

What's for Dinner ?

Lake Claire's Nancy Dorsner Helps Solve the Age-Old Question in a Modern Way

"I like to tell people what to do." That's Nancy (aka Dot) Dorsner, speaking recently over a cup of coffee at Dr. Bombay's. She offers this reason for why she started Foodwhirl.com with a smile on her face. And you get the feeling, from her passionate yet fun and easygoing approach to cooking and food, that you'd do whatever it was she told you to do.

Foodwhirl.com is just one of the many websites in Nancy's domain. An artist, illustrator, and freelance web designer, she also posts her creations and musings on Dabbled.org, connects with clients on DabbledStudios.com, and displays her watercolors and digital art—featuring whimsical objects like robots and cephalopods—at NancyDorsner.com. And still she has time to devote to "telling people what to do" at her new venture, Foodwhirl, a group project that she edits whose tagline is "Creative, Healthy Cooking for Modern Life."

The site grew out of Nancy's love of cooking and her desire to share not only her techniques, strategies, and dishes, but also those of others with different



Two of Nancy Dorsner's creations: her five-year-old and his Perry the Platypus birthday cake.

lifestyles and households. While she was already writing about food and cooking on Dabbled.org, she saw that it could be bigger, more focused. She clarifies her tongue-in-cheek comment about liking to tell people what to do: "Really, I like to give advice. I love to share the best way to do

something, or a cool technique, or something I've figured out," she says. But, with Foodwhirl, "I wanted to share more than my point of view."

Foodwhirl is not a recipe site—there are plenty of those online, Nancy points out—but a place where real people and real cooks can come to share ideas and get inspired, no matter if you cook for your boyfriend or girlfriend, your friends, your spouse, your small family or big one, or just yourself. One of the six full-time contributors, a nutritionist, focuses on organic, natural foods and cooking. Another is a mom of three—one of whom has food allergies—who has recently gone back to school. One loves to entertain; another cooks for her two small kids. The site also has a number of part-time contributors. Right now, most of Foodwhirl's writers are Atlanta-based, although not by design, and the group is on the hunt for other cooks to join the project as contributors.

Since its launch in March, Foodwhirl has featured such inventive items as a Candied Bacon Martini and an Irish Car Bomb Ice-cream Sundae. The latter is the most-viewed on the site

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Nancy's shrimp and grits, as featured on Foodwhirl.com.

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THE CLARION IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

Safety Report

May 2010

BURGLARY

Mon 5/10 (5:00–8:30 p.m.) — 1700 block of DeKalb Ave.
Someone kicked in front door to residence and stole listed items. Taken: Flat screen TV, \$400, safe with items, checkbooks, jar.
Thurs 5/13 (12:00 p.m.)–Fri 5/14 (8:40 a.m.) — 400 block of Harold Ave. NE
Victim advised a rear window was open, and he noticed listed items stolen from location. Taken: Power tools.

ATTEMPTED CAR THEFT

Thurs 5/27 (11:30 a.m.)–Fri 5/28 (12:00 p.m.)—200 block of Connecticut Ave. NE
2003 Jeep Liberty, GA Tag# 5117ARL
Someone broke out rear passenger window and damaged the ignition in an attempt to steal the vehicle. Prints were attempted, but none recovered. Victim lives on Flat Shoals Ave. in Atlanta.

LARCENY

Wed 5/26 (2:00–4:00 p.m.)—200 block of Mathews Ave. NE. Incident not reported until 6/1.
Victim advised listed property was taken from a neighbor's porch on 5/26. Neighbor advised victim he saw suspect with listed property a few days later and asked for it back, but the suspect refused. Neighbor advised that the suspect frequents the area asking to do yard work. Taken: Bicycle. Suspect: B/M, 6'00", 140 lbs.

Outdoor Water Use Information

The Georgia Water Stewardship Act went into effect on June 2. It allows daily outdoor watering for the purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants only between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. by anyone whose water is supplied by a water system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division.

The following outdoor water uses are also allowed daily at any time of the day by anyone:

- Commercial agricultural operations as defined in Code Section 1-3-3
- Capture and reuse of cooling system condensate or storm water in compliance with applicable local ordinances and state guidelines
- Reuse of gray water in compliance with Code Section 31-3-5-2 and applicable local board of health regulations adopted pursuant thereto

- Use of reclaimed waste water by a designated user from a system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division of the department to provide reclaimed waste water
- Irrigation of new and replanted plant, seed, or turf in landscapes, golf courses, or sports turf fields during installation and for a period of 30 days immediately following the date of installation
- Drip irrigation or irrigation using soaker hoses
- Hand watering with a hose with automatic cutoff or handheld container
- Use of water withdrawn from private water wells or surface water by an owner or operator of property if such well or surface water is on said property

- Irrigation of athletic fields, golf courses, or public turf grass recreational areas
- Installation, maintenance, or calibration of irrigation systems; or hydroseeding

Outdoor water use for any purposes other than watering of plants, such as power washing or washing cars, is still restricted to the current odd/even watering schedule:

- Odd-numbered addresses can water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.
- Even-numbered and un-numbered addresses are allowed to water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.

—Reprinted from the *Benfield Beat*, the e-newsletter of Rep. Stephanie Stuckey Benfield (D-Atlanta)

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(despite its unfortunate name—which Nancy says was inspired by a treat with the same moniker on the menu at Six Feet Under). Nancy decided to create her own version of the Guinness ice cream topped with Bailey's and Irish whiskey, and it fast became a hit on the site. (The first time she made it, she invited friends over — "Because I can't make Guinness ice cream and eat it by myself!" — and despite not hav-

ing chilled the custard overnight, which caused the ice cream to melt quickly, it was a sensation.)

But Foodwhirl is not just about crazy food feats. It's also about sharing strategies—like how do you feed a family of five something other than a bowl of pasta when you work full-time? Contributors to the site also write about meal planning (such as how

to prepare meals for a week with what's on sale), food shopping (such as when to buy organic), and techniques (such as how to peel ginger root). As editor, Nancy thinks about her readers' different circumstances: for example, when a single person gets married, how does that change how he or she cooks? Or if you work full-time and don't have the energy to cook a full meal every night, how can you prepare dishes on the weekend and freeze them for later eating?

Nancy and the other contributors to Foodwhirl are a wealth of information on cooking, because, as she explains, they're "real cooks"—people who lead real lives (working, parenting, entertaining, etc.) and enjoy devising dishes that are fun, creative, and interesting, not just the same old, same old night after night.

She is quick to point out, though, that "real cooks" doesn't mean "real chefs." You don't have to be a master chef to get lots of valuable information and tons of inspiration from the site, just someone who cooks, loves to cook, and is creative with cooking. By writing about food in a relaxed, "let's try this and see what happens" kind of way, the contributors try to encourage others to cook—because the more you cook, the more creative

you'll be.

