



Halloween in Lake Claire

Coming Saturday, October 29:

One of Lake Claire's signature parties of the year, **The Annual Lake Claire Halloween Parade and Party**, is coming! Co-hosted annually by the Lake Claire Parents Group and Lake Claire Neighbors, it has traditionally been a fundraiser for the Parents group. Most important, it gives everyone a chance to parade through the streets of Lake Claire, ending up with fun in Lake Claire Park. Bring your little pirates, princesses, super heroes, monsters, and witches, to join the parade at Ridgewood @Marlbrook at **5:00 p.m. on Oct. 29!** (Please confirm time on LC website a few days before.) Please, leave the doggies at home.

We need more volunteers and sponsors! Please write to organizer, Emily Oppelt, at halloween@lakeclaire.org, to volunteer. Do visit our neighborhood website, lakeclaire.org, or contact Emily, for up-to-date information; since *this Clarion went to press the last week of September, there may be tweaks to the logistics when you are preparing for the party.*

Join this wonderful kickoff to the Halloween week! And remember, volunteering is a perfect way to meet and re-meet neighbors and help make this wonderful Lake Claire event even more **super spooktacular. So, write halloween@lakeclaire.org.**

Join Friends of the Frazer Forest today!

by Dan Watson

The Frazer Center is happy to announce a three-year partnership with Trees Atlanta, the nationally recognized nonprofit that protects and improves Atlanta's urban forest by planting, conserving, and educating. Together, we're looking for dedicated volunteers to launch a volunteer group for a Forest Restoration Project in the Frazer Forest. The experts at Trees Atlanta will train and educate volunteers at quarterly forest work days over the next three years in an effort to create an organized and dedicated team that will sustain our

beautiful urban forest for years to come!

The mature hardwood forest this project aims to protect may have a long history, but Friends of the Frazer Forest is just starting to grow! The first work day with Trees Atlanta is **Saturday, October 29 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.** Become one of the first members in Lake Claire to join the team!

Sign up at www.fraziercenter.org/FrazerForestFriends to become a member! Kids are welcome if accompanied by a parent/guardian.



Webelos Pack 586 leader Jon Neff with LC's Roger Swift & Robin Singer

Local Cub Scouts Donate Weather Station to Mary Lin Elementary

On September 1, the Cub Scout Webelos of Pack 586 officially dedicated the "Pack 586 Cub Scout Mary Lin Weather Station" to Mary Lin Elementary. It is located in the school's Outdoor Classroom area known as the "Habitat."

Last winter, the Webelos designed and built the outdoor weather station as a carpentry project. The Scouts worked hard over multiple work days and earned their "Build It" Badge. They were taught basic building skills, tool knowledge, and good safety practices. At the same time, the 4th and 5th grad-

ers were learning how to use
Cont. on p. 6.

What's in a Poll?

by Boyd Baker

The streets are silent and dark. At 5:45 a.m. there is no one out except that one driven jogger with a headlamp. I'm walking down McLendon toward Epworth United Methodist Church, my polling place, where I'm about to experience my first election as a poll worker.

Let me back up a little. So I'm

one of those guys who question everything. It's painful to be so curious sometimes, but at other times I learn some really fascinating stuff. I saw the opportunity in the fall of 2015 while voting. All I did was ask the folks during an election how I might get involved. Figured I'd try to

Cont. on p. 6.

Coming up for a vote

THIS NOVEMBER:

Referendum Opportunity School Districts (OSD)

Please read details on Page 6.

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THE **CLARION** IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

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The Clarion is published monthly. The deadline for advertising and editorial consideration is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Letters to the editor should be limited to 300 words or fewer. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not those of Lake Claire Neighbors, Officers, or the Clarion Staff.

Cover banner photo by Sarah Coburn

OCTOBER

1,2...and every weekend through Nov. – Little Five Points Alive. Musicians, dancers, artists

1-4 Candler Park Fall Festival, including 5K Fun Run

1&15 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.

2 Erev Rosh H. – Chag Sameach!!

4-30 Scarecrows in the Garden Exhibition at the Botanical Gardens. (closed Mondays). To learn more or buy tickets: atlantabg.org/visit/events/scarecrows-in-the-garden (Lake Claire brownies are part of it!—See page 3)

5 International Walk OR BIKE to School Day. www.walkbiketoschool.org

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

16 Hey Pumpkin, Let's Have S'More! Family Variety Show at the Lake Claire Land Trust, 4:00-6:00 p.m. (see article page 11).

19 Mary Lin monthly dine-out at our favorite kids-always-eat-free Flying Biscuit, 3rd Wednesday of every month. Simply show up for dinner and **mention Mary Lin**, and Flying Biscuit's management will generously donate 5% of your ticket to the Mary Lin Education Foundation.

20 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, SAVAGE!**) **NOMINATIONS THIS MONTH for ELECTION IN NOVEMBER**

23 Land Trust—Pumpkin Carving, 5:30 p.m. Pumpkins provided. Bring knives and candles. See details page 11.

29 a BUSY Saturday: morning from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., the first Frazer Center work day with Trees Atlanta (see article page 1) AND 5 p.m. (or check LC website) LAKE CLAIRE HALLOWEEN PARADE! (See article page 1.)

