

# Back to School

## Inman Middle School Capacity Issues

Under a preliminary plan to relieve overcrowding at Inman Middle School, Atlanta Public Schools Superintendent Erroll B. Davis Jr. proposes to expand Centennial Place Elementary School by adding 6th through 8th grades. The proposal, which Davis plans formally to present to the Atlanta Board of Education at its August or September meeting, also includes a physical expansion of Inman Middle School by 10,000 to 12,000 square feet.

Superintendent Davis outlined his plans in a letter sent to the Inman Middle Task Force last month. The Board of Education would have to vote on the below proposal – and allocate funds. The proposed solution keeps Mary Lin safely in the cluster for now, at least. Of interest to our neighborhood also is that current school board member Cecily Harsch-Kinnane is not seeking reelection this year (she serves Lake Claire), and Brenda Muhammad’s seat as well as the at-large seats, which also serve the Grady Cluster, are being con-

tested.

The proposal is (1) to change Centennial to a K-8 format in concert with another school in the Jackson cluster to test the efficacy of this model over a five-year period. This part of the work has already begun with the Board’s initial blessing, and community meetings will soon be held in the Centennial area. This should remove 150-200 students, at peak, from the Inman draw area. The goal is to have this operational for the 2014-2015 school year;

(2) to add a 10-12,000 square ft. addition containing six-eight classrooms, and after the addition is complete, remove the remaining portables and restore the two playing fields. Better utilization of the entire property would be sought.

(3) The plan also calls for demolishing Walden Middle School in the Old Fourth Ward neighborhood and converting the site into play fields for Inman Middle and Grady High schools.

Superintendent Davis believes that the above solution will not

only work, but will also eliminate the necessity for a sixth grade academy. He welcomes thoughts and comments from parents. The next two school board meetings are September 9 and October 7. Make comment at the APS website, <http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/page/392>.

## A Movie Night in our own Lake Claire

Lake Clarions enjoy Candler Park Movie Nights, but sometimes there are movie nights closer to home. One recent summer evening, Peter and Alyssa Olsen hosted a Leonardo Movie Night. Kids watched *Finding Nemo* while adults visited and sipped drinks. The Olsens provided popcorn, fans, and the entire movie set-up. Neighbors on

and around Leonardo started early so that all the little ones could still make it to bed at a decent time. A great time was had by all!

Please see the Kids’ Corner article on the back of this issue, for eight-year-old Ally Bliss’ perspective of movie night and other fun things about being a kid on Leonardo.



Leonardo movie night at the home of Peter and Alyssa Olsen

# New Lake Claire Banner: Looking for the Perfect Fit

Lake Claire Neighbors extends a heartfelt thank you to the artists who have already sent submissions for the Lake Claire banner. The Executive Committee appreciates the time and energy expended to meet the banner deadline as previously announced. However, based on the fact that there is no clear winner from the entries initially submitted, and that a groundswell of interest in the banner remains, the competition remains open.

Based on the response from many neighbors, LCN’s Executive Committee feels the process needs to be more clearly defined. Therefore, with apologies to all, but with continued excitement about the banner project, these guidelines are offered, and artists are invited and encouraged to submit new designs and re-submit earlier designs within the following guidelines.

### Here are the guidelines:

1. Maximum of two submissions per artist (re-submissions certainly accepted).
2. Ideas suggested but not required to include: Lake Claire est. circa 1915 on the design; sunflower (as shown in our current branding); images from the Watershed Mural (e.g., the frog as shown in our current branding); Lake Claire Skier (reflecting Lake Claire tag line “Ski Lake Claire”); images to reflect the diversity of the neighborhood -- faces and/or houses.
3. To help voters judge, each submission should include a statement as to why the artist chose this image to represent Lake Claire.
4. The hanging banner measures 18"x36". The digital specs are: min 75 dpi, min 2660 pixels x 1497 pixels.

The winning artist retains the copyright to his or her artwork, but licenses the artwork for any use by Lake Claire Neighbors Inc. All artists retain copyright to their entries, but allow their work to be used on other items such as tote bags, T-shirts, post cards and bumper stickers. Once a winner is chosen by the membership, LCN Inc. will provide technical specifications for any digital artwork.

Prize: The winning artist will receive free 6 months of a business-card-size ad in the Clarion and the gratitude of all your neighbors for your generous gift.

The deadline for submissions is November 1. The Executive Committee will review the submissions and present the selected finalists for a vote by the membership on the winning entry, which will take place at the December holiday meal.

**Many thanks to all who have and will participate in creating our new logo and banner. Any questions as well as entries can be submitted to [President@LakeClaire.org](mailto:President@LakeClaire.org).**

### Highlights of this issue

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**Clarion volunteer needed!**  
Please see Page 3 for details.

