

Lake Claire Park Redesign Update

by Judy Hammack, Friends of Lake Claire Park

As we transition from fall to winter, so does the Lake Claire Park design concept plan transition from development to approval. Tom Cullen and Daniel Calvert of Atlanta Parks and Recreation along with Judy Hammack of Friends of Lake Claire Park presented the park redesign to the Neighborhood Planning Unit-C, the Lake Claire Neighborhood Association, and the Friends of Lake Claire Park; all have approved the park redesign. Thus far, Atlanta Parks and Recreation Department has completed a tree inventory (have

you noticed the orange markers?) and a survey including topographical features and path elevations. Currently, the parks department has begun a complex stormwater analysis, and according to Daniel Calvert, the redesign is “progressing technically and methodically.” Stay tuned for more information as we look forward to future collaboration between the City and the neighborhood for redesign implementation.

With temps dipping into the 20s this week, the memories of *Cont. on p. 9*

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries Thanks Lake Claire

Last month, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (CSM) celebrated **35 years** of providing shelter and transformation to men who are homeless in the Metro Atlanta area. And it wouldn't have been possible without our help. Please read the “Clifton story” in the flyer attached in this issue, and please if possible utilize

the envelope to make a donation of any amount. They thank us profusely for all that we do for CSM, noting repeatedly that they couldn't do this important work without Lake Claire. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions about the Clifton program, please contact Alice at (404) 373-3253 ext. 1.

Better Safe than Sorry over the Holiday Season

As Christmas and New Year's eve approach, along with the season's fun and festivities, it is a high time for crimes of opportunity. Baddies will be looking for vacated houses for easy pickings and possibly cars left behind for days. **TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS IF YOU WILL BE GONE AND HOW LONG YOU WILL BE GONE.** *The Clarion wishes everyone a safe and happy December.*

More Changes for the Business District Clifton @ McLendon

Fare Well to Full Moon Records and Ted Selke

by Lynn Nomad

A few decades ago, record shops were the place to hang out. That era has long past, but there are some record stores that have thrived, even in the digital music age. DJs and music producers still use records, and many music aficionados of all ages often prefer the “non-perfect” sound of vinyl. Atlanta has several music stores that sell vinyl, and Little Five Points has the highest concentration, which has included *Full Moon Records* (FMR) at Clifton and McLendon.

The store was a small, well-stocked record store, located next door to another musician-owned venue, the Flying Biscuit (formerly owned by one of the Indigo Girls). The hole-in-the-wall record store specialized in used vinyl and CDs. In a way, it was more like your music-obsessed friend's den than a full-fledged record store, but though small, it was flawlessly organized. Rare albums and 45s covered one wall, posters covered the others,

Cont. on p. 5

YOU ARE INVITED!

**THURS
DEC. 11**
from 6:30
to 8:30 p.m.

At the Frazer Center Atrium

Pedestrians enter from Ridgewood. Cars enter on South Ponce de Leon Avenue

Fun activities for kids; food, conviviality, and relaxation for adults – join your L.C. Neighbors.

We provide vegetarian & meat lasagnas, dessert, and beverages. Attendees: please bring a salad, or a side dish, & serving utensils, & take your container home for recycling or cleaning.

**Happy Holidays
Join us!**

HO, HO HO!

© DAMON DESIGNS

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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.

The newspaper's current and past issues are available online at <http://lakeclaire.org/clarion/>

DECEMBER – lots of fun stuff for kids (and adult kids)!

1-28 RUDOLPH the Red Nosed Reindeer, the Center for Puppetry Arts, see <http://www.atlanta.net/events/seasonal/christmas/> – also many more activities for this month & season.

1-January 3 Holiday model train show at the Botanical Gardens and Garden Lights/Holiday Nights. <http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org/events-classes/events/garden-lights>. Also many other attractions

1-31 Horizon Theatre's *The Santaland Diaries*, for the 16th year! -- info@horizontheatre.com

1-January 4 All month - ride the **Macy's Pink Pig** at Lenox Sq. (closed on Xmas Day) <http://crossroadsnews.com/news/2014/oct/31/macys-pink-pig-rides-herald-holidays/>

1-21 Fernbank Holly Jolly Film Fest, dinosaur dance party, and crafts. Many more activities; see <http://fernbankmuseum.org/calendar-of-events/?year=2014&month=12>

6 Lake Claire Land Trust Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale – great place to get wonderful locally made gifts. See article p. 11 for details

6 Spaghetti with Santa, Epworth Day School, 1561 McLendon Ave., 5:00 p.m. Fun night for whole family and EDS biggest fundraiser for the year. Spaghetti dinner, Santa available for photos, games, etc.

6 Atlanta Beltline Eastside 10K (<http://beltline.org/programs/better-you/running-series/2014-eastside-10k/>)

6 & 20 Drum Circle, dark until 11:00 pm. Please walk, bike or carpool. Donation requested.

9 Sierra Club monthly meeting – 2nd Tuesday of each month, Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave @ East Lake Drive, 7pm. See <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/atlanta/>

13-14 Literacy Alliance monthly sale, 884 Lake Ave, Inman Park, Noon to 5:00 p.m., 2nd weekend each month - laura1hauser1@yahoo.com.

13 Inman Middle School Frosty 5K – Register right away, race on December 13; see article page 7

16 Chanukah, starts at sundown, lasts 8 days & nights. *Chag Sameach* from the Clarion!

19 Atlanta Police Dept Toy Drive, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Zone 6, 2025 Hosea Williams Drive. Please donate a new unwrapped toy. Thank you from your Zone 6.

