



Come On Out and Play!

Old-Fashioned Family Picnic in the 'Hood, May 11

According to a misty legend handed down from ancient times, it was once traditional in small towns and neighborhoods for families to get together for no other reason than to have fun. Lake Claire Neighbors and the Lake Claire Community Land Trust are reviving this lost tradition, and you're invited! So put on your khakis or your tie-dyes, round up the kids, and come on over to the Land Trust on Saturday, May 11, for an old-fashioned family picnic.

It starts at 3:00 p.m., after Saturday morning sports activities, and goes to 6:00 p.m. For only \$2.00 a plate, you'll be served a meat or veggie hot dog with all the fixins, coleslaw, chips, cookies, and a drink. Each plate comes with a raffle ticket that might win you a door prize. **Bring your own washable dishes and utensils, and you get an extra ticket!**

Scheduled activities include a scavenger hunt for the kids and guided tours of the Land Trust. Best of all, firemen from our Fire Station 12 will park their truck in the Arizona Avenue cul-de-sac for kids to explore, starting

at 3:00 p.m. (provided they don't get called to a fire!).

No amplified entertainment is planned, but Lake Claire's internationally famed musical virtuoso Ruby the Clown will be on hand (provided he doesn't get called to a fire), along with the traditional jugglers and face painters. And of course, Big Lou the Emu will be welcoming visitors down by the pond. (As always, please don't let your dog bark at him.)

Lake Claire Neighbors, the Land Trust, and Clifton Sanctuary will each set up an information table so that neighbors can learn more about their neighborhood. Parking at Clifton Sanctuary (corner of Connecticut and McLendon) is recommended.

An **RSVP** is not required, but if you know you plan to come, please email the organizers at safety@lakeclaire.org so that they can estimate how much food to buy. And note that if it rains, our **rain date** is the following Saturday, **May 18**. Watch the LCN website lakeclaire.org and the Land Trust website LCCLT.org for more details.

Mary Lin Preservation Committee Seeks History

by Boyd Baker

Do you know a key piece of history at Mary Lin Elementary? Want to preserve Mary Lin's historical/meaningful treasures? The Preservation Committee has formed to try and save key pieces during renovation. Things such as inscribed bricks, memorial markers, and such are

the main focus. We'll work with the construction team to minimize impact in key areas. If you know of elements that have meaning, please send details to Boyd Baker (boyd@sumowriter.com) or Christie Kuropatwa (kuropatwa10@gmail.com).

The Mercantile: Healthy Foods for Lake Claire and Candler Park

by Beth Damon



In 2008, Janea Boyles and Samantha Enzmann, who live in Kirkwood, started the Mercantile at 1660 Dekalb Avenue at Clifton Road, straddling Candler Park and Lake Claire. Recently, they were kind enough to share with The Clarion their ruminations on the Mercantile's inception, philosophy, and plans for the future. Our conversation follows.

Clarion: What inspired you to start the business?

Janea: The business concept was Samantha's idea. We had returned home after living in Oregon. Samantha had trained classically as a chef. We wanted to think of something for her to do in her industry, so she started brainstorming. She presented me with this idea of a cute little shop where one could pick up fresh food from a menu that changed daily, inside a place that sold groceries. At first, I was frightened. I said, "good luck with that."

Samantha, smiling: She did wish me well on that idea! And that was that. I got hired for Vi-

king Range and for Turner South at about that same time, and the idea was put on the back burner.

Janea: But, the more she talked about it, and the more we brainstormed, I was totally pulled into the idea. One day I came home from work and said, "We have to do this." That was in 2005.

Clarion: Do you know anything about the history of the building?

Samantha: Previously, this lot was a car wash.

Janea: It was pretty sketchy until a local developer bought the property, tore it down, and built up Clifton Place. For a while there were a number of folks in the neighborhood who said things like, "hey, you took away our car wash!" But, I think we've won most of them over.

