

# March Infrastructure Bond Referendum Includes Changes to Dekalb Avenue

by Hiram Maxim

Lost in all the local news (Streetcar, Ponce City Market) is an infrastructure bond referendum slated for March 17. According to the City of Atlanta’s website, the purpose of this bond referendum is to address the city’s “infrastructure backlog of more than \$900 million.” If city residents were to approve this bond, up to \$250 million would become available to focus on “critical public safety improvements such as bridge replacement and maintenance, street resurfacing, ADA accessibility, and facility upgrades”.

Based on initial public input, over 200 projects have been identified as top-priority. Currently only one project falls within Lake Claire, but it is a significant one, namely, changes to Dekalb Avenue that would involve repaving, sidewalk repair, removal of the reversible aka “suicide” lane, replacement of traffic signals, and addition of bike lanes from the eastern city limit to the Inman Park MARTA station, thereby creating a cycling connection between the PATH and the

Edgewood Avenue bike lane.

Although not in Lake Claire, other potential projects on the current list include the installation of school flashers at Mary Lin Elementary, Whiteford Elementary, Springdale Park Elementary, and Toomer Elementary, as well as the repaving of North Avenue between Moreland Avenue and Candler Park Drive.

The city is now interested in gathering public comments on the potential projects leading up to election day on March 17. **Comments can be made either online or at one of the twelve public meetings on the topic.** The meeting at Drew Charter School on February 19, 6:00-8:00 p.m. appears to be the closest location to Lake Claire. More information as well as opportunities to leave comments can be found at <http://www.infrastructuremap.org>.

*Hiram Maxim is the neighborhood’s liaison to the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition and has lived in Lake Claire with his wife and daughter since 2007. – Editor.*

# Some Great Targets for our Lake Claire Dues

As has been our neighborhood’s tradition of late, Lake Claire Neighbors acknowledged the hard work and sacrifice of our Atlanta Police Department (APD) and Atlanta Fire Department (AFD) personnel with these small holiday gifts: Our seven APD (Zone 6, Beat 608) officers and sergeants each received a \$15 Candler Park Market gift card. Each of the three watches at AFD’s Firehouse #12 received \$100 gift cards for Savage Pizza. Each watch employs 9-10 personnel. By choosing these gifts we also supported the Candler Park Market and Savage Pizza, both of whom have been supportive of our neighborhood in many ways, including CPM’s annual bicycle raffle with proceeds

divided between us and Candler Park, and Savage providing free pizza for our monthly neighborhood meetings.

If you are a Lake Claire resident, your payment of dues helps us help such causes, and it helps us help you. Suggested annual membership dues are \$20/household; of course, any amount is appreciated! **And you may pay your dues at any time of the year, but the Clarion recommends paying at the first of the year...by PayPal at the website lakeclaire.org or the old-fashioned check in the mail, to Lake Claire Neighbors, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107.**

# Just Click Your Heels

by Sue Strauss

There’s no place like home. And when it’s some 5,800 miles away and delivered right to your doorstep, it’s even better.

That’s what happened to Dora Odia.

Jo Hartsoe, of Arizona Avenue, sent me a note to say she read about Dora in last month’s *Clarion* (“A Nigerian on the Dorf,” <http://www.lakeclaire.org/clarionarchives/2015/current.pdf>). “I’m a retired restaurant cook who occasionally used to make a version of groundnut soup for our soup of the day. I’d be happy to make some for Dora if she is still missing this taste from home,”



*Dora Odia enjoying Jo Hartsoe’s groundnut soup, a taste she misses from back home in Nigeria*

wrote Jo.

**Are you kidding?** That’s what a neighborhood is all about. And it is certainly what makes our

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# The Frazer Center Difference

by Paige McKay Kubik

Those of us lucky enough to spend our days at the Frazer Center know there’s something magical here. No matter what the traffic on Ponce looks like, the minute you come past those gates and into the forest your shoulders relax, your breath slows, and a smile warms your face.

That peacefulness found in our forest and Garden is one of the things that sets Frazer Center apart. Another is our inclusive culture, where people of all abilities “gather, learn, and flourish” together. And the other thing that sets us apart? Our high quality, effective programs. Let me give you an example by telling you about our Children’s Program.

**Quality Early Education:** Frazer Center’s year-round, full day Children’s Program provides quality early education that prepares young children, from birth through PreK, for school success. We also provide an engaging summer camp experience for young elementary school children. We are a Georgia PreK program, and

we hold the prestigious accreditation of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). In fact, we go above and beyond even NAEYC’s high standards. For example, in our infant room there is **one teacher for every four children**. But in reality, that ratio is often lower. Trained floaters, classroom assistants, and Foster Grandparents provide additional help whenever needed, and they

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Cover banner photo by Sarah Coburn

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

## February



Ladies' Tea 2013

**1** 2-5 p.m. **Ladies' Tea**, for Lake Claire women only, 1759 Indiana Avenue; bring a dessert or hors d'œuvre to share, and if you wish, wear a hat (**see picture this page**). And, oh yes, there is another little event that night, on TV, 6:30 p.m., on NBC, Super-something or other, XLIX.

**1 through March 8** – The Waffle Palace, Horizon Theatre – see <http://tickets.horizontheatre.com/>

**2** Will little Beau the groundhog see his or her shadow?! (PS you can visit him at the Yellow River Game Ranch, along with other animals indigenous to Georgia, just 2.5 miles past Stone Mountain.)

**3** *Teeny Tiny Tots Storytime* introduces toddlers to books/reading; free open to the public. Kirkwood Branch library, 11 Kirkwood Rd. [comments@co.fulton.ga.us](mailto:comments@co.fulton.ga.us), 404-377-6471 (Also, Feb 10, 17, and 24)

**7** Land Trust Drum Circle, from sunset to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Donation requested. Bring a friend!

**7** Fernbank Museum "Power of Poison" opening—this and much more all month—see <http://www.fernbankmuseum.org/calendar-of-events/?year=2015&month=2>.

