

Going Solar in Lake Claire Co-Housing

by Sara Gottlieb and Barry Stewart Mann

Two homes in Co-Housing have just gone solar! Our two households (Sara Gottlieb/Wade Harrison and Barry Stewart Mann/Sheri Mann Stewart) signed contracts in September for the installation of photo-voltaic (PV) solar panels on our respective roofs. Installation of the panels was completed in early October, and we have already begun to reap power from the sun! The whole Co-Housing community is considering a solar installation on the Common House, which is a little more complicated than

our individual installations. We started researching rooftop solar this summer after another one of our neighbors purchased an electric car just as the Georgia tax rebate for those cars was about to expire. The federal government currently offers a rebate of 30% on solar panel purchase and installations, but this rebate will expire at the end of 2016 unless Congress acts to extend it. After reading about the current state of solar panel

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December 17 Lake Claire’s Annual Party

Please join your Lake Claire neighbors (little ‘n’ and big ‘N’) at our Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner, Thursday, December 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. As usual, our friends at the Frazer Center host us in the Atrium. LCN will provide vegetarian & meat lasagnas, lemonade, wine, and desserts. Attendees, please bring a salad, a side dish, or bread, with serving utensils. The Ridgewood gate will be closed to cars, but open to pedestrians. Cars must enter and exit the Frazer Center on South Ponce de Leon Avenue.



Some partiers from last year pictured here—including Harold Ave.’s Bill and Jacqueline Fleming and Sharon Doochin. Xmas centerpieces are designed by Pen Sherwood, also on Harold.

Myles Nielsen on Hardendorf has agreed to be our DJ again; his sisters, dynamic duo Stella and Esther, with their emcee (mom Lucy), will do Irish dancing, and they will teach the little kids there a quick Irish dance number so that they can get up and move! We hope to see you there.

Leaf Blower Culture

by Pen Sherwood

A woman walking past my garden stopped to tell me that she drives every week from Morning-side to Lake Claire. She does it to enjoy a walk along our comparatively peaceful streets away from the sound of leaf blowers, which cause significant noise pollution where she lives. She and

I would love to see them banned, and here’s why. To quote from a recent blog (www.timoregan.com), “It’s not the individuals who own leaf blowers who concern me; it’s the whole problem of Leaf Blower Culture that keeps me up at night (that, and the noise). What

Great Halloween Celebration in Lake Claire

Our neighborhood is full of superheroes, princesses, monsters, Star Wars and Harry Potter characters, and tons of just plain cuteness. The proof is on Page 3. Lake Claire neighbors and friends dressed in their festive and frightful best and paraded into the park on October 24. The crowd was quite large and the



Creativity from Sutherland Place -- two of the many unique costumes

scene animated, at one of Lake Claire’s signature events of the year, which is also a fundraiser for Lake Claire Parents. Without the work of our sponsors and many neighbors, the parade and party wouldn’t be possible. Thanks to coordinator Emily Oppelt (Lucy Ricardo, as seen on page 3); the Cywilko family for the popcorn machine and working tirelessly to serve free popcorn to the throngs; David Gelin and Matt Stacey; student volunteers who “manned” the tables, especially Casey Wilson, Olivia Wilson, and Zoe Steib; the Frazer Center for the hot chocolate stand and the serving efforts; Nancy Dorsner and Kris Wellen; the countless parent volunteers who donated goodies—and any other volunteers I’ve missed (sorry not to name you, but you know who you are). The sponsors were Squad Car Moonshine, the Frazer Center, and the Flying Biscuit. As it is every year, this event was fun for Lake Claire neighbors of all ages, the usual terrific kickoff to the Halloween week!

Frazer Center Fall Fest!

Please come join your neighbors for Fall Festival fun on Sunday, November 8 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Frazer Center, 1815 S. Ponce De Leon Ave. A storybook hike through the forest, Bouncy house, Pumpkin smash, Carnival games, and face painting are just a few of the activities. At Frazer Center, our greatest commitment is to fostering

the kinds of learning and social opportunities with adults and children that build sustaining friendships, that deepen an appreciation for diversity, and that recognize the gifts and talents of every individual in ways that celebrate those characteristics as essential to the vitality of the larger community!

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THE CLARION IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.	

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Cover banner photo by Sarah Coburn

NOVEMBER

1-30 Georgia State Parks' many events: gastateparks.org/calendar#sd=11/01/2015

1-8 Horizon Theatre "Informal Consent," ends Nov. 8. See www.horizontheatre.com

3 Lil Bugs Afternoon out, "be-leafs in faeries"—pre-register, as class will be canceled if not enough sign-up. More info: www.LCCLT.org

7 & 21 Drum Circle, sunset to 11:00 p.m. Please walk, bike or carpool. Bring a friend!

7 Chomp and Stomp Festival and 5K, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. see music lineup and other details at www.chompandstomp.com (chili cook-off, for those who don't know).

7 Decatur Wine Festival 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. decaturwinefestival.org

7 34th Annual Atlanta Georgia Veterans Day Parade starting at 11:11 a.m. www.GaVetsDayParade.org

8 The Frazer Center Fall Fest! 2-4 p.m.—see Page 1. See more at www.frazercenter.org/frazer-fall-festival

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

13 Civil War Walking Tour—learn about the effects of war in this area. Meet in lobby at Historic DeKalb Courthouse (101 East Court Square) at 3 p.m. DeKalb History Center www.dekalbhistory.org

15 Have S'More! 4-6 p.m. Leaf Mountain, Music, Poetry, Storytelling, Open Mic! See article page 11.

17 Lil Bugs Afternoon Out: More Seeds Please! Bird Feeders & Yummy Energy Balls, 4:15 - 5:30 p.m. At the Lake Claire Land Trust. See Page 11.