Clarion: You certainly have. It was a car wash that you didn't want to visit at night. Being on the Candler Park side of Clifton, were you welcomed by the two communities, Candler Park and Lake Claire?

Samantha: Yes, I think we were. We were so pleased to find a neighborhood that had the sense of a small independent community; both Lake Claire and Candler Park residents walk and

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The Clarion (including its predecessor Neighbors Monthly and *its* predecessor Lake Claire Neighbors Flyer) has been written, edited, and distributed by volunteers since 1989.

Hanging Banner Artistic Contest: Less Than A Month Left

Less than a month left to share your creativity with your Lake Claire. The neighborhood needs a new logo design for our neighborhood hanging banners. If you're interested in donating a design to the neighborhood, please let us know by the end of this month. If we have multiple entries, and if your work is not chosen, it will not go to waste – we intend to use all the artwork submitted, for future projects, such as our reusable cloth bags (see March issue, page 1). The deadline is **May 31**, the entries will be published in the **August** newspaper, and all Lake Claire residents will be eligible to vote.

Send your entry to or write for more information from: fun@lakeclaire.org.

May: Mark your Calendars

Known, Little Known, and Unknown about MAY: May is "Date your Mate" month, National Bike Month, National Blood Pressure, Photography, Recommitment, and Older Americans Month. Week Two is Wildflower Week, and Week Three is National Police Week. We all know May 1 is May Day, and May 5 is *Cinco de Mayo*, but did you know the 3rd is International Tuba Day, May 6 is No Diet Day, and the 24th – wait for it – is National Escargot Day.

1 - 12 – Frida & Diego Exhibit at The High Museum. ("Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera: Passion, Politics, and Painting"). Clarion Editor's Choice.

1 - 31 – Plant Sales, Ga. Perimeter College, Fridays & Saturdays. Wednesday Lunch and Wildflower Series, free native plant talks, guided garden walks, and more! --see <http://gpcnativegarden.org/>

1 - August – Fernbank Museum iMax film "Titans of the Ice Age" --Woolly mammoths & saber-tooth cats! **4** - Land Trust Fairy House Tour of Homes, 4:00 p.m.-dusk.

4 - Family Fun in the Garden. Bring the whole family to the Frazer Center, Cator Woolford Gardens, for info, contact Amy Price, 404-377-3836 ext.104 or a.price@frazercenter.org (\$15/person or \$25/family)

5 - Cinco de Mayo

5 - Rally for Equality, 12-2 pm, Landtrust Stage, more info: Diirga Brough, 404-373-0585.

5 - Horizon Theatre in L5P-Sneak Peek, **FREE!** Sunday at 5pm - of the play "The Book Club Play," by Karen Zacarias. Must reserve your seat online or call 404.584.7450.

11 - Lake Claire Neighbors AND Lake Claire Land Trust - Co-Host A Good Old Fashioned Picnic - at the Land Trust (see page 1 for complete details), 3-6 p.m. Bike, walk, or park at Clifton/be kind to neighbors.

11 - Candler Park Movie Night, Princess Bride, starts 7-ish, by the Candler Park Pool House.

16 - and the third Thursday of every month - Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting, graciously hosted by The Frazer Center, in the Rose Room, pizza graciously provided by Savage Pizza. Eat & socialize 7:00 p.m., meeting 7:15 p.m.

18 - RAIN DATE FOR May 11 Picnic, Lake Claire Neighbors AND Lake Claire Land Trust, 3-6 p.m.

25 - The Friends of the Decatur Library book sale 9 am to 3 pm on the lawn in front of the Decatur Library. Thousands of gently used fiction, nonfiction, and children's books, as well as DVDs and CDs, will be offered for sale at low prices starting at 50 cents. Only cash or checks will be accepted. Dealers must scan at tables. All proceeds benefit the programs and collections of the Decatur Library. Admission is free. Donations of gently used books are always welcome at the library front desk. 215 Sycamore Street, Decatur, GA 30030. Info: llaeb@bellsouth.net

25 - Candler Park Movie Night features *Brave*, 7ish in front of the Pool House.

