



City Responds to Lake Claire Residents' Request for Safer Clifton Road

The Clifton Road intersections of Harriett, Muriel, and Marlbrook will have crosswalks repainted, center-line crosswalk "stop" paddles installed, and the curbs marked for no parking; all within two weeks (around the beginning of February). In ad-

dition, a rapid flashing school crossing sign will be installed at Harriett within 45 days.

These actions came about after Lake Claire and Candler Park residents, on the east and west sides of Clifton respectively, com-

Cont. on p. 5

Lake Claire's Gordon Avenue Greenspace

The Clarion got a late-breaking update on the half-acre slice of greenspace located at DeKalb and Gordon Avenues: The space has been bought for the back taxes price of around \$20,000. It is the last piece of greenery along the busy Dekalb Avenue thoroughfare connecting Atlanta and Decatur, and many residents still hope to make it a little park

with a transit shelter and rest stop for cyclists and pedestrians who pass the greenspace.

The Clarion hopes to get more details. Will the new owner cooperate with the neighborhood and make it the John Lewis Park, will the City step in, or will the owner square off against the neighborhood and build condos? Stay tuned!

Thank you to Lake Claire

The staff, guests, and volunteers of **Clifton Sanctuary Ministries** offer our deepest thanks to our neighbors in Lake Claire

for your generous donations in 2013. Not only do you bring us, throughout the year, in-kind donations of the items posted on our

McLendon sign, but you also donated \$4,775 in response to our December fundraising appeal in the Clarion. This amount is almost double the year-end contributions we received from Lake Claire residents in 2012, and it brings the total

donations received in 2013 to \$7,000 from you, our kind and generous neighbors. Thank you, *thank you, thank you!* Your

gifts have a real impact on the lives of our guests and help address the issue of homelessness in our city. We invite you to stop in at your convenience to allow us to thank you in person and to see your gifts in action. ~

Staff and Volunteers at CSM

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, www.cliftonsanctuary.com, Tel.: 404-373-3253, 369 Connecticut Ave. NE



Guests and Volunteers of CSM



The Businesses Bordering Lake Claire & Candler Park

The Candler Park Business District (the block containing Donna Van Gogh's, The Flying Biscuit, etc.) has just been purchased by the owners of the Fellini's Pizza chain, Clay Harper and Mike Nelson. The two are best known for their Fellini's Pizza restaurants but have been expanding their restaurant empire. As is true in Candler Park, many Fellini's are located next to, or near, La Fonda Latina locations. They have also launched Three on The Tree, a yogurt shop they opened in a classic Taco Bell turned Wolf Camera. The FroYo shop did very well early on, helped by both its proximity and favorably marketing from

adjacent La Fonda and Fellini's, but with an ever increasing number of yogurt shops popping up, it ended up failing. Another of Nelson and Harper's projects, Leroy's Fried Chicken, was open only 4 months.



I asked Lake Claire residents Teri Stewart and Iris Hale, owners of Donna Van Gogh's, about what Harper and Nelson might be planning. As of this time, neither they nor anyone else owning shops on the block, have been

informed what the new owners' plans are for the shops, including whether current leases will be transferable.

Highlights of this issue

- 2** Feb. Calendar: check it out!
- 8** Security/Crime Stats
- 9** Lake Claire Land Trust
- 10** Monthly Gardening Column
- 12** Kids' Corner

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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.

Cover banner art by Lore Ruttan, from her Hawthorne Winter King

The Lake Claire Clarion has been edited, written, and distributed to homes, businesses, and churches in the area, by volunteer neighbors, since 1991.

FEBRUARY

1-20 Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, the biggest film event in the city and 2nd largest Jewish film fest in the world - 7 venues - tickets at www.ajff.org. Closing night "Next Year Jerusalem" at the Rich Theatre.

1 Sat. Feb. 1 and 15 – Land Trust drum circle, dark until midnight. Please walk, bike or carpool. Donation requested.

2 "Compassionate Cities/Kind Neighborhoods" Atlanta launch Sunday afternoon, at the Carter Center. See article on page 3. To learn more about this growing global movement full of local possibilities, contact Bob Thompson, rvthompson@mindspring.com or Karina Hatcher, karina.compassionateatl@gmail.com.

3 The Day the Music Died (1959). Test to see if anyone is reading this. Write editor@lakeclaire.org if you want to wish me a happy birthday on Feb. 3. Sue McAvoy wins so far. Does anyone else read my calendars each month after I spend hours researching these exciting events for you? Labor of love...

6 Honoring women in media, the Dekalb History Center's 7th Annual event, recognizing outstanding African American women who have contributed to journalism and media in Dekalb County. 11:30 a.m. to 1 pm, 101 E. Court Square, Decatur. Info: forgey@dekalbhistory.org or call 404-373-1088, ext 22

8 Land Trust Groundhog Day Dance (1st Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Drive), 7-11 p.m. A benefit for the Land Trust. Bill Fleming and the E.X.P.A.N.D. Band (\$10 cover). (See page 11.)

8 Decatur Old House Fair /info about exhibiting: regina.brewer@decaturga.com or 404-371-8386. Yearly hands-on workshops, exhibits, and useful information for old house owners. Preserving the old while bringing in the new.

8 The Friends of the Decatur Library book sale from 9 am to 3 pm, lower level of the Decatur Library. Thousands of gently used fiction, nonfiction, and children's books, plus DVDs and CDs, for sale at low prices starting at 50 cents. Donations of gently used books welcome at 215 Sycamore Street, Decatur, GA 30030

13 The Variety Playhouse – Dave Mason's Traffic Jam, 8 p.m. See this and the rest of the Variety's schedule at <http://www.variety-playhouse.com/>

14 Atlanta Bicycle Coalition, 6-9 p.m. "Bike Social" – meet 6pm at Woodruff Park. Get more folks on bikes, explore the City, support and love local businesses. See more at: <http://www.atlantabike.org/calendar>

15 Fernbank, opening day of the blockbuster special exhibition Whales: Giants of the Deep. A whale of a celebration, games, hands-on activities and more. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. <http://fernbankmuseum.org/calendar-of-events/whales-opening-day-celebration/>

15 Land Trust drum circle, dark until midnight. Please walk, bike or carpool. Donation requested.

20 and the third Thursday of every month - Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting, The Rose Room at The Frazer Center, 7 p.m. socialize, 7:15 meeting start. Pizza from Savage (*thanks, Savage*). Agenda on the website, as are past meetings' minutes.

20 Trees Atlanta talk, "The Power of Trees And How It Can Help Save the World," an arbor day speaker event & book signing; Jim Robbins, 6 to 7:30 pm. You can go before the neighborhood meeting! See www.treesatlanta.org for details.

21 Beginning Feb. 21 at Fernbank, evening viewing hours of the blockbuster special exhibition Whales: Giants of the Deep, during Martinis & IMAX ®. <http://fernbankmuseum.org>

23 The Horizon last day: "The Book Club Play" <http://www.horizontheatre.com/plays/the-book-club-play/>

29 No such date in 2014 because February ends on February 28 this year, as it is not a "Leap Year," a year with 366 days, instead of the usual 365. Leap years are necessary because the actual length of a year is 365.242 days, not 365 days, as commonly stated. Basically, leap years occur every 4 years, and years that are evenly divisible by 4 (2004, for example) have 366 days. This extra day is added to the calendar on February 29.

