Preserving Olmsted’s Tranquility in Our Lake Claire Back Yards

by Sue Strauss

Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. once said, “The beauty of the park...should be the beauty of the field, the meadow and the prairie; of the green pastures and of the still waters. What we want to gain is tranquility and rest to the mind.”

Olmsted’s philosophy of suburban living was that Home should be as harmonious and restorative as nature. He wrote in an 1890 letter to Joel Hurt that he envisioned a homeowner returning hot and tired from the city to a home “well shaded by handsome, umbrageous, permanently thirsty trees” in a neighborhood with a “pleasing rural, or, at least, semi-rural, character of scenery... to be permanently enjoyed.”

Olmsted influenced many green spaces that define towns and cities across our nation – Central Park in New York, Prospect Park in Brooklyn, the Emerald Necklace of Boston, and the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, to name a few.

We are fortunate to have an amazing piece of his landscape architecture in our neighborhood, Olmsted Linear Park. These curvilinear stretches of preserved green space have enchanted generations of families who call this neighborhood home. Likewise, for those who travel along Ponce de Leon Avenue each day, the pastoral scenery makes the trip a little less taxing.

The plan is to squeeze thirteen units into a space that was designed for two families. Against this backdrop of Home as a refuge from hustle and bustle of city life, we must ask ourselves what types of development will be in keeping with Olmsted’s vision for our community. This question is pressing as we wrestle with concerns about recent proposed plans for the two parcels at the corner of South Ponce de Leon Avenue and Clifton (see Proposed Development Threatens Woodland, Historic Home; Unites Neighbors; May 2014 Clarion - http://lakeclaire.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/2014-05.pdf). Our choice isn’t limited to “any development” or “no development.” Instead, we must carefully consider the impact of any proposed development on our ability to enjoy the tranquility of our homes and the livability of our neighborhood.

The development plan calls for clear-cutting the existing, mature tree canopy on the properties – into which Hardendorf Avenue dead-ends – to make room for what have been called ‘genuinely high-end properties, designed for a mature audience.’

Neighboring homeowners – and many who live nearby – oppose the development, citing not only environmental concerns,

Lake Claire Volunteer Experiences

by Miriam Herbers

“If you are not part of the solution you are part of the problem.” This slogan is sometimes credited to Eldridge Cleaver, but it actually was a VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) recruiting tool. It was even on billboards back in the late ’60s and early ’70s. President Kennedy created the Peace Corp in 1961, and shortly after VISTA was started in the Johnson administration to fulfill JFK’s dream of a domestic corp. I was one of

The developer has no firm answers to environmental questions, “because they are complex,” -- “many (questions) are impossible to answer -- they are a function of details being developed.”

I live on the deadend of the “Dorf” as we call it, and my home shares a property line with both the 1715 and 1723 properties. Because of my proximity to the

Cont. on p. 7

Please note this is the annual combo June/July issue: Your next Clarion will arrive the first week of August. Anyone in Lake Claire not getting his or her paper delivered around then, or around the first of any month, may feel free to let us know at distribution@lakeclaire.org and/or editor@lakeclaire.org. Many thanks to all of you delivery volunteers for delivering the Clarion: Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom stays these trusty Clarion deliverers, BUT sometimes life interferes—and in that case we will still try our best to get your paper to your porch!!

***Have a great summer – from your Lake Claire neighborhood newspaper***

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www.lakeclaire.org.

JUNE

1-29 Horizon Theatre “Cowgirls” http://www.horizontheatre.com/

14 Annual Bicycle Tour. http://www.atlantabike.org/atlantabikelineannualbicycletour

14 Land Trust Drum Circle, dark until midnight. Please walk, bike or carpool. Donation requested.

15 Robert Earl Keen, Variety Playhouse (many more great concerts: http://www.variety-playhouse.com/) 19 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).

28 Women’s Outdoor Network Women’s Variety Show, 1:00-9:00 pm at the Land Trust, a benefit for Project Open Hand. See article PAGE 9

28 Dekalb History Center presents Fiddlin’ Dan the Mountain Man – Sing and Dance to oldtime music and American favorites (Fiddlin’ Dan is Lake Clare’s own Reuben Haller). “Dan” demonstrates instruments and teaches how to play the spoons and make instruments to take home. 10-11:30 a.m., $8 members, $10 nonmembers, Historic Dekalb Courthouse, 101 E. Court Square. More info goldmund@dekalbhistory.org. Many other great programs.

28-29 Old 4th Ward Arts Festival, Saturday 10-6, Sunday 11-6, arts & crafts, children’s play area, food, etc. Full details: http://www.oldfourthwardartsfestival.com/

JULY

4 July 4 Potluck & Cook-Off (still tentative at Clarion press time; see www.LCCLT.org for updates) and, of course, Peachtree Road Race

6 & 20 – Land Trust Drum Circle, dark until midnight. Walk, bike or carpool. Donation requested.

10 Lake Claire Park plan approval, at City of Atlanta Park Design Review Meeting – see article page 3

12 Beltline 5K, 7:30 a.m. at Gordon White Park, 1350 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd SW, Atlanta, GA, 30310, along the Atlanta BeltLine Southwest Trail and through the Historic West End and Westview neighborhoods. Last pre-construction event on Southwest hiking trail. TEAMS TO COMPETE FOR $500 CASH PRIZE! Much more information at http://beltline.org/programs/better-you/running-series

12 Atlanta Street Food Festival – Food Trucks, Music, etc. at Piedmont Park, see food pictures at the website, looks delicious: http://www.atlantastreetfoodfestival.com/

17 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).

18 Horizon Theatre opens “Right On” http://www.horizontheatre.com

20 Land Trust Drum Circle, dark until midnight. Walk, bike or carpool. Donation requested.

24 Lake Claire Park plan approval, at Neighborhood Planning Unit-N Meeting, see article Page 3

26 Jerry Jam Grateful Dead tribute at the Land Trust; please see www.LCCLT.org for details as it gets closer.

Calendar deadline for the AUGUST Clarion: JULY 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org.

