



Harold Avenue Greenspace Committee Forming

With the formal dedication of the Harold Avenue Greenspace on October 7, Lake Claire Neighbors voted to budget \$1,000 in 2007 for greenspace enhancements within the scope of the agreement signed with the City of Atlanta. A Greenspace committee is being formed to develop a native planting master plan for the half acre parcel and to begin implementing streetscape improvements along Harold Avenue over the winter months. If you are interested in working on this committee please contact Dan White, zoning@lakeclaire.org. An initial meeting is being planned for mid-December. Come help make the Harold Ave Greenspace a showcase for native woodland plants in the city.

(Pictures shown here from the Dedication)



Lean, Mean and GREEN

How about Lean, Mean and GRAY (as in "gray water")? Our water is disappearing. There's no denying it. This is life-altering. If you have not made changes in your water usage you just might not realize how serious this is. How do we cope in meaningful ways? Hopefully we are all learning new ways to make water work harder, longer and with less waste. Yet it is safe to say that we don't all have the same understanding of what "waste water" is or what we can do with it.

"Gray water" is used water. It is what goes down the drain, out to the sewer. While our waste water is of varying degrees of "yukiness" most is re-usable. First, understand what absolutely requires treated drinkable water. That would be cooking and drinking and perhaps some medical needs. Most other household uses can do fine with non-toilet gray water. You can water plants and gardens, wash the dog and the car, flush the toilets, mop floors, take baths, and even wash clothes. My gray water sources are the bathtub and two dehumidifiers in the basement. Saving water from those two sources produced so much water that I really had to work at using it up rather than just letting it go down the drain. Then it got me thinking about how much water I routinely let go that could be recycled.

Toilet flushing is easy to get around; all you do is pour a gallon or so of gray water into the bowl and it flushes. I have found that pouring from a bucket rather than a bottle works better. Laundry is a bit trickier so I use gray water to wash, rinse in clean water, and make sure that I run full loads. Automatic dish washing uses less water than hand washing so just make sure that full loads are run there as well. Plant watering requires no explanation. You can share a bath/shower, pass on the tub water, even rotate bathing with "bird baths". We can be saving LOTS of water with a little thought and preparation. Empty gallon jugs such as the ones apple juice come in, or empty Gatorade jugs with the handles are perfect. Also the square cat litter buckets are wonderful to scoop water out of the tub. Rain barrels are great for storage and can be set up for gravity feed to the garden hose if placed high enough relative to the yard.

Have you got any ideas to add? How creative can we get when it comes to hard-core water conservation? Let us know at editor@lakeclaire.org.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Lou the Emu who resides at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust says "Happy Thanksgiving." He'd love for you to walk over and visit, maybe after Thanksgiving dinner. We'll all need a nice gentle walk after that. Come enjoy the neighborhood and give thanks!



Cell Phone 9-1-1 Access Advisory

If you live in Atlanta-in-Dekalb and use your cell phone, your emergency 9-1-1 calls may not be immediately routed to the City of Atlanta's 9-1-1 call center. To ensure your safety, cell phone users in Atlanta-in-Dekalb are urged to dial (404) 658-6666 whenever a cell phone is used to contact a 9-1-1 operator.

Your cell phone access to "9-1-1" emergency services in Atlanta/Dekalb County is compromised by the interaction of technical and legal procedures that determine how cell phone calls are routed to 9-1-1 call centers by the cellular system. Council member Natalyn Archibong recently investigated the situation and mailed out a flier addressing this important issue and provided a list of 9-1-1 cell phone calling recommendations, reprinted here: Program the City of Atlanta (COA) emergency Services ten-digit number (alternate for 9-1-1) into your cell phone 404-658-6666. Use a name like 911-Atlanta or 911COA.

When calling Atlanta 9-1-1, please advise the dispatcher that you are a City of Atlanta resident in DeKalb County if this is appropriate for your address.

Speak as clearly as possible and give the dispatcher the basic information regarding your request as to who, what, when and where the incident is occurring or has occurred.

For responding Emergency Personnel to an emergency, readily identifiable, large community landmarks can be as important or more valuable than just the address of where the incident has occurred or is occurring. Become acquainted with your neighborhood so as to relay descriptive information to the dispatcher (for example: next to the green house with the brick mailbox on Glenwood Avenue). Address recollec-

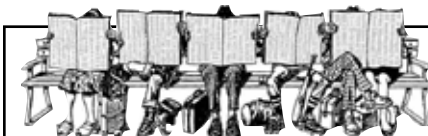
tion in an emergency may be difficult and responding Emergency Personnel can more readily identify sizeable structures, features, characteristics and/or landmarks as compared to finding and identifying residential address numbers.

