



Clifton Guests helping stuff Clarions

**The Clarion needs some DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS starting the first week of February. A pretty small commitment, but a great service to the neighborhood. And you get exercise—i.e., your steps!**

**If you are willing to deliver papers on part of Clifton or part of McLendon the first week of each month, please write [mcgill1776@gmail.com](mailto:mcgill1776@gmail.com) for details or if you have questions. Please consider helping.**

## Annual Holiday Party a Resounding Success

Kudos to everyone who helped with our Annual Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN) Christmas Dinner/holiday party this past December 17. A big time was had by all—with nobody going away hungry or dry. LCN provided meat and veggie lasagnas, dessert, and beverages, and neighbors brought side dishes, salads, and bread. We had a silent auction, including gift baskets of Lake Claire signature wines. Once again Pen Sherwood brought her famous Thai massaman curry, which disappeared quickly. Everyone enjoyed catching up and seeing all the kids. In addition to holding a delicious, convivial dinner with about 100 attendees, we had music provided by DJ Myles Nielsen on Hardendorf. After dinner his sisters, Stella and Esther, gave a great Irish dance demonstration with



At the party, Natalyn Archibong with our VP of Safety, Kathie Ryan.

their emcee mom, Lucy, explaining what the dances were. And the City Ombudsman gave a brief talk on City resources and her responsibilities.

Special thanks to Kathie Ryan,  
*Cont. on p. 6*

## Clifton Sanctuary Ministries Guests Stuff Last Month's Clarion

In case you missed it in the flurry of activity of holiday partying, winding up annual work calendars, repairing the roof for Santa's safety, gift-giving for Christmas, wishing for snow, and—did we say parties?—the December Clarion had an insert from our Lake Claire neighbor CSM. It gave information about their 36 years of providing shelter and life transformation to men who are homeless in metro Atlanta. As well, it noted CSM's formalizing a relationship with the Veterans' Administration and many more of their accomplishments this year. Some of us on the Clarion staff met at CSM, where guests assisted us in stuffing the inserts into the newspa-

*Cont. on p. 4*

## Lighting of Leonardo 2015

by Boyd Baker

Sunday, December 6, marked the passing of an era on Leonardo Avenue. A wonderful tradition started by the family of Whitney & Jack Jirak found a new home since the Jiraks moved to Kirkwood this past summer. The open-hearted Olson family (Alyssa, Peter, Synove, and Seija) offered up their home for our annual holiday street party where everyone brings a snack or dessert to share.

This gathering of neighbors allows us all to reconnect before holiday breaks take us to far cor-

*Cont. on p. 3*

## Drive Like Your Kids Live Here

by Sue Strauss

"Watch out for the car, Mommy!" yelled my neighbor's two-year-old daughter, Maya, as it zoomed down Hardendorf Avenue: the dead end of the street, no less.

If you've walked down the Deadendo (dead end of the 'Dorf) recently, you'll notice there's a bit of a construction boom here. So in addition to the usual 'lost Larry' who thinks he can get to Ponce via Hardendorf, we have an extra flock of visitors that forget families with children live and play here.

It's a temporary issue, I understand. And it will be some time before little Maya is behind the wheel of a car. But I hope her keen awareness of her surroundings has been permanently etched on her brain; both for her safety and that of others.

### Pedestrian and bicyclist safety: a fatal problem

As of May this year, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) reported traffic fatalities were up in Georgia. GDOT Commissioner Russell McMurry noted an average of 100 deaths a month, which puts Georgia on track for 1,200 or more fatalities in 2015. He also noted a more alarming trend: this would be the first increase in annual fatalities

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### Highlights of this issue

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- 12** Kids' Corner

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Cover banner photo by Sarah Coburn

## JANUARY—lots of fun stuff

**1-31** Georgia State Parks' many events: [gastateparks.org/calendar#sd=01/01/2016](http://gastateparks.org/calendar#sd=01/01/2016)

**1-31** Horizon Theatre presents... Check [www.horizontheatre.com](http://www.horizontheatre.com) for current offerings

**2 & 16** Lake Claire Land Trust Drum Circle—Sunset to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Bring friends!

**12** Upcoming 2016 School Tour dates: January 12, Feb 9, March 8, at Mary Lin. Tours begin at 9:30 a.m. Please check in at the school office upon arrival. No reservations required!

**12** The Sierra Club, 2nd Tuesdays, [sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta](http://sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta)

**16** see Jan 2: Lake Claire Land Trust Drum Circle

**20** Mary Lin monthly dine-out at our favorite kids-always-eat-free Flying Biscuit—see details on Page 7

**21** **Lake Claire monthly meeting— and every 3rd Thursday, in the Rose Room at The Frazer Center, 7 p.m. socialize, 7:15 meeting. Pizza provided free from Savage (THANKS, SAV-AGE!)**

**23** Good Gracious Show (#6) at the Plaza Theatre on Ponce de Leon Avenue. Conceived and produced by our own Leonardo Avenue's Boyd Baker, if you have not been to one of these variety shows, (or if you have), Good Gracious Show is not to be missed. Get the latest updates and podcasts at [www.goodgraciousshow.com](http://www.goodgraciousshow.com). *Is your life stressed? – This is better than therapy! – It's a guaranteed good night out.—Editor*

**Feb. 7** (Superbowl Sunday) 2-5 p.m.—Lake Claire Women's Tea, hat and gloves encouraged, bring something to share, tea provided. Betsy Hoddinott's house.

## One Love! Bob Marley Birthday Celebration, Feb. 5

Whether the sleepy groundhog sees her shadow or not, we're going to dance through the long dark nights of winter into spring! And what better excuse than the birthday of Bob Marley, first superstar of the Third World, reggae pioneer and prophet of Oneness of Heart? Join the Lake Claire Community Land Trust to celebrate the Birth of Baba Bob on **Friday, Feb. 5, from 7:00 until 11:00 p.m.**, at the

**First Existential Congregation of Atlanta**, 470 Candler Park Drive. Bill Fleming and the **Ex-P.A.N.D.** Band will open the show at 7:30 with an hour-long acoustic set, followed by a rollicking electric set by the **Natti Love Joys** at 9:00. Food and drink will be served, and poet Stephen Wing will contribute a poem or two. Proceeds benefit the Lake Claire Community Land Trust. Spread the word!

