



L–R, Paideia juniors Clay Tinkler, (Lake Claire resident) Jack Chapel, Bill Dorn, and Hunter Sanders

Paideia Students Help Frazer Center Forest

Can you love something to death? That appeared to be the looming problem with the Frazer Center Forest when four Paideia rising juniors took it on as their community service project this July.

The Frazer Center Forest is a thirty-plus-acre green space in the midst of Lake Claire and the private preserve of the Frazer Center. For many years, the center has graciously opened its surrounding woodlands, known as the Frazer Center Forest, to neighborhood visitors. In recent years, Lake Claire Neighbors created Friends of the Forest, a group that has volunteered to help steward the forest by up-grading and managing trails, helping manage storm water problems, and removing invasive plants such as English ivy.

The Frazer Center Forest is a popular spot for hiking and exploring, but the popularity and the development in the surrounding neighborhood have taken their toll. The main paths in the forest and the many improvised “cut-throughs” are compacting the soil and exposing tree roots, which jeopardizes the health of

many large, old-growth trees. According to Kathy Evans, who acted as a liaison on the service project, “Keeping up with the mulching and preventing the creation of ad hoc trails is a major task because of the number of trails and the meandering terrain. But without that mulch, the trees suffer.” In addition, as a result of the volume of storm water pouring from pavement and other hard surfaces in the neighborhood, stream banks within the forest are eroding in key places, exposing roots and undermining the soil under some of the largest trees in the forest.

Enter Paideia juniors Jack Chapel, Bill Dorn, Hunter Sanders, and Clay Tinkler. The students learned about the human impact on the forest from Kathy and local naturalist and photographer Kathryn Kolb. The students then spent the week laying four inches of mulch on the main trails and sandbagging key portions of the stream bed where rapidly flowing water had eroded banks, undermining two of the large “grandparent” hardwoods.

“When you look closely at the trails, you realize how much the

walking traffic has been beating down the soil around the tree roots. When I used to trip over roots, I’d think, ‘What a pain.’ Now I realize it’s a real danger to the trees,” said Jack Chapel.

The day they spent sandbagging the stream bank, Clay Tinkler added, “I was thinking, ‘How will we find room for all those bags?’ But once you get started, the bank is so eroded it just eats up all those bags.”

In a mere week, the students applied nearly one full ton of mulch to almost a mile of trails and used more than two hundred sandbags to bolster key banks—quite a substantial contribution, but there’s more to do. The boys are organizing a community workday on November 15 to continue the mulching, in hopes of completing the main trail all the way to the Harold Avenue entrance.

Next time you’re in the forest, take a look at their outstanding work, but also look closely at these great trees in our midst and remember that we need to be vigilant about their environment.

—Tom Chapel

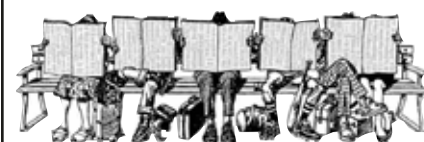
Community Workday: Frazer Forest Trail Maintenance

This summer, local high school students made great progress improving trails and bolstering stream banks in the forest. It’s time to finish the job. Join us on Sunday, November 15, from 9 a.m. to noon, to help spread mulch on trails and fill and place sandbags. Park in the upper lot at the Frazer Center but meet in the lower lot (across from Hospitality House). Bring work gloves and hard rakes. To volunteer, or for more information, contact Jack Chapel at jackchapel@mac.com.

What Is the Frazer Center?

The Frazer Center is a not-for-profit organization offering inclusion-based services for preschool children with disabilities, their typical peers, and adults with physical and developmental disabilities. The Frazer Center also hosts a public pre-K program.

The property is the former estate of Cator Woolford, cofounder of Retail Credit Company, now Equifax. The compound also includes the Atlanta Hospital Hospitality House, a “home away from home” for outpatients and relatives of patients hospitalized in twenty-one Atlanta-area hospitals; the Cator Woolford Gardens, a popular site for weddings, retreats, parties, and corporate functions, where proceeds benefit Frazer programs directly; and the surrounding woodland, known as the Frazer Center Forest.



What’s Inside?

- 2 Natural Play Space
- 3 Lake Claire Officers/
Newsletter Staff
- 4 Fat-Cat Clothing
- 5 Focus on Local Talent
- 6 Yard Sale Highlights
- 7 Mary Lin Carnival
- 8 LCN Safety Report
- 9 Dining Out with Kids
- 10 Mayoral Candidates
- 11 Mary Lin Foundation
- 12 Classified Ads

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Gretchen Gigley works with parents.

There is a bit of land behind Epworth United Methodist Church, on McLendon Avenue across from Candler Park, that is just big enough for a playground for the children who attend Epworth and its parents' morning out program, a few picnic tables, and a patch of grass. You might look at it and see not much else. But Elise Cormier sees endless possibilities.

Elise, a landscape architect and resident of Lake Claire, has recently launched the Smart Landscapes Project, a "churchwide makeover" designed to improve upon Epworth's existing structure and establish "smart living" habits—such as using rainwater and conserving energy—for the church going forward, and for the whole community to learn from. For the outdoor space surrounding Epworth, she has a vision for a wild-life habitat and a wildflower meadow, but a big part of the project is a children's natural play space, to be developed in that special piece of land.

With her partner in the project, Gretchen Gigley, also a landscape architect and an expert in children's natural play spaces—as well as with the help of a number of neighbors, parents, church members, and, of course, kids—Elise has begun the groundwork for the space

Nature to Nurture: Creating a Natural Play Space



Oscar Denmark draws his design.



Parents Amy Clement and Lauren Owenby design

an ongoing, organic way.

"It's a different way of looking at the world, to look at it the way a child does," Elise says. Her goal for the play space is to encourage engagement and interaction with natural elements. She wants kids to know that "it's okay to tear off leaves, and that limbs will fall." Some kids are taught to approach nature as if "the whole world's a museum." But kids should be invited to—and excited to—move something around, and touch, and feel.