For alarm system users: Ensure that your alarm system profile includes the correct 9-1-1 Center direct dial number, (404) 658-6666, as well as the proper phone numbers for the Police and Fire Departments who are charged with responding to your address.

For Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) Users: Ensure that your VOIP profile includes the correct 9-1-1 Center direct dial number, (404) 658-6666, as well as the proper phone numbers for the proper responding Police and Fire Departments.

If there is a problem or a question call the 9-1-1 Center supervisor line at (404) 817-2382.

Many thanks again, Natalyn.



What's Inside?

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Lake Claire Neighbors General Meeting

Thursday, November 15, 2007
Social Time 6:30-7:00 PM (refreshments); meeting at 7:00 PM, The Frazer Center Atrium

GUEST SPEAKERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Welcome to new residents and first time attendees.
- Welcome guest speakers, APD officer if present.

OFFICERS REPORTS

- Public Safety report
- Treasurer's report

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CURRENT ISSUES

VOLUNTEER & LCNA MEMBER REPORTS

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

VOTING ITEMS/LAND USE

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

Your Community Needs You!

DeKalb Rape Crisis Center is looking for dedicated volunteers to staff our 24-hour crisis line and serve as hospital companions for rape survivors. We also are looking for volunteers to be part of the Speaker's Bureau and serve on our Special Events Committees. Please contact Allison White, Director of Volunteer Services at 404-377-1429 or by email at Allison@dekalbrapecrisiscenter.org for more information and to request an application. You can also download an application from the website, www.dekalbrapecrisiscenter.org

Calling Volunteers!

VOLUNTEER needed to assist Clarion Distribution

A Note from Clarion Distribution Coordinator Troy Nielsen

Newsletter distribution needs help! To get the newsletter delivered earlier in the month, we need three volunteers.

Co-Distributor: I drop off 25 newsletter bundles to "house-by-house" distributors. They deliver the newsletters, house-by-house, to the approx. 1,200 Lake Claire households. A co-distributor would take some pre-counted bundles and drop them off at the distributor's house. I specifically need help in the Tuxedo/Palifax and/or Southerland area.

House-By-House Distributor: Shelia Swan, a dedicated distributor alumnus, moved to Colorado for several months. Her route covers Marlbrook (starting at Harold Ave.), Ridgewood, and Almeta. The route covers 68 households and could be done in about 60 minutes. I'd deliver the pre-counted newsletter bundle to your house so you could deliver them to each house.

House-By-House Distributor: Vickie Rafferty, another dedicated distributor alumnus, has moved from Lake Claire. Her route is 47 houses all on Palifax. Her route could be done in about 45 minutes. I'd deliver the pre-counted newsletter bundle to your house so you could deliver them to each house.

It's easy! If interested, please contact me soon at distribution@lakeclaire.org.

LC Security Report

September, early October 2007 crime stats (Weeks 37-41 2007) for Lake Claire and closely surrounding areas

Special Note: Some of our residents may remember a crime report regarding a jogger in Candler Park being raped in 2005. Willie Gene Humphries, a 46-year old homeless man who had been living in the park at the time, was recently convicted of the crime and sentenced to life in prison. Willie Humphries had been convicted of sexual assault prior to this incident.

Keep an eye on the Crime and the Time.

Date -- Time -- Block Address -- Description

Auto Theft

Friday - 9/14 -- midday -- 600 block Clifton Rd -- Nissan stolen from street. Keys had been left in vehicle while driver entered home briefly. Victim saw suspect drive away with the vehicle. Suspect description: black male, 6' 0".

Auto Theft Recovery

Thursday - 8/13 -- 2000 Dekalb Ave -- Abandoned Chevy recovered. It had been stolen from Atlanta; the keys were in the ignition. Prints were attempted.

Burglary

Saturday - 9/8 -- midday -- 500 block Harold Ave -- Screen removed from second story bathroom window and apparent en-

try made. Screen was replaced when suspect left. Cash, credit card, jewelry, and computer stolen. Prints were attempted.

Friday - 9/21 -- morning -- 300 block Clifton Rd -- Side window of house pried open with a shovel, entry made. Watch and camera taken. Prints were attempted.