## LCN President's Message

Dear Neighbors,

The beginning of a new year is usually a good time to look back at the last one and attempt to figure out what happened. So far, what hasn't happened is a proposed development on the corner of Clifton and S. Ponce de Leon Avenue, aka the Tamas property. Although located in Druid Hills, the project will directly impact residents in Lake Claire on Hardendorf Avenue with loss of tree canopy, the creation of drainage problems, and other environmental issues. The developer has made several proposals that have been unanimously opposed by the surrounding neighbors but has yet to submit a final plan.

**On a more positive note**, during the summer, Annsley Klehr was appointed chair of the Lake Claire Education Committee, which met for the first time in November. She has also been very active in keeping the neighborhood informed about Mary Lin, Inman Middle School and Grady High along with general APS issues. (Do follow Annsley's articles in the Clarion, including this month's on Page 7.) Her vision for the committee is to provide a forum for all neighbors to express their thoughts and opinions about education and to develop strategies for the future. Anyone interested in participating in this important work, please contact Annsley at: [education@lakeclaire.org](mailto:education@lakeclaire.org).

**In the spirit of historical correctness**, the Lake Claire Neighbors, Inc. celebrated the founding of the neighborhood circa 1915 with a massive BBQ event in the Cator Woolford Gardens of the Frazer Center. The food fare was provided by master barbecuer David Gelin of Lakeshore Drive ([bbqjoints@earthlink.net](http://bbqjoints@earthlink.net)). Because of the re-

sounding success, it was decided to continue the centennial party every year until 2115 or until most of us are dead, whichever comes first.

**On the security front**, the Candler Park/Lake Claire Security Patrol began operation in October with its own car staffed by off-duty officers from our local police precinct, Zone 6. This

was the result of many hours of hard work by volunteer residents of both neighborhoods who formed a non-profit corporation to administer the project. Please bear in mind that this is not a static operation. As more people sign on, there will be more hours of patrol. So far,

over 350 residents have joined, which means that more patrol hours have already been added. Many thanks to the Lake Claire Board members Cecily Stevens, Sam Collier, and Daniel Morris, and to Kathie Ryan, the LCN VP for Safety who helped coordinate the merger of the two neighborhoods. For more information, go to [www.cplpatrol.com](http://www.cplpatrol.com).

**Of course, we are always proud** of our local institutions that continued to provide great service and support with a host of events and programs: The Frazer Center ([www.frazercenter.org](http://www.frazercenter.org)) with its school for disabled children and adults, daycare for small children, and guardianship of the Cator Woolford Gardens and the Frazer Forest; the Clifton Sanctuary Ministries' ([www.cliftonsanctuary.com](http://www.cliftonsanctuary.com)) shelter and education program for homeless men (see article this page); the Lake Claire Land Trust's ([www.lclt.org](http://www.lclt.org)) musical and environmental events open to all residents (see page 10-11); and the Kashi Urban Yoga Asham ([www.kashiatlanta.org](http://www.kashiatlanta.org)) on McLendon Avenue, that offers classes and promotes community outreach efforts. Volunteers and donations

**Cont. on p.4**



# LifeLine Animal Project's Mission to Save Lives

by Heather Friedman

As part of a neighborhood of animal lovers, I felt compelled to share a story about the power of kindness and the importance of community in Atlanta. In 2002, Rebecca Guinn walked into an animal shelter and discovered the shocking reality—all the animals that had been there a few days before were destroyed. As a response to this injustice, she founded LifeLine Animal Project, to end the euthanasia of healthy and treatable dogs and cats in animal shelters and change the face of animal welfare.

LifeLine first opened its own private shelter in 2003 to rescue animals and then took over the Fulton and DeKalb County Shelters and Fulton County's Animal Enforcement in 2013. Not only do they help find much needed homes, but they provide low-cost and free vaccinations, spaying, and neutering, and even manage the largest feral and stray cat assistance program in the city.

I recently attended one of their Healthy Pet events and saw hundreds of people show up with their pets on a grey, misty day to receive free vaccinations, microchips, food, leashes, collars and vouchers for spaying and neutering.

The other day at the shelter, I met Layla—a charismatic puppy

who displayed severe signs of neglect after being abandoned for 30 days. She is now safe, healing, and well-loved as one of the spoiled “office dogs.” Once she gains her weight back, she will be spayed and then available for fostering or adoption. She and many other animals that have been abused or neglected have received medical treatment, a safe place to heal, and help finding their forever homes, thanks to LifeLine Animal Project.

**LifeLine**  
ANIMAL PROJECT

We are lucky to have an organization like this in our city. This nonprofit cares for nearly 16,000 animals annually, and they have raised the save-rate at both county shelters to over 85%!

## How you can volunteer with LifeLine

LifeLine could not have cared for more than 15,000 homeless cats and dogs last year without the help of dedicated volunteers. It only takes a little time to make a big difference! You can walk dogs and aid in socializing those who need it, spend time with the residents of Kitty Motels, participate in offsite adoption, fundraising, and community events, or help out in the LifeLine Spay & Neuter Clinics.

Whether you volunteer once a month or once a week, your involvement will help LifeLine expand community outreach programs, raise critical dollars to fund their mission, and provide high quality care to the animals in their shelters.

But the shelters are still overcrowded, with up to 700 animals coming into one shelter in a single month alone. In order to reach its lifesaving mission in 2016, **LifeLine Animal Project needs the support of communities like Lake Claire, to help make Atlanta no-kill.**

I want to share the ways we can help make a difference for animals in our city.

