

I Will Arise and Go Now

by Geoffrey Hillsabeck

I've lived in a lot of places in the past ten or so years: New York, Alaska, Chicago, Iowa City, Lisbon, Boston, Atlanta. Soon I'll be adding Morgantown, WV (or Pittsburgh, PA—we haven't decided yet) to the list, since that's where my wife and daughter and I will be moving in June. I've loved every one of these places, but I'm going to miss Atlanta more than any of them. **And when I say Atlanta, what I really mean is Lake Claire.**

I remember one of the first walks that Johanna (wife), Esther (daughter), Stanley (dog), and I (I) took through the neighborhood. It was late July, early evening. All around us were great big trees and colorful, squat bungalows. As we turned from Arizona onto New York, the MARTA rumbled past just to the south. A block or two on, we passed a guy standing on his deck bouncing his baby. He said hello, and so did we, but then, to our astonishment, the interaction didn't end. He walked out to the sidewalk and struck up a conversation with us! Having spent



The family in front of their Mathews home

the previous five years in chilly New England, you can imagine our surprise at this friendliness. Later I learned that there were not only friendly people in Lake Claire, but also a friendly emu, and I ask you: how many neighborhoods can claim both? Usually, it's one or the other.

There is something else that few neighborhoods can claim, certainly none that I've ever called home. Can you guess what it is?

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Our Neighbor, CSM

by Bryan Davis, Tuxedo Avenue

Good Morning Lake Claire! Or good afternoon, good evening. **Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (CSM)** has obtained a major grant from HomeAid Atlanta to renovate our facilities. We are jazzed about this. It is really good news.

What is HomeAid Atlanta? Founded in 2001, HomeAid Atlanta is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that builds and renovates housing facilities for organizations serving homeless families and individuals in the metro Atlanta area. HomeAid Atlanta is the designated charity of the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association, and is a local chapter of HomeAid America, a leading national provider of

transitional housing for the temporarily homeless." Read about HomeAid Atlanta at www.atlantahomebuilders.com/our-hba/programs/homeaid-atlanta.

We will be renovating our kitchen, performing major repairs throughout the facility, and more. HomeAid Atlanta will be contributing up to 50% of the cost of our projects through in-kind contributions—labor, materials, and equipment. We hope to start hammering and nailing in August of this year. We do need to raise some funds to match this kind gift from HomeAid Atlanta. Please contact Gordon Slade at gslade@cliftonsanctuary.com for more information about our project, ideas for fund-raising, or if

Plan to come on June 5: Lake Claire Centennial Celebration



LC Neighbors Enjoying BBQ at Last Year's Centennial Celebration

Come on out and eat BBQ!!

Who: Lake Claire Neighbors and Friends | **What:** It's the SECOND ANNUAL Lake Claire Centennial Celebration. Barbeque, Kids' and Family Activities, membership tables | **When:** Sunday, June 5 from 2 until 5 p.m. | **Where:** the beautiful Frazer Center Gardens and Pavilion | **Why:** To celebrate again the centennial of our

beloved intown oasis, Lake Claire!!!

The BBQ: David Gelin and Wayne Germon have teamed together to cater this event. David has authored a book about BBQ; Wayne and his business partner were the recipients of Atlanta Magazine's Best Ribs award. They will start smoking their pork and chicken on-site early on the day of the event. They are preparing quarter chicken plates, pulled pork plates, and beef hot dog plates. The sides are coleslaw and baked beans with or without meat. Dessert is fresh cut watermelon. **Prices: chicken or pork plate - \$11; hotdog plate - \$6.** Lake Claire

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THE CLARION IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

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Cover banner photo by Sarah Coburn

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MAY

May is named after the Greek goddess, Maia. The month is a time of great celebrations. And it is the time when flowers emerge and crops begin. It's National BBQ month (though OUR BBQ is June 5), National Salad Month, Date your Mate month, AND Older Americans Month—so be nice to folks you know who are "older."

1-8 "Inside I" at 7 Stages, explores the life of a boy on the autistic spectrum from birth to age 18 and his obsession, and escape into, the world of video. Using puppetry, visual spectacle and live feed cameras, *Inside I* gives voice and image to spectrum's unheard and unseen effects. www.7stages.org

5 Cinco de Mayo—a celebration in Mexico observed to commemorate the Mexican army's unlikely victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, sometimes mistaken to be Mexico's Independence Day. In the US Cinco de Mayo has taken on a significance beyond that, with special events on its historical significance, and to highlight Mexican culture, its food, music, and regional dancing.

7 & 21 Lake Claire Land Trust Drum Circle—Sunset to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Bring friends! See Page 11 for Land Trust news.

7 Native Americans of Ga., Bus Tour. The Dekalb History Center invites you to join the tour and picnic lunch on Saturday, 5/7. Includes Etowah Indian Mounds, New Echota, and Chief Vann House; led by archaeologists and historians. Please call (404) 373-1088, ext 20 with questions or to register by phone

7-8 and every weekend in May (through Nov)—Little Five Points Alive. Musicians, dancers, artists, etc. See article in last month's Clarion and www.LittleFivePointsAlive.com.

8 2-4 p.m. the Frazer Center "Figs & Honey," an afternoon of music and family fun. See Frazer Center website for details.

