



## Proposed Development Threatens Woodland, Historic Home; Unites Neighbors

by Sue Strauss

Two properties located at 1715 and 1723 S. Ponce de Leon Avenue may be sold and developed into high-end condominiums targeted to the empty nester market. Phillip Clark, the proposed purchaser, developer, and builder, has created a plan for the development, which will include a total of 13 units. The plan is strongly opposed by adjacent property owners on S. Ponce de Leon and Hardendorf Avenues, and Clifton Road.

“We are retired and live on a fixed income,” said long-time Hardendorf resident Carol Mercer. “Most of our retirement investment is tied up in our home.

What will this development do to its value?” That is a concern shared by others who live on the dead-end of Hardendorf.

The development plan calls for clear-cutting the existing, mature tree canopy on the properties – into which Hardendorf dead-ends – to make room for carriage-house condos with garages, elevators, and masonry fireplaces. (See pictures on Page 7.) In addition to loss of the 150-year-old trees, which have become home to a parliament of barred owls, Dorfinians worry about drainage resulting from loss of mature trees, and the set-

**Cont. on p. 7**

## The Land Trust Peace and Love Springfest Great Success last Month

The weather was fabulous on April 12 for the Land Trust festival. Lots of folks celebrated, danced, ate, and listened to music. As they say, a good time was had by all!

There was face painting, yummy food, arts and crafts



**Cont. on p. 11** Audience Enjoying Peace and Love Fest

## WILD in Lake Claire

by Carol Vanderschaff

Last month my neighbor across the street was having a tree cut down in his front yard. As the top of the tree was cut off and about to be put in the chipper, I looked up and saw a little head appear.

It was a raccoon! The poor little thing paused for a moment, looked around, and then he took the plunge down the trunk and

**Cont. on p. 9**



The Veazeys – good luck in the Lone Star State

## Leonardo Says Goodbye to the Veazey Family

by Melanie Bliss and Cara Stevens

It is with much sadness that Lake Claire says goodbye to the Veazey family as they prepare to move to Corpus Christi, Texas. Though it's far from Lake Claire, the move to Texas will bring them closer to Emily's family. Since moving here in 2007, the Veazeys have been an active part of the Lake Claire community. Emily served on the Lake Claire Board from 2007 to 2011 and on the Mary Lin Foundation from 2008 to 2011. She has also been an active volunteer at Druid Hills Preschool and Mary Lin Elementary.

Emily and Marcus moved into the picturesque yellow house with the white picket fence on Leonardo Avenue in 2007. They moved in within weeks of three other Leonardo families – the Jiraks, Stevenses, and Blissess. Within a year, Marjorie Veazey, Amelia Stevens, and Tyler Bliss were born just months apart.

They joined Deacon Baker, Keely Baker, and Ally Bliss, who were three of the very few young children on the street at the time. Since then, Leonardo has had a baby boom, with *more than 25 children* currently calling themselves Leos. The Veazeys certainly did their part, giving Marjorie two sisters -- McNeill (2010) and

**Cont. on p. 10**

### Highlights of this issue

- 2** May Calendar including *Festivals!*
- 4** Security/Crime Stats
- 5** Skiing in and around LC
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- 12** Lake Claire Kids' Corner

THE **CLARION** IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

**NEEDED:** Used items in saleable condition for the Land Trust's Memorial Day Cul-de-Sac Sale, May 24-25, 2014

Drop-off locations: 300 and 306 Arizona Avenue (look for signs)  
For pickup of larger items: info@LCCLT.org or 404-378-6815  
See www.LCCLT.org for details. And thanks for your support!

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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.

Cover banner photo by Sarah Coburn

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

**MAY EVENTS (& see Spring Fests – under May Events)**

**3 & 17** Drum Circle, dark until midnight. Please walk, bike or carpool. Donation requested.

**4** Lake Claire Neighbors/Lake Claire Land Trust PICNIC! 3-5pm

**8** DeKalb History Center Hosts Fundraiser for Preservation of 1820s Decatur Home, Benjamin Swanson House, 5:30-8:30 pm, see www.dekalbhistory.org or email goldemund@dekalbhistory.org

**10** Lake Claire pool opens! Go Wahoo!! (see page 5)

**10** Atlanta Audubon Society, Warbler Weekend Trip, melanie@atlantaaudubon.org or (678) 973-2437, http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/upcoming-events

**15 and the 3rd Thursday of every month - Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting, The Rose Room at The Frazer Center, 7 p.m. socialize, 7:15 meeting start. Pizza from Savage (thanks, Savage).**

**16** Atlanta Audubon Society, Shorebird Trip, exciting trip to St.

Simon's and other coasts, contact 770-934-7660 or 678-233-4293 or see http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/upcoming-events

**17** Drum Circle, dark until midnight. Please walk, bike or carpool. Donation requested.

**18** through June 29 – "Cowgirls" at Horizon Theatre. http://www.horizontheatre.com/plays/cowgirls/

**24** The Friends of the Decatur Library will host a book sale on Saturday, May 24, 2014, from 9 am to 3 pm on the lawn in front of the Decatur Library. Thousands of gently used fiction, nonfiction and children's books, as well as DVDs and CDs, will be offered for sale at low prices starting at \$.50. Only cash or checks will be accepted, and dealers must scan at tables. All proceeds benefit the programs and collections of the Decatur Library. Admission is free. Donations of gently used books are always welcome at the library front desk. 215 Sycamore Street, Decatur, GA 30030. Write to llael@bellsouth.net

