



Lake Claire Annual Halloween Parade Coming October 27

The annual Lake Claire Halloween Parade is scheduled for Saturday, October 27. Bring your little pirates, princesses, super heroes, monsters, witches, and more to the intersection of Ridgewood and Marlbrook at 5:00 p.m.! The parade will end at the Lake Claire Park.

Please visit our neighborhood website, Lakeclaire.org, and the

Lake Claire Facebook page for updates and more information. Volunteers are needed to help with this event – please contact Beth Krebs at beth_krebs@comcast.net if you are interested. Volunteering is a great way to meet other neighbors and help make this event super spook-tacular!



2011 L5P Halloween Parade, Including a Large Gagggle of Mary Lin Students

Why Did We Choose to Enroll Our Kids in the Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School?

Instead of ranting about why I believe traditional education must reform, I suggest you check out Sir Ken Robinson's humorous yet serious arguments in "Changing Education Paradigms," <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDZFcDGpL4U> and "Do schools kill creativity?" at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iG9CE55wbTY>.

We chose to enroll our kids in the Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School (ANCS, <http://atlncs.org/>) because ANCS provides an engaging, nurturing school climate. ANCS is a member of the Coalition of Essential Schools, follows the pedagogy of constructivism, and relies on the school's Guiding Principles to create a tone of decency and trust within

the school. The school is an inclusive, free, K-8 Atlanta Public School (APS), with campuses in Grant Park and Ormewood Park.

ANCS is one of two Coalition of Essential Schools in Georgia (the other is Ben Franklin Academy). Coalition of Essential Schools is a national network of schools focused on creating schools that are intellectually challenging, personalized, and democratic. The Coalition of Essential Schools (<http://www.essentialschools.org/>) is not a charter school company - it is an organization that unites schools that share a commitment to a set of principles that guide

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A Treasure for the Lake Claire Neighborhood: Deepdene Park

by Beth Damon



Teddy Damon investigating Deepdene Park

It is surprising that after living in Lake Claire nearly 23 years, I have just discovered this treasure in easy walking distance of the Lake Claire and Druid Hills neighborhoods. Inspired by last

month's picture of a copperhead in the park, my dog and I decided to investigate.

Deepdene is part of the six-seg-

Deepdene cont. on p. 11

Mary Lin Elementary School Home Run-a-Thon Fundraiser

Friday, November 9, 12-2pm

This unique and fun annual fundraising event will feature Mary Lin Elementary students running bases in exchange for pledged donations, 100% of which will directly fund the school's needs, including technology upgrades, educational fieldtrips, teacher continuing education, and more.

Join local athletes, parents, and members of the Mary Lin community, along with (hopefully) the Atlanta Braves Around Town (BAT) Team to encourage and cheer on these children, who will be running to first, stealing second, third, and home to benefit their school. For more details, visit the Mary Lin PTA website at www.marylinelementary.com.

For sponsorship opportunities, or to donate directly, please contact Julie Noble, junoble@yahoo.com

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Contact Lake Claire Neighbors at PO Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107, 404-236-9526 or www.lakeclaire.org.

The Clarion is published monthly. The deadline for advertising and editorial consideration is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Letters to the editor should be limited to 300 words or fewer. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not those of Lake Claire

Banner art by Lore Ruttan, Illustrator, www.loreruttanillustration.com

To Help You Keep an Eye on the Crime and the Time

Lake Claire Safety Report Weeks 30-34, compiled from APD Reports

Theft from Auto

200 block Connecticut Ave 7/21-22/12 23:00-07:00

No vehicle description Damaged: front passenger window. Taken: items from purse. Prints obtained.

2000 block Palifox Dr 7/21-22/12 22:30 - 11:30

parked on street

No vehicle description Damaged: right passenger window. Prints obtained.

2000 block Palifox Dr 7/22/12 01:30-15:30

No vehicle description Damaged: nothing. Taken iPod. Prints obtained.

300 block Arizona Ave 7/23-24/12 22:00-08:30

parked on street

No vehicle description Damaged: front passenger window. Taken Garmin GPS, CDs. Prints obtained.

200 block Oxford Pl 7/23-24/12 19:00-09:30

No vehicle description Damage: none - no forced entry. Taken: Credit card, clothing. Prints obtained.

400 block Harold Ave 7/25-26/12 21:00 - 06:30

parked on street

2009 VW Jetta Damaged: right rear passenger window. Taken Backpack w/computer. Prints.

1800 block Marlbrook Dr 7/28-29/12 21:30-4:03 parked on street

No vehicle description Damaged: front window. Taken prada bag w/laptop, iPad, Rolex watch. Prints.

Note: bag was later recovered in bushes near the home minus other missing items

2100 block McLendon Ave 7/30-31/12 23:15-07:30 parked on street

2006 Mazda 6 Damaged: passenger side window. Taken digital camera. Print obtained.

2100 block Palifox Dr 8/5/12 21:30-22:20

No vehicle description Damage: none. Taken: Camera. Prints obtained.

1700 block Delaware Ave 8/6/12 01:00-06:45 a.m.

No vehicle description Damage: no forced entry. Taken: GPS Print obtained

2000 block Palifox Dr 8/13/12 19:00-23:00

No vehicle description Damage: not stated; car "broken into." Taken: purse w/debit card Print recovered

500 block Lakeshore Dr 8/22-23/12 20:00-06:50

No vehicle description Damaged: driver's window Nothing taken.

400 block Ridgewood Rd 8/24/12 20:00-21:30

No vehicle description Damaged: passenger side window and door. Taken: iPod

Other Larceny

1800 block Marlbrook Dr 8/5-7/12 09:00-10:00

Victim stated that she believes that someone from a cleaning crew, for whom she leaves a key hidden outdoors on cleaning day, stole her wedding band. No forced entry and no other items taken. Taken: ring

Clarion has great late-breaking news! We have a new webmaster! Welcome Will Burke to the Clarion & LCN -- and Will & Beth Burke welcome to Lake Claire!

Recent Rash of Car Break-Ins

by Beth Krebs, Harold Avenue

Hey Neighbors - Given the car break-in marathon this past month, I wanted to share a few tips and resources with y'all hopefully to minimize these crimes in the future:

(1) When possible, please try to park in your driveway and have your guests do the same.

(2) Remove everything from sight in your car. Don't use blankets to cover up items.

(3) Lighting is a great deterrent - if you have exterior lighting that reaches to your parked car, consider leaving it on (especially on weekend nights when car break-ins increase). My eco greenie self recommends motion sensors and either compact fluorescent or LED lights to minimize energy consumption.