Send calendar items for the MARCH Clarion by February 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org



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Hello...Safe Journey

Just Sharing On

Priscilla Dixey of Hardendorf passed away on January 12, after contracting an unexpected illness just before Christmas. Please see Pages 6 and 7 for remembrances of Priscilla, who is sorely missed.

Hello to the Shalf-Summerville's new beagle puppy, Belle, joining Sarah, Darren, and 12-year-old son Courtland, Har-

old Avenue. Hello to the Gillespies' new pets (see Kids' Page on the back), Marlbrook Avenue.

Happy Birthday, ; Susan Beeching of Connecticut Avenue, January 24; Tom McGill of Delaware Avenue, January 28, Beth Damon of Delaware Avenue, February 3.

To help us continue this feature on neighborhood life cycle events,

let us know at 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 FEBRUARY 15 for the MARCH CLARION.**



Belle Shalf-Summerville

Update: The Lake Claire Land Trust Family Project

by Tyrallynn Frazier

We are the Land Trust Family Project, a group of families working with the Lake Claire Land Trust Board, and in cooperation with the Lake Claire Neighbors Association, to bring some really cool family oriented projects to the Land Trust. Our goals are: (1) To initiate neighborhood supported projects utilizing the unique community asset that is the Land Trust; (2) To preserve the legacy of the Land Trust by encouraging environmental

stewardship through education, outreach, and community connection; and (3) To secure the future of the Land Trust by building even stronger connections and unity among neighborhood families.

Last month we sent a survey out to all the neighbors and were so pleased with the response. Based on the results, the two projects we are focusing on are

1. Environmental Scouts – Children, grouped by age, would

do environmental projects; we would bring in naturalist facilitators to engage children with the flora and fauna, and hopefully help the children become more connected with the environment through semi-structured, hands-on encounters.

2. Family Art – Calling all artists from the very young to the young at heart. We imagine having artists coming in to facilitate art projects with kids, then showcasing their talents around

the Land Trust.

Currently, this project is being headed by Tyrallynn Frazier, Cara Haycak, Alicia McGill, and Lori Blank. We are in need of other volunteers to help us realize our goals. If interested please contact Tyrallynn Frazier at tfrazi2@gmail.com.

Be on the lookout for more to come from this group, in the Clarion and at future LCN and Land Trust meetings.



Ready to put down or pick up roots? I can help.








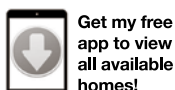
I've helped people put down (and pick up) roots in and around 30307 for years. I'm a Mary Lin and Grady High mom and personally rooted in Lake Claire. As an Intown homeowner and Realtor® with deep roots in our community, I know how to help you find the right home and market your home to sell.

Ready to buy? I'll leverage my intown network to find the right property – and negotiate the best deal for you.

Ready to sell? My experience with professional staging, compelling photography, and creative marketing helps sell your home faster and for the highest price.

Contact me, your intown Realtor® and neighbor, when you're ready to put down (or pick up) roots.

-  Lake Claire
-  Candler Park
-  Inman Park
-  Decatur
-  Druid Hills
-  Virginia Highland
-  Morningside
-  Poncey Highland
-  Old Fourth Ward



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Our Neighborhood Finances

by Andrew Sherwood

You may sometimes wonder – we hope you do! – what funding is available to Lake Claire Neighbors and how we spend it. Now seems a good time to provide an explanation.

As part of the City of Atlanta's Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) system, our primary mission is to provide feedback in both directions between the City and our community. We achieve this by holding regular monthly meetings, open to all for discussion of events and concerns affecting our neighborhood, and by publishing the newspaper you are reading now, which reports on these topics.

We are responsible for maintenance of certain greenspace areas and the famous Watershed Mural on DeKalb Avenue – have you looked at it lately? Last but by no means least, we aim to support local charitable and worthy organizations including Clifton Sanctuary Ministries and the Frazer Center.

All of our neighborhood activities and the donations we make are made possible through the

help of many wonderful volunteers but also incur financial obligations.

At present, our funding is provided mainly through the Clarion advertisements and your membership dues. The

Clarion is distributed to all twelve hundred households in our neighborhood free of charge by a team of dedicated volunteers, but we pay for printing (which last year cost just over \$3650, or about \$3 per copy). The Clarion more than pays for itself with its advertising funds, and these advertising funds have helped to cover many more of the neighborhood activities and donations; ideally, we will develop other avenues of fundraising as well (e.g., the tour of homes).

We also hold specified funds in reserve for maintenance of

the Watershed Mural and Lake Claire Park. We spend approximately \$680 each year for liability insurance and another \$360 for maintenance of the Harold Avenue Greenspace.

Last year we received \$2,500 in city and community grants for beautification projects.

We spent \$1000 of this on Lake Claire Park and \$1000 on the Lake Claire Community Land Trust.

The remaining \$500 plus \$250 from our own funds we spent on the Harold Avenue Greenspace. This money was spent almost entirely on materials, including plants. Volunteers again supplied the labor.

Regular administration costs including bank charges, postage, website hosting, and state registration fees amount to approximately \$600 each year. Our annual holiday dinner offered free to the neighborhood costs around \$400, with labor, decorations,

and most of the food provided by volunteers. We also aim to donate at least \$1000 each year to local charities.

Last year we did little or no fundraising and hence could afford less than \$900 on charitable donations. We were also unable to make any significant contribution to our "rainy day" reserves and want to do better this year. Your Executive Committee has therefore agreed on a budget for 2014 which aims to generate \$9000 in revenue, allow \$1250 in charitable donations and still deliver a surplus of at least \$1300 to boost our flagging reserves.

Every \$20 in membership dues helps toward this goal, so we thank those who already paid and ask the rest of you to contribute as soon as you can. **We also urge you to support our Clarion advertisers.** Their and your contributions are critical to our mission!

Andrew Sherwood is LCN Vice President of Finance and Treasurer.



LET'S PAY DUES FOR 2014

How? Mail a check for \$20 to Lake Claire Neighbors, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107, or go to www.lakeclaire.org/lcn/members.htm.

Why? Help your neighborhood association clean up greenspaces, install signs, support initiatives, have great parties, and support deserving causes

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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.

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neighborhood!

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illustration & graphic design
404-378-6985
leslie@lesliehodes.us

History of a 100-Year-Old Lake Claire Home

312 Gordon Avenue

by Alice Bliss

Three Twelve Gordon Avenue, the two-story house at the bend in the street, came close to being torn down. A nearby neighbor who was in the house in its final

the neighborhood,” according to John McDavid, a former resident of the street. It suffered at least 37 years of negligence and degradation: first, as a low-rent rental

house, then by an owner who worked on it day and night, but did everything wrong, and then another owner who did nothing. As a result, the house fell into decay.

