



Atlanta's Tree Canopy

by Miriam Herbers

Atlanta is frequently called the "City in a Forest." The most recent canopy data available shows 48% of the City of Atlanta is covered by tree canopy. We know this to be a reduction from earlier decades, and the robust economic and development growth in our city continue to threaten our canopy coverage. The group Trees Atlanta celebrates Atlanta's success while advocating for smart growth. Mayor Reed has committed to "no net canopy loss" for the city.

Trees Atlanta wants to inform concerned residents on the state of the canopy in the City of Atlanta and their own neighborhoods. The majority of the tree canopy is on private property. By signing the Atlanta Canopy Alliance Pledge, we can make a direct impact on our neighborhood and urban forest.

The pledge says: I promise to support:

1. Funding for the planting and care of new trees with Atlanta's urban forest;
2. Preservation of existing forested urban land for the benefit and enjoyment of all Atlanta residents;
3. Educational programs that develop citizens into skilled and knowledgeable stewards of the urban forest;
4. Adoption and enforcement of beneficial tree ordinance updates that positively impact the protection of urban trees.

Pledges were available to sign at the February Lake Claire Neighbors meeting but can also be signed by going to www.treesatlanta.org/pledge. The goal is to get as many as possible signed and delivered to the city.

Here are ways you can make a direct impact today:



1. Plant a native shade tree in your yard.

2. Work with your neighbors to water, prune, and care for your community's trees properly.

3. Remove English ivy and other invasive plants from your yard. Plant native wildflowers in their place.

4. Send an email to your city council member: tell him or her you want to protect our canopy and want support of initiatives that promote the preservation of our urban trees.

5. Attend your neighborhood, zoning, and NPU meetings, and speak up in support of trees.

6. Become more aware of your rights to protect your community's trees (see atlantatreecommission.com): call the City Arborists immediately if trees are being removed without permits. Report infractions. You have rights to appeal and petition pending tree removal believed to be in conflict with the Municipal Tree Protection Ordinance.

At a future Lake Claire meeting, a representative will talk to us about the new tree ordinance and give us suggestions of ways to advocate for trees that are at risk from developers. The city planning department may deny a permit, but citizens can help the too few city arborists by knowing the law and calling if we think something is not right.

Animal Killing Contest Sponsored by State Agency

by Carol Vanderschaaf

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources-Wildlife Resources Division announced at the end of February the "Georgia Coyote Challenge," in an attempt to reduce Georgia coyote numbers. Each coyote killed, up to five (5) a month per hunter/trapper (!), will earn "an entry into a monthly drawing for a lifetime license (or equal credit for purchase of hunting/fishing licenses)." This is terrible news, on so many levels. The Atlanta Coyote Project strongly rejects "this wildlife killing contest as both inhumane and unwise." The Coyote Project notes that "for a state agency whose mission is to sustain, enhance, protect, and conserve Georgia's natural, historic and cultural resources to sponsor such a program is reprehensible." The "Challenge" is to begin in March, and it coincides with the start of the rearing season

of the young. At this time, both mother and father coyote are involved in feeding the babies at the den and so are easier to be killed by participants in this "contest." In the wake of their parents' deaths the pups are left to starve to death in the dens. Feedback in regard to this "Challenge" can be emailed to georgiawildlife.com/InformationRequest, and from there it will be forwarded to the proper person. Also, find State representatives and senators here: openstates.org/find_your_legislator. Mark Williams is the Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources. His Atlanta phone number is **404-656-0188**. Both senate and house have Natural Resource committees, which can be found on their respective websites.

See p.3 for more about coyotes.

Local Group Works to Inform and Keep Georgia Safe

by Hobart Stocking

Answer quickly, how far from a nuclear generating plant do you live? Most people don't know. But most people understand in a visceral way what it means after the Fukushima disaster in Japan.

A small local group has made it their mission to inform and attempt to keep Georgians safe from that kind of calamity—like the one that forced 300,000 people to flee Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania. That group is **Nuclear Watch South**, championing the opposition to nuclear power

since 1977.

Its coordinator, Decatur resident Glenn Carroll, explains, "One of our primary missions is to educate people. On the sixth anniversary of the Fukushima disaster, March 11 at 2 p.m. we are having an educational event and a premiere showing of the new film *Containment*. The film explores the deep complexity of nuclear waste disposal, and focuses on two nuclear containment facilities—one

Cont. on p. 15

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries:

Just like Spring, Clifton is Set to Blossom!

by Leslie Prince

And much of the new growth is due to YOU!!!! New growth in terms of programming, new growth in terms of volunteers, and new growth in terms of lives transformed! There is no transitional housing program in Atlanta that is as loved by its neighbors as much as is Clifton by Lake Claire, and we love you right back.

We are thrilled to report that, in 2016, the positive outcome rate achieved by the Clifton men was the

highest that it's ever been! Due to the great work by our staff and the love from our neighbors and volunteers, **76% of our guests achieved a positive outcome**, which we define as independent living, employment, reunification with family, or other appropriate long-term residential programs.

The news keeps getting better... last Spring, Bryan Davis, our Lake Claire liaison to the Clifton Board,

reported at a LCN meeting that Clifton had been chosen by Home Aid, the non-profit arm of the Greater Atlanta Homebuilders Association, as their upgrade and remodel project for 2016/2017. It seemed too good to be true. But we had to raise \$70K just to get started.....that seemed insurmountable.

But guess what??? **We did it!** Thanks to our partner churches, Cont. on p. 2

Highlights of this issue

2 Calendar

4 Security Report

5 Education

8-9 Kids' Corner

11 Gardening & Wild in LC

16 LC Land Trust

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

Lake Claire Officers for 2016

President: Joe Agee, president@lakeclaire.org
 VP Finance & Treasurer:
 Jim Rockaway, treasurer@lakeclaire.org
 VP Planning & NPU Rep:
 Carol Holliday, npu@lakeclaire.org
 VP Zoning: Robin Singer, zoning@lakeclaire.org
 VP Environment: Melissa Pressman,
environment@lakeclaire.org
 VP Safety: Pen Sherwood, safety@lakeclaire.org
 VP Communications: Nancy Dorsner, comm@lakeclaire.org
 VP Fun(d)raising: Sara Rockaway, fun@lakeclaire.org
 Education Liaison: Annsley Klehr, education@lakeclaire.org

Clarion Staff

Editor: Beth Damon, editor@lakeclaire.org
 Advertising: Pat Del Rey,
advertising@lakeclaire.org
 Distribution: Alicia McGill,
distribution@lakeclaire.org
 Layout: Roshan Antia & Véronique Perrot,
layout@lakeclaire.org
 Contact Lake Claire Neighbors at PO Box 5942,
 Atlanta, GA 31107, 404-236-9526 or
www.lakeclaire.org

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.

MARCH 2017

1-5 The world premiere of "Sweep," by Georgina Escobar, ending March 5—Aurora Theatre, "Multiverse" hit women, Luna and Siri, are armed with deadly broomsticks, sweeping the world's mistakes into oblivion one human flaw at a time. www.thebluebirdpatch.com/2017/02/sweep-world-premiere-to-play-aurora

3 Mary Lin Parents Happy Hour, 5-8 p.m., Biergarten @ the Wrecking Bar (fundraiser—\$45/couple, \$22 individual; you get 2 drink tickets and free munchies). 292 Moreland Avenue, L5P.

4 & 18 (1st and 3rd Saturday Nights) Lake Claire Land Trust Drum Circle—Sunset to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Bring friends! Please help spread the word. The Drum Circles are the Land Trust's gift to our community, but your donations help keep it going.

4 (First Friday in March) National Day of *Unplugging!*

5 Annual Purim Parade & Festival, always a fun Atlanta event. Sunday 11 a.m. Parade, and 12-3 p.m. Festival, at Beth Jacob Synagogue on La Vista. Moon Bounce, face painting, fab food, music—Dixie Swing, The Tea Cups. Information: BethJacobAtlanta.org/Purim-Parade-Festival.

11 Purim starts at sundown. Purim, one of the most joyous days of the Jewish year, is celebrated by dressing in costume, sharing food, and reading the Book of Esther. See March 5 above, and *chag sameach!*

11 2 p.m. – Nuclear Watch South educational event and a premiere showing of the new film Containment. See article on page 1.

11 Bird-banding program in Deepdene (see article herein)

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

15 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.

16 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!**)

18—April 16 Actors Express presents *The Legend of Georgia McBride* by Matthew Lopez. The Actors Express is a great theatre company located in West Midtown's King Plow Arts Center, a sprawling complex converted from a former plow factory. www.actors-express.com

19 Garden Designing/Beautification with Equinox celebration, at the Land Trust, see p. 16 (back page)

23-25 Grady High School Drama presents *Les Misérables*. Vincent Murray Theatre, 7 p.m., see p. 5. gradydrama.com

25 Bacon Fest at Dad's Garage, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., 569 Ezzard St., off Edgewood Ave., in Old 4th Ward, www.baconfestatl.com

25 Deepdene workday. Krispy Kreme doughnuts and coffee for the volunteers. (See article herein.)

Things to do anytime that you may not think about: Jimmy Carter Museum has interesting exhibits—
www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov

Shakespeare Tavern (Mar 3-26, *Much Ado About Nothing*), www.shakespearetavern.com

And of course, Fernbank, including "Extreme Weather 3D," www.fernbankmuseum.org

See atlantaplanit.wabe.org includes a section on "free stuff."