20 Land Trust Drum Circle, dark until 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Donation requested.

26-January 1 Kwanza, A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture. *Matunda ya kwanza*

31 Underground Atlanta Peach Drop (<http://www.peachdrop.com/>) (*Editor's note—go to the Peach Drop website—it's so much fun—you can watch the countdown until the peach drops!!*)

Calendar deadline for JANUARY 2015 CLARION: DECEMBER 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org. The Clarion is your newspaper, so we hope for ideas/submissions.



Lake Claire's Greenspaces

by Joe Agee

This has been a good year for Lake Claire green spaces! As seen in past editions of the *Clarion*, the Lake Claire Community Land Trust has made significant progress all over its grounds, including a Japanese garden, while Lake Claire Park recently got a long-range design plan from the city. And now, as a follow up to the beautiful landscape project completed at the Harold Avenue Green Space in the fall of last year (with funds from the city and Lake Claire Neighbors), a group of volunteers gathered to engage in a major cleanup and improvement operation.

The effort took two days. On November 1, residents of Harold and Muriel Avenues, along with an enthusiastic group of students from the Germination Project, cleaned up the creek and

drain area that runs through the space, pulled weeds, spread a full truck of mulch, and put a new coat of stain on the wood fence surrounding the property. On November 9, for safety purposes, hard wire barrier fencing was added to the bottom part along the entire length of the wood fence. This was a substantial project, with a lot of measuring, cutting, and nailing required. More cleaning out of intruding plants went on as well as some additional mulch spreading in critical areas --with the assistance of children ranging in ages from 5 to 10 years old who had a big time working with shovels and moving wheel barrels bigger than they were. So a good, but very productive, time was had by all!

And, of course, it was great

having more and more neighborhood volunteers actively involved in maintaining and improving one of our valuable green space zones. In addition, we are expecting more development. At least a couple of trees from Trees Atlanta will be coming in January, and there are plans to apply for a *Love Your Block Grant* from the city for more plants and improvements.

Although there were too many people participating to name, special thanks are due for Julie



Roseman on Muriel for general organization (including refreshments), Roger Swift on Harold for coordinating the barrier fencing installation, and to the children who assisted --while developing an increased awareness of the environment on their own street. Not a bad place to start!

Hello...Safe Journey – Skiing in and around Lake Claire



Dec. 3: Happy birthday Sarah Coburn, Leonardo Avenue!

Dec. 7: Happy 30TH b'day, Adam Masarek!! Delaware Avenue, and congrats to you & Eva ☺

Dec. 10 Happy b'day, Tim Kline, Leonardo Avenue

Belated November Birthdays: (folks, send them in!) Jane Merk-

le Nov 1, Marilyn Schertz Nov 14, Debbie Livingston Nov 18

Please help us improve this feature! Send life cycle events/im-

portant rights of passage, etc. to editor@lakeclaire.org. Deadline DECEMBER 15 for the JANUARY 2015 newspaper.

"Chilinardo"

by Melanie Bliss

This year marked the 8th annual **Chilinardo Chili Cookoff**. Neighbors on Leonardo and nearby Marlbrook gather to taste chili, sides, and desserts and vote for their favorites, with the winners of the various categories receiving coveted awards that include the sombrero, a ceramic pig

recently painted gold, and other "classy" decor items. Organized by Boyd Baker, it is usually held on his and Wendy's driveway, but it was moved to the Blisses' basement this year due to the unexpected wind and cold. The first two years we did this, the cook-off was a contest to determine what winning recipe would be used to enter Leonardo in the Cabbagetown Chomp 'n Stomp. While we had a lot of fun at the Chomp 'n Stomp, the demands of parent-

hood and busy schedules gave way to doing only Chilinardo, which this year turned into a 6-hour afternoon party for those who stayed all day.



Chilinardo Winners

Lake Claire Annual Elections for 2015 | and 2014 Thanks

The annual election of officers for the officers of Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN) for 2015 took place at the monthly meeting No-

vember 20. (See listing on the masthead on Page 2 for all the names, and thank you, all, for your continued service!!) As a re-

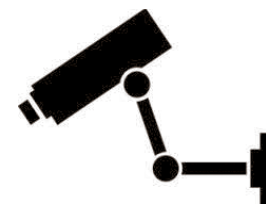
minder, there is no business meeting in December; this month's meeting as always is replaced by the annual

party (see invitation on Page 1 for details).

Cont. on p. 10

Keep An Eye on the Crime and the Time:

Lake Claire Security Report, September 28-November 8, 2014



Compiled from Atlanta Police Department (APD) Report (their notices are regularly a little behind, plus the Clarion comes out once a month)

Auto Theft

300 block Arizona Ave. Vehicle recovered in apt. complex on Harwell Rd. 1996 Dodge Ram, parked on street, unlocked. Damaged: ignition

Burglary

1900 block McLendon Ave. Daytime, damaged: rear bedroom window screen cut open and window pried open. Taken: TVs, tennis bag containing rackets, laptop, jewelry

Other Larceny


2000 block DeKalb Ave. Daytime, Unsuccessful attempt to snatch car keys from the victim's hand as she was out reviewing her car from damages from an accident

Theft from Auto

2000 block Tuxedo Ave Daytime, unlocked car on street. Nothing taken, but victim found on her video surveillance tape that someone had rifled through her car

Contact APD by dialing 911 for any/every incidence of crime or suspicious behavior. Dial 404-658-6666 from a cell phone. You're in APD's Zone 6, Beat 608. Get up-to-date security reports by joining lakeclaireneighborhoodwatch@yahoo.com.

