



## In and Around Lake Claire: Fall Fun

### It's fall in Lake Claire!

The season of outdoor festivals and fun for all ages is here again. What's happening in our neck of the woods? Plenty of fun for everyone! Walk to these great events and enjoy the fall foliage and crisp temperatures along the way. Mark your calendars, because you won't want to miss out on any of this fall fun.



Indiana Avenue neighbors Chad, George, and Priscilla Werner at the 2009 Little Five Points Parade.

### Lake Claire Halloween Parade

Kids love parades, candy, costumes, and other kids! And that's exactly what this parade is all about. This much-anticipated family event is scheduled for Saturday, October 30, but won't happen without YOU! We are in need of a volunteer to head up this event. If you'd like to volunteer to coordinate the annual children's Halloween parade, contact Glenn Frankel at [president@lakeclaire.org](mailto:president@lakeclaire.org).

### L5P Halloween Festival and Parade

On Friday and Saturday, October 15–16, Little Five Points hosts its tenth annual celebration of all things Halloween. Thirty-five thousand people are expected to engage in the merriment this year. The party gets started on Friday night at 5 pm in Findley Plaza with great local

bands, food and beverage vendors, and an artists' market. On Saturday, the festival continues, boasting three stages for live music, and of course Atlanta's best Halloween parade. This awesomely wild, high-energy spectacle featuring crazy costumes and floats by L5P businesses and many others will kick off at 4 pm and proceed along Euclid and Moreland Avenues.

### L5P Halloween Festival and Parade

Friday, October 15: 5 pm–close  
Saturday, October 16: 12 pm–close

For a complete schedule, visit [www.l5phalloween.com](http://www.l5phalloween.com).

### Candler Park Fall Fest

The weekend of October 23–24, Candler Park hosts its tenth annual Fall Fest. The family-friendly fest kicks off at noon on Saturday and features an artists' market, a kids' area, food and

drink vendors, and, of course, awesome live music.

The artists' market will feature tons of handmade, one-of-a-kind specialty items, including jewelry, clothing, and accessories, as well as paintings, pottery, sculpture, woodwork, and much more. Several Lake Claire and Candler Park artists will be featured this year, including Shannon Goines, Anna Hinson, Kathleen Plate, Lore Ruttan, and Polly the Potter.

Fall Fest's huge kids' area will be full of family activities and experiences. Plenty of free activities and crafts will be offered, including mask making, a building workshop from Lowe's, flower making, and Great Clips' ever-popular "Spooktacular Hair" booth. Sand art and face painting—festival classics—will also be available. On Saturday, great kids' entertainment on stage from Mr. Eric of Pete the Cat fame will happen at 2:30 pm. There will also be a costume contest at 3 pm on Saturday and trick-or-treating from 12 to 2 pm both days (look for booths with balloons).

Local and regional music acts will be featured on the stage throughout the festival, including Atlanta favorite jazz singer Francine Reed. And, of course, Fall Fest wouldn't be complete without delicious food! This year, the Little 5 Corner Tavern, the Pickle, and Souper Jenny, as well as many others, will be serving up culinary delights.

This weekend-long event also features a Fall Ball, a 5K fun run, and a tour of homes.

### Candler Park Fall Fest

Saturday, October 23: 12–9 pm

Sunday, October 24: 12–7 pm

For complete details, visit [www.candlerpark.org/fallfest](http://www.candlerpark.org/fallfest).

### More great community events in October include:

- Lake Claire Yard Sale Day: On Saturday, October 23, browse through neighborhood treasures to find something perfect for you and your home! Contact Hannah Denmark for additional information: [hannahatl@gmail.com](mailto:hannahatl@gmail.com).

- On October 23 and 24, Epworth UMC will be selling delicious hotdogs with all the fixings on the lawn in front of the church.

- On October 30, the family film *Monsters vs. Aliens* will be shown at Candler Park at dark. Bring a blanket or chairs, a picnic, and your whole family!

—Cecily Stevens

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RECYCLED PAPER.

### NOTED

Neighbors who are interested in the zoning variance process can visit the website of Lake Claire Neighbors for instructions and a checklist. See "How to Apply for a Variance."

## What is your family drinking?

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## Letter to the Editor

I would like to thank Claudia Tillman and the wonderful Lake Claire neighbors for the August meal deliveries to my Palifox Drive home. On June 8, my husband, myself, and our twenty-two-month-old son welcomed twins into the family! Needless to say, things have been very busy ever since. Our daily routine revolves around diaper changes, baths, feeding, laundry, and playtime. It got even more hectic when I went back to work on August 3.

It was so nice to open the door to a friendly Lake Claire neighbor bearing delicious fresh meals every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday! We also had the opportunity to meet several neighbors for the first time. My husband and I knew we found the perfect neighborhood when we moved here three years ago. We feel so blessed to be surrounded by such giving people. Thank you so much.

Sincerely, the Damian family

## New Web Resource about Trees in Atlanta



Atlanta Tree Conservation Commission

Do you love the shade of a big tree on a hot Atlanta day? Did you know that urban trees not only help keep the city cooler, but also provide other environmental benefits? Trees help slow the flow of storm water and prevent flooding and erosion; they help remove pollutants from the air; and, of course, they make our city more beautiful.