Also, please report any street lights that are out ASAP - contact info is below:

Street Lights on metal poles and decorative street lamps in some instances belong to the City. Street lights on wood poles belong to Georgia Power. Residents may report outages or other street light concerns related to City owned street lights to DPW Customer Service at 404.330.6333 or via email to: publicworks@atlantaga.gov. Outages on wood poles may be reported to 1-888-891-0938.

<http://www.atlantaga.gov/index.aspx?page=492>

(4) Don't be shy to call 911 to report suspicious activity. Be aware that Atlanta has a teen curfew ordinance (see below), so if you see teens out past curfew, do not hesitate to call the police:

"...anyone younger than 17 can't be outside his or her home without adult supervision from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and from midnight to 6 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays"

<http://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta/teen-curfews-protect-teens-975157.html>

(5) If you unfortunately find yourself the victim of a crime, please file a police report. It will help provide accurate data and statistics for our 'hood (which gives us facts for a dialogue with APD in asking for resources), and it can help in the recovery of stolen goods.

(6) If you are not already a member, join the Lake Claire Neighborhood watch yahoo group and encourage your neighbors to do so as well. It is a great resource to get and share crime info, and to work with your neighbors to help keep Lake Claire safe: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lakeclaireneighborhoodwatch/>

Did you know?

The City of Atlanta has a population of 432,427, and Decatur has a population of 19,555 (source: quickfacts.census.gov). DeKalb County has a population of 699,893, while Fulton County's population is 949,599, for a combined total of 1,649,492 people in our two-county area. Lock up, folks! Be safe and think ahead; we live in densely populated urban area.

The Ties That Bind: The Charter and Public School Mission (Not Yet Accomplished)

by Michael Daly

Two months ago I had the privilege to spearhead the launch of a brand new charter school in the DeKalb County School District. This has been an incredibly humbling and intense learning experience, and it has deepened my regular reflection upon the state of American education. As a new principal I am frequently asked to explain the difference between charter and public schools and to weigh in on the merits of each. In light of the recent teacher's strike in Chicago and the upcoming charter school amendment initiative in Georgia, this topic is particularly timely.

Since moving to Lake Claire a year ago I have been keenly aware of the interest and controversy surrounding charter schools. In many cases the debates result in pitting charter schools against public schools by framing the issue into one of unfair competition that casts the charter school in the role of a privileged organization. The assumption is that charter schools take the best and the brightest students, the tax dollars that go with them and leave the remaining students behind for the local public school to deal with, thus causing harm to local public schools and to the public school system itself.

While there are differences in the two models, it must be stressed that the vast majority of charter schools in the United States **are** public schools! The students that attend are public school students. The state standards they follow and the special education services they provide are the same as local public schools. The main difference is that they are public schools of *choice*, and they are often located in communities that have been devoid of educational choices for their children.

In the case of the school that I lead, we would not have received a charter from the district if we were not filling a need. A **charter** is basically a contract that outlines the details of a proposed school. The community in which we operate is one that had all of the neighborhood elementary schools shut down, and there was a need to provide parents with a neighborhood option. For many school districts it is a cheaper proposition to allow old or shuttered buildings to reopen as charters. The community gets a

school, and the district can turn the maintenance and day-to-day operations over to the charter school. It would not be in a district's interest to allow a school to open as a public school that behaves like a private school. In that case, we could not screen or interview prospective students or their families, we could not give an entrance exam, and we would have to accept any and all students that live in the district.

Where charter schools do have an advantage is in the fact that occupying a seat in a charter is something a parent must *choose* to do. A parent must be concerned about and motivated to act on behalf of their child's education and also take the time to go through the process of registering his or her child in a charter school. This presumably means that many charter school parents are active participants in their children's educational lives and, while this does not mean that these students have any cognitive advantages (in many cases it is just the opposite), any educator will tell you that active parental participation in a child's educational life is one of the most important contributing factors of student success in school.

The other "advantage" that charter schools offer is the ability they have to try new and innovative approaches to curriculum and scheduling that are not dictated by a district. In addition, if a charter school does not fulfill its promise and does not provide educational value to a community within the terms of the charter (typically 3-5 years) it can and will be shut down. This is an advantage, as a community does not have to be saddled with a failing institution for generations. If the charter school does not live up to expectations, then no one will send their child there. If the school does not educate kids well, it will go out of business because no one will attend. Some traditional public schools continue to provide a lower quality education every year; parents without the resources to consider private school have no choice but to remain. The beauty of charter schools is that this should never be the case. If a charter can't educate kids we can shut it down!

As a former teacher and a school building leader in New

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teaching, learning, and decision-making at each school. "Essential schools are places of powerful learning where all students have the chance to reach their fullest potential." (ANCS, like all APS charter schools, is an inclusive school.)

ANCS is a constructivist school, like Dekalb County's Museum Charter School and the Paideia School. In a constructivist school, children learn by "doing"- children are discussing and moving and actively learning. Students in traditional education sit quietly and attentively at desks listening to lectures, studying textbooks, and memorizing facts. A student in traditional education take a test or complete a project to demonstrate his or her ability to recall or implement knowledge. Constructivist teachers assign the project first. Under the pedagogy of constructivism, students work collaboratively in small groups at tables (or on floors) to discuss, research, and problem solve in order to complete the project. And just as students work collaboratively at ANCS, teachers in each grade level collaborate to design the curriculum for the year, based on the Georgia Performance Standards and Common Core. Teaching in an inclusive constructivist environment is challenging. In order to ensure quality education and address the needs and strengths of every student, learning at ANCS is facilitated and guided by two teachers in most classrooms. Constructivism encourages every child to learn how to learn.

ANCS creates a nurturing, intentional school climate by following its Guiding Principles:

We come to school and every class prepared to learn and do our best.

We respect each other, our surroundings, and ourselves.

We take responsibility for our actions and learning.

We resolve conflict in a peaceful, thoughtful, and meaningful way.

We celebrate our individual

and collective successes.

The first couple of weeks of school are devoted to creating a school-wide environment based upon these principles. Students democratically develop classroom routines. Teachers lead students in team-building exercises that lay the foundation for a year of collaboration within the classroom community. The school's Guiding Principles are reinforced by the school's adoption of Conscious Discipline (<http://consciousdiscipline.com/>). "Conscious Discipline empowers adults to consciously respond to daily conflict, transforming it into an opportunity to teach critical life skills to children." Conscious Discipline encourages everyone in the school community to transform problems into life lessons. At ANCS, the Guiding Principles define the school community and, along with Conscious Discipline, guide the behavior of the school community.

