



*Mr Robert Copeland aged 93 is seated beside FDR. Mr Copeland's father built the barbecue grill at Dowdell's Knob and Mr Copeland worked for FDR on the Roosevelt farm in Pine Mountain.*

## Sitting with a President

By Dan White

Seventy miles southwest of Atlanta along the top of the Pine Mountain ridge, a newly installed life size statue of Franklin Delano Roosevelt occupies a special location at Dowdell's Knob overlooking Pine Mountain Valley. It was at this spot that FDR would socialize with friends and contemplate the many challenges that faced the country and the world from the period 1932-1944. It was at this spot that the ideas for many of his New Deal programs were conceived. It was at this spot that Roosevelt sat alone for two hours, two days before he suffered a massive stroke on April 12, 1944, at his Little White House in Warm Springs and died.

Commissioned by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and paid for with private donations, this life size bronze created by Atlanta sculptor Martin Dawe, depicts FDR sitting on the car seat that the Secret Service would remove from the back seat of the Ford Roadster that FDR drove while visiting rural Georgia. Based on historic photos of FDR taken at the Knob, the statue is unique in that it shows the President wearing leg braces on the outside of his pants (braces were usually concealed from public view).

FDR was very comfortable in Warm Springs and environs where his neighbors and friends attached no stigma to the polio he suffered from. Indeed, through Roosevelt's efforts Warm Springs became synonymous with polio therapy and the Warm Springs Institute continues to treat polio victims and others with physical impairments to

*(Sitting with a President Continued on Page 11)*

## Atlanta Continues Ban on Outdoor Watering

The Department of Watershed Management (DWM) announced that Atlanta will continue its current ban on outdoor watering.

"We are still in a Level 4 drought. It would be irresponsible for us to relax our outdoor watering restrictions," Mayor Shirley Franklin said. "We still are under an obligation to cut our use 10 percent. We can't allow outdoor watering and meet that goal." A 30-day exemption for new landscaping is still in place, but the City will not continue to exempt watering for lawn overseeding and aeration. Pools are exempt from the restrictions, effective immediately. "Atlanta gets very, very hot during the summer, and we want children and families to have access to pools," said Mayor Franklin. During a news conference, where she joined DWM Commissioner Rob Hunter, Mayor Franklin said: "Lake Lanier levels have dropped significantly over the past three years. On February 17, 2006, the lake was 1.97 feet below full pool. A year later, it was 4.85 feet below full pool. On February 17, 2008, it was 18.32 feet below full pool."

"In other words, Lake Lanier is 13.5 feet below where it was at this time last year, and it is .2 feet lower than it was in November," Mayor Franklin continued. "We are still in a very serious drought. Atlanta is a city that leads by example and best practices. Conservation is a best practice."

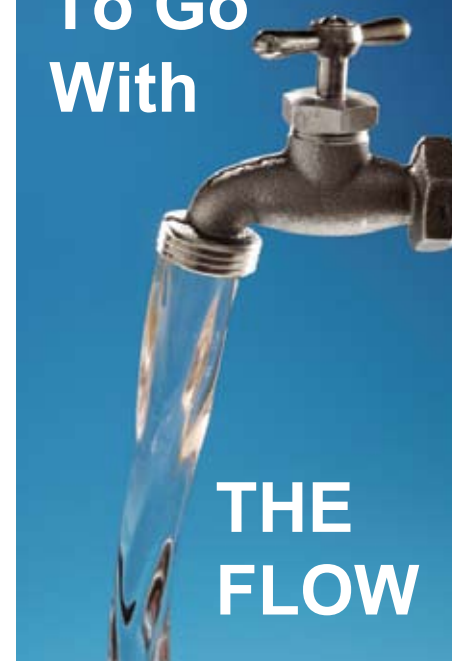
### Current Watering Restrictions (as of April 22, 2008):

No outdoor watering is allowed until further notice.

The following activities are exempted from the City of Atlanta's new watering restrictions:

Personal food gardens  
New landscaping installed by a certified or licensed landscaper. These newly installed landscapes may be watered any day of the week between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 10 a.m. for a period of 30 days following installation. You have one exemption per year / per property. There is no longer a 30-day exemption for lawn aeration & overseeding, or for planting sod in existing/established landscapes. A 30-day watering exemption for sod pertains only to new construction. Swimming pools may be filled

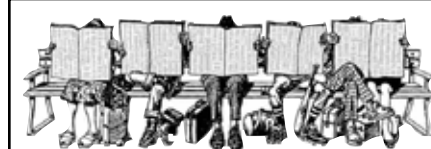
## When NOT To Go With



through an irrigation meter, domestic meter, well water or other alternate source. The City does not provide pool filling services during the drought. Pool filling is subject to change due to drought conditions.

Certain commercial outdoor water uses are exempt from watering restrictions.

Conservation tips are available at [www.atlantawatershed.org](http://www.atlantawatershed.org). The City's water usage figures are posted on [www.atlantawatershed.org](http://www.atlantawatershed.org) every weekday.



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THE CLARION IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.



## Changing Lives in Haiti; Coming Home to Lake Claire

By Katharine F. Lord

I am a second-year student in the Physician Assistant program at Emory University's School of Medicine. As part of my OB/GYN rotation I was invited to accompany an Atlanta physician and several members of his church to La Gonave, an island off Haiti's mainland on a week-long mission trip. My role would be to work in the clinic alongside Dr. Jims, as he is known in Haiti. Dr. Jims prepared me for a trip that would be rugged but rewarding. I left my home in Lake Claire headed for Haiti as one person and returned a better and renewed version of my same self.

There is no way to adequately describe or explain the expanse of what I saw and felt. Simply put, the Haitian people of La Gonave are open, affectionate, strong and impressive. They live in a state of poverty of which we cannot conceive. Their eyes are dark, beautiful and portrayed a sense of having really lived.

From a medical standpoint the hardest cases were the ones where there was nothing I could do. One little boy and his mother came to see me and his mom said that he complained of stomach aches. He would point to his stomach and say "Mom, push on it". I asked about diarrhea, fe-

ver, vomiting and all the usual associated symptoms one might have with a parasite, virus or bacteria. He had none of them. On physical exam I found nothing concerning or abnormal. I grabbed Dr. Jims from the next room and explained that I didn't know what was wrong with this little boy. He told me that what I was seeing was the result of hunger and malnutrition. This little boy was the first of many children I saw that week who had no identifiable illness. Rather, they suffered from chronic stomach aches secondary to poor diet and malnutrition. I was and am still unable to make sense of it. I gathered the group's supply of power bars and handed them out; clearly this was as much an attempt to make myself feel better as anything. And now when I go to Publix, The Candler Park Market and my own refrigerator, I see food is in abundance and even wasted. The discrepancy is marked and I still cannot bring the emotional impact in line with the intellectual reality, which is that there is no easy answer.

