March 2005 the 411 on 30307 Volume 12, Issue 3

# UPDATE ON THE McLENDON SLOW DOWN

Work on our petition to address unsafe conditions created on McLendon Avenue by the median and 10 foot bulb-outs continues. A new website is on the way at www.amediatech.com/mclendon.html to enhance our petition campaign, keep the momentum going and update residents on our progress. More information will be available on the site including past reports, letters, photos, documentation and printable petitions you can mail in.

In early September 2004, I conducted a door to door survey of 108 residents of both Candler Park and Lake Claire. 41% said they would like to see all bulb-outs removed completely, 48% responded they would like all bulb-outs reduced from 10 to 7 feet and 10% said they would like to see them stay the same. The bulb-outs were easily cut back to 7 feet in Lake Claire under the responsive leadership of Dan White, working with the Atlanta Bicycle Campaign.

Presently over 1,700 Atlanta residents have signed petitions, which have been presented to Mayor Shirley Franklin and other city officials. 80-90% of Candler Park residents asked have signed the petition. These petitions request that traffic calming structures in Candler Park on McLendon Avenue be modified in order to make the street safe for everyone, especially bicycles. Based on reports, mostly from *continued p.2* 

# Chicken Made It . . . Signs Didn't

In the last month, pedestrian crossing signs were installed on McLendon Avenue at all striped intersections between Clifton Road and Lakeshore Drive. Unfortunately, the on-street signage did not survive repeated vehicle impacts. Until a sign is developed that can survive repeated impacts on the urban speedway known as McLendon Avenue, I have requested that the city attach the signage used in the street to the signage located alongside the sidewalk.

Dan White, President LCN



## The Newsletter Needs You!

For the past 14 months I've been serving as the newsletter advertising volunteer. I've enjoyed working with and getting to know my neighbors while producing the newsletter, as well as working with the individuals and businesses who advertise their services in our neighborhood. By being involved in Lake Claire Neighbors I've enjoyed knowing more about what goes on in the neighborhood and in our city and learning a bit about grassroots advertising. All this being said, I'm resigning as the ad volunteer. My mother had a heart attack in February and is facing triple bypass surgery. My parents live four hours from Atlanta and I'm their nearest offspring. With this family health situation and my work, I'm unable to continue handling the newsletter advertising.

All that's necessary to coordinate the newsletter ads is an e-mail address, a bit of personal organization (most of it will come on a disk and in some paper files), some minutes during the month to respond to inquiries (most of them come by e-mail), and then a few hours at the production deadline and newsletter delivery. Advertising experience isn't required, it doesn't take up a lot of time, and no one's asking for a lifetime commitment – I promise!

Please consider getting involved as a neighborhood volunteer and give me, Sarah Wynn, a call at 404-228-3273 or 404-377-878, or e-mail me at newsletter@lakeclaire.org.



# To Print or Not To Print?

As reported last month, the Executive Committee is considering eliminating the monthly printed Lake Claire Neighbors newsletter, in favor of a quarterly printed edition and a monthly online version.

Why stop it you ask? Well, the expense in dollars and volunteer hours is quite high and, though we love our advertisers, we don't always have enough support to make it worth the considerable expense. WE REALLY WANT AND NEED YOUR INPUT. Do you love us? Or hate us? Your opinion counts. To voice a yea or nay on this proposal, contact Mary Jo Bryan, at editor@lakeclaire.org, 404-371-8816, or 436 Harold Avenue.

Slow Down continued

Candler Park residents, damages since April 2004 to both cars and trucks is estimated at between \$40,000-\$60,000. We expect these estimates will continue to increase as the petition is expanded to Lake Claire. Some experts have commented that no damages would have occurred if the designs met engineering safety standards in the first place. We are asking the City, what level of damages are considered acceptable?