Larceny from Auto

Saturday - 9/8 -- overnight -- 400 block Harold Ave -- Passenger side window of VW smashed, stereo, portable tv stolen.

Larceny - Other

Monday - 9/17 -- daytime -- 1600 Dekalb Ave -- Landscaping trailer stolen from business parking lot. Parking lot unsecured at the time.

9/7-9/14 -- 500 Hardendorf Ave -- Camera reported missing from residence.

Monday - 9/17 -- 6:30 p.m. -- 500 Harold Ave -- Bamboo trees removed from back yard of victim's residence.

Special Note-Identification of Suspects: All descriptions of suspects as reported by the police to us are 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

Holiday Celebration in the Neighborhood

Lake Claire Invites YOU to our Annual Holiday Party -- Thursday, December 13 -- in lieu of the regular December LCN business meeting. The Frazer Center Atrium, 6:30 pm.

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"I have the best real estate agent."
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–The Locascios (2007)

“As two architects we debated hiring a realtor because our business is selling people on our designs.
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We still question if she sleeps.”
–The Baxters (2007)



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We're in the neighborhood!

If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then give him only two of them. -Phil Pastoret



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Next LCN Meeting

Thursday November 15

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.lake-claire.org.

Infant cold medications pulled amid safety concerns

By Associated Press

Published on: 10/11/07

Drug makers voluntarily pulled kids' cold medicines off the market less than two weeks after the government warned of potential health risks to infants.

Products aimed at children under the age of two are being removed from store shelves due to "rare instances of misuse" that could lead to accidental overdose, a trade group that represents over-the-counter drug makers said. Cold medicines being withdrawn include: Johnson & Johnson Pediacare Infant Drops and Tylenol Concentrated Infants Drops, Wyeth's Dimetapp Decongestant Infant Drops, Novartis' Triaminic Infant & Toddler Thin Strips and Prestige Brands Holdings' Little Colds Decongestant Plus Cough.

CVS Caremark Corp. said it would remove the affected products as well as CVS-brand equivalents from store shelves.

Late last month the Food and Drug Administration tentatively recommended adding labeling to the medicines indicating they are not to be used in young children. Current labeling directs parents to consult a doctor before administering the drugs to infants and toddlers and many doctors say they are safe to use.

FDA will formally consider revising labeling at a meeting scheduled for Oct. 18-19.

After reviewing reports of side

Lake Claire Officers for 2007

President: Kathy Evans - president@lakeclaire.org
 VP-Zoning: Dan White - zoning@lakeclaire.org
 VP-Finance: Diane Moore - treasurer@lakeclaire.org
 VP-Environment: Jonathan Lewis - environment@lakeclaire.org
 VP-Safety: Dan Wright - safety@lakeclaire.org
 VP-Communications - Glenn Frankel - comm@lakeclaire.org
 NPU Rep: **VACANT** - npu@lakeclaire.org

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 Advertising: Emily Veazey - newsletter@lakeclaire.org
 Layout: Tish Ganey - layout@lakeclaire.org
 Distribution: Troy Nielsen - distribution@lakeclaire.org
 Webmaster: Glenn Frankel - comm@lakeclaire.org

effects over the last four decades, FDA found 54 child fatalities from over-the-counter decongestant medicines. The agency found 69 reports of children's deaths connected with antihistamines, which are used to treat runny noses.

Editor's Note: Please, always check with your physician or pharmacist before giving any over-the-counter medications to your infant/toddler.

How Much Tub Time Is Enough?

Would your pup prefer to get away with fewer scrub-downs? According to DogAge, with regular brushing and combing, most dogs are happy with only an occasional shampoo. Even long-haired dogs can go 2 months or so without a bath. But if your sensitivity is the issue, a bath every 2 or 3 weeks is fine, as long as you use a shampoo that won't irritate your pet's thin skin or dry his coat. Rinse several times to be sure there's no soap left behind.

Be sure to keep checking AARF's website www.aarf.org for the next Scrub-a-Dub Doggie event, where you can get your pet clean while helping animals!

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

Announcing LC's own Pet Photo Contest

Here's your chance to let your pet grab the spotlight. Send us your photo(s), no more than 5 per household, please. We will print the top 3, more if room permits. The deadline is December 20th. Winners will be printed in the January edition of the Clarion. Email your photos to editor@lakeclaire.org. Good luck! 🐾

Mark Your calendars!