Fast-forward to 2014, and the house now is virtually rebuilt, thanks to ef-

forts by Cynthia Baer, realtor, who lives across the street. She talked with Lee Martin, former non-resident owner, about selling it. Then she approached a

number of contractors to see if one would be interested in rebuilding it. She found one in Jeff Raw (Black Dawg Construction), who himself then set out to find an owner who would live there. The person he found is Chip Wallace, also a realtor, who has now moved in with his family (wife Kim, toddler son Joyner, and newborn daughter Emmie).

The so-called “Florida room,” a huge brick structure added on the back of the house, has been removed, and the back of the house extended. Four bathrooms have been added. A small structure that resembles a doll house is actually a tool shed. A large amount of junk that filled the back yard was removed and put out on the street with a sign on DeKalb Avenue inviting people

to come and “help themselves.” The house that was once “the showplace of Gordon Avenue” has again become a Lake Claire gem. Drive down Gordon Avenue soon, and check it out.

Alice Bliss’ latest book, *The Summer of 1935, about Atlanta’s near brush with bankruptcy in 1935*, is available from A Cappella Books in Inman Park and from Bound To Be Read Books in the East Atlanta Village. Beth Damon interviewed Alice in her home on Gordon Avenue for the “30+ Years in Lake Claire” series in September 2011, which you can read online in the Clarion archives: <http://www.lakeclaire.org/wpsite/clarionarchives/2011/2011-09.pdf>.



days described it as “chaos” and wanted to buy it as a tear-down if the price reached a certain level.

The house was built in 1915 and was once “the showplace of

Dangerous Traffic Conditions for School Children on Clifton: City Responds to Lake Claire Residents

(continued from Page 1)

plained about speeding vehicles on Clifton. In particular, Kelly Crutcher had walked her daughter to the bus stop the third week in January, and found children at the bus stop who were upset to report that they **were almost hit by a car speeding on Clifton Road** as they crossed at the crosswalk at Harriet Avenue -- just a few minutes earlier. The children said the driver was **on her mobile phone and literally screeched on brakes to avoid hitting them**. Kelly immediately sent an e-mail to City officials pleading with them to make Clifton Road safe for pedestrians, especially children, and cyclists. She noted in the letter that APD has been catching speeders, but that it had not been during the high traffic times in the morning and evenings.

Several neighbors reiterated the need for police presence during the 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. peak traffic times. On January 27, James Crutcher witnessed near misses at

both the Muriel and Harriet crossings with Clifton Road. At Muriel, he actually used his car to block traffic in both directions so that a couple of high school and middle school children could safely cross at Clifton and Muriel. He was at the stop sign on Muriel, watching them try to step into the crosswalk and have to move back to the curb because cars were ignoring them. Northbound drivers noticed his car nosing into the intersection, then noticed the kids only after they had stopped for him. At that point James had to pull forward, completely into the intersection, so that the Southbound cars would stop for the kids already in the crosswalk.

James said further that after turning South on Clifton, he stopped again at the intersection of Harriet and Clifton to turn right and drop their daughter at the bus stop. Due to the congestion of kids and adults on that corner, he had to stop again on Clifton to let the

Cont. on p. 6



Biscuits and Bellyrubs, by Anna Trodglan

Please, please observe stop signs in Lake Claire, and remember, parking is not allowed:

- On a sidewalk
- Within an intersection
- On a crosswalk
- Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb
- At any place marked by a no-parking sign
- Against the flow of traffic (wrong way)

Priscilla Dixey (born June 8, 1953, in Boston, and passed away January 12, 2014)



Priscilla in the Barlows yard - by Brotherhug

Priscilla died from bacterial meningitis, an infectious disease which has a sudden onset and unless caught early can be fatal.

She became ill about a week before Christmas. After she was found by a coworker in her house, she was rushed to the hospital where they attempted treatment, but the disease had already taken its toll. Subsequently, she had a series of strokes.

Priscilla had lived on Hardendorf Avenue since 1988, raising her two children, Rebecca and

Ethan, and then living in her house for many years after they grew up. You may have seen her walking her dog, Penny, swimming regularly at the city pools, at various yoga classes, or kayaking in nearby rivers. She was a beloved friend and neighbor, always willing to help out, always caring, and always helping to brighten one's day. A Memorial Gathering was held in remembrance of Priscilla Dixey on Saturday, January 25 at the Clarkston Community Center. Family and neighbors celebrated her life. The family wishes to extend their deepest thanks for the tremendous support that all of



More recent picture, Priscilla in the middle

you have extended to them during this trying time.

Memories of Priscilla

These were just a few of the many, many memories expressed by neighbors in Lake Claire.

Alison Amaroso: Priscilla often came by to see if Alisia and I were up for a walk, and usually it was around dinner time. She'd laugh that it wasn't on purpose, and we knew she was just getting off her shift as a nurse practitioner at Walgreens, but Robert would tease her that her timing was impeccable! She'd laugh heartedly and start by saying she wasn't very hungry, but then once she got a taste of Robert's nightly gourmet dinners, her small plate was soon refilled. She read to Alisia, and then Alisia read to her over the years after dinner. Sometimes we'd invite her, but she was usually busy ushering at one of the playhouses or going dancing in the evenings. We

will miss her very much and are grateful for the warmth and laughter she brought into our lives.

Tim Silvis: Neither Kate or I knew Priscilla well, but we are both surprisingly saddened by her passing. In the last couple of years as we got to know her, she would stop and chat for several minutes when she was walking by --- they were always enjoyable discussions, and her eyes would twinkle when she was talking about something she really liked --- it was easy to see why those her knew her well cared so much for her.

Deb Berry: I'm sitting here in tears. I will miss our Thanksgiving hike and our begin and end summer hike to Raven's Rock. I will miss her calm and kind nature. Her friendship was a great

gift in my life. I can't tell you how much I will miss Priscilla. May peace be with her family during this time.

Pam Gilbert: RIP. I will miss you, my friend. Am so glad we got together after all those years.

Kaia Denham: You will be missed here on earth, but we all know you're dancing with Michael now!

Matt Porter: We started on odd terms on the porch of Doug Barlow's in 1998, right after we moved to the neighborhood, at a party he and his wife Janet were hosting. "Who are you?" was the first thing she ever said to me. Then time went on, and I would see her at Barb and Frank's (the Nexus of All 'Dorf Goodness), and I grew to like her very much. She was frank, blunt, and not particularly careful with her

words, but that is WHY I liked her. She was uncensored — and a caring and sensitive lady. We would often walk our bears with her and Penny over in the Frazer Woods, enjoying nice quiet conversations. I am heartbroken for her family and her darling doggie. Penny and Beau brought Priscilla and me closer together. We bonded over wags, not cribbage or Super Bowl chili. We still feel a kinship with the Hardendorf friends—and miss them, especially when one of these passes away and we had missed seeing them in the recent years. Priscilla was an original — and a good heart. She will be missed, and I know her family is crushed. One of the 'Dorf's True Blue Stalwarts has left us. I am saddened.

(Clifton danger, cont. from P. 5)

crosswalk on Harriet clear. While he was stopped, **the driver behind him actually crossed the center line into the oncoming traffic lane, passing him on the left while he was waiting to turn.** This occurred within 10 feet of the bus stop full of kids.