Because trees are so valuable in the urban environment, Atlanta's tree protection ordinance prohibits removing any tree from public property and requires that you obtain a permit before removing any tree over six inches in diameter from private property. Permits are free of charge and can be requested at (404) 865-8487 or on the Tree Conservation Commission's new website, at [www.atlantatreecommission.com](http://www.atlantatreecommission.com).

The Atlanta Tree Conservation Commission is a citizen board, made up of professionals and laypeople appointed by the mayor and city council. They are charged with assisting in the protection, maintenance, and regeneration of trees and other forest resources in Atlanta. The commission also hears and decides appeals of administrative decisions related to trees. Lake Claire resident Dan White has been on the commission for five years and currently serves as co-chair. For information about the work of the Tree Commission and to learn more about tree selection, planting, and care in Atlanta, please visit the website at [www.atlantatreecommission.com](http://www.atlantatreecommission.com).

—Submitted by Kathy Evans



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**Lake Claire Neighbors**

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

Visit [www.lakeclaire.org](http://www.lakeclaire.org) to sign up for the newscasts—timely updates on happenings in Lake Claire!

**FROM THE EDITOR**

## Interested in joining the *Clarion* team?

**Advertising**

We are looking for a special someone to help coordinate advertising for the *Clarion*. Emily Veazey is moving on after years of guiding this important work, without which we would not have a newspaper! If you want to learn more about this position, contact Heidi Hill at [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org).

**Other**

We're always looking for writers, artists, and photographers, so send your thoughts, ideas, stories, and photos our way!

## Demystifying the McLendon Avenue Roundabout

In your car, hurling obscenities? Angrily checking for a tell-tale OTP license plate? Then you must be driving in our roundabout on McLendon! You're attempting to navigate this enigmatic device, and you start to enter the roundabout when another car fails to yield, taking your right-of-way. Or another driver decides to yield while in the middle of the roundabout, stopping traffic, to let you enter too. You're not alone. Near-accidents and general confusion is the norm at our roundabout.

We recently spoke with Valerie Bell-Smith of the Atlanta Department of Public Works, who provided some great insight as to why our roundabout, or traffic circle, exists: "These devices typically serve as a much-needed traffic-calming device in an effort to enhance pedestrian safety, while also adding to the appearance of the community, as was the case with the one placed on McLendon Avenue." Indeed, the roundabout does slow the traffic in the area, but just what is the proper way to drive in a roundabout?

According to the American Public Works Association's website, "Drivers approaching a roundabout must slow to a speed that will allow them to safely



*Thankfully, the McLendon Avenue roundabout looks nothing like this chaotic traffic circle in Paris.*

interact with other users of the roundabout and to negotiate the roundabout. . . . As drivers approach the yield line, they must check for conflicting vehicles already on the circulating roadway and determine when it is safe and prudent to enter the circulating stream." It boils down to this: Slow down and yield to traffic already in the roundabout. Never merge without yielding. Of course, pedestrians in the crosswalk always have the right-of-way. But what if you arrive at the roundabout at the same time as another driver? As in a four-way stop, the person who arrives

at the yield sign first enters the roundabout first.

A cyclist approaching the roundabout, according to the American Public Works Association, has two options for how to use the intersection: "A bicyclist may choose to merge with vehicular traffic and enter the intersection similar to a vehicle (the slow circulating speeds permit simultaneous bicycle-vehicle use) or dismount at an appropriately placed bicycle ramp and use the intersection as would a pedestrian." Regardless of how cyclists handle the roundabout, drivers should always watch carefully for them.

Please share this information with folks you know who may be baffled upon approaching our roundabout. If we all become experts, then hopefully we'll have a little less confusion and fewer accidents. For more information on roundabouts, please visit the American Public Works Association's website at [www.apwa.net](http://www.apwa.net). In addition, Lake Claire has access to an instructional DVD about navigating roundabouts. Email Heidi Hill at [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org) if you're interested in viewing this video tutorial.

—Cecily Stevens

## Safety Report

August 2010

**CAR THEFT**

**Friday 8/27 (2:00 pm)–  
Sunday 8/29**

**(11:30 am)—400 block  
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# Mark Your Calendar

Note that yard trimmings will continue to be picked up weekly, not every other week.

## October

**2** 2010 Lake Claire Home & Garden Tour, 1:00–6:00 pm, followed by food and music at the Land Trust, 6:00–8:00 pm.

**2** Hands On Atlanta Day, [www.handsonatlantaday.org](http://www.handsonatlantaday.org).

**9** 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Trees Atlanta Tree Sale, 8 am–2 pm, Trees Atlanta Kendeda Center, 225 Chester Avenue, Atlanta 30316. Sale features more than one thousand native and unusual trees and plants. In celebration

of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Trees Atlanta will offer twenty-five species and varieties of trees, shrubs, and forest-safe vines never offered before, including bladdernut, butternut, Weeping Forest Pansy redbud, Emerald Knight fringe tree, Invincible Spirit hydrangea, and Devil's Walkingstick. Learn more at [www.treesatlanta.org](http://www.treesatlanta.org).

**11** Columbus Day

**15–16** Little Five Points Halloween Festival and Parade

**17** Frazer Center Fall Festival

**17** Clifton Sanctuary Ministries Annual Graduation & Honors Dinner, 6 pm, Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church, Duluth. Lake Claire will have a table at the dinner; if you are interested in attending, please contact Sarah Wynn at [cliftonsanctuary@lakeclaire.org](mailto:cliftonsanctuary@lakeclaire.org). For more information about the event, visit [www.cliftonsanctuary.com](http://www.cliftonsanctuary.com).

