



Dear Neighbors,

Well, it's 2018. Fortunately, we're not facing the Mayan Apocalypse predicted a few years ago when I rejoined the Lake Claire Neighbors, Inc. (LCN) Executive Committee. However, the political scene of 2017 may make it seem like the Mayan prediction is starting to crank back up again. Not so much on the local level, although many of the races for Atlanta School Board and the State were hotly contested. Even if you weren't happy with all the results, there will certainly be a lot of new faces. As for our neighborhood, I think the picture is more consoling. First and foremost, the beautifully renovated Lake Claire Park opened in time for most of the summer. The official inauguration ceremony was postponed because of rain, but I truly hope there will be some kind of formal observance because a lot of people in the neighborhood and the City worked very hard to make this event happen, and they deserve recognition. Especially Judy Hammack and

the Friends of Lake Claire Park, and our current City Councilmember, Natalyn Archibong. Other good news is that it appears the Pullman Yard Historic property, across DeKalb Avenue, was saved from demolition when the State of Ga. Property Management Division decided to sell the property to the Atomic Entertainment Company. This group came to a regular LCN meeting last summer and pledged to conserve the buildings and develop an environmentally friendly plan to include mixed housing, stages, and greenspace. So far, no news about improvements for the DeKalb Ave. corridor. The collapsed portion of I-85 may have diverted funding for the moment.

Then there were the events that really characterize and define Lake Claire. I'll start with the Lake Claire Land Trust's Peace and Love celebration, along with their many other wonderful contributions to emphasizing environmental concerns and

Cont. on p. 3

Annual MLK Day Park Cleanup

by Kai Nathaniel



Lake Claire Park Volunteers on MLK Jr. Day, photo by Boyd Baker

It was 30 degrees when more than three dozen volunteers gathered on a sunny Martin Luther King Jr. Day for the annual Lake Claire Park cleanup. The new twist this year was the fragrant mulch supplied by the city of Atlanta. "The mulch was made of Christmas trees," said Sam Fowlkes, a member of Cub Scout Pack 586's Wolf den. Sam, his sister Anna, and their father, Park, helped spread the mulch on the path into the park from Marlbrook. Anna said she saw bits of broken red and yel-

low ornaments and a string of lights that were forgotten on the Christmas trees.

Volunteers carted wheel barrow after wheel barrow of the mulched Christmas trees and spread it over the muddy path. Visitors to the park from Marlbrook will enjoy better footing and a pleasant aroma. Judy Hammack, the head of the Friends of Lake Claire Park, was very pleased with the work: "I am amazed at all

Cont. on p. 10

Dear Friends,

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!!
THANK YOU!!! On behalf of the board of directors, staff, and most importantly, the men whom we serve, please accept this note of appreciation as our grateful thanks for making Clifton Sanctuary Ministries a vital part of the Lake Claire community and for demonstrating your love for our ministry with your financial contributions in 2017. Last year, our Lake Claire neighbors generously donated nearly \$17,000 (\$16,829 to be exact) to Clifton, most of that in response to our letter that you read in the December issue of The Clarion. Your investment allowed us to serve over 300 men last year, giving them resources and the encouragement necessary to transform their lives and move on to independent living. As a matter of fact, your contributions funded our program for nearly a month! And this total doesn't include the mountain of cereal, coffee, paper towels, etc. that you drop off at our door. Nearly every day, one of our fabulous neighbors stops by with

something on our "Needs List."

There is no way that we can adequately express our appreciation for your ongoing support, encouragement, and love that you show to the men of Clifton. You continue to be a model for our city, showing each and every day what it means to be a true neighbor, and we strive each and every day to return the favor. If you haven't stopped by Clifton recently, please do. We'd love for you to see transformation in action—knowing that you, too, will be transformed.

We wish great things for you and yours in 2018.

With gratitude,

Leslie A. Prince, Chair, CSM Board of Directors

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, located at 369 Connecticut Avenue (the corner of McLendon and Connecticut), has been serving men who are homeless for 38 years - that adds up to over 12,000 folks—thanks to our partner agencies, fabulous staff and volunteers, and a bunch of great neighbors who also live in Lake Claire.

Frazer Center: A Place to Gather

by Dina Shadwell

Benjamin Franklin said, "Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better [person]." At the Frazer Center, we're not in the war-with-vices business, but we do strive to be good neighbors in Lake Claire. We are thrilled to share our forest home with all those who enjoy strolling the trails. We are more than happy to provide space for monthly workshops and Lake Claire Neighbors meetings, and we love opening up our beautiful atrium for Lake Claire neighborhood events like the annual holiday party and arts and craft sale. And if you've attended the Lake Claire BBQ and silent auction in our Cator Woolford Gardens, you know what a magical setting it can make for just such an occasion.

The gardens are located on one of the few remaining intact historic estates in metro Atlanta. Originally created in the 1920s as part of the estate of Cator Woolford, one of the principal founders of the company now known as Equifax, the estate

was purchased in 1952 for the purpose of relocating the Cerebral Palsy Center, now the Frazer Center. The 39-acre estate is held in trust, and the Frazer Center is charged with maintaining the forest and gardens. Since our area of expertise is inclusion rather than gardening and forestry, we rely heavily on neighborhood volunteers to help with our 3-year forest restoration project; experts from Trees Atlanta lead quarterly Saturday morning workdays for volunteers to remove invasives.

We also rely on the generosity of our donors, since the forest and gardens are not publicly funded. Seven years ago we decided to use the beautiful gardens as a backdrop for an annual gala fundraiser, Goodness in the Gardens. Lake Claire Neighbors has been a frequent sponsor of the event, and we always enjoy celebrat-

Cont. on p. 9

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

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

February 2018

Fun Facts About February

It is the shortest month of the year. The Welsh call February "y mis bach" which means "little month." It is the third month of winter. In the Southern Hemisphere February is a summer month the equivalent of August. The month is named for the Latin word februum, which means purification. Together with January, it was the last of the months added to the Roman calendar. The largest American sporting event of the year, the Super Bowl, is held in February. The Saxon term for the month, Sol-monath, means "cake month." This is because they offered cakes to the gods during this month. February is Black History Month, Friendship Month, Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, American Heart Month, and National Children's Dental Health Month. The 2nd week of February is Random Acts of Kindness Week.

1-15 Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, films, speakers, see ajff.org

1-17 **Actor's Express** (west Midtown)—*Angels in America*. Set in 1985, the film revolves around six New Yorkers whose lives intersect; at its core, it is the fantastical story of Prior Walter, a gay man living with AIDS who is visited by an angel. The film explores a wide variety of themes, including Reagan era politics, the spreading AIDS epidemic, and a rapidly changing social and political climate.

1-18 *The Ballad of Klook and Vinette*. Tough, tender, funny, poignant, Horizon kicks off its 2018 season with this love story set against poetry and jazz in its highly anticipated American premiere. www.horizontheatre.com/plays/ballad-klook-vinette. I (editor) attend all the plays at Actor's Express and Horizon. If you have other favorite theatres, please let me know, and I'll include them here.

3 and 17 Lake Claire Land Trust Drum Circle, sunset to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Bring a friend, and spread the word! See Land Trust stuff on Page 11.