There was one young adult who showed up at the clinic. She was nauseous and hadn't had her period for several months. I asked her if she could be pregnant. She looked at me and then looked at her mother, who was with her, and said no. I politely asked the mother if I might speak with the girl alone. Once alone, the girl

admitted she could be pregnant. I ushered her into the adjoining exam room to be examined by Dr. Jims. Dr. Jims applied the ultrasound wand to her abdomen. She was roughly 3 months pregnant. Almost instantly the girl began crying and begging us not to tell her mother. She said that she was afraid of what her mother might do. In contrast to this girl who did not want to be pregnant, there were several women who wanted children and had not yet been able to conceive. Their pain was just as raw. I realized that race, class and location in the world do not delineate the issues surrounding reproduction. It occurred to me, in a simple yet profound way, that this type of pain is universal – a universal truth, if you will, that highlights the fact that there are more similarities between us than there are differences.

At the end of the week Dr. Jims and I left the clinic and walked down the hill to the main city on the island. We walked down the hill with a group of school kids on their way home. They were fascinated by us. They hadn't been walking alongside us for more than a few minutes when one of them grabbed me by the hand. The next thing I knew I had about three children holding each hand. They, in turn, held on to each other's hand. It was awkward to walk while trying to hold on to their little hands and the road, which was more like a dried up, rocky, river bed, forced me to pay attention to where I was stepping. And although I wasn't looking, every once in a while I would feel one little hand replaced by another. Without saying anything to me or to each other they took turns holding my hand, making sure each kid in the holding-hand-chain got a turn to hold my hand. I felt overwhelmed by the ease with which they accepted me and the warmth and affection they had for me and each other. I felt healed by their touch. I thought about how the children at home walk to school; maybe in a group but certainly not holding hands, not singing together and not warmly embracing the encountered stranger. It was a moment that I will never forget.

Haiti served as a reminder to

step back and reassess all that is comfortable and all that is taken for granted. I gained more than I gave, am humbled by the strength of their spirits and their generosity. Yet it was their sense of community that was the most striking and about which I think the most. I now feel isolated when I drive alone in my car going to and from work. I am grateful though, that when I do get home, I have my community of Lake Claire neighbors, who I know will be there to greet me. 🌿

## Last Chance-LCs Water Conservation Contest!

We are recycling our water conservation contest. Let's see who is tops in conserving water. We will need a copy of your water bill plus the number of residents in your household. The household with the lowest per capita usage wins! Isn't that simple. Any 2008 water bill will do. You may email, mail, or drop-off your documentation and entry to editor@lakeclaire.org, or 431 Harold Ave. NE. Deadline for submission is May 15, 2008. Back by popular demand will be a lovely Lake Claire Banner for the winning household.

Of interest in the realm of water conservation is Stacy Shelton's recent article in the *AJC*. Conserving isn't so hard, and many made the effort. But Lake Lanier is rising. Will lessons of last year last? By Stacy Shelton, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Published on: 04/06/08.

Check it out at [www.acj.com](http://www.acj.com)

## The Green Life

[Green.Life@sierraclub.org](mailto:Green.Life@sierraclub.org)

Escape to the movies with one of our "Film Fridays" selections. Each week we'll feature a movie with environmentally or socially responsible themes currently in theaters or available on DVD. Seen a good eco-flick lately? Send us a review of 100 words or fewer and look for your review in the next Movie Friday!

## Garbage Warrior

Open Eye Media UK, ITVS International & Sundance Channel  
<http://garbagewarrior.com/>

Rebel architect Michael Reynolds has a different way of seeing beer cans. In a passionate quest to promote off-the-grid self-reliance, he travels the globe building shelters from discarded and recycled materials. In "Garbage Warrior," which made its U.S. debut earlier this month, director Oliver Hodge follows along as Reynolds constructs homes for survivors of Hurricane Katrina and the tsunami in India--while battling zoning and housing laws in his native New Mexico. All in all, a fascinating and inspiring movie.



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## Next LCN Meeting

**Thursday, May 15**

Lake Claire Neighbors meets every third Thursday. Social hour at 6:30 pm, meeting at 7 pm. Past months' newsletters and updates to agenda can be found at [www.lakeclaire.org](http://www.lakeclaire.org). Everyone is welcome!

## Lake Claire Safety Report

*Reported by VP-Public Safety, Sheila Vinciguerra*

March – April 2008 Crime Statistics (Weeks 12-14)  
**KEEP AN EYE ON THE CRIME AND THE TIME!**

### Residential Burglary (home break-ins)

**Sunday - 3/30** - evening - 400 block Clifton Rd

Front door forced open.

Victim reports returning home to discover the front door forced open and property missing. Witness observed 2 B/M running from the location and fled in a dark blue 4dr older model Buick with chipped paint on the hood.

Taken: Laptop

Suspect Vehicle: Dark blue 1980s Buick, 4dr, with chipped paint on the hood

Prints recovered from door way and turned into APD ID

**Monday - 3/31** - daytime - 1700

## Lake Claire Officers for 2008

President: Diane Moore - [president@lakeclaire.org](mailto:president@lakeclaire.org)

VP-Zoning: Dan White - [zoning@lakeclaire.org](mailto:zoning@lakeclaire.org)

VP-Finance: Cara Stevens - [treasurer@lakeclaire.org](mailto:treasurer@lakeclaire.org)

VP-Environment: Kathy Evans - [environment@lakeclaire.org](mailto:environment@lakeclaire.org)

VP-Safety: Sheila Finciguerra - [safety@lakeclaire.org](mailto:safety@lakeclaire.org)

VP-Communications - Glenn Frankel -

[comm@lakeclaire.org](mailto:comm@lakeclaire.org)

NPU Rep: Jennifer Sams - [npu@lakeclaire.org](mailto:npu@lakeclaire.org)

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Distribution: Troy Nielsen - [distribution@lakeclaire.org](mailto:distribution@lakeclaire.org)

Webmaster: Glenn Frankel - [comm@lakeclaire.org](mailto:comm@lakeclaire.org)

block Dekalb Ave.

Apartment

No forced entry

Officer responded to an alarm call. Officer made contact with victim. Victim stated she locked all doors and windows that morning, the Alarm activation pad was ripped off the wall, and property was taken. Taken: Laptop Prints Attempted

**Wednesday - 4/2** - daytime - 2000 block McLendon Ave

Residence

Rear door pried open

Officer responded to an alarm call. When he arrived he found that someone had pried open the back door. The home was searched but no one was located inside. The victim was on scene and stated that property had been taken.

Taken: Sony LCD 32" TV

Prints attempted

**Larceny from Automobiles**

(car break-ins)

**Tuesday - 3/18** - early morning - 1200 block McLendon

Residence

Victim states someone smashed the front passenger side window on the victim's vehicle and removed property.