November 6 – Tuesday – ELECTION DAY.

November 10 – Saturday - Third Annual Atlanta Lung Cancer Awareness Run & Walk at Perimeter Place in Dunwoody, Georgia. For more information, please visit us at www.atlantallungcancerun.org or call 404-577-4212 and see the article below.

November 10 – Saturday - Mary Lin Artist's Market: Come spend a fun afternoon shopping and supporting Mary Lin! Artists can rent booths at the Market for only \$75. For more information, contact Liz Sullivan at 404-658-1561 or j4liz@aol.com
November 10 - Saturday - Reuse if You Can, Recycle if You Can't; from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Morningside Baptist

Church, you will have the opportunity to recycle: computer monitors/CPUs, cameras, laptops/keyboards, VCRs & camcorders, stereos & CD players, projectors, cell phones, disk drives, copiers, CB radios, toaster ovens, radios, printers/FAX, video machines, circuit boards, cables, typewriters, CD ROMs. These items will be reclaimed for reuse or disposed of properly to keep hazardous waste in electronics out of our landfills. Info: http://www.patgardner.org/documents/recycling_2007_1110.pdf

November 11 – Monday – VETERANS DAY

November 12 - Monday - Lake Claire Garden Club meeting; 7 pm Location TBA. For more information call (404) 377-2288 or email editor@lakeclaire.org.

November 17 - Saturday – Paideia School: 25th Anniversary of Art Visions. Artist market opens 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, November 18, 12noon - 5 p.m. Info at www.paideiaschool.org.



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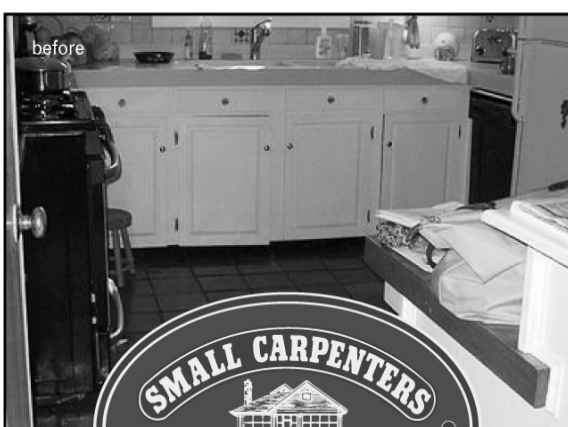
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Presenting our Fall Concert! Join us at the North Decatur Presbyterian Church **Saturday, November 17 at 7:30 P.M.** We are a diverse community orchestra dedicated to making classical music accessible. Brahms! Mendelssohn! Mozart! Dvorak!

Tickets are just \$20.00.

Visit www.atlantaphilharmonic.org for more information or email us at info@atlantaphilharmonic.org.



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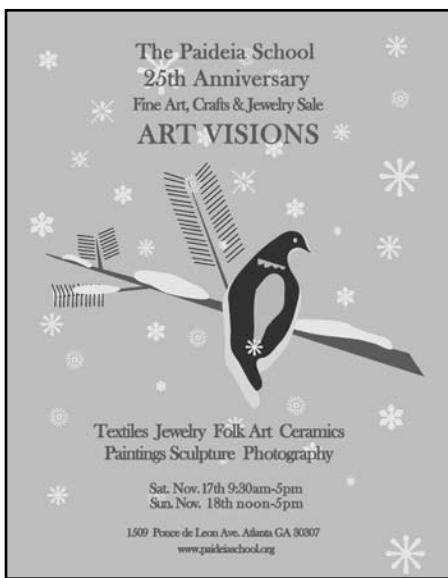
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Paideia School celebrates its 25th Anniversary of ART VISIONS

The artist market opens to the public Saturday, November 17, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, November 18, 12noon - 5 p.m. The sale is housed in the school's

theater lobby at 1509 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, and will feature more than 6,000 unusual artistic gifts such as paintings, sculpture, photography, ceramics, textiles, jewelry and folk art by some of Georgia's finest artisans.

In anticipation of the 25th Anniversary of ART VISIONS, show organizers have spent the last year searching art shows statewide to find new artists to add to their repertoire, ranging from serious to eclectic. There will be something original for every taste and budget, with prices ranging from \$5 to \$500. With at least 30 new artists participating this year, the show promises to have something for everyone.