**THE CLARION IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.**



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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 Neighbors, Officers, or the Clarion Staff.

## SEPTEMBER: Mark your Calendars

September comes from the Latin *septem*, meaning “seven,” and *septimus* means “seventh”; September was in fact the seventh month of the Roman calendar until 46 BC/BCE. The birthstone is the sapphire. September is Classical Music Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, Fall Hat Month, International Square Dancing Month, National Blueberry Popsicle Month, Honey Month, and Better Breakfast Month. September 19 is International Talk Like A Pirate Day (and our monthly meeting at the Frazer Center, where talking like a pirate will be optional. Avast!).

**6** Fernbank Educator Evening, at Martinis & IMAX, includes exhibits, IMAX film, drinks; see <http://fernbankmuseum.org/calendar-of-events/educator-evening-2013/>

**7 and other Saturdays in Sept.** Trees Atlanta has interesting and fun events. See <http://treesatlanta.org/calendar/2013-09/>

**7** Candler Park Movie Nights – featuring *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, 7ish in front of the Pool House.

**7** Land Trust “Grow Your Own Oyster Mushrooms,” 10:00 am-1:00 pm. Contact instructor Brandi Arts for info, [medicinalarts@gmail.com](mailto:medicinalarts@gmail.com). AND Dark until midnight, Drum Circle. Walk, bike, carpool. Donation.

**8** Great Atlanta Bicycle Parade, 2 Fall Sundays, 9/8 and 10/6. Write to: [info@atlantabike.org](mailto:info@atlantabike.org)

**8** Land Trust Open Mike Night, 5:00-7:00 pm. Spoken word and acoustic music artists, come grace our stage, The Mark. Sign up when you arrive. ALSO “Keep the Trust” Volunteer Work Day, 11:00 am-2:00 pm. Volunteers get free pizza and a drum circle pass (Also September 22).

**13** Land Trust Monthly Community Pot Luck, Gazebo, 6:30 p.m. (bring your own cup, plate, utensils)

**14** Epworth Church Tea Party to support Solomon House, 2-4 pm. Raise funds for Out of Darkness (to get young girls out of sex trafficking situations) <http://www.epworthcandlerpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Insert-081813.pdf>. RSVP: [kristin.turgeon@gmail.com](mailto:kristin.turgeon@gmail.com)

**19 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. (check our website for the current agenda and past meeting minutes.)**

**20 – October 20.** *Third Country* by Suehyla El-Attar, World Premiere. (See last month's Clarion article, and <http://www.horizontheatre.com/season.htm>)

**21** Candler Park Movie Night – *Field of Dreams*, 7ish, Pool House, [www.friendsofcandlerpark.org](http://www.friendsofcandlerpark.org). Rain dates one week later.

**21** Land Trust Drum Circle, dark until midnight, walk-bike-carpool. Donation requested.

**22** Land Trust Volunteer Work Day, see above, September 8.

**28-29:** 13th Annual Candler Park Fallfest. Great, free, family fun. 150+ artist booths, KidZone, great food, and more. Information at <http://fallfest.candlerpark.org/>.

**28** Fernbank Forest Bird Walk, 8 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., with an Atlanta Audobon Society volunteer, see <http://fernbankmuseum.org/calendar-of-events/fernbank-forest-bird-walk-september-28/>.

ALSO: September 28-January 5: Marco Polo, Man & Myth Exhibit. Info from [Brandi.berry@fernbankmuseum.org](mailto:Brandi.berry@fernbankmuseum.org).

**28/9** Candler Park Fall Fest. Fantastic festival all day Saturday and Sunday with great bands, great stuff for kids, 5K, see details -- [www.candlerparkfallfest.com](http://www.candlerparkfallfest.com).

### EARLY OCTOBER:

**12** Peace & Love Harvest Fest at the Land Trust, featuring headliner Delta Moon

**13** Rhea Lana's of Decatur / Druid Hills Fall 2013 Children's Consignment Event. Consignor registration and volunteer sign-up is going on now. Write to [lperlst@yahoo.com](mailto:lperlst@yahoo.com)

**Send calendar items for OCTOBER Clarion by SEPTEMBER 15 to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org)**

**Thank you to Savage Pizza for providing pizza to our neighborhood meetings!**

## Keeping An Eye on the Crime – And the Time

### Lake Claire Security Report, June 30 – August 3, 2013

#### Auto Theft

*300 block Connecticut Ave* 6/30/13 from parking lot  
 Vehicle was recovered and prints obtained.  
 Damage: passenger door lock and ignition port were removed.  
*2000 block DeKalb Ave* 7/15/13 from parking lot  
 1996 green Honda Accord with GA tag  
*200 block Mathews Ave* 7/29/13 from street; vehicle left unlocked  
 2001 gold Hyundai Elantra with GA tag  
 victim heard a car door slam around 1 AM