**24-25** Memorial Day Cul-de-Sac Sale, Lake Claire Land Trust (see article on Page 11)

**Calendar deadline for the combo June/July Clarion: May 25 to editor@lakeclaire.org.**

**Spring Festivals and beginning of Summer Festivals – thanks to Anna Kilinski**

**May 3, 10, 24, 31** Decatur Concerts on the Square

**May 9-11** Shaky Knees Music Festival And Sweet Auburn Festival

**May 10-11** Buckhead Spring Arts & Crafts Fest

**May 17** Taste of the Highlands And East Atlanta Beer Festival AND Kirkwood Spring Fling & 5K and Tour of Homes

**May 17-18** Atlanta Jazz Festival

**May 23-25** Decatur Arts Festival

**May 29-June 1** Atlanta Food & Wine Festival

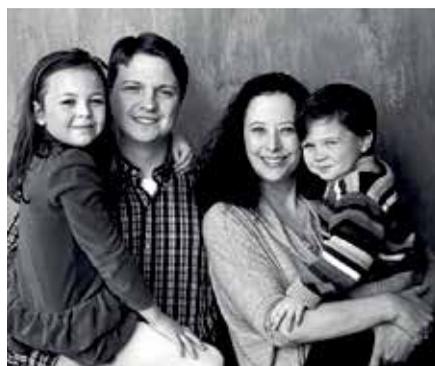
**June 7-8** Virginia Highland Summerfest

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References available: Matt, 679-754-1095.

**NEW AFTER SCHOOL IN LAKE CLAIRE**

Local experienced artist mom is opening a small scale after school on Southerland Terrace.

Limit of 6 kids. Kelly Karim  
Call 404-377-4671 or kel-

lykarim@yahoo.com for more information.

# Compassionate Atlanta

## Continues to grow and invites all to join the movement

by Karina Hatcher

Lake Claire neighbor Rev. Robert (Bob) Thompson leads **Compassionate Atlanta**, the local expression of the global campaign for compassionate cities -*Charter for Compassion International*- that is encouraging compassionate action throughout the Greater Atlanta area.

The team lead by Thompson was instrumental in getting the City of Atlanta designated as a "Compassionate City." This important step was taken by the Atlanta City Council and approved by Mayor Kasim Reed on February 12, 2014 (Resolution 14-R-3147). The cities of Clarkston and Decatur have endorsed the movement too, and more cities in the Greater Atlanta area are in the process.

### Now, what is a Compassionate City?

A compassionate city may be

one that cares about all of its residents and the different aspects of their lives. One that cares for the environment. One that values the arts. One that sees health-care as a natural necessity and doesn't forget that education is a right for all. A compassionate city may be a place that values people of all ages, nationalities, and religious affiliations, and rejects discrimination.

*"A compassionate city is an uncomfortable city! A city that is uncomfortable when anyone is homeless or hungry. Uncomfortable if every child isn't loved and given rich opportunities to grow and thrive. Uncomfortable when any group anywhere in the world is marginalized or oppressed. Uncomfortable when as a community we don't treat our neighbors as we would wish to be treated."* ~ reminded Karen Arm-

strong, founder of the global movement, in her visit to Atlanta this past April.

Armstrong joined the local **Compassionate Atlanta** team - and hundreds of others - in a "Celebration of Compassion" at the M

L King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College. During her stay, Armstrong received the Gandhi/King/Ikeda Award, the highest honor that Morehouse presents for peace, reconciliation, and non-violence.

**Compassionate Atlanta** and Emory-Tibet Partnership hosted a breakfast that engaged civic, corporate, education, and health leaders in a conversation with Karen Armstrong about the *Charter for Compassion* and its potential for bringing every sector of Atlanta's community together. There is great excitement about what has been going on over the last couple of months in Atlanta as the city positions itself as the new possible hub for the *Charter for Compassion International*.

Back to our Lake Claire neighbor Bob Thompson, he tells us: *"We (the Compassionate Atlanta Organizing Committee) believe that the support of civic, cor-*



Rev. Bob Thompson at Emory Breakfast

*porate, and government leaders, combined with a grassroots movement around compassion, can help Atlanta move beyond "A city too busy to hate" to a place of hope and possibility. We encourage and welcome everyone to get involved in the movement."*



### 7 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

1. Sign the Charter for Compassion, and invite your friends to do the same.
2. Follow Compassionate Atlanta on Facebook.
3. Subscribe to the Compassionate Atlanta newsletter.
4. Start or join a Compassion conversation in your community.
5. Encourage your company or organization to which you belong to become a Charter Partner.
6. Make a financial donation to Compassionate Atlanta.
7. Become a volunteer for Compassionate Atlanta.