**21** Lake Claire Neighbors meeting, 7:00 pm, Frazer Center atrium, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon (back entrance is at end of Ridgewood Road).

**22** Mayhem in the Mansion—A Night of Deadly Dealing, 8 pm–midnight, Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, 980 Briarcliff Road. Casino night takes a gothic turn at the Callanwolde Mansion. Gaming tables, dancing, and treasures from the auction are yours till midnight. Hors d'oeuvres, wine & beer, dessert, and coffee will keep you fueled. If you love your costume, wear it; if not, just dress to kill. All proceeds to benefit the Callanwolde Dance Ensemble. Tickets are \$45 through [TicketLeap.com](http://TicketLeap.com), keyword: Mayhem.

**22** 3rd Annual Fall Masquerade Ball, 7:30 pm, First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Drive. Atlanta's favorite band leader Tommy Dean is performing with the Junior League, so you know you'll want to put on your best dancing shoes for this event. While you're at it, put together your best Halloween costume, and give it a spin too! To purchase a ticket, go to [www.candlerpark.org/fallball](http://www.candlerpark.org/fallball), or send in the ticket request form printed in the September issue of the *Candler Park Messenger*, along with a check, to 353 Elmira; or buy at the door with cash.

**23** Lake Claire Yard Sale Day

## Support Our Vets: Bands and Barbeque on Saturday, October 9!

Join Veteran's Heart Georgia for great music and food from 1 pm to midnight at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust. Participating bands to be revealed soon! Food will be available at the Land Trust's world-famous Gorilla Grill. Tickets purchased at the gate are \$12, and proceeds will support the Veteran's Heart Georgia programs. All veterans are admitted free of charge! If you cannot be with us, your donations are gratefully accepted at the Veteran's Heart website. Visit [www.veteransheartgeorgia.org](http://www.veteransheartgeorgia.org) for more info.

**23–24** Candler Park Fall Fest

**28** NPU-N meeting, 7:00 pm, Little Five Points Community Center, 1083 Austin Ave. NE.

**30** Candler Park Screen on the Green. Showing *Monsters vs. Aliens*. Festivities start at dark.

**31** Halloween

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## The Frazer Center to Hold Annual Fall Festival

Join your Lake Claire neighbors for an afternoon of family fun on Sunday, October 17, from 2 pm to 6 pm at the Frazer Center's annual Fall Festival. The event is held at Cator Woolford Gardens and features pony rides, a live band, a clown, a storyteller, face painting, a cake walk, cookie and Halloween bag decorating, and much more!

Several local food trucks will be on hand to provide delicious gourmet food and treats for purchase. Admission is \$5 per adult and \$5 per child, or \$15 for families. This annual fund-raiser benefits the Frazer Center, a private, nonprofit organization serving adults and children with disabilities, as well as children who are typically developing. Attendees are welcome to bring their own beverages (no glass). Water will be available for purchase.

The Frazer Center and Cator Woolford Gardens are located at 1815 Ponce de Leon Avenue. For more information, visit [www.thefrazercenter.org](http://www.thefrazercenter.org), or call (404) 377-3836.  
—Submitted by Larry Bowie

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## Upcoming Events at the Land Trust

**October 2, 1:00–8:00 pm:** Lake Claire Home & Garden Tour, this year including an “after party” with dinner and music at the Land Trust. For info: [www.lakeclairehometour.com](http://www.lakeclairehometour.com).

**October 3, 3:00–6:00 pm:** “Keep the Trust” volunteer workday. Pizza will be served when we finish. Also, volunteers will receive a free pass to the next drum circle.

**October 9:** Fund-raiser for Veteran's Heart Georgia

**October 17, 3:00–6:00 pm:** “Keep the Trust” volunteer workday. Pizza will be served when we finish. Also, volunteers will receive a free pass to the next drum circle.

**October 24, 5:00 pm:** Annual pumpkin carving

**December 4:** Annual Holiday Craft Sale. (Start making your crafts now—just hold off awhile on the baked goods).

*The Lake Claire Community Land Trust is located at the end of Arizona Avenue, three blocks off McLendon. To learn more about us, to join one of our five email lists, to make a tax-deductible donation, or to contact us with questions or feedback, visit us at [www.LCCLT.org](http://www.LCCLT.org). Drop by, get in touch, and get involved!*

## Bring Your Documents to Community Shred Day!

Back by popular demand, it's Community Shred Day! The Community School and Eagle Secure Shredding are sponsoring a Community Shred Day on **October 23** from 10 am to 1 pm in the parking lot of the First Baptist Church of Decatur. If you missed it in the spring, here's your chance! Have your old tax records, bills, bank statements, and other confidential documents shredded **on-site** and recycled by Atlanta's premier shredding company. Donations of \$5 per banker's box are welcome, and all proceeds will support the Community School, a school for junior and high school students with autism spectrum disorders. The First Baptist Church of Decatur is located at 308 Clairemont Avenue, Decatur 30030. Visit [www.thecommunityschool.net](http://www.thecommunityschool.net) for more information about the school and the event. Rain or shine—we hope to see you there!