KEEP AN EYE ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD WEBSITE FOR TIMELY INFORMATION.
Design Review for Lake Claire Park

by Judy Hammack

Noticed the sinking manhole at the north end of Lake Claire Park lately? Or the shabby state of the pavilion at the McLendon entrance? Atlanta City Parks and Recreation Design Department has initiated a review of Lake Claire Park. The review focuses on the deficits of the park and their solutions. After four meetings--two steering committee and two public-- the following are deficits that have been discussed:

- playground
- tennis court
- erosion/drainage
- pavilion
- access

From benches to birches, from soccer to slides, Lake Claire Park is getting refreshed. Come voice your views on park design. Below is the Tentative Schedule for the process. Note the public forum at the Lake Claire Neighborhood Association Meeting, which will be held in the Atrium. The SLUP guidelines, approved by the DeKalb County Commission in January of 2013, addressed serious issues regarding music in the Cator Woford Gardens and traffic flow along the Ridgewood entrance, among other items. A survey of surrounding residents found that these remedies have been successful, however, some concerns about the use of the FC Atrium remained. Added conditions for the Atrium, approved by the Lake Claire Neighbors and Druid Hills Civic Association, were then presented. DeKalb County Commissioner Jeff Rader was in attendance and agreed to accept these conditions that will now be included in the overall SLUP. This arrangement represents the conclusion of a long process of negotiations between the FC, DeKalb County, Lake Claire and Druid Hills neighbors that will allow the FC to continue its great work in a way that is respectful of a residential area. Not surprisingly, there were differences of opinion on how to reach this outcome, and it was crucial to have them all vetted. In this regard, I want thank all the neighbors who were involved (there were many) in finding a solution that was as fair as possible to everyone concerned.

Other important issues continue, such as the proposed development on 1715 and 1723 S. Ponce de Leon Avenue (the Tamasue property). So far, many meetings and site evaluations have taken place. Although the property is located in Druid Hills, Lake Claire is immediately adjacent.

Cont. on p. 15

The Lake Claire Land Trust Family Project

The Family Project, as has been noted in the Clarion (April) and at several neighborhood meetings, has the mission to help families engage with the wonderful resources in the Lake Claire neighborhood, centered around the neighborhood’s and Land Trust’s ideals of community and civic engagement.

The Family Project is alive and well, and we will be giving a detailed update in the next Clarion. In the meantime, we continue to welcome volunteers, and you can contact us at tfrazi2@gmail.com.
Keep An Eye on the Crime and the Time:
Lake Claire Security Report, March 30 – May 24
Compiled from APD Report, week 45 (regularly 1-2 months behind)

Auto Theft
400 block Leonardo Ave  4/3/14  unlocked; from street
1998 Toyota LCR – Vehicle recovered after being involved in a hit and run accident

Burglary
300 block Southerland Terr  4/1/14  front door of home damaged
Taken: nothing – Print lifted

Other Larceny
300 block Mathews Ave  4/9/14
Taken: bicycle removed from unsecured area outside of residence

Theft from Vehicle
400 block Hardendorf Ave  3/30/14  vehicle unlocked; parked on street
Taken: Apple iPod
400 block Hardendorf Ave  3/30/14  no damage
Taken: USb charger, change – Prints lifted
400 block Clifton Rd  3/30/14  Taken: change and a check
Damage: vehicle 1 – window broken; vehicle 2 – passenger door pried open
Victim saw suspicious male on bike
400 block Clifton Rd  3/31/14  Taken: change unknown entry
Arizona and DeKalb
300 block Mathews Ave  4/9/14  from driveway
Taken: pocket knife, cash
200 block Mathews Ave  4/3/14  vehicle unlocked
Taken: family photos
300 block Mathews Ave  4/9/14  from driveway
Taken: wallet
1800 block Gordon Manor  5/3/14  Taken: book bag – Prints lifted
Damage: passenger side window broken
1800 block Gordon Manor  5/3/14  Taken: a check

Rentals

Lake Claire
Candler Park
Inman Park
Decatur
Druid Hills
Virginia Highland
Morningside
Poncey Highland
Old Fourth Ward

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.

Ready to buy? I’ll leverage my intown network to find the right property – and negotiate the best deal for you.

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

Contact me, your intown Realtor® and neighbor, when you’re ready to put down (or pick up) roots.
Lake Claire Neighbors/Lake Claire Land Trust Picnic A Success

Lake Claire Neighbors and the Lake Claire Community Land Trust held our second annual joint picnic in May. Kids of all ages (including adults) enjoyed delicious food from the grill, prizes from the raffle, entertainment on the outdoor stage, and conviviality with neighbors and friends. Hardendorf’s Myles Nielsen served as MC, and his sisters, Stella and Esther, wowed the audience with their performance of Irish dances.

Our friendly firemen from Fire Station 12 parked their truck in the Arizona Avenue cul-de-sac for kids to explore “provided they don’t get called to a fire,” and they did get called to a fire! But while they were here, this was a big hit among young kids, who also enjoyed playing at the playground. The afternoon was wonderful, the weather was good, and a good time was had by all!

Pictures are by Lucy Nielsen and Judi Horn
Dear Friends & Supporters of the Gordon Avenue Greenspace,

The City is actively working to acquire the Gordon Greenspace and make it a permanent park. It is important that we show our interest, support this acquisition, and appreciate their efforts on Lake Claire’s behalf. We would like to call the park “the John Lewis Good Trouble Park.” Please call, e-mail, or write the following city officials if you have questions, and feel free to call me at 404-373-7672. Thank you for eleven years of community activism to save this space! – Teri Stewart

Atlanta City Council: 55 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Atlanta Georgia 30303 | Natalie Archibong, 404-330-6048, narchibong@atlga.gov; Mary Norwood, 404-330-6302, mnorwood@atlga.gov

“Green Team” Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, 233 Peachtree St., NE, Suite 1700, Atlanta 30303 | Attention: David L. Davis, 404-546-6788, dldavis@atlgov.com


TUTORING AVAILABLE IN LAKE CLAIRE

Is your child in need of extra help this summer or during the upcoming school year? Anne Weidert is a former classroom teacher who is a Reading Specialist and Orton Gillingham trained. She tutors K-8 reading, writing, & math. Resume/References available. (202) 302-7404, annewright2000@gmail.com

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 kellykarim@yahoo.com for more information.

Personal and Business Classifieds

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS – WE HOPE THAT WHEN YOU NEED A PRODUCT OR SERVICE, YOU WILL SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS. THEIR SUPPORT ALLOWS US TO PRODUCE OUR PRODUCT, YOUR LAKE CLAIRE CLARION, PLUS CONTRIBUTE TO MANY OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVES.

Seeking Part-time Office Administrator

Epworth United Methodist Church

Job Description: The Office Administrator position is a part-time role with a flexible office schedule 3 days per week, 9:30am to 3:30pm, providing admin support to the Pastor, staff, committees, and congregation. Duties include: Phone coverage, preparing bulletins, recording attendance, maintaining calendars, managing building maintenance, updating and maintaining website and other media, maintaining and reporting on financial records, and assisting Pastor with projects and reports.