**Adopt** – Visit your local animal county shelter when considering adding a pet to your family.

**Spay & Neuter** – Always spay and neuter your pets; Bob Barker was right!

**Volunteer** – Help care for, foster, or find homes for wonderful dogs and cats.

**Donate** – This nonprofit relies on generous donations to help fund all of its programs and take care of animals, especially the critically injured or abused.



Author Heather Friedman of Lake Claire (Delaware Ave.) and office dog “Mystique”.

You can make a tax-deductible monthly or yearly donation in support of their lifesaving initiatives.

**Advocate** – Start a drive to collect much needed newspaper, towels, or blankets to make the shelter more comfortable for the animals. Share fundraising and other information with your family and friends on social media.

Together, we can all help LifeLine make Atlanta no-kill in 2016. To learn more about the LifeLine Animal Project visit [LifeLineAnimalProject.org](http://LifeLineAnimalProject.org).

## Lighting of Leonardo 2015

*Continued from page 1*

ners. It is also a time to meet new neighbors (we had 5 new families this year)! For me, the best part is the chaos created by all the kids and the tradition of trying to make them sit still while we take a picture.

Of course, this is all just a prelude to **the main event—the Lighting of Leonardo**. This annual ritual takes us all outdoors to stand outside each darkened house and count down from 10 to 1 before being amazed at the illuminated light display. For the kids, the *shouting* (shout counting) is almost as much fun



“Leo” Kids—by Alyssa Olson.

as seeing the lights come on.

Some homes have tasteful glowing white lights while others have garish multi-colored, panic-inducing pulses (*my style*). Either way we all cheer as we fill the street and pass from house to house. When the last house is lit, we all return to get our platters and then head home. We know the holidays are officially begun.

Can't say it was the same without the Jiraks, but I'm very thankful they left us such a beautiful bonding tradition. May your year be filled with much community love and inspiration.

Notice this is shorter?  
Things have been much better in Beat 608  
since the police crackdown and the CPLC patrol.

## The Clarion Keeps An Eye on the Crime and the Time: Lake Claire Security Report, November 1-28 (4 weeks)

### Other Larceny

300 block Nelms Avenue, 11/5/15, purse, wallet, driver's license, debit card, and car keys taken. The victim stated that the purse was taken at midnight from a bar in another part of town when she got up from her table to go sing karaoke. When she returned home she found her wallet on her front porch missing the items listed, indicating the suspect came to her house to try to take her car since they had the keys.

### Theft from Vehicle

2000 block Palifox Drive, 11/18/15, vehicle parked on street. Taken: gym bag, headphones, books. Damage: broken passenger window

Help make our neighborhood safer by joining the Candler Park Lake Claire Patrol at [www.cplcpatrol.com](http://www.cplcpatrol.com). Edgewood Retail District's 24 hour security number: 678-618-2308. Join [www.nextdoor.com/join](http://www.nextdoor.com/join) to receive up to date security information from your neighbors.

Contact APD by dialing 911 from your home or cell phone for any incidence of crime or suspicious behavior. Add 404-658-6666 to your contacts for a prompter response. Tell the operator you're in APD 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.



Clarion volunteers— McGill family  
(left, Mike McGill—frequent volunteer)



Clifton Guests stuffing Clarions

## CSM Guests Help with Clarion

*Continued from page 1*

pers. The men had hand-written 1000 post-it notes that said thank-you to Lake Claire, and we and they folded and stuffed the notes, the letters, and return-address envelopes in your Clarions last month.

Please consider donating, either utilizing that envelope or going to [www.cliftonsanctuary.com](http://www.cliftonsanctuary.com), where you may donate through PayPal; at any time you could donate time or items (check out the website for suggestions).

CSM also continued its annual tradition in

Lake Claire last month of Christmas caroling, which took place on December 16, 17, and 18, on the corner of Clifton and McLendon. They served hot chocolate, cider, and cookies to carolers and friends, including many in Lake Claire for whom this has become an anticipated yearly pleasure. And finally, our CSM neighbors, held their annual Christmas program on December 20. **Please take a moment to send even a small amount to this great cause.**

## From LCN President:

*Continued from page 2*

are very welcome so check out their websites for more information. Savage Pizza donates pizza to our monthly meetings and has been a great corporate neighbor, as has the Candler Park Market which, among other things, has a yearly bicycle raffle of a Belgium Brewing Cruiser, dividing the proceeds between Lake Claire and Candler Park. All of these organizations and businesses help to make Lake Claire the unique area that it is.

**And let's not forget** the LCN's annual Christmas potluck dinner held in the auditorium of the Frazer Center, featuring fun, food, music, and wine (see pictures, Pages 4 and 6). Many people, beyond those who bring wonderful dishes, contribute to pulling this event off.

**End of an era:** sadly, the 2015 Annual Har-old Avenue Street Dance (held between Marl-brook and Harriett) may be the last. Bill Fleming, a long-time resident of Lake Claire, has been offering his band, including many other local groups, for this neighborhood fest going on 30 years. It will be missed!

Happy New Year

—Joe Agee



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# Wild in Lake Claire

by Carol Vanderschaaf

**Warning, warning, warning... snakes!!!** Well, stop screaming, and let's talk about it.

There are 41 species of snakes in Georgia, six of which are venomous. Only one of those six evil entities actually can be found in Atlanta, the COPPERHEAD. Note: There have been no Cottonmouth Moccasins found within 20 miles of Atlanta in recent years. There isn't even a state snake, only a state reptile, the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*, to pay it the respect it deserves).

So let's discuss the Copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*). Its undeserved reputation usually precedes it. Dangerous, lethal, sneaky, etc. Well, some of that can be true. Though a Copperhead's bite is not lethal to adults, it can be to children, the elderly, and dogs and cats.

Copperheads blend in well with their surroundings but they aren't that sneaky. They're just trying to find a comfortable place to rest in as they grab a passing rodent or two. So rather than sneaky, perhaps we should say they're **lazy**. Some may think these snakes choose their coloring to blend into nature but, in fact, they were born that way.