Cathy Amoroso, another Lake Claire neighbor, noted that in prior years she and her husband would literally walk into Clifton at Harriett, wave down cars to stop, and then signal the kids to cross, in another words, act as crossing guards. It is impossible to see cars coming north- or southbound on Clifton without stepping into traffic, she noted. Parking along both sides of Clif-

ton obscures the view of traffic. (The obscured views are coupled with excessive speeds and a complete disregard for the crosswalk.) As a community, Cathy pointed out, we have encouraged our children to walk and bike to school.

Without an active police presence, neighbors believe that we are not going to see a significant improvement in the ability for children easily to cross this street. The same drivers obviously come through daily as part of their commutes. A stepped up rate of enforcement, including crossing guards, could have a significant impact and prolonged positive effect in a short amount of time.

Alison Amoroso informed Duriya Farooqui, a Lake Claire resident and the Chief Operating Officer for the City, about these concerns. Ms. Farooqui acted quickly to find a city public works engineer to assist, and Richard Mendoza became involved. The results were noted in the first paragraph of this article (on page 1). Duriya said in a subsequent e-mail to the Clarion editor and others, *"I believe that these measures will make a real difference. I hope to see more children being able to cross Clifton without trepidation. I directed Public Works to act urgently to prioritize this above a long list of other requests since it involves children. I am glad I could make our neighbor-*

hood safer for kids prior to my departure from City Hall." (Ms. Farooqui left the Reed administration at the end of January for a position in the private sector.)

Commissioner Mendoza will also work with Councilmember Archibong on installing speed radar signs on Clifton. As of this writing, we are not sure about the crossing guards.

Thank you to Duriya Farooqui, Kelly and James Crutcher, Alison Amoroso, and to all other neighbors who provided input on initiating the measures that could help the continuous problems on Clifton Road.

Our Feelings

by Audrey Maxim Rumley and Alisia Zegarra-Amoroso, Hardendorf Avenue

Hi, I am Audrey, and I am 10 years old. I am writing with my friend Alisia, who is 8 years old. We both attend Mary Lin Elementary. We are writing about our beloved friend Priscilla, who died on

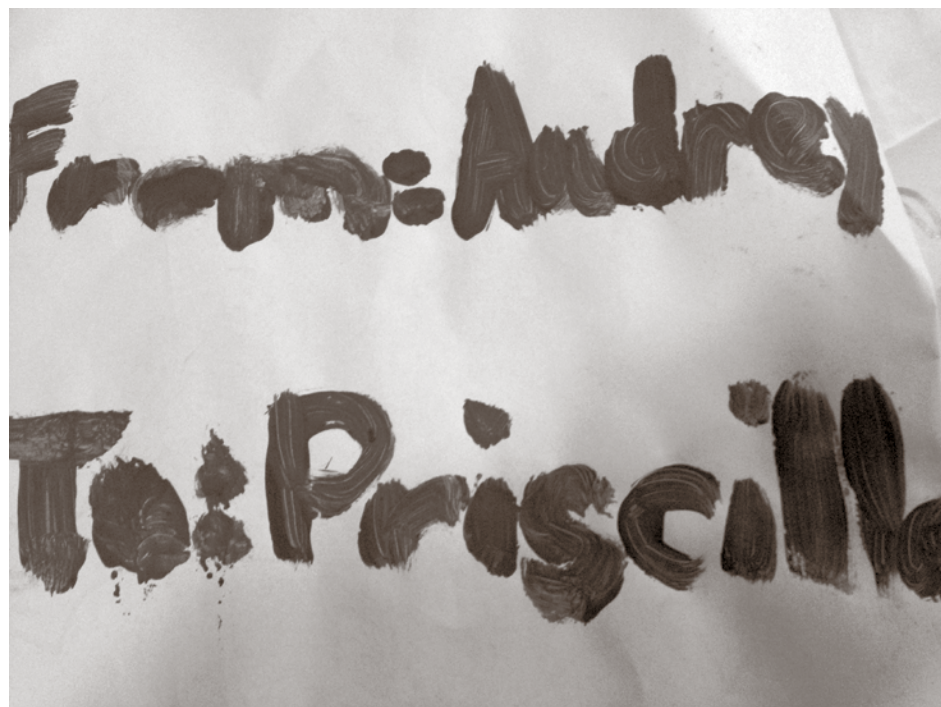
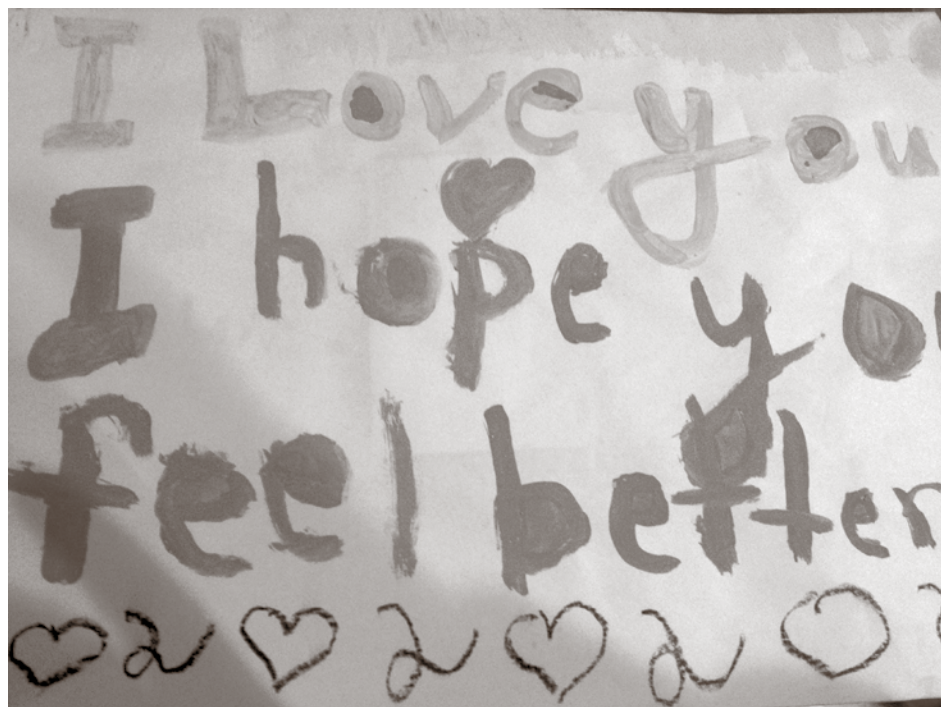
January 12, 2014. Priscilla was like a grandmother to Alisia. They took walks together and ate dinner together often. Priscilla came to their family celebrations and took Alisia places. Priscilla helped

us do many crafts and projects. She also did many more things with us. She will always stay in our hearts, and we are thankful that we knew her. We hope she rests in peace and also hope that