**10** 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/>

**14-15** Literacy Alliance monthly sale, 884 Lake Ave, Inman Park, Noon to 5:00 p.m., 2nd weekend each month - [lauralhauser1@yahoo.com](mailto:lauralhauser1@yahoo.com).

**15** 6:30 to 10 pm, "Party for the Parks on Ponce," Preserving Olmsted's Masterpiece, at Fernbank, see [www.atlantaolmstedpark.org/gala](http://www.atlantaolmstedpark.org/gala).

**19 & the 3rd Thursday of every month – 7:15 pm Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting, The Rose Room at The Frazer Center, 7 p.m. socialize, pizza (THANKS, SAVAGE)**

**19** Comments on the Bond Referendum (see top article Page 1), Drew Charter School, 6-8 p.m. (see website noted in the article for other avenues for Comments)

**19** Chinese New Year 4713. Sheep, a Yin year.

**21** Land Trust Drum Circle, from sunset to 11 p.m. See February 7 above. Bring a friend!

**25** 6:30-8pm Opportunity for students and parents to visit Grady High. [gradynextstep@gmail.com](mailto:gradynextstep@gmail.com) for info and to RSVP for open house. See last month's article by Boyd Baker

**Calendar deadline for MARCH CLARION: FEBRUARY 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org.** The Clarion is *your* newspaper; please contribute.

Mark Calendars now for March:

**Sun., 3/15** Family Fun Storytelling and Weaving Adventure Program, at the Lake Claire Land Trust, 4:00-6:00 pm. See Andrea Zoppo's article on Page 11. For information or to sign up, contact Andrea at [missladybugevents@yahoo.com](mailto:missladybugevents@yahoo.com).

## What's that Woman Doing Wearing a Backpack?



Have you seen a woman walking through the neighborhood wearing a backpack? This is Jacquelyn Howard, resident of Harold Avenue. It has been her 25-year dream to hike the Appalachian Trail, and now it is in the works! March 15 is the typical date to set out on the long journey North; however, Jacquelyn is not ready to make an exact date due to the unpredictable weather we have these days. "If the winter has not served us another Northern by then, late March is my intention" she told the Clarion.

The AT is roughly 2,100 miles, stretching from Springer Mountain in North Georgia to Mt. Katahdin in Maine. The journey takes the average hiker 6 months, stretching through all

four seasons. There can be snow storms in the beginning, beautiful mountain sides of Spring flowers, blueberry groves to munch on with the black bears, and a true wilderness experience prior to arriving at trail's end, the summit of Mt. Katahdin (5,269 ft).

Jacquelyn would like to walk her personal dream, as well as walk for a cause -- or three. She is in the process of creating a facebook page entitled "Walking to Maine 2015." Anyone will be able to go there to know how to support her and make a donation to one of the organizations listed and to hear how it's going out there in the woods! "Never give up on your dreams!" she exclaims.

## Personal and Business Classifieds

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

# Just Click Your Heels

*continued from page 1*

Lake Claire community so special.

I shared Jo's surprise with Dora's family, and we made arrangements to get the soup to them. When I arrived at Jo's to fetch my delivery, she shared some basics of her recipe with me. She had

created a vegetable form of what is a very adaptable gumbo, which often contains meat or fish.

"Mine has a peanut base, with tomatoes, carrots, and cabbage," Jo told me. "Dora may wish to spice it up a little, to her liking."

Feeling the responsibility of

an emissary delivering top-secret information, I delivered the soup to Dora. She was skeptical at first; would it measure up to Mom's goodness? She watched closely as the beautiful bisque was heated and ladled into a bowl. **The moment of truth**

**had arrived...**

**Dorothy was right.** Sometimes you don't have to look any farther than your own neighborhood back yard to appreciate the simplicity of home.

# The Frazer Center Difference

*continued from page 1*

make it possible for children to stay in their home class all day long, without the disruptive transitions that come with combining classes to maintain ratios during drop-off and pick-up times.

Almost half of our teaching staff holds a Bachelor's or Master's degree, and the rest hold Child Development Associate Credentials or Associate's degrees. Our "Continuity of Care" means that young children stay with their teachers and peer groups for the first three years of their lives, developing the trust and relationships that are crucial in child development. The nationally acclaimed Creative Curriculum for young learners is enriched with best practices developed by Atlanta Speech School's Rollins Center for Language and Literacy, and with weekly classes in Spanish, sign language, and music for every age group. Children have many opportunities to learn and play on our accessible playground, in our outdoor classrooms, and in our forest and Garden. Other enrichment activities are offered on a regular basis, as well, such as pet therapy, dance and sports classes, or special per-

formances. And with our Fresh Food Initiative that provides nutritious breakfasts, lunches, and snacks, our full-time staff nurse, and keypad entry and outdoor security cameras, we are just as attentive to children's physical health, safety, and development as we are to their cognitive and social-emotional growth.

**Inclusion:** Children with diagnosed disabilities or research-based risk factors for developmental delay are given priority for enrollment at the Frazer Center, and typically make up about 30% of our student body. Our Inclusion Specialist coordinates with our teachers and families, as well as therapists and special educators, to make sure children with special needs are fully supported and included in classrooms with their typically developing peers. An Occupational Therapy room, and observation rooms where parents and therapists can observe children in their natural environment, are some of the resources available. The inclusive preschool model benefits children with special needs who grow from the social

**Cont. on p. 7**



*Reading to a Frazer Pre-K classroom During Georgia Pre-K Week*

# Interest in Softball?

Is anyone in Lake Claire interested in organizing a coed softball team to participate in a moderately competitive neighborhood league? I'm the commissioner of the Southeast Atlanta League of Softball (SEALS), but I don't live in Lake Claire, and I run the Kirkwood team. We play on Sundays in the spring, beginning in March, and Monday or Tuesday

nights in the fall. There used to be a LC team, but the former captain moved away. Please PM me if interested in starting a new team. (This was from Facebook; you should be able to PM him, from this link - <https://www.facebook.com/SkiLakeClaire> -- if not, write to me at [editor@lake-claire.org](mailto:editor@lake-claire.org), and I'll figure out how to get it to him! -- Editor)

# A New Way to Order Fresh, Local, Regional Foods

## Moore Farms and Friends

by Beth Damon

Moore Farms and Friends is an association of small-scale sustainable, organic food producers. They are particular about growing and production practices; they never use any toxic chemicals to grow food; and they use earth-friendly methods, with the goal of providing regular access to high quality, fresh, nutritious, and delicious food.