"Art Visions is recognized as one of the best local arts and craft fairs in the Southeast," said Betsy Schwalbach, the event's co-chair. "The show has become a tradition for hundreds of Atlantans who come each year to sip a cup of warm cider and enjoy

the art of giving, as they browse for that something special for everyone on their holiday shopping list," added Schwalbach.

The Paideia School is located at 1509 Ponce de Leon Avenue, between Oakdale and Fairview Roads in the Historic Druid Hills neighborhood near Emory University. Admission and parking are free! For more information and directions, please visit www.paideiaschool.org.

Inman Park Cooperative Preschool - 23rd Annual Holiday Sale and Auction

Inman Park Cooperative Preschool, Georgia's oldest cooperative preschool, invites friends, neighbors and alumni from all across Atlanta to get a head start on holiday shopping at its annual Holiday Sale and Auction, Sunday, November 18, 2007 from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Inman Park Trolley Barn, 963 Edge-

wood Avenue.

With a theme of "Growing Up Green," our goal this year is to raise \$50,000 for our neighborhood preschool. Proceeds will be directed toward efforts to transform the preschool into a more environmentally-friendly place of learning. With an award-winning Outdoor Classroom, IPCP is able to incorporate nature into the students' daily curriculum, producing life long earth stewards.

This year's auction features live music, a café serving dinner, snacks and dessert, and a "bar" with beverages courtesy of Twain's and The Brick Store Pub. Hundreds of Atlanta's most eclectic goods and services will be auctioned off.

Admission is FREE. We accept cash, checks or credit cards for all purchases.

For information, contact Anne Henn (404) 681-4366 or achenn@bellsouth.net, or go to IPCP's website at www.ipcp.org.

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Hours of Operation:
 Nights, Weekends and All Holidays
 Monday-Friday: 7:00pm to 7:00 am
 Saturday 3:00pm to Monday morning at 7:00am
info@decaturanimalER.com

The initial opening will be at AECD's temporary location where it will share space with The Vets at 308 E. Howard Ave. (across from The Depeaux restaurant). AECD will move to its location in downtown Decatur in early Summer 2008. Check our website for more details.

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Mark Your Calendars

(Continued from page 3)

November 18 - Sunday - The Paideia School: 25th Anniversary of Art Visions. The artist market opens to the public 12noon - 5 p.m.

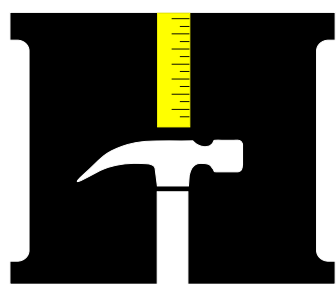
November 18 - Sunday - Inman Park Cooperative Preschool's annual Holiday Sale and Auction, from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Inman Park Trolley Barn, 963 Edgewood Avenue. For further information, contact Anne Henn at (404) 681-4366 or achenh@bellsouth.net, or see the Preschool's website at www.ipcp.org.

November 22 - Thursday - THANKSGIVING DAY

December 6 - Thursday - Mary Lin Elementary School Tour for prospective Kindergarten parents; 9:30 am - 10:30 am. See Article. For more information contact Laura Lancaster Archer at (404) 524-9564 or archer@mindspring.com.

December 13 - Thursday - LCN Holiday Party at the Frazer Center Atrium, 6:30 pm.

December 20 - Thursday - DEADLINE for the First Ever Lake Claire Pet Photo Contest! Send entries to editor@lake-claire.org. Limit 5 entries per household.



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Bulletin Boards:

Are there groups in Lake Claire that would be interested in having their own "Bulletin Board"? If so, contact editor@lakeclaire.org.

Bulletin Board:**Lake Claire Community Land Trust**

Stay tuned for what's happening with the Amata land purchase! The Lake Claire Community Land Trust is a place and an opportunity for neighbors and friends to cultivate community and to celebrate nature and each other. We are open from dawn to dusk and are closed after dark except for scheduled events. We are a pedestrian community and we wish to keep it that way. Please walk, bike or levitate. If you come by car, drive slowly, be quiet and park responsibly. Land Trust email: info@lclt.org. Land Trust Web Page: www.lclt.org.

