



## Lake Claire Park Receives Renew Atlanta Funds

by Judy Hammack

Have you seen people studying construction drawings in Lake Claire Park over the last few weeks? **Good news!** The park has received approximately \$550,000 from *Renew Atlanta* funds for improvements. A HUGE thank you to our City Council Member Natalyn Archibong for sponsoring this funding and for Atlanta City Park Designer, Daniel Calvert, for his support. This park renovation will include: a new larger playground (current proposed color scheme is hunter green and yellow); an American with Disabilities compliant entrance to the park from Lakeshore Drive; a rain garden to facilitate drainage on the south end of the park

Because in the middle of the day, the playground has little natural shade, the Friends of Lake Claire Park\* is fundraising to provide a sun shade structure on the east side of the playground. During construction of the playground is the

optimal time for the installation of the sun structure. Please consider making a tax deductible donation to the *Friends of Lake Claire Park* by doing one of the following:

1. For online donation: Go to [tiny.cc/parkpride](http://tiny.cc/parkpride); click on the drop down menu under "choose a park to support"; choose Lake Claire Park; fill in the amount.

2. For check donation: Write check to Park Pride with Lake Claire Park in the memo line; mail checks to Park Pride attn: Roberta Moore, 233 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 1600, Atlanta, GA 30303.

\*Friends of Lake Claire Park is a fiscal partner of the non-profit organization Park Pride. Contributions are tax-deductible.

### Timeline:

- 2013 Steering committee and Park Design Department completed redesign of Lake Claire Park

*Cont. on p. 8.*

## Halloween in Lake Claire/end of October

One of Lake Claire's signature parties of the year, The Annual Lake Claire Halloween Parade and Party, was held on **October 29**. As the November *Clarion* went to press right before that, we missed covering the event. So we've

included some photos of the event in this issue. As always, creative costumes and cuteness abounded in Lake Claire. Thanks to everyone who helped make this wonderful Lake Claire event *super-spooktacular*. (Please see Page 7)

## Lake Claire Neighbors' President's message

Dear Neighbors,

When writing this message in the middle of November, fall was in full swing but with unusually warm temperatures and no rain on the horizon or anywhere else. Even the water level of Lake Claire has dropped to the point that skiing is not permitted. So let's hope there will have been some precipitation (snow, sleet,

ice storms, hurricanes, or tsunamis—anything wet will do) by the time the December *Clarion* gets delivered.

On that note, along with recent events, it's a good time to review some of the **highlights of 2016** for the neighborhood at least to give a more positive tone to life in Lake Claire. Of

course, there was the 2nd Annual Lake Claire Centennial BBQ at the Frazer Center in June, which was even more fun than the 1st one last year. The 3rd Annual Centennial is scheduled for next year. Later on in the summer, Judy Hammack of *Friends of Lake Claire Park* applied for a **Cont. on p. 8**

## Frosty 5K Almost Here

by Boyd Baker

The 175th annual Inman Middle Frosty 5K will take place on **Saturday, Dec. 10, at 9 a.m.** This beautiful, darn-near-flat fun run is great for those wanting to stroll along the Beltline, race their favorite teachers, or just enjoy a jog in the perfect Atlanta weather. It starts at the school, runs the Beltline from Monroe to skate park, then returns to the school along Ponce de

Leon Place at the Field of Dreams.

So, ok, ok, maybe it's *not* 175 years old, but it's been around for some time. My first recollection of the race was when Candler Park resident Eric Dusenbury was organizing it—maybe 8 years ago or longer. It's become a great community event, sponsored by the PTA, where health and education collide in a good way.

Cost is still just \$25 per runner, while students get a discount and teachers run for FREE. There are t-shirts and high fives all around at the finish line. Come out and support your local school and meet some new friends. Register at [Active.com](http://Active.com) or go to [www.InmanFrosty5K.com](http://www.InmanFrosty5K.com) for more details.

## Lake Claire November Meeting

The Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN) Executive Committee held the annual election for officers at the meeting this month, **November 17**. (See listing on the masthead on Page 2 for all the officers, all of whom "re-upped," except that Kathie Ryan stepped down as VP Safety, and Pen

Sherwood has volunteered—and was voted in. Thanks to Kathie for your (continued!) work for the neighborhood, and welcome, Pen (thanks for volunteering); and many thanks to everyone else for your continued service to Lake Claire. **As a reminder, there is no business**

**meeting in December; this month's meeting is always instead the annual party (see invitation on Page 2 for details, and hope to see you there).**

Minutes from the November 17 meeting are on Page 10.

LAKE CLAIRE HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 15

SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 2



Newly Elected LCN Officers (L-R): Joe Agee, Robin Singer, Annsley Klehr, Pen Sherwood, Carol Holliday, Nancy Dorsner (not pictured), Jim Rockaway, Sarah Rockaway, Melissa Pressman)

### Highlights

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## Lake Claire Officers for 2016

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 Jim Rockaway, [treasurer@lakeclaire.org](mailto:treasurer@lakeclaire.org)  
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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

*The Clarion Newspaper (and its predecessor Neighbors Monthly Newsletter and its predecessor Lake Claire Neighbors Flyer) has been written, edited, and distributed by volunteers since 1989.*

## December

**1-11** Shakespeare at Emory Exhibit at the Carlos Museum, ends 12/11. Focuses on the Bard's influence in the New World—[www.carlos.emory.edu](http://www.carlos.emory.edu)

**1-29** Christmas at Callanwolde with Light Show. spectacular outdoor light tour through the entire holiday season until December 29. Bring the whole family to experience the magic of the Candler historic estate as an interactive outdoor light show experience from Illuminating Design. Around the corner from Lake Claire! [callanwolde.freshtix.com](http://callanwolde.freshtix.com)

**1-31** Horizon Theatre Company Holiday Shows – The Santaland Diaries, The outrageous holiday comedy, written by NPR comic genius David Sedaris. If you've not seen it (or if you have) it's a must-see. [www.horizontheatre.com/plays/holiday-shows](http://www.horizontheatre.com/plays/holiday-shows)

Christmas Lights Calloway Gardens / giant holiday light and sound show, with eight million lights, displays, a Christmas village, and Santa Claus at Callaway Gardens

**1** –January 7 - Atlanta Botanical Gardens, "Garden Lights/Holiday Nights," annual electrical extravaganza features spectacular light displays throughout the Garden. [atlantabg.org/visit/events/garden-lights](http://atlantabg.org/visit/events/garden-lights)

**3** Lake Claire Neighbors jointly with Lake Claire Community Land Trust, **Annual Holiday Sale**, 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Come to shop for beautiful handmade gifts, support your neighborhood artists, and get ready for Christmas and other gift-giving opportunities. Annual event but this year for the first time at the Frazer Center, in the Atrium. Come on out!

