



Lake Claire Park Redesign

by Judy Hammack

If only Etta James could be singing “At Last” in the background right now... the long awaited Lake Claire Park redesign plan is complete! In case you need a refresher course...

The Background: Spring, 2014 — City of Atlanta Park Design Department gathered a steering committee of interested Lake Claire residents and parks’ designers to address park deficits (sink holes, cracked tennis court, drainage issues, playground upgrade, ADA compliance, to name a few). After two steering committee meetings and two public meetings, along with other opportunities for community feedback (think email blasts, Clarion articles, etc.), a draft redesign was presented for approval to the Lake Claire Neighborhood As-

sociation, Friends of Lake Claire Park, and the NPU. Following approval, the design department and local landscape architect David Barclift, LLC began work on the construction documents. The city conducted surveys—land, topographical, and tree (remember the orange ribbons?). The result of the work is the redesign plan presented here (please see Page 7).

Cost: Lake Claire Park redesign construction documents, along with the projected price tag of \$1,489,100, are now in the hands of Atlanta City Park Design. This is an abbreviated version of the cost break down:

Phase 1: \$507,000—Tennis court | McLendon Ave. Entrance and Walkway (including ADA accessibility) | Almeta Ave.

Cont. on p. 7

Trees: We Love ‘em

by Lynn Nomad

Georgia Arbor Day was February 19 (the 3rd Friday of February). The possible loss of Atlanta’s tree canopy is worrying to many of us in Lake Claire. **See in this issue the article on page 3 and the poem on page**

11. Development is uprooting trees all over Atlanta (not just taking them down, but building too close so that they die a few years later). Many trees that are being

Cont. on p. 3

It’s Girl Scout Cookie Time

One of our neighborhood Girl Scout Troops, Junior Troop 13553, has done lots of great things this year—and it’s only March!

In January, the troop sold cookies to friends and neighbors, hop-

ing to meet their sales goal of 2000 boxes. They also traveled to Lake Lanier for a Journey Weekend: learning about self-awareness, team building exercises,

Cont. on p. 6



Lake Claire’s Version of The Butcher, the Baker, the Candlestick Maker

by Alice Bliss & Beth Damon

It is amazing when a single block-long street like Gordon Avenue in Lake Claire is able to field a restaurant owner, a pizza truck owner, and a bakery owner (sort of): enough to start a small food hall.

The restaurant is *Spice to Table*, located on Auburn Avenue in Old 4th Ward, serving breakfast and lunch, closing at 3:00 p.m., which opened in 2014. It is a “casual Indian patisserie, inserting South Asian flavors into French-style breakfast and lunch fare.” The owners are Aiusha Perez and Bobby Palayam, who come from southern India. Bobby, a friendly man, manages the front of the house, while leaving the cooking to Aiusha, “which she does best.” The food is authentic Indian but not overly spicy. The couple lives



Strada Napoli Pizza Cart

on the corner of Gordon Ave. and Dekalb Ave., with their 10-year old son, Ethan.

The “pizza truck” (pictured here) owners are Brian and Arlene

Cont. on p. 6

Calling all Community Gardeners

The Lake Claire Community Land Trust is signing up garden plots for the 2016 growing season. The annual fee for rental of a community garden plot is only \$35. Special arrangements can be made for sweat equity by contact with the Garden Committee Coordinator (Sara Gottlieb—sara.gottlieb@gmail.com). Plots are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Returning gardeners (those with 2015 plot assignments in good standing) have first choice of their existing plots.

Designated “Giving Plots” are available at no charge. This is for volunteer groups and individuals who will tend the gardens and dedicate the harvest to feed the hungry through established agencies such as the Clifton Ministries Shelter and Plant a Row. Please contact Sara to participate.

The deadline for sign-ups is March 23 (Wednesday). Please notify Sara of your request for a new plot, renewal, request for plot location change, or “Giving Plot” assignment, prior to this deadline. Payment will be due on March 31 (Thursday).

Highlights of this issue

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Cover banner photo by Sarah Coburn

MARCH—in like a lion

1-13 Horizon Theatre presents “The Toxic Avenger” (a monster of a rock musical. Check www.horizontheatre.com

1-May 31 Bremen Museum: “Where the Wild Things Are—Maurice Sendak in His Own Words and Pictures” www.thebremen.org

5 & 19 Lake Claire Land Trust Drum Circle—Sunset to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Bring a friend!

5 Roots of Friendship, 1900-1950, African American and Jewish Atlantans, Dekalb History Center, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Historic Decatur Courthouse. www.dekalbhistory.org/dekalb_history_center_events-programs.htm

7 Deadline to submit to *Little 5 Arts Alive*. It brings live arts, community, and performances together Friday through Sunday on Findley & Davis Plazas from April through December. Theatre artists, dancers, musicians, circus performers, will create a welcoming and artful place for the community and visitors. Submissions are being accepted now for individual artists, organizations, school groups, and creators at www.LittleFiveArtsAlive.com

8 The Sierra Club, 2nd Tuesdays, sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta

16 Mary Lin monthly dine-out at our favorite kids-always-eat-free Flying Biscuit, 3rd Wednesday

17 **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!)**

19 Variety show for elementary/middle school—see www.GAZOYKS.com

19 see March 5: Lake Claire Land Trust Drum Circle

20 Annual Purim Parade & Festival—always fun Atlanta event. Parade at 11, Festival 12-3, Beth Jacob Synagogue, La Vista Road. Wear your costume! www.bethjacobatlanta.org/purimsponsor

23 Sign-up for garden plots at the Land Trust, see article page 1

23 *Purim*, one of the most joyous days of the Jewish year, celebrated by dressing in costume, sharing food, and reading the Book of Esther. See March 20, and *chag sameach*

24, 25 & 26 Grady Arts presents *Gypsy* for their spring musical, at Grady High School, at 7:00 p.m. See article Page 5

25 Frazer Center’s annual fundraiser *Goodness in the Gardens*, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. 95th(!) Anniversary of the Cator Woolford Gardens with a “Roaring 20s” theme, and guests will enjoy delicious food, a 1920s-themed band, a lively auction, and so much more! Learn all about it at www.goodnessinthegardens.org

26 Trees Atlanta in Lake Claire! 9 a.m. to noon, meet at 9 on Arizona at the Land Trust and set off to beautify our neighborhood! www.treesatlanta.org

27 Land Trust annual Easter Egg Hunt & Potluck, 9 a.m. hide, 10 a.m. hunt, potluck brunch at 11 a.m.. Don’t forget your dishes and utensils -- Come on over!