Tires and rims have been damaged, cars have been totaled and several bike accidents have been reported, including one near fatal crash that occurred when a motorist lost control of his car while trying to avoid hitting the median and skidded to a stop on the sidewalk where the bicyclist had fallen. In October 2004, the Atlanta Bicycle Campaign put the city on notice that the Candler Park section of McLendon Avenue is too dangerous for bicycle travel

## **DUES YOUR PART**

Thanks to the following neighbors who've already paid their dues for the year 2005. Join this distinguished group by sending in your \$20 dues and help support the Lake Claire community, newsletter and activities. Please make your checks payable to Lake Claire Neighbors and mail to LCN, attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107.

Tom, Alicia, Joseph and Jamie McGill Hoyt T. Smith Carol Statella and Reid Harris Mike and Amy Glennon Linda Hoopes and Jack Feldman Ellen Mazer and Andy Segal

Ran and Julia Garibaldi

Steve Sheppard and Rick Harrison Glassman/Amata Community Becky and Mike Curry Marilyn Schertz Peter & Eva Belle Gretchen M. and Jerome F. Connell Sean Riggins and Bruce Goldweig

Kathy Christensen Darrell and Amanda Lamm **Betty McGarity** Diane Moore and Bruce Kaufman Ted Brodeck Timothy Holtz

#### IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN AND LAKE CLAIRE NEIGHBORS NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

If you are a Lake Claire resident or business owner, your payment of dues helps us help you. Dues are voluntary and reasonable. Please make checks payable to: Lake Claire Neighbors, attn: Treasurer. PO Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107

Association dues520/househol	Association	dues	\$20/househ	told
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Name(s):			
Address:			

Phone:

Lake Claire Neighbors is an incorporated non-profit, tax-exempt, homeowners association. Membership consists of all residents, property owners, and businesses within the boundaries of the Lake Claire Neighborhood in Atlanta, Georgia. Non-payment of dues does not limit your ability to vote at LCN meetings. Dues and gifts to LCN are not tax deductible. Paying your dues helps us do great things such park and stream bank clean-ups, various neighborhood projects, community events, distribution of the newsletter, and staying ahead of city planning development

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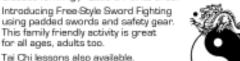
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due to the reduced lane size resulting from the 10-foot bulbouts and center median. They advised all ABC members to take alternate routes.

In late October 2004, after construction was complete, a car struck the Josephine bulb-out and swerved out of con-

trol into the opposite lane. It was reported that the car was totaled. Three to four serious bulb-out accidents have occurred at this same corner since April 2004. There was only one accident in the previous 15 years, according to a resident interviewed who has lived on the corner since 1989. On several evenings, she has heard a vehicle hitting the bulbout then skid out of control.

On November 2004, a meeting to address the McLendon

safety concerns was held with City officials including a representative from the Mayor's office. A major concern from the Mayor was that only a single view was considered when these plans were developed and that this view did not reflect the views of the entire neighborhood. A second meeting will be held with the City in March of 2005. We have additionally requested the City to put a moratorium on similar traffic calming designs until the McLendon safety issues are resolved. The signs and markers have helped, but are not enough and do not address many of the serious dangers resulting from these unsafe designs.

For the March 2005 City meeting, we are requesting that the City provide documentation and answers supporting these aggressive designs, including the alleged URS traffic study upon which the plan was supposedly based. A URS employee who worked on the plans said there was not a traffic study and further stated the median and bulbout design was unsafe as implemented. He further commented that the designs needed to be tested for safety

before being constructed. There is to date, no evidence such testing was ever conducted. Street by street resident participation, also a critical step, also appears to have been intentionally skipped.

A driver for the local Fire Department, who can not pub-

licly speak out on this issue against the city, did state to us after doing the drivability study we requested, that at a minimum the median at the light at Candler Park Drive should be removed. Certain ladder trucks can not make the turn to the school. We will be asking them to test the traffic circle in Lake Claire to make sure they can reach residents on the other side of the circle. A Marta bus was unable to pass through the circle when it was tested last year.

