

Spring into Action for Your Neighborhood!



Above, neighbors enjoy shopping and socializing during Lake Claire's annual neighborhood-wide yard sale last September.

Ten Ways to Get Involved in Lake Claire

The Lake Claire Neighbors executive committee met in January to discuss plans for the neighborhood in 2010. With an agreed-upon goal of serving the three pillars of community building, environmental stewardship, and outreach to neighborhood nonprofits, the committee brainstormed ways in which we can all get involved to improve and strengthen our neighborhood and community.

1. Pay your Lake Claire dues.

What: Dues are \$20 per household per year.

When: No time like the present!

Where: From the comfort of your own home

Why: Dues help the neighborhood association do great things for you, such as park and stream bank cleanups, installation of neighborhood signs, community events, distribution of the *Clarion*, and staying ahead of city planning developments. (For more information, see "Why Do We Have a Neighborhood Organization?")

How: Go online to www.lakeclaire.org and pay by PayPal, or send a check to Lake Claire Neighbors, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107.

2. Be a part of the Lake Claire cheering zone for the ING Georgia Marathon.

What: The organizers of the ING Marathon designate official "cheering zones" to support and encourage the runners, and this year Lake Claire will be participating. The

most memorable, eye-catching, enthusiastic cheering zones will be awarded funds to be used for a fitness initiative of their choosing: first place wins \$3,000, second \$2,000, and third \$1,000. We hope to use the funds for a park-to-park "fun run" (see number 5). Our theme is "Ski Lake Claire!"

When: Sun., Mar. 21, 7 a.m.–10 a.m.

Where: The corner of Clifton and S. Ponce in Olmsted Linear Park

Why: To have a crazy good time AND earn money for the neighborhood

How: Email president@lakeclaire.org if you can come out and cheer or donate items for the theme (subject line: Marathon cheering).

3. Help organize the annual neighborhood-wide yard sale.

What: Last year's neighborhood yard sale was a resounding success, and we want to stage an even bigger and better sale this year.

When: Late summer or fall, date TBD

Where: All over this great neighborhood

Why: To visit with neighbors, meet new folks, get rid of stuff you don't need or want or use anymore, recycle old electronics, and raise money for Lake Claire

How: Contact Glenn Frankel at president@lakeclaire.org to join the organizing team (subject line: Yard Sale).

4. Revive the Lake Claire Tour of Homes.

What: An opportunity for neighbors and others in the community

Why Do We Have a Neighborhood Association?

The official reason for neighborhood organizations in Atlanta is to provide a framework for participating in local government by considering land use, zoning, variance, and citywide issues. Neighborhood organizations in turn belong to Neighborhood Planning Units (NPU), similar to political "wards" in other cities (and historic Atlanta). The system of twenty-five NPUs began in 1974 to provide an opportunity for residents to participate in a Comprehensive Development Plan, the city's long-term land management plan. The NPU is also the official forum for making recommendations to the mayor and city council on local issues and receiving information from city government.

Our NPU (N) includes Cabbagetown, Candler Park, Druid Hills, Inman Park, Poncey-Highlands, Reynoldstown, and Lake Claire. Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Little Five Points Community Center and are open to the public. Kathy Evans and Jennifer Sams represent Lake Claire Neighbors, Inc. (LCN), at these meetings.

Lake Claire Neighbors

Difficult issues do not arise too often for LCN, but it is important to have a forum to handle them with fairness when they do. LCN has engaged in official efforts such as traffic-calming measures on McLendon Avenue; new crosswalks and stop signs throughout the neighborhood; opposition to a cell phone tower in Candler Park; and, many years ago, an effort that stopped "The Road" from dissecting part of our neighborhood and instead created Freedom Park.

Above and beyond its part in representing the community in City affairs, LCN provides a structure for "promoting the common good and general welfare" of Lake Claire. Ongoing activities include publishing the *Clarion* and maintaining the website and webcast (please sign up at www.lakeclaire.org). Many residents, including our current LCN president, Glenn Frankel, first learned about our neighborhood by reading about us on the web before moving to Atlanta!

LCN also sponsors a yearly Hal-

loween parade, a holiday dinner, and other social events—including movies in Lake Claire Park, an Easter parade, potlucks, and a tour of homes. All of LCN's work depends on volunteers stepping forward. Volunteers initiated the creation of a Lake Claire banner and bumper sticker, the community-wide yard sale, the Native Waters mural on DeKalb Avenue, Friends of the Frazer Center Forest, the greenspace acquisition on Harold Avenue, and the Lake Claire Park greenspace expansion.

LCN Budget

LCN has an annual operating budget of approximately \$15,000, with an amount in reserve that varies based on income and yearly needs. In recent years, the largest single source of income is advertising revenue from the *Clarion*. We hope to revive the tour of homes and other efforts to raise funds.

LCN tries to be a very conscientious.