*** Mark your calendars, Saturday, April 16, LCLT Peace & Love Spring Fest ***

Send calendar entries for the APRIL 2016 Clarion by MARCH 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org

MLK Day Clean-Up Projects:

Frazer Center

Ben Emanuel, a Frazer Center parent, organized this volunteer effort on MLK Day and was assisted by Ari Levi, FC Director of Facilities and Grounds, and Dan Watson, FC Director of Communications. They provided needed cutting tools, bathrooms, and shelter for anyone needing to escape the cold. It was definitely a family affair with many middle and high school students participating and even some younger ones who all bravely faced the cold. Some of the stalwart families present were those of Alicia McGill and Tyrallynn Frazier.

Before 9:00 in the morning on Jan. 18, a message went out cancelling the scheduled ivy removal event in the Frazer Forest because of below-freezing temperatures. Fortunately, some people didn’t get the message and showed up anyway, taking out as much of the invasive plant (which has taken over a big portion of the forest) as possible.

Ben plans to attempt another outing in the future so keep your eyes open for announcements!

LC Park

by Kai Nathaniel

Teamwork abounded at Lake Claire Park on the very cold morning of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts worked together to finish a list of tasks in the park. Henry Grosse, a TigerAnt from Cub Scout Pack 586, said he had fun: “I picked up a tree and I cut down a tree too. I cleaned off the sidewalk when the Girl Scouts let me borrow their broom.”

Judy Hammack, Friends of Lake Claire Park, provided the list of chores for the volunteers. The picnic benches were stained, the tennis court was cleaned, and a fence was donated and installed around the sinkhole at the north end of the park.

Volunteers worked on the Lakeshore Drive embankment removing cherry laurel, privet, ivy, and other invasive species that threaten the huge oaks and tulip poplars. The cherry laurels were big enough to need two strong Cub Scouts on either end to remove them from the side of the hill.

A number of the workers were there to fulfill service require-

Cont. on p.3

Wild in Lake Claire—Rats!

by Carol Vanderschaaf

Why can I barely put fingers to computer to write about this tiny mammal? Rats! There, I've said it—the word and my thoughts about this topic: Rats. Why did I choose this petite wild beast? Well, first let me say you can't get away from them. They are on every continent except Antarctica, and it's too cold to move there and shiver among the penguins. And rats have been around (and will probably stay around) in some shape or form for millions of years, so time travel wouldn't work.



Another reason to hold them dear to you heart if you dare: Maureen A. O'Leary, anatomist at Stoney Brook University, recently led a study which shows we may have been descended from, not apes, but rats! So I think it's time to learn a little more about our ancestors.

There are two types of rats here in the south, Norway rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) and roof rats (*Rattus*

rattus). The Norway rats, AKA brown, gray, common, house, wharf, barn, sewer and water rat, are good swimmers, make nests in basements and burrow in soil. The roof rat, whom you may know as the Alexandrian, black, fruit, or ship rat, loves to climb but not to swim. He takes the upstairs of the house or nests in trees, i.e., is

that a squirrel or a *Rattus rattus* up there? Let me say no more. I can't. It brings me too close to the topic. Rats—there's that word again—can have 4 to 6 litters a year with 4 to 12 pups each. The pregnancy just takes 3 weeks. The female can become pregnant again within a couple of days after the birth.

Our ancestor the rat is like, or maybe better than, humans in many ways. They spend a good part of the day grooming themselves or members of their group and transmit fewer diseases than cats or dogs. They get depressed without companionship.

Cont. on p.8

March into April in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

February was a perfect month for edgeworthia throughout Lake Claire and Candler Park, for snowdrops making a two-month show because of our cold weather, and for the first narcissus. I had been picking February Gold since January every time a hard frost was predicted and flower buds had made the bent that signals they are near opening. That crook in the stem is where freezing can break it and ruin the flower. In early February I picked about 20 larger Rinjveld's Early Sensations when nights were in the 20s, and they made a delicious odor in the house. There always seems to be an upside in gardening as long as you are willing to let nature take some course. Brent and Becky's will begin accepting orders for fall planted bulbs as early as this

month.

I should try *Edgeworthia chrysantha* again, the paper bush plant that blooms on naked stems in winter shade. Woodlanders in South Carolina carries it if you cannot find it locally, and they ship October through March only so do not delay. Mine would have survived if given a little water during a summer drought.

But right now it is March, your busiest month, especially since the full moon falls on the 23rd, and the likelihood of frost is scant by the end of the month. There are several important points where Southern gardening in general and Lake Claire gardening in particular differ from the rest of our country, especially the North.

1. Plant early. While I have
Cont. on p.9

Five Rights and What's Left

by Peter Peteet

Dear Neighbors,

Words and laws cannot exactly define what your rights are, yet they are the only tools we have. Media is correctly devoted to this impossible yet necessary task, and as I have been forced to dwell on and discuss the definitions and limits of my rights as a citizen, I am grateful to the Clarion for space to share my thoughts.

Amendments and amplifications are often the best way to find the intent and purpose of a document, and so it is with our Constitution. The First Amendment prohibits any law "abridging the freedom of speech," and the Supreme Court has amplified and corrected this text in the case of *Brandenburg vs. Ohio* in 1969. That same year my father took me to Oshman's Sporting Goods and bought me my first firearm; a right guaranteed under the Second Amendment.

These two basic rights are mirrored by the rights of the government as "We the people" to limit and constrain those rights. The limit *Brandenburg* placed on speech was that it could not advocate "Imminent lawless action."

The current limits on the use of firearms and deadly force are in Georgia's "Stand Your Ground" law. It is well known to allow you to shoot someone who is trespassing—and it need not be your property, it may be property you have a duty to defend such as a workplace. There is a crucial and less well known (b) section to it which limits this right with "the use of force... is not justified unless the person using such force reasonably believes that it is necessary to prevent the commission of a forcible felony."

The fifth right might seem minor next to these, but it is the one which forced me to examine and redefine my personal claim on these rights. It is established in the City of Atlanta's Tree Protection ordinance 151-108(c) which states "All permits shall be posted for public inspection on site." When a neighbor alerted me that this ordinance was being violated, I walked onto the vacant lot next to my house and questioned the tree cutting crew as to the location of their permit. When they could not produce the permit, I

Cont. on p.4

Trees

Continued from page 1

removed are done so without the proper permitting, and there is lack of enforcement of our city's Tree Protection Ordinance.