Edgewood Retail District requests that patrons program their 24-hour security number, 678-618-2308, into phones to report any problems.



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 — NOW ENROLLING —
 Ages 18 months - Pre-K
 School Hours: 9:00a - 1:00p
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 EpworthDaySchool.com
 404.525.4749
 on McLendon Ave in Candler Park

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 Lake Claire references
Mention CLARION for a discount.
 404-876-1213
 Owner: David Damon firstratesiding@comcast.net



Personal and Business Classifieds



Housesitting and petsitting available. I am experienced, love animals, and I live in Lake Claire. Available evenings, weekends, and for overnight stays. To reach me, call or text Roberta at 404-631-7761, or e-mail me at schultero77@gmail.com.

Peter and Paul Landscape Cleanup and Maintenance, Call or email Lake Claire resident Pat Del Rey, 404 933 3053 or pdelrey@uga.edu

HELLO NEIGHBORS.



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 130 arizona avenue ~ 678.974.8380 ~ www.rationanddram.com

Full Moon Records/ Clifton at McLendon

Continued from Page 1

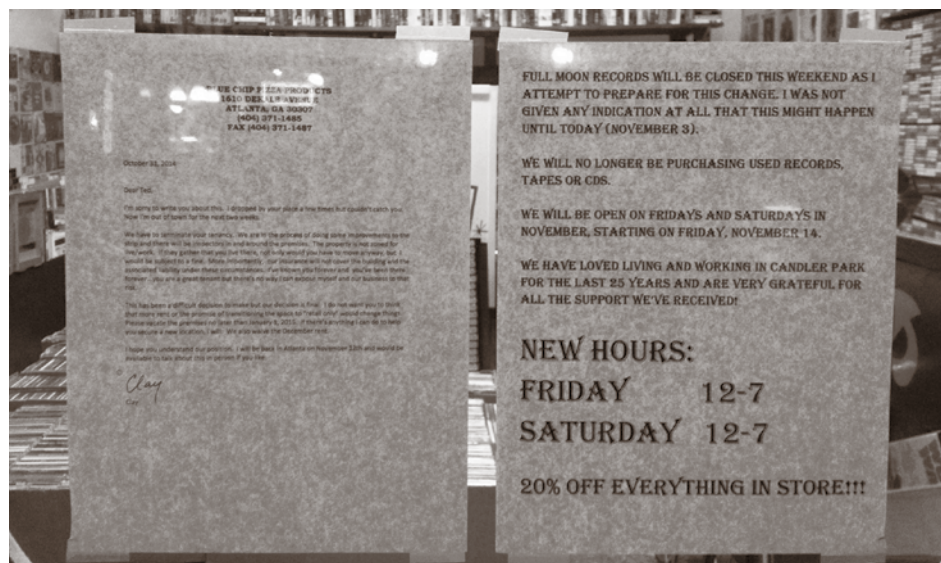


store,” “the Best Little Record Store in Town,” and noted “This is a store owned and operated by a practicing musician and as such (God bless him) it doesn’t open until noon.” Of particular interest to me, Ted sold brand new re-issued classic jazz

and LPs were packed into every possible corner. A single display case housed CDs and a homemade shelf for videos and box sets. Loads of LP reissues ranged from Sun Ra’s outer space jazz to ‘60s suburban garage rock. Used CDs from all genres were cheap --\$7 max--allowing you to take risks on titles you never thought about adding to your collection. In reviews, people have described FMR as “a rare old-school record

albums. My taste is for straight ahead jazz, and among other titles, I found some live recordings from New York jazz clubs (such as *The Blue Note*) from the 1960s. I enjoyed having brand new copies versus used ones, which with vinyl are often degraded by mishandling or inexpensive turntables.

It was always good to bring a few extra bucks to the store be-



Full Moon Records Eviction Notice

cause you were bound to find a few ‘must-haves’ in the store’s dollar section. As record stores and book stores close, we lose the act of **browsing**. I’ve found so many books and CDs by browsing that I never would have found otherwise. I like looking at their cases and thumbing through them and touching them and feeling them. Buying a book or CD online doesn’t have nearly the same feel or experience. We’re losing that when we lose *Full Moon Records*...the immediacy to browsing that is hard to replicate online, even *with* free overnight shipping. And now, af-

ter 25+ years, Full Moon Records has been evicted from Clifton at McLendon.

The ironically friendly toned eviction letter of November 3 (currently posted on the shop door—we have not spoken with Ted) tells him to vacate by January 1, noting that the strip is not zoned for work/live. It continues, however, to say that *even if Ted changed the store to retail-only, the eviction would still stand*. It was never a secret that the shop included Ted’s living space; in the ‘80s-90s, in fact, several of the

Chanukah: a Minor Jewish Holiday?

by Beth Damon

Unlike Rosh Hashanah, Passover, and other “major” holidays, which are biblically prescribed days of rest, we go to work on Chanukah. Also, on many Jewish holidays we wear special clothes. But the days of Chanukah are regular workdays in regular clothes. So, in some senses, Chanukah is a “minor” holiday for us. Maimonides, however, wrote in his *Laws of Chanukah*, “The mitzvah of kindling Chanukah lamps is a very precious mitzvah. A person should be very careful in its observance, to publicize the miracle and thus increase our praise of God and our expression of thanks for the miracles wrought on our behalf. Even if a person has no resources for food except what he receives from charity, he should pawn or sell his garments and purchase oil and lamps to kindle them.”