LCN continued on page 2



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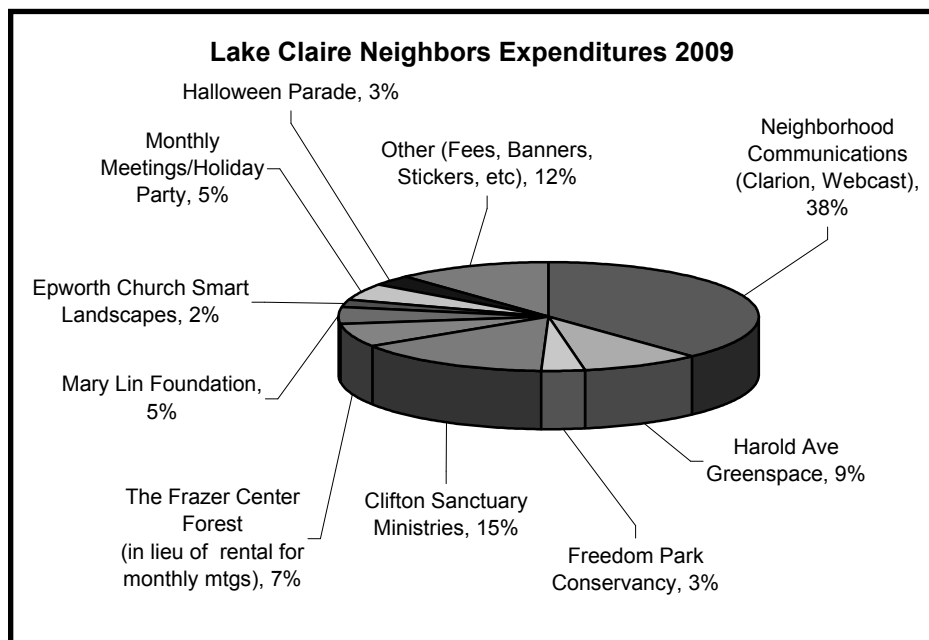
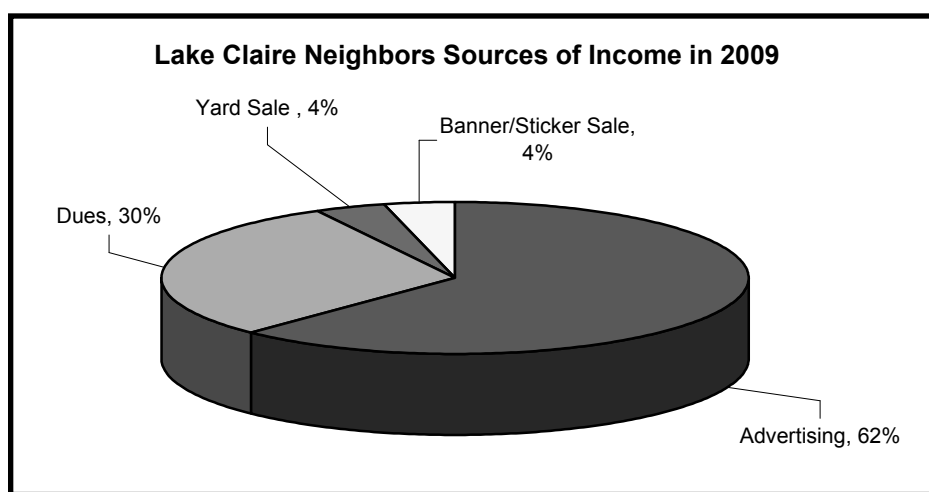
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tious group in terms of allocating its budget. Priorities include supporting social events and community-wide communication and contributing to organizations in which we have official representation or that have a direct impact on our immediate neighborhood. We favor smaller projects in which we can have a measurable impact. For example, the Frazer Center generously provides space for our monthly meetings, and in gratitude for their generosity we donate to the Frazer Center, especially for care and maintenance in the forest, where we also organize volunteers.

In recent years, we have donated to Freedom Park Conservancy, Olmsted Linear Park, the Peavine Watershed Alliance, the Mary Lin Foundation, Harold Avenue greenspace maintenance, and Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. Clifton has been a high priority because it is our single contribution with direct benefit to residents of the neighborhood who are most in need. Even with a small budget, we try to maintain reserves for unexpected opportunities. For example, reserve funds were used to help purchase the acquisition of land that enlarged Lake Claire Park by nearly 25 percent in 2008.

—Kathy Evans

Ten continued from page 1
to get a glimpse into the eclectic homes of Lake Claire.

When: Late fall 2010 or early 2011
Where: Various homes throughout the neighborhood
Why: To open our doors and welcome people in while raising money for the neighborhood or other organizations and causes.
How: Volunteer to help planning by emailing president@lakeclaire.org



(subject line: Tour of Homes).

5. Help organize a Park-to-Park Fun Run.

What: A 5K (or other short-distance) "fun run" from Candler Park to Lake Claire Park.

When: Fall 2010 or Spring 2011
Where: The streets—and hills!—of Lake Claire
Why: To raise money for the neighborhood while engaging in some outdoor exercise with friends and neighbors
How: Email your interest to president@lakeclaire.org (subject line: Fun Run).

6. Join the Clarion staff.

What: The *Clarion* exists in large part through the advertising in its pages. We are putting together a volunteer ad sales team to help drum up advertisers for our paper. These sales gurus will work with the *Clarion* staff to locate and contact local businesses, entrepreneurs, and other organizations and individuals who might want to advertise.

When: Ongoing
Where: Contact with potential advertisers can be made by phone or in person
Why: In recent years, the largest single source of income for Lake

Claire Neighbors is advertising revenue from the *Clarion*. (See "Why Do We Have a Neighborhood Organization?")

How: Email us at editor@lakeclaire.org.

7. Help put on a movie night in the park.

What: Lake Claire has the equipment but just needs the organizing help to show a movie in the park—one idea is a "Bark in the Park" movie night for neighbors and their dogs!

When: This summer
Where: Lake Claire Park
Why: This falls under the "community building" goal—a way for us to get to know each other better and enjoy the amenities our neighborhood has to offer

How: Email president@lakeclaire.org (subject line: Movie night).

8. Participate in Frazer Forest workdays and urban forest ecology workshops.

What: Friends of the Frazer Center Forest (a subcommittee of LCN) is planning quarterly workdays in the forest as well as a number of guided hikes and workshops on the benefits of the urban forest, native plant identification, and local ecology.

When: Spring/Summer 2010
Where: Frazer Forest
Why: We have a beautiful urban forest in our backyard, and a little effort (and education) goes a long way toward keeping it healthy and thriving.

How: To work in the forest or participate in a workshop (as a leader or an attendee), contact Elise Cormier at environment@lakeclaire.org (subject line: Frazer Forest).

9. Volunteer to help host a Lake Claire dinner at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries for the guests.

What: "Early evening hosts" at Clifton greet guests as they come in from being out all day and then prepare and serve them dinner.

When: Ongoing
Where: Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, 369 Connecticut Avenue
Why: Clifton has been a presence in our neighborhood for over thirty years. Hosting a dinner is an opportunity to support and learn about this valuable community asset while getting to know the men who live at Clifton.

How: Write to Glenn Frankel at president@lakeclaire.org (subject line: CSM dinner).