19 and every 3rd Thursday, Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting, The Rose Room at The Frazer Center, 7 p.m. socialize, 7:15 meeting. Nominations for 2016 officers will be made at this meeting. Pizza provided free from Savage (THANKS, SAVAGE)

21 Grow Shiitake Mushrooms workshop at the Lake Claire Land Trust, 11:00 am - 2:00 p.m. \$10 suggested donation, \$20 to take home a log. See www.LCCLT.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AHEAD FOR DECEMBER:

Saturday, Dec. 5 – Lake Claire Land Trust Holiday Arts & Craft Sale. Artists and crafters, start getting your inventory together! Sign up by emailing info@LCCLT.org.

December 17: Annual Lake Claire Holiday dinner (no business meeting in December). See p. 1.

Calendar entries for December issue by NOVEMBER 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org

About the Clarion

We are Lake Claire's monthly newspaper. Volunteers have been writing, editing, producing, and delivering it to 1200+ homes in the neighborhood and adjacent businesses since 1991. The web edition was launched in 2005. For past issues, visit the Lake Claire website at lakeclaire.org/clarion/

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

Leaf Blower Culture

Continued from page 1

(plus gas). This relatively cheap price combined with the vibrant feeling of pure mechanical power evidently gives consumers a drunken sense of maniacal glee. They swirl the leaf blowers, causing small windstorms along with the cacophonous noise heard blocks away.

A leaf blower is basically a reverse vacuum cleaner. It blows instead of sucks. But what goal does it accomplish, what societal need does it address? It replaces

a rake. And that's it. The common rake can be purchased at your local hardware store for 20 bucks, requires no fuel or maintenance, and operates almost silently. The leaf blower does its job extremely poorly—and very loudly—yet people still flock to this useless, feeble technology. And leaf blowers spread allergens, toxins, pollutants, and pathogens into the air we breathe. Environmental scientists maintain that the emissions from a single leaf blower over a year's time are the equivalent of running 80 automobiles 12,500 miles. We know they won't be banned, but we hope that at neighbors will be mindful of the hour of the day that they—or their yard workers—use them and chainsaws, hedge trimmers, lawn mowers, string trimmers, etc.

Will America remember the simple beauty of the common garden rake before it's too late? We could certainly use the exercise. A rake simply works. Plus, even better, it can be used to sneak up and attack people using leaf blowers.





Going Solar in Lake Claire Co-Housing

Continued from page 1

technologies, learning about how Georgia Power handles customers' feeding power back into the grid, and doing some price comparisons, we decided that now is the right time to get solar on our homes.

Georgia recently enacted a law (Solar Power Free-Market Fi-

homeowner can work directly with a lender that specializes in solar arrays, and the equipment itself basically serves as collateral for the loan; or one can take out a Home Equity Loan. Either way, the investment adds value to the home. Of course, self-financing is an option, but taking out a loan or using the third-party option might be very attractive for homeowners who can't make a significant up-front investment.

There are a variety of solar energy companies. Co-Housing has worked with Creative Solar USA, a small local company that came and did a thorough and low-pressure presentation to our

entire community. Though they are based in Kennesaw, the rep we worked with, Chris McMahan, lives nearby in Decatur, and he has been very easy to work with. Their website is www.creativesolarusa.com.

Installing solar panels is not the same as going "off the grid". Our homes will still use electricity provided by Georgia Power during times when the sun is not shining, or when our electricity

needs are greater than what our panels can provide. When our solar panels are producing more electricity than we are using, the extra power will be fed back to the grid and sold at a wholesale price. When Georgia Power installed "smart meters" in our area recently, it enabled "bi-directional" metering, so it keeps track of what a home draws from and feeds back to the grid, and adjusts the monthly bill accordingly.

At this point, Georgia Power will pay the wholesale price for power fed back from homeowners, which is considerably less than the price a homeowner pays for the power fed to the home. Nevertheless, our systems will pay for themselves in about 10 years. In other words, the money we save on electricity not purchased plus the money we earn selling excess power will equal the amount we paid (or took out with a loan) to purchase and install the system today. After that time, the system will continue to generate free electricity for

another 15 years or so. The total return on investment for rooftop solar is in the neighborhood of 7-10%, which is a LOT more than we've seen for any other low-risk investment in years.

Beyond the financial considerations, there are significant en-



Co-Housing Solar Installation on Stewart-Mann Home—photo by S. Gottlieb

nancing Act of 2015) that makes it easier for homeowners to go solar. With no up-front investment, a homeowner can make an arrangement with a third-party to purchase and install solar panels on his or her roof, and the homeowner agrees to purchase the power generated by those panels from the third-party for a fixed price over a period of time (15-20 years). Another option is to finance the solar panels: a



Co-Housing Solar Installation on Gottlieb/Harrison Home—photo by S. Gottlieb

vironmental benefits to generating electricity from rooftop solar panels. Georgia Power reported that in 2014, the electricity it produced came from a mix of 41% coal, 35% gas and oil, 22% nuclear, and 2% hydroelectric. The coal used in Georgia power plants

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Wild in Lake Claire

by Carol Vanderschaaf

Bird migration is in progress now. As our summer residents are flying south, our winter residents will be flying in from the north. For example, Chimney Swifts should all be gone November 6, not to return until March 21. On the other hand, White-throated Sparrows should have arrived at the end of September and will stay with us until next June. Some permanent residents who will stick around include the Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Pileated Woodpecker, and more. To make things more of a jumble, our state bird the Brown Thrasher doesn't migrate but... thrashers from the north come here! So keep your eyes peeled all year long.

