



The Chick Next Door

"The best part of keeping chickens is walking into my backyard and seeing them run to me," says Veronique Perrot of Connecticut Avenue. "And chicken hugs, too!" Her chickens are very tame and seem happy to be held.

"I enjoy watching them do their thing—these girls are always busy being chickens. They scratch, they rest, they follow each other around, they go into the coop, they come out and eat, they perch on the fence.



Red Star Gertie and Buff Orpington Ethel.

You can often tell when they are about to lay: Each one seems to enjoy hopping up on a particular shelf of the shed where the leaf blower is stored. She'll hop up there, look around, act as if she's thinking about making a nest, then decide against it and head over to the nesting box—and soon, there's another egg!"

Veronique tends some dozen chickens, including Red Comets, Barred Rocks, Ameraucanas, a Golden Laced Wyandotte, a Black Australorp, and a Blue Splash Maran. She'd been considering the idea a couple of years ago when Scott Thompson, who owns the house next door, suggested that they convert the shed on the shared property line into a coop, fence around it, and share responsibility for tending the chickens.

Jane Merkle, a nearby neighbor, also agreed to help. Veronique and her husband, Rustom Antia, also have two daughters, Alice and Roshan, who help with the project.

Production varies by season, but the chickens tend to yield five to ten eggs per day, just the right amount to supply the caregivers and their families.

Neighbors Tamar and Frank Williams started keeping chickens last August, shortly after moving into their house on Harold Avenue. They bought four Red Stars from a man outside the perimeter who markets to urban "farmers." They found a homemade coop on Craigslist made by a carpenter in Candler Park who had been thinking about keeping chickens but got cold feet.

Veronique Perrot and Scott Thompson as he delivers "fresh" used coffee grounds for the compost.



Roshan Antia displays the bounty of fresh eggs collected from the backyard.

Buddy, Redbeard, Henny Penny, and Chicken Little, named with the help of the couple's two children, Esther and Jacob, each produce an egg a day. "My kids eat a lot of eggs," says Tamar. "They've always really liked eggs, which is part of the reason we got the chickens."

Tamar estimates their costs are probably about the same as buying organic eggs at the store, but she says, "I really like having this connection with our food. I also like knowing what our food eats. And I like knowing that the chickens have a nice quality of life."

Veronique switched to organic feed about nine months ago, which she says costs about three times more than standard feed. Still, costs average only about \$18 per month per family (\$36) over the last nine months. She says, "That's reasonable for delicious eggs, entertainment, and compost!"

The Stubbs family (Susannah, Thomas, and daughter Edith) on Hardendorf began keeping chickens two years ago, though it is primarily Susannah's project, and she would be happy to add a whole host of other animals if only she had the space. She allows the chickens to roam free while she



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THE CLARION IS PRINTED
ON RECYCLED PAPER.

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One of the Williams' Red Stars.



The "Eglu" home of Ethel and Gertie.



The Williams coop.



Eggs vary by color according to the breed.

Chick continued from page 1

is in the yard, but after losing one of her first two to a hawk, she keeps her Red Star and Buff Orpington, Gertie and Ethel, in their chicken run when she's not outside.

Susannah mail-ordered an "Eglu" kit from a UK-based company. The kit includes a small domed coop with a removable tray for ease of washing, an attached run, and specially de-

signed food and water containers that attach to the side of the run. Susannah also configured an additional run that connects to the Eglu to allow more space for the chickens when they cannot be in the yard.

The primary daily requirements for keeping chickens are to provide food and fresh water, secure the coop at night, and open it in the morning. While automatic feeders and watering systems can help, ensuring a

fresh water supply is especially important. Chickens will not drink dirty water and can die of dehydration even when water is present if it is not clean. They also thrive with access to grubs and worms, and daily greens. If they are in confined spaces, it's necessary to clean the area at least once per week.

All of the backyard keepers talked about the bonus of being able to put their kitchen scraps to good use. They also enjoy the

benefit of rich compost created from the chicken droppings, straw, and shavings used for their nests.

And, of course, you also have to be sure to collect the eggs each day! There are several reasons to collect eggs daily—to maximize nutritional quality, to prevent them from getting cracked and soiled by multiple hens using the nest, and to prevent chickens from eating the eggs, which can be a hard habit to break.

Backyard Poultry magazine reports that most chickens lay approximately 1,000 eggs in their lifetime. At about one a day, that's just a few years, but chickens can live at least fifteen years. This can present a dilemma for owners, especially when they view their chickens as pets.

Tamar explained that while her husband thinks of their chickens as pets, she doesn't. "Still, I couldn't eat them. When they stop laying, I plan to give them away, and someone else will probably eat them."

Veronique plans to cull her chickens when they can no longer lay. She's already culled one that developed a serious health problem, and another at Oakhurst Garden, where she volunteers, when it became ill.

The greatest challenge of keeping chickens, even in an urban environment, is keeping them safe from predators. The Friedmans of Harold Avenue lost all of their chickens when a predator (probably an opossum) dug into the coop. They rebuilt the coop with wire at the base but lost another flock when an opossum breached the coop at a different point. They are determined, however, to rebuild the enclosure and try again.

Tamar said her family first allowed their chickens to range free in the yard, but after a very close call with a hawk, they opted to create a smaller fenced enclosure where the chickens would be less vulnerable. She said that when the chickens were free ranging, the kids chased them and paid more attention to them, but in the pen, the chickens are safer. Plus, it's nice not having to clean up after them in the yard.

Chickens in the City?

Backyard chickens are rising in popularity in Lake Claire. Nearly every neighbor who keeps chickens seems to know of others not included in this article. One chicken keeper was reluctant to talk about his chickens because he prefers to "stay under the radar" for fear of problems with the City. According to the current City of Atlanta Code, however, keeping chickens is lawful as long as you don't exceed twenty-five "chickens, bantams, or similar fowl" in a residential yard.

—Kathy Evans

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Next LCN Meeting

Thursday May 20

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.

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
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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!