I won't take up this space to describe their coloration and patterning when you can go to

the internet to see some great pictures. It's good practice to get an idea of what they look like, just in case. If you do see a Copperhead or any other snake in the wild it's best just to leave them alone and let them go their way which they will. Don't harass a snake or try to pick one up. Warning, warning, again!!! Most snake bites occur on hands or feet and you don't have to be a forensic scientist to know why.



Copperheads reach maturity at about 4 years old. They have two breeding seasons, from February to May and from August to October. Pregnancy is 4

to 6 months. Two to 18 babies (strange term for this species) are born live and are on their own immediately. No worries. These little bambinos can give you a dangerous, painful bite.

Copperheads grow to as much as 30 inches long. Their fangs are in proportion to body length and are replaced regularly. There is a series of fangs behind the ones in current use. Copperheads are carnivorous and eat small birds, lizards, small snakes, amphibians, and insects. They have heat sensitive pits which can sense prey, and because of this they can hunt effectively at night.

**Cont. on p. 9**

## ADVERTISE YOUR COMPANY OR SERVICE IN THE CLARION

Promote your business in the Lake Claire neighborhood and the Candler Park/Lake Claire business district. Go to our website for pricing information, or contact our advertising coordinator at [advertising@lake-claire.org](mailto:advertising@lake-claire.org). Thank you.



Our Biscuits and Bellyrubs Cartoons are by Anna Trodglen.

## Dear Frazer Friends:

Thanks to many of you, more than 300 adults and children of all abilities have had a great year at the Frazer Center! The Adult Program provided community involvement, pre-vocational training, and supported employment for 100 participants of all abilities. Our new community involvement program ensures that more than 20 participants each day learn, explore and interact in museums, parks and other sites across the metro area.

Our Child Development Program has been re-accredited by the National Association of Education for Young Children (NAEYC) through 2020, making Frazer the only early education program in the area that is fully accredited. In addition,

teachers at Frazer receive professional development in inclusive education, health insurance, and other benefits rarely offered in Early Childhood Education.

Join me in celebrating another fantastic year at Frazer. Your financial support of Frazer, a 501c3 non-profit, also ensures that our students and adult participants continue to achieve their true potential every day. Thank you, Lake Claire, for considering Frazer Center in your giving plans.

You can make an easy and secure online gift on the website:

Thank you, neighbors! Together we'll make 2016 another great year at Frazer Center! With appreciation,

—Paige McKay Kubik, Executive Director



# The Annual Holiday Party

Continued from page 1

who spent many hours putting it all together, and to Miriam Herbers for buying and bringing the lasagnas. Thanks to Sara and Jim Rockaway for staffing the welcome table, including the silent auction; to Myles for the music (for the umpteenth year in

a row), and to him and his mom Lucy and sisters Stella and Esther for the entertainment; and to Greg Hutchins, Candler Park Market, always a great supporter. Thank you to anyone we may have forgotten (I know there were others that our president

Joe Agee mentioned), and in particular, we always appreciate our friend and neighbor the Frazer Center for hosting in the Atrium. They have been long-term friends of Lake Claire. We enjoyed seeing our City Councilwoman Natalyn Mosby Archibong among

the guests. In sum, the party was a wonderful team effort that everyone enjoyed and hated to see come to an end, and a great beginning to the Christmas holiday season. Please see other photos from the party below (and on page 4).



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## Various Notes and Changes at Mary Lin

by Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Education Chair

Arrival and Departure Procedures are changing at Mary Lin now that the construction is finishing up. According to Mary Lin's Principal, Sharyn Briscoe:

### ARRIVAL

Beginning **Monday, Dec. 7**, the plan for arrival changed to be as follows:

- All students must enter through 2 entrances only—the main front door and the back door, where the buses load.
- All buses will drop off in the circular drive. The circular drive is no longer an area for carpoolers to get dropped off. There will be staff members present to receive bus riders.
- All carpoolers will drop off in the new bus lane, in front of the building. There will be staff members present to greet students and open car doors.
- It is recommended that walkers and car drop offs coming from the direction of McLendon cross to our side of the street well before the carpool lane approaches.

There will be a crossing guard at the new crosswalk in front of the school; however, we anticipate an increase in traffic with the new carpool lane being on the street, instead of up the hill.

- Please DO NOT drive north on Candler Park Drive and do a U-turn in the middle of the street.
- Please DO NOT drive north on Candler Park Drive and drop your students off with the crossing guard in the middle of the crosswalk.

### DISMISSAL

- We will continue to dismiss Kindergarten and First grade students first, with escorts. The buses and vans will load in the circular drive. The walkers and carpoolers will dismiss from the front door/ main entrance. We will no longer use the auditorium to meet students for dismissal. We ask that all parents of walkers meet your students in the outside area in the front of the main office.
- Dismissal will be staggered

for grades 2-5, according to mode of transportation. Bus riders and van riders will exit in the back at the circular drive. Walkers will come out the front door to greet parents. When the area has cleared of walkers, we will dismiss car riders from the front door in the new carpool lane.

- Staff members are designated to monitor each dismissal area to assist with matching students with their parents.
- Please DO NOT drive north on Candler Park Drive and do a U-turn in the middle of the street.

### Bricks for Mary Lin

These personalized bricks will make a great gift to a parent or grandparent! The Mary Lin Education Foundation is excited to present an opportunity to for you to be a permanent part of the school! By purchasing a personalized brick, you are providing much-needed financial support to our beloved community school,

now in its 86th year. The bricks will be installed in the new outdoor areas.

[www.thatsmybrick.com/marylinedfund](http://www.thatsmybrick.com/marylinedfund)

### Flying Biscuit Monthly Dine-Outs Support Mary Lin Elementary

Next monthly dine-out at our favorite kids-always-eat-free Flying Biscuit is **January 20!** The third Wednesday of the month will be Mary Lin night at the Flying Biscuit locations in Candler Park and Midtown. Simply show up for dinner and mention Mary Lin, and Flying Biscuit management will generously donate 5% of your ticket to the Mary Lin Education Foundation.

