The Lake Claire



May 2011

Newsletter of the Lake Claire Neighbors • A Neighborhood Association • www.LakeClaire.org

V.18, #5

Your School, Your Home

and Your Community



The welcoming entrance for students at Mary Lin Elementary. (Photo credit: Leslie Slavich)

Are we getting redistricted? What's the deal with APS? I don't have kids so schools don't matter to me. You may have heard some of these phrases. To be honest, I've heard them since I moved into Lake Claire almost 8 years ago. This time things are a bit different.

If you haven't been reading local papers, listening to radio, or watching the local news, you may not have heard but there's quite a bit going on with Atlanta Public Schools. There are many issues going on but two in particular deserve your attention.

First is a budget shortfall issue. Right now Mary Lin has about 570 students and the building has capacity for about 430. That means there are eight portables out on the playground. A ninth will probably be added this summer as enrollment is projected at 604 next year. Walking in front of the school, you wouldn't ever know that one-third of our students aren't even within the school's walls. That's just not right. It's not safe, it's not fair and it's not smart. An addition/ renovation has been dangled before us, but everything's on hold—thanks to the Board.

Second is a planning issue. APS ordered a large demographic study that they received in the fall. It said basically, "Growth shouldn't slow for Mary Lin but won't get much larger." Grady High, Inman Middle, Morningside, and SPARK all had similar projections. They'll get a bit larger and then level off. Problem is that all of these schools are over capacity now. There need to be some solutions. East Lake, Toomer, Whitefoord, Coan Middle, and Jackson High are SEE PAGE TWO FOR A LIST OF **ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES** WHOM YOU CAN CONTACT **ABOUT THESE ISSUES**

all under capacity. They average around 60% capacity. So what to

APS asked demographers for a second study that will make recommendations to the Board on how to solve our issues system-wide. That report is due late October/early November 2011. Then the fun will begin. There is no doubt that redistricting, merging/closing schools, and all sorts of cost-saving measures will be presented. Their changes could be in your backyard.

Parents at Mary Lin and community members been sharing ideas at Epworth Church about how we can better understand the challenges and what we want in our community schools. Being proactive can make all the difference in dealing with changing times, and we welcome all who are interested to join us at www.30307schools.org. You can join the Google group to receive emails and have online discussions.

If you think this is an issue just for parents, you're wrong. Good schools build great communities, and increase home prices. Did you move here for the good schools? How easy is it to sell a house now? What if part/all of our neighborhood was redistricted to another school? How would house values be impacted? In the end, it's about community. Get involved now and learn how you can make yours stronger.

—Boyd Baker

For any questions about upcoming APS board meetings, email coordinator Dr. Howard Grant at harant @atlanta.k12.ga.us.

Lake Claire Neighbors Sends Letter to Atlanta Public **Schools Regarding Potential Redistricting**

April 18, 2011

Dr. Raymond Hart Executive Director, Research Planning and Accountability Atlanta Public Schools 130 Trinity Ave. Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Dr. Hart,

Lake Claire Neighbors is a nonprofit organization comprised of the residents, businesses and property owners in the Lake Claire neighborhood of the City of Atlanta, in zip code 30307. Lake Claire is recognized as an official neighborhood within the City's system of Neighborhood Planning Units. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our thoughts about the schools that the children of our neighborhood attend. We request that these comments be shared with the

Bleakly Group and that they be taken into consideration as the Atlanta Public School System formulates recommendations to present to the Atlanta School Board in response to the ongoing demographic study.

Residential development in Lake Claire began around 1910 and the children of the neighborhood began attending Mary Lin Elementary School when it opened in 1929, under the leadership of its first principal Miss Mary Lin. Since that time Lake Claire parents have treasured the ability to walk or bike with their children to Mary Lin. In the not too distant past, our residents were active in efforts to stop a planned highway that would have dissected vibrant neighborhoods. Thanks to those efforts, Freedom Park, with its PATH bike trail and butterfly garden, now exists and abuts Mary Lin.



Lake Claire Neighbors appoints a representative to serve on the Freedom Park Conservancy Board, as do the other Mary Lin feeder neighborhoods of Candler Park and Inman Park.

It is hard to explain in mere words the depth of feeling our neighborhood has about our neighborhood school and the privilege of escorting our children to school through park land and walkable neighborhoods. Lake Claire families frequent the small neighborhood busi-

In This Issue

- **3** Support Lin Foundation
- Dirty Website, Literally
- Mark Your Calendar
- Leash Laws Get Bite
- Safety Report
- Grafitti in the Park
- Easter at Land Trust
- Ahoy! Local Author
- **10** Kirkwood Spring Fling
- **11** LCN Meeting Minutes
- **12** Cafe 458: A Good Cause
- 12 Classifieds

THE CLARION IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

LETTER cont'd page 2



MORE ON MARY LIN

LETTER (cont'd from page 1)

nesses en route to and from school. In the afternoon, Lake Claire students walking home hear Epworth United Methodist Church's "Mary Lin chimes," faithfully playing at 2:45 p.m. Quite a number of those students are shepherded by the staff of SoulShine Children's Studio, an aftercare program based in Lake Claire adjacent to the Lake Claire Land Trust.

Besides caring about how we get the kids to school, parents and other members of the Lake Claire community care passionately about supporting the mission of the school. Supporters of the school represent many facets of the community, including residents of Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, a transitional housing program in Lake Claire, whose residents regularly volunteer to staff fundraising activities at neighborhood festivals that support Mary Lin. In addition, Lake Claire residents were the driving force behind the creation of the Mary Lin Educational Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing longrange planning and resources to Mary Lin.

Mary Lin is recognized as an excellent school and its success has driven new development and steady investment in our neighborhood. These are trends that we wish to see continue. We in Lake Claire believe that serving the K-5 educational needs of our children at Mary Lin is essential to the continued strength and vitality of our neighborhood. Additionally, we expect that the children of Lake Claire will matriculate to schools like Inman Middle School and Grady High School that show similar levels of parental and community involve-



ment and an impressive record of educational achievement.

We are committed to the continued success of Mary Lin, Inman and Grady, as well as all APS schools, and welcome the opportunity to have a voice in addressing creatively the issues facing APS as the community continues to grow and change. We would appreciate an acknowledgement of the concerns we have raised and look forward to continued dialogue about meeting the educational needs of the children of Lake Claire.