—Submitted by the Community School



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## News from the Land Trust

# A Fun, Fabulous & Fantastic Fall Fest!



*The Land Trust ticket booth.*

and Elijah Haller. They were followed by My Homework Ate My Dog, an awesome and inspiring band of middle schoolers we will surely hear more from in the future. Stephen Wing bravely attempted to follow their act with a poetic interlude. Victor Johnson, performing solo on piano and guitar, and The Owls, with their jazzy jazz, took us through the afternoon. At dusk, we gathered the attendees in a circle and held hands for a long moment of silence to honor the victims of the 9/11 attacks nine years before. Neighborhood favorites Jackson



*My Homework Ate My Dog.*

Fall Fest, the Lake Claire Community Land Trust's annual fund-raising benefit, was held on Saturday, September 11, from 1:00 to 11:30 pm. It was an amazing day of fun, food, art vendors, live music, and activities in our community. Many friends and neighbors came out to support the event and also worked as volunteers. We had a bake sale, face painting, raffle prizes, and lots of great music. The Gorilla Grill served veggie and regular burgers and hotdogs, salads, beans, snacks, and drinks. Entry was by donation, and this year the Land Trust offered an option to get in free by becoming a Land Trust "Caretaker" for 2010-11. (It's still not too late to become a "Caretaker" of the Land Trust; see the membership letter on page 7 for details.)

Bands played from the opening of the gate until closing time. The day began with a performance by Handle With Care, a grade-school-age outfit featuring Lake Claire natives Tendal Mann



*Cyenda Stormant models her face paint.*

Love Highway began the evening, interrupted just after dark by a brief rain shower and an even briefer power outage. (Brilliant stage effect, guys!) The finishing act was a great show by Bill Fleming and the Ex-P.A.N.D. Band, rocking the crowd into festival form and up onto our dancing feet.

It was a fun day for the Land Trust and our community. We thank the many talented and wonderful performers who came out and shared their music with us,

making this fall fundraiser a great success. Special thanks go to the volunteers who came out to help and the many neighborhood businesses who donated raffle prizes for the drawings between every act onstage. And an extra-special thanks to the thirty-plus neighbors and friends who signed up to be "Caretakers" of our beautiful urban oasis!

—Beth Willson & Stephen Wing

*Photography by Beth Willson*

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### Thank You, Fall Fest Sponsors!

The LCCLT appreciates the support of the neighborhood businesses who donated raffle prizes for the Fall Fest fund-raiser. Please help us return the favor by supporting them in turn:

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42o Gift Shop  
Euclid Ave. Yacht Club  
Coyote Trading Co.  
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## Join the Land Trust and Become a Caretaker!

Announcing the Lake Claire Community Land Trust 2010–11 Membership Drive

*"When I moved to Lake Claire, I didn't know how I would fit into this neighborhood—I needed to make new friends, build a new life. Soon I felt I was living in a real community, where people know each other by name and are involved in shared activities. Then I realized that the community is centered in the Land Trust."* —A new neighbor

Dear Neighbors,

The Lake Claire Community Land Trust was established in 1983 by a group of neighbors to create green space and foster community. It has worked! Whether children playing, people walking dogs, neighbors sharing monthly potluck dinners, or friends watching sunsets from the overlook or enjoying cultural events, the Land Trust welcomes all.

But we need your help. Your membership in the LCCLT is an investment in social change and community development. We call it becoming a Land Trust "Caretaker."

Maintaining the Land Trust is a big job—expenses add up! City and county taxes are almost \$6,000 per year. Water, electricity, and general maintenance are expensive, even as we actively conserve (for example, a solar-powered well pump and recently installed rain barrels provide water for the gardens). We make monthly payments for adjacent land, including the pond and overlook, purchased in 2009. And this is only a partial list. Our wish list for the future includes expanding and winterizing our Gorilla Grill, erecting a donated green house, and other projects to serve the Land Trust community.

By becoming a Caretaker, you benefit from increased involvement in community affairs, community gardening, improved recreational space, and a wide variety of cultural experiences. Our membership program is structured in three tiers:

Student/Senior: \$25 annually or \$2.10 per month

Individual Adult: \$35 or \$3.00 per month

Couple/Family: \$75 or \$6.25 per month

You can join by logging in to [www.LCCLT.org](http://www.LCCLT.org). To join at the annual rate, click on "Donate" and fill in your amount. To join at the monthly rate, scroll down and click on "Subscribe." All major credit cards are accepted. You can also send a check for the annual rate to Chris McKenna,

Treasurer, at 306 Arizona Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30307, or drop it into the chute in our bulletin board. But don't feel limited by the amounts listed above! Donate over \$100, and you'll receive a thank-you gift of a T-shirt. Membership runs through the calendar year; join now for 2011. LCCLT is a 501(c)3 organization, so your donation is tax-deductible.

We believe the Land Trust is a benefit to the wider community. Even if you don't come on a regular basis or participate in activities or events, the existence of this greenspace enhances all our lives and contributes to the unique character of Lake Claire.

Many thanks for your past and ongoing support!

—LCCLT Board of Directors



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# It's Barbeque Time!

Get ready for a once-a-year treat! The Epworth Men's Barbeque returns on Saturday, November 6, from 11:00 am to 5:30 pm, complete with pork and chicken plates, a kids' moonwalk, and plenty of good company.

Jack Dempsey and Jim Pelot chuckle as they relive moments from Epworth barbeques of years past. It's clear the happy memo-

ries are piled high, and they're looking forward to stoking the fire for this year's chicken and pork plates.