Moore Farms has a custom ordering option online, with a wide array of products, and pickup locations throughout Atlanta -- including Lake Claire/Candler Park via the Mercantile, the lit-

tle market that is on the border of Lake Claire and Candler Park that we've written about a few times in the newspaper. Other pickup locations are found at Emory University, Decatur, Virginia Highland neighborhood, and others (complete list available at their website).

Everything is based on farmer availability, but often you will find seasonal fresh fruits, vegetables, honey, eggs, meats, flowers, and herbs. They also work with many fine Atlanta restaurants, including 4th and Swift, Bacchanalia, Miller Union, and others

(see their website). Several Lake Claire residents have been ordering from them for several years.

"Moore Family Farms is rated the best CSA (=community supported agriculture) in Atlanta -- and it has been for several years -- because they simply are," said Pat Del Rey, Harold Avenue resident and Clarion Advertising Coordinator. "I have been ordering from them for over three years, and I am completely satisfied. I can order whatever I want in several categories of food. The quality of the produce is wonderful, and it is convenient for me



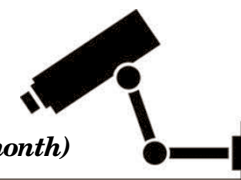
to pick up my order on Thursdays at the Mercantile. I cannot imagine a better CSA."

You can check them out at <http://www.moorefarmsandfriends.com/>.

## Keep An Eye on the Crime and the Time:

Lake Claire Security Report, December 7, 2014 – January 10, 2015

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



### Other Larceny

1700 block McLendon Ave      12/29/14      Taken: jewelry box and contents. Victim had a cleaning crew at his home when the items were believed to have been taken.

### Theft from Auto

1800 block New York Ave.      12/13/14      vehicle unlocked. Taken: clothing and games

#### Notes Regarding Crime and Security

The property manager at the Edgewood Retail District would like all patrons to program the following number into their phones in the event of a threatening situation or to report anything amiss: 678-618-2308. This is ERD's 24 hour security number.

Contact APD by dialing 911 from your home or cell phone for any/ev-

ery incidence of crime or suspicious behavior. Program 404-658-6666 into your cell phone for a prompter response. Tell the operator you're in APD's Zone 6, Beat 608 if your location does not automatically come up on the operator's screen. It's also a good idea to give a call back number. For up-to-date security reports join lakeclaireneighborhood-watch@yahoo.com or nextdoor.com (Lake Claire).

### FIRST RATE ROOFING EXPERTS

Hail damage or  
aging problems?  
Call for a free inspection.



Lake Claire references

Mention **CLARION** for a discount.

404-876-1213

Owner: David Damon firstratesiding@comcast.net



### EPWORTH DAY SCHOOL — OPEN HOUSE —

Prospective Parents  
Monday, March 16  
from 9:00 - 11:00am

18 months - PRE-K

EpworthDaySchool.com  
404.525.4749

on McLendon Ave in Candler Park



## 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

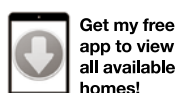
Druid Hills

Virginia Highland

Morningside

Poncey Highland

Old Fourth Ward



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# Wild in Lake Claire

by Carol Vanderschaaf

Did you know that bluebirds can begin nesting here in Georgia as early as February? This would be a great time to make your yards inviting. Things you can do include converting roosting boxes to nest boxes, adding pine straw to make nest-building easier, and even providing cat hair and dryer lint for them. I've not heard from anyone about any animals you've spotted this month in Lake Claire, but GeorgiaWildlife.com reported that a pair of majestic bald eagles nesting on the campus of Georgia Berry College hatched a baby eagle in late January. And I myself saw a Red-shouldered Hawk on a wire over La France Street on my way to Kroger.

Our Ruby-throated Hummingbirds arrive in Georgia in late

February or early March. Keep their feeders ready for them, and you might spot some, though the first one I've had has been April 8. When you get your feeders ready, fill them with one part regular white sugar and four parts water; then boil - or not - for a few minutes. There are different opinions on that. It's definitely not necessary to buy that red stuff, probably better not to. Hummers get their main nourishment from insects. The sugar water gives them the energy to zip around after those bugs. The mixture can be stored in the fridge for a couple of weeks.

In case some of you missed it there was a news clip on TV at the end of January about the Atlanta Coyote Project being conducted by a Berry College professor in order to find out where and how many coyotes are being seen in urban neighborhoods. Check out their Facebook page for more information and perhaps to help them out.. And speaking of coyotes you may have heard about coyotes attacking a police dog here in Georgia. The dog, a trained police dog, **attacked the coyotes first**. Very sad that a dog had to die that way, but I don't know if the coyotes

would have attacked him first.

**Please remember to let me know about Lake Claire**

**sightings** - we'd love to keep this feature active! - write to [cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net](mailto:cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net).



Bluebird on redbud branch, by Lore Ruttan



*Our monthly cartoons are from the Biscuits and Bellyrubs series by Anna Trodglén. Original art, prints, cards, signed prints from the Biscuits and Bellyrubs series, and commissioned pet portraits are all available for sale at [www.annatrodglen.com](http://www.annatrodglen.com). Thank you, Anna.*

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



### February Birthdays:

Belated January Birthday: Tom McGill of Delaware Avenue, Happy birthday, January 28

February Birthdays:

1 – Linda Maynard, Delaware Avenue, will be...well...old!

2 – Isla Roberts – will be two, Claire Drive

3 – Beth Damon (*will you still need me, will you still feed me...*), Delaware Avenue

*Please help us make this feature inclusive. Take a minute right now, and send life cycle events/important rights of passage, etc., for the month of March – and beyond – send to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org). **Deadline FEBRUARY 15** for the **March** newspaper.*

9 – Amelia Roberts -- will be six, Claire Drive

24 – Eamon, Emmett, and Brigitte (the triplets of Hardendorf!) McNulty - turn 9 years old. The family moved here several months after they were born, so it will also mark their 9th year in the neighborhood.

