



Kirkwood and NPU-O Need our Help!

By Earl Williamson (Kirkwood Neighbor)

To Our Neighbors In Lake Claire - As some of you may know, the historic Pratt Pullman Rail Yard in Kirkwood (your neighbors due south across the rail lines) is threatened by proposed installation of a Georgia Power substation. These unique, historically and architecturally significant, and amazingly intact 103 year old structures represent a great deal of the industrial and economic history of this area from 1904 on and are owned by the State of Georgia. They are the group of very large brick industrial rail buildings readily visible from Lake Claire's Dekalb Avenue that I hope some of you were able to tour during our spring festival. The proposed substation will be at least 1.5 acres in size and directly impact these historical structures. It is dependent on a transfer of land from the State of Georgia to Georgia Power.

Please take a moment to aid the Kirkwood Neighbors Organization (KNO) and Neighborhood Planning Unit "O" (NPU-O) in opposing this transfer of land. You may do so by e-mailing your statement to the following recipients:

georgia.governor@gov.state.ga.us
gabraham@gba.ga.gov
rbowlden@gspc.ga.gov
ray_luce@dnr.state.ga.us

We appreciate greatly your help in this critical matter that involves the preservation of all our history!



Something Old – Something New!

The new private membership Lake Claire Pool on Dekalb Avenue is now open. Thankfully, the facility left intact an old neighborhood landmark within their landscaping, the Peace Garden marker on the corner of Dekalb and Southerland Terrace.



What's the Big Hoopla?

Hoopla, the Decatur store specializing in fun stuff for kids, is moving to a larger location on Decatur's Square. To celebrate the move they are making a big "hoopla" in August. The store is inviting all young aspiring artists to come to the store and create original art work. The pieces will be available for sale at Hoopla, with 100% of the funds raised donated to Cure Childhood Cancer. Every Saturday in August and Labor Day weekend, Hoopla will offer fun activities for kids, wonderful giveaways and art projects to raise money for 'Cure Childhood Cancer'. In addition the store will be raffling off a Thomas the Train Table and a Kidcraft Dollhouse. Where: 414 Church Street, Decatur, GA 30030
For More information: Contact Sabrina Lilly at 678-362-8089



Next LCN Meeting, Thursday, August 16

Next Meeting at 7 pm, Frazer Center Atrium, south end of Ridgewood Road.
Social time 6:30 - 7:00 pm. Please join us!

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Lake Claire Neighbors - Meeting Highlights

Thursday, July 19, 2007 @ 7pm
The Frazer Center Atrium

GUEST SPEAKERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Welcome to new residents and first time attendees

OFFICERS REPORTS

* Public Safety report.
* NPU report.

CURRENT ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

* Harold Avenue Greenspace Dedication, tentative date, Saturday, October 6. Need volunteers.
* Neighborwoods Program planned in Lake Claire for Fall. Need volunteer tree-planters.

VOLUNTEER & LCNA MEMBER REPORTS

* Anyone with issues or information they wish to bring to membership.

VOTING ITEMS/LAND USE

* Rehearing of last month's request for variance for 2091 McLendon Ave., based on changes to plan, to reduce the side yard setbacks for a second story and 16-foot addition to the rear of the house. The request is for a reduction on the east side from 17.5 feet (required for corner lots) to 15 feet and from the required 7 feet to 3.4 feet on the west side.
* Request for variance at 317/319 Connecticut Ave. to reduce setbacks on north and south sides of the property to add a second story, stairs for a deck, and garage to existing duplex. Request is to reduce side yard setback on north side from the required 7 feet to 3.2 feet and to reduce side yard setback on the south side (corner) from required 15 feet to 5.7 feet.

Lake Claire Neighbors meets every third Thursday of the month at 7 pm. Meetings are open to all. Past months' newsletters and updates to agenda can be found at www.lakeclaire.org.

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Mark Your Calendars . . .

August 7 – Tuesday - DeKalb Rape Crisis Center and Voila Market Café will host Decatur's own Mayor Bill Floyd, for "The Floyd" epicurean event. To purchase tickets, please contact the Director of Development, Tonja Holder, by phone at 404-377-1429 or email tholder@dekalbrapecrisiscenter.org

August 13 – Monday – APS Schools back in session.



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and
Deidre Grinenko DVM
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August 16 – Thursday – LCNA Monthly Meeting; Frazer Center, 7pm.