4 Annual Lake Claire Women's Tea, Betsy's, 1759 Indiana Ave., 2-5 p.m.—bring your fave pastry, crumpet, tea sandwich—many varieties of tea and conviviality provided. Followed by some football game.

10 Valentine's Day Dance at the E Church with Bill Fleming and the Ex-P.A.N.D. Band. See article on Page 11

11 *S'More Children's Garden Fun*, 4-6 p.m. Miss Ladybug's **2018 Kick Off**, Variety Show and Dance Party for families and kids. See article including the whole year's calendar for Miss Ladybug on p. 11.

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

15 **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!)**

Fireworks

by Dawn Aura

New Year's Eve has come and gone, again. One neighbor or another has always shot off fireworks close to our house, which has an emu living in the back yard. The noise of fireworks frightens animals tremendously. One time a piece of the fireworks fell into his sanctuary! This was years ago when they were shot off on the Land Trust, so close to our house.

Those kids are grown and gone now. But the past couple of years some other neighbors of ours, whom we know as dear people, have been shooting off their fireworks in the cul-de-sac by the Land Trust entrance. We have a sweet rescued pit bull named Ella. We don't know what her first year was like, but something happened



Ella

to her that makes her completely terrified of loud noises like thunder and fireworks. On New Year's Eve she was trembling all over and had wedged herself between the toilet and the wall. At 12:40 a.m., I went out to talk to the neighbors shooting off fireworks, but the neighbor was not interested in stopping. He told me he had six more rockets.

Fireworks displays at public places

usually lasts fifteen minutes or so, and you can expect that they will end shortly. But when residents shoot them for longer periods, usually spread over hours, it becomes very difficult for the terrified animals to endure, not knowing when the next one will come or when they will stop.

As I walked away, the neighbor shot another one, then one more, and then it stopped. I was thankful for that at least. But Ella spent the next three days either under the bed or in the bathroom; she was that traumatized. I have a compromise in mind. My request is that neighbors reconsider shooting their fireworks for so long a time. How about a more concise, finite 15 to 30-minute period like the displays

in downtown Decatur or Piedmont Park? That would be so helpful since so many of us have pets that live close by to the fireworks' shot-like sounds. Animals (including emus) would still be frightened, but I think it frightens them so much more when it goes on and on.

Thank you for your consideration.

Editor's note—this goes for New Year's Eve and July 4.

17 Community Work Day, 3-6 p.m., Pizza and Drum Circle follow at the Lake Claire Land Trust. The Land Trust needs your help to stay beautiful!

24 Black History Month Parade, historic Sweet Auburn District, starts at Hurt Park. www.blackhistorymonthparade.com

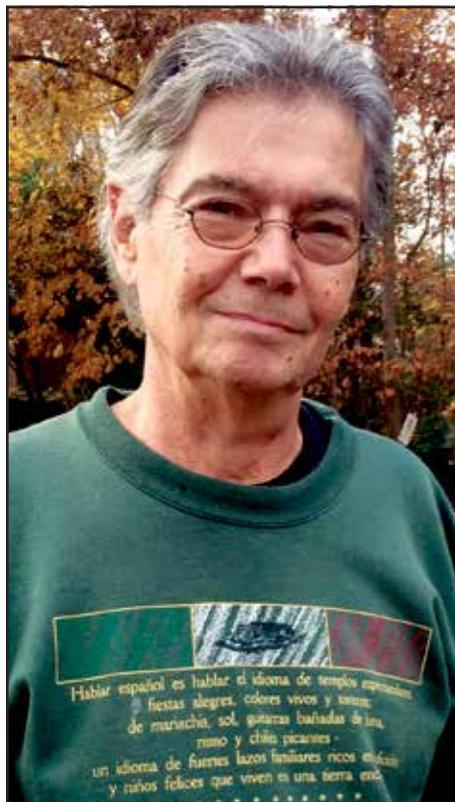
Send calendar entries for the MARCH Clarion by Feb. 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org

Message From the President

Continued from Page 1

just having a good time. Ever been to a drum circle? You should try it! Next are the regular LCN activities. Beginning in summer was the annual Centennial BBQ, celebrating the more or less 1915 date for the origin of our neighborhood. Hey, let's not get hung up on details. Continuing on in this vein, we had a great Arts and Crafts Sale in cooperation with the Mary Lin Elementary School (thanks to Julie Roseman) that also provided the more than memorable performance of its choir singing traditional Christmas songs. Of course, we can't forget the annual LCN potluck holiday dinner held in the Frazer Center Atrium. This is not a fundraising affair but simply a "thank you" to all the residents of Lake Claire for being a part of and for supporting our neighborhood. But without question the biggest neighborhood draw was the Lake Claire Halloween parade that, in spite of a rain delay this year, went on in its usual flair—marching from Ridgewood at Marlbrook and ending up in Lake Claire Park, with costume competitions and a general good time for kids and adults.

This will also be a good time to make a financial report for 2017. Our funding situation has improved over the last couple of years with an increase in events such as the Annual Centennial BBQ and Arts and Crafts Sale. Of course, dues from members provide a constant but crucial stream of income, and every \$20 is deeply appreciated! A major contribution has been provided by our inimitable newspaper, the Clarion, due to a surge in ads during the last couple of years. Many thanks are in order for its editor, Beth Damon, and advertising manager, Pat Del Rey. As for where all this money goes, here's a quick summary: the largest donation for 2017, \$3,000 went to Lake Claire Park. However, this was a special situation since the money was raised from the last Lake Claire Tour of Homes several years ago (we hope to have another one someday) that was held in the LCN accts. to be used when most useful. Next, \$750 went to the Frazer Center, not only as a donation but also in recognition of the fact that it supplies our meeting space as well as sites and facilities for our special events such as the BBQ, Arts & Crafts Sale, and the Annual Potluck. In reality, the FC contributes much more to the LCN than vice versa. We donated \$500 apiece to Mary Lin, the Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (CSM), and the Candler Park/LC Security Patrol, and \$750 in gift cards for the Zone 6 Police and the local firefighters on DeKalb Ave. In total, over \$5,000 was donated



this year. As a direct result of our events, Mary Lin received \$618 from its participation the Arts & Crafts Sale and the CSM got \$215 for its mailing campaign. Expenses cover a wide range of items to include banking fees, the Annual Potluck Dinner, greenspaces, and materials such as banners and bumper stickers. Overall, we try to keep expenditures from going above income. In this regard, we have a reserve that varies from \$7,000 to \$9,000, depending on revenue, that can be used for emergencies but also for such things as greenspace purchases. The last one concerned a property that was incorporated into Lake Claire Park in the amount of \$5,000.