There are organizations of individuals and neighborhood groups that seek to protect Atlanta's lush tree canopy, including notably The Tree Next Door (TTND). And tree planting groups such as Trees Atlanta continue to plant trees (and will be doing so in Lake Claire on March 26 – details in the calendar); but, tree planting alone cannot compensate for the loss of the mature hardwoods

and pines that define Atlanta as a "City in the Forest." Replacing cut trees will not restore an urban forest in the lifetime of most adults. In addition to tree planting groups, there must be a focus on conserving the trees we already have, to the greatest extent possible.

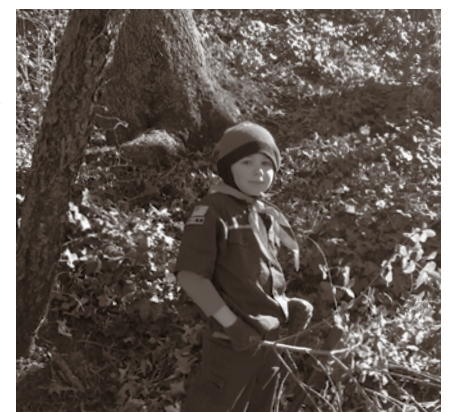
The cost of taking down our old trees has become a part of business for many builders instead of thinking of creative ways to incorporate trees into their designs.

MLK Day

Continued from page 2

ments for Scouts or for Works of Mercy, but most of the volunteers were there because they were neighbors interested in doing something nice and helpful.

Kai Nathaniel is a member of the Cub Scout pack at Epworth Methodist Church.



Alexander Silvis at Park Clean-Up

Keeping An Eye on the Crime and the Time: Lake Claire Security Report, December 27 - January 23 (4 weeks)

Other Larceny

200 block Southerland Ter., Taken: large air conditioning unit. Wires were cut running from the AC unit to the apartment while victim was away.

Theft from Vehicle

2100 block Palifox Dr. car was unlocked in driveway. Prints found. S&W handgun taken (no serial number for gun)

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



Five Rights & What's Left

Continued from Page 3

called 911. I have done this before on another site, and the officer responding shut the site with a posted "Stop Work" order; fines and recompense were assessed to mitigate the damage done to our tree canopy. This time, the responding officer claimed "they don't have to show you anything" and then proceeded to claim "they can shoot you"; in response to my question as to the justification, he replied "because you are trespassing."

I have responded to these infringements by filing a complaint against this officer, as I feel that his speech, in the presence of hostile individuals, advocated "Imminent lawless action." I have had another officer shut down this worksite (though without a posted order) for its lack of legally required posting. (I had to go to City Hall and get a copy of the actual permit and show that officer that it stated on its face not only that it must be posted but specifically where, when, and how such posting was required—and that this must be documented by a sworn statement under penalty of perjury.)

Our Councilwoman Natalyn Archibong's office has been a help with this incident, and they have promised to keep me updated on the Code Compliance Office's reviews of this site.

What remains here is that I wish to keep a common oak tree. It is not huge or historic, but it is healthy, live, and non-hazardous. It stands in the "nuisance strip" at Gordon Ave. and Dekalb Ave., in front of this development. An arborist has incorrectly declared it "Dead, Dying, Diseased or Hazardous" and issued a permit for its destruction. I am challenging this wrongful designation through the only legal channel I can find - a petition to the head of the arborist office (David Zaparanick) and our Mayor (Kasim Reed). You can find and sign this petition at Change.org under the title "Spare This Tree" if you agree with me.

Thanks to all of you for creating and keeping this verdant and peaceful neighborhood I have lived and worked in now for over 50 years. **Let's keep our rights and our healthy trees all standing tall.**

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

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FREE ESTIMATES!

The mercantile
bring home something good

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IN THE SHOP.

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you had an amazing
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F • O • C • U • S O • N E • D • U • C • A • T • I • O • N

APS Proposed Calendar Changes for 2017-2018

by Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Education Chair

Remember the days of mid-August school start dates...? Those days are looking like distant memories. An Atlanta Public School (APS) Calendar Committee, moderated by Rebecca D. Kaye, Policy & Governance Advisor to APS, convened on Wednesday, January 27 at the APS' Center for Learning and Leadership to discuss the 2017-2018 APS Calendar. Its goal is to create a calendar that best fit the needs of the clusters in APS while striving for what would help achieve Academic Excellence and the success of its students. Around the table were at least 10 different stakeholders representing every cluster in APS including principals, teachers, parents, and neighborhood school council groups.

The meeting began with each stakeholder expressing the needs and wants of his/her cluster, a review of non-negotiables to the APS calendar, a review of the calendar survey filled out by the communities, followed up by opinions and recommendations. The non-negotiables are that there is to be at least 180 school days (required by state law), each semester has to have 88-92 days, and we are to conserve required holidays which total 11. A "strong" preference of APS is to have the first semester end before winter holiday break to align with the state EOC testing window (usually the second week in December). Another preference is that the school year end before Memorial Day, because APS noted that many students do not return to school after Memorial Day even if school is still in session.

Within these parameters this committee reviewed the three survey options. Option A is similar to the calendar we have now with an early August start and 3-day breaks in October and February. Option B has a "slightly" later start date with 2-day breaks instead of three. Option C would start on the first of August with 5-day breaks instead of two or three. All options would have school ending by Memorial Day.

Of the 2,157 community members who filled out the survey,

roughly 500 votes came from the Grady Cluster, 300 from the North Atlanta Cluster, leaving over 1300 votes from all the other clusters. The majority in the Grady and North Atlanta Cluster selected Option B, while in every other cluster Option C had the highest percentage of votes. Overall survey responses: Option A 27.91%; Option B 34.83%; Option C 38.24%. Though Grady and North Atlanta have the largest number of survey takers, the clusters overall chose Option C.

So why Option C?! It appears that the needs of the majority of clusters were vastly different than the needs and wants of the Grady and North Atlanta Clusters, the most affluent, influential, and with some of the highest achievers in the district. According to the stakeholders in the room with a focus on academic achievement and the success of the students, these were the responses:

In Response to the Frequency of Breaks

- The trending discipline data shows that the need for discipline rises from the beginning of a semester and peaks right before a break. Once the students come back from break, the curve drops again.