As City of Atlanta residents, we have choices, as limited as they are, as to how our children will be publicly educated. The following is an excerpt from a September 10, 2012, APS resolution: "*The Atlanta Board of Education believes that one size does not fit all and that it is the responsibility of the local district and locally elected board to provide quality choices for students and believes that these quality choices may be traditional or charter schools; and... the Atlanta Board of Education adopted a policy in support of authorizing high quality charter schools that the district can learn from innovative and unique programs that advance student achievement.*" (http://neighbornewspapers.com/view/full_story/20116640/article-Atlanta-school-board-opposes-charter-school-amendment?instance=buckhead)

We feel very lucky that our children have the opportunity to be educated in a creative, caring, innovative environment at Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School.

--Alicia, Tom, Joseph (6th grade), Jamie (4th grade), Sara (2nd grade), and Michael (kindergarten) McGill

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Ties that Bind cont. on p. 8

October: Mark Your Calendars

1 through Nov 19 -- Learning Groove class, music/movement parent/child class for newborn to 4 years olds. Mondays 1:30 & 2:30 p.m., Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. <http://tinyurl.com/TLG-withMrVictor>

3 Atlanta Botanical Gardens, free Alston lecture, Janisse Ray: The Seed Underground: The Stories, the Genetics, and the Revolutionary Nature of Heirlooms, 7 p.m.

4 through 28: Georgia Shakespeare presents Macbeth. Commemorating the 75th anniversary of Orson Welles' dynamic 1936 Voodoo Macbeth. Neal A. Ghant as Macbeth. <http://www.gashakespeare.org/home>

4-7 Opa! Greek Festival, Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 2500 Clairmont Road, Thurs 5-10, Fri & Sat. 11-11. www.atlantagreekfestival.org and www.facebook.com/atlgoc

4 and all Thursday evenings, Botanical Garden's "Scarecrows in the Garden" – Fest of Ale beer fest. (see Oct. 25). 1345 Piedmont Ave, atlantabotanicalgarden.org or 404-876-5859.

5 Fernbank – opening of Genghis Khan exhibition. One of the world's greatest and most misunderstood conquerors - Immerse yourself in his world of conquest, diplomacy, innovation, and destruction. <http://www.fernbankmuseum.org/calendar-of-events/genghis-khan-opens/>

5-7 Taste of Atlanta 2012!—more than 70 of Atlanta's hottest, newest, and tastiest restaurants – at the Technology Square in Midtown. See www.tasteofatlanta.com

6 ...and 20 - Land Trust drum circle, dark until midnight. Please walk, bike or carpool.

6-10 Rhea Lana's of Decatur / Druid Hills children's consignment event at North DeKalb Mall. Here is the website with all the

info: decaturnrhealana.com - It's going to be a lot of fun!

7 ... and 21 -- Sunday, Oct. 7 and 21 (the day after each Land Trust drum circle) – "Keep the Trust" Volunteer Work Day, 3:00-6:00 pm. Volunteers get free pizza and a drum circle pass.

13 Trees Atlanta 13th Annual Tree Sale & Festival, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 225 Chester Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30316, info 404-522-4097 and www.treesatlanta.org

13-14 12th annual Candler Park Fall Fest. Fun, free, neighborhood festival has live music, over 150 artist booths, a kids' area, and a 5k Road Race. This year's festival is better than ever with food, fun and music for all ages, including a highlight of Mary Lin's talent at the Linapalooza time slot, which is opening up the festival on Saturday, October 13, at noon. More info on the stellar lineup of musicians here: <http://fallfest.candlerpark.org/music>. Run a 5k & get a free beer: <http://fallfest.candlerpark.org/5kroadrace>

19 5th Annual Monumental Ball to Benefit Piedmont Park Conservancy. Friday October 19, 7-11 p.m., Magnolia Hall in Piedmont Park. For information, www.monumentalball.org.

20 and the 3rd Thursday every month: Lake Claire Neighbors meeting, hosted by our friends of 63 years (but who's counting...) The Frazer Center, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Avenue. 7:00 p.m. social time, 7:15 prompt start time. The Rose Room (not the Atrium).

20 Atlanta Audubon Society's 40TH birthday! Gala event honors "Forty Years in Flight" at Glenridge Hall (a 47-acre estate in Sandy Springs built in 1929), 6:30-10 p.m. <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/>

25 Atlanta Botanical Garden's annual October Fest-of-Ale every Thurs, culminating Oct 25 with top chefs and 4th annual Pumpkin-Carving contest. See atlantabotanicalgarden.org, or 404-876-5859.

27 Community Shred Day, 10-1. Donations of \$5 per bankers box. Support The Community School (students with Autism Spectrum Disorders). First Baptist Church of Decatur, www.thecommunityschool.net

28 5 pm – Land Trust Annual pumpkin-carving, 5:00 pm. Pumpkins provided. Bring candles, carving knives, snacks and drinks to share, and plenty of kids!

28 The Frazer Center Annual Fall Festival, 2:00–6:00 pm. Food trucks, face painting, petting zoo, live band, clown, storyteller, kids' train, Halloween bag decorating, much more. Details www.thefrazercenter.org and see page 9 of this Clarion.

First Week of November:

9 Mary Lin Elementary School Home Run-a-Thon Fundraiser. Friday, November 9, 12-2pm Mary Lin Elementary School – see article on Page 1 for more information and Mary Lin website.

December

13 Our annual holiday party will be the second Thursday this month. Mark your calendars and plan to come!

Send calendar items for November's Clarion by OCTOBER 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org.

Lake Claire Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

You can always find the minutes on the website at www.lakeclaire.org. AND (as I've been requested by some self-identified "old timers without computers"), I will be happy to print a copy for you. Just leave a message specified for the editor of the Clarion on the Lake Claire Neighbors voice mail (404-236-9526) with your request and providing your address, and the minutes will appear on your doorstep, as does The Clarion, by magic (and volunteer effort).

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The Faces of The Frazer Center

Profiling the staff and volunteers that make The Frazer Center tick

by Lynn Nomad



Courtney May, Director of Child Development Programs - Photo by

The Clarion spoke with Courtney May, Director of Child Development Programs at The Frazer Center.

Clarion: *What is your role at The Frazer Center and what background do you bring to that role?*

Courtney: I am the Director of Child Development Programs at The Frazer Center. I have worked at the Center since November 2006, nearly six years, and I have seen the Center really flourish during that time! Prior to coming to The Frazer Center, I was an Early Care and Education Specialist at another Atlanta non-profit, where I focused primarily on providing training and assistance to child care centers looking to increase quality in their programs. I happened upon The Frazer Center when I was hired to provide training to the staff for a teacher-in-service day. At once, I fell in love with the staff, the mission, the grounds, and more than anything, the children, families, and adults. There is truly something magical about this place, and I felt like I was home.

