



## BIG TREE BIG TREE!!!

One of Lake Claire's claims to fame is its abundant mature trees. This summer, Kim and Darrell Hinson and their Tuxedo neighbors joined together to lament the approaching end of their beautiful old **willow oak**. As with Grandma Gordon, we Lake Claire neighbors get very attached to our historic old trees, whether they pass away of old age, have to be taken down because they become ill or dangerous, or in the case of "Granmaw," are removed illegally for development. We are committed to Atlanta's tree canopy.

In this instance, folks gathered on the summer night for pictures, conviviality, and lamenting, on the night before the tree would be taken down. And some gathered the next day to watch and take videos of its being cut down. Tim Yoder, one of the Tuxedo neighbors and videographers, estimated that the crane used to help remove the limbs and pieces of the trunk was extended to a length of 157 feet, which meant that the tree was at least 125 feet high. He counted 93 tree rings!

Thanks to Tuxedo neighbors Margaret Witten for keeping the Clarion apprised and Celena Halladay for sending pictures.



## A Clarion Focus on LC Residents:

by Boyd Baker

*Today we feature an interview with Alyssa & Peter Olson of Leonardo, by another Leo, and frequent Clarion writer, Boyd Baker.*

**Where are you originally from?** Alyssa: Columbus, Indiana. Peter: Columbus, Indiana, home of The Four Freshman, Chuck Taylor (Yes, the shoes you're wearing right now), and modern architecture mecca (as evidenced by the upcoming movie [youtu.be/r3dcnV6Z9Zs](http://youtu.be/r3dcnV6Z9Zs)).

**How did you meet, and what was your first date?** A: I went to audition to be in a band (which turned out to be Peter's band), and he was there. After that, Peter called me to invite me to be a part of the band and asked me out on a date at the same time. How could I say no? P: I recruited Alyssa to sing with my band during the summer of 1997. If I recall, I asked her out on the same phone call. Our first date was to see

Tom Cruise in *Mission Impossible* at the \$3 theater downtown. I set the mood in my car with The Beatles' Sgt. Peppers album.

**How long have you been married? Been dating?** A: Married 10 years, went on our first date 20 years ago. P: We'll celebrate 11 years of marriage this October, but this summer is our 20th year of friendship and love.

**Kids?** A: Two girls ages 6 and 4, and 1 boy 11 months old. It's a party every day! P: Three beautiful babies, Synnove (6), Seija (4), and Naven (almost 1).

**What brought you to Lake Claire?** A: We wanted to be closer to the city, but I also wanted to be in walking distance to parks, schools, and restaurants, and still have that warm community vibe. We say all the time that we really lucked out on our **Cont. on p. 4.**



## A New Church Gets a New Name— and a New Approach to Church

by Erin Brown

At the corner of McLendon and Mell, just across the street from Candler Park, transformation is underway.

Since the 1930s, the location was the home of the Epworth United Methodist Church and also home to many community organizations and educational groups. The members of the Epworth Church, though, grew older, and as time went by, there were fewer participants in church functions. And so in early 2016, the Epworth Church made the brave and bold choice to give up their old identity and merge with another United Methodist congregation close by—the Druid Hills United Methodist Church—which had also seen declining community connection and at-

tendance. A new church was formed, which has been gathering together officially since Easter (early April) of 2016. This "New Church" (which was selected as a placeholder name until a permanent one could be selected) was to become not a standard church merger in which two congregations meet together and operate much as they had before, just with more people; New Church was to become a "vital merger"—a merger in which all earlier customs, habits, names, and traditions would be given up in order to seek a new identity with a radically different focus—the people of the surrounding community.

In June of 2016, a new pastoral team was sent to guide the church **Cont. on p. 5.**

### DO YOU HAVE A POLITICAL CANDIDATE'S YARD SIGN?

Please help your fellow Clairons know whom (or what) to vote for!

Your opinion counts. We hope that many of you are willing to write up your thoughts to share.

Please tell us **Why are you voting for your candidate? What issues do you agree with, and why?** We hope to highlight many of these in the October issue of the Clarion.

Special interest in mayoral race, but happy for anything, noting we did cover the GA State House previously.

**Deadline is September 15** (but for planning, let us know by Sept. 10 if you plan to send us something).

Pictures welcome.

Questions/or to confirm, [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org).

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**SEPTEMBER**

**1** Eid al-Adha—Sacrifice feast.

**2 & 15** a 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 them going.

**7-10** Yellow Daisy Fest, Stone Mt., more than 400 artists and crafters, festival foods, crafting demos.

**9** This season's LAST Candler Park movie/"Flick-Nic," **Star Wars: The Force Awakens**—begins at sundown in Candler Park, bring blankets or short chairs (don't block others) and no dogs. (Great film!!)