A natural play space differs from a manufactured playground in more than just structural ways. In a presentation on natural play spaces, Gretchen Gigley explained that it offers cognitive, social, physical, and emotional benefits. The more opportunities to engage with, discover, and experience the natural world, "the more expansive the child's world becomes." Because natural play settings are "boundless, forgiving, and flexible," they allow children to connect. And the simple fact that many children aren't as exposed to nature as children were just a few decades ago, and even fear it in some cases, is reason enough to create a space where they can play and interact with trees and plants and wildlife and water. Some ideas for the natural play space at Epworth include edible flowers, natural hiding places, trees for climbing, stepping stones, an outdoor classroom, and an ephemeral pond.

Building the natural play space is also a way, as Elise says, to "awaken" that DIY spirit so intrinsic to Lake Claire/Candler Park and to enhance a sense of community. The venture has already sparked many connections, with people coming forward to offer their expertise (such as permaculturalist Robby Handley, who hopes to help the kids create a vegetable garden there), donations, and manpower. The team plans to start hosting workdays beginning in October.

For Elise, designing and pulling together the play space has been a great personal experience as well. When she was laid off in December of 2008, she decided it was a time not to retreat inward, but to reach out. With an interest in sacred landscape design, she brought her idea for Smart Landscapes to Epworth, which she knew, being a member, was a particularly warm, embracing, and supportive place. Now an independent designer (she owns Tendril's Edge Design), she enjoys being able to work, volunteer, and play in her own backyard of Lake Claire. And the project also helps her reconnect with that child-like spirit. "I like remembering how I used to see the world when I see them," she says.

From the Editor

In the last issue of the *Clarion*, we ran an item about recycling electronics packaging and suggested taking these boxes to the Dumpster at Candler Park Market. Per Dirk Botterbusch, owner of CPM, the Dumpster is at capacity, since it serves most of the surrounding businesses, and can't accommodate neighborhood drop-offs. Please take any such packaging to be recycled at the DeKalb Farmers Market, on E. Ponce in Decatur, or to any other public recycling centers. Thanks!



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by hosting a design night to get input from the parents and the kids who will use it, and by reaching out for donations of all kinds (plants, flowers, hard-scape materials, etc.) to incorporate into the design. She hopes to have the framework for the play space established by October 31, but it will be designed to be influenced by the people who use it—the community—in

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Next LCN Meeting

Thursday, October 15

Lake Claire Neighbors meets every third Thursday of the month. Social Time begins at 6:30 p.m.; meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Frazer Center. Meetings are open to all. Past months' newsletters and updates to agenda can be found at www.lakeclaire.org.

Halloween Comes Early to Lake Claire!

The Lake Claire Halloween Parade will take place on Saturday, October 24, at 5:30 p.m. starting at the dead-end of Marlbrook Drive. The parade will be followed by food and fun at Lake Claire Park. To volunteer or for more information, e-mail halloween@lakeclaire.org.

Mark Your Calendar

Remember that garbage, recycling, and yard waste are now picked up every Thursday.

Sat, October 3: The Greater Atlanta Dietetic Association's Food Festival, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Inman Middle School. Highlights include two brief documentary films—*The True Cost of Food* and *The Rise of Southern Cheese*—and a panel discussion featuring local chefs and Farm to School program representatives. For information, contact Cheryl Orlansky at corlansky@earthlink.net.

Sun, October 4: Clifton Sanctuary Ministries 30th Anniversary Graduation and Honors Dinner. Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall. Celebration starts at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$43 per person or \$350 per table of eight. For more information, visit www.cliftonsanctuary.com.

Sat, October 10: Training for new block watch captains, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. City of Atlanta Police and Fire Departments, 226 Peachtree Street SW. Co-hosted by the Atlanta Police Department and City of Atlanta Public Safety Committee Members and conducted by APD's Community Services Unit Staff. Topics include block captain duties, Court Watch, and how and why 911 calls are prioritized. Contact Sr. CPI Debbie Jackson at (404) 799-2488.

Sat-Sun, October 10-11: The Candler Park Fall Fest, 11 a.m.–8 p.m. on Saturday and noon–8 p.m. on Sunday. Highlights include a lineup of great bands (including Friends of Daniel Pearl, made up of friends of the former Atlantan and slain *Wall Street Journal* reporter, which performs Saturday), the Great Atlanta Mayoral Candidates' Proclamation Throwdown, an artists' mar-

Lake Claire Officers for 2009

President: Diane Moore - president@lakeclaire.org

VP-Zoning: Dan White - zoning@lakeclaire.org

VP-Finance: Cara Stevens - treasurer@lakeclaire.org

VP-Environment: Kathy Evans - environment@lakeclaire.org

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Our mailing address is:

Lake Claire Neighbors P.O. Box 5942 Atlanta, GA 31107

Nominate and Vote for LCN Officers

Lake Claire Neighbors will be putting together a slate of nominations for executive committee officers for 2010 in October. If you are interested in a position or want to offer your help to one of the officers, e-mail Diane Moore, president of LCN, at president@lakeclaire.org. The neighborhood will vote on these nominations as well as on annual donations (amounts and recipients) in November. Find updates at www.lakeclaire.org.

ket with more than one hundred booths, the Candler Park Tour of Homes (on Sunday, from noon to 6 p.m., featuring eight homes ranging from brand-new to 119 years old), the annual FallFest 5K, and paid and free kids' activities. To be held inside Candler Park. For more information, visit CandlerParkFallFest.org or e-mail ken@mygreenatl.com.

Sat, October 10: Second annual Candler Park Fall Costume Ball, 7

p.m. First Existentialist Congregation (sanctuary), 470 Candler Park Drive. Tickets are \$10 for neighborhood volunteers and \$15 for everyone else before October 7, and \$20 the night of the dance. E-mail vicepresident@candlerpark.org (with "Fall Ball question" in the subject line) with questions or for more information on how to purchase tickets in advance.

Thurs, October 15: LCN meeting, 7 p.m. at the Frazer Center.

Fri-Sat, October 16-17: The Little 5 Points Halloween Festival and Parade, 5 to 10 p.m. on Friday and 12 noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday. Both days feature live music, street entertainers, and outdoor beverage vendors; Saturday's events also include a children's area with pumpkin decorating, a Halloween costume contest, and the festival highlight—the not-to-be-missed Halloween street parade, starting at 4 p.m. Free and open to the public. To be held in and around Findley Plaza, at the intersection of Moreland and Euclid Avenues. For more information, call (404) 577-4212 or visit www.L5Phalloween.com.