*Upcoming dine-outs include 2/17, and 3/16. Dinner only at Candler Park and Midtown locations with the mention of Mary Lin. Please thank them while you're there!*

## Drive Like Your Kids Live Here

*Continued from page 1*

in Georgia nine years. The report also states that 15% of fatalities are pedestrians.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2013 (the most recent data available), there were 4,735 pedestrians killed and an estimated 66,000 injured in traffic crashes in the United States. On average, a pedestrian was killed every 2 hours and injured every 8 minutes in traffic crashes.

Fourteen percent of all traffic fatalities and an estimated 3 percent of those injured in traffic crashes were pedestrians. Although the total number of traffic fatalities has decreased over the last several years, the percentage of pedestrian fatalities included in those numbers has increased.

Those riding bicycles also are at risk. Another NHTSA study revealed that Georgia's 17 cyclist deaths in 2012 were the 11th most in the country. GDOT reports there were 184 collisions involving cyclists reported in Fulton and DeKalb counties in 2013, with 129 resulting in injuries. One cyclist died.

These statistics are alarming. So the burden is on us drivers

to be alert at all times when we are behind the wheel. Even on a dead-end street.



*Clifton Crosswalk Paddles Not Replaced*

### Driving in and around Lake Claire

I'm a little passionate about this topic as I've had many close calls with drivers who are inattentive at best, and often just plain negligent. I recently was crossing Clifton Road at Muriel and was in the crosswalk—in the crosswalk—when a car came speeding through. The driver had to swerve to miss me.

Crossing Clifton from Lake Claire is one of the most dangerous areas to cross, yet one of the most frequently used, as our neighborhood children use it during their daily commutes to Mary Lin. The crosswalk signs were taken down when the streets were repaved last summer and never have been replaced. I contacted Councilwoman Archibong's office asking for help to expedite their replacement, hoping it would deter errant driving. **As of the writing of this article, the crosswalk marker at this intersection still is missing.**

The laws about crosswalks can be confusing. As a reminder, Georgia law mandates that: **"The driver of a vehicle shall stop and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching and is within one lane of the half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling or onto which it is turning."**

In other words, if someone is in a crosswalk—or waiting to cross—we are obligated to stop and let

them cross.

The law further states that whenever any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass such stopped vehicle.

This is a very important part of the law. There have been numerous times cars have passed me on the right as I was stopped for a pedestrian in a crosswalk. This is extremely dangerous and it's illegal. And, it may result in the death of a neighbor.

### Stop or Roll?

Not long ago I was walking my faithful companion, Truman, down one of our neighborhood thoroughfares and watched as a car ran a stop sign at one of the cross streets...and just kept going. This motorist didn't just roll through the obligatory halt; he ran the stop sign completely. To my amazement, he arrived at his home less than a block away. I approached him and asked why he didn't stop. His response? "I didn't see anyone so

**Cont. on p.8**

# Drive Like...

Continued from page 7

I didn't think I needed to." Sadly, this occurred at night, and someone may have been invisible to him until it was too late.

We all know the rules; it's common sense. Georgia law says motorists must obey all posted traffic signs, which means we all need to stop at a stop sign. The rule is to stop at the line demarcating the stop or crosswalk—or if there isn't one—at the point nearest the intersecting street where we have a clear view of approaching traffic. Many of us in Lake Claire live where our views are obstructed by trees, shrubs, or parked cars. If that's the case, let's work together to ensure these areas are kept clear. This is especially critical as our neighborhood develops and grows and we have increased construction traffic on our neighborhood streets.

### 30307: It's not just a zip code, it's a neighborhood

I would be remiss if I didn't give a shout out to those neighbors who routinely stop for pedestrians and their four-legged friends when we are waiting at the crosswalks along Clifton and other major thoroughfares in our neighborhood. Thank you! It is a wonderful feeling to have this kindness—and attentiveness—extended. It's the right and lawful thing to do. And it sets a great example for Maya and the other children in our community about how we neighbors look out for one another.

Lake Claire resident? Your payment of dues helps us help you.

Dues are voluntary and reasonable.

Suggested annual membership dues are \$20/household.

Please pay your dues at any time

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

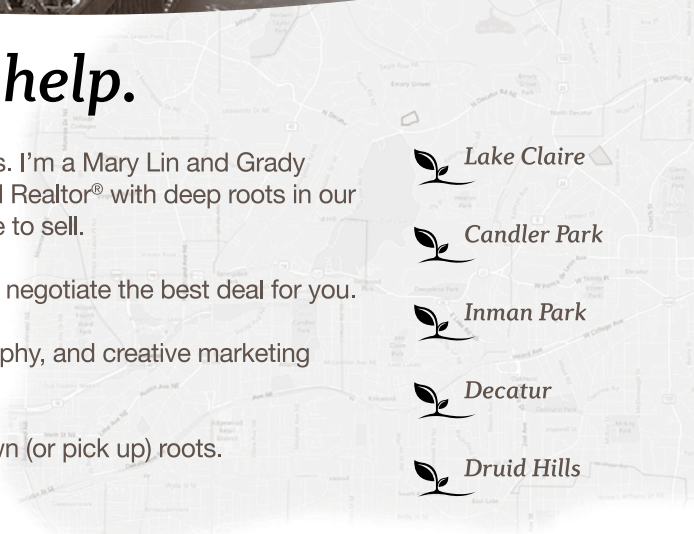


I've helped people put down (and pick up) roots in and around 30307 for years. I'm a Mary Lin and Grady High mom and personally rooted in Lake Claire. As an Intown homeowner and Realtor® with deep roots in our community, I know how to help you find the right home and market your home to sell.

**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



Get my free app to view all available homes!