10. Tell us your ideas for ways to enrich the neighborhood.

Lake Claire is home to a lot of inventive, enterprising folk, so tell us your ideas for how to make Lake Claire a stronger community! Email editor@lakeclaire.org (subject line: Volunteer opportunities).

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Next LCN Meeting

Thursday March 18

Lake Claire Neighbors meets every third Thursday of the month at the Frazer Center. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m.; the meeting begins at 7:00. Meetings are open to all. Check www.lakeclaire.org for updates to the meeting agenda.

Mark Your Calendar

Friday, Mar 5–Saturday, Mar 6: First Baptist Church of Decatur Consignment Sale, 308 Clairemont Ave., Decatur. Friday, 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. (half-price day). For information on selling items and shopping the sale, email tskidsale@bellsouth.net.

Saturday, Mar 6: The Second Annual Decatur Old House Fair, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Holiday Inn Conference Plaza, 130 Clairemont Ave., Decatur. For a seminar schedule, exhibitor details, and ticket information, visit www.DecaturOldHouseFair.com. Tickets are \$10 when purchased in advance, \$15 at the door. Tickets can be purchased on the website or at select local establishments.

Monday, Mar 8: Meeting of the Lake Claire Garden Club, 7:00 p.m.

Monday–Sunday, Mar 8–14: Inman Park Restaurant Week. Participating restaurants: The Albert, Fritti, Kevin Rathbun Steak, North Highland Pub, Parish, Park's Edge, Pure Taqueria, Rathbun's, Sauced, Shaun's, Sotto Sotto, Wisteria, and Zaya Mediterranean Cuisine. Special prix fixe menus range from \$15 to \$35. The

Lake Claire Officers for 2010

President: Glenn Frankel, president@lakeclaire.org
 VP, Communications: Tish Ganey, comm@lakeclaire.org
 VP, Environment: Elise Cormier, environment@lakeclaire.org
 VP, Finance: Cara Stevens, treasurer@lakeclaire.org
 VP, Safety: Jennifer Horn, safety@lakeclaire.org
 VP, Zoning: Dan White, zoning@lakeclaire.org
 NPU Rep: Kathy Evans, npu@lakeclaire.org;
 alternate: Jennifer Sams

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

Visit www.lakeclaire.org to sign up for the newscasts—timely updates on happenings in Lake Claire!

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Heidi Hill, editor@lakeclaire.org
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 Distribution: Katie Brady, distribution@lakeclaire.org
 Layout: Lisa Waugh, layout@lakeclaire.org
 Webmaster: Tish Ganey, comm@lakeclaire.org

The *Clarion* is published monthly. The deadline for advertising and editorial consideration is the 15th of the month preceding publication.

event benefits Chef Shaun Doty's Believe in Me Foundation, which supports the education and welfare of children with autism. Visit www.inmanparkrestaurantweek.com to find out more.

Tuesdays, Mar 9, 16, 23: Free seminar series on green remodeling, 6:30 p.m., Toco Hill–Avis G. Williams Library, 1282 McConnell Dr., Decatur. Topics to be discussed are the Homeowner's Guide to Green Remodeling (3/9), Show Me the Money: Why Green Makes Sense for Your Wallet (3/16), and Creating a Healthy Home (3/23). The library will feature local green experts as speakers. For more information, call (404) 378-6962 or visit the DeKalb County Public Library website at www.dekalblibrary.org.

Friday, Mar 12: Opening of the IMAX film *Arabia* at Fernbank Museum of Natural History, 767 Clifton Road NE. This portrait of Arabia allows theatergoers to ride the dunes with a camel caravan, dive into the treasure-laden Red Sea, explore the ruins of a towering lost city, hurtle back into the Islamic golden age of invention, join three million Muslims on the Hajj pilgrimage, and get to know the young Arabians transforming tomorrow's world. Through July

29. Ticket prices are \$13 for adults, \$12 for students/seniors, \$11 for children ages 3 to 12, \$8 for members, and free (based on seating availability) for children ages 2 and under. Tickets are available at www.fernbankmuseum.org or by calling (404) 929-6400.

Saturday, Mar 13: St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival, noon, Peachtree Street downtown to Underground Atlanta. Parade to feature two hundred floats, bagpipe and drum corps, Irish dancers, and Coach Vince Dooley as grand marshal; food, music, and dancing follow at the festival. For more details, go to www.stpatsparadeatlanta.com.

Sunday, Mar 14: Hunger Walk/Run 2010, Turner Field, noon–4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day

Thursday, Mar 18: Synchronicity Performance Group's Eighth Annual Women in the Arts Panel Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., 103 West, 103 West Paces Ferry Rd. NW, Buckhead. This panel discussion with some of Atlanta's most prominent women artists, funders, and administrators (including actor and director Jasmine Guy) is a great opportunity for networking and a gourmet lunch. All proceeds benefit Synchronicity's 2009/2010 season. The theme is "The Arts Make Good Cents" and is focused on answering questions such as how can the arts and business better partner to build a stronger Atlanta? Tickets are \$65 (\$50 for individuals representing a nonprofit organization). Visit www.synchrotheatre.com for more details.

Thursday, Mar 18: Lake Claire Neighbors meeting, 7:00 p.m., Frazer Center atrium, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon (back entrance is at end of Ridgewood Road).

Saturday, Mar 20: The Atlanta Parents of Multiples Club Consignment Sale, the Salvation Army

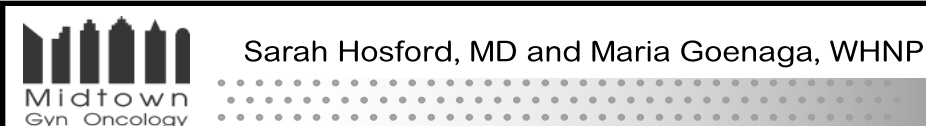
(gym), 2090 North Druid Hills Rd., 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (half-price sale 12:30–1:00 p.m.). New and gently used children's clothing, bedding, toys, and equipment will be for sale. Call (404) 486-2800 for more information.