26 – Ben Damon turns 94!

27 – Esther Williams (7 years old) Harold Avenue

# Lake Claire Resident Retiring from Freedom Park Bird and Butterfly Garden

by Carol Vanderschaaf, Freedom Park Garden Coordinator *Emeritus*

I'm happy to announce that as of February 2015, the Freedom Park Bird and Butterfly Garden will have some new coordinators. My good friends and nature lovers, Pandora Williams, Jeff Killingsworth, Lauren Sandoval, and Beech Hollow Farms <http://www.beechhollowfarms.com/> will be adopting the Garden via Park Pride.

All three have had a longterm commitment to restoring native habitats and to community education. Pandora currently manages Beech Hollow Farms, a nursery for native plants, which works with communities and organizations to restore native greenspaces. Beech Hollow Farm is a 120-acre native plant farm just outside Lexington, Georgia. The Farm is the culmination of a nearly decade-long mission to save and propagate plants from the metro Atlanta area threatened by development and invasive species. Pandora has also been the driving force behind EcoAddendum, an organization whose focus has been on education and restoration of native species for pollinators, birds and, butterflies

Jeff is the Nursery Manager at Beech Hollow Farms and is in the process of getting his cer-

tificate in native plant studies at the State Botanical Garden. He previously worked at EcoAddendum in a similar position. Jeff has been a long term gardener and has been studying ecology centered books for many years.

Lauren, in her day job, is the Youth Education Manager at Trees Atlanta. The Youth Educa-

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# The Frazer Center Difference

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interaction and examples of their typically developing peers. Typically developing children also benefit, growing up as people who are helpful and compassionate and who welcome diversity, but learning how to adapt their play to include everyone, developing soft skills like team-building and out-of-the-box thinking. Also, having staff who are experienced in child development and special needs means better early detection and intervention to address developmental delays in all of our children. We track every child's development every day.

In addition to their interactions with each other, children at Frazer often have the opportunity to interact with participants in our program for adults with developmental disabilities...garden-ing, producing our annual talent show, or having classroom story time with an adult who is training for a job with children.

**Family Engagement:** Inclusion is not just our mission...it's our culture. We are proud of the diversity of families and staff who are welcomed here and we work to maintain that diversity. For example, through needs-

based scholarships, we make our services accessible to low-income families. PTAC, Frazer's parent committee, sponsors many opportunities for families to socialize, like our Fall Festival held in the Frazer Forest, our spring family picnic held in Cator Woolford Garden, and our annual fundraiser, *Goodness in the Garden*. And our families connect in many informal ways as well, such as planning weekend playdates and camping trips together. Through PTAC and membership on our Board of Directors, parents have many opportunities to provide

input and leadership to maintain the high quality services and the family-friendly atmosphere at Frazer.

**The Frazer Center is something special...**large enough to offer diverse learning opportunities for children, but small enough to feel warm, welcoming, and nurturing. It's truly a magical place for our children, and for all of us who have the privilege of spending our days with them in the Frazer Center Children's Program.

## Inman Middle School Expansion Impacting Trees

Many folks in the neighborhood around Inman Middle School (IMS) as well as adjoining intown neighborhoods have expressed alarm about the IMS expansion's destruction of healthy trees. Approximately 20 trees have been marked for destruction.

The Parks Department approved the plan despite irregu-

deadline) to protest the removal of these trees. In addition, there has been a robust discussion on the NextDoor forum about the IMS expansion.

Concerned neighbors came to the Virginia Highland Civic Association meeting at the end of January to discuss the trees. The discussion evolved into a

the construction of a softball field is the reason for the large trees to be removed; that there is not enough land on the property to replace the destroyed trees, therefore the tree replacement plan alone would be the legal reason for appeal; and that the neighborhood is absolutely opposed to fencing the greenspace and restricting residents from using the fields during non-school hours. Some in the group expressed that all APS schools should be academically sound, socio-economically diverse, and appropriately sized. They believe that it is clear that IMS has reached its maximum size and that APS needs a plan to relieve chronic overcrowding. The current plan is only a stop-gap measure.

Others in the Nextdoor forum noted that the City's number one priority must be safety and crime prevention as it relates to being responsible for thousands of children attending and traveling

plan to meet the growing population of young students while integrating responsibly with the surrounding community, including protecting the environment so that old-growth trees are not arbitrarily destroyed. One per-

*"Although the city arborist has determined that four of the marked trees merit removal based on their existing health, some of the trees are marked to be cut down for the convenience of expansion and construction."*



larities in the trees slated for removal, the drainage plan, and the tree replacement plan. At least two appeals have been filed, which will help slow down the process so that the project can be reviewed. In the last week (as of when this was sent to the Clarion at the end of January), a petition has developed (with 349 supporters as of publication

larger discussion concerning the IMS expansion. They feel that adequate input from the neighborhood was not sought and are concerned that the school will continue to be overcrowded even after the construction is complete.

Other concerns were that the tree replacement plan places trees IN the softball field, while

*"I live directly across the street from the school, and the view from my home will be vastly different once the trees are gone for me and my neighbors."*

to and from the school and that they should focus on developing a sustainable, forward-looking

son noted that "with a situation as complex as expanding public school capacity with no available real estate to expand to, we have to be realistic, creative and goal-oriented. If the plan is truly whacking trees without justification, we should identify specific trees that should not be destroyed, and why."

Go by and see the big orange Xs on the trees, and see what you think. The group sent a letter to the school board representative, and asked that people think about it and sign the petition and join the discussion. Of course, this is complicated by the fact that folks in the school cluster pushed for the expansion at Inman, where there is not really room for growth.