Maimonides continued to instruct that if one has only enough money to afford either a cup of wine for Shabbat *kiddush* or oil for her Chanukah lamp, the mitzvah of Chanukah takes precedence. So in this sense, the observance is not too “minor,” especially when you take into account

that what Chanukah is all about is “to light up the darkness” (which is why we light the menorah at night). So, even though it’s a regular workday—well, that’s really the whole idea: to light up the regular workday. And that takes a very special light. And, at any rate, since when do we look for excuses not to celebrate?

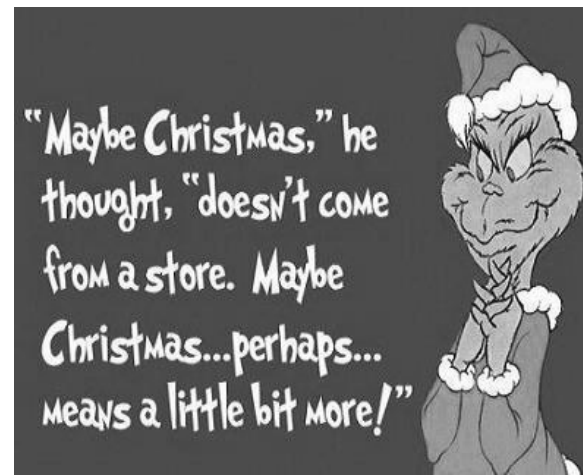
The word *הכנוח*, pronounced [xanu-ka] in Modern Hebrew; is usually transliterated as Chanukah or Hānukkāh, or Chanukah, and it is also known as the **Festival of Lights**, and **Feast of Dedication**. It is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire of the 2nd century BC. Chanukah is observed for eight nights and days, starting on the 25th day of Kislev in the Hebrew calendar, which may occur at any time from late November to late December in the Gregorian calendar, and this year falls on December 16.

The festival is observed by the kindling of the lights of a unique candelabrum, the nine-branched

menorah or *hanukiah*, one additional light on each night of the holiday, progressing to eight on the final night. The typical menorah consists of eight branches with an additional visually distinct branch that is given a special location, usually above or below the rest. Its purpose is to be a light available for practical use, as using the Chanukah lights themselves for purposes other than publicizing and meditating upon Chanukah is forbidden by Jewish law.

Other Chanukah traditions include playing *dreidel* and eating oil-based foods such as doughnuts and latkes.

Indeed, however, compared to the importance of Christmas, Chanukah is a “minor” holiday. Chanukah became more widely celebrated beginning from the 1970s. In North America especially, Chanukah gained increased importance with many Jewish families in the latter part of the 20th century, including among large numbers of secular



From *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

Jews, who wanted a Jewish alternative to the Christmas celebrations that often overlap with Chanukah. Our traditional holiday for giving gifts is actually Purim, and though it was traditional among Ashkenazi Jews to give “gelt” or coins to children during Chanukah, in most of America, this has been overly enhanced with other gifts, so that Jewish children can enjoy gifts just as their Christmas-celebrating peers do, and thus the so-called “holiday season” to include Chanukah along with Christmas. I

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December into January in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

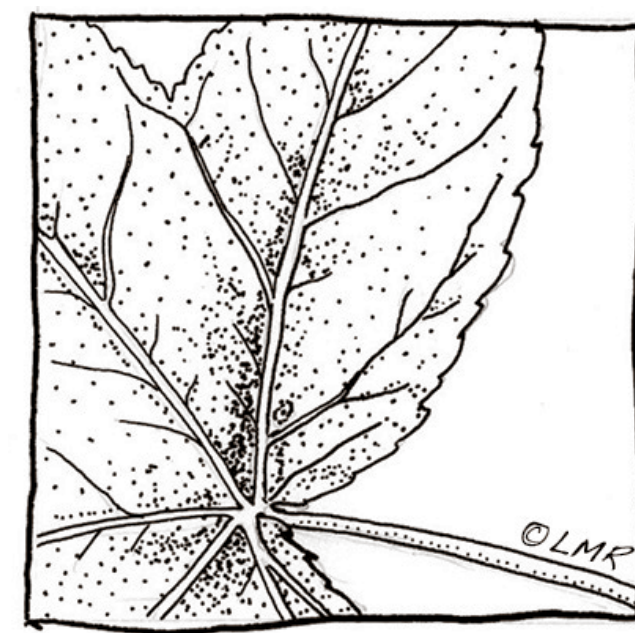
I have written before about the deleterious effect walnut trees have on many plants. (I was amused to see that privet was listed as a shrub affected by walnuts because privet has grown big and bushy all these years where my walnut grew.) This does not mean that you should not grow walnuts; just be aware that roots of the tree secrete juglone, a substance that inhibits many plants, including tomatoes, blueberries, and azaleas, from growing within its root zone. This area can pretty much include whole yards in a neighborhood like ours. And that effect lasts many years after the tree is removed. Walnut leaves are toxic for some weeks or months, but eventually rain and composting make them harmless.

All this I have known for a long time. However, even old gardeners can learn new tricks: apparently pecans secrete juglone also. Since the neighborhoods of Lake Claire and Candler Park are giant pecan orchards, this may be a problem as severe as our shade. No wonder my front yard has never been much of a garden spot! Check online for lists of plants not affected by juglone, and avoid planting others within the extensive (60-80 ft.) root zone of either pecans or walnuts. For several years, I have successfully grown a tomato plant in a rolling tub in my front yard so as to keep it in nearly full sun; obviously container plants are a good choice for such areas.