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

**15** Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Mary Lin Outdoor Classroom. 3 pm—Please see the invitation on Page 5 for details.

**15** Frazer Center Moveable Feast, 7-10 p.m., enjoy artisan cocktails, appetizers, open bar, in a beautiful setting for a great cause. [www.frazercenter.org/news-events/upcoming-events/moveable-feast](http://www.frazercenter.org/news-events/upcoming-events/moveable-feast)

**19-Oct 15** Actor's Express (west Midtown)—"The Christians," a provocative excavation of modern faith, [www.actors-express.com/plays/the-christians](http://www.actors-express.com/plays/the-christians)—director Freddie Ashley, playwright Lucas Hnath

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

**20** Erev Rosh Hashana | 21-22 RH first & second days.

**21** Lake Claire monthly meeting, 3rd Thursdays, in the Rose Room at The Frazer Center, 7 p.m. socialize, 7:15 meeting. Pizza provided free from Savage (**THANKS, SAVAGE!**)

**21** Islamic New Year.

**22-Oct 29** Horizon Theatre (Little 5 Pts), "Project Dawn," gritty, gripping, funny. [www.horizontheatre.com](http://www.horizontheatre.com)

**24** Children's Garden Build a Scare Crow & Equinox Celebration, at the Land Trust, Family Fun Garden Party is 4-6pm!—see article page 11.

**29 & 30** Yom Kippur.

**30** Candler Park Fall Fest Fun Run and 5K (*Really, CP?—on Yom Kippur?—Ed.*)

Send calendar entries for the October Clarion by September 15 to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org)

*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.*

**Lake Claire Public Safety Report****Damaged Infrastructure:**

Pen Sherwood, the VP for Public Safety, reports that Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN) is working with the office of Natalyn Archibong to compile information about damaged sidewalks, potholes, broken drains, and any public space that needs attention. Please submit the address, pictures (if possible) and description of the problem. Submit to: [safety@lakeclaire.org](mailto:safety@lakeclaire.org).

**APD Crime Reports:**

Longtime readers have noticed the crime stats haven't been included in several months. For many years our VPs of Safety visited the APD station in person to compile a list of these crimes from police records. For the past few years APD sent us the list by e-mail on a regular basis, but that has stopped. The reports the city now compiles are available publicly at this link: [www.atlantapd.org/i-want-to/crime-data-downloads](http://www.atlantapd.org/i-want-to/crime-data-downloads). Data for the Lake Claire neighborhood is included in the overall figures for APD Zone Six. This zone includes Lake Claire, Candler Park, East Lake, Glenwood Park, Grant Park, Kirkwood, Old 4th Ward, Poncey-Highland, Reynoldstown, Sweet Auburn, and Virginia Highland. (as an aside, Virginia-Highland, named after the intersection of Virginia and North Highland, has no 's'. "The Highlands" are in North Carolina! from an Atlanta native, your editor).

The report for Zone Six covering the four weeks to 8/5/17 shows 0 murders, 3 rapes, 15 robberies, 19 aggravated assaults, 24 burglaries, 121 larcenies from vehicles, 120 other larcenies, and 40 auto thefts. Theft from vehicles is the most common. Overall Zone Six crimes for the past month are up 6% compared to the same month last year, but thankfully crimes for the year to date are down 4% compared to the same period last year. Details of local crimes are often posted on [NextDoor.com](http://NextDoor.com), so we encourage you to sign up and follow those postings.

A recent NextDoor contributor reported on the growing threat of gang violence in Atlanta. According to information obtained from the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, Metro Atlanta is now the #1 recruiting city for new gang members, with 135 gangs active in the Atlanta area and juvenile gang members driving the crimes. Law enforcement officers stated that many juvenile gang members are breaking into cars specifically to look for guns. "If they break into 100 cars and only get two guns, it's considered a successful outing." "We are in a crisis mode when it comes to gangs." "Recruiting new gang members starts early, in elementary school. We've seen members as young as 8 years old. Young people are leading the way," they say.

*Thanks to Pen for this information. If there is a desire among Clarion readers for information pertaining specifically to Lake Claire, someone would once again have to do through a painstaking process of poring through paperwork searching for Lake Claire addresses at APD since it's not available online.*

**Early October**

**5** International Walk to School Day

**6-7** free live music in Alpharetta—Wire & Wood Songwriters Fest

**Early December**

**2** Lake Claire Holiday Sale 10-4. Calling now for artists and crafters. Contact Pen Sherwood at [aprilstar64@yahoo.com](mailto:aprilstar64@yahoo.com) for more info. Comments, suggestions, ideas welcome.