But all of the above is only one part of what your neighborhood organization does. A major item is providing important input into variance requests that then go to our Neighborhood Planning Unit N and then onto the City's Board of Zoning Adjustment for final approval. This allows the opportunity to change or alter plans that could negatively impact the surrounding neighbors. After a building permit is issued, the process begins at a regular LCN meeting held every 3rd Thurs of the month except for Dec. when it is replaced by the Holiday Potluck Dinner. In addition, the meetings provide a forum for getting action from the City for such things as stop signs and speed bumps in crucial areas. This year a four-way stop was placed at the intersection of Marlbrook and Clifton Rd., and the bike lanes along McLendon Ave. were redesigned to make them safer. A representative from Councilmember Natalyn Archibong's office, Valencia Hudson, regularly attends the LCN meetings and has

Wild in Lake Claire

by Carol Vanderschaaf

After checking with my far flung correspondents, I've learned that, unfortunately, most of them (like Flora Fauna) have been spending the recent cold days indoors. But some wild things do go on indoors... Genise S. reports a few silverfish in her home as well one squirrel and possibly a cursed rodent trying to get in. She also heard some Barred Owls doing their 'eerie' "Who, who, who cooks for you" routine outside at night. Genise also noted what appeared "to be a bunch of mixed types of bird types all fly up from the same trees when a noise startled them. That was surprising."

Ilene S., I believe, has id'd this mixed flock of birds as red-winged blackbirds "flocking with robins." I've

house. The little Buddha enshrined in the house was thrown out during the redecorating.

But my favorite report was from a correspondent who wishes to remain anonymous, as this individual does not feel her report is Clarion worthy. But Flora Fauna does. This person recently noticed the family cat gnawing on something under the kitchen table. Perhaps a chipmunk... but a later closer examination revealed it to be the tail of a rat. Join the club Mr./Ms./Mrs. A. Who hasn't had or doesn't have the eternal rodent? Every time a house is torn down to build a MacMansion, the furry little creatures run in mass to the closest cellar.

And one more little thing from Flo-



seen them too, and they do behave as Genise indicates. And they're pretty noisy. Ilene is one of the braver Lake Clarions who has spent some time outside. She also saw "an intense conversation between two barred owls." Ilene has a water feature in her yard which keeps things more wild than most, but sometimes unfortunate incidents occur. Ilene did get to host Great Blue Heron recently, but the ungrateful guest ate all her goldfish.

Meta L, our Candler Park reporter, noted that her wren house seems to have become a squirrel hotel. Instead of the little round wren hole entrance there is a big square squirrel door. The squirrels also seem to have taken over her neighbor's sculptural spirit

ra. One morning when I was peeking out from under my blanket I saw a tiny bird at my suet feeder. It was a golden-crowned kinglet. This bird, smaller than a chickadee, but larger than a hummingbird, comes to Georgia, along with her sister, the ruby-crowned kinglet, during the winter. They can travel as far south during migration as Guatemala and nest way up north as far as Alaska; and BTW, they do go out in very cold weather.

I wish all of you a good winter, and may we all learn the secrets of the kinglet.

Sincerely,
Flora Fauna

been very effective in getting the City departments to respond to requests.

But that's not all. The LCN Educational Chair, Annsley Klehr, who, beyond keeping the neighborhood informed about what's going on with the Atlanta Public Schools (APS), also set up candidates forums for political offices, including state legislature, the City, and the APS Board.

My sincere hope is that after reading the above, you will be motivated to attend meetings and participate in LCN activities. In particular, we need as many volunteers as possible

for what we do. Please don't look at involvement as a duty or chore but rather as great way to meet other neighbors (there really are a lot of nice ones!) and, above all, to enjoy yourself and this wonderful location we have the good fortune to live in. So feel free to contact our Vice President for Fundraising, Pen Sherwood. She can be reached at fundraising@lakeclaire.org.

Sincerely,

Joe Agee,
President,
Lake Claire Neighbors, Inc.



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* * * EDUCATION MATTERS * * *

Three Phase Approach to Capacity Issues in the Grady Cluster

by Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Neighbors Education Chair

The Grady Cluster is comprised of Elementary Schools Morningside, Mary Lin, Springdale Park, Centennial, Hope Hill, and Kindezi. All these feed into Inman Middle School and then into Grady High School. It is a coveted cluster now, with new families spending a pretty penny to get into the neighborhoods that feed into them, especially Lake Claire, Candler Park, Inman Park, Morningside, Poncey Highlands, Virginia-Highlands, with the Old Fourth Ward as an up and coming spot.



APS Superintendent Meria Carstarphen

Twenty years ago there were many invested souls from our neighborhood with faith in their neighbors and their community, who sent their children to the neighborhood Title I schools (Mary Lin included), which have since lost their titles. Today, families are dying to get into our In-town neighborhoods for our former, Title I public schools' reputations.

Ever since 2011, as the popular-

ity of the local public schools grows, there have been rumors of redistricting and unrest within the Grady Cluster elementary school communities, arguing who should stay in the cluster and who should go. There just is not as much space as everyone wishes there were. Morningside is already over the maximum capacity of 900, with 940 students. The maximum capacity has changed with time as the numbers inside the classroom have grown. The maximum capacity is derived using square footage. So, when a class was allowed 22 students, the maximum capacity was less than the current allocation of 25 students. This number does not take into account the lack of space in the cafeteria, where lunch has to start at 10:30 a.m. to accommodate the whole school. Even the playground is over-crowded. This is currently a hot topic; phases of potential resolutions for Morningside are outlined below:

Phase I: Redistricting within the Morningside Elementary Catchment Area. At the Atlanta Board of Education (ABOE) meeting on December 4, 2017, recognizing Morningside's desperate need to alleviate some capacity issues before a more permanent fix is in place, it was proposed and approved that starting July 1, 2018, effective for the 2018-19

school year, non-current students of 1989 Cheshire Bridge Road and the Armour Drive Corridor be re-zoned to the North Atlanta Cluster. Those on Cheshire Bridge will feed into Garden Hills Elementary/Sutton Middle/North Atlanta High, while those on Armour will feed into E. Rivers/Sutton/North Atlanta. Current students will be "grandfathered" in to continue at their current schools with transportation provided by APS:

- All students currently enrolled at Morningside may remain enrolled through 5th grade.
- All students currently enrolled at Inman Middle may remain enrolled through 8th grade.
- All students currently enrolled at Grady High may remain enrolled through graduation.

How are determinations made? ABOE determined that both Armour Dr. and Cheshire Bridge are on the border of their zones. The Armour area is on the edge of the Morningside zone and is equidistant from E. Rivers and Sutton as it was to its most recent elementary and middle school. The Cheshire Bridge piece is again on the line between Morningside and Garden Hills. Being that it is an unfinished apartment complex, it would not impact any current families.

How are redistrictings communicated? All APS changes are communicated directly to the families and the schools (and their GO Teams) that will be impacted, by way of letters homes and electronic communications, and at a stakeholders' meeting last November. According to one of the parents at Morningside, those who attended were mostly new homeowners along these corridors, who bought with the promise of being in the Grady Cluster. A builder was spotted in the audience, advocating for its newly built properties. Atlanta Public School (APS) Superintendent, Meria Carstarphen, along with several ABOE members were listening to the concerns. After hearing remarks from the stakeholders, the plans were tweaked to reflect their voices: The Manchester Townhomes by Hedgewood that were to be redistricted to Garden Hills were removed from the plans. The stakeholders argued that they were "homes," not apartments so should not be redistricted. Though there may be some unrest among the newly redistricted neighbors, the general vibe from Morningside is relief from the stress and strain of not enough room even to navigate its hallways.