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

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, May 1: 20th Annual Atlanta Humane Society Pet Parade, Piedmont Park, 10:30–11:30 a.m. Held in conjunction with a pet festival with adoptable animals, vendors, games, contests, and booth displays by local rescue organizations, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Walk with your pet(s) and other animal lovers to help end pet homelessness and overpopulation. Visit www.atlantapetparade.org for more information.

Atlanta Animal Rescue Friends (AARF) hosts Pawsapalooza, Canine PhD in Inman Park, 280 Elizabeth St., Suite

A006, noon–4:00 p.m. Potential adopters can meet over sixty dogs and cats available for adoption from some of the best rescue groups and animal control shelters in the metro Atlanta area. Training demonstrations will take place throughout the day, and information on spay/neuter, anti-chaining, and humane education will also be available. 2nd Annual Westside Provisions District Spring into Green Festival, 1:00–4:00 p.m. Enjoy live bluegrass music, tastings from Westside restaurants, kids' activities, a sidewalk market, and more. Bring a new or lightly used garden tool to donate to Atlanta

Community Food Bank's Community Gardens project. Visit www.westsidepd.com/events for more information.

The Candler Park Old Stone Church BiRacial History Project presents a public unveiling of African American legacy markers in Candler Park, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Presented with Antioch East Baptist Church and First Existentialist Congregation at the Old Stone Church, 470 Candler Park Drive NE, (404) 222-0801. For more information on the project, see www.biracialhistoryproject.org.

Decatur Green Fest, downtown Decatur, 3:00–9:30 p.m. Join De-

catur neighbors on the Square for environmental awareness from green vendors and organizations, kids' activities, a tasting of local and organic food and produce, art made of recycled materials, and ongoing musical performances. The day ends with the first spring Concert on the Square, at 7:00, featuring Y-O-U and Trey Ronsenkampff at the community bandstand. The fest is a benefit for the Dogwood Alliance and the Decatur Preservation Alliance. Get more information at http://www.decaturga.com/cgs_citysvcs_ced_events_greenfest.aspx.

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Deadline Extended! The Pets of Lake Claire Photo Contest!

Our call for photo submissions in the Pets of Lake Claire photo contest yielded only a few responses—but we know there are many more pet lovers out there! Show off your pet—and maybe even win something in the process!—by sending in your best photo to editor@lakeclaire.org. Check out these two submissions, and keep them coming!



Yam Mokotoff

Yam is a fluffy Siberian forest cat who has won our hearts. His playful personality and sweet nature are off the charts.
 —Cynthia & Benjamin Mokotoff, Lake Claire Court



Higgins Landau

The best dog in Lake Claire! Higgins! He is a two-year-old yellow lab. He loves to play with other dogs and really likes to play with cats. He enjoys walking to Candler Park to see friends. You can always find him with a stick or stuffed animal in his mouth.

—Tad Landau, Gordon Manor

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Friday-Sunday, May 7-9: Sweet Auburn Springfest 2010, historic Auburn Avenue. Friday, 5:00-10:00 p.m.; Saturday, 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; and Sunday, 2:00-8:00 p.m. Celebrate Atlanta's ethnic history and the "greatest street on the planet" with a weekend full of events, including an artists' market and craft fair, a business and tech expo, a film and literary fest, and a kids "fantastic fun zone." For more information, go to www.sweetauburn.com.

Sunday, May 9: Mother's Day

Tuesday, May 11: Special election for District 42 state senate seat

Thursday, May 13: The Spring Fling, Grady High School, 6:00 p.m. This concert event will feature all APS orchestras, from elementary to high school.

Through Monday, May 17: The Mary Lin Elementary School Native Plant Sale. For a catalog and order form, contact LSandoval@EcoAddendum.org. Pickup is at Mary Lin on Friday, May 21. Twenty percent of proceeds from the sale go to the Mary Lin Elementary Dirty Fingernails Club's Bird, Butterfly, and Bee Island.

Thursday, May 20: Lake Claire Neighbors meeting, 7:00 p.m., Frazer Center atrium, 1815

S. Ponce de Leon (back entrance is at end of Ridgewood Road).

Wednesday, May 26: Presentation on the Gordon Family, "Lake Claire's First Family," 12:00 p.m., DeKalb Historical Society, 101 East Court Square, Decatur. Teri Stewart, owner of Donna Van Gogh's and Lake Claire resident, presents photos and stories of the biracial Gordon family and discusses the importance of saving the last green-space on DeKalb Avenue, which is also the only publically accessible parcel remaining of the Gordon family home. History buffs should not miss this enlightening event!

Thursday, May 27: NPU-N meeting, 7:00 p.m., Little Five Points Community Center, 1083

Austin Ave. NE.

Friday, May 28: *Geckos—Tails to Toepads* opens at Fernbank Museum. This traveling exhibition introduces visitors to the remarkable diversity of these lizards with bold backlit graphics, engaging interactives, and living examples from around the world. The IMAX® film *Bugs! A Rainforest Adventure* will show at Fernbank from May 28 to September 30 to complement the exhibition. A separate IMAX® ticket or Value Pass admission is required for the film. The exhibition is included with museum admission: \$15 for adults, \$14 for students and seniors, \$13 for children ages 3 to 12, and free for museum members and children under 3. For tickets or visitor

information, visit fernbankmuseum.org or call (404) 929-6300.

Friday-Sunday, May 28-30: 2010 Decatur Arts Festival, downtown Decatur. The ArtWalk kicks off the festival on Friday at 5:00 p.m. Festival hours are Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., and Sunday, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Events include an artists' market, the ArtWalk, a fine arts exhibition, the Kids and Teens Arts Festival and parade (Saturday, 9:45 a.m.-2:00 p.m., at the Decatur Recreation Center), a theater and literary arts festival, a dance festival, and a performing arts stage. Learn more at <http://www.decaturationfestival.com/index.php>.

Monday, May 31: Memorial Day

Letter to the Editor:

Dogs on the Playground

The Lake Claire Park playground is one of my favorite places to go year-round. Spring is here, and now many more people are joining in on the fun, and a couple have brought dogs without leashes. I think we all know that there is a leash law. Let's move on from that. Here are the reasons why I will absolutely say something to you if your dog is off-leash in or around Lake Claire playground.