**3** More locally made gifts: City Bazaar: Globally Rooted, Locally Made, presented by City Church Eastside at 800 N. Highland Ave NE, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. City Bazaar is a free craft market featuring vendors and artisans from the Clarkston GA immigrant and refugee community. Products available will include handmade art, jewelry, bags, accessories, dolls, food items, and more. Free refreshments. Any questions: Linda Stone, [stonenow@bellsouth.net](mailto:stonenow@bellsouth.net), 404-375-0020

**3 & 17** (1st and 3rd Saturday Nights) Land Trust Drum Circle, at the Land Trust, sunset to 11:00 pm. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Bring a friend!

**3-31** Horizon – Madeline's Xmas. A charming musical adaptation of Ludwig Bemelmans' classic storybook Madeline's Christmas featuring 24 local girls performing alongside professional actors.

**9-31** Holidays at Centennial Park, Ice Rink & Holiday in Lights Display with thousands of lights in the north section of Centennial Park. The new Chinese Lantern Festival in the south section of the park (through 1/15/17).

**10** Inman Middle Frosty 5K at 9 a.m, starting at Inman. Register at [Active.com](http://Active.com) or go to [www.InmanFrosty5K.com](http://www.InmanFrosty5K.com) for more details. SEE article, Page 1.

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

**14** Deadline for bringing unwrapped toy to Zone 6 for their Annual Toy Drive/Give-Away, to be held December 17; see page 9.

**15** **Lake Claire Neighbors annual Xmas/Holiday Party Potluck. No business meeting in December. Join your neighbors for an evening of conviviality, fun, and good food (lasagnas – meat and veggie—and desserts & beverages provided by LCN, and you bring side dishes, such as veggies, bread, and salad)—great food, entertainment and family fun.**

**17** APD Zone 6 Annual Toy Drive/Give Away. See Dec 14 and Page 9 Lake Claire Community Land Trust–Drum Circle, see Dec 3 above.

**21** Annual Clifton Sanctuary Ministries Caroling (see page 4). [www.cliftonsanctuary.com](http://www.cliftonsanctuary.com) (See Sign at Clifton and McLendon, closer to the date, for confirmation of date.)

**21** 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.

**31** 2017 Peach Drop. Enormous street party and fireworks display. The Peach Drop has been taking place each year since 1989, and the peach itself weighs over 800 pounds. It takes 58 seconds for the giant peach to descend the light-clustered 136-foot tower.

**Send calendar entries for the January 2017 Clarion by December 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org**



# F • O • C • U • S   O • N   E • D • U • C • A • T • I • O • N

## Social Emotional Learning in APS

by Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Neighbors Education Chair.

As Superintendent Meria Carstarphen entered our schools in July of 2014, she and the Atlanta Board of Education (BOE) saw that the Atlanta Public School (APS) students had great needs beyond just an academic education. Prompted by the cheating scandal, Carstarphen saw needs of children she could not ignore with the overarching question: What can we do?

One can argue that it is hard to focus on only academics when social and emotional needs have not been met. Imagine a starving child in your classroom, this child's focus not learning, but on getting his/her basic needs met. If you have had a run-in with a friend, your mind constantly wanders back to the unresolved situation vs. being productive. So, too, do the minds of children. It is impossible to sit/learn with these emotions. APS found that its students, faculty, staff, and parents needed to learn how to speak, listen, and thoughtfully engage with one another. So began the journal of creating a **Social Emotion Learning Program (SEL)**.\*

During the 2015-2016 school year, Kori Smith was brought on board as the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Coordinator of APS. Smith, with 13 years in APS, was drawn to students' needs, first as teacher, then as instructional coach, and finally as assistant principal at Morris Brandon while getting a Masters in Counseling in between. She began her SEL career with only 2 SEL coaches; today there are eight. Today in each school there is an SEL team, (a district requirement), comprising a minimum of an administrator, a counselor, and a teacher representative.

**APS piloted this SEL program in 25 schools** in 2015-2016, which included the Carver Cluster, the South Atlanta Cluster, ANCS,\* and all middle schools. They have added 40 additional schools with the exception of Morris Brandon, Bolton Academy, E. Rivers, Sara Smith, Garden Hills, and Whiteford, which are slotted for the fall of 2017. APS' goal was to design a model for implementing SEL in APS, which



SOCIAL  
EMOTIONAL  
LEARNING

became the impetus for its partnership with CASEL, Collaborative for Academic Social Emotional Learning, an independent non-profit. (Carstarphen partnered with CASEL during her five years as Superintendent in Austin, TX.) CASEL had the "research behind the why and the answers behind the how," explained Smith.

APS, as a recognized partner district with CASEL, had CASEL train its executive leadership during the summer of 2015. An audit of the schools included site visits and interviews of faculty, staff and school/district leaders. CASEL made recommendations about design implementation, which played a part in the development of Smith's job, her coaches, and APS' roll-out plan. APS continues to benefit from the network of districts that work with CASEL under the Collaborating Districts Initiative (CDI). The network shares resources and convenes several times a year to collaborate and share resources. The experiences of districts who have used SEL for six years are invaluable to APS.

CASEL provided a resource comparing different SEL programs (none of which came with endorsements). APS then completed a formal RFP process to select its curriculum. APS' pre-k through 8th grade has adopted a program called *Second Step*, which continues to help students explore SEL integrated throughout the week. The APS high schools use a program called *School Connect*, which is "a stronger application of *Second Step*," as Smith explains it, with the focus, "How do we put skills in place to make [the student's] path happier?" This might translate to the way a student shakes a hand in an interview. The program helps students take ownership of their goals. *School Connect* gives students a safe place to have a voice and to listen to others'.

CASEL has five core com-

petencies: self-awareness (what are we feeling?); self-management (what we do with our feelings); social awareness (empathy/awareness of others); relationship skills (how do I enter into a healthy relationship?); and responsible decision making. Teachers might explicitly teach these social and emotion concepts, model specific vocabulary, or just reflect these SEL skills by their interactions. A visitor to a school might come across a community gathering structure like a morning circle, reflecting a community of learners gathered together to share or learn. Smith and her coaches help to support faculty/staff by modeling and teaching.

**Smith and her team give teachers the support and information** to implement social and emotional pieces that work for them. Smith is "looking for organic growth." SEL is not a top-down approach, but rather one of self-reflection. Smith has found that about half of the teachers already had some semblance of social emotional learning in place in their classrooms, and the others have found that through recognizing SEL, they have seen improvements in their classrooms' dynamics.

Only time will tell how affective this SEL component of APS is. Smith already has some measures to begin evaluating its effectiveness, including attendance, suspension, and behavioral referral records. The climate survey by the state, a benchmark, is also used as a tool. Then there are just anecdotal records of positive changes that schools have noted to Smith. One teacher told Smith that she did not need behavior clips anymore, because her kids were working it out on their own.

If you're interested in learning more about APS' SEL Component, check out Kori Smith's presentation at: [prezi.com/d3gobtp8w9jh/social-emotional-learning-aps](http://prezi.com/d3gobtp8w9jh/social-emotional-learning-aps).