I have always loved working with children and families, and have been doing so since I was just 14 years old. My first paying job was working at a church nursery keeping the children of choir members. Since then I've worked in many settings with children of all ages from pre-schools to church nurseries to

summer camps to working collaboratively with directors and teachers in Metro Atlanta.

Can you explain how The Frazer Center promotes and fosters the idea of inclusion?

The Frazer Center fosters the idea of inclusion in many ways, and the idea of inclusion has only expanded and deepened since I first began working here. I have personally grown in my definition of inclusion as well, and my mind has been opened far more than I would have expected during my time here. Of course, through the guidance and focus on our mission, we are a community where every person is included and valued, despite any differences in abilities. All children are placed with their age groups, no matter their diagnosis, developmental level, or ability. This means that children learn from one another, both children with disabilities and those without. This is not your average school where the "special education children" are tucked away in one room and everyone else in another. We believe that the classroom should reflect the world and our community, or at least our hopes and dreams for the world and our community in the future. Each citizen deserves a chance to be a productive part of society and to be acknowledged for his or her gifts.

There is a bigger picture with

regard to inclusion here, too; The Frazer Center is an inclusive community in every sense of the word. From the staff who work here to the families that are a part of what we do, and even extending to the partnerships we have with other organizations and our neighbors. People from all ages, beliefs, orientations, and races are welcome and in fact sought out, to make this a community where diversity is viewed as a positive and necessary part of what we do.

What are the benefits of having both children and adults with disabilities together under one roof?

I believe the most important benefit of having children and adults in the same facility is the community spirit that emerges. We all work together to make this place the special place that it is, and the children develop deep bonds with the adults with disabilities with whom they interact, and vice versa. We have many initiatives and intentional practices to integrate the two – we have adults with disabilities who are teachers in the classroom, adult readers who come in and read stories to the children, and many adults work in our program on our custodial and kitchen teams. The children get to see that disabilities don't hold people back, which is a powerful message, especially to parents of children with disabilities.

It also helps children develop "blindness" at an early age; they don't recognize the differences that others might, because they have been exposed at a young age and learn to appreciate people for who they are rather than excuse them because they are different. I've had many parents come back years later to tell me about how inclusion has impacted them in the long run -- and how thankful they are for having had the

experience. They don't describe people or peers by their differences, they simply don't notice, and it doesn't matter to them.

What is the best part of your job?

The children, adults, families, and the feeling that we're making a difference - it's as simple as that. I am so lucky to have the opportunity to learn from all of the people, young, old, and in-between, I encounter on a daily basis. The families are among the most supporting, loving, caring, and empathetic I've ever known. The children are the happiest and most joyful I can imagine. I feel honored to be a part of something this big, important, and positive. This place has changed me, professionally and personally, and I will be forever grateful for the experience. I look forward to being a part of it for many years to come as we continue to evolve and strengthen our programs.

What do you think the Lake Claire Community should know about The Frazer Center?

This place is a force for good in the community. We are at the ground level working to change all of our lives for the positive. Even if you don't interact with us on a regular basis, the legacy we hope to leave is one of acceptance and inclusion. This place is an asset to us all. As a resident of Kirkwood, I moved to this neighborhood because of all of the wonderful synergy and sense of community that is felt all around the surrounding neighborhoods. It's unlike any other place I've ever lived, and it challenges me to be a better person. The Frazer Center is part of that, and part of what makes our neighborhood unique, special, and a positive force in forming the future of Atlanta; a future I'm excited for me and my children to be a part of.

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The Garden in November

by Elizabeth Knowlton

Last month I was so excited listing the vegetables you could grow that I forgot to talk about the Five Seasons of the South, a concept of Barbara Pleasant, Southern gardener guru, that takes into account the many things we can start in fall, usually October, to have in bloom the next year. Sometimes we do this accidentally. For instance if you leave your carrots in the ground all winter, in spring they will send up a flower stalk; but don't do it because then the carrot root is inedible.

As you read this, it is not too late to sow the following seeds for bloom next year: sweet alyssum, bachelor's buttons, calendula, candytuft (*iberis*), forget-me-nots, dianthus, nicotiana, pansies (of course), poppies, snapdragons, sweet peas, and wallflowers. The difficulty may be in obtaining fresh seed as packets that have been sitting in stores since last March often fail to germinate. Any of the seed companies I have listed in previous columns would be glad to ship you seed. Even if it is dated to expire 12/12, it will have been kept in cold storage until shipping.

Barbara recommends keeping fresh seeds for three weeks in the refrigerator to trick them into thinking it is winter before sowing in the same small pots, flats, or six-packs that we used in spring. This can be done outdoors in a shady place, but I have lost too many pots to squirrels to depend on it and keep mine indoors under lights. When they are large enough, usually a rosette of leaves, you can either transplant them to large pots or

transplant to the garden, naturally following the same hardening off process you use in the spring, now protecting them at first from too much sun. In a few cases I will mention, it is best to plant directly in the ground.

Perhaps you are wondering why bother with all this when you could just sow seeds in the spring. The main reason is that it gets too hot too fast here for many of these flowers to get large enough to bloom. Every spring is different, of course, but lately they seem hotter and hotter. By planting a row of sweet peas in October, keeping them well watered, and perhaps pushing a little leaf mulch around the stalks in December, you will have sturdy vines climbing the supports by February at the latest and in bloom by March or April. The few times I have managed to follow my own instructions, the smell coming in a dining room, south-facing window has been incredible. (Then you can follow up with spring-planted morning glory seeds.) I have never been successful with spring-planted annual sweet peas or with poppies either. Somehow even the tiny poppy seeds know how to get going in the winter to make the best spring show before heat decimates them.

The reason I know how well calendula and nicotiana do in the ground all winter is that many times I have started the plants in spring, finally planted them out, kept them alive with frequent watering, and watched them just sit there all summer if not too stressed by sun. Winter with frosts and snow seems to have no effect on them. THEN,

as the days lengthen, suddenly they grow rapidly and come into bloom early. Calendula with its orange and yellow daisy flowers looks wonderful in the vegetable garden long before marigolds and cosmos take off, which is good as it collapses in midsummer, leaving room for other flowers.