10 The Sierra Club, 2nd Tuesdays at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 2089 Ponce de Leon Avenue NE. The Metro Atlanta Group comprises the largest Sierra Club membership in Georgia and is dedicated to exploring, preserving and protecting the environment within the Atlanta area. See sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta

14 Lake Claire Land Trust, 2nd annual Food, Clothing & Shelter Fest, noon to 11:00 p.m. See article on Page 11.

14 *Fahrenheit 451*, part of 7 Stages "Home Brew," a developmental reading and presentation series for local artists. Artists spend a week residency developing their works for a one night presentation. 2pm. See other productions for the month at www.7stages.org/about/calendar

18 Mary Lin monthly dine-out at our favorite kids-always-eat-free Flying Biscuit, 3rd Wednesday of every month.

19 **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!)**

20 Horizon Theatre presents "The City of Conversation." Hester Ferris opens Washington, D.C. home for political foes to lay down arms and raise a glass. But that is all about to change. Colin, her beloved son, brings home a Reaganite girlfriend and a shocking new conservative world view, rocking Hester's world. Follow the family from the Carter presidency through the Reagan era and into Obama's game-changing inauguration. Off-Broadway smash hit! (through June 26)

21 & 28 Decatur Concerts on the Square, (21st: Flat Rock Swing; 28th: Bogey and the Viceroy)—see decaturredba.com/events/concerts-on-the-square

24 Vote on E-SPLOST! - See article page 7.

Send calendar entries for the COMBO JUNE/JULY 2016 Clarion by MAY 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org

Come on out and eat BBQ!!

Continued from page 1

Neighbors (LCN) will provide lemonade and water. **You will need to bring cash.** David and Wayne will sell any BBQ that is left over.

Kids' and Family Activities: Between 2:30 and 4:30, **Miss Ladybug** and her helpers, co-sponsored by LCN and the Lake Claire Land Trust (LCLT), will provide activities for the kids, including face-painting, bubbles, and games with prizes. There will also be a scavenger hunt with prizes for kids of all ages.

The Welcome Tables: Sign in to be eligible for several drawings; prizes will include LCN

merchandise. Tee-shirts, hats, banners and Ski LC bumper stickers will be on sale, and you can also pay your LC dues (\$20) if you haven't done so in 2016. Bring your checkbook, cash, or use PayPal for credit card payments. LCLT will also have a table so that you can become a sponsor (\$10) or purchase LT merchandise.

*Since the June/July Clarion is delivered around the first week of June, this may be the last Clarion you'll see before the event. **Mark your calendars now, and we hope to see you there!***



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

April Birth

Finn Isaac Covington was born on April 1, 7 lbs 4 oz, 20.5 inches, to parents Chris and Kathleen Covington, and big sister Ada (2 years old) on Hardendorf Ave.

May Birthdays

- 3 Sarah Wynn, Harold Ave.
- 4 Bill Fleming, Harold Ave.
- 4 Jennifer Hubert, new neighbor on Harold Ave. (*welcome & Happy B'Day*)
- 5 Jake Landgraff, turns 15!
- 6 Lock Rogers, Ridgewood Rd.
- 7 Gay Arnieri, Harold Ave.
- 9 Bob Caine, getting younger on Leonardo Ave.
- 11 Adler Waugh, turning 5 (happy mother's day gift to Lisa), Leonardo Ave.
- 16 Peter Stay Puft Marshmallow Man Olson, Leonardo Ave.
- 18 Jett Friedman, Delaware Ave., will be 4 (wow, they grow fast)

- 19 Joseph McGill, Delaware Ave. will be 15.
- 20 Aidan Rogers, Harold Ave., turns 12.
- 23 Mayla Carper, turning 3, Leonardo Ave.
- 27 Edie Haggerty, turning 5, Harold Ave
- 28 Sadie Stevens, turning 6, Leonardo Ave.

Belated

April 9 Joe Stevens, new neighbor on Harold.

Welcome, New Doggie:

Sharon Doochin, Harold Avenue, and doggie Luna, welcomed Zelda, this new addition to the family, late last month.

Are you graduating next month? Were you born in June or July? Take a minute right now, and send life cycle events/important rights of passage, etc., for the months of June, July—and beyond—to editor@lakeclaire.org. Deadline is MAY 15 for the JUNE/JULY combo issue of the newspaper. Please help us make this feature inclusive of our LC 'hood.

I Will Arise and Go Now

Continued from page 1

Not those creamy dreamy grits, since the Biscuit has fourteen locations in three states. I'll give you a hint: it's black and white and read all over. Yes, I'm talking about *the Clarion*, which just might be my favorite thing about Lake Claire, along with the trees, the tennis court, the pizza, and our upstairs neighbors.

The Clarion has taught me about illegal tree removal and inconsiderate home building practices. It has introduced me to many of my neighbors, whether animal, vegetable, or mineral. It has informed me about upcoming elections, given me insight into the local schools, and kept me in the loop about events in the neighborhood. All of which is to say that reading *the Clarion*, so graciously delivered to my door, at no cost—though I promise we'll pay our dues before we leave—helps me better know, and participate in, the place where I live. *It expands my perspective.*

That perspective can be severely limited, since I spend my afternoons and weekends exploring the neighborhood with our nearly-two-years-old daughter, Esther. I experience Lake Claire as a toddler does (albeit a toddler with a bad back and a coffee addiction), which is to say slowly (so slowly) and with my hands. We gather wildflowers on the path between Mathews (where we live) and Lake Claire Park. Because Esther has little respect for private property, we wander into people's backyards in search of cats and staircases. We visit Lou and feed him lettuce, though Lou once nicked Esther in the finger, a story she still likes to tell. (It goes something like this: "Boo-boo." "You got a boo-boo?" "Yeeeah." "Where?" "Emu bit you." "Oh, the emu gave you a boo-boo several months ago?" "Yeeeah.")

On hot days, or when Esther falls off the swing and bites her tongue, we like to go to Candler Park Market for popsicles, and on hot and cold and lukewarm days we like to share a couple slices at Fellini's. Often, we sit on the curb and collect stones. With a toddler, time passes slowly, to quote Bob Dylan in another context. Our walks go on for hours, until finally I lose patience with my tiny Zen master and scoop her up and carry her squirming, kicking body home, doing my best to ignore her angry protestations, as well as those of my throbbing lower back.