The Ruby-throated Hummingbirds should all be gone by November 13, to return in the spring to amuse us again. Now is a good time to put out a hummingbird feeder. With the cooler weather the nectar stays fresh longer. In fact, you can keep a feeder out through the winter since, in addition to our Ruby-throated Hummer, other members of this family such as the Rufous Hummingbird often get lost and appear at Georgia feeders when they're supposed to be somewhere out west.

And, BTW, the best way to make hummer food is to DIY (do it yourself): 1 part sugar to 4 parts water. Heat the water and mix sugar in. Change the water regularly, more so when the weather is hot. Another way to attract hummers is with your garden plantings. Here in my yard I have two native plants now blooming, a Cardinal Flower and

a Turk's Cap. I also always try to get in some bright red Impatiens to draw "those jewels on the

Dorothy Dabbs:

A Great Egret was spotted by Meta in the beaver pond in the

11pm, probably from somewhere down Harold or Hardendorf, or maybe in the Cater Woolford woods. She also reports "hummingbirds, kingfisher, cardinal, brown thrasher, mockingbirds eating pokeweed, two phoebes in a territorial dispute, and dragonflies. Water critters were already tucked in, I guess".

Meta saw an otter, two Green Herons, a Belted Kingfisher, and two Red-tailed Hawks. Herons, which arrive in March and were gone by Oct. 24, have nested by

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Quiz for Kids How far do birds migrate?

Your answer is on the Kids' Corner Page (page 12).

wing" in. Hummers do like red, but mainly like blooms with nectar—especially tubular blooms.

Local wildlife sightings
(Thanks to our wildlife correspondents, Meta Larssen and

Candler Park Golf course (see picture this page). These birds arrive here in March and are all gone by October 18.

Dorothy Dabbs heard a Barred Owl at her house on McLendon at



Our monthly cartoons are from the Biscuits and Bellyrubs series by Anna Trodglan.

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



Birthdays:

Nov. 1 Jane Merkle (Connecticut)
Nov. 2 Woody Spivey (Harold) (Clarion winner, see p 12) turns 7
Nov. 3 Seija Olson—*3 on Nov 3* (Leonardo)
Nov. 7 Sue McAvoy (Leonardo)
Nov. 10 Avery James Cooper —2 years old (Leonardo)

Nov. 11 Susan Ledbetter (McLendon) and Elizabeth Knowlton (Arizona)
Nov. 14 Marilyn Schertz (Arizona)
Nov. 5 Aileen Mary Styczynski—2 years old (Harold)
Nov. 18 Debbie Livingston (Arizona)
Nov. 19 Sarah Shalf (Harold)
Nov. 24 Anne d'Agostino (Connecticut)

Nov. 27 Rita Damon (Morningside area, editor's mom), 92!

Congrats:

to Kathy Kelley and Steve Lamb (Delaware), Happy Anniversary—20 years of marital bliss!

Send us stuff by NOVEMBER 15 for the December Clarion.

Recap of Inman Expansion Meeting

by Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Education Chair

In the auditorium at Inman on Sept. 24, Superintendent of APS Meria Carstarphen, Board of Education Members Courtney English, Jason Esteves, Matt Westmoreland, Leslie Grant, and Byron Amos, and principals of Grady, Inman, Hope Hill, Mary Lin, and others, addressed the overcrowding issue of the Grady Cluster. Quick recap: Morningside is already over max capacity with HVAC issues. Hope Hill is also pushing its numbers. Inman has increased its trailers: what was once a field now looks like what Carstarphen fondly described as “intestines.” Grady, which has not been updated in years, is bursting at the seams. Carstarphen assured everyone that the latest plan will get to the root of the Grady Cluster overcrowding. The plan would take time and money; therefore it has to be “so good” than no other administration/school board would try to change it.

The Plan consists of 4 major components: Expand Grady and address recommendations from the Facility Condition Assessments in order to refresh the building; create a new middle school using the historic Howard High School Building; build a new APS athletic center on the former Walden Middle School fields (to be used by the district with priority to the Grady Cluster); and convert the Inman Middle School building into additional/extra elementary space for future needs (it can be used initially as a swing space for Morningside when they undergo updates).

Estimated Costs and Capacity: over \$90 million

- Grady—Of \$33 million, an estimated \$22 million would be used for 18 additional classrooms, 3 labs, and a new administrative suite; \$11 million to address recommendations from the Facility Condition Assessment, will hold a capacity of 1750.

- Howard—Estimated \$52 million to renovate the building and add 25 additional classrooms with a capacity of 1,450

- Walden Fields—Est. \$8 million for a regulation baseball field and practice football fields for soccer and lacrosse.