1. *Dogs bite. About one in sixty-six people are bitten by dogs each year. One in five bite victims require medical attention. Thirty-one thousand bites annually require reconstructive surgery, or about 1 in 125 over a lifetime. The majority of bite victims are children. Many of the dogs have not bitten previously.* (See <http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Dog-Bites/biteprevention.html>.)

2. *Dogs like to run and jump. They run into small children who weigh much less than they do, knocking them down and causing injury. They put their muzzles up to lick the faces of babies who are learning to crawl, and step on new babies who are just relaxing on blankets enjoying the day. They put their noses in the faces of preschoolers who are terrified of them. All of these things frequently happen on the Lake Claire playground.*

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News from the Land Trust and the Hearth

May is a big month at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust. Among other things, we'll be closing on our purchase of the pond next door, holding our traditional Memorial Day street sale and music fest, and inviting the neighborhood to our first Annual Meeting as a 501(c)3 non-profit. As always, we need your donations of unneeded items for the sale (no junk, please). Check in at www.LCCLT.org for information on where to bring your donations. If you want to help with the pond purchase, you can make a tax-deductible contribution there. Many thanks for all your support over the years!

Saturday, May 8: Love Your Mother eARTh Fest.

The Land Trust is collaborating with Eyedrum, Atlanta's premier arts organization, and WonderRoot, Atlanta's up-and-coming art collaborative, to sponsor a day for artists of all types to celebrate the eARTh, our mother, as well as their own mothers. Work by painters, photographers, sculptors, musicians, jugglers, clowns, poets, performance artists, and dramatists will be on display around the Land Trust from noon into the evening. Guerrilla theater is encouraged. Food and beverages will be available, courtesy of Dr. Bombay's. Admission is free, but of course donations are welcome. Vendors and artists who want to participate: it's not too late—contact Lake-ClaireLove@gmail.com.

As part of the festivities, the Krewe of the Grateful Gluttons invites you to welcome the summer fairies home by building them a house! Fairies favor

houses built with natural materials from a beloved garden. Some materials will be provided, but do bring goodies from your own garden. Building starts at 4:00 and finishes at sunset, followed by a Fairy House Tour of Homes by candlelight. Bring extra candles if you can.

Saturday-Sunday, May 29-30: Peace, Love & Healing Fest.

Help us fill the Arizona Avenue cul-de-sac with cast-off goods for our annual street sale! The sale starts at 11:00 a.m. both days. Saturday evening we'll have music from neighborhood talents, headlined by Tommy Dean (League of Decency, Thermos Greenwood, etc.), along with food and beverages. Other attractions will include Dances of Universal Peace, tie-dye vendors, children's arts and crafts, raffles, massages, a Celtic harp performance, and more. Email us at info@LCCLT.org if you have items to donate or can volunteer to help out for the weekend.

Sunday, May 30: Annual Meeting.

The neighborhood is invited to a brunch and "open-air open house" at 11:00 a.m., followed by a tour of the Land Trust. We'll be announcing our new board members, introducing our new membership plan, and answering your questions about our mission and goals. In case of inclement weather, join us indoors at the Hearth, next door. If you're interested in running for the board, send us a bio and your vision for the Land Trust at Board@LCCLT.org. To learn more as plans develop, to volunteer, or to join the Land Trust listserv, visit us at www.LCCLT.org. And please check the website for parking directions for our events.

Our "Keep the Trust" volunteer workdays this month are two Sundays, May 2 and May 16, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Bring drinking water and work gloves, if you have them, and help maintain and improve your neighborhood greenspace. Pizza will be served when we're done. Remember, you are the "community" in our name.

A lot is happening next door at

the Hearth, too:

Saturday, May 15: Monthly Community Dinner.

The Hearth community serves up a vegetarian feast on the 15th of every month for \$3 a plate. The gathering starts at 7:00 p.m.; the meal is served at 7:30.

Friday-Saturday, May 21-22: Freedom Fest.

This "Interactive Art, Music & Life Festival" brings you some great bands, including The Selmanaires, The Nice Guise, and I-Tegrity, while raising funds for the Hearth and the Land Trust. Please check out the new Hearth website at www.HearthAtlanta.com for details on the festival and parking directions, as well as all the upcoming classes.

Starting Wednesday, May 26: Soulshine Summer Green Camp.

Kids rule from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, with weekly field trips to Fernbank Museum, the Wren's Nest, Centennial Park, the Imagine It! Children's Museum, a Braves game, and more. The cost is \$230 a week full-time, \$170 a week part-time (financial aid is available). For more info: www.makeyour-soulshine.com.

Safety Report

March-April 2010

Larceny

Mon 3/1-Fri 3/19—200 block Southerland Ter. NE
Victim advised that two outdoor A/C units were stolen from location. Video surveillance at private residence next to location not working. Taken: 2 outdoor A/C units. Suspect: None.

Other

Fri 3/19 (3:10 a.m.)—Sweetgrass Salon, 1643 McLendon Ave. NE

Police responded to an open door at location and found that glass had been broken out of the front doors with a brick. Owner responded to the scene and advised that nothing appeared to have been taken. Taken: Nothing. Suspect: None. Scene processed by ID.



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(L-R) Daniel Steppe, Emily Veazey, Cherie King, and Boyd Baker. Daniel, Emily, and Boyd are all Lake Claire residents. Emily and Cherie are on the foundation board, with Cherie serving as chair for 2009–10.

News from Mary Lin Elementary School

Spring is in the air, and the children who attend Lake Claire's neighborhood school, Mary Lin Elementary, are counting down the days until school is out. Summer brings a welcome respite for parents too—no folders to sign, no homework to check, no lunches to pack. But parents and teachers aren't completely forgetting about school. That's especially true for Lake Claire resident Boyd Baker. Boyd and his wife, Wendy, live on Leonardo Avenue and have two children at Mary Lin—Deacon is a rising fourth grader, and Keely is a rising first grader. Boyd and Wendy are committed Mary Lin supporters, and Boyd served as the PTA president for the 2009–10 school year. Several years ago, Boyd worked with other parents to start the Mary Lin Education Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The foundation board is made up of community residents, parents, and Mary Lin staff. With its broad base of support, the foundation works with the school leadership team to spotlight projects that will improve teaching resources and student achievement, and then seeks to make those projects a reality by—what else?—raising money.