Oh, Lake Claire—will I find you again in Pittsburgh or Morgantown, where there are more than three days of winter and the housing tends more toward Victorian than bungalow and craftsman—and emus are scarce? Or must I, like Yeats, be satisfied with a Lake Claire of the mind? Visit me in Morgantown—or Pittsburgh, because it might be Pittsburgh—and you'll find me at the curb, muttering to myself, "I will arise and go now, for always night and day/I hear Lake Claire lapping with low sounds by the shore;/While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,/I hear it in the deep heart's core."



Finn and Ada Covington



Zelda, new dog rescued by Sharon

Keeping An Eye on the Crime and the Time: Lake Claire Security Report, February 14 - March 19 (5 weeks)



Auto Theft

400 block Claire Dr., 2/16, from driveway, Stolen: 2008 bro Ford F25
200 block Arizona Ave., 2/22, from parking lot, Stolen: blk 2000 Honda CRV with Arizona tag

Burglary

2000 block McLendon Ave., 3/4, Taken: MacBook Air, work bag, \$40 Braves ticket voucher. Front door kicked in. Arrest was made when the new computer was returned to Best Buy by the thief; other stolen items were recovered from the arrestee.

2000 block DeKalb Ave., 3/6, Taken: laptop with bag; unknown entry method/no signs of forced entry/no prints

2000 block DeKalb Ave., 3/15, Taken: Frigidaire stove, dishwasher, and refrigerator. Note: Reporting party advised that when he returned to the location he discovered the plywood that had been screwed onto the door had been removed and the listed items missing.

2000 block DeKalb Ave., 3/15. Note: This incident is identical to the one above except for the house address. [My guess is that these are new homes under construction.]

Other Larceny

2000 block DeKalb Ave., 3/16, Taken: unsecured Green Mountain bike from apt. stairwell
Note: A person with a homeless appearance had been seen on the premises; the bike was later seen by a witness who saw someone appearing homeless fleeing west on DeKalb Ave.

Robbery

200 block Arizona Ave., 3/10, Taken: wallet. Victims stated they were in the park and approached by two white males who tried to strike up a conversation and then placed a knife to the victim's neck and took the female victim's purse.

400 block Lakeshore Dr., 3/12; Taken: nothing. The victim was kicking a soccer ball around in the park when approached by two white males. They began kicking the ball around with him then one of them presented a 3/4-inch knife and demanded money. The suspect went through the victim's wallet and after finding no money, the two suspects fled east on Lakeshore.

200 block Arizona Ave., 3/12; Taken: nothing. The victim was sitting in front of the house when two white male suspects approached him and asked for his phone. Then they both pulled out knives and asked for his wallet. Finding no money, they told the victim they were not going to hurt him and fled in a black Toyota Corolla type vehicle.

Theft from Vehicle

300 block Nelms Ave., 2/22, Taken: purse containing cards, checkbook, driver's license, cash. Victim stated that the car was unlocked with purse left on passenger's seat.

200 block Hampton Terr., 3/13. Not listed. (These notes come from police reports.) Damage: none noted/car was unlocked.

Help make our neighborhood safer by joining the Candler Park Lake Claire Patrol at www.cplcpatrol/

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.

911 emergency calls (to report crime or suspicious behavior):

Many areas of the City of Atlanta in DeKalb County are affected by cell towers that may direct 911 calls to DeKalb County instead of Atlanta. If you call 911 from a cell phone and DeKalb Police answers, say you're in the City of Atlanta, give your address, and wait to be transferred. From a land line, dial 911.

You can store the 10-digit Atlanta Police Emergency number in your cell phone: **404-658-6666**. Give your location first because that

number does not reveal your phone number, and in case of disconnection the police will know where to respond.

311 non-emergency calls (street lights out, sidewalk issues, potholes, etc.):

Call 311 from a land line or 404-546-0311 from a cell phone.




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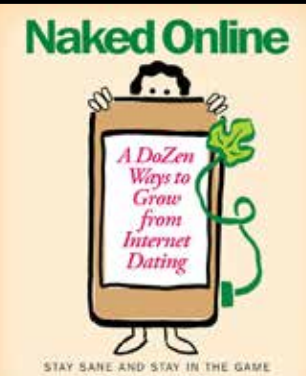



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NEW BOOK RELEASE



Online dating can leave us feeling so naked, so vulnerable that we revert to our most primitive defenses. Sorting out where we have control and where we don't and then learning how to stop trying to control things we cannot control helps us relax our reflexes and have space for reason.

Order the book today: Lustierlife.com

This is the month that spring festivals happen all over Atlanta. See our Festival Calendar on Page 10

Wild in Lake Claire

by Carol Vanderschaaf

"These are the days Birds come back—A very few—a Bird or two" ...or should it be... "April (in this case, May) is the cruelest month, breeding Lilacs out of the dead land..."

Well here it is, another spring. Whether your thoughts go to Emily Dickinson or T. S. Eliot, there is a lot to think about. My thoughts have been going to the birds (not to the dogs, though some may think so). Spring is the time for bird migration and bird nesting. The whole bag of worms gets too complicated for me.

Birds' migration north takes place here in Georgia from February through May. In the fall, going south, it runs from September to November. Now that's simple enough except that some birds come from the north to nest here, some come from the south to do the same, but many others just migrate through... and then there are those who just stick around and never go anywhere, except maybe a few counties away.

Equally complex are birds' nests. There is actually a *Peterson's Field Guide* for eastern birds' nests which includes information on nests of 285 species nesting in 26 states, from birds that nests in mud cavities to those that nest on the ground—to those wiser birds who nest in trees (up high enough of course). Peterson's guide is a recent book. Previously it was thought that such a list would lead to people (that's us) robbing the nests. Now there are laws in place, hopefully to stop this. In addition, monitoring nests has come of age. Also birds are being banded instead of being killed for some amateur's collection. Audubon, BTW, shot and killed birds to arrange them and paint



his renowned watercolors.