For more information: [www.compassionateatl.com](http://www.compassionateatl.com)

Contacts: **Karina Hatcher** at [karina@compassionateatl.com](mailto:karina@compassionateatl.com), Cell (678) 755-6899, or **Bob Thompson** at [bobthompson@compassionateatl.com](mailto:bobthompson@compassionateatl.com)



*Anna Trodglén 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.*

## Keep An Eye on the Crime and the Time:

Lake Claire Security Report, March 2, – March 29

*Compiled from Atlanta Police Department (APD) Reports, which are 1-2 months behind*

### Burglary

2000 block DeKalb Ave 3/12/14  
bottom window removed from bedroom window

Taken: TV, game system, DVDs & games  
Note: witness named a suspect no prints

1700 block DeKalb Ave 3/16/14

garage door left open  
Taken: mountain bike

### Theft from Vehicle

1700 block Marlbrook Dr 3/12/14

city vehicle damage: none  
Taken: wallet, cash, cards, GPS device, phone charger

1900 block Palifox Dr 3/18/14

vehicle was unlocked  
Taken: iPod, sunglasses, glasses

500 block Harold Ave 3/24/14

vehicle was unlocked  
Taken: credit/debit cards, driver's license

1900 block McLendon Ave 3/25/14

vehicle was unlocked  
Taken: radio, charging station

1700 block Marlbrook Dr 3/26/14

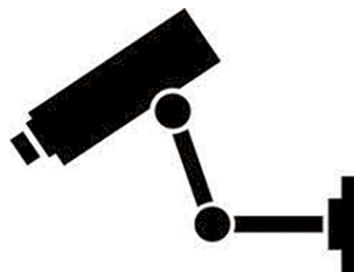
vehicle unlocked; parked on street  
Taken: cell phone, GPS

### Other Larceny

300 block Connecticut Ave (Clifton Sanctuary Ministries) 3/15/14

Taken: 2 checks were taken from victim's work place foot locker

**Useful Security Information:** Contact APD by dialing 911 from your home or your cell phone for any incidence of crime or suspicious behavior. Tell the operator you're in APD's Zone 6, Beat 608 if your location does not automatically register on the operator's screen. Join the Lake Claire Neighborhood Watch listserv (lakeclaireneighborhood-watch@yahoo.com) for up-to-date security reports.



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## Ready to put down or pick up roots? I can help.



I've helped people put down (and pick up) roots in and around 30307 for years. I'm a Mary Lin and Grady High mom and personally rooted in Lake Claire. As an Intown homeowner and Realtor® with deep roots in our community, I know how to help you find the right home and market your home to sell.

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**Ready to sell?** My experience with professional staging, compelling photography, and creative marketing helps sell your home faster and for the highest price.

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- Old Fourth Ward

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## Hello...Safe Journey – Skiing in and around Lake Claire

Happy birthday on **May 3**, Sarah Wynn, Harold Avenue, AND Jason Bliss, Leonardo Avenue.

Happy birthday on **May 7**, Gay Arnieri, Harold Avenue

Happy birthday on **May 8** to Caden McLean, Leonardo, turning 9 (and fond farewell, McLeans—only to Candler Park, so keep reading the Clarion!)

Happy birthday on **May 9** to Bob Caine, Leonardo Ave

Happy birthday, Emily Veazey, **May 10** (and a fond farewell, you'll be missed!) (see page 1), Leonardo

Happy birthday, Adler Waugh, turning 3 on **May 11** (a nice Mother's Day gift to Lisa!) - Leonardo

Happy birthday, Peter *Stay Puft Marshmallow Man* Olson, Leonardo, getting younger on **May 16**

Happy birthday on **May 19**, Joseph McGill, Delaware Avenue, turns 13, AND to Jaxon McLeon, Leonardo, turning 5.

Happy **FIRST** birthday to Mayla Carper - **May 23**, Leonardo

Happy birthday on **May 28** to Sadie Stevens, Leonardo, turning 4.

*My goodness, there are a lot of May Leo birthdays!*

Marie Godiers of Marlbrook graduates from Grady High School in May! In the top 10 % of



Peter Olson born 5/16



Congrats Marie Godiers of Marlbrook!

her class, she is going to college at UGA in the fall! Congrats, Marie!

*And Congrats to all of our Lake Claire grads!!!!*



Jennie Caine, Leonardo, will be retiring from Emory Healthcare (formerly Wesley Woods) on **May 29**. Congratulations, Jennie!

Safe journey to Bella, Sharon Doochin's doggie and best friend, Harold Avenue. Bella du Jour passed away, at approximately 16 years old, on April 2. Sharon was blessed and honored to have spent 14 years with this wonderful creature. "Bella had the sweetest disposition and smiled and shared her gentleness constantly with everyone," Sharon said. She will miss Bella's being and carry her spirit always. Many other people will miss Bella: over 50 friends sent notes to Sharon after Bella passed away, many noting her gentle nature and loving ways. And not only people: younger doggie Luna is still searching for her playmate.