Petitions are available to sign in

Candler Park at Donna Van Gogh's, Full Moon Records, Rockit Salon and Mojo Jobs Café. In Little Five Points go to Aurora Coffee, Sevananda, The House Works or Outback Bikes. Your support for the petition can make a big difference, so call or email Atlanta City Mayor Shirley Franklin at 404/330-6026 or sfranklin@atlantaga.gov. The majority of support we are getting at City Hall is coming from the Mayor's office due to the petitions, emails and calls. If you have already contacted them, take the time to remind them again. I'll have petitions to sign at the Lake Claire Neighborhood meeting.

You can contact Randy Byrd at mclendon@amediatech.com or call 404-377-5882 with any concerns. We are tracking accidents and unsafe conditions to report to the City. Please let us know if you have had or witnessed an accident on McLendon due to the median, narrowed lanes or bulb-outs. And remember to watch out for bicycles and pedestrians and drive safely wherever you travel.



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# **BIKINI SEASON IS CALLING**

It may still be a bit cold out, but it's time to start thinking about the 2005 "Summer of Splash" at Candler Park Pool. If you haven't discovered this local treasure, it's time to get acquainted.

The Candler Park Pool is a public/private facility that is managed by the Candler Park Pool Association – a group of neighbors from Candler Park, Lake Claire, Edgewood, and Kirkwood. The pool functions as a City of Atlanta pool from 9:30 until 4 pm. After 4 pm, it becomes a private pool open to members and their guests – with great amenities at just a fraction of the cost of local private pool memberships!

Candler Park Pool couldn't be more convenient! The facility offers a sizable pool, large dressing rooms with showers, and plenty of chaise lounges if you want to bag some rays. There is a dedicated infant and toddler area in the shallow end, perfect for the small ones and their parents to splash about. (If you're a parent, you might also appreciate our 10-minutes per hour "adults-only" swim period.) If swimming exercise laps is your cup of tea, you'll

# Boot Camp is Back! -

ISSA Certified Fitness Trainer and former Army reservist Jaye Crawford invites you to join a boot camp program just like the real morning PT (physical training) sessions she led twenty years ago at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. The classes start March 26 and are held at Candler Park on Wednesday evenings or Saturday mornings. Contact the Fun Fitness Studio, 404.378.5775, or visit www.funfitnessonline.com for more information. Registration ends March 18, 2005.

# Horizons School Summer Camps

What is your child doing this summer? How about a fun, educational camp?

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Horizons School empowering youth for more than 25 years be pleased with the dedicated lap lane, too. There is also a snack bar where you can buy snacks and drinks.

Every Saturday night brings some kind of special event to Candler Park Pool. Our best-selling Shrimp Boil Night is always a favorite, as is our Margaritaville party, annual Luau, and of course, our famous Dive-In Movies! We also regularly hold cookouts and barbecues, typically including entertainment such as bluegrass bands, storytellers, clowns, and even the Seed and Feed Marching (or swimming) Abominable band! Our Sunday night "Pizza at the Pool" night is one of our member favorites – skip the cooking and enjoy the last bit of your weekend hanging at the pool with your neighbors!

The Pool is scheduled to be open May 14th through Labor Day. Members swim free anytime the pool is open. Public Free Swim is from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, then the Public Pay Swim is from 12:45 - 4:00 pm and Members Only Swim from 4:15 - 8:30 pm.

There is not a more pleasant way to spend a summer evening than at the Candler Park Pool – and not a more cost-effective way to enjoy a pool membership in town! For info on how to join, please check out our website at www.candlerparkpool.com. We look forward to seeing you poolside!

#### Thanks Bob!

Many thanks to Bob Arko, who donated his time and tractor to move wood chip piles used to restore trails in the Frazer Forest.