Last spring, just as school was ending, Boyd learned of a great opportunity for fundraising for the foundation—organizing a 5K race in conjunction with the Mid-Summer Music Fest. Boyd, who as a freelance business writer is accustomed to working under deadlines, wasn't going to be de-



terred by the short time frame. So despite never having organized a race before, Boyd talked to others who had put on successful races and quickly got up to speed. With volunteer support from the Mary Lin parent and foundation community, the plans fell into place, and on June 20, 2009, over 350 runners set off in front of Mary Lin, ran through Freedom Park, and finished in Candler Park. The event drew runners from all over the city and raised over \$5,000 for the foundation.

Those funds are now actively in use in Mary Lin classrooms in the form of two Promethean Boards, interactive whiteboards that are on every teacher's wish list. In the next school year, the foundation hopes to purchase ten more

Promethean Boards to complete its goal of placing one in every classroom. Knowing that a couple hundred sweaty athletes racing through the neighborhood can go a long way toward making that happen, the foundation is sponsoring its second annual 5K race. Boyd is putting his newfound skills as race director to use for the event, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 19. The race will again travel through Lake Claire and Candler Park and will be a great warm-up for the Peachtree. So whether you are a parent or student enjoying your summer break or a commuter enjoying the ease of traffic, please remember that a strong elementary school is an essential ingredient for a great intown neighborhood, and put June 19 on your calendar for a fun community event. To sign up for the race, go to www.active.com or download a registration form at www.marylinfoundation.org. To volunteer to help with the race, contact Boyd at president@marylinelementary.com.

—Mary Jo Bryan

Letter continued from page 4

3. An off-leash dog attracts other off-leash dogs. There are frequently off-leash dogs at Lake Claire Park, but they are far away from the playground. When a dog is off leash on the playground, he or she creates an attraction that invites the other dogs to run and chase on the playground. Then those dog owners have to put their dogs back on leash or go home.

4. I am mad at myself for not speaking up sooner. When my daughter was about two years old (and less than twenty pounds), she was knocked over by a large, fast dog chasing another dog on the playground. I was trying to be nice, so I didn't say anything, even though I could see well beforehand that there was going to be a problem. She was quite badly hurt and had bruises for weeks and a bad bump on the head.

For all these reasons, I will not sit casually by while an unleashed dog is on the playground. Call me crazy, say I spoil your fun, ask me what your dog has ever done to me, but please put your dog on a leash in and around the Lake Claire playground, because I am done trying to be nice about this.

Thank you,

Katie Brady (and I am not alone in my thinking, I just have the biggest mouth)

Lake Claire Park Questionnaire Coming Soon

Our beloved Lake Claire Park . . . We're glad it's there, but do we really use it like we could?

Are you upset that dogs are running around off-leash or that you don't have a safe place to let your dog run? Would your children use the park more if different amenities were found there? Do you continually think, If only the park had *this*? Well, now's the time to get involved.

The park is a common theme in many letters to the editor. I started attending Lake Claire Neighbors meetings because I also have ideas of how I would like our park to evolve. Of course, changes to our beloved green-space can only occur with the input and involvement of our community. Therefore, a group of neighbors is putting together a questionnaire that will be sent to the neighborhood shortly. The questionnaire will inquire as to the reasons we all use the park and what changes we would like to make. The results of the questionnaire will then determine the improvements upon which to focus and will be reported at the following Lake Claire Neighbors meeting. After the desired improvements are identified, a task force will be created to tackle them.

Of course, changes can only be made through help from our volunteering neighbors. Please look for the park survey and complete it as soon as possible. As task forces are formed, please consider joining one. The more help we get, the better we can make our park, and our neighborhood.

I hope you join in my excitement in making improvements to our community.

—Melissa Pressman, 491 Har-dendorf

DID YOU KNOW?

Zoo Atlanta creates compost available for sale from elephant manure and plant waste. (Zoo Atlanta)



The 3rd Annual Greater ATL Men’s BBQ Club & Support Group Golf Classic was held on Saturday, March 27, at Candler Park Golf Course. Proceeds from the tournament, a total of \$510, went to Clifton Sanctuary Ministries.



The team with the highest score—aka, last place! Team members: Nigel Rowe, Boyd Baker, Mike Barnett, and James Johnson.

2010 Sallie Award recipient Dan Ledbetter receives his trophy and a \$50 gift certificate for a facial from Salon Red.



President Kenyon Thweatt and vice president James Johnson have a moment.



Everybody we could get to stand still long enough!

The Learning Tea Takes Flight

Katrell Christie is the owner of Dr. Bombay's Underwater Tea Party. Last year, she visited Darjeeling—where much of her tea is grown—to find a way to give back. She decided to focus on helping women, because she knew that they are often victims of injustice.

In 2009, Katrell committed to helping an impoverished elementary school and a girls' orphanage in Darjeeling. She heads back to India this July and will stay for almost three months, during which time she will buy uniforms and shoes for the elementary students, get toilets installed at the school (which sits at the end of a street running with sewage), and register three eighteen-year-old orphans in college and pay their tuition. These young women would otherwise be kicked out of their orphanage on their eighteenth birthday with no prospects and no place to stay. An education will be an invaluable tool as they start life on their own.

Katrell raised money for these projects with the Learning Tea, which she hand-selected in Darjeeling and sells at her shop. She also sells her photographs of India at the store, with 100 percent of the proceeds going back to India, and raises funds through private tea parties—a great idea for church groups or book clubs. (An exhibit of Katrell's photographs is currently showing at Genema Gallery: 81 Peachtree Park Drive in Atlanta.)