26 - 7 Annual Land Trust Memorial Day Yard Sale - all weekend. One man's junk is another's treasure...Donations of used items are welcome...please bring to the Arizona cul-de-sac Friday evening. Look for more details on the Land Trust website, LCCT.org

Send calendar items for JUNE/JULY (combined) Clarion by MAY 18 to editor@lakeclaire.org

Pay your Lake Claire annual dues (\$20/family), and receive new Lake Claire cloth bags - free for those who have paid their dues and also for sale for \$5/each. (For further information, see www.lakeclaire.org)

Personal and Business Classifieds

CANDLER PARK YARD CREW:

Yard cleanup, rake and bag, pruning/trimming. References available: Matt, 679-754-1095.

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My Experience of Sharing Our Home

by Norman Glassman

This continues from last month's article on Amata (which you may read at <http://www.lakeclaire.org/wpsite/clarion/clarion-archives/>; choose "April 2013").

And now I want to pass on information that is relevant to those of you who might want to share your home with others, whether it is renting out a spare room or garage, or trying to create a situation whereby enough people share your home that you benefit from the safety, social interaction, and other positive aspects of house sharing. I do this for two reasons:

First, I firmly believe that our neighborhood is better and safer, and more interesting, when we have enough people living on each street to promote a feeling that if help were needed it is close by.

With more people in a home, more eyes and ears are keeping our wonderful neighborhood streets safe. Right now that does not seem to be the case, judging by the midday walks I take when often it seems that no one is home for long stretches on our lovely side streets.

Second, sharing a house has many benefits making it a good option for some owners to consider. Here is my summary of other possible benefits: Increase of social interaction; extra income; affordable living for renters in our wonderful neighborhood; easier on the environment, lower "carbon footprint." House sharing is

a good option for those who want to stay in their homes as they become oldsters. The aforementioned extra income, safety, and social interaction make "aging in place" more feasible for many people. I believe that house sharing will become very popular with some of us aging Boomers who are open to sharing a house. Indeed, it would be quite ironic if the real flowering of the commune movements of the Sixties happened because aging Boomers got together and created various house sharing ideas as they entered their *personal* sixties.

Thanks to the wonders of the Internet, the zoning code (and most other codes) are quite accessible to find: Google "municode," go to Atlanta, then click on "Code of Ordinances," then Part III Land Development, then Part 16 Zoning. Now you can peruse the entire Zoning code. Go to Chapter 29 Definitions, Sec. 16-29.001. Scroll down to (10) and here is what you will find: (10) Dwellings, lodgings and related terms; zoning issues involved in house sharing; allowable number of residents for a single family house; definitions of dwelling units, multi-family dwellings, etc. We don't have room here for all the detail, but in particular, not more than two rooms not containing independent kitchen facilities may be occupied by a total of four or less roomers who may also board with the family. Four or less boarders, including but not necessarily restricted to



roomers on the premises, may be accommodated for compensation for any period, including daily, weekly, or monthly periods. The term "family" shall not be construed to mean fraternity, sorority, club, student center, group care homes, foster homes, and similar uses.

In addition, of course, codes about fire and electrical safety must be followed in any house or accessory building. Parking on the street is often an issue for neighbors if the street is already crowded, so there are rules about required off-street parking, which you can look up.

Of course the purpose of all the codes and laws is that people living near each other want safety and the peaceful enjoyment of their homes and yards, hence rules and regulations.

What really helps our neighborhood of Lake Claire feel good is that most of us *want* to be good neighbors and, while enjoying our own homes and yards, want our neighbors to be able to do the same. Often this means making adjustments that don't involve violations of the regulations, but are simply part of getting along. If your neighbor is having a gathering in her backyard, and it is a quiet gathering with people mostly talking and someone strumming a guitar while the sun shines through the trees and the birds are chirping, it would be neighborly of you to not fire up your loud lawn mower. No regulations prevent you, just the Golden Rule. This is true in many ways as we all work out living as good neighbors.