## A Neighborly Request

Dear Lake Claire Neighbors,

Mark and Michele Bell of Palifox Dr. (9-year Lake Claire residents and recent 2004 Tour of Homes participant) are training for a 26.2 mile marathon to raise funds for research for the American Stroke Association. Both Mark and Michele's family have been affected by stroke. In 1974, Mark's grandmother suffered a massive stroke at the age of 55 and could not walk or feed herself again. In 2000, Michele's Mom suffered an aneurysm at age 58. Thankfully, she survived but not without the support of her medical team and physical therapy that taught her how to swallow, eat, talk, and walk again. She is proof that research and funding have improved the quality of life after a stroke. Did you know that Stroke is the leading cause of disability in the U.S.? The 3rd leading cause of death? And the

This is a small way that we can make a tangible difference for all victims of stroke. Over the next 5 months, we will be running hundreds of miles to prepare for the San Diego Rock and Roll Marathon on June 6th. We will also be busy raising over \$7,600 for the American Stroke Association. We are asking for your support through your good thoughts and your generous contribution. When you see us out there hitting the pavement, honk at us and let us know you are cheering us on! Your tax-deductible contribution, sent as soon as possible, is greatly appreciated. Every dol-

average age of a stroke survivor is 26 years old?!

lar makes a difference toward stroke research and education. If you have any questions, or would like to donate with a check, contact Michele at michelecbell@yahoo.com. You can donate online at www.teamsandiegoatl.kintera.org/markbell.

Sincerely, Mark and Michele

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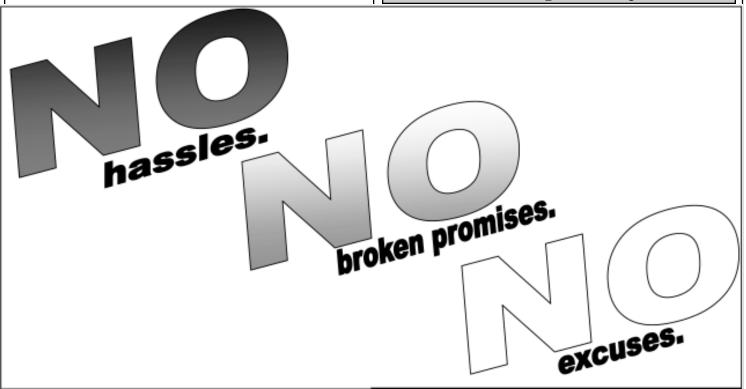
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# SKIING IN AND AROUND LAKE CLAIRE

March is full of holidays including St Patrick's Day (17 March), Palm Sunday (20 March), Good Friday (25 March), and Easter (27 March). But did you know that we also celebrate the more obscure celebratory "Days of"..... Multiple Personalities, Be Nasty, Life in the Cracks, Alfred Hitchcock, Everything You Think is Wrong, Johnny Appleseed, Submarine, Festival of the Extraterrestrial Abductions, Goof Off, Chip and Dip, Spinach Festival, Something on a Stick, and Smoke and Mirrors??? Hey that last one coincides with March 19 – the second anniversary of the War in Iraq!

Double your fun! Congrats to those Lakeshore twins Catherine and Evelyn Fort who turn four on March 26th. What party plans will their proud parents Ann and Bruce propose?

Welcome to da hood! Howard Circle is now home to new neighbors Patrick Angers and Pablo Aste as well as their Boston Terriers Betty and Jack. Lake Claire is glad to have you!

Hooray for Hollywood. LC Tour Ladies Margeauxxx and Virginia Hamm rolled out the red carpet at their McLendon mansion and hosted a festive Oscar Party this month. Guests were treated to fabulous food, divine drinks, guessing games and of course the big-screen TV broadcast.

Canine Competitions. Candler Park Neighborhood is hosting a K9 Fun Run fundraiser with 1 and 2 mile jogs on Saturday, April 2 at 9 a.m. For more info check out www.rungeorgia.com. Candler Park is also the site for this year's Atlanta Humane Society's Pet Parade on Saturday, April 16. Contact 404-875-2600 ext. 226 or access www.atlantahumane.org.