## From the Office of Councilmember Natalyn Archibong

The safety of the Lake Claire community has been paramount to Councilmember Natalyn Archibong. Based on the concerns of the residents of Lake Claire and Candler Park regarding the intersection of Clifton Rd. and Marlbrook Dr., Councilmember Archibong introduced legislation that called for the installation of a 4-Way Stop. Vehicles parked on Clifton Rd often-times made it dangerous for vehicles and pedestrians to merge onto or cross Clifton Rd. Prior to the installation of the 4-Way stop, children and adults had difficulty crossing to get to Mary Lin Elementary School. Other updates include Lake Claire specific Renew Atlanta Bond Projects. Scheduled improvements include the Phase 1 renovation of Lake Claire Park. The current scope of work covers ADA Compliance and access to the enhanced playground. The Office of Buildings, city arborists, and AUDC are completing their construction permit reviews. Additionally, several streets throughout Lake Claire will also be resurfaced.

Public meetings have begun to discuss the DeKalb Avenue Corridor. Councilmember Archibong encourages all District 5 residents who live near or travel on DeKalb Avenue to attend these meetings, to explore ways to improve the safety of the pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Citizens may view the most recent presentation, maps, and renderings at, [www.RenewAtlantaBond.com](http://www.RenewAtlantaBond.com), under the "Meetings" tab.

Councilmember Archibong also sponsored legislation that was unanimously approved to create and populate the Elder Crimes Task Force, whose charge is to review policies and best practices with the goal of creating a safer en-



vironment for senior citizens. It will be a joint effort of local law enforcement and community representatives. Councilmember Archibong has also supported the installation of cameras throughout District 5. Historically, these cameras have allowed the Atlanta Police Department to make several arrests where crimes have occurred including identifying and apprehend suspects of vehicle break-ins. In September, the Atlanta City Council approved \$52,000 in funding to support the activities and initiatives of the Atlanta Youth Commission. Councilmember Archibong sponsored it, and the measure was approved unanimously.

Quick Note regarding Tax Payments: City of Atlanta taxes were due November 30. The first installment of the DeKalb Taxes was due September 30. If you have not received the written notice of your City of Atlanta taxes, the amount due can be found at [taxcommissioner.dekalbcountyga.gov/TaxCommissioner/TCSearch.asp](http://taxcommissioner.dekalbcountyga.gov/TaxCommissioner/TCSearch.asp)

Please join Archibong's Facebook page for other important information regarding the City of Atlanta and Council District 5 ([www.facebook.com/CouncilwomanArchibong](http://www.facebook.com/CouncilwomanArchibong)).

A special thanks to Matt Westmoreland, Kori Smith, and Kimberly Green for their help on this article.

\*Editor's note: See Alicia McGill's article on SEL in Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School (ANCS) in the November 2015 Clarion. ANCS, a free APS

charter school located in Grant Park and Ormewood Park, has been using the Conscious Discipline model of social emotional learning for several years. (See [lakeclaire.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/clarion-nov2015-web-archive.pdf](http://lakeclaire.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/clarion-nov2015-web-archive.pdf), and [atlncs.org](http://atlncs.org).)

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

### Lake Claire Security Report, September 4–October 29 (8 weeks)

**Auto Theft:** 200 block Arizona Ave., 10/18, from street, 1999 green ISU Rodeo

**Burglary:** 1700 block McLendon Ave., 10/9, from residence under renovation by private contractor. Taken: receiver, scooter, bike, Green Egg, table, snowboards

**Robbery:** 1634 McLendon Ave., 10/11, at Fellini's. Three suspects parked their vehicle on Page Ave then checked out the restaurant. One entered the restaurant, physically attacked an employee and the manager, then fled after grabbing money from a table where it was being counted.

**Theft from Vehicle:** 1700 block Marlbrook Dr., 9/13, from street, taken: wallet, SS card, credit cards. Damage: driver's side door handle and lock damaged.

300 block Ridgecrest Road, 10/2, from street, no damage because windows were down. Taken: wallet containing cards and cash, cell phone

See something, Say something. If something doesn't seem quite right call 911.

APD's Clean Car Campaign: Leave nothing visible in your car that could attract attention.

These are 2 links they suggest looking at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uxkjeznoRE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uxkjeznoRE) and [www.youtube.com/watch?v=nn-A7fxrMFw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nn-A7fxrMFw).

Help make our neighborhood safer by joining the Candler Park Lake Claire Patrol at [www.cplcpatrol.com](http://www.cplcpatrol.com). Statistics show that Lake Claire's crime rate has dropped significantly since it began a year ago.

Join [www.nextdoor.com/join](http://www.nextdoor.com/join) to receive up to date security information from your neighbors.

Don't forget that as an Atlanta homeowner you are required to register your alarm system online with Crywolf online or by calling 1-855-725-7102 (or you'll be fined \$150). Registering your alarm system is part of an ordinance that's designed to lower false alarms in the City of Atlanta and reduce the police time and effort needed to process false alarm fines. See [atlantafalsealarms@atlantaga.gov](mailto:atlantafalsealarms@atlantaga.gov).

## Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

by Robert Bryan Davis

"Come join us for our annual Christmas caroling at the corner of Connecticut and McLendon at 7:00 p.m. on December 21. And then come warm up inside and enjoy some cookies and hot chocolate! Please check our sign (which is usually updated to reflect needs/messages) on McLendon at Connecticut, as our caroling date might change.

Also, CSM will have an Ice Cream Fund-Raiser" on April 22, 2017. We will have a competition to see what group prepares the best ice cream. We'll have music, a raffle, and a great time. One admission price, all the ice cream you can eat. Bring the kids! Proceeds will be used to help fund our building and grounds rehab. Please save the date!

Editor's Note: Thank you, CSM for being a great neighbor! Lake Claire readers: we know what a great cause this is—we can donate any amount via PayPal at [www.cliftonsanctuary.com](http://www.cliftonsanctuary.com)

## Thanks for Paying Your 2016 Neighborhood Dues

Lake Claire dues payers since last month are Steve Johnson, Karl McBryde, Patty Deltear, Eileen O'Neill, and Laura Case—**Thanks, all of you, for paying at the monthly meeting this time!**

If we have missed anyone who paid your dues

who hasn't been featured in another Clarion, please be sure to let us know at [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto: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](http://www.lakeclaire.org/lcn/members.htm). If you haven't contributed for 2016, there is still time to help keep neighborhood coffers in the **black**—AND to become famous in the Clarion!!



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<https://www.facebook.com/parkrealtyatlanta/>



# The Garden December into January

by Elizabeth Knowlton

I will call this month's column **Back to Basics**. It is hard to decide which is the first month of the gardening year in the South. Sometimes I think it is June when I begin ordering flower bulbs for the next year. Or it may be September when you build compost heaps, amend soil, and plan future beds. Let us consider December, though. In this part of the country winter is not a time to rest inside and look out at the snow. For one thing, there rarely is snow (although when a few flakes fall, everything will close down so you can sit inside and watch them), and there is more work for us now than in our long, languid, humid summers.