Cont. on p. 7

Lake Claire Parents Appreciate Values-based Education Offered by The Friends School of Atlanta

by Nancy Bent

"Rigor and discipline in a Friends school isn't just academic. The values of peace and justice promoted by a Friends education requires social discipline as well," Drew Smith, Executive Director of Friends Council on Education, shared with Atlanta community members in October 2017. Hosted by The Friends School of Atlanta (FSA) for its annual Quaker Education Night, Smith spoke on the challenges of "Teaching Children in Turbulent Times."

Smith's attention to the social life of students did not fall on uninformed ears. In a society constantly at odds with creating space in which all are welcomed, FSA stands as a beacon for families to arrive just as they are. Lake Claire parents like Danielle Carter are attracted to the school's unique approach to incorporating social awareness and the many forms

of diversity into its curriculum. "I love that my son goes to school with other children from diverse families and socioeconomic backgrounds," she stated.

Maintaining a diverse community has been at the forefront of FSA's mission since its founding in 1991. Located nearby on Columbia Drive in Decatur, The Friends School of Atlanta is one of 78 member Friends (or Quaker) schools throughout the country, including Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C., attended by the Obama daughters, and Matt Ryan's high school alma mater, Penn Charter Friends School in Philadelphia. Like all Friends schools, FSA seeks to create an inclusive community that thrives on the Quaker values of peace, equity, and social justice. Students at Friends schools are encouraged to come together in the

spirit of respect for all, to find a way to listen deeply to one another and to value the gifts that all students bring with them, that they might, together, imagine an ideal society.

Adherence to learning, respect, and responsibility was important to Rebecca Anderson of Lake Claire when deciding where to place her daughter after disenrolling her from public school. "At FSA," she says, "discipline is a system of respect, which is a social responsibility." Now, Anderson feels safe knowing that her daughter is receiving an education in which all parts of her personhood are treated fairly.

In such uncertain times, FSA turns to the Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, and equality, as well as the longtime practices of peaceful conflict resolution and nonviolence, as touch points

for navigating and bridging the many divisions of today's world. According to yet another Lake Claire parent, Pamela Morse Garland, "What's unique to Friends is the intentional inclusion of the core Quaker values that not only allow students to understand stewardship, compassion, and peacefulness within themselves and their immediate community, but also draws them out to think bigger than themselves."

The Friends School of Atlanta offers a 3-year-old through 8th grade program. Families interested in learning more about the school or scheduling a tour should visit www.friendsschoolatlanta.org or contact Nancy Bent, Director of Advancement and Admissions, at nancy.bent@friendsschoolatlanta.org or 404-373-8746 x8135. ~Ed



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Open House

Saturday, February 3
Saturday, April 14
10:00 am to 12:00 pm

The Friends School of Atlanta offers an exceptional academic program - PreK3 through 8th grade - with individualized instruction every step of the way. Joyful learners come together in small, diverse classes where they gain the confidence to become their best selves as students and engaged citizens.

Please plan to attend our next Open House, or reserve a parent-only tour during the school week by emailing Nancy Bent, Director of Advancement and Admissions at nancy.bent@friendsschoolatlanta.org.



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Want to Spend Less Time in Traffic?

Suggestions for Moving from Point A to Point B

by Beth Damon

The following behaviors seem logically to be common courtesy and good neighborliness, but the bonus is, according to new international traffic studies, they are practices that reduce travel times and accidents. The Clarion is distributed to 1,400 homes in Lake Claire. If just those of us in Lake Claire began to demonstrate these behaviors in traffic, there could be a noticeable difference for the City, especially if other Atlantans follow our examples. The fundamental rule is proactively to look for ways to increase the traffic flow around you. Please add your own suggestions and post on Facebook, etc. Atlanta needs us!

- This might be my top one. **Increase traffic flow from side streets and businesses by ceasing to block driveways** to shopping centers, side streets, etc., even if there is not a sign. This courtesy would make such a big difference, and an example close to home is at the Mercantile; invariably, when one is exiting that little center with the Mercantile and San Francisco Coffee onto Clifton Road, cars at the red

light (Clifton @ DeKalb Ave.) have blocked the driveway—though they can't go anywhere, since they are at a red light!! That is so annoying that it deserves two exclamation points. Approaching a red light? This is the time to look around for cars that need to change lanes or come out of businesses. Let people enter roadways whenever you can.

- **Let people cross and cars pass.** Pay attention to crosswalks. Most of the time, because of traffic, letting people cross and letting cars pass you will not take up any more of your time. Let's imagine that the other person may have emergency situations causing the need to rush, and if someone is trying to get around you, let's allow him or her to do so. Too many people speed up on purpose to keep someone from passing or changing lanes. It may not be the case 99% of the time, but why not err on the side of being nice? Why not believe that people generally mean well, or have some reason for their actions; give people the benefit of the doubt? And unfortunately, with our terrible gun laws, the person behaving errat-

ically in the car next to me may have a mental problem and a weapon in the car. It is not worth it to find out.

- **Don't tailgate.** When a driver follows the car in front of it too closely and does not allow a "two-second" space between the vehicles, that is, at least the distance it would take a car to travel two seconds at its current speed, it is dangerous for both cars. Some drivers think that if they follow the driver in front of them close enough, they will intimidate the driver into going faster or pulling over. This practice is the number one cause of automobile accidents in the United States. Since the cars are so close to another, there is no room to maneuver for either car in the event of something going wrong. This behavior is not only rude, but it can be deadly, even for the tailgater.

- **Use a turn signal/blinker correctly.** Signal your turn or lane change, then brake! This allows the cars behind to merge away and hold their full speed. This is another one that I notice frequently, sudden braking then the signal put on as an afterthought, so that the car behind has no warning and has had to put on brakes.

- **Consider not speeding when it endangers others.** Leave the left lane open for the fastest vehicle whenever possible.

Many of us already do these things. This is not meant to be preachy, but I notice all of these whenever I'm in the car. As soon as the new behaviors become common, we can hope to commute faster, with less stress. And I'll be able to get out of the Mercantile with my hummus.

Capacity Issues in the Grady Cluster

Continued from Page 5

Phase II: Morningside Kindergarten Annex. Morningside boasts a proud 940 students, roughly 165 of them Kindergarteners. ABOE has been looking for an annex building for just the Kindergarteners, to alleviate overcrowding. Identifying a location and negotiations of contract will fall to the Superintendent. If a location is not secured, additional steps will be taken by Spring 2018 to address the overcrowding.

Phase III: Re-zoning for Grady Cluster. Initial conversations on the over-crowding of the Grady Cluster will begin in early 2018 to be finalized by March 2020. ABOE recognizes that this is a larger conversation and the need for a long-range plan to alleviate overcrowding across the board.

As APS moves forward with its phases, we have to remember that at the end of the day, the goal is to op-

timize and maximize student learning. ABOE works hard to try to accommodate all needs within certain parameters. Let us continue mindfully and thoughtfully to ask:

- What is our role as community members, parents, teachers, students, leaders, and organizers?
- Do the pros outweigh the cons?
- Whom does this benefit and why?
- Whom does this NOT benefit and why?
- Does this plan maximize and optimize student learning?
- Are the solutions the most logical and cost-effective?