30 El Dia de Los Muertos. From 4 to 5:30, celebrate the occasion with a mariachi band at the Calavera Bakery, 747-C East College Ave (see page 3). lacialaverabakery.wordpress.com

30 last night for Horizon Theatre world premiere (playing all month THROUGH October 30) "Freed Spirits" by Daryl Lisa Fazio. A mystery/comedy set in Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery! www.horizontheatre.com/plays/freed-spirits

Lake Claire softball team's remaining Games: 10/3: 7 p.m.; 10/11: 9:30 p.m.; 10/25: 8:15 p.m.; Playoffs: 10/31, 11/1, 11/7, 11/8, 11/14; Finals: 11/15

Send calendar entries for the November 2016 Clarion by OCTOBER 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org

Lake Claire Elections are in November

Nominations in October

The annual election of officers for 2017 of Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN) is coming up! As most of you know, LCN is the neighborhood association of Lake Claire. The all-volunteer offices are President and various vice presidents as listed on the Clarion masthead. According to our bylaws, all nominations, including self-nominations, must be made **at the October meeting, Thursday, October 20**. The election is in November. The basic requirement for nomination, either self-nomination or if nominated by another, is attendance at a minimum of four regular meetings. So, if you would like to serve the neighborhood in this valuable fashion, and you will meet the requirement as of the October meeting (i.e., you have already attended at least 3 meetings), do consider leadership in the neighborhood, a very good cause.

As of Clarion publication, the only officer we know of who is stepping down is the VP of Safety, Kathie Ryan. As noted in last month's issue, Kathie has served the neighborhood for many years, in many ways, and certainly will continue to do so. **A great vote of appreciation to Kathie for serving as VP of Safety!!!**

For anyone considering running, the responsibilities of the VP of Safety include general communication with neighbors concerning safety issues through social media (e.g., NextDoor), production of the monthly security report for the Clarion and website, attendance at the monthly LCN and executive meetings, communication with APD as necessary, with optional attendance of their crime prevention workshops, and responding to emails from residents who have questions/problems. **Nominations for this position and any others (complete listing in the masthead at the top of this page), will be on October 20.**



It's Not Just Cookies

by Julie Roseman

Brownie Troop 14547 created a scarecrow to display at the Atlanta Botanical Garden's annual Scarecrows in the Garden exhibit. "Oceania, The Wonders of Water Mermaid" Scarecrow represents Water Conservation and the Water Cycle. The troop is learning about both and will earn their WOW! Wonders of Water Brownie Patch as part of their Girl Scout Journey. The girls will use their leadership skills and values to protect the waters of Planet Earth. More than 100 spooky, creative scarecrows are handcrafted by local businesses, individuals, schools and organizations for the exhibit.

The Brownies hold their monthly meetings at the Lake Claire Land Trust. "Oceania" hopes to make the Land Trust her permanent home.

Scarecrows in the Garden Exhibition Dates: October 4 – 30 (closed Mondays). To learn more or buy tickets: atlantabg.org/visit/events/scarecrows-in-the-garden



Brownie Scout Troop 14547

Theatre Review: 7 Stages

I highly recommend Bertolt Brecht's *Threepenny Opera*, at 7 Stages. Drawing inspiration from German Expressionist cinema of the 1920s, but with a 21st century twist, Kurt Weil's music was great; it was fun seeing musicians/actors sing old favorites (if you're a Brecht/Weil fan) like 'How to Survive,' 'Mack the Knife,' and 'Pirate Jenny'—a sexy musical about power and the evil things one must do to stay alive in a corrupt world. Unfortunately it is scheduled to end at the end of September as we go to press, but am putting this in just in case the play is held over. In general, don't forget about 7 Stages, certainly a neighborhood treasure. Next show Niv Sheinfeld & Oren Laor present *Cowboy*, Nov. 3-6: a light country line-dance evolves into something dark, erotic, and immersive, with beauty, intelligence and humor. ~Beth Damon, Editor



Softball is Still Happening in LC

by Boyd Baker

Lake Claire's softball team started up again in late August. With little fanfare they stretch muscles battered over years of toil. With virtually no hope of fame or international recognition they bandage their wounds, lace up their cleats, and take the field. These men and women are your **Lake Claire Skinny-dippers**.

Many don't realize that we have a mighty co-ed softball team representing our fine neighborhood each week. In a league that consists of the East Atlanta Village Argonauts, Cabbagetown Twisters, Ormewood Park Sliders, as well as the communities of Virginia Highland, Grant Park, Oakhurst, and more, Lake Claire holds its own. This fall the games are played on Monday and Tuesday evenings mainly at East Lake and Coan parks. Thanks to realtor Cynthia Baer we've even upgraded our unis this year.

For many years Lake Claire has had a co-ed softball team quietly toiling away at their craft trying to build a dynasty—and

this year just may be the year. With many returning from last spring's weekend league, this fall's Mon/Tues evening team has its eyes on the prize of league champion. If you ever want to come cheer on your hometown heroes—or maybe swing a bat and shag some fly balls as a player—don't hesitate to reach out. We'd love the support, and we're always looking for fun-loving players to join our ranks.

This year's roster, in no particular order, consists of Captain Adam Brookner, Allison & Tim Tanju, Alan Cheng, Alex Orr, Chris Brune, Karen Chamberlain, Dirk Lamb, Holly Bauman, Regeanna & Ian Campbell, Josh D'Agostino, Monique Mikrut, Nick Painter, Nisa Sommers, and your onfield blabbermouth Boyd Baker. Come out and have some fun!

Remaining Games: 10/3: 7 p.m.; 10/11: 9:30 p.m.; 10/25: 8:15 p.m.; Playoffs: 10/31, 11/1, 11/7, 11/8, 11/14; Finals: 11/15



El Dia de Los Muertos with La Calavera Bakery

El Dia de Los Muertos falls on two days, the first and second of November. It's their favorite time of year at La Calavera, and a big inspiration in what they do at the bakery. They'll have pan de muerto (the traditional Mexican sweet bread made for el Dia de los Muertos) and calaveras de azucar (sugar skulls) throughout the month of October and the first two days of November. On Sunday, October 30, come celebrate the occasion with a mariachi band at the bakery from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., with plenty of pan de muerto, calaveras, coffee, Mexican hot chocolate, and plenty of other bread and treats. Lake Claire is invited to come dance, sing, and bring our appetites—and mariachi song requests.