*"Dogs are our link to paradise. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring-it was peace."* – Milan Kundera

*"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole."* – Roger A. Caras

*"If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went."* – Will Rogers

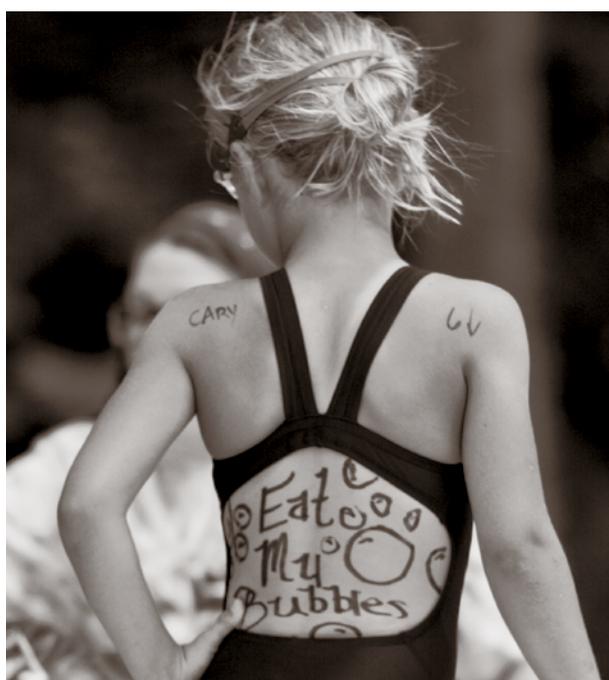


*Sweet Bella, May her memory be a blessing*

*To help us continue this feature on neighborhood life cycle events, send the news to editor@lakeclaire.org -- birthdays or other celebrations for the upcoming month, births or deaths or important rights of passage. We promise not to identify ages for people over 25 unless requested! ;-)* As space allows, we will include in the newspaper. What's in June/July? Any more graduations to report? Birthdays? **Let us know your suggestions by MAY 25 for the Combo June/July CLARION.**

## Reminder about Lake Claire Pool and Wahoo

Summer is around the corner, and preparations are underway at the Lake Claire Pool for much fun in the sun. The pool is open **beginning May 10** and every day from Memorial Day to Labor Day. A key component of summer fun at the pool is of course the **Lake Claire Wahoo Swim Team**. The Wahoo begins its seventh season **May 26** against a host



Pool open 5/10, Wahoo season begins 5/26 – picture by Gretchen Connell

of teams from Dekalb County. Team registration has begun, and participation is open to any member of the Lake Claire Pool who is 18-years-old or younger. Last season the Wahoo finished with a 3-2 record in dual meets and

a ninth-place finish overall at the League Championships. It was their best showing in the team's short history and a harbinger of great successes to come.

See the full article on the pool and the Wahoo swim team in last month's issue, AND to learn more about the Lake Claire Pool and Wahoo swimming, visit [www.lakeclairepool.com](http://www.lakeclairepool.com).

# Marching Abominable Band in Lake Claire

by Beth Damon



A marching band that started as a performance art/happenings/guerilla theatre group in the late 1960s, *the Seed & Feed Marching Abominable* just celebrated 40 years of bringing live entertainment to Atlanta by staging a series of "40 Blitzes in 40 Days." On Sunday, April 20, the 36th blitz included a march

through Lake Claire around the state name streets (New York, Indiana, Delaware, etc.) ending with a performance on Arizona in front of Lake Claire Co-Housing. I spotted several Lake Claire faces in the performers, and many of us who happened to be out walking enjoyed the blitz performance.

In the 70s at Emory University I took a theatre class from Kelly Morris, who started the band as The Asa Candler Memorial Marching Atrocity Band "for



Kelly's Feed and Seed

political noises and moves," as he said. In 1973, he founded Kelly's Seed & Feed Theatre, and the band made its first performance at the Inman Park Festival Parade in 1974. The effect, Kelly said, was immediate, funny, and joyous, so he knew it was a good thing. Over the years the Abominable became a fixture at local festivals and parades. When one hears them playing (as I did from my house this time) you still get that feeling of happy

surprise, joy, and amazement. A more complete history, calendar, and blog is found at their website: <http://seedandfeed.org/>, and see many pictures from the 70s on the facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/seedandfeed>.

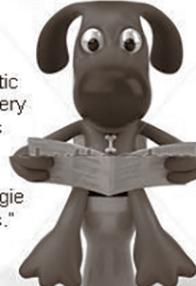


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# Proposed Development Affecting Hardendorf Dead-End

*Cont. from p. 1*

backs requested for the development, among other things.

“Our front yards will be looking into the back yards of these houses,” noted Wayne Darcy. “This needs to be taken into account when the setbacks are considered.”

Mr. Clark has not submitted a formal application to the City Urban Design Commission (UDC), nor has he obtained a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA). Rather, he has approached the Druid Hills Landmark District Preservation Committee (LDPC) to get advice on the project prior to applying for the COA, citing that he wishes to verify some level of community support before he proceeds.

According to its Statement of Intent, the LDPC’s mission is to “preserve the environmental character and physical appearance of the area” and “to ensure that new construction observes the general setback and height restrictions of the original development and is in harmony with the historic character of the district.”

The Committee has met with Mr. Clark and adjacent property owners on three occasions to review site plans. Neighbors in Druid Hills and Lake Claire have been very open about concerns with the proposed development, which range from questions about ingress and egress planning, to removal of the woodland, to the impact of granting variances. Although the density of the project has been reduced to 13 units (from 17), and Mr. Clark has agreed to remove two of three requested variances, he has not responded to repeated requests for more detailed information about the other issues.

Janie and Gary Smith live on S. Ponce de Leon, next to the property in question. “Mr. Clark has said he does not want to proceed without community support,” Janie told the Clarion. “Yet, we have given him our questions and comments about the devel-

ing the variance sets a dangerous precedent for future builders who may request similar concessions.