So, what's going on the neighborhood? Genise S., on Indiana Ave., reports hearing a Barred Owl nearby. She identified it by its "who cooks for you" question. Ilene S. on Matthews Ave. and Dorothy D. on McLendon Ave. both report an influx of American Goldfinches in their yards, and in that magnificent

yellow breeding plumage too. Two FOLC (Friends of Lake Claire) on Miller Ave. report bluebirds nesting in the box they put up—and BTW, 30% of birds nest in tree cavi-

ties. Many of these will nest in boxes.

And some great news! Miriam H. on Arizona reports that the Carolina Wren banded by the folks from the Smithsonian in her yard last May has returned! Believe it or not, it is nesting in a bike helmet on the front porch of neighbors, Burgess and Abi. Miriam also reports a heron on the Land Trust pond recently. Dorothy D., mentioned above, heard a bull frog there in April. Beth D. on Delaware reports bullfrogs in her pond, who plop into the water whenever she or her dogs approach.

And Meta L., also a FOLC, writes, "if you are interested in water management and engineering, you'd be amazed at the recent work of the ingenious Candler Park beavers. Dams have broken repeatedly, and each time, they figured out a better place to rebuild." Go beavers!

Well, Summer is icumin in, Lhude sing cucu! So it's time to move on. Possible topics for next time are bees, voles, and shrews (the latter topics suggested by a contributor who wishes to remain anonymous). Please send other ideas or sightings to cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net.

May into June in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

Every spring and fall the *Farmers and Consumers' Market Bulletin* prints a list of vegetable seeds and plants with what dates Georgia growers need to get them into the ground. (Subscribe to the *Bulletin* at www.agr.georgia.gov.) Of course, it is providing information for the whole state, but I find that choosing a date about halfway between the first and last days works pretty well for us in the Piedmont. For instance, Georgians can plant lima beans (yes, you might plant lima beans) between March 15 and June 1, so I would select a late April or early May date for these seeds.

Pole beans need a sturdy frame. Either build yourself one out of old poles and twine or a frame of strings, or buy one ready-made you can find in a catalog. Mine is metal with a wider circle at the bottom than at the top. Each year I string fresh sisal on the frame; at the end of the season, I can cut down the strings and put the whole mess in the compost bin to decay. With it you can grow regular green pole beans, Scarlet Runner beans, lima pole beans, and yard long, skinny Asian beans that are good in stir-fries. You could also grow flowering vines.

Other crops to put in now are corn, okra, Southern peas, peppers (plants), pumpkins, and winter squash. Keep in mind that the later you plant, the more insects, animals, and diseases will be attacking them. They also may need to be watered more with hotter days and less rain. Remember to water fewer times but more deeply. Spraying lightly over the garden or lawn with a hose just wastes your water, evaporating with the first sunbeam.

For a small garden, a watering can is a big help. Fiskars makes one out of synthetic resin called the Easy Pour, holding 2.6 gallons and costing under \$20. This would be light to carry, a plus,

but note that the rose (shower head) also slips off easily and that plastic cans have a shorter life than metal ones. Be sure to store it in a frost free place. For \$30-50, you can find a galvanized can that should last you for many years; however, I do try to store mine upside down when not in use to prevent possible rusting. As to how much to water your plants, the original edition of *Square Foot Gardening* has amounts of water needed for each kind of vegetable. So unless you have field to water, you can quickly figure out how much water in your can to spend on each plant and also how often.

Flower beds lend themselves to soaker hoses because you can stretch a hose through a long bed or wind it around a rectangular or round one. The hose will last for several years if you keep it covered with mulch, but I have found that it pays to buy a better quality of soaker hose anyway since the major work is in laying it. Remember that the hose should run at one level or at least from high ground to low with the gentlest grade you can manage. Where my street beds are higher than all my spigots, I string a regular hose to a point a little higher than the bed and then attach it to the soaker hose. One hundred feet is about the longest soaker hose that will give an even flow. I tack mine down with wire u-shaped pins.

And do not forget to mulch all your plantings with wheat straw, ground leaves, or mini-bark, depending on the situation. Just be careful not to put mulch up against woody plants such as shrubs or trees. Leave several inches free of mulch around the trunk because 1) there are no roots there to protect and 2) mulch provides cover for insects, disease, and rodents to destroy the bark and kill the tree. Spread mulch evenly around a tree to the edge of the drip line or at least to two-three feet from



F • O • C • U • S O • N

Referendum Opportunity School Districts (OSD)

by Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Neighbors Education Chair

Wait?! You say what? We're voting on whether the State of Georgia should take over our failing schools?

The Ballot Question will read: "Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended to allow the state to intervene in chronically failing public schools in order to improve student performance?" The ballot question seems so straightforward, but we Lake Claire Clarions could not be fooled. We decided to take a closer look at the meaning of this referendum.

Lake Claire Neighbors Education Committee hosted a panel on March 15 at the Frazer Center* to discuss the ins and outs of OSD and what it means to our neighborhood and the Atlanta Public Schools (APS). The panel consisted of Janet Kishbaugh of Public Education Matters Georgia, Tim Davis of Students First, and Matt Westmoreland of the APS Board of Education, District 3 Representative. Each panelist answered questions from his or her perspective.

What is Opportunity School District (OSD)? OSD is the State of Georgia's proposed take-over of up to 20 schools a year

for a total of 100 failing schools in GA. The criteria used to measure a failing school is the state test called College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCR-PI), which has four assessed components: achievement, progress, gap, and challenge. Schools that performed for three consecutive years under 60 are eligible for the proposed OSD. A high-risk school is one that has performed two out of the three consecutive years below 60. As a reference, schools that performed with a CCRPI score of 75 for three consecutive years are considered strong performing schools.

