



## Halloween in Lake Claire

Coming Saturday, October 28:

One of Lake Claire's signature parties of the year, the Annual Lake Claire Halloween Parade and Party, is coming! Co-hosted annually by the Lake Claire Parents Group and Lake Claire Neighbors, this event gives everyone a chance to parade through the streets of Lake Claire, ending up in Lake Claire Park. So gather your big and little pirates, princesses, super heroes, monsters, and witches, and meet us on the corner of Ridgewood at Marlbrook at 4:45 p.m. on Saturday, October 28. The march to the park begins at 5 p.m. sharp. Please, no pets, whatsoever.

This year the Halloween Parade welcomes new organizers, Matt Stacy and Ellen Jaimet! They would love your help. Please write to [halloween@lakeclaire.org](mailto:halloween@lakeclaire.org) to volunteer. A snack foods signup will make the rounds in the weeks before the parade via [lakeclaire.org](http://lakeclaire.org).

As the Clarion goes to press in September, there may be minor changes to our event when you see this: please be sure to check [lakeclaire.org](http://lakeclaire.org), or contact Matt and Ellen at the email above for the latest up-to-date information.



Event always abounds with creativity (this is from last year's)

## Sad Situation in Lake Claire

by Beth Damon

In a sad, even heartbreaking, way, Lake Claire is not what it used to be. The neighborhood housing style has always been eclectic, and that eclecticism even celebrated as a point of pride; this is brought home by the fact that the Lake Claire Tour of Homes was entitled, "The Lake Claire FUNKY Homes and Gardens Tour." Everyone has co-existed, whether living in the traditional small Craftsman-style homes, newer, larger homes, or a myriad of housing styles in between. But now that there are some overzealous code inspectors, likely responding to a neighbor's complaint—or to some developers who are attempting to intimidate homeowners into selling. Such targeting has recently been directed in particular to homeowners of rental properties, though many of their renters are long-term members of our community. As of going

to press, it is undetermined if complaints stem from a neighbor or from a developer who hopes the homeowners will get fed up and sell so that these homes can be torn down.

The code enforcement instances I have heard about are nothing short of harassment. Few homeowners have been willing to come forward, because they are afraid that speaking out will lead to more harassment. I recently spoke with my longtime neighbor Bob Arko about this matter. I wrote about Bob in the February 2012 Clarion in my series "30+ Years in Lake Claire." In addition to his long-term residency here, he began buying property in Lake Claire and Candler Park in 1972. He is well known in the neighborhood for keeping his rental properties affordable.

Bob is not "any old landlord." He has a commitment to maintain the diversity of the neighborhood and to

## Tuxedo Twins & Transformations

by Robert Bryan Davis

Spring of 2005 was a transformative year for my family. We had grown too big with twins to live in our midtown Loft, so we began looking for a house. Our feet landed on Tuxedo Avenue in Lake Claire in early August of that year. I think our house literally spoke to us, whispering in our ear to come home. As we walked in the house to view it, a wonderful hawk flew and cawed above the great oak tree in front of Tim and Mary Yoder's home at the end of Tuxedo. The Mayfields had owned our house for 15 or so years; they were the second owners, and they had taken very good care of the home. Rob Cleveland and Mary Lynn Owen lived next door, also the par-

ents of boy and girl twins. AND, Rob and Mary Lynn are actors, as am I. Thankfully one of us, my wife Jill, is not a thespian! Jill manages Telemedicine at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. One of us has to keep us grounded. Actually, our two families' four children do that as well.

Atlanta actors were a small group until recent times, as the film and TV business has exploded here in Georgia and the Southeast, thanks to the tax breaks attracting this work. And I am thankful for that. In 2005, ours was a small village of actors, directors, teachers ... if you were in the field, you were aware of a great many of the whole.

*Cont. on p. 3*

## October Meeting— Nominations for LCN

The annual Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN) Executive Committee elections are in November. According to our bylaws, all nominations must be made at the regular yearly LCN meeting in October. The basic requirement for nomination, either self-nomination or if nominated by another, is attendance at a minimum of four regular meetings since last November. An official slate of officers will also be presented. So, if you would like to serve the neighborhood in this valuable fashion, and you will meet the requirement as of the Oc-

tober meeting (i.e., you have already attended at least 3 meetings, so the October meeting will be your 4th or more), do consider leadership in the neighborhood, a very good cause and lots of fun. Meetings are on the third Thursdays, in the Rose Room at the Frazer Center: 7 p.m. socialize, 7:15 meeting. Savage provides free pizza for the meetings.

**Nominations (complete listing of positions are in the masthead at the top of Page 2), will be at our meeting on Thursday, October 19. We hope to see you there.**

help veterans with housing issues, and in some cases former homeless people now in a position to rent but without references, as well as single young professionals who are getting started and need affordable housing. He rents to several special-needs tenants who would have serious problems if he were to sell, people who have established ties in Lake Claire and contributed to our community, e.g., a former chief at the men's shelter, a daycare home operator, and a landscaper.

Bob has established several gardens on property he owns adjacent to Joe's Place on Ivy, where he allows tenants and persons transitioning to a life of self-sufficiency the opportunity to work in his gardens: and he shares his homegrown produce with

neighbors as well as with CSM (Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, Connecticut @ Ivy). For more details on Bob,

*Cont. on p. 9*

**THE CITY OF ATLANTA  
GENERAL ELECTION IS  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7.**

Last month we requested  
your opinions on candidates.

Please see the articles  
we received on  
Pages 5 through 8.

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

**Lake Claire Officers for 2017**

President: Joe Agee, [president@lakeclaire.org](mailto:president@lakeclaire.org)  
 VP Finance & Treasurer:  
 Jim Rockaway, [treasurer@lakeclaire.org](mailto:treasurer@lakeclaire.org)  
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*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.*

## OCTOBER 2017

Whole month: Atlanta Celebrates Photography (100 participating venues all over Atlanta, free, see [acpinfo.org](http://acpinfo.org) and search by neighborhood, and see article on Page 3)

**1-15 Actor's Express** (west Midtown)—*The Christians*, a provocative excavation of modern faith, [www.actors-express.com/plays/the-christians](http://www.actors-express.com/plays/the-christians), director Freddie Ashley, playwright Lucas Hnath

**1-29 Horizon Theatre** (L5P)—*Project Dawn*, gritty, gripping, funny. [www.horizontheatre.com](http://www.horizontheatre.com)

**1** "Camp Fire Intown" first meet-up. Inclusive co-ed scouting program. 1st official meeting 4-5:30 p.m., Lake Claire Park (if inclement weather, will be rescheduled—check NextDoor).

**4** International Walk to School day!

**5-14** Seven Stages Theatre Backstage. Our own Lake Claire (Tuxedo) resident, Robert Bryan Davis, as Ray in *Blackbird*, by David Harrower. Tickets at [blackbirdplay.brownpapertickets.com](http://blackbirdplay.brownpapertickets.com).

**6-7** Free live music in Alpharetta—Songwriters Fest. [wireandwoodalpharetta.com](http://wireandwoodalpharetta.com)

**7 & 21** Lake Claire Land Trust Drum Circle—Please walk, bike, or carpool.

**7** Swanton Saturday, 10 a.m.-1p.m. Historic Swanton House open for tour/exploration, at the Historic Complex, 720 W. Trinity Place, Decatur 30030, free to members, \$5 non-members.