#### Other Larceny

*1600 block DeKalb Ave, Salon Red* 7/19/13 Taken: cash, wallets, cards  
 Items were taken from unattended breakroom by 2 black suspects one of whom asked to use the bathroom while the other stayed in the reception area.  
*400 block Claire Dr* 7/26/13 two vehicles parked at residence  
 Damage: windows broken on each vehicle Taken: camera No prints

#### Robbery

*200 block Arizona Ave* 7/3/13 Taken: purse/wallet, cards, cash, pay check, driver's license, medication, iPhone, keys  
 Victim was approached by three black males as she stood underneath

the bridge at DeKalb Ave; a shot was fired. APD officers searched for the suspects aged 15 to 20 who fled on foot and found a recently stolen vehicle belonging to the victim.

*Attempted 1600 block McLendon Ave, CP Market* 7/11/13 Taken: nothing

Victim with child in stroller was approached by 4 b/m juveniles who pushed stroller in street to distract her in order to steal her iPhone and iPad. They fled on foot.

#### Theft from Auto

*1700 block Adolphus St* 6/30/13 parked on street Damage: none  
 Taken: nothing No prints  
 Perpetrator left scene in silver SUV  
*200 block Hampton Terr* 7/3/13 parked on street  
 Damage: none (doors left unlocked) Taken: Ray Ban glasses  
 Prints obtained  
*400 block Harold Ave* 7/14/13 parked on street  
 Damage: passenger window broken Taken: iPod Nano  
 No prints due to rain  
*2000 block McLendon Ave* 7/22/13 parked on street  
 Damage: rear window broken Taken: money no prints obtained

*For up to date security reports,  
 join [lakeclaireneighborhoodwatch@yahoogroups.com](mailto:lakeclaireneighborhoodwatch@yahoogroups.com)*

# 21 Years Gourmet in Lake Claire

by McKenzie Wren

Haggis, crickets, and rabbit. Pirates, Japan and Out of the Box. White trash, Murder Mystery, and a High Tea. What could all of these possibly have in common? Twenty-one years of the gourmet club! Back in 1992, Genise and Bernard Spenle hosted the first of what has turned into 21 years of neighbors cooking, drinking, eating, and dressing up. Origins are murky, but the group agreed it evolved from a small women's supper club. The concept is simple: hosts pick a theme; everyone chooses a dish, cooks it, and (usually) comes dressed accordingly. Hosts clean up, and the next cycle begins about three months later. Over the years we have added a few but very important addenda: Members have to live within walking distance from the "power corner" of Arizona and Indiana (so you can stagger home safely late at night!); no kids in the house; and, a rule that was added after our fine philosophers and politically opposite members, Mitzy Hidding and Mark Sanger, nearly came to blows: no argument – political or religious - can last over 10 minutes at the table! Because we take risks on food, trying out new recipes, we developed our catch phrase "It's exactly as I planned" instead of explaining how it is completely different from the original intent or taste!

The group started as 10 mem-

bers: Rick and Mitzy Hidding, Genise and Bernard Spenle, Patti and Burges Richardson, Miriam Herbers and Mark Sanger, Janie Wright and Tracey Turner. Today four original members remain, but through the years long-term members have emerged. Betsy Hoddinott joined in 1994. Then-neighbors, Reuben Haller and Judi Horn both joined in 1998. Their first hosting was Middle Eastern, featuring a tent strung in the middle of the living room, table on the floor, Marsha Weinstein as musician, and Lee Goldsmith as a very furry belly dancer.

My first supper was a Scottish themed one in 1999 at Patti and Burges' house featuring a haggis covered in mold which Patti had smuggled in her armpit from Scotland and Reuben wearing a girl's plaid skirt as a "kilt." He wore it in true Scots style, and the less said about that, the better! I was just a girlfriend then and meeting Reuben's friends for the first time. Since the theme went with my Scottish name, I arrived sporting some semblance of a Scottish brogue, which I managed to maintain through entirely too many glasses of Scotch whiskey! The group was very kind and informed Reuben that I got to stay whether our relationship continued or not! (They might even have threatened to keep me

and oust him should it come down to it, but fortunately we've never had to find out!)

Current members include those four originals, those already named, plus Debbie Livingston, Bob Sattlemeyer, and Lee Kirkland. David Tsao and Ken Scott are long-term, honorary members due to the "boyfriend rule." Judi Horn, a long-term member, moved away for many years, but returned to us upon her move back to Atlanta.