Sincerely, Sarah Wynn, President, Cara G. Stevens, Treasurer Dan White, Vice-President for

Lake Claire Neighbors

Zoning

Association

cc:

Cecily Harsch-Kinane
Reuben McDaniel
Dr. Robin Hall
Dr. Brian Mitchell
30307schools.org
Candler Park Neighborhood

Inman Park Neighborhood Association

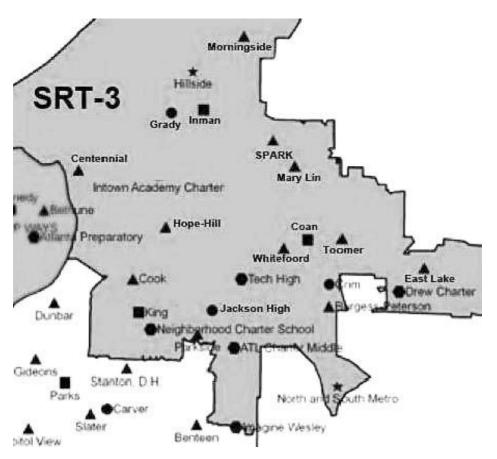
City of Atlanta Councilmember Natalyn Archibong

Georgia Representative Stacey Abrams

Georgia Senator Jason Carter



View of the several, aging portable classrooms (aka trailers) installed behind Mary Lin Elementary School. (Photo credit: Leslie Slavich)



Map of the SRT-3 School District

Make your voice heard!

Below is contact information for our local representatives.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Governor Nathan Deal (www.georgia.gov)
Lt. Governor Casey Cagle (www.georgia.gov)
Senator District 42 Jason Carter
(jason.carter@senate.ga.gov)
Representative District 84 Stacey Abrams
(www.staceyabrams.com, staceyabrams@gmail.com)
State Education Committee Chair Brooks Coleman
(brooks.coleman@house.ga.gov)

State Education Committee Vice Chair Fran Millar (fran.millar@wellsfargo.com)

SCHOOL BOARD

Cecily Harsch-Kinnane, District 3
(chkinnane@atlantapublicschools.us)
Reuben McDaniel, At Large (3&4)
(rrmcdaniel@atlantapublicschools.us)
Sharon Pitts, Superintendent's Chief of Staff
(spits@atlantapublicschools.us)
Larry Hoskins, Deputy Superintendent of Operations

(lhoskins@atlantapublicschools.us)
Dr. Robin Hall, SRT 3 Executive Director
(rchall@atlantapublicschools.us)
Kevin White, APS Demographer

(kwhite@atlantapublicschools.us) Raymond Hart, Interim Executive Director of Research

Planning and Accountability (rhart@atlantapublicschools.us) Chantel Mullen, Student Placement (Enrollment)

(cmullen@atlantapublicschools.us)
Dr. Brian Mitchell, Mary Lin principal
(bdmitchell@atlanta.k12.ga.us)

A few calls or emails can make a difference!



Lake Claire Officers for 2011

President: Sarah Wynn, president@lakeclaire.org VP, Finance: Cara Stevens, treasurer@lakeclaire.org NPU Rep: Kathy Evans, npu@lakeclaire.org; alternate:

Jennifer Sams

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

VP, Environment: Robby Handley, environment@lakeclaire.

VP, Safety: VACANT, safety@lakeclaire.org

VP, Communications: Heidi Hill, comm@lakeclaire.org

VP, Fun(d)raising: Cynthia Baer, fun@lakeclaire.org

Clarion Newsletter Staff

Editor: Leslie Slavich, editor@lakeclaire.org
Advertising: Jeanne Marie St. Romain, newsletter@lakeclaire.org

Distribution: Katie Brady, distribution@lakeclaire.org Layout: Tim Harrison, layout@lakeclaire.org Webmaster: Tish Ganey, comm@lakeclaire.org

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

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!

It's not too late to pay your LCN dues!

How? Mail a check for \$20 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*.

DirtVine.com Launches in an Effort to Improve the Dirt Industry

Eight weeks ago, George Colson's vision became a reality when he launched DirtVine.com. The website allows private residents and companies to create postings specifying the type of dirt they are searching for or selling. Top soil, mulch, gravel, sand and fill dirt are few of the dirt types searchable on DirtVine. How much will this service run you? Absolutely nothing. The website is completely free to users.

Postings list products at reasonable prices and occasionally for free. Residents in need of dirt will be able to easily complete their outdoor product with the use of DirtVine. "My husband and I needed fill dirt for a retaining wall," explained Tammy Lentz, "By the weekend, my fill dirt had been delivered. Our project was complete." For companies, this is an opportunity to advertise at no cost.

Colson, contractor and owner of RWall Inc., was all too familiar with the issue of having a surplus of dirt. He launched the website in an effort to benefit everyone in the dirt industry. Colson has larger plans for DirtVine, which include selling advertising space for companies and posting dirt related tools which he hopes to begin in the next couple of weeks.

If you have inquiries about DirtVine, please contact the Marketing Coordinator Maria Champagne at (404) 643-6697.

Support the Mary Lin Education Foundation



Dear Neighbor,

Do you remember your elementary school experience? Although we attended different schools, I am sure we have the following in common. Elementary school is where you first dreamt of being a pilot or maybe a teacher, where you met new friends, learned to read, write, add and subtract. Each of our elementary school experiences was unique and instrumental in building the foundation for our future. These key first years laid the groundwork to help us succeed.

Mary Lin Elementary is your neighborhood elementary school. As a diverse, 532 student innercity Atlanta public school, Mary Lin has made tremendous educational strides in the last five years, meeting Adequate Yearly Progress as determined by the No Child Left Behind Act each year. Mary Lin's Criterion Reference Certification Test (CRCT) scores regularly exceed the state of Georgia's average scores.

The Mary Lin Education Foundation was developed by parents in 2008 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to continuing this trend. Its purpose is to fund school initiatives that 1) promote technology literacy; 2) impact the environment in a positive and sustainable way and 3) improve student learning and teacher flexibility.