Taken: In dash pioneer Stereo

Prints attempted

**Saturday evening - 3/22** - Sunday morning - 3/23 - 1500 block Iverson St

2008 Ford Taurus

Victim states someone smashed

the front passenger window on his employer's vehicle and removed property.

Taken: Cell

phone charger,

\$5 in change

Prints recovered,

turned in

to ID

**Commercial Burglary** (business break-ins)

**Sunday - 3/30** - early morning -

1600 block McLendon Ave

Restaurant/ Flying Biscuit

Rear window broken

Victim reports that someone broke a rear window to gain entry and remove property. Alarm was not activated at the time of incident.

Taken: AC Unit, Bottles of Wine

Prints attempted



No job too small.

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–The Locascios (2007)

“As two architects we debated hiring a realtor because our business is selling people on our designs. We were astonished by how much we actually needed Jo!  
**We still question if she sleeps.**”  
–The Baxters (2007)

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## \$5, Love and Affection: Fanny Gordon's Story

By Teri Stewart

January 1, 1876 – Transfer of Sutherland Estate from John to Fanny. John B. Gordon died in 1904. Fanny H. Gordon died in 1931, at the age of 93. She outlived her husband by 27 years. Granmaw is one of the last Gordon pecans. I thought she was John's... and in a way she was. But, most importantly, she was Fanny's.

According to authorities, Fanny H. Gordon was a courageous, outspoken, compassionate woman. One of the most remarkable women of her times, Fanny Haralson Gordon was called "a child of convictions, a woman of strength." Daughter of General Hugh Anderson Haralson and Caroline Matilda Lewis, Fanny was born in 1837 in La Grange, Georgia. General Haralson was elected to congress in 1841. Her family included Nisholas Mariether Lewis, associated with the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and Betty Washington, sister of George Washington.

Fanny met John B. Gordon in 1854. It was love at first sight. They were married on her seventeenth birthday. John was twenty-two. When the war broke out in 1861, Fanny accompanied her husband to the front and left her two young sons in the care of their grandmother Gordon. For the next four years, Fanny endured the hardships of Army life. The fighting men considered her one of their own. She nursed Gen. Gordon back to health after his almost mortal wounds and attended to the sick and wounded soldiers. She "closed the eyes of the dying and prayed over them". At the battle of Winchester, among exploding shells, she seized the flag and rallied the retreating troops.

John and Fannie remained deeply in love all their lives. After the war, the Gordons established the Sutherland Estate. Fanny became the First Lady of Georgia when her husband entered politics. Despite her reputation as a gracious hostess and the lavish lifestyle at their home on Dekalb Avenue, the Gordons experienced serious debt. Between 1875 and 1911 the estate was mortgaged and paid off a dozen times. In an effort to keep their estate, the Gordons, John and Fanny, would pass ownership back and forth to each other for "\$5, Love and Affection" (1875 and 1897).

Major General John B. Gordon died in 1904. In 1906, two years after his death, creditors gained possession of the Gordon's Sutherland Estate and it was publicly auctioned off at the Old Decatur Courthouse steps. Fanny Gordon was the highest bidder, having acquired the \$8,700



necessary to save it.

Fanny Gordon and the Sutherland Realty Company began selling the land for home sites in 1911. That same year, for the price of \$1.00, Southern Bell was given the right to install telephone lines and poles. Fanny

died in 1931 and by 1942, the old home had fallen into disrepair and was demolished.

*Special thanks to the staff of the Atlanta History Center and the Dekalb Historical Society.*

**See related story on Page 7 - Update on Granmaw Gordon.**

## Grady High School Going Green

REMINDER: Every third Saturday of the month, Grady High School, Keep Atlanta Beautiful and Midtown Neighbors' Association join together to bring electronics recycling to the neighborhood. Recycle your e waste in the parking lot at Grady High School on 8th Street. Bring your compact fluorescent light bulbs, alkaline batteries and your old electronic equipment (see below) to be recycled between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm the third Saturday of each month.

### Accepted E-Waste:

A/V Equipment, Cell Phones, Coaxial Cables, Computer Parts,

Computers, Copiers, Digital Cameras, DVD Players, Fax Machines, Ferrous & Non-Ferrous Metals, Household Batteries, Keyboards, Microwaves, Comp Peripherals, Monitors, MP3 Players, Pagers, Palm Pilots, Power Cables, Power Supplies, Printers, Projectors, Scanners, Server Cabinets, Speakers, Steel and Alloy Rims, Steel Scrap, Stereo Equip, Tele Equip, Telephone Systems, Toner Cartridges, TVs, Vacuums, VCRs, Video Game



Systems, Walkmans, Wire, Wireless Devices

### Not Accepted Items:

Car Batteries, Furniture, Light Fixtures, Household Appliances, Lamps, Smoke Detectors

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## Going Native

By Carol Vanderschaaf

Bee Balm is a native plant whose nectar attracts bees, butterflies and hummingbirds and whose seeds provide food for songbirds. It grows on road shoulders, in old fields, and thin woods as well as other disturbed areas. It can be found all over North America from Vermont to Minnesota and south to Florida, Eastern Texas and Mexico.

Its bright scarlet, white or purple flowers bloom from July to October. It likes full sun but can tolerate partial shade. It does well in most soils. It is drought tolerant but will flower more profusely if watered during dry periods. Bee Balm grows to about 36 to 48 inches and is 23 to 29 inches wide. It is easily grown from seeds and can also be propagated by dividing root clumps. All above-ground parts of the plant are edible.

Native Americans used the leaves of Bee Balm to make a tea to treat flu, colds and fever as well as a sweat inducer for ceremonial sweat lodges. The leaves smell like Greek oregano. Early explorer John Bartram called the plant "Oswego Tea" when he found settlers in Oswego, NY, using its leaves for tea. The leaves are still used in Earl Grey Tea. Oswego Tea was used exclusively by American colonists to replace English Tea after the Boston Tea Party.

A Bee Balm medicinal tea can be made by combining 1 teaspoon of the dried herb with one cup boiling water and seeping for 10 minutes. It should be taken at bedtime. (source: www.altnature.com)

The Freedom Park Bird and Butterfly Garden will include a species of Bee Balm known as Monarda "Jacob Cline".

Bee Balm, with its tousled blooms, can be a colorful as well as functional addition to any native wildlife habitat. 🌿

## Volunteers Needed!

DeKalb Rape Crisis Center is looking for dedicated volunteers to staff our 24-hour crisis line and serve as hospital companions for rape survivors. Our Summer 2008 Training begins on early June. We also are looking for RAINN Online Hotline volunteers, volunteers to be part of the Speakers Bureau, Outreach and Special Events Committees. Summer semester internships at the center are available and need to be filled! Applications can be found on our website at [www.dekalbrapecrisiscenter.org](http://www.dekalbrapecrisiscenter.org).

