elizabeth at knowltonew@earthlink.net with gardening questions or comments.

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How We Got into Co-housing – and Who Are We?

by Kay Kuck

As I described in a lengthy article in the February Clarion (see <http://www.lake-claire.org/wpsite/clarionarchives/2013/2013-02.pdf>), on one acre to the right, at the corner of Connecticut and Dekalb Avenues, can be found twelve houses, a Common House, and two elegant courtyards. Built in 1997, the Lake Claire Co-Housing Community embodies a Scandinavian idea of building small but carefully designed homes around courtyards. In the early 1990s architect Greg Ramsey and his wife Diane Burgoon started working on the development of Georgia's first co-housing. Idealists Kay Kuck and Betty Jo Stevens, along with Diane and Greg, began the four-year process of weekly meetings to plan a living space which valued sustainable living by having a small carbon footprint on our earth. Ten other families joined in, and our dream became a viable community.

Word of mouth, a flyer in a local coffee house, and participation from the Friends Meeting brought this community together. Five families have been there from the start, while the other units have had a turnover of approximately ten families. People have moved for jobs or other personal transitions. Some have moved because they found living so closely to neighbors wasn't to their liking, but if you ask any of the present families, they will agree that they love co-housing. If you gently ask some of the people who have lived in there awhile, and listen to their stories, a glint of a tear will demonstrate the depth of our emotional connections.

Who are we? You will find two RNs, one of whom is Kay (me), now retired, a college professor, four teachers, two who work for the CDC, several who work in nonprofit agencies, a graphic designer, a pastoral counselor, a real estate agent, and an Episcopal priest. An IT specialist and office administrator are in the process of selling their home, but they can still be with us as Associate Members. An IT specialist and a planner for high school trips are going to be our next new neighbors.

The couple who will soon be moving in (waiting for the bank) have an interesting "finding co-housing" story. The boyfriend of one of the residents told them about co-housing, and they wanted to know more. They are avid

bicyclists, and whom should they meet at a cycle gathering but fellow cyclist and Co-ho resident Andy Bailie -- who just happened to be the realtor for the one unit on the market! We will soon have our own mini-cyclists club which certainly reflects our community values.

Joe and Liz Walsh like co-housing so much that they have moved into the community twice. A unit became available for six months, so they moved in to try us out. They then bought a townhouse in Decatur until a unit became available a year later. After the Walshes moved into that home, Andy, our resident real estate agent, sold the townhouse to Betty Jo's children, who were ready to be on their own. Speaking about children, a future article will feature growing up in co-housing.

Differing opinions are a part of any community. Recently we were in the midst of trying to find a weekend that everyone could set aside for a retreat in a local state park -- to no avail. I expressed in an e-mail that our co-housing was at a low point, with many blank spaces on our cooking sign-up sheet in the Common House. Jenny McCoy agreed, but Andy Bailie disagreed, citing the very busy lives of all of our residents. We were all correct, considering that life responsibilities and the Co-Ho esprit de corps have an ebb and flow. Those of us who could go found a day at the Bailie Farm an enjoyable day



Co-Housing Outing to the Bailie Farm

outing and community-building event.

The Common House is the heart of our community. Our laundry facilities (future story!) and mail boxes are found there. It is also our extended living room when we need to have a gathering larger than our not-so-spacious living rooms can accommodate. In addition to our bi-weekly meals, drumming and acting classes are on our schedule. We were delighted to have

the Land Trust's annual Christmas crafts fair in our own living room. We also get political, and I will let you guess which party our members support.

So until next time, I will close this rambling about my beloved community. Come join us for a Thursday night vegetarian community meal, or if no one signed up to cook, you may still look us over and get to know us. We can always use more cooks.

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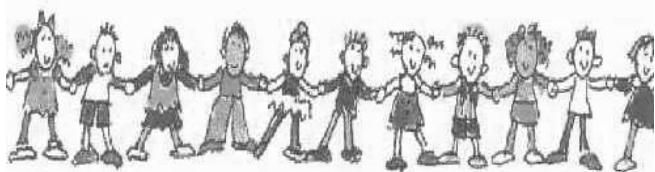
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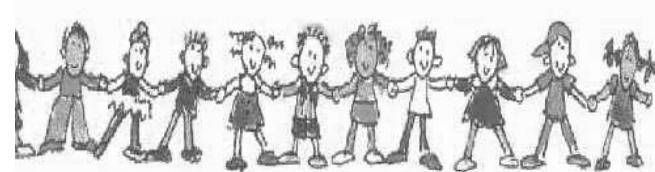
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LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



I hope this series is fun and a way for young readers to participate. This month's contribution is written by Sophie Mullaney, who says, "I am in 4th grade at ANCS [Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School] in Grant Park. I love animals, including horses -- of course, and my dog, Gingel, and cat, Tillie. My mom and dad and I are from the San Francisco Bay Area, but we've been living in Lake Claire/Candler Park (we're right on the border on Clifton!) for 7½ years. We're lucky to have a GREAT neighborhood and friends here and also get to visit California once or twice a year."

Hey there, Lake Claire kids – Let's put some of *your* creativity on this page. Submit articles, poetry, drawings, your original puzzles, etc., to editor@lakeclaire.org. Next time: what do you like about April and Spring.... Or choose any topic of your choice. Be creative...we'd love to hear from you!

Horseback Riding for Dummies !!!

by: Sophie Mullaney

Have you ever thought this?...."I need to get outside more but what should I do?" If so, why not try horseback riding?!!! This is a fun way to get active plus you get to know more about responsibility. I have been riding for 4 years myself and I absolutely love it. By now I bet you are thinking that would be a great idea but I live in the middle of the city; where am I supposed to ride? Well I ride at Vogt Riding Academy, a barn right near Emory!!! Now you're probably thinking, "I live really close to Emory, and I have never seen this place." Well I bet you probably have

seen Vogt; it's just tucked away so you only see the sign for it. I found it when I was driving home from my friend's house, and we decided to check it out. I bet you could find a barn for yourself if you were interested, but it is just an idea.

Now there are many types of riding. Most fall into one of two categories, Western or English. Some of the differences between the two are: the equipment, the position of the rider, the gaits of the horse, and the attire. You might think that horseback riding is too dangerous but then everything is dangerous in a way. I

mean in soccer you can trip and break a bone, in gymnastics you can fall off something and break a bone, and so many other things can happen!

Don't think you have to

have a horse to ride. Most barns have horses you can ride (a school horse as they call it). Now get out and have fun in any way you want.... this is just one!!!



My cousins, aunts, uncle and me in the Sierra Nevada Mountains



My Favorite Horse, Sonny, and Me

Biscuits and Bellyrubs: Happy March!



Anna Trodglen draws our *Biscuits and Bellyrubs* series. A life-time Atlanta resident, Anna grew up on the edge of Lake Claire. She lives with her husband Dugan, three terriers, and a Black Cat. Find Anna's greeting cards and prints at Donna Van Gogh's, owned and operated by Lake Claire residents.