Mary Lin Elementary is YOUR neighborhood school and we need your support. Help us continue to provide the best instructional and technological opportunities



Mary Lin Foundation supports this classroom environment.

for our students and teachers. From your own experience, you know that these are critical years in a student's educational career.

Our goal for this year's giving campaign is \$20,000. Any amount you donate will make a difference. Contributions are tax deductible.

Your donations build a stronger school and community that

get better every year. Visit ww w.marylinfoundation.org to support this campaign online or fill out and return the form below.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Cherie King, Mary Lin Education Foundation Chair

foundation@marylinelementary.com

www.marylinfoundation.org

How To Support Mary Lin

For Credit Card donations please go to www. marylinfoundation.org and click on Contribute.

To donate by Check, please send your contribution, along with your name, address and email to the Mary Lin Education Foundation, 586 Candler Park Drive, Atlanta, GA 30307. Also, please let us know if your employer matches contributions.

Thanks again for your support!



Mark Your Calendar

May

1 Mary Lin Elementary Rocket Run 5K & Caterpillar Cruise during Inman Park Festival

Lake Claire Land Trust FAIRY TOUR OF HOMES. Chantelle's day of delight building fairy houses, then hosting a tour. Open and free to all. It's big fun so come on out!

7-8 Sweet Auburn
SpringFest WorldFest,
www.sweetauburn.com

8 Mother's Day

14-15 Kirkwood Spring Fling Festival. The Spring Fling Festival gets underway at Bessie Branham Park from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Guests will enjoy live music, an artists market, children's activities and an assortment of food, beer and other drinks. Admission is free. Festival: 5/14, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.; 5K Run: 5/14, 8 a.m.; Tour of Homes: 5/14, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. & 5/15, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

14-15 Decatur's Blooming, www.decaturgardent our.com

19 Lake Claire Neighbors meeting, 7 p.m., Frazer Center atrium, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Ave. (enter at the back entrance at the end of Ridgewood Road).

Closing 20 Malaria: Blood, Sweat and Tears Adam Nadel/Malaria Consortium. Malaria: blood, sweat, and tears is open now until May 20 in the Global Health Odyssey Museum at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Global Health Odyssey Museum is free, open to the public, and no reservations are required! Hours are 9 to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday, with extended hours to 7 p.m. on Thursday. Guided tours are offered for groups (10-40 people) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Self-guided tours are also available to individuals and small groups. To request a tour or for more exhibit information and entry requirements, please visit www.cdc.gov/museum.

22 Mary Lin Elementary School Linapalooza Talent Show

24 APS last day of school

26 NPU-N meeting, 7 p.m., Little Five Points Community Center, 1083 Austin Ave. NE.

27 Grady Graduation ceremony

28 Lake Claire Land Trust MEMORIAL DAY YARD SALE & STREET DANCE. Two days of yard sale and silent auction in the Arizona Ave. cul-de-sac, with a fun night of literally "dancing in the street" on Saturday night. Food and beverages available all day. (Volunteers and saleable goods needed!)

28 Friends of the Decatur Library Used Book Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., front lawn, Decatur Library (inside in the event of rain). Excellent selection of used books from \$0.50 to \$5. Proceeds benefit the Decatur Library.

28-29 Decatur Arts
Festival, Old Courthouse
Square, www.decaturartsallian
ce.org

30 Memorial Day

The City of Atlanta's Office of Parks and Recreation Renews Enforcement for Off-Leash Dogs

News release from the City of Atlanta



The City of Atlanta's parks are for the enjoyment of residents, visitors and their pets. The Office of Parks and Recreation wants to remind dog owners that the city will be enforced

leash ordinance will be enforced throughout all City of Atlanta parks.

All dogs may walk on a leash at any public park or trail; however,

pets are prohibited from swimming pools and pool areas, tennis courts, golf courses and outdoor festivals. All dogs must be on a leash except for designated areas such as Off Leash Dog Parks. Dog owners are reminded that there are currently two dog parks located at Piedmont Park and South Bend Park where dogs are permitted off of their leash. Dog parks offer a fenced, grassy or mulched area where dogs can roam offleash safely. People who do not follow the leash and scoop laws may be fined up to \$100 per occur-

rence.

"The parks are open to everyone to enjoy including our 'canine citizens,"" said the Office of Parks Direc-Doug tor Voss. ask dog owners to be responsible for their pets, safety their and obey rules and regulations posted at the parks."

The City of Atlanta recognizes the importance of providing additional off-leash dog parks to

serve residents and visitors, and the information is available online for community or local nonprofit groups to open more dog parks. If a group of dog owners decides an area is needed in their community, they should organize as an official group with at least five members and should register with the Civic Association and the Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) in the given area.

For more information about these efforts or the dog parks listed above, please visit www.atlantaga.gov or call (404) 546-6767 and request a copy of the guide. The dog parks are public/private partnerships, developed in cooperation with sponsoring organizations of pet owners.

In addition to the leash laws, please keep in mind that while visiting City of Atlanta parks, pet waste left on the ground at parks and on trails ultimately gets washed into streams, creeks, rivers and wetlands. This waste is raw sewage and carries harmful bacteria that can affect the health of not only aquatic wildlife, but humans as well. Please clean up after your dog and dispose of waste in the trashcans located in the park.

The City of Atlanta Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (DPRCA) enhances the lives of residents and visitors by offering programs, services and activities that encourage participation in safe, affordable and enriching recreational activities, leisure services and cultural experiences. The City's park system consists of approximately

3,754 acres (four percent of the City's land) inside the city limits, and 209 acres at Lake Allatoona. The parks vary from nature preserves to active city-wide greenspaces. The recreational and cultural facilities vary from small recreation centers to large cultural complexes, such as the Atlanta Civic Center and the Chastain Park Amphitheater.

Safety Report

March/April 2011

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY 3/24 (9:00 to 13:00) 2082 Palifox Dr. NE

Victim returned home at 1 p.m. and noticed the rear door had been forced open. Two laptops were stolen, and nothing else appeared to be disturbed. The rear door appeared to have been pried open. Officer attempted to dust for fingerprints, but no fingerprints were found. Neighbors who were home at the time did not see what happened.