Now an ancient tradition, the Epworth Men's Barbeque started decades ago as a side item to the Women's Bazaar. The Epworth Women hosted an annual crafts fair, showcasing delightful handmade gifts just in time for Christmas shopping. Initially, the event was accompanied by a spaghetti supper. What with all the crafts, sales, and socializing, it became clear that the spaghetti supper was a handful to organize. The men stepped in to ease the load, and the first annual barbeque was cooked up.

Epworth has changed over the years with the rise and fall and rise of the Candler Park and Lake Claire neighborhoods. What began as a young church bursting at the seams transitioned to an empty nester whose flock had flown out into the world. With the rejuvenation of the surrounding neighborhood, Epworth Church is growing once again. The small church family of about forty members worships, works, and laughs together within the walls of a much

larger legacy. No matter the count, the heart of Epworth has remained steady: "This church offers a sense of belonging, and we're emphasizing that. We're catering to the community," said the late JC Manus, a lively and dedicated member of Epworth since 1946. Folks hold Epworth dear in their hearts, returning to celebrate the importance of

When asked for their grilling secrets, members of the Epworth Men's Club chuckle again. "Well, we buy a lot of meat," they say. "And then we build a really big fire in the barbeque pit with seasoned hardwood." From the gleam in their eyes and the subtle mischievous smiles, it's obvious that fire building is a highlight of the annual event. "When the fire's died down to about a foot of coals, we lay on the chicken and Boston butts," Jim continues. The old tradition called for cooking hams into the wee hours of the morning, and much activity centered on taming flares as the ham drippings ignited in the dark. While the traditional firefighting method provided lively entertainment, the men prefer a more relaxing grilling experience these days. In place of fire extinguishers, favorite meat thermometers keep tabs on the grilling. "Usually we're grilling on Friday afternoon and continue into the evening, but staying up all night is not part of the deal anymore," says Jim. "The barbeque tradition always maintains its positive and easy-going atmosphere, though the grilling may have changed from

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this church family in their lives past and present during special occasions, such as Homecoming Weekend (the church's birthday celebration each May), the sacred and joyful Christmas and Easter seasons, and, of course, whenever there's tasty barbeque being served up.



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**BBQ** (continued from previous page)

pure pork to the addition of chicken," Jack adds.

Tradition has a way of spreading by word of mouth. Pedro, a longtime friend of Epworth and native of Cuba, stops by every year with his specially prepared personal ham, specially seasoned and securely wrapped in chicken wire. Though Pedro speaks little English, the men always enjoy this stately gentleman's company around the Epworth pit. Rumor has it that the Lake Claire Men's Barbeque Support Group may be stopping by to share grilling tips this year. All grillers will be required to participate in the taste test for perfection. The Friday Night Early Sampler Sandwich (FNESS), hot off the grill, is a mandatory step in the Epworth Men's Barbeque procedure book.

Since this is always a favorite neighborhood event, the best way to make sure you'll get your plate filled is to take advantage of the early ticket sales, starting October 10 and continuing until Friday, November 5. Look for tickets at Screen on the Green (cosponsored by Epworth Church), at the Epworth Day

School office, at the church office (epworthumc@bellsouth.net, [404] 525-4746), or from any member of Epworth United Methodist Church. Of course, all are welcome to join the feast on Saturday, November 6, from 11 am to 5:30 pm with tickets at the door.

This year's feast offers chicken or pork plates, served with the requisite sides of baked beans, coleslaw, and bread. Take out or eat in as you wish, and bring your whole family and all your neighbors. You're invited to relax in Epworth's brand-new outdoor parlor while little ones explore the children's natural playspace and older kids romp in the moonwalk. What better way to enjoy a lazy fall day after the excitement of Halloween and before the bustle of Thanksgiving reunions. So come on by, take a load off, and savor some of the neighborhood's finest pit-cooked barbeque. It's a once-a-year treat not to be missed.

—Elise Cormier (for Epworth at Candler Park, a United Methodist Congregation)

## Atlanta Music Teachers Association Celebrates the Style of Romantic Music for the Piano

Atlanta Music Teachers presents its second annual Romantic Competition and Festival for Piano at Steinway Piano Galleries in Alpharetta on Sunday, October 31, 2010.

All of the music to be performed will be from the Romantic era, music written roughly between the years of 1815 and 1910. Students will perform two pieces from this era in front of a qualified adjudicator. The judge then selects the top performers to go on to play in the Winners Recital, to be held the same day and location, at 5 pm.

Winners will be chosen based on their sensitivity, individuality, and expression, performing the music in a necessary "singing style," which is typical of Romantic era music.

Cash prizes are awarded to performers chosen as "the best," but certificates and performance feedback will be given to all who participate.

Atlanta Music Teachers Association is an organization made up of independent music teachers across the metro Atlanta area. It is an affiliate of Georgia Music Teachers Association and the National Association of Music Teachers. AMTA strives to bring continuing education to its members so area students can continue to thrive under its leadership.

To learn more about AMTA, to find a teacher, or to see upcoming events from this chapter, please visit our website: [www.atlmta.org](http://www.atlmta.org)

—Submitted by AMTA board member Mary TL Williams, [www.marywilliamsplanostudio.com](http://www.marywilliamsplanostudio.com)

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# Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting: September Minutes

September 16, 2010

Led by Elise Cormier  
 Attended by 37 neighbors (5 officers)  
 and 5 guests  
 Minutes recorded by Heidi Hill

Elise Cormier, VP of Environment for Lake Claire Neighbors, led the meeting on behalf of president Glenn Frankel, who was unable to attend. Elise opened the meeting at 7:10 pm and invited LCN officers Kathy Evans, Heidi Hill, Dan White, and Sarah Wynn to introduce themselves. Guests were then invited to speak.