Considerations: Time and Funding

Of course, all plans are contingent upon funds. The majority of this plan will depend on the future SPLOST referendum



Meria Carstarphen (second from left)

(special tax dollars from tourists allocated towards different projects). APS has been a past recipient, and the Grady Cluster will hopefully be a future recipient. Carstarphen made very clear that the timeline (below) of the projected construction is a result of thoughtfully prioritizing past SPLOST projects as well as management costs, availability of a relocation site, critical HVAC needs, and capacity challenges. Carstarphen will recommend that the Grady Cluster be put at the top of the SPLOST priority list; she has no control over its passing, but emphasized that “we need to take advantage of it while it exists.” March 2017 is the last possible time for SPLOST funding. If SPLOST does not pass, raising millage rates could be an option.

The first phase of the plan, Howard, will purportedly be launched between August of 2017 and August of 2018. Inman, the proposed last phase, would be initiated between February 2022 and July 2022.

Community Questions and comments to Carstarphen (in approximate wording):

Q: What about the \$10 million or so being held for Inman expansion?

A: The board will have to figure out which money for which parts of the expansion.

Q: What about using Washington High School . . . ?

A: I.e., redistrict. This is where my world meets the wall. You’re almost out of SPLOST. We then need to be here tomorrow and the next day, because I need to know the plan and what goes in SPLOST today. I need you fully engaged and non-stop. Do y’all want to redistrict?

Crowd: NO

A: Westmoreland stated they have looked at many maps, and going back to what there once was does not solve the middle school [population] problem. The most expensive piece of this proposed plan is Howard.

Q: Thank you for not putting a band-aid fix on the Grady Cluster. How do we move faster?

A: We need alignment, so that a subgroup doesn’t break off causing the distractions of side meetings on preservation and tree specialists...while trying to run APS. . . The board needs to be able to do their work. ...Don’t pummel them to “do it our way.”

Q: Will Opportunity School District (OSD) have an effect on these cluster plans?

A: Opportunity or sanction,

depending on your philosophical place – if we lost schools or a cluster out of APS, it would dramatically change our operating budget. I am doing everything in my power. I didn’t know there was an OSD until the last legislative session ... What motivates me is getting our kids a quality education. Trust us and believe what we’re doing. We need to turn around our schools.

Q: What about re-purposing abandoned buildings to have 2-3 middle schools with more walkable zones?

A: We’ve learned the neighborhood culture is anchored in a flagship high school, a middle school, and several elementary ones. We need every high school to be a flagship with quality education the schools feed into. E.g., Carver with multiple high schools that destroyed its culture... And for legacy schools, those legacies were just destroyed. Life in the community was important for its survival. What’s happened to Washington High School makes you want to cry. We control breaking that school up. There is value in one middle school that everyone supports.

Q: (Sharon Bray, LSC at Grady) Grady has trailers with no technology, five floating teachers, needs security and upgrades... What is in the interim?

A: The timeline of the buildings involving kids needs to be worked in, depending on how we want to use existing resources.

Carstarphen acknowledged that the next five-year piece of the plan is still missing, promising to work on it if we were all in support of this plan. She valued audible concerns, still noting time and money constraints. Finally, she expressed her loyalty to the Board and commitment to APS, saying she is extending her contract for “us to stay together and be judged together. We’re okay being held accountable. It’s a two-way street.”

Questions about the Grady Cluster are welcomed at gradyconstruction@atlanta.k12.ga.us

Dear Lake Claire parents,

Please send your school news to include in the Clarion—

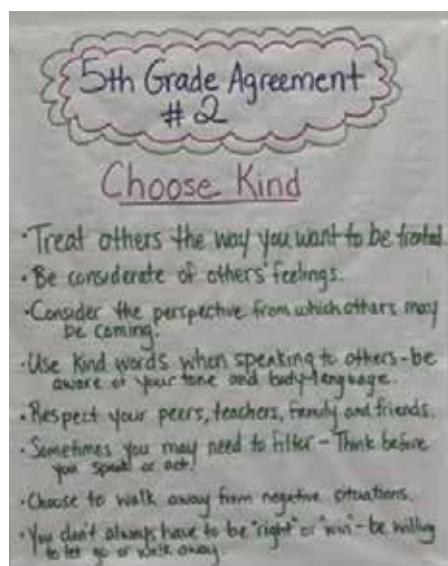
Hoping to hear from parents of kids at any schools that Lake Claire kids attend, public or private—
editor@lakeclaire.org.

E • D • U • C • A • T • I • O • N

Social Emotional Learning

(from a letter from the Atlanta Public Schools website concerning a new initiative to address social emotional learning in every school by 2017)

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel/show empathy for others, establish/maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. (www.casel.org)



From ANCS bulletin board

Though a comprehensive focus on SEL is new to Atlanta Public Schools, Dr. Meria Carstarphen has been committed to SEL and supporting the needs of the whole child for many years. After successful execution of a SEL program in her previous district, Dr. Carstarphen has brought a focus on systematically supporting the hearts and heads of Atlanta's children to APS.

Research has found that students who participate in SEL programming make gains in multiple areas, including pro-social behavior, attitudes about themselves and others, and standardized achievement scores. These same students also showed a reduction in problem behaviors and emotional distress.