The hardest thing I had to learn when I moved south in 1968 was that a gardener must get moving early on each task because soon it is too hot for the plants to succeed, much less you wanting to work outdoors. The flip side is that we can comfortably garden on many winter days. Once you are on a seed catalog list, you will begin to receive them well before the new year and can make your orders in time to have seeds on hand before the end of January.

Do go on harvesting any vegetables that have survived the frosts we will eventually get. These include kale and, below ground, carrots and parsnips. Often carrots planted in the spring do not get dug by me until I am pulling up their dead neighbors. So remember these plants when you sow in spring or fall. I understand that potatoes, also, when planted and heavily mulched in autumn

will give you an enormous crop in spring.

Several different years I have kept slightly less hardy vegetables, like broccoli or chard, going in what is often called a "poly-tunnel." Mine is not made of plastic and is not a tunnel large enough for humans, just a structure made of the same metal hoops I use in summer (to keep insects off plants or to give them temporary shade) and covered with row cover fabric that protects down to about 24° F



A poly-tunnel

and lets in enough light for continual growth. Metal staples anchor the fabric to the ground. All these supplies can be ordered from places like Gardener's Supply, Johnny's Selected Seeds, or Gardener's Edge. When colder weather threatens (and it has fallen as low as -9° F as recently as the 1980s), I throw on an extra layer and even an old bedspread. Finally, for the emotionally fraught, you can hang an old trouble light (that handy, caged incandescent light bulb with a hook that we used to hang in

our car engines to see what was going on there or even to keep the battery warm in the winter) from one hoop in the center of tunnel. That will really keep things cozy. Just make sure that none of these things touches the surface of a plant.

When you rise multiple times in the night to gaze out at your little lighted tent, you will know you are a real gardener.

But don't spend too much time staring because you need to be planning what

you will put in your vegetable beds. First make a list of what everyone wants to eat. Then add your small list of experiments (like those parsnips). Some crops are so ravaged by wildlife or insects that you cannot plant too much of it in Atlanta. Tomatoes and zucchini come to mind. (If you ever have too much regular sized zucchini, just leave some on my doorstep.) Draw up some plans on graph paper, the same as you do for bulbs, with the tallest vegetables on the north end of each bed

**Cont. on p. 9**

# Wild in Lake Claire

by Carol Vanderschaaf

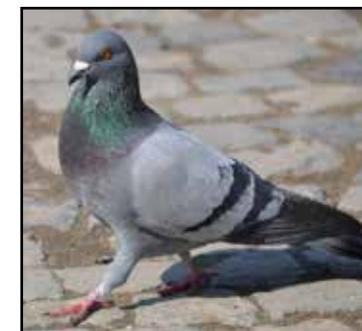
**Many years ago** there was a bird native to the USA. The bird was called the Passenger Pigeon. A flock of Passenger Pigeons was said to be so large it could block out the sun. The birds are now extinct. What happened to them? *Us*. The birds were commercialized, as they were found to be good eatin'. When the birds disappeared on the east coast they were shipped in from the west. "Ambitious" folks would shoot down hundreds at a time for market. As the flocks disappeared, their habitats were being destroyed by those same folks who were cutting down the forests of hardwoods hoping to make America great. Finally, in 1900, the last pigeon in the wild was shot and killed.

**The point of all this** is that is even pigeons can disappear. And in these now anti-environmental times we must learn to love our current (and non-native) pigeons (*Columba livia domestica*), as they may be all we have left in future times. They, and of course, cockroaches and *Rattus Rattus*.

**The pigeons**, AKA domestic pigeon, carrier pigeon, homing pigeon, city dove, street pigeon, feral pigeon, and formerly officially **Rock Dove**, and now officially Rock Pigeon (at this writing I think) have been with us for thousands of years. They were first tamed over 5,000 years ago and then were exported around the world. In the early 1600s they were imported to our east coast colonies. The pigeons we see today are descendants of the escapees from those early imports.

**Pigeons once used sea cliffs** as their nesting sites. Now urban buildings have

come to work for them. The female sits on a bare platform while the male brings her various sticks, twigs, leaves and grasses, which unceremoniously become the nest. Two white eggs are laid there. Both parents incubate them for about 18 days. The young are born naked with sparse feathers. They don't leave the nest until they can fend for themselves, usually in about a month or so, which is why baby pigeons are rarely seen. The nest is used over and over. The birds, unlike other species, don't carry their feces away, so in time the nest can become a large, strong bowl-like structure often incorporating old eggs and the corpses of dead nestlings.



**Birds in the wild** live about 3 years, so we won't clearly won't have enough to make a Hitchcock film. In captivity they can live about 15 years. Pigeons are a favorite food of Peregrine Falcons and Coopers Hawks. Over 80% of the diet of falcons in some cities is composed of pigeon. Opossum, raccoons, and cats feed on pigeons when they can. Then, of course, we humans don't want to miss out. Have you ever eaten squab, i.e., baby pigeon? Or perhaps you might try this recipe made up by a hunter who shot a

**Cont. on p. 9**



# "Chilinaro" – Annual Chili Cook-off on Leonardo

The annual chili cook-off on Leonardo was a great success again. Many kids got involved this year. Winners from left to right are:

- Ally Bliss & Amelia Stevens - Best Dessert (chocolate covered strawberries)
- Synnove Olson - Best Presentation
- The Waugh Family (son Adler) - Best Side Dish
- The Cooper Family (son Anders) - Best Chili (named "Sweet Meat Sweats")

Thanks, Boyd Baker, for keeping the Clarion apprised.



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# Halloween 2016



All photos by Gretchen Connell, Southerland Place, Lake Claire

## LCN President's Message

Continued from page 1.

grant from the City. After some nail biting about timelines, our City Council member Natalyn Archibong made a special appearance at the October Lake Claire Neighbors meeting to announce a \$500,000 award. People from the City's Dept. of Parks and Recreation were recently seen walking around LCP with plans in hand, so it looks like work will soon be underway. At the same meeting, the architectural firm of Gamble and Gamble presented plans for a rezoning request to build eight condominiums on 1970 DeKalb Avenue. They provided a good example of how to work with affected neighbors in order to address concerns about the impact of new construction. The request was approved unanimously.

Then, the **Lake Claire Halloween parade**. As usual the turnout was massive. The popcorn machine was available again, and bbq was added, as well as a costume competition for all ages. Thanks to Steve Raimonde, Emily Oppelt, Kris Wellen, and Nancy Dorsner for all their work putting the event together. And if it hasn't already happened by the time you get this message, don't miss the first **LCCT/LCN Arts and Crafts Sale at the Frazer Center on Sat., Dec. 3** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. And there will definitely be time to put the Annual LCN Christmas Pot Luck Dinner on your calendar for Thurs., Dec. 15 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Frazer Center Atrium. This is always a fantastic end to the year, and we are looking forward to seeing the Nielsen sisters perform while brother Myles DJs for the event.