Saturday, Mar 20–Monday, Mar 22: Park Pride's Ninth Annual Parks and Greenspace Conference and tours. Conference: Monday, March 22, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Atlanta Botanical Garden. Presenters from New York, Seattle, Chattanooga, Houston, Washington, Charlotte, and Jacksonville will showcase best practices in parks and community engagement. Details about sessions are available at www.parkpride.org. Tours: Saturday, March 20, Infrastructure Tour—visit Atlanta parks that, in addition to providing active and passive recreational opportunities, meet vital needs like flood control, sewage treatment, reservoir storage, and transportation. The tour will feature Bellwood Quarry Reservoir and Clayton County's Newnan Wetlands Center.

Sunday, Mar 21: Community Garden Tour—this tour highlights metro Atlanta's cutting-edge efforts to encourage community gardening in parks. Led by guides Eva Bradley, Walt Ray, and Farmer D, the tour will visit four of Atlanta's best community gardens. Register at <http://parkpride.kintera.org/2010Conference>.

Sunday, Mar 21: The ING Georgia Marathon, 7:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Download the course map and the street list with closing and reopening times at www.INGGeorgiaMarathon.com (go to "Community," then "Marathon Course"). Email info@INGGeorgiaMarathon.com or call (404) 892-8383 with questions.

Thursday, Mar 25: NPU-N meeting, 7:00 p.m., Little Five Points Community Center, 1083 Austin Ave. NE.



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From the Editor

The theme for this issue of the *Clarion* is "Spring into action for your neighborhood!" (Note the lovely banner that our new layout volunteer, Lisa Waugh, designed just for this idea: winter trees giving way to spring flowers.) With so many great causes, efforts, and organizations in our area—including Lake Claire itself—we wanted to highlight a few and show how you can get involved, or just learn more.

A few other items to note in this issue of the *Clarion*: we've received a lot of feedback on how Claire's List will best serve our neighbors, and after much thought we've decided to move the list online. Information on where to access Claire's List and add to it is forthcoming. Until then, feel free to email us at editor@lakeclaire.org if you have ideas or suggestions on how to make this valuable resource user-friendly and accessible to all Lake Claire neighbors.

Going forward, the *Clarion* will also be printing minutes from the monthly Lake Claire Neighbors meetings (the third Thursday of every month at the Frazer Center), as well as minutes from the NPU-N meetings. The folks at the Land Trust and the Hearth will have a column in these pages on happenings and opportunities at their place, so look for that each month too.

Call for Entries: The First-Ever Lake Claire Haiku Contest!

For our special Earth issue of the *Clarion* in April, in honor of Earth Day, we're holding a contest for the best ode to Lake Claire—in haiku form. Tell us about the natural elements of Lake Claire that you love in seventeen syllables, arranged in three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables. The traditional Japanese verse often refers to nature or the seasons, perfect for our little green hamlet (and the creative folk who inhabit it!).

Just ruminate on what makes Lake Claire so special, and then get lyrical—and submit your haiku by March 15 for entry in the contest! We will be awarding prizes, and the top three entries will be printed in the *Clarion* (judging will be done by a panel of Lake Claire neighbors). Send your haiku to editor@lakeclaire.org.

*Keep straight down this block
Then turn right where you will find
A peach tree blooming.*
—Richard Wright

What We Love about Lake Claire

The executive committee for Lake Claire Neighbors met in January to plan for the year. Below are two of the things they found to love about Lake Claire. How about you?

Location, location, location. This neighborhood of tree-lined streets feels remarkably "tucked away" for an intown area. The neighborhood still has a bit of the feel of a small town yet has easy access to downtown Atlanta and downtown Decatur. It's a short walk from the major natural history museum of the region, three parks, a walk/bike path, a commercial district, and an urban forest!

The people! It's hard to find areas with the mix of folks you find in Lake Claire—we have what is probably the biggest mix of household types we've had in decades, if ever—singles, couples, people with and without kids, retired people, people who work at home, students, people who work away from home, stay-at-home moms, stay-at-home dads . . . We probably have a greater concentration of wealth in the neighborhood than ever, and, as a neighborhood, we still support Clifton shelter, which was started in the neighborhood over thirty years ago. People go outside and get to know each other. That's what makes a community!

Hunger Walk/Run 2010: Help Neighbors in Need by Walking, Running, or Donating!

Chances are someone you know is struggling to put food on the table.

A landmark study released recently—Hunger in America 2010—reveals that 46 percent more Americans are receiving food assistance now than in 2006. The study was conducted by Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger relief organization, and nearly two hundred of its member food banks, including the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

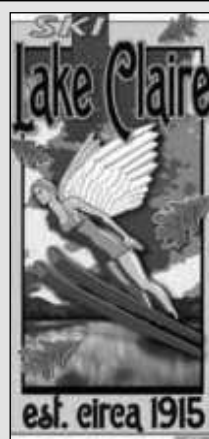
Atlantans have an opportunity to help their neighbors in need of food assistance by participating in Hunger Walk/Run 2010, which will take place on Sunday, March 14, in Turner Field. Those of us in LC can help our immediate neighbors by supporting the Clifton Sanctuary Ministries team, who will be walking and have set an ambitious goal of \$25,000 (they hope to raise at least \$7,000, which will feed their residents for a year). Support can come in the form of joining the team to walk (or run), donating money to the team, and spreading the word to raise funds. (CSM's benefiting partner is the Atlanta Community Food Bank, so funds raised for CSM will be real dollars for Clifton to use at the food bank.)

The first Hunger Walk in Atlanta took place in 1984. One thousand walkers participated in the ten-mile walk, raising \$30,000 for hunger relief. The Hunger Walk/Run continued as a volunteer effort until 1988, when it became a special project of the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Last year, the Hunger Walk/Run raised over \$400,000 for local and global hunger relief. The money raised goes to Georgia programs such as food pantries, childcare facilities, women's shelters, and senior centers. The 5K route takes walkers and runners through the city, around the state capital.