Sun, October 18: AIDS Walk Atlanta and 5K Run. Through the

streets of Midtown and Piedmont Park. Register at <http://www.aidswalkatlanta.com> to raise money to help fight HIV/AIDS through education, prevention, support services, and direct assistance.

Mon, October 19: Meeting of the Lake Claire Garden Club, 7 p.m. Hosted by Brynan Hadaway. E-mail gardenclub@lakeclaire.org for more details.

Sat, October 24: Lullwater Creek cleanup, 9 a.m.

to noon. Co-hosted by the Paidia Green Team and Rivers Alive. The focus is on picking up trash in and around the creek. All ages are welcome, but children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Sat, October 24: The Land Trust Peace and Love Festival fund-raiser. Features include a 1K peace parade, activities, vendors, food, dancing, music, and the second artist-designed mini-golf course. The parade will begin at 10 a.m. at the Land Trust. To help create a hole for the course, contact genise-joy@earthlink.net. Suggested donation of \$5.00, plus \$1.00 for kids. E-mail info@lclt.org for more information.

Sat, October 24: Lake Claire Halloween Parade, 5:30 p.m.



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Small Business Spotlight: Fat-Cat Clothing

Along the strip of businesses on McLendon that is home to the Nazeem Allayl Belly Dance Studio and the Composition Gallery, across the street from the Candler Park Flower Mart, is a little storefront emblazoned with "Fat-Cat." You may have passed the brick-red space on your way to Candler Park or Little Five Points and wondered



what it was. You might be surprised that it is the venture of a Lake Claire/Candler Park resident—a young entrepreneur named Seth Berman. And although the store is no longer open, the business itself is thriving.

Seth, 20, grew up in this area and still lives on Clifton. After a couple of years selling his custom-made and one-of-a-kind T-shirts out of his backpack, out of a Cadillac (the "Fat-Catillac"), at Donna van Goghs and in a booth in the Little Five Points Bazaar

(as well as at convenience stores and flea markets), and even from the trees in his front yard, he decided to give brick-and-mortar a try, and rented the space at 1392 McLendon Ave. Joining forces with some friends who wanted to create a recording studio in the space, he worked on getting the store in shape for his line, Fat-Cat Clothing, which now includes much more than shirts.

Fat-Cat Clothing came into being when Seth was 18. He started making his own shirts to wear when he skated with his crew, also named Fat-Cat, around the time that they released their third skateboarding DVD, in 2007. People started admiring the shirts and requesting their own. Art is in his blood—his parents, Rick and Jennie, are both potters, and his father teaches ceramics and art at Pace Academy—so it was a natural next step for Seth to create a line of clothing.

Seth's unique technique involves hand-painting his designs on T-shirts, pants, and other articles of clothing and accessories (he is now close to painting his 1,000th Fat-Cat shirt). He says he is inspired by Miskeen, a company that also creates one-of-a-kind hand-painted clothes, as well as the skateboarding culture, of which he is a part, and artists like Keith Haring, Basquiat, Jackson Pollock, and Howard Finster. On the day we met, Seth, who goes by the nickname Sethafari, was wearing his designs: a black T-shirt imprinted with a gold hand-drawn chain with a Fat-Cat logo, and long cut-off pants with the logo on the back pockets.

He's exploring other ideas as well—like iron-on patches—and is inspired by the inventive ways in which people use his designs. Fat-Cat is especially well-known at Grady High School (where he was Mr. 10th Grade and Mr. 12th Grade), and Grady kids will bring him an article of clothing to design, or tack his patches onto backpacks or hats. But Fat-Cat isn't just a local phenomenon; Seth has sold his shirts to people in places as far away as Australia and Japan, and across the

country. (Prices for his clothes vary, starting at around \$20 for a shirt, depending on style and design.)

With a lot of big ideas for his clothes and designs (he is thinking about partnering with sneaker designers, creating billboards, even designing skateboards), Seth has decided to hold off on opening his store and instead to focus on creating a great Web site for Fat-Cat. He is currently putting together a Fat-Catalog of all his designs and hopes to open a store in Little Five Points sometime in the future. He says, "I want to do everything other clothing companies do: have multiple stores, magazine and TV ads, infinite designs, a crew of people printing and painting, worldwide recognition—and a whole lot more."

To find out more about Fat-Cat Clothing Company and Sethafari, you can e-mail sethtafari@live.com or visit the Fat-Cat Clothing Store on Facebook, which includes photos of his inventory.



Sign Up for the Neighborhood Security Patrol Today!

The Lake Claire Security Patrol Committee is still accepting membership applications. Many neighbors have signed up, but we still need you! The sooner we get commitments, the sooner we can have off-duty Atlanta officers patrolling our streets in addition to our regular on-duty officers. Download the application at the Lake Claire Neighbors Web site. You may pay the \$250 membership fee by check, payable to Lake Claire Neighbors, or by PayPal at www.lakeclaire.org. Applications and checks should be mailed to Lake Claire Neighbors, Attn: Security Patrol, 2009 McLendon Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30307. FAQs on the security patrol are available at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lakeclaireneighborhoodwatch/>. Contact Jen Horn at securitypatrol@lakeclaire.org.

Claire's List

Do you have a service or an item that someone else might need or want—something that might add to your income or be a thrifty option for a neighbor? Let's help each other out in these tough times. Claire's List offers home-based services and merchandise for sale, rent, loan, barter, or free locally. It's also a place where you can post items or services you want. Add your posting for free by the 15th of the month prior to publication (e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org).

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Claire's List cont'd on page 5



Gregory Powell and his daughter, Lilly



Laura Benjamin

Focus on Local Talent

Part 2: Piano Teachers in Lake Claire: Teaching a Love of Music at Home

Last month's *Clarion* highlighted three talented music teachers in the neighborhood. We've since learned of two more teachers here in Lake Claire and talked with them about their work.

Gregory Powell

A resident of Connecticut Avenue, Gregory teaches in-home piano lessons in the neighborhood and in the Decatur area. He has been playing for twenty-four years and teaching for the last six. His formal classical training

includes a degree from Indiana University in composition with a concentration in piano.