*Lake Claire Neighbors and the
Lake Claire Community Land Trust*

Old-Fashioned
Family Picnic
in the 'Hood



Saturday May 11 3:00-6:00 pm

Meat & veggie hot dogs ☼ Clowns ☼ Juggling ☼ Face painting
Scavenger hunt ☼ Door prizes ☼ Firetruck in the cul-de-sac!

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Keeping An Eye on the Crime – And the Time

Lake Claire Security Report February 24-March 23, 2013
(Only one this month - as taken from Police Reports)

Other Larceny

200 block Southerland Terrace: Schwinn Voyager bicycle taken from backyard

In the period from February 24 through April 6, there were only 2 reported crimes in Lake Claire: in addition to the bicycle stolen there was a physical argument between roommates. Things are going well for our neighborhood, at least for the time being. Remember to report any crime or suspicious behavior as soon as you become aware of it. The police are only able to help us if we tell them what's going on.

Cycling Improvements Coming to Lake Claire

by Hiram Maxim

As reported in the April Clarion, the Atlanta City Council approved \$2.5 million for bike-related projects in 2013. Two of the projects will take place in Lake Claire! One will involve adding a designated bike lane along McLendon, from Howard Circle to Arizona Avenue. It is unclear at this time if there will be a bike lane going both ways on McLendon or just one-way. The other project will improve the pavement and add "sharrows" from Howard Circle to Dekalb Avenue. Sharrows are markings in the street, usually the icon of a bicycle, that indicate to motorists and bicyclists to **share the road**. Both projects aim to make the PATH more bicycle-friendly along the stretch from the intersection of Dekalb Avenue and Rocky Ford to the corner of Terrace and Clifton Terrace in Candler Park. Currently, this section of the PATH is only marked by occasional road signs with little provision for bicyclists. More information about these improvements can be found at the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition website: <http://www.atlantabike.org/2.5millionforbikeprojects>.

This website is also a good place to find out about upcoming bicycle-related events. One not to miss is the next incarnation of **Atlanta Streets Alive** on Sunday, May 19, when a 2.7-mile section of Peachtree Street from Midtown to Downtown will be closed to motor vehicle traffic and open to all others (pedestrians, bicyclists, roller bladers, scooters, skateboarders, strollers, etc.). Visit <http://www.atlantastreetsalive.com> for more information, and visit <http://pathfoundation.org> for more information on PATH trails, history, and membership.

Lake Claire Invited to Fifth Annual Candler Park Movie Night

by Mark Clement


The 5th annual Candler Park Movie Night series is set to begin! Our cinematic experience rivals that of a movie theater...and better yet, since movie theaters frown on your bringing your coolers and blankets. Plus, nothing beats being under the stars in the best park in town!

Movie nights start at 7:00ish, and the feature presentation will go on as soon as it gets dark enough. In the event of a rainy day, check www.friendsofCandlerPark.org.

Rain days are typically the following weekend.

Well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcome. Coolers are ok, but glass containers/bottles are strictly forbidden in city parks.

This season's remaining schedule is: May 11 Princess Bride, May 25 Brave, August 10 Lorax, August 24 Pee-wee's Big Adventure, September 7 Ferris Bueeler's Day Off, and September 21 Field of Dreams.



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The Lake Claire Community Land Trust is a green oasis in the heart of Atlanta. But it is more than a place; it is also the community of neighbors and friends who gather here to celebrate nature, the arts, and each other.

Active stewardship is what keeps the magic going. Make a one-time donation or subscribe to a monthly donation plan. Whatever you give is perfect. You can also put a check or cash into the chute in our bulletin board, or mail it to LCCLT, P.O. Box 5379, Atlanta GA 31107. Donations are tax deductible. For a receipt, send email to: treasurer@lcct.org.

May Land Trust Events:

4 and 18, 8 p.m. to midnight – Drum Circle (first and third Saturdays of each month, no drugs or alcohol, please. Drive slowly, and park responsibly.