Job Requirements: Previous experience in office administration or clerical role, demonstrated proficiency with Microsoft Office as well as Quickbooks, excellent verbal and written skills, ability to multi-task, knowledge of United Methodist Church practices and reporting requirements desirable. Reading near the church desirable but not required.

To apply submit resume & references to epworthstaffing@email.com by June 30 (phone calls and in-person applications will not be accepted).
Lake Claire resident creates Southern-Born Good Gracious Variety Show

Debuts in Atlanta June 21

Ever tried to tell somebody what’s great about Atlanta? Lake Claire’s own, Boyd Baker, has created a PTA president’s variety show to convey the flavor of life in Atlanta and the South.

Good Gracious will highlight Atlanta and the South’s creative and talented characters from the worlds of music, comedy, food, books, philanthropy, and more. At the debut performance, you will laugh at Dad’s Garage Improv, groove to R&B/Blues queen Lola (aka Lola Gulley), explore PTSD and a fun project by author Christal Presley, listen to the Americana stylings of award-winning singer-songwriter Wyatt Éspalin, learn about conservation from the young founders of the One More Generation philanthropy, be enthralled by the Tracy Walker of the Southern Order of Storytellers...and this is just a taste of the fun-filled first night. Every show will be a unique and entertaining highlight of the South.

Good Gracious is a natural extension of Boyd’s numerous other community roles and projects. An active parent at Mary Lin, he has served as PTA president, co-established the Mary Lin Foundation, created and coordinated the Rocket Run 5K and began the touching tradition of the Small-Tall Valentine’s Day dance. The first year his son, Deacon, started kindergarten, Boyd began the now annual Inman Middle School Boyd 5K fundraiser. Even closer to home, Boyd brings together friends and neighbors through the creation of the Cowabunga Dude Soap Box Derby and the yearly Chilinardo chili cook-off on Leonard Avenue.

Boyd hopes to build community through Good Gracious and explains what led him to embark on this sizable endeavor.

What is Good Gracious? It’s a unique event that brings together community by celebrating the South. Too often, we don’t get out to see live performances, whether they are authors, comedians or musicians, and this is a chance to put them all together in one event.

Why do you want to do this? Years ago, I was in a variety show here in Atlanta that combined theater, dance, and an author’s reading. It stuck with me. I was also impressed with a Colorado radio show called eTown that combined music, ideas and community. I realized I could take the best parts of both shows, tweak them and create a unique Southern show that was really special.

What does a Southern show mean to you? The South gets a bad rap in popular culture, yet so much creativity and influence is Southern. The South is a driving force in food, film, theatre, and music. I want to celebrate that fact and remind ourselves what talented people are all around us.

You have organized so many events, how do they all relate? Community. That is the key. I enjoy bringing people together to connect on another level and build a better community.

Good Gracious will debut at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 21, at Agnes Scott’s 800-seat Gaines Chapel in Presser Hall on S. McDonough Street (one block off E. College Avenue). Tickets to the show are $15 and can be purchased at www.GoodGraciousSHOW.com.

Highlight of some of the talent in the Good Gracious Show

CHRISTAL PRESLEY is the author of Thirty Days with My Father: Finding Peace from Wartime PTSD, and the founder of United Children of Veterans. Her work has been featured on CBS Sunday Morning, CNN, NPR, Fox News, and more. In her spare time, you can find Christal playing with her dogs and her pot-bellied pig Snoop Hoggy Hogg—and dressing up exotic chickens in scarves, ties, and pearls for her new

Cont. on p. 13

Olmsted’s Tranquility Threatened on Hardendorf

Cont. from p. 1

Olmsted Linear Parks and South Ponce de Leon Avenue, I feel a special connection to Olmsted’s vision, and a strong apprehension for profit. Olmsted had 10 design lessons, one of which was that designers must stand for something. His vision for his parks was “to supply to . . . tired workers, who have no opportunity to spend their summers in the country, a specimen of God’s handiwork that shall be to them, inexpensively what a month at a mountain resort, the White Mountains or the Adirondacks is, at great cost, to those in easier circumstances.”

Many of us on the Dorf are those workers. We purchased homes precisely because the location allows us to gain ‘tranquility and rest to the mind.’ I agree that something needs to be done with those parcels, but squeezing 13 units into a space that was designed for two lies will disrupt the tranquility of our part of the neighborhood. The harmony of the neighborhood will be in discord, and it will add to the cacophony of travelling along the Clifton Corridor and Ponce de Leon Avenue. We must stand firm that no concessions should be made to allow more units to be squeezed onto the lots. The tranquility of our neighborhood should not be the price we pay to maximize developer profit.
Lake Claire Clarion @ www.LakeClaire.org June/July 2014

June and July in the Garden
by Elizabeth Knowlton

The time for choosing spring bulbs has come. And what could be more delicious than poring over the colored catalogs or web pages, remembering what you admired a couple of months ago and planning next year’s selections, all the hard work of planting still months away next fall? But do not wait until then to order your bulbs. The best selections are available now, and reputable firms will hold your shipment until late October or early November when you need it.

My recommendations of two years ago still stand: Brent and Becky’s in Virginia, John Scheepers in Connecticut, and Melselaar Bulb Company in Massachusetts, all of them with direct connections to the Netherlands as well as growing some of their own. Brent and Becky (who offer an early order discount good through July 1) specialize in narcissus (daffodils, jonquils, etc.), most of which will return regularly in our climate, fortunate since most of them cost over $1 a bulb now. If you have not grown grape hyacinths (muscari), crocus, or snowdrops, do experiment because in Atlanta the second two are often opening in late December or early January. I recommend the species crocus vernus.

For the smaller bulbs, McClure & Zimmerman has a wide selection although I do not recommend them for tulips. And Old House Gardens is a wonderful site for browsing and occasionally treating yourself to a single $18 bulb once you decide you know what you are doing. I also recommend White Flower Farm for the flashy front yard mixes that earn the attention of even non-gardeners once spring arrives. Of course, most of these companies will have great specials come fall; but if you have planned exactly what you want, it is only too likely that your choices will be sold out by September as northern gardeners must plant earlier.

I have had excellent experiences with bulbs ordered by these firms because they are stored in chilled conditions with just the right humidity (like rare manuscripts) rather than sitting in warm stores getting dried out until you purchase them. If you order only a few, you can store your bulbs in your refrigerator until you are ready to plant them; but never put them in the fruit bin because the gas produced by ripening fruits will ruin the bulbs. I have a separate refrigerator in the basement where I can fit about half the bulbs I plant. By asking for different ship dates, I can usually avoid letting bulbs get too warm or dried out before planting.