In 2015 the Georgia General Assembly passed a piece of legislation that approved amending the GA Constitution to create Opportunity School Districts (OSD). The Assembly also passed another piece of legislation called "Enabling Legislation" (SB 133) which laid out how the OSD will operate if the amendment below is approved by voters.

The Constitutional Amendment Language will Read: Paragraph VIII. Opportunity School District. "Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph

II of this section, the General Assembly may provide by general law for the creation of an Opportunity School District and authorize the state to assume the supervision, management, and operation of public elementary and secondary schools which have been determined to be failing through a governance model allowed by law. Such authorization shall include the power to receive, control, and expend state, federal, and local funds appropriated for schools under the current or prior supervision, management, or operation of the Opportunity School District, all in the manner provided by and in accordance with general law?"

Ok, I read all of that. What does that mean?

The school district will be controlled by a Superintendent of the OSD, approved by the Governor, (different than the GA Department of Education (DOE) and the GA elected school Superintendent.) Once the State takes over a school it can either:

1. Close it. Once it is closed, the building cannot be used for the same population for three years, which means the students and staff get disbursed around the county.
2. Choose to run it as a State Charter School in which the local board and state board share governance.
3. Hire a private entity to run the State Charter School in which the local board will ONLY have a financial responsibility.

How does this affect APS and consequently the Grady Cluster? If OSD takes over one of the APS schools . . .

- APS will be required to pay for maintenance of the building
- The average dollar per pupil APS expenditure will have to be allocated to the State (meaning our city tax dollars as well) to use per pupil in the schools that it has taken over. This means APS will have less money to spend overall and in the Grady Cluster.

This legislation helped light the fire under APS to recognize quickly the dire needs of their chronically failing schools and the school communities. Under the direction of APS Superinten-

dent Carstarphen and the Board of Education came the creation of the Turnaround Strategy to address the academic and social/emotional needs of these students in their failing schools through tutoring, additional math and reading specialists, extended learning time, Spring Break Academies, recruitment of school leadership specializing in turning schools around, and of targeted professional development for teachers.

What questions should I be asking?

What is missing from this piece of legislation? The constitutional amendment above about **operations**, if approved, can be changed at any time upon a majority vote of the state legislature. There are no criteria for the selection of a "failing school" in this piece of legislature, which means it is up to ANY Governor's will.

How long will the OSD be in operation? There is no limit written in this piece of legislation.

What are the benefits of the OSD?

- A change will be made. Districts have allowed their schools to CHRONICALLY fail and have kept the same administration and teachers in place.
- The State will control the schools.

What are the concerns of the OSD?

- The local school district will lose all control.
- The local school district will lose its local facilities and local dollars, allowing state charters (for the first time) to use local funds.
- The language in the referendum is ambiguous.
- The referendum is not addressing resources and other systemic needs like poverty, food, shelter, etc.

If you have further questions, don't hesitate to reach out to the panelists above or Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Neighbors Education Chair: anzoid@yahoo.com. Whatever your opinion may be, please don't forget to go vote in the November elections for OSD!

* A special thank you to our panelists and to the Frazer Center for allowing us use of its space.!

Facelift in Lake Claire

The Harold Avenue Greenspace has undergone a "facelift" recently, with Joe Agee's donation of new fencing for the beds and new benches. Volunteers who have fought back Mother

Nature's weeds and helped with the fencing this spring include Andrew Sherwood, Christiane French, Joella Carter, Joe Agee, and Kathie Ryan



E • D • U • C • A • T • I • O • N

Teaching “Soft” Skills is Important

(and not just because they can help with the “hard” skills)

by Matt Underwood, Executive Director, Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School

The Southern Poverty Law Center’s Teaching Tolerance program recognized our middle school campus as a model for its “Mix It Up” project. The project is designed to get schools to find ways to encourage students of different backgrounds to interact with one another and engage with issues of diversity, equity, and justice. Thanks to the good work of our middle campus students and teachers/staff aimed at taking deliberate steps to create these kinds of opportunities, the Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School (ANCS) was highlighted as “a beacon for other schools striving for inclusiveness.”

When I shared this news,

someone remarked to me that helping students learn to work together like this was “great” because it helps students “to have a better school environment so they can be more focused on learning.” While I agree with this sentiment, I think it misses the larger point: the skill of collaborating with different types of people, especially when the focus is on those differences, is important in and of itself, regardless of its impact on student learning.

With a rise in attention being given to “social-emotional learning” or traits such as “grit,” much of the support given for why schools should focus on these areas is tied to research connect-

ing them to improvements in reading or math as measured by standardized tests. In my view, though, we should be making room for teaching and learning about working in teams and dealing with conflict because these are valuable skills to have in life. The fact that they may lead to a boost in test scores shouldn’t be our main motivation for our focus on them.

I’m reminded of a book I read a few years back called *Teaching the New Basic Skills: Principles for Educating Children to Thrive in a Changing Economy*. Though the book—published in 1996—is somewhat dated now, its core ideas that

students were best prepared for life after K-12 school by being equipped with both “hard” (math, reading, problem solving) and “soft” (collaboration, communication) skills remain just as true today. In fact, with the increasing connectedness of our world—economically, politically, and socially—across many borders, those “soft” skills are probably more important to students today than they were even 20 years ago. So we’ll keep on with the sometimes messy work of helping students to develop their “soft” skills because it should be an essential part of every child’s education for the world he or she encounters today and the one to be encountered in the future!

APS Served District-Grown Garden Menu on Earth Day

In celebration of Earth Day, April 22, Atlanta Public Schools (APS) served chicken with pasta and green beans seasoned with district-grown garden herbs in all APS cafeterias. The fresh rosemary and basil harvested to prepare these menu items were grown inside the Benjamin E. Mays High School aquaponics and hydroponics greenhouse system.