Down the street. At Donna VanGogh's art for all y'all, owners Teri Stewart and Iris Hale have their own version of The Gates installed by the artist Christo in NYC's Central Park. They have the "Anti-Christo" exhibit now on display in their window box made entirely of orange cheezits. Sidewalk art lovers are raving, as are the local birds.



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# The Stats No One Wants to Own

Late January and February Crime Stats For Lake Claire and Candler Park

Auto Thefts(4), Attempted(1)

**Wed. 1/26 11:30pm – 1300 Dekalb Ave.** – No broken glass. Victim states sometime during the night an unknown suspect took his vehicle. Vehicle recovered on Rocky Ford with no damage.

**Sun. 1/30 12:00pm** – **1800 Almeta Ave.** – Victim states



he checked on his vehicle and discovered that someone broke the right front window and then damaged the steering column in an attempt to take the car. No prints recovered at scene.

Fri. 2/4 3:00am – 300 Nelms Ave. – Victim states he parked his vehicle on the street and when he returned it was gone. Victim states he does not have the key to the vehicle and it may have fallen on the ground when he was exiting the vehicle. 1993 Mazda MX – 6 white in color. Tag ADD 4996

**Tues. 2/8 12:00am – 400 Callan Cir.** – Victim states someone took his motorcycle from his driveway. 1999 Honda Firestorm 1000cc black in color. Tag 5L032

**Wed. 2/16 5:30pm – 1400 Miller Ave.** – Victim indicated vehicle was taken. Vehicle had been locked, no key left in vehicle. 1999 GM Suburban red in color. Tag 162 JFA

#### **Burglary Commercial**

Thurs. 2/17 10:00am – 200 Hampton Terrace – Victim states she discovered her shed door pried open and property missing included a bike. The door was locked and the latch damaged. No prints due to rough surfaces

### **Burglary Residential**

Weds. 2/2 8:30am – 300 Candler St. – Attempt. Damage to property. Residence. Victim states someone damaged the deadbolt to his iron burglar door. It appears that the suspect stuck a narrow object in the cylinder that caused it to break. Nothing was taken and no entry was made.

#### Larceny from Auto

**Sat. 2/12 11:00pm - 400 Harold Ave.** – Victim states someone entered his unlocked vehicle and took VCR, Circuit Tester and MP3 Player. Prints lifted and turned into ID.

#### **Robbery**

Sun. 2/13 9:00pm – 1600 McLendon Ave. – The victim, a W/F juvenile, advised suspect snatched her purse while she was standing at street corner. Suspect ran to a vehicle, 1998 Blue Olds Cutlass, 4 Dr, Tag "853NGE." Tag check showed vehicle owner to reside at 600 Clifton Rd SE. Units checked address – no vehicle or suspect there. Purse had an MP3 Player and a digital camera inside. Suspect – B/M, 30-38yrs, 5'10"-6'0", 190-220lbs, avg. build, clean shaven, dark jacket, dark jeans and black hat. Two other purse snatches in the area about a week earlier.







#### Clifton Sanctuary Ministries by Patricia Guthrie

Twenty-five years ago, a few self-described hippies living near Little Five Points, the counterculture capital of Atlanta, had a radical notion. They wanted to help the homeless help themselves. So they turned a church sanctuary into a sanctuary of another kind. Sleeping quarters went up where a congregation of 50 worshipped at Clifton Presbyterian Church, at the corner of McLendon and Connecticut Avenues. Sunday mornings, it converted back. Beds got stacked in the corner, chairs got unstacked. The first night — Nov. 1, 1979 — only three men took up the offer of a mattress on the floor, a hot meal and a hot shower. The third night, one man had the church to himself.