**18** Mary Lin monthly dine-out, Flying Biscuit, 5% goes to the Mary Lin Education Foundation.

**19** Lake Claire monthly meeting, **NOMINATIONS FOR YEARLY ELECTION TO TAKE PLACE IN NOV. Rose Room at The Frazer Center, 7 p.m. socialize. Pizza free from Savage (THANKS, SAVAGE!)**

**21** Land Trust Community Work Day, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Pizza and drum circle follow (see article p.11)

**28** Lake Claire Halloween Parade and Party, Gather on Marlbrook @ Ridgewood at 4:45 p.m.; complete details article Page 1.

**29** Pumpkin Carving at the Land Trust, 5:30 p.m. Pumpkins provided. Bring knives and candles.

**Early December: Lake Claire Holiday Sale December 2, 10-4.** Artists & crafters please contact [aprilstar64@yahoo.com](mailto:aprilstar64@yahoo.com).

**Calendar entries for the Nov. 2017 Clarion by Oct. 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org**

## CSM Report

by Robert Bryan Davis (Lake Claire's Rep to the CSM Board)

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (CSM) is rolling along, continuing our mission as we have done for 38 years. November 1 will mark the anniversary of our opening in 1979. A pastor visited Clifton Presbyterian Church from Washington, D.C. in 1979 and suggested the congregants establish a shelter in their church. The people took the challenge, took their vans and cars downtown, and convinced three homeless men to come with them. They provided food and shelter to these men in the church. The beginning. Clifton Sanctuary Ministries was the first faith-based emergency shelter in Atlanta.

As you may know, Clifton closed its doors as a church in 2003, but it continues as a "night shelter," an inadequate term at best. CSM provides food and shelter for up to 30 men every night of the year, providing counseling and case management, an environment of respect, opportunities for jobs and job training, encouragement in seeking employment and establishing good habits for better health and living skills that will carry them through a transition to living off the street. **And**, opportunities for the community to get involved working for these same goals—find us at [www.cliftonsanctuary.com](http://www.cliftonsanctuary.com), call 404-373-3253, or email [alice@cliftonsanctuary.com](mailto:alice@cliftonsanctuary.com) to connect with us, or to donate much needed funds for this good work.

My tenure here on the board of Clifton Sanctuary Ministries has been short compared to some board members, and volunteers that have been involved with CSM for 20+ years. I ask myself, why do these people stick with this? What are they receiving? I cannot call myself deeply involved in issues of homelessness and other civic issues, or working with the poor. I am not an example of what it

takes to be effective in this work. But I think the answer to my question is that these long-term folks are receiving more than they give—in some miraculous way. Learning. Praying. Loving. Frustration. Success. Being loved. Working. Purpose. Peace. Togetherness. Family. Pride. Humility. Challenge. Laughter. Friendship. Connection. Living. A rich recipe.

I try not to paint a rosy picture, because it is not. The employees at CSM work as hard as the men trying to get off the street, as do some of the volunteers. It is tough work, if you jump deep in the water. My toenails are barely damp. There are no simple answers or methods to ending homelessness. Someone said the poor will always be with us. Perhaps a better and simpler way of expressing this is that these folks remind me of what is rich in life, what is important.

Well, now that you have endured my Panglossian words for a bit, I need to get down to brass tacks, the essentials, the nitty-gritty, the dope. **CSM is hiring an office administrator**, a paid position, to work 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. The responsibilities are varied from intake of guests to correspondence to support of Kerry Kerns (Case Manager/Chaplain) and Alice James-Jenkins (Executive Director). This is an essential position. If you are a stay at home parent, this is a must-see opportunity. CSM is also seeking a night manager, hours 7:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. This paid position is ideal for a college or seminary student. And it does not have to be every night. Call 404-373-3253, or email [alice@cliftonsanctuary.com](mailto:alice@cliftonsanctuary.com) to inquire about these positions, or to help CSM with a donation of funds.

Be kind to one another. See you around the neighborhood.

# Tuxedo transformations

*Continued from page 1.*

Rob, Mary Lynn, and I had crossed paths before 2005, but not closely. I have always admired their work. Rob and Mary Lynn are two of the finest actors in Atlanta, and I encourage you to seek out your neighbors' work every chance you get. Rob is a gifted storyteller, comic, dramatic, character actor, and an author. Mary Lynn is an actor, teacher, director, and playwright. Her play, *Knead*, has recently been workshopped at The Alliance Theatre, and will be produced in their 2019 season. Mary Lynn will be in the show as well. Keep an eye out for it.

Mary Lynn has always struck me as one of the most thoughtful actors you can find on the Atlanta boards. If you have a deep character to portray, you call on Mary Lynn. Recently, Mary Lynn starred in *Wit* at Aurora Theatre, written by local playwright Margaret Edson (Grady Parent, Inman Middle School teacher, Pulitzer Prize winner—1999—for *Wit*). I asked Mary Lynn:

**What does the title of the play mean to you, and how does it help to frame the story?**

Mary Lynn: The word "wit" actually stems from the same root as the word "wisdom." I find that interesting. Vivian can certainly lecture about "wit," as an application to John Donne's poetry, but she is unable, in her words, "to appreciate its spontaneous eruption." She does not know the wisdom of the heart. As her treatments progress, however, and as she saves face through her own sharp wit, and as she lives by her wits throughout her treatment, she has the chance to re-learn the meaning of "wit," in its original sense.

Rob Cleveland is multi-dimensional on stage. He's travelled the continent as Hoke in *Driving Miss Daisy*. He is a superb Shakespearean actor. He knocks you on your backside with



Mary Lynn in *Wit*

his wonderful comedy.

Rob starred in *I'm not Rappaport* at Aurora Theatre in the same season (2015-2016) that Mary Lynn Owen starred in *Wit*. Our whole family went to see Rob, and what a treat. Rob and Kenny Raskin danced the comedy of this piece for a lucky audience. Rob and Kenny Raskin were each nominated for Best Actor for their performances by the Suzie Awards, Atlanta's equivalent to New York's Tony Awards. Mary Lynn Owen was nominated for Best Actress as well, for *Wit*. Take a few moments and Google "Mary Lynn Owen" and "Rob Cleveland." You'll read about our two talented Lake Claire neighbors whose work I encourage you to see live. And, you may find out which of the two won the Best Actor award for the 2015-2016 season!

Recently, I had the pleasure of working on a play with Rob Cleveland. This was the first time we had been cast in the same play; I have been acting in Atlanta since the late 80s, and Rob has since the 70s. *Father Comes Home From The Wars*, by Suzan-Lori Parks, was produced at Actors Express earlier this year. It is a gripping play set during the Civil War about a man's journey through life as a slave. Ms. Parks lays bare the horrible nature of slavery and what it costs so many lives to endure. It is the kind of play a player never forgets being part of. But I do have regrets! Rob and I only shared the play; our characters did not share the stage! Rob worked the first act, and I worked the second act.



Rob Cleveland on the right

# Message From the Lake Claire Prez



Dear Neighbors,

The most recent holidays to come up, Labor Day and Columbus Day, have been amply covered in various media; however, on the local level, I'd like to say that it's important for us as a small neighborhood, nestled in the City of Atlanta, to be aware of unique benefits that we have. All of the police officers who regularly visit the Lake Claire Neighbors' meeting affirm that we have one of the lowest crime rates in the City. Also, within our boundaries, there are such amenities as the Frazer Forest, Lake Claire Park, and the Lake Claire Community Land Trust—along with immediate access to Candler Park, the Olmsted Linear Park, and Freedom Park.