Some nights have been more memorable than others, and some we simply can't remember. I know we had a casino theme, but the martinis at the very beginning of the evening clouded any further recollections! Our musical theme generated the best (and only) theme song: Suppertime, by Bob Sattlemeyer & George Gershwin. Best costumes include Pacific Rim, White Trash, and Pirate Feast. Best decoration includes Japanese with a recreated Buddhist temple on Mark and Miriam's porch complete with a large Buddha statue and a gong. We've dined in the dark; star gazed; foraged; and fused food styles together. We've been around the world in 80 days, interpreted "Small," and "Something in the Water"; we've explored Foods That Heal and celebrated a Presidential inauguration. During the Olympics



*Gourmet Club 20th anniversary*

in 1996, Patti Richardson made an 'Olympic Torch' Baked Alaska, lit it, and ran around the table. Though opinions vary, I would say the theme which produced the least inspired dishes was 'Raw' – where almost every dish involved pureed cashew and left us groaning over the oily richness of it! Miriam says, "Every dish is memorable because each is exactly as it was intended to be...therefore perfect." Rick remembers having to evacuate Janie's kitchen one night when Mark began frying hot Thai peppers, and everyone began wheezing and crying!

Though the group has ebbed and flowed over the years – some moving, one, of blessed memory, dying – what remains constant is the delicious food, the creativity, and the community fellowship. We have seen children be born (in fact I missed one dinner because I had a three-day old baby!), children grow up, spouses separate, new loves emerge. Through it all, members have been there for each other, gathering around food and fun and the declaration that "It's exactly as I planned!"

## Looking for Volunteers to Help the Clarion, and thus, the Neighborhood

by Beth Damon

Your neighborhood needs YOU. I am looking for someone to coordinate our advertising while our current advertising coordinator, Talia, is on maternity leave, November through about February. Talia will be able to do the next issue, and it would be great if we could get a volunteer right away so that the person could work with Talia on the next issue, which would mean starting right away. Each month, the advertising list is finalized on the 15th of the month for the next issue, and September 15 is around the corner from when this issue comes out September 1. The job entails managing the advertising responsibility, including keeping an existing database updated, coordinating ad artwork, and checking with the treasurer to

make sure checks and paypal payments have come in.

In addition to the advertising coordinator, I have been wanting to find one or more people who have been hoping for something to do to help the neighborhood, but might have been worried about having the time. This would be to make some phone calls to try to increase our Clarion advertising base. Our current volunteers have no more extra time, but we are hoping there might be folks in the neighborhood who have been looking for a way to volunteer, and this could be an opportunity for you and us.

At a recent Executive Committee meeting, Beth Krebs offered the idea of a committee of four to six neighbors meeting quarterly to do a "divide and conquer" tech-

nique to solicit more advertising from local businesses. This could combine fun with business, by holding get-togethers at a coffee shop or 'watering hole.' The goal would be to combine fun with neighborhood business; to distribute the workload to enable neighbors who may not have much available time to contribute. And, of course, to meet new neighbors and socialize!

The group could obtain ad leads from other community newspapers and newsletters as well as past issues of the Clarion; we could create "drop cards" that the social club members can use when visiting local businesses – card would include Clarion/LC stats (# of households, demographics, etc.) and a few points on the advantages of advertis-

ing. Our Advertising Coordinator would still continue the role of managing the advertising responsibility, which includes keeping the database, communicating with existing advertisers, soliciting ad artwork, etc. The new volunteers could create a database to list potential advertisers by category. We could have a quarterly Clarion feature, such as a summer camp overview, or local dining options, that would bring in advertisers related to the feature.

If you are potentially interested in the advertising coordinator volunteer position or have any time to make a few phone calls for us, please write [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org). Please think about it! WE NEED YOU!



# Your LCN Dues Help to Support Great Things



## *\$20 goes a long way!*

Clifton Ministries, Frazer Center, Holiday Dinner, Harold Avenue Green space and other green spaces, Additions to Lake Claire Park, Mary Lin Elementary, Halloween Parade, The Clarion, and more. Just a sampling of what your Lake Claire

Neighborhood Association Dues help to support. Go to [www.lakeclaire.org](http://www.lakeclaire.org) now, and see how easy it is to make your family's \$20 count in 2013/14. You may even pay with PayPal!