Gregory tailors lessons to each child, using lesson books to teach students how to read music but supplementing with pieces that interest the student. "It's rare that the book alone generates enough enthusiasm from students," says Gregory.

His favorite thing about teaching, which he does full-time, is watching kids develop a love of music. "I love piano and I love music; I especially love seeing the kids get into it," he says. A few kids resist the idea of lessons and practice, he says, and

in these instances, with parents "on board," he has not "pushed back," but rather tried a more relaxed approach for a period of time. Students have responded well and developed nicely.

In Gregory's opinion, most students are ready for lessons by age seven or eight; children who are very familiar with music or who are asking for lessons can be ready as young as five or six. He enjoys teaching composition to his students who are interested.

Gregory is taking new students on some weekday afternoons and possibly Saturdays. For more information, write to him at athomelessons@yahoo.com.

Laura Benjamin

Laura Benjamin is a singer-songwriter and a busy piano teacher, teaching at Eclectic Music in Virginia Highland, at Buckhead Music Center, and in her home studio, on Clifton Road.

She received a degree in history from Yale University, but, she says, "music was always my first passion." She moved to Atlanta after college and joined a swing band that played covers at parties and events. This work evolved into her own band, LB Collective, which features her original music.

Laura has been teaching private lessons for about six years and has also taught music classes for very young children in the Musical Beginnings program. She teaches piano to all ages, from child to adult, and also offers voice coaching. Most of her voice students are teens.

"When you figure out how to teach, you are, in a way, relearning. You analyze how something works in order to explain it to someone else, and you learn it better yourself," Laura says. Her favorite part of teaching is interacting with people and observing the unique learning styles of her students.

Laura has a few open lesson slots, primarily on Fridays. She can be reached at laurab99@gmail.com. You can hear her band play live on Sunday, October 11, at 1 p.m., at the Candler Park Fall Festival.

—Kathy Evans

Claire's List cont'd from page 4

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Need help with your resume? Need a second pair of eyes to look over a paper you're writing? Let a seasoned professional writer/proofreader help! Call Susan at (404) 371-1229.

Neighborhood call: It's time for some smart recycling! The Smart Landscape Demonstration Gardens are under way at Epworth UMC and are ready for hardscape, landscape, any-scape donations. The Neighborhood Social Corner, Love and Forgiveness Garden, Children's Natural Playspace, and Wildlife Habitat

areas need pavers, bricks, lumber, shrubs, fruit trees, delicate ferns, benches, perennials, bulbs . . . Clear out those yards and garages, knowing that your "extras" will have a happy new life right down the street! To arrange donation pickups, contact Elise Cormier (demonstration gardens designer and Lake Claire neighbor) at (404) 309-5889 or TendrilsEdge@gmail.com. Thanks a million, Lake Claire!

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Pictures from recent Lake Claire Neighbors huge Yard Sale event

Lake Claire neighbors dodged the rain and made a little cash at the neighborhood-wide yard sale held on Saturday, September 26. Over 75 households participated and several enterprising young people set up shop in hopes of taking the top prize for the best lemonade stand. The electronics recycling event that day took in over 1700 pounds of scrap metal, computers, and plastics to be recycled and disposed of properly thanks to the help from Zentech Recycling, a local recycling company. Good work Lake Claire!



Baby Esther Nielsen looks on



Best Beverage - They didn't have a lemonade stand, but the Mimosa Girls of Leonardo were making the best of it! L-R, Lisa Waugh, Lorri Vetter, and Jenny Smith-Davis.



Roshan Antia tries on yard sale trike for size.

Public Broadcasting Atlanta Channel 30 Launches Innovative Social Networking Site—and Lake Claire Has a Presence

On September 14, Public Broadcasting Atlanta (PBA) launched Lens on Atlanta (www.lensonatlanta.org), an online community with three main areas of focus—civic engagement, education, and the arts—to be rolled out in phases. The first phase, Public Square, is now in beta and available for anyone to use. It provides free social networking tools—blogs, discussion forums, message boards, polls, and a digital repository in which to keep files of interest—to connect metro Atlanta citizens, institutions, and elected officials as a way of encouraging civic discourse and effecting positive change in our region. Lens on Atlanta is the “first public broadcasting-sponsored, regionally focused online community in the country.”

How does it work? You can register as a member of Lens or sign up your organization as a Group. A Group is a mini-site within Lens for all things related to that organization. At the Lake Claire

Neighborhood Association Group (<http://www.lensonatlanta.org/grp.php?action=group&ID=17>), for example, everyone in Lake Claire can participate in a discussion about important issues for the community, such as the DeKalb Avenue green space or security patrols, upload documents they want to share, such as developer plans for a controversial project, or post events, such as the neighborhood-wide yard sale. They'll also have the ability to link to other sites—like lake-claire.org—and to easily connect with other similar groups, such as the Candler Park or Kirkwood Neighborhood Associations.

Recent features on the home page of Lens on Atlanta included a conversation about how to help flood victims in Atlanta, a forum on how Atlanta neighborhoods can learn from the changes made in the East Lake neighborhood, and a discussion on crime in the city.

The *Clarion* recently connected with the director of Lens on

Atlanta, Jeannie Ericson, who happens to also be a Lake Claire neighbor. She answered some questions about this new venture.

Clarion: Do you have to be a member to post comments and other items? What does membership involve?

JE: You must be a member to contribute to the site. Membership involves completing a form that includes both mandatory and voluntary fields. The voluntary fields help us know you better and help members with similar interests find each other. One big purpose of the site is to help Atlantans connect with others who have similar interests. There is no charge for registering.

Clarion: How is the site different from the Lake Claire Web site and groups like the Yahoo neighborhood watch group?

JE: Lake Claire, like many other neighborhoods in Atlanta, is already doing some great things for the community via technology. We don't want to replace

or duplicate the work already put into other sites; we want the members of Lake Claire to use Lens when they want to engage one another. For instance, in our discussion about whether or not to start a security patrol, we can set up a poll on Lens and a discussion forum where people can weigh in on the question. The discussion will reside in one spot where everyone can see the comments, post their own reply, and see the history instead of it filling up your e-mail inbox with each new comment. We are also working on sharing urgent messages between neighborhoods. Many Candler Park crime alerts are just as important for Lake Claire, and vice versa. That is an enhancement that will be coming soon.