- According to APS, teachers for years have requested a lengthier break in order to return refreshed and restored.

- Families find it easier to budget for year-round patterned breaks rather than to spend a larger sum of money during the summer on childcare.

- The breaks are designed to fall at the end of a marking period, creating a needed brain-break.

In Response to the Length of the Breaks

- Week-long breaks will allow APS to run "academic camps" during these weeks that it would not be able to run with only 2-3 days.

- Week long childcare is easier to find in many of these APS communities and more affordable than cobbling together several

Cont. on p. 11

Grady High School Presents: the Musical *GYPSY!*

Grady High, never known from shying away from a theatrical challenge, has chosen as its spring musical Stephen Sondheim and Arthur Laurent's *Gypsy!!!* Theater director Lee Pope has waited for just the right moment to direct his favorite musical of all time! With recognizable Broadway hits such as: "Everything's Coming Up Roses," "Some People," and "Together Wherever We Go," the audience is certain to have an exciting evening.

The production team consists of: Lee Pope, artistic director; Kevin Hill, musical direction; John Brandhorst and Jake Dreilling, leading set design; and former Joffrey ballet dancer Kathryn Ginden, assisting with the musical staging. Pope has assembled a cast that will blow your mind. Don't fail to miss this amazing moment in Grady theatre as we unveil the latest renovations to the Murray Theatre. Show dates are March 24, 25, and 26 at 7:00 p.m. (www.gradydrama.com).



G3

by Aleks Kline

G3 is Grady's robotics team, which is led by Mr. (Andrew) Nichols. It is split into three large teams, Drones, FRC, and VEX. Each of these teams are composed of even smaller subteams that each have a student leader. DFG flies drones, and builds obstacle courses for younger kids to fly through in competition. FRC is many small groups each working on different parts of the robot. By the end, these pieces will be put together to form a large robot to compete in the FIRST Robotics challenge. FRC just won the regional competition and is ready to win more.

VEX is a program that teaches the basics of robotics to newer team members. There are a few teams, each led by an upperclassman. This program teaches students the basics of working together, programming, and building a robot to complete an objective.

Being part of G3 is a great experience. I recently joined FRC, and I have met many new people. Being

in G3 teaches you life skills, such as teamwork, communication, persistence, and working together to complete a task before a deadline. And, it's a great thing to be able to put it on your college application.

There are many team members in Lake Claire/Candler Park who participate in G3 (Grady Gearbox Gangstas), including Jack Labadia, Josh Ortega, and Harry Rowe. We are trying to raise \$10,000 this month to transport team members to the next FRC competitions. We are very excited to be able to compete, and we need your help, so consider donating to our GoFundMe Campaign: www.gofundme.com/gtqf2sfx

Aleks, who lives on Leonardo, is 14 years old and a 9th grader at Grady. Consider helping with a donation in Aleks' name. The team member with the most GoFundMe donations gets to throw a pie at the mentor or senior leader of his or her choice!

Lake Claire's Butcher, Baker, Pizza Maker

Continued from Page 1

Dechant, and they live half-way along Gordon Avenue, with their three children, Olivia, Grace, and Gavan. One bite of their thick, soft pizza crust is instantly to want more. The Dechants are culinary graduates with a love of Italy and a passion for Neapolitan Pizza. They were trained in Neapolitan pizza making at the Vera Pizza Napoletana in Marina Del Rey, California. Last fall they hosted the 76-member family of St. Thomas More School, where their children are students, and, in December, a 46-member post-wedding party given by a family in the neighborhood. They do farmers markets, full service catering, special events and festivals (www.stradanapolipizza.com).

Around the bend of Gordon Avenue live our baker's parents, Jenny and Sergio Arillo, where Eric



La Calavera's carrot spelt bread and local fresh fruit danishes



La Calavera's sprouted whole wheat bread (for which they make their own flour)

Arillo grew up. Eric received a four-year scholarship to Georgia Tech, but after two years there, decided not to become an engineer.

Eric's wife, Dale Ralston, manages the bakery while Eric bakes – at night! La Calavera, is located on East College, a few steps from Sams Crossing MARTA station in Decatur. They are known for fresh organic bread, treats, and

coffee and tea. The wide variety of fresh loaves include sprouted whole wheat, fennelina, carrot spelt, super-sourdough, apple walnut whole wheat, chocolate babka, cinnamon swirl brioche, and more. A Lake Claire neighbor has said, "I'll never buy grocery store



Spice to Table eating area

bread again. Also, I'm addicted to their orejas - sugary, flaky and delicious. The empanadas are wonderful, and full of cinnamon." The facebook site is kept updated with current offerings (e.g., while writing this on February 3, it invited diners to come the next

day to enjoy Fresh milled white winter wheat boule, olive rosemary sourdough and bolillos). See www.facebook.com/la-calaverabakery. Enjoy all of the restaurants!

Cookies

Continued from Page 1

songs, and games, and planning their troop service project.

In February, the girls represented Israel at the Phoenix Rising Service Unit's World Thinking Day Celebration. Also in February, the girls held a cookie booth at The Albert in Inman Park.



Girl Scout cookie sales in front of Candler Park Market

This month, the girls will start their troop service project: making warm and fuzzy custom pillows to donate to the patients at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta —with materials paid for with funds from their cookie sales. In addition to using their cookie funds for the service project, the

Grady Arts Presents

March 24, 25, 26, 2016
Murray Theater,
Grady High School
7PM | \$10

Tickets available at the door or online at gradydrama.com



Our Biscuits and Bellyrubs Cartoons are by Anna Trodglin.

Lake Claire Park Redesign

Continued from page 1

girls will also use cookie money for their May trip to Savannah, to the birthplace of Juliette Gordon Low, founder of Girl Scouts.