A major concern for our neighborhood, of course, is preserving the architectural integrity of the neighborhood, which is an ongoing process. Unfortunately, our options are lim-

ited. The designation as an historic district would help, and an attempt is now being made for Candler Park that would include part of Lake Claire. For more information, go to [whyhistoricaldistrict.com](http://whyhistoricaldistrict.com). In the meantime, we can take advantage of the City's requirement that any new construction that goes beyond the established zoning code must have a variance. In this scenario, the immediate neighbors give approval, and any problems are addressed at a regular neighborhood meeting. Next recommendations are passed on the Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) and then to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) for a final decision.

As I'm writing this message, we are experiencing the effects of Hurricane Irma. So let me finish while there's still power. My best wishes for everybody's continued safety!

~Joe Agee

# Atlanta Celebrates Photography 2017

During the entire month of October free events and exhibitions are running at more than 100 participating venues. The Festival also features temporary outdoor projects in various locations throughout the City of Atlanta ([festivalguide2017.acpinfo.org](http://festivalguide2017.acpinfo.org)), including:



- The pin up show, which awards prizes in 10 categories including Youth under 12 (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place), Teen 13-18 (1st, 2nd and 3rd place) and Adult (1st, 2nd and 3rd place)
- SPACES: 3 Perspectives at Keller Knapp Realty, Decatur Office [festivalguide2017.acpinfo.org/listing/spaces-3-perspectives](http://festivalguide2017.acpinfo.org/listing/spaces-3-perspectives)
- Cuba With Open Arms, a walkable exhibition at Sweet Melissa's and Calle Latina; the photographer is our own Beth Damon, Editor of the Clarion. [festivalguide2017.acpinfo.org/listing/cuba-with-open-arms-2](http://festivalguide2017.acpinfo.org/listing/cuba-with-open-arms-2)
- The Georgia Fence: [festivalguide2017.acpinfo.org/listing/acp-public-art-the-georgia-fence](http://festivalguide2017.acpinfo.org/listing/acp-public-art-the-georgia-fence)

Perhaps Rob, Mary Lynn, and I will be able to be on stage together one day. For now, we talk over the fence, discuss our dogs, who are litter mates, and listen to our chickens clucking in the night air!

**I have to put in a plug for me.** Hopefully this publication will reach you in time for you to see me at Seven Stages Theatre Backstage as Ray in *Blackbird*, by David Harrower. Rebecca Robles is playing Una. We run from October 5 to 14. Get tickets at [blackbirdplay.brownpapertickets.com](http://blackbirdplay.brownpapertickets.com). January 13 - February 17, 2018, I will be Roy Cohn in *Angels In America*, by Tony Kushner. Tickets at [Actors-Express.com](http://Actors-Express.com).

Be kind to one another. See you around the neighborhood.

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## Atlanta Elections are November 7. Whom do you support?

See this sampling of opinions from the neighborhood on this page and pages 6-8:

### Liliana Bakhtiari / City Council

by Pat Del Rey

I interviewed Liliana Bakhtiari to find out what she would bring to the position for our City Council District 5 position. I am drawn to Liliana because of her strong interest in community building, both in city politics and to extend this sense of community building to the residents of our city.

#### What is your background in Atlanta?

I am proud to say that I am a product of Atlanta, and this community. I was born at Piedmont Hospital and grew up working, and then liv-

ing, in Southeast Atlanta. I grew up doing community service, social justice work, and community organizing with my father, who has owned a pharmacy on Edgewood Avenue in the Sweet Auburn neighborhood for close to 20 years, providing affordable medicine to people who previously couldn't access it. I remember seeing rampant poverty around Atlanta when I helped him deliver medicine, and him telling me that the conditions he saw in the poorest communities in our city were comparable to the conditions of his home-

*Cont. on p. 7*

### Natalyn Archibong / City Council

by Joe Agee

Let me take the opportunity of this edition to put in a plug for our current Councilmember, Natalyn Archibong, who is up for reelection this November and who has my unqualified support. Here's why. My first experience with her was in 2007 when she was arguing at a City Council meeting to convert 3 vacant lots next to the Frazer Forest into a community greenspace. It put her in conflict with then Mayor Shirley Franklin but she stood her ground and carried the day. After that, as president of our neighborhood organization since 2013, I've had a great deal of contact

giving me the opportunity to see how she has supported Lake Claire. She is exceptionally accessible and responsive to any issues that affect us although ours is one of many neighborhoods in her district that includes Kirkwood, Edgewood, East Atlanta, Reynoldstown, the Old Fourth Ward, and three others. She often attends our regular monthly meetings, and her representative, Valencia Hudson, is always present to answer any questions or convey concerns. One example of an important safety improvement is the four-way stop sign

*Cont. on p. 7*

### Cathy Woolard / Mayor

by Lynn Nomad

Cathy Woolard has my overwhelming support. Her spirit, values, and skills are perfect for this position. Cathy considers all of Atlanta citizens of the city as she plans and makes decisions, and she is savvy and well-connected. She served on the Atlanta City Council from 1998 to 2002, and as President of the Council from 2002 to 2004. As a city council member, Woolard increased funding for sidewalks; as chair of the transportation committee, she oversaw the expansion of Hartsfield-

Jackson International Airport, which had just become the busiest airport in the world; and she personally led the Atlanta City Council to pass what is still the only comprehensive civil rights bill in the state of Georgia, protecting all Atlanta residents and visitors from discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. As Atlanta City Council President, Woolard championed the Atlanta BeltLine; she founded the "Dirty Dozen," a pilot program to fix

*Cont. on p. 8*

### Charlie Stadtlander / School Board

by Alison Amoroso, M.Ed.

This is why I have a school board candidate yard sign for Charlie Stadtlander, at-large representative. It's not a political race, but school board candidates will be on the ballot with people running for government office this November, so here is why I am supporting Charlie—besides the fact I like his apple-shaped sign!

Ever since I was in high school and learned how important elected officials are to our daily lives, I've helped out candidates I felt wanted to help make society better for everyone. In

Boston, I particularly enjoyed going out with a group and posting up signs for candidates we supported. I met a lot of interesting people that also cared about their community, some are life-long friends.

We didn't use yards in Boston for promotion, the rules are different in Boston than Atlanta, but we posted signs in public spaces like busy corners on poles and between streets and sidewalks. We also held signs during morning commutes. I feel bad about

*Cont. on p. 7*

## Q & A with some of the Candidates running for Atlanta Public School (APS) Board of Education (BOE), District 3 & At-Large\*

by Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Neighbors Education Chair

**\*\*Note: this is heavily edited because of space considerations. The full article is on the website lakeclaire.org—including candidates' fave eating places.\*\***  
**Also on the website is a link to videos of School Board Candidates who attended our neighborhood meeting.**

#### Q: Who are these BOE District 3 and (as noted) at-large candidates?

**Adzua Agyapon** is an educator, teacher leader, and former elected official, with experience and insight into the students in Atlanta Public Schools. Adzua is currently the kindergarten grade level chair at KIPP STRIVE Primary, where she coaches and leads a team of 8 teachers. Born in NYC and lived in public housing, she worked hard, and eventually attended and graduated from Yale University. She wants to ensure that all students have the breadth of opportunities that she had.