In the last issue I listed the tomatoes I was growing from seed. Alas, Celebrity bit the dust before long, so I quickly replaced it with Costoluto Genovese, an Italian heirloom with wonderful pleated sides, like a small pumkin. It leapt to the challenge and is blossoming already, as are the others. By June 1 Ultra Girl has set tomatoes, some as big as golf balls, and others are not far behind, like Bella Rosa and Sweet Million, the cherry I planted in a joint compound bucket by the back porch.

Before the end of the month, my Strawberries, probably ‘Boyne’s’ which I just planted, have produced plenty of berries, and pole beans are twining up their strings. Even the roses are blooming their heads off despite the possibility of Rose Rosette Disease that apparently mainly attacks species-type roses, including the new easy care ones like ‘Knock Out.’

Because this is a double issue, you will not hear from me until near the end of summer. Don’t forget that when the dog days come and you huddle inside, that is a great time to sow pots of broccoli, cabbage, and even cauliflower seeds plus the perennials you want to grow, especially foxgloves for next spring’s show as they are biennials. Follow directions on the seed packets carefully as some like to be refrigerated and others soaked before you plant them. Once they have germinated, keep them close to florescent lights or in a bright window sill until you can put them up into larger containers and gradually move them into shade outdoors. Then they will be large and ready for the ground before you even see starts in stores.

Take a walk around Lake Claire and Candler Park to see what others are doing. Someone on the east side of Clifton has turned her/his whole front yard into a vegetable garden of raised beds surrounded by neat paths of wood chips, the entirety enclosed with a picket fence. Nothing could look more attractive and productive, plus it takes full advantage of its eastern exposure on the street. The Land Trust at the end of Arizona has added many new plots this year, all going great guns. Since someone is growing Dr. Wyche’s Yellow tomato for me, I check it out often myself. Dr. Wyche owned a circus and fertilized his tomatoes with elephant manure.

You may e-mail Elizabeth with gardening questions/comments to knowltonew@earthlink.net. I know she would love to hear from you about your own gardening successes. –Ed.
Hello…Safe Journey – Skiing in and around Lake Claire

June

6/3 Yoni Williams turns 2!
Harold Avenue

6/8 Patricia and Ben Farmer – anniversary – first! Hardendorf
6/9 Jacquelyn Howard-Fleming’s birthday Harold
6/12 Steve Lam’s birthday, Delaware Avenue (I did remember, Steve! Now you’re famous)
6/12 Happy birthday, Craig Allen, Harold
6/19 Zoe Kaiser’s birthday, turns 1!! Hardendorf
6/20 Sharon Doochin’s birthday, Harold
6/27 Wendy and Boyd Baker’s anniversary – 17 years of fun! Leonardo
6/28 Shawn Gillespy’s 11th birthday, Marlbrook
6/28 Wendy Baker, happy birthday Leonardo
6/29 Just received tenure from Agnes Scott -- Lock Rogers

July

7/10 Happy birthday to my buddy, Michael McGill, his 7th -- Delaware Avenue
7/20 Happy birthday, Myanh (Ann) Phan, Marlbrook (proprietor of Avondale Expert Alterations)

Belated:
5/2 Bill Fleming’s birthday, Harold Avenue
5/6 Lock Rogers, Harold - 50th birthday!!!
5/24 Happy Birthday to P.J. Javahari, Harold Avenue
5/28 P.J. and Kimberly Javahari – 4th Anniversary

To help us continue this feature on neighborhood life cycle events, send dates 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 August? Any belated graduations to report? Birthdays? Let us know your suggestions by JULY 15 for the AUGUST Clarion.

June Bugs
by Anna Trodglen

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. Thanks, Anna, for your monthly contribution.

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Candler Park Master Plan
by Eric Dusenbury

At the May Lake Claire Neighbors meeting Candler Park residents Randy Pimsler and Eric Dusenbury gave a brief presentation of the recently adopted Candler Park master plan. Due to common borders (Clifton Road) and shared arteries (Dekalb and McLendon Avenues) some recommendations in the master plan would affect Lake Claire. The master plan also affects Candler Park (the park) and some Lake Claire residents are already involved with the formation of a conservancy which will help implement the aspects of the plan.

Time constraints prevented a complete review and discussion of the master plan but the CPNO Master Plan Coordinating Committee, of which Randy and Eric are members, would like to work with representatives of Lake Claire (and Inman Park) to identify aspects of the plan on which it makes sense for LCN, IPNA, and CPNO (and others) to work together to implement.

The plan may be viewed on the CPNO web site – select Master Plan from the navigation bar at the top of the screen or use the following URL http://www.candlerpark.org/content/master-plan. You may direct questions, thoughts, and concerns to the committee via e-mail masterplanchair@candlerpark.org.

Please contact Lake Claire president Joe Agee (president@lakeclaire.org) if you are interested in joining the group that will work with the Candler Park Master Plan Coordinating Committee.

Make a Difference for Hummingbirds
by Lynn Nomad

Audobon encourages all of us to make a difference by being a part of Audobon's first all-digital, mobile citizen, science network. “Hummingbirds at Home” website and smartphone app make it easy to keep track of hummingbirds you see while collecting valuable data that helps us understand and protect them.

As flowers bloom earlier because of warming temperatures, the impact on hummingbirds, which rely on nectar, could be severe. This new initiative from Audubon will help scientists understand how climate change, flowering patterns, and feeding by people are impacting hummingbirds.

Sign up here: http://www.hummingbirdsathome.org/
You can attract, feed, and nourish hummingbirds in your backyard with a few easy steps. Flowers, feeders, perches, insects, and water are the key ingredients to a healthy yard that will attract these amazing jewels. See complete details at http://birds.audubon.org/hummingbird-friendly-yards.

Tired of Movie Mindlessness? Local Classic Film Group Open to Lake Claire Participants
by Stephen Whiteman

After a half hour of commercials and two hours of explosions at the multiplex, have you ever had the feeling that there must be a better way to spend a Saturday night?

Founded in 2007, Life is Too Short to Watch Lousy Movies meets inOrmewood Park on the first Saturday of every month to screen and discuss recognized classics, the majority from Hollywood’s Golden Age, the rest from other eras or countries. Programs include a cartoon and/or short subject, Coming Attractions, the feature film, and clips and commentary on personnel and genres, with thoughtful discussion interspersed. There is no charge for the films or the programs.