In December, that same pewless sanctuary with the simple pine ceiling and pale yellow paint continued to serve as a dual-purpose refuge. "There's been some fabulous success stories out of here," said Marilyn Schertz, who's lived in the Lake Claire neighborhood for 30 years and supported the church-turned-shelter concept. "Many are just down on their luck and just needed a way up." Men like Michael D. Jackson, a 52-year-old native Atlantan whose experiences are familiar to many homeless men. Crack, alcohol, losing a job to addiction. He said he was abandoned by his family after serving time for drug possession. Jackson also suffers the most common ailments of the homeless: His kidneys are failing, he's HIV-positive, and he's being treated for severe depression. But he says being a "Clifton man" is finally penetrating his 15year downward spiral. "This shelter is more than a place to stay," Jackson says as his housemates do after-dinner chores. "It is a home away from home. It gives you the comfort you need to get yourself together, to learn that you don't need drugs, that you don't need to live in the gutter. That's what I get here. I feel like Michael again."

"The formula is simple," says Prince Davies-Venn, shelter chaplain and case manager of Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, "These are men who are used to going around the city and no one knows their name and no one wants to know their name." He started out as a penniless immigrant himself when he moved from Sierra Leone to Atlanta 28 years ago. "Here, we know their name. Here, we treat them with dignity." Men must be referred to the shelter by an outside agency that has agreed to act as a case manager. They work on goals that eventually will lead to a permanent address. Some need drug rehab or daily Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Some learn job skills. Others need help getting through bureaucratic red tape for disability, Social Security, veterans' benefits, AIDS treatment funding. They can stay at the shelter for 30 days, longer if ill or injured. "Night Hospitality Rules for Peaceful Living" — no weapons, drugs or alcohol, no violence, no stealing, no smoking inside the building — must be followed or they're back on the street. By 6 each weekday morning, they must be headed toward social service appointments, health clinics or other homeless service agencies, where many volunteer. Alvin Bailey, 51, left the shelter in March after six weeks of help for long-term depression. "I got a thirst for life now and I want to live it," he said this weekend as he met with the current "guests." "They treated me like a person here, not a reject." The sanctuary is filled to capacity most nights with 30 men stretched out on cots. Government program funding, church and neighborhood contributions and private donations make up the ministry's \$250,000 annual operating budget. It covers a staff of five, food, utilities and other needs. The shelter also relies on a steady stream of donated clothing, food, bedding and books. Clifton was the first churchturned-shelter in Atlanta. About a half-dozen places of worship have followed suit. Last year, 191 elderly, disabled and sick men stayed at the shelter, most for 60 to 90 days.

Technically, the Clifton church is no longer a church. The congregation kept shrinking when longtimers continued p.10

# Thank You Candler Park Market

Candler Park Market sells gourmet Horizons School fair trade, environmentally-friendly, school roast coffee-benefiting Horizons School students and providing fair trade prices to coffee farmers.

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# LOCAL DOIN'S

#### Fifth Annual Lake Claire Easter Parade

Mark your calendars for Sunday March 27, 2005!! Friends, neighbors, and their pets are invited to gather at 2:00 pm

at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries at McLendon and Connecticut Avenues to participate in the free and fabulous Fifth Annual Lake Claire Easter Pa-

rade—RAIN OR SHINE! All marchers are asked to get into the spirit of the season and wear festive hats, bunny ears, and other Easter finery. Kazoos will be provided but other musical or percussive instruments are encouraged. The parade will meander through side streets, serenading spectators, posing among the flowers, then go past the

Flying Biscuit brunchers to Fellini's and then back to Clifton Sanctuary. At the end of the parade, there will be a special hat-judg-

ing competition with many Easter basket prizes to be awarded. Categories for kids under 12 years old include "The Cutest" and "The Cleverest." Adults will vie for "Best Easter," "Best Lake Claire," "Most Outrageous," and "Best Group Effort." Please come on down and join in the fun. And if you are lucky you might just get your photo in Creative Loafing! Call Parade Princess Pat Marsh at 404-373-8982 or e-mail ski@lakeclaire.org for more info.