Please contact Allison White, Director of Volunteer Services, at 404-377-1429 or by email at [Allison@dekalbrapecrisiscenter.org](mailto:Allison@dekalbrapecrisiscenter.org) for more information.

## Pause for Pets. . .

This was sent in from a reader:

"I was wondering in a future issue if you could mention



dog owners picking up their dog's poop while walking through the neighborhood.

It is courteous to do this plus it is a law in the City of Atlanta (newcomers might not be aware of this). The bagged doggy poop should also not be placed in someone's yard waste bags as people walk their dogs. The poop should be disposed of in the regular garbage to be picked up."

**Also sent in from another reader:**

"Leash Law Reminder: Atlanta is known as a "Dog-Friendly" city for residents and travelers alike. Lake Claire contributes to the "Dog Friendly" moniker with many residents owning dogs. And as any dog owner knows, daily jaunts with their furry friends are essential for good health.

Dog owners should remember that there are leash laws to protect dogs and people from undue harm. When off a leash, even the tamest dog is vulnerable to inattentive drivers. Also, unleashed dogs can chase squirrels, rabbits, cats, etc. In its excited state, a dog may not realize how far it has strayed "off the path", causing owners to worry about its whereabouts.

Piedmont Park and Mason Hill Dog Park (1400 McConnell Drive, Decatur) are two local off-leash dog parks where your pooch can run free! Let's keep our dogs safe and happy by leashing them!" 🐾

## New Elementary School To Open in 2009

Atlanta Public School System

By Mary Jo Bryan

Do you have a child who will be starting school in the next few years? Then you will want to be in on the discussion about the new elementary school that the Atlanta Public School System is opening in August 2009. The school is on Ponce de Leon between Briarcliff and Springdale, at the site of the old Howard School, and is currently housing the kindergarten program of Morningside Elementary. The process for developing the attendance zone for the new school is underway and it is likely that the new school zone will include at least some of the current Mary Lin school district, even though the school was originally planned to relieve overcrowding at Morningside. APS will be developing a draft attendance zone and will

seek community input before finalizing. As information becomes available, it will be posted on the Mary Lin website, [www.marylinelementary.com](http://www.marylinelementary.com), and will also be distributed to neighborhood groups, including this newsletter and the Lake Claire Parents Group, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lakeclaireparents>. 🌿



## Trash Talk Be a Good Neighbor . . .

We have received requests from Lake Clairians to include these friendly reminders for how to be a good neighbor:

1. Please be careful to place all trash collected in the city-provided Herby Curby. As in many urban areas, we must be very careful not to exacerbate a problem with rats and any free flowing trash is an open invitation.
2. Please don't leave the Herby Curby on the curb side all week long. It's just not very pretty to watch.
3. Our houses have little space between them. Please be considerate of your neighbors by keeping trash bins away from the yards and windows of your neighbors.
4. If you have yard waste on the curb, please put it in front of your own house, not your neighbors'!

## going once... going twice... get going to the Oakhurst Cooperative Preschool Arts Auction Jubilee

The Solarium in Oakhurst Village  
May 18, 2008, 3 p.m. — 6 p.m.

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Unique family-friendly event •
- Live blue-grass music by Roxy Watson •
- Children's art show and family activities •
- Silent auction of art, gift certificates, vacation rentals and more •

Admission is free! Register early and view auction items at [www.oakhurstcoop.com](http://www.oakhurstcoop.com)



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## 5th Annual Kirkwood Spring Fling & Tour of Homes

Sat. & Sun.

May 17-18

Bessie Branham Park

Saturday May 17th  
10:00 am – 6:00 pm  
(festival)

Saturday May 17th  
12:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
(tour)

Sunday May 18th  
12:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
(tour only)

Want the diversity of a big festival with the warmth and ease of a neighborhood party? Then join us for the 5th Annual Kirkwood Spring Fling and Tour of Homes. Browse the open air artist market

in the shade of giant trees. Enjoy the sounds of bands and choirs on the big stage. Bring the kids for the tot trot and children's area. Grab lunch, a snack, or a beverage from one of the food vendors.

Interested in architecture? Kirkwood has a diverse collection of building styles from classic Victorian cottages to Craftsman bungalows to Modern lofts (and everything in between)! All of these styles will be on show for the Tour of Homes.

Admission to the festival is free. Tickets for the Tour can be purchased at Kirkwood merchants before the festival and day of at the park. All proceeds go to benefit the Kirkwood Neighbor's Organization, a local 501(c) 3 non-profit group dedicated to community improvement.



## Briana's Neighborhood

By Sahar Simmons

A new resident to the Lake Claire Community and a children's book author.

Sahar Simmons, Hampton University Grad, and author/creator of *Briana's Neighborhood*, has finally developed a character that fills a void for African American children and children from diverse backgrounds.

*Briana's Neighborhood* is about a feisty 8-yr-old African American girl who, in real life form, faces issues such as self esteem, puberty, peer pressure, divorce and other tough issues that our children face today. Along with the tough issues, Briana also has a lot of fun and excitement with her friends of Asian, Caucasian, and Hispanic backgrounds. This book does a great job of promoting diversity, and connects with young African American girls who lack a positive storybook character that they can relate to and who resembles them.

*Briana's Neighborhood* is a storybook series that Simmons feels is long overdue. Progress has been made, as it relates to diversity, with the creation of Dora the Explorer and Little Bill, but until now, there have been very few significant African American characters that inspire young girls to read.

Simmons is committed to empowering young girls and helping them realize that they can do anything they set their minds to. Simmons has hosted several *Briana's Neighborhood* events in the community for children of all diverse backgrounds and their families, including a Chic-Fil-A event, a Planet Smoothie Meet & Greet, several school and library readings. She's hosted events in various cities including Atlanta, New York, Washington, Miami, and Los Angeles. She has visited several school districts, introducing *Briana's Neighborhood* to students across the country, and she has a busy year ahead of her. *Briana's Neighborhood* has recently partnered with Atlanta's new WNBA team, "The Atlanta Dream," to promote literacy. "Briana" will be their featured literary spokes character.

Simmons has been featured in *The Washington Times*, Atlanta's WAOK-AM's Straight Talk radio program, *The Atlanta Inquirer*, Atlanta's CW Focus Atlanta, and will be featured in the upcoming issue of Hampton University's *Alumni Magazine*, among others. *Briana's Neighborhood* will soon be available for purchase at Borders Book Store across the country, but is currently available online at [www.BrianasNeighborhood.com](http://www.BrianasNeighborhood.com).