Mr. Clark has presented only renderings of the facades he will build, so neighbors have only a vague idea as to what they will see in terms of building materi-

Hills Landmark District Preservation Committee will notify Mr. Clark that it is unable to make a formal comment on the project, due to the many unanswered questions regarding the details of the development, as well as the variance request. The Committee also said these issues constituted the basis for the unanimous opposition of adjacent and nearby neighbors.

Mr. Clark is free to respond to community concerns, and amend his plan, or submit an application for a COA with his current plan. His next steps will be closely watched; he has said repeatedly that he will not proceed with the project without community support.

The goal of the neighbors who are impacted by this – or any potential development – is to protect the integrity of the architecture and woodland on the property, control the density of any project, and maintain the quality of life enjoyed by those who call this quaint neighborhood home.

In 1893 Joel Hurt commissioned Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of American landscape architecture, to create the ‘ideal residential suburb.’ Olmsted’s preliminary plan called for a broad, curving, divided major avenue with a succession of public parks in the median, bordered by large estates and bungalows of eclectic architecture. High-end condominiums, with incongruous setbacks, seem out of place in this idyllic vision.



*Current*



*Proposed*

opment, and we have not heard back from him.”

The remaining variance on Clifton Road reduces the 50-ft. setback to 30 ft. Mr. Clark indicated that this would put the unit on Clifton in line with the existing homes. “This is inaccurate,” according to Trey Fricke, who lives on Clifton Road, next door to the proposed development. “My home has a 44-ft. setback. A new structure at a 30-ft. setback would not align with the existing homes and would, instead, disrupt the uniformity and aesthetic appeal we are trying to uphold through the Landmark District Preservation Committee.”

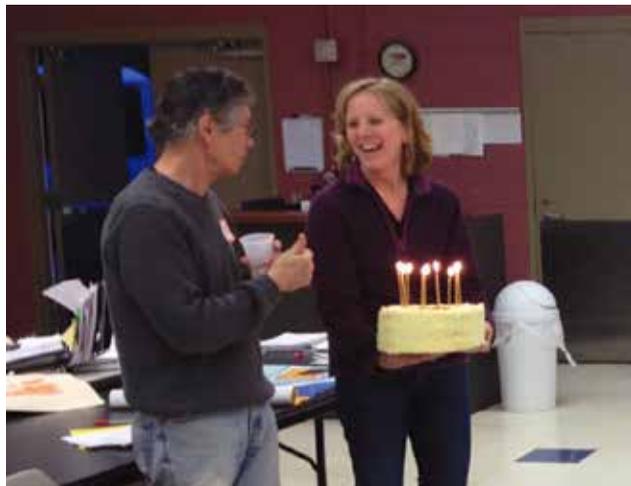
Adjacent and nearby neighbors also are concerned that allow-

als, colors, etc. Will there be balconies that look down into the yards of those at a lower elevation?

Also disturbing is the possible demolition of at least a portion of the historic structure at 1715 S. Ponce de Leon. “While many may consider the home at the corner of Clifton and S. Ponce a blemish, it is in fact a rare example of Federalist architecture within Druid Hills,” explains Gary Smith. “The Druid Hills Civic Association position has been to favor renovation over demolition. The City of Atlanta recently disallowed destruction because of the feasibility of restoration.”

After much discussion and debate with neighbors, the Druid

*At our April Lake Claire Neighbors meeting, which fortuitously coincided with our President Joe Agee’s birthday, we surprised him with a large turnout – and a cake. I’m sure everyone joins me in thanking Joe for working tirelessly for the neighborhood. – Editor.*



*Christiane French surprising Joe at April neighborhood meeting*



*All candles blown out!*



*Picture for you Joe, Happy Birthday from the Clarion*

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## The Garden from May into June

by Elizabeth Knowlton

NOW it is safe for all the tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants in your garden. They will cease to sit and scowl and begin to take off in the warm Georgia sun. And it is not too late to start more tomato plants in your seedling laboratory either. So don't waste those packets of seed that you have "not gotten around to." Nor waste your money on grafted tomatoes, another new fad that *Organic Gardening* has proved of no merit in their test gardens. This year I am growing Sweet Million (cherry) in a joint compound or restaurant-sized pickle container. Remember if you grow plants in containers, they need at least some container mix containing perlite or vermiculite to lighten the soil. Mix in a lot of that good compost you have been making and whatever fertilizers you have decided to use. Plain garden soil will prove too heavy for plants stuck in a container all summer.

In the garden I am putting in Ultra Girl, Celebrity, Cherokee Purple, Persimmon, and Amish Paste. That is all I have room for in the sunny ground, but in my tub on casters in the front yard I will grow a determinate tomato, Bella Rosa, that can cope with the low cage and be moved around as the sun does throughout summer. Heirlooms are all the rage now, but they lack the breeding to protect from common tomato ailments. No reason



*Tomatoes, Peppers, and Eggplants – Soon to Prosper*

not to grow them as they have special tastes; just be willing to rotate beds, give them plenty of air by caging them, water from below, and pick off leaves as the diseases spread from bottom to top. Occasionally a plant will collapse from some fatal wilt. Pull it up along with the soil around the roots and place in your garbage receptacle. Do not compost. Tomato horn worms are the only other major problem. They are the same color as the foliage, which they eat; so watch for denuded branches, pull off the caterpillars, and dispose of them far from your tomatoes.