# Mary Lin Presents its Outdoor Classroom and Learning Garden

by Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Neighbors Education Chair

Mary Lin's former Habitat used to be the location for outdoor learning, but while the school and playground were being renovated, it quickly became the natural playscape for unending fun. Now that Mary Lin's new playground is up and running, the upper section of the "Habitat" underwent major construction to become Mary Lin's Outdoor Classroom and Learning Garden. Site improvements included erosion control, underground drainage, ADA accessibility, a 500+ gallon rainwater cistern, and programmed fully automatic irrigation controls. Construction of the new parent-built tool shed is nearing completion.

New raised beds have been planted with vegetables, flowers, and herbs, and the hill slope has been seeded with native grasses and wildflowers. It is listed on the national Monarch Butterfly Waystation Registry. Other new features include wooden benches for class activities, all-weather picnic tables, gardening tools, and colorful rain barrels for supplemental irrigation. The Mary

Lin Weather Station and CoCoRaHS rain gauge were reinstalled so that the students can continue to gather weather data.

The first ever Mary Lin Garden Club met last month after school. The students harvested and ate a bunch of tomatoes from the school garden. If you are interested in joining, it's FREE of charge. It meets the first Thursday of every month from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., so come on out and dig in the dirt!

The Mary Lin Elementary School Outdoor Classroom and Learning Garden wants to thank Lake Claire Neighbors for its community involvement and commitment to our school! Our growing dreams are being realized right here in our newly finished Phase 1 of the Outdoor Classroom. Our children will get experiential learning through the great outdoors, integrating curriculum across the subjects—right here in our own "backyard."

**And now the moment you've all been waiting for...** The Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony! We would like cor-

dially to invite anyone who is interested in attend the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the Outdoor Classroom and Learning Garden on **Friday, September 15, at 3:00 p.m.** in the Outdoor Classroom. Please see the invitation below for details. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Annsley Klehr at [anzoid@yahoo.com](mailto:anzoid@yahoo.com)

*All of this would not have been possible without the hard work and endless hours of our volunteers and generous in-kind donations. We want to thank: the Mary Lin Outdoor Classroom Committee: Tamara Jones, Alison Turner, Julie Roseman, Annsley Klehr, Andy Woodworth, and Gregg Rice; Joan Piccalo—JP Design Studios; Ed Castro Landscapes; Sam Heys; Don Edwards, Bill Gordon with Georgia Landscape Supply; Linley Branham with Constellation Energy; Captain Planet Foundation; Tony Powers and Intown Ace Hardware; Lake Claire Neighborhoods (the neighborhood association), Inman Park Neighborhood Association; Mary Lin Education Foundation, PTA and par-*

**Mary Lin Outdoor Classroom & Learning Garden**

YOU'RE INVITED

*Ribbon Cutting Ceremony*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 | 3:00 P.M.

**Mary Lin Elementary**

586 Candler Park Dr NE, Atlanta, GA 30307

Enjoy refreshments and let the kids explore as we celebrate our new hands-on learning space!

Ceremony Sponsored by:

Rain Date: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 | 3:00 P.M.

Thanks to our generous Outdoor Classroom donors:

ents; Ben Shipp, Boy Scout Troop 101; Cub Scouts from Pack 586; Girl Scout Troup 14547; Principal Sharyn Briscoe for supporting us and helping us to make all of

this possible. For more information please visit the Mary Lin Outdoor Classroom and Learning Garden in person and at [www.marylinoutdoors.com](http://www.marylinoutdoors.com)

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## Lake Claire Softball—Females Needed

The Fall season of the Southeast Atlanta League of Softball (SEALS) just started at the end of August. The Lake Claire team is looking for 2 extra females to join the team. Games are Monday

or Tuesday evenings at East Lake Park.

No experience is necessary—just a good attitude and desire to have fun (and maybe drink some beer). It is a neighborhood team, so

you need to reside in either Lake Claire, Candler Park, or Inman Park, to be eligible. If interested, please email [abrookner@realfloors.com](mailto:abrookner@realfloors.com). The first game was August 28, but it is not too late!



**Violin and Viola Lessons.** Lynn Farnham—retired APS strings teacher/many years' experience, classroom and private. 404/377-6310.

**The Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra** seeks new members. Founded in 2000 in Lake Claire, a friendly, relaxed organization for musicians of all ages/levels of ability. Share the love of music/develop skills in a supportive, noncompetitive environment. Violin, viola, cello or bass players invited to join us in music making. Lynn Farnham 404/377-6310.

## Alyssa & Peter Olson

*Continued from page 1.*

house and landing on Leonardo. We love it! P: We spent 10 years in Decatur,

but didn't live in the city school district. We liked Decatur, but wanted to live closer to the city and were specifically interested in the Grady Cluster. We loved the "village" in Candler Park, the park itself, and Mary Lin. Casual house hunting turned up a beautiful home on the best street in Lake Claire. It's perfection. We love it.