**All of our green spaces** are looking better and better, including the Japanese garden at the Land Trust, cleanup work in Lake Claire Park and the Frazer forest, and a great array of flowers at the Harold Ave/Lake Claire green space along with a beautiful Tiny Doors display installed by Kris Wellen.

In my last message, I mentioned the variance request for the property located at 545 Hardendorf Ave. that had been deferred from its scheduled hearing before the City's Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) in July. This was to allow the builder time to submit revised plans since the original one

was unanimously rejected at both the LCN and NPU meetings. Although another deferral was granted in Sept., revisions still had not been made available by the Nov. 10 BZA hearing. With a good number of Lake Claire residents attending on the 10th and also writing messages, the **BZA again granted a deferral**, which is unusual for this kind of case—showing the importance of neighborhood involvement. We are now hopeful that a positive resolution will be reached.



**Other good things** that have happened this year are our Lake Claire donations for our local institutions. \$500 was given to the Mary Lin playground equipment fund. Another \$500 went to the Clifton Ministries with \$750 going to the Frazer Center to list the LCN as a sponsor for its "Goodness in the Garden" fundraiser in March. \$600 was given in the form of gift cards to members of our Zone 6 police precinct and our fire department on DeKalb Ave. and \$250 to the 25-year anniversary Stop-the-Road Celebration held in the Olmsted Linear Park. Expenses for the Annual holiday pot luck (no admission charge with wine and main entrées provided) are around \$400. There are, of course, the usual administrative charges such as for banking, website access, PayPal, incorporation, etc. **So, thank you very much for your dues.** We couldn't do much without them!

**One final note:** construction on DeKalb at the corner of Gordon Avenue has been going on for some time. If you see any trucks driving recklessly or dropping materials, please try to get the license plate number and report it to 911 so that the police can be more vigilant.

**Have a great holiday,**

Joe Agee,  
Lake Claire Neighbors, Inc.



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

### December Birthdays

- Dec. 7 Jeff Debell, Harold Avenue, and Adam Masarek, Delaware Avenue
- Dec. 10 Happy b'day, Tim Kline, Leonardo Avenue
- Dec. 12 Henry Allen – "12/12/12" - Happy 4!!!! - Harold Avenue
- Dec. 13 Happy b'day to Laura Tanguturi and Colleen Golden (both on Harold)
- Dec. 17 Happy b'day to Dawn Aura (Arizona Ave) & Josh Golden (Harold)
- Dec. 19 Happy b'day to Elliott Williams, Howard Circle
- Dec. 26 Happy 5th birthday to Cabot Williams, Howard Circle
- Dec. 31 Happy b'day Cara Haycak Tobin, Hardendorf

**Belated HB:** Jack Barclay – turned 11 on 11/24, Harold Ave.

### Happy Anniversary:

12/8/15 Craig and Emily Allen – happy year! (Harold)

Send us stuff for next year!—([editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org)) by DECEMBER 15.

## LC Park Funds

Continued from page 1.

- 2014 Construction documents produced for the re-design by architect David Barclift.

- February 2016 A group of Lake Claire residents (Joe Agee, president of LCN; Christiane French, former environmental officer of LCN; Daniel Calvert of Park Design; and Judy Hammack of Friends of Lake Claire Park) met with Council Member Natalyn Archibong to view construction documents and discuss funding.

- October 2016 With the sponsorship by Natalyn Archibong, Atlanta City Council approved approximately \$550,000 funding for Lake Claire Park

- November 2016 Park Design initiated permitting process for construction in the park.

- December/January (this is an approximation by parks department) renovation will commence.

**So...watch our progress as Lake Claire Park takes on a new look!**

Feel free to contact Judy at [judyhammack@gmail.com](mailto:judyhammack@gmail.com)



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## Gardening

*Continued from page 5.*

and no more than a two-foot stretch for you to reach when planting, weeding, or harvesting.

Then plan your rotations. Long-time gardeners have long-term disease problems so this is a necessity. I rotate west to east, a four-bed rotation and a three-bed one, but they can intermingle. Group together like crops, like the night-shade ones (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant), so that the beds will have several years rest from them. My 4-year rotations include: 1) nightshade plants with carrots, basil, chard, chives, parsley, onions, and parsnips; 2) corn, okra, and pumpkins, 3) brassicas, lettuces, and other leafy greens, and 4) beans, peas, and melons. The 3-year rotations contain: 1) Irish and sweet potatoes, 2) squashes, and 3) watermelon. (No, of course these are not always successful crops, but we can dream, right?)

And think about your compost these days. Are you still adding leaves and kitchen waste? What about dead plant fibers after frost, just eschewing diseased ones like tomato foliage or mildewed flower stalks? There are a lot of leaves lying around, right? Never put those good leaves (except for walnut or pecan) out on the street when you can add them to your compost heap. I have never once had too many dead leaves for all the composting and mulching I do. If your loud leaf blower does not have a vacuum mulcher component, consider getting one because that way you can 1) store your leaves more compactly and 2) use them as mulch all year on flower beds and around shrubs.

Onward and upward!

## Financial Advice From Your Local Credit Union

by Chris McPherson



I know many of you may be thinking about a new car purchase. Especially this time of year; it's a great time to get a fantastic deal on a new 2016 vehicle as dealerships make room for their 2017 products. One common caveat to purchasing a new car is depreciation; I hear it in my office all the time: *"As soon as I drive it off the lot, it's lost so much value."*

Well sure; that's the nature of most vehicles. However, most people keep cars they bought brand new for 10 years or longer—well past when the last payment was made. Used vehicles depreciate at the same rate; just not as quickly for the first year. However, you also miss out on the many

perks of a new car: factory warranties, extended service plans complimentary with purchase, manufacturer deals, and better-overall financing terms. Plus, they have next-to-no miles and the condition is perfect. What you lose in depreciation could easily be made up with what you save in maintenance and repair costs for the first three years!

If you're considering a new vehicle (or even a used one) give me a call or stop in and see me—even if you're not a member. Let's go over all your options; as your community's not-for-profit credit union, we're here to help you, not sell you something you don't need. All our members are the owners here, and that makes all the difference when you're looking for advice you trust. Every one of us at BOND—including our CEO—works for you.