# The Garden January into February

by Elizabeth Knowlton

This may be the most exciting time of the year because day by day there is more light, and by February in the South spring is here.

Now, if every winter you mean to check for summer shade patterns, this year at midnight on Jan. 24 when the full moon is shining (hope for no clouds) go out into your garden and look down at your planting areas. Allowing for daylight savings, the shadows you see on the ground will be where shadows will fall at 11 a.m. on July 24 next summer. Of course deciduous trees and bushes will show only a

skeleton of shade in the winter, but they will indicate whether the areas are sunny enough for what you want to plant. If you can stay up to 1 or 2 a.m. on January 25 (not I), then you can check out the noon to 1 p.m. sun of late July. Because we live in such a lovely shady neighborhood, knowledge of sun and shade in our yards is vital for gardening.

The last two years have been very cold in early January before I got around to cutting up my Christmas tree branches so I did not get good use of them as shelter on the perennial beds. Later you can put them under your blueberries or azaleas until the needles fall off to enrich the soil with their acidic properties.

Our gardens are still beautiful because we have so many plants that hold their leaves all winter. My three boxwoods are always a pleasure to see when so much else is bare; however, you should know that boxwood blight, first seen in England in the 1990s, spread to the USA by 2011 and was confirmed in Buckhead, GA (figures) in 2014. The English and American species are the

most susceptible to the browning off of leaves caused by the fungus, *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum*, but all types of boxwood and also pachysandra are affected. The fungus is spread by its sticky spores on feet, clothing, tools, animal fur, etc. This means if you do not buy new (infected) plants and do not employ

yard people who have worked in infected areas, and do not visit them yourself, there is little chance of your established plants becoming infected. Spores are not wind-borne. I suggest you clean your

pruners or loppers with bleach before pruning boxwood. If you go on garden tours, change and clean your shoes and clothing before returning to your own garden. In addition, if your plants are not part of a hedge, as mine are not, there is less chance of the blight spreading among the bushes. If one plant becomes infected, pull it up, wrap it in plastic, and put in your garbage can. Rake up and dispose of all leaves that may have fallen in the area.

Speaking of cleaning tools, this is a good time of year to clean, sharpen, and oil them all. My lovely trowel and bulb-planter are caked with mud from planting a total of 652 tulips and 90 other bulbs back in November, so I am scraping and even washing the wooden and metal. When they have dried, I apply linseed oil to the wood. Amazingly, the near frosts in November left the annual salvias untouched, and bees were still active in them as I planted the last *Anemone coronaria* 'De Caen' corms. As I write, in mid December, the tem-

Cont. on p. 10



# Wild in Lake Claire

Continued from page 5

Copperheads live up to 18 years. This should please a woman I met on an Audubon Wildlife Habitat certification inspection who was very proud of the Copperhead which lived in her backyard (which BTW, backed up to Fernbank Forest). She very kindly served me a cup of tea and cookies while I tried to spot the snake without success.

**Please remember that snakes mean no harm.** They're just trying to survive. And keep in mind that we're usually safe from these 30-inch terrors (Copperheads) through March, as they're hibernating with lots of other species together in dens.

So enjoy your yard (and watch out for dens).

One mo' thing ... Snakes are beneficial to our ecosystem. They eat, as said earlier, rodents and insects. Though they have a long-time bad rep (i.e., the Garden of Eden) most snakes are not really dangerous. The most dangerous thing for the snake is fear itself—human phobias. So when you do see a snake, remember just to stop, look, and listen. Snakes won't attack unless you're harassing them. Most likely they'll try to get away. And you don't want a bite on your hand or your foot..



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

Birthdays:

- Jan. 3 Leah Braun, (Claire Dr.), turns eleven; Lisa Morris, (Sutherland Pl.)
- Jan. 5 Dave Kaiser, (Hardendorf Ave.); Frank Landraff, (Harold Ave.)
- Jan. 8 Aurora Deman, (Harold Ave.)
- Jan. 12 Tamar Williams, (Harold Ave.) Tiffany Mawhinney, (Howard Cir.)
- Jan. 14 Klara Babinalei, (Harold Ave.)
- Jan. 15 Sophie Oren, (Leonardo) turns two
- Jan. 16 Theo Emanuel, (Marlbrook), turns two Pam Haggerty, (Harold Ave.)
- Jan. 18 Cynthia Baer, (Gordon Ave.)
- Jan. 19 Genise Spenle, (Arizona Ave.)
- Jan. 21 Brandon Smith, (Harold Ave.)
- Jan. 22 Elle Weldert, (Harold Ave.)
- Jan. 24 Elana Hubert, (Harold Ave.)
- Jan. 28 Tom McGill, (Delaware Ave.)

Just Moved In:

Welcome to Jennifer (Mom), Zach, and Elana Hubert who came to Harold in November.

Drew DeMan and Brie McGeehan with Aurora and baby brother Lucien moved into the Flemings' home on Harold.

**Send us stuff to editor@lakeclaire.org by JANUARY 15 for the FEBRUARY Clarion.**

# In the Beginning . . .

by Norman Glassman

**In the beginning was Kudzu.** And the Kudzu covered all the Earth that is now the Land Trust and the Valley and all the backyards except for one. And the Kudzu covered and smothered all plants, there were no bushes or small trees, just humps covered by Kudzu. And the Giant Trees were not immune from the threat, they too were under attack as multiple Kudzu vines traveled up the Giants and started covering their tops as the prelude to the Smothering. To Kudzu, all the world is a trellis, and nothing is too tall to climb.



The story was that in the 1940s, Kudzu was considered to be a good shade vine for covering outdoor sitting areas. One of the mostly elderly neighbors planted some for shade in the backyard. The Kudzu did provide shade, and then kept going and going beyond

the capacity of the homeowners to contain, especially during the long hot Summers when humans wilted and Kudzu grew even faster. Several decades later, the Kudzu had overwhelmed the efforts of the Elderly, who had not the energy to confront and subdue the plant that ended up taking over all of the Land. What was needed was Young People.