Register for the Hunger Walk/Run or donate online at www.HWR2010.org. To donate to the Clifton team, go to www.HWR2010.org, click on "Click to take the next step," then "Atlanta Community Food Bank," and then "Donate to Support a Walker." Choose "Search for a Team" and type in "Clifton."

Come Out and "Ski Lake Claire" -- Sunday, March 21!

The theme for our cheering section at the ING Georgia Marathon on March 21 is "Ski Lake Claire!" From 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the corner of S. Ponce and Clifton, neighbors will be cheering on the runners (who will be entering Mile 9) while dressed as water-skiers or sunbathers. Dress in a bathing suit or other water gear (bathing cap, life vest, arm swimmies, snorkel gear, flippers and goggles) and bring any related props (beach balls, boogie boards, inner tubes, Hawaiian leis, beach umbrellas, towels, etc.) so that we can be memorable to the runners and earn their votes for best cheering section! Have a small boat or water skis we can use? Email president@lakeclaire.org for more details or to offer your suggestions. See you at the Lake!



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The Lake Claire Security Patrol Hits the Ground Running

As of February 1, the Lake Claire Security Patrol has been monitoring our streets four times a week for four hours each day. Three Atlanta Police Department officers are currently taking shifts, including Officer Jason Combee, who is pictured here in front of his patrol car featuring the LCSP magnets. The officer on each shift is given a detailed map of the

neighborhood and its boundaries, a log on which to report back to LCSP what has occurred during the shift, two large LCSP magnets to place on his car, and a full list of LCSP members and their contact information.

To date, sixty households have signed up for the patrol, putting it at 60 percent of its goal, or eight months of funding. The newest member is the Lake Claire Pool. According to Jennifer Horn, VP of Safety for Lake Claire and founder of the LCSP, next year the security patrol will have household and business memberships.

To learn more about the secu-



rity patrol, visit <http://www.lake-claire.org/lcn/safety.htm>.

Pictured, Officer Combee next to his LCSP patrol car.

Don't forget -- Pay your dues for 2010!

Go online to www.lakeclaire.org and pay by PayPal, or send a check to Lake Claire Neighbors, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107.

Neighborhood Adopts Volunteer Policy

To assist the Lake Claire neighborhood association in treating volunteers fairly and consistently in the case of voluntary or involuntary departures, Beth Damon of Delaware proposed a set of guidelines, which were adopted as a policy at the February Lake Claire Neighbors meeting.

In short, the policy asks that the committee considering the termination of a volunteer ask themselves a series of questions—such as “Has the person’s performance been discussed, so that she/he has an opportunity to change her/his behavior” and “Does the person have a legitimate explanation for his/her actions or poor performance?”—and conduct an investigation into the events in question. Whether the departure is a resignation or a termination, departing volunteers should have the opportunity to speak confidentially and in person with an executive committee member or a third party or to offer a written note with their impressions.

The policy in its entirety will be published on www.lakeclaire.org and will be available as a hard copy to those who request it (by contacting the neighborhood by mail or by email at editor@lakeclaire.org).

Did You Know?

The population of Lake Claire is approximately 2,518 (2000 census data). That’s an increase of 9.5 percent since 1990.

Marlbrook Drive used to be named Lula, after a daughter of the developer of Lake Claire. (Other daughters were Harriet and Mu-riel.)

The Candler Park commercial strip used to be home to two pharmacies and two filling stations. The two pharmacies were across the street from each other: Waller’s (in the Moon Bros. Architects location) and Culpepper’s (in the Flying Biscuit’s current space). Candler Park Market was a grocery store called McMichael’s.

Before Lake Claire was known as such, neighbors called the intersection of McLendon, Lakeshore, Claire, and Southerland Terrace “Teensy Five Points” to distinguish it from Little Five Points.

The brick buildings on McLendon at Southerland Terrace were once the Lake Claire Baptist Church.

McLendon Avenue has had a streetcar, a trolley, and a bus route. (The trolley cost a nickel to ride.)

—Thanks to Kathy Evans of Harold, Judith Simmons of Ridge-wood, and Reba Treon of McLendon!

Tom
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All photos
this page by
Roger Swift.



Let it Snow, *Let it Snow,* **Let it Sn❄w?**

It is rare when Lake Claire gets snow, let alone the 3.5 inches received during the snowstorm of February 12. Snow blanketed Lake Claire, making it a striking winter wonderland. Roger Swift, of Harold Avenue (and the designer of the Lake Claire banner), took a few neighborhood photos to memorialize the sight. Leonardo resident Stephanie Bialek took photos during her peaceful walk around Frazer Center Forest Saturday morning. Tish Ganey watched neighbors making the most of the snow-covered roads and sidewalks.

Maybe it was in part due to the Olympic Opening Ceremonies that night, but the torch was lit and residents embraced the winter weather with Olympic enthusiasm. Fun was had by neighbors young and old across the neighborhood before the sun melted most of the snow away. Children were spotted sledding and building snowmen with their parents and friends. Even our four-legged friends played in the snowy landscape. What a great way to spend Valentine's Day snuggled up to a loved one next to a roaring fire after a day full of playing in the snow.



Farright, photo of Harold Ave Green space by Roger Swift. Near right, Harold Ave Angels spotted making snow impressions by Tish Ganey.



Left and below, children make snow sculptures, by Lisa Waugh.



Center, Boyd Baker during the Marlbrook downhill event, by Tish Ganey. Above and right, Frazer Center, by Stephanie Bialek.



News from the Land Trust and the Hearth

Hello again from the Hearth and the Lake Claire Community Land Trust! First off, let us thank all of you who helped make the Hearth's "Funkhouse of Love" event a huge success! We are happy to report that there were over 150 people present, all in high spirits. We had so many great volunteers from the neighborhood and an amazing set of musical artists who kept the community center lively and full of energy. Newberry Jam, the Invisible Circus, and the Nice Guise provided a terrific soundtrack to the snow-covered grounds, the fire circle, the tiki torch paths, and the intimate yet festive atmosphere inside. The Nice Guise were kind enough to write on their Facebook page "Wow . . . take notes, venue owners—the good folks at The Hearth know how to treat their performers! We'll gladly be back, anytime."