**One last thing: you may be thinking,** *"But I have poor credit..."* Please don't let your credit score hinder you from taking the step to talk to me. Yes, your score is very important when it comes to financing terms and rates. But I can help you with this. I'm also your

financial counselor. Ignoring the problem, in this case, does not make it go away; in fact, it often makes it much worse. I have answers for you. I have solutions for you. And with BOND on your side, we can get you where you need to be, and not just because you may or may not want a car. Your credit affects many other things: rental amounts and deposits, insurance, and even prospective employment! Don't sell yourself short because you made a mistake in the past or because some company or individual ruined your credit before you ever had a chance. This especial-

ly applies to young people with no credit: come and see me. Now. Not later. Let's get you started on the right foot with all the tools and education you'll ever need to keep your score high and your future financial history strong. **Remember: financial counseling is free for all BOND members—and membership is free, too! Call me, anytime.**

*Chris McPherson is the Certified Financial Counselor at BOND Community Federal Credit Union. Contact him at chris@bondcu.com, 404-525-0619, ext 217. - Ed.*

### Zone 6 Annual Toy Drive/Give-Away, December 17

Donate a new unwrapped toy between now and December 14. All gifts will be distributed at a party on December 17, to which Lake Claire is invited!

Please drop off at the Zone 6 precinct located at 2025 Hosea L. Williams Dr. S.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30317, and come there for the party.



## Wild in Lake Claire

*Continued from page 5.*

pigeon when he couldn't find anything else.. He "sautéed the breast with a little salt and pepper" and was "pleasantly surprised"... "it tasted more like beef or venison than poultry." (With a little chianti, perhaps?)

**Pigeons have been used** as pets and for food and entertainment for thousands of years. Humans began to realize that the birds often exhibited the behaviors that we hold as dear. The parent birds probably mate for life (with an affair or two) and can have 5 or more broods per year (well, not quite like

we are). They are strongly protective of their young and their nests, yet are very peaceful and intelligent creatures. They are noted for their homing instinct and somehow get back home from wherever they are released. Pigeons were used during both world wars (and long before that) to deliver messages. One brave British pigeon, *Cher Ami*, received the Croix de Guerre during World War 1, when she delivered a message saving the lives of thousands of troops even though she had lost a leg and one of her

wings had been wounded.

**Oh, I could go on** about Pidgen languages and the difference between pigeons and doves but all that could take forever. But I will give you this warning. Between 1966 and 2014, there has been a 45% drop in the Rock Pigeon population. Have faith, though. If any wild creature can survive it will be our own Rock Pigeon. And may it always be the pigeon of peace....

**Local looks:** Dorothy D., our fearless Lake Claire contributor, reports: "I just saw a nuthatch on my bird-

bath, across from a brown thrasher. The nuthatch, much smaller, had his wings spread and was tipping from side to side, apparently trying to look bigger to the brown thrasher. He did manage to get a sip of water before he flew away. I have never seen a nuthatch at the birdbath before."

Meta L., our Candler Park roving reporter lets us know that Paideia student birders were joined by members of the Atlanta Audubon for an early November walk in Fernbank Forest. The trend continues with birds being

few and far between. The group identified 15 species (27 species on the November walk last year). The highlight was the golden-crowned kinglet, first spotted by Reagan Phelan. Also thanks to Craig G., who, just in time for deadline, sent us this scoop: "Saw a mama raccoon with 4 juveniles from 1040 Howard Circle crossing over to 2013 in the big tree. One of juveniles got separated and growled at me as I went by."

# Water Saving Tips for Lake Clarions

So you've got those flowers and plants that are dying of thirst, but with the drought, what can you do? **Plenty.**

- Place a large bowl or bucket in your kitchen sink to catch the excess water generated when you wash your fruits and veggies...and hands.
- When you change the water bowls for your pets, toss the old water in your plants.
- Use a large storage container to capture those few gallons of cold water that fall from your shower while you wait for it to heat up. Ditto all sinks! Containers are in all of my sinks, shower, and tub, at all times, to use for plants ... and flushing.
- Turn off the water in your sink while you brush your teeth.
- Use dishwashers and clothes washers only when you have a full load.
- Use your imagination!

*Beth—your editor—and Linda Maynard—her friend on Delaware—do these things even when we don't have a drought, and our water bills are about \$12-\$16! Remember the Clarion contest with a prize for whomever could have the lowest water bills? It's easy to conserve water. (Kids, send in your ideas to editor@lakeclaire.org to be published in another issue.)*



## Minutes Of Meetings For Last Two Months

### 1. Summary of the Minutes of Lake Claire's meeting, November 17

The meeting began at 7:15 p.m. with the usual pizza from Savage. Attending: 26 members, 2 guests. All officers were there except Jim Rockaway, Treasurer, Sara Rockaway, Fundraising, and Melissa Pressman, Environment. City representatives: Valencia Hudson from Natalyn Archibong's office; Lieutenant Floyd, APD Zone 6.

Valencia Hudson reported that Lake Claire Park will be discussed at the Urban Design meeting and that a meeting regarding Dekalb Avenue was going on coinciding with the current meeting, and she was leaving our meeting to attend. *Slow Down* signs for residential streets were available. Implementation of stop signs on Clifton Rd. @ Marlbrook was completed this week.

#### LCN officer reports:

**Safety** – Kathie Ryan reported that crime was down and that having the Candler Park/Lake Claire Security Patrol should be considered

a contributing factor.

**NPU** – Carol Holliday updated the variance situation for 545 and 551 Hardendorf Ave. Due to neighborhood persistence, a tree was saved on 551 Hardendorf, but they have a valid demolition permit. Their proposed structure has not yet been approved, and they say they want to work with the neighborhood. Many neighbors attending the Nov. 10 meeting at City Hall to express opposition to the variance request.

**Treasurer's Report** – Jim Rockaway being out of town, Joe Agee reported on finances, totaling about \$9000.

**Education Chair** – Annsley Klehr reminded members that Amendment 1 did not pass. Noted that Westmoreland is running for City Council, and that University Avenue is trying to become a part of Morningside. Reported on Mary Lin's progress to create an outdoor classroom.

**Environment:** Melissa Pressman was absent because she was at the meeting about Park Plans.

The annual election was held, and the entire board (noted on page 1) voted in unanimously.

**Joe (President) mentioned:** LCN/LCCLT joint Arts and Crafts Sale, Sat., Dec. 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Atrium of the Frazer Center. Annual LCN Christmas Potluck dinner, Thurs., Dec. 15 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Atrium of the Frazer Center.

**Robin Singer (zoning):** The variance request presented by Steve and Lesley Johnson, Ridgewood Road, seeking reduction in setback for an addition, to maintain a single-story home, was approved unanimously.

**Officer Floyd:** reported on reduction in crime stats overall, only a few vehicle break-ins, not uncommon for this time of year. Typically more crime during holidays so warned all

to be careful, noting telephones are the most targeted item. Keep blinds down, pay attention to "clean car" suggestions. Also requested donations of toys to Zone 6 Toy Drive (see page 1), and invited all to the event December 17, complete with a horse and helicopter.