I have bush beans seeds planted already, and the corn I start in peat strips has replaced my winter garden as the brassicas all go to seed. Fresh lettuce seedlings have been thinned at the opposite end of the garden, and chard and beets are growing in the tomato bed with onions around the edges. I wait to see how the leeks and parsnips will do as I used

## Frazer Students Volunteer at Freedom Park Garden

by Carol Vanderschaaf

Thirteen students and one mom from the adult program for the developmentally disabled at the Frazer Center volunteered at the Freedom Park Bird and Butterfly Garden on April 17. They were accompanied by the program leaders, Aaron Pincus



*Frazer Center Volunteers at Freedom Park Garden, Carol (the author, in the front in red turtleneck), Aaron on the Right, photo by Chantal Pierre*

and Chantal Pierre (an instructor at the Frazer Center). Carol Vanderschaaf, the garden's coordinator, talked to the group about the purpose of the garden and showed pictures of the birds and butterflies that have been seen there. The students

then helped to do some weeding, cleaned the bird bath, and planted a Passionflower Vine. While they were there they got to see the bluebirds fly in and out of the nesting box as well as a flyover by a pair of Red-tailed Hawks. Several robins and a mockingbird also came by.

old seed. As it warms up, I will sow pumpkins, melons, okra, and field peas in various places. By starting my squash in peat pots, I hope to get a head start on the borer and will again use screens or row covers to help it get ahead. Plus, I promise the cook not to let that last 'Trombolino' get a big as a baseball bat. But really if all other kinds of squash fail you, I recommend that one.

Regardless of what kind of gar-

den you have: Mulch, mulch, mulch. Of course do not push mulch up against your house walls or plants with bark-covered stems, like bushes and trees. Also avoid using mulches that are not sustainable, like cypress, which comes from our shrinking swamps. I am not a fan of woody mulches anyway as they are too coarse for delicate plants plus float out of beds when it rains.

*Cont. on p. 10*

## Wild in Lake Claire

*Cont. from p. 1*

leaped away into parts unknown. For an intown neighborhood, we have a lot going on. This gave me the idea to write an occasional article on wildlife in Lake Claire. This is my first column. I hope folks will e-mail me and tell me what they may have seen lately -- maybe lions and tigers and bears -- for possible future columns.

Ilene Schroder alerted me to a post on the Lake Claire Neighborhood Watch listserv that a coyote was seen running behind a house on Lakeshore Drive on the morning of April 16. A cat that the coyote had apparently "nabbed" was found nearby. It's so important to keep small pets in at night when the coyotes are out. Please check out the website; <http://coyotecoexistence.com/> for information on living

with coyotes.

Miriam Herbers reports there are sliders and frogs in the pond at the Lake Claire Land Trust. No snakes have been seen on the premises.

Genise Spenle and Betsy Hodnott both heard a barred owl calling "who cooks for you?" from their separate residences on Indiana Ave on Friday, April 11, at about 10:30 p.m. I know the owls used to nest down near the Frazer Center. Does anyone know if they're still there?

On Arizona Avenue, Dawn Aura has two Mallards living in her back yard. Dawn says, "Aidan is the big calm one, and Eddie is the little one with the Napoleon complex, who bosses Aidan around." Both are male.... hmmm....a possible gay duck

wedding in Georgia.

Roaming a little outside of Lake Claire, Meta Larssen reports 10 ducklings, as well as a baby beaver (and parents) at the pond on the Candler Park Golf Course. In addition, she saw a Green Heron there, which hopefully means the herons are back to nest this year as they've done in the last several years.

Meta also reports seeing a Virginia Rail near the pond several times since January. She wonders if the Rail is taking up permanent residence. This bird is very secretive and rather rare in this area, so it's quite an occasion to have it visit. The morning of April 21 Meta saw a Wood Duck at the Candler Park pond, and her neighbor saw a wild turkey



*Ducklings – by Meta Larsson*

behind her house close to Freedom Park.

Lastly, I saw a pair of Cooper's Hawks fly over the Land Trust recently, and I spotted a pair of Red-tailed Hawks flew over Mary Lin School on April 17.

That's it for now. Please let me know the wild things you may have seen lately -- not counting next door neighbors -- at [cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net](mailto:cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net)

## Gardening

*Cont. from p. 9*

Wood chips can be used to good effect on garden paths where they are stomped down and stationary, allow drainage, and enable one to walk about in wet conditions. Pine bark mini nuggets are useful in perennial beds, especially to cover soaker hoses and keep both soil and hoses from baking in our summer sun.

Otherwise, I prefer wheat



*Mulch, mulch!*

straw for vegetables, pine straw for acid loving plants like blueberries, and shredded leaves for almost anything. I used to buy peat moss to mulch my spring bulbs, but the Canadian peat fields are shrinking as rapidly as our swamps.

Speaking of wheat straw, this year, with very little room for potatoes, I am trying to grow them in a tower made of a tomato cage and layers of straw and compost mixed with manure (no lime). I got the idea from a magazine, and only after planting it did I read it was less successful in the South and with the very potatoes I was growing, Yu-

kon Gold and some kind of thin-skinned red potato I was given. I can see watering will be a problem. However, the green potato leaves are growing out the sides, so we shall see.