Baker/owner Eric Arillo grew up in Lake Claire, where his parents still live on Gordon; Dale Ralston, his wife and partner in La Calavera, grew up in Candler Park. Check it out! ~Ed.

Music Review: Young Thug

by Joseph McGill

Young Thug is famous for creating unique and catchy music. On August 25, his new mixtape "No, my name is Jeffery" dropped. The mixtape introduces an entirely new style of rapping for Young Thug.

I personally have been a fan of Young Thug since "Slime Season" in late 2015. When I first heard his music, I thought it was weird and didn't fully understand it. I believe it is easy to make quick judgements about Young Thug's music, because it is different and his voice is very unique. "Jeffery" is Young Thug's 17th mixtape in six years. Unlike many artists, he is very good at consistently making music.

This album was influenced by all the people Young Thug looked up to during his career. Each song is dedicated to someone who influ-
Cont. on p. 8.

Keeping An Eye on the Crime and the Time: Lake Claire Security Report, July 16 - August 20 (5 weeks)

Burglary

400 block Lakeshore Dr., 8/4, Taken from open residence: rug, futon, alcohol
Perpetrator captured on video surveillance. The perpetrator, a sub-contractor, was removing items from the victim's residence and putting them into his van.

Theft from Auto

1900 block DeKalb Ave., 7/18, from parking lot. Taken: landscaping equipment
Note: Someone cut the lock and removed equipment from rear of truck



Wild in Lake Claire

by Carol Vanderschaaf

Look, up in the sky—It's a bird, it's a plane....it's Superman.....whoops, sorry, I believe it's a TV!!! Turkey Vulture, that is, or TV, as birders so fondly call it. Yes, it's been so hot I can only look to heaven, but unfortunately all I see is this big black bird. The Turkey Vulture is a bird with a reputation. But we'll talk about that later.

Like the "poor," the Turkey Vulture is always with us (as are the rich). It doesn't migrate, so we don't get a break. We often see them gliding on thermals above the streets and highways of our city. They are large birds with wing spans of up to 6 feet. They can be distinguished from other large birds because they fly on a dihedral or V shaped wing span. Unlike their cousins, the Black Vultures with white wing tips, the TV has the black/white pattern across their wingspans with the white trailing. TV's are

larger than BV's and Red-tailed Hawks but smaller than eagles.

The TV is often disparaged because it feeds on recently dead animals. In its defense, it only eats the freshly dead, like we do. And this propensity has been a boon to humans in the past, before there were such things as sanitary systems or garbage pick-up. Back then, vultures and pigs roamed city streets making meals of our leftovers. At one time this was the primary sanitation system in Charleston and other great cities. And let us note with envy that vultures appear to have great immune systems, happily eating on the freshly dead without contracting anthrax, cholera, botulism, or salmonella. And Turkey Vultures rarely prey on the living.

How do these birds keep going on? Well, like *Cont. on p. 5.*

Thanks for Paying Your 2016 Neighborhood Dues

Lake Claire dues payers since August 15 are **Thomas Stemen, Ellen Bern, Steven Georgalis, Allison Troxell, Jessica Corbitt, Tina Maudsley, In-daue Mello, Marti Loring, Michael Garcia, Amanda Witt, and David Yeend. Thanks, all of you!**

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 wonderful neighborhood initiatives, including green spaces, worthy organizations, and 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. If you haven't contributed, there is still time to help keep neighborhood coffers in the **black**—AND to become famous in the Clarion!



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Wild in Lake Claire

Continued from page 4.

other birds, they nest, and they do that far away from humans. Well, actually, Turkey Vultures don't build full nests. They nest in caves, crevices, hollow logs, any such place you can imagine, often using the same site over and over. The birds have one brood of one to three eggs each year. Eggs are cream colored with brown and purple spots. Both sexes take care of the young. Breeding season is from March into June, here in the south. The young fledge is a little over 2 months, and the family groups stay together until the fall. Vultures in the wild can live about 10 years. In captivity they've been known to last 40 years.

The Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*, was first described by Linnaeus in 1758. The *Cathartes*, relating to purifier, or the birds' ability to take in death and use it to live, "Turkey" relating to its resemblance to the Wild Turkey, and "Vulture" relating to the Latin *vultur*, meaning tearer. The Turkey Vulture has two unusual traits: one is that it can smell, which few birds can do. In fact, Black Vultures often stick around the TV's to find food more easily. The other is that the TV doesn't vocalize as so many birds do. It can only grunt or hiss when it feels threatened.

In spite of these strange traits, Turkey Vultures have found a place in cosmology and mythology. Vultures are sometimes con-

sidered a cosmic cleaning crew. In ancient alchemy and in some Native American tribes vultures were considered to have special powers because of their ability to reanimate life from death. They are often respected clan animals in some Native American tribes. In Egypt, vultures were considered to be symbols of motherhood, as it was known that they fiercely protected their young.

So may I leave you with a couple of quotes that relate to TVs so you can remember them well:

"I'm a culture vulture, and I just want to experience it all." ~Debbie Harry.

"Don't play dead with a vulture. That's exactly what they want." ~Kevin Nealon.