LASTLY, coming next month: Mark calendars for Sunday, April 9, Land Trust Community Work Day.

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

Coming to the Frazer Center

by Dan Watson

Experience that certain *je ne sais quoi* of "April in Paris" during the Frazer Center's annual fundraiser, Goodness in the Gardens, coming up in April. Indulge in some of Atlanta's best food and libations (French-inspired *bien sûr!*), live jazz, and a bountiful auction. You'll enjoy a memorable night at the official public debut of the newly redesigned Cator Woolford Gardens and all for a great cause!

Help us raise \$75,000 for Frazer's

programs—such as inclusion services for children and employment support for adults—during this celebratory night in the Gardens.

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, April 29, 6:00-6:30 p.m. VIP Reception; 6:30-10:00 p.m. Main Event. All takes place a hop, skip, and a jump from Lake Claire, at 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Ave. For more information on this and other Frazer Center news, see www.goodnessinthegardens.org.

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

Continued from page 1.

generous volunteers, and wonderful foundations in our community, we have reached the \$85K mark, and remodeling will begin soon—we're still in campaign mode and have \$40K to go, but we've reached the first milestone! Not surprisingly, our first donation to this effort was given by one of our Lake Claire neighbors. This project will allow us to stand for years and years to come, as well as make our home more beautiful, just like the rest of our Lake Claire neighbors.

Lake Claire, we thank you so much for loving us all year long and being a key part of our success. Seriously, it

really wouldn't happen without you! **Please help write the next chapter in the great story that is Clifton Sanctuary Ministries.** We're hoping that you will invest in this important transformation that is taking place right in your neighborhood. To do so, you can simply visit our website (www.cliftonsanctuary.com) and donate online, or of course you can drop a check by the house on the corner of McLendon and Connecticut Avenues.

Thank you, in advance, for your thoughtfulness, love, and tremendous acts of kindness.

Deepdene Cleaned Up to Be More Bird Friendly

by Kai Artley Nathaniel



The end of January is much too late for red-and-green decorations to be on display, and neighborhood volunteers worked to cure Deepdene Park of its inappropriate color scheme by removing nandinas and other invasive plants to make the park more welcoming for birds.

Twenty-seven volunteers worked on Saturday, Jan. 28, to create a more bird-friendly habitat in the 22-acre park along Ponce de Leon Avenue. Guided by Walter Bond, a local plant expert, the work crews targeted the red-berried nandinas, the waxy-leafed cherry laurels, and the spiky mahonias. "If the cleanup isn't done, the forest becomes unhealthy, and the wildlife can't thrive," said Sandy Kruger, the executive director of the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA). "It's a circle of life, and if you don't have the diversity of wildlife and plant life, the forest becomes a scary place full of English ivy and privet."

The volunteers gave the nandinas special attention. While the nandina is a very festive looking plant during the holiday season, the bright red berries contain a toxin harmful to birds. The plant also easily spreads through the forest, choking out the younger beech, poplar, and oak trees. The volunteers dug up the nandinas by the roots and then stripped the bushes of the berries. The berries were carefully collected and placed in recycled plastic grocery sacks.

The neighborhood volunteers were joined by the Werewolf den of Cub Scout Pack 586. The ten second-grade boys were very adept at destroying the invasive plants. "Cub scouts are very good at park clean-ups because we work so well together as a team," said Oliver Grosse of McLendon Avenue. One of the Werewolves got a nasty rash on his hands from handling either poison ivy or poison oak while not wearing his work gloves.

OLPA organized the clean-up as part of a grant program from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Deepdene is one of three parks in the metro area selected by the Atlanta Audubon Society to be part of the bird habitat restoration program.

"The birds we are trying to help are brown-headed nuthatches, red-tail hawks, Carolina chickadees, black-throated green warblers, golden crowned kinglets, and pile-ated woodpeckers," said Kruger. The grant also encourages educational programs. OLPA hosted a bird walk through Deepdene on Feb. 25, and will host a bird-banding demonstration on **March 11**. The bird-banding program will help researchers study the native bird populations. Another work day is scheduled for **March 25**, and Kruger said that here will again be Krispy Kreme doughnuts and coffee for the volunteers.

Kai Artley Nathaniel is eight years old as of March 8 and a member of Cub Scout Pack 586.

Cathy Woolard, My Choice for Atlanta's New Mayor

by Pat Del Rey

Cathy Woolard represents Lake Claire, which is in District 6, as a member of the Atlanta City Council. I hope I can convey my overwhelming enthusiasm for Cathy as mayor. Her spirit and values are perfect for this position. Cathy considers all of Atlanta citizens of the city as she plans and makes decisions, and she is so smart and well-connected, having been in city government for so long. In 1998 she was elected to the Atlanta City Council to represent District 6. She subsequently served as city council president from 2002 to 2004. Now, as the former Lake Claire representative and resident, she is running to be Atlanta's next mayor.

As a city council member, Woolard increased funding for sidewalks, and as chair of the transportation committee, she oversaw the expansion of Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, which had just become the busiest airport in the world. Woolard also personally led the Atlanta City Council to pass what is still the only comprehensive civil rights bill in the state of Georgia, protecting all Atlanta residents and visitors from discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations.

As president of the Atlanta City Council, Woolard championed the Atlanta BeltLine, a project transforming abandoned rail-corridors circling the city into mixed-use recreational trails. She founded the "Dirty Dozen," a pilot program to fix the worst code violations in the city to improve neglected neighborhoods. She also made sustainability a priority, and

her Energy Conservation Program cut emissions while saving the city's facilities more than \$470,000.



Woolard decided to enter the 2017 mayor's race citing the need for better transportation options (including the development of the Atlanta BeltLine), a diverse range of housing options for all city residents, and a more ethical and transparent City Hall.

Woolard has a vision of Atlanta as a truly great city—a city that is dynamic, growing, and yet mindful of what makes it unique and special. She has the values and experience to make that vision a reality.

If you would like to learn more about Cathy Woolard and her mayoral campaign, visit her website at www.cathyforatlanta.com.

She has my vote!

The Atlanta mayoral elections will be held on November 7, and numerous candidates have already declared their intent to succeed Mayor Kasim Reed, who is term-limited.

More About Coyotes

The coyote killing contest which is to begin in March is ill advised and inhumane. Removing coyotes does not reduce their population over the long term. In fact, the number of coyotes will increase as competition for resources is reduced. And, coyote populations will not increase beyond the carrying capacity of an area. So, they will not over populate, as some other species may do. Recent studies in South Carolina show that coyotes have minimal impact on deer populations. However, they do feed on rats, mice, and other small rodents. Without coyotes, these prey populations would increase. The reason that coyotes now thrive in the southeast is that we removed wolves from this area.

Each impact on a species has consequences. We often don't recognize this impact until sometime in the future. Coyotes have been in Georgia for decades and are here to stay regardless of these "contests." The pups will be left slowly to starve to death. Would you want to watch a domestic dog's pups slowly starve to death? This contest also teaches people that it is ok to hold contests about killing life. In this case, there is no purpose to the contest, as these dead coyotes will not be used for food, clothing, etc. **Why do we want to teach people that senseless killing is ok?**

~ Linda Potter, Assistant Director, AWARE Wildlife Center, www.awarewildlife.org



CANDLER PARK / LAKE CLAIRE PATROL

More Detail on the CPLC Patrol

In each Clarion, when we give you the Atlanta Police Department's statistics for Lake Claire, we put the little reminder in the paragraph on this page that includes information on joining the CPLC security patrol, but some folks might not be familiar with the Security Patrol that we share with Candler Park (CP). At its core, the CPLC Patrol is for the betterment of our two adjoining neighborhoods, including improving our quality of life in two of Atlanta's few truly walkable communities. Lake Claire and Candler Park make up the entirety of the Atlanta Police Department's Beat 608. Our patrol provides policing to fill the gap in police presence from the City of Atlanta.

The reality is, the City of Atlanta does not have person-power or funds to protect our neighborhoods completely. Many of our surrounding neighborhoods (e.g., Inman Park, Virginia Highland, Druid Hills, Kirkwood, Edgewood, East Lake, Cabbagetown, Reynoldstown, Old Fourth Ward, Grant Park, East Atlanta, Morningside) have realized the need for supplementing policing via neighborhood security patrols. While a security patrol can never stop all crime, it does provide a visible deterrent and results in a measurable decrease in crimi-

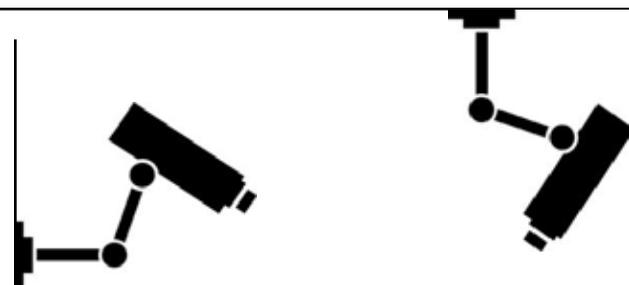
nal activity. So, the Patrol proactively fights crime, by helping to prevent crime.