The Stokes seed catalog appeared in my mailbox November 12. If you grew seeds last year, now is the time to inventory what is left and decide whether to save or discard them. Sometimes the

package will indicate how long a seed is good for germination. However, this implies that seeds were saved in cool, dry conditions during the year; and without air-conditioning, my seeds are often duds by December. Good records can inform you about your past experiences germinating and growing up seedlings to garden size. The holiday season, which really cuts into our gardening time, can work for us when we ask for presents such as a garden record book, gardening garb, or new tools. If you are a new gardener, a simple notebook or calendar book is probably all that is necessary. The important thing is that you begin to keep records. If you have been doing this for a while, though, you might want to know about *A Gardener's Journal* published by Lee Valley Tools, Ltd. (also an excellent tool source); it is not cheap but will serve you for ten years and encourage you not only to record this year's work but also to reflect on your past efforts.

Regardless of records, once spring bulbs are in the ground, by December at the latest, Georgia



Pen and Ink, by Lore Ruttan

gardeners must exert ourselves to prepare beds and order seeds for the coming year. Why sow seeds? A major reason is to get the plants you want. Last year I told myself it did not matter that I had not ordered salvia 'Coral Nymph' (usually from Johnny's Selected Seeds), that I could "just" (fatal word) get plants at some garden center. Didn't everyone do that? Well, if I had not had a friend who works for Pike's,

I would never have known these annuals were in stock, so quickly do they arrive and sell out. I did get seven plants, not cheap either, but will be growing my own again this year. Garden centers have greatly expanded their dwarf zinnia selections, yet Park Seeds offered about 14 colors and blossom type of just the 'Profusion' series last year. Garden centers had mainly orange and white. A packet of seeds is an investment too, but you can share seeds and seedlings among your friends. A little planning and experience will enable those of you who do this best to be given germinating

and potting soils and even seeds by others. A second reason may be to grow your plants with the types of fertilizers and insect repellants you choose. This is not my main reason to sow seeds, but it is good to know the source of your food. At the same time that you plot out this season's garden, flip through catalogs or surf online, and order the seeds, make sure you have some other things ready: refresh the florescent light bulbs on your plant shelves, order the special soil needed for pot sowing, and clean the containers you will use. You can buy small wooden labels or cut up used yogurt containers to make plastic ones with a sharpie pen. Turn the compost in your piles or bins. Cover all beds with layers of finished compost and straw or shredded leaves. If the beds are empty of perennial plants, make several layers of these additions. Our winters are short, and the sun is intense in this region.

Last, I ask of us all to save some wild places in our yards, our alleys, and in so-called "vacant" lots. This may be nothing more than a stand of weedy Echinacea where goldfinch cling sideways to peck at the seeds or a couple of poke weed whose crimson berries are beloved by song birds. It may be a self-sown elderberry bush or a mulberry tree. It may be a path down a neglected alley, like one I once knew in Candler Park between Ferguson and Clifton where the wildflowers grew head-high and bees and butterflies passed by one's ears like traffic on a roadway.

Elizabeth enjoys your comments and/or questions at knowltonew@earthlink.net. --Editor

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Chanukah and Holidays

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think most of us would agree that “the season” has become the opposite of what it is supposed to be, a time of joy, celebration, and family; I spent about ten years of Christmas mornings with some friends who brought their kids

up with the rule that all presents must be homemade or hand-me-down, which was a wonderful tradition, reducing the stress of a frenzied 6-7 week shopping spree...food for thought.

Chag samaech Chanukah!

Happy Chanukah!

Speaking of commercialism of December celebrations, there is a nice website dedicated to having an old-fashioned family Christmas: [http://oldfashioned-families.com/50-ways-to-have-](http://oldfashioned-families.com/50-ways-to-have-a-more-old-fashioned-family-christmas/)

a-more-old-fashioned-family-christmas/. And see page 11, All items in the Lake Claire Land Trust Annual Arts & Crafts sale are hand-crafted, homegrown, or original works, as well as crafts made by our neighborhood’s kids.

S • C • H • O • O • L

S • T • U • F • F

Support Inman Middle School - Annual Frosty 5K

This year’s family-friendly **INMAN FROSTY 5K** through the Virginia-Highland neighborhood and the Beltline will take place on Saturday, December 13, at 9 a.m. Runners, walkers, speedsters, beginners, families, and strollers are invited to come have some fun and support the students and staff at **Inman Middle School**. The race be-

gins at Inman school on Virginia Avenue and then continues along Atlanta’s beautiful Beltline from Piedmont Park to the Old Fourth Ward skate park and back.

Entry gets you a t-shirt and some first-class exercise for only \$25 now (register by December 6, the Clarion thinks, but check the website for current information). Registration and more de-

tails can be found at <http://www.active.com/atlanta-ga/running/races/inman-frosty-5k-2014?int>.

Clarion call for help: we’d love more coverage of SCHOOL STUFF! Parents from elementary and middle schools with news, and parents or students from Grady, please let us know. Including you, Boyd, lol.



Only in Lake Claire: a Conversation about Possums

Your humor for the month—taken from “Nextdoor Lake Claire”

Printed with permission from “FF,” who initiated this discussion:

FF: I just had an unpleasant encounter with an animal inside my screened patio. Apparently he enlarged the small hole that we have for the wires and was eating our dog’s food. Being new to the local fauna, I don’t know what it is and whether I need to take some action. It is the size of a raccoon, but it’s not a raccoon. It’s white-ish and with a long pink tail, mouse / rat like, with feathers. The head and overall look is very similar to a white armadillo, but with no armoire. Any guesses??? Tks!