Claire Horner, a licensed professional counselor who has an office at Epworth United Methodist Church, spoke about her practice and invited neighbors to help her connect with other similar service providers in the area. She passed out flyers and said she was available to connect people with other professionals, provide counseling herself, or speak on topics related to her work.

Elise announced that the Georgia Native Plant Society sale would be held on September 25.

In treasurer Cara Stevens's absence, Elise gave the treasurer's report: \$7,341.51 in checking, about \$2,000 less than this time last year, and \$4,177.19 in savings.

Elise asked me to give an update on the Home & Garden Tour on October 2. I showed the yard sign and asked neighbors who would be willing to place one in their yard to email the committee at [tourofhomes@lakeclaire.org](mailto:tourofhomes@lakeclaire.org). The tour committee was looking for neighborhood volunteers to help before, during, and after the tour, and I indicated that a sign-up sheet was posted at the entrance table. I closed by talking about the after party at the Land Trust and pointing people to the tour's website, [www.lakeclairehometour.com](http://www.lakeclairehometour.com).

Chris Hester, a representative of the Frazer Center, spoke next about the first face-to-face meeting with the center and MARTA regarding Mobility buses in Lake Claire. He said that MARTA was already looking at altering routes and scheduling so that half as many buses would be traveling Lake Claire streets.

Elise offered to give some background on the issue to neighbors who were not aware of the problem: MARTA Mobility buses serving the Frazer Center are dominating Lake Claire streets, specifically Marlbrook and Ridgewood, and posing a safety hazard for people walking and driving near the center.

Chris Hester added that neighbors have been concerned about buses idling on Ridgewood when they arrive early at the center. The Frazer Center has been monitoring this. He asked neighbors who see an infraction of any kind to take down the bus's number and note the day and time, then notify the center. They are trying to keep on top of the problem but need neighbors' help.

A neighbor asked if speed was an issue being discussed. Another neighbor offered that it was, along with other traffic issues. Someone else asked what the time frame was for resolving the problem. Hester said MARTA had already started cutting buses.

A neighbor asked if they had talked about rerouting to a one-way path for the buses. Hester said he

had not heard about that option. He explained that the road is not wide enough for two cars, which would be dangerous for drivers and children.

The neighbor noted that the hazard had just been transferred to neighborhood streets. The streets aren't wide enough, either, and it's dangerous for kids. Another neighbor said that the neighborhood used to be safer, calmer. He noted that MARTA had cancelled an earlier scheduled meeting, and that Trace Haythorn, the director of the Frazer Center, had agreed to let neighbors be present at the meetings. The neighbor said he had recently emailed about seven bus infractions in the course of ten minutes.

Elise asked who the contact person was for neighbors who were concerned.

A neighbor said that Trace Haythorn had been cooperative and wanted to make sure everyone was involved in the conversation. Another neighbor said that a neighborhood

committee was forming to liaison with neighbors, the Frazer Center, and Valencia Hudson, of Natalyn Archibong's office. The center was setting up a task force. People were tracking bus behavior.

Chris Hester said that they can only get buses suspended if reports contain the bus number.

Sarah Wynn asked if the center had received an estimate for how much it would cost to reinforce the bridge on the road leading to

the center, which is not structurally sound enough to withstand two-way traffic or bus traffic. Hester said they were looking into it.

A neighbor said that the city was doing a speed analysis, measuring morning and afternoon traffic. Fifty percent of traffic needed to exceed the speed limit by a certain amount for speed bumps to be considered.

Hester said that the Frazer Center had put up 10 mph speed signs and was working to enhance speed bumps in the parking lot.

A neighbor asked if there was a way for MARTA buses to take different routes while a solution was worked out. Hester said they were looking into route changes, and he would ask about this at the next meeting.

Another neighbor announced that neighbors could give their email addresses if they were interested in being on the liaison committee. She then asked Hester to thank Trace Haythorn for being so responsive. Hester concluded that we are all neighbors, and this is everyone's problem to solve. He said he would make sure the neighbors were included in the next meeting.

Next, two Atlanta police officers, filling in for Sgt. Sinks, were invited to give a safety report. One asked

if anyone had concerns. A neighbor on Hardendorf announced that his home had been broken into that morning at 8:30 and his computer was stolen. Another neighbor asked about the armed robbery on McLendon in Candler Park. The officer's beat was Little Five Points, Ponce de Leon, and Moreland, so he was not familiar with these crimes. A neighbor asked about MARTA buses rolling through the stop signs on Ridgewood; Sgt. Sinks had said he'd place an officer there. The officer present said he would check on that for him.

Elise then invited Valencia Hudson, public safety liaison for councilmember Natalyn Archibong, to speak. She said yard waste pickup was back to weekly. The police department was restructuring zones, and Chief Turner said he would go to the NPUs for input. Zone 6 may pick up Boulevard near Atlanta Medical Center and Grant Park, which would improve the response rate

but increase the rate of crime for the zone. If neighbors' water meters hadn't been fixed, they should email her directly. The Department of Water Management has all new management and seems to be doing a good job.

A neighbor mentioned that the city was outsourcing parking enforcement and that people were getting tickets for parking the wrong way in front of their own homes. Valencia said it was illegal to park that way.