5 and 19, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. – Volunteer Play days - Volunteer Play Days are held the Sunday after Drum circles in the afternoon. Fellowship and Pizza is provided. Bring gloves, water, and your “good energy.”

May 5 – Rally for Equality, 12-2 pm, Landtrust Stage, more info: Diirga Brough, 404-373-0585.

May 11 – Picnic co-hosted with Lake Claire Neighborhood Organization. Please see article with details on Page 1.

May 25-26 – Annual Land Trust Memorial Day Yard Sale - all weekend. One man's junk is another's treasure... Donations of used items are welcome...please bring to the Arizona cul-de-sac Friday evening.

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.

Growing up in Lake Claire Co-Housing

by Kay Kuck



For long term resident 24-year-old David Kuck, Lake Claire Co-housing provided a childhood full of positives and negatives. An idyllic mini “Wonder bread” neighborhood coupled with 15 co-parents -- who not only knew your business, but freely gave you verbal reminders of good behavior and snitched to your parent/s about serious infractions.

A constant stream of hand-me-downs, a somewhat liberal political atmosphere, and a broad-

minded outlook provided a background of childhood memories. Love, strong values and a series of snapshots and memories reflecting the commonality of an extended “co-family” are a product of a Co-housing childhood.

Would David raise his children in such a setting? An emphatic “NO” has turned into an open-ended “Maybe” as this only child reflects on childhood memories of growing up with his co-siblings.

Freedom Park Bird and Butterfly Garden Seeking Volunteers

Shifts will be 2-3 hours weekly or monthly. Fun duties include planting, weeding, watering, and general clean-up. The garden is located at the corner of North Ave., and Candler Park Drive. For more information contact Carol Vanderschaaf at cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net.

Mosquitos Coming to Lake Claire Soon

by David Fasano

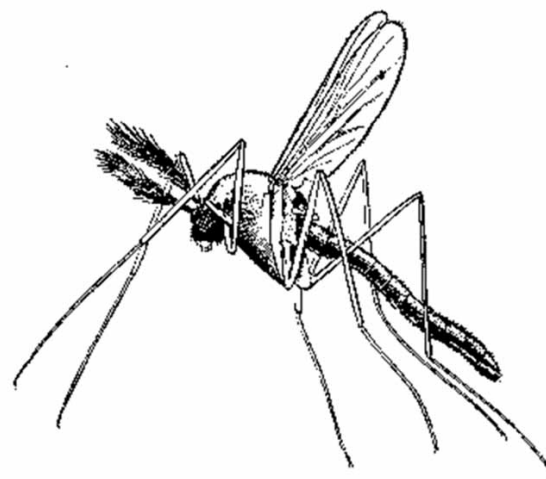


illustration by Lore Ruttan

Yay!! It's Spring!! Time to get ready for Mosquito invasions. Here is an easy, natural, pleasant repellent recipe you can make at home.

Combine in a 16-oz bottle:

15 drops lavender oil, 3-4 Tbsp of vanilla extract, 10 drops of lemon eucalyptus oil, 1/4 cup lemon juice. Fill bottle with water. Shake, and it's ready to use.

Spray on yourself.

The Garden from May into June

by Elizabeth Knowlton

This is again the time of year to think about ordering bulbs for next spring, which begins here in late December. The best and freshest bulbs are obtained from long-standing, reputable companies for whom bulb growing is a primary business and who have good contacts in the Netherlands. I continue to recommend Brent and Becky's (formerly the Daffodil Mart), John Scheep-er, and Messelaar, all three on the east coast. Check the Internet for particulars, but I suggest asking for catalogs too as they make it easy to compare and contrast. Ask that your bulbs be delivered in early November or on last ship date. Refrigerate them separately from fruit from the time they arrive until you can get them into the ground in November or early December.