Check out Lens on Atlanta and the Lake Claire Group. Because this is a new venture for PBA, they are looking for input from those who want to help them grow the community.



Great Signage - Ava Allen and Elena Godiers on Marlbrook had great lemonade graphics, good lemonade, and were prepared for rain with a tarp overhead.



Starting promptly at 8 a.m., with selling attitude and showing great change-counting skills on Hardendorf, were Owen Fucile, Charlie Morris, Mason & Carter Doan (not pictured: Tommy Morris and CJ Fucile).



Great Imagination - This fabulous stand on Hardendorf was strung with blinking lights and sported a lemon tree fashioned from cardboard. Stella Nielsen shown here with Ike Epstein.



Great Curb Appeal - This brightly colored lemonade stand caught the eye of many customers on McLendon, with Sloan and Mary Glen Sinkule serving up cool, fresh lemonade.

Running for a Cause: Two School Fund-raiser 5Ks

The **Oakhurst Cooperative Preschool** is holding its third annual Beat the Street for Little Feet fund-raiser on **October 31** at 9 a.m. in Candler Park. The event will feature a 5K race with special single and double jog stroller divisions as well as a one-mile race for younger participants and a fun run for our community's youngest runners, and a post-race festival with live music, face painting, and a costume contest for all to enjoy. And for all you "Pete the Cat" fans, award-winning local artist James Dean has created another one-of-a-kind race T-shirt for the event (shirts are available for nonrunners, or "phantom runners," too). To check out the design and register for the race, visit www.oakhurstcoop.com/pete/about. You also can register at www.active.com or at the Big Peach Running Company, in downtown Decatur.

In keeping with the preschool's commitment to the environment,

both the race and the festival are being planned to minimize our carbon footprint. This year, you can bring your worn-out athletic shoes to be recycled through Nike's Reuse-a-Shoe program, which transforms donated shoes into Nike Grind, a material used in creating athletic and playground surfaces as well as select Nike products.

The **Inman Middle School** PTA is sponsoring a 5K fun run on Saturday, **November 7**, at 9 a.m., with proceeds benefiting the PTA. The race starts on Greencove, behind the school, and winds through the Virginia Highland neighborhood. Runners will receive a multicolored 100 percent cotton T-shirt designed by Inman students. Prizes will be awarded to the winners. The cost is \$20 in advance or \$25 the day of the race. A tot trot for kids five and under (\$8) will follow the 5K. Download the registration form at <http://running4fitness.com/event2.htm> or register in person

at Phidippides at Ansley Mall, 1544 Piedmont Ave., Atlanta 30324, (404) 875-4268. For more information, please contact Ed Williams, race director, at (404) 327-7738 or roadraceservices@comcast.net.

Mary Lin Halloween Carnival Will Be Held on . . . Halloween!

This family-oriented, ghoulish event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, at Mary Lin Elementary School. Bring the family and enjoy a spooky haunted house, a giant slide, a moonwalk, face painting, games, a toddler area, a photo booth, food, and more! Proceeds from the event support Mary Lin's annual Science Night, in which visiting scientists from Zoo Atlanta, Emory, and beyond offer hands-on learning to inspire and amaze our students. Don't miss this exciting neighborhood event, where you can celebrate

Halloween and contribute to our children's science education. For more information on how to support this event, please contact fundraising@marylinelementary.com.

Lake Claire Trick-or-Treat Hot Spots!

As you plan your Halloween trick-or-treating, make sure to add these spectacularly scary spots in the neighborhood to your list, and nominate your own spookiest haunts by e-mailing editor@lakeclaire.org. Visit www.lakeclaire.org for updates before Halloween day! Happy haunting!

- The corner of Arizona and New York Avenues (Gene and Tracy)
- 329 Southerland Terrace (Gwen and Steven)
- 301 Gordon Avenue (Teri and Iris)

Lake Claire Safety Report: July-August

Please be sure to remove items from your cars and to inform guests and visitors to do the same! As Major Propes advised, we don't want to make this a "target-rich environment." Watch out for your neighbors and report any suspicious activity by calling 911 immediately. Report crime to 911 first and then to lakeclaireneighborhoodwatch@yahoo.com.

AUTO THEFT

8/1-8/2 Sat 10:00 p.m.-Sun 11:30 a.m.—500 blk Clifton Rd. NE

2008 Gold Honda CRV

Broken glass was found where the vehicle had been parked.

ENTERING AUTO

8/2 Sun a.m.—200 blk Connecticut Ave. NE

2001 Silver Volvo S80Front

passenger's side window broken. Taken: \$20 cash, briefcase. Prints attempted.

8/5-8/6 Wed 8:00 p.m.-Thurs 8:45 a.m.—400 blk Ridgewood Rd. NE

2001 Blue Ford Focus

Passenger's side window broken. Taken: Laptop, books. Prints attempted.

8/5-8/6 Wed 10:00 p.m.-Thurs 10:13 a.m.—300 blk Lake Claire Ct. NE

200 Blue Subaru Legacy

Rear driver's side window broken. Taken: Vehicle registration. Prints attempted.

8/11-8/12 Tues 9:00 p.m.-Wed 9:30 a.m.—300 blk Gordon Ave. NE

1996 Honda Civic

Driver's side window broken. Taken: Nothing. Prints attempted.

8/12-8/13 Wed 5:00 p.m.-Thurs 7:00 a.m.—200 blk Ari-

zona Ave. NE

2006 Scion XB

2000 Toyota Siena

Front passenger's side window on the Scion and passenger's side window on the Siena broken. Taken: Unknown. Prints attempted.

8/14 Fri 12:30 a.m.- 7:15 a.m.—200 blk Southerland Ter. NE

2005 Toyota Tacoma

Driver's side window broken. Taken: \$10 in change. Prints attempted.

8/14-8/16 Fri 5:00 p.m.-Sun 9:00 a.m.—300 blk Matthews Ave. NE

2004 Volkswagen R32

Driver's side window broken. Taken: \$5 in change, iPod. Prints attempted.