Bulletin Board:**Mary Lin Elementary School****From the Principal's desk . . .**

Mary Lin is off to a fantastic start to the 2007-2008 school year. We have 499 students, not including our one Pre-K class of 20 students. Our demographic information is as follows: 67% Caucasian, 23% African American, and 10% combined multiracial, Asian, and Hispanic. Our overall teacher to student ratio is 1:18, and all of our grade levels have less than 20 students per class, except fifth grade. Our three fifth grade classes average 23 students. Our school-wide free and reduced lunch rate is less than 20%.

The 2006-2007 CRCT results show that 93% of our third through fifth grade students met or exceeded expectations in Mathematics. Of the 93%, 52% of the students exceeded expectations.

Our Reading/Language Arts scores show that 94% of our third through fifth grade students met or exceeded expectations. Of the 94%, 45% of the students exceeded expectations on the Reading/Language Arts section of the CRCT.

Along with a strong academic program, Mary Lin will continue to focus on developing the social skills necessary for our students to be deemed successful and well-rounded. Mary Lin is in the implementation phase of one of the several components of the Penny Harvest. The Penny Harvest is an excellent opportunity for the Mary Lin teachers, students, and parents to think about and take action in areas that need attention in our community. The students will be engaged in discussions that foster generosity, responsibility, and moral character. The Penny Harvest activities are also aligned with instruction, specifically in civics and mathematics.

In essence, the Penny Harvest is a way for the students to respond to community needs through first-hand donation of funds, goods, or services. Our next tour of Mary Lin will be on December 6th at 9:30. We hope to see you there!

Brian D. Mitchell, Principal

Prospective Kindergarten Parents Invited to a Tour

Thursday, December 6th 9:30-10:30am

Do you have a child who will be attending Kindergarten at Mary Lin Elementary School in the 2008-09 school year? If so, we'd love to have you come meet with us in the Mary Lin Auditorium for an introduction to our school. Our Principal, Mr. Brian Mitchell, will give a brief presentation about Mary Lin, with time for Q & A. This will be followed by a tour of the school building and grounds. (continued on page 7)

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Sunday Worship: 11 am

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Since this is a regularly scheduled school day, we ask that you not bring your child on the tour, so as not to disrupt the instruction of our Mary Lin students. (However, we will be having a special morning, just for your rising Kindergartner, in the Spring...)

Can't make this tour?

We'll be holding tours every month! The next tours are scheduled for: Thursday, January 10th - 9:30 am Thursday, February 7th - 9:30 am We look forward to seeing you at Mary Lin Elementary!

Questions? Contact Laura Lancaster Archer (a Mary Lin parent) archer@mindspring.com or 404-524-4564

The Conscientious Gardener

By Gay Arneri

No sooner did I submit last month's article than I noticed that the shrub I thought was dead (due to the drought) had indeed begun to sprout tiny wilted leaves. I was stunned. It had looked deader than a doornail. And I was planning to whack it with the chain saw at my next opportunity. That was a close one. I suppose we will be learning what plants will do through the drought over time. As I write I hear on the news that we may soon get state-wide watering restrictions. If this pans out, it would be worth sharing water-saving ideas. For starters, a neighbor of mine recently told me she uses the water from her dehumidifier to water her potted plants. That sounded brilliant to me. I have two units running constantly in my basement and combined they collect quite a bit of water that usually goes down the drain. Hopefully this will be enough collected to water the more delicate plants in the yard as well. I could empty the dehumidifiers into my rain barrel which is located high enough above the yard to water via gravity-fed hose. This could work!

Now, what plants are surviving this extreme summer? If you take a look around you will probably notice that far more perennials than annuals came through in decent shape. Among the hardiest of the perennials seem to be coreopsis, coneflower, butterfly bush, and mums. I have several mums that come out around this time with spectacular color. They are not disappointing me though the taller varieties seem to be stringy. Among the annuals that did well are zinnias and annual vinca.

Winston Churchill said, "You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give."

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries Celebrates Success

And what a party it was! Members of the LCNA Board and staff were on hand to help celebrate successes achieved by the men who pass through the Clifton Sanctuary Ministry and reach their goal of self-sufficiency and independence. These goals were hard-won and the celebration reflected that. Most of us drive by this quiet island in Lake Claire daily. We know they are there, somewhere. But what happens there? Lives happen – they are reclaimed, nourished, jump-

started. Successes in the form of graduation to self-sufficiency were celebrated in a spirited fashion. Faith, perseverance and focus were the themes of the evening. Beverly "Guitar" Watkins provided soulful foot-stomping musical celebration to the special event.