During the 2015-2016 school

Social Emotional Learning at the Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School

by Alicia McGill

The Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School (ANCS), a free APS charter school located in Grant Park and Ormewood Park, has been using the Conscious Discipline model of social emotional learning for several years. Conscious Discipline (consciousdiscipline.com) is a "whole-school solution for social-emotional learning, discipline and self-regulation. Conscious Discipline empowers adults to respond consciously to daily conflict, transforming it into an opportunity to teach critical life skills to children. With Conscious Discipline, your teachers, your students, and your entire school culture will become a safe haven of cooperation, constructive problem solving, and academic success." So, what does this look like in school?

1. A lot of community building. A key component of Conscious Discipline is building connections through a culture of compassion with the school family. Students, faculty, and staff in grades K-5 start the day with morning meeting every morning. Students, faculty, and staff in grades 6-8 begin each Wednesday with morning meeting. Students sit in class-groups in the auditoriums to say the Pledge of Allegiance, hear about the current events in the school commu-

year, schools in the Carver Cluster, the South Atlanta Cluster, and all middle schools will be embedding SEL into their academic days as well as their school cultures. Elementary schools in these clusters will implement the Second Step curriculum. Positive Behavior Support (PBS) teams will work in collaboration with district level SEL coaches and the SEL coordinator to ensure social emotional learning is woven throughout the students' daily experience.

SEL will roll out to additional clusters during the 2016-2017 schoolyear, with full district implementation of SEL by 2018.

nity, participate in a mindfulness activity, watch student performances, sing, and dance (yes, the middle schoolers at ANCS dance!). The students then travel with their classes or advisors to their classrooms. Teachers greet each student at the front door to the room to ensure the student has a positive experience entering the room. Students do their morning routines and then



Kids in front of ANCS

gather in circles to participate in their own classroom morning meetings. During these class morning meetings, students play games to greet each other positively and activate their brains for a day of learning. Students and teachers "wish well" those absent from their school community as well as others from their families or larger communities who are suffering. Building the school community is taken very seriously at ANCS.

2. Clear expectations. ANCS posts its Guiding Principles in every room on each campus. Students and teachers collaborate to create classroom expectations. These expectations are clearly posted in the classrooms and throughout the school and are often illustrated by the students. Expectations for using the water fountain include photos of students correctly using the water fountain. Expectations for throwing paper towels away in the bathrooms are illustrated by students and taped above garbage cans in the bathrooms so students can visualize properly throwing away paper towels. When students do not follow expectations, they are first verbally redirected, second write a reflection, third receive a refer-

ral to discuss the situation with the principal or vice principal. There are no "treasure chests" or "green, yellow, and red lights" or other extrinsic motivators at ANCS. Conscious Discipline teaches behaviors that result in effective use of intrinsic motivators to meet social and academic expectations.

3. Support. Conscious Discipline requires composure from

adults and children. The school family participates in mindfulness activities and brain breaks throughout the day to maintain composure. When students do not meet expectations or lose composure, the teacher guides them through creative problem solving strategies that teaches them to acknowledge their feelings, define the problem, and determine helpful ways to solve the problem. "Power comes from choice, not force" is a motto in Conscious Discipline. Conscious Discipline is meant to be a life-long journey, not a quick fix. Do all adults and students behave according to plan all the time at ANCS? NO. Mistakes are made by all, and necessary to learn critical life skills. Conscious Discipline requires adults and students to seek the positive intent behind the "mistake" so that we all see the best in others and support each other as valuable members of the school family.

I am thankful that my children are immersed in a kind, consciously guided school environment at ANCS. I wish the same for every APS student. If you would like to support APS's implementation of SEL in the Grady cluster, contact

Cont. on p. 8

Atlanta Public Schools' SEL Vision:

Common Standards and Culture | Universal Screening in Key Grades
Core Curriculum Beginning in Pre-K
Teacher Professional Development | Family/Home Connection Piece
Fidelity and Sustainability through Coaching Support
Special Education Enhanced SEL Programming

The Clarion Keeps An Eye on the Crime and the Time:

Lake Claire Security Report, August 30 through September 26 (4 weeks)

Auto Theft

200 block Mathews Ave. 9/3 2002 Ford EC2 stolen from street. Victim's car keys left on the center console while he worked at construction site!
1700 block Marlbrook Dr. 9/21 2005 Toyota Rav, victim also may have left key inside

Theft from Vehicle

2000 block Tuxedo Ave. 9/1 Parked on street, change taken - doors left unlocked
1800 block Indiana Ave. 9/1 On street, money taken; driver's side window broken.
500 block Clifton Rd. 9/10 Bicycle taken; window broken; parked in driveway
2000 block McLendon Ave. 9/10 Car in driveway. Laptop taken, rear window broken.
Darkly dressed male was seen near vehicle with a flashlight
200 block Oxford Pl. 9/13 On street; drill set & hand tools taken; window smashed

Candler Park/Lake Claire Security Patrol:

Thank you our Lake Claire and Candler Park (CPLC) neighbors who have joined the CPLC Patrol to make our neighborhood safer! The patrols began in early October. By mid-October, we had surpassed 300 members. We are hoping to reach our goal of 350 members. If you haven't joined, please consider doing so! **Increased membership = increased patrol hours. For more information and membership details, please visit www.cplcpatrol.com.**

Traditional Time of the Year to be THANKFUL

The Clarion is thankful

...for our delivery volunteers—The “Clarion carriers,” some of whom have been volunteering with the Clarion for many years, and who the first week of every month make a supreme effort to get the paper to your door within a week of its being printed and distributed;

...for our advertising coordinator Pat Del Rey, our delivery manager Alicia McGill (with Michael, Sara, Jamie, and Joseph McGill for helping), and to our layout artist team (mother/daughter) Véronique Perrot and Roshan Antia;

... for artists and photographers; this year, Gretchen Connell, Anna Trodglén, Lore Ruttan;

... for Stephen Wing, Elizabeth Knowlton, Kathie Ryan, and Carol Vanderschaaf, regular contributors;

....to all the young readers who have contributed to the Kids' Corner page;

...for Leslie Hodges, for the Lake Claire banner;

...for our advertisers—We hope that when you need a product or service, you will support our advertisers. Their support allows us to produce our product, your Lake Claire Clarion.