And starting in 1976, the Young People, a.k.a. Urban Pioneers, started coming to the Land, saw that it would be Good, and were confident that the Kudzu would succumb to their youthful energy and confidence. So the old homes were bought up as the Elders went to Heaven—where there is no Kudzu. What lured the Pioneers was the combination of low prices and the obvious possibilities of a large Greenspace within an Intown neighborhood. Even though many of the houses were vacant, and several houses had folks squatting in them, the potential was obvious to those who had eyes to see it.

One problem for the Pioneers was that the Banks had redlined the whole area and were very reluctant to take on mortgages. Enter the BOND Credit Union, which had been set up in Little Five Points to fill the lending gap in Inman Park and surrounding neighborhoods. BOND was willing to make mortgage loans in the neighborhoods surrounding L5P. They understood Intown needs and houses that were “fix-it-uppers,” and they were not Afraid.

**Each reclaimed house had its own story,** but the main story was Affordable and Intown. And

so, as the Young People started reclaiming the houses they also reclaimed the Land, yard by yard, which took much longer and much more effort than was expected. But they were young and had energy and determination. The largest Kudzu vine of all, in a far corner of the Land, was 5 inches in diameter, growing up one of the Giant Trees. A sharpened machete, two energetic swings from a healthy right arm, and the Vine was cut. The Kudzu now knew that the Reclamation had begun. Life was coming back to the Land.

**Now it is the year 1980.** MARTA was finishing work on the East rail line, and a few of the Pioneers foresaw that MARTA would eventually sell off the 1.3 acres it owned at the southern end of the Land, on the High Ground. They foresaw that once the Kudzu was removed, the Land could become a neighborhood asset if left as Greenspace and not developed for new housing. And they liked the idea of a Greenspace on the High Ground, rather than a row of townhouses looking down on them. They foresaw many won-

derful and varied Community activities and lots of beautiful and useful Plants that were not Kudzu. And so the Effort was begun, flyers were printed (no internet!), meetings were held.

**The Atomic Cafe,** located where the Flying Biscuit is now, hosted several meetings. A few meetings were held on top of what is now the Land Trust Peak, and then the meetings moved inside to the homes of several of the Pioneers. That is when the detailed, adult work began. Pledges of money were made, and BOND Credit Union provided a Letter of Intent to Loan, to show MARTA that we were serious and capable enough to buy the Land. MARTA indicated that it would do the preparation work to put the Land up for sealed bid Auction, as required by Law.

MARTA was very cautious, because they wanted to be sure they were dealing with a responsible and serious group. The Pioneers had no history of working together, and MARTA was understandably nervous. And of course the Nay-Sayers had an easy time of it,

## NOTE:

The Land Trust website was hacked last month. We have retained an internet security company. The site is now safe to visit. We apologize to anyone inconvenienced by the temporary infection.

## Gardening

*Continued from page 9*

perature is in the high 60s. However, we have not had a good rain since November 18, and I have resorted to hand-watering the little columbine and foxgloves plants I set out last fall.

You have refreshed your lighting system with new fluorescent bulbs, cleaned all the little pots in which you will start seeds, and purchased enough seed starting mix to begin planting indoors this month with the seeds you are ordering fresh from the many companies I have recommended in the past. They all have websites. After I killed many seedling heating mats, usually within days, I finally found one made by Hydrofarm and

sold by Johnny's Selected Seeds, from whom you may be ordering anyway. It has lasted for several years now.

So far this winter, I do not have much going in the vegetable beds. I think the spinach dried up, and I put out no brassica seedlings. Arugula is doing well, as usual. However, it is never too cold here to try the cool weather vegetables if you keep them under row covers or in a cold frame when our few icy temperatures hit. Snow actually helps insulate them. When I remember what great heads of broccoli I kept alive through the 2014 snow and last winter's cold, I plan to at least start onions, leeks, and cabbage seeds indoors

and maybe try spinach out in the cold frame again. For flowers, plant begonia, browallia, pelargonium, rudbeckia, lobelia, dianthus, and vinca seeds indoors this month. I can no longer recommend *Impatiens walleriana* as my whole bed was wiped out by August; the guinea type seeds are expensive, take too long to flower, and are not as floriferous. I am going to expand my colors of wax begonias, many of which come through our winters and are still blooming in December

*Let Elizabeth know what you are doing in the garden atknowltonew@earthlink.net. -Ed*

# . . . How the Land Trust Began

(who was there)

pointing out that there were many Pitfalls and Problems, etc. But the Pioneers were Yes-Sayers, so they went ahead anyway, and formed the Lake Claire Community Land Trust as a non-profit corporation. (*Thanks, John Swee—Ed.*) That helped to convince MARTA, as did the BOND Letter of Intent.

**Now it is 1986.** MARTA finally scheduled and advertised the sealed bid Auction. They decided to offer the 1.3 acres of Land as three separate parcels, the biggest one from the Arizona Ave. cul-de-sac all the way to what is now the middle of the Fire Circle. The middle parcel included the Peak all the way back to the Sauna area. The third parcel extended from the western side of the Peak all the way to Nelms Ave.

Three of the Trustees (a.k.a. Board Members) of the Land Trust went to MARTA headquarters on the Appointed Day. They carried with them the agreed-upon bids to submit at the Auction. When they arrived at MARTA they checked the public list of those who would be bidding on the Land. They hoped to find that no one else was interested, but found that a developer would also be bidding.

So the Trustees went to a side room to decide whether to increase the bids, or shift the bids in favor of getting the most important parcel, from Arizona to what is now the Fire Circle. The time got closer to the 11:00 a.m. deadline. The talking continued until one of the three said: "It is almost Time." And indeed it was three minutes before 11:00 am. Yikes! The bids were finalized. Then a quick walk with the bids in a sealed envelope to hand in to the Timekeeper, who put one end of the envelope into



the Official Time Clock. The time stamped on the bid envelope was 10:59. Had it said 11:01 the bid would be invalid and there would be no Land Trust.