Nancy herself enjoys the "science experiment part of cooking." She loves preparing unusual foods for entertaining and throws a big Halloween bash every year with her own creepy creations. Her favorite thing to cook, though, is 3-D cakes, an art form she's perfected thanks to her five-year-old, Dominic. This year, she created a fantastical cake in the likeness of Perry the Platypus (of *Phineas and Ferb* fame) for her son's birthday party, and the cake she designed for his second birthday (the adorable and impressive Robot Cake) was chosen as one of MSNBC's 10 Great Geek Cakes.

For Nancy, who has lived on Marlbrook for fifteen years, Foodwhirl is a labor of love—driven by the people who contribute and those who read it. If you're someone who loves to cook and write about food, or you just want to figure out what to make for dinner (and have fun in the process), check out Foodwhirl.com. (One of my favorites is the whole-grain carrot and cheese crackers.) And follow Nancy's advice when it comes to cooking: "Have fun with food, have fun with cooking, and when you want to try something new, invite your friends over!"

—Heidi Hill


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Lake Claire Neighbors

P.O. Box 5942 Atlanta, GA 31107 (404) 236-9526

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

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How? Mail a check to Lake Claire Neighbors, attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107, or go to www.lakeclaire.org/lcn/members.htm.

Why? Help your neighborhood association clean up greenspaces, install signs, organize community events, and publish the *Clarion*.

When? Today!

New Laws: Using Cell Phones while Driving

Two laws regarding cell phone use while driving go into effect on July 1. Senate Bill 360, also known as the "Caleb Sorohan Act," pertains to texting while operating a motor vehicle. It states:

"No person shall operate a motor vehicle on any public road or highway of this state while using a wireless communications device to write, send or read any text based communication, including but not limited to text message, instant message, electronic mail or internet data."

The fine for the offense is \$150.00 and one point on the violator's driver's license.

The second bill, House Bill 23, prohibits drivers under the age of 18 from using a wireless communication device while driving. The fine for this violation is also \$150.00 and one point on the violator's driver's license.

—Editor

Take the DeKalb County Neighborhood and Health Survey

The Live Healthy DeKalb Coalition, the DeKalb County Board of Health, OneDeKalb, staff and volunteers from the Lou Walker Senior Center, and Georgia State University are joining forces to conduct a research project that identifies concerns of residents living in DeKalb County.

The first stage of the process is to have residents of DeKalb County complete a short survey about conditions in their neighborhood. Responses to the survey will be used to identify which issues are the chief concerns of residents and to develop a community health improvement plan. The survey asks questions about negative conditions in your neighborhood, such as crime and abandoned buildings, and the presence of assets in your neighborhood, such as sidewalks, parks, and groceries with fresh foods. Finally, the survey asks general questions about your health, your background, and the availability of suitable health-care facilities.

To participate, simply go to www.studyneighborhoods.com. You must be a resident of DeKalb County and at least eighteen years old to participate. Your name will not be asked, and your home address will be used only to determine the geographic region in which you live, and will subsequently be removed from the database. The survey takes about fifteen minutes to complete. If you have any questions or concerns about the survey, contact Jack Barile, MS, at (404) 840-3034 or jbarile1@gsu.com.

Volunteer Organizer Needed for the 2nd Annual Lake Claire Yard Sale!

Last year's neighborhood-wide yard sale was a huge success. Let's make this year's even better. If you are interested in organizing the event, to be held sometime this fall, please contact Glenn Frankel at president@lakeclaire.org. Last year's organizers will be available to advise you and help out; we just need a new person to take charge!

Lake Claire Gatherings

Learn More about...the Lake Claire Garden Club

The eclectic Lake Claire Garden Club (LCGC) is a wonderful place to meet neighbors and learn about gardening. The garden club has been around since the early 1920s and has beautified Lake Claire Park and the community with numerous trees and plants. The club meets on the second Monday of each month, except during the scalding months of July and August. One of the many features of the garden club is the twice-a-year plant swap.

The first thing that happens at the monthly meeting is a tour of garden at the house of the hostess or host. This enables us to see and learn of the many ways to plan and architect our own gardens. Also, we can see what plants to ask for during the plant swaps.

We encourage any and all to respond to us at garden@lakeclaire.org so that we can include you in our mailings.

—Frank Kmetz, LCGC scribe



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Mark Your Calendar

3 July: Peachapalooza, East Lake Farmer's Market, corner of 2nd Ave. and Hosea Williams Dr., 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Come celebrate all things peach: pies, chutneys, cakes, salsas, and anything else you can think of. Proceeds benefit the work of the East Lake School Coalition (www.eastlakeschools.com).

4 July: Pied Piper Parade, Concert, and Fireworks in downtown Decatur. The parade kicks off at 6:00 p.m.; the concert on the square, featuring the Callanwolde Concert Band, starts at 7:00. Fireworks will begin at dark (around 9:00 p.m.). Free. 4th of July Celebration at Centennial Olympic Park. The day of festivities features children's activities from noon to 4:00 p.m., food, games, and music, and ends

with the AirTran Airways Fireworks Spectacular. 4th of July at Lenox Square. Event kicks off at 6:00 p.m. Enjoy children's activities, music, food, and the largest fireworks display in the Southeast.

10 July: Spot On: Perennials (Shade) workshop, Garden*Hood, 347 Boulevard SE, 10:00 a.m.–noon. Walk and talk with G*H co-owner and longtime garden designer David McMullin about the lushest and liveliest perennial performers for your shady garden spot. For more information, visit www.gardenhoodatlanta.com or become a fan of GardenHood Atlanta on Facebook.

13 July: New court date for Granmaw Gordon. The case will be heard before the Honorable Judge Constance C. Russell in courtroom 5B. The address for the hearing is 185 Central Ave. SW, Justice Center Tower, in Atlanta. All who support this cause are encouraged to attend.

14 - 18

July: National Black Arts Festival, throughout Atlanta. Explore works by more than a thousand artists from the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. Festival includes an artist market, a gallery crawl, music, literature, theater, and film. Learn more at www.nbaf.org.

15 July: Lake Claire Neighbors meeting, 7:00 p.m., Frazer Center atrium, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon (back entrance is at end of Ridge-wood Road).

15 July to Aug 8: Downtown Atlanta Restaurant Week. Enjoy three-course dinners at participating restaurants for \$25 or \$35 per person, plus tip and tax. Featured \$25 restaurants include French American Brasserie, No Mas! Cantina, and Social; \$35 restaurants include BLT Steak, Il Mulino, and Ray's in the City. For details, see www.atlantadowntown.com/fun/restaurant-week/darw-2010.

16 July to 15 Aug: *Open Spaces: The American Desert*, Jill Celeste Gallery, 321 W. Hill St., Decatur. This one-man show will feature large-format photographs taken by professional photographer and longtime Candler Park resident Ian L. Barker across the Southwest. Opening night party will be on Friday, July 16, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., at Jill Celeste Gallery. For details: (404) 373-4702, www.palatewinebar.com.