And in the hood: Well, there haven't been many wildlife sightings in the hood this past month, just a rabbit and a beaver at Candler Park Pond, thanks to our loyal CP reporter, Meta L., and many hooting owls on Indiana Ave., in Lake Claire. I've had many Gulf Fritillary Butterflies in my yard. It's due, I know, to the Passionflower vines all over my yard, where they lay their eggs. If anyone would like some cuttings of these vines please contact me, Flora Fauna, via cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net. Please let me know as well about any wildlife sightings. I've been curious about coyote sightings. I haven't heard of any lately, have

October into November in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

Last year, not a fan of reblooming azaleas any more than asparagus in August, I made negative comments about pink flowers in autumn. This fall I had reason to reconsider when I looked up a bank on McLendon to see deep pink azaleas underplanted by paler pink sedum, a divine combination. Then I saw some scarlet ones growing with *Lycoris radiata*, otherwise known as naked ladies because their stalks lack leaves. *Lycoris squamigera* would go well with any crimson azalea, but all these bulbs, also known as spider lilies, magic lilies, and resurrection lilies (although not lilies) last for only a few days, so plant plenty of them.

A dear friend, knowing I love old gardening books, gave me a copy of *A Woman's Hardy Garden* by Helena Rutherford Ely (Macmillan Company, 1903); and I was delighted to see her recipe for growing sweet peas (the flower) on pages 83-84 because I always remind you to sow them this month. Ely, living in mountainous New York State, tried it in October twice, and not a one came up because, I knew, the climate was too cold for fall planting. Here they survive our winters and grow strong in the spring to bloom before it is hot.

She says, "Make a trench about a foot deep and wide. Have a good layer of manure in the bottom of the trench [I would assume cow manure because her husband's dairy farm lay across the road], over which put a good layer of wood ashes [saved from your fireplace or pit], again a sprinkling of earth. Then sow the peas, and cover them with a couple of inches of earth. As they grow, fill in the trench, and keep on hilling up the plants until the roots are very deep. It is well to mulch them with the clippings of lawn grass." [She is talking about her spring-grown ones. I mulch with shredded leaves.] She continues, "they flourish on a trellis of galvanized wire netting." I look forward to even better sweet peas next year.

Spinach, another seed necessary to sow in autumn for a good cool spring, needs a sweet soil, so add some lime if the pH is below 7. Our soil is often too acidic for many vegetables; therefore, you may need to check the pH on an annual basis with an inexpensive

kit. Spinach has a deep taproot, making it is worthwhile to dig down and loosen the soil, adding compost and a great deal of nitrogen (blood meal will work) when you plant. Once the seedlings are up, you can mulch with straw or shredded leaves to carry them through the winter.

You can still sow the seed of biennial flowers and radishes plus put in onion and garlic sets (if you can find them). Frankly, I would suggest your continuing to plant anything I recommended for September because 1) winters continue to be mild and 2) there are many ways to carry vegetables through severe frosts, beginning with light row covers and moving up to bedspreads over trouble lights (remember to stock pile those incandescent light bulbs for the future). You will just need to water, whether by hose or can from the tap or from a rain barrel if it still has water, until seedlings are up and there is adequate rainfall.

October is a good time to plant narcissus (daffodils, jonquils), but hold off on tulip bulbs until temperatures have fallen and it is not too rainy. I lost almost the first 50 bulbs I put in last year because early November was both warm and wet. Store them in a refrigerator away from fruits because the latter give off ethylene gas as they ripen, and this will spoil your bulbs.

As I write in mid-September, we have had only .8" of rain, and almost none is predicted for the rest of the month. If this continues, please remember to water, especially new shrubs and trees and any perennials you plan to see in spring. We enjoy the sunny, cooler days of fall, but plants suffer in such low humidity with no rainfall. The entire year has been dry for Atlanta, despite copious rainfall to the north, March, April, May, and July all being below average and with high temperatures.

Do not forget to document your successes for the year. I have had a riot of cherry tomatoes due to a seed mix-up in the spring. Peppers and eggplants are producing heavily as long as I hand-water, even though they are being eaten at night by a roof rat. Yard-long beans remain productive, and okra is beginning to come in well. **Cont. on p. 9.**

"Ice Cream, You Scream"

Save the Date for Ice Cream with CSM – April 2017



Clifton Sanctuary Ministries will have an Ice Cream Fundraiser on April 22, 2017, including a competition to see which group prepares the best ice cream, music, a raffle, and a great time. For admission price, all the ice cream you can eat. Proceeds will

be used to help fund CSM building and grounds rehab.

F • O • C • U • S O • N

Referendum Opportunity School Districts (OSD)

by Annsley Klehr

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

This NOVEMBER the Ballot Question will Read:

Amendment #1: Provides greater flexibility and state accountability to fix failing schools through increasing community involvement.

"Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended to allow the state to intervene in chronically failing public schools in order to improve student performance?" (Yes/No)

The ballot question seems so straightforward, but we Lake 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). We wanted our neighbors to be able to make an informed decision. 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 takeover 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 Per-

formance Index (CCRPI) 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 an 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 quickly to recognize the dire needs of their chronically failing schools and the school communities. Under the direction of APS Superintendent Carstarphen and the Board of Education came the creation of the

Cont. on p. 8.

Mary Lin Weather Station

Continued from page 1

weather instruments and understand how each was used in gathering weather data in their science class at school. It was a perfect match! The project was led by Webelos parent Julie Roseman, den leaders Jon Neff and Peter Bluestone, and long-time Lake Claire resident and builder, Robin Singer. "It was wonderful watching the Webelos' excitement in helping to build and paint the weather station. They each had a chance to use hammers, screw drivers, hand saw and drill, and they all had fun painting," Singer said, "I think we all learned something useful from the experience."