# February into March in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

*Organic Gardening*, the magazine in continuous publication since 1942, has come to an end. I sensed the death knell when I read "Special Collector's Issue" at the top of the Feb/Mar 2015 issue. My faithful companion since 1979 when I began gardening in Lake Claire, it will be replaced by something called *Organic Life* that will probably resemble the present magazine pretty much as articles on gardening have slowly been overtaken by recipes for food and homemade beauty products. Huge color ads dominate whole pages. Since my favorite article in *Organic Gardening* was back in the 1980s and explained in all black and white exactly how to grow broccoli successfully in every USA climate zone (which advise I follow faithfully each year), I am not as sad about *OG's* demise as I might have thought.

Surprisingly, other magazines have recently been providing more articles on growing vegetables and on going organic. *Horticulture*, for instance, has had a five-part series on the importance

of soil. Although I complained last month about getting so "over-scienced" about gardening that you might be afraid to try, a recent article on keeping the "soil web" healthy was right on the mark. Good soil is full of minute organisms that plants need. To encourage them, 1) test your soil either by buying a simple kit or by using the county extension service to figure out if it needs amendments (<http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/dekalb/>); 2) Avoid plowing, rototilling, or walking on your soil except perhaps to till up a bed initially; and 3) read the labels of all amendments, and avoid any-

thing that promises a miracle. The old curmudgeon who wrote this great series reminds us that "organic" and "natural" on plant

food (and our own) is fairly meaningless now. He does recommend products approved by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) because it is an international, private group supposedly unaffected by the agriculture industry. (<https://www.omri.org/>)

I was pleasantly surprised by the low \$8.00 fee for testing a soil sample from your garden. <http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/dekalb/anr/SoilTesting.html> tells you how properly to collect

a sample, and the office is right out Memorial Drive.

Take the advice not to walk on your garden beds seriously. Our clay soil compacts easily, especially with the large amounts of rain we get in a short time during thunderstorms. The latter can be prevented by having your soil always covered with either mulch or a cover crop, especially when you are not growing anything in the area. I do spade amendments into my beds but do not rototill. Imagine the disruption that causes in the soil, not only to the worms you can see but also to the micro-organisms and helpful bacteria, like being inside your tooth as it is drilled! On our small lots, square-foot gardening is usually best, and raised beds make adding compost and not walking on the soil easy.

If your soil has been tested, you can get advice on how much manure, blood meal, bone meal, wood ashes, or lime to be added at various times of the year. Sure, compost will not supply all the nutrients that especially

**Cont. on p. 9**



## Emergency Cheese Question

\*Pulled from Nextdoor Lake Claire listserv\*

TS: I've just eaten some Burrata cheese, and I don't know what to do. I'm afraid to leave Europe and come home to Lake Claire! What if I cannot find it in Atlanta?!? **Can anyone help?**

DN: Star Provisions – you can get on the plane with peace of mind.

DB: True, Star Provisions has it. Plan A, however: Stay in Europe!

SJ: Easily found now in Atlanta, Trader Joes,, Whole Foods, Dekalb Farmers Market!

AD: Best NextDoor post ever!

## Local Girl Scouts Help the Hungry

by Cecily Stevens

At the end of January, Girl Scout Troop 13553 packed and distributed more than 20 "Express Bags" for Intown Collaborative Ministries' (ICM) Emergency Needs Food Pantry.

ICM recently issued a call for Express Bags for the food pantry for the month of January. Express bags are pre-packed bags filled with donated food items (a needs list was provided by ICM), ready to distribute to food pantry guests. ICM operates a Saturday Food Pantry weekly in the lower

level of Druid Hills United Methodist Church. The girls of Troop 13553 were excited to seize the opportunity to help the hungry in their local community.

Troop 13553 is a Junior Girl Scout troop; girls are 9-10 years old. All members of the troop live here in 30307. The troop meets twice monthly at Epworth UMC. Three different schools are represented in the troop.

Food donations for this project were generously given by the congregation of Epworth UMC

and by the families of Troop 13553.

Three different schools are represented in the troop.

Food donations for this project were generously given by the congregation of Epworth UMC and by the families of Troop 13553. The Express Bags were distributed at the January 31 Food Pantry.



*Troop 13553 with the Express Bags they packed for ICM's Emergency Needs Food Pantry*

# Lake Claire Resident Retiring from Freedom Park Bird and Butterfly Garden

*continued from page 6*

tion program uses the Freedom Park Garden as an environmental education tool with students at May Lin Elementary School just up the hill. Previously Lauren has also worked at EcoAdendum where she was closely involved with management and community education projects.

I'll be stepping back as Garden Coordinator as soon as they take over. I've had that position for many years, since the first plant was put in the Garden in the spring of 2005. The Garden was enlarged three times over the years and now has over 40 species of native plants established there. Thanks to Al Hurt of Audubon we have an active blue-

bird box on site. There is also a bird bath for visitors to take a dip in (birds only please).

The DeKalb Master Garden Association and the Atlanta Audubon Society helped to get the garden started. The Master Gardener Association left a few years ago to go on to other projects. Over the years many neighborhood individuals and organizations helped to keep the garden going. They are too numerous to name here but I can only say how grateful I've been for their help!

The community is very lucky to have Pandra, Jeff and Lauren taking things over. I know they will bring a great deal of knowl-

edge, enthusiasm, dedication, and energy to the project. They are committed environmentalist and have a special interest in pollinators. I can't wait to see their vision for the Garden come into being.



*Carol working and weeding in the FPB&B Garden*

## February into March in the Garden

*continued from page 8*

vegetables and perennials need; however, compost will add some nutrients, including many not available in purchased fertilizer. In addition, it improves our clay soil, that soil web I keep harping about, enables it to hold water better, and aids plants in fighting off diseases. This is home-grown compost, not stuff in a bag.

Already in early January we had a dip in the temperature below 20 degrees, just as we did last winter, but five degrees warmer. As I write, no snow, but we have plenty of time for that. So far it has been a cloudy winter, which keeps things warmer, and more rain to make up for last fall. In October I could not keep soil in the bulb digger, it was so like dry sand. My broccoli came through the 15 degrees fine un-

der two layers of row cover, the bedspreads, and with the trouble light; but I have no idea how this will affect the formation of the buds that had just begun. The great front yard garden on Mansfield in Little Five Points came through with lettuce, etc., intact, but it did not seem as if many others did much to save winter crops. It is easy, folks. All you need are a few hoops and some row cover—I probably overdo it.