Interested? Have a look at the group’s website, ClassicFilmAppreciation.webs.com, which explains how things work. Then to be notified of future films, sign up for the mailing list as a space-available “Drop In” participant on the Contact Us page of the site.

As one of the regulars has said, “There is no better way to spend a Saturday evening in Atlanta!”

Meetings are conducted like a friendly, laid-back seminar by Steve Whiteman, a long-time film buff with an 11,000-item video library. Steve can answer questions at ClassicFilmAppreciation@gmail.com.

Birds in Our Back Yard
by Miriam Herbers

Something fun is about to happen close to the Lake Claire Land Trust. This month, I will take part in a year-long backyard nest project conducted by Fernbank Museum. They have a list of eight common birds that they’re targeting, looking at how these birds adapt to changes in the urban environment. Banding will happen in my yard and fifty other neighborhoods in Atlanta. I will be asked to notice if I see any of the banded birds and log the information, and to monitor the nests that I see. Monitoring means looking at them every few days to see if there are eggs, whether or not the eggs hatch, and if the nestlings actually leave the nest.

Since I just completed a birding course in the Great Smoky Mountains, this is a perfect next step for me to try to learn more bird songs by ear. It will be interesting to see how far a bird travels. So if you see a banded bird on the Land Trust, please contact me at mvherbers@yahoo.com.
Lake Claire Volunteer Experiences

Cont. from p. 1

the first volunteers allowed into the state of Mississippi several years after the creation of the program. I always thought I was selected because I had a Southern accent. My service year in the Delta was a life changing experience for me, and I thought it might be for others too, so I thought I would ask some people in Lake Claire what their volunteer experience meant to them.

In addition to the question “where did you serve?” I asked each volunteer two questions. Why did you serve, and what changes did it make in your life.

I will start with myself. After finishing college I lived and worked in Madison, Wisconsin, working just enough to support myself. Living in Madison in the ’70s opened a new world of experiences for a young girl who came from a provincial southern city. There were Vietnam war protests and outrage over Watergate, and feminism was awakening for me with classes and discussions about the role of women.

The civil rights movement was in full swing. Activism was in the air. I was looking for a way to be a part of the change.

My adventure teaching first aid and flood and tornado preparedness in the Delta of Mississippi. I also worked in the aftermath of floods and tornadoes. My decision to go to nursing school came from this experience of helping and teaching people. It may sound like hyperbole, but it really was almost epiphany like. That decision fit me well. I loved being a RN. It suited me and it gave me the secure feeling that I could always support myself and be useful to others, both ideals that were firmly engrained in me by then. But, and most importantly(!) when I moved to Atlanta to take a job as a PC/Vista recruiter and to save money for nursing school at GSU, I met another returning Vista volunteer who would be my future husband. Mark Sanger served in the Appalachian mountains of Ohio in a literacy action program. I can’t envision my life unfolding in any other way if it took after and because of Vista.

Dorothy Dabbs, (McLendon Avenue) said:
When I graduated from college I had no clear career plan in mind. I wanted to do something interesting and worthwhile. The Peace Corps was fairly new at that time and seemed like a grand adventure. I did not request a particular country; I told them to send me anywhere.

I was in the Philippines from 1965 to 1967. I was in a teacher training program working with English teachers in an elementary school in Coto-bato City, Mindanao. The first year I lived with a Filipino family and another volunteer; the second year with another volunteer and a young Filipino woman. The languages spoken in Coto-bato were Tagalog, Visayan, Ma-guindiano and English. The city had one traffic light but, no one paid any attention to it.

It’s hard to say the difference it made in my life because once you’ve done something, it’s part of who you are. However, I’m very glad I did it. I got to experience a different culture and to know a lot of people whom I would never have met otherwise. There were few phones - none in my town, so very little direct contact with home. I think the experience made me more independent and gave me a sense of how big the world is. I came home with a heightened awareness of what it is to be an American, and also a lifelong desire to travel and learn more about other people and cultures.

(a note from MVH: Dorothy is currently walking 400 miles on the camino de santiago pilgrimage in Spain, an example of her love of travel and culture.)

Ann Mauney (Hardendorf Avenue)

Ann joined right after graduating college at Stanford University in California. She says:
I was a volunteer from 1964 to 1966 in India -- in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, in the west-north of Bombay. I wanted to live in a culture very far removed from my life here--I envisioned it as a learning experience, which it was. I didn’t have the sense that I was going to give or teach very much. Others I knew from the west coast were headed to Mississippi (it was Freedom Sum-mer exactly 50 years ago--voter registration, Freedom Democra-tic Party, the murders of Schwerner, Chaney, and Goodman)...I headed to India!

I think my two years in India contributed to my on-going interest in other cultures, international issues, and working with others to change U.S. foreign (and domestic!) policy.

I have not been back to India, and while I am still healthy I hope to spend some real time there again -- a country in many ways the same but in others--oh, so different--50 years ago!

Brian Otis (Arizona Avenue)

In December of 1968 I graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in German. I had not the slightest idea of what my next step would be. At the suggestion of a roommate, I had applied to the Peace Corps. I also knew I stood a good chance of being drafted, as the Vietnam War was raging with about a half million troops deployed in Southeast Asia.

I received an offer from the Peace Corps six weeks before I heard from the draft. The offer was to work in the Philippines training elementary school teachers in “modern” mathem atics. I was to begin training in March 1969 in Hawaii! I pondered long and hard over this offer, and my acceptance was in the mail in about 2 minutes.

Up until the time I accepted the Peace Corps offer, I was ambiva lent about the war in Vietnam. Had I heard from the draft board before I heard from the Peace Corps I would have served the country. Once in country and living in the sticks (8 hours by boat to the nearest city, on the Zamboanga Peninsula of the island of Mindanao), my views of the war changed. I would go to Manila as often as I could, as it offered me many creature comforts I could not find in Sioncon, the...
venture. Real Hens of Atlanta.

WYATT ESPALIN Entertain- 

ing audiences in his hometown of 

Hickman from an early age, Wyat-

t was one half of the acclaimed 

American duo Trees Leave 

with Cobi Ferguson. After two success-

ful albums (Run and The Gospel of 

Hurt) and years of sharing the stage 

with Patty Loveless, the Greencards,

and Chris Barron of the Spin Doc-

tors, it was time for Cobi to settle 

down. Wyatt’s solo project reveals a 

more personal level of songwriting. 

Recently winning the First Annual 

New Song Songwriting Contest 

at North Carolina’s popular L.E.A.F. 

festival, Wyatt has found that taking 

the stage alone is not so lonely after 

all with his songs being a constant 

companion. His debut solo album, 

The Pardon, was released in 2013.