Knowing how to predict the weather is an important skill for a Scout, especially when planning a camping trip or an afternoon outing. Elementary school students learn about weather in every grade. Beyond the classroom benefits, an outdoor weather station provides Mary Lin Elementary students and staff with live weather data and advanced warning capabilities for severe weather. It also serves as a valuable weather information resource that is available to the local community and businesses. "We thought it was a great opportunity for the Scouts to learn basic building



The boys working with Robin Singer

skills while giving back to our community," said Roseman. "The boys are very proud of the weather station, and the Mary Lin teachers and students love going outside and participating in hands-on learning."

Thanks to the generous contributions of Webelos parents, Robin Singer, and Tony Powers of Intown Ace Hardware, the Scouts were able to use donated materials to build the Weather Station and purchase weather instruments. The Station "box" was built to protect the fragile instruments from direct

sun, rain, wind, and theft. Singer created it from a basic Little Free Library shed. A second construction project was a rocket-themed weather vane designed by Lake Claire neighbor, Roger Swift and Singer. It was placed on top of the weather station box in honor of the Mary Lin Rockets. A local American Meteorological Society group here in Atlanta donated an official CoCoRaHS rain gauge that can measure and map precipitation. (CoCoRaHS is an acronym for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network.) Mary Lin Elementary is currently the only school in Metro Atlanta gathering data for CoCoRaHS.

It was truly a community effort. Singer was a Cub Scout as a child and believed it helped make him who he is today. He said, "One of the things we learned in the Scouts was always to help other people and work together for the greater good. I was happy to help. I believe it has the potential to touch positively the lives of these scouts and all the students at Mary Lin. 20 years ago my daughters went to Mary Lin, and that experience helped them turn out to be really great young women! I'm excited to give back to Mary Lin!"

E • D • U • C • A • T • I • O • N

A Student Led Petition at Mary Lin Elementary

by Annsley Klehr

What happened when the Mary Lin Elementary 5th graders come into their first day of GATE (Gifted and Talented Education, also known as *the Challenge Program*) and found out there was not enough time in their day for recess?

The story began in mid-August when the 4th and 5th graders entered their GATE class and were told that there would be no time for recess. GATE classes only run one day a week, so in order to fit in their two specials, lunch, and all the instructional minutes needed, they had to forego recess. This also meant that they would not be able to socialize with their non-GATE peers. Fifth grader Abby Hyken said that once she became aware that she would not have recess that the idea of a petition “popped into [her] head.” After beginning the initial phases of the petition, the Challenge teachers discouraged it, explaining that they wouldn’t be able to do anything to change the policy. Consequently, Abby along with Sadie Kyle, Daniel Ratner, and Benjamin Lewis, put the petition on hold.

Abby admits that at first she was “a little nervous” about creating a petition, but with the encouragement of her mom, she mustered the courage to move forward. Abby recalls her mother telling her that she and her friends couldn’t get in trouble, because she hadn’t done anything wrong. After all, they were only “just making a peaceful petition,” recounts Abby. “My friends helped me, which made me optimistic.”

On Friday afternoon, following the 5th grade tradition of walking to Candler Park Market, the petitioners received their first 50 signatures. Then Hyken, Kyle, Ratner, and Lewis began showing up early to school to get signatures from both kids and adults in order to make the petition “more convincing,” said Hyken. There were roughly 10 students who did not feel comfortable signing the peti-



Abby in Action

tion, but within a week the petitioners collected **over 300 names**. Petition in hand, Hyken, Kyle, Ratner, and Lewis scheduled an appointment to meet with Mary Lin Elementary School’s principal, Sharyn Briscoe. At the scheduled meeting time, because the lunchroom monitor had fallen ill, Ms. Briscoe was taking her place. So, the August 29 meeting was held in the cafeteria. According to Hyken, Briscoe read “everything” out loud and watched a portion of the video that this crew had put together. Briscoe questioned why there were names that had been crossed off, and Hyken explained that these students either didn’t think the petition would work or were afraid of getting in trouble. Briscoe informed the courageous crew that she would have an answer to them sometime after Labor Day.

And then, the Thursday before Labor Day, one of the GATE teachers announced that the students **would be having recess with their friends**. One of the two specials that fell during their GATE classes would move to their enrichment block on Friday, freeing up time for recess. Hyken, Ratner, Kyle, and Lewis feel very pleased with the results!

The full petition is printed on page 12.

Mary Lin October Playground Update

by Annsley Klehr

Boisterous sounds, footsteps pounding, and panting breaths can be heard from Mary Lin’s mostly finished playground—thanks to Jane Smith. Smith has devoted more than two years to the completion of this beautiful space that combines elements of a natural playground with handicap accessible activities.

On September 24, volunteers helped put finishing touches on the playground during Mary Lin’s Green Day of Service coordinated by Julie Roseman. (Green Day of Service is the culmination of a week’s worth of events that reinforce what we can do to take care of the earth.) These volunteers painted two large outdoor chalkboards built by Sam Heys, which will be installed on the black fencing near the playground stairs that lead down

to cafeteria. Each grade, including both autism units, will be receiving outdoor bins that contain chalk and erasers to be used on these boards during recess.