Mays High School is the only school in the district with a greenhouse that uses aquaponics and hydroponics to grow year-round herbs and vegetables. The Mays Greenhouse, operated by Ray Williams of *Mirror Image Mentoring*, was selected as the flagship program for the District Grown Gardens initiative and is funded by Sodexo-Jackmont Corporation. Students from the Mays High School Urban Agriculture Club, Mr. Williams, and Mays High School Advanced Placement Biology and Environmental Science instructor Tamiko Gray, jointly maintain

the greenhouse and school garden. Ms. Gray uses the greenhouse as a living classroom and integrates gardening into her curriculum.

The District Grown Gardens initiative focuses on increasing students’ consumption of fruits and vegetables while making the connection between school garden produce and foods served in the cafeteria. A collaboration between the APS Nutrition Department, Captain Planet Foundation, and Sodexo-Jackmont, the program is being piloted at Beecher Hills Elementary, King Middle, Maynard Holbrook Jackson High, and Mays High. APS Student Wellness Ambassadors (SWAs) will host garden tours at Long Middle and hydroponic displays at Mays High School. Additionally, fresh harvest herbs and vegetables will be featured in cooking demonstrations at select schools. You can view APS’ District-Grown Gardens’ video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAphEYNrQdA



Grady Expansion Plans Depend on Us

by Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Neighbors Education Chair

Tired of the over-populated buildings and overcrowding at Grady High School, Inman Middle School, and Morningside Elementary (to name a few)? Want that funding for the Grady Expansion?

Make sure you vote for the CONTINUATION of the one-penny sales tax also known as the Education Special Purpose Local-Option Sales Tax (E-SPLIST) on **Tuesday, May 24**. A penny is added to existing sales tax, which the Georgia school systems use towards capital improvements (like Grady) and/or long-term debt reduction from previous bonds. This vote will extend APS’ SPLIST use for another five years.

The current E-SPLIST, expiring June 30, 2017, is projected to raise approximately \$442 million for APS. 16 schools under the current E-SPLIST have had major renovation projects, additionally 17 facilities have received HVAC system upgrades, and more than half of APS’ educational sites have been the recipient of wireless capability.

If you want to witness the Grady expansion, make sure that you **vote YES** for the E-SPLIST on **May 24**. This is your chance to make a difference for your community—and maintain your property values!

For more APS information on the E-SPLIST visit: atlantapublicschools.us/Page/49014

Our Neighbor, CSM

Continued from page 1

Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., we hold a computer training session for our guests. I am teaching one evening a week. We are looking for volunteers to teach the other evening session, or one session a week. Give me a holler at robert-bryandavis@icloud.com if you would like to teach. We help the guests set up email accounts, write resumes, apply for benefits, and the like. It is an enjoyable evening. Very laid-back. A no-stress environment.

We are grateful for Lake Claire's continued support of Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. Thank you for being such a good neighbor.



The Handsome Family, a novella,
by Alice Bliss.
\$10 The Bozart Press,
297 Gordon Avenue, Atlanta 30307

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- Morningside
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Gardening

Continued from page 5

the trunk.

Speaking of watering, there are some plants that are not only beautiful but also tough enough to survive periods of drought. I hope you enjoyed your hellebores from January through March and will stop to realize that once established they really do not need any more watering. Lantana is another tough plant, and I have enjoyed 'Miss Huff' for many years in front of my house. No matter how cold the winter, she always puts up fresh branches by April and rarely needs watering.

Perennial agastache, monarda, rudbeckia (black-eyed Susan), and salvias are all plants that are drought tolerant once established.

Last, do not forget to drag out your chairs and benches to where you can sit comfortably after the day's work is done and enjoy the beautiful garden you are creating.

Please let Elizabeth know of your gardening experiences, at knowltonew@earthlink.net.—Ed

Recycle in May

by Tracy Hambrick, Recycling Manager, City of Atlanta

April showers bring May flowers and along with that the hope and joy that accompanies a lovely spring in Georgia. The City of Atlanta has hope and joy that this year's Earth Day activities that were held the week of April 22 will encourage residents to continue recycling and clean-up efforts throughout the year. Every year City of Atlanta employees join residents in Earth Week activities such as planting urban gardens, cleaning up neighborhoods and trails, and holding recycling drives. Cartlanta hosted recycling drives all week in City Hall. All week, US-Again collected clothing. Keep Atlanta Beautiful and USAgain collected gently used shoes and hosted a Lunch and Shred event during which a truck shredded paper, and a food truck fed recyclers outside City Hall. They collected cell phones, which were donated to Zoo Atlanta to benefit the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund. In addition, they handed out reusable shopping totes to all patrons at City Hall's Café 55 to promote reusable products over single-use items.

City of Atlanta residents can carry the spirit of Earth Day through the year by recycling. Curbside, the City of Atlanta accepts household paper, cardboard, plastics #s 1-5 and 7, metal cans, and glass. Items should be clean and dry, and placed loosely in the cart, not bagged. Recycle Day accepts paper for shredding, electronics, clothing, polystyrene foam, tires, and the single stream items accepted curbside. Last month, residents brought 800 pounds of paper to be shredded. According to the Environmental Paper Network, recycling paper uses 60% less energy than making new paper. Would you join your neighbors in saving energy and resources by recycling in your curbside blue cart, and the third Saturday Recycle Day at The Mall West End?

Recycle Day is held the third Saturday of every month except December at The Mall West End, 850 Oak St. SW, Atlanta, GA 30310. www.atlantaga.gov/recycling



photo by Gretchen Connell

Swimming Weather Has Arrived!

Fun in the sun has already begun for Lake Claire's swim team, *The Wahoo*. There is still time to register (through June 15), and practice begins on May 2 at the Lake Claire pool. Swimmers: it's time to get wet and in shape! Time trials and parent orientation are coming this month. Please see the website for complete information at www.teamunify.com/Home.jsp?team=reczzlcwga.