Each off-duty APD officer is in full uniform, in a highly visible vehicle, and has the authority to make arrests. The Patrol creates a link between the police and our communities. It also supplements our neighborhood watch program. Together these two initiatives provide the most comprehensive security for our neighborhoods.

Members of CPLC Patrol are provided yard signs noting protection and with the phone number for patrolling officers. They may contact the patrolling officers directly while they are on their shifts. As mentioned each month in the Clarion also, members of CPLC Patrol may request Vacation Patrol, whereby an officer will monitor your home while you are away.

Dues may be paid or renewed at: www.cplcpatrol.com. The costs are \$200 per household or single family, \$100 for seniors 65 and over.

Remember, the CPLC Patrol does not replace the Atlanta Police Department. The Patrol supplements the APD's regular police coverage. Always call 911 first if you see something suspicious or to report a crime.



Lake Claire Security Report

November 13 – December 24
(6-week period)

Theft from Vehicle:

300 block Matthews Ave. 11/15 – Street parking. Unlocked. Taken: Handgun, 200 Rounds of Ammo, 5 Gun Magazines, Go Pro Camera, Computer, Cash.

500 block Lakeshore Dr. 11/29 – Street parking. Taken: Handgun.

2000 block Palifox Dr. 11/30 – Street parking. Taken: Book bag, Laptop.

400 block Harold Ave. 12/6 – Street parking. Taken loose change. Window broken.

400 block Claire Dr. 12/17 – Street parking. Taken Gym bag, clothing, later found nearby, window broken.

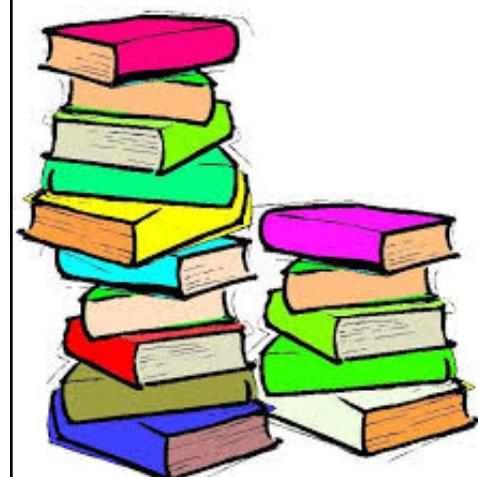
Auto Theft:

400 block Lakeshore Dr. 12/17 Street Parking. Stolen 2000 Toyota Avalon. May have left car unlocked with spare key in armrest.

Crime reports and statistics from CPLC Patrol: from Oct 2014-2015 = 307 incidents; from Oct. 2015- 2016 = 164 incidents = 40% drop in 1 year. Please sign up or renew. Vacation patrol may be of interest/useful; the patrol will come and check your home regularly. And join www.nextdoor.com, which includes up-to-date security information from your neighbors. Remember the "Clean Car Campaign" (leave cars free of belongings that could tempt thieves to break in).



Decatur-based Friends School of Atlanta offers a diverse, values-driven and innovative program, combining extraordinary academics with wide-ranging co-curricular opportunities. For more information about upcoming Open House events or to schedule a tour, please visit friendsschoolatlanta.org or call us at 404.373.8746.



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

State of the Grady Cluster

by Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Neighbors Education Chair

APS Superintendent Meria Carstarphen addressed a roomful of interested shareholders, parents, teachers, and those in the Grady Community on February 8 at Inman Middle School.

Carstarphen showed timelines of the projected Grady Cluster Renovations and costs. A design committee will consist of school principal, architect, associate superintendent, PTA representative (up to 2), facilities rep, GO TEAM rep (up to 2), school board representative, school faculty rep, project manager, and community member (e.g., NPU rep.). The timeline shows:

Jan. 2017: Walden athletic fields design

Mar. 2017: Howard Middle School design

Oct. 2017–June 2018: Construction of Walden Fields

May 2018: Grady High Designs

Aug. 2018 – July 2020: Howard Middle

Jan. 2020 – July 2021: Grady Expansion

Feb. 2021 – July 2022: Morningside Construction

Carstarphen answered all questions herself, showing her wittiness by teasing to take away mics from those asking challenging or contentious questions, with a continuous smile. If she did not know something, she admitted it or said, “I don’t want to overpromise and under-deliver.” Here are a few Q&As from the evening (the Q & As reflect the conversations as I could record them. I have tried to be as accurate as possible.):

Q: Where are the Grady portables going to go?

A: (Using a map) Locating as many as possible along Charles Allen, the front of the school.

Q: What about recent annexations? What are your projections? A grade might be moved out of Morningside for more space?

A: Ideas are authentic and come from the community. Whatever we consider will be a safe place. In over-crowded situations, you start with the earliest grade, because they haven’t been in school yet (i.e., Kindergarten might be pulled out of Morningside to relieve over-crowding, but where to move is still up in the air). We zoned the annexations to SPARK, because they had space. I talk to governing boards of schools, PTAs, leadership teams, and make them aware of plans before any decisions. That’s the practice, which I’ll continue. I’m not zoning folks to Morningside, because it’s simply over-crowded.

A (Principal of Morningside): We’ve seen growth in every grade, and our smallest group is 5th grade, which is leaving. All other grades have about 150-160 students. We have seven kindergartens with 21-22 kids in each class.

Q: Think instead, not how far we have to go, but how far we’ve come. In the near future, we have city elections; the city needs to take ownership, not control of school systems. We should look at the Civic Center Site for an APS magnet high school, which is accessible by MARTA and would relieve capacity at Grady. Also, the Beltline owes the school system and has property in Piedmont Park. Put the Grady annex there. We have to create a template for success for the rest of the district, because we embrace diversity.

A: Civic Center would only sell a portion of the land. We’re not going to go there again. We have a task

force for surplus property headed up by Courtney English. I want to wait a little longer while we’re still getting stronger with our partners. Some of it is horse trading—we want this—we get that. Based on the growth and patterns, we’re looking to find out what’s most valuable for the district. We can raise these questions with our task force.

Q: Mary Lin construction seems never done, and the principal had to be the contractor. Frustrating. How can we assure construction [for the Grady Expansion] gets done on this timeline? What is the penalty in place for contractors who don’t come through?

A: There are penalties in the contract. At Mary Lin, everything that could go wrong did. It was the worst project ever! It was the first time we used that contractor in APS. They will never get business from us again. APS is trying better to learn and listen and shape that. It has to work the other way, too [from the parent end].

Q: All theatre equipment was new to Grady in 1985 and due for replacement in 2005. In 2004 Grady was renovated, and we didn’t replace it. [Reading] we have \$11 million for facility needs, and on the building assessment report in 2014, there are over \$20 million things needing replacements, not enhancements.

A: “It [the renovation] is not going to fix it. We’ll be lucky to get something over \$4 million. I have to get through what we’ve (this board and commission) committed [to Grady Cluster] in a quality way. If you want \$20 million for this building, I can’t have all these empty ones. We need to consolidate. Other schools now say, “We don’t want a new school, we

just want you to stop messing with us.” How we market this to other clusters as to who gets the SPLOST is huge, so please be thankful for what you have.”



Meria Carstarphen

Other questions were about concerns on the quality of substitute teachers; Carstarphen said she’ll look into it. There were questions about making mixed use development with the high school. Carstarphen reiterated it’s all about the conversations, and if we want to have that conversation we can, or we can just start the project at hand. There were questions about the relations of the City of Atlanta and the Board of Education (BOE) in light of the annexations. The BOE made it clear that they have little control, so please bring this up to your City of Atlanta representatives and make this issue known to those running for office.

If you are interested in the Powerpoint with numbers and costs, and additional FAQs the BOE handed out, please email Annsley Klehr at education@lakeclaire.org.

Grady Arts Presents

Les Misérables

Directed by Jake Dreiling

Performed entirely by students
A musical by ALAIN BOUBLIL and CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHONBERG
Based on the novel by VICTOR HUGO
Music by CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHONBERG
Lyrics by HERBERT KRETZMER

March 23,24,25
7 P.M.
\$8 Students,
\$12 Adults
Tickets: gradydrama.com
Murray Theater,
Grady HS

Inman Middle—Pennies for Patients

Inman’s Beta Club is excited to announce that we more than tripled our Pennies for Patients goal by raising nearly \$4,700 to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society! You may still donate at inmanmiddleschool.org.