Katrell has had strong support from residents in Lake Claire and Candler Park for her efforts in India. With budgets tight, people have wanted to contribute supplies, which Katrell can't take with her because the weight makes it too expensive. But there is something people can contribute. To get to India, Katrell will have to fly through Amsterdam, a trip that will cost her \$1,500—on top of the expense she will incur paying her replacement for three months at Dr. Bombay's. To get to India, Katrell is requesting donations of Delta frequent flyer miles. If you would like to contribute your miles to the cause, visit the Learning Tea website, TheLearningTea.com, which has a link for donations.

Katrell will be traveling with a team of documentary filmmakers (who are doing their own fundraising). In the meantime, you can get more information about her in a CNN iReport (<http://www.ireport.com/docs/DOC-431803>) and an AJC article posted on her site.

Katrell is an angel for sure. Now she needs to find her wings.

—Hannah Denmark

On Living Cooperatively

As a mom with my first child at the local Oakhurst Cooperative Preschool (OCP), I started to think about what it means to be a part of a cooperative community. And, as I thought about that, I began to try to relate that to cooperative living on a micro level, such as within a family. My family had only just begun to discover cooperatives when we came across OCP. Imagine our surprise when we found an organization that believed in nurturing and raising a family in the way that we believed was appropriate for us. Looking back over the last year, we have learned many new ways of looking at the world and working together. If you're new to co-ops, as we were, maybe this article will help you gather your thoughts on the subject. If you're already a part of a cooperative, maybe this will serve as a reminder of the really cool opportunities that you've chosen to engage in. Sometimes it's nice to have encouragement to continue living in a consciously cooperative way.

It's easy to think of individual needs first and group needs second. However, to have a successful community, there has to be cooperation from individuals working together—just as for a family to have success there has to be cooperation on all ends.

In our family, for example, we have two working adults. Like all other families, our busy lives sometimes make it difficult to catch a breath. However, taking the time (and, yes, it often takes a lot more time) to do things as a family makes life worth living. Ironically, sometimes a task takes twice as long to complete when done “cooperatively” (read: done with a two-year-old)! But it is exactly those tasks that make up our day, that become our life, that form our memories and the foundations for our children's lives.

One of the tasks I enjoy the most is cooking and baking. While it's a lot easier for me to accomplish these responsibilities while my daughter naps, I've found that not only does my daughter enjoy helping me with our family's everyday tasks, but it also teaches her in a very tangible way what it means to be part of the contributing portion of a whole. The sparkle that lights up my daughter's eyes when she sees me get out the flour, and the sense of accomplishment she has when a finished loaf of bread comes out of the oven, make the extra time seem inconsequential. While it may seem difficult to find ways to include young children in the fabric that makes our families successful, it is

Living continued on page 9

Tom
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East Lake Farmers Market Growing Strong

Positive seeds have been planted at the corner of 2nd Avenue and Hosea Williams, at the convergence of the East Lake, Oakhurst, and Kirkwood neighborhoods. Last year, East Lake resident Doug Williams started a small but functional farmers' market against all odds. "We got the green light to hold the market at the end of March, and we managed to pull together a small but wonderful selection of vendors to participate by mid-May, operating all season on a shoestring budget," Doug explains. He personally set up and managed the market, along with his wife, Amy, every Saturday for twenty-six weeks. Each week, over one hundred neighbors from around the area supported the market, usually arriving on foot or on bike, or while pushing their children in strollers.

"I love being part of the market," Amy Williams says. "To me, it is as much a wonderful social experience as anything else . . . getting to meet and know your neighbors, taking time to talk with and meet the farmers and artisans who grow, harvest, and handcraft their products, asking a farmer about how to prepare a vegetable that you've never tried before." Last year, Amy ran the East Lake Garden Club table, which sold edible flowers, fresh-picked bouquets, gardening-related merchandise, and handcrafted gifts.

The East Lake Farmers Market's mission is to strengthen the local economy and to encourage healthy lifestyles by promoting products and programs from local farmers, businesses, and artisans, while pursuing vendor practices, programs, and partnerships that have environmental, social, and economic integrity.

Many improvements are under way for the 2010 market season, which opens Saturday, May 1, with a "Collard Greens Cook-Off" benefitting Hosea Feed the Hungry. The newly named ELF

Market is now a nonprofit corporation, supervised by a dedicated and diverse board of directors. The market will be hiring a market manager to oversee the week-to-week operations and will have funds for community events, marketing, and operational support. The market also plans to purchase EBT equipment that will enable the use of food stamps, making fresh, healthy produce more available to all. Community fund-raisers, live music, bike-maintenance workshops, and market demonstrations are being planned throughout the season.

"We are also developing 'best practices and policies' that will be shared openly with other markets around the state and country, to help other communities strengthen their local food networks" says Doug Williams. "Booth fees will remain low to support our farmers and maximize vendor participation."

All of these plans are contingent on the financial support from neighbors, businesses, and other local organizations. The ELF Market is now accepting donations for the 2010 season. To make a donation and become a sponsor, email Doug Williams at eastlakefarmersmarket@gmail.com, or visit the market website at www.eastlakefarmersmarket.com.

—Patti Willard

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in those moments that children learn that they are an essential member of the family.

Over the past year, I have come to believe that if our children can learn to be successful members of the family cooperative, then the leap to successful member of the larger community cooperative, or the global cooperative, doesn't seem so far after all.

—Alyssa Duvall

Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting: April Minutes

April 15, 2010

Led by Glenn Frankel, LCN president.

Attended by 18 neighbors (4 LCN officers) and 2 guests

Minutes recorded by Heidi Hill

Glenn Frankel opened the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m. by asking those gathered to introduce themselves.