The Lake Claire Wahoo is a competitive swim team offering high quality professional coaching and technique instruction for ages 4 to 18. Swimmers must belong to the Lake Claire Pool or be on the pool waiting list in order to swim on the Wahoo team. The team goal is to have fun and provide each member an opportunity to improve swimming skills and achieve success

at his or her level of ability. The club is a non-profit, run by an elected Board of Directors which meets each month. All members and parents are welcome at each meeting and encouraged to be involved in team activities and fundraisers. The swim schedule can be found on the website www.lakeclairepool.com.

Don't forget the Junior Wahoo Program, a selective developmental program for emerging swimmers. Your young swimmer will work with the Wahoo coaches to refine his or her stroke and improve endurance, with the goal of swimming a full lap and competing on the big squad.

And if swimming isn't enough of a draw, all the Wahoos get Krispy Kreme doughnuts after Saturday practices! **Go Wahoo!**

Lake Claire Cloth Bags

Did you know that Lake Claire has cloth bags? The reusable bags feature a design by Harold Avenue's Pen Sherwood. These bags are only \$5 and help support Lake Claire along with dues. See instructions for paying dues at www.lakeclaire.org, or you may send a check to Treasurer, Lake Claire, PO Box 5942, Atlanta, Georgia, 31107. Some of the initiatives that these monies support are: improvements to Lake Claire Park, the annual Lake Claire Halloween Parade, improving and protecting the Harold Avenue Greenspace, fine neighborhood programs and institutions such as The Frazer Center, Clifton Sanctuary Min-

istries, and communications with the neighborhood --such as our website, newscast, and occasionally if needed to supplement our advertising revenues—your newspaper—this Lake Claire Clarion. Thanks for helping to support your neighborhood.

Everyone in Lake Claire is always invited to come to a neighborhood meeting (3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at The Frazer Center; the next one is May 19, then June 16). Savage provides free pizza (thanks, Savage) and you are welcome to take part in the meeting and neighborhood activities to whatever extent you feel comfortable.

Thanks for Paying 2016 Neighborhood Dues

Some recent LC dues payers are Gail James, Anne Marie Reines, Richard Loren, Sara Reid, Suzanne Barksdale, Christiane French, Leah Williams, and Christopher Covington.

If we have missed anyone who paid his or her dues who hasn't been featured in another Clarion, please be sure to let us know at editor@lakeclaire.org. We appreciate your support of our many won-

derful 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/lcn/members.htm.

Help keep neighborhood coffers in the black.



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Lake Claire is Ready for Spring! And Festivals Galore

Atlanta is known for both scenery and greenery, and at the first signs of spring we head outdoors. Here are just a few festivals that we know about—all have websites for further details:

Decatur Concerts on the Square—decatordba.com/events/concerts-on-the-square.

May 13-15 is the Shaky Knees Music Festival, Centennial Olympic Park, www.shakykneesfestival.com.

May 14—Kirkwood Spring Fling and Tour of Kirkwood Homes. Family fun, 5K, etc. See www.kirkwoodfling.com.

May 21—East Atlanta Beer Fest! 13th annual, Brownwood Park—www.eastatlanta-beerfest.com.

May 21—Beer, Bourbon and BBQ Fest, at Atlantic Station—www.beerandbourbon.com.

May 27-29—2 fine fests: the Decatur Art Fest (decatuartsfestival.com) and the Atlanta Jazz Festival in Piedmont Park (www.atlanta.net/events/atlanta-jazz-festival).

June 2-5 is the Atlanta Food and Wine Fest. See atlfoodandwinefestival.com.

Finally, June 11-12, head out to Stone Mountain for the Atlanta Street Food Festival. www.atlantastreetfoodfestival.com.

For more festivals, see www.atlanta.net/events/festivals.




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2nd Annual Food, Clothing & Shelter Fest

It has been three years since the release of Ebrima Ba's film *Food, Clothing & Shelter*, which won first place at the 2013 Urban Media Makers Film Festival in the Documentary Film category. The 40-minute film highlights the lack of food security in Atlanta and around the world, focusing on homegrown, do-it-yourself solutions.

"At that time, I had no intention to follow up with another film," Ebrima says. "I thought after all those years of hard work, my job was done. My conscience told me, you did great, producing an award-winning film. But what are you going to do now? Run somewhere and sell the film, or are you going to follow through with another film? I decided to follow through."

Ebrima's sequel, *Food, Clothing & Shelter: The Ripple Effect*, makes its debut on Saturday, May 14 at the 2nd annual Food, Clothing

& Shelter Fest, hosted by the Lake Claire Community Land Trust. The Fest begins at noon, featuring food, music, and agriculture, with speakers, farmers, local artists, great local bands and DJs, just like last year. At 8:30 pm, when the sky grows dark enough, festival-goers will enjoy projected photography of Atlanta from street journalist Brent Walker, author of *The Hidden South*. The premiere showing of *The Ripple Effect* will be the festival's grand finale.

Ebrima is a native African who was amazed to find that many people in the U.S. go hungry because they do not know how to grow food. "Any community of people that depends or relies on handouts or aid from others will lose its self-worth and dignity," Ebrima says. In addition to educating people about the issue, he has also founded an urban farm in Stone Mountain.

The Ripple Effect is based on the Dogon Creation story, how the art of agriculture and other life civilizing skills were brought forth by our ancestors from the heavens," the filmmaker explains. He says that in Atlanta we are creating holistic environmental sustainability as the cultural norm, in the form of urban farms, and it has become a "ripple effect," with more and more urban farms in Atlanta. For more information about the two films, the festival, and the farm, contact him at rootsofchange@gmail.com.



Upcoming at the Land Trust . . .