Carol Holliday discussed the zoning change request at the October 27 NPU meeting, regarding the properties at 1956, 1960 DeKalb Ave. and 266 Oxford Place, which Lake Claire approved in October (to go from a C-1 designation to a MR-3 designation). The NPU approved it, and the neighborhood is pleased – the City, neighborhoods, and the developer are all in accordance. Carol made a motion that we incorporate the zoning that we approved in October into the comprehensive development plan. It was unanimous.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

### 2. Summary of Minutes from October meeting

*(There wasn't room for this last issue. We will try to include Lake Claire meeting minutes regularly, but if not enough room, we will put them in the first issue following the meeting in which we do have room.)*

The meeting began at 7:15 p.m. 20 members, 3 guests. Officers attending: Kathie Ryan, Safety, Carol Holiday, NPU, Jim Rockaway, Treasurer, Sara Rockaway, Fundraising, Melissa Pressman, Environment, Robin Singer, Zoning, Annsley Klehr, Education Chair. City representatives: Natalyn Archibong, Councilmember, District 5, Lieutenant Floyd, APD Zone 6, Valencia Hudson, Representative for Natalyn Archibong, Otis Threatt, Representative for Caesar Mitchell, Vice President, Atl. City Council. Councilmember Archibong made a special announcement about a \$500,000 grant award for improvements in Lake Claire Park (LCP). Last year she assisted the LCN to obtain a \$40,000 master plan study for LCP, which was necessary for the above type of funding. Members at the meeting expressed their great appreciation for all her efforts on behalf of Lake Claire. Lt. Floyd reported that the crime level in Lake

Claire was down compared to this time last year. He added that his officers are continuing to patrol and keep vigilant. Valencia Hudson reported that implementation of stop signs on Clifton Rd. @Marlbrook was in progress.

Otis Threatt greeted the members on behalf of Councilmember Mitchell and handed out *Slow Down* signs for residential streets.

#### LCN officer reports:

**Safety** – Kathie Ryan also reported that crime was down and that having the Candler Park/Lake Claire Security Patrol should be considered a contributing factor.

**NPU** – Carol Holliday updated the variance situation for 545 Hardendorf Ave. Although the builder requested a second deferral for a hearing at the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA), scheduled for Nov., so far no plans for review have been submitted. Hopefully another deferral will be requested but if not interested neighbors should be prepared to attend the BZA meeting for Thurs., Nov. 10 beginning at 12:00 pm at City Hall to express opposition to the variance request.

**Treasurer's Report** (Jim Rockaway): Our bank accounts at BOND

as of Oct., 2016 were: Mural Fund: \$4,237; Greenspace fund dedicated to improvements for Lake Claire Park: \$3000; LCN Savings acct: \$5,456; LCN Checking acct: \$4,286; Total LCN funds: \$9,742. There are 100 paid-up members as of Oct.

**Education Chair** – Annsley Klehr reminded members about the upcoming election's effect on education.

**Calendar of Lake Claire activities:** Annual Lake Claire Halloween parade, Sat., Oct. 29 starting at 5:00 p.m. at Marlbrook and Ridgewood Ave. Lake Claire Land Trust and LCN Arts and Crafts Sale, Sat., Dec. 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Atrium of the Frazer Center. Annual LCN Christmas Potluck dinner, Thurs., Dec. 15 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Atrium of the Frazer Center. **N.B. This event will take the place of the regular LCN meeting for Dec.** The variance request for 440 Hardendorf Ave. to reduce the side yard setback from 7ft. to 5ft to allow for an addition to a family residence was presented and approved by unanimous vote of 20 in favor. A zoning change request for the properties at 1956, 1960 DeKalb Ave. and 266 Oxford Pl. to go from

a C-1 (Commercial) designation to a MR-3 (Residential) designation was presented and approved by a vote of 18 to 2. The plan includes ten condominiums with a restriction that the height not exceed 35 ft. Carol Holiday will convey the results of the LCN recommendations for the variance and zoning requests at the Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) meeting that takes place a week after the LCN meeting at the Little Five Points Community Center on 1083 Austin Ave. The NPU will meet next on Thurs., Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

The official slate of nominations for LCN officers for 2017 was presented as follows: Jim Rockaway, Treasurer; Nancy Dorsner, Communications; Carol Holliday, Planning and NPU rep.; Melissa Pressman, Environment; Sara Rockaway, Fundraising; Robin Singer, Zoning; Pen Sherwood, Safety (nominated to replace Kathie Ryan); and Joe Agee, President. There were no further nominations for Safety VP nor other offices. **No further nominations can be made after the Oct. meeting.** The next regular LCN meeting will be Thurs., Nov. 17. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

## LCCLT Self-Guided Tour

The Self-Guided Tour was created for the Candler Park Tour of Homes on Oct. 3, which detoured into Lake Claire to include the Land Trust. Ray Pague, a friend of the Trust who is a retired sign maker, had already been working on a map. Genise Spenle conceived the idea of the Tour Guide and compiled the text with help from other long-time Land Trust volunteers. Stephen Wing did the layout and design, and printed and laminated the two double-sided sheets. Five copies were hung on a sign at the Land Trust's front entrance for the visitors. Most of the laminated sets had vanished by the end of the day, no doubt taken by people who just couldn't live without a souvenir to remember the Land Trust by. It is partially reprinted here (due to Clarion space considerations, we had to leave off much history and detail) for anyone who wants to take an annotated walk around the land. Thanks to all who helped! **Please see the Land Trust website for the complete detailed tour guide with omitted material.**

1. **New LCCLT Gate.** Left – Address Mosaic (270 Arizona Ave.) Mailbox for membership forms and donations as well as U.S. mail. Peace Garden, four beds divided by paths in shape of peace sign.

2. **Right – Bulletin board,** available to the community for posting info and announcements. See left-hand section (under plexiglass) for Land Trust info. Help yourself to a brochure. Left – Wood chip pile, donated by tree-removal companies, available to the community in small quantities for free, or by the pickup-load for a nominal donation..

3. **Path downhill to left** leads to new Pollinator Bed, Dekalb Gardens, wooden Compost Bins from Terra Nova Compost Workshop; Nelms Ave. Farm and Bee Hives at end of path on right. Farm currently used by "Dads & Uncles" mentoring program for youth. Ongoing project: nontoxic clearing of weeds on Dekalb Ave. embankment (left of path), planting of native grasses/flowers/trees with Trees Atlanta and landscape architect and neighbor Leah Pine.

4. **Main Path, right** – Well Housing, small wooden structure behind shrubbery; well drilled 500 ft. down into granite substrate. Left – Path Gardens. Solar Panel powers pump 100 ft. down in well, pumping water to 1600-gallon holding tank to irrigate gardens (see #9). Rain Water Catchment Tower at end of gardens.

5. **Right – Restroom,** free magazines (donated), LCCLT brochures & calendar postcards available.

6. **Left – Playground and Big Gazebo** – pot-lucks, annual July 4 Cook-Off, Pumpkin Carving, Easter Egg hunt. Fresh sand added several times a year. Rain Barrels along fence catch water from roof of Stage (#7) to irrigate Dekalb Ave. gardens below (#3).