Thanks for Paying Your Neighborhood Dues

Lake Claire dues payers so far in 2017 are: Beth Radtke, Melissa Pressman, Annsley Klehr, Martha Loring; Adam Ross, Quitin Thomas; Christopher Covington; Natalia Rogovin; Chad Durham; Kristin Byars, Sue McAvoy, Kathie Ryan, Miriam Herbers, and Jane Merkle.

Thanks, all of you. We appreciate your support of our many wonderful neighborhood initiatives, including green spaces, worthy organizations, and fun events...Lake Claire annual dues are \$20/year per household—or what you can afford—just like with National Public Radio, any amount is certainly appreciated. And remember, you can receive a Lake Claire Banner package deal for \$50.00 if combined with annual dues!

Let's get the checkbooks and mobile phones out. You may pay your dues at any time of the year, but the Clarion recommends paying at the first of the year...that is, **now**—and in exchange, we put your name in print! If we have missed anyone who paid your dues and hasn't been noted in the Clarion, please be sure to let us know, as we are happy to include you next time. Pay by PayPal at lakeclaire.org or the old-fashioned check in the mail, to LCN, Attn: Jim Rockaway, Treasurer, PO Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107.



VIOLIN/VIOLA lessons with experienced teacher in Lake Claire. Call Lynn at 404/377-6310.

Southern Fiction, by Alice Bliss. Available at aliceblissatlanta.wordpress.com

ADVERTISE YOUR COMPANY OR SERVICE IN THE CLARION

to promote your business in the Lake Claire neighborhood and the CP/LC business district. Go to our website for pricing information, or contact our advertising coordinator at advertising@lakeclaire.org. Thank you

NEW

LLC

Neal & Wright LLC

Your Family...Your Business...

Your Firm!



Visit our website at www.nealandwright.com

- * Adoption
- * Commercial Real Estate
- * Wills & Estate Planning
- * Corporate & LLC Formation
- * Other Business Legal Services

Sherry Neal, J.D.
Sherry@nealandwright.com

Dan Wright, J.D.
Dan@nealandwright.com

Jodi Greenberg, J.D.
Jodi@nealandwright.com

125 E. Trinity Place, Suite 300
Decatur, GA 30030
(404) 257-6494

DUE(S) YOUR PART FOR 2017

How? Mail a check for \$20 to Lake Claire Neighbors, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107, OR go to www.lakeclaire.org/lcn/members.htm

Why? Help your neighborhood association clean up greenspaces, install signs, support initiatives, have great parties, and support deserving causes

Thanks to Lake Claire neighbors who have already paid 2017 dues



PARK REALTY

JOHN MORGAN

Putting People Before Sales

YOUR LISTING HERE

Now in the heart of our neighborhood to serve you better than ever!

Come visit us at
1651 McLendon Ave NE,
across from Candler Park Market

Call for a free pre-selling
consultation and market analysis

JOHN MORGAN
Phone: 770-655-9423
Email: jmorgan@parkrealtyatlanta.com

Like our facebook page for more information about neighborhood events and other exciting news:
<https://www.facebook.com/parkrealtyatlanta/>



Lake Claire Park Progress

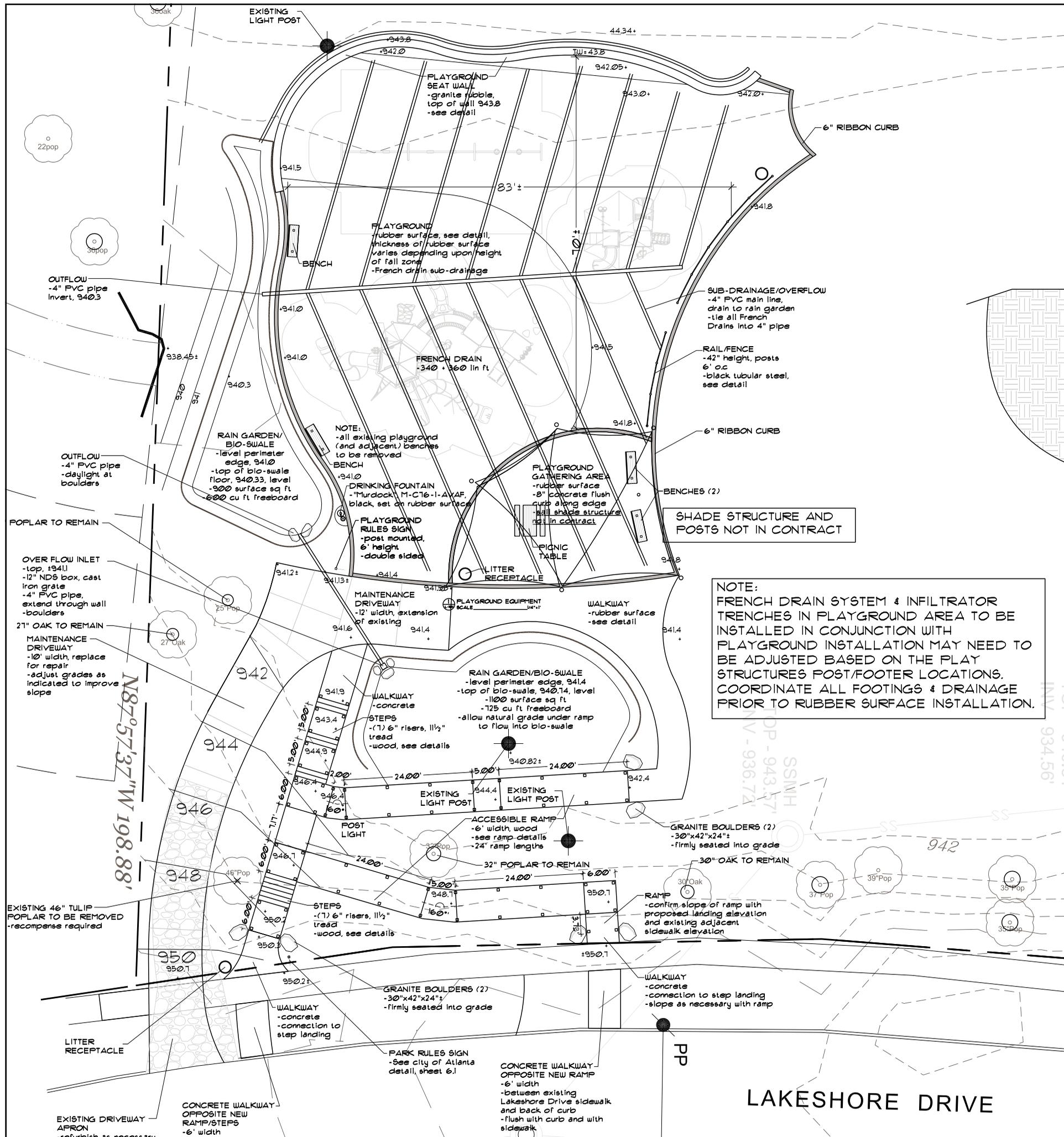
by Judy Hammack

Lake Claire Park playground renovation has progressed! Brightly colored playground equipment and a beautifully curved granite wall are rising out of the muddy field. New steps along with an ADA compliant entrance are taking shape off the Lakeshore hillside. Freshly planted sugar maple trees adorn the west perimeter, and new plantings dot

the Lakeshore side as well. Care has been taken to save plants from the Allison Barnett Rain Garden for future replanting in the bio-swale. Rain, shine, or holiday, the work continues. Below is a construction drawing indicating the current scope of work. There are plenty more features yet to rise. So bring your drawing, take a stroll down to Lake

Claire Park, and check out our progress! Hope to see you in the park!

Judy Hammack, Friends of Lake Claire Park, may be reached at: judyhammack@gmail.com



"Vision is the art of seeing things invisible." ~ Paul Klee. With that in mind, this is an updated construction drawing for the renovation at Lake Claire Park. I received it Friday, so I no longer have to trot around the three-year-old park redesign document. This drawing indicates the current scope of work. Even though the mud sometimes appears to be winning these days, maybe this will help us all envision what will be. Thanks for supporting Friends of Lake Claire Park! See you in the park! Judy Hammack



LAKE CLAIRE

We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers/writers/artists to participate. This month, Layla Klehr contributed another article on fairies, and Latha Wright drew an innovative comic strip. Elsewhere in this issue (see pages 3 and 13), Kai Nathaniel wrote two articles.

Latha is 10 years old, in the 5th grade at Mary Lin, and loves to write and draw comics. She has been drawing comic

strips and illustrating storylines for quite some time, and this one is the first one in her "Q.T. Kitten" series.

Layla Klehr, age 7½, is in the 2nd grade at Mary Lin, and she loves to read and loves fairies. This is Layla's 3rd piece on fairies in the Clarion, based on the Rainbow Magic (book) Series by Daisy Meadows. See the December 2016 and January 2017 issues for Layla's other stories.

Kai turns 8 on March 8 and has recently begun writing for the Clarion (see last month). He is a cub scout in troop 586, and he lives on Lakeshore, where he witnessed the beaver situation.

Hey there, let's hear from more Lake Claire kids—we want your creativity on this page. Submit articles, poetry, drawings, your original puzzles, etc., to editor@lakeclaire.org. We'd love to hear from you.