17 July: Rock for Animals, a benefit concert, Paris on Ponce, 7:00 p.m. to midnight. Music by Shawn Mullins, Juliana Finch, and Dante Gold. Proceeds to benefit Briarcliff Animal Foundation and PIGS Animal Sanctuary. Visit www.rockforanimals.com for more details.

17-18 July: Wicked Hot Weekend, Garden*Hood, 347 Boulevard SE, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Let Garden*Hood turn you on to summer-loving plants that will not just survive, but thrive in your garden, without wasting water. EarthShaking Music will drum up some fun with a circle of musicians, and our friendly neighborhood bartender, David, will pour up some fun with gourmet cocktails. For more information, visit www.gardenhoodatlanta.com or become a fan of GardenHood Atlanta on Facebook.

20 July: Primary election. For more information, call (404) 298-4020 or visit <http://web.co.dekalb.ga.us/Voter/CurrentElectionInfo.html>.

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

23-25 July: B*ATL, a weekend of events marking the 146th anniversary of the Battle of Atlanta. Featuring a gala on Friday, July 23, at the East Lake Golf Club; the Doublequick, a 5K

run/walk on Saturday, July 24; and various reenactments, tours, storytelling sessions, presentations, and author talks on Saturday and Sunday, July 25. Go to www.battlevent.org for information on tickets and schedules.

24 July to Oct 3: *Freedom's Sisters* exhibit, Carter Presidential Library & Museum. This new interactive exhibition highlights twenty extraordinary women and their contributions to the struggle for equality and justice in America. Free with paid admission to the museum. Learn more at <http://jimmycarterlibrary.org/events>.

28-30 July: Registration for rising tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders who currently attend Grady High School. Grady cafeteria, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Documents required: identification of parent/guardian, proof of residence, and enrollment form.

31 July: Pink Christmas in July, Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. This high-end craft show will feature vendors from around the Southeast selling their handmade goods. Proceeds benefit the Susan G. Komen Atlanta 3-Day for the Cure Walk. Price: \$2.50 entry donation. For more information: (770) 634-5657, www.pinkchristmasinjuly.com.

thru Sept 6: *Winged Beauty: Butterflies and Other Insects* at Fernbank Museum. Award-winning nature-and-wildlife photographer Bill Harbin of Rome, Georgia, decorates the museum's walls with thirty-three astounding photos of bright flowers and fluttering insects. Exhibition is included with museum admission. For tickets or visitor information, visit www.fernbankmuseum.org or call (404) 929-6300.

thru 2010: Exhibits at the DeKalb History Center: *Dairies in DeKalb*, focusing on the history of the county's dairy farms in the twentieth century; and the *DeKalb Quilt Exhibit*, which includes eight historic quilts dating from 1850 to 1940. Free to the public. Call (404) 373-1088 or visit www.dekalbhistory.org for more information. The DeKalb History Center is located in the Old Courthouse on the Square in downtown Decatur.

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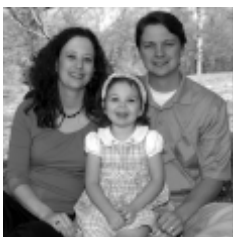
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We're in the neighborhood!

2010 Lake Claire Home and Garden Tour Scheduled for October 2!

Come Experience Life on the "Lake"

Plans are under way for the 2010 tour of homes and gardens! The TOHG committee has met three times over the past two months, during which time we've set a date, developed a budget, and divided into subcommittees to handle nominations and selections, logistics, sponsorships, and marketing/PR.

The tour will take place on **Saturday, October 2**, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., followed by a fund-raiser event at the Land Trust, featuring food and live music, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Proceeds from the tour of homes and gardens will go toward Lake Claire greenspace improvements and Clifton Sanctuary Ministries.

Nominations for featured homes and gardens are now being accepted. Fill out the nomination form below and deliver or mail it to the address at the bottom, or check www.lakeclaire.org in upcoming

weeks for an online form.

The TOHG committee is also actively seeking sponsorships for the tour. Three options are available on the sponsorship "Ski Team"—\$500 level (Gold), \$300 level (Silver), and \$150 level (Bronze). (Note that the \$500 level includes a benefit of exclusivity—no other sponsor in the same industry can be a Gold level sponsor, while lower levels are open to anyone.) If you're interested in sponsoring as a business, or to learn more about the benefits of each level, contact the sponsorship subcommittee chair, Cynthia Baer, at cynthia@cynthiabaer.com.

Volunteers are always welcome and needed, so please contact us at tourofhomes@lakeclaire.org if you want to help in any capacity. Stay tuned to the *Clarion* and to www.lakeclaire.org for updates on this exciting neighborhood event!



cut along dotted line

2010 Lake Claire Home and Garden Tour Nomination Form

Consider nominating yours, a neighbor's or one you've long admired! Tell LCN what you like about our neighborhood.

Nomination Categories

Check the categories for which you want the garden and / or home considered for selection:

Garden:

- ☐ Front yard
- ☐ Back yard
- ☐ Front and back yard

Home:

- ☐ Year Built
- ☐ Square footage
- ☐ Style
- ☐ Renovation
 - ☐ Interior Specify room(s): _____
 - ☐ Exterior
- ☐ Specify what is special about this home: _____

Nomination Information:

Nominated Home's Address: _____

Owner's name: _____

Owner's contact information: _____

Note: Only homes with Owner's prior consent will be considered for selection.

Nominator Information:

Name: _____

Contact information: _____

Deadline: Completed nomination forms are due August 20, 2010.
Submit form to: atm@tmedesignsllc.com or deliver to 462 Harold Avenue.

Thank you for your submission! The LC Tour of Homes Nominating Committee will make selections based on submissions received. A nomination does not guarantee selection.

cut along dotted line



News from the Land Trust and the Hearth

The 2010 Land Trust Memorial Day Celebration was a success despite the overcast skies and intermittent rain showers. Neighbors mingled as they dodged the rain and sorted through the items in the cul-de-sac yard sale. Though clothes were not solicited due to the low profit margin, some showed up and made a nice contrast to the mountain of clothes usually found in the ga-

zebo and the Cohousing common house. Neighbor Miriam Herbers may be interested in working with the clothes in 2011, so stay tuned.

Profits from the weekend were earmarked to help buy the adjoining pond for the Land Trust. The silent auction that Genise Spence began last year allowed me to become the proud owner of a Janie Wright masterpiece from

her Shellworks collection. Music Saturday night was provided by Swami Gone Bananas and Tommy Dean and Friends (Tommy of League of Decency fame).

Whether the weekend was a fund-raiser or a FUN-raiser depends on who you talk to. As always, the Land Trust thanks all the neighbors who donated time, yard sale items, and auction items. See you all next year!

—Kay Kuck

Did you know?

