September 2005

newsletter of the Lake Claire Neighborhood Association

V. 12, #9

# Safe Routes to School Program Needs YOU!

If you've been driving in the neighborhood weekday mornings between 7:30 and 8:00, you may have noticed all the children with backpacks heading west. Have you seen those cute little ones with oversized backpacks, and the older, self-assured and way cool, "I don't need my parent to walk with me," kids walking and riding bikes or scooters to our gem of a neighborhood school, Mary Lin? Have you noticed the cars flying down McLendon and Clifton and wondered about the mix of fast cars and young children on major thoroughfares? Well, the Mary Lin PTA has thought about it a lot. The PTA encourages kids to walk to school, but wants to make sure the journey is a safe one. It is spearheading an initiative to review and propose changes to the walking routes to the school located on Candler Park Drive and is sponsoring a charrette to discuss these issues with the surrounding neighborhoods, the City's traffic engineers, City Council representatives, and PEDS (Pedestrians Educating Drivers on Safety). The public is invited and strongly encouraged to attend. If more people are involved upfront, then there is much greater likelihood of developing safe and practical solutions. The meeting is tentatively set for September 28 at 7:00 p.m at Mary Lin. More information will go out on the Lake Claire newscast e-mail alert system when the date, time and location are finalized. (If you haven't signed up for the newscast, go to www.lakeclaire.org). You may also direct questions to Eric Dusenbury, PTA president, at dusenbur@bellsouth.net.

# Volunteers Needed for Cat Adoption Center

AAR (Animal Action Rescue) has been given a great opportunity to help find homes for the many cats and kittens they currently have. They have been putting their cats in the cat room of the new Petco next to the Target in the new Moreland Avenue/Edgewood retail area. Ellen Shultz of AAR says that they have already found homes for quite a few cats thanks to being able to get the cats to a place where the public can see them, but they still have many adult cats and kittens needing homes. But Petco requires AAR to have someone to go and clean cages three times a day. Ellen needs people to volunteer to help with the cleaning of the cages and to feed and visit with the cats. As the Petco is conveniently within 5 minutes of Lake Claire, and there are only 6 cages, this should not be a huge commitment of time. You could also find a friend who will go with you or volunteer every other time to make it easier on your schedule. Times of days needed start around 8 a.m. (can be as early as 7 a.m.), mid afternoon, and by 8:30 p.m. Please call Ellen at 404-377-9762 for volunteering or to inquire about cats/kittens for adoption. Thanks! Submitted by Elizabeth Hamilton

# Open House at Kashi Center

Kashi, located on McLendon at Nelms, is holding a one-year birthday extravaganza to mark the first year in the studio's beautiful new Lake Claire home. The Open House event will take place Saturday, September 24th, from 10am to 3pm, and will feature a silent auction, raffle, free yoga classes, kid's activities, door prizes and much more. Everyone is invited to come out, take part and have a good time! All money raised from the Open House will benefit Kashi's ongoing community service programs, including Street Meals and KidsArt.

For more information, please call 404-687-3353, or go to www.kashiatlanta.org.

# Lake Claire Neighbors, Agenda for General Meeting: September 15, 2005

Frazer Center - 1815 S. Ponce de Leon or back entrance at end of Ridgewood Rd.

Social Time 6:30-7:00 PM (pizza and beverage)
Meeting Starts 7:00 PM

#### **GUEST SPEAKERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- \*Recognition of elected officials and special guests that are present
- \*Position on traffic calming measures to Clifton Road
- \*Amend bylaws to create VP Environment and VP Fundraising CURRENT ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION
- \* LCNA exec comm. mtg Tues Oct 11, 7:30pm at 362 Connecticut Ave
- \*Update on Harold Ave Green space
- \*Dues drive/fundraising

- \*Pavilion update in Lake Claire Park
- \*Stop sign update
- \*Nomination of officers for next year OFFICERS' REPORTS
- \*Public Safety-Randy Byrd
- \*Treasurer's Report

#### **VOLUNTEER & LCNA MEMBER REPORTS**

- \*Anyone with issues they wish to bring to the membership VARIANCES & ZONING REQUESTS
- \*1950 DeKalb Ave & 255 Southerland Terrace (Site of Hayes Auto)
- \*Change zoning to allow construction of 18 townhouses by Plinth Group