Jen Horn, VP of Safety, gave an update on the Lake Claire Security Patrol. With only six reported crimes since the beginning of the year (one of which was the burglary at the Flying Biscuit, technically not in Lake Claire), it seems that crime is down in the neighborhood. Officer Jason Combee has been taking most of the security patrol shifts. The patrol is in good shape budget-wise, with \$12,000, enough funding to continue at four shifts a week through the end of the year. Memberships have been trickling in, and the Lake Claire Pool recently

Meeting continued on page 10



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donated \$1,000. Shifts depend on when officers can take them; the schedule so far has included two day shifts during the week and two night shifts on weekends. Jen added that she has not yet bought yard signs for members of the patrol and was hoping to wait until next year to get signs, if no one objects. Mary Williams suggested putting magnets on members' mailboxes for the time being, and eventually getting signs. Glenn liked the idea of an alternate approach. Stickers were rejected as being too permanent. John Harrington, of Howard Circle, asked about a recent accident on his street in which a car demolished a brick-and-concrete mailbox and then another mailbox across the street. The accident was a hit-and-run, and John had trouble getting a report filed through 911 in order to file with his insurance. Jen offered to send Officer Combee to file a report for him. Jen closed by warning us about a recent incident in Inman Park; a twenty-nine-year-old woman was raped in the park at 9:30 p.m.

Glenn presented the treasurer's report in Cara Stevens's absence. LCN has \$4,400 in checking and \$4,100 in savings. This is several thousand dollars short of what the neighborhood had last year at this time. The dues drive in March did not get much of a response; only thirteen neighbors have paid their dues. Glenn will send out an email newscast to remind people to pay. Mary Williams asked if an email was sent out to individual neighbors to remind them when it was time to pay their dues; Glenn said there was no automated system in place. Mary asked if the neighborhood could raise the dues. Glenn said they were kept low intentionally so there is no barrier to entry. He added that we could say the base donation is \$20, but people who pay more would be recognized

by their contribution (\$30 is one level; \$50 another; \$75 another, etc.). Mary suggested that people already paying their dues would be willing to pay more.

Valencia Hudson, public safety liaison for councilmember Natalyn Archibong, visited to announce that a tire roundup would be held on the coming Saturday, April 17. She added that she was investigating the rerouting of MARTA buses at the Frazer Center. Glenn recapped that a neighbor at the previous LCN meeting had raised his concern about the new MARTA route, which takes buses through the back entrance of the center, on Ridgewood, instead of the front entrance, on South Ponce. Valencia then talked to John Harrington about his difficulty in getting an accident report; she said he needed a damaged property report instead, and she would help him get one. She asked him to contact her by email or at Archibong's office at (404) 330-6048. Did anyone have problems to report about their water meters? Other neighborhoods were having problems with higher bills since the new meters were installed. Someone mentioned water leaks on Har- old and Harriet.

Next on the meeting agenda were announcements. Glenn gave a recap of the Lake Claire cheering section at the ING Georgia Marathon in March. Our zone was along the marathon route, not the half-marathon route, so we were seen by only a third of the runners. Lisa Waugh did a great job of heading up the cheering committee; a slideshow of the event can be seen on lakeclaire.org. We did not win. We were up against much larger neighborhoods, and voting was not a trivial process. The City of Decatur won first place, Old Fourth Ward won second place, and Candler Park won third place. We plan to do the event again next year, but may do it differently. Maybe partner with Candler Park? We

need more musical instruments and more coordination. Having more kids participate would be good.

Glenn moved on to talk about choosing an activity for LCN to organize this year. The challenge is figuring out where the greatest interest lies, but also what is feasible. A fun run is one option. The challenge is that there are a lot of logistics to work out, and we may need to hire a small firm to organize it. We could start by contacting a firm or two to get estimates.

LCN is getting \$1,400 from Natalyn Archibong to be used for a run. In a nutshell, this is a great idea, but it takes capital. Can we partner with someone, like Kashi? Elise Cormier asked if we had to use the money from Natalyn Archibong for a run; Glenn said we did, but he would see if it could be applied to other activities. Elise suggested that we talk to Candler Park resident Mark Clement, who organizes a lot of runs; Cynthia Baer offered to contact him. Glenn said a committee was needed. Cynthia Baer said that a couple in Candler Park was doing adventure fun runs. Mary Williams asked if the run could be paired with an event and suggested an evening run; she volunteered to help. Someone suggested a scavenger-hunt fun run. Jerome Abramson volunteered to be on the committee.

The next proposed activity was a tour of homes. Glenn had talked with Kathy Evans and learned that logistics would be a challenge. You have to set criteria to get a variety of homes. People don't want to stay at their homes during the tour, so volunteers are needed at each home. Turnout can be disappointing. Most money comes from sponsors, which can be a lot of work. People who advertise in the *Clarion* might be willing to show a home or sponsor a home. Cynthia Baer offered that as a Real-

tor, she would help with sponsoring. A volunteer committee is needed. Mary Williams offered to organize the effort. She suggested having categories (small, new, eco-friendly, old). Elise Cormier said that Clifton Sanctuary Ministries has a volunteer coordinator, Don Long, to help out with neighborhood activities. Glenn said we could organize the event so that 50 percent of proceeds go to LCN and 50 percent goes to CSM. And Clifton could also be a stop on the tour. Elise suggested we give the different committees a month to garner interest and see what comes of it.

The final activity suggested was a movie night in the park, such as a double feature—a "pajama movie" for the kids and then a later movie for the adults. Do we have an LC filmmaker who could show his or her film or short in the park? We have a projector and a screen. We'll want to talk to Atlanta Gas Light about turning out the lights in the park. Blake Williams offered his sound machine. How would we raise money with the event? We shouldn't sell tickets, but ask for donations instead. Do a door raffle? We need to check Candler Park's movie schedule so there is no conflict. September was suggested as a good time for a Lake Claire Park movie night because the bugs aren't as bad, and it's darker earlier. Kathy Evans asked if the movie should be adult only in the summer, because it gets dark so late. Glenn will send out a newscast for volunteers.