August 18 – Saturday – BBQ, Blues & Bluegrass Festival at Oakhurst Harmony Park, 2-11pm. Tickets are \$5 per person; children 10 and under are free. There is a terrific music lineup, children's activities and much more. Benefits the Oakhurst Neighborhood Association, the Decatur Recreation Department/ Decatur Youth Fund, and the Com-

munity Center of South Decatur. For more details, visit www.decaturbbqfestival.com.

August 20 – September 14 – Registration (sellers) for the First Baptist Church Fall/Winter consignment Sale. For more details, email tskidsale@bellsouth.net.

August 23 – Thursday – Charis Books and More, 119 Euclid Ave. NE, Disability 101 Part Two: Disability Etiquette and How to be an Ally (time and location TBA) For more details, visit www.chariscircle.org

September 6 – Thursday - Charis Books and More, 119 Euclid Ave. NE, Disability 101 Part Three: Disability Activism (time and location TBA) For more details, visit www.chariscircle.org.

September 6 – Thursday - "What's Happening in Deepdene Park?" at 7:30 p.m. sponsored by the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance. It will be held in the parish hall of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, opposite Deepdene at the corner of Ponce de Leon Avenue and East Lake Road. Spencer Tunnell, the landscape architect charged with restoring the park using Frederick Law Olmsted's original design, will make a presentation and answer questions. Light refreshments will be served, and the public is invited.

September 10 – Monday – Lake Claire Garden Club Meets at 7pm. For more details, contact editor@lakeclaire.org.

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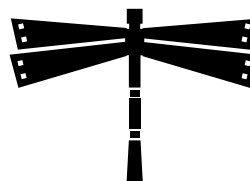


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September 22 – Saturday - Oakhurst Cooperative Preschool Inaugural 5K Road Race and Fun Run: Beat the Street for Little Feet. 9 am at Harmony Park. Please visit www.oakhurstcoop.com for details on race registration.

September 21 & 22 Fall/Winter First Baptist Church Decatur consignment Sale (children's clothing, furnishings, toys, books, etc.). For more details, contact tskidsale@bellsouth.net.

September 28 – 30 - 17th Street art Fair; Atlantic Station (see article for details)

September 29 & 30 – The 2007 Decatur Garden Tour; This year's tour will include 12 private and public gardens, including the private garden rooms of world-renown gardener/author Ryan Gainey. \$15 in advance, \$20 during the tour. For more details, visit www.decaturgardentour.com.

October 6 – Saturday – Harold Ave. Green Space Dedication (tentative date)

October 13 & 14 - Candler Park Fall Festival. For more details, visit www.CandlerParkFallFestival.org.

New 17th Street Art Fair Debuts in Midtown Atlanta

The Fine Arts come to Atlantic Station this September. The new 17th Street Art Fair will debut in Midtown Atlanta September 28-30. The fair features 175 artists, live entertainment and beverage sales in the heart of Atlanta's newest live-work-play district, Atlantic Station. The juried artists' market will feature fine art and fine craft artists in a variety of media. Artists and craftsmen will be showcased all along 17 1/2, 18th and 19th Streets in Atlantic Station's Central Business District during the three-day event.

Festival hours are Friday from 6 pm to 9 pm, Saturday from 11 am to 8 pm and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm. For further information, visit www.17thstreetartfair.com or call 404-634-8876.



Beat the Street for Little Feet September 22, 2007

Oakhurst Cooperative Preschool Inaugural 5K Road Race and Fun Run: Beat the Street for Little Feet.

*Submitted By Denessa Munsterman,
denessam@gmail.com*

Feet of all sizes are welcome! Join OCP families for a Saturday morning of running and fun on September 22, 2007, 9:00AM at Harmony Park. The race will include not only a 5K with special jog stroller division and a short fun run for the kids, but also a one-of-a-kind race T-shirt designed by award-winning local artist James Dean of Pete the Cat fame. Stick around for the post-race festival with live music for the kids, art tables, food and a raffle of many wonderful prizes donated by local businesses. Please visit www.oakhurstcoop.com or www.active.com for details on race registration.

Oakhurst Cooperative Preschool is a parent-teacher cooperative established in 2005 as the result of the grassroots efforts of neighborhood parents wanting to create a supportive learning environment for the children and families of Oakhurst and surrounding neighborhoods. The program also provides parents with a diverse network for emotional and practical parenting support in their community. In less than three years, OCP has grown from 6 to 36 families from across metro Atlanta. Located in the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, OCP is one mile west of downtown Decatur. For more information regarding OCP, please visit www.oakhurstcoop.com.

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GREETINGS from Pat Marsh...