**What's your job? Or what do you focus your time on?** A: I'm an event planner, Pilates teacher, singer, and the most important job, a Mom! P: My job is spreading peace and love with the *Yacht Rock Revue*, mostly travelling on the weekends. Through the week, I'm adventuring as a restaurateur at Venkman's, coming up with ebullient ideas like "Princess Brunch" and "Catalina Wine Mixers." Basically, I'm in sales. Whether it's food or music, I sell "good times."

**Have any interesting hobbies?** A: I love to run and walk. Sometimes Peter and I get a chance to do that together. Singing and playing the piano at home with my kids. Occasionally, I get a chance to write a song. Gardening and pickling cucumbers. Peter and I tackle this together. It's a team effort. Baking anything sweet. I really enjoy baking my kids' birthday cakes every year. P: Not much room for hobbies these days. I've maintained my favorite hobby, which is spending time with family. In my adult past, I've dabbled in soccer, beer brewing, and playing in the band.

**What do you do together that's "special" (keep it clean)?** A: Together that's special....I love our date nights out and singing together, but one of my favorite things to do is vacation together. It gives us a chance to step away from our crazy life and refocus on each other, plus have an adventure wherever we are. P: Alyssa and I have recently revived our musical history by performing as a duo at Venkman's.

**What do you love about Lake Claire?** A: The friends we have made. P: What is there not to love about Lake Claire? It's like The Shire of Atlanta, nestled sweetly between bustle of Decatur and L5P. And the people! We love our neighbors. The whole is only as good as the sum of its parts, right? Such good folks.

**If there's one thing you could add to our neighborhood what would it be, OR if you were writing the tagline for the LC visitor campaign, what would it say?** A: A water slide...or lazy river! Ha! P: I love that it is not the landmark that Candler Park is, and that it tends to be an overlooked meat (or veggie!) in a neighborhood sandwich. If I were writing the tagline for LC, it would be "sorry, you missed it."

## Thanks for Paying Your Neighborhood Dues!

Lake Claire dues payers since last time:

Catherine Bonk  
Michael Fisk  
Wade Marlbaugh  
Christopher Krauth  
Joe Agee  
Ruth Dinkins/Robert Carr  
Beth Grasshof  
Allison Amoroso

Get your name in print!  
Pay by PayPal at [lakeclaire.org](http://lakeclaire.org) or  
with the old-fashioned  
check in the mail, to  
LCN, Attn: Jim Rockaway,  
Treasurer and VP Finance  
PO Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107.

**Thanks, Lake Clarions.** We appreciate your support of our many wonderful neighborhood initiatives. Lake Claire suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household—but just like with National Public Radio, any amount is certainly appreciated. A Lake Claire Banner package deal is only \$50 if combined with annual dues! If we have missed anyone who paid your dues, we are happy to include you next time.

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Reverends Andy & Anjie Woodworth

## New Neighborhood Church

*Continued from page 1.*

in its new mission of becoming something new. The Rev. Andy and Anjie Woodworth became the co-pastors of the New Church (yes, they are married), and they quickly set about the work of listening to the community and finding a new vision for the congregation that would emerge. In order to help this work and to allow for transformation to occur, worship became a monthly event. New art pieces in the front of the church sanctuary expressed a different way of thinking about Jesus, and pews were removed from the worship space. But more than merely changing the buildings and materials things, Anjie and Andy have spent much of their time over the last year simply meeting people in the communities of Candler Park, Lake Claire, and elsewhere. “Human relationships are an inherent good,” says Andy Woodworth, “and it has been so wonderful getting to know the incredible people of this community.”

These conversations helped to form the vision of the new congregation: to be “collaborative Christian neighbors building relationships for community and justice.” And in May, the congregation unveiled its new permanent name to match the vision: **Neighborhood Church**.

“Our hope is that Neighborhood Church is a progressive, radically inclusive, faith community working to be anti-racist and pro-LGBTQ+,” says Anjie Woodworth. “Our worship moments tend to touch on the justice issues of our day, and we hope people find us a safe place to wrestle with how to live a spiritual life in an authentic way. We also try to have church be something joyful and not depressing. We are very kid-friendly, with a special place in our worship space called a PrayGround where kids can play quietly during our services and still listen in.” The abundance of children in recent services shows this approach is popular with kids and parents alike.

But the work of Neighborhood Church doesn’t end with a church

service. Neighborhood Church is also home to many community groups and organizations—likely because the church facility at Mell and McLendon is one of the largest community gathering spaces in the area. In the past year, Neighborhood Church has hosted Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Zumba and yoga classes, SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice) trainings, CPNO committee meetings, Beltline Lantern workshops, recovery groups, voting, and other programs. There is also a special connection with two permanent organizations—the Candler Park Arts Center, which holds art classes and events for adults and children; and the Candler Park Day School, a half-day pre-school for children from 18 months to Pre-K.