**Lewis Cartee** has served in multiple community leadership roles within East Atlanta, the larger NPU, and

the Jackson Cluster. He is currently fulfilling his second stint as President of the East Atlanta Community Association (EACA) while also chairing the Education Committee. As a committed community member and APS parent currently involved in the Charter System governance platform, his roles have already given him the opportunity to participate in the larger discussion around equity and academic success for all children.

**Rashida M. Winfrey** is an APS parent, APS graduate, and APS Leader. An Atlanta native, she attended Inman Middle School (where her daughter goes now), and graduated from North Fulton High School. After graduation, she studied finance at the UGA, earning a BS and an

MBA in Finance, and is currently completing post-graduate coursework in Finance at the University of Chicago. She serves on the board of directors for the Atlanta Center for Puppetry Arts and has served on non-profits such as Grady Hospital, Park Pride, and Cool Girls—serving girls in 8 Title I schools in Fulton and DeKalb counties. She is also a 2014 graduate of Leadership Atlanta.

**Michelle Olympiadis** is a first generation American from an immigrant family; she has lived in Morningside since 1995 and has been a parent in APS since 2007. She has three children, all of whom attend schools in the Grady Cluster: Grady High School, Inman Middle School, and Morningside Elementary. She

has been involved in APS since her oldest was in Kindergarten. She recently completed her term as president of the Morningside Elementary School PTA, and is also an appointee of the Georgia Department of Education's Student Success Stakeholder Committee.

**John Wright (at-large seat 7)**, a native Atlantan, is a graduate of MLK Jr. Middle School and Benjamin E. Mays High School. John is one of the founding families of Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School and a parent of a 12th & 9th grader at Maynard Jackson High School, where he helped establish the school's Athletic Boosters in 2014 and serve on its board. He is running for office to

*Cont. on p. 6*

## APS/BOE

*Continued from page 5*

make sure every child in Atlanta has that same opportunity.

**Antoine Trammell MD, MPH** is from Nashville, Tennessee and moved to Georgia for medical training at Mercer University, where he was an Internal Medicine chief resident and completed a research fellowship studying cardiac arrest outcomes. He practices academic medicine at Emory, has background in public health and focus in outcomes research that includes the role of policy-making, education, and environmental factors. Antoine is a husband and proud parent of three. His older children attend Atlanta Public Schools in the Grady Cluster.

**Kandis Wood Jackson (at-large seat 7)** is a native Atlantan committed to achieving educational equity for all students in the Atlanta Public Schools (APS). At a young age, a strong family, excellent teachers, and influential mentors instilled in her a love of learning and a deep appreciation for education. She is a graduate of Duke University and Harvard Law School and a former APS teacher.

**Cynthia Briscoe Brown (at-large seat 8)** was elected to her first term in the at-large seat 8 on the Atlanta Board of Education in 2013 and is currently serving. She is a graduate of Davidson College and Vanderbilt Law School, who uses her 31 years' experience as an attorney to help Atlanta's students, teachers, and families. Cynthia serves or has served on the Boards of Atlanta Belt-Line, Inc, WABE/WPBA, the Atlanta Partnership for Arts in Learning, the Committee for Teaching About the United Nations/Atlanta, the Alliance Francaise d'Atlanta, and the PTAs at all her children's schools.

**Charlie (Charles) Stadlander (at-large seat 8)** is an Atlanta business owner and former metro-Atlanta public school teacher, with a Master's Degree in Public Administration. Numerous educational leadership roles include: Bullying Awareness Coordinator, Faculty Sponsor of H.O.P.E. (Hispanic Organization Promoting Education), and Debate Team Coach. He has a Doctorate in Jurisprudence in Health Law and Policy from Loyola University New Orleans, post-doctoral work, and a graduate certification in Health Law and Policy at Loyola University Chicago. Charlie has been a committed and passionate advocate for equality and accountability in public education.

**Nathaniel (Nate) Borrell Dyer (at-large seat 7)** has advocated, mentored, and taught children as if they were his own. His passion is children, which he attributes to

his mother's tireless dedication as a teacher for 33 years. Professionally, Nate has worked in Corporate America as a Senior Art Director for Bank of America; as an entrepreneur, with organizations such as The Carter Center, National CASA and the African-American Outreach Initiative; as a community activist, creating a youth organization called KIDS FIRST. Through this initiative, Nate has been able to employ and manage a team 25 teens and adults.

**Q: Why have they chosen to run?**

**Adzua Agyapon** recognizes that District 3 contains a diverse mix of schools with an even more diverse set of challenges ranging from school closures and under enrollment to annexations and overcrowding. She believes that she is whom our district needs as an experienced educator and leader who knows firsthand how policies made in the boardroom affect our children in the classroom

**Lewis Cartee** believes we need to create greater collaboration between the City of Atlanta and APS, focusing on quality of life and creating safe and productive learning environments. Cartee supports strengthening our early learning programs to improve school readiness while offering robust opportunities for vocational training for high school students. He thinks we need to continue to elevate the voice of leadership in our schools while also striving to work toward insisting on increased transparency through program audits. He envisions a school district that increases trust and effective two-way communication, a school district that is approachable, accessible, and equitable for all in order to create an Atlanta that truly is one city for all students.

**Rashida M. Winfrey** would like to bridge the gaps of education by having Parent Power, giving equal weight to all voices; create more Fiscal Responsibility and Transparency on the board due to her finance background; helping to better Student Outcomes by equitably educating and graduating world-class citizens. Rashida is passionate about bringing financial literacy to students, so much so that she has initiated financial programs throughout Atlanta including programs at the Andrew & Walter Young Family YMCA, Word of Faith Cathedral, Atlanta Metropolitan College, and the City of Atlanta.

**Michelle Olympiadis** loves being a parent and being involved in her children's lives and schools. When her oldest child with special needs entered Kindergarten, the Special Education Lead Teacher at the time told her in her first IEP, "Your son

is not smart enough to attend Morningside, a school for high achievers." As she began learning about the challenges facing not only her son and the school system, she found her passion and her voice for advocacy. She advocated for systemic changes needed to create a sustainable district able to meet each child developmentally where he or she is, regardless of background.

**John Wright** believes the most important function of a school board is to work collaboratively and govern in a manner that puts the needs of students first. John listens to parents, teachers, administrators, and stakeholders. He will celebrate with all those involved in APS, albeit large or small goals. He believes that the number one job of APS is to make certain every family in Atlanta, wherever they live or how much money they have, has a right to have a school they can send their children to without doubt or reservation.

**Antoine Trammell** is committed to maintaining our city's bright and prosperous future with our children's education. Antoine firmly believes that quality education for our children yields academic excellence and cultural competency that is necessary for a diverse community to continue thriving and have a secure future. Running for the board of education presents an opportunity to serve our city by impacting an earlier stage of education. Antoine knows the societal impacts of inadequate policy. He brings a passion for people and experience with data evaluation, policy formulation, and outcomes assessment to the benefit our children.

**Kandis Wood Jackson's** education background helps her to understand the value of a quality education. Her experiences in the classroom as both a student and a teacher form her belief that various social, political, and economic factors can often undermine the community-wide goal of providing quality public education to every student. This is unacceptable to Kandis, because she believes equal access to quality education is a fundamental human right.

**Cynthia Briscoe Brown** believes it is the job of the educators—parent, teacher, volunteer, coach, or other caring adult—to equip every child with the tools he or she needs to open his or her presents. Focusing on the needs and gifts of each child means the community must be equitable with all its resources. She believes societal ills that hinder children from learning and thriving must be addressed by building a school system and community, which embrace and celebrate diversity of every kind. Children must be taught to think critically, communicate effectively, and contribute responsibly to their community.