Facts about Fairies ~ Magic

by Layla Klehr

Hello Fairy Readers, Today I'm going to write about how fairies use magic. The magic is released through the fairies' wands. The fairies flick the wands to let the magic out. In order for the magic to come out of the wand, the fairies also have to say a spell. Fairies use magic to help them get away from bad guys or to help good guys.

Here is an example of a magic spell that was used to undo the confusion that the bad guy, Jack Frost, caused people: "Return all thoughts from wrong to right. Correct the errors made tonight. Winter winds bring ice and snow, but stop Jack Frost from bringing woe."*

*From Alicia the Snow Queen Fairy by Daisy Meadows.



Layla Klehr



Comic #1, Vol. 1 of "Q.T. Kitten," by Latha Wright (right)

KIDS' CORNER



Bo Baker



Johanna and Tillie



Luke Mawson-Puckhaber

CONGRATULATIONS, WINNERS!!!

1st place winner!

Bo Baker (age 4), was the first to find the groundhog in last month's Clarion. Bo lives on Claire Drive. He is a loving big brother to sister Vivian (21 months). He will start Kindergarten at Mary Lin in the Fall. He loves playing outside, baking, swimming at Lake Claire Pool, and all things octopus.

pre-K at Georgia State Capitol Childcare Center. Johanna is in first grade at Mary Lin. They live on Palifox Dr.

3rd place winner!

Luke Mawson-Puckhaber was very excited to find the groundhog in the Clarion. Luke was actually born on Groundhog Day five years ago. His Dad drew him a groundhog to put on his birthday cake when he turned 1 (see right). Luke was also excited about the Clarion last month because his classmate from IPCP (Mae-faire Rogovin) wrote an article! Luke was very impressed. The family lives on Palifox Drive.

2nd place winners!

Johanna and Tillie Heutel found the groundhog in the last issue. Tillie said, "Groundhogs dig." Johanna said, "Phil saw his shadow this year." Tillie attends

NEW CONTEST:

The first Friday in March of each year is the **National Day of Unplugging**. This holiday consists of a 24-hour period from sundown to sundown, to unplug, unwind, relax and do things other than using today's technology, electronics, and social media. The project is an outgrowth of **The Sabbath Manifesto**, an adaptation of our ancestors' ritual of carving out one day per week to unwind, relax, reflect, get outdoors, and connect with loved ones. One thing to do is read a book, a good old book with a cover, not on an iPad or Kindle. Find the books hidden in this issue. The winner/winners will have their

pictures in the next Clarion. To win, send an e-mail to **editor@lakeclaire.org** telling us the page number where you found the book. Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you can't win two months in a row. (Extra credit if you tell us something that you do when you unplug entirely, no technology, no screens — then you may write or draw something for a subsequent Clarion! we are interested to hear from families who have regular "unplugged" days) Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.



Kai Nathaniel, whose articles are on pages 3 and 13



Cynthia's Average Listing in 30307

10 Days on Market

101% of List Price

Call Today to Sell at the Highest Price in the Least Amount of Time

678-358-3369



Cynthia Baer
 Broker, Associate
 Cynthia@CynthiaBaer.com
 315 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.
 Suite 100
 Decatur, GA 30030



Wild in Lake Claire

by Carol Vanderschaaf

Here're the latest reports from the hood. As of this writing, Red-winged Blackbirds are all over the place, from Ilene S's backyard on Seminole Avenue to the Lake Claire Land Trust on Arizona, to the Miller Avenue yard of our Candler Park reporter Walt L., and even in my 2x4 backyard on Indiana, only the second time I had Red-wings in the many years I've live here. Of course, the biggest flock was at the beaver pond in Candler Park. When I recently saw them take off, they looked like a winged (and horseless) division of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

These southern Red-winged Blackbirds don't migrate, so the books say, though I haven't seen one in this area in early winter. Has anyone? Perhaps there are none that are naturally occurring in this neighborhood and the ones we're seeing now are those damned Yankee birds intruding again! Recently I began to see the flocks of all male Red-wings. I wondered, is this a gay male advance group. I was soon "straightened" out by a birder who knows much more than I do. Apparently, this is usual behavior for males of this species of any orientation. Just so you know.

Red-winged males fiercely defend their territories of as many as 15 female birds against intruders. But someone is sneaking around because as many as half the babies born in those territories are fathered by other males. Just so you know that, too.

Another group that's been haunting this hood (and many others) is the Sandhill Crane northern migration. According to GABO (Georgia Birders On-Line), they've been seen from Cobb to Clayton to Cherokee (150 in a "v" flight formation) Counties to Cumberland Mall. I haven't seen any this season yet myself but I've been fooled a couple of times by the sounds of my neighbor's chickens across the street. To hear the real sound, sign on to the Cornell website allaboutbirds.org or, as I just found out, the YouTube video, both to hear and see these beautiful birds. The cranes usually are migrating Georgia from February 5 to March 24.

Another unusual sighting has been a *Lontra canadensis*, seen in the Candler Park Beaver Pond and reported by our star reporter (and recent guest columnist) Meta Larson. If you haven't guessed by now, a Northern River Otter has been poking its nose up among the beavers recently. This is not the first otter to be seen at the pond. Lone otters have been seen there in the past. Otters mate in the late winter and early spring, and I do wonder if this might be one searching for a mate. If so, she or he may have to be satisfied with a beaver or muskrat or move on. Of

course, such a mating may be dangerous for either of the latter, as otters have been known to attack them both for food. (True story according to trappers who have found remains of each in otter stomachs).



Otters of both sexes mature at 2 years of age. Copulation, which lasts from 16 to 73 minutes, takes place on land or in the water. Rest periods are common during this time. The female, hopefully after some R&R, will then seek out a den in which to have her young. Otters don't build their own dens but will use old beaver or muskrat lodges or even a hollowed tree near the water. Therein the female will give birth to 1 to 4 young AKA kits. At 10 to 12 weeks the kits will leave the den and follow their mother, who will teach them to swim and hunt. They will stay with the mother until the next reproduction cycle.

The River Otter once ranged all over the country but has been largely reduced in number due to hunting, trapping, and habitat loss. Also, otters are extremely sensitive to chemicals in water. Several states, including Georgia, have tried to counteract their possible extinction by reintroducing otters into the wild, and these populations seem to be doing well. We actually have a trapping season here in Georgia that runs from December through mid-February. Otters are considered to be fur-bearing animals, but please leave our urban otter alone.

More neighborly notes: Ilene S. reported a small flock of Cedar Waxwings in her yard. Also when Ilene had her pond cleaned out recently she was surprised to find two healthy immature bull frogs. Dawn A. asked for a mention of her two gay mallards, so here it is. They are stalwartly fellows. We must also give a shout out to Lou the Emu who is pretty much recovered from a recent illness.

See you next month, and I hope you enjoyed your Valentine's Day as much as otters—I mean others—did. And please send any wildlife sightings or hearings to me, Flora Fauna, c/o cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net.

March into April in the Garden

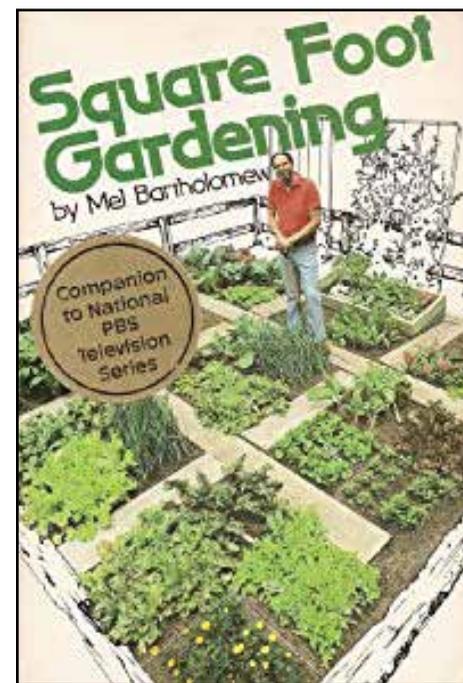
by Elizabeth Knowlton

So much time was spent rhapsodizing about individual plants last month that I neglected the nitty-gritty of starting vegetable and flower seedlings. Early March is the time to sow eggplant, pepper, and tomato seedlings indoors. Because the longer you garden, the more problems you will have with diseases building up in the soil from these particular vegetables, I have ordered, as well as our old favorite heirlooms, a number of tomato seeds that specifically target problems rampant in old and community gardens. (Check seed packets for letters such as Hybrid VFFNTswv or VFFEbLb.) As soon as the seedlings have two real leaves, transplant them to larger containers so they will be ready for the garden in late April.