Sahar Simmons, Author & Creator, *Briana's Neighborhood*  
[info@brianasneighborhood.com](mailto:info@brianasneighborhood.com) [www.brianasneighborhood.com](http://www.brianasneighborhood.com)  
<http://www.myspace.com/itsmebriana>

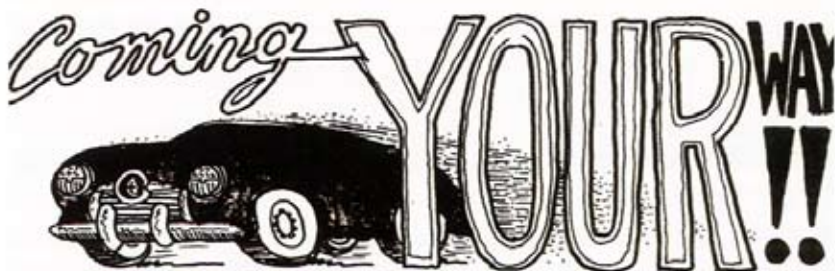
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[www.vistaprint.com](http://www.vistaprint.com)



## Update on Granmaw Gordon and Lake Claire's Last Remaining Green Space



By Teri Stewart

We are a grassroots group trying to save "Granmaw Gordon", a century-plus-year-old pecan tree, from destruction. She is slated to be cut down in order to make way for 10 condos on the half acre of land (the most dense building project in the neighborhood) ironically named "The Greenspace Condos." Not only is she original to the Sutherland Estate, owned by former Georgia Governor and Senator Gen. John B. Gordon, but she appears resistant to Pecan Scab, a fungus that costs Pecan growers across the Southeast millions. The USDA is interested in testing her further



to determine if she could revolutionize the pecan industry. She is a historic and biological treasure and deserves to be saved. Ideally, we would love to save the entire piece of property. This is the LAST publicly accessible greenspace on Dekalb Ave. This thoroughfare has been overrun by developers trying to make a quick buck by throwing up multiple townhouse projects that are NOT SELLING. What the neighborhood needs is not more empty townhouses. We need to conserve what little bit of natural resources we have left within the city. We would like to see the space made into a pocket park. We believe it could be well uti-

lized by individuals using alternative transportation as it could be a way station for pedestrians walking to the MARTA station (it's located directly between the East Lake and Candler Park stations) or a place to wait for the MARTA bus. It could also be a rest point for cyclists utilizing the PATH which crosses Dekalb Ave. at Rocky Ford (a block away). We could have bike racks, benches and a pavilion. Teri Stewart, a long-term resident and Master Gardener, has offered her expertise to help plant and maintain the space.

**How can you help save Granmaw?**

In order to save Granmaw Gor-

don, we need help! We need funds to continue our fight in Superior Court and/or to purchase the land. Any amount, no matter how small, is welcome. We have a TAX DEDUCTIBLE account set up through Park Pride. Visit [www.parkpride.org](http://www.parkpride.org) to donate. Click the Donate Now Button on the top. Make sure you mark the funds for a specific project and type in "Granmaw Gordon Greenspace".

*A note from the Editor: BIG thanks to Teri Stewart for not only shepherding this effort but also for bringing this lovely part of our neighborhood lore and history to our attention.*

## Storybook Adventure Camp 2008

By Julie Johnson

This summer, children can have fun while engaging in educational activities at IPCP's Summer Camp 2008. Four two-week sessions will be offered June 9 until August 1.

All sessions last from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and include award-winning children's literature themed activities featuring a new story every day, as well as art and science projects, music, movement, cooking, water play and outdoor play.

Enroll now for one or more two-week sessions. The enrollment fee is \$65 per child and the cost per session runs from \$128 - \$320 depending on how many days your child attends. Two year olds can attend either T/TH or M/W/F sessions and ages three to five can attend either three days or five days a week.

Registration is available on a first-come, first-served basis and is open to children who do not attend the preschool during the regular school year. Applications are available at IPCP or online at [www.ipcp.org](http://www.ipcp.org).



## Candler Park Pool Summer Plans!

### Memorial Day Opening

For those of you watching the progress at the Candler Park Pool construction project, we would like to offer an update. They are working "fast and furious" to complete the resurfacing, addition of a family changing room to the bath house, and other repairs by Memorial Day. Once the pool opens, it will be open Monday thru Friday from 9am to 8pm and Saturday and Sunday from 12 to 9pm. There will be free swimming from 1:30 to 4pm.

The cost to swim is \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children and seniors. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult and you must wear swim wear.

With the new, more fabulous pool, also come opportunities for community support. The pool could use neighborhood donations for pool furniture and a "splash pad" for smaller children.





## The Conscientious Gardener

By Gay Arnieri

This is my "High Season" as a gardener. Everything spring is flowering. The lawn is coming in beautifully. As I write, I am in the midst of installing my vegetable garden. It's the weekend after Easter, but Easter came early; I don't feel too reproachful. It still isn't exactly late. This year I purchased a "new" tiller from an ad in Craig's List. That web site is absolutely addictive. I'm finding all kinds of stuff, cheap or free. Today I am waiting on delivery of two 275-gallon caged water containers to add to my water conservation/recycling plan. I found them, called, and within 30 minutes they were on the way. I got a huge pile of wood chips delivered in my driveway (free) from tree cutting just down the street. Next will be recruiting some help to collect the plentiful firewood for next season. It's looking good for gardening this year no matter what the water situation is. I can store lots of water, I will mulch the daylight out of all the plants, and we will probably have a couple of good rains before we get hot and dry again. That will set the plants and the mulch for a long and potentially dry growing season. If you have not already done so, hurry and install any new shrubs or trees. Cover the root zones with tons of mulch after a thorough watering with your rain water. If you can, purchase/acquire water collection equipment before the rush. You will be pleased with how easy it is once you are set up. Even the set-up may be surprisingly easy if you sit with it and think it over before you hook things up. There are folks around (I have found some on Craig's List) who will help you set up a system that makes sense for your particular situation. "Work with what you have" is a good rule of thumb for this kind of project. The configuration of your gutters, the lay of your property, the site of areas to be watered, etc., are all considerations to get the most for your effort and investment. I'm very optimistic about this season's garden. 🌱



## From The Georgia Historic Preservation Division Online

Provided By Helen Talley-McRae

The American Small House has been added to the Historic Preservation Division's list of historic house types first included in its 1991 publication, *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses and their Landscaped Settings*. We have posted a presentation about this house type on our Web site at <http://hpd.dnr.state.ga.us/content/displaynavigation.asp?TopCategory=168>

The American Small House is a small single-family house, built in large numbers, all across the state, from the mid-1930s to the early 1950s. Sometimes called "minimal traditional" houses or simply "Cape Cods," they represent a unique national response to the challenge of providing affordable housing during two decades of economic hardship brought about by the Great Depression, World War II, and post-war recovery.