Here's a green sea turtle photo which my husband John took at nearby snorkel beach-very cool and you can tell this turtle to say hey to the DeKalb Ave Mural one!! mahalo

Pat Marsh in Kaillua-Kona Hawaii

(Pat is a former resident of Lake Claire and volunteer extraordinaire who keeps up with us via our website!)

Have you had an adventure or event that you'd like to share? Email us a few words and a photo if you have one. You KNOW we want to see it in the Clarion! editor@lakeclaire.org

YOU can make a BIG Difference!

Add your name to the growing list of neighbors who are willing to invest in their quality of life. All it takes is \$20 from 500 of the more than 1,300 Lake Claire households to raise the necessary funds for neighborhood initiatives. Please, stop what you're doing and contribute to your neighborhood. Go to www.lakeclaire.org to pay through paypal or write a check. Make your checks payable to Lake Claire Neighbors and mail to LCN, attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107. It'll only take a few seconds.

Thanks to the following neighbors who've paid their 2007 dues (and to any who should have been on the list!):

Angela Rhoton
Anne Marie Loeffler
Bailey Hardy McBee, Jr.
Betty McGarity
Carol Holliday
Caron Gordon
Chad & Carrie Parker
Charles Haver
Chris McClain
Christa Harper
Christiane & Ephraim French
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 Steven Bennett & Chester Old
 Thomas Chapel & Jennifer McCoy
 Traci Switzer
 Troy Nielsen

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Be ready to take action to help save strays



If you know in your heart that you're a rescuer, why not equip yourself to do the best possible job?

If you see a stray that you cannot safely restrain, call the local animal care and control agency (in rural areas, call the police or sheriff) and report the situation.

If you are able to transport the animal, go to www.spotsociety.org for a complete list of rescue groups and shelters you can call for help finding a home. (Just remember to be patient with rescue groups, since most are run by volunteers and are almost always at capacity.)

The Humane Society offers more helpful step-by-step information on how to help a homeless animal at www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care. You can also get great guidance at the click of a mouse by visiting www.aarfatlanta.org and clicking the "Resources for You" link at the bottom of the page.

Here are some things to have in your car at all times: Phone, Phone numbers of local animal control, shelters (see website) and a 24-hour emergency vet clinic, cat carrier or cardboard box, collars and strong leashes for dogs, a heavy blanket, bowls and water, treats and strong-smelling foods like canned tuna or dried liver, and an animal first-aid kit.



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City's Automated Meter Reading Project to Enhance Billing and Customer Service

By Caryn I. Anderson

Department of Watershed Management,
City of Atlanta

The City of Atlanta recently launched its ATL READ Automated Meter Reading (AMR) project to upgrade Atlanta's water meters and allow them to be read electronically. The new capability will simplify the meter reading process, ensure the accuracy of the billing system and improve customer service.



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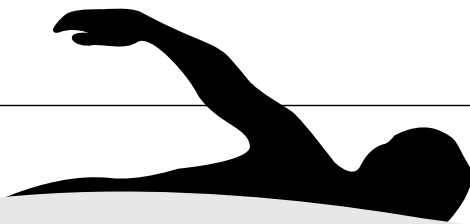
AMR system technology, which is being used successfully by numerous local and national utilities, permits the electronic collection and trans-

mission of customer water usage data from meters to the utility's billing office through the use of both fixed and mobile radio methods.

Over the next three years, the Department of Watershed Management will install the AMR device on each water meter in Atlanta's distribution system. Aged, non-functioning meters will be replaced with new meters already fitted with the AMR device, while the AMR device will be installed on existing meters that are still functioning properly and are compatible with the new device. The \$35 million project is part of the City's \$3.9 billion Clean Water Atlanta infrastructure improvement program to rehabilitate Atlanta's wastewater and drinking water systems.

After the device is installed, a meter reader in a vehicle fitted with a mobile data collector then needs only to drive by customer locations each month to capture meter readings

The Automated Meter Reading project is another in a long line of initiatives the Department is undertaking to ensure that our bills are accurate and reflect exact customer usage," Commissioner Robert Hunter said. "It will help us reduce our operating expenses and identify potential leaks and other distribution system problems, as well as meter malfunctions, vandalism and tampering.



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The AMR pilot project started in northwest and west Atlanta neighborhoods in December. AMR installation will now continue in those areas and begin in North Fulton and Sandy Springs. Residential customers will receive a postcard notice in the mail two weeks prior to the start of installation on their street. Commercial customers will receive a letter and will be contacted by K&V Automation, the City's contractor on the project, to arrange an appointment for installation.