There are two upcoming chances to pick up some delicious Thin Mints, Samoas, and all the other cookie favorites to support Troop 13553: March 6, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Candler Park Market; March 13, 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Mary Lin Elementary's Linapalooza Talent Show (located in the auditorium lobby). Troop 13553 is comprised of 4th and 5th grade girls representing Mary Lin Elementary, ANCS, St. Thomas Moore School, and Drew Charter School. Some of the girls have been in Girl Scouts together for six years. The troop meets twice monthly at Epworth UMC in Candler Park. Enjoy your Thin Mints and Do-Si-Dos@!

path extension to meet McLendon Ave. walkway and bridge | Pavilion demolition | Landscape

Phase 2: \$482,600—Playground area improvements (including drainage, resurfacing, seating, equipment, canopy, gathering area, water fountain, and more | Landscape

Phase 3: \$285,600—Playing field (regrading, drainage, sod) | Playing field perimeter walkway (rubber surface) | Walkway connecting to phase 1 tennis court | Fitness stations along field perimeter walkway | Landscape

Phase 3B: \$25,800—Service and maintenance walkway from Lakeshore Dr.

Phase 4: \$44,600—Renovate existing granite steps from Lakeshore | Renovate and improve Marlbrook Dr. entry and path | Recondition Almeta Ave. path

Park Lighting: \$143,500—Re-

place and add park lighting. This will be done in 3 or 4 phases. The intent with lighting is to make sure even in renovation that the park is lighted. Also, the City is considering security cameras. (See the projected cost and construction drawings by David Barclift, LLC, Landscape Architecture and Land Planning on this page.)

Funding: If any Lake Claire resident would like to donate the \$1.5 million for this project, I'll tell you to whom the check should be written. In the meantime, Joe Agee (president of LCNA), Christiane French (Environmental VP for LCNA), Daniel Calvert (Park Design), Tom Cullen (Park Design), and Judy Hammack (Friends of Lake Claire Park) met with Council Member Natalyn Archibong to discuss funding options for the plan. While the city cannot

fund the complete project, CM Archibong shared sourcing suggestions, grant possibilities, and budget ideas. FYI, the city has already invested about \$25,000 in the park for surveys and landscape architecture services, in addition to in-house staff hours for design.

Going Forward: Friends of Lake Claire park submitted a resolution to Council Member Archibong for the redesign document to be accepted as an official master plan. Funding, however, is the major next step which will include grant writing and fund raising. \$1,486,000 is a lot of grants! So stay tuned for the capital campaign conversation! Until then...I hope to see you in the park!

You can reach Judy, Friends of Lake Claire Park, at judyhammack@gmail.com.—Ed.



MARLBROOK ENTRY W/ RAMP



OVERLOOK



LAKESHORE ENTRY



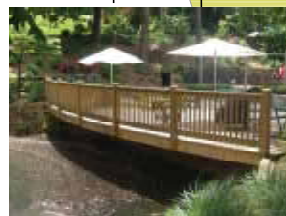
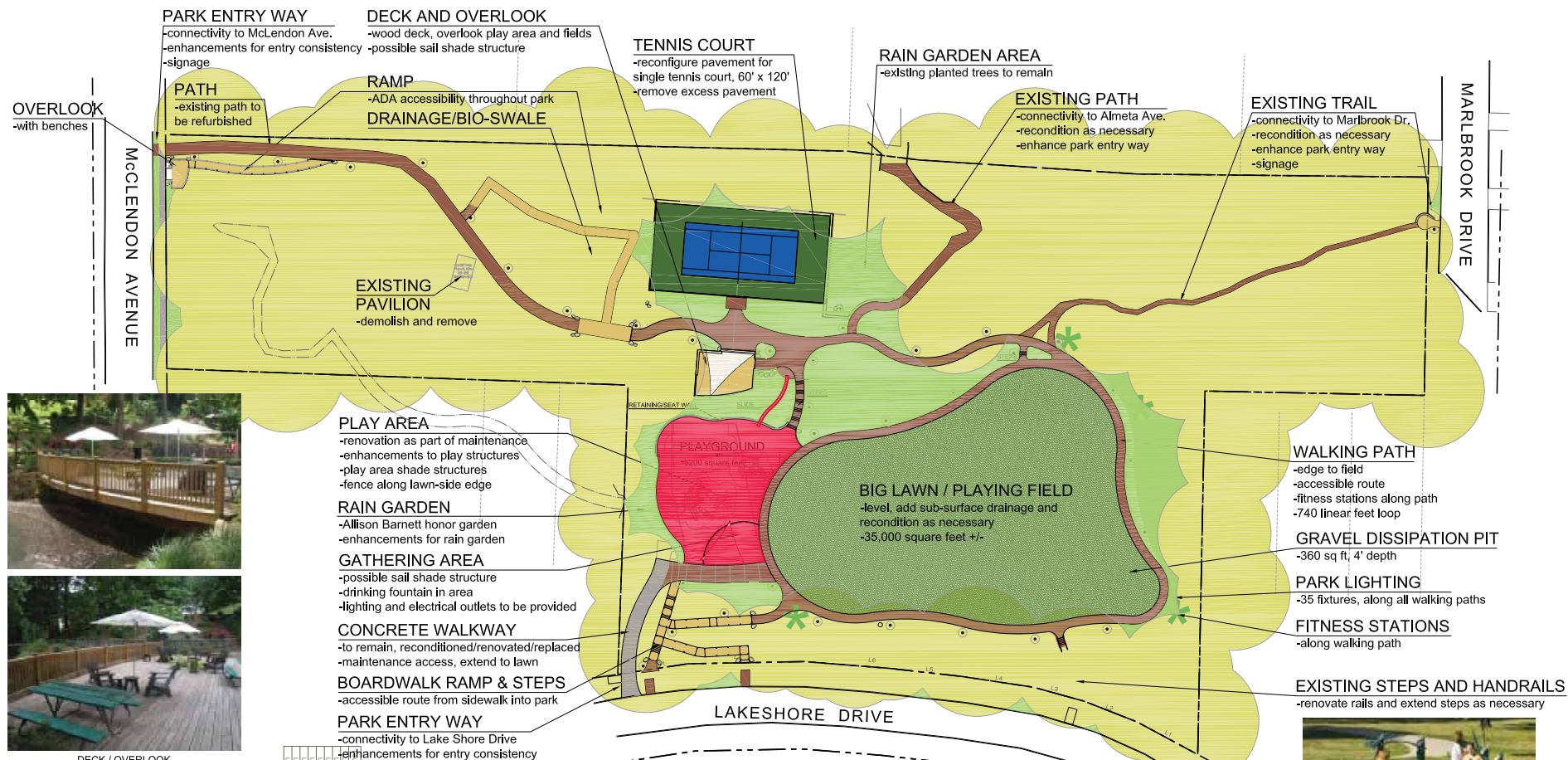
RAIN GARDEN



PARK PATHS



PLAYING FIELD



DECK / OVERLOOK



SHADE STRUCTURE



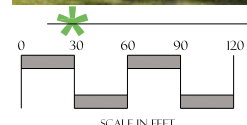
PLAYGROUND



PLAYGROUND SLIDE



ADA RAMP / BOARDWALK



Wild in Lake Claire

Continued from page 3

They will take care of the injured or sick. They are very influenced by the behavior of other rats—*Rattus* pressure. Rats can go longer than camels without water. They make happy “laughter” noises when they’re playing, so if you hear chattering or vibrating sounds in your attic or basement you can at least be assured that your rats are happy. And rats have excellent memories, so be aware how you treat them.