Lake Claire Neighbors follows a set of bylaws that can be accessed online at www.lakeclaire.org/docs/lcnbylaws.pdf. Or just go to the Documents page of www.lakeclaire.org and click on the second link.



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Neighbor Shares History of LC's First Family

On May 26, Gordon Avenue resident, Donna Van Gogh's owner, and greenspace activist Teri Stewart presented the May Lunch and Learn Lecture at the DeKalb History Center, entitled "The Gordons: Lake Claire's First Family." For an hour at the Old Courthouse on the Square, Teri regaled a large crowd with stories of Major General John B. Gordon, his wife Fanny, and their daughter Caroline, as well as the African American families of Jim and Sarah Gordon and Walter A. and Mary Gordon. Traditional music from the Gordon Estate was performed as a backdrop to the presentation by Heidi Pollyea.

If you missed this fascinating look at a piece of our neighborhood history, you can download the podcast of the presentation at www.dekalbhistoryorg. It's a must for anyone interested in history or Lake Claire.

—Editor

News from Mary Lin Elementary School

Mary Lin Elementary is growing! Our neighborhood school is slated for an addition and a renovation, thanks to the commitment of \$4.1 million dollars in SPLOST funds, which come from a special one-cent sales tax. The project is still in the early planning stages, but according to Mary Lin's principal, Dr. Brian Mitchell, the current expectation is that the addition will connect to the existing building near the cafeteria and rear parking lot and expand toward the back field. The plans also call for renovations to the front of the school, the office, the media center, and the computer labs.

During the 2009–10 school year, 551 students were enrolled in Mary Lin, with nine classrooms housed in portable buildings. Some of the portables have been in place for over six years, and the most recent portables required relocating playground equipment. The addition and renovation will allow the school to eliminate the portables, improve parking, and increase safety for car pools and around the playground and field, part of which borders on the PATH. No timetable has

been established for finalizing plans or beginning construction, but Dr. Mitchell hopes that construction could begin next summer. One big unanswered question at this point is whether the school will have to relocate during construction.

The Atlanta architecture firm of Goode Van Slyke has been engaged by the Atlanta Public Schools to design the project, and the principals of the firm have had preliminary meetings with Dr. Mitchell. In the early meetings, Goode Van Slyke sought to learn about the neighborhoods that Mary Lin serves, and as a result the design will take into consideration the community's concern for the environment and will incorporate energy-conscious building practices, although formal LEED certification is not currently part of the plans. A Project Committee that includes administrators, teachers, parents, and community members will continue to meet with the architects as the design phase progresses. Lake Claire resident and PTA president Kelly Crutcher serves on the committee. The next meeting is scheduled for July, and afterward, Dr. Mitchell hopes to post answers to frequently asked questions about the project on the school's official website, <http://srt3.atlantapublicschools.us/lin>. If you have questions, you may direct them to Dr. Mitchell, Kelly Crutcher, or other members of the Project Committee; contact information can be found on Dr. Mitchell's blog on the website.

—Mary Jo Bryan



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News from Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

Editor's note: The following is reprinted from the Catching up with Clifton newsletter, courtesy of the author, Leslie Prince.

Each year, the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta's Self Development of People (SDOP) committee awards grants to groups that will allow the group to improve their life in some way. This year, the men who live at Joe's Place, Clifton's transitional house, applied for an SDOP grant and were awarded \$6,400. The men had to create their own project, write the grant, and make a presentation to the SDOP committee.

The Joe's Place project, aptly named Joe's Ladder, will allow each man to establish goals to further their education and, in return, serve as a mentor to another man who is living either at Joe's Place or Night Hospitality. Imagine climbing a few rungs up the ladder and then reaching back and helping someone else start up the ladder. This is the concept of Joe's Ladder that has become the reality at Joe's Place.

Some of the men have established a goal of learning how to read, as they are reading on only a second-grade level. Some are studying for their GED. Some

Trees

I was thinking about Clifton last week as I drove back from Kentucky. It's good to be from my hometown, Owensboro. A place where, without your realization, your roots are grown deep and sturdy, and where there's a four-lane road out of town. A place where the alliterative Holy Trinity consists of BBQ, bourbon, and, of course, basketball.

Anyway, I was driving down that four-lane road back to Atlanta when I noticed just how beautiful the scenery was that lined the road. Spring truly is God's gift to us for trudging through a cold winter. There were some trees that were just budding out and were a new soft shade of green, there were some trees that were still pretty much bare—it just wasn't their time yet—and there were some flowering trees in the mix.

That's pretty much how it is at Clifton. Some of the guys come in and are bare trees, still hibernating and looking raw—it's going to take them some time to grow their leaves. Some of the guys come in and quickly get back to the business of living a strong, productive life. And some come in and we witness a flower bloom—a very special man evolves and distinguishes himself in full glory.

If you've been to Clifton lately, you've surely seen a beautiful mixture of the trees. With proper care and feeding, good soil, lots of sunshine, and love from great volunteers, the trees will mature, and God's wonderful tapestry is revealed. Just like on that quiet four-lane road headed south out of Kentucky.

—Leslie Prince

need to attend classes leading toward a certification in their particular field. Some don't need additional education, but would like to learn a skill or trade. The grant money received by Joe's Ladder will fund all of these projects, plus purchase a computer for the men to use.

Further, the Joe's Ladder project was recommended by the

local SDOP committee to the National Presbyterian SDOP committee. The participants in Joe's Ladder have the opportunity to really dream big as they apply for an additional grant. We hear that business plans are being developed, as the men want to use their soon-to-be-acquired education and training to begin a business that will help them

continue the project for years to come.

All of these goals are possible thanks to the great folks on the SDOP committee and the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. The SDOP grants are funded by the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, which is taken in Presbyterian (PCUSA) churches during the Easter season.



Next-Door Neighbors!

Leonardo Avenue babies Sadie Myrene Stevens, born May 28 to David and Cara Stevens, and Henry Lord Steppe, born May 11 to Daniel Steppe and Katharine Lord. Welcome!

Change in Hours for Candler Park Pool

Minor changes have been made to the Candler Park Pool schedule. The new hours are as follows:

Mondays and Tuesdays: CLOSED

Wednesdays–Fridays: Free swim, 1:00–3:30 p.m.; pay swim, 4:00–6:30 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays: Pay swim, noon–6:30 p.m.



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Lake Claire Dog Park Updates

Lake Claire neighbors have long discussed the need for a separation of space for the customary uses of Lake Claire Park, as a way to improve the community's enjoyment of this lovely greenspace. There are many long-standing traditions in Lake Claire, one of which is the unofficial daily gathering of neighbors and their canine friends in the park's open field. The open field is also a place for pickup ball games, neighborhood softball league games, and Frisbee throwing, among other activities. And the adjacent playground is a great place for kids and their parents to enjoy some playtime.