As I planted the last bulbs Dec. 1, 2012, the first species crocus opened, a purple one along my front walk where I had no recollection of planting such a color. By Dec. 21, species crocus Snow Bunting, a dependable regular each year, had opened in the street bed. (Also that day, the last flower opened on *rosa*

Gloire de Dijon; and, as I write on Apr. 16, it is again beginning to bloom.) On Jan. 4, 2013, the snowdrops were open; Jan. 13, the first narcissus, February Gold; Jan. 18 species crocus *ancyrensis*; Jan. 29, *iris reticulata*; Feb. 1, *muscaris* or grape hyacinth. And so forth. Do you get the picture? With bulbs and the easy, shade-loving hellebores, we can have flowers every month of the year.

If these small, early bulbs interest you, I recommend Elizabeth Lawrence's *The Little Bulbs: A Tale of Two Gardens* (1957), based on her plot in Raleigh, NC, and her friend's large woodland in Ohio. In such chapters as "Snowdrops and Snowflakes," "Squills and Daffodils," and "Colchicums and Crocuses," she explores the yearlong panorama of these small flowers that dependably return and even increase. "When a little bulb blooms in my garden," she says, "I see it not only there, but also beside a Florida lake, or on a rock wall in Alabama, or in a pot on a San Francisco terrace." p. 3. As Miss Lawrence once famously said: "No one gardens alone."

It is still not too late to start tomatoes from seed indoors although you should transplant these and sweet potato slips into the garden by the end of June. You can also cut a non-fruiting branch of an existing tomato plant, set it in water until it grows roots, and pot it up to a sturdy plant for your garden. I should have done this last year with Big Girl.

This year I am growing Sweet Million (cherry), Viva Italia (paste), Portehouse, Costoluto, Ultragirl, Mater, and Persimmon. I've also started Defense and Cherokee Purple but have no idea where I'll put them.

Continue to plant Irish potatoes now and to sow cucumbers, squash, okra, and field peas through June. If you planted your squash in April, you may avoid the borer. I have also had luck by starting them indoors in July and setting them out two weeks later. So far, barriers, like wrapping the lower stems in stockings or using row covers, have worked best for me. This year, I plan to set up the pop-up mesh enclosure I use to protect broccoli from squirrels. Of course, these covers must be removed when squash flowers appear so bees may fertilize them.

Speaking of squirrels, the situation has changed since last winter when any glance from a window took in at least four or five of these rodents digging in the garden or running up and down trees. Whether by natural or other means (the breeding rate of many animals does vary according to food supply), the number of squirrels has dropped precipitously between December and April. I have also buried four corpses during this time, cause of death unknown.

Even if you have not started annual flowers from seed, it is not too late to put in flats from a store. For begin-

ners, I suggest marigolds, zinnias, and (in shade) impatiens and coleus. Do experiment with some seeds sown directly, even now. Zinnias and cosmos are quick and easy. Thin them for good air circulation, reading labels for spacing, usually nine-twelve inches. Also try seeding cleome and melampodium, two readily available self-seeders for me. Once you have cleome or spider flower, you will never be without.

Although last winter was again "too" warm (the lowest I recorded was 29 degrees on Feb. 2 and 17 and annual sweet alyssum came through alive), our gardens were saved by lower temperatures in March. Tulips, which had begun blooming on stalkless plants, slowly raised themselves to full glory as the month progressed, and I had the best season ever. The saucer magnolias, shortened by neither frost nor heat, bloomed for a month. Flowering cherries, especially the three giants on Benning Place, were spectacular. And the dogwoods, opening as they should in April, had their own time of glory.

Some of this coolness was caused by more normal rainfall. We had over seven inches in February and about five more in March. Already we have surpassed the 2012 April rainfall, not difficult as it was only four tenths of an inch. Keep your fingers crossed.

You may e-mail Elizabeth with gardening questions/comments - knowltonew@earthlink.net. -Ed.

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Cynthia Baer


Putting Down Roots

Curious about Home Values or just need advice?