**Charlie Stadlander** (See LC website for the content/edited out here because another Lake Claire resident wrote an opinion—see p.5.)

**Nathaniel (Nate) Borrell Dyer** [it's about improving] the lives of our children and their education. He believes in our children and all the potential they possess. He believes this to be his life's calling, and he is committed and up to the task in providing an equitable, world-class education to all of Atlanta's children.

*\*Other candidates running for School Board did not respond to Annsley's note: Jason Esteves (at large seat 9); Patricia Crayton (at large seat 7); Micah Rowland (at large seat 7); Ben Stone (at large seat 8). And remember, not all these candidates are competitors - the at-large reps are separate from our District 3 race, so in actuality we could have two reps from our area. -Ed.*



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# Natalyn Archibong

*Continued from page 5*

at the intersection of Marlbrook Avenue at Clifton Rd. that had become an extremely dangerous crossing for children on their way to Mary Lin. Natalyn and her office kept pushing this until finally it was granted, as well as playing a part in the previous installation of the other pedestrian crossings on Clifton, at Muriel and Harriet. With regard to the environment, Natalyn has been instrumental in acquiring additional property for Lake Claire Park and the Frazer Forest. And her most recent achievement is especially significant. In consort with Judy Hammack and the Friends of Lake Claire Park, Councilwoman Archibong was directly involved in getting the Dept. of Parks and Recreation to fund a \$40,000 master plan in 2015 and soon after worked on gaining a \$500,000 grant from the Renew Atlanta funds. This is by far the largest funded project in Lake Claire history, and the result is beautiful new playground with a completely modern design and equipment. Still the work is not finished. The master plan also calls for more improvements such as drainage and soil erosion, and Natalyn is playing



and will continue to play a crucial role in this continuing development for LCP.

Consistent with her environmental concern, she has been a continual advocate for the preservation of the Historic Pullman Yard in Kirkwood (right across from Lake Claire) with its amazing buildings that had become a site for a number of movies, especially the zombie type. Sorry to confess, but they're my favorites. In any case, negotiations are now underway with a movie company to preserve the buildings and the large amount of green space on the property. More films about the undead? Let's hope.

So please cast your vote for Natalyn Archibong, a candidate with a proven public track record of support for our neighborhood!

# Charlie Stadlander

*Continued from page 5*

taking Charlie's sign because I live on a dead-end street, and there aren't many people to see my sign. But since I've lived here, candidates seem to want yard signs, so I put them up and ask others to do the same. Here is why I think Charlie will be great for Lake Claire, whether or not you have kids in public schools:

1. Lake Claire will benefit from having another advocate for our children and quality education besides our district representative (District 3). At-large candidates have generally come from the other side of the city, as the incumbent does now. Charlie lives in our school cluster (Grady Cluster) and is attentive to our area's needs.

2. Charlie understands governance, policy, and accountability. In addition to having been a teacher, and owning a successful business, he has a law degree and a PhD in policy. School boards are most effective when they use policies to drive accountability, budgeting, and instructional improvements. Right now we have a state board of education that caved into changes on the Common Core just for Georgia, privatization, and substandard funding. Charlie



has already delved into public records and the APS budget.

3. Lake Claire should be prepared for another school zoning conflict. We are in the outermost area of the cluster, which is growing leaps and bounds from in-town growth in our current cluster configuration. Jackson High is also getting full, but from what I have seen, people aren't as engaged in assessing/planning as neighborhoods and PTAs are in Decatur. We'll need Board members that we can count on if there is another proposal to move us out of Grady cluster, but better, that can plan ahead for a growing population.

4. Charlie understands the pitfalls and need for accountable charter schools, nonprofit and for-profit, and how they affect the public school system and the children enrolled in them.

I am currently organizing an event to meet Charlie in this area (LC, CP,

# Liliana Bakhtiari

*Continued from page 5*

town in rural Iran.

## Why do you want to run for office?

I decided to run for office after several community leaders that I greatly respect asked me to run. Atlanta has the largest wealth gap in the country; we have some of the highest poverty rates in the nation. Yet we lack of affordable housing. We are continually displacing small businesses, working-class people, and senior citizens. It is truer now than ever that we need to unite our neighborhoods, learn how we can grow together, and make all communities part of the discussion.

As our next City Councilmember, I will fight for our community, fight to increase the number of affordable housing units, expand and improve public transit, build more walkable sidewalks and better bicycle infrastructure, work with Atlanta Public Schools and Board of Education to improve public education, and help create a city that loves every resident back. I want to revamp our tree ordinance so that we can successfully remain "a city in the forest," making it easier for our local residents to take care of damaged or diseased trees, while holding developers accountable for trees that they needlessly take out. I will also fight for a greater commitment to our 2035 renewable energy pledge. As of now, there is no plan on the table, and with my background in environmental justice and green energy, I will help bring this important subject to the forefront of city planning.

## What experience do you have in community building?

While attending Georgia State University, I continued my work in community building, advocating for student rights as well as affordable housing, fighting alongside long term residents to keep them in their homes. I went on to travel through 22 different countries, including parts of Africa, Southeast Asia, Australia, and Central and South America. While abroad, I did work with everyone from genocide victims to sex-traffick-

ing victims to refugees. I worked in children's education, women's health and family planning, built houses and hygienic systems, and also conducted work around food accessibility, water scarcity, and environmental justice. I have always aimed to bring all that I had learned back to my own community. I have continued advocating for underserved communities over the years, and have served on the board of Lost-N-Found Youth, a nonprofit that works with homeless LGBTQ youths, as well as working in the arts community, serving on the board of non-profit organizations.

and IP), so please contact me or look on his website if you are interested. [aliamoroso@hotmail.com](mailto:aliamoroso@hotmail.com), [charlieforeducation.com](http://charlieforeducation.com). See you on November 7!

BTW, the neighborhood I lived in in Boston, which reminds me so much of this area, sent surveys and then debated at length the platforms/



ing victims to refugees. I worked in children's education, women's health and family planning, built houses and hygienic systems, and also conducted work around food accessibility, water scarcity, and environmental justice. I have always aimed to bring all that I had learned back to my own community. I have continued advocating for underserved communities over the years, and have served on the board of Lost-N-Found Youth, a nonprofit that works with homeless LGBTQ youths, as well as working in the arts community, serving on the board of non-profit organizations.

## Why are you the right candidate for District 5 City Council member?

I honestly believe that it takes a village. No one person has all the answers to every problem, but I know that we all have common interests, especially in this crucial time in Atlanta. We all benefit when there are more jobs. We all benefit when there are safer neighborhoods and better schools. And every single one of us deserves a seat at the table as these decisions are being made. I am someone who has the ability to reach into the diverse corners of our communities and unite people because I have lived through most of the challenges this community faces. I have dealt with homelessness, lived a paycheck away from the street, been pushed from one home to the next multiple times in a year because of foreclosures, predatory lending, and unaffordable prices. I know that I have a finger on the pulse of this community, and I will always work to listen to the voices that are rarely heard. I look forward to the challenge and the opportunity to change the face of local politics, always to be present in our community, and to strive to give each resident a voice.

qualifications of candidates running for different offices (school board was appointed, so not that), and then voted. With rules for high standards for endorsement, we published the neighborhood recommendations and then put flyers in everyone's doors (sometimes we had ties!). Neighbors really appreciated it as so many had school kids or traveled for work.