In our climate, watering is a fact of life as we can get 3.2 inches of rain in one day, such as April 7, and then watch an entire July pass with only .1 inch. If you have a very small garden or a container of pots, then a rain barrel is an excellent idea; otherwise, only tanks the size of the one under the Atlanta Botanical Garden will suffice. As a lazy gardener, I have succumbed to sprinklers from time to time in the vegetable garden where soaker hoses do not work as well as in perennial flower beds; but really I know there is no substitute for the hose and watering can early in the morning, avoiding wetting plant leaves as much as possible. If you have never stood in your

garden at 6 a.m. on a June morning, you are missing much.

Cabbage butterflies, Mexican bean beetles, tomato hornworms, and squash vine borers—those are the insects responsible for most of the damage in my garden. With the exception of the last, simple observation can take care of most of them. So do patrol your garden regularly and talk sweetly to those plants who please you. Last, harvest your crops. Every year I see lettuce going to seed, beans that toughen, and tomatoes that rot on the vine because nobody has picked them in time.

*You may write to Elizabeth at [knowltonew@earthlink.net](mailto:knowltonew@earthlink.net). She loves answering your gardening questions and hearing your gardening experiences.*

## Leonardo Says Goodbye to the Veazey Family

*Cont. from p. 1*

Gray (2011). Marjorie, McNeill, and Gray are three beautiful, vibrant, animated, affectionate, and smart girls, and they will be sorely missed!

The Veazeys have been an important component of the fabric of our street and the neighborhood. We've all shared memories of countless potlucks, impromptu happy hours, chats in the street, parties, play dates, babysitting, carpool, swimming at the Lake Claire pool, snow days, emergency help, and generally sharing everyday lives together.

The neighbors of Leonardo and nearby Marlbrook shared a potluck meal on Easter Sunday as



*Tyler Bliss, age 6, at Veazey Farewell Party*

we formally wished them well. We started with an early afternoon multi-yard egg hunt, had "Frozen" performances by several of the kids, and presented the Veazeys with a painting of their home that Whitney Jirak had commissioned as a gift for them. We hung out in the Stevens' front yard and driveway until kids' bedtimes reluctantly forced us inside and evening fell. These are the ways in which we love to spend time together. We are glad

that the Veazeys will have the opportunity for their girls to grow up with extended family, and we wish them all the very best!



*Lots of Leo Kids*

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# Return of the Memorial Day Cul-De-Sac Sale!

Saturday & Sunday, May 24 & 25

by Stephen Wing

I felt like Yul Brynner in *The Magnificent Seven*: one by one, gathering a stalwart crew of heroes to take on an impossible challenge. Most of my heroes are retired ladies, old enough to actually remember *The Magnificent Seven*. But they all know what they're getting into. They have been taking on the challenge of the sometimes-annual Land Trust Memorial Day Cul-de-Sac Sale since years before I moved to the neighborhood in 1993. But until they stepped up, this year's event was still a question mark on the Land Trust calendar.

To the naked eye, it appears to be an ordinary fundraising event for a normal, typical, everyday neighborhood greenspace. But to those on the inside, the folks who show up and make it happen, its inner esoteric essence is revealed. This is the kind of challenge that turns a motley gang of heroes into a disciplined, focused precision unit. Not a gun-toting one like the Magnificent Seven, though. More like the Seven Dwarfs.

In a word, working together on a mutually beneficial project is the magic that builds community – what the scholars of intentional community call “community glue.” So what if our community is not so intentional? We can still whistle while we work.

Luckily, we're not limited to

seven heroes, or Seven Dwarfs. You too can pitch in and help make this year's Cul-de-Sac Sale a success! Sure, we could do it without you. But we'd rather not. Please join us to support the Land Trust, experience the magic, and keep our community tightly glued together.

Of course, the most important way to help is also the easiest. Go shopping in your closet, and donate stuff for us to sell! We'll take your outgrown clothing and toys, your no-longer-needed craft supplies and cookware, your never-wanted-in-the-first-place knickknacks and garden tools, your once-favorite-but-long-unopened books and CDs, and of course, your always-intended-to-be-used-but-lost-in-the-basement sports gear and school supplies.

Just make sure it's still in decent shape and still works, whatever it is, pack it in a box, if it fits, and drop it off on the front porch at either 300 or 306 Arizona Ave. (Watch for signs.) Please bring large appliances and furniture during set-up on Friday afternoon. If you need us to arrange pickup, contact us at info@LCCLT.org or 404-378-6815. You can also bake something for our Bake Sale table, a traditional sideshow at the Memorial Day circus.

Next comes the set-up on Fri-

day evening, May 23. If you think going out bar-hopping or downloading a movie is a great way to celebrate the end of your work week, you've never experienced the Christmas-morning frenzy of unpacking dozens of boxes and getting hundreds of random objects attractively spread out, if not quite organized, on huge plywood tables and clothing racks before it gets too dark to see. No advance commitment required; just show up at the cul-de-sac and join right in.