You can read more at: www.boarddocs.com/ga/aps/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=ATHPBL63D6FD.

A special thank you to Matt Westmoreland, former District 3 ABOE representative, for his help on this article.



Hello—Safe Journey—Skiing in and around Lake Claire

February Birthdays:

- 1 Linda Maynard, Delaware Avenue (we miss you)
- 2 Isla Roberts (happy 5), Claire Drive; Daniel Babinslei, Harold Ave.; Luke Mawson-Puckhaber (happy 6), Palifox Drive
- 3 Beth Damon, your dedicated editor, (happy 60-something—gulp!) Delaware Avenue
- 4 Ann Shirra, Arizona (mother of Eleanor McLane Shirra)
- 5 Scooter McLane, Arizona Ave. (father of Eleanor McLane Shirra)
- 6 Happy b'day to Jennifer Ruddell, Hardendorf
- 9 Amelia Roberts (happy 9), Claire Drive; Anne Weldert, Harold Ave.
- 12 Patricia Farmer, Hardendorf
- 13 Happy Three to Elliot Micah Philip Masarek, Delaware Avenue (and belated b'day wishes to little brother Reuben Karl, born in January)
- 14 Gillian Landgraff, Harold Ave
- 15 Selena Howard Fleming, Harold Ave
- 16 Joanna Babinslei, Harold Ave
- 17 Eva Capps, happy 9!
- 24 Eamon, Emmett, and Brigitte (the triplets of Hardendorf!) McNulty turn 12 years old. And their 12th year in the neighborhood
- 27 Lucien DeMan, happy 3, and Esther Williams, happy 9!—both on Harold

Anniversary:

Craig and Emily Allen—Harold Avenue—Feb 8—Happy Anniversary!

Send us stuff—birthdays and other life cycle changes for March—help make this series inclusive (editor@lakeclaire.org) by MARCH 15.

February into March in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

“Foggier yet, and colder! Piercing, searching, biting cold.” Ah, by the time you read this, those days may be over, but January probably gave us enough chill hours for delicious peaches (if we do not have a late frost) and beautiful tulips. Unlike Dickens’ England and our north, we usually get the sunny days with cold and the wet ones with warming temperatures, which is one reason there is so little snow here.

Now is time to plant in Georgia. The Farmers and Consumers Market Bulletin offers its handy spring schedule each January with a range of some weeks for each type of seed or plant. Since we are in the Piedmont, I usually go by the mid-date. For instance, you can direct-seed carrots, collards, kale, mustard, peas (garden and edible pod), radishes, spinach, and turnips now and through March, the same with purchased onion and potato sets. Start your broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower seedlings this month indoors, keeping lights only a couple of inches above them once they sprout. For those and for purchased seedlings, wait until March to set them out (mid-March for cauliflower, which is temperamental). As always, watch the forecast daily, even hourly in this season. I check weather.com regularly to know when to remove row covers, get them back on, set seedlings out in light shade, and bring those trays back inside. This is when my cold frame with its automatic opener is so valuable.

January and February offer the biggest window of opportunity for starting annuals here. Hardware stores are full of bright packets, and I do buy some; but I have always found seed companies to have the widest range of flowers and the seeds most likely to germinate. Park Seed, Seeds & Such, Stokes, Select Seeds, Scheepers, and Burpee are some of the companies I use. Make this the year you will grow your own instead of being dependent on what someone else decides to sell you. Yes, perennials are lovely. They also have shorter blooming times and often are not very perennial at all. How many echinaceas have I killed! By July and August the best have finished, and it is still three or four months until our first killing frost.

Some annuals do take up to twelve weeks to start blooming, which is why you need to plant the mostly tiny seeds indoors right now. Fibrous

begonia, vinca, dianthus, lobelia, impatiens, rudbeckia, pelargonium (known by most as the tender geranium), coleus, and browallia can be sown as early as January, so get busy. Browallia is a special favorite of mine, bright blue and completely satisfied with the limited sun of most of our yards. I have only recently begun to see it offered locally as plants although I have been growing it since the 80s. Torenia is another such plant that comes in several colors. The vast majority of annuals are best started this month. Although I have been ridiculed for it, I find even large-seed flowers like zinnias to do best when started in pots, especially when you invest in expensive seed and want certain colors in particular places. Flower seedlings tend to be much smaller than vegetables: after sowing (check depth on packet) in damp germinating soil, covering the pot with plastic wrap or glass, and keeping it warm, check daily for that haze of green that proves something is alive in there. You need to uncover the pot immediately and be sure the seedlings are only an inch or two below your lighting.

I have written other times about a lighting set-up for your seedlings, a mixture of warm and cool fluorescent lights if you do not use expensive grow lights and a way to lower or raise the lighting to accommodate flats and pots. If you have only a few narrow containers, you can use a south windowsill this time of year, but your seedlings need to be right up against the glass during the day and be turned regularly to keep them stocky and straight. One of my favorite stories is of a visiting Brazilian friend who thought all my light fixtures unnecessary when there was a perfectly good window only six feet away!

My only caveat for growing annuals and perennials is to be careful if you have toddlers with the ability and/or temperament for exploring with their mouths. A large number of exciting plants are poisonous, including the annuals castor bean, larkspur, and datura, and perennials and biennials such as narcissus bulbs, foxgloves, lily-of-the-valley, monkshood, and white snakeroot. Eating parts of such woody plants such as daphne, oleander, and yews is deadly also. But so too is running in front of a moving car.




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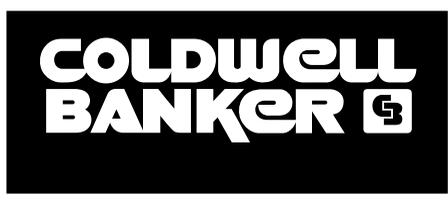



Violin/Viola Lessons & Orchestra:
Lessons with retired APS strings teacher. And the Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra seeks musicians of all ages/levels. Share the love of music/develop skills in a supportive environment. Violin, viola, cello, bass players invited. Lessons or orchestra, Lynn Farnham 404/377-6310

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Frazer Center

Continued from page 1

ing with our neighbors. This year's theme is "Derby Day" and takes place on Saturday, April 28. You can count on an abundance of roses and mint juleps, live and silent auctions, bourbon balls, beer and wine, and catering and service donated by Sun in My Belly. Although there is always something blooming no matter the season, the newly redesigned gardens will be in peak bloom by the time of the event.

Tickets are on sale now, but we recommend you go ahead and begin your search for the perfect Derby Day hat! All proceeds from Goodness in the Gardens help support our mission of creating an inclusive community for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Rental of the Cator Woolford Gardens is a social enterprise that also supports

the Frazer Center mission. We are so grateful to all of our neighbors who contribute, whether by volunteering, donating, renting, or attending Goodness in the Gardens. We're pretty confident that you qualify for Benjamin Franklin's "better person" list!