The mural inside the dining area at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries states, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for by so doing, some have entertained angels unawares."



To volunteer or make a donation, contact Susan Casey at clifton-sanctuary@lakeclaire.org.

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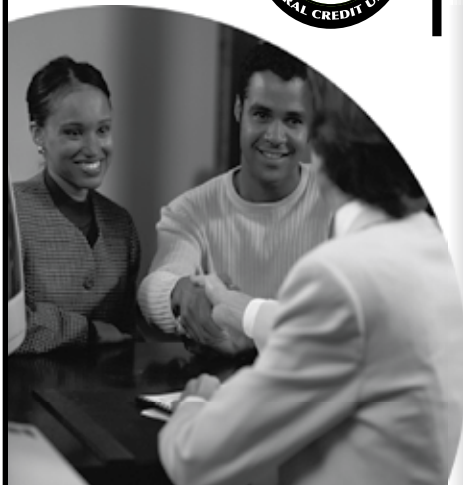
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Biodiesel Kiosk Operational on Arizona Avenue!

By Troy Nielsen

Earlier this year, the Clarion ran an article on local biodiesel leader Rob Del Bueno. I ran into Rob at Aurora Coffeehouse in Little Five Points recently and got this update. Starting in early October, the 24-hour biodiesel kiosk has been operational on Arizona Ave. In case you're scratching your head thinking "Arizona Avenue?", it's the part of Arizona Avenue by LaFrance Street near the soccer fields. The kiosk has a larger banner reading (aptly enough) "biodiesel."



Freedom Park Native Plant Update

By Carol Vanderschaaf

It's been a long, hot summer at the Freedom Park Bird and Butterfly Garden. We've planted only native plants but, in this drought, even they, young as they are, still need water. We couldn't have kept things going water wise without the generous help of Jim Satcher, neighbor to the garden, who's let us use his spigot in these arid times.

Most of our plants have made it through. Many, such as the Arrowwood, American Beautyberry and Viburnum have berries on them now. The Golden Fleece Goldenrod is blooming. The Joe Pye Weed, Purple Coneflowers and Black eyed Susans are running their course with lots of seeds available. Thanks to Dorothy Dabbs and Martha Treadwell, Atlanta Audubon members, who helped to keep the garden watered and weeded. We did lose our Swamp Azalea and our Cardinal Flowers to the drought, but all in all, the garden did pretty well under the circumstances.

In October we will be doing more planting. Phil Edwards, President of the DeKalb Master Gardener Association, has lots of plants ready to go into the ground. As of this writing we are waiting for approval from the City of Atlanta Parks Department to expand the garden to the next driveway. If we don't get that approval we will use the plants to fill in the present garden. We hope to have Mary Lin Elementary students involved in planting again, as well as volunteers from Hands on Atlanta.

Fall is a great time to plant native plants. One of the best places to get native plants is at the Georgia Perimeter College Botanical Garden at 3251 Panthersville Rd., in Decatur, 678-891-2668.

We can still use more volunteers at the garden, especially in the later fall. Please contact Carol Vanderschaaf at carovan@mindspring.com, or phone 404-373-0295.


One Step at a Time?

About two years ago, residents from Candler Park and Lake Claire, along with PEDS representatives engaged in a process to evaluate safer walking routes to Mary Lin Elementary. While they discussed many long-term options, they unanimously identified one "immediate" step that would greatly improve safety: add crosswalks with "stop for pedestrians" signs at dangerous crossings on Clifton Road. They formally presented the request to the City, highlighting its importance because most of the many school children who walk to Mary Lin from Lake Claire must cross at these intersections. The crossings are especially dangerous because commuter traffic rarely stops for pedestrians and at several crossings visibility is limited.

After many months, crosswalks were painted onto the road, but in-crosswalk signage was not installed. Then last May, Clifton Rd. resident Davy Smith took up the cause of traffic safety on Clifton and again began contacting the City. Lake Claire Neighbors, Inc. and numerous residents followed up with calls and letters to Mr. Lorn Whitaker, the Director of Public Works, in early October, requesting five "stop in crosswalk" signs for each intersection between McLendon and Ponce. In mid-October, we were stumped when only 3 of the 5 signs appeared, but we're very pleased that we have 3! Now we're hoping for the remaining two signs and more improvements for the safety of pedestrians.

In the meantime, please be mindful of walkers, especially if you're driving between 7:30 and 8:00 am when lots of kids are walking to school.






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