AS: Sounds like an opossum. Welcome to the South.

TS: For sure – a possum.

CP: The rat-like head and pinkish color sounds right, but the body would have fur, not feathers.

FF: Yes, that was it! I just Googled the images. I said ‘feathers,’ but I meant fur. Will Google now to see if I need to worry. For now, I just need to prevent my dog from eating him! Thanks for the quick solution.

JD: Possum make good soup. Enjoy!

BR: Yep! They are furred. Startle one next time, and you can see it play dead.

BN: The only danger is that they can carry rabies. Otherwise, JD is right. They make a fine stew.

BM: Actually, they don’t carry rabies. Their body temperature is too low to carry rabies. Raccoons, rats, squirrels do, but not opossums. Patch the hole with rabbit or chicken wire. That should work.

PS: If you ever go to the Little White House in Warm Springs, look

carefully at the photos there. You’ll see FDR sitting before a Thanksgiving spread that includes roasted opossum and potatoes. Of course, unless you have no other options, not too many people eat them these days.



VV: Squirrels do not carry rabies, only tetanus. Opossums are marsupials and are actually pretty amazing. They will hiss at you because they are afraid, but they are harmless.

MT: OK, guys, I am a Southerner (Great Grandfather fought for Dixie, and all that). But I do not recommend opossum. A layer of yellowish grease on the top of the stew is standard. It has a slightly sweaty and acrid odor when cooking. Yes, I do speak from experience (at someone else’s house). But if you insist, here’s a fine recipe for this ‘delicacy’ ... [Recipe omitted for space reasons – interested persons feel free to Google it for your xmas dinner]...

AS: I am truly blessed to live in this neighborhood!

FF: Hahahahahahaha... Never thought last night’s experience would end up in a stew recipe ;) My neighbors are great! I was glad to know that our new pet is friendly and healthy. He’s safe here - I’m vegetarian ;)

KC: For what it’s worth, I have enjoyed reading the replies to this post immensely. Welcome to the South.

Clarion Editor: Me, too! I hope everyone does. Welcome to the South, and to Lake Claire!!

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How to Pay Lake Claire Dues?

Mail a check for 2015 dues to Lake Claire Neighbors, attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107, or go to www.lakeclaire.org/lcn/members.htm. Help keep neighborhood coffers "in the black." If you haven't, and if you are able, please pay \$20 yearly dues. Just like with National Public Radio, any amount is certainly appreciated! And remember, you can receive a Lake Claire Banner package deal for \$50.00 if combined with annual dues!



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



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Lake Claire Park Update

continued from page 1

the August Pops in the Park seem very warm. To celebrate their 25th anniversary, Park Pride provided free King of Pops to 25 parks. Lake Claire Park was chosen. As a violinist entertained, neighbors lined up for their choices of popsicles, shared different flavors, and caught up on neighborhood news. Thanks to Park Pride (and our very own neighborhood Park Pride person, Allison Barnett) for the delightful afternoon!

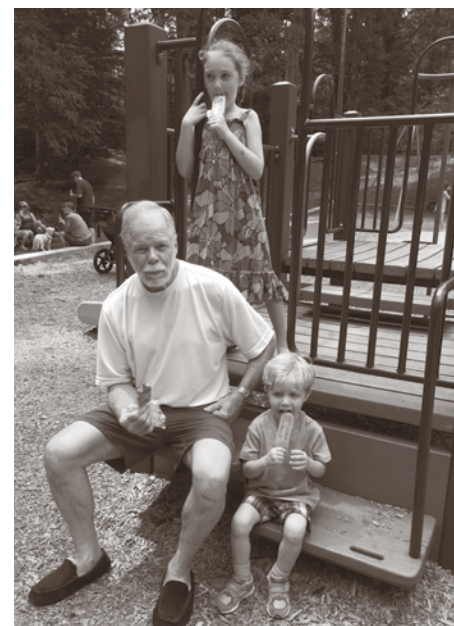
Whatever the season, I hope to see you in the park!



Fun in Lake Claire Park / See you in the Park!



Enjoying Pops (L-R) Christiane Lauterbach, Deepika Bahri



Enjoying Pops in Lake Claire Park - (L-R) Jerry Percifield, Carter Munn, and standing top Madeline Munn

Full Moon Records/Clifton at McLendon Business District

Continued from Page 5

shop owners lived in the lofts or in back of the shops -- remember Mark Richard's shop, *Richard Guitars*, on that business block for many years?

Many of us in Lake Claire want to think that business decisions don't always have to be top priority, but times are a changin', and perhaps the closing of such

icons is --sadly-- emblematic of the times. The eclectic little strip that many of us have known and loved for years has recently lost Donna Van Gogh's, and now *Full Moon Records* departs. Vinyl records will still spin, yet another independent music store will regrettably move on.



Merry Christmas from Anna Trodglen

About the Clarion

We are Lake Claire's monthly newspaper. Volunteers have been writing, editing, producing, and delivering it to 1200+ homes in the neighborhood and adjacent businesses since 1991. The web edition was launched in 2005. For past issues, dating back to 2000, visit the Lake Claire website at <http://lakeclaire.org/clarion/>.

ADVERTISE YOUR COMPANY OR SERVICE IN THE CLARION to promote your business in the Lake Claire neighborhood and business district. Go to the above website for pricing information, or contact our advertising coordinator at advertising@lakeclaire.org. Thank you.