Sat. May 7 and 21

Drum Circle,
sunset to 11:00 pm.

Please walk, bike or carpool.
Bring a friend!

Sat. May 14

2nd annual Food, Clothing
& Shelter Fest,
noon to 11:00 pm.
See article this page.

Land Trust Supporters:

Have you renewed for 2016? Anyone can be a Land Trust Supporter by donating \$10 a year. Donate via www.LCCLT.org/stewardship; mail a check made out to "LCCLT" c/o Treasurer, 270 Arizona Ave., Atlanta GA 30307; or donate via the chute in our bulletin board. Include your address and we'll mail you an "I Support the Land Trust" bumper sticker. Include your email address, and we'll add you to our email list. (Donation not required to get on this list! Contact info@LCCLT.org.)



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER

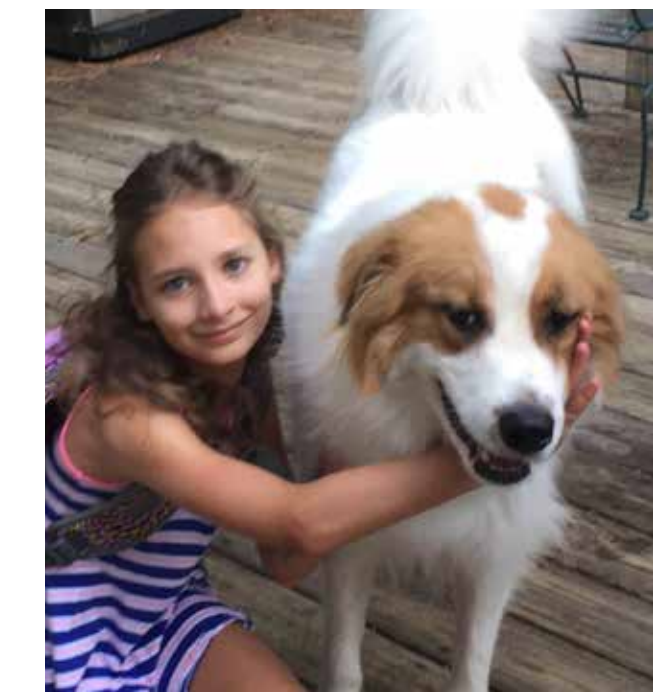


We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers/writers/artists to participate. This month we feature poetry and artwork of Leah Braun. Leah, age eleven, is a fifth grader at Mary Lin. She

lives on Claire Drive. I feel certain that in this column we are seeing the initial works of future talented writers and artists, and to that point, Leah has already written such a moving poem at age eleven

that one can't help but anticipate what's ahead. Thank you, Leah, for sharing your wonderful work. *Please see the online version of the Clarion, for the full effects of Leah's art.*

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.



Leah Braun and her best pup, Henry

.....

NEW CONTEST:
Kids: Did you know? The horn of the rhinoceros is composed of the same material as your fingernail. Somewhere in this issue we've hidden a rhinoceros family. "Save the Rhino Day" is traditionally celebrated on **May 1**. To win, send an e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org telling us the page number where you found the "rhinos." Extra credit for telling us why they are endangered. It is ok to look it up. 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.

Outside at 4:08 PM

The billowing moan of cardinals resonates through the yard, unknowing of a bronze hued hawk watching them from a neighboring tree. The clack of a woodpecker's claws against bark cuts the string of song momentarily, until its beak brings a beat to the outdoor choir. A train whistles in the background, alerting two dogs who respond with a bark. The gentle click of claws scraping wood bring Cora laying at my feet. A gray squirrel daringly leaps onto the canoe, where it is promptly scared away by a quiet snarl and a swat of a huge paw. Sparrows take off into the cloudless sky. The rumble of a helicopter brings a far off dog howling. The scent of barbecue pulls itself into my nostrils, making me sneeze. The wind casts shadows over my sunwarmed fingers. I am happy...

Outside at 4:08 P.M.

by Leah Braun

The billowing moan of cardinals resonates through the yard, unknowing of a bronze hued hawk watching them from a neighboring tree. The clack of a woodpecker's claws against bark cuts the string of song momentarily, until its beak brings a beat to the outdoor choir. A train whistles in the background, alerting two dogs who respond with a bark. The gentle click of claws scraping wood bring Cora laying at my feet. A gray squirrel daringly leaps onto the canoe, where it is promptly scared away by a quiet snarl and a swat of a huge paw. Sparrows take off into the cloudless sky. The rumble of a helicopter brings a far off dog howling. The scent of barbecue pulls itself into my nostrils, making me sneeze. The wind casts shadows over my sunwarmed fingers. I am happy... for I am outside at 4:46 p.m.



For I am outside at 4:46 PM.

Leah Braun age 11

2/2/16



Sari on her first day of school this year

CONGRATULATIONS!

Two girls, Sari D'Agostino and Amelia Stevens, found the hidden graphics in last month's issue. **Sari D'Agostino** was the first to find both the Passover and the Easter graphic. She is eight years old, has a dog named Austin, and two sisters, Elena (10), and Mira (6). She attends Mary Lin Elementary and is in Ms. Phalen's 3rd grade class. She says "I love to draw, read, annoy my sisters, and write." Her after-school activities are Girls on the Run and Glenn Cheerleading.



Amelia finding the hidden graphic

Amelia Stevens found (quote) "the hidden Easter thingy." Amelia and her sister Sadie live on Leonardo Avenue. Amelia is in the second grade, and Sadie is in Kindergarten, also at Mary Lin. They have a dog, Ruby, whom they refer to as their third sister. Amelia practices taekwondo, plays soccer, and takes piano lessons. She has also started pet-sitting for neighborhood chickens and cats. No mention of annoying her sister, though. And the Stevens family has lived in Lake Claire now for thirteen years. Congrats, Amelia and Sari!!