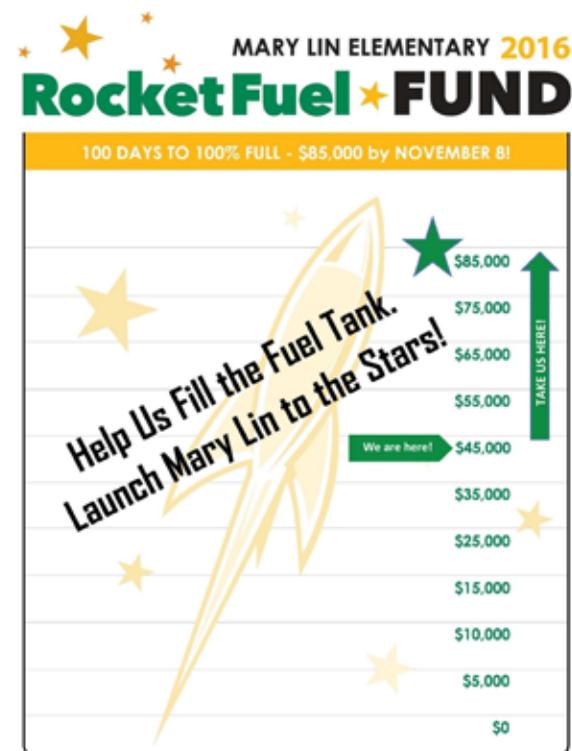
There is also no water fountain as of yet on the playground. Smith has begun the pricing process on getting a small wall mount water fountain installed. Mary Lin is not sure if there is a drain, so Smith is currently vetting out possible units for this scenario. Once she has the pricing, she will determine if the playground account can fund this project.

Lake Claire neighbor Matt Stacey, and his church members, have volunteered their time on the playground, too, and rumor has it that his church plans to do more volunteering on the playground in the near future.

Mission Possible: The Mary Lin Education Foundation Reaches for the Stars!

by Lindsay Hill and Kim Meyer (parents and Trustees on the Mary Lin Education Foundation)

Mary Lin’s mascot is The Rockets, and we are determined to reach new heights this year by encouraging all of our parents and other community stakeholders to contribute to our first **Annual Giving Campaign: The Rocket Fuel Fund**. No donation is too big or too small. *100% Participation = Galactic Giving!* We hear this question a lot: “Why does a high-performing public school need a foundation?” It’s a great question, and the answer surprises many people.



Lake Claire residents know an excellent public school is key to a thriving community, but many people don’t know that high-performing APS schools like Mary Lin operate with smaller budgets than lower performing schools in the district (it’s one of six in the district that does not receive Title-1 funding—significant funds allocated to schools where 40% of students qualify as disadvantaged). We are fortunate to live where we do, but this means it’s primarily up to Mary Lin parents and other community members to provide additional funding to fill the gap between the budget we are allocated and the budget we need to ensure every child succeeds in the classroom.

A robust foundation supports both immediate needs in the classroom and long-term educational initiatives like professional development, innovative technology, and proven

Cont. on p. 8.

Mary Lin Rocket Fuel Fund

Continued from page 7.

curriculum enrichment resources already being utilized by high performing schools throughout APS (and the state and/or nationwide). Look under the "Foundation Highlights" tab on our website (www.marylinfoundation.org) to see the impressive list of resources the Mary Lin Foundation has already paid for this year... and we're just getting started!

Thank you to everyone who has already donated. The campaign is off to a great start, but *we need higher participation to achieve our goal to raise \$85,000 by Nov 8.* By complementing our famous parent involvement with a successful annual giving campaign (marked by awe-inspiring participation), we can ensure that *every* student at Mary Lin can reach for the stars and beyond! Please visit www.marylinfoundation.org and the "Support Mary Lin" tab for more details on why we need this campaign, how the funds will be utilized, and more.

Feel free to contact either (lindsayharishill@gmail.com or kim@catalystdp.com with any questions.

Review: Young Thug

Continued from page 3.

enced him. The intro, "Wyclef Jean," gave "Jeffery" a very strong start. The beat revolves around a guitar chord repeated over and over again, giving the song a reggae vibe. The bass is also used in a reggae style, which is unusual for Young Thug. The song was very good, and had a new sound not commonly found in rap music.

Another track that stood out to me was "Future Swag." This song sounds almost like something Future would make. The beat is fast and hyper, and uses a lot of bass and high hat, which is similar to a lot of Future songs. However, "Future Swag" also has that classic electronic Young Thug feel, as do the tracks "Free Gucci" and "Hercules." Probably the most hyped track on the mixtape was the bonus track "Pick up the Phone." This song featured Travis Scott and Quavo, two of the best rap personalities in the music industry at the moment. "Pick up the Phone" is very upbeat and reminds me of the beach. The beat sounds like steel drums, which gives the song a tropical vibe. This song is a favorite for many people, but I personally didn't find it that special.

While some people don't like this mixtape, I think it is pretty good. It is definitely different and probably has more variety than any other Young Thug mixtape.

This music review is by Joseph McGill, a sophomore at Grady High School. He is a musician who has been playing drums since he was nine.

OSD Referendum

Continued from page 6

Turnaround Strategy to address the academic and social/emotion needs of these students in their failing schools through: tutoring; additional math and reading specialists; extended learning time; Spring Break Academies (thanks to the APS calendar changes); recruitment of school leadership that specializes in turning schools around; targeted professional development for teachers; implementing social/emotional learning curriculum in schools.

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.

The Clarion thanks Annsley Klehr for keeping us informed on a variety of education-related and specific school activities. Annsley is the Lake Claire Neighbors Education Chair.



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

Birthdays

October 2: Margaret Witten (Tuxedo) Happy b'day! Now it's as it should be, you older than DPS.

October 4: Richard Harvey (of Ellenwood) —one of our mail carriers and an honorary Lake Clarion. He loves and reads the Clarion every month, knows everyone on his route. Happy birthday, Richard!