**Something that isn’t a part of Neighborhood Church?** A cell phone tower. Community residents may remember a proposal to place a cell phone tower inside the steeple of the Epworth Church a few years back. After community pressure, the cell tower operator backed out of the arrangement, and the tower was never constructed. But the experience of Epworth Church with the cell tower controversy helped to show that something was missing: connection and conversation between the congregation and the community. “The old church did their best they could, but didn’t know who the community was any longer,” says Andy. “Our hope is that our new congregation can clearly live out our vision and our name: Neighborhood Church. We want to put the neighborhood first.”

Effective August 13, Neighborhood Church began holding worship services every Sunday morning at 11 a.m., and it will begin small group programs for adults and children beginning this month. “We’d love for anyone interested in a different kind of church to come and check us out,” says Anjie. “Even if you have been hurt or rejected by Church in the past, we hope you will find a safe place to be you here at Neighborhood Church.”

## Report on 1609 Ponce de Leon

The developer is challenging the Urban Design Commission (UDC) and the Landmark District Preservation Committee’s objections to his plan to put **SIX cottages** in the rear of the property, backing onto Clifton Terrace. He has re-submitted the plans for the six cottages (in addition to revisions to the plans for the main house) and has suggested that he could submit an alternative, which is one giant apartment building that would hold multiple units but maintain a 168-ft setback from Clifton Terrace. The developer gave few details on this option, but hinted that it will be an inferior construction. His lawyer is asking for approval of the plans for the front house in the event that there is not approval for the six cottages.”

August 9 there was a UDC meeting, at which the UDC rejected the variance—so for now, the developer cannot build cottages or an apartment building in the back of the lot, but they did give approval for him to start the work to chop the beautiful house into two condos. One person described that meeting as “shambolic.” (Perfect English expression meaning rambling, chaotic, confusing, and poorly managed). 25+ folks showed up in opposition, and apparently that strong attendance and letters had some impact on the Commission’s view of the application.

The approved renovations to the main house and carriage house include a contingent that UDC Staff

recommendations must be followed.

This is an unfortunate loss of an historic treasure that could have remained a single-family home, but since the property is zoned multifamily, there is little legally to prevent them from moving forward as long as they follow the Landmark District ordinance and the LDP Committee’s recommendations. Those recommendations cannot dictate what can be done inside the house, nor can they change any property zoning designation.

After much discussion, the applicant withdrew the application to develop the back portion of the property, but this is only a procedural move in order to re-apply and get more time to go through the process again. The UDC Staff’s recommendation was to DENY this part of the application, but the vote by the Commission was to Deny Without Prejudice. The Commission was confused about the difference, unfortunately, but the end result of either vote is essentially the same: they will re-apply. We will keep you posted on the new application and associated hearing.

There is a plan to send a follow-up note to the Commissioner of Planning regarding the “open” process being deeply flawed and operating to the benefit of developers and detriment of the community. Anyone who would like to sign the letter, let me know at [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org), and I will pass it along to them.



## September into October in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

If you have just moved to a new house, please do not begin cutting down all the greenery or digging up what you imagine to be “nothing” until you have passed a few seasons and can identify what is there. Yes, set up a composting area. Yes, sharpen or buy some basic tools (trowel, spade or shovel, hand pruners). Yes, rake the leaves off existing grass and add to your compost piles. Keep as much of what grows on your land in your land.

Autumn is here, and it is time to put in a fall vegetable garden. Pick a sunny spot if you have not already been growing vegetables, even if this spot may not be sunny next June. The sun is already rising lower in the sky and can angle in under trees that may shade the bed earlier in the year. For now and in the ensuing months when leaves are off the trees, it is a good location.

Initially you may need to dig or rototill. In general, though, try not to disturb the soil and its denizens, like earthworms. Most of our soil is heavy clay and needs to be amended with things like compost, manure, and leaf mold. Beginning gardeners often have good luck the first year they grow things because their soil has never been depleted of trace minerals like the gardens of us old folk. Our soil is great for holding water—why the South has those wonderful big trees—but also compacts very easily. So avoid walking directly on it (put down boards when you are working), and keep it covered with mulch because our hard rains compact soil too.

If you really do not have a sunny plot, try growing vegetables in big pots that you can move with the sun. For this you need either expensive container soil, or you can amend your garden soil with compost as well as perlite or vermiculite to keep it airy. Pots get very hot and must be watered regularly, so regular soil compacts quickly.