# Park Pride's Fourth Annual Park and Greenspace Conference

Park Pride is holding its annual conference on April 11 from 8:30 to 5:00 at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. The keynote speaker is Wellington Webb, former Mayor of

Denver, who oversaw the creation of fifteen new parks and the transformation of the city's old airport into a mixed-use development that will include over 1,400 acres of greenspace.

### Frazer Center Open House

The Frazer Center is having an open house Wednesday, March 16th from 12:30 to 5:30 for parents to learn about its premium inclusive child development that serves all children, including those with disabilities.

# Registration for Kindergarten at Mary Lin

Registration for new students at Mary Lin will be held April 11 - 15 from 8:00 to 4:00 at the school. A child must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2005 to register for Kindergarten. To register, the parent or guardian must bring all of the following documents to the school office:

1)Child's social security card 2)Child's birth certificate (original or certified copy) 3)Parent or Guardian's proof of residence (utility bill / lease agreement) 4)Child's Georgia Immunization Certificate, Form 3231 5)Child's Certificate of Eye, Ear, and Dental Examination, Form 3300

#### **Grand Re-opening of Grady High**

Grady High is hosting an open house and grand opening celebration Sunday, March 20 from 2 to 4 p.m. to show *continued p.10* 





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case the newly renovated school. The Atlanta Public School system has spent almost four years and \$24 million in gutting and refurbishing the school, which was originally designed by acclaimed Atlanta architect Philip Shutze, and first opened to the students of Boys High and Tech High in 1924. The Celebration will feature sculpture, performances, and a history of the school.

# Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools (CINS) Meeting

The next meeting of CINS will be March 23 at noon at C.W. Hill Elementary, 386 Pine Street. Alicia Derin, executive director of teaching and learning for Atlanta Public Schools, will explain the new Georgia Performance Standards and how their rollout will affect current students.

# Georgia Law Center for the Homeless Fundraiser

The Georgia Law Center for the Homeless is holding its second annual on-line auction from March 14 to March 25. You can bid on goods and services from metro-Atlanta restaurants, hotels, museums, and airlines. All proceeds will benefit the Law Center, which provides free civil legal services to individuals and families who are homeless in the metro Atlanta area. To bid go to www.galawcenter.org.

### Art of Generosity Fundraiser

Art of Generosity is holding its annual charity art auction Saturday, March 19, 2005 from 1 – 5 pm at the Piedmont Park Conservancy Community Center, 1071 Piedmont Avenue. Funds raised from the auction will be used to support "Somadina" a pediatric AIDS hospice being developed in Nigeria. For more information please visit www.artofgenerosity.com

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#### Relay for Life Fundraiser

The American Cancer Society is sponsoring the Relay for Life at Georgia Tech on April 1st- April 2<sup>nd</sup> to raise money and awareness about all cancers. To participate in Relay For Life or for additional information, please visit www.relay.gatech.edu or contact Cielle Thibodeaux gtg541g@mail.gatech.edu

#### from p.8

moved, died or joined larger churches. Last year, the Greater Atlanta Presbytery closed the building as a place of worship but allowed the ministry to continue. But the pulpit still comes out at 10 a.m. sharp every Sunday. For 25 years, disheveled and down-and-out men have streamed in and out of the little white church on the hill. Surrounding houses that once cost \$20,000, meanwhile, now go for \$350,000 or more. But the Lake Claire neighbors don't complain. They were the ones, after all, who conceived the shelter, inspired by a homeless man named Joe Coppage. He slept in the yards or porches of Lake Claire homes and, for years, declined offers of help. After his death in 1995, Clifton named its transitional housing complex Joe's Place. Nine men live there while they work and save money to live on their own. "When we started this 25 years ago, we really thought we could solve the problem of homelessness," admitted Rocke Thompson, longtime neighbor and member of the shelter's board. "Well, we haven't solved it. But we've helped a lot of people." To learn more about the Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, call 404-373-3253. © 2004 AJC. Reprinted with Permission.