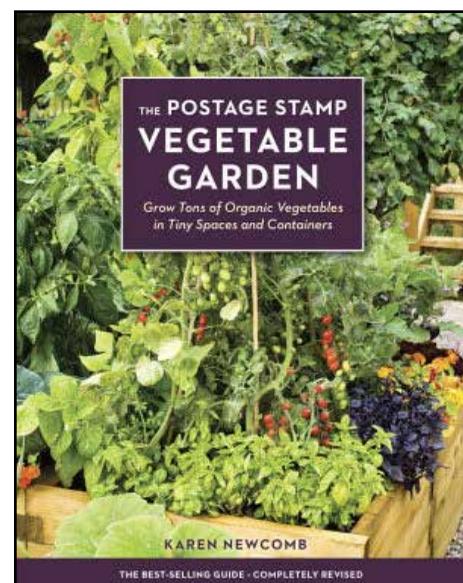
If you did sow brassicas indoors last month, then set them outside on mild days, and transplant them to the garden about the second week of March, depending on weather conditions. Kohlrabi, cabbage, kale, and broccoli, as well as onions and leeks, can take a little frost, and in fact, enjoy cool weather; so unless something lower than 28 degrees is predicted, you do not need to cover them. If you did not start these plants at home, then look for six-packs at your hardware or big-box store. (I do not plant cauliflower or Brussel's sprouts in the spring because the heat comes on so fast—try these more difficult vegetables in the fall.) Watch your crops carefully because you may need to protect them from cold or, more likely, animals. Squirrels and chipmunks strip the leaves from brassicas to get at the tasty stems. You can cover them with some sort of cage and/or spray them with hot pepper wax. Also, too much acidity in the soil may result in wilting plants. If you notice this and know they have had enough water, try a quarter cup of lime around each plant, watering it in well.

Aside from peas and onion sets planted in February, March is the first month for seeds to be sown directly into the ground. Follow directions on seed packets when planting carrots, beets, parsnips, Swiss chard, lettuce, radishes, turnips, and collards. It may be too late for spinach, better sown in October. Also, plant unusual varieties of potatoes but in a separate bed that has not been limed in two years because they need acidity to prevent scab.

All of these crops are suggestions. If you are a new or returning gardener, it is important not to over extend yourself, plant too much, and get worn out by summertime when it is hot, you go on vacation, and insects and diseases take their toll; just as you could be planning a fall garden, you quit the whole thing. Start small, and enjoy your successes.



In the past I have recommended *Square Foot Gardening* (first edition only). A similar book is *The Postage Stamp Vegetable Garden* by Karen Newcomb, originally published in the '70s and now available again in an updated version that is perfect for our neighborhood where the front yard is often the only place sunny enough to grow vegetables, we need it to look presentable all the time, and people who work long hours need a garden to fit their schedules.



But postage stamp does not mean little to eat. Plant lettuce around your cabbage plants, and harvest the former as the latter swells to fit the whole space. Sow corn (picked in June) followed by okra and pumpkins in a bed four by six feet that will produce until fall. Plant your tomatoes where they will provide some needed shade to the smaller Swiss chard sown earlier. Marigolds and herbs scattered through the garden will look attractive to both you and beneficial insects and can also be used in cooking or on the table. For a guide to what plants grow best together, check out Louise Riotte's *Secrets of Companion Planting for Successful Gardening*, first published in **Cont. on p. 14**



St. Patrick's Day



Hello – Safe Journey: Skiing in and around Lake Claire

March Birthdays:

March 4, 1923!—Doris Miller, Alameda Avenue—Congrats, Doris!! Many happy returns of the day.

March 8 — Kai Nathaniel, Clarion contributor, Lakeshore Ave, turns 8,
And Lawson Crutcher, 13, Hardendorf

March 11 — Zoë Steib on Palifox Drive, 12

March 14 — Jennie Caine, Leonardo

March 18 — Ben Farmer, Hardendorf

March 19 — Emily Allen, Harold

March 23 — David Damon, Forrest Ave, B's brother...

March 29 — Victoria Weldert – Happy Two!

March 31 — James Crutcher, Hardendorf

Anniversary: March 22 — Anna Kilinski & Spencer McKinley Brent, Clifton Rd.

Belated Birthday:

February 6 — Happy b'day Jennifer Ruddell (Hardendorf);

February 12 — Patricia Farmer (Hardendorf);

February 13 — Happy Two to Elliot Micah Philip Masarek, Delaware Avenue, and congrats and welcome again to your little brother Reuben Karl, born in January

And, Welcome — to Willa, Kathie Ryan's new little black lab mix (Harold)

Please send us stuff (birthdays, anniversaries, and other life cycle changes and accomplishments) for APRIL by March 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org.

NUCLEAR WATCH SOUTH presents



CONTAINMENT

FUKUSHIMA OBSERVANCE
and Georgia premiere film screening

CONTAINMENT

How do you plan 10,000 years in advance? CONTAINMENT asks whether we are adequately caring for future generations with current storage methods for radioactive waste. A visit to the nuclear ghost towns of Fukushima shows what will happen if we fail.

FREE PROGRAM

2:00-5:00 PM

Saturday, March 11, 2017

The Meeting Room
Toco Hill-Avis G. Williams Library
1282 McConnell Drive, Decatur 30033

Stick around after the film for snacks and a discussion about the state of nuclear power in Georgia.

for more information contact
NUCLEAR WATCH SOUTH
404-378-4263 | www.nonukesyall.org

Give Your Child the World!

SoulShine is expanding to Decatur!

Preschool - ages 6 weeks to 5 years

- Locally sourced, organic, vegetarian meals prepared by staff chef
- Yoga, music, language, more, included in tuition
- Curriculum grounded in education, play and nature

After School - ages 4 to 12

- On-site gardens where kids learn about clean food growth
- Plenty of outdoor time
- Kids learn by creating products to sell at monthly markets



SOULSHINE™

Decatur Opening Spring 2017

(404) 919-2796

Decatur (533 W Howard St.) • Kirkwood (2052 Hosea Williams Dr.)

Schedule a tour: <http://bit.ly/soulshine-decatur> • Ask us anything: questions@makeyoursoulshine.com

Historic Pullman Yards

by Bruce Gunter

The historical significance of the Pullman Yard buildings lies in an untold story documenting the development of Atlanta. Due to its connection to the Pullman porters, Pullman Yard represents a rare opportunity to tell the story of African Americans; struggle for equality and the rise of the black middle class—a quintessential Atlanta story. Beyond the iconic architecture, the buildings represent an important piece of Atlanta's past and must be preserved.

In 1859, George M. Pullman revolutionized rail travel with the creation of a sleeping car. By the 1920s, Pullman's company was both building sleeping cars and operating them for the railroads. Maintenance and repairs were performed on the sleeping cars at the Pullman Company shops in seven cities throughout the country, including in the Kirkwood neighborhood. (A Pullman training facility was also located in Atlanta.) Pullman porters were the cornerstone of the Pullman travel experience. A typical sleeping car was staffed by a single Pullman porter whose duties were many: making up berths, helping passengers aboard at each stop, assisting with luggage, and shining shoes, among other duties. In most of the country, Pullman porters were African-American. Their story is an impressive one, since the porters and their union, the Brotherhood of

ily can be traced to Reynoldstown in the early 1860s, after which time the larger family spread into the Kirkwood, Edgewood, and Cabbagetown neighborhoods into the 1930s.

Clarence's direct kin settled around the Auburn Ave corridor on Lucy Street in the late '30s and owns property in the historic district to this day.

Clarence's last known relative is named Rhoda Randall, who is said to remember "the Blue Coats coming to free the Negros" even as her brother escaped to the North. She stayed in Reynoldstown after the war doing domestic labor and conceived nine children. Her daughter, Annie Randall-Benifield, the seventh child, was born in 1889. Her jobs included caring for the children in Buckhead area, and it is said that she took trips to Europe with the family she cared for. Mrs. Benifield conceived two children, including Lily Bell Bond (1913), who married Scott Gilmore, the proprietor of a neighborhood store on Lucy Street in the Old Fourth Ward. Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore are the Grandparents of Clarence.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Pullman Company—by then long since split up into two firms because of antitrust concerns—began to shrink significantly. The creation of the interstate highway system and rapidly expanding jet air travel changed the dynamics for passenger rail. By the mid-1950s, Pullman Shops was sold



Sleeping Car Porters, were by the 1930s playing a significant role in the creation of a burgeoning African-American middle class. Largely because of their union, by 1937 the wage of the typical Pullman porter had increased to an average of \$101 per month. (Still, this fell far below the national average—wages for all workers in the country in 1937 averaged \$1,780 per year or \$148 per month.)

One of the porters was the great uncle of Clarence Lockett, Jr., whose family traces its roots in Atlanta back to the Civil War. Clarence is the Principal Partner of BestWorx Partners, an Atlanta real estate development firm now working to preserve Pullman yard. Clarence's fam-

off. The last remnants of the Pullman Company were gone by 1970, and by 1984 the facility was vacant, in which state it remains today. The intertwined story of the Pullman Company and the rise of the black middle class has been told in "Rising from the Rails," a 2004 book by Larry Tye. That story resonates as profoundly in Atlanta as perhaps anywhere in the country, but the story is unknown to most here. Together with the iconic architecture, the connection to the railroads, and the insight about the development of Pullman's now dynamic host neighborhoods, it should be inconceivable that such a valuable asset revealing much about Atlanta's past should not be preserved.