She added that it was a city law that even if a no-parking sign isn't posted, it's still illegal to park there if it has been determined to be a no-park zone. She encouraged people to call or email about concerns regarding off-street parking. She said you couldn't park within ten feet of a corner or fifteen feet of a painted crosswalk.

Valencia then asked if everyone had received their City of Atlanta tax bills, which should be arriving that week. Teri Stewart said that she had received something that looked like a tax bill and paid it, only to find out that the city had mischarged her last year and was now charging her interest on the unpaid balance. Valencia asked if she had filed an appeal and said she could do so through DeKalb County.

Hiram Maxim, the neighborhood liaison of the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition, spoke about its goal to make the city more bike-friendly. They are focusing on traffic-calming efforts. If anyone has any issues about bikes in the neighborhood, they can talk to him.

Dan White announced that the Annual Graduation & Honors Dinner for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries would be held on October 17. Lake Claire has bought a table, and any

neighbor interested in attending can contact Sarah Wynn at [cliftonsanctuary@lakeclaire.org](mailto:cliftonsanctuary@lakeclaire.org). The dinner is at 6 pm at Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church in Duluth. Sarah said that a carpool could be arranged. She added that it would be a night of great stories, great people, and good food.

In Bill Fleming's absence, Elise Cormier announced that his annual Harold Avenue Street Dance would be held on Friday, October 8.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of nominations for the Lake Claire Executive Committee in 2011. To be nominated for an officer role, you must have attended at least four neighborhood meetings in the past year. Dan White gave an overview of the different roles. The committee works on a consensus basis; the president provides the vision, assigns tasks, and serves as the point person for all issues. Available roles are VP of Environment, VP of Zoning, VP of Finance, VP of Safety, VP of Communications, and NPU representative. Elise added that you can nominate yourself or someone you know.

Last on the agenda was a voting item: a variance request for a side yard setback reduction on a corner lot at 546 Hardendorf to allow for teardown and construction of a new home. Dan White, VP of Zoning, described the process of requesting a variance and read the conditions for a variance from the city zoning code. A slideshow of similar corner lots to the house in question was shown—one in which a variance was requested and not supported, and one in which the requested variance was approved—as well as of the home currently requesting a variance.

The home in question is built on a crawlspace on a corner lot. The proposed home would extend into the seventeen-foot side yard setback. As a point of comparison, Dan showed an image of a home nearby that had been constructed in the 1990s and was built within the zoning requirements.

Dan explained that the applicant would speak to the neighbors, there would be a Q&A period, and the residents gathered would then vote on the request.

Sean Cash, the applicant, and Tim Allen, the developer, introduced themselves and presented their plans. Cash explained that the current home encroaches 11.5 feet into the setback, and the proposed home would extend 6 feet, "closer to conforming" with the zoning regulations. He said the new home's architecture would fit with the neighborhood and that they had met with neighbors to discuss issues and make changes.

The property's northern neighbor, at 552 Hardendorf, is an architect and was asked to review the plans. A discrepancy was discovered in the different versions of the plans, so he volunteered to take ideas that emerged from the discussion between builder and neighbors and illustrate them. The original plans proposed a nine-foot-high basement (also ten, in another version), which was reduced to eight. In general, this neighbor felt the new plans

*continued on page 11*

## Next LCN Meeting

**Thursday Oct. 21**

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](http://www.lakeclaire.org) to get the meeting agenda.



## LCN Meeting Minutes

continued from page 10

were moving in the direction of a compromise.

Dan invited other immediately affected neighbors to speak. A neighbor at 532 Hardendorf expressed her concerns over the height and mass of the proposed home, which would have two stories and a full basement and would not conform to the rest of the street.

The developer said that the lot was nonconforming, and the proposed home would encroach into the setback less than the current home. Kathy Evans clarified that it would encroach less in only one area, while the rest of the lot is in compliance. Dan White explained to the room that homes in the neighborhood are required to have seventy-five feet of frontage, and virtually every lot in Lake Claire has fifty feet, so most of the neighborhood is nonconforming. A conversation ensued about how conforming or nonconforming the home would be.

A neighbor asked what would happen if the builder did not get a variance. Tim Allen responded that they would build a narrower, taller house. Some confusion arose over the process of getting a variance. Dan explained that it was a three-step process: first, the neighborhood association voted, then the NPU, and finally the city's zoning authority, which made the ultimate decision to grant the variance or not.

Kathy Evans noted that it was important to look at the particular situation. There is a trade-off in bulk and how close it sits to the street. When someone requests a variance, we need to ask how it will affect water, the streetscape, and the neighbors. The existing home already has a low-slung garage. It would be consistent to have a carriage house, which would not add as much bulk as the proposed drive-under garage. The question is, do the plans fit the particular space?

A neighbor initiated a discussion about another of the developer's properties in the neighborhood, on Marlbrook, which sat untouched for over two years. Tim Allen explained that the bank where he had requested a construction loan had failed.

Sarah Wynn asked how the proposed design would affect the sun exposure for the northern neighbors. How many trees would be removed? Tim Allen said two were considered hazardous and diseased. Sarah asked about water drainage and square footage. He said the proposed building was code compliant. The square footage would be 3,450 plus a drive-in garage.