I have lived in the neighborhood for over 10 years and have a strong connection to this community, the homes and the people in them. It's important to me to help better where we live, work and play.

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Mercantile cont. from p. 1

bike and know their neighbors.

Janea: Yes, we were very welcomed by our neighbors in both CP and Lake Claire. We made efforts to reach out well in advance of our opening, introducing ourselves at neighborhood association meetings, NPU meetings, and local festivals. Everyone was really excited about what we were up to. Everyone has been really supportive, and we are grateful.

Clarion: How has the Mercantile evolved as you've been there?

Samantha: This has been a growing experience for the two of us as individuals and professionally. If you don't listen to your guest base and aren't willing to compromise and make difficult decisions, you won't last long. Our concept has changed tremendously from that original brainstorming, to our initial opening, and then today. A southern Dean & DeLuca combination larder was what we had hoped for, but the economy and our neighbors weren't ready for that concept. Prepared foods grabbed their attention, and freshly made sandwiches really helped us earn our keep and change our focus. We'll continue to strive for new and interesting freshly made items with seasonal focus while listening to our guests. I'm proud of what we've accomplished. We'll be focusing more on grocery staples, and quality-made products from local producers in the near future. It's been a tremendous learning experience and journey, and I am grateful for what we've accomplished. We turn five in September.

Janea: Wow, have we really come a long way! If we've learned anything it's about being light on your feet and being willing to listen to what people tell you they want. As Samantha said, our

initial vision was to be a low-key neighborhood oriented version of a Dean & DeLuca -- with loads of specialty grocery items and a little bit of prepared foods. But, we soon discovered that was not what our neighbors were really hoping for. People were really into the idea of picking up fresh, prepared foods. So we have thrown almost all of our energy into our chef-driven menu items in the first four and a half years. Making fresh salads, building sandwiches to order, roasting chickens, preparing soups from scratch, and keeping family style casseroles in our grab-and-go cooler really seem to keep our neighbors happy and well fed. It's a pleasure! Now that we have spent the first 4.5 years focusing on the structure of our fresh food offerings, we're ready to return a little bit of our focus to specialty and local grocery. Providing fresh, from-scratch meals will always be the mainstay of what we do. But, now we are really looking forward to rounding that out with more items on our retail floor. We are getting in new items every week. More are to come!

Also, when we first opened we did not have a license to sell wine or beer. It took us nine long months to get our license. It was a very slow process building our wine program. But, it has been a fun journey. We absolutely love tasting new wines and bringing them in for our guests to try. We used to hold wine tastings once a month. Now we are conducting tastings at our table twice a week and holding special events with wine makers and importers regularly. What started out as a six-bottle selection has now grown to around 60 different bottles of wine to choose from. We'll never be a full-blown wine shop or package store, but we are thrilled for the privilege to have built this



Janea Boyles at the Mercantile wine tasting

program from scratch. Plus, it's a lot of fun introducing folks to new wines.

Clarion: What is your own favorite offering from the Mercantile?

Janea: Chef Samantha's sesame noodles are so simple, but so delicious! Our guests feel the same way, I guess, because they are a big seller. And, of course, I am a big fan of Lisa's Korean Beef Tacos, which she does often on Wednesday nights.

Samantha: I love our roasted hens. A simple dinner with roast chicken, succotash salad, and a baguette makes me smile inside. Additionally I'm a fan of all our sandwiches, but I am biased. My favorite is the Cabbagetown...it's a funky little sandwich, and it's plant based.

Clarion: What are your plans for the future?

Samantha: We hope to expand our business, with more offerings and growing our catering. As we develop, we'll create more jobs and a greater selection of house-made items to meet demand. Right now these four walls need all of our attention. In the long-term, perhaps a Mercantile part deux or another dining concept that is value driven with sit down service with libations... both of us brainstorm all the time!

Janea: Our plans are to continue shoring up The Mercantile and making it as solid as possible. We really want to take care of our employees and ourselves. I am amazed and grateful every day that we have people who want to come to work for us and make this "little shop that could" happen right by our side. Our staff members really are the kind of people

that like to come to work every day and make our guests happy. I am inspired by them.