TRACY SUE WALKER has al-

ways loved stories – hearing them, 

creating them and telling them. She 

began her journey as a professional 

storyteller ten years ago. Since 

then, she has shared stories with 

people in many places – from the 

St. Louis Storytelling Festival to the 

Tale Spin Festival in Chattanooga, 

and lots of libraries, schools and fes-

tivals in between. She is a certified 

teacher and librarian, and a Road 

Candy Records recording artist.

LOLA is a dynamic blues and 

R&B singer/keyboards player, who 

has been igniting stages in the At-

lanta area and is beginning to break 

out as a national artist. Blessed 

with a deep soul voice, a funkified 

keyboard style, and an intense, and 

high energy stage presence, Lola was 

named among “Atlanta’s Queens of 

Blues” with Francine Reed and San-

dra Hall in 2013. She has shared 

the stage with The Pointer Sisters, 

Bobby Womack, Bobby “Blue” Bland, 

Betty Wright, and Chubby Checker. 

Lola is a proud winner of the 2011 

Jus Blues Music Award for Con-

temporary/Traditional Blues Art-

ist Female. Her latest cd, “Cleanin’ 

House”, is out on Wilbe Records.

KODAC HARRISON is a native 

Georgian, a professional musician 

and poet, who has made 16 record-

ings of original music and spoken 

word, done 7 tours of Europe, co-
edited 4 anthologies of poetry, and 

sold his original paintings. Kodac 

held the visiting McEiver Chair of 

Poetry at Ga. Tech in 2010. In 2013, 

he released his first book, which is 

a retrospective of poems and lyrics 

entitled The Turtle and the Moon. 

Chairman of Poetry Atlanta, he 

hosts the award winning Java Mon-

key Speaks. www.kodacharrison. 

com

ONE MORE GENERATION 

Carter (13) and his sister Olivia 

(12) started their nonprofit in 2009 

in an effort to help save endan-

gered species for at least one more 

generation. When the BP Gulf Oil 

Spill happened, they decided they 

needed to get involved to help the 

sea creatures caked in oil and in 

peril. That visit opened their eyes 

to the broader issues of helping en-

derangered animals and their frag-

ile habitats. Since then, they have 

broadened their focus to include a 

Plastic and Recycling Aware-

ness Curriculum with the help of 

educators to help other children 

understand pollution’s impact to the 

planet. Several dozen schools have 

already adopted the program, and it 

has spread to the United Kingdom!

Their hearts have not strayed from 

their foundation of helping animals.

Their work to eradicate rhino poach-

ing in South Africa has taken them 

to meet with the Minister of Envi-

ronmental Affairs and deliver over 

10,000 letters written by kids from 

around the world asking the South 

African President to work to save 

the species.

ATLANTA BICYCLE COALI-

TION EXEC. DIR. REBECCA 

SERRNA has served as the Atlanta 

Bicycle Coalition’s leader since late 

2007. Their mission is to create a 

healthier, more livable Atlanta by 

making it safer, easier, and more 

attractive to bicycle for fun, fitness, 

and transportation. Their events 

like Atlanta Streets Alive and the 

Beltline Annual Bicycle Tour engage 

Atlantans with their inner cyclist.

She got involved in bicycle advoca-

cy through an internship with the 

Georgia DOT’s Bicycle and Pedestri-

an program where she helped writ-
	er their action plan and monitored 

state projects. Studying participa-

tory planning practices and innova-

tive public transportation projects 

as a Fulbright scholar in Bogota, 

Columbia, color her focus on making 

Atlanta a better city.

Frazer Center Update

We all know the Frazer Center is a treasured neighbor of Lake 

Claire. Its dedication to inclusivity is one of the many ways that 

they fit in with Lake Claire’s own principles. The below is excerpt-

ed from this month’s blog by the Executive Director, Paige McKay 

Kubik.

The Frazer Center is an in-

clusive community, and that is 

what attracted many of those who work there. Those who don’t 

have someone in the family with a disability likely knows others 

who do. But sometimes in the hustle and bustle of our more im-

mediate familial and professional responsibilities, we may either 

take for granted, or simply stop 

noticing the astonishing, heart-

warming stories of inclusion tak-

ing place at Frazer every day. 

It’s the adults putting their 

unique gifts to work in the com-

munity by volunteering to wel-

come visitors to Fernbank Muse-

um, assisting with landscaping 

at the Olmstead Linear Park, 

or producing vegetables in the 

Frazer gardens to help feed men 

who are homeless and staying at 

Frazer each month, where pre-

schoolers help their friends who 

use wheelchairs to evacuate, or 

comfort a child with autism who 

is agitated by the alarms. It’s the 

laughter of a child, or Jonathan’s 

“Best Day Ever” that turns a 

hard day around for a staff mem-

ber. It’s all the adults with dis-

abilities who work at Frazer and 

in the community who are loyal 

employees and customer service 

experts who set the bar for their 

teammates with their positive 

attitudes and work ethics. It’s 

the neighbors, families, volun-

teers, and friends of Frazer who 

share this space together each 

day and give all of themselves to 

help make our work possible. It’s 

all of this and so much more.

But we are never satisfied. We 

are always pursuing more effec-

tive and efficient ways to broad-

en our inclusive mission in both 

the Adult and Child Development 

Programs. Furthermore, we want our mission to extend to 

the outside world. So, the next time you leave Frazer to head to 

work or home for the evening, try 

to take a piece of the Frazer mis-

sion home with you. Be cogniz-

ant about the needs of individu-

als with disabilities, adopt the 

person-first language, and read 

up on the Americans with Dis-

abilities Act.

Lake Claire readers, let’s all 

take a lesson from Frazer, embrace 

inclusiveness in your daily life, 

and begin or continue to shape 

a more inclusive world together, 

one where people of all levels of 

ability and disability can learn and 

flourish together.

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries - hoping for volunteers

The Clifton Men’s Shelter has 

been a successful part of the Lake 

Claire community for 37+ years 

and will continue to be in the fu-

ture. One reason for this success 

is the oversight of a Night Host 

at the shelter. The Night Host 

is vital to the continued success 

of the shelter. In the past, the 

role has most often been staffed 

by volunteers (men and women) 

from churches around Atlan-
ta and people outside of Lake 

Claire. The person in this role 

insures that basic shelter rules 

are followed and remains on site 

in case of any emergencies that 

may occur.

If any Lake Clarions are inter-

ested there is a need for addition-

al volunteers. Responsibilities 

are few, mainly just providing a 

responsible presence overnight.