Our friends at the Arizona soccer fields helped accommodate most of our parking for the event, which we (and the neighbors) truly appreciate. We had signs posted and volunteers patrolling the nearby streets making sure that cars were properly directed away from the neighborhood. This being our first event, we would love to hear feedback from the neighbors about any issues concerning noise and/or parking. It is our first priority to respect and honor those who live in the neighborhood, as it is their participation that makes all of this possible! Please feel free to contact us via the Hearth website: www.hearthatlanta.com. Also be sure to check out our neighborhood dinners on the 15th of every month!

With the help of our beloved Jack Beckford, our next board meeting will be themed around the function and responsibilities of the board itself, and how our smaller groups and the board can work in fluid communication with each other. After last month's board meeting, the Land Trust now has four committees, which each take on specific responsibilities and report their progress to the board on a monthly basis. The planning, events, grounds, and communication groups work out decisions in areas that require direct attention, in order to avoid taking time away from the monthly board meeting. We encourage those of you who wish to get involved with the Land Trust to attend these meetings and bring your ideas to the table. Feel free to contact us at www.lclt.org.

As always, "Keep the Trust" volunteer workdays take place on each Sunday that follows a drum circle night. The drum circles are the first and third Saturdays of each month. From now until the spring equinox, Keep the Trust days will last from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Be sure to bring drinking water and work gloves. Pizza will be provided. There will also be a fund-raiser on March 27 at the Land Trust, with live music, food, and festivities for the whole family starting in the afternoon. More information will be available at the Land Trust website in the coming weeks.

Do Good Fences Make Good Neighbors?

Boundaries can be a tricky issue in any circumstance. Ever heard the saying "Good fences make good neighbors"? There is some truth to that. I choose to apply it by using common sense and common courtesy when it comes to another's property. But not everyone does. Several Lake Clairians and I have had conversations about this recently. The following is a digest of our comments, observations, and conclusions.

The recent snow was beautiful, and we all understand everyone's desire to enjoy it. In this lovely walking neighborhood, there are plenty of opportunities to do so, opportunities that do not require going onto a neighbor's property. Heaven forbid a child is injured on someone else's property, which will also implicate the property owner's liability. When unfamiliar children, "supervised" by unfamiliar parents, play in a neighbor's yard without permission, it may be time to say something. It is important that children are simply taught that they should not enter the premises of others without an invitation and permission of the property owner and their own parents. We as adults set the lim-

its and provide the examples for neighborly behavior.

If you create a nuisance of any kind for your neighbor, you are again crossing a line. If your action will affect someone else's property or activity, think twice and do what you would want done to or for you. If it's not yours, leave it alone unless you have an invitation or permission to use it.

I recently experienced an episode where something I wanted and had stored near my trash bin was taken. It was on my property, and no one asked if they could have it. Sounds like stealing to me. Now, I am all in favor of putting things to use that someone else has given up. If something is actually in the street, I think it is fair game. But I will still stop and knock on the door and ask if it's *Fences continued on page 10*

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"Saint" Granny of DeKalb Avenue and her disciples mysteriously received the "twigmata" on Valentine's Day, 2010.

The Conscientious Gardener

Gardeners, start your engines.

I just noticed a multitude of shrub and tree sales on Craigslist, so spring must be coming. The earlier you get them in, the better. They will have plenty of moisture to start off with this year. Make sure you dig a generous hole for installation (about twice the size of the container or root ball, more if the soil is compacted or heavy with clay) and add some amendment like compost or peat to give the roots some elbow room. Then mound dirt and mulch around the plant to hold extra moisture around the roots as they develop in warmer weather.

Who wants a lawn this year? If you use lawn food and/or weed preventer, apply it as soon as weather permits, meaning with the first warm spell. The minute those onions start coming up through the lawn, the weeds are coming back and the weed preventers (preemergence-type) will be most effective. Follow in a couple of weeks with a fresh application of lawn seed, and you are off to the races. Note: If you put grass seed down too soon after a preemergent lawn product, your new grass will die as it germinates. Give the weed preventer a chance to work and dissipate before seeding your lawn.

I have already bought my veggie seeds for this year. It's going to be a good garden. Late last fall, I purchased a chicken coop with three chickens (found on Craigslist, of course) and set them up in my veggie garden. I've been letting the chicken poop fertilize my garden so that when it's time to plant, all I have to do is move the little henhouse and pen out of the garden, add a bit of wood ash



Above, Gay Arnieri's chicken coop after snowfall. Bottom left, fresh eggs await. Bottom right, "DogTV" as seen from inside the coop.

from the fireplace before I till, and bingo, I should have a super bed for planting.

The chickens are great. They are easy to keep—no tricky chores, just feed and water daily, clean out the poop once in a while, add a bit of straw, and they are happy. I love to hear their soft clucking in the morning. They come out of their house to greet me. The dogs are another story: I had to put up a small fence around the coop to keep the dogs out of their faces. But that's all good anyway, for now they can't get into the veggie garden at will. We have decided to call the chicken coop "ChickTV"

for the pooches. They LOVE to just stand and watch even if they cannot get to the birds and maul them. And the fresh eggs are great, too. It's good incentive to get out there and check on the birds. I usually come back with three eggs per day. And when they are warm, I know they are "hot out of the oven." My grandson gets a kick out of me coming in with eggs in my pockets. It isn't hard to find someone to watch them while I'm away, either. Who doesn't like fresh eggs for the taking?

FYI: A tour of backyard chicken coops is coming up. The Oakhurst Community Garden

Project, Georgia Organics, and the Atlanta Backyard Poultry Meetup Group invite you to attend the 2010 Atlanta Urban Chicken Coop Tour on Saturday, May 1, 2010. This will be the largest urban chicken coop tour in the United States! The tour will be self-guided and will include chicken coops inside and outside the perimeter. Purchase your tickets here: <https://app.etapes-try.com/cart/OakhurstCommunityGardenProj/cart2/category.php?ref=1442.0.140349467>. Get a discount by joining the Atlanta Backyard Poultry Meetup Group here: www.meetup.com/chickens.