Some vegetables lend themselves to October plant-



Fragrant Sweet Peas - Photo by Giligone

ing also: beets, Brussels sprouts, the whole onion family, parsley, parsnips, potatoes, spinach, and strawberries. Frankly, this is the only way I have successfully grown spinach in Atlanta. You can lightly mulch it with straw in the winter, and it will take off to give you your first greens in spring. For more information on the fifth season (October to May), see *Warm Climate Gardening* by Barbara Pleasant.

If your tender vegetables are threatened by cold, you can shield them from light frost with row covers (available from Gardener's Supply) draped over their

hoops or ones of your design.

You may write to Elizabeth Knowlton, longtime resident of Lake Claire, with your gardening questions and comments at knowltonew@earthlink.net. Have you missed some of Elizabeth's articles this year? Each issue targets gardening hints for the following month. See them on the Lake Claire website at <http://www.lakeclaire.org/wpsite/clarion/clarion-archives/> - great place to view color pictures of any black-and-white pictures, too.

Freedom Park Bird and Butterfly Garden Work Day

by Carol Vanderschaaf



This summer members from Lake Claire and surrounding neighborhoods weeded and mulched the Freedom Park Bird and Butterfly Garden. The event was organized by Barry Atwood, Volunteer Coordinator for the Park Improvement Committee of the Freedom Park Conservancy.

Pictured in back row are Barry, Tom Painter, Jane Merkle, Robert Madlem, Michael Bell, Teresa Cox, and Bernard Cox, and in front row, Robert MacLeod and Carol Vanderschaaf. Billy Davis was behind the camera. Neighborhoods represented were Candler Park, Lake Claire and Old Fourth Ward.

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The Land Will Endure . . . What About the Trust?

by Stephen Wing

It's the nature of the Land to remain. Whether we care for it and pass it on or pave it over and forget about it, the Land will always be here, patiently holding up the bare feet of children, or the tires of parked cars, or a five-story condominium.

The tract of land known as the Land Trust is no different. What prevents it from becoming one more condo development along Dekalb Avenue is the "Trust": our pact with it as humans to care for it and pass it on, so our descendants will always have this quiet blessing to enjoy in the midst of the city.

The neighbors who looked at a derelict tract of Land so long ago and saw the vision of the Trust are mostly in their sixties now. What you see when you visit is the result of their dedication and hard work over nearly three decades. Since they took the legal step of forming a non-profit organization with an elected Board of Directors, one by one the original Trustees have stepped back and relinquished their seats on



forts, someone has to show up for Board and Committee meetings. Among that smaller circle of volunteers, I am considered a member of the younger generation - and I'll turn 56 this year. Three Board members have stepped down this year for various reasons, and only one new person has joined us. Other neighbors who have been active are turning their attention elsewhere. Even our members,

friends, taking time out for a passion we share. Most issues that come up resolve themselves into a consensus without the need for a vote. When something does require a formal vote, it's almost always unanimous.

Again and again I meet a young woman or man who has grown up coming to the Land Trust and returned as an adult to say "Thanks." The Land will always

be here - but the Trust will survive only as long as we remember to return and say "Thanks." This little greenspace of ours is a blessing, but also a responsibility. Our little circle of neighbors and friends has discovered that part of enjoying the blessing of the Land Trust is sharing the responsibility. It's the only way to make sure the Trust will endure as long as the Land. Join us!

Artists and Crafters - Get Ready Now for 2012 LT Holiday Fair!

by Miriam Herbers

Now's the time to start creating items to sell at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust's annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair. Join us on **Saturday, December 1**, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Last year's event was an unqualified success, and this year will be even bigger. We may have two adjacent houses, or an expanded space. The exact location will be announced in the November edition of the *Clarion*.

Holiday shoppers will find

unique gifts for the holidays, including pottery, hand-made cards, soap, knitting, jewelry, artisan breads, and whatever else our creative friends and neighbors surprise us with this year. Participants will keep 75% of their sales, and the rest of the proceeds go to benefit the Land Trust. Artists and crafters who want to participate can contact Miriam Herbers at mherbers@yahoo.com. Mark your calendars now, and we hope to see you there!

Last month's article on Bird Houses should have been credited to Miriam Herbers. We apologize for the omission. -Ed.

2013 Membership Drive

Become a "Caretaker," and help ensure the Land Trust stays green (and in the black) for the next generation to enjoy! Note the new lower rate for Couples and Families.

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Homeschoolers Kyle Smith-Ruttan (R) and friends studying at the Land Trust - Photo by Lore Ruttan

the Board. Only two of them remain - whether because they are encouraged by our direction or desperately trying to hold us back, I can't say. Two others are still actively involved, apparently content to join the discussion without a say in the vote.

A major part of our responsibility to the Land is to keep up with tax, insurance, and mortgage payments. We are blessed with a circle of stalwart volunteers who anchor the fundraisers that pay those bills. But to plan these events and other fundraising ef-

whose only responsibility is a modest amount of financial support, have dwindled alarmingly since 2011.

If you enjoy visiting the Land Trust, I encourage you to take the step of becoming a member. If you are a member, take the next step: volunteer at a Land Trust event. If you are already a volunteer, why not drop in on a Board or Committee meeting and see what goes on behind the scenes? Sitting through a meeting can be an onerous task, I know. But our Board is more like a gathering of

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Ties that Bind cont. from p. 3

York City Public Schools and now as an instructional leader here in Georgia, I approach the profession and my current position as a believer in the importance and promise of quality public education. Supporting charter schools does not mean one is abandoning support of public schools because the majority of charters are public schools.

What charter schools are not, is silver-bullets to the problems facing public education. Too many people look at charter schools and assume they are better at educating kids. The reality is that they are not. A Stanford University study found that students in charter schools were more likely to score lower than public school students than they were to outperform those students -- 37% percent of charter schools did worse than comparable public schools, while only 17% did better. The rest- 46%-scored the same.

The reality is that there are some great charter schools, and there are some great public schools. Lake Claire has one of the latter in Mary Lin. The reverse is also true. This should come as no surprise in light of the fact that the mission is to serve the same public population of American students. The focus of politicians and pundits should be less about pitting the charter school movement against public school interests. Instead, the focus should be on fostering innovative approaches to an age old problem. The ties that bind us can and should motivate us to make all our public institutions stronger as our mission is the

same and it is mighty.