8/15-8/16 Sat 9:00 p.m.-Sun 7:30 a.m.—300 blk Matthews Ave. NE

Driver's side window broken.

Taken: \$4 in change. Prints attempted.

8/15-8/16 Sat 7:00 p.m.-Sun 9:48 a.m.—200 blk Connecticut Ave. NE

2002 Toyota Camry

Passenger's side window broken. Taken: Nothing. Prints attempted.

8/16 Sun 12:00 a.m.-9:48 a.m.—1800 blk DeKalb Ave. NE

2008 Nissan Sentra

Passenger's side window broken. Taken: iPod. Prints attempted.

8/17-8/18 Mon 11:00 p.m.-Tues 8:23 a.m.—400 blk Claire Dr. NE

2005 Hyundai Tucson

Driver's side window broken. Taken: Change. No prints taken at owner's request.

8/20-8/21 Thurs 10:30 p.m.-Fri 8:07 a.m.—200 blk Southerland Ter. NE

2009 Honda Accord

Driver's side window broken. Taken: Nothing. No prints taken due to wet surfaces.

8/20-8/21 Thurs 8:30 p.m.-Fri 8:40 a.m.—1800 blk Gordon Manor NE

2007 Dodge Caliber

Passenger's side window broken. Taken: iPod, GPS. No prints taken due to rain.

8/21 Fri 10:00-10:50 p.m.—400 blk Clifton Rd. NE

2000 Lexus RX3

Passenger's side window broken. Taken: iPod, touch-screen phone. No prints taken due to wet surfaces.

8/22-8/23 Sat 9:00 p.m.-Sun 12:57 a.m.—1800 blk DeKalb Ave. NE

1998 Black Chevy C15

Driver's side door handle and steering column damaged. No prints taken due to lack of printable surfaces.

8/24-8/25 Mon 10:30 p.m.-Tues 9:28 a.m.—600 blk Clifton Rd. NE

2003 Honda CRV

Rear passenger's side window broken. Taken: Digital camera. Prints attempted.

8/25-8/26 Tues 5:00 p.m.-Wed 8:00 a.m.—500 blk Hardendorf Ave. NE

2008 Honda Accord

Front passenger's side window broken. Taken: Garmin GPS. Prints attempted.

Donate Books to Support the East Atlanta Library

The Friends of East Atlanta are collecting used books for their annual book sale. Drop off donations at either of two collection sites: the East Atlanta Branch Library, at 400 Flat Shoals Avenue SE, or Village Hardware, at 1231 Glenwood Avenue SE. Make a little room on your shelves, or find a good home for that cookbook you never use—for a good cause. The money from the book sale helps fund special programming at the library and supplies that make visiting the library a pleasure.

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Vines and Trees and Butterflies and Birds and Bees

The right combination of trees and vines can lead to lots of birds, butterflies, and bees—bee-lieve it or not. We're developing such a combination over at the Freedom Park Bird and Butterfly Garden, at the corner of North Avenue and Candler Park Drive.

When we decided on the site for the garden, it happened to include four large white oak trees (*Quercus alba*). Little did we realize how fortunate this was, not being up to speed on the secret life of trees at the time. Since then, we've learned that the white oak is a valuable food source for over twenty-eight species of birds, including blue jays, American crows, redheaded woodpeckers, tufted titmice, and white-breasted nuthatches, all of which have been seen or heard at the garden. The trees provide a huge benefit to wildlife populations because of their acorns, which are larger and sweeter than those of other oaks, such as the red oak. In fact, including birds, 180 wildlife species prefer these acorns (www.Copeland.udel.edu). The white oak can live for over five hundred years, grows to one hundred feet tall, and is native to America.

Now, the white oaks obviously don't need any help to attract wildlife, but overachievers that we are, we decided to give them some help anyway—and that's where the vines come in. We've planted a native vine by three of the trees, and each of these vines attracts birds and butterflies and bees! Here they are:

Passionflower (*Passiflora incarnata*) is a host plant for the bright orange Gulf fritillary, the variegated fritillary, and zebra butterflies. The size and the structure of the flowers of this plant are optimized for pollination by hummingbirds, bumblebees, and wasps. The vine, with its exotic white and purple flowers, can grow to twenty feet.

Climbing hydrangea (*Decumaria barbara*) is an attractive deciduous vine with lace-cap-like clusters of large white flowers in midsummer. This plant, too, is attractive to bees, butterflies, and birds. It's also a favorite of deer, though we're not really expecting any. The vine can grow up to forty feet high.

Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*) is native to southeastern North America, where it occurs widely in uplands, lowlands, forests, and clearings. The outside of the typical crossvine flower is red to brownish orange, the inside yellow. It is a hummingbird favorite, is drought tolerant, and will grow to forty feet.

So take a peek over at the garden, which, by the way, is a joint project of Atlanta Audubon and the DeKalb Master Gardener Association. If you'd like to receive our quarterly update, contact cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net.

—Carol Vanderschaaf, co-coordinator



Aloha to Wendell, May 5, 1999—September 4, 2009.

We lost our little best friend today. His health issues that surfaced recently proved to be too much, and we had to let him go. He was so much fun. He went on many vacations with us. He got to swim in two oceans and the Gulf of Mexico, and he brought joy and a smile to hundreds of people. He was a lucky little bulldog. We'll miss you, little fella. Be good.

—John Goese & Pat Marsh

Sixteen-year-old Sweetie passed away on August 3, 2009

She was kind, strong, good, and true, through and through; an awe-inspiring being. Wing and I feel truly humbled by her presence of steadfast love. We are fortunate to have shared time with her, and we wish we could be as good as Sweetie. What a gentle teacher. We will always carry you in our hearts, Sweetie. We love you forever and a day.

Dawn and Wing

Dining Out with the Kids

Dinner out. It's a simple prospect, but the idea can strike fear into the hearts of parents of small children. Eating out with kids can be a foray into the unknown. You can plan for every aspect of the voyage, but you don't truly know what lies ahead. *What exactly will my child do? Will she behave? What will be eaten and what will be thrown? How torrid will the tantrum be when I take away the salt shaker? Will we make it through the meal, or will we be packing up to go before the plates arrive?*

Even when nothing goes wrong, young children can be on the noisy side (as many nonparents will attest). I never imagined myself saying, "Honey, let's use your inside voice," but it's now a staple in my repertoire. Children are also not exactly subtle when they spot or hear something interesting at the next table. Why use your peripheral vision when you can simply turn around and stare?