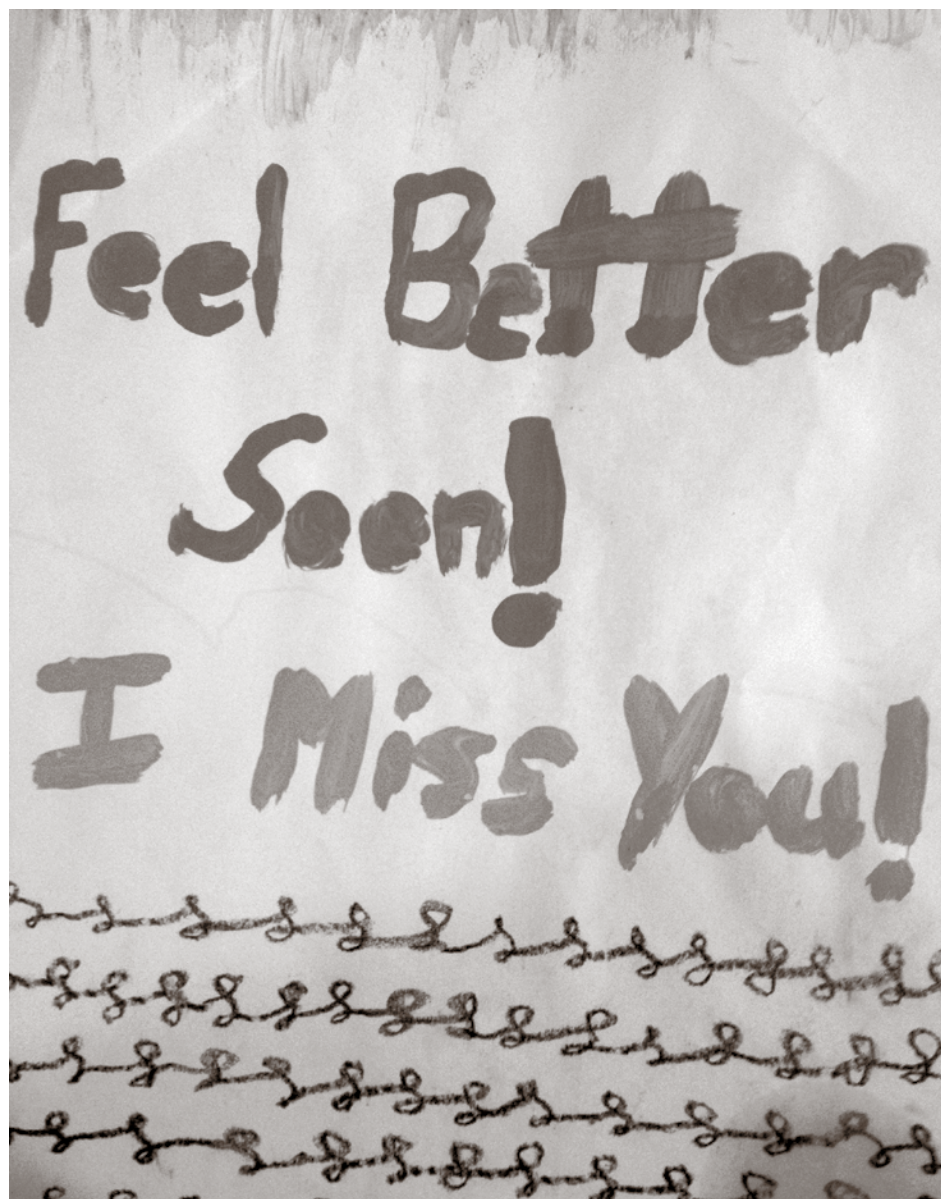
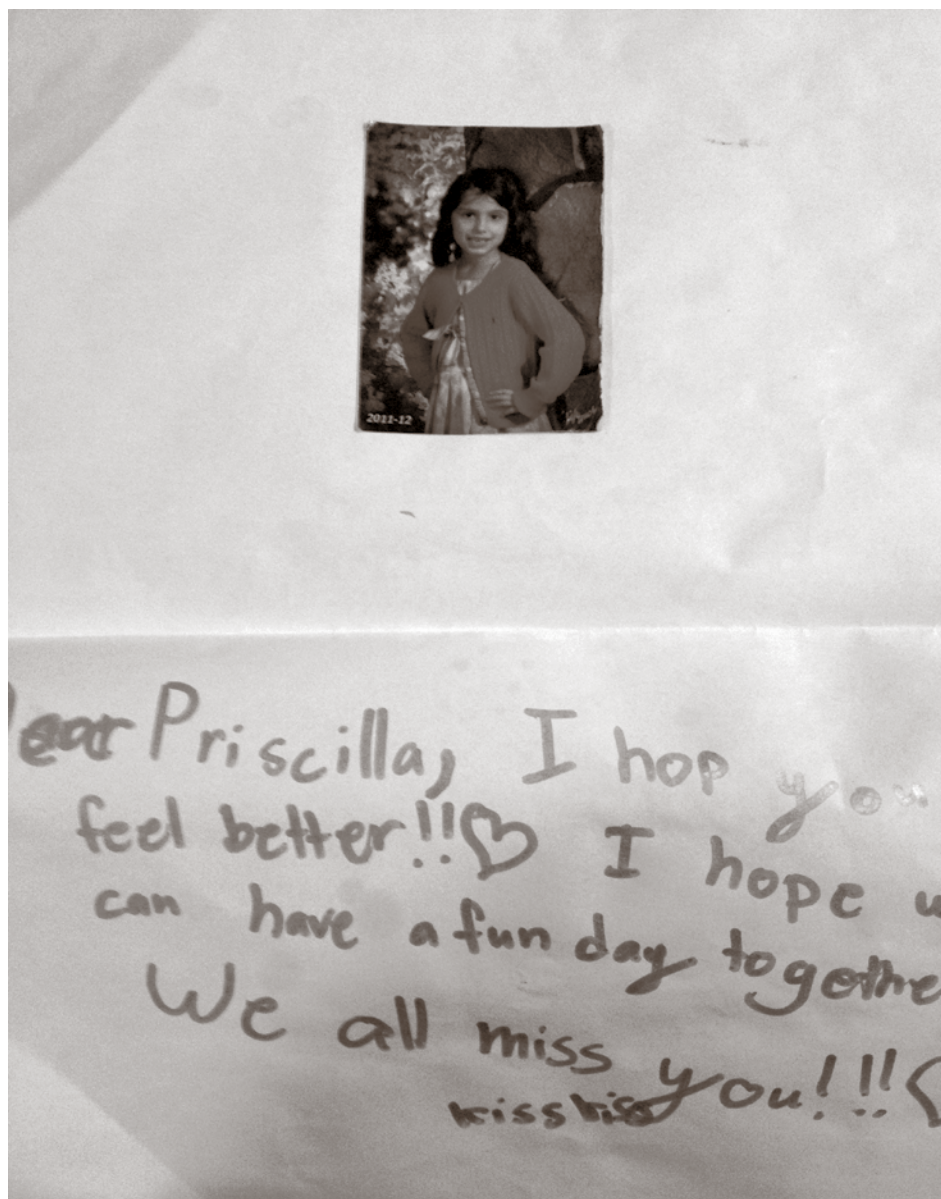
her little dog Penny lives a long, happy life.