The guests are required to be in 

by 9:30 PM and leave prompt-

ly at 6:00 AM. Hosts get a full 

nights sleep from 10 PM until 5 

AM in private quarters. Respon-

sibilities include signing guest in 

by curfew, locking doors, making 

sure all of the guests stay in for 

the night, getting supplies out for 

breakfast the next morning, wake-

ning guests and brewing coffee.

Problems are rare, the full time 

staff at the shelter absolutely 
does not tolerate drug or alcohol 

use, intoxication, or other unruly 

behavior. Full time staff at the 

shelter are always available via 

telephone as an added backup.

If you’re interested in volun-

teeing please contact the shelter 

at 404-373-3253 or Alice Jenkins 

alice@clifonsanctuary.com, for 

a full description of the responsi-

bilities and to volunteer.
The Women’s Outdoor Network presents: SummerFest 2014 -- A benefit for Project Open Hand

Saturday, June 28, 1:00-9:00 p.m., Lake Claire Community Land Trust

Featuring fabulous entertainment from Steff Mahan, Katherine Cole, Tabetha Durham, Kelly Spillman, the Morgan Rowe Band, Ruthanne Hayes, and the Monster Dogs - plus food and drink, art vendors and more - all to benefit Project Open Hand, which provides food for chronically ill patients living with AIDS and other diseases. Admission: $15 WON members; $20 pre-paid non-members; $30 non-members at event. Tickets: http://www.wonatlanta.com/summerfest. The entrance fee includes 1 drink ticket, 1 food ticket, and a full day of live entertainment from a WONderful female lineup! Additional drink tickets $5 each; additional food tickets $10 each.

About the Women’s Outdoor Network... Whether you enjoy low-key pursuits or something much more adventurous, we have something for everyone! Our activities include kayaking, indoor and outdoor rock climbing, picnics, theatre nights, children and dog-friendly outings, rafting, camping, hiking...to name a few. In addition to individual events throughout the year, there are also activities offered as a series, and in some cases, depending on interest, clubs are being formed. For example, we are proud to now have our very own WON Climbing Club.

Exact details of all events are posted through our members-only mailing list, so please do join us to be kept fully up to date, or contact us for more information at http://wonatlanta.com. For more information on Project Open Hand, visit www.projectopenhand.org.

Land Trust Plant Labeling Project

by Ann Shirra

Many of you have been enjoying springtime at the Land Trust, checking out the blooms on the Buckeye, watching the blueberries turn blue, and smelling the honeysuckle that some love and others not so much. Be sure to look down for the new plant markers recently put in place by the team of Miriam Herbers, Jane Merkle, Leah Pine, Ann Shirra, and Genise Spenle.

Over 75 trees, shrubs, vines and perennials have been labeled with botanical and common names, with more labeling to come. Knowing what grows well in Lake Claire can help us all figure out what works in deep shade, dry sunny spots, or that clay-y slope that washes away new plantings in a hard rain. The team appreciates the grant from the Land Trust to help fund some of the labeling supplies.

Identifying plants is just one of the many escapades that neighborhood plant lovers are enjoying, including a recent TreesAtlanta planting day in Lake Claire and Candler Park, bounties of edibles in the new and improved Land Trust garden plots, and the creation of a Japanese Garden at the Land Trust.

2014 Goal of 100 Land Trust Supporters Reached 6 Months Early!

by Miriam Herbers

At its retreat last autumn, the Land Trust Board of Directors discussed everything from practical improvements to pie-in-the-sky dream projects. But we agreed that what we really wanted was to involve more of our neighbors in building the community that is the heart and soul of the Land Trust. We set a goal: 100 supporters who would contribute $10 each in 2014.

We’ve tried various systems in the past to increase our “membership,” but changing leadership, hit-and-miss record keeping, and just plain getting through the day didn’t result in the accurate records we wanted. Our neighbor Debbie Livingston took our scrawled lists and scraps of paper and produced a data base that we can build on. And we saw that we were reasonably close to achieving our goal.

We surpassed that goal of 100 supporters on Memorial Day weekend. We want to thank those who responded to our recent appeal in the Clarion, those who donate through PayPal on our website (www.LCCLT.org), those who drop donations down the chute, and those who signed up at the Memorial Day sale.

Your support helps to finance our wish list - more tree plantings, more water collection systems, playground improvements, etc. But even more important is your contribution to our growing community. We hope you will continue to attend our events, participate in various Land Trust activities, enjoy this unique place, and know that you are the “community” in the Lake Claire Community Land Trust.

But just because we met our goal in half the allotted time doesn’t mean we have enough Supporters. It means we set our sights too low! Let’s keep the list growing. To add your name, visit www.LCCLT.org, and make a donation, drop it in the bulletin board chute, or mail a check to LCCLT, P.O. Box 5379, Atlanta GA 31107. Be sure to include a mailing address if you’d like an “I Support the Lake Claire Community Land Trust” bumper sticker, and e-mail address if you want to join our e-mail list.
Message from our Lake Claire President

Cont. from p. 3

and has a direct interest in what will be built. Nearby residents and the LCN will be keeping a close watch on current developments. For more information, see Sue Strauss’ article in the May Clarion as well as on page 1 of this Clarion. Another matter of concern is the proposed cell tower for the Epworth Methodist Church in Candler Park. There has been a lack of discussion on the issue. See the April edition of the Clarion.

Lastly, Eric Dusenbury (ericdusenbury@gmail.com) and Randy Pimaler (rpimaler@hotmail.com) from the Candler Park Master Plan Coordinating Committee came to the LCN May 15 meeting to speak about traffic along DeKalb Avenue and the need for a joint proposal by Lake Claire, Candler Park, and Inman Park. They also invited all Lake Claire residents to participate in their Master Plan initiative. See the article herein on Page 10 and the full text of the MP on the CPNO website. The next meeting for the Master Plan Committee is on Monday, July 7 at 7:00 at the Epworth Methodist Church on McLeod Ave. Subsequent meetings are scheduled on first Monday of every month at the same time and place.

And don’t forget that the LCN dues are only $20.00 per year! Andrew Sherwood, treasurer@lakeclaire.org, will happily receive any payments, which can also be processed through PayPal. As a neighborhood with small resources, these membership dues are critical to keeping the Lake Claire Neighbors in operation to include expenses for its website, state registration, banking, green space maintenance, Christmas dinner, and donations to our local institutions. As for volunteering, all the executive committee members (see addresses in the Clarion, always on page 2) have agreed not to turn down any offers.