Pullman Yard Historic Buildings

Just over the tracks in Kirkwood, the state of Georgia is selling the Pullman Yard property to the highest bidder on April 4. The property is open for inspection on several dates before then. Many Lake Claire and Kirkwood neighbors have been concerned about this issue. The state has removed protections from the historic buildings. So there is no guarantee that they buyers will not attempt to demolish the buildings. Some of the buildings are 100+-years

old and are unique testaments to Atlanta's railroading and our African-American community. The article to the left highlights the fascinating history. There was also an interesting article in Creative Loafing: www.clatl.com/news/article/20846170/pullman-yard-is-now-officially-for-sale. Come to the Lake Claire meetings to keep up with this issue, or read the Minutes of the meetings at lakeclaire.org.



Large Beavers Found Behind Lakeshore Drive

by Kai Artley Nathaniel

In January, a resident on the westside of Lakeshore Drive found several newly planted Leland cypress and Japanese maple trees heavily damaged and suspected marauding kids were culprits of the wrongdoing. A few days later, the constantly flowing creek between the houses on Lakeshore and the Frazer Center was stilled, and hordes of mosquitoes gathered above the becalmed waters.

A long-time resident knew the clues were connected and that the true vandals were slightly more feral and furry than the local little people: The beavers had returned.

Beavers have long thrived in the neighborhood watershed. West Lake Claire has the notable beavers that live along the restored riparian environment next to the fifth hole of their golf course. However, these beavers were considered unwelcome in the Lakeshore backyards due to the flooding and bugs caused by their dams. Beavers build dams to control water levels, to protect themselves from predators, and to allow the mammals to eat in an aquatic environment. Most beavers are herbivores and eat tree bark.

According to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, trapping and habitat destruction caused beavers to become a rarity in Georgia. However, a state-sponsored restocking program in the 1940s replenished the beaver populations. Now beavers are thriving in the state because beaver trapping is limited by low demand and few practitioners.

The residents of Lakeshore repeatedly tried to dismantle the dam, but according to the "Beaver Manage-

ment and Control in Georgia," published by the state's Game Wildlife Section, "dam removal is not effective unless the nuisance beavers are removed." The beavers built and then rebuilt their dam near the confluence of the creek running north from Lake Claire Park and the stream that starts behind Palifox Drive. The water backed up by the dam was three feet deep and six feet wide and stretched back almost 100 feet. Strong winter rains caused the creek to overflow its banks. Since the beavers are welcome downstream north of Ponce de Leon, the idea was to remove one or two of North America's largest rodents and have the colony return to the other side of the watershed closer to the Fernbank Forest.

The neighbors on Lakeshore Drive were conflicted about the beavers. One resident who asked for his name not to be used because he didn't want the neighborhood to think he was a 'bad guy,' said, "I had two different feelings: One was I knew that the beavers had to be moved. The second was that I really felt bad about having to chase them away from their home. If we left them they'd keep on building their dams and destroying the trees."

Peachtree Pest Control sent a trapper who pulled one 40-pound beaver and another 55-pound beaver from the dam. The creek has remained clear, and the trees have been replanted and surrounded with protective fencing.

Kai Artley Nathaniel is a second-grader who lives on the east side of Lakeshore Drive.



Genise Spenle, Jane Merkle, Dorothy Dabbs, and Miriam Herbers enjoying tea party, by Carol Vanderschaff

Hoddinott and Friends Host Annual Tea

by Beth Damon

Once a year in Lake Claire it is possible to bring back the elegance of the traditional Victorian afternoon tea. "The Annual Women's Tea for Lake Claire Women" was a success once again last month. Betsy Hoddinott and friends host this convivial afternoon of tea, treats, and talk on the first Sunday in February each year. Though I missed it this year, I always love the accoutrements of Betsy's tea party—the variety of vintage teacups and teapots, and the floral chinaware plates, even better for being mismatched. There is always a variety of tea, and attendees

are usually quite creative in their food contributions. Everyone feels festive, and some women wear hats and gloves. And, of course, as always, there was some football game (exciting but disappointing) afterwards.

If you missed this Women's Tea, the next best thing is to visit Dr. Bombay's fanciful tea shop in Candler Park, for tea and coffee, even High Tea if you plan a day in advance and make a reservation. A Lake Claire resource just over the border into CP, women and men go for tea, coffee, free wifi, conviviality—and books.



Carol Vanderschaff and Jane Merkle, by Miriam Herbers

Did you notice in this issue that we stopped indenting the first paragraph of each piece?

Your layout team for the Clarion is currently a pair of graphic design aficionados, who read about graphic design in their spare time. We came across this quote by Debbie Adams, a teacher at the OCAD University in Toronto:

"I want you to put your hand over your heart and promise that, as long as you live, you will never, never, indent a first paragraph again."

Why? The first line of a paragraph is indented to mark the beginning of the paragraph. The beginning of a text is obviously the beginning of a paragraph, so the first indent is superfluous.

In the Garden

Continued from page 11.

1975. For instance, onions stunt the growth of beans and peas, so do not plant them together. Why bother when cabbage is just hankering for a few onions for friends? To save space further, use cages, fencing, and trellises to grow vegetables such as melons, cucumbers, squash, peas, beans, and tomatoes upward, which also keeps them free from disease and makes them easier to harvest. Situate most of your tall vegetables on the north or west side of the garden so that shorter crops can benefit from the south-eastern sunshine. In short, unless you are a farmer needing to use heavy equipment, why plant in rows at all?

As I write this, I am enjoying my side garden from indoors, especially lovely this year with hellebores, crocus, and narcissus, the winter hazel about to open, tulips still to come. I have never bothered to cut off the old hellebore foliage in the winter as recommended because it is time-consuming, and I thought it a fussy bit of house-keeping; however, this year I did cut back the leaves in order to plant bulbs among them, and the resulting flowers are so much better looking that I plan to continue the practice in the future.

Contact Elizabeth with your questions/comments at knowltonew@earthlink.net. ~Beth

Meeting Notes for January Meeting

Guest speakers—representatives of the City Council, and Atlanta Police Department, this time included Lt. J.D. Patterson, Z-6. Email: JPatterson@Atlanta.gov; Valencia from Archibong's office

LCN officer reports:

Communication—Nancy. Mentioned signing up for mailing list on our website.

NPU—Carol. 545 Hardendorf got confirmation that request has been pulled. 551 is still moving forward.

Safety—11/15 to 12/5 3 theft from auto. Remember to keep your cars clean=empty.

Join the patrol—40% crime drop since patrol started. \$200/yr.

Recommend signing up for Next-Door as the police communicate there.

Treasurer—2016: we raised \$9500 (\$2300 from dues). 117 paid members.

Donating \$3000 to Lake Claire Park project (earmarked from last home tour).

Fundraising—The Annual Centennial June 4

Education—APS is cutting budget, don't know impact to our neighborhood schools yet. APS is closing Whiteford Elementary School.

moving kids to Burgess Peterson & Toomer.

Environment—DeKalb Ave. improvements, meetings continue.

Announcements & current issues:

- 2017 dues reminder—\$20 per household

- "Slow Down" street signs available at the meeting. Signs are provided by PEDS, peds.org and Abbadabba's, coolshoes.com

• LCN events for 2017:

Jun 4—Third Annual Lake Claire Centennial

In Fall: Gift sale & holiday potluck.

- DeKalb Ave. improvement update. Meeting last month. Atlanta still collecting info. Valencia will let us know about future meetings.

- Pullman Yard update, Greg Ramsay

The property is officially for sale by the state of Georgia. No requirement that the buildings be preserved or forest be preserved. The Pullman Forest Alliance is working to influence, focusing on the greenspace.

- Freedom Bridge over Moreland Ave.

- Naka from the Freedom Park Conservancy.

- Proposal from the Friends of FP Bridge.

Nuclear Watch South

Continued from page 1.

close to home in South Carolina and another in New Mexico.”

In an age of renewed activism, she goes on to say, “How many Georgians realize what is going on with energy production in their state, and what it means to their pocketbooks and their children? Georgia Power's customers are paying for cost overruns to the tune of billions of dollars for dangerous and risky nuclear technology. No one has explained how we can contain radioactive waste, some of the deadliest, most long-lasting substances ever produced. The final insult? It's completely unnecessary! Wind and solar are joining the grid faster than coal and nuclear, and it is clean and abundant.”

Nuclear Watch South is part of a coalition to repeal the Georgia CWIP (Construction Work In Progress) tax for two reactors still under construction at Vogtle. This is a tax

that **all Georgians are paying and amounts to 10% of your electric bill.** You can help by signing the petition to stop CWIP linked to their website www.nonukesyall.org.

Many area residents support the group's activities, which often take place at the **Lake Claire Community Land Trust** off Arizona Avenue. The group's upcoming event details can be seen below. “Come for the screening, a stimulating discussion, and free refreshments,” says Carroll. “You'll also learn how Georgia Power is raising your bills over the next 20 years, and what you can do to help.”