Much appreciation to all of these & to all volunteers on all initiatives in Lake Claire that add to our wonderful neighborhood! With apologies to whomever I may have missed, thank you and Happy Thanksgiving, Lake Claire.

~ Warmly, Beth Damon



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SEL at ANCS

Continued from page 7

Ms. Kori Sanchez Smith, kssmith@atlanta.k12.ga.us, or Dr. Kenya Gilliard, gilliardk@atlanta.k12.ga.us. If you would like to explore Conscious Discipline in your home or school, join the ANCS Health and Wellness Committee Facebook page, and come to a Parent Support Group meeting (times and dates are posted on the Facebook page).

Wishing you well,

Alicia

(mom of Michael (8), Sara (10), and Jamie (12), who attend ANCS, and Joseph (14), who graduated from ANCS and now attends Grady High School)

HELLO NEIGHBORS.

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The Garden in November into December

by Elizabeth Knowlton

Now is the time to plant the bulbs you ordered last June. As soon as they arrive, place them in a refrigerator, not the freezer and not the fruit drawer because fruit will ruin them. If you have not planted your narcissus (jonquils, daffodils), do that right away so they can put down the roots that will give you years of bloom. The rest of the spring bulbs may be planted all November and into December. The ground just needs to be warm enough for you to dig. Frost comes late here, one year not until February, but it is best to get the task out of the way. I begin with the large bulbs, like tulips, because they need to be at least six inches deep, harder to place than crocuses, for instance.

Make a plan for your bulbs even if you have fewer than fifty. This will prevent you from digging into some while you are planting others, and it will help you plan for spring sowing and planting. Obviously the tall flowers will look good behind the short ones. However, you have more leeway with spring bulbs because their bloom passes quickly. Crocus will finish before narcissus; and narcissus, before most tulips. Therefore, if you have only a small plot for them, you might dig out a deep patch (to which you can always add compost), maybe three ft. by two, loosened to a foot with the top six inches of soil set to the side. Now take a handheld bulb planter, an inexpensive round tool that will cut out a nice tube of soil, and remove another six inches for each narcissus or tulip you plant. Bulbs are fully prepared to bloom in the spring, have been fed and watered and nurtured up to their plump, firm selves (this is why they cost so much) so you do not need to feed them the first year, especially the tulips, which will not return in any numbers. Place each bulb at the bottom of this round hole, pointy side up, and drop the soil in your planter back into the hole. When you have finished planting the large bulbs, scatter the crocus or whatever small bulbs you have ordered around in that dug out area, and then cover the whole area with the soil you have set to the side. It helps to walk firmly over the area afterwards because although narcissus are poisonous, many other bulbs like crocus are a squirrel's delight.

What were your successes this year? Mine were the self-seeded salvia and celosia. Also that I finally got only white cleome to seed into my "white garden," the fancy name I give an

east facing bed by the back yard water barrel. With white four o'clocks that have come back for ten years, white nicotiana, white rain lilies, and white moonflowers growing over an arbor, it is a lovely sight each late afternoon. A *Sternberia lutea* bloomed yellow this fall after many years of failed bulbs. The foxglove and columbine seeds I sowed in pots in early August and transplanted to six packs in September are all in the ground now and looking ready for spring.

Although the tomatoes were mostly a bust (from too much shade and juglone still in the soil from the walnut tree cut down 35 years ago?) the Bella Rosa in a front yard tomato tub on casters and the Sweet Million in a bucket by the back door both produced heavily. But the okra kept coming (151 by 10/15), two butternut squash ripened in a privet hedge, and parsnips and carrots both did well in the same rear bed that did not suit the nightshade family.

Speaking of carrots, I have decided to add a short political statement to the end of each column. This month the topic is carrots. Eating carrots is good for us—we all know that. However, in shopping for two different housebound friends lately, I discovered that people are buying packages of things called "baby carrots." In general, these are not baby carrots, even when organic. The more truthful companies call them "baby cut" carrots. Full sized carrots are machine cut to form them into what look like baby carrots. Therefore, all you get is the center of a full-sized vegetable. The skin and outer part of the carrot is removed. Yesterday I prepared some carrot sticks for myself from whole, organic carrots. I am very lazy and not a cook; it took less than a minute. If you do not buy organic, then you should scrub or peel off the outer layer of the carrot, but at least you will get more of this whole, nutritious vegetable. About ten years ago I bought these "baby-cut" carrots myself. To put it delicately, I had a gastrointestinal change. My partner remarked that the company must use something on the cut carrot to keep it from changing color. I reverted to whole carrot buying, and the intestinal situation disappeared.