Understandably, there is an appropriate time and place for meals out with the kids. The best bet is to patronize restaurants that are truly welcoming to children at the time that best suits your child. With that in mind, this column (and future columns) will provide recommendations for "everyday" restaurants for your family.

One of my family's favorite local finds is Melton's App & Tap, which is located at the corner of North Decatur Road and Scott Boulevard. Melton's is a cross between a sports bar and a laid-back family-owned restaurant. It is very kid-friendly and provides plenty of food options for the little ones. I picture Melton's as the place to go with the team after a Little League game (where the waitstaff would ask if you won or lost and would know the team's record). They have phenomenal nachos—which our daughter loves picking at—and are now offering a Tuesday evening Family Night Special,

where a kid's meal is free with the purchase of an adult meal. Our daughter gives Melton's two loud squeals. My wife and I give it high ratings for both the quality of its food and its adult beverage choices. The fact that Melton's is located next to a pet store (aka a "little zoo") makes it all the more appealing.

Two family-friendly breakfast/brunch suggestions are American Roadhouse (Virginia Highland) and Vinocity (Kirkwood). American Roadhouse is loud and busy while also warm, comfortable, and friendly—which is perfect for the family. The food is delicious and the portions are enormous, but the wait can be a bit long.

When you walk into Vinocity, you might think it an odd choice for a family meal out, as it looks like an upscale bar with a few cocktail tables. We were told by friends that children are welcome, and they were right—the owner even came to our table to say hello, and we found out he has a little one about our daughter's age. The fare may be a bit complex for children; however, there are certainly options on the menu for them. (For adults, I recommend the warm potato salad as a side—it's amazing). In short, Vinocity can be a nice change of pace, since it is inviting to children while also reminiscent of the type of place you went to before you had children.

—Cliff Edelmann

Cliff is president of ESQ Marketing, Inc., a firm that specializes in developing and implementing individualized marketing plans for attorneys and other professional service providers. He is also parent-in-charge of his two-year-old daughter, Amelia, Monday through Friday, and is in charge of nearly all meal planning.

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Elections Are Around the Corner: Get to Know the Mayoral Candidates

It is election time again, and your vote counts! Here is a look at the platforms of Lisa Borders, Mary Norwood, and Kasim Reed on the issues of public safety, environment, and fiscal responsibility.

Safety

Lisa Borders

Increase police force by 10 percent

Pay for increase with \$11.3 million COPS grant over first three years

Increase fire department to national standard

Retain officers by increasing base pay and restoring annual increments

Support incentive programs—e.g., rent-to-own and one-time rewards for education

Hire police and fire chiefs willing to move among rank-and-file officers

Employ better technology to collect fines, receive citizen information, and send crime alerts

Mary Norwood

End police and firefighter furloughs

Cut budgets in other departments to pay for full-time offi-

cers

Build police force by 10 percent and put more police on the beat

Retain officers with "incentive to stay" annual increments and offer deferred retirement

Make public safety officers' salary and benefits competitive

Help public safety personnel buy homes in Atlanta

Enforce building codes so landlords maintain properties—protecting neighborhoods from blight

Kasim Reed

Increase size of police force

Provide officers with best training and equipment available

Add 750 officers, cutting down on the need for overtime

Work with Atlanta Police Foundation to determine how to recruit and retain officers

Support legislation to waive property taxes for police officers and firefighters

Environment

Borders

Focus on green technologies, energy, and IT

Pair development and sustainability to create projects like redevelopment of Fort McPherson

Aggressively support the Beltline to increase mobility, connect neighborhoods, add green space, and spur growth

Norwood

Add green space (more to come in "Neighborhoods platform plank")

Reed

Use tax incentives and policy to make Atlanta a hub for alternative energy innovation

Reduce Atlanta's carbon footprint and transition toward clean energy

Focus on green space to maintain Atlanta's beauty, in spite of fast development

Support the Beltline and ensure that neighborhood parks are maintained and expanded where possible

Ensure dedicated revenue source for parks and recreation centers so they aren't damaged by dips in the economy

Taxes & Accountability

Borders

Create a multiyear financial plan, setting long-term goals to avoid future budget gaps

Require a fiscal improvement plan and fiscal accountability report

Create a Web site to report fiscal improvement and share financial plan

Develop schedule for infrastructure replacement and assemble task force to assess options

Secure fees that are billed but not collected

Assess and adjust compensation for city services

Norwood

Launch outside audit of all city finances

Reorganize financial department

Require monthly accounting from every department and post monthly reports on Web site

Rightsize the workforce

Grow tax base by fostering Atlanta as a destination for business, retail, and entertainment

Work with state to develop a regional tax equalization fund so that jurisdictions that have daily net outflows of workers contribute to the jurisdictions that have daily net inflows

Reed

Streamline city government to keep tax burden low

Cap annual residential property reassessments and continue to support legislation to raise homestead exemption for all Atlantans

Rightsize City Hall

Institute and publish performance audits of every department

Make budgeting process more accessible to citizens

Establish impartial ethics committee

Tighten registration and disclosure requirements for lobbyists to ensure accountability and transparency

Want to know more? See www.bordersforatlanta.com, www.marynorwoodformayor.com, and www.kasimreed.com.

—Hannah Denmark

Flooding: Numbers to Know and How to Help

In the case of flooding, the following numbers may be used for emergencies:

—To have the City remove a dead or fallen tree from public property, the street, or right-of-way (404) 817-6813.

—To report flooding, call the Department of Watershed Management at (404) 658-6500 or (404) 954-6340.

—To report power outages, call Georgia Power at (888) 891-0938.

The Fulton County Joint Operations Center (JOC) is also available for emergencies/inquires at (404) 546-2606.

To help those affected by the flooding in September, visit the Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter of the American Red Cross at www.atlantaredcross.org.