Lake Claire Annual Elections for 2015 | and 2014 Thanks

Continued from Page 3

In addition to officers' reports and introduction of the officers, President Joe Agee welcomed and thanked our new education chair, Annsley Klehr. Valencia Hudson, the Public Safety Liaison for Councilmember Archibong, gave a brief report and answered questions. Valencia regularly attends our monthly meetings; and she worked hard to coordinate with the City the installation of the in-street crosswalk paddles we requested for Clifton. Thank

you, Valencia, for consistently being so helpful to Lake Claire. Lastly, we discussed and voted on five variances at this meeting. And Kathie Ryan invited all to the holiday party December 11. We hope to see you there and at meetings in 2015, starting with the one on January 16.

To all the officers and committee chairs, thank you for your work for the neighborhood and for "re-upping." And thank you to all the

volunteers throughout the year for all you have done with Lake Claire's activities and initiatives, including the Clarion staff, Pat del Rey, Erik Rühling, Alicia McGill, and Sarah Wynn, who recently stepped down. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to making 2014 a great year for Lake Claire!



Valencia Hudson at Nov. 20 meeting

December Facts

December is the last month in the Gregorian calendar. Its name is based on the Latin term for ten. In the Roman calendar, December was the tenth month until the addition of January and February at the beginning of the year. In the Northern Hemisphere December has the shortest daylight hours and marks the beginning of winter. December provides the longest days in Southern Hemisphere, as it is the beginning of summer. December is a month home to many religious holidays.

Here are some fun facts about

December: The birthstone of December is turquoise. The birth flower of December is the narcissus. World's AIDS Day is celebrated on December 1. December 3 - International Day of the Disabled Person. 7th -- Universal Human Rights Month and National Read a New Book Month! On December 20, 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was completed. Kwanzaa is celebrated December 26 - January 2. The 14th is National Stress Free Family Holiday Month, and the 27th is National Chocolate Day!! On December 29, 1862, the bowl-

ing bowl was invented. On December 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright made their first flight. In the Northern Hemisphere, the Winter Solstice marks the first day of the season of Winter. It falls on or near December 21.

Registering Alarm Systems/Free in Hopes of Getting More Registered

My name is Officer Kevin Moody, the point-of-contact for the Atlanta Police Department on the alarm registration ordinance. I can answer any questions or concerns you may have about the ordinance. The easiest way for me to field your concerns is by email and you can reach me at atlantafalsealarms@atlantaga.gov. First and foremost, Atlanta Police officers were spending a lot of time responding to alarm calls in the city, the vast majority of which turned out to be false. Our research has shown that these alarms are often triggered due to user error. In short, that means many of these false alarms can be reduced through increased awareness and educa-

tion on the issue.

Ultimately, our goal is to reduce the amount of time officers spend responding to alarm calls, so they can focus on more critical matters such as proactive neighborhood patrols and timely responses to 9-1-1 calls. Last year, the Atlanta City Council approved legislation requiring any resident or business owner in the city to register their alarm systems. Many municipalities, including some here in metro Atlanta, have been successful in reducing the number of false alarm calls by implementing a registration program similar to ours. The data shows that false alarms significantly drop when owners are more educated, and aware of, the

potential for alarm errors.

We are encouraging all citizens to register for free to avoid any fees. Failure to register will result in a \$150 civil penalty. The Crywolf website is affiliated with the City of Atlanta, and we have shared your concerns about the website's security with the company. They have assured us the site is secure, and that no personal/sensitive data is accessible to the public. The Department is also boosting awareness about



Your Lake Claire banner (\$35--or \$5 off with payment of dues)

the program and will be posting various updates about the program to keep you informed.

We have embarked on several campaigns to inform city residents and business owners on the program, and continue to do so.

Shop Local for the Holidays!

Annual Land Trust Arts & Crafts Sale, Saturday, Dec. 6

Grab your holiday gift list and come on over to the beautiful home at 290 Arizona Ave., three doors away from the Land Trust. The annual holiday gift fair is happening on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the same location as last year. Here's your chance to check off every name on your list in a single day, while supporting local

artists and the Land Trust, all at the same time!

We'll have home-roasted coffee, pepper jelly, shelled Georgia pecans, pottery, poetry, soap, lotions, glass art, wood, gourd art, jewelry, knitwear, and more. All items are hand-crafted, home grown or original works. And this year there may be an added treat – crafts made by our neighbor-

hood kids.

If you'd like to find some inexpensive holiday gifts, give a gift to yourself, or just meet and greet your neighbors while supporting a neighborhood green space, come have a cookie and browse around. Buy *extreme* local, and experience the inspiring array of creativity right here in your own back yard!



Do you know how Green the Land Trust Greenspace is?

The Lake Claire Community Land Trust is an island of green flourishing in the midst of in-town Atlanta. The Land Trust has been certified as a Wildlife Sanctuary by the Atlanta Audubon Society. The dedicated gardeners who rent

plots here to grow food for their kitchens help to cut the environmental costs of importing food from distant agribusiness farms. Each signs an agreement pledging not to use chemical pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers.



Pumpkin Carving

The Lake Claire Community Land Trust annual Pumpkin Carving was a big success with over 60 people gathering to carve pumpkins, share treats, and sit by the bonfire. There was even a visit from the Kudzu Kleep, a vine character who has made appearances at this annual event since the 1980s. Thank you to Bernard and Wing for picking up the pumpkins and to all of the families who came out as a community to carve!