This month, sow carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, radishes, spinach, turnips, and Oriental greens and roots. Some of these need more sun and root room, others, like lettuce, very little. If the weather is hot and dry, cool lettuce seeds with crushed ice, cover them with boards until germination, or start them indoors under bright lights. Southern soil tends to be acidic, so you are safe to amend it with lime, but most organic amendments will not take effect until spring time. (Just make sure not to add lime to any place you want to grow potatoes in the next couple of years.) It is certainly not too late to put in transplants of leeks or brassicas that you have bought.

If you know your property well and want to add some permanent shrubs and trees, fall is a good time to plant them. Try to make your additions native to our area so that they can feed and shelter the insects that live here, who will in turn feed the birds, amphibians, and even mammals, who depend on them for protein and for feeding young. You might want to check out Rick Darke and Douglas Tallamy's *Living Landscapes: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity*

(available in our public library) to learn what an oak, an American holly, or a native viburnum can do for your yard that Bradford pears and crape myrtles cannot. I confess I fell in love with crape myrtles the first time I saw one from above on a hot summer morning in 1969 in North Carolina, and I have four planted along the south-facing curb of my property. But I also know that they feed nothing but squirrels. Plant what you love, but also leave room for what nourishes your whole environment. Realizing that my front yard pecan, like all those in Lake Claire, was very old, I had a willow oak planted nearby; and after over 20 years it is nearly as tall as the older tree and nicely shades our west side.

Yes, the squirrels did begin to carry off the second crop of tomatoes despite my encasing them in clear plastic produce containers and shooting at the squirrels with vinegar-filled water pistols. Suddenly, however, in early August they switched their interest to pecan trees, and tomatoes and peppers are beginning to ripen. Okra petals fall to reveal pale green cylin-

dric fruit, and pole beans finally begin bear. Across the lawn I see nicotiana 'Daylight Sensation,' blooming, upright with flowers dusky pink outside and paler pink inside, behind an enormous self-seeded deep rose echinacea. Next, *Nicotiana glauca* in pure white grows beside an amazing chartreuse coleus crossed with thin stripes of red that I was persuaded to buy because of a picture of it rising out of ordinary old ageratum, which indeed it does as I have been sowing 'Blue Danube' for many years now. All of these except perhaps the echinacea will be dead in a few months. Who cares! Their long summer exuberance with no care but initially fertile soil and some water make them the stars of the season.



## Hello—Safe Journey

*Skiing in and around Lake Claire*

### September Birthdays:

- September 1 Thomas Mayer will turn 4! (Gordon Avenue)
- September 7 Vickie Smith, Harold
- September 13 Lilliana Amato—9th birthday (Marlbrook)
- September 20 Keely Baker—the big 14 this year!
- September 20 and 21 Véronique Perrot and Roshan Antia, your layout team
- September 22 Rene Godiers (Marlbrook)
- September 23 Alyssa Olson (Leonardo) (featured with hubby Peter on Page 1)
- September 24 Olivia Ledbetter, to be 16 (McLendon Ave)

**Anniversary:** September 9 Happy day, Vickie and Brandon Smith

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

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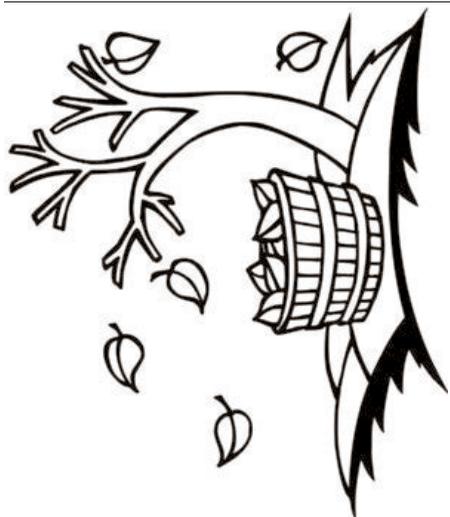


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## One Happy Beginning at a Time

by Heather Friedman

Last month, a hearing-impaired man came to the Fulton County animal shelter looking for a pet. The shelter's "matchmaker" listened to his story and had the idea to introduce him to Skateboard: a deaf, mixed-breed dog who had been overlooked in the shelter for weeks. It only took a few minutes to see that this was going to be a very happy beginning for both of them.



Skateboard

Every day a local Atlanta nonprofit works around the clock to find happy beginnings for

thousands of animals in our city. LifeLine Animal Project was founded in 2002, in Avondale Estates, to end the unnecessary euthanasia of shelter animals. The organization recognized that the most direct pathway to achieve its no-kill mission would entail taking over management of the shelters that were euthanizing thousands of animals yearly. In 2012, LifeLine won the contracts for both the DeKalb and Fulton county shelters in Atlanta. They found ways to change the fates for many healthy and treatable pets through adoption programs, marketing, fostering, and community outreach. These open-admission county shelters take in an average of 40-60 dogs every day. Despite often seeing the worst cases of abuse and neglect, these are places of hope, love, and new beginnings.