# Thanks for Paying Your Neighborhood Dues!

Lake Claire dues payers since last time:

- Valarie Sanders
- Patricia Grindo
- Leah Williams
- Sherry Neal
- Kathryn Fidati
- Caley Landau
- Quitin Thomas
- Robert Hackett
- Diane Kenny

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# October into November in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

Oddly enough, October is perhaps the month with the least to do in the garden, fall crops already planted, bulb planting not advisable until November, spring seed planning and ordering yet to come. So I will only remind you that this is the month to sow both sweet peas and spinach if you want to see them in the spring. And it is not too late either to plant the latter plus collards, lettuce, and scallions in a cold frame for your winter enjoyment. Because I have less to advise in October, I will speak about larger things that relate to our gardens, of course, but also to the bigger garden for which, connected, we are all stewards.

When you were buying your house, you may have walked around the block on which it was set to see what was going to have an impact on your property. I ask you to consider now how your land may affect your neighbors. Will that seedling at the end of your yard that you care nothing about soon be a tree deeply shading someone else's yard? Is the ivy or the bamboo that you enjoy outside your door now creeping under or over the fence? If you have a landscaping ser-

vice clean out "invasive" privet along your property line, will that remove the last bit of privacy from another garden?

There are many kinds of landowners. Some would prefer to live where they have no earth around them because it represents only dirt and work. For their sakes, I wish they would live in condominiums. Others want greenery seen through windows but do not want to interact with

# Cathy Woolard

*Continued from page 5*

the worst code violations in the city to improve neglected neighborhoods; she made sustainability a priority: her Energy Conservation Program cut emissions while saving the city's facilities more than \$470,000.

Woolard decided to enter the 2017 mayor's race citing the need for better transportation options (including the development of the Atlanta Belt-Line), a diverse range of housing options for all city residents, and a more ethical and transparent City Hall. If you would like to learn more about Cathy Woolard's mayoral campaign, visit her website at [www.cathyforatlanta.com](http://www.cathyforatlanta.com). Cathy's dad was a career Air Force Officer, and while at least seven generations of her family have



lived in Atlanta, Cathy grew up on bases all over the world. She was educated in public schools, graduated from the University of Georgia, and settled with her family here in Atlanta. She and her partner of 28 years, Karen Geney, live in Glenwood Park.

Cathy has my vote, and judging by yard signs, many of our votes in Lake Claire!

it. Their properties are either totally overgrown with the sorts of plants that invade others' yards but may provide shelter for wild-life or are chopped down to neatness by people hired to use chemicals and fossil-fueled machinery on everything. In

*Cont. on p.10*



# Hurricane and General Safety Preparation Tips

Pen Sherwood has sent some advice from DeKalb Emergency Management. We ran out of space, but please see [lakeclaire.org](http://lakeclaire.org) for the full info, and we will publish next month.

Meanwhile, for power outages, call **Georgia Power** at 1-888-891-0938.

DeKalb Co. CodeRED:  
[www.dekalbcountyga.gov](http://www.dekalbcountyga.gov).

DeKalb County non-emergency:  
 404-294-2911.

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## Haunted Harold

by I.C. Dedpeople

No one loves Halloween more than Lake Claire, so this year, neighbors along Harold Avenue will gather to bring you Haunted Harold, a series of haunted houses along the lane. Here you'll find tricks and treats, and things that go bump in the night. The event, new to the neighborhood, will be geared mostly towards trick or treaters age 9 and under, and haunting hours will reflect this age.

"We hope Haunted Harold will become as much an annual tradition in

our neighborhood as our beloved Halloween Parade has. And we hope it will grow in size, and scariness with our children," said Harold neighbor, Kris Wellen.

Everyone along Harold is invited to decorate their houses in theme, or costume, and join the fun! If ever you wanted to 'go big' with your Halloween decorations, this would be the year! Watch for haunting hours coming to a telephone poll near you

## Sad situation

*Continued from page 1*

and his son Tim, see the Feb 2012 Clarion at [www.lakeclaire.org/clarionarchives/2012/2012-02.pdf](http://www.lakeclaire.org/clarionarchives/2012/2012-02.pdf).

Bob's 40+ years of rental history includes no tenants injured, no complaints about conditions, consistent maintenance, consistent painting, clean-up, etc. There has been no change, but now these code inspectors have been aggressively picking out various "violations," such as debris on property and painting, and even citing his tenants although he indicated that he is the responsible owner. Nine properties were all flagged at once, making the 10-day mandated repairs almost impossible to complete on time.

For example, Kathy Brown has been a tenant for over 20 years on Ivy Place, running an in-home daycare for infants/toddlers in a State-approved setting. Many children in high school now—some of whom have been our Clarion writers on the Kids' page—got their start with Kathy's daycare. The State makes periodic inspections, and they recently requested that she provide a fenced area in the yard for the toddlers. In response, Bob purchased the fence materials, but before he could build it, the City inspector cited him for the fencing material being stored (under the deck, completely out of sight from the street) and actually issued an arrest citation for Ms. Brown (for whom it would be difficult to appear in court, and neglect her childcare clients). Another cited tenant is a severely handicapped man that could not appear to sign an arrest form: then, on a Sunday morning in September, a police officer showed up pounding on his door. The gentleman was still in bed and unable to get up. And again, Bob had already provided his own phone number; there was no reason to harass the tenant. These are peaceful tax-paying citizens who are no threat to public safety.

In addition, this enforcement is

being applied in a completely non-uniform manner. Bob's houses are among some of the best kept houses and yards in the neighborhood; many others in the neighborhood have actual debris visible from the street. Other "violations" have included: missing house numbers (!); weeds; "several decayed boards on home" (which turned out to be mildew), "debris on porch." The bottom line is that we have always been able to live peaceably in our neighborhood, storing building materials in our driveways for a reasonable amount of time before we build fences or do other repairs, and choosing to let our yards be natural—which lead to frequent designation of yards as bird sanctuaries.

Recently, a Candler Park resident, cited for "having too many plants in the yard" had to make two court appearances, was then threatened with a \$1000 fine or jail time of 60 days: in the final appearance the judge dismissed the case. This kind of stress is not warranted and affects the health of elder residents, not to mention taking up valuable City resources. I have focused on Bob because he was willing to come forward, mainly out of concern for his tenants of modest means living in his apartments. With increasing taxes it becomes difficult to keep costs low, but with overzealous inspectors, bordering on harassment, the City inspectors seem to be making an attempt to prevent these homeowners from continuing to keep these rentals that provide safe and affordable housing.

As an aside, this situation is not unlike that of the City arborists who teamed up with some developers to run roughshod over the tree ordinance in 2010. Yes, the arborists. It resulted in former Senior Arborist Tom Coffin being fired when he protested that the City looked the other way when developers illegally removed healthy trees on construction

## Wild in Lake Claire

by Carol Vanderschaaf

To be or not to be wild...that is the question...or to rephrase it, how wild do you want to be? I know what you're thinking: "but not that wild"...unless of course you want to PM me with that info. What I'm talking about is your relationship with nature, the environment, the future. Well, let me not go off on that tangent. I will not talk about the hurricanes, the destruction of our low lying areas, the melting polar areas, or global warming, AKA climate change. I certainly won't mention my concern that at some point New Orleans might not come back again. Nor that the New York City subways will be filled up with water nor that the Statue of Liberty may become just a buoy in the Hudson River nor that Trump Tower may be waterfront property. All that is too political.