—Gay Arnieri



Helpful Information for City of Atlanta Residents

The Atlanta Fire Rescue Department provides the following free services:

- **FREE** smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector installed in your home. Call Atlanta Smoke Alarm Program (ASAP) at (404) 865-2727.
- **FREE** Emergency Preparedness Training in disaster preparedness, fire safety, disaster medical, light search and rescue, and CPR. Call Atlanta Citizens Emergency Response Team (ACERT) at (404) 546-7060 or (404) 227-7396.
- **FREE** Fire and Life Safety Programs for your business, school, church, or community program. Call Laura Alexander, education specialist, at (404) 546-7023.
- Did you know that all Atlanta fire stations are Safe S.P.O.T.S.—or temporary havens—for abandoned infants, abused children, and victims of sexual assault and domestic violence? For more information, call the interim fire chief at (404) 546-7000.

Parking Downtown?

The City of Atlanta has outsourced parking enforcement to the company Park Atlanta. Under the company's policy, cars with three or more outstanding tickets are "boot eligible." You may check the status of any fines associated with your car and pay outstanding tickets at www.ParkAtlanta.org.

Candler Park Pool to Reopen in June

At the NPU-N meeting at the end of February, a Parks Department representative confirmed that the Candler Park pool will open the first week of June 2010. More information is to come on hours and other details of operation.

Survey Gauges Support for Decatur Cycling Issues

Bike Decatur invites sometime cyclists, families, weekend riders, bike commuters, and would-be cyclists who travel in and around the City of Decatur to participate in a brief survey to gauge interest in addressing traffic safety and cycling in the area. The survey, composed of five brief questions, is located at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VFHPGXV>.

Neighbors Take Action on Inspiring Day of Remembrance

Martin Luther King Jr. Day saw a group of nine Lake Claire children between the ages of six and twelve doing a homegrown neighborhood food drive. Pulling a purple wagon, they went house to house in the Land Trust streets collecting cans and boxes. Kids knocked on doors explaining why they were collecting food and in a very short amount of time filled up two wagons with all manner of donations. They dropped off the offering at Clifton Sanctuary and had the opportunity to meet some of the men who live there.

Following the food drive, the kids went into the green area behind the Sutherland Place houses to pick up trash. They pulled out metal poles, plastic bags, plastic bottles, and other flotsam that had washed down from various storms. They had a great time clomping through the underbrush and looking for treasures. Great finds included a light-up eyeball toy and a giant piece of soaked foam! All in all, they pulled out about twenty bottles, which were recycled, and several bags of trash. A good and muddy time was had by all. Kids and parents celebrated with pizza at Fellini's afterward. Interspersed with the action was much discussion about why they were collecting food and picking up trash. The spontaneous event was such a success that parents agreed to make it an annual event—perhaps with more advance notice to neighbors and a few more wagons!

Kids and parents who participated pictured at right: Skye, Zane, and Polly McKinney; Elijah, Devon, and Reuben Haller and McKenzie Wren; Micah, Gabriel, Ari, and Lisa Eisen; Grace Chapel; Rafi Weinstein-Goldsmith and Marsha Weinstein and Hannah Shew.

—McKenzie Wren

Fences continued from page 8

okay to take something that looks like it is in the trash before I take it, just in case.

Do you create yard chores for a neighbor because of your choice of plants or their placement? Do you let your dogs roam the street without a leash? Are your dogs barking outdoors at all hours? Being on pins and needles about how your actions are being received is no fun, either, but a little common sense and common courtesy go a long way. And, yes, some folks need a reminder that there is such a thing as the Golden Rule.

—Gay Arnieri





Safety Report

December 2009–January 2010

ROBBERY

Fri 12/11—2000 DeKalb Ave. NE, parking lot

The victim (W/M, 20YOA, lives on DeKalb Ave.) was working on his motorcycle when an older Ford Explorer pulled up. The suspect (B/M, 5'09", 160 lbs.) got out, produced a black semiautomatic pistol, and demanded the victim's money. The suspects (2nd: B/M) told the victim it wasn't a joke, and he complied. The suspect then got back in the vehicle and drove off. Taken: AT&T cell phone, wallet and contents, backpack, clothing.

AUTO THEFT

Sat 12/5 (6:00 p.m.)–Sun 12/6 (9:00 a.m.)—270 Oxford Pl. NE

1995 Blue Honda Accord, GA tag AEX7684

Broken glass was found where the vehicle had been parked on the street.

ENTERING AUTO

Wed 12/9 (11:00 p.m.)–Thurs 12/10 (8:00 a.m.)—500 Hardendorf Ave. NE

2008 BMW 32i

Someone smashed a driver's side window and removed property. Taken: iPod. No prints taken, at owner's request.

BURGLARY

Sat 12/19 (6:00 p.m.)–Mon 12/21 (11:15 a.m.)—1700 McLendon Ave. NE

Someone removed a board used to secure a rear door on a home under construction, entered the home, and removed property. Taken: Advantage furnace.

OTHER LARCENY

Fri 1/22 (1:00–3:00 p.m.)—1900 DeKalb Ave NE, Horizons School

Someone removed property from the dorm room of the victim (B/M, 17YOA) after he left his door open. Taken: Mac laptop.

Trees Schmees!

At the Lake Claire Neighbors meeting on Thursday, February 18, I had to ask for repetition regarding who had teamed up with the developers to run roughshod over the tree ordinance discussed at the recent Gordon/DeKalb Avenue greenspace appeal before the Atlanta Tree Commission: the two city arborists present at the hearing. Yes, the arborists. Arborists backing developers to remove healthy trees?—it seems like the Bizarro World of DC Comics, where everything is opposite to reality. Why am I surprised? Former senior arborist Tom Coffin was fired last year when he exposed that his subordinates and the City looked the other way when developers and homeowners illegally removed healthy trees, that they approved construction sites where violations were obvious, and that they failed regularly to impose fines even after blatant disregard of the laws. Atlanta actually has a fantastic tree protection ordinance; it just isn't enforced.