As its name suggests, the American Small House is a compact one-story house. It contains from three to six major rooms along with a bathroom and closets. Optional features include small porches, stoops, dormers, and garages. The most common architectural style is Colonial Revival ("Cape Cod"), although many small houses are plain and display no architectural style at all.

The American Small House helped meet a national goal of increased homeownership during economically challenging times. It was created through an unprecedented collaboration among architects, builders, university service agencies, building code officials, insurance companies, mortgage brokers, and the federal government which resulted in the establishment of minimum design standards and model plans; the widespread standardization of construction practices and buildings components such as windows, doors, and framing lumber; and the first program of government-backed private home mortgages. 🌱

*Editor's Note: We have many examples of this type of house in the area off of North Decatur Road and Scott Boulevard, as well as an uninterrupted run along Shepherd's Lane which runs from Briarcliff Road to LaVista.*

## A Personal Perspective

By Gloria Owczarski

It has to go back to the fact that I grew up around Special Olympics. My little sister has Downs Syndrome so I have been exposed to being around special needs children all my life. Since I have been in Georgia, I have been a volunteer coach for swimming on Fridays at the Dynamo Swim Club in Chamblee.

I have a mixed group of kids that started at first being mostly kids with Downs Syndrome, changing over recently to mostly kids with autism. The transition has been very interesting to say the least. We train all year for the Summer Games which happen in early June of every year. At these games, you will see kids participating in every sport, just like the real Olympics. It will

just about break your heart because you see all these kids coming from all corners of the state. I would have to say at least half of them come from low income families. They are the first ones neglected and the last ones to have any type of money spent on them, especially for something as superficial as a "professional" beauty service. The kids come with bowl cuts, long fingernails,

in desperate need of facial waxing maybe.

Well, seeing as how I work in a hair salon, I started thinking about what I could do to make it different, for a small group maybe, but for at least some.

I started brainstorming and networking. I started asking around at the surrounding businesses if they would be willing to donate any and all food for the kids, goody bag items for the kids to take home with them, furniture to be used to set the food up on, manicure stations for the kids to sit at while being worked on, etc.

As for the school selection, I work closely with Boni Powell who is head of Special Olympics Dekalb Co. She works closely with all the schools in the district and knew who would benefit the most from something like this.

I only coach for one hour on Fridays and sometimes I am physically/mentally spent (I love what I do, don't get me wrong, it is just tough sometimes) so I can't imagine what it must be like day in and day out for the teachers and staff, whom we try to include.

There are many generous sponsors providing food, furnishings, goody bag contents, etc. I think the only thing the event is missing is entertainment. That would be awesome, maybe reason to work harder next year? 🌱

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## Spring into Fitness: Tips for Making it Happen

By Tim Lenczowski

As spring arrives, it is not too late to make good on that New Year's Resolution to get in shape! Every January people make the resolution to lose weight and get in shape. Often, taking that first step to a new, healthier you is the hardest part of the resolution. Trust me, I know. More than two years ago at age 39, I weighed 338 pounds, and was suffering from high blood pressure and heart issues.

Over the years, I have tried every diet imaginable. Some diets did not work at all, while others had limited success. I was really grasping at straws and did not know how I was going to lose the weight and improve my health.

Where was I going to turn? Some friends of mine suggested kick boxing. I laughed. The thought of going to the gym was intimidating enough, but kick boxing?

My friends kept on me until I caved and reluctantly decided to try it. I joined Atlanta Kick and after 8 months of taking kick boxing and fat burning classes three times a week while watching my diet, I had lost 60 pounds. I was overjoyed; however, my friends were now pushing me to take the next step to get in shape, boot camp.

Operation Boot Camp offers a one month program to increase your fitness through exercise and proper diet. Again I was nervous, even the name boot camp is intimidating. Boot camp was taking me to the next level combining exercise with proper diet. Although the old fashion way of losing weight, this is exactly what I needed. Kick boxing had given me a strong foundation, but boot camp was going to enable a life change. To date, I have lost 128 pounds and my doctor has eliminated my heart medicine and greatly reduced my high blood pressure medicine.

With my success I often get asked how did you do it? While I still consider my lifestyle change a work in progress, here are several tips that helped me finally find success with weight loss and in turn find a healthier, more enjoyable life!

- Find a Program that Works for You - I tried many programs throughout the years but did not really succeed until I found the right program for me.

- Take time to talk to the instructors and students to get a feel for the program to decide if it is right for you. Don't be afraid to change programs if you find the one you selected isn't working for you.

- Build a Support System - You don't and should not go at this alone.

- Rely on your friends and family to help support you every step of the way.

Make sure that your physician is a part of your support team. My doctor has been an invaluable member of my support team over the last two years.

Another great support system can come from a group workout program. The Operation Boot Camp instructors and fellow campers truly kept me motivated and made the workout more fun.

- Set Goals - You need to keep yourself accountable and track your successes. This will help keep you motivated as you see how far you have come and as you mark off completed goals and set new ones. Make sure to celebrate your successes along the way!

- Keep Yourself Challenged - Once you get moving, make sure to keep challenging yourself to try new things. Whether it is running your first race or trying out your first yoga class, make sure to keep pushing yourself to try new things. I know I was very intimidated walking into my first yoga class but at the end I was proud of myself for pushing my comfort zone and trying something new.

- Get your Mind in the Game - Losing weight and getting fit is a mental workout as much as a physical one. You need to make sure your mind is in the game and that you work hard to overcome the mental obstacles that come your way. Challenge the little voice inside of you to keep pushing your body.

- Have Fun - My success has been possible by making a lifestyle change and sticking to it. Making your workouts fun and enjoying the foods you are eating will make this process much more enjoyable and help you stick with it in the long run. 🌿



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## Fall in Love this Spring!

Come out and meet AARF's adorable adoptable dogs! What better way to celebrate spring than by sharing your love with a furry new family member? Treats will be provided to visiting dogs to make the day extra special! Guests can bring in their pets (or favorite pet pictures) for caricatures by artist Emily Huch. You'll find adorable dogs of all shapes and sizes just waiting for their "forever homes."

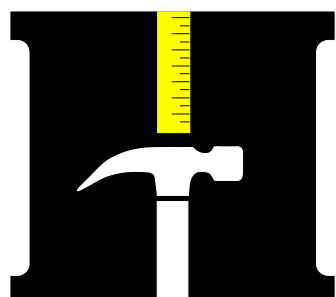
What: AARF Dog Adoption Event

When: Saturday, May 17, noon to 4 p.m.

Where: Mom and Pup's, 800 Whitlock Ave., Suite 104

Marietta, GA 30064, 770-590-5100.