AUTO THEFT

4/2 (21:00) 263 Matthews Ave. NE

1994 Buick Century

Victim advised that vehicle was parked overnight in his driveway. When he got up in the morning, the vehicle was gone.





Visit our Web site at www.nealandwright.com

- * Adoption
- * Commercial Real Estate
- * Wills & Estate Planning
- * Trademarks
- * Corporate & LLC Formation
 - * Other Business Legal Services

Sherry V. Neal, J.D. (678) 596-3207 Sherry@nealandwright.com

Daniel S. Wright, J.D. (678) 613-7850 Dan@nealandwright.com P.O. Box 5207 Atlanta, GA 31107



News from the Land Trust

Saturday, May 7—Third Annual Fairy House Tour of Homes



Once again, the Krewe of the Grateful Gluttons and the Lake Claire Community Land Trust invite you to come to the Land Trust, 280 Arizona Ave., and participate in the Fairy House Tour of Homes. We have been welcoming the summer fairies home by building them houses at the Lake Claire Land Trust since 2008.

Fairies favor houses built with natural materials from a beloved garden and lit with candles at dusk, preferably with music and picnics involved. We will have what you need, but do bring goodies from your beloved garden and extra candles. All are welcome to participate. Come play in the dirt! Construction begins in the late afternoon and continues until dusk. As the twilight deepens, we will light candles, visit the homes and celebrate the good-

ness of our gardens.

This year, Dr. Bombay's Underwater Tea Party will have good vegetarian foods for sale, and that includes cupcakes! The Land Trust's Gorilla Grill will be serving your favorite beverages. Dr. Bombay is donating proceeds to help support schools in India; beverage donations support the Land Trust's projects.

To see the Fairy Houses built last year, please visit the Krewe of the Grateful Gluttons website:

www.gratefulgluttons.com/traditions

—Dave Fasano

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun. May 8 – "Keep the Trust" Volunteer Work Day, 3 to 6 p.m.

Fri. May 13 – Community Potluck at the Gazebo, 7 p.m. (weather permitting)

Sun. May 22 – "Keep the Trust" Volunteer Work Day, 3 to 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 28 & Sunday, May 29—Umpteenth Annual Memorial Day Cul-de-Sac Sale & Street Dance

Here is your opportunity to support the Land Trust by finally getting rid of all that excess stuff you've been dying to donate to a great cause. A venerable Land Trust tradition, this is a win-winwin for all concerned. The weekend will include an old-fashioned street dance Saturday night, complete with a DJ; food and drinks at the Gorilla Grill both days; a silent auction and more. (Please help us be greener by bringing your own plate, cup and utensils if you can.)

You can bring your donated stuff when we're setting up on Friday, May 27; check our website for the closest drop-off location after May 13; or contact us at communications@LCCLT.org to arrange a pickup any time after that date. As always, volunteers are needed to set up the sale on Friday afternoon, pack up the leftovers for the thrift store on Sunday and staff the Grill throughout. If you can donate storage space or use of a truck or van, please get in touch!

The money raised this Memorial Day will help to defray the Land Trust's property tax and insurance bills, as well as our usual maintenance costs. But this time

around we have an additional reason to celebrate as well as a new urgency for fundraising: last month we finalized our purchase of an adjoining back yard to add to our greenspace. Your support is crucial to this ongoing endeavor. If you're not yet a member, please consider joining the Land Trust at www.LCCLT.org.

-Stephen Wing

Yearly Membership

The Lake Claire Community Land Trust

Individual \$3/month or \$35/year

Couple/Family \$6.25/month or \$75/year

Student/Senior \$2.10/month or \$25/year

All membership dues are tax deductible!

Letter to George Dusenbury, Commissioner of the City of Atlanta Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs, Regarding

Dear Mr. Dusenbury,

I wanted to bring to your attention the seeming inability of your staff to remove grafffiti from the signs, sidewalks, and playground equipment in Lake Claire Park.

Several weeks ago I called Ms. Cora Watson, the NE district maintenance supervisor, to report the recent spate of graffiti in Lake Claire Park, and to ask that she send a crew to the park to remove the graffiti. Her crew cleaned one sign and then left the park. The park remained widely tagged with the graffiti when they left.

On Saturday, April 16, two park employees went to Lake Claire Park to continue with the graffiti removal. I saw them around 2:00 p.m. as they were leaving the park and I waved them down, and pointed out

that the park was still full of graffiti. They explained that the cleaning solution they had with them was simply not working on the purple graffiti paint. Their assessment was that the purple paint was so difficult to remove that we would require new signs in the park.

Yesterday morning, two families from the neighborhood came to the park armed with brillo pads. The parents went to work on the most offensive of the graffiti--a drawing of a penis and testicles that had been on a bench next to the playground for weeks while the City had done nothing-and dispatched their children to take the graffiti off of the signs.

In about twenty minutes, a five-year-old child with nothing but a brillo pad removed the graffiti that the two park workers had said they were unable to remove the previous day.

The families removed all the graffiti in the park within two hours.

I am deeply appreciative of the hard work of these families, but I do not view this as a success story. The Office of Parks sent out crews repeatedly (if belatedly) to do work which simply never got done.

This sort of gross inefficiency is everywhere in evidence in Lake Claire Park. The Office of Parks dumped piles of mulch on the curb alongside Lakeshore Drive many weeks ago; every once in a while, workers will stop by, spread mulch for a little while, and then leave. In the past month, despite numerous mulch-spreading visits, the crews have succeeded in

spreading just one small section of mulch, about one-sixth of the total.

I trust that you are working to ensure the judicious use of the City's scarce resources at every level, and I wanted you to know about these lapses at Lake Claire Park. I have heard from you that the rotten stairway system in Lake Claire Park, which claimed two accident victims before it was finally removed, will be expensive to replace. Perhaps a more efficient deployment of operating resources would help free up funds for much-needed capital improvements.