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## Neighborhood Life Cycle Events

To continue a feature begun last month for Lake Claire residents, we request your help. Let us know at [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org) if you know of any birthdays for the upcoming month, or any births or deaths or important rights of passage. As space allows, we will include in the newspaper. **Let us know your suggestions by SEPTEMBER 15 for the month of October.**

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## The Kirkwood Wine Stroll

Friday, September 27, 2013 - 6:30pm

Pull out your zoot suit, pearls & dancing shoes for a night of Roaring '20s fun as we close the street in downtown Kirkwood and indulge like adults

Tickets \$25 before Sept. 24 then \$35 Sept. 24 thru day of event

 Detail and tickets: [Facebook.com/KirkwoodWineStroll](https://www.facebook.com/KirkwoodWineStroll)

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### Personal and Business Classifieds

#### CANDLER PARK YARD CREW:

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

Room Wanted in Lake Claire or Candler Park area, in exchange for cooking, cleaning, errands. Mature, friendly, responsible pet-loving woman artist (part-time employee of Donna Van Goghs, excellent references). Cate @ 404-263-4789.



# Bike Update:

## NPU Approves Bike Lanes for McLendon Avenue

by Hiram Maxim

At its July meeting the Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) that includes Lake Claire (NPU-N) approved the installation of bike lanes along McLendon Avenue between Connecticut Avenue and Howard Circle. In the approved plan, one five-foot-wide bike lane will run westbound up the hill on the north side of McLendon between the entrance to Lake Claire Park and Connecticut Avenue, and then there will be another five-foot-wide bike lane running eastbound on the south side of McLendon between the park entrance and Howard Circle. In addition, sharrows pavement markings will be added to the pavement at the beginning of each block, and the existing on-street parking on the south side of McLendon between Connecticut and Howard Circle will be more clearly marked. This plan was the result of fruitful discussions between Lake Claire residents, the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition, and representatives from the City of Atlanta's Department of Planning and Community De-

velopment. After concerns were raised about an earlier plan that would have removed the on-street parking on McLendon, Lake Claire Neighborhood Association President Joe Agee conducted a survey of 32 households along McLendon directly affected by the plan and asked for their feedback on four different bike lane plans. Fifteen (47%) of the households responded, and fourteen of them (93%) approved the plan ("Option D") that was then forwarded to and ultimately approved by the NPU.

This improvement to biking safety in the neighborhood is part of the \$2.5 million plan approved by the Atlanta City Council in February 2013 to improve cycling in the city. More information on this plan can be found at <http://www.atlantabike.org/2.5millionforbikeprojects>. The timeline for installing the bike lanes has not yet been established.

In other bike-related news, be sure to mark Sunday, September 8, and Sunday, October 6, on your

calendars for the next two installments of Atlanta Streets Alive. On September 8th, Peachtree Road will be closed to motorized traffic from 2 to 6pm between 17th Street in Midtown and Mitchell Street downtown and will become a site of "human-powered amusement". On October 6, the fun moves to Virginia-Highland, Old Fourth Ward, and Midtown, when the loop that connects Highland Avenue, Boulevard, Monroe Avenue, and Virginia Avenue will be closed between 2 and 6pm to motorized traffic. More information available at <http://www.atlantastreetsalive.com>.

# Letter to the Editor

Dear Lake Claire,

Must I stop walking my leashed dog through Lake Claire Park and on Frazer Center grounds? For the umptieth time, I walked into LC park this morning in late August to find others have their dogs unleashed, who often run up and scare my dog, not to mention "do their business" where children will be playing. The owners cannot control their dogs. Once, my own previously non-aggressive dog bit me by mistake out of stress and excitement. Shouldn't these owners be taking their dogs to fenced-in dog parks, as I do to let my dog off the lead? Cannot the police begin to do some surprise visits with heavy fines and get this under control? It is a big problem. Please, Lake Claire leadership, please. Or perhaps I should keep out of the Park.

Call Me Anonymous, to keep from being ostracized for this opinion.

**Editor's response:** Lake Claire Park and public spaces, including the Frazer Center, follow all leash law guidelines set forth by DeKalb County, e.g., Sections 5-4 and 5-5, which require "an animal to be under restraint and control at all times. *DeKalb Leash Law: Sec. 5-4. Duty to restrain while off owner's property. It shall be the duty of any person to keep an animal under restraint and control at all times while the animal is off the real property limits of the owner. Such areas shall not include county parks that are specifically designated as off-leash areas. (Ord. No. 04-15, Pt. I, 12-14-04). Sec. 5-5. Animals at large. It shall be unlawful for the owner of an animal to allow it to run at large unattended on or about the streets, right of ways, and highways of unincorporated DeKalb County; in any DeKalb County park, except in county parks that are specifically designated as off leash areas; unattended on or about the common prop-*

*erty of any apartment complex or condominium community; or on the property of another person without permission of the owner of that property.*"

This topic has been discussed frequently in the pages of the Clarion for many years, sometimes relating to dogs who have bitten someone. The editorial comment in a Clarion in 2009 said, "In view of the law, there is no gray area here. **Then there is the matter of common courtesy toward our neighbors.** This covers what the law does not and comes from the perspective of making our corner of the world a better place for each other. Some of us refer to this as "doggie etiquette." We are talking about things like where we deposit our dogs' poop, **how long we let them bark outdoors before reining them in**, letting the dog out even briefly to poop wherever (unless it's in your own back yard), etc. It's really just a matter of common sense – and common courtesy." I (current editor) am also a dog owner walking dogs on leashes, and we at the Clarion continue to encourage responsible and kind pet-ownership. Please keep leashes on your doggies in LC Park, and please pick up their waste on walks -- hopefully with biodegradable dog waste bags, not grocery bags, which will stay in the landfills for ages... help to reduce Fido's Carbon Paw Prints, and keep him/her leashed when appropriate, please.