Atlanta Animal Rescue Friends, Inc. P.O. Box 5336 Atlanta, GA 31107



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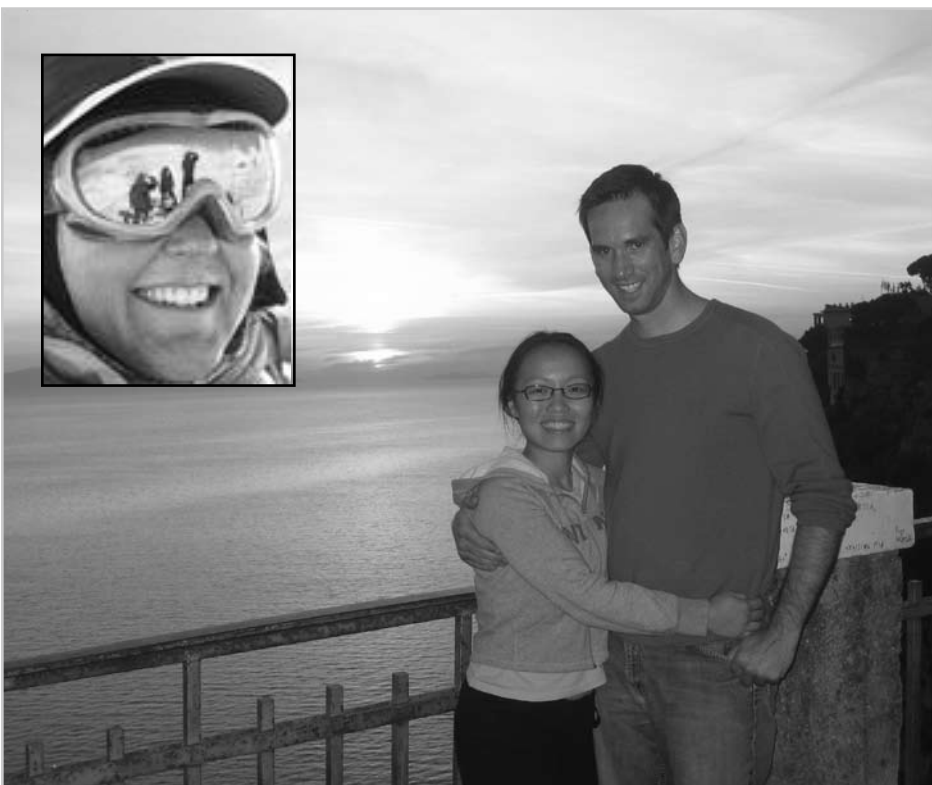


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## Continuing Series: From Lake Claire to the Heights of Mount Everest: Jim Curtin

3/29/08

Hi everyone,. Just sending a note that Jim should arrive in Katmandu, Nepal, today. If all goes as planned, I expect that we'll very soon hear from him via his website.

You can get updates directly from him by signing up for "Get the Latest Alerts" at [www.mounteverest2008.com](http://www.mounteverest2008.com).

Also, you can send messages to him by clicking on "Read the Blog", then scrolling down to "Comments" to post your message to him. That is the best way of sending him your thoughts. He'll be updating the blogs and videos with the latest from Everest and I know he's going to look for your feedback to guide him on what to send back. Please don't hesitate to post thoughts, comments, etc. It's a very exciting trip for him and he's worked hard (150 pounds of gear and equipment is going up the mountain with him) to ensure that you all can be a part of this trip too. I know he'll appreciate the support and interest from all of you. If you're grateful to have the website to follow along with Jim, please thank Ken Maudsley. He's been the behind-the-scenes force for the website and has done an outstanding job as web designer.

Do pass on the link. I know the intent behind this website is the share the adventure with anyone and everyone as it happens.

Sincerely, Hlee Vang (*photo of Hlee Vang and Jim Curtin at left*)

## Small Steps, Walk Fast

By Susan Davis

My small family went to hear author and environmentalist Bill McKibben speak in Decatur in March. McKibben was funny, informative, honest, and inspiring. I hope other Lake Clairians were in the audience.

McKibben's books include *The End of Nature*; *Enough: Staying Human in an Engineered Age*; and *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*. His talk was sponsored in part by Georgia Interfaith Power and Light.

He was the first writer to start

writing about climate change for a general audience almost 20 years ago. In the intervening years, as most of you know, the problem has gotten much worse and little or no corrective action has been taken by national and industrial leaders.

Last year McKibben and a handful of his students at Middlebury College in Vermont started a grass roots global warming movement called Step It Up. They started with low expectations of what they could actually accomplish, but were overwhelmed by the response they got and by the power of what a few people in their local communities can do. He told us

to look at efforts to combat global warming as a 21st century citizens' "movement," like the civil rights movement was in the 20th century. And now, as then, individual actions can lead to community actions that lead to big changes.

McKibben urged us to stop waiting for a leader of our movement to take charge and tell us what to. Start now, start with what you can do alone, then join with whatever local group you are already affiliated with to do more—neighbors, churches, schools. If you are reading this newspaper, you are affiliated with a great group, the Lake Claire Neigh-

bors, who have already expressed a commitment to active environmentalism in our wonderful little corner of the world.

Do this now—change your household's lifestyle habits to reduce your carbon footprint. Then, as McKibben charged his audience, take political action now. I decided to challenge to myself. For every compact fluorescent light bulb I install in my house, I'm going to make one phone call, or write one letter or article, or send one email to a political or industrial bigwig demanding action to fight global warming. I invite you to join me.

Did you know that Georgia is "this close" to allowing Dynergy to build a coal-fired power plant in our state that will emit 9 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> a year and that this energy would be for sale to other states (while we breathe the dirty air)? Did you know we have to cut carbon in the atmosphere 80% by 2050? Do you see a problem here?

Small steps are all we can take. Start walking. Walk fast. 🐾

## Be a Good Neighbor & THINK before you Park

Please be considerate of your neighbor by leaving the parking spaces in front of their houses for their own vehicles when possible. (Neighbors have complained of frequently arriving home from errands with parcels and finding the neighbors' cars in front of their homes despite vacant spots at the neighbors').

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## Candler Park WINS!

By Mary Alice Bray

Candler Park took 1st place - \$10,000 for ING marathon cheering zone!!!

Second place went to Decatur and 3rd to Poncey Highland.

JoJo Ross and Crystal Budd submitted the application for the Candler Park cheering zone.

Our core committee was JoJo Ross, Crystal Budd, Carla Key,

Janea Boyles (The Mercantile) and Mary Alice Bray. Special thanks to Nancy Porteous who came at 6:30 am to help us sent up. Several people stayed 3 hours in the 40 degree weather to help us cheer the runners on. Thanks to Lake Claire for their support (shown above in the wee morning chill)! 🌸

(Sitting with a President Continued from Page 1)

this day. The campaign to eliminate polio through the March of Dimes—the largest successful public health campaign in the history of the world—originated in Warm Springs.