Elizabeth loves to hear your garden experiences. Write to her today at knowltonew@earthlink.net. —Ed.

Wild in Lake Claire

Continued from page 5

the pond several times. The kingfisher and the Red-tailed Hawk are both permanent residents here. Meta also reports "lots of butterflies and insects, including dragonflies." She suggests that it "would be cool to inventory bugs at the pond." She asks "am I going off the deep end?" Please join Meta in her quest. I think it's a great idea!

Meta also forwarded an email from Tom Zarrilli in which he

reports... an otter "was walking along the mud bank of the (CP) pond that had drained, and another was swimming near the bridge over the creek." Great! These otters don't come in for close-ups too often. Lucky Tom!

Well, please be in touch if you want to count bugs with Meta and me, or if you spot any wild-life around the neighborhood. I'm cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net —a.k.a. Carol V



Great Egret spotted on CP Pond

Going Solar

Continued from page 4

is exceptionally dirty—it is high in sulfur and it produces massive quantities of sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides (SO_x and NO_x). Burning coal and natural gas for electricity is the largest source of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in the U.S. Nitrogen and sulfur oxides contribute to acid rain and ground-level ozone or smog, while CO₂ is the primary driver behind global climate change. Much of the coal burned in Georgia comes from mountaintop removal mining in the Appalachians, while recent increases in natural gas production are the result of fracking, and has resulted in massive pipeline expansions crisscrossing our state. Relying on fossil fuels for our electricity is bad for our health and the health of the planet.

Georgia Power and other utilities are investing in commercial installations of solar arrays at an unprecedented pace and scale in the Georgia and other states, and that's a good thing, with an

important caveat. Large solar arrays require large areas of undeveloped land. Some of the places where these massive solar arrays are being sited are important habitat for sensitive species, like gopher tortoise, which the State of Georgia and conservation organizations are working hard to protect. Look around the city at all the rooftops that have sun shining on them all day that could be generating power where that power is being used. Doesn't installing solar panels there make more sense than making life harder for tortoises?

It certainly makes sense to us. It's not often that we have the opportunity to do something that is good for the planet, good for our community, and good for our pocketbooks. We're hoping more of our neighbors will consider this opportunity before the tax rebate expires and rooftop solar becomes less attractive financially.

Tidbits from Gordon Avenue

by Alice Bliss

A TV film crew recently spent a day filming on Oxford Place, one block over from Gordon Avenue, while simultaneously two trucks were parked on Gordon to address a gas leak. Thus, both streets were blocked, causing this Gordon Avenue resident to wonder how she was going to get home.

Another Gordon Avenue resident, Richard Garner, former director of the Shakespeare Festival (now closed) at Oglethorpe University, is appearing in the Alliance Theatre's production of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." In January 2016, Richard will teach and direct for two weeks at a theatre in West Virginia. Next spring, he will direct a play for the Theatrical Outfit, where he has previously directed. And I have just published "The Handsome Family," a novella. For more information, contact me (404-373-8169, 297 Gordon Ave, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30307)

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Movie Party on Delaware Avenue

by Beth Damon

Delaware Avenue and friends gathered for an October block party at the end of last month. On Friday, October 23, the weather cooperated to make a perfect evening for spending several hours outdoors. The movie *Monsters, Inc.* played on a sheet hanging on the front of the Patzer/Schrager home, which kids and kids-at-heart enjoyed. The under-5 year olds were enthralled with the movie even during the sound check before it was dark enough actually to see the movie, and they sat staring happily at the screen.

With Savage pizzas galore, a myriad of potluck goodies, brews, treats, and more, Delaware neighbors and friends from nearby streets spent a lovely evening of relaxation and conviviality.



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Have S'More—November 15, 4-6 p.m.

at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust

Featuring A Leaf Mountain, Music, Poetry, Storytelling, and Open Mic!
\$5 Donation

All Together Now is a series of family FUN programs inviting all ages to celebrate the jewel that is our Lake Claire Community Land Trust. This is our 5th event of 2015, and we are providing **s'mores for all!** Come jump in a leaf mountain, listen to

short whimsical poems and stories, and shake your tails as we enjoy yummy treats and a family fun atmosphere. In addition to the provided s'mores and entertainment, we will have a vegan bake sale featuring special treats made by local children at the

SoulShine School in Kirkwood!

Open Mic is from 5 to 6 p.m., and sign up begins at 4 p.m. **Featured Performers are Ted Pettus Christy Foelsch Jed Brody, Andrea Zoppo, Farmer Greenthumbs, Matt Donald—and YOU!**

Land Trust Supporters—Renew now for 2016! Be a Land Trust Supporter for \$10 a year.

Donate via **www.LCCLT.org**:

or mail a check made out to "LCCLT" c/o Treasurer, 270 Arizona Ave.;

or donate via the chute in our bulletin board.

Include your address, and we'll mail you an "I Support the Land Trust" bumper sticker.

Include your email address, and we'll add you to our Upcoming & Ongoing email list.

(Donation is not required to get on this list! Contact info@LCCLT.org.)

November at the Land Trust:

Tues., Nov. 3—Lil Bugs Afternoon Out: Beleafs in Faeries – Faerie Shadow Hunt & Faerie Home Construction, 4:15-5:30 p.m., \$15. Please pre-register, class will be canceled if not enough sign up! More info www.LCCLT.org.