We miss you Priscilla!
We miss you! Kiss Kiss.

[They drew pictures of little hearts around the kiss kiss].



Cards that Alisia and Audrey drew for Priscilla while she was in the hospital



Keep An Eye on the Crime and the Time:
Lake Claire Security Report, November 24-December 14,
2013
(compiled from APD Reports)

Burglary

200 block Connecticut Ave 12/9/13

Damaged: shed door

Taken: leaf blower, weed eater, hedge trimmers, lawn mover

Theft from Auto

200 block Oxford Pl 12/14/13 parked on street

Taken: catalytic converter

NEW INFORMATION: Contact APD by dialing 911 from your home or your cell phone for any incidence of crime or suspicious behavior. Natalyn Archibong's office has informed us that it is no longer necessary to dial 404-658-6666 when using a cell phone. Tell the operator you're in APD's Zone 6, Beat 608 if your location does not automatically register on the operator's screen. Join lakeclaireneighborhoodwatch@yahoo.com for up-to-date security reports.

SECURITY SYSTEMS: February 1 was the deadline to register home security systems. A fine of \$150 will be assessed to the homeowner if APD responds to a home alarm that has not been registered. Go to www.crywolf.us/atlantaga for more information.

Attention a neighbor with an hour or two to volunteer

Seeking help for the Clarion. Great for someone who has been wishing to help the neighborhood, but might not have time for a regular commitment. Please contact editor@lakeclaire.org. A two-hour commitment would help us greatly – we're maxed out, and we need you!!

**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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Visions of the Land Trust – Past, Present, and to Come

by Stephen Wing

During the Land Trust board's weekend retreat last fall, we toured an amazing neighborhood greenspace project in West Asheville. The Hominy Creek Greenway is a mile-long section of creek bottom – far larger than our little piece of nature in Lake Claire – which our hosts (and former neighbors) Doug and Janet Barlow have helped to reclaim as a public space.

As pedigreed Land Trust alumni, "Brotherhug" and Janet are making us proud. They've organized crews of volunteers to pull

herit this land we have stewarded for nearly 30 years? Many of the folks who did this work before us have either moved away from Lake Claire, like the Barlows, or have moved on to other priorities. What will happen when we do the same, or simply grow too old to carry it on?

We do currently have strong support among our neighbors, including some committed enough to travel four hours for a weekend retreat. And these are only some of the folks who pull together to make a Peace & Love festival or

days. Yet as one long-time Board member points out, the folks who founded the Trust, bought the land and set about transforming it were also parenting young children at the time.

This past fall, four young mothers stepped up to prove it can still be done. Tyralynn Frazier, Cara Haycak, Alicia McGill, and Lori Blank have initiated the Land Trust Family Project, with the twin goals of using the land as a resource for neighborhood kids and cultivating neighborhood support for the Trust. Their ideas, based on responses to a survey sent out to neighbors, are a perfect fit with the stated mission of the LCCLT. We old-timers couldn't be more thrilled! (See their progress report on page 3.)

But the success of their efforts hangs on a question. Will other neighborhood volunteers join these four to make it happen? And that question leads to others. Will some of those volunteers take the next step, joining us for the committee and Board meetings that maintain the land and plan the fundraisers? Are the next LCCLT treasurer, secretary, and other Board members among them?

Perhaps it's a matter of perspective. Moving into a neighborhood where a Land Trust is an established part of the landscape, unaware of the kudzu-covered wasteland it once was or the commercial site it could have become, busy parents might take our little urban oasis for granted, much as they would a city park.

City parks, of course, are maintained by property taxes, including those of these young families, while **the Land Trust depends entirely on personal donations of time and/or money.** But the last thing we want is for people to stay away because they're unable to support the Land Trust either financially or



"in-kind." We are here for our community. As a Board member and active volunteer, seeing the playground swarming with children never fails to make my day. I have faith that the neighborhood will always provide enough Land Trust-lovers to keep it going.

Still, we wondered at our retreat, what can we do to draw these folks into our work behind the scenes and make them feel welcome? How can we make it clear that we value whatever they have to offer?

Perhaps it's a matter of perception. The Land Trust seems to have an image among some neighbors as a kind of 1960s commune with occasional delusions of hosting Woodstock. To the generation now raising young kids, this whole concept of neighbors joining together to create something beautiful might seem like some kind of acid flashback to the Summer of Love. The presence of bearded long-haired men, not to mention those ubiquitous peace signs, could be an unpleasant reminder of their own parents' youthful excesses.

As one of those long-haired men, I have argued in favor of toning down the use of peace signs and the constant refrain "Peace & Love," without success. Pondering this, post-retreat, I have concluded that we can't escape this image because it is, in fact, who

Cont. on p. 11



Brotherhug and Janet enjoying the bench on the Hominy Creek Greenway

vines off the trees, eliminate invasives, and plant native species. They've set up a nonprofit organization to maintain the land. Even more impressively, they've persuaded the city to purchase it as a permanent addition to Asheville's parks system. After walking the trail along the creek to its far end, where a dam once powered a sawmill, we dug into the soil and planted eight little pawpaw trees.

During the "visioning" portion of our retreat, amid talk of solar arrays and funded staff positions, one topic that emerged over and over was the question of the long-term future itself. Who will in-

community work day a success. But at the same time, the average age among this crowd seems to be steadily increasing. Where are the younger folks who will plug in to keep it all going?

Many nonprofit efforts from churches to NGOs are facing the same challenge. In Lake Claire, the changing demographics of the neighborhood offer a clue. So many younger families with children are moving in; many of them come to use the playground and visit Big Lou the Emu. Naturally these young parents are too busy to get involved in running the Land Trust, show up at committee meetings and work

New membership policy, Fall 2013

Anyone can become a Land Trust Supporter by donating \$10 once a year. Donate via www.LCCLT.org/stewardship; mail a check made out to "LCCLT" c/o Treasurer, P.O. Box 5379, Atlanta GA 31107; or donate via

the chute in our bulletin board. Include your e-mail address, and we'll add you to our Upcoming Events list. Include your address, and we'll mail you an "I Support the Land Trust" bumper sticker.

Upcoming at the Land Trust

Sat. Feb. 1 and 15 – Land Trust drum circle, dark until midnight. Please walk, bike or carpool. Donation requested.

Saturday, Feb. 8 – Groundhog Day Dance at the 1st Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Dr. (see article on page 11 for bands and other details)

February into March in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

After 2013's warm winter and mild, wet summer, 2014 is already setting new records for extremes. Not only did it rain about eight inches in my backyard in December, but temperatures continued to be colder earlier than the recent past. So far I have had a low of 12 degrees by my back door (5 degrees for the zip) and over 2.5 inches of rain just in one January day. Last year I had not bothered to plant a fall garden and could have eaten from it all winter. So this fall I had seeded a bunch of things and even bought three lacinato kale, two collard plants, and a broccoli. And now we were going to have the worst frost in years!