Regards,

Bruce Fort Lakeshore Drive



Easter at the Lake Claire Community Hippity Hoppin' at the Annual Egg Hunt and Potluck









Land Trust









 $And\ presenting\ our\ very\ own\ Ruby...\ the\ Rabbit.$



Fernbank Museum Hosts a Mythic Mambo for 17th Annual Lost Oasis Benefit on June 11

Fernbank Museum of Natural History and the Artemis Guild of Young Professionals will celebrate the 17th annual Lost Oasis benefit on Saturday, June 11 at 8 p.m. The event, sponsored in part by AT&T and The Coca-Cola Company, will highlight the special exhibition Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns & Mermaids with a Mythic Mambo theme, featuring an evening filled with whimsy, vibrant colors and the panache of Mambo dancing. Guests are invited to wear their favorite "Mambo-chic" cocktail attire as part of the celebration.

Lost Oasis 2011: Mythic Mambo benefits children's programming at Fernbank Museum of Natural History. Hosted by the Museum's Artemis Guild, the annual summer party features a festive atmosphere filled with delicious fare by A Divine Event, open bars with specialty cocktails, live music by Atlanta Beat, dance lessons and performances by Salsambo Dance School, an incredible silent auction, a prize drawing giveaway, and more.

Co-chaired by Rupal & Horacio Romero and Rob Schuler, Artemis' annual Lost Oasis benefit combines a fantastic party with a great cause and draws together vibrant, young professionals who care about the cultural vitality of Metro Atlanta.

"Lost Oasis is a great way for us to support children's programming at the Fernbank Museum which our son, Vijay, has enjoyed over the years," said Lost Oasis Co-Chair, Horatio Romero. "This year, the children's programming Lost Oasis supports will serve as the perfect complement to the opening of the new permanent children's exhibition, Fernbank NatureQuest, which makes

this a great time to be a child at Fernbank Museum!"

Lost Oasis is supported by: Signature Sponsors, AT&T and The Coca-Cola Company; Platinum Silent Auction Sponsor, Isdell Family Foundation; Gold Sponsors, Equifax and The Home Depot.

Individual tickets are \$100 per

person, and patron levels begin at \$300 per couple. Group discounts are available. Lost Oasis will be held at Fernbank Museum of Natural History, located at 767 Clifton Road in Atlanta. Contact artemis@fernbankmuseum.org for more information. Reserve your tickets today by visiting fernbankmuseum.org or calling (404) 929-6404.

Montessori In Town Announces Registration for Summer Camp Ladybug

Montessori In Town, an AMI and GAC accredited school, announces registration for Summer Camp Ladybug. Camp Ladybug, for children ages 3 to 7 years, is a nature based Montessori styled camp open to all children in our larger community of in town

neighborhoods.

Montessori In Town, in its sixth year, located at 1085 Ponce de Leon Avenue (corner of N. Highland and Ponce de Leon Avenues), is expanding to an Elementary program this coming August, serving children from

first to third grades.

Please see our web site for program information and for more details: www.montessoriintow n.com. You may call (404) 784-1038 to schedule a tour and to find out more about Montessori education.

East Lake Farmers Market first in Georgia to receive its own 501(c)(3) status

Market Becomes One of a Handful Nation-Wide to Earn Independent Designation

The East Lake Farmers Market (ELFM) is proud to announce that the IRS has approved its application for tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) organization. "We are thrilled to be awarded

this status, as we seek to use a purpose-driven market as a way to affect positive change," said Doug Williams, Board President and the market's co-founder. "In the past, we partnered with other organizations to be eligible for many private and federal grants, and would have needed a partner to achieve tax exempt status. This IRS approval means that the donations from our supporters are tax deductible, and we will have access to many more resources as we grow in our efforts to partner with churches, schools, and senior centers to change health outcomes and build community."

"Our neighbors have some of the highest heart disease and diabetes morbidity in DeKalb County, and that outcome is directly related to diet. We hope to improve the health of our community by increasing awareness and consumption of fresh local produce, creating opportunities for positive interactions between people of a variety of backgrounds, and reducing crime with our presence in a dilapidated area."

The market thanks attorney Bryan Stillwagon and the law firm of Paul Hastings for donating substantial time throughout the past year to work on the IRS application. "This is a remarkable accomplishment that reaffirms what those involved with the East Lake Farmers Market have known all along: this market is unique," said Stillwagon. "This market seeks to increase the health and well-being of community members, provide relief to the underprivileged, lessen the burdens of government, and combat community deterioration as its primary objectives. It is a charitable model rarely found in the United States. This uniqueness allowed us to achieve coveted (c)(3) status, and it will allow the market to expand its charitable efforts by accepting tax-deductible donations."

The East Lake Farmers Market was founded in 2009 to dis-

place criminal activity and expand local access to fresh fruits and vegetables in the East Lake neighborhood and surrounding communities in southeast Atlanta. The ELFM, with the help of its grant partners—the Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation, Georgia Organics, and the Wholesome Wave Foundation doubles the value of food stamps for those receiving SNAP benefits. Partnering with Hosea Feed the Hungry and local churches, ELFM will use a USDA grant to increase food outreach programs to help underserved families in the surrounding area. ELFM actively promotes healthy eating, food literacy, community-building, and the work of other nonprofits that, like ELFM, seek to serve the distressed and less prosperous in its community.

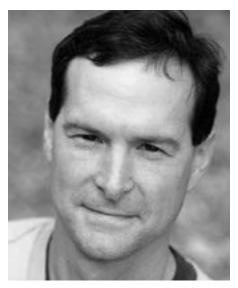
The East Lake Farmers Market operates every Saturday from 9 am—1 pm, from May through October, at the corner of 2nd Avenue and Hosea Williams Drive in the East Lake neighborhood of Atlanta. For more information, visit www.elfmarket.org or contact Doug Williams, Founder East Lake Farmers Market, (404) 428-8017 or via email at eastlake farmersmarket@gmail.com.





An Interview

with Lake Claire Resident Brian Eames, Author of The Dagger Quick, to be Released on May 10



Brian Eames has been a resident of the Candler Park and Lake Claire neighborhoods for 15 years, along with his wife Jesica and their three sons. He teaches upper elementary and middle school age children at the Paideia School. Brian is the author of a new book for older children/young adults (release date May 10), The Dagger Quick, published by Simon & Schuster.

Tell us what the book is about.