# LOCAL STUFF

#### Lake Claire's Storm Water

With the recent heavy rains the stream within the Frazer Center Forest has sustained heavy tree loss due to high levels of storm water originating entirely within our neighborhood. There is no other upstream source for this water because we are the source point on the sub-continental divide for all this water. Our streets, our roofs, and our driveways all drain downhill and every drop of water not retained on our property ends up in the forest stream undermining massive trees and creating terrible damage to this valuable resource. We as a neighborhood can and must do better. We must commit neighborhood resources to stabilizing stream banks. We must as individual property owners retain storm water runoff on our properties through allowing gutters to drain onto yard space and not let it run to the driveway and into storm drains. Please pledge time and resources to this effort. We must learn to clean up after ourselves and be good neighbors to those downstream. We all need to be part of the solution to this growing problem.

Submitted by Dan White, President LCN

#### Storm Water, Part II- The Floods

If you have experienced flooding or water damage on your property that may have resulted from insufficient stormwater drainage or management "upstream" or uphill from your property, please contact LCN through zoning@lakeclaire.org. A number of situations have come to our attention and we would like to document them and consider how we might work on initiatives to prevent further problems.







Celebrating 30 Years in Little 5 Points!

We are YOVR neighborhood bookstore.

# Saturday/Sunday October 1 & 2

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## **OLD NEIGHBORS**

by Hlee Vang

Lake Claire would be a different place if it weren't for the efforts of residents like 62-year-old Rocke Thompson. When he moved to the Lake Claire back in 1969 with his wife, Beth, to start a job with the DeKalb County administering grants to lower income and disadvantaged folks, he came with little idea about the area he was settling into. "We heard Emory area was good and we thought this was Emory. When we got here, we thought, 'This is good,'" Thompson said. As it turned out, Lake Claire and Candler Park neighborhoods with their proximity to the blocks to the south occupied by black neighbors kept the areas from being as attractive and as good of an investment as neighborhoods in Virginia Highland and Decatur.

Racism played into the decision of outsiders looking for neighborhoods to settle in, Thompson said, and folks like himself just took advantage of the situation. He bought his house on Almeta Avenue in 1973 for about \$17,500 while homes in the pricier neighborhoods would be in the \$20,000 range. "It was an exciting time because things were changing. We were in the beginning of shaping a neighborhood," he said. "When I moved here community building had not started."

With his savvy ability to navigate government lingo, Thompson used that skill to help jump start community bonding and stir up activities that created safer and more attractive neighborhoods. The 1970s, in turn, became a heavy period of community organization. Lake Claire and its neighboring communities, at the height of community building, joined forces and kept a highway that would have joined the Stone Mountain freeway with Freedom Parkway by cutting through the heart of Lake Claire, just a couple blocks from Thompson's house.

Back in his earlier years in Lake Claire, Thompson even helped assess how the Metropolitan Atlanta Transit Authority train tracks would affect Lake Claire and surrounding communities. "I was good at organizing and structuring," he said. "First it was my business profession that got me involved but then it was my neighborhood and I continued to get involved."

Now that six mayors have held and left their Atlanta office and his two children flourished into adulthood, Thompson still is a figurehead of community building and service-dedication. Since a fire destroyed Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, a Presbyterian church he's been a member of for the past 20-plus years and a shelter to the community and its homeless, Thompson has worked tirelessly to secure grants for the sanctuary and see to the residents' well-being.

Thompson hopes to retire from his active service to the community in two years. "I've done enough to help the community to the point of stability that I could enjoy my own time," he said. "I want to focus on my garden and my wife said I have a lot of projects to finish."

## **NEW NEIGHBORS**

by Hlee Vang

Adam Cohen is a cartoonist who makes a living as a serious pediatrician fighting the disease war with the Center for Disease Control's prestigious Epidemic Intelligence Service program. His partner, Glenn Frankel, a former software designer for Microsoft, launched the argument that brought about the death of "Clippy" the paperclip whose role as the eccentric pop-up office assistant has guided many lost souls through the Microsoft Office software.

As two of Lake Claire's newest neighbors, it's been barely over two months since they made a cross-country move from Seattle, Washington, to Atlanta for Cohen's job with the EIS. But in just that short time, the two — both Jewish who met on a blind date four and half years ago and celebrated their union with a commitment Jewish ceremony last summer — have already made their mark in the neighborhood. Frankel has been an active participant in Lake Claire projects spearheaded by its residents, including joining the ongoing battle to save the green space on Harold Avenue and designing a brochure to help raise money for the mural design along DeKalb Avenue.