Next, Tom Lilly, who is on the governing board of Intown Academy, a new, tuition-free charter school opening in Old Fourth Ward, visited to talk about the school and answer questions. The school is currently enrolling for the 2010-11 APS school year. It will begin as K-6 and grow to K-8 over the first two years. The school will be a year-round international baccalaureate school. It will share a facility with an APS public preschool for a few years. What is a year-round school? It has intersession breaks instead of extended long breaks; this system won't be applied until the second year. The school will place an emphasis on technology and hopes to be a community center. It is open for any eligible student in APS zone. Can students in unincorporated DeKalb apply? Call the enrollment hotline at (404) 270-9788. What is the parent involvement? It will probably be an opportunity, not a requirement. What is Edison Learning? It is the school's corporate educational partner, responsible for the school's day-to-day operations and administration. The official IB language will be French. The recently hired principal, Ron Boykins, specializes in science and math education. A block party would be held on April 23 for people to meet him.

Next on the agenda was a review of the letter of support for



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Grant Park's Garden*Hood Hosts a Series of Gardening Events in May

Garden*Hood is welcoming Spring with a series of events showcasing the very best in plants and gardening expertise. The series kicks off with a celebration of home food production on Saturday, May 1, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Garden*Hood's Good Food Festival. Longtime organic gardening advocate Vanessa Vadim will offer insights into successful crop cultivation without chemicals. The event will also feature cooking demonstrations, children's activities, experts on raising chickens in the city, and much more.

On Mother's Day weekend, give mom some well-deserved thanks at Garden*Hood's Mother's Day Bouquet Buffet, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, May 8 and 9. Select from a smorgasbord of botanical delights to create a one-of-a-kind bouquet for a special mom. Garden*Hood will have plenty of vases, wrapping, fresh-cut blossoms, and fronds to choose from, or you can bring in treasures from your own garden, and the staff will help you style them. Kids of all ages are welcome!

Finally, on Friday, May 28, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., join two gardening legends, former UGA football coach Vince Dooley and horticulture professor Michael Dirr, for a lunchtime lesson as they walk and talk about their favorite plants with Garden*Hood customers.

Garden*Hood is located at 347-353 Boulevard (the entrance gate is on Woodward Avenue) and open Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.gardenhoodatlanta.com.

Oakhurst Community Garden Project Seeks Local Artists

Are you an artist looking for a fun, and fulfilling, volunteer opportunity? Oakhurst Community Garden Project (OCGP) kicked off a summer mural project on April 18 and is looking for local artists to add their personal touch! Throughout the summer, at your leisure, you can volunteer to help paint a garden scene—flowers, frogs, chickens, trees, and other garden-related things seen around OCGP. Artists can select what they'd like to paint from a list of design elements, depending on availability; materials will be provided. Contact Zach Monette at zach.monette@gmail.com or (917) 576-7048 to volunteer or for more information. Visit www.oakhurstgarden.org to learn more about the garden project.

Meeting continued from page 10

the neighbors working to acquire the Gordon Avenue property as a public greenspace. Before the review, Teri Stewart announced that the next fund-raiser for the greenspace would be a raffle outside Candler Park Market in conjunction with the Sweetwater Festival, and that the fund-raiser talent show at Epworth United Methodist Church on April 23 still had two slots available. Teri mentioned that she had been in touch with the head of greenspace acquisition for Kasim Reed and had a new petition for saving the greenspace to pass around. Teri asked if there were any questions about the letter. One neighbor asked if it obligated LCN to purchase the property. Glenn said it didn't, that it only supports the goal of saving the greenspace. Perhaps it needed to be revisited and clarified. Elise Cormier offered that the lawyer for the neighbors fighting to acquire the property could check the letter's wording to make sure

it was clear of such implications. Glenn said he would make the necessary changes and send an amended copy to Teri.

Melissa Pressman gave an update on her proposal at last month's meeting about creating a dog park at Lake Claire Park. She and Elise Cormier, the VP of Environment, threw out the idea of a design night, in which neighbors could share ideas about the dog park as well as other park-related issues, such as repairing the stairs. Mary Williams suggested creating a new design for the whole park. Someone asked if the dog park had to be fenced. The City of Atlanta has a list of requirements for what makes a dog park. We need to figure out what exactly is required, have a design night, and form a committee. People interested can email Elise at environment@lakeclaire.org. The committee should get the input of dog owners in the neighborhood.

Glenn opened the floor to announcements not on the agenda. Cynthia Baer, a Realtor and

Lake Claire resident, announced that she would donate \$250 for every home she helps buy or sell in the neighborhood to one of four neighborhood organizations.

The final item on the agenda was a variance for 470 Lakeshore Drive. The current house is four feet from the right side instead of the required seven feet. The homeowners are proposing an addition to the rear that would go straight back along the same lines as the current house. The homeowner passed out the plans, which include tearing down a garage and removing part of a steep driveway and planting grass in their place; removing a deck and building an addition in its place; and adding a new screened porch and a parking spot under the porch. Two trees will be affected but can be kept healthy. Kathy Evans reminded the homeowner to maintain tree fencing and be on top of drainage issues. The group then voted unanimously in favor.

The meeting ended at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Protect Your Pet with a Microchip

Microchips are a permanent method of identification and an ideal backup for your pet's identification tags and collar. While some pets seem to always lose their ID tags, the microchip will always be with them. If your pet runs away from home or gets lost while you're out on a walk, a microchip implant helps improve his odds of being reunited with you. The chip can help humane organizations reunite you and your pet more quickly, and it can also help you prove ownership of a companion animal if there is a dispute. Atlanta Animal Rescue Friends' next microchip clinic will be held at Pet Supplies Plus, 2329 Cheshire Bridge Road, on May 22 from noon to 4:00 p.m. The wonderful vets and techs from Buckhead Animal Clinic will be there to make sure your pet gets the best care.