The book's flap tells it as succinctly as I ever could:

Inside this book awaits a world of heroes, villains, courage and cowardice. Twelve-year-old Christopher Quick, known as Kitto, is cursed with a club foot and a life of hard work as an apprentice to his father in 17th century England. Suddenly his father is mercilessly murdered and his fate is forever changed. In a moment everything that Kitto ever knew about right and wrong, good and evil, is in question. Left with only the dagger his father gave him and his own inner resolve, he embarks on a journey in which he will find not only his notorious uncle William Quick, a Jamaican pirate, but also his manhood.

Brian Eames's first novel is a classical adventure story as surprising as it is satisfying, as tender as it is thrilling.

What inspired you to write a children's book and this particular subject line?

I have always been a writer in some fashion, and being a teacher, I read lots of great kid lit. I love pirate history, so some years ago when I decided to tackle a book, it was a natural subject to turn to. I had been reading about Henry Morgan's incredible exploits at the time. He

was an amazing individual: ruthless, bold, charismatic and ridiculously lucky. There was also some question as to whether he ripped of his buccaneer mates after a famous attack on Panama in 1672. I decided to tie my story into that rumor, turning the lost treasure in question into the spice nutmeg, which held amazing value at that time. The rest fell into place piece by piece.

How do you find the time to write with teaching full time and parenting three small boys? Did your students have any influence on the finished product?

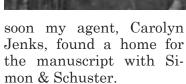
I have three young boys and teach full-time, so finding the freedom to write has always been dicey. Mostly I get up very early—about 4:30 a.m.—and stand in my cold kitchen with hot coffee, tapping away at the keys of my laptop in monk-like silence. Once the drafting process was done, endless revisions followed. Some school years I read the story to my students. Their comments and enthusiasm-or lack of it at times—has helped me to know where to keep working. The final product is certainly better because I was a teacher and had an eager audience at my disposal.

How long did it take you to write the book?

All told, the book took about two years to write. After some of my early readers gave me

On Friday May 13 at 7 p.m., Little Shop of Stories in Decatur is throwing a release party for The Dagger Quick. Author Brian Eames will be there to talk and sign books.

rave reviews, I tried to get an agent. That was nearly impossible. Mostly I would submit selections of the work, wring my hands and wait. After more than a year of rejections I had given up hope, but then an agent called back after having already declined on the manuscript six months earlier. (Easily one of the best phone calls of my life.) In a matter of days I was signing a contract. Once represented, I revised yet again, and

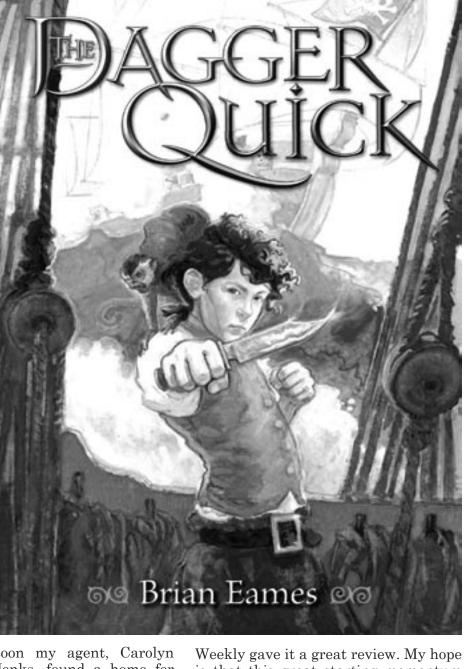


How are Simon & Schuster and/or your agent marketing The Dagger Quick?

Simon & Schuster publishes hundreds of books every year, and if you are not Stephen King, you might not garner the promotional support that creates a bestseller. That is what I am working on now, through a website (thedaggerquick.com), on Facebook and Twitter, word of mouth, etc. My editor at Simon & Schuster, Paula Wiseman, submitted The Dagger Quick recently to the Junior Library Guild, a private organization that supplies books to libraries all over the country. They choose for their collection a fraction of the books submitted to them by publishers across the country. They liked the book and have placed an order for over 4000 copies. And recently Publishers

is that this great starting momentum will continue to build.

After all, I have a sequel to write. —Luanne Miller



Have You Purchased Life **Insurance Within 3 Years?**

You Can Double Your Insurance Up To \$500,000

No Additional Medical Testing!

Life Insurance Your Family Can Use When You Need It Most... While Your Alive!

- Our Innovative Life Insurance Policies Include "Living Benefits"
- Pays up to 90% Benefit for Stroke
- Pays up to 90% Benefit for Cancer
- Pays up to 90% Benefit for Heart Attack
- Pays 100% Benefit for Terminal Illness

Questions? Give me a Call: lee Gillespy 404.932.3003 Lake Claire resident for 15 years

Watch a 5 minute video to learn more: www.LivingBenefits.us

WE.

Springtime Family Fun at Kirkwood's 9th Annual Festival



The historic neighborhood of Kirkwood will host its 9th annual Spring Fling Festival and Tour of Homes on May 14 & 15, 2011. All are invited to join in the

Personal Chef Service

Arlene Anest-Dechant

Adechant@bellsouth.net

CHEFS:

Brian Dechant

770-366-1589

www.mychefsite.com/twochefsforyou

excitement and enjoy a fun-filled time as Kirkwood celebrates its unique charm with a wide-range of activities.

The weekend will kick-off with a 5K Race on Saturday, May 14 at 8 a.m. in downtown Kirkwood. Runners will follow the winding path through Kirkwood's treelined streets and finish in Bessie Branham Park. Registration before May 1 is \$20; \$25 after May 1.

The Festival, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 14, includes a Street Market featuring more than 90 talented artisans and crafters showcasing high-quality handmade products. The Children's Area, complete with hands-on activities, moon



bounce, games and more, is sure to delight kids of all ages.

A diverse line-up of Bands, which continue until 11 p.m., promises to entertain music lovers of funk, jazz, blues and rock n' roll, while a famous headliner (to be announced May 1!) is certain to engage fans with their crowd-pleasing, Southern rock. In addition, local restaurants will set up their food carts to serve a variety of tasty fare, and adult and children's beverages will be available as well.

The ever-popular Tour of Homes, held on Saturday, May 14 and Sunday, May 15, highlights a distinct selection of building styles from classic Victorian cottages to Craftsman bungalows to modern lofts and everything in between. Participants will

meet some of the homeowners on the tour and learn about the histories of many of the properties and creative techniques used in construction and renovation. Tickets are \$12 in advance; \$15 on the days of the tour.