Public schools have the great and wonderful mission of providing an egalitarian education to the youth of our nation. Public schools don't get to cherry-pick only the brightest or wealthiest students. Students that attend a public school get to know people from every corner of the community, not just people of the same religion or social class. In a tuition-free public school or public charter school, students engage with and learn with a public community of learners and are part of a system that, contrary to conventional wisdom, works overall. *Yes, you read that correctly.*

It's true that we have a huge achievement gap between students in our country -- one that grows with each grade level as kids advance from kindergarten into high school. This is not merely an educational problem; it is a societal and cultural issue partially resulting from a generation of children being raised by single parents or grandparents, combined with a large and growing poverty problem. The children whose parents can afford to send them to school with money for lunch, and who have the ability to help them with their increasingly difficult homework at night, typically thrive in the public schools, as they have for generations. But in many districts, those aren't the majority of kids anymore.

The conventional wisdom that says ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL ARE FAILING is ridiculous! NYC for example teaches 1 million students - ARE THEY ALL FAILING? If public education were broken, and our schools no

longer had the ability to teach, then why is it these "broken" schools are rarely, if ever, in affluent communities?

No Child Left Untested

We spend a lot of time in the U.S. wringing our hands over the fact that our students are not competing in math and science when compared to their counterparts in nations like China, Singapore, and Finland. These comparisons are a driving force behind our country's move to a Common Core of national standards and the increase in a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). These comparisons have also created an aggregated importance and reliance on standardized testing and contributed to bureaucratic politization of racing to the top and leaving no child behind.

What we don't do enough of is reflecting on what is working in our own country and communities as opposed to trying unfairly to mold the American cultural and educational system into the shape of other nations who are working from very different clay. The result is that we find ourselves putting an enormous amount of effort and resources into the pursuit of higher domestic and international test scores that may or may not help move our country forward both socially and economically.

Think about the enormity of what we are trying to pull off here in the United States: Here in the USA we are tasked with educating approximately 53 million school aged children! Our public and charter schools offer the families in our communities free general and special educa-

tion services, free and reduced lunch, and a national commitment to educating all children in the community through high school. These tasks are met with various degrees of success and measured though tests and a student tracking system for as long as they are in the school. This is no small thing.


Unlike Finland, the recent top scorer on international PISA exams, we do give standardized tests and use them as a measure of academic progress and as a measure of learning. If Finland can perform at such a high level without standardized tests, why has the U.S. made this the center of our children's educational lives? How does an educational system that recognizes that many children learn differently decide that we should test them all exactly the same way? Unlike China, we don't selectively test portions of our population while not bothering to assess another, much larger portion. In the U.S. we test everybody, and we report the results.

Unlike Singapore and a host of other countries, we don't have a national high stakes test that determines a student's secondary education and/or an employment track. We also do not have a tiny, ethnically homogeneous and economically stable population from which we test. America tests rich and poor, special needs and gifted, in addition to a migrant population that doesn't get very much attention. We test everybody.

With this in mind is it any wonder that our egalitarian model produces such disparate results?

Interestingly, despite our deficiencies on international math and science tests there has been no connection between the performance of U.S. students on these tests and the health of the U.S. economy in relation to the rest of the world. According to a recent paper published in the February 2012 issue of *Mathematic Teacher* by University of Chicago professor Zalman Usiskin, "At no time in the forty-eight years since the first international testing in 1963-64 have U.S. mathematics students as a whole scored higher than students in most comparable countries. Yet through this period the U.S. economy had been perhaps the strongest in the world. Further, in that first international study of 1963-64, Swedish students scored lowest, and Sweden's economy, too, has been very strong. Japan, which from the 1960s consistently has been among the highest scoring countries, had a severe recession in the 1990s and into this century, whereas the U.S. economy was strong."



Ties that Bind cont. on p. 10



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Summer of 1935 – 30+ Lake Claire Resident Reminisces in New Novel

by Beth Damon

Last year, in our series “Thirty-Plus Years in Lake Claire,” the Clarion featured Alice Bliss, who has lived on Gordon Avenue since 1976. Alice Bliss could be called a Renaissance woman; a native Atlantan, she has self-published more than ten books (about her travels, her friends, and her mother); she is an artist, a musician who plays piano and organ, and a former teacher of music composition. Recently Alice has published *The Summer of 1935*. In the summer of 1935, the City of Atlanta faced bankruptcy, but Rich’s Department Store came to the rescue to help pay city employees, including the author’s mother, who was a school teacher. Bliss recounts this forgotten piece of history in

her novel.

Says Bliss, “in August of 1935, my mother, a long-time Atlanta City teacher, attended a meeting of the Atlanta Teachers’ Association. The teachers were asked to accept a third cut in salary. They voted to accept the cut, and this continued until September of 1938, when the salary was restored. All City employees accepted this cut so that no one would be laid off, and thus their jobs were saved. I remember the day my mother came home from the meeting. My mother appeared excited, her cheeks flushed...” The book continues in this vein. *The Summer of 1935* is a novel, but it is heavily based on the author’s memories of that summer, and it shows the effects of the events on the lives of the teacher and her 10-year-old daughter.

Copies of the book are available from The Bozart Press, 297 Gordon Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, GA, 30307, for \$15 each. It was fascinating to spend time with Alice. I am sure that the books are as fascinating as the conversation was.

The complete interview with Alice Bliss is on Page 1 of the September 2011 issue of the Clarion at <http://www.lakeclaire.org/wpsite/clarion-archives/2011/2011-09.pdf>

The Frazer Center to Hold Annual Fall Festival

Join your Lake Claire, Candler Park and Druid Hills neighbors for an afternoon of family fun on **Sunday, October 28, 2:00–6:00 pm**. The event is held in the Cator Woolford Gardens and features a petting zoo, a live band, clown, storyteller, face painting, kid’s train, 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. Attendees are welcome to BYOB! Water will be available for sale. Admission is \$5.00 per adult and \$5.00 per children, or \$15 per family.

This annual fundraiser benefits the work of The Frazer Center, an inclusive community where people at all levels of ability and disability gather, learn and flourish together. Since 1949, the Center has provided services to people with disabilities and their families. Two different programs are offered: an inclusive Child Development Program (accredited by NAEYC)

for children ages six weeks to 5 years and a Day Program for Adults with Disabilities 19 and over.

Soldiers’ Angels

by Pen Sherwood

I and other residents of Lake Claire are volunteers for Soldiers’ Angels Network, which supports troops deployed to combat zones. We get holiday gifts together and send them to the troops, and the organization needs donations starting now in order to be prepared for this coming holiday season. I love putting smiles on those soldiers’ faces. The impact it has had on America’s deployed citizens cannot be overstated. I hope that other Lake Clarions want to join us in reaching out to them to thank them for their service and demonstrate our love and support.