On Saturday and Sunday, all you have to do to help is stroll down to the cul-de-sac and take a look. Bring along a little cash, just in case. You never know what will show up among the bric-a-brac. For fifty cents, you could be the proud owner of the exact vintage comic you've been searching for to complete your Daredevil collection, or some unlikely item you never heard of or imagined until you found it lurking on one of our makeshift tables. **The sale will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days.**

Norman envisions reviving the tradition of the Saturday night dance under the stars with bonfire and old-school DJ. We can't promise, but if a few more heroes (or Dwarfs) respond to this article, offering to help, it could happen.



Finally, on Sunday afternoon, the biggest challenge of all: packing up the leftovers. We donate what doesn't sell to Second Life in Avondale, a thrift shop that dedicates its profits to helping homeless pets find homes. If you can't volunteer earlier in the weekend, or if you still have a little energy left, please come back and help disappear every trace of our fun, leaving nothing behind in the cul-de-sac except empty pavement and reverberating vibrations of all the happy shoppers and helpful volunteers who made it such a fabulous weekend.

Cancel that Mediterranean cruise or mountaineering expedition, postpone that briefing at the White House, reschedule your live appearance at Caesar's Palace. Whatever you do, don't miss it! Contact us at info@LCCLT.org if you'd like more information. Or just show up and help make it happen.

## Upcoming Events at the Land Trust . . .

Sat. May 3 and 17 – Drum Circle, dark until midnight. Please walk, bike or carpool. Donation requested.

Sun. May 4 – Land Trust

/ Lake Claire Neighbors Picnic, 3:00-5:00 pm  
Sat./Sun. May 24-25 – Memorial Day Cul-de-Sac Sale (see article above)

Thank you, neighbors, for your great response to our Land Trust fundraising letter enclosed in the April Clarion! We appreciate all of you who took the time to send a donation. Our goal of 100 Land Trust supporters for 2014 is now within reach.  
*Blessings, from the Land Trust Board.*

## Peace & Love Spring Fest, April 12 at the Land Trust

Cont. from p. 1

for sale, tours of the Land Trust, AND of course, music. Our neighborhood kids' bands are super talented. They opened the show, playing from 2:30 to 5:00. See pictures of Local Establishment (7th graders) and Sequoyah (Grady students) on Page 12.



Michael McGill (Delaware) waits to purchase yummy homemade baked goods



Face painting is always a big hit



# LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



We hope Kids' Corner is fun and a way for young readers to participate. This time we are focusing on kids' bands who treated us to their great sounds and unique styles on

April 12 at the Lake Claire Land Trust Peace and Love Fest. They were amazing, or as they would perhaps say, "like, awesome!"

**Local Establishment** is a band of 7th graders. Iliana Davila-Brown is the singer; Joseph McGill is on drums; Joel Sadhi is the guitar player; and Zoe Brillante plays bass and mandolin. They performed "Lemonade," (Gucci Mane); "Patterns," (Band of Skulls) (in which I thought the singer sounded like a young version of Grace Slick; "Que-sailla," (Walk the Moon); "No One Knows," (Queens of Stone Age); "Keep this Place Beautiful," (Brick & Mortar); "We Come Running," (Youngblood Hawke); and others (listen to them on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnABGRE8GrM>). Joseph and Zoe are a great rhythm section, Iliana has a beautiful voice, and Joel has



Bass Player (L) Zoe Brillante and Lead Singer Iliana Davila Brown in Local Establishment



Local Establishment (L-R, Zoe, Joeseeph, Iliana, and Joel)

fantastic riffs, their talent making it seem like they've played more years than they are old.

**Sequoyah**, made up of students from Grady High School, played next. As of publishing, I had not found out their names, except for Sequoyah, who is the lead singer in the band of the same name (I think). He is talented, personable, and so comfortable performing, that again, I am amazed at the talent. At one point, he interrupted himself to say "come on, move, people, move to the music, don't just sit there --- look at my friends!!!" And his friends, indeed, were dancing and clowning around, and soon many folks of all ages joined in the spirit of the music. It was a great afternoon.



Audience enjoying Sequoyah



"Come on, move!—don't just sit there!" – Sequoyah

Hi, Lake Claire Kids, next issue let's put some of your creativity on this page. Submit articles, poetry, drawings, your original puzzles, etc., to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org). Tell us about your hobbies, your favorite part of Lake Claire, why you are looking forward to summer in Lake Claire --- or choose any topic of your choice. Be creative...we'd love to hear from you – by May 25 for the June/July combo issue.

## CLARION CONTEST: THIS MONTH'S WINNER! CATIE PITMAN

Congrats to Catie, who found the hidden "April Showers." Catie is in the 5th grade at Paideia and lives on New York Avenue.



### NEW CONTEST:

**KIDS:** In honor of the opening of the Lake Claire pool this month and our swim team the Lake Claire Wahoo, find **the Wahoo** in this Clarion. Did you know that the Wahoo is the fastest fish in the world and has been clocked at 60 mph!?!?! Find it, and you're our winner, and you will have your name and picture noted in the next Clarion! (Remember, you may also have your name and picture in the newspaper if you write an article or poem, or draw a picture.) To win, send e-mail to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org). Any Lake Claire kid is eligible unless he or she won the contest the current month. Come on, kids, if you found Easter eggs – or the afikomen – in April, this will be a piece of cake!