Check where you planted root vegetables last year as there might still be some tasty carrots out there. Be sure to dig Jerusalem artichokes before they start sprouting and are too soft to eat. Continue starting flowers and cole or brassica vegetables, like broccoli and cabbage indoors, and transplant to individual con-

tainers when they have two-four real leaves. It is not too early to sow peppers, eggplant, and tomatoes inside also. If you have a cold frame, prepare it for spring by washing the top and adding composted soil plus any amendments. Even if you plant nothing in it directly, this will be a holding place for your seedlings as you harden them off. February is the month to plant peas outside although they may sit for a while without germinating if the soil is too cold.

Prune your bush roses in late February, covering each cut place with some glue to prevent borers from entering the cane. Advice suggests cutting back to four-six canes, but obviously the experts grow bigger, healthier roses than I do. I suggest removing dead

canes (darker in color with no green at the cut) and those that look thin and weak or cross over healthier ones. Roses do need a lot of care, but hold off on fertilizing until March. This is a good month to prune about everything EXCEPT spring-flowering plants, and this includes blueberries, or you will not get any flowers or fruit.

Despite the cold, we can see the additional light each day, enjoy the snowdrops, crocus, and even narcissus this month, and imagine the delights in our garden this spring.

*You may write to Elizabeth with gardening questions at [knowltonew@earthlink.net](mailto:knowltonew@earthlink.net). -- Editor*

## Five Great Places for Noshing near Lake Claire

by Lynn Nomad

Part of what is wonderful about Lake Claire is the convenience of many places for snacks and meals with friends and neighbors, many within a mile or so.

### Savage Pizza

Right in Little 5 Points, we encourage you to choose **Savage Pizza** as your go-to pizza venue for Lake Claire—not only because of the delicious food but because they are a great community citizen. They provide free pizza for our monthly neighborhood meetings, and starting next month, they are a

Clarion newspaper advertiser. Plus---the pizza is delicious, and they also have awesome meatball sandwiches, calzones, delicious Greek salad, other salads, and other choices. The decor of comic books and action figures are fun for kids and for adult kids like I am. The No Brainer pizza is a good choice: pepperoni, sausage, black olives, onions, and green peppers, pretty much pizza perfection (for a carnivore, but they have plenty of veggie options, too).

*Cont. on p. 10*



*Savage Pizza Menu*

# Five Great Places for Noshing near Lake Claire

*continued from page 9*

Whole Wheat crust is available, and delivery is, too. And they have a solid beer selection. Please support them and the Clarion's other advertisers. See <http://savagepizza.com/> to choose, or walk – a walk from here to Little 5 is always fun, and the walk home makes you feel better about the pizza calories.

## The Candler Park Market

Wanna know a super-secret spot for burgers or sandwiches? It's The Candler Park Market. Hiding behind its exterior of a convenience store you will find a fantastic deli that deserves a standalone shop. The deli is nestled in the back, and oh my, is it worth the trip. It has a great selection for carnivores and vegetarians. For the former, the burgers are delicious, but with any deli sandwich on the menu, they will swap the animal for tofu. It sounds like such a simple concept, but it's rare to find a deli that offers this. And the bread always tastes like it was baked within the hour. Once I ordered the Californian on multigrain bread and swapped the turkey for tofu. Much to my eating pleasure it was braised (or baked?) tofu! It was so fresh and delicious! CPM's wine selection has long been known to many of us. They have a fantastic selection, great variety, and with a variety of affordable pricing.

CPM is another excellent "citizen of Lake Claire." Located officially in Candler Park, Lake Claire beginning literally across the street, the Candler Park Market (like Savage) has been a supportive business neighbor to us. Every year they hold a bicycle raffle, and they divide the proceeds between the two neighborhoods, CP and LC. They have been willing to contribute to many Lake Claire events, including annual support of one of our signature events, the annual Halloween party. Many people in Lake Claire look forward to and volunteer for this fun event whose proceeds benefit our parents group, and CPM provided the water this year, and always contributes in some fashion. The store is great for picking all sorts of things up. The owners and employees are extremely nice and helpful, and it's locally owned. One of the best parts (I can't lie) is that they sell Jeni's Ice Cream! Check it out at [\[ket.com/\]\(http://ket.com/\) -- or walk the 2 blocks for a special treat.](http://www.candlerparkmar-</a></p>
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## Dr. Bombay's

Have you had high tea at **Dr. Bombay's**? This café is enchanting with its eclectic décor, thousands of books for \$1 each (proceeds go to a charity), tea, coffee, pastries, desserts, ice cream, sandwiches, and



*High Tea at Dr Bombay*

other "natural food" stores). The product sourcing policies are more demanding than any other stores. They offer an array of raw foods, so this store is a great choice for raw foodists. If you haven't been in recently, you may not know about daily breakfast on the Hot Bar – it is a typical southern breakfast (except vegetarian), featuring scrambled tofu, soy-sage, mini-quiches (non-vegan), vegan cheese grits, and biscuits. Their website has a deli page featuring the daily hot bar menu. And, as has been the case for 20 or so years, they have fresh hot organic fair-trade coffee available at Sevananda every day. And don't forget the bulk spices and herbs, as well as the vitamin section, staffed by knowledgeable staffpeople. <http://www.sevananda.coop/>

## Sevananda

**Sevananda Natural Foods**, also in Little Five Points, is owned and operated by members and has provided a natural source of healthy, local, and organic foods to the local community since 1974. They have healthy, organic, unique finds. There is a vegetarian bar and cuisine, with awesome breakfast, lunch, and dinner foods, and a few places to sit at the front of the store. The service is friendly. This store is ideal for vegans, of course, as they don't sell any meat (as do some

other "natural food" stores). The product sourcing policies are more demanding than any other stores. They offer an array of raw foods, so this store is a great choice for raw foodists. If you haven't been in recently, you may not know about daily breakfast on the Hot Bar – it is a typical southern breakfast