Becoming involved in the community, both said, introduced them to a warmth and connectedness among their new neighbors that, in turn, has brought great rewards for both. "People come by with brownies and invite us to pollacks," Cohen said. "We've only been here a couple of months and we feel at home." In addition, the two-year neighborhood fight to preserve the green space, which provides the Cohen and Frankel home with a beautiful forest view and creek basins and native streams to appreciate, appears to be swinging in their favor.

Frankel said to have neighbors joined forces in such a way to protect what was important to them spoke volumes about the area they've chosen to live in. Prior to the move to Atlanta, though, Frankel said they absorbed their share of stereotypes associated with this region of the country: suburban sprawl and "southern mentality." A February visit of the Atlanta area, however, quickly put the concerns to rest. "I saw how beautiful it was. It's not all suburban sprawl," he said. "I just didn't know — it was really out of ignorance."

Discovering Lake Claire only heightened their excitement, both said, and finding their home on Harold Street was "complete luck." "We've both been pretty surprised how much we like it here," Cohen said. "We love the land trust on Arizona," Frankel said.



#### **Atlanta Artists Tackle Women and War**

In early 2004, Synchronicity Performance Group got tired of war. Particularly, this Atlanta theater company with a strong focus on women and community wearied of hearing about war but not about the women affected. So the company gathered a diverse group of theater and visual artists to explore the personal experience of women whose lives have been affected by war.

Over the next six months, Synchronicity interviewed fifty women from the Atlanta area - soldiers, refugees, defense contractors, activists and more. The stories form a hopeful, human, funny and heartbreaking tapestry of text, movement and striking visuals which will premiere September 17. The diversity of stories from the Atlanta community is remarkable. A Vietnamese woman who spied for the CIA. Twin missionaries who worked in the Belgian Congo. An AJC reporter who falls in love with the Sudan. An American soldier attacked in Iraq. A peace activist whose cousin was killed by a bulldozer in the Gaza strip. And many more.

After a showing of the work in June 2005, President Jimmy Carter said, "Synchronicity's Women and War is a rich example of the social power of cultural arts. By exploring the world's wars thoughtfully, the message reflects the importance of pursuing peace around the globe, a goal to which The Carter Center is also dedicated."

This powerful community-based project offers a rare chance to look beyond the headlines and discover the connections that tie experiences from around the world to women right here in the Atlanta community.

The show will be presented at 7 Stages (1105 Euclid Avenue in Little 5 Points) and runs September 17-October 9, Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m. For tickets, or more information, call 404-325-5168 or visit www.synchrotheatre.com.

#### Kudos

Friends of the Frazer Center Forest would like to thank the 15 students from Horizon School who volunteered in August to mulch trails in the forest. They established a new record for laying down the most much in a three hour period. Please take a walk in the forest and see the end results of their labor. This is the second year of their volunteer efforts and we truly appreciate their commitment to the forest.

# **Remembering Langston Hughes Performance**

Well-known and respected actor, concert pianist, and public speaker John Lawhorn, will perform his tribute to the literary genius of Black America, Langston Hughes. John Lawhorn brings Langston Hughes to life through his captivating portrayal with poetry, prose, and music. Remembering Langston Hughes will take place on Saturday, September 17th, at 8:00 pm., in the Grady Theater.

The performance is the primary fundraiser for CINS, a 27-year-old not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering excellence in education for a cluster of 11 public schools in the heart of Atlanta. All CINS proceeds are used to provide thousands of dollars in grants for classroom enrichment to teachers in these schools. During the last school year more than \$15,000 in grants were awarded.

Tickets are \$20. The Grady Theater is located at Grady High School, 929 Charles Allen Drive, in midtown. For more information, contact Barbara Feinberg, bjfatlanta@comcast.net or 404-876-3839.

# **Charis Books Happenings**

Saturday, September 17, 10:00am —Bring the kids out for a great morning of bilingual storytelling. Lilah will be our bicultural ambassador as she reads exciting stories in English and Spanish to our wonderful Charis family members who are ages 3 to 8. Please join us for the fun!

Friday, September 30, Friday, 7:00pm —Kate Peterson & Sarah Cleaver in Concert at Charis! Kate creates pleasantly aggressive folk music that you can rock to, cry to or just plain smile to. With her unique quirkiness and interesting life experiences, Sarah engages audiences with the spirit of her performances, bursting with fiery lyrics and personal angst. Both women have toured with many other independent artists and have releases distributed by Goldenrod. For more information, go to http://www.chariscircle.org.