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All free seminars are held at the Neal & Wright LLC office conveniently located in Downtown Decatur. Visit us online for directions and more information.

We're in the neighborhood!

# September into October in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

As I write this in August, the temperature is 63 degrees, and rain continues to fall. I measured 44.4" by the end of July. As the rest of the country suffered heat and drought, we have had an incredible summer, probably not repeatable.

Autumn. Have you learned the micro-climates on your property? Under a giant holly in my garden, annuals bloom days and weeks after the rest of the yard has turned to mush. The area faces north and is shady by that time of year, but the evergreen boughs above it keep the temperature a few degrees warmer than in other places. This is obvious when snow falls. Although flakes can easily penetrate the holly boughs, the ground beneath them is warmer, and generally snow does not lie there.

Another place is up against the eastern wall of my house where an annual castor plant waves its tropical leaves long after first frost. Last year the ratty thing was still alive in February, and I longed to cut it down. When it finally succumbed to our first real frost, I lopped its trunk about six inches above ground, and in another month it was growing again. Obviously, it is perennial closer to the equator. This is a fantastic plant, which grows up to the roof and happily self seeds for me; but avoid it if you have small, beloved children as all parts are poisonous.

Let me remind you of Barbara Pleasant's biennial season, October through May, in *Warm-Climate Gardening*. If you love sweet peas, if you love spinach, October is the month to plant them in Atlanta, so be sure you have good, fresh seed. Sometimes what is still on the rack in stores will no longer germinate by fall. They will germinate (keep watered if necessary) and grow into sturdy little plants by the time we have light frost. Mulch them with some light material like shredded leaves or straw to protect them from colder weather in mid-winter. Then, IF it is not running 80 degrees by March, you can sniff your sweet peas and eat your spinach into late spring. That is the fun of gardening, always something new.

Two other flowers that work excellently for me this way are calendula (pot marigold) and nicotiana (flowering tobacco). It may be that nicotiana would bloom

in my garden the first year if I got it going earlier; however, the seedlings are so small and take so long to get big enough to set out, that the rosettes merely sit there through late summer and fall. By early spring they are sending up great stalks of small, airy blossoms. There are modern dwarf varieties but, as with cleome, I far prefer the original giants. Some types to look for are *sylvestris* ('Only the Lonely'), *alata grandiflora*, and *alata x mutabilis* in shades ranging from white to dark pink. There are also green, red, and purple varieties.

Calendula, a daisy-type plant, I usually grow in the vegetable garden. It has many cosmetic and medicinal qualities, but I just enjoy its orange or yellow blooms. Like the sweet pea, it will usually die when hot weather arrives. Pleasant's list of other flowers best planted in October includes sweet alyssum, bachelor's buttons, candytuft, dianthus *deltoides*, forget-me-nots, pansies, poppies, sweet Williams, and wallflowers. I always forget to start poppies in the fall and kick myself when I see lovely examples around the neighborhood in early spring. Who knows—they may have self-seeded.

There are other edibles that can be planted in the fall besides spinach. Parsnips, parsley, leeks, scallions, and garlic all do well; in fact, garlic should be planted only at this time of year. Parsnips are sweetened by frost. Frankly, I find half my carrots in

the spring when I am digging up the bed to sow peas, and carrots are not even on Pleasant's list. If plants like parsley and carrots are not harvested in spring, they do go to seed. For parsley, that may not be a bad thing—this rainy year I have little parsley plants coming up all around where I finally had to pull their mother. Although they will not last all winter, beets, lettuce, collards, turnips, and Chinese cabbage can all be planted in September. Transplant kale sets now too.

How are your tomatoes doing? Many people have told me it was a bust year for them because of too much rain, too little sun. I have had the best tomato year ever and think this is because I planted my tomatoes out so early. If you start the seed in January, there is no reason not to have your plants out in wall o'waters in March and begin harvesting before the solstice. Also, two of my plants are in containers, one an expensive tomato tub on casters, the other in an old joint compound bucket. I was able to move each to take advantage of the most sun and have harvested 231 Sweet Million cherry tomatoes from the latter and 26 Bella Rosas from the tub. So far. All my tomatoes have leaf diseases by now. This is normal. I gave up removing dead leaves years ago because it just exposes the fruits to the squirrels earlier.