Lake Claire continues to be the great and unique place that it is and will get even better with everybody’s help.

– Joe Agee

Lake Claire’s Past Volunteerism

Cont. from p. 12

“town” I lived in. When in Manila, I encountered many troops on R and R. The U.S. Military presence was huge in the Philippines, with a large Naval base (Subic Bay) and a huge Air Force base, Clark Field. The troops talked about drugs being everywhere, and many talked about how you couldn’t trust any Vietnamese, as they were either out to kill you, and or take your money. These were for the most part kids, barely aged 18. I realized then that my experience of Asians was so completely different, that there must be something more to the fight the Vietnamese were putting up than was depicted by the U.S. government. Also, as part of my continuing education about the war I have come to realize that our troops who served in Vietnam were treated horribly upon return. They served honorably and deserve to be acknowledged for their sacrifice.

I spent a total of 3 years in the Philippines. For my third year I worked out of the provincial office in Dipolog city. While I institutionalized the mathematics curriculum, I feel that this was an extremely small achievement and that what I gained was much greater than what I left. I learned how much of the world could live without TV, refrigeration, Cheetos, washing machines, and automobiles, and not feel poor or live poor. I learned about mysterious spirits that existed for my Philippine friends. I experienced a life of rising with the sun. I learned to laugh at myself, as did the Filipinos, greatly, when I attempted to speak their language. I experienced the incredible beauty of the country, whether it be phosphorescence in the water, Horn-bills and Kingfishers on the wing, or flying fish noisily breaking the water near the outrigger I was in, and sailing through the air for what seemed forever. I am grateful to the U.S. people for funding this experience. I am grateful to the Filipinos for their acceptance of me, and for their incredible warmth.

Betsy Hoddinott (Indiana Avenue)

1966: It’s a gray and dreary Ohio day. I’m a college sophomore and as I’m trudging to class I think that everything I know has come from someone else, either in a book or in a class. I don’t know anything from my own experience.

Spring, 1966: Maybe I should drop out of school and get a job so I can have some real experience. Then I go on a spring break trip to West Virginia where VISTA volunteers are working. They are doing what I would like to do: helping real people in the real world.

Fall, 1966: “Join VISTA and save the world”. I’m in VISTA training in Norman, Oklahoma. Interesting people! Interesting ideas! I’m really excited when I am assigned to live and work in a poor neighborhood in Columbia, South Carolina with another young woman.

1967: From a small town in Ohio to a small city in the South. Culture shock! We rent a house with no hot water and a coal stove for heat. We try to integrate ourselves as much as we can into our new community. With a local agency we start a preschool (which was later picked up by Head Start) and an after-school program. Often our little house is full of teenagers dancing to the latest tunes. We hang out with the adults and help them get a community center going. Local churches have us come to speak, and we were once interviewed on the radio. Real life and real experiences! Now I can say that I know something real about real life.

2014: If anyone asks me, I say that 1967 was the most important year of my life. It was the year that I became a grown-up, an adult with opinions and ideas based on my own experience. I think we made an impact on the people we worked with, and we made a small contribution to the civil rights struggle. For me, personally, it was the year I found myself and set out on my future career paths. That year I found me!

Please slow down on Lake Claire streets!

Thanx Monster Man

by Danny Pope

I used to go fast when I rode down the road.
I used to go fast like I was fixin to explode.
I used to go fast but it was all in fun.
Sometimes I think I did it just to watch ole Monster Man run!

Miriam Herbers notes that since the Monster Man (Burges, on Arizona Avenue) was rightfully yelling “slow down” this very day, she thought this might be fun for the Clarion and to remind friends and neighbors that people and animals live on this street.

But the more I slowed down the more I could see this beautiful neighborhood that is gifted to me

So thanx, Mr. Monster Man, ‘cause I’m one more person who is able to see.

Please folks, BE the monster men and women on our Lake Claire streets when you witness speeding, and let’s try to put a stop to it.

– Joe Agee
Hi! My name is Caden Scott McLean. I just turned 9 years old in May, and I am going to be in the 4th grade.

My family and I moved here 2 years ago. We lived in Sacramento, California all of my life (well, all of my parents’ lives too). I have a younger brother, Jaxon Bruce McLean, who is 5. We moved to Atlanta because of my dad’s job. He is an architect. Atlanta is a much bigger city than Sac. It also has nice restaurants, a forest close to our house, Stone Mountain, and so much more.

It took us about 30 hours to drive here from Sacramento. We stayed at my uncle’s house in Arizona for a few days, and we stayed in Sante Fe, New Mexico, too. We went to a rodeo and saw little kids my age riding sheep.

We moved to our home in Lake Claire when we first got here. Our house was on Leonardo Avenue and that was EPIC. All of the neighbors were so friendly, and there were a lot of kids to play with! We just bought a condo in Candler Park. We now have our own swimming pool in our complex & we go every day. I love how I can walk to Fellini’s & Zesto. My brother likes to go to Flying Biscuit and Donna Van Gogh’s. I also like the festivals and movie nights so close to home. (I definitely do not like the mosquitos!!!)

I enjoy school. I am in the Challenge program at Mary Lin. I had Mrs. Taylor for 2nd grade & Mrs. Baldwin for 3rd. I have also had to make all new friends in Atlanta, but it hasn’t been hard, because there are a lot of cool people around here.

I am excited to start seeing more of Georgia and the other states that are close. Also, hoping more of my family come to visit from California too.

Hope to see you around the neighborhood! -- Caden

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NEW CONTEST:

KIDS: Find the July 4 graphic in this month’s Clarion. Hint: It’s a well-known character and is patriotic! 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. Any Lake Claire kid is eligible unless he or she won the contest the current month. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.

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. Tell us about your hobbies, your favorite part of Lake Claire, what’s been great this summer in Lake Claire — or choose any topic of your choice. Be creative…we’d love to hear from you — by July 15 for the August issue.

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CLARION CONTEST: THIS MONTH’S WINNERS!

There were hundreds of contestants who searched for the Wahoo last month, but these four found the Wahoo and they (or their mothers) e-mailed the editor first!

**1st place** Congratulations to Leah Braun, our First Place Winner in finding the Wahoo. Leah is the daughter of Lori Blank and Eric Braun. They live on Claire Drive. Leah is a rising 4th grader at Mary Lin, and she loves her pups, Henry (seen in picture) and his momma, Cora.

2nd place -- Della Goines, Lakeshore Avenue
3rd place -- Sara McGill, Delaware Avenue
4th place -- Caden McLean, Leonardo Avenue, is pictured above.