—from the newsletter of Atlanta Animal Rescue Friends (AARF)



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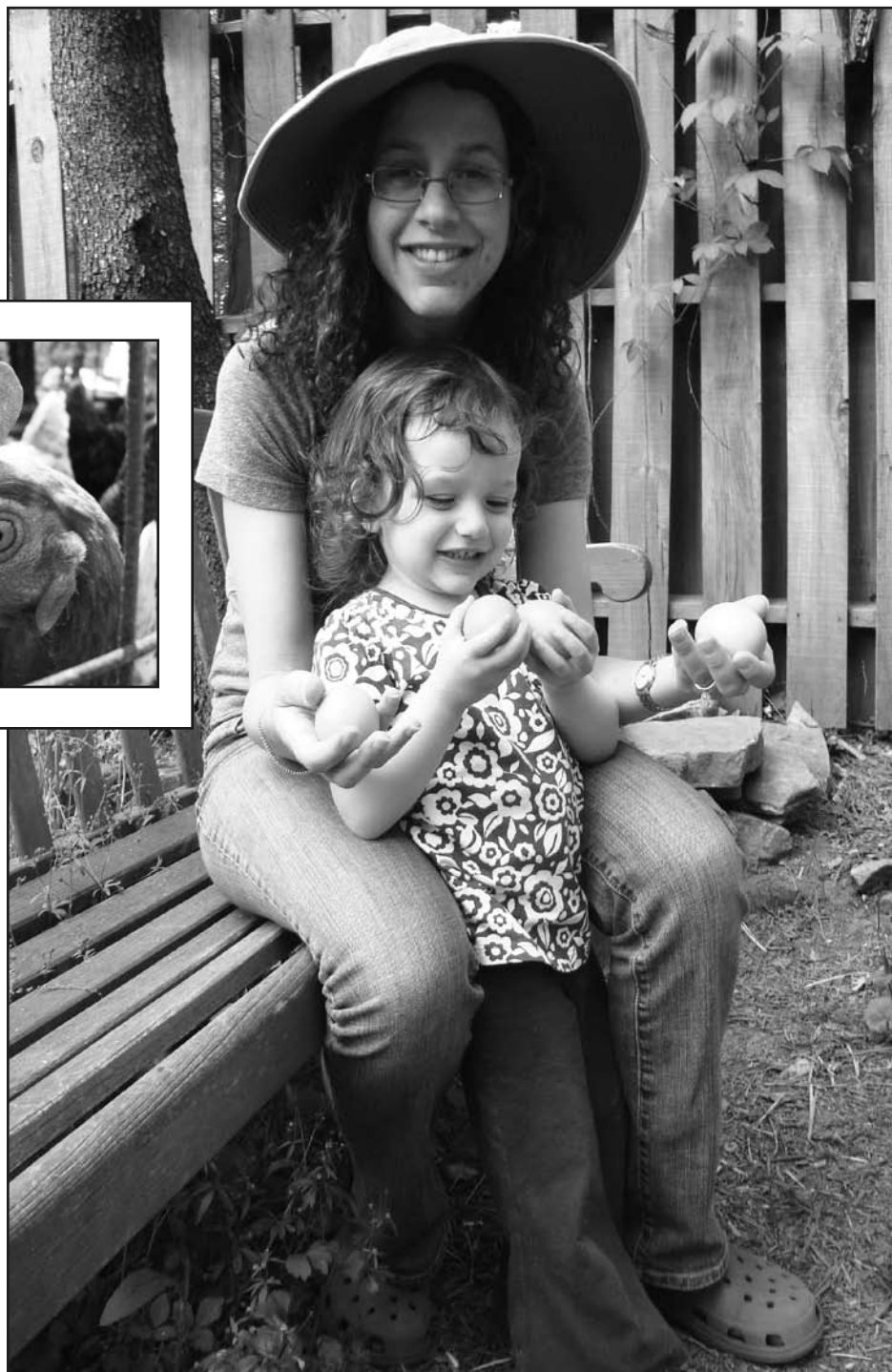
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More chicken pix . . . Continued from pages 1 and 2



Alice Antia with Goldilocks, a Golden Laced Wyandotte.



Tamar and daughter Esther with fresh eggs.

Lake Claire CSA with Riverview Farms Starts on May 26

Community-supported agriculture systems (CSAs) provide reliable income for farms and make it easier for farmers to plan for the coming growing season. Riverview Farms, in Ranger, Georgia, has a drop point in Lake Claire, and the deadline to reserve a share for the 2010 session is Tuesday, May 18. Spots are limited, so contact Kristy Campbell at campbell_kristy@hotmail.com now to subscribe. Details of the CSA follow:

- Weekly produce deliveries can be in whole or half shares.
- Subscribers can sign up for the full 32-week session or 16 weeks at a time.
- The cost for a full session is \$390 for a half share or \$780 for a full share.
- The cost for a half session is \$210 for a half share or \$420 for a full share.
- You save money by committing for the full 32 weeks.
- A sustainable meat CSA is also available.
- Payment is requested up front, before the first delivery of the season; make checks out to Riverview Farms.
- When subscribing by email, indicate full or half share and length of session you want.
- Pickup is on Wednesdays between 4:00 and 9:00 p.m. at 396 Sutherland Place NE.

As a member of the CSA, you're part of what makes it special! Feel free to talk with and support your fellow community members as you pick up. Occasionally, a new person shows up who needs a bit of TLC—a smile and a bit of guidance help a lot! It's great to see people cooperating on dividing a box in half, identifying produce, and sharing cooking tips and recipes on the porch.

—*Kristy Campbell*

Personal and Business Classifieds

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

YARD SALE at 481 Hardendorf Ave: May 22 at 8 AM. Baby/young child items, musical equipment, jazz vinyl records. Clothing, Toys, and more!

CREATIVE LAYOUT PERSON WANTED Join the *Clarion* team and help Lake Claire be a great place to live. Contact layout@lakeclaire.org for more information on how you can volunteer and make a difference.

NEIGHBORHOOD CAMP! Laughing Dragon Summer Camp, a small neighborhood camp, Ages 5-16, 5 sessions, June 1-July 2, \$175. per week, \$35. for a day. We do Sword Play and Circus Arts. We're near Candler Park 404-373-0585. info@LDswords.com.

SUMMER FIBER AND FUN and Art Trekker Camp Opportunities for girls 8-12 at Felted Heart Studio in June in the Old Fourth Ward. Go to www.feltedheart.com and click on Workshops for details. Go to www.creativesewingatlanta.blogspot.com to see photos from last year's camp!

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