The rat is the first animal of the Chinese zodiac. Those born in the Year of the Rat supposedly possess positive characteristics associated with the rat: intelligence, honesty, generosity, ambition, and creativity. In spite of all these positive attributes of the r-a-t, not many of us want to share our lives with them. I, for one, have never gone on *Rat.com*. ...psst, have you? The separation of rats and humans may be a good thing. Rats and their accompanying parasites carry diseases that can be fatal to their progeny (us, in case you’ve forgotten): Listeria, Hantavirus, and Rat Bite fever. Fleas on rats were responsible for the Bubonic Plague, aka the Black Death. The maligned rats themselves also died from this horrible disease. Rodent urine and feces also can be responsible for many allergies, according to a national study. That study

revealed that 82% of the homes studied had trace amounts of these already mentioned unmentionables. They can also cause asthma in adults and children.

And rats can be destructive to your home. They have very, very sharp teeth (*Rat.com*... wanted female with good teeth) and can chew through just about anything, be it wood, wall board, wood and insulation, with a special attraction to electrical wiring.

To sum it up....sorta....it’s difficult to have rats around. Even harder to wrap the slogan “COEXIST” around them. But, we have no choice. More than any other wild animals, rats have adjusted to living with, COEXISTING with humans. The hardy creatures easily adapt to change, including new and stronger poisons... poisons that can kill other animals, including those that might feed upon the poisoned rodent, e.g., pets. And remember, like us, rats are sentient creatures.

A better way to control our furry ancestors is to make our environments less welcoming. Be proactive in discouraging them from taking up residence in the first place. Start by getting rid of any rats already living with you by whatever means you chose. Close up any entrance holes. You can also get some electrical devices which you plug in, inaudible to

us but annoying to rodents and insects. They can get into holes as small as quarters. Check the foundation, doors, and windows, then fill any access holes with caulk, putty or weather stripping. I’ve even tried that foamy Great Stuff, which seems to work.

Now it’s time to make our houses and yards less attractive to r-a-t-s. Soak rags in ammonia or put mothballs in containers, and place them in the corners of the basement or attic. Rats tend to run along pathways close to the walls. Peppermint oil and mint leaves also serve as deterrents. Urine-soaked cat litter or predator urine can deter the intruders.

Outside it’s a good idea to stack firewood about a 1½ feet above ground and a few feet from your house. Place bird feeders on poles with some sort of baffle. Don’t keep pet food out at night. Keep your garbage cans lids tightly closed.

Of course, our neighborhood is famously tearing down every house in sight. For each one that has disappeared, its rats don’t. They start searching for other homes, perhaps yours. What more is there to say? The good and the bad of *Rattus*. So you decide, now that you have some facts. Do you want to be inhospitable to your ancestors, or are you up for a *Rattus* family reunion?



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



Gardening

Continued from page 3

known freezes to occur as late as the 20th of April, they are rare in town, and plants can usually survive with some protection. Our biggest enemy is heat. Once this arrives, around Memorial Day, seedlings must be plants large enough to survive. So give them the whole of April and May to do this.

2. Soil preparation should be done in the fall to facilitate early planting. OK, you did not do this. Get busy. Your main task is to add compost that has ripened in bins or piles. Turn it into the soil to a depth of several inches. This is because compost left on the surface will generally be baked useless in our climate.

3. And if you did not spade over the bed last fall, do it now, despite the newest evidence that we should not disturb the soil structure, because Lake Claire plots are full of roots from the trees and bushes that give us such delightful shade. I assume, of course, that you selected the area that will have the best sun for your vegetables from June through August, which may not be an area with much sun now. But if you have not been following my suggestions over the last year, I cannot help you here. Try not to rototill unless you are making a new bed from undisturbed soil and it is too difficult to do by hand. Certainly do not do this when soil is wet. Keep your plots small and manageable.

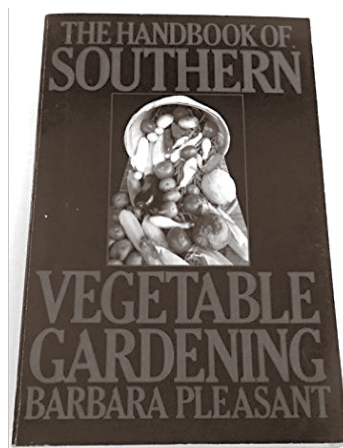
4. Most Southern vegetable beds need some liming each year, unlike Western soils that are alkaline. However, liming should be done in the fall and then the soil covered for the winter with straw or other mulches. An exception to this is where potatoes are planted because they get a kind of scab in alkaline soils. My potatoes are in a three-year bed rotation with other plants that need less alkalinity. I lime the bed the fall after I harvest the potatoes and then not again un-

til they are harvested from that bed again three years later. I sometimes use lime or wood ashes (sparingly) in the tomato pits I fill each year because the deep rich mixture has time to meld over the months that tomato roots grow down into it.

Set out the brassica transplants early this month (broccoli, cabbage, kohlrabi). Sow the seeds of beets, carrots, chard, collards, lettuce, parsnips, radishes, and turnips directly into squares

or rows you have prepared. Plant seed potatoes also. They will be ready to eat by June so the bed can accommodate May-planted sweet potato sets at the same time.