October 5: Chloe Rachal will turn 5! (Howard Circle) Emily Cebell, Harold Avenue

October 19: Kusher Thomas Tanguturi turns 3 (Harold Avenue), and

Boyd Baker – happy b'day (Leonardo)

October 23: Izzy Kaiser—Happy 9th birthday! ('dorf)

October 25, 1924: Margaret Gossett—Happy ninety-second! (Harold)

Anniversary

October 10: Judy Langford and Bob Thompson (Harold)

Take a minute right now, and send life cycle events/important rights of passage, etc., for the month of NOVEMBER to editor@lakeclaire.org or any time before OCTOBER 15. Please help us make this feature inclusive of our LC 'hood.



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What's in a Poll

Continued from page 1.

skew the demographics of the stereotyped well-intentioned senior citizens who dominate election workers. Plus I wanted to pull the curtain back a bit on our nation's proud institution of fairness and democracy. He gave me a contact name and number so I called and left a message. No word for a couple of months, if I remember correctly, then a call out of the blue reached my cell phone. The voice said there was a training coming up, and if I were interested, I needed to attend.

On a beautiful spring Saturday morning I found myself in an auditorium with many others—mostly seniors—and got an incredibly focused and insightful training on how to work an election. It's one of the few times in my personal or professional life that I was in awe of the presenter's style and complete control of the audience and subject. About an hour later it was over. I was officially qualified to guide voters through the process of choosing whom they want to rule their community, city, state, and country.

Now my learning didn't end with this one group lesson. Once onsite there were little things that came up that really opened my eyes. Fortunately, my first tour of duty was not during a Presidential election but a springtime, local election. There was much time to talk and ask questions and soak in how incredibly complex we've made what from the outside seems like a simple process. So next time something seems "fishy" at the polls, know that there are all sorts of rules and regulations that poll workers have to abide by. It's not always that they want to be vague but that they're instructed to. Many of the rules are in place to try and reverse discriminatory practices from years ago or from a time when elections were unfairly rigged by poll workers without clear regulations. Here are some of my favorite lessons, though I expect I'll learn even more this November if I get to return to the polls to help my fellow neighbors do their civic duty.

Sign up to be a poll worker. I believe that if everyone in a community volunteered at his or her own polling station, there would be much brighter conversations, much kinder words, and a general positive experience from voting. When voters come in and feel the workers aren't locals, then things can escalate pretty quickly when they shouldn't. A broken machine becomes a conspiracy. A short explanation becomes a lack of willingness to help. It's kind of like a class reunion when you see folks who moved down the street or their kids now go to another school.

Ballots can be different, so READ YOURS. In May, the Democratic, Independent, and Republican ballots were not identical. That really surprised me. Also made me realize that when someone says, "Oh there's only one item to vote on" that doesn't mean that your ballot will match up.

If you want a personal voting guide,

PRINT IT OUT. You are not supposed to have your phone out at all. You're not supposed to take pictures of voters or ballots, and you can't use it to find that League of Women voter's "cheat sheet" so you know whom/what to vote for.

Kids can't vote. Yes, it's great to bring your child to the polls and educate them but they can't vote for you. YOU are the voter. If THEY make a mistake, you pay the price. Kids can have a sticker, for sure. Just make sure you keep their electro-needy hands away from your voting screen.

Poll workers can't explain your info sheet or turn you away. You know that first slip of paper you fill out that gives your general info and what kind of id you'll be using? We can't judge if your ID is valid. A superior knows all the types of valid ID, and he or she makes the call. If you left your ID in your car, we can't even tell you to go get it and come back. Obviously, some evil poll worker in the past must have locked the doors on a poor shlub who went back to his car and then never got to vote.

Poll workers can't explain the ballot. Because there was a time when folks couldn't read and poll workers lied when explaining a ballot issue I'm guessing, we can't answer your questions. Like an SAT test monitor we can repeat the words but that's it. Often folks just point to the wall where the ballot is taped and say, "You just need to read the ballot." You pass many ballots taped to the wall when voting. Take a moment to read them before you get in the booth. Things will be much clearer. Trust me, we'd love to help but can't.

Poll workers can't help you vote. Taken one step further, we can't help the infirm, disabled, elderly, or non-native speaker vote. Again, because of corrupt poll workers of the past. If you need a translator, you must bring your own. If you can't read the ballot, you must bring your young nephew. Poll workers can't help.

Those yellow ballot key cards are empty. Folks think they can walk out with them and somehow keep their vote with them forever. Think of them as car keys. All they do is start the machine to take your vote. The machine has your vote. Please return them.

More voters mean slower voting. In the old days, it didn't matter because you punched a hole in a paper ballot. Now everything's connected to The System. Just like all your neighbors streaming Netflix at the same time, a full voting room goes slower as machines jockey for bandwidth. Vote at an off hour of the day to maximize your speed.

Non-partisan means NO PARTY, not both parties. Remember those different ballots I was talking about? If you register as "non-partisan" that doesn't mean you get to vote for every candidate. It means you're limited in who and what issues you can decide. Rare but true.

Gardening

Continued from page 5.

My pride and joy though has been a single castor plant that I used to grow outside the kitchen window before construction cut down on sunshine in that area. The castor seed was sown outside my eastern bedroom windows, and one now towers over me and everything else, its reddish leaves and seeds a tropical wonder. There are so many seeds that I expect to have to weed them out next year even if the original does not come back from the root, which it sometimes does in this protected location.

How quickly things change! A year ago I wrote about "that little block of DeKalb Avenue between Nelms and Clifton, a 'vacant lot' packed with insect and bird life." This fall it is a solid bank of condos with the only animal a lone dog inside, a few feet away from traffic.