Both Samantha and I want to give back to our team by making The Mercantile a fantastic place to work. We are a pretty happy place to work these days, but I want to drive it to be an even better place. So it's our hope to continue growing our grocery and catering offerings, and developing new business. I know with more new business coming through the doors every day, we will be able to offer more to our employees. I have become convinced that with an amazing team, you can take a business to unspeakable heights. We've got a long way to go, but we absolutely will get there with this. On a more product-oriented front, I know Chef Samantha hopes that we can increase the use of local produce in the kitchen and add more specialty and local offerings on our retail floor. As we continue to get more solid as a business we are also hoping to add more environmentally sustainable initiatives back into our daily operations. Lots to do! We have lots to look forward to!

And Lake Claire looks forward to being a part of it. The Mercantile is open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. They have been a good business neighbor, supporting neighborhood events both in LC and CP, and Mary Lin School. Let's continue to support them and continued to enjoy delicious food offerings and wine tastings. See their website for "this week's menu," "FAQs," and "What's New," which includes the essential items in Chef Samantha's Pantry. -Ed.





LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



I hope this series is fun and a way for young readers to participate. This month's contribution is written by Jamie, aged 7, an avid gardener, mathematician, Japanophile, and a second grader at Mary Lin. Parents Bronwyn and Robert have lived in Lake Claire for nine years. As Bronwyn says, "All our kids are Clarions."

Hey there, Lake Claire kids - or Clarions --- Let's put some of your creativity on this page. Submit articles, poetry, drawings, your original puzzles, etc., to editor@lake-claire.org. Next time: what do you like about Spring, or Summer, or Lake Claire...or choose any topic you wish. Be creative...we'd love to hear from you!

Why I Love Lake Claire

My name is Jamie. I live in Lake Claire with my mom, my dad, and my little brother and sister. I am in second grade at Mary Lin elementary. I really love my school and my teacher, Mr. Kimball. He is the best teacher ever and really funny. My favorite subject is math, but I also love drawing, especially manga. I love movies from Japan like *Kiki's Delivery Service* and *My Neighbor Totoro*, and my mom is taking me to Japan when I turn 10.

I also like eating different foods from Japan like sushi and pickled ginger. Maybe I should have been born in Japan! I also love eating at the Flying Biscuit and I always order pasta sausage and eggs. It is so good, but I can never finish it.

Another thing I love about Lake

Claire is that I have very nice neighbors. A lot of my friends live here. We go bike riding on our block and sometimes I go walking on the Beltline with my family. After school sometimes we go to the Land Trust where I love to play on the swing. Sometimes my dad takes me rock climbing.

And I love spring. I love spring because that's the time when all of the flowers bloom in our garden. This year, I planted a lot of seeds like watermelon, wonder berry, tomatoes, eggplant and cinnamon basil. But the squirrels keep leaving little surprises inside the pots. Well that's why I love Lake Claire. But I still have one more thing to say: **I couldn't live any place better than Lake Claire.**

Jamie



Jamie (top step) and her little brother and sister



Jamie with her plants

Can Dogs Count? What do you think?

If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then giving your doggie only two of them.

Leash Laws: Not Just a Suggestion

No matter how well-trained you think your dog is, your commands are sometimes no match for a squirrel, cat, or other dog. Walking a dog off of a leash is careless and lazy dog ownership at best, and it is dangerous in many situations. This includes our own Lake Claire Park.

Dogs that bite can be impounded and euthanized, even if the dog doesn't have a history of aggression. Could you live with the consequences for your dog if something happened while he was running off-leash? Dog bites are also expensive. According to the Insurance Information Institute, the average cost of a dog bite claim in 2010 was just over \$26,000. You could build a phenomenal fenced yard for a fraction of the cost! It only takes one time for a dog to react when off-leash to cause a death or injury.