Proceeds from the Festival benefit the Kirkwood Neighbors' Organization, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to community improvement.

A special thanks to our Sponsors: The Festival is sponsored by Thrive Homes and RMG Prop-



erties; the 5K Race is sponsored by Kirkwood Bar & Grill; the Acoustic Stage is sponsored by AM 1690-The Voice of the Arts; the Kid's Area is sponsored by *Atlanta Parent*; and the Tour of Homes is sponsored by *Atlanta Home Improvement*.

For more information about the Festival visit www.KirkwoodFling.com.











Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting: April Minutes April 21, 2011

Led by Cynthia Baer Attended by 15 neighbors (3 officers) and 4 guests

Minutes recorded by Heidi Hill

Cynthia Baer, VP of Fundraising for Lake Claire Neighbors, opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

1) Guest speakers. Sgt. Sinks, a Zone 6 officer from the Atlanta Police Department, was invited to give his report on crime in the area. He said the APD had seen no discernible patterns of crime in the neighborhood and asked if anyone had questions. A guest asked if the police gave special coverage for a construction site. Sgt. Sinks said that he could call the zone and request it.

Cynthia then invited Officer House, a graffiti expert from the APD Gang Unit, to speak to the neighbors and answer questions about graffiti in the area. He said that, according to APD records, there was no gang activity in the neighborhood.

Katie Brady, a neighbor, told Officer House about the recent efforts of neighbors to remove graffiti from Lake Claire Park. She said that the graffiti was done in purple spray paint, which led her to believe it was the work of a teen, not a gang. What is the best course of action when graffiti appears in our parks and on our streets? How can we determine if it's gang graffiti, art, or teen misbehavior?

Officer House said the best thing to do is email or call him with details of the graffiti. He gave his email address mhouse@atlantaga.gov—and his cell phone number: (404) 291-8684. He encouraged neighbors to email him as soon as graffiti is discovered and to send pictures if possible.

A neighbor asked what gang graffiti might look like. Officer House said it would not be done in bright colors like blues and purples but would be very simple, and the colors used would be those that identify the different gangs. Three-letter acronyms are common. A neighbor asked if tagging always indicates gang activity, and Officer House said no—it is just a way to identify the person and help them gain notoriety.

The conversation included questions about the proximity of gang activity (Officer House said the closest gangs were past the Edgewood shopping center and don't venture into our area) and if the Department of Parks reports graffiti to the APD (it does not). Officer House added that a graffiti artist won't paint on a blank wall and prefers the challenge of painting on top of somethingsuch as with the Watershed Mural on DeKalb.

If graffiti is found and reported, the APD will set up surveillance and monitor the area. If a gang member is caught, the person is charged with street gang terrorism. Officer House recommended that anyone who discovers graffiti first take a photo of it to send to him and then immediately cover it, to send a message that it will not be tolerated.

Valencia Hudson, from councilmember Natalyn Archibong's office, spoke next and added to the conversation on graffiti. She announced a graffiti cleanup on Moreland

were set aside for "greenspace improvements." Through a discussion on the Lake Claire Parents Yahoo group, neighbors had offered various suggestions for ways to improve Lake Claire Park: planting trees for shade, repairing the tennis court, installing backless benches, bringing in soccer goals, and removing invasives. Cynthia suggested that we consider working with Eagle Scouts to complete any work we decide to do, to help us get results and to give them much-needed projects. Mary Williams said the tennis courts would benefit greatly from the removal of mimosa, and

Kathy Evans suggested that the

Next LCN Meeting

Thursday May 19

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

at the bridge on May 7, where neighborhoods can also come to get paint and other supplies for their own cleanups. Katie Brady asked about removing graffiti from concrete, and Ms. Hudson said the City can give her supplies.

Katie then asked if Archibong's office was involved in the Mary Lin redistricting discussion, and Hudson said they were not. There was some follow-up conversation on the cleanup in Lake Claire Park and whether the Parks Department had done their job. One neighbor suggested they gave up too soon, while another thought it was a timing issue of when the work could get done. Hudson suggested neighbors report any concerns about City employees not doing their jobs to the City.

Katie then asked about the manhole covers on Ridgewood, which come up when MARTA buses drive over them, and Hudson said she would take care

2) LCN officer reports. Cynthia invited the present LCN officers to give their reports. There was nothing to report, and Cynthia said that the treasurer's report was similar to last month's. She announced that Robby Handley had been voted in as VP of Environment at the most recent executive committee meeting.

There was a brief discussion on the proceeds from last year's tour of homes, which

City could do that for us.

3) Voting items/Land use. Next on the agenda was a variance request for 536 Hardendorf Drive. The applicant was seeking a variance from zoning regulations to reduce the required side yard setback from 7 feet to 0 feet and to reduce the required half-depth setback from 17 feet 5 inches to 5 feet to allow for an expansion of an existing attic space for a second story and a screened terrace level to an existing single-family dwelling. The owners of the home, Betsy and David Schwalbach, and their architect presented the request.

Mr. Schwalbach told neighbors that the home had been added on to in the sixties, and the additions were awkward and now in need of repair. With the renovation, he wants to keep the 1920s bungalow look and unify the home into one unit.

Kathy Evans led the variance discussion. She asked if any trees would be affected (no) and if the sidewalks were in good shape (yes, generally). The architect added that they were not changing the footprint at all. The majority of the surrounding neighbors had approved the request (two had not yet responded).

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

4) Announcements. Cynthia asked Mary Williams to talk to neighbors about the 2011 Lake Claire Home & Garden Tour. Mary, who is heading up the

committee for the second year in a row, said that the tour would take place sometime in the fall (the date is TBD) and will once again aim to present the great variety of home and garden styles in the neighborhood. In 2010, the first year for the tour in six years, the event raised \$4,850 in sponsorship dollars, \$1,338 in ticket sales, and \$233 in miscellaneous sales (bumper stickers, banners, etc.), for a net profit of \$4,044.70, half of which was donated to Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. The other half was earmarked for greenspace improvements in Lake Claire.