There is no cost to customers for installing the new meter reading device and new water meter, and the project's impact will be minimal. An installer will

work at each meter box for about an hour. Some customers may experience a brief interruption of water service if their meter must be replaced. The meter's appearance will not change; however, meters will now be covered with a locked lid to protect the AMR device and reduce meter damage and tampering.

Visit our websites: www.atlantawatershed.org,
www.cleanwateratlanta.org

Project Helpline – 404.529.9211

Post-installation Emergencies – 1.866.750.8022

Billing/Customer Service 404.658.6500

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Atlanta Public Schools	(404) 802-3500
Mary Lin Elementary School	(404) 371-7158
Inman Middle School	(404) 802-3200
Grady High School	(404) 802-3001
Atlanta Sanitary Services/Garbage & Dead Animal Pickup, Sewer/Street Emergency repairs & Maintenance, Traffic Signals & Street light repairs	(404) 65WORKS
Atlanta Water Department (Emergency Repairs)	(404) 658-7220
Atlanta Zoning Enforcement	(404) 330-6175
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Lake Claire Security Report

June, early July 2007 crime stats (Weeks 24-27 2007) for Lake Claire and Closely Surrounding Areas

KEEP AN EYE ON THE CRIME AND THE TIME
Date -- Time -- Block Address -- Description

AUTO THEFT

Thursday – 6/21 – overnight – 200 block Southerland Ter – Ford truck stolen from driveway during the night. Keys were not in truck at the time it was stolen.

BURGLARY

Saturday-Monday – 5/5-5/7 – 400 block Terrace Ave – Sometime over two-day span, house was entered via front door; door knob of front door showed damage. Video, computer, electronic equipment stolen. Prints attempted.

Tuesday – 7/3 – 3:00 p.m. – 1500 block McLendon Ave – Suspect entered porch area through unsecured side window and stole an electric trimmer. Victim was awakened by loud noise coming from front door. When she looked out a window, she saw the suspect walking away. Suspect had attempted

to enter through front door, rear door, and door on inside of porch. Suspect description: black male, approximately 6 feet tall, 140 lbs and apparently homeless. Prints were attempted.

Saturday – 7/7 – afternoon – 1700 block Indiana Ave – House entered through basement. Electronic equipment stolen. A white t-shirt and a blue hat were left in the backyard. Prints attempted.

LARCENY FROM AUTO

Saturday – 6/9 – overnight – 1700 block Marlbrook Dr – Vehicle entered, laptop computer and other miscellaneous property stolen. No signs of forcible entry were apparent, and victim could not remember if vehicle had been locked. Prints were attempted.

Thursday – 6/14 – 2:13 a.m. – 2000 block McLendon Ave – Suspect smashed passenger side window of Mitsubishi, removed stereo and other property, and fled on foot. Suspect description: black male, 5'10", 180 lbs. Prints attempted.

Wednesday – 6/27 – early morning – 400 block Clifton Rd – Window of Plymouth broken, radio face and vacuum cleaner stolen. Prints recovered and turned in for identification.



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ROBBERY – PEDESTRIAN

Sunday – 7/1 – 2:30 a.m. – 1200 block McLendon Ave – According to victim, he got out of his car and walked past the suspects in Freedom Park. Suspects, six young black men, stared at him. Shortly after walking by suspects, victim heard footsteps running up behind him. One suspect apparently had an air rifle. After robbing victim, suspects apparently all fled. Victim and several friends chased after suspects. One of victim's friends found a policeman, who called in additional units. Three of the suspects were eventually detained and arrested. One other suspect was named. Two are unknown. Suspects who were arrested include Bradley Santana Jules, black male 17YOA, unknown address; Stephen James Lyon, B/M, 18YOA, unknown address;

and Tyrell Dion Lewis, B/M, 17YOA, unknown address. Another suspected person is named Justin Jackson. Two other suspects are unknown.

***Special Note—Identification of Suspects: All information relating to the identification of any suspects as reported by the police to us is included in this report. The goal of providing descriptions is to aid in the arrest of the identified suspects; hence, all identifying information whatsoever is included. Where information appears to be missing, it is because it was not reported and not because it has been edited by this organization.