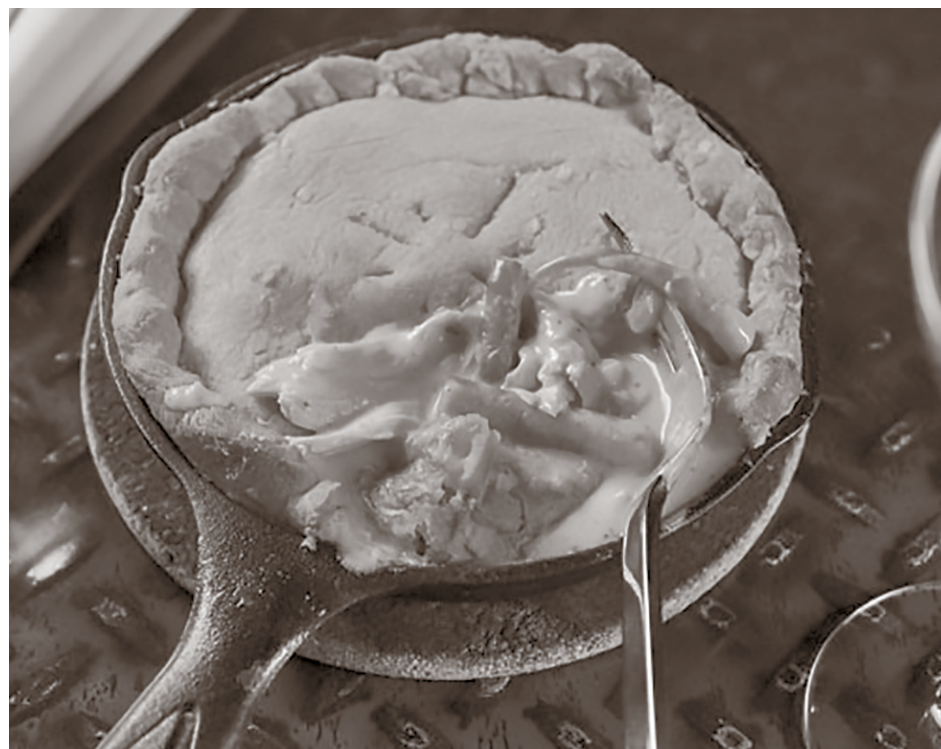
(except vegetarian), featuring scrambled tofu, soy-sage, mini-quiches (non-vegan), vegan cheese grits, and biscuits. Their website has a deli page featuring the daily hot bar menu. And, as has been the case for 20 or so years, they have fresh hot organic fair-trade coffee available at Sevananda every day. And don't forget the bulk spices and herbs, as well as the vitamin section, staffed by knowledgeable staffpeople. <http://www.sevananda.coop/>

## Ration and Dram

Just across Dekalb Avenue from the Lake Claire Land Trust, **Ration and Dram** provides a wonderful dining atmosphere, including a great

Sunday brunch. The menu is unique, and the drinks are superb. Tucked in among the Arizona Lofts, this is a neighborhood restaurant between Edgewood and Kirkwood -- that just happens to have a serious beverage program... unique cocktails, a thoughtful list of draft and bottled beers, house-made sodas, and wine. The direction of the food is in the New American style of updating recognizable dishes with local ingredients. The kitchen's offerings are impressive, simple, and satisfying. Ration and Dram's floor plan is unusual. The restaurant is two stories, with the first floor small with a couple of tables outside, while the second floor plan is larger and accompanied by a terrace. This is a suitable match to Ration and Dram's style. If you're looking for the neighborhood restaurant to bring the kids and maybe watch a game, head upstairs. If you'd prefer a place a little bit more intimate and quiet, a good place to sip a cocktail, just stay downstairs. Please see the longer description in the review we published in the November 2014 Clarion at: <http://www.lakeclaire.org/clarionarchives/2014/2014-11.pdf>. Like Savage Pizza, Ration and Dram is a Clarion advertiser. <https://www.facebook.com/RationAndDram>

Have fun with all of these. We doubly appreciate your support of places who are supportive of us, but the food and experience is your real reward!



*Ration and Dram's chicken pot pie served in a cast iron pan*

# What the Land Trust Means To Me

by Andrea Zoppo

## *A relationship woven with time and love . . .*

It was about 17 years ago when I heard the first beat of the drums -- my very first drum circle. I was a young teen living in suburban Gwinnett County. Wearing long flowy skirts and listening to Janis Joplin, I did not fit in at my school. I felt disconnected from community and confused by social trends and societal roles until that first Saturday. Walking towards New York Avenue, I began to hear it. Drawing closer I could feel it. When I saw the rings of welcoming diverse people aglow with their real smiles, that was it. I had found the safest place I had ever been. I found a haven.

While attending GSU and pursuing my BFA, I made art from the Land Trust. Collecting leaves, mulch, fallen flower petals, I made paper sculptures. Eventually this method turned into a series called "The Future Ancients." When I finished my degree I made an 8-foot hollow effigy from the fallen leaves of the land and celebrated at the Land Trust with my inspired community. (See picture Page 3.)

To this day, if I feel disheartened, am seeking inspiration, or want to feel communally created peace, I go to the Land Trust. Over the last 16 years, I have met

the most beautiful people I know within the gardens of the Land Trust. The drum circles and moments on the land instilled in me confidence and spirit that I have

and more at countless events. In 2008 I established the character "Miss Ladybug," providing programs and working with nonprofits and youth at local community



Andrea's Miss Ladybug Party – photo by David Callihan

shared with loved ones in all my travels and homes. It is a treasure in all senses. Like the beating drum and roots of the trees, the Land Trust pulses love that transforms and sustains. I am sure my story is shared by many who have been deeply moved by the community of the Lake Claire Land Trust. I would say the Land Trust has been my biggest mentor.

Growing up within a family entertainment business, I entertained as a clown, characters,

gardens, art studios and schools. Since then, I have been providing entertainment with art and garden education all over metro Atlanta.