For more information, please visit <http://soldiersangels.org/index.php?page=answer-the-call> or contact me through my website <http://janpen-thamma.artistwebsites.com>.

Help get the Clarion to Neighbors’ Porches!

Two delivery routes for our neighborhood newspaper have recently opened up:

34 households on the east side of Clifton Road from Dekalb Avenue to Marlbrook Drive; and 56 homes on Lakeshore from McLendon Avenue all the way to Ponce de Leon need a new delivery volunteer (or two could share it). Delivery is just once a month, typically the first week of the month. It’s a great way to get some exercise and meet your neighbors. Please contact Sarah Wynn at distribution@lakeclaire.org if you’d like to help out. It’s for a good cause!

Southern Fiction
by Alice Bliss
Lake Claire Resident

“The Summer of 1935”



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Ties that Bind cont. from p. 8

Our main issue isn't a failing public school system, it is that we don't have an alternative system in place to address the reality that not all children will succeed in school. Not all children will blossom in the factory model of education that we continue to promote, one that is set up to address and try and correct weaknesses. Why not create a model that recognizes that some academic weaknesses will not be overcome and instead focuses on building and fostering student strengths? Add this to the reality that both charter and public schools have not yet developed an effective mechanism to deal with and educate severely disruptive students nor do we have a national plan to offer real vocational and skill building alternatives for students who are not able to be successful in an academic setting.

Our public education system is a system that almost everyone agrees needs reform yet as a nation we are still tied to the antiquated idea that more money is what is needed to bring about a positive change in the system. This notion persists in spite of the facts on the ground and the measurable results.

More money tends to produce more accountability measures, more paperwork, and more shiny new toys for educators to play with. What money hasn't produced is measurable improvement in raising test scores or closing the achievement gap.

What we have seen over the past 50 years is skyrocketing spending on K-12 education that has resulted in stagnant student performance and an ever widening achievement gap that is leaving young African Americans and Latinos behind. Consider for a moment that in 1960, Americans spent roughly \$2,800 per student, in today's dollars. Now we are investing roughly \$11,000 per student without producing comparable gains in student outcomes.

Despite the fact that on the whole we are not getting the benefits from the enormous costs, it is not fair to say our public education system is entirely broken. In many ways it is succeeding and producing legions of American students that attend world class American universities. The problem is that it is failing a large portion of our population in a one-size-fits-all approach that ignores the socio-economic and cultural minefields that many American students are unable to navigate on their own.

Throwing money and rhetoric at a minefield does not make it any easier to cross. Pitting charter schools against traditional public schools is a distraction from the bigger picture. Until America addresses the root causes of our educational gaps and develops creative pathways and alternatives to our traditional educational model we will continue to have the same tired conversation about educational inequity that we have been having for generations.

"In the Beginning.... Lake Claire Neighbor Marion Smith"

Addendum to Last Month's Feature Honoring Marion Smith. This is from the Clarion, February 2001, written by Susan Beeching.

Imagine a neighborhood where you could walk to the drug store, the grocery store, the barber shop, the 5 and 10 store and grab a burger at the lunch counter. Where if you had a mind to, you could have your groceries delivered fresh from the market down the street (at Arizona and DeKalb). Where you didn't own a car and didn't need to? Everything you needed was in the neighborhood. If you wanted to go downtown to pay your light bill you hopped on the streetcar at Arizona and DeKalb and rode for a nickel. If you wanted to go see your mother in Kirkwood, you walked, and on that walk you passed open fields and didn't have to negotiate the aboveground tracks because they weren't there.

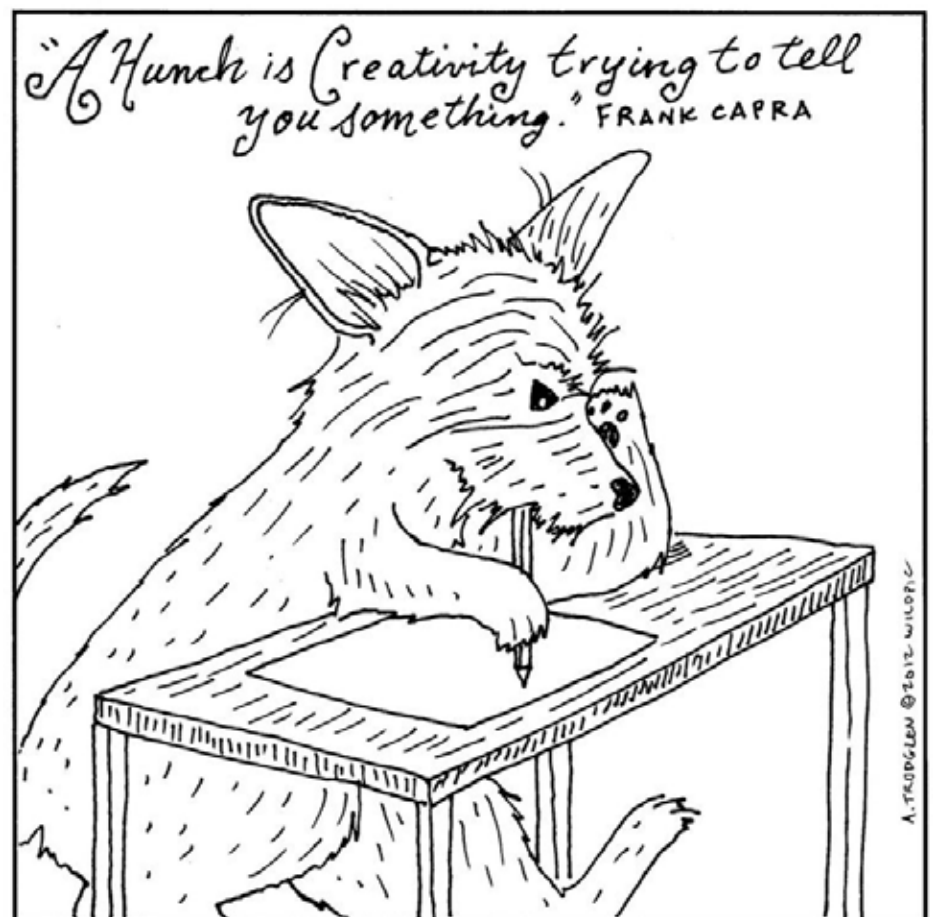
This is the Lake Claire of the 30's, 40's and 50's, as remem-

bered by 60-plus-year resident, Marion Smith. Mr. Smith originally moved to Lake Claire as a young man in 1936. Since then, Mr. and Mrs. Smith have lived in four different houses on Connecticut Avenue. Mr. Smith remembers that only three or four families on Connecticut Avenue actually owned cars. Everyone else walked or took the streetcar.