A neighbor asked again what the variance was for. Sean Cash said it was for six feet—Sarah Wynn added that it would be six feet wide by fifty-three feet long—along Harriet Avenue. Another neighbor asked if he didn't get a variance, could the home be taller? Tim Allen said it could be. He clarified that he was asking for a variance to extend into the side yard setback.

The neighbor who had assisted the developer with revising the plans clarified that the vote would be to recommend the variance to the zoning board, conditional on the proposed plan.

Kathy Evans asked what the proposed plan was, since different versions had been presented. The neighbor said that the plans had been revised to show a lower basement height and a brick stoop to minimize the "beach house" feel of a drive-under garage. He felt the plans reflected a compromise. However, they had not been stamped by the city.

A neighbor of the property in question asked how the neighbors could be assured the changes would be made if the plans weren't stamped. The architect neighbor explained that these plans would be submitted, and asked if we could vote on them.

Dan White said that a variance is not usually voted on without stamped plans. The vote is typically deferred until the plans are finalized. He recommended that the subcommittee of affected neighbors reconvene and get the suggested revisions added to the stamped plans, and then the neighborhood could vote.

The architect neighbor said that the plans presented showed what had been discussed. The close neighbor said that she didn't want to approve something that wasn't clearly laid out. Dan said that we don't do conditional variances—either we vote on what was presented, or they could go back and resubmit.

A motion to defer the vote was made and seconded. Dan White asked if we could allow the immediately affected neighbors to decide if we should defer until plans were ready to be submitted to the city or vote that night. No one objected. Three immediately affected neighbors voted to defer, while one voted to vote, saying the presented plans showed the changes and heights. A few neighbors objected that everyone is affected and the vote should be taken. Dan said that since three immediately affected neighbors had voted to defer, the vote would be deferred. Tim Allen asked that the subcommittee meet sooner than later, perhaps early the next week. Dan concluded that this was the best way to proceed.

*The meeting ended at approximately 9:00 pm.*

## Forum of Candidates for State School Superintendent

On Thursday, October 14, at 7:30 pm, Druid Hills Presbyterian Church will host a forum of candidates for Georgia school superintendent. All three candidates—John Barge, Joe Martin, and Kira Willis—will attend the forum, which will be moderated by WABE journalist Dennis O'Hayer. Education has been a hot topic recently, and there is no issue more important to our state's future. This forum offers the opportunity to learn about the candidates for Georgia's top post in that area.

The forum is being sponsored by Common Cause Georgia, the League of Women Voters, the Council of Intown Neighborhood Schools, and Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. Common Cause Georgia is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, good-government advocacy group. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan voter-education organization. The Council of Intown Neighborhood Schools is a parent advocacy group representing the eleven schools that feed into Grady High School.

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—Eric Dusenbury

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## The 25 Books All Young Georgians Should Read

The Georgia Center for the Book recently announced its very first list of "25 Books All Young Georgians Should Read." The list is made up of Georgia authors and illustrators whose books are recommended for youngsters, from tots to teens.

### Picture Books: Pre-K and Up

*Little Duck*, Liz Conrad  
*14 Cows for America*, Carmen Deedy/Thomas Gonzalez  
*Soap, Soap, Soap ~ Jabon, Jabon, Jabon*, Elizabeth Dulemba  
*The Origami Master*, Nathaniel Lachenmeyer  
*Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes*, Eric Litwin/James Dean  
*The Monster Who Did My Math*, Danny Schnitzlein/Bill Mayer  
*This Is the Dream*, Diane Z. Shore/Jessica Alexander

### Early Readers: Grades K-3

*Mittens*, Lola Schaefer

### Graphic Novel: Grades 4 and Up

*Owly*, Andy Runton

### Middle Readers: Grades 4-8

*Freedom Train*, Evelyn Coleman  
*A Yellow Watermelon*, Ted Dunagan  
*The Tree That Owns Itself and Other Adventure Tales from Out of the Past*, Gail Karwoski/Loretta Johnson Hammer  
*Joseph*, Shelia Moses  
*Yankee Girl*, Mary Ann Rodman  
*Alexander the Great Rocks the World*, Vicky Alvear Shecter  
*Honey Bea*, Kim Siegelson  
*A Taste of Blackberries*, Doris Buchanan Smith  
*Any Which Wall*, Laurel Snyder  
*Each Little Bird That Sings*, Deborah Wiles

### Young Adults: Grades 7 and Up

*Peaches*, Jodi Lynn Anderson  
*I Am Rembrandt's Daughter*, Lynn Cullen  
*The Maze Runner*, James Dashner  
*Blood Brothers*, S. A. Harazin  
*Pure*, Terra McVoy  
*First Shot*, Walter Sorrells

—The Georgia Center for the Book

## 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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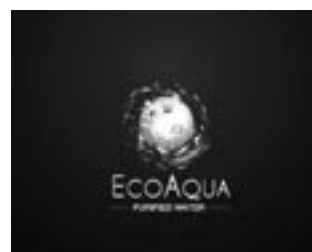
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**Thank you** to all our sponsors for helping make the 2010 Home & Garden tour possible. A special thanks also to those neighbors who donated their time and skill to help us promote the event:

**Hannah Cross**, of **Hannah Cross Studio**, for print graphic design work, including our stunning flyer.

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And **Ulrich Brinkmann**, of **Ulrich Brinkmann Photography**, for photography for the website and tour guide.

We are lucky to live in a neighborhood with such abundant talent!

—The Lake Claire Home & Garden Tour committee