Some perennials that enjoy fall planting are irises and peonies, both of which bloom in April and

May here. Beware of placing the peony eyes any deeper in the soil than an inch. That is one reason for their failure to bloom in the South. Some I have in my street bed, shaded by crape myrtles, have had good repeat bloom for 20 years; ditto for my next door neighbor's, shaded by mature oaks and pecans. The soil should be well-draining. I have had poor luck with peonies in clay soil with a western exposure. My final suggestion is that you stick with early-blooming varieties, such as the heirloom, Festival Maxima. Peonies do need sun to bloom, more in the morning than evening.

German irises, the large ones in every color except true red, also need well-drained soil. Plant them in full sun, and in general do not mulch at all, certainly not with straw or leaves. The enemy of these irises is the iris borer, which can turn the plant to mush. One suggestion I read was that after the first frost, one can shear off the foliage at about four inches and dispose in the garbage. This supposedly destroys the borer eggs. For sure, remove all dead leaves throughout the year. If you suspect the presence of a borer in your iris plant, dig it up after it blooms and inspect the rhizome for holes, cutting out rotten parts and destroying any of the borers you find. Yes, this is work, but irises are some of the most beautiful April flowers.

You may e-mail Elizabeth with gardening questions and comments - [knowltonew@earthlink.net](mailto:knowltonew@earthlink.net).

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# Such a Blessing!

## What the Land Trust Means to Me

by David Jockusch

It has become a magical place for all peaceful beings to come, enjoy, and connect. But in 1983, it was a rambling hill, covered with kudzu. Norman Glassman, with Moses, his wonderful black Labrador, and I would walk up at sunset to do "magic hour" up on the little bald spot at the top.

There was a cut in the hillside facing the east, and a fire-pit. Sweat lodges were done there. The north-facing slope had enough trees that the valley was mainly shade. The two biggest trees on the slope, Grandmother and then Grandfather, succumbed to winds and fell across the valley. Amata was just the Barn House, a semi-enclosed shed, and Norm was living in "the shelter," a low lean-to.

I was able to sit with Norm when he went down to talk MARTA into putting it up for bid. I knew Charlie Pope was struggling with a little community across town, and I knew the corner lot on Arizona was for sale. So I told Charlie, and he bought it, and he has been so central to the development of the land. Such a blessing!

The energy came together to buy the 1.4 acres in 1986, and, through evolving organizational structure and financing, it has blossomed. Just add abundant good work and wood-chips, wonderful people coming and going, or staying, stir thoroughly for 30 years, and you get what you see. Adding the big lawn space there by the Gorilla Grill has just made it funner still.

We are getting more intentional about offering it as a venue for small to not-so-small events, like workshops, birthday parties, weddings, and musical events. Those we fit into a crowded calendar, which includes one quiet weekend a month. We are so blessed to have good rapport with our neighbors, and we look out for that.

The Land Trust is home to the Drum Circle, which has run on first and third Saturdays since the early '90s at least. Something happens every time, rain or shine. The gig is driven by the drummers who show up that week. We keep the big sand area open for dancers and see a lot of that. Other folks are spinning fire (with a "second") up on the overlooking hill. The Drum Circle's history is, not surprisingly, somewhat lost to the mists of time.



Also, a quick nod and shout-out to our sister community across the cul-de-sac, the Lake Claire Co-Housing community. I have been blessed to visit there some recently and really appreciate the scale and design that Greg Ramsey helped to create. It is a very gracious place.

I engage people I find roaming about the land and ask if they need more information. I always start out with, "Nobody lives on the Land Trust." I explain the various options for rental housing around the Land Trust – "It's complicated."

I tell everybody who does not know that the hill is the top of the watershed between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic. Water that falls south of Dekalb winds up in the Atlantic at Darien, Ga., and water that falls to the north goes into Apalachicola Bay in the Florida panhandle, via the Chattahoochee.

The 5- to 6-inch well that was drilled into the ground on the Land Trust found 50 feet of "overburden," and then they hit 450 feet of solid granite.

One of my favorite little stories about the vibe of the land comes from "the mouth of babes," indirectly. A mom and her three frilly little girls were finishing up and leaving the play area when the mom said to me, "Y'all don't have much to play on here, but when my kids leave here, they are happy for hours." Which kind of backs up my observation that the good vibes created here over the years are palpable.

Such a blessing!