**What I really want to talk about here is how wild we want to be in our Lake Claire yards. That is the question.** Now is time we can get started on planting for spring blooms. Those plantings done now through November, and even December if the weather holds, will bloom in the spring. Now please listen up. (You can PM me later.) This is addressed to Lake Clarions who are not afraid of a little unruliness in their gardens, those who do not scream at the sight of a caterpillar or a bug, those who are not trying

to tame what's left of nature in their yards. And to those who are thrilled at the sight of a hummingbird, or a gulf fritillary butterfly, or even a carpenter bee. This information is PG, but I warn you that it "may be offensive to some."

So what to do? So many things and such complexities! First, take a break from this article, and go out and look at your yard. Is it wild and colorful or just a straight shot of very green—kind of like a mini golf course (are you a golfer?). How much sun or shade do you have? How many vines? How many trees and scrubs are there? Do you have bulbs planted or places for beds of flowers? Ok. Come on back in. Now think about what wild is to you? Is it lot of trees, or is it the beach, the mountains, deserts, or islands of ice floating on the sea? Is it your living room? Or is it having big bucks, driving a prestigious car, having a 6000 square-foot house, or having only designer items on your person?

**Well, the wild I'm discussing here is confined to nature's wild.** So just to get the basics out of the way, if you want to develop a habitat for wildlife you'd need to provide four basics: food, water, cover, and place to raise young or enable the young to thrive. The National Wildlife Federation lists native plants and the wildlife attracted by them. Very helpful for planning. They also suggest we capture rain water from the roof, and compost and reduce lawn areas. The Audubon society suggests that "every plant helps the fight against climate change." They tell how to establish a hummingbird garden and the best places to buy native plants, including by mail. Georgia Native Plant

*Cont. on p. 10*

sites (where violations were obvious), and failed regularly to impose fines even after blatant disregard of the laws. Don't underestimate the power and influence of some developers and some "over-zealous" inspectors working with them. (The City later settled with whistleblower Coffin.)

A final example: in September, one tenant looked out and saw two men in her back yard. She went on the porch and said, "hello, may I help you." They continued to examine the home and ignored her. She said, "what are you doing," and one answered threateningly, "you'll find out." There is no need for this. It is obvious that these particular city inspectors, who are "sworn police officers" could use some sensitivity training for dealing with peaceful residents, instead of

treating them as criminals in situations that have no safety issues. This is not what we want to be happening behind the scenes in our beloved Lake Claire.

Perhaps neighbors will be driven to civil lawsuits to prove that this particular code enforcement office well exceeded its authority in such a way as clearly to constitute harassment. In the meantime, other steps will be taken; as a start, people are contacting our elected officials, including Atlanta City Councilmember Natalyn Archibong, who has always been helpful in the past on many neighborhood issues.

*Anyone with ideas or stories (albeit anonymous), let me know at editor@lakeclaire*

## October into November

*Continued from page 8*

deners expressing their personalities in a variety of ways: filling a pot with a few plants produced in a plant factory; using an artistic eye to blend gifted seedlings, self-seeders, and "weeds" into a delightful front yard; renting a Land Trust plot to grow a tangle of tomatoes, okra, and pole beans in full sun; or trying out hundreds of new seeds each year with greater or lesser success.

All of us are separately trying to learn how to be better gardeners and citizens, and often our ideas clash. This past year I was bemoaning the death of a foxglove, only a biennial in the best of times, from drought. "Oh," said a neighbor, "an *English* plant!" I understand she grows only native plants, very laudable. She is creating a garden that not only needs less water, no chemicals, and less attention but also provides shelter and food to native animals. I do some of this also, eschewing chemicals in an attempt to keep poisons out of the system and allow birds and amphibians find the insects they need for themselves and offspring. But we white and black

people, we are not natives either, just have been here a long time like the foxgloves and the okra whose seeds we brought, willingly or not, from other continents.

Not only do I love the European and American plants that I grew up with in more northern climes, I would also miss the summer flowers when I am in my garden for many hours. The heavy flowering seasons for Southern native plants are in the spring and (less) in the autumn. Our climate was not conducive to flowering plants over such a long season unless they were imported from other warm places in Asia or South America, which is why 19th century gardeners welcomed the non-natives that many people associate with the South. My decisions to buy some from plant factories and coddle them with scarce water are part of a larger problem like the air-conditioning we run much of the year, the cars we drive everywhere, the appliances and clothing made to change quickly with fashion, and the ever-expanding number of products and foods we buy

merely because they exist.

And all these things, many rampant only in the last 40 years, bring me to our big garden, the earth, of whom we are the stewards. I am no scientist and would never call a single destructive hurricane "climate change," yet the melting ice-caps go in only one direction. Making small changes in our lives is no longer enough. "The core of the problem comes back to the same inescapable fact that has both blocked climate action and accelerated emissions: all of us are living in the world that neoliberalism built, even if we happen to be critics of neoliberalism." (*This Changes Everything: Climate Change vs. Capitalism* by Naomi Klein, Simon & Schuster, 2014, p.158) Will we gather together as we once did, in person, in large groups, not just in marches or electronically, but in community meetings, like our neighborhood association that is linked to all parts of Atlanta, to begin to make the hard political changes necessary to save ourselves? I am old and will soon leave this gardening to others.

## Wild in Lake Claire

*Continued from page 9*

Initiative, State Botanical Garden of Georgia, UGA, in addition to providing lists of places to get native plant seeds, and have lists of retailers and lists of places that have native plant sales. Now perhaps you'd like to develop a garden that reflects more of the spectacular you. Try putting into your search engine the words "crazy gardens," and see what you come up with. Take local garden tours to get more ideas. Look around our neighborhood at properties that have been certified by Audubon or the National Wildlife Federation.

I myself will build a small hide-away in my yard where the critters can't see me but I can see them, and I will sing one of my favorite songs of the bard William S: "Where the bee sucks, there lurk I. In a cowslip's bell I lie. There I couch when owls do cry. On the bat's back I do fly. After sunset merrily. Merrily, merrily shall I live now, under the blossom that hangs on the bough."

*Fondly and merrily,  
your old friend Flora Fauna*



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# Expanded Opportunity at the Land Trust! Community Work Days Now Monthly

by Stephen Wing, Land Trust Secretary

The Land Trust needs your help to stay beautiful! You may have noticed the morning glory and air potato vines taking over, among other invasives. We even have a fresh patch of kudzu. At our August board meeting, we decided to switch from a quarterly Community Work Day to monthly—the **3rd Saturday of every month**, starting at 3:00 p.m. At 6:00, we will knock off for pizza. At dusk, around 7:00, the Drum Circle begins. (From March to September, all of this will happen an hour later.)

This month's Community Work Day will be Saturday, October 21, 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Note that our calendar postcard for 2017 lists a quarterly work day on Sunday, October 15. **That one is now canceled** and replaced with the new monthly one the following weekend.