Mary asked neighbors to keep their eyes open for homes and gardens they'd like to see on the tour, to spread the word to their neighbors, and to encourage local businesses to sponsor the event. Volunteers are also needed. Anyone with interest or leads should contact Mary at mary@ma rywilliamspianostudio.com.

Cynthia then reminded neighbors that dues are \$20 per household and asked people who had not yet paid to do so online or by check.

Kathy Evans announced the results of the variance vote: it was approved unanimously by the membership.

Cynthia asked if anyone had issues to discuss, and Mary Williams asked if we could talk about the Mary Lin redistricting rumor. Kathy Evans spoke about the letter, drafted by Mary Jo Bryan, that the neighborhood had sent to the school board expressing general support for keeping the Mary Lin neighborhood kids together.

Another neighbor, Melissa Pressman, who is involved with the committee that started 30307schools.org, said that the rumor has been detrimental to home sales in the neighborhood. She noted that we won't know what will happen until the demographic study results are in and the board makes its recommendations, sometime in late fall. She said the more people on the board who hear neighbors' concerns, the better. A group of neighbors had drafted an email letter template that makes three requests: keep Lake Claire, Candler Park, and Inman Park at Mary Lin; expand the school so trailers aren't necessary; and keep Mary Lin in the Inman/ Grady cluster. It was suggested that the letter be printed in next month's Clarion. Neighbors can also email Melissa at melissadore ssman@yahoo.com with questions.

With no other issues to be discussed, the meeting was ended at 8:00 pm.





Biscuits & Bellyrubs

Anna Trodglen

Biscuits & Bellyrubs artwork, cards and coloring books can be purchased at Donna Van Gogh's, 1651 McLendon Avenue. Also, be sure to check out the twice-weekly strip on Facebook "Biscuits & Bellyrubs by Anna Trodglen."

678-640-1858

petmeisters.com

insured * professional * green * affordable

Boarding starting at \$35/day



Daily rates starting at \$13/visit

PET SITTING

Serving Atlanta's Eastside Neighborhoods

Personal and **Business Classifieds**

Personal classified ads are free. Business classified ads cost \$5 for a placement fee plus \$3 for every 30 characters or portion thereof. For more info, contact newslette r@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.

SUBLET OF DUPLEX HOUSE. \$1200 / 2BR WITH DEN. FROM JUNE TILL OCTOBER. GREAT CONDITION. FULLY **FURNISHED!**

Duplex House to Sublet located 1.95 miles from Emory University. 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms with Tub/ Shower For rent at \$1,200.00 per month plus utilities. beautiful, fully furnished apartment in a newly-built duplex. Ideal for family / partners. An extra study room. Amenities include all home appliances. Beautiful front and backyard. Practically pristine condition. Quiet and safe area at street's dead-end. Parks and shops with walking distance. Near Land Trust! Great neighborhood!

GSU BUSINESS PHD STUDENT SEEKS STUDIO OR **APARTMENT FOR RENT**

Ideal renter for Inman / Candler Park or Lake Claire. Please contact mgtdgg@gsu.edu

HANDYMAN/LIGHT ELECTRICAL Neighborhood References, No job too small, Jacob Franklin: 404-863-7657

CANDLER PARK YARD CREW Yard Cleanup/Rake and Bag, Pruning/Trimming, References Available, Matt - 678-754-1095

ABOVE THE HEDGES Hot'lanta Summer and livin' should be EASY! Sip a Mint Julep and let us make cool work of landscape chores. Design, Installations, or Maintenance. Ask about our biweekly deal--nice on your budget! Free Estimates -- Licensed & Insured - Admiration Guaranteed! 770-621 (YARD) 9273

PIANO TUNING, REPAIR, REBUILDING, SALES Jane Purtzer 404-378-8310

BARNABY'S GREEN THUMB, INC

We make your yard glow, when we mow, edge & blow! Mulching, pruning & Free est. Since 1984. Call 404 -373-1591.

RESCUED KITTENS FOR ADOPTION

Local rescued kittens/cats now looking for homes! I'm a C.P. & L.C. Mama, and animal foster and rescue for our local GA communities animals in need. Call Kate at: 404-228-6622 kather ine.branch@gmail.com and kateb ranchbrowne.posterous.com

EPWORTH DAY SCHOOL @ CP 1 6 m - 5 y r s www.epworthdayschool.com

Café 458 Weekend Brunch

It's a delicious cause!

Located in the Old Fourth Ward at 458 Edgewood Avenue, Atlanta, Café 458 Weekend Brunch is an award-winning restaurant offering a traditional brunch exclusively on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The menu includes signature dishes including popular items Shrimp and Grits, Chicken and Waffles and Black Bean and Egg Breakfast Sandwiches. All proceeds from the Café 458 Weekend Brunch, including tips, go directly to support Atlanta Center for Self Sufficiency (formerly Samaritan House of Atlanta and Atlanta Enterprise Center), a nonprofit agency whose mission is to break the cycle of homelessness by enabling people to transform their lives through sustainable employment and income—it's truly a delicious cause! For more information about the Café 458 Weekend Brunch, call (404) 446-4688 or visit our website at www.Cafe458ATL.com. Café 458 Weekend Brunch can accommodate group reservations and catering requests.

Montessori In Town

CAMP LADYBUG

SUMMER TIME FUN MONTESSORI STYLE 9:00-12:30 M-F • Ages - turning 3-7 Years of age **Grant Park Campus**

Ist Session - June 6-10 • 2nd Session - June 13-17 **Poncey-Highland Campus**

3rd Session - July 11-15 • 4th Session - July 18-22 Cost: \$160.00 per session • Libby@montessoriintown.com • 404-452-6047

Now Enrolling for Primary and **Elementary Programs**

Save the Date

MIT 1st Annual Auction & Fundraiser May 13, 2011

Montessori In Town is an AMI Montessori School

www.montessoriintown.com

We list. We Sell. We Do it Well.







We get results for you. The Maya and Chris Team

www.MayaAndChris.com Maya: 404-522-0011 Chris: 404-388-0023

For each house we sell in Lake Claire, we donate 2% of our net commission to LCNO. For each referral you send us, we will donate \$40 to the non-profit of your choice.