#### Let's Do the Little Five Points Halloween Parade!

On Saturday October 22 at 500pm Lake Claire neighbors, friends, kids, and pets are invited to participate in the 5th Annual L5P Halloween Parade. This year's theme is "ANIMALS" Hey it's free, fun and only lasts an hour! Just show up in costume at the Horizon Theater/WRFG building and look for the LCN contigent around 430pm. We march down Euclid Avenue to Moreland with folks on floats, bikers, drag queens, aliens, monsters, rollerbladers, hearses, gypsies, and marching bands! INFO? Pat Marsh 404-373-8982 or goesemarsh@yahoo.com



# THANK YOU - LAKE CLAIRE NEIGHBORS

Join the expanding list of neighbors who support Lake Claire. Annual dues are \$20 per household and a primary source of funding for neighborhood projects that make a difference in your quality of life. This year your money has supported many initiatives including the Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, the Frazer Center and its environs, Olmstead and Deep Dene parks, refurbishing the pavilion in Lake Claire Park, Freedom Park, Harold Avenue greenspace, and the Clarion newsletter.

Here's another great opportunity to lend your support! Lake Claire neighbors are working with a professional muralist to design and paint a 340-foot mural that will be attached to the wall spanning the block between Connecticut and Arizona Avenues on DeKalb Avenue. Giving levels range from the "Water Strider" at \$50 to the "Great Blue Heron" at \$1,500 and up. The names of all contributors will be listed on the mural. Join the effort by providing your financial support or volunteering to help. For more info, call 404 234-9603 or write zoning@lakeclaire.org. Thanks to the following 2005 members!

Lake Claire Mural Contributions Lamar Mary Swan

Neighborhood Dues Contributors Tom, Alicia, Joseph & Jamie McGill Hoyt T. Smith Carol Statella & Reid Harris Mike and Amy Glennon Linda Hoopes & Jack Feldman Ellen Mazer & Andy Segal Ran & Julia Garibaldi Steve Sheppard & Rick Harrison Glassman/Amata Community Becky & Mike Curry Marilyn Schertz Peter & Eva Belle Gretchen M. & Jerome F. Connell Sean Riggins & Bruce Goldweig Kathy Christensen Darrell & Amanda Lamm Betty McGarity Diane Moore & Bruce Kaufman Ted Brodeck Timothy Holtz Beth Grashof Patrick Angers & Pablo Aspe

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#### SUPPORT LAKE CLAIRE!

Please fill out the short form below and use the enclosed envelope to mail-in your contribution. Make your checks payable to Lake Claire Neighbors and mail to LCN, attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107.

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May we contact you to volunteer for neighborhood activities?	





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Classified ads are \$2 per line prepaid. For more info contact newsletter@lakeclaire.org

### Anonymous Poem found on Lake Claire Land Trust Bulletin Board 8/20/05

I saw God in the Landtrust last night She was in the trees blinking. Blinking.

As if the whole Landtrust was sparkling, glittering.

The air was soft, warm

And I heard her - in children's voices -



playing in the sandpile, the swing And I heard her in the teen children talking & laughing in their hidden spaces And I heard her in the softer, deeper voices of the older folks and in the music they were making I saw God in the Landtrust last night And she and I were very pleased to be in Landtrust heaven Thank you everyone

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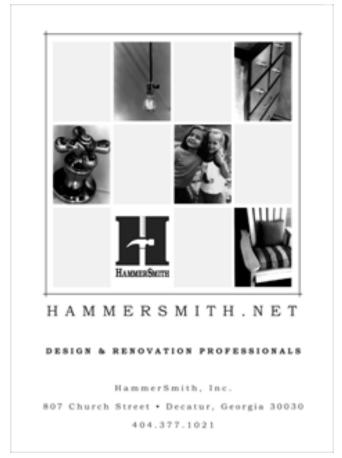
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# Orphaned Puppies in Need of a Home

Thanks to a Lake Claire animal lover, 10 six-week-old



hound mix puppies, whose mom was killed by a car, have a safe foster home. Permanent homes, however, are needed, as well as donations to feed the sweet and adorable pups. If you can help out, please contact Dawn Aquamarine Aura at 404-378-6815(home), or 678-643-5671 (cell).



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