After many years working with wonderful nonprofits and being an entertainer on the side, I finally launched my own business. Ladybug Events LLC is an education and talent agency specializing in providing entertainment, programming, and events in a manner that encourages sustainable practices and our local



economies. It combines my services with those of my talented friends who share in my passion to spread creativity, wonder and joy within our community.

In the spirit of collaboration and bringing local family-friendly artists and educators to our community space, Ladybug Events has teamed up with **the Land Trust Family Project**. The Family Project is a group of families working with Lake Claire and the Lake Claire Community Land Trust to help Lake Claire neighbors of all family types build connections with each other and with community resources through educational outreach projects that encourage community, civic engagement, and environmental stewardship.

## Family Programs & Educational Classes Coming to the Land Trust Starting in March

Join us on March 15, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., for "Family Fun Storytelling and Weaving Adventure Program," an interactive weaving adventure story featuring local storyteller, educator, and artist Christy Foelsch of the wonderful *Kids Go Wild* project -- "Educating through the art of storytelling" ([kidsgowild.me](http://kidsgowild.me)). Christy explains, "Storytelling stirs in us a wonderment of ourselves and the world around us. Stories contain subtle information that guides us through the complexities of life. Stories encourage us to question and wonder, 'What if...?'"

On March 15, in addition to storytelling, expect interactive art installations, education, and entertainment. Children will experience weaving on a real loom! Some of the materials will be created by local students attend-

ing SoulShine, a farm-to-table after-school program focused on nature and community. Former-

ly adjacent to the Land Trust, SoulShine is now just across the tracks in Kirkwood ([makeyour-soulshine.com](http://makeyour-soulshine.com)).



College Art Installation by Andrea Zoppo

[soulshine.com](http://soulshine.com)).

The March 15 event is the beginning of a series of "Creative Sustainability for Kids" workshops that will occur on the 3rd Sunday of every other month (May, July, September, November) from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Each program is donation-based and supports local artists and educators. Ladybug Events is also offering a special soap-making class on March 28 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Lake Claire Cohousing common house. Mark your calendars now for these great March events.

Watch for details of the series at [LCCLT.org](http://LCCLT.org). To keep up with upcoming events, visit [missladybugevents.com](http://missladybugevents.com) or email [missladybugevents@yahoo.com](mailto:missladybugevents@yahoo.com). You can also find out more at [missladybugevents.tumblr.com](http://missladybugevents.tumblr.com). – Ed.



# LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



We hope this series is fun and a way for young readers to participate. This month we have a Sister Duo! Sadie and Amelia Stevens live on Leonardo, where the family has lived for twelve years. Sadie is an artist, and Amelia loves to write,

so they worked on these together. Amelia drew the picture here of herself with Ruby, and Sadie drew the one of the giant house (that looks nothing like the Stevens' little cottage).

Amelia is 7 (as of January 21) and

is in the first grade at Mary Lin. She enjoys taekwondo, guitar, soccer, and indoor rock climbing. Sadie is 4 years old and in PreK at The Frazer Center. She enjoys ballet, cooking, painting, and playing with her baby dolls.

## MY LITTLE SISTERS

by Amelia Burke Stevens

My name is Amelia. I'm in the first grade at Mary Lin Elementary. I do Tae Kwon Do and take guitar lessons. I live on Leonardo Avenue with my mom, dad, and my three sisters: Ruby (our dog), Rebecca (our ladybug), and Sadie (the human). Ruby cuddles with me and barks at my dad. Rebecca gets lost, but we sometimes find her. Sadie likes to play with her dolls.



By Amelia Stevens



By Sadie Stevens



Amelia and Sadie

My friends Ally and Tyler live across the street (kind of). Sometimes we ride to school together, and sometimes we walk together. Ally and Tyler gave Ruby an

old toy of theirs. She likes to play with it. Ruby can also do a trick. If you hold your finger up by your nose she will jump up and try to lick it.

I like living in Lake Claire.

## \*\*CONGRATULATIONS!—OUR WINNERS WHO FOUND THE SNOWMAN LAST MONTH!\*\*



Elena D'Agostino with her sisters (Sari in the middle and Mira on the right) on July 4.

**1st prize goes to Elena D'Agostino**, age 9! Elena is a 4th grader at Mary Lin, who was featured in last month's issue for her performance as the Angel in *The Nutcracker*. The D'Agostinos live on Connecticut Avenue. Congratulations, Elena!!!



Johanna Heutel

**2nd prize goes to JOANNA HEUTEL**, age 5. She's the daughter of Garth and Amy Heutel on Palifox. She has an older brother, Elliott (7) a younger sister, Tillie (2), and a dog, Tula. She attends Pre-K at Georgia State Childcare and will start Mary Lin in the fall. She loves science projects and creating art. She takes ballet classes, too.

**3rd prize goes to LILY WHITEHEAD**, 8 years old, a 3rd grader at Mary Lin, who lives with her brother Alex and her dog, Rocco, on Tuxedo Avenue.



Lily Whitehead - with Rocco

**4th prize goes to JUSTINE GERMAIN**, 8 years old. She is a 3rd grader at Mary Lin. She lives with her dad Sean, stepmom Amber, brother Aiden, 7, sister Gabby, 13, and dog Sargeant – he is a golden



Justine Germain

doodle. She loves dancing, making art, eating pie, listening to music, and fashion.

In a tight contest, with so many contestants who found the snowman we had to cut it off at these four winners! When you find the groundhog this month, be sure to e-mail (or have your parents e-mail) quickly!

## NEW CONTEST:

HELLO, KIDS: Find a **groundhog** hidden in this issue. Find it, and you're our winner, and you will have your name and picture noted in the next Clarion. (Bonus if you tell me what happens when the groundhog sees his or her shadow, you get to be the featured writer or artist in a future issue.) To win, send e-mail to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org) with the answer. Any Lake Claire kid is eligible, except that you can't win two months in a row. **Hurry and look**; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize. Congratulations and thank you, **Elena**, Joanna, Lily, and Justine.