This is a matter of gravest concern for the city of Atlanta. With the oft-quoted loss of fifty acres a day of trees, as evidenced by sequential satellite photos, and with global warming increasing, Atlanta must be vigilant regarding its tree cover. Former mayor Franklin looked the other way. This is an opportunity for new mayor Kasim Reed to take the lead and make a commitment. He recently stated, "As mayor of Atlanta, I am essentially an elected steward of the City's many



services . . . that I now have the responsibility of overseeing."

Please, everyone, take a minute and call or write his office asking that the arborists be required to adhere strictly to the Atlanta tree protection ordinance.

—Beth Damon

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Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting: February Minutes

February 18, 2010

Led by Kathy Evans, NPU Rep (sitting in for president Glenn Frankel).

Attended by seventeen neighbors (five LCN officers) and six guests.

Kathy Evans opened the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m. by asking the gathered to give introductions.

Valencia Hudson, public safety liaison for councilmember Natalyn Archibong, visited to announce that a senior services seminar would be held on Saturday, February 20, from 10:00 to 12:30 at Drew Charter School, 301 East Lake Boulevard. Hudson confirmed that seniors are those aged 62 and over.

Sergeant Sokloski from Zone 6 visited to introduce himself and discuss crime in the neighborhood. He explained that he was transferred to Zone 6 after nine years in Zone 4. He said he has seen no major crimes and no patterns of crime in the neighborhood of late but discussed a pattern of break-ins in the Highlands. He invited those with questions or concerns to contact him by calling the precinct.

Jennifer Horn, VP of Safety for Lake Claire, updated neighbors on the January 31 incident at the Edgewood shopping center on Moreland. She then talked about crime in Lake Claire. There has been one incident in the neighborhood in six weeks: a larceny at Horizons School. The Lake Claire Security Patrol has been up and running for three weeks. The newest member is the Lake Claire Pool. Cara Stevens mentioned that cars were broken into at the pool last summer. Jennifer added that next year the security patrol would have household and business memberships.

Cara Stevens, VP of Finance, gave an update on the neighborhood finances. We have \$3,437 in our checking account and \$4,175 in our savings account, which is low for the year. Cara encouraged people to pay their dues (\$20 per household, payable by check or online).

Kathy Evans asked Heidi Hill to talk about activities to raise funds for the neighborhood, discussed at a recent executive committee meeting. Heidi talked about the yard sale and the proposed "Fun Run" from Candler Park to Lake Claire Park. Cara mentioned the tour of homes, and Elise Cormier

mentioned movie nights as a way of building community (the "fun" in fundraising). Heidi talked about tying the tour of homes in with a fund-raiser for homelessness and Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. Teri Stewart announced that Candler Park wanted to challenge Lake Claire to a pillow fight on International Pillow Fight Day. Don Long recalled Candler Park's momentous last pillow fight.

Sarah Wynn, the neighborhood representative for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, spoke about an opportunity to socialize with neighbors while raising money for Clifton through Hunger Walk 2010 (March 14 at Turner Field). The money contributed to support the CSM team in the Walk will result in real grocery dollars at the Atlanta Community Food Bank for CSM. Sarah explained how to register at www.hungerwalk.org. Don Long mentioned that CSM had set the highest goal of the Walk, \$25,000, but that they hope to raise \$7,000, which would feed thirty men at Clifton for a year. Pastor Lisa Dempsey, of Epworth United Methodist Church, told neighbors that Epworth UMC PMO would also be sponsoring a team for the Hunger Walk.

Peggy Rogers, community outreach director for US Road Sports & Entertainment of Georgia, spoke to the group about the ING Georgia Marathon. Lake Claire Neighbors applied to stage a cheering section along the marathon route and was granted the corner of Clifton and S. Ponce. Peggy explained that the neighborhoods and organizations that had applied and were given a space would be competing against one another to be the most memorable cheering zone, voted on by the runners. The top cheering section will win \$3,000, the second \$2,000, and the third \$1,000, to be used for a neighborhood fitness initiative. Rog-

ers passed around information on when the runners would pass by our cheering section (7:35-9:35 a.m. on Sunday, March 21). If neighbors have questions about the race, its route, or how to avoid it traffic-wise on race day, she invited them to contact her.

Beth Damon, of Delaware, passed around a set of guidelines she drafted on the fair treatment of neighborhood volunteers. She had proposed these guidelines two meetings before. Kathy Evans said that Glenn Frankel felt we should adopt these guidelines as a volunteer policy. The policy will be publicized in the *Clarion* and published on www.lakeclaire.org.

Kathy opened the floor to announcements not on the agenda.

Teri Stewart, of Gordon, gave an update on the Tree Commission hearing on the Gordon Avenue greenspace. She asked to be put on the voting agenda for the following LCN meeting for an official letter of support from Lake Claire. The Tree Commission voted 3-to-1 to deny the appeal, and Teri presented a written notice of intent to appeal in Superior Court. She mentioned that the Sutherland Corner condominiums on DeKalb Avenue are now in foreclosure and cited this as a sign that there is not

a market for condos on DeKalb Avenue. Teri then passed around a handout consisting of information on the hearing and the greenspace and other letters of support to be held by Glenn Frankel for the neighborhood's information. Teri mentioned that she was working on putting together a fund-raiser in April for the greenspace and would be giving a presentation on the Gordon family. She closed by saying that the fight for the greenspace has been ongoing for six and a quarter years.


Two guests, Tom Stubbs, who is running for the State Senate seat to be vacated by David Adelman, and Chris McFadden, who is running for an open seat on the Court of Appeals of Georgia, spoke about their respective candidacies.

Dan White, VP of Zoning, introduced a variance for voting. The homeowner, Tim Kline, of 417 Leonardo Avenue, was in attendance to present his plans to build a second story on the existing footprint of his property. He passed around detailed plans, discussed the need for a variance, and answered questions. The gathered voted unanimously to grant the variance.

The meeting ended at approximately 8:15 p.m.



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