Compiled/reported by VP—Public Safety, Dan Wright



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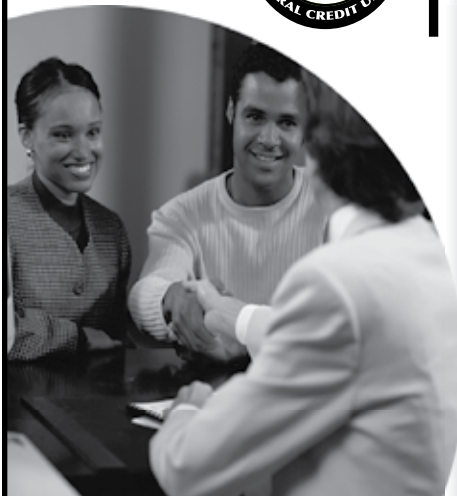
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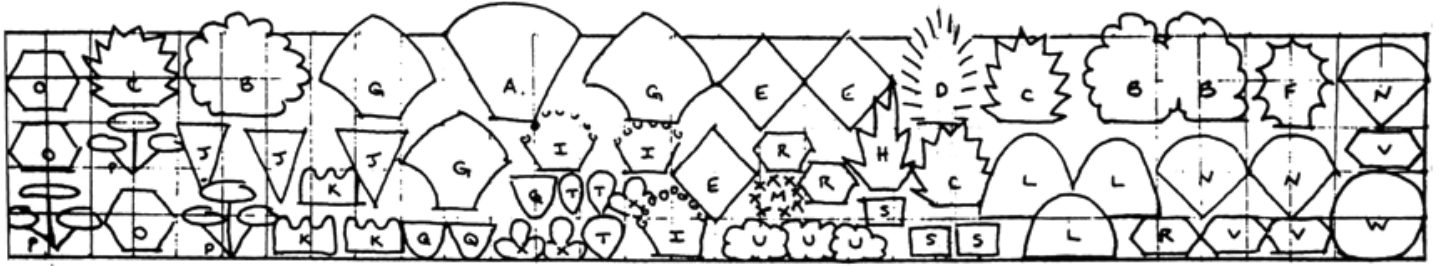
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The Conscientious Gardener

By Troy Nielsen

“Decomposing Composting” Part I of II

Composting is an easy, cheap, and environmentally friendly way to reduce landfill waste and boost plant performance. There are many different composting methods detailed in books and Web sites. The methods range from “throw a bunch of stuff in a pile” to “precisely measure and monitor daily”. This article presents two easy methods that work for me: 1) open pile for yard material and 2) compost tumbler for kitchen scraps. This month we’ll cover the open pile method.

Composting Basics

Gardening books and Web sites explain composting’s biological process in varying detail. Basically, any material that came from the earth can decompose and go back into the earth. Microorganisms do the work by breaking down the material into humus (hyoo-muhs). Humus is dark organic material essential to soil fertility.

The methods explained in this article use four ingredients: heat, oxygen, green material, and brown material. Heat is from the sun. Oxygen is from mixing / turning the material. Green materials can

be from the kitchen (e.g. fruits, vegetables, coffee grounds, and tea bags) or the yard (e.g. flowers and grass clippings). Brown material is primarily from the yard, such as twigs, straw, and leaves. Don’t worry—exact classification of green or brown material isn’t required!

Method 1: Open Pile Yard Material

Step 1: Collect curbside yard waste bags that contain grass, leaves, small twigs, trimmings, etc. The bags don’t really contain waste. Instead, they contain a compost pile’s key ingredients. The bags are so valuable that I now call them “Bags of Gold.” Store the bags out of the rain to prevent sogginess.

Step 2: Find a spot of yard soil that gets full sun. If you plan to make a big pile, find a big spot. Some people construct a three-sided bin to contain the pile. You can make your own (plans can be found on the Web) or you can use discarded pallets. See Figure 1 for my jury-rigged setup. It’s ugly...but functional and free!

Step 3: In the chosen spot, dig a shallow crater and loosen the exposed soil. This is the “compost catalyst”.

Step 4: Make a mound of yard material. I don’t worry about the exact ratio of green and brown material since the bags produce some kind of mixture of



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after

materials. Avoid using an over-abundance of weeds in the pile. Shred the bag and put in the pile—it decomposes too!

Step 5: Some people turn the pile, others don't. Once a while, I use a pitchfork to turn the pile and bring some air into the mix. If there's been a lot of rain, I'll mix in dry leaves.

Step 6: There's no exact time when you get humus at the bottom of the pile. Lift a pitchfork-full of material near the edge. If you see dark brown flaky soil stuff, then you've got humus!

Step 7: Before using humus, consult a gardening book as some plants, such as purple coneflower, don't thrive in fertile-rich soil. When you do use, it spread it around plants and trees, mix it into the soil in the spring, and use it like mulch on bare soil.

Composting Pile (shown at right) >



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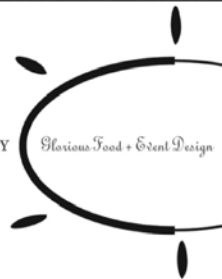
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