For years, our work days were timed for the day after each Drum Circle on the theory that announcing it the night before would keep it fresh in people's minds. But twice a month

was a little too often, and as drum circle attendance declined it made less sense. Our next experiment was holding a work day each season. Spring and summer work days were dedicated to prepping the land for our two music festivals. This was necessary work, but left too much undone in these two crucial seasons, and by fall we were way behind on basic maintenance. We hope the switch to a monthly work day will strike the right balance to attract some willing volunteers on a regular basis. A 1.7 acre greenspace needs lots of loving attention. Some basic maintenance is handled by paid labor, like mowing and dealing with trash and recycling. We also pay for expertise when needed, such as weeding the native trees and grasses on the Dekalb hillside. But as anyone can see, we need more hands and bodies actively engaged in holding back the jungle. In addition to clearing vines and pulling invasive weeds, ongoing tasks include spreading wheelbarrow-loads of wood chips

on the paths to avoid a muddy mess when it rains. Right now our backlog also includes repairs to fences, rebuilding stairways, and building a tool shed. Picnic tables, chairs, and gazebos need occasional fresh coats of stain. Our plumbing and electrical volunteers could use knowledgeable assistance and, eventually, an apprentice or two.

The Land Trust's founders and board members are growing older and looking to the future. We see droves of young people and families visiting and enjoying the land. They might not realize that what they're enjoying is the result of countless hours of hard work, almost all of it done by volunteers for the sheer pleasure of watching the beauty of this place unfold. If they have never experienced it themselves, they might not know how deep and rewarding that pleasure can be. We are thrilled to provide an opportunity for all our visitors to learn the joys of giving back in return for nature's gifts.



Someday we will be gone, and it is a comfort to know that others are adopting this land as we have done—not just as a place to visit, but as a place where they have invested their time, sweat, and love. Working together on a worthwhile project is fun and rewarding—try it! The more you pitch in and help, the more you are the community in our name!

## Hello—Safe Journey

### Skiing in and around Lake Claire

#### Birthdays:

- October 2: Margaret Witten (Tuxedo) Happy b'day! Now it's as it should be, you older than DPS.
- October 4: Richard Harvey (of Ellenwood)—one of our mail carriers and an honorary Lake Clarion. He loves and reads the Clarion every month, knows everyone on his route. Happy birthday, Richard!
- October 5: Chloe Rachal will turn 6! (Howard Circle) and Emma DeBell (Harold) the big 10!
- October 19: Kusher Thomas Tanguturi turns 4 (Harold Avenue)
- October 19: Boyd Baker—happy b'day (Leonardo)
- October 23: Izzy Kaiser—Happy 10th birthday! ('dorf)
- October 25, 1924: Margaret Gossett—Happy ninety-three! (Harold)

#### Marriage Anniversaries:

- October 6: Judy Langford and Bob Thompson (Harold)
- October 15: Sara Rossi and Jeff DeBell- (Harold Avenue) 12 years!

*Life-cycle events to editor@lakeclaire.org by Oct. 15. Thanks for helping us make this feature inclusive of our LC 'hood.*

## The Legend of the Loch Claire Monster

Gather children, and I'll tell you a tale as old as our hills, the Tale of the Loch Claire Monster. Many years ago, long before houses lined our streets, flowers lined a peaceful body of water they called Lake Claire. For thousands of years, the lake was a gathering place for birds and other animals who came to drink, and eat fish from the lake. But they were not the only creatures that called this place home. A gentle beast who had outlasted an ice-age, European explorers, and a Civil War, lived here too. The Creek Indians called her *Enhessee*, their word for *Friend*, and she

lived here in harmony for eons. Years later, when the Creek Indians were driven out and the animals were hunted, Enhessee was left all alone. One day people came to build in our area, and Enhessee spent all of her time hiding in the water, away from the people.

Then, in the early 1930s, a team of Olympic bound water skiers came to practice on Lake Claire. Enhessee was afraid of the sound the boats made. So she learned to hide at the bottom of the lake, only to come up for air when she had to. On one fateful day, just when Enhessee needed a

breath, a speedboat was passing by. It hit her! The boat tipped over, sending the famous Lake Claire Swim Team flying into the water! Enhessee tried to get away, but one of the water skiers spotted her. The water skier screamed as loud as she could, and all of the other swimmers came rushing. "Did you see it? Did you see it?" She asked, but no one else had. "It's a monster!"

Just then, the bystanders all stared in amazement as they saw a giant whale like "hump" dip below the dark waters of Lake Claire. From that day on, no swimmers dare go in Lake

Claire, and the famed ski team went their own way. A developer insisted that the lake be drained, and it was. They found nothing, and only a small creek was left in what is now Lake Claire Park. But like so many of us, Lake Claire was Ennessee's home. She couldn't bare to leave it. She did what she had done for years. She hid.

Now the story of Ennessee has gone untold for decades, and neighbors believe she is gone forever... Or is she? Recent rumors tell of a large, dragon-like creature in the depths of Frazer Forest. **Could it be Enhessee?**



**Annual Pumpkin Carving  
at the Land Trust**  
Sunday, Oct. 29, 5:00 p.m.  
Pumpkins provided.  
Bring knives and candles

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 this drawing by Bethany Mikrut, age 8½ years old, daughter of Emily Rubin and Monique Mikrut. Bethany says, "This is a picture of my house all decorated for Halloween. I am dressed up as a fox, which is the costume I plan to wear this year!" Bethany and her sister, Maya, live on Harold Avenue. Bethany is in the third grade, and Maya is in the sixth grade. Both attend the Paideia School. Bethany enjoys drawing, riding her bike, and playing softball for the Druid Hills Youth Softball League. She also helps to distribute the Clarion each month. Thanks, Bethany, for your Clarion volunteerism and for this great illustration. Readers: if you have a good memory, you may remember that MAYA was featured in this column at the age Bethany is now in September 2014! See [www.lakeclaire.org/clarionarchives/2014/2014-09.pdf](http://www.lakeclaire.org/clarionarchives/2014/2014-09.pdf).

Next to the contest is Latha Wright's cartoon strip, seventh in her series "QT Kitten." Next month she takes a break. Thanks for your contributions, Latha!

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](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org). We hope to hear from you!



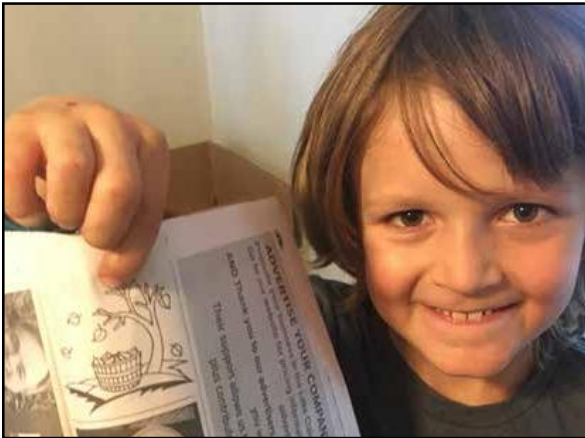
Bethany and Maya Mikrut



My House at Halloween, by Bethany Mikrut

**\*\* CONTEST WINNER! \*\***

Ian Cambas Stocking found the fall graphic on page 8. Thanks. Ian lives on Nelms Avenue, and he is nine years old and in fourth grade at Mary Lin. He has two siblings, Sol and Teo. He likes rock climbing and biking. He won the contest in April 2016, too! Congrats and thanks, Ian!



**NEW CONTEST!**

Find the hidden October graphic in this Clarion. The winner/winners will have their pictures in the next Clarion. To win, send e-mail to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org) with the page number where you find the picture. Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you can't win two months in a row. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize. And do send us your writing and artistic contributions for the Kids' Corner page!. **Hurry and look;** competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.