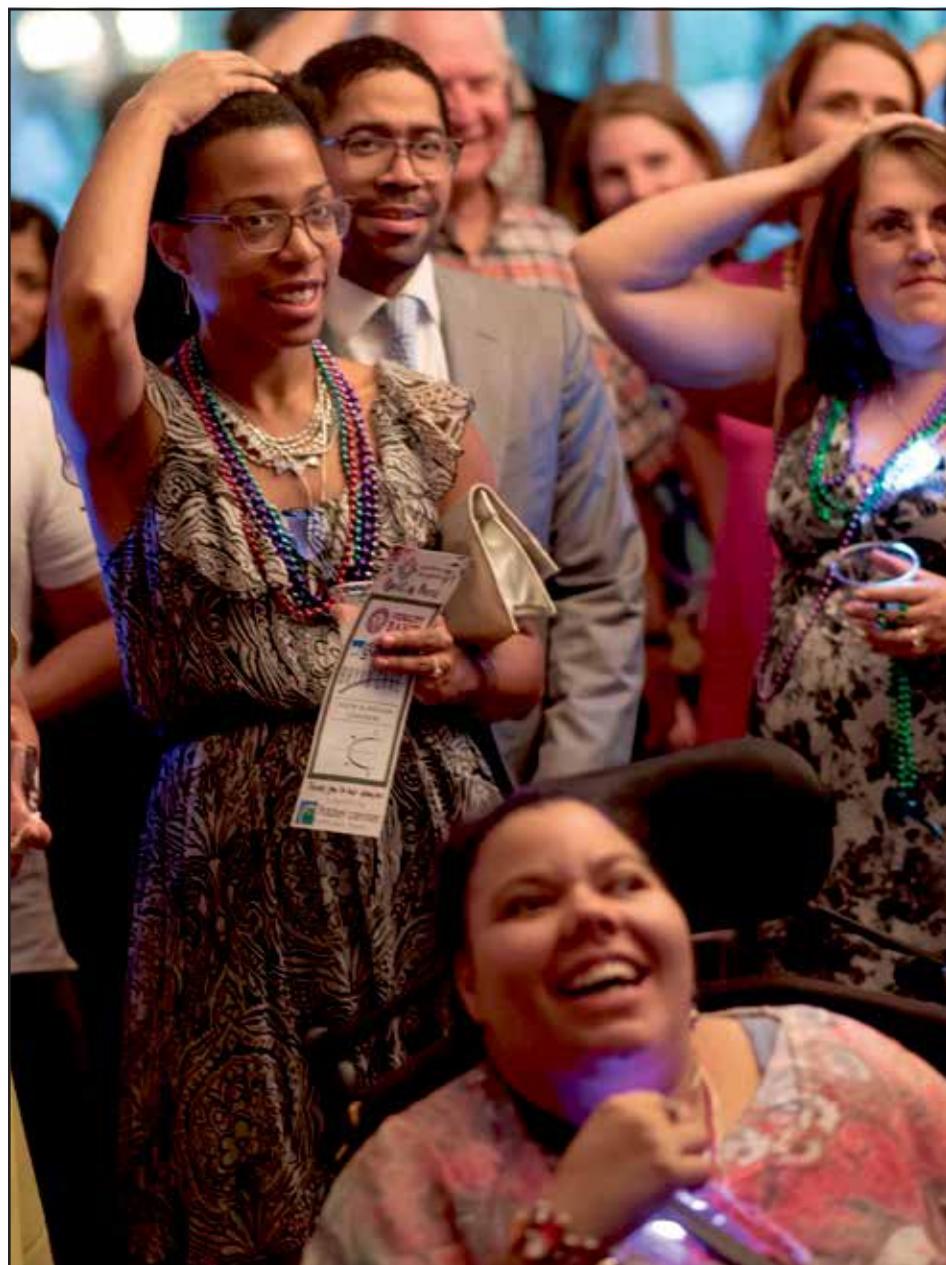
To purchase tickets to Goodness in the Gardens: www.goodnessinthegardens.org

To sign up for volunteering in Frazer Forest with Trees Atlanta: www.frazercenter.org/frazerforestfriends

To rent the gardens: www.catorwoolfordgardens.org

To donate: www.frazercenter.org/get-involved/donate/donate-online

Contact Dina Shadwell at (404) 377-3836 ext. 125, or email: d.shadwell@thefrazercenter.org. ~ Editor



↑ Goodness in the Gardens guests enjoying live auction (foreground: Alicia Day, ex-officio board member, and Rian & Ontorio Smith)

← Goodness in the Garden attendees Reshell and Karla Baldini, parents of Frazer kids



♥ 15 Random Acts of Kindness ♥

1. Hold the door open for someone.
2. Compliment a friend.
3. Bring a welcome gift to a new co-worker.
4. Send a thank you note to a soldier.
5. Let another driver looking for a parking spot know when you're leaving.
6. Leave change in the vending machine.
7. Help someone carry groceries to her car.
8. Leave a happy note on the bathroom mirror that says "you look amazing!".
9. Smile at everyone you see.
10. Send flowers to a friend.
11. Leave extra time in the meter.
12. Give up your seat for someone.
13. Write a note of encouragement to someone who inspires you.
14. Leave a flower on a neighbor's doorstep.
15. Deliver a cup of coffee.

happsters.com

Help change a life today

by Heather Friedman

Did you know that when you adopt an animal from your local county shelter, you are actually saving two lives? Every animal adopted frees up a spot for the next homeless animal who comes to the shelter. Our local Fulton and DeKalb County animal shelters were both taken over in 2013 by LifeLine Animal Project, a nonprofit that has turned these two shelters into lifesaving facilities. Not ready to adopt? try fostering, and

help an animal get a break from the shelter while he or she is looking for a forever home. LifeLine will provide all the supplies; you just supply the love and belly rubs. There is also a "Dog for a Day" program, in which you can take pups out of the shelter for a hike, a walk, a jaunt in the park, or take them to your home for cuddles. Visit LifeLineAnimal.org to learn how you can make a difference for our homeless animals.



Lake Claire Park Cleanup

Continued from page 1

the accomplishments in a two-hour window. The lessons these workers are learning about public spaces is phenomenal.”

The Cub Scouts helped pick up trash and carried out limbs to the curb. Their ranks were bolstered by some of the first girls in the country to join Cub Scouts. Pack 586 is one of the early adopter units helping the Boy Scouts of America figure out how to integrate Scouting. The Cub Scouts started off the service project with a quick reminder that scouts “help other people at all times” and that the work of the volunteers would be enjoyed by all the visitors to the renovated park. Last year, during the MLK Day cleanup, work crews were removing trees to make way for the new ramp down in the park, and the work on the new playground had barely begun.

The smaller scouts were able to scoot under the new wooden ramps and stairs to collect trash that needed a bit more help to find its way into the proper trash cans. Lake Claire Park is regularly used by the Cub Scouts for their meetings.