Once again, I suggest Barbara Pleasant's



The Handbook of Southern Vegetable Gardening, first published in 1984 in Atlanta, and as good now as it was then. I see you will now pay (Abebooks.com or Amazon) at least \$20 for a used copy of what initially sold for \$8, but it is worth every penny. There are even new copies available for up to \$132.64 (I hope Barbara profits from this!). If you want to be a serious gardener, which means getting hands dirty and kneeling down near the earth, touching insects, acclimatizing yourself to heat and cold, and actually planting seeds, then this is the book and hobby for you. While you are at it, order yourself an Easy Kneeler or the newer Garden Ease Kneeler for all that getting up and down to and from the ground. Do not bend over to reach the soil. I could never have continued gardening after I injured my knees in my 40s without this aid, and in my 70s the trusty companion is useful in the house also.

Please let Elizabeth know of your gardening experiences, albeit knee injuries or plant successes, at knowltonew@earthlink.net. Ed.

Homeless

by Bryan Davis

Homeless. As I write this word and speak of the concept of *homeless*, it is abstract to me. It is frightening to think about being homeless. Struggle. Suffering. Hardship. Without a home. As I think of the 11,000 men that have been served by Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (CSM) since 1979, I just have to pause. I cannot get my thoughts around it.

Peter Chatel of Chatel Consulting group (pchatel@chatelconsultinggroup.com)—formerly with the Coca-Cola Company) visited our board meeting this week. He will be helping CSM with a strategic plan going forward. We'll be meeting in mid-March for our first session, a process the board is excited about. Part of our work might involve some repair of the facilities, including a kitchen remodel. We will be evaluating our programs, determining how we can improve, asking if we need to add or subtract certain activities.

CSM is looking for someone to work part-time on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. This person will perform various office duties and help with the intake of guests. Please give Alice Jenkins a call if you are interested at 404-373-3253. CSM serves breakfast and dinner and bagged lunches to the residents. **We are also looking for some assistance at dinners.** Please give Alice a call if you can help with a meal or two, or

have any ideas.

CSM will also begin an effort to beef-up our church relations in the community. We want to reintroduce ourselves to spiritual communities throughout the area. Lake Claire has long known that we have a great resource here, and we want to think of ways for the community to know us better. If you attend a group you think might be interested in Clifton Sanctuary Ministries let us know; some board members will come to talk with your group. Also, there will be an introductory 10-minute film on our website soon, www.cliftonsanctuary.com.



Finally, CSM will have a Lake Claire neighborhood thank-you party in April. We will have sumptuous food trucks and a surprise thank-you or two waiting for our neighbor guests. We will publish the date in the **April Clarion**. Please look out for us, and please join us. Thank you for your support.

As noted in the last issue, Bryan is the new Lake Claire representative on the CSM board.

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

Birthdays:

- March 8 Lawson Crutcher, 12, Hardendorf Ave.
- March 11 Zoë Steib on Palifox Dr., 11
- March 14 Jennie Caine, Leonardo Ave.
- March 18 Ben Farmer, Hardendorf Ave.
- March 19 Emily Allen, Harold Ave.
- March 23 David Damon, the big 6-Oh...
- March 29 Victoria Weldert – Happy ONE!
- March 31 James Crutcher, Hardendorf Ave.

Happy wedding anniversary:

- March 22 Anna Kilinski & Spencer McKinley Brent, Clifton Rd.

Belated:

- Happy ONE** to Elliot Micah Philip Masarek on February 13, Delaware Ave.

Send us stuff for April Clarion—birthdays and other life cycle changes—(editor@lakeclaire.org) by MARCH 15.

Thanks for Paying Dues

Some recent dues payers are Daniel Couture, Beth Grashof, Millicent Roche, Diana Hicks, Charles & Rachel Jackson, Norma Cloe, Yvonne Coyle, Susan Davis, Eileen O'Neil, Melanie Cole, Susannah Stubbs, Nancy Maingnon, Cynthia Marshall, Calais Klein, Michael Glennon, Elise Witt, Colleen Golden, Sarah Goodfellow, Kelly Crutcher, Jessica Grosse, James Bencina, Peter Peteet, Jeffery Fishier, Michael Memberg, Nikola Vick, Tori Campbell, Adam Rabinowitz, Kristin Bryon, Kevin McDaniel, James Farmer, William Evans, Ann Mauney, Eunice Cho, Genise Spence, John A. Garland, Crystal Motes. If we have missed anyone who paid her or his dues and hasn't been featured in another Clarion, please be sure to let us know as we are happy to include you in another edition. Write to editor@lakeclaire.org. See your name in print by paying your dues! Seriously, we all want to support our many wonderful neighborhood initiatives, including green spaces, worthy organizations, fun events...

How to Pay?—Mail a check to Lake Claire Neighbors, c/o Treasurer, P.O. Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107, or go to www.lakeclaire.org.

lakeclaire.org/lcn/members.htm. Help keep neighborhood coffers "in the black." If you haven't, and if you are able, please pay \$20 yearly dues. Just like with National Public Radio, any amount is certainly appreciated. And remember, you can receive a Lake Claire Banner package deal for \$50.00 if combined with annual dues!



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Farewell, Blackbird Hotel

by Steven Wing

*The urge to climb a stump
must be a distant
forerunner of the itch
to mount a pulpit
or a throne . . .*

It's a call I can't resist.
No sooner do I turn around
and miss something huge and familiar
than I have to climb
the muddy steps to this mud lot
suddenly vacant, where
a dilapidated house no longer crumbles,
where my neighbor's magnificent
water oak stood
for some ninety years.

Standing on the monumental stump
in the fog of the streetlights
above the wet street
as a light drizzle comes down,
the rubble and debris around me shining
with a fresh snowfall
of sawdust, I look around
from a broad, high platform
of solid oak
sawn unevenly across the grain and see
my old house across the street
in new light.

Almost the same age,
the young house
taller at first but gradually eclipsed
as the trunk grew
and the branches spread, dozing
in its companionable shade for decades
of summers
before the longago winter when I
moved in, witnessing
the armada of blackbirds that arrived
every year
to fill those branches not so much
with song as with chatter,
like intermission at the opera,
like a blackbird hotel,
a leafy skyscraper towering
over my aging
rafters and shingles—

Over near one edge
of the ninety-some rings of longevity
exposed by the chainsaws,
two small hollow tunnels
lined with black rot
disappear into the massive roots.
The old tree still had years,
maybe another decade, but the end
had begun
and some days it definitely was
leaning my way. Walking up
a truncated remnant
of the gigantic fallen trunk,
stepping down onto heavy round
cross-sections of oak,
I head back across the street,
across the rushing shadows
of almost a century,
toward the lighted windows of home.