7. **Left – Stage, amphitheater and fire pit;** performances, movies, Drum Circles (1st & 3rd Sat. nights each month since 1990), music festival fundraisers, weddings

8. **Right – Olympic Shed,** built for 1996 Olympics campground as two-hole outhouse, revamped into storage shed for festival supplies.

9. **Left – Sunset Overlook,** at highest point on the land with view of downtown skyline, deck built to cover 1600-gallon water tank for gravity-fed irrigation for all gardens. Upper circle; festival vendors, fire performers for Drum Circles.

10. **Right – Japanese Meditation Garden**

11. **Left – Gorilla Grill;** food & drink service area for events. In winter, heated by small woodstove, also used for neighborhood Friday night jams, classes & meetings.

12. **At rear fence – Little Gazebo,** included in purchase of Greenfield from neighbor & founding trustee Richard Powers and his wife Joanne Young-Powers.

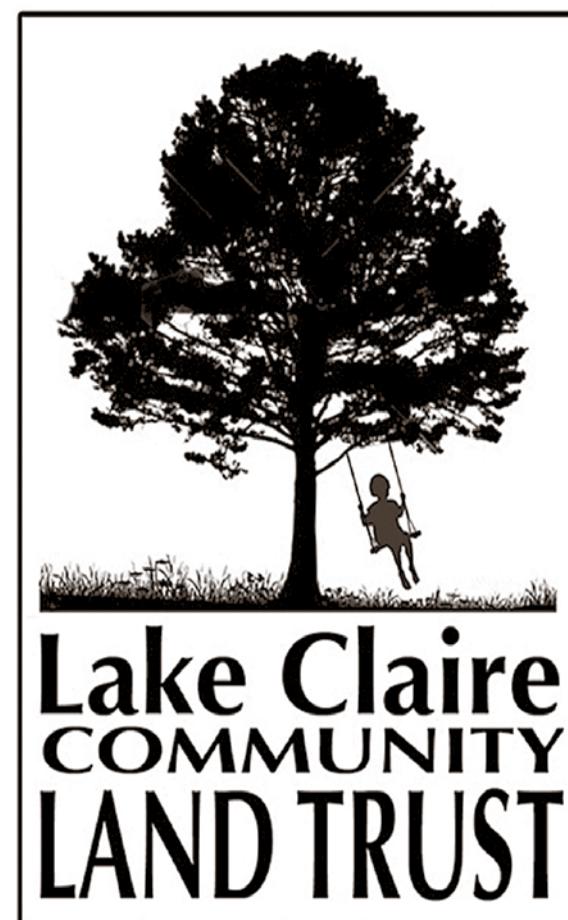
13. **Right (down sloping switchback path) – Sauna;** open supervised Sweat ceremonies (Native American tradition filtered through personal spirituality of Robert Pue; for donation, showers; beyond are more individual gardens.

14. **Left – The Meadow,** also called Peace Pond Overlook.

15. **Right – Big Lou the Emu** (resident since 1993); lives in neighboring yard with two male mallards, Eddie & Aidan; fed twice daily by emu-keeper Dawn Aura. Loves visitors, hates barking dogs, yelling kids, etc. Feed him snacks (grapes, bite-size vegetables & fruit, corn chips). Please leave if you see him getting agitated!

16. **Through gate & across bridge, left – Peace Pond,** purchased from neighbors and founding trustees Norman Glassman and Marilyn Rosenberg.

17. **Right – Pond Gardens,** another individual gardens area.





# 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 MIRA D'AGOSTINO, 7 years old and a

2nd grader at Mary Lin, from Connecticut Avenue. Thank you, Mira!! Hey there, Lake Claire kids, let's hear from more of you—we want your creativ-

ity on this page. Submit articles, poetry, drawings, your original puzzles, etc., to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org). We'd love to hear from you.

## Lake Claire Kids Invited to Nutcracker

Hi. My name is Mira D'Agostino. I am 7 years old and in second grade at Mary Lin Elementary. I live on Connecticut Avenue. In December, I am going to be in the Nutcracker ballet with my dance studio, called Dance Foundry. You might not have heard of it before because it is very new it was built in August 2016, but my teachers are my same teachers from where I used to dance. Last year I was a sugar plum attendant, but this year I am something new.

I am so excited for it, and of course I definitely know that you would like to hear who I am going to be in the ballet! I am going to be a snow bunny! I am going to wear a white leotard with a white tutu and fuzzy mitten paws and bunny ears.

I hope you come to the show. It is at Decatur High School on December 3. Here is a picture of me trying on a sample of the bunny ears and some fuzzy paws.



## Facts About Fairies—Part I

by Layla Klehr and Malori Switzer

Hi! Our names are Layla Klehr and Malori Switzer. We are fairy house builders. This is what you can use to build a fairy house: You can collect sticks, rocks, and other things in nature. You gather sticks, and you put the sticks together one at a time to make it look like a log cabin. Leave the roof off so that the fairies can fly in and out. The house is tiny, because fairies are very tiny. Fairies will come if they know you haven't set up a trap and know you are friendly. You have to believe in fairies for them to be real. You can't see the fairies, because they are secret. You know that the fairies have come to the house only if you put out food, and then it's all gone! Fairies don't live in the houses you build. They only come visiting.

There are all different kinds of fairies: Christmas Fairies, Star Fairies, Luck Fairies, Animal Fairies, and more.

The fairy of the week is Lacey the Little Mermaid Fairy. She has a mermaid tail and fairy wings. She can swim underwater and fly in the air. She has a magic object that protects the fairytale characters in her fairytale, The Little Mermaid. If Lacey doesn't have her magical object, then all the characters in her story will go to the human world and can't return until she gets it back. Lacey lives in a mushroom cottage in Fairyland where all the fairies live. You can visit her there if you have fairy dust.

*\*Note: These fairies are based on the Rainbow Magic (book) Series by Daisy Meadows.*

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

Malori Switzer, age 12, and Layla Klehr, age 7½, together found the hidden turkey from November's issue. Malori is in the 7th grade at Inman Middle. She said her ultimate name is the Iron Curtain, and that she is interested in social studies. Layla is in the 2nd grade at Mary Lin, and says she loves to read, loves fairies,

and has a kitten named Stormy. The extra credit prize, which is to write something for the Clarion, was offered if folks told us some things for which they are thankful. Layla says she is thankful for family, food, and friends. Malori says she's thankful for her family. For their prize, they wrote the piece on Fairies (at right).



## NEW CONTEST

It's DECEMBER – and the first things many of us think of are holidays! Christmas isn't the only holiday.

Somewhere in this issue, find the Kwanzaa graphic. The winner will have your picture in the next Clarion. To win, send an e-mail to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org) telling us the page number. (Extra credit if you tell us 3 or more different holidays that come in December—then you may write or draw something for a subsequent Clarion!) **Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.**