Elizabeth's castor plant

Be sure about your polling place. If you're new to an area, I would go so far as to call ahead before Election Day and ask where you vote. It's based on your street, not where all your friends vote. Some folks were re-routed to Epworth during Mary Lin Elementary's renovation. In May, they reopened their doors to the election. That meant folks filled out paperwork and waited in Epworth lines only to be told they had to go just down the street to their polling station. No happiness comes from this error.

Poll workers are good folks. The day is very long and when it comes poll closing time, the workers are drained of just about every courteous smile and rational thought. They are not the same people who started the day, and they've definitely been challenged by total strangers at times. Also, know that they do get paid. It's around \$100. If the required 15+ hour workday where you can't leave for meals or a quick nap tells you anything, it's that we're not doing it for the money. Please be kind to them. They work so you can be an integral part of our incredible country's history... *and future.*



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All Together Now:

Hey Pumpkin, Let's Have S'More, Family Variety Show!

Oct 16, 4-6 p.m., at the Land Trust
\$5 suggested donation

Join Miss Ladybug, Mr. Matt Donald, and friends for a family fun fall celebration of our community Land Trust! We will host an open mic and give prizes to participants. Vegan and regular marshmallow and s'mores will be supplied. Additional prizes will be given to those who participate in the pumpkin carving contest. Compost is available on site. Yay!

Brought to you by the team of Ladybug Events and the Lake Claire Community Land Trust. The mission of the Lake Claire Community Land Trust is to acquire, maintain, and protect green space for neighborhood enhancement and education; and to provide a place for neighbors and friends to celebrate nature, community, and the arts." Visit us at LCCLT.org!

Ladybug Events LLC is an education and talent agency specializing in providing entertainment, programming and events in a manner that encourages sustainable practices. Contact Miss Ladybug to book your next magical fun birthday party or educational event! Ladybugeventsllc.com or Missladybug@ladybugeventsllc.com



From All Together Now's Last S'Mores Party



Save the date: Holiday Craft Sale

As mentioned last month, this year the Land Trust will collaborate with Lake Claire Neighbors to continue the holiday craft fair tradition. The Frazer Center is offering its large, beautiful, natural light-filled atrium for the event at no charge because of the continued support it receives from the LCN. However, because renting the atrium is a large source of support for the Center's programs, a paying customer will get first dibs. So while **December 3 is the hoped-for date**, as listed on the Land Trust calendar, it is tentative. **The director will let us know by November 1.** The crafts fair will run the same as in previous years, with instructions coming out when we get the okay to proceed. Hopefully the children's area can be expanded with extra room, too.

Annual Pumpkin Carving at the Land Trust

Sun. Oct. 23, 5:00 p.m.

Pumpkins provided.
Bring knives and candles.

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 Sadie Stevens, 6 years old and a 1st grader at Mary Lin, from Leonardo. Sadie and her sister Amelia are always good at finding the hidden

graphics in the Clarion, and their dog and Beth the Editor's dogs come from the same wonderful rescue organization, Canine Crusaders. Sadie has written about a new friend who just moved to her street, and Amelia and her friend Tyler found last month's hidden

picture.

Hey there, Lake Claire kids, let's hear from more of you – 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.

My Friend Lyla

by Sadie Stevens

My name is Sadie Stevens, and I have a new friend who moved in next door. Her name is Lyla and she is 6 years old just like me. She has a little brother named Ronin and he is 3 and he likes to play with Transformers. Lyla and Ronin moved here from California. Lyla LOVES Harry Potter. We like to pretend we are Japanese Princesses when we are together.

We also built a whole fairy land in her backyard! We play almost every day. We were so excited to find out that we were in the same 1st grade class at Mary Lin.

The thing that I think Lyla and Ronin will like most about living in Lake Claire is all the fun kids who live in the neighborhood. I think Lyla is going to love the street parties we have. I'm so glad Lyla is my friend!

The End.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Amelia Stevens & Tyler Bliss together found the hidden Labor Day image on Page 4 of the last issue. The prize is their picture in the Clarion, so here it is:

Tyler Bliss and Amelia Stevens are both

8 years old and are in 3rd grade at Mary Lin. They have lived across the street from one another on Leonardo since they were born and enjoy playing basketball together on the street.



5th graders with their petition

5th Grade GATE Recess Protest Petition (see article on page 7)

We need recess on GATE days because we are inside for 6.5 hours. If we do not go outside for just a few minutes we will be too rowdy. Therefore, we will not work as well. Our teachers are always telling us to "calm down," but how are we supposed to get our energy out without recess?

Also, we do not get to socialize with all of our friends. At lunch we are not allowed to get up and talk to our friends in different classes. We need to have a break and let our imaginations run wild. Fresh air is really good for your brain.

"Several studies demonstrated that recess made children more attentive and productive in the classroom," according to the American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement.

According to Robert Murray, M.D., one of the authors of the American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement, recess can help students better retain what they learn.

Thank you for giving us time to present our case. We appreciate you trying to figure out a schedule for us to have recess.

Sincerely, Abby Hyken, Benjamin Lewis, Sadie Kyle, and Daniel Ratner

NEW CONTEST:

Kids: Everyone knows that Halloween comes in October, and for it we love to carve pumpkins... find a pumpkin this month somewhere in this issue, and you win the prize of having your picture in the Clarion next issue. For extra credit, tell us what you love about Halloween in Lake Claire. The extra-credit prize is to have your art or writing featured in 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.

SAVE THE DATE: LCN potluck will be on 12/15 this year.

Details to come in November Clarion.