I had metal hoops over the bed and added, week by week, three layers of the warmest row covers (Johnny's Selected Seeds in ME). But this was going to be about 25 degrees below freezing. I had put plastic hot caps over the collards and one kale after harvesting most of the leaves. The broccoli plant had a one-inch head, however, too little to harvest but too big for an individual cover. We ran an extension cord from the pond to the bed, and I hung a trouble light from one of the hoops. Then, as the temperature fell on Monday, I turned the light on and added two old bedspreads to cover the whole bed (why they are called bed spreads—you spread them over vegetable beds). At night it looked like a little tent full of children reading by flashlight.

After two days, when the night temperature had risen, I turned off the light, removed the spreads, and cautiously peeked. Arugula was still crisp. Everything seemed still to be standing, not limp on the ground. When I removed the rest of the covers, the cilantro, lettuce, arugula, kale, collards, broccoli, and mustard were all alive. The *only* damage was a scorched broccoli leaf from the trouble light.

That said, I think we all could have productive winter gardens here, and I scold myself for never making this much effort before.

Vegetable seeds my garden list wants me to plant for them this year:

- tomatoes 'Cherokee Purple,' 'Celebrity,' and 'Sweet Million';

- peppers 'Lipstick' and red/orange/yellow colored bells;
- eggplants 'Fairytale' and Japanese types, such as last year's 'Ping Tung';
- basil, lots of it;
- tomatillos;
- mache and other greens.

To this I will add the squash zucchini Trombolina. In early December I was pulling up the squash vines, all as usual riddled with squash vine borer, tak-

son,' a leaf lettuce, has been around for 150 years and still never disappoints with ease of planting, germination, and harvesting, spring or fall, whether you live in Georgia or in Minnesota.

Why grow your own plants when garden centers are full of seedlings? Even *Martha Stewart Living* weighs in on this: 1) you find a greater variety of seeds available than plants, 2) seeds

holes. Fill with moist, sterile soil made for germinating seeds. Follow directions on the seed package, but most small seeds are placed lightly on the soil surface and *gently* watered in with warm water. Then cover the container with plastic wrap and a rubber band, place in a toasty place (refrigerator or water heater top, heating vent, or special mat), and check daily for the green of sprouted seeds. Immediately remove the wrap and place the pot within a couple inches of a fluorescent or grow light. I use water tight trays that hold eight pots for ease in moving and watering them. When seedlings have about three sets of leaves, each can be transplanted into its individual container and kept under bright light until gradually introduced into the frost free garden, generally around Easter in this climate.

I repeat these instructions each year and would enjoy hearing from anyone who tries growing from seed, with successes or failures. I do order my germinating and potting soil from Gardener's Supply in Vermont as experimentation has proved they give me the most success. And I do order seeds from catalogs, on line (Park Seed, Harris Seeds, Stokes Seeds, Vermont Seeds, Jonathan Scheepers Kitchen Garden, Select Seeds, and so forth) because of the selection, but hardware stores and garden centers in our area also carry seeds. Buy early for freshness. It is time to start the brassicas (broccoli, kale, kohlrabi) now (turnips can be direct seeded outside) though, so get busy.

You may write to Elizabeth at knowltonew@earthlink.net



Cold frame shelters vulnerable seedlings from wintry blasts

ing them to the street for yard waste. I had managed throughout the summer to harvest some Trombolinas whose vine had run ahead of the damage. As I yanked up the last vine, there appeared, lying against the sweet potato raised bed, an overlooked squash, a veritable *club* of a squash, easily 18 inches long, in its usual curved state. The cook was not too pleased to see it, but I rejoiced in this variety's ability to outwit even the dreaded borer.

Gardeners ask for the varieties that have worked for them in the past. I noticed that *Organic Gardening* also had a list, including:

- carrot 'Yaya,' a stubby carrot good for our soils; I myself like 'Yellowstone,' a carrot so easy you can almost throw the seed down on the road and walk off—well, that's what is said.
- broccoli 'Calabrese' because it produces so many side-shoots, good for home gardens; I also find 'Premium Crop' and 'Southern Comet' to work well here.
- lettuce 'Black Seeded Simp-

are more affordable [this is debatable given mass production], and 3) most important, it is a joyful experience to watch seeds sprout and grow under your care.

I was disappointed that no one asked for flowers because these give so much pleasure each year whether begun indoors in February (coleus, marigolds, ageratum, salvia, browallia, torenia, angelonia, etc.) or planted directly in the soil in April (nasturtiums, cleome, cosmos, and some zinnias). By the way, for the last two years, our impatiens have been decimated even though I start them inside in sterile potting soil. Apparently there has been an epidemic of downy mildew that wipes out the plant early in the season; it affects impatiens *walleriana* but not New Guinea impatiens (*hawkeri*), which I plan to try this year.

If you are a beginner, start with some small, clean plastic containers (4" is good) with drainage



Did You Know That ??

Gum thrown on the ground looks like bread to birds, which try to eat it. It fouls their entire systems and prevents them ingesting any real nourishment or water. So they die slowly. Share this and be responsible with your trash.

Thanks for this, Claude Scott McLane (from his Facebook page)

VISIONS OF THE LAND TRUST cont. from p. 9

we are. The founding of the Land Trust was one of many tangible accomplishments of an idealistic generation. Many such efforts have fallen by the wayside as the baby boomers have aged and lost their enthusiasm. Some of those that still persist have changed beyond recognition. The Land Trust could eventually follow one of these sad precedents.

If down the road our base of willing supporters dwindles to the point of burnout, the Conservation Easement we created in 2012 will prevent a developer from stepping in. Practical modern folks might advise us to petition the City of Atlanta to take over the Land Trust and run it as a park at public expense, like Doug and Janet's "Greenway" project. That way neighbors could continue to enjoy it without investing their time.

Our friends in the Tea Party would be appalled at the idea of adding one more function to the burden of government, even one so benign as administering a neighborhood greenspace in Lake Claire. Our efforts here are a showcase for what the "private sector" can do with a minimal amount of money and a lot of elbow grease. And running it ourselves gives us first dibs on what it is and whom it serves, a showcase for democracy itself.

Besides, our greenspace is totally different from the one we toured in Asheville. The Hominy Creek Greenway is a wild area miraculously preserved in a residential neighborhood, similar to the Frazer Forest, where anyone can come to forget civilization for a spell. The Land Trust is designed for people: a place to meet and mingle, cross paths with neighbors, strengthen relationships, build community . . . the very essence of civilization,

one might argue, in its oldest and deepest sense.

You see, "Peace & Love" is more than a slogan at the Land Trust. At first glance it seems an odd combination – the peace of nature, the love of community – but look a little deeper and you'll find something ancient, even primal. Drop by our Drum Circle some Saturday night and experience the pulse of drums and dancers around the crackling bonfire, and you may sense that this Land Trust in a middle-class neighborhood sprang from something far older than a generation of aging idealists. Human beings evolved in communities called "clans" and "tribes," surrounded by the vast untamed beauty of the natural world. Could it be that some deep yearning for that ancestral memory is encoded in our DNA?