In addition to viewing the statue at Dowdell's Knob, the Pine Mountain area also offers many other recreational opportunities. The Little White House State Historic Site and Museum provides a rare opportunity to visit FDR's Georgia home and explore a state-of-the-art museum focusing on his presidency. Less than a mile away, FDR State Park encompasses 10,000 acres with cottages, camping, fishing, horseback riding and swimming in the Liberty Bell-shaped pool built of native fieldstone by the CCC. Pine Mountain Trail, which traverses the park, provides 23 miles of hiking opportunities. Also nearby is Callaway Gardens—a nature preserve in

Pine Mountain Georgia—encompassing 14,000 acres and a venue for golf, biking, birding, horticulture, butterfly viewing and other resort activities in this beautiful central Georgia setting.

Whether you come for the day, a weekend or longer, there is much to experience in this part of Georgia.

Come spend some time sitting with FDR at Dowdell's Knob and be sure to bring your camera.

Directions to the statue: Go to Warm Springs. Head toward Little White House State Historic Site on Ga Hwy 85 and continue to the top of Pine Mountain and turn right on Hwy 190. Go a couple of miles and turn left at the sign to Dowdell's Knob. 🌸

## Mary Lin elementary

Re-Registration for the 2008-09 School Year for current Lin Students.

Mary Lin will be re-registering students for the 2008-2009 school year. This process is necessary in order to update all student records and accurately plan for the upcoming school year. It is critically important to ensure the appropriate number of teachers needed for next school year. All returning students MUST be re-registered. Please read the following carefully, begin collecting the necessary documents, and bring all information on the designated days listed below:

Re-registration dates are listed according to rising grade levels:

• May 5th – May 9th (Grades K & 1st) 9:00 - 3:00

• May 12th – May 16th (Grades 2nd & 3rd) 9:00 – 3:00

• May 19th – May 23rd (Grades 4th & 5th) 9:00 – 3:00

You may register siblings at the same time. If you miss the week of your child's registration, you may register your child during the summer months of June 16th – August 8th.

Required documents for re-registration:

The parent's or guardian's name and address must be the same on all documentation presented.

*...let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear... is fear itself... nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.*

*-Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
First inaugural address,  
March 4, 1933*

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## Photos From Around The Lake

Lake Claire is such an interesting place to live! Everyday should be a celebration to the variety of sights found along the streets in our neighborhood. Hats off (and camera shutters open) to the fabulous color, texture, and character found in Lake Claire. Never dull, never homogenized—Lake Claire is unique. Capture images around your street and send them in for publication in *The Clarion*. We need 'em! *Send in your photos to The Clarion and share your part of the Lake Claire with your neighbors. Email editor@lakeclaire.org*



**American  
Luna Moth**  
(*Actias luna*)

## With only one week to live, they choose to live among the Sweetgum's of Lake Claire

Our Sweetgum trees are home to a species of caterpillars that feed on the leaves and leave their silken cocoons behind. Then out comes the incredible American Luna moth! Some refer to it as, "the most beautiful moth in the United States." It is rare to see an adult American Luna Moth because they always fly at night and only live for one week! The one spotted in LC was a male. They emerge in the morning with small wings, don't eat a thing, and within two hours their wings harden and grow to almost the size of your palm! Wow!



## Mark Your Calendars

May 11 – Sunday – MOTHER'S DAY

May 15 – Thursday – DEADLINE for Water Conservation Contest. Any 2008 water bill will do. You may email, mail, or drop-off your documentation and entry to editor@lakeclaire.org, or 431 Harold Ave. NE.

May 17 – Saturday – Armed forces Day

May 17 – 18: The 5th Annual Kirkwood Spring Fling & Tour of Homes, Bessie Branham Park, Saturday May 17th 10:00 am – 6:00 pm (festival), Saturday May 17th 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm (tour), Sunday May 18th 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm (tour only).

May 18 – Sunday - Oakhurst Cooperative Preschool 2008 Arts Auction Jubilee from 3 to 6 p.m. at the historic Solarium in Oakhurst Village.

May 23 – Friday – Last Day of School, Atlanta Public Schools

May 26 – Monday – MEMORIAL DAY



**Better Gnome**



## Personal Classifieds

**BUY • SELL • TRADE • RECYCLE • YARD SALE!** List your personal stuff for FREE!! Contact newsletter@lakeclaire.org.

**HOUSE FOR RENT** 2125 Palfox Drive, NE, Available May/June (negotiable). Duplex, 2 BR, 1 BA, big fenced-in backyard, NEW: sunroom, back deck, hardwood floors, renovated bathroom. \$1500/mo. 404-353-0832 or leilifb@gmail.com

**PART-TIME TEACHER** Oakhurst Cooperative Preschool seeks part-time teacher for the 2008-2009 school year. Visit www.oakhurstcoop.com for information.

**YAMAHA UPRIGHT PIANO** Walnut upright (spinet), 48 inch-nice house size. Excellent condition, about 12 years old, beautiful sound. \$1250. 404-933-3053.

**MY GREEN DAYCARE** (0-5 years) In-home, eco-friendly daycare opening May 12th. All food served will be homemade and all-natural, if not organic. We also have an organic veggie garden. Please call 404-695-7117 for more info.

## Business Classifieds

Business classified ads are ONLY \$3 per line prepaid! For more info contact newsletter@lakeclaire.org

### PETS/BABYSITTING

Mature teenage girls can provide babysitting and pet cares. Call Selena at 404-378-5683 or Emily 404-377-4569

**MINOR HOME REPAIRS** and installations. Electrical, phone/cable, plumbing, light carpentry. 20 years experience; neighborhood references. Intown only, within 3 miles of L5P. \$35/hr. + \$20 house call. Norman Glassman 404 704-5546 nglassman5@gmail.com.

**PIANO TUNING, REPAIR, REBUILDING, SALES** Jane Purtzer 404-378-8310.

**NOOK AND CRANNY MAID SERVICE** 404-688-3766 "Let Us Do Your Dirty Work!" Est. 1990 Dependable, personalized service, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, one-time. Move-in/Move-outs, Spring cleanings-homes/offices. Licensed, bonded, and insured.

**HOUSE REPAIR** Rotted wood repair, siding, porch columns, railings, porch floors, windows, etc. Sheetrock repair, interior-exterior painting, trim carpentry, small projects. 15 years experience. Candler Park resident for 15 years. Free estimate. Lee Nicholson 404-378-1343.

**ABOVE THE HEDGES** Pop, Pop, WOW...springs-a-pop-pin' NOW! Above and beyond great Landscape Services for your lawn, flower beds, Installation and maintenance services. Nice Prices. Free Estimates--Licensed & insured Admiration Guaranteed! 770-621-(YARD) 9273.