Several 8th graders from St. Thom-

as Moore were an important part of the volunteer corps. They worked on the paths and varnished the picnic benches. Deacon Baker and his father, Boyd, reassembled the low paver wall next to the tennis court. They spread liquid nails on the stones to hold them in place. Deacon and his mother, Wendy, squeezed behind the tennis courts to cut back the vegetation creeping over the wall. Gerry Percival led a small group that included Dylan Scales and Donovan Mikula to reclaim a picnic bench that had been shoved down the hillside on the path to McLendon Avenue. The bench was carted to a nice spot near the tennis courts and the entrance from Almeta.

Leaves and debris were bagged and removed from the playground and the tennis courts. At the end of the event, the volunteers were treated to hot chocolate and Cub Scout caramel popcorn.

Kai Artley Nathaniel lives on Lakeshore and is a third grader at the Waldorf School. He is 8 years old and is in the WereBear den of Pack 586. Thank you, Kai, for the timely article. -Ed.

Thanks for Paying Your Neighborhood Dues!

We appreciate our neighborhood support of many wonderful initiatives, green spaces, donations to our Police and Firefighters, the Frazer Center, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, Lake Claire Park, etc. Lake Claire suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household—but just like with Public Radio, any amount is certainly appreciated. A Lake Claire Banner package deal is only \$50 if combined with annual dues! **PAY NOW: BE AMONG THE FIRST TO PAY 2018 DUES!!!!**

Here are the names of people who paid last year from November 25 through end of year:

John Kosar
Amy Attebery
Dan Couture
Frani Green
Virginia Apperson
Rachel Patzer
Justin Schirager
Kate Cook
Meredith Walters
Dan Geller
Erin and Roger Fuse Brown
Johnny Panos
Genise Spenle
Leigh Burges

Tiffany Girten
Christin McKenna
Ann Mauney
Derek Miller

And these are the proactive folks who have paid 2018 dues, since January 1:

Martha Loring
Rob Baker
Monique Mikrut
Janet Royalty
Susan Jacobsohn
Melissa Pressman
Diane Ludington
Erick Trum
Mary Jo Bryan

Get your name in print!

Pay by PayPal at lakeclaire.org
or with the old-fashioned check in the mail,
to LCN, Attn: Eileen O'Neill,
Treasurer and VP Finance
PO Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107.

Lake Claire Community Landtrust: Honoring the Conversation

Turning a Neighborhood into a Community in Intown Atlanta: Part 3

by Stephen Wing

“To change the world, you have to change the conversation.”

—Tom Blue Wolf, Ani-Coosa (Muscogee Creek) Faith Keeper

One thing everyone agreed about that afternoon in the Common House was that having a Land Trust on our block is a positive thing. Those three lots overlooking a busy street could have become something we all detest. But since its founding in the mid-1980s the Land Trust has become many things to many people. It is a crossroads for not just one but many communities—neighbors who walk their dogs or rent a garden plot, families visiting the playground, the Children’s Garden, or Big Lou the Emu, drummers and dancers attending the drum circle, musicians who come for the Friday Night Jam, Boy Scouts and Brownies, the folks who sweat in our sauna at night or join an early-morning outdoor yoga class. We host weddings and memorial services, birthday parties for children (but not adults), fundraisers for other nonprofits and for ourselves.

Every first-time visitor seems to have the same reaction: open-mouthed wonder at the lush greenery

and peaceful ambience, followed by amazement that this exists 10 minutes from downtown Atlanta. Then, of course, they tell all their friends. Every other week we get a request for some new activity—filming, classes, concerts. The overwhelming majority of these we must decline, because our guiding principle is the comfort level of the neighborhood. We have a policy of “one quiet weekend a month,” which allows us our two drum circles plus one other public event every month. We have no off-street parking, so the constant stream of visitors can sometimes inconvenience residents coming home from work. Luckily, a nearby men’s shelter in a former church allows us to use its parking lot for public events, such as our musical fundraisers.

The festivals—our “Peace & Love Fest” in the spring and “Jerry Jam” Grateful Dead tribute in late summer—have been the Land Trust’s main source of revenue for many years. Their success depends on a

loyal crew of volunteers who don’t necessarily live nearby, but belong to the wider community of Land Trust supporters. But the festivals also depend on a different kind of support from our closest neighbors. These are the folks who must tolerate the music and traffic and late-night voices on the street. Even if they don’t attend the festivals or even visit the Land Trust, without their patience we could not raise the funds we need. Like the residents in close proximity to parks and schools, they seem to understand that a community effort like the Land Trust is worth a certain amount of inconvenience. And in return, we are careful to balance their needs with those of the wider community.

Our drum circles, too, are primarily attended by visitors from beyond Lake Claire. The drumming is audible to a smaller radius of neighbors, but occurs more frequently, so these events also have their impact on the neighborhood. A few years ago, when

attendance declined, the drum circles stopped bringing in enough donations to cover the cost of staffing them. After some soul-searching, the Land Trust board decided to continue them anyway as a service to the wider community. The sound of drumming twice a month and the extra traffic and parking were already part of the balance we had been maintaining.

This was Part 3 of a FIVE-part article, written for and published in full in Communities, the quarterly magazine of the international intentional communities movement. It appeared in the Winter 2017 issue, “Urban Communities,” reprinted here by permission. Stephen Wing is a poet, activist, and secretary of the Lake Claire Community Land Trust. Read more at StephenWing.com, and go to lakeclaire.org/clarion/clarion-archives/ for the first two parts of this article.

Land Trust Receives Atlanta Magazine “Best of Atlanta” Award!

The Land Trust was honored as Atlanta's best “Hidden Park” of 2017 with a plaque at an awards ceremony in November, and the following description in the December issue of Atlanta magazine: “Meet an emu named Big Lou, visit a pond popular with turtles, and commune with free-

range chickens in this park inside [Lake Claire], a residential neighborhood near Candler Park, hidden just steps away from busy DeKalb Avenue. Climb up to the lookout point for some great views. There's no charge and no pretension.” We tend to duck this kind of notice whenever we can,

and definitely did not seek it out. But we do appreciate the recognition, and so far it has not noticeably impacted our parking issues. But if we had known we were to be honored, we would have added just one thing more: No visitors after dark!

Valentine's Day Dance & Winter Fundraiser

by Dave Fasano

If you like country with a boogie beat, he's the man to meet
If you like the sound of shufflin' feet, he can't be beat
If you wanna feel real nice, just ask the rock and roll doctor's advice!

—Lowell George, “Rock ‘N’ Roll Doctor”

Every album created by Little Feat has kept us moving in the right direction and accompanied us in our travels for the past thirty years, encouraging us to dance when we heard the songs, knowing we were part of the movement to make the music mean more than simply sounds and harmonies. Lowell George met an untimely death in 1979, but his work lives on. Over the years, the Ex-P.A.N.D. Band has performed tributes to their favorite musicians, Little Feat among them. Regardless of the artists being celebrated, Dr. Bill Fleming and his bandmates have always

inspired us to get up out of our chairs and to dance with our friends.

Saturday, February 10, will be no exception, when the Ex-P.A.N.D. Band takes the stage once more at the First Existentialist Congregation for the Land Trust's fifth annual winter fundraiser. The evening's festivities will make us cheer, and your \$10 suggested donation will have the added benefit of supporting our favorite neighborhood greenspace. Doors open at 7:00 pm, and the music will start at 8:00. For the next three hours, if you are in that number, you will become part of a community that

celebrates the arts and supports the effort to make us one with the Earth and one another.