Grandma Dot was another dog living at the LifeLine rehabilitative shelter in Avondale. She had every strike against her possible: she was old, overbred, labeled "a pit bull," reactive to other dogs, heartworm positive, and sadly, was most recently diagnosed with terminal cancer. The staff at LifeLine refused to let her spend her remaining days

dying in the shelter, so they launched a campaign to find her a "fospice" (foster/hospice) home. A volunteer named Jessica heard Grandma Dot's story and immediately offered her home as a sanctuary for the dog. She didn't know how long they would have together, but she wanted the dog to experience kindness and love for the remaining days of her life. LifeLine is covering all of her medical expenses, food, and supplies, while Jessica is doing her part to spoil the dog with love, cuddles, treats, toys, and perfectly polished toes!



Grandma Dot

LifeLine recently implemented a new program called Pets for Life (PFL), where a team goes door-to-door in communities that lack access to pet care to offer free spay/neuters, pet supplies, veterinary care, and vaccinations. LifeLine makes healthcare accessible to people who love their animals. Just last week they helped Malcolm, a war veteran, and his dog, Caesar, an 8-year-old Chihuahua mix who suddenly lost the use of his back legs. LifeLine took Caesar to the veterinarian where they discovered that the dog's hind legs were permanently paralyzed. The nonprofit wanted to help even more, so they provided the dog with a wheelchair for his back legs and socks to help his front paws grip the hardwood floors. When the team delivered the supplies, emotions were overflowing as Caesar ran for the first time in years down the driveway with his new set of wheels.

**Did you know that the Lake Claire community has had a big part in creating those happy beginnings?** There are supporters, donors, employees, volunteers, foster parents, and adopt-



Caesar Gains "Legs"

ers in every corner of our neighborhood. Just look for the myriad posts on NextDoor offering to collect much needed newspapers, towels, crates, or sheets for the shelters' animals. It's also not uncommon to find LifeLine alumni pups prancing happily down our streets in their forever homes.

LifeLine is a local nonprofit supported by generous communities like ours who, much like the organization, believe that every animal that can be saved, should be saved and found a loving home. To learn more about the community programs, shelters, volunteer opportunities, or to **donate** to help hundreds of other animals like Skateboard, Grandma Dot and Caesar find their happy beginnings, visit [LifeLineAnimal.org](http://LifeLineAnimal.org).

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The Gillespy family—Daughter Shawn, Lee, and Darlene  
Please see article last month on Lee and Darlene Gillespy (Page 8); we regret not crediting Patricia Richmond for writing it and that we didn't have space for the picture. We thank Lee and Darlene for advertising in the Clarion (page 10 this issue). ~ Ed.

# Call Us Anytime With Your Real Estate Needs, Hopes And Dreams!!



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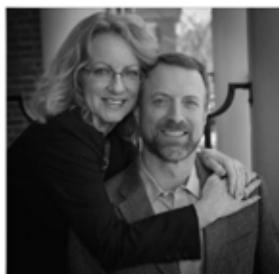


605 Avery

It was the summer of 2014 and one of our Lake Claire neighbors asked me about helping their family buy a new home. She wanted Lee and I to help find a property to build their dream home on. She went on to explain that over the last 15 years she and her husband had been living next door to their best friends and that they had been raising a little community of 7 kids between the two families. This is where it got interesting... both families wanted to move and build their Dream Homes and live next-door to each other again! As you probably know there are basically no lots left intown and finding two side by side was going to be quite challenging. Over the next 2 years we found them five opportunities to build homes side by side but, for different reasons none of those properties were right for them. We never give up on our clients dreams and we knew sooner or later we would find them the right properties! We uncovered every stone and spoke to every agent and seller intown. About a year ago we found the two lots that they were looking for. We were able to connect them with a custom home builder who built their dream homes on the two beautiful lots we found them in Decatur.

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## Bling-out the Children's Garden & Build a Scare Crow at the Land Trust!

Next Family Fun Garden Party  
Sept. 24, 4-6 p.m.

Ladybug Rocks Children's Garden at the Land Trust is becoming a paradise and you're invited to visit and participate! In partnership with local families and sustainable businesses, like Terra Nova and Beech Hollow Farms, Ladybug Events has co created an enchanting space that is friendly to little beings of all kinds. You will find winding stone paths, native Georgia flowers, herbs, gnomes, an epic bean teepee, watermelon tunnel, and lots of ladybugs of course. Visitors are encouraged to touch, smell and observe the many little friends that come and pollinate the flowers. Helpers may help themselves to herbs and beans that grow in the garden. Come bee a helper too!