Sat. Nov. 7 and 21—Drum Circle, sunset to 11:00 p.m. Please walk, bike or carpool. Bring a friend!

Sun. Nov. 15—Have S'More! See article this page.

Tues., Nov. 17—Lil Bugs Afternoon Out: More Seeds Please! Bird Feeders & Yummy Energy Balls, 4:15-5:30 p.m. See note for Nov. 3 event.

Sat. Nov. 21—Grow Shiitake Mushrooms workshop, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. \$10 suggested donation, \$20 to take home a log. Instructor: Juan Burgos.



Lake Claire Land
Trust Holiday
Arts & Craft Sale

**Saturday,
December 5**

Artists and crafters:

Start getting your
inventory together!

Sign up by emailing
info@LCCLT.org

Chilinarado on Leonardo Avenue

by Boyd Baker

The 73rd Annual Chilinarado was held on Saturday, October 17 on Leonardo Avenue. This neighborly chili cook-off competition began as a warm up for Cabbagetown's Chomp & Stomp chili cook-off. The winner of Chilinarado (residents of Leonardo and intersecting Marlbrook are eligible) would then be entered in the Cabbagetown event. This year it was just a gorgeous day to gather with neighbors and have some friendly competition. New Lake Clarions Kris & Ross took home the coveted Black Sombrero this year. Matt Stacy, Eric Campbell, and Naka Nathaniel were the celebrity judges who got to wallow in our chili paradise with nothing to lose and everything to gain.

The winners (see photo): **Best Chili:** Smoky Poky (Newbies Kris & Ross); **Best Presentation:** Great White (Stacey & Justin); **Best**



Side: broccoli cornbread (Wendy); **Best Dessert:** Tyler's Cookies (Tyler Bliss, of course).

Builder Destroys Tree and Possibly Cemetery

taken from The Tree Next Door Website—treenextdoor.org

In spite of neighbors and friends protesting, a beautiful White Oak tree was cut down at the end of last month to clear a 2.5-acre lot for a new 11-home subdivision in Kirkwood. As the bulldozers gathered, a long-time resident recalled playing as a child in a cemetery located where the trees were being cut, at 145 Norwood Avenue. Atlanta Protects Trees (APT) quickly consulted an historian, who confirmed that there once had been a church on the site with a road to a cemetery under the tree canopy, and which appeared on a 1928 map that the builder's site plan didn't show. The historian recommended an underground penetrating sonar survey be conducted.

The resident's description of the site precisely matched the historian's account, so APT promptly requested a stop work order until further investigation. But the City did not issue

a stop work order, and the tree cutting proceeded. The largest documented white oak in DeKalb County took two days to be cut down.

The City has very specific ordinances for burial grounds disturbances, including "identifying and notifying the descendants of those buried or believed to be buried in such cemetery," and specifying exactly how any human remains or burial objects on the site will be relocated. The Tree Next Door is unsure why the City did not stop work on the site after APT presented signed witness testimonies and historical documents.

Please follow APT's Facebook Page to keep

updated with their investigation and to view videos of the tragic tree cutting. The DeKalb Country Champion White Oak may be down, but the question now is: what lies beneath?





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 Jackson Cardwell and his friend Jacob

Williams, both nine years old and Lake Claire residents on Harold Avenue. Both boys are 4th graders at Mary Lin, and they wrote the attached article to submit

to the Kids' Corner. Jackson's mom, Katie, took the accompanying pictures.



Harold Ave friends Jackson & Jacob

LAKE CLAIRE BUNNY

by Jackson Cardwell and Jacob Williams

When we were walking from Jacob's house to Jackson's house, we were surprised to find a bunny in Jackson's front yard! At first glance it looked like a squirrel but then it became clear that it was a bunny (says Jacob). Then the bunny ran to another part of Jackson's front yard! There we took the picture. After that the bunny went under a car and ran across the street into the driveway and into the garage of another house!!



Woody (see web version to see orange cast)

CONGRATULATIONS!

to WOODY SPIVEY of Harold Avenue, who won our contest by finding the Stay-Puft Marshmallow Man last month. Woody is in the first grade at Mary Lin and turned 7 on November 2. He has an orange cast for Halloween (having broken his arm when he built a fort and jumped off it). Good job, Woody! (on the contest, not the jumping)

NEW CONTEST:

Kids: Somewhere in this issue, find the turkey who is trying to hide. Tell us: why do you think turkeys in November would try to disguise themselves? The winner will have your name and picture in the next Clarion. To win, send an e-mail with the page it is on, to editor@lakeclaire.org. 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.

How far do birds migrate?

Robins and some other birds just go a little bit south for better weather. BUT some birds migrate THOUSANDS OF MILES!! The little bobolink migrates to winter in Argentina. To and fro, the birds migrate over a distance of more than 6,000 miles. The "champion" long distance bird, as far as we know, is the Arctic tern. He or she is a smallish white bird with a forked tail and a neat black cap on its head. The champ nests in the Arctic tundra. Come spring, she or he takes off with flocks of his or her relatives on a migration flight of at least 10,000 miles

BREAKING NEWS

Michael McGill, lifetime resident of Delaware Ave and a Clarion delivery volunteer, has beat the world record for pogo-sticking, on October 16, when he pogo-sticked (-stuck?) for 10 non-stop minutes.



Connor & Zachary Worgo, volunteers at Harold Avenue Greenspace work day last month. Thanks, boys!!!