Hobart Stocking is new to Atlanta and is an environmentalist, writer, and entrepreneur. His website is SkyWaterEarth.com. – Glenn Carroll, Coordinator of Nuclear Watch South, P.O. Box 8574 ~ Atlanta, GA 31106 ~ www.nonukesyall.org ~ atom.girl@nonukesyall.org ~ @atomdotgir



Glenn Carroll, Coordinator of Nuclear Watch South



2016 Commemoration of the fifth Anniversary of the Fukushima Disaster

Minutes of Lake Claire Meeting February 16

Guest speakers (Representatives of the City Council, and Atlanta Police Department):

Valencia from Natalyn Archibong's Office—announced that the next public meeting on Dekalb Ave. will be March 30 6-8 p.m. at the Liberty Baptist Church in Old 4th Ward, 395 Chamberlaine St.; there will be a Seniors meeting (2017 FUSS Seminar) at Drew Elementary, 301 East Lake Blvd, SE, Saturday March 18, 10 a.m. to 1p.m.

She discussed Lakeshore's traffic issues—Judy Hammack is working to get mitigation.

Cameras—if we want APD cameras, we need to request. Pen Sherwood will follow up with Valencia.

APD: Sergeant Hines, Zone 6, emphasized to keep your car “clean” (i.e., empty of belongings!)

LCN officer reports:

Communications (Nancy): No issues —sign up for the newsletter at LakeClaire.org.

Environment (Melissa): Reporting for Judy Hammack—presenting plan for the work that is currently happening in Lake Claire Park. Also mentioned that the park is looking for donations for benches and such (please see page 6 of last month's Clarion).

Safety (Pen): 2 Noted larceny from Vehicle (i.e., Stolen Car)

Schools (Joe for Annsley): noted Grady Cluster is in good shape. Searches are being conducted for new principals for Grady & Inman.

Zoning (Robin): no variances

NPU: no report.

Treasurer (Joe for Jim): We have \$8000 in Reserve funds.

Fundraising: no report.

Announcements and current issues:

- 2017 dues reminder—\$20 per household

- “SLOW DOWN” street signs available at the meeting. Signs are provided by PEDS, peds.org and Abbadabba's, coolshoes.com

- LCN events for 2017:

- June 4—Annual Centennial Party

- Support for Atlanta Canopy Alliance, Miriam Herbers

What to do if you see a large tree

cut down without a permit (i.e., doesn't have an orange X)

Sign the Pledge, and find out more things that you can do to help at www.treesatlanta.com/pledge

- Candler Park/Lake Claire Security Patrol, Branch Sinkule

Crime is down, a lot has to do with the patrol.

Vacation service—extra checks of your house during your vacation period. Looking to implement a text based notification.

Several Board of Directors slots opening this year. Contact if interested in joining.

90% of funds goes to paying the patrolling off-duty APD officers.

Signup at cplcpatrol.com.

- The New Church Candler Park United Methodist Congregation (formerly the Epworth Methodist Church), Andy Woodworth, co pastor Epworth merged with Druid Hills last year. New name soon!

Druid Hills property has been sold, and now have engaged an architect to evaluate the Epworth building viability.

Survey for neighbors—online at newatlantachurch.com

Thursday Mar 9, listening session in Sanctuary.

- 545/551 Hardendorf Ave. update

An interior lot doesn't need a variance; they will be building on that. Regarding the second lot: they have withdrawn their application so that they can work with the neighborhood.

- Meeting was Saturday at 1625 McLendon property near Fellini's. Has been approved by CP neighborhood and BZA, but still controversial, and the neighborhoods have serious concerns about precedent. This is known as spot-zoning.

Other issues—those with concerns or information they wish to bring to the membership.

Lake Claire Neighbors meets the third Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is Mar. 16, 2017

Stay informed! To receive occasional e-mails about happenings in, around and concerning Lake Claire, as well as reminders of up-coming meetings, please sign up at lakeclaire.org/resources/newscast-sign-up

KIDS' CORNER THIS MONTH IS ON P. 8,9

Ladybug Garden Fun!

Creating a Children's Garden and Environmental Theater at the Land Trust

by Andrea Zoppo

After two years of offering a variety of family fun programs with our collaborative All Together Series, Miss Ladybug and the Land Trust are recruiting families to join in the creation of a Children's Garden! A welcoming sanctuary for play and connecting deeply with Nature and its systems, the garden will encourage children's curiosity, interest, and problem-solving in our natural world. With your help we can facilitate and create a launching pad for discovery and growth, a safe place where children and families are invited to explore and learn the lessons of mindfulness, stewardship and wellbeing.

As a living classroom within the Land Trust, the Children's Garden has the potential to create new art forms and young activists. We want to open discussions and possibilities in the dramatic arts with children, for children, with the garden as our inspiration. The nine events that are planned around the garden will expand on the explorations of the All Together Now series, including development of a puppet theater and a puppet show we will perform for the Land Trust community at the Spring Peace & Love Fest. Interested children are also invited to take part in a Garden Theater camp the week of June 26.



The Children's Garden project is generously supported by a host of wonderful partners including Terra Nova Compost, Beech Hollow Farms, Sustenance Design, and Urban Sprout Farms. You will also have the opportunity to support the garden



and its programs by attending our events and through a crowdfunding campaign we will unveil this spring. Together we have the resources to create a magical space and programs that are dynamically engaging and sustainable. We hope many of you will be inspired to get involved early, so that this special garden and its programming may be guided in collaboration with local children.

As part of our joint effort, Miss Ladybug asks local families to submit a fun and unique name for the Children's Garden at the Land Trust. We will collect ideas and vote on them. Due date for ideas is April 1. Email submissions to Missladybug@ladybugeventsllc.com with "Garden Name Submission" as subject. Community voting on submissions is **April 9, 4:00 p.m., at our third garden program**. The official unveiling of the name will be June 4. The family that submits the winning name will have the great honor of placing the first garden gnome statue in the new garden! (and being featured in the *Clarion!* ~ Ed.)

Want to volunteer, join our garden club, reserve a spot in our Garden Theater camp, or get more info? Email Missladybug@ladybugeventsllc.com to get on our new list. Don't have time for all that? No worries, join us if you can for any or all of our upcoming events, all on Sunday af-

ternoons from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., as in the past. Each one of the programs listed below will include collaborative theater elements, environmental education, hands-on garden work, and a healthy delicious seasonal snack.

Miss Ladybug and the LCCLT thank you for bringing family fun energy to the treasure that is our lovely Land Trust. We look forward to playing in the dirt with you soon!

Ladybug Garden Fun! Children's Garden days at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust

Selected Sundays, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
\$5 donation:

March 19: Garden Designing and Beautification with an Equinox celebration

April 9: Beautification Project and Spring Planting

June 4: Garden Name Unveiling, Summer Planting and Nature Crafts

June 26-30: Garden Theater Camp! 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

July 23: Garden Beautification, Summer Harvesting and Fall Planting

August 27: Garden Beautification, Summer Harvesting and Fall Planting

Sept: 24: Garden Beautification and Equinox Celebration

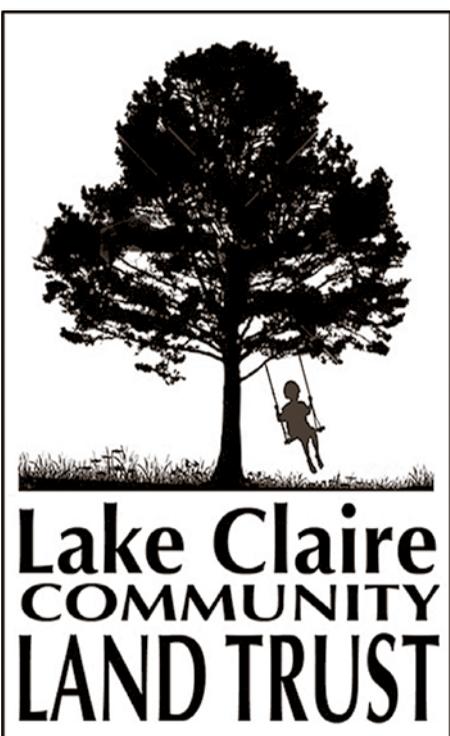
Nov 12: Have S'more Garden Show

Support the Land Trust Just by Shopping!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the Land Trust every time you intend to shop at Amazon anyway, at no cost to you. When you shop at *smile.amazon.com*, the exact same prices will appear as *Amazon.com*, with the added bonus that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of

the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can use your existing *Amazon.com* account. To shop at *AmazonSmile*, simply go to *smile.amazon.com* from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit, select "Lake Claire Community Land Trust Inc." from the list of charitable orga-

nizations. Every eligible purchase you make at *smile.amazon.com* will result in a donation. Tens of millions of products are eligible for donations. Just look for "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on the product detail page. Thank you for painlessly supporting your LCCLT!



Land Trust Supporters— Time to renew for 2017!

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 email and we'll add you to our new MailChimp email list. A donation is not required to get on this list!

Sign up on our home page at
www.LCCLT.org.