Now into the Bid Room, where the MARTA Man ceremoniously opens and publicly announces each bid. The Trustees won the bids for two of the three parcels of the Land. But the biggest and most important parcel, from the Arizona cul-de-sac all the way to

the middle of the Fire Pit, was won by the developer. Bummer. As the Trustees left the building, they consoled themselves with phrases like "We have the High Ground and the Nelms corner, pretty good," etc. But they all knew it was a Serious Bummer, especially since most of the Trustees and Supporters lived on Arizona and surrounding streets and would have no good access to the Land without the Arizona parcel.

**Two days later the MARTA Man calls:** The developer wanted All or Nothing, so he was dropping out. The Arizona parcel was available, did the Trustees want to buy it? YES, YES, YES. Life is Good.

The total price for all three parcels was \$26,500. The Note with BOND Credit Union was for 15 years, with four Trustees signing on the Bottom Line, pledging to repay the Note in proper fashion. Two Trustee families paid BOND the down payment money.

**Fifteen years later,** the Paid in Full Note was burned in a happy public ceremony in the Arizona cul-de-sac. Several of the Children of the Trustees had the honor of holding up the burning Note as the onlookers cheered. Thus in a way the Torch was passed, as must happen for any worthy Endeavor to be sustainable so as to benefit Future Generations. And the Land Trust continues to prosper and function as a Greenspace for wonderfulness, and new Ideas happen, most of them good, and sometimes children who grew up with the Land Trust return as adults, telling how good it was to have the Land Trust to experience, and occasionally they appear with their own Children, to play on the Land Trust.

So the elderly Pioneers now have the pleasure of seeing new Young People starting to take over, respectfully, and with good intent. And perhaps the original Elderly, whose Land was eaten by the Kudzu, can look down and see the Land flourishing, and see that the Kudzu is contained and new Young People are being vigilant to keep it contained, and thus they can relax in Heaven, where there is no Kudzu.

## !!ONE LOVE!!

BOB MARLEY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



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# LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers/writers/artists to participate. This month we feature Latha Wright's art. Latha is 9 years old and a

4th grader at Mary Lin. She is big sister to Buddy Wright and is a cat lover and kitten tamer! (Latha's parents are longtime and consistent advertisers in the Clarion

and contribute to the neighborhood in a myriad of other ways.)



Latha and one of her pieces of art at school



By our featured artist this month, Latha Wright - picture to help adopt out her kittens

## Fun Facts About January:

The Romans named this month January after "Janus," the God of Gateways. Janus had two heads so could look back at the old year and forward towards the new year at the same time!

The Anglo-Saxons called January "Wulfmonath," because it was the month that hungry wolves came scavenging at people's doors.

The birthstone is the garnet; the flower is the carnation.



Lisa McClain



Ethan Rowe



Chloe Hall



Aidan Murray

## \*\*CONGRATULATIONS!\*\*

to our winners who found the Kwanzaa graphic last month.

**The first place winner** was Lisa McClain. In addition to finding the graphic, she told us about the 7 candles that represent *umoja*, *kujichagulia*, *ujima*, *nia*, *kuumba*, and *imani*. Lisa said, "I know lots about Kwanzaa because I've learned about it for years now. Kwanzaa is a week-long holiday honoring African cultures and traditions, and it falls on December 26 through January 1. It is celebrated because Maulana Karenga, a African leader, proposed this observance, and it was first celebrated between December 1966 and January 1967. Kwanzaa's real name is Matunda ya Kwanzaa which means "first fruits of the harvest." Lisa wins the prize of writing or drawing for a future Clarion. She says, "My name is Lisa, and I live on Sutherland Place. I'm in Mrs. Bates' 4th grade class at Mary Lin. I have two older siblings. One is in 7th grade, and her name is Ellen. My brother Mark is in 6th grade. Our dog is Pablo, and he is a furry friend. I enjoy music, horses, and dancing. I also like math a lot. In class we do a lot of division. What I like the most is friends. I have lots of fun playing with my friends in Lake Claire."

**The second-place winner** is Ethan Rowe.

In addition to finding the graphic, Ethan answered the question about three of the holidays in December, identifying Chanukah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. He also told us that **Kwanzaa** is a Swahili word that means "first" and signifies the first fruits of the harvest, noting that from December 26 to January 1, many people of African descent in America celebrate Kwanzaa. Good job, Ethan! Ethan is 6 years old; he is a first grader at Mary Lin, and the family lives on Nelms Avenue. Ethan loves all things Star Wars and Legos, and he loves building with his Lincoln logs. He likes living in Lake Claire because he's close to his school and his friends. Ethan wants to be a Blue Angel pilot when he grows up.

Two children tied for 3rd place: Chloe Hall, from Sutherland Place, turned 7 years old December 13. She is a first grader at Mary Lin, in Mrs. Rogers' class. She loves Lego, drawing, dinosaurs, reading, animals, and mine-craft. She moved to Atlanta early last year and loves living in Lake Claire. She wants to be an animal rescuer when she grows up. Aidan Murray was our featured writer in March. Aidan is 7 years old and in the 3rd grade at Mary Lin. Aidan lives on Harold Avenue and loves Lake Claire, he says, because he can "get to the village fast."

**Congrats, Lisa, Ethan, Chloe, and Aidan!**

## NEW CONTEST:

**Kids:** Somewhere in this issue, find the "I have a dream" photo. Martin Luther King Jr. was a Baptist minister and social activist, who led the Civil Rights Movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968. In honor of his birthday on January 15, we feature him this month. To win, send an e-mail with the page it is on, to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org). Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you can't win two months in a row. (Extra credit if you tell us what you know about Martin Luther King and how important he was to the United States of America - then you may write or draw something for a subsequent Clarion!) **Hurry and look;** competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.