*David Jockusch is a longtime off-and-on neighbor who has returned to live next door to the Land Trust once again. An elder and vision-keeper of the Land Trust and Amata, he is also an active member of the Sevananda community.*

*"What the Land Trust Means to Me" is an ongoing series. Send submissions to [info@LCCLT.org](mailto:info@LCCLT.org).*

*Oops! Corrected Date! - Harvest Peace & Love Fest at the Land Trust, Saturday, October 12.. My apologies for transposing the digits in last month's Clarion! - Wing*

## Grow Your Own Oyster Mushrooms!

Join us at the Land Trust to explore the many gourmet and medicinal mushrooms. Whether you would like to consume them for wellness or utilize them for land sustainability, this hands-on workshop will enable you to be self-sufficient, growing your own mushrooms for pleasure or business. We will show you the straw-bale pasteurization method with Oyster varieties and discuss other low technology methods. Participants will go home equipped to begin growing their own Oysters. [Saturday, September 7, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm; Instructor: Brandi Arts, director of Harvest Montessori School. Cost: \$25 single / \$40 couple (all materials provided) Register at <http://www.harvestmontessori.org/upcoming-workshops>. More info: [medicinalarts@gmail.com](mailto:medicinalarts@gmail.com). Fees are non-refundable.

*Do you have an idea for an educational workshop at the Land Trust? Just contact us at [info@LCCLT.org](mailto:info@LCCLT.org).*

*Land Trust Request: Please respect our neighbors, and park in the designated area, not on side streets near the Land Trust.*

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## LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



I hope this series is fun and a way for young residents of Lake Claire to participate. This month's contribution is written by Ally Bliss, aged eight, and a third grader at Mary Lin.

Hey there, Lake Claire kids –let's put some of your creativity on this page. Submit articles, poetry, drawings, your original puzzles, etc., to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org). Next time: what do you like about school this year so far...or choose any topic you wish. Be creative...we'd love to hear from you.

### Happy Leo

by Ally Bliss

Hi! I'm Ally Bliss, and I am going to talk about where I live. I go to Mary Lin Elementary School. I am in the 3rd grade. I am 8 years old. I have a dad, a mom, and a cute little brother, Tyler. He is in kindergarten and is my best buddy. I enjoy making new friends, having sleepovers, listening to my ipod (mostly Taylor Swift), doing crafts, and playing outside. We have lived in Lake Claire on Leonardo Avenue, N.E. for six and a half years.

Oh my goodness, I can't tell you how much I love my street! Here are some things I really like about it. In October, we have what we call a Chili Cook Off. Basically, we have all of the neighbors bring chili. Then, we vote on the best chili. We have prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. Also, our neighbor Marie babysits everyone on the street. The time the grownups had a house concert, she babysat about 12 of us on a school night!! I liked that.

During the Christmas season, we all go to each neighbors' house, count down from ten, and then the person who lives in each house each turns all of their holiday lights on. We have lots of babies on the street. When our neighbors the Jiraks brought home their new baby named Seth from Arkansas, we had balloons and posters to

welcome the new baby.

Some days, our neighbors meet each other on the street during evening time. We used to swing in the Bakers' front yard, but then the swing broke. It's still fun, though. I like to play with everyone. On school days, we all walk to school together. I like to have first day of school pictures. Another thing about us is that we like to share fruits and vegetables. In addition to sharing, some things get passed around. For example, the Bakers give us things and we pass them on to families with younger kids when we are done with them, like a kids' picnic table.

One last fun memory that I'd like to share with you is the movie night we had this summer. Here's the story: The dad in the Olson family is in a band. So, he set up some of his band equipment and showed *Finding Nemo* one night on the driveway. They had their own popcorn machine and we had some popcorn. We sat in our own chairs and brought our own dinners. For example, we brought peanut butter sandwiches.

We call each other the Leos, and I'm happy to be a Leo. I also am glad to be writing this article for The Clarion.



Ally Bliss and brother Tyler, in Tyler's kindergarten classroom on the first day of school.



Keely Baker (9), Ally Bliss (8), Tyler Bliss (5), Marjorie Veazey (5), Amelia Stevens (5), and Caden McLean (8)

### Biscuits and Bellyrubs



Anna Trodglén draws the Clarion's Biscuits and Bellyrubs cartoon 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, which is owned and operated by Lake Claire residents.

*Correction from  
last month's Kids'  
Corner:*

*Our poet  
Sara McGill is a  
third-grader at  
ANCS (Atlanta  
Neighborhood  
Charter School,  
<http://atlnes.org/>),  
and the McGills  
lived on Ridgecrest  
Court for 9 years.  
Sorry about  
the mistake!*



**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.

The market is shifting - it's a great time to make a change. I am available if you or someone you know are looking to **buy, sell, or invest in Real Estate**. I'm happy to offer advice, referrals, information on neighborhood listings, or supply up to date statistics on our neighborhood values.

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