Over the years, there's been some excitement and some bruises and some poo-on-the-shoe as a result of kids and dogs inadvertently interacting in the open field or on the playground. Most would agree that we all share a sense of the greater good and have good intentions—from folks with dogs, to parents with kids and dogs, to neighbors without kids or dogs who like leisure time in the park. We all love Lake Claire Park, so it's time to gather our ideas and devise some solutions.

A handful of neighbors met in the park on the evening of May 17 to begin a discussion of park improvements. One option brought forth was to create an official City of Atlanta dog park. Another proposed option was to create a private dog park within Lake Claire. A third suggestion involved working with Candler Park to create a dog park at their much larger greenspace. Beyond the dog park idea, additional options developed, including creating a fenced flower garden between the playground and the open field as a visual distraction between kids and dogs, setting aside time for an unofficial happy hour for dogs

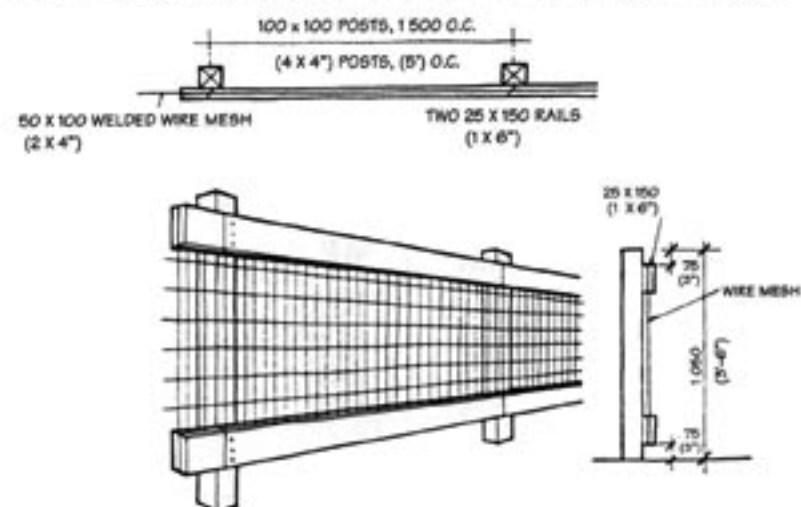
to play at the park, placing an enclosed area around the perimeter of the ball field/open field for use by dogs and their owners, and fostering better dialogue among the many park users. All of these ideas are discussed in further detail below.

Many neighbors joined the conversation at the June meeting of Lake Claire Neighbors, and their feedback is appreciated. There's room for lots of ideas and viewpoints, and many ways to be heard:

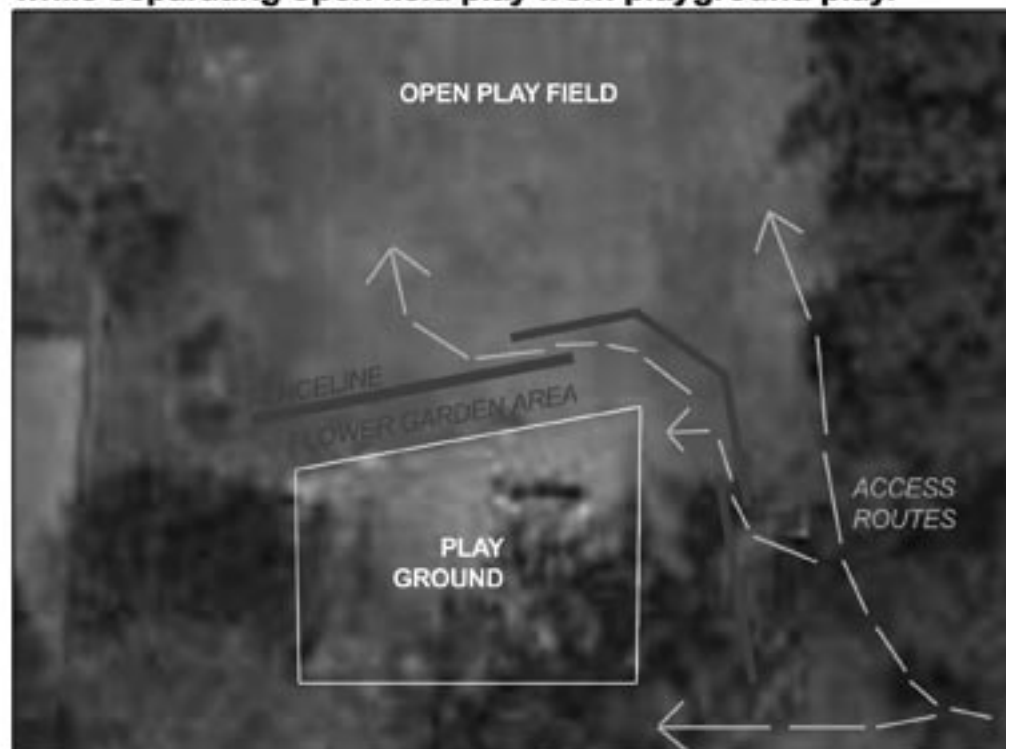
- On the web, there is a Google Groups page where you can post comments and documents and follow along: <http://groups.google.com/group/lcndogpark>.
- To contact the dog park exploratory committee co-chairs, Melissa Pressman and Elise Cormier, email dogpark@lakeclaire.org.
- If you'd like to voice your input over the phone, we'll get your message via the Lake Claire Neighbors phone number: (404) 236-9LCN (9526). When you call, you'll get the LCN voice mail. Please leave a message, and someone on the LCN executive committee will get back in touch with you in two to three days.
- Write to us at Lake Claire Neighbors, attn: Dog Park Committee, P.O. Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107.
- Join us at our next gathering, Thursday, July 8, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Lake Claire Park. As a helpful note, please remember that some folks aren't as comfortable around adorable dog friends as others, so it would be a kind gesture to keep this gathering a "people"



Proposed Wire and Board Fence Open Fencing



Corral-Style Fenceline allows freedom of movement while separating open field play from playground play.



an idea for handling the many uses of lake claire park (without fencing in half of it for a dog park)

This graphic shows one idea for creating designated areas in Lake Claire Park.

event.