*Next morning
even the stump was gone.
The workmen came back early
and woke the whole block
with the mournful wails of the saw,
the keening grinder . . .*



*Neighbors
gather to
say goodbye
to Marilyn
Bright's
90-year-old
water oak,
which was
cut down by
the developer
of her former
property at 299
Arizona Ave.
after its being
diagnosed with
terminal rot.
— photos by
Dawn Aura*

Happy Birthday, Bob!

by David Fasano

Thanks to all who attended and helped out to make the Lake Claire Community Land Trust's Bob Marley Birthday Celebration a success. The First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta hosted our event, and based on comments of those who attended, the house was rocking. Special thanks to the Ex-P.A.N.D. Band whose acoustic set to open the night was beyond compare. The Natti Lovejoys came through with songs that had everybody up and dancing. Bill Fleming's pedal steel guitar added a unique flavor to their roots-reggae set. And thanks to our friends at WRFG who generously ran public service announcements encouraging the community to attend. One love, y'all!

Upcoming at the Land Trust:

Sat. March 5 and 19 – Drum
Circles;

Sun. March 27, Easter Egg
Hunt: left for details.

Sun. April 10, Community
Work Day;

Sat. April 16 Peace & Love
Spring Fest

APS Calendar

Continued from page 5

days of care.

Other Benefits of this Schedule: Graduating high schoolers need this calendar to be in line with the State of Georgia graduation requirements; and this schedule will align with neighboring districts.

The APS Calendar Committee will send their recommendation for Option C (August 1 start date and five-day breaks) to the Board of Education (BOE). The BOE will have a window of commentary on Option C from February 1, until their next meeting on March 7, at which point it will reach a decision. If you have questions or comments, feel free to reach out to Matt Westmoreland, the Board of Education representative for Lake Claire: mwestmoreland@atlanta.k12.ga.us



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 **Chloe Hall** and her art. Chloe is 7 years old, is

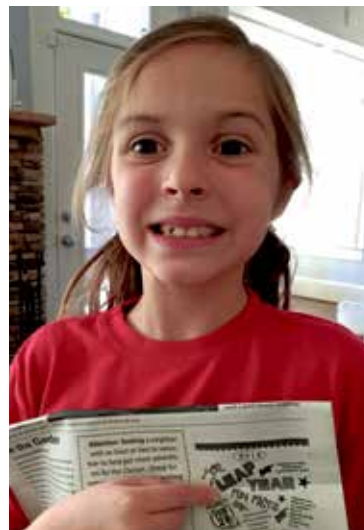
in 1st grade at Mary Lin, and she loves to draw. She wants to be an animal rescuer when she grows up. Hey there, let's hear from more Lake Claire kids—we want

your creativity on this page. Submit articles, poetry, drawings, your original puzzles, etc., to editor@lakeclaire.org. **We'd love to hear from you.**



CONGRATS!

Chloe found the leap year graphic last month, so she won the contest and the prize of having her picture published in the Clarion. **Congrats, Chloe, what a wonderful artist!**



NEW CONTEST:

Kids: St. Patrick's day is this month. The leprechaun's secret hiding place for his pot of gold is usually said to be at the end of the rainbow. Find it hidden somewhere in this newspaper! The winner will have your picture in the next Clarion. To win, send e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org telling us the page number where you found it. Extra credit for telling us what causes a rainbow. The extra credit prize is that you can write or draw for a future Clarion. Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you can't win two months in a row. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize!

The Force is with the McGills

by O.B. Juan

For those of you who saw *The Force Awakens* and are hungry for another Star Wars installment, one of your neighbors has a small appetizer to offer. The McGill family created an amateur video using an iPhone, iMovie software, a few Halloween costumes and props from the attic, and \$5-worth of special effects files available on-line.

The movie is less than 5-minutes in length and stars Sara McGill (age 10) as the heroine trying to deliver a package to Nina Garrison (a friend of the McGills). Sara receives instructions from a familiar Jedi Master to deliver the package across a dangerous land. During Sara's journey she encounters a few obstacles, including two villains played by Michael McGill (age 8). While I don't want to spoil the movie, let's just say that there's a happy ending.

The idea for the movie originated when Tom McGill (the dad in the family) told his friend John Garrison that he would not be able to attend a *Star Wars*-themed birthday party for John's daughter Nina (age 7). As the McGills and the Garrisons trick-or-treated through Lake Claire dressed as *Star Wars* characters on Halloween, John asked Tom if he could deliver a birthday message in costume via video. Sara and Michael are the youngest of the McGill kids and both expressed interest in par-

ticipating. Tom reflected on an amateur *Star Wars*-inspired film, *The Great Galaxy War*, which he made in 7th grade with his sister Anne and his father using a Super 8 camera and broomsticks for lightsabers. The birthday video message for Nina quickly morphed into a McGill movie project, and was



The House Guard (Michael McGill) defends his territory

loosely considered by Tom as a sequel to his 1981 film.

Tom spent three afternoons working primarily with Sara and Michael in their backyard to shoot the movie. During several evenings he compiled the footage using the iMovie editing tools and added special effects using video and audio files downloaded from the internet.

The other McGill family members also participated. Alicia (the mom in the family) is the ring-leader for many McGill projects and a very talented and creative artist. For this project she was content to let Tom run with it and pro-

vide support where needed. She helped manipulate props during some of the scenes, did some of the camera work, and remained enthusiastic, even after a rubber skeleton hand tossed high in the air accidentally landed on her head. Joseph (age 14) is the oldest of the McGill kids and helped with one of the props and also helped with some of the camera work. Jamie (age 12) provided feedback and strong encouragement throughout the project, which helped it progress and come to completion quickly.

The full title of the movie is *The Great Galaxy War, Episode II; The Package for Nina*. The movie was shown at Nina's birthday party on February 6, and was a big hit with Nina and her party guests.

Will there be a continuation of *The Great Galaxy War* saga beyond this movie? When asked, Tom pondered the question then finally responded by quoting Yoda from *The Empire Strikes Back* - "Hmmm....difficult to see. Always in motion is the future." Perhaps we can raise this question again to the McGill family after the release of the next *Star Wars* installment.

The McGill family plans to post the movie on YouTube once they clear a few copyright hurdles. If you wish to see or get a copy of the movie in the meantime, you can contact Tom at tmcgill160@gmail.com



The heroine Cera (Sara McGill) faces challenges on her journey