At our next garden party, Sept. 24, from 4-6p.m. we are hosting our second fall planting, adding jewels to the stone walls, and creating a whimsical Scare Crow! If you have some special trinkets or treasures to share please join us and help BLING out the Garden! At all of our events you may expect snacks, music, and family fun! We do ask for donations as little as \$5 and for you to bring your own water. All donations support our programming directly. You may also donate online and know you are supporting our efforts to create a lasting beautiful space and our 2 honey bee colonies located at the Land Trust.

Ladybug Events is in its 3rd year of offering family fun educational programming at the LCCLT. In addition to programming, Ladybug Events provides Farm to School programs, and afterschool acting classes at Mary Lin Elementary, and educational and whimsical services for birthday parties, events, and Farmers Markets. To learn more and to sign up for our seasonal newsletter visit [Ladybugeventsllc.com](http://Ladybugeventsllc.com) or email [Missladybug@Ladybugeventsllc.com](mailto:Missladybug@Ladybugeventsllc.com). Consider having your next special event at the Land Trust with Ladybug Events!

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2. Bulletin Board
3. DeKalb Path to Pollinator Bed, DeKalb Gardens, Compost Project & Nelms Ave. Farm
4. Upper Path Gardens
5. Rest Room
6. Playground & Big Gazebo
7. Amphitheater, Stage & Fire Pit
8. Olympic Shed
9. Sunset Overlook
10. Japanese Meditation Garden
11. Gorilla Grill
12. Little Gazebo in Greenfield
13. Sauna
14. Peace Pond Overlook
15. Big Lou the Emu
16. Peace Pond
17. Peace Pond Gardens

# 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 Abby Hyken's thoughts on starting school this year—in a new grade, at a new school. Abby lives on the west side of Clifton Road, traditionally the "Candler Park side," and we grant them dual citizenship. The Hykens enjoy the Clarion, and we appreciate Abby's participation in this column. The picture is from the first

day of school this year, as Abby was waiting for the bus. She lives with her parents, twin brothers, and her dog. She loves to read, play the alto saxophone, cook, and play softball. She is excited to play on the Inman Middle School softball team this year. Abby was born in Atlanta and has lived on Clifton Rd in the same house her whole life.

Thanks, Abby, for telling us your story.

And below is Latha Wright's cartoon strip, 6th in her series "QT Kitten." With this, she wraps up the current story arc.

**Hey there,** Lake Claire kids of all ages—we want to see your creativity. Any more stories of beginning school? What you did in the summer? Write about anything that grabs you. Submit articles, poetry, drawings, your original puzzles, etc., to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org). We hope to hear from you!

## Scrambling with the Schedule

by Abby Hyken

Imagine it is the first day of 6th grade at Inman Middle School. You are nervous about going to a brand-new school, and leaving the comforts of your elementary school. Everything is new: the buses, the people, and the school. Since it is your first time at the school, you don't know where anything is, and you are scrambling to get to your classes. What if you walk into the wrong class? That would be embarrassing, right? Well, that is what happened to me.

It was the first day of 6th grade, and I was trying to get to my first class. It was my English Language Arts class, and I didn't know where to go. I walked up and down the hallways through the streams of kids also trying to get to their classes. I was scanning the name plates outside the classrooms searching for my teacher's name. I finally found my ELA class. I walked into the supposed ELA classroom, but it turned out it was a math classroom; my ELA class was next door. I won't be making that mistake again.

Now, I have mostly gotten the hang of the schedule and haven't walked into the wrong class since that first day. Starting middle school has been an adventure, and I can't wait for more!



\*\*\* Contest Winner! \*\*\*

**CONGRATULATIONS,** Stella Greene found last month's back-to-school graphic on page 9. Yes, Stella is a dog, but she apparently loves the Clarion and communicated it as shown in the photo. Owner Craig Greene says that Stella lives on McLendon Ave. with her Mom and Dad, and her sisters Sadie and Olivia. Stella and Sadie are both rescues. She has lived in Lake Claire since 2014. She likes long walks and "singing the song of her people when she sees the mail truck." Since we didn't receive the usual thousands of replies from Lake Claire children (too busy enjoying the summer, perhaps), we relaxed our rule that "any *child* is eligible for this contest."



### NEW CONTEST:

**Kids:** Do you know why Autumn is called Fall? The answer is at the bottom of the page. Hint: it is not because of falling leaves! Find the hidden Autumn/Fall graphic in this Clarion. The winner/winners will have their pictures in the next Clarion. To win, send an e-mail to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org) telling us the page number where you found the picture. Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you can't win two months in a row. **Hurry and look;** competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.