Following are the proposed ideas in more detail:

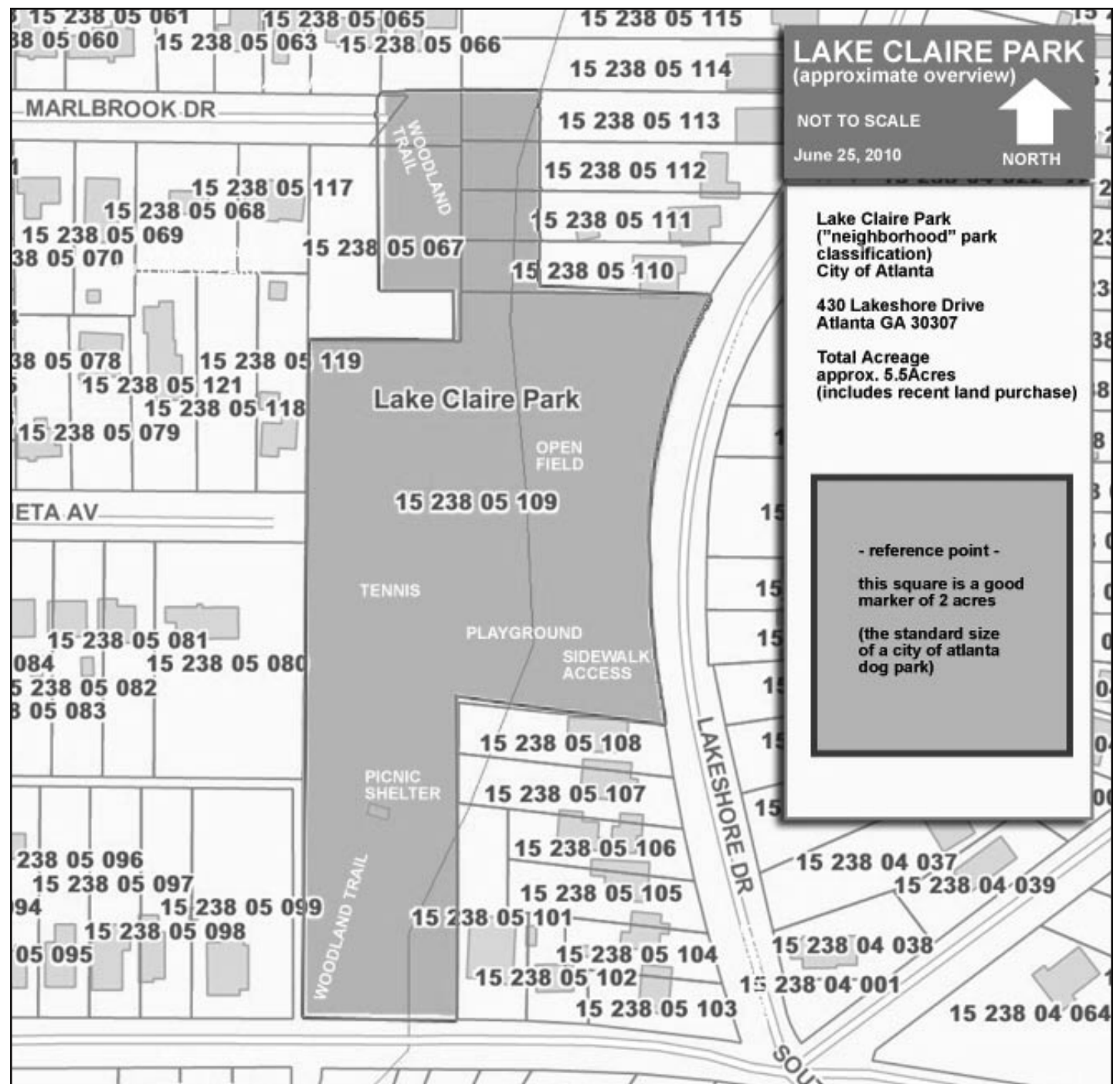
Official City of Atlanta Dog Park: The city provides a set of guidelines for grassroots groups to create a dog park, and there's a yearlong process to follow to meet the guidelines. As a quick overview, the guidelines include setting aside a fenced two-acre area, with a water source; separate large-dog and small-dog areas; and a dedicated group of dog park users to manage the area (City of Atlanta doesn't actively manage the dog park). When applying these guidelines to our park, some points for consideration include the need to form a dedicated neighborhood maintenance group, the popularity of the park with folks outside the neighborhood, and the size of Lake Claire Park.

Classified as a "neighborhood park" by the city, Lake Claire Park is designed to be a smaller-sized greenspace (around 5.5 acres with the newly added Marlbrook access point) that meets the needs of its immediate community. (For comparison, Candler Park is classified as a "community park" by the city; has larger-scale appropriate uses, such as festivals and a golf course; and has a whopping 55-acre land area.)

Dog parks are popular places, and Lake Claire will surely become a destination point for dogs and their owners. If you'd like to visit a City of Atlanta dog park to get a feel for this idea, Piedmont Park has a dog park (www.piedmontpark.org/do/dogpark.html), as does South Bend Park. Note that while Decatur and places east of Lake Claire have many dog parks, their regulations are not City of Atlanta's, and these parks are designed and operated under a different set of guidelines.

To learn more about City of Atlanta guidelines for establishing a dog park, contact Paul Taylor, interim commissioner, City of Atlanta Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, (404) 546-6788.

Private Dog Park: There are also many private dog parks, which are not required to meet City of Atlanta guidelines and can be somewhat more creatively designed (find them at www.dogparkusa.com/georgia/atlanta). A group of neighbors could find an open side yard in Lake Claire, set up a rental agreement with the owner, and develop a dog park with a dedicated maintenance team. Frequently, folks partner with a local business to support the dog park, and this option is also a good idea for develop-



An overview of the park shows its boundaries and its size compared to the size of a standard City of Atlanta dog park.

ing a City of Atlanta dog park. See "Creating Off-Leash Dog Parks: A Step-by-Step Guide," http://www.atlantaga.gov/client_resources/dprca/creating%20off%20leash%20dog%20parks.pdf, for more information on off-leash dog parks.

Lake Claire Flower Garden & Dog Happy Hour: Another option is to provide an open fence and a community flower garden area between the playground and the open field. The flower garden and its corral-style fence provide a visual distraction that separates dogs and kids. A com-

panion to the open fence and flower garden would be signage indicating priorities for use of the open field, and encouraging neighbors to communicate with one another about their concerns. It's unlawful for Lake Claire to specify off-leash hours for Lake Claire Park; however, neighborly discussions could help customary uses of the park to be more predictable and thereby reduce park user conflicts.

Enclosed Play Area: An idea also surfaced to place an enclosed area around the perimeter of the ball field/open field for use

by dogs and their owners (while leaving intact the large open field area). Although not officially an off-leash play area, this fenced area would need a neighborhood maintenance group to help keep it looking good. The fence would also give a boundary to any ball field activities, thus serving a dual purpose. Any fenced area would need to be accessible to City of Atlanta maintenance workers for grass mowing, and perhaps a mulched surface would be a better solution for this fenced area.

—Elise Cormier, VP of Environment for Lake Claire Neighbors

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The Clarion Pet Corner

Meet Christy Waehner and her Doberman, Parker

The Clarion: What drew you to Dobermans as a breed?

Christy Waehner: I was born into a house with a dog, but they were other breeds. However, it seems that I was around Dobermans all the time. After moving to our house on Hardendorf, in 1980, we decided that we had the time and space for a dog. There was just no other breed that appealed to us. The beautiful athletic shape, musculature, and intelligence of this breed are unlike any other, in our opinion.