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Offer Good at Edgewood Retail Shopping Center Only
Regular Price \$13 Adult & \$11 Child (10 and under)/Senior

Lake Claire resident children will receive a Great Clips coloring book and complimentary lollipop! (while supplies last)

A Special Offer For Lake Claire Residents!

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- ✓ Local Businesses
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Mary Lin Elementary is a vital part of our neighborhood. Anyone will tell you that a quality school system is a major draw for any neighborhood. Once considered an average school, Mary Lin is now recognized as one of the best elementary schools in the state, having received the Silver Award for Highest Performance on the Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) in 2008 by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement and the Georgia Department of Education. An excellent school helps create a popular neighborhood, which leads to better businesses in our community and increased home values for everyone.

The Mary Lin Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, helps provide our school with instructional, physical and technological opportunities for the enrichment of all students. **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!** Your donations – even if you don't have a child at Mary Lin – helps build a stronger school that gets better every year. **OUR GOAL FOR THIS YEAR'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IS \$20,000.** Any amount you donate will make a difference.

With this money we will provide:

- PROMETHEAN ACTIVBOARD technology in the classrooms
These interactive whiteboards bring the traditional blackboard of yesteryear to life!
- TEACHER TRAINING in current best educational practices

So why isn't this provided by the Atlanta Public School System (APS)? APS does aim for all schools to have the best, but that can be challenging due to budget constraints and time demands. We realize that education shouldn't wait when resources are available--improvements are most effective when implemented early. Shouldn't our goal as a community be to have all future Mary Lin students attend a high quality, progressive local school with great resources?

Please visit www.marylinfooundation.org to support this campaign online or fill out and return the form below~

CONTRIBUTOR INFORMATION--all contributions are tax deductible

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home (_____) _____ Email Address: _____

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ Other _____

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS: Does your employer match donations? YES / NO

If yes, please enclose a signed Matching Donation Form from your employer.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

☐ Check Enclosed. Please make check payable to the *Mary Lin Education Foundation*.

☐ Bill my Credit Card. Card Type: Visa Mastercard American Express Discover

Account Number: _____ CVV Code: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Please mail completed form and payment to:

Mary Lin Education Foundation • 586 Candler Park Drive • Atlanta, Georgia • 30307

For more information, please visit www.marylinfooundation.org
or send an email to foundation@marylinelementary.com

Nurture Decatur Presents Natural Family Living Series

Nurture Decatur is a new resource for parents who seek to make informed choices as they create a whole, healthy family environment. A free lecture series hosted this fall at the Solarium at Historic Scottish Rite, in Decatur (321 West Hill Street), will bring together parents in the community to learn about and discuss ideas related to natural family living. Some lecture topics include cloth diapering, babywearing, doulas, cesarean awareness, and homeschooling. Nurture Decatur hopes to raise community awareness about natural family living and to help forge new family bonds through discussion, personal interaction, and, in some cases, demonstrations of how to apply these values and ideas. Details about this month's lectures are below. Lectures are limited to thirty attendees. Reserve your space at www.nurturedecatur.org, or send an e-mail containing your name and requested lecture date to nurturedecatur@gmail.com.

Is Cloth Diapering Better for Your Baby?

Monday, October 5, 7-8:30 p.m.

With guest speaker Rachel Harp

Are you curious about cloth diapering but confused by all the different styles and brands? This lecture can help you sort it all out. How many do you need? How much will it cost? What about washing and drying? Come find out the ins and outs of cloth diapering and see and compare several types of diapers with cloth-diapering expert Rachel Harp, owner of Atlanta Diaper Service, to decide if cloth diapering is the best option for your family.

Homeschooling: The New Private Education?

Monday, October 19, 7-8:30 p.m.

With guest speaker Alicia Pillsbury

More and more parents are considering homeschooling (or parent-directed education) as an alternative to public or private schools. Parents choose to homeschool for a number of reasons: to teach to a child's abilities as opposed to test scores, to incorporate spirituality into a

curriculum, to spend more quality time with their children, to escape hostile school environments and negative social influences, and to meet special education needs in an individualized fashion, to name just a few. Alicia Pillsbury, who holds a degree in early childhood education and has taught in a traditional classroom setting, yet chose to homeschool her children from the start, will lead a discussion on some of the major homeschooling philosophies as well as legal implications and Georgia state requirements. Come learn why parent-directed education works so well for some families, what resources are available locally, and how to get started.

—Andrea Andrade

Letter to the Clarion

Dear Irresponsible Dog Owners,

I am a mom who far too often has the experience of having a large or seemingly aggressive unleashed dog approach me or my children in our neighborhood. Occasionally, these dogs are completely on their own, but more often than not they are followed by a less-than-apologetic dog owner who takes far too long to round them up. I want you to know that I am going to begin carrying pepper spray and will not hesitate to use it on any dog that approaches us quickly or in an aggressive way. Let me be clear in saying that I love animals, am a dog owner myself, and do not wish to injure innocent dogs. Irresponsible owners, however, need to understand that it is for the safety of others as much as that of their beloved canine companions that they abide by the law and keep their dogs on a leash when not in a fenced area. And for what it's worth, I too would love a dog park in Lake Claire Park—a portion of the recently acquired wooded space combined with a small bit of the field would be perfect.

Thanks, and stay safe,

One concerned neighbor who's sick as a dog of being hounded

Lake Claire Halloween Parade Saturday, October 24, at 5:30 p.m.

See details on page 3

October 31, 2009
9 am - Candler Park, Atlanta
5k, One Mile Race, Kids Fun Run
and Post-Race Children's Festival

**The 3rd Annual Beat the Street
for Little Feet!**

Pete the Cat race t-shirt for ALL PRE-REGISTERED (by October 18)* racers. Not a runner but still want the t-shirt? Phantom Runners welcome! Visit our website for more info! www.active.com OR www.oakhurstcoop.com/pete/



OAKHURST COOPERATIVE PRE-SCHOOL
www.oakhurstcoop.com/pete/

Business Classifieds

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

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PETS/BABYSITTING Mature teenage girls can provide babysitting and pet care. Call Selena 404-378-5683 or Emily 404-377-4569.

MARY LIN HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL



Saturday, October 31st
10 AM - 2 PM
at Mary Lin Elementary School



haunted house • moonwalk & giant slide • face-painting & tattoos • games, food & more!!