Today it is more important than ever for us to be with one another, supporting our community's alternative to urban living in the face of increasingly dark forces across our land. Be a part of the light; come out and support the Lake Claire Community Land Trust and the Ex-P.A.N.D. Band in their efforts to make this world a better place. Do not miss this opportunity to join with us to send the good vibrations into the night!

A New Year of Family Fun with Ladybug Events at the Lake Claire Land Trust

by Maya Wiseman

Looking for local, family fun this year? Well, look no further than the next Ladybug event! The Ladybug Events team host parties and events at the Land Trust that are a great time for all ages. Their team of educators and entertainers create memorable shows and spaces that fill the imagination with wonder and magic! In their fourth year of providing environmental education and activities for families, Ladybug Events invites you to celebrate and help grow our Children's Garden on select Sundays from 4 to 6 p.m. Donations are accepted to support the events. Save the Dates!

February 11, 4-6 p.m.: Join the Ladybug team for a sweet time making SMORES! There will be music by Mr. Greenthumbs with performances by local youth and puppets! Come dance and have fun! Vegan options available and all supplies provided.

March 18, 4-6 p.m.: Come celebrate the first days of Spring with Ladybug Garden Fun! In the Children's Garden you can help with the



spring planting project, mosaic art, and the Equinox celebration. Start your Spring off right by getting down & dirty with the Ladybug team. Bring Bling to add to the mosaic!

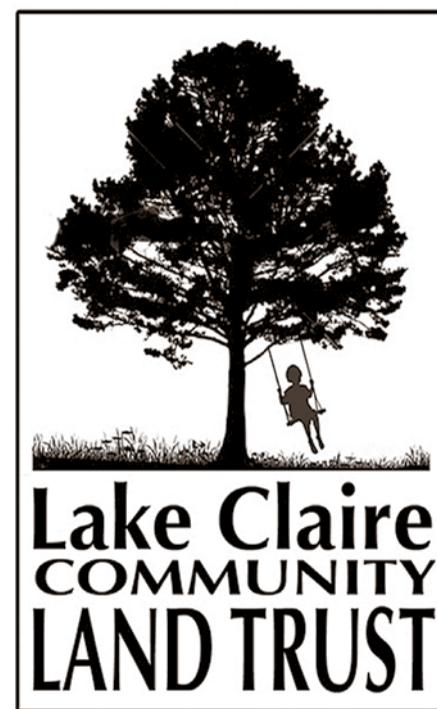
May 20, 4-6 p.m.: May is a good time for the Fae! Join Miss Ladybug and her fairy friends to build homes for the little people. Decorate the

garden, get decorated by Ladybug events face painters, and plant flowers in the magical children's garden!

June 10 or 24, 4-6 p.m.: Enjoy the fun of summer in the garden with Miss Ladybug! Assist in the Gnome Land Creation, an interesting hands-on project, if you gnome what I mean! Join the planting team and help give new veggie plants a new gnome... I mean home!

August 19, 4-6 p.m.: Learn how to have fun with food with snack attack play time! As the year winds down, see all the projects that have come together so far at the Land Trust & the Children's Garden. You'll still have a chance to get your hands dirty by helping with fall seed starting. Family fun for the gardener for all of us.

September 23, 4-6 p.m.: Make it a September to remember with more Ladybug garden fun! Celebrate the first days of Fall in warm company celebrating the Equinox and finishing the magical mosaic in the Children's Garden!



Upcoming & Ongoing at the Land Trust . . .

Sat. Feb. 3 and 17—Drum Circle, sunset to 11:00 pm. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Bring a friend! Please help spread the word. The Drum Circles are the Land Trust's gift to our community, but your donations help keep it going.

Sat. Feb. 10—Valentine's Day Dance at the E Church with Bill Fleming and the Ex-P.A.N.D. Band. See article this page.

Sun. Feb. 11—S'More Children's Garden Fun, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Miss Ladybug's 2018 Kick Off, Variety Show and Dance Party for families and kids. See article this page.

Sat. Feb. 17—Community Work Day, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Pizza and Drum Circle follow. The Land Trust needs your help to stay beautiful!

November 11, 4-6 p.m.: The leaves are changing, and the weather has cooled for an epic s'mores party! Come jam out with the Ladybug Events team as they take the stage with a fun and interactive show! Enjoy tasty s'mores treats, a warm fire, music, and fun for the kid in all of us! Vegan options available and supplies provided.

In addition to programming, Ladybug Events provides Farm to School programs, school break camps, 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 or email Missladybug@Ladybugeventsllc.com. Consider having your next special event at the Land Trust with Ladybug Events!



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 Elliott Seng's piece, "Snowy Paradise." Elliott is 11 years old and goes to St. Thomas More. She enjoys reading, writing, and playing soccer. She has lived on McLendon with her mom,

brother, and golden retriever, Lucky, for over 5 years. And Elliott and her mom, Bridget Elliott, are among our Clarion delivery volunteers. Thank you, Elliott! You are a fantastic artist and writer. We look forward to future contributions. And perhaps Atlanta will be a "snowy paradise" when this Clarion comes out...

Hey there, Lake Claire kids of all ages—we want to see your creativity. Write about anything that grabs you. Submit articles, poetry, drawings, etc., to editor@lakeclaire.org. **We hope to hear from you!**

Contest Winner!

Elliott Seng found the hidden photo of Martin Luther King, Jr., from January's issue. We are pleased to make her our featured contributor for this month. See photo and information on Elliott above. Good job, Elliott!



Elliott Seng, Featured Writer/Artist and Contest Winner

Seeking Your Ideas for Lake Claire Fun

by Beth Damon

At the January meeting of Lake Claire's Executive Committee, our new fun(d)raising VP, Pen Sherwood, discussed adding more fun activities to our usual neighborhood annual events. Lake Claire's annual events include the Centennial BBQ (with many kids' activities included), the Halloween parade (LC Parents group), the Annual Arts and Crafts Sale, and our holiday potluck. And of course there are many Land Trust events.

Pen is an artist, and her new ideas include a "tour of artists' studios," "art on porches," or "music in yards." Many of us would love it if the LC Tour of Homes returned. One year, various homes held activities such as comedian performances and poetry readings, in addition to showcasing homes and gardens.

What do you think? The Exec Committee would appreciate everyone's ideas. Adult- and kid-friendly activities are always great in Lake Claire. Please contact Pen (fundraising@lakeclaire.org) or Joe (president@lakeclaire.org) with your ideas.

NEW CONTEST!

You, too, could be featured in the Clarion! The 2nd week of February is *Random Acts of Kindness Week*. Somewhere in this issue, find the graphic showing random acts of kindness. The winner will have your picture in the next Clarion. To win, send e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org telling us the page number. Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you can't win two months in a row. (Extra credit if you tell us about a random act of kindness **YOU** will do or have already done this month and for whom; then you may write or draw something for a subsequent Clarion!) **Hurry and look**; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.