The Land Trust welcomes a new partnership with Dads and Uncles, a new group with a vision of mentoring fatherless boys through permaculture and gardening. The Dads and Uncles Farming Project, coordinated by our longtime neighbor Robert

Pue, will be taking over our biggest garden plot, the fenced triangle just off Nelms Ave. Harvested produce will be donated to local charities. We look forward to seeing more kids at the Land Trust, and more green growing things in general!

Dads and Uncles

by Robert Pue

Dads and Uncles is an organization dedicated to promoting healthy bonding between boys and men of African American descent. Our organization seeks to connect boys of single mothers, ages 5 to 15, with positive male role models. If we can impact this special group of young boys

to any degree, it's a worthwhile cause.

I reflect on the impact that my father, grandfather, and uncles had on my life. We hope to provide this kind of benefit to boys growing up without the presence of a father and/or other positive male models. Our goal is to en-

courage the guidance and nurturing these relationships have traditionally provided.

The Dads and Uncles Farming Project is integral to our organization, as it will help to foster these relationships and teach the boys many skills, including the arts of gardening, permaculture, community-building, teamwork, leadership, and more.

We intend to grow some greens for the winter, including kale, spinach, and collards, but mostly to prepare the farm for spring crops by starting with a wheat covering for the winter. Spring crops will include (give or take): okra, cucumber, tomato, zucchini, pepper, basil, kale, lettuce, potato, thyme, rosemary, sage, onion and garlic. Our produce is not

for sale; it is our gift to all of the community as well as Clifton Sanctuary.

I'm excited to undertake this adventure. The Land Trust is a great space, bringing together a diverse range of individuals and groups. We appreciate the support of the Land Trust and the opportunity to cultivate a portion of the land.

Upcoming at the Land Trust . . .

See the neighborhood calendar on Page 2!



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



We hope this series is fun and a way for younger readers to participate. This month we feature **Carolyn Browne**. I "discovered" Carolyn when I saw her fantastic bat costume at Halloween (see picture page 1 of last Clarion - <http://www.lakeclaire.org/clarionarchives/2014/2014-11.pdf>). She has written her thoughts about family and winter, and she drew the picture below. The family lives on the end block of North Avenue where it dead-ends into Candler Park, but previously lived in Lake Claire at the dead end of Harold, where they lived when Carolyn was born; so (as her mom, Kate Branch Browne, says), Carolyn is a "native Clarion."

Carolyn is 6 years old. She is in Kindergarten at *The Children's School*. She drew the picture of herself and some of her family standing around a bonfire making hot chocolate. This picture is even better in color (which you can see on the online version of the Clarion). Kate

said she doesn't know why Carolyn made all the eyes red, and it's funny that only the women in the picture are yelling. Apparently they are telling Carolyn things to keep her safe, "Don't stand so close to the fire," and so forth. Kate also shared that Carolyn has seen Rudolph's red nose moving in the sky at Christmas time; hence her commentary regarding Rudolph. Perhaps it was an airplane ... **but perhaps not!** This is the time of year to keep looking, kids! -AND please keep the Clarion in mind. Next time, let's feature your creativity. Tell us what you love about wintertime, or write about any topic of your choice. Send your drawings, articles, poems, to editor@lakeclaire.org. We'd love to hear from you by December 15 for the January 2015 issue.

Carolyn Browne joins the ranks of budding young poets, writers, and artists, whose first efforts we are privileged to feature here.

The Spirit of Winter

by Carolyn Browne

I am so excited for winter to come! I hope it snows again because I love going sledding, and seeing all of my friends, and their Mommies and Daddies that live in the neighborhood, out sledding too!

I like to sit by the fire and drink hot cocoa with **LOTS** of marshmallows in it!

When the holidays come, it is time for vacation! I get to spend time with family. I love it because I get to stay up late eating fancy food and desserts, and talking, and being silly with them.



by Carolyn Browne

On Christmas I look for Rudolph's red glowing nose in the sky. Hopefully it is a clear and starry night so that I can see the

red light moving. If you look, look for a red light moving in a straight line across the sky. Sometimes it's blinking.



Carolyn Browne, writer --and artist-- for this month

These are the things that make me happy. Mommy says it is called "The Spirit of Winter."



Amelia Stevens, 1st Place Prizewinner for finding the hidden turkey, with her doggie Ruby

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!

These were the first two kids to spot last month's hidden Turkey.

1st prize goes to Amelia Stevens, age 6 3/4, who is in first grade at Mary Lin and lives on Leonardo with her sister Sadie and dog Ruby.

2nd prize goes to: Sophie Heller, 10 years old, who is in 5th

grade at St. Thomas More, and lives on Lakeshore Drive with her brother Howie, sister Charlotte, and parents Rob & Kristy.

(Note, Sophie wrote for this column in December 2013—see online version at <http://www.lakeclaire.org/clarionarchives/2013/2013-12.pdf>).



Sophie Heller, 2nd place winner

NEW CONTEST:

HELLO, KIDS: Find a dreidel hidden in this issue. (Anyone who doesn't know what that is, ask your mom or dad, or Google it!) Find it, and you're our winner, and you will have your name and picture noted in the next Clarion. Remember, you may

also have your name and picture in the newspaper if you write an article or poem, or draw a picture. To win, send e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org with the answer. Any Lake Claire kid is eligible, but you can't win two months in a row. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize. Congratulations and thank you, Amelia and Sophie!

Have a safe and enjoyable December!
from your Lake Claire Clarion