If you appreciate what your neighbors have wrought over three decades of determined commitment, the invitation

is open: help us preserve it for your own kids to inherit. If you like the concept of a neighbor-run greenspace, but feel it could be different or better, the invitation is open: join us and bring your own vision into the circle of visionaries. And if you admire our efforts, but have resisted getting involved because you expect to raise your kids and move away from Lake Claire, please think again. What better example can you set for young children than to take an active part in turning your neighborhood into a community?

Wing is the author of the novel Free Ralph! and the current Land Trust Secretary. To contact the Land Trust, email info@LCCLT.org. See also Beth Damon's article on Brotherhug that includes further details on the development of "The Greenway," in the April 2013 Clarion (online at <http://www.lakeclaire.org/wpsite/clarionarchives/2013/2013-04.pdf>).

Groundhog Day Dance . . . and CD Release Party!

by Dave Fasano

Bill Fleming has produced a new album of music called **13 Moons**, based on the Charles Frazier novel of the same name. The album's world premiere will be **Saturday, February 8, 2014**, at the **E-Church** in Candler Park, from 7:00 to 11:00 pm. By an incredible synchronistic coincidence, that's the exact place and time of the 2nd Annual Lake Claire Community Land Trust Groundhog Day Dance!

Recognizing that it's so cosmically "meant to be," Bill has generously offered to donate half

of all sales of the album on that night to the Land Trust. Joining Bill and the **Ex-P.A.N.D. Band** will be **The Radio Ramblers**, a local group that includes Mike Ellis, the Friday morning DJ of WRFG's Good Morning Blues Program, along with long-time Land Trust supporters Bob Vincentin and Gayle Thompson. Also performing will be **Driving All Night**, a start-up band featuring Sam Chastain, a stalwart of the Land Trust's Friday Night Jam.

Attendees will not only hear

and dance to great music; they will also help the Land Trust raise funds to support its land conservation and other programs. The requested donation at the door will be **\$10.00**, and children are admitted free. We encourage you and your family and friends come out and support the Land Trust. Please feel free to bring a snack to share. Beverages will be available as well. The E-Church is located at 470 Candler Park Drive, facing the park. Spread the word!



Bill Fleming on Pedal Steel

SCHOOL STUFF

DeKalb History Center School Programs

by Melissa Forgey

The DeKalb History Center is offering new programs for schools. "We want to expand our partnership with educators in our community by providing high quality curriculum-based programs that engage students in learning about history," said Jenny Goldemund, Programs and Preservation Coordinator at the Center. "Our History Adventure in October served more than 2,000 DeKalb students, and now we want to have school groups tour our historic structures and

experience **living history**," she said.

School tours currently being offered will accommodate 60 students. Students can tour Decatur's oldest home, the Benjamin Swanton House (circa 1825), and two original pioneer log cabins. They learn about early businesses in the area and what life was like in the mid-nineteenth century from actors portraying people from DeKalb's history. Students conduct interviews with these historic figures.

Students meet an African American seamstress from the mid-nineteenth century, Zenith Twilley, a free woman of color in Decatur in 1851. She worked as a weaver, seamstress, washer and ironer. "We want to portray her unique perspective on life in DeKalb County at that time," said Ms. Goldemund. LaDoris Davis, a professional educator and storyteller, portrays Zenith Twilley. "History is an exploration of the lives of the celebrated and the unsung," said Ms. Da-

vis, "We are creating experiences that bring history into the present."

"We know how important it is for teachers to have programs that match their curriculum needs and we want to do everything we can to help them and to give the students a great experience," said Ms. Goldemund.

Tours are \$8 per student. For information call 404-373-1088, extension 20 or visit www.dekalbhistory.org



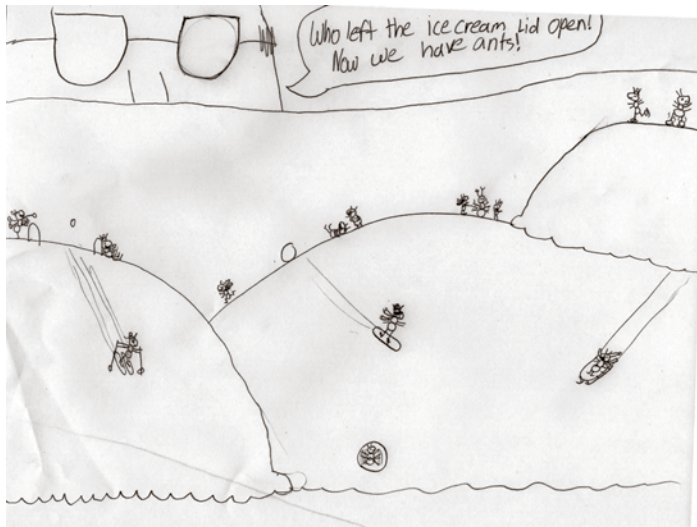
LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



We hope this series is fun and a way for young readers to participate. This month we feature Olivia Ledbetter and Shawn Gillespie. Olivia is 12 years old and a 6th grader at Inman Middle school (and the daughter of Susan and Dan Ledbetter). She enjoys riding horses, animals, Lacrosse at Inman, and Wahoo Swim Team. And obviously, she is an artist who is creative and edgy with her art. Below is her cartoon “Ant Snow Day in the Ice Cream” and two drawings depicting her flower people. Shawn has written about the two pets she and her family have recently rescued. She is age 10 and in the 5th grade at

Mary Lin (and is the daughter of Darlene and Lee Gillespie). Shawn is a member of the Homeless Pet Club. More to come on this in future Clarions.

Let’s put some of *your* creativity on this page. Submit articles, poetry, drawings, your original puzzles, etc., to editor@lakeclaire.org. **Next time: tell us what you like about a new year starting and why you are looking forward to Winter changing to Spring-time.... Or choose any other topic of your choice. Be creative... we’d love to hear from you.**



Ant Snow Day in the Ice Cream



Olivia



Olivia’s Flower People

My New Pets

by Shawn Gillespie

This is my little kitten Leo. We found him in a cardboard box at my church. When we got him he was only 3 weeks old. Now he is a happy little 5-month-old kitten.



Leo, Shawn’s Kitten

The second picture is my new dog Lexie. She is a short haired boarder collie and loves to get dressed up. Just like Leo, she is a rescue. We got her from a nice lady who couldn’t



Lexie (R) and 2 of her humans - Shawn and dad Lee

take care of her any more. We got her on December 12. What a great early Christmas present!!

- Q. What did the doctor say when a boy walked into his office with a corn-cob stuck in one ear, a carrot stuck in the other, and a celery stalk up his nose?
A. “You’re not eating right!”
- Q. What do you call a meal that you eat on a train?
A. Fast food.
- Q. Why did the girl eat her homework?
A. Her friends told her, “Tonight’s homework is a piece of cake!”
- Q. What did the pumpkin seed say to the cashew, the almond, the walnut, and the pistachio?
A. “You guys are all nuts!”

KIDS: Find the VALENTINE hidden somewhere in this Clarion! The first one to e-mail me at editor@lakeclaire.org is the winner, and you will have your name and picture noted in the next Clarion!