TC: How many Dobermans have you had, and who do you have currently?

CW: Parker is our fifth Doberman. Our first was from a backyard breeder. Like most people, we didn't really understand what it meant to fully research a breed and those breeding them, but we were very fortunate and had a wonderful first Doberman. Once I got involved in Doberman rescue, our choice for future Dobermans was always through rescue. We've always had two at a time, but we lost our male, Jones, very suddenly last November, so we just have our female—my partner, Parker.

TC: How long have you been working with Dobermans? Do you work with other breeds as well?

CW: I was a kid when I showed my first dog in obedience, many, many years ago, back in the mid-'60s. He was a miniature schnauzer. I did a little training with our first Doberman, but she had a physical problem that kept us from doing any kind of competitive training. I started working with Doberman rescue just before we got our first rescue

from Judith Fellton (one of the founders of the Piedmont Arts Festival and a wonderful artist, dog show judge, and founder of Doberman rescues across the country). I also became involved with the Atlanta Doberman Pinscher Club at that time. I give lessons to any breed, and have taught clicker training classes at Sirius Agility Training Center in the past, but I only do breeder referral and rescue for Dobermans.

TC: You do a number of different things in your work with Dobermans—agility training, odor detection, clicker training. Can you briefly describe what each is?

CW: Agility is a great sport—you see it more and more. The dog and handler run a course, with the handler directing the dog over jumps, into tunnels, and over a teeter-totter, an a-frame, and a dog walk. It's judged on accuracy and time faults. You'll find agility trials around here at Wills Park in Alpharetta and Jim Miller Park in Marietta, but Parker and I do some traveling for trials as well.

Odor detection is a new sport that began in California and is called K9 Nose Works. It's taught by people who work in drug and bomb detection. The seminars and classes are taught for fun, and eventually there will be competitions around here, just as on the West Coast. It's great fun; the only equipment you need is cardboard boxes, and it can be done anywhere. I keep boxes in my car and will pull into a MARTA lot, or an empty parking lot, and toss the boxes out (one of which contains a piece of



Christy and Parker at agility trials.

food) and let Parker go to work sniffing out the odor. It's fascinating to watch, and the dogs love it. And for as little work as it appears to be, this is very tiring work for them, so it wears out a busy dog very nicely.

Clicker training is the only way to teach, as far as I'm concerned. Since I've trained dogs for a long time, I come from "old school" training, where we would force the dogs to do our bidding, i.e., pop their collars to get them to heel at our side, or push their butts down to make them sit, and worse. Clicker training teaches the behavior you want by rewarding small increments of that goal behavior, and then shaping it, gradually, into the goal you have in mind. Using the clicker (a tiny plastic box with tin that makes a click) pinpoints the moment the dog produces the action you're looking for, and rewarding that moment with food encourages them to repeat it. Repetition of this enables you to shape it into your end goal. Studies show that dogs that learn through their own experimentation tend to retain it better than being pushed and prodded into the behavior. The handler just learns to control the experimentation through clicks and treats.

TC: What is Wobbler's, and what is your experience with it?

CW: Wobbler's is "cervical vertebrae instability" and used to be a problem seen primarily in Dobermans and Great Danes. Unfortunately, it's being seen in many other breeds as well. Symptoms are instability in the back end of the dog, falling down, feet knuckling under, and eventually the dogs can go down permanently. It can be very painful.

Sylvia, my first agility dog, was diagnosed with Wobbler's when she was five years old. Traditional treatment is surgery with a long recovery and a low success rate, resulting in most dogs walking with a "drunken gait" for the rest of their (usually short) life. I asked my vet (a holistic practitioner using acupuncture, chiropractics, homeopathy, etc.) to look for an alternative. He found a vet in Marion, Indiana, who uses gold bead implants at acupuncture points for healing. Less than a year later, we were back in agility, winning ribbons. Most important, Syl was healthy.

TC: For your book, *Sylly Sylvia the Doberman*, did you write and take all the photos?

CW: The book came out of the funny stories I wrote for the premier Doberman Pinscher breed magazine at the time, *The Doberman Quarterly*. I or my husband took the photos, although one or two were taken by others. Sylvia was a great model. She loved to wear wigs and hats and was very accommodating in regard to my crazy ideas. I'm happy to say that the book is in the Decatur library.

For more information on Christy and her work with Dobermans, or organizations dedicated to the breed, visit Christy's website, <http://dobetalk.posterous.com/>; the Atlanta Doberman Rescue, <http://www.atlantadobermanrescue.com/>; Sirius Dog Agility in Decatur, <http://www.siriusdogagility.com/>; and the website of Christy's book, <http://www.syllysylvia.the.doberman.com/>.

Editor's note: If you or a neighbor you know has an interesting pet-related story to tell, email us at editor@lakeclaire.org for inclusion in the next Pet Corner.



Parker flying over a jump.

Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting: June Minutes

June 17, 2010

Led by Glenn Frankel, LCN president

Attended by 12 neighbors (5 officers) and 3 guests

Minutes recorded by Heidi Hill
Glenn Frankel passed around the agenda and opened the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m. by asking those present to introduce themselves by name and street.

Glenn gave the treasurer's report in Cara Stevens's absence. Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN) has approximately \$5,000 in checking and \$5,000 in savings. There has been no significant change to these amounts since last month; dues payments are still down.

Jen Horn, VP of Safety for LCN and organizer of the Lake Claire Security Patrol (LCSP), gave the neighborhood safety update. The LCSP had eighteen shifts in May, roughly four a week, covering seventy-two hours. Four member households utilized the vacation patrol in May, which involves additional patrolling per the member's request. Officer Jason Combee is still taking about 90 percent of the shifts; three other officers are also on the rotation.

No crime was reported in Lake Claire by the Atlanta Police Department (APD) for weeks 18 and 19. A neighbor asked Jen if this was because of the safety patrol. Jen said it was probably a factor, but a burglar who had targeted the neighborhood had also recently been caught, so there weren't as many break-ins. In week 20, there were two break-ins, on DeKalb Ave. and on Harold Ave. The first involved theft of a TV and a safe; in the second, power tools were taken. In week 21, a bike that was not locked at a residence was stolen. There was also an attempted car theft. But in general, crime is down.

On May 15, Officer Combee came across five teenagers drinking in Lake Claire Park after hours. They ran when he approached; he called the incident in, and all five were picked up for loitering. All of the teens lived in the neighborhood. On May 3, APD called in some cars parked illegally on McLendon, and they were towed.

Financially, the LCSP, which has a separate account from LCN, is funded through the end of the year. This will support four shifts a week, concentrated on weekend nights and weekday days. Time slots vary. Jen informs members of the shift times and gives them the officer on duty's number.