When asked what has changed the most in the years he has lived here (besides taxes!) he and his wife both lamented the change in the definition of "neighbors." Nowadays it seems that neighbors are merely people who live in proximity to one another. In times past, neighbors were people who kept an eye on your children as they played together and brought you chicken soup if you were under the weather. Real neighbors had relationships, something that is missing today, he thought. Mr. and Mrs. Smith can remember who lived in every house on the street, their names, how many children they had, the children's names and what everyone did for a living. (Apparently, this neighborhood was home to a lot of streetcar conductors.) If you ever want to while away an hour or two, stop and see the Smiths. I had to tear myself away!

Please see the tribute to Marion Smith (1923-2012) in last month's Clarion at <http://www.lakeclaire.org/wpsite/clarion/clarion-archives/>

Biscuits and Bellyrubs



Anna Trodglan draws our *Biscuits and Bellyrubs* series. A life-time Atlanta resident, Anna grew up on the edge of Lake Claire. She lives with her husband Dugan, three terriers, and a Black Cat. Find Anna's greeting cards and prints at Donna Van Gogh's, owned and operated by Lake Claire residents.

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Deepdene cont. from p. 1

ment Linear Park that Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. designed in the

Deepdene is the largest of the park segments. It forms the eastern end of the Linear Park. Unlike the five pastoral seg-

and more accessible, lighting and signage would be installed (hopefully without being overly intrusive and spoiling the rustic feel), and a sidewalk and row of trees would be added along Ponce de Leon Avenue. In the interior, the path system would be realigned and expanded, and the proliferation of non-native invasive plants would be controlled.

Olmsted foresaw that Deepdene could provide the growing population of Atlanta with an experience of the Piedmont forest.

Other woodlands in the city have been preserved, notably Fernbank Forest, the Storza Woods of the Atlanta Botanical Garden, the Swan House Woods at the Atlanta History Center, and The Frazer Center property. In case anyone else has yet to explore this peaceful woodsy resource, just exit Lake Claire Park on Lakeshore, turn left, and cross Ponce de Leon to the entrance of Deepdene. Check it out!



Creekside Steps in Deepdene Park - Photo by Beth Damon

1890s. Over the years, the Olmsted Linear Park has remained one of Atlanta's most visible parks. Its landmark green spaces have delighted generations of area residents and the thousands of people who come and go along Ponce de Leon Avenue every day. But in the 1990s, nonstop usage combined with inadequate maintenance had resulted in its gradual decline, and concerned citizens launched a grassroots effort to recapture its beauty. With support from individuals, foundations, and government agencies, the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA) raised \$9.5 million for the park's rehabilitation. Today this historic resource reflects the quality of peace which Olmsted sought in his designs.

ments, it is a wooded tract with a stream winding through its 22 acres and a topography that ranges from steep slopes to a flat meadow. Deepdene is on the property of Fernbank, Inc, which leases it to the DeKalb County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Aside from routine mowing and essential repairs to drainage systems, there has been little human intervention in the woodland. OLPA proposes rehabilitation of Deepdene to include remediation of severe erosion and storm water problems, burial of utilities, and construction of curbing. In addition, to make the park safer

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the interesting article (September 2012) and photo on the copperhead spotted in Deepdene. Many people mistake our local rat snakes for copperheads, since they may have somewhat similar coloring and markings. Rat snakes are non-poisonous constrictors, not vipers, and they lay eggs (unlike copperheads, which bear live young). Atlanta is the 2nd most rat infested city in the country (New York #1). So, remember that rat snakes are our friends and allies. They appreciate a brush or rock pile where they can stay warm and lay their eggs.

Teri Stewart, Gordon Avenue



Juvenile Black Rat Snake - Photo by Mark Moran

Editor's note: You can tell the difference between a copperhead and a juvenile black rat snake by looking for the hourglass pattern that distinguishes copperheads (the thin part of the darker hourglass cuts across the back of a copperhead).



"Honey Bee" by Lore Ruttan

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LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



We hope this series is fun and a way for young readers to participate. This month's article is by **Becca Pirkle**. Parents Meg and Brant Pirkle have lived on Palifox Drive since 1996. Becca and her younger brother Jack go to Mary Lin Elementary. Brant told me that in addition to the kids' anticipation of the fall season, "according to Becca and Jack, a rescue dog lies in our immediate future."

Hey there, Lake Claire kids – Let's put some of your creativity on this page. Submit articles, drawings, your original puzzles, etc., to editor@lakeclaire.org. Be creative...we'd love to hear from you.

Fall's For All!!!!

by Becca Pirkle

Hi, I'm Becca! I'm ten, in fifth grade at Mary Lin Elementary, and I've lived in Lake Claire all my life. My favorite season has always been fall, especially here in Atlanta. When it starts to feel cool out in the beginning of fall, I am getting really settled in with school. I know what my teachers are expecting, and I've made new friends. I can step outside to the wonderful cool, crisp smell, our huge leaf pile, and my little brother Jack running around with friends. I take all this in and love it, just love it!

Soon the parades and festivals begin. I love festivals and make sure I'm always included. Especially the Candler Park Fall Fest (my favorite)! When it finally comes, my family gets together with all our friends. The parents listen to music as my friends and I run around spending all our money on fun and crafts. Last year, the majority of what we bought were fudge, snap it gum, something like wacky worms, and other things that didn't last long. I just love doing that!

Another one of my favorites



*Becca Pirkle - Photo by Brant Pirkle
See Becca also on p. 1 in the long black wig and black hat.*

is the Little Five Points Halloween parade. Some of the stuff is pretty creepy, so Jack wasn't allowed to come last year [I thought the parade was fine, though]. When we go, I like dressing up in wigs and hats with friends. Last year, we got another Halloween's worth of candy! It was really fun and a lot of people we knew were in the parade, even some dogs!

I also love to go to the Halloween shop and look for new decorations. We always get spider webs and candy. Then we decorate – totally the best part! We get to climb into our attic and pull down boxes of old decorations.

Decorating the house includes getting the pumpkin. We try to get a big one, then Jack and I help decide what to carve. On the night before Halloween, we scoop out the goop and bake the seeds (they're super yummy). Then my dad carves the pumpkin. Jack and I sometimes carve mini ones.

Of course I love trick or treating every year with all the kids running around Lake Claire. I'm always excited to see all the costumes and find out what kind of candy we'll get (I always hope it's chocolate). Are you excited now? I can't wait!

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Kids: find the honey bee in the Clarion each month!

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