Valencia Hudson, public safety liaison for councilmember Natalyn Archibong, arrived to the meeting, and Glenn invited her to speak to the group. Valencia talked about the recent carjackings in Lake Claire, on Gordon Ave., and in Kirkwood and the home invasion in East Atlanta. A vehicle linked to all three crimes was recovered at an apartment

complex on Howard and Memorial. Valencia said they were trying to get the communities involved to raise money for Crime Stoppers. You can call (404) 577-TIPS and report information related to a crime anonymously, and you may get paid for these tips.

Glenn asked about potholes that need to be fixed in Lake Claire, notably on McLendon. Valencia said the wait time is long unless the pothole is deep. Glenn suggested adding a notice to the *Clarion* with an email address where people can report potholes.

Finally, Valencia informed Glenn that the \$2,500 the neighborhood has been awarded by Natalyn Archibong for improvements and activities related to greenspaces would be available July 1. LCN was a beneficiary of the money because Archibong

had decided to use the \$50,000 she had been granted to support housing code enforcement and revitalizing district 5.

An APD officer arrived from a fighting incident in Little 5 Points to answer questions about crime in the neighborhood. He said crime in the neighborhood was almost nonexistent.

The evening watch is down in Lake Claire, while elsewhere it's up. They are looking into leads on the carjacking incident reported in Lake Claire, but he didn't have any additional information. Teri Stewart, a resident of Gordon, asked about a news report she had heard about five burglaries, rapes, and beatings in Lake Claire and Kirkwood. The officer said there had been the incident on Gordon, but he had no knowledge of other incidents of that nature.

Glenn asked me to give an update on the planning for the tour of homes and gardens. The committee has now had two meetings at the home of Mary Williams, the TOH committee organizer. We have set a date of October 2, 2010, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., for the tour. Immediately following the tour will be a fund-raising event for the Land Trust, with food and music, which tour-goers are invited to attend. Tickets will be available for pick up on the day of the tour at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, and Clifton may also be a stop on the tour.

The TOH committee has divided up into smaller task-oriented groups, including logistics, sponsorship, and marketing/PR. A

tagline, "Experience Life on the 'Lake,'" has been chosen, with art and design work to adopt the nostalgic feel of travel posters from the 1920s and '30s. The next meeting of the tour committee was scheduled for Thursday, July 24.

Glenn gave an update on the dog park exploratory committee's work, on behalf of committee co-chairs Elise Cormier and Melissa Pressman, who could not attend. Neighbors met at Lake Claire Park to discuss options for the space, including a dog park, and decided that developing an official City of Atlanta dog park would pose many challenges. [See the article in this paper on the meeting.—Ed.] The neighbors came up with other ideas to explore, including a perforated fence and a flower garden area. More people are invited to join the conversation by emailing dogpark@lakeclaire.org.

A group of interested neighbors came to the neighborhood meeting to discuss the dog park committee meeting and its proposals. These neighbors, all dog owners, were at the park during the meeting but were not invited to contribute. One neighbor said that the group had tried to experiment with

different options for establishing separate spaces for dogs and kids. They also had a number of suggestions to present to the exploratory committee. Glenn said he would pass along their names to the co-chairs.

Glenn moved on to give an update on the proposed neighborhood fun run. The committee met a few times and did a lot of research, including talking to the organizer of the Mary Lin Foundation run. One idea was to play off the topography of Lake Claire and call the race the Silly Hilly. Ultimately, it was decided that the race would be postponed until the spring in order to focus on the tour of homes. Interested neighbors are welcome to offer ideas and help by contacting the committee at funrun@lakeclaire.org.

Teri Stewart then asked to be added to the agenda. She announced that her recent presentation on Lake Claire's Gordon family at the DeKalb History Center was attended by about one hundred people. The presentation is available online for those interested. Her next presentation will be at the B*ATL event on July 24. Teri then gave an update on the court date

for the Granmaw Gordon case, which was rescheduled for June 28. [The court date has been rescheduled again, for July 13.—Ed.] This will be the group's second superior court visit, with the same judge. All are encouraged to attend as concerned citizens.

Next, Teri raised a concern about the decision by the neighborhood executive committee not to give her \$170 to be used for wildlife photography at the greenspace at Gordon and DeKalb Avenues. She understood that her request had been rejected due to the committee's concerns about getting involved in the ongoing lawsuit. She wanted to know how the decision had been made, and why this money was turned down, while a request for \$75 to file an appeal was not. In addition, she had been unable to locate the bylaws on the Lake Claire website and was concerned that they had been removed or done away with.

Glenn told Teri that the bylaws are located on the Documents page of the website. Then Glenn addressed Teri's question about the decision not to award her money for wildlife photography. He said the issue was that the neighborhood association has a policy of not getting involved in lawsuits it has not initiated. This photography would be used specifically as evidence to support her case in court, and if the neighborhood association paid for the photography, it would be seen as supporting the lawsuit.

Teri said that she did not understand the harm in documenting wildlife and that LCN would be more liable by paying the \$75 to help the group file an appeal than by paying for wildlife photography. She added that the bylaws should say that appeals will not be covered by the neighborhood association, in light of LCN's actions in this instance. Glenn said he would have to give more thought to her points and consult with the executive committee. Kathy Evans gave some background on why the neighborhood had decided not to get involved with the property while it is in litigation. A neighbor asked how much the property was worth. Teri said it was reappraised at \$484,000, and the owner wanted \$1 million for it. It was noted that the Lake Claire Park expansion, roughly the same amount of land as the property in question, was bought for \$360,000.

Glenn concluded the discussion by saying he would revisit how the neighborhood chooses to get involved in such activities and consult with the executive committee and a lawyer. Ultimately, he said, the committee was uncomfortable with what providing the requested funds would show.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Next LCN Meeting

Thursday July 15

Lake Claire Neighbors meets every third Thursday of the month at the Frazer Center. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are open to all. Sign up for the newscast at www.lakeclaire.org to get the meeting agenda.

Rocket Run 5K Raises Funds for Mary Lin Foundation



Race volunteers with teacher Mrs. Rogers at sign-in.



Lake Claire residents Traci, Malori & Maizie Switzer.

The Rocket Run 5K on June 19 was a huge success, raising over \$4,000 for Mary Lin's teachers and students. Thanks to the over 250 runners and the many ML teachers, families, and volunteers for making this such a great event!



Keely Baker and Valerie Thompson.



Lake Claire residents Nate, Pat, and Max Grum.

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. To submit an ad by mail, send it to Lake Claire Neighbors, P.O. Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107, and include a check made out to Lake Claire Neighbors. Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

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RESCUED KITTENS TO GOOD HOMES!

I am a Lake Claire, Candler Park resident who voluntarily fosters Mama cats & kittens (and adults too) that would have otherwise be killed as they are available to rescue only. Most of the kittens I have for adoption are orphans and were hand fed. They come to you spayed or neutered, healthy, happy, and grateful to enjoy life and be a part of your family! Please contact Kate Branch-Browne at 404-228-6622 or katherine.branch@gmail.com

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