



Six Years of Scouting: Troop 13553

by Cecily Stevens

The Girl Scouts program focuses on building courage, confidence, and caring. Lake Claire's Girl Scout Troop 13553 grew together in the "3 Cs" over six years of scouting together. In May of this year, the troop disbanded after years of adventure, service, learning, and lots of fun. It's not unusual for troops to disband when girls arrive at middle school as they discover new interests, sports, and friends. All of the girls from former Troop 13553 plan to remain active in the community and in their schools.

Girl Scout Troop 13553 began in 2012 as an offshoot of a large Mary Lin troop. From the start, the new troop focused on learning, doing, and giving back, with a heavy emphasis on trying new things. Over the years, these girls proved that there is so much more to Girl Scouts than selling cookies!



Troop cookie booth on the Beltline in March 2018

As Brownies, the girls experienced the outdoors on their very first camping trip to Camp Meriwether. Then third graders, the girls slept in platform tents for the first

time, hiked, cooked, did all camp chores, and learned about fire building. Also as Brownies, they volunteered at Epworth United Meth-

Cont. on p. 12.

Seeking Eden in Lake Claire

by Dina Shadwell

Cator Woolford Gardens in Lake Claire is one of about 30 gardens featured in the new book *Seeking Eden: A Collection of Georgia's Historic Gardens*, a passion project written by Staci L. Catron and Mary Ann Eaddy, with photography by James R. Lockhart. A beautiful tome featuring gardens throughout the state, it appeals to gardeners and non-gardeners, history buffs, and those who love exploring Georgia's hidden gems.

Often described as one of those hidden gems, Cator Woolford Gardens has been on the radar of co-author Staci Catron for many years. Staci is a long-time Decaturite, historian, and the Cherokee Garden Library Director at the Atlanta History Center. She has an affinity for the work of the original designer of the Cator

Woolford Gardens, Robert B. Cridland, who also designed the Avondale Estates development and the campus of Berry College in Rome, Georgia.

The evolution of Cator Woolford Gardens from its origins to today's redesign is all covered in the book, which was originally never meant to be a book. "The whole project grew out of a Georgia Historic Landscape initiative," says Staci. "A group came together in 2002 wanting to document our state's historic gardens. We had a lot of important landscapes that had not been documented since 1933." That's when the Peachtree Garden Club of Atlanta published *Garden History of Georgia 1733-1933*. The Cator Woolford estate was included in the "Modern Garden" section

Cont. on p. 6.

Do you know your history?

by Boyd Baker

What was Miss Mary Lin really like? Where was the "lake" in Lake Claire? How did the Inman Park Festival begin and whose idea was it?

These are all questions that fascinate me, and I want to hear from EVERYONE who knows ANYTHING about our glorious 30307 neighborhoods. From Edgewood to Inman Park to Lake Claire to Emory, there are a million stories of what life was like and how we got to where we are today—and I want to capture them from folks who "lived it." Think of it as a **Story Corps** audio history of our neighborhoods. Get it?

Did you know the trolley tracks ran right down McLendon? Or that there were once 2 or 3 movie the-

atres in Little Five Points? And what about the Austin Avenue Buffet in Inman Park that served the factory workers? There is a treasure trove of stories about our area that I'd love to capture before all of those with the memories move on to Florida or the Great Beyond.

This is a chance for you, a neighbor, or you and a neighbor to set up a time and come talk about a slice of life that our kids and grandkids can listen to and, hopefully, pass on the history of our area and events. I'm willing to do my best and meet with anyone who has a story to share. No topic is too mundane—want to talk about the shops in Candler Park or the businesses in Inman Park or the community picnics in Edge-

wood? Just give a shout.

I produce a weekly podcast on Southern musicians, artists, and change-makers already, and I'd love to use WONDERSHOP as a home for storytelling of history and other kinds as well. More podcasts means more stories that people can share and learn from. Think about a friend/neighbor who may know something about something. You can interview him or her, or I can. This is all about capturing history for a moment. My stepfather went to Mary Lin so he has stories galore about growing up in the neighborhood. I'm planning on recording them but would love counterpoints of folks who taught, went to school, or just remember living in 30307.

Too often I find, folks really have little connection to what life was like or what events and businesses used to be popular. Can you imagine Candler Park before the Candler Park Market, Flying Biscuit, or Fellini's? How about life before the Bass Lofts were Bass High School or the L5P Community Center was a school? What about Edgewood and its neighborhood lore? Please reach out to those who may have stories to share and connect them with me.

I'll do my best to meet with folks and record their stories, and then post them online and in the Clarion so that we can all have access to a history of our beloved 30307. Feel free to email me at boyd@wondershopatl.com,

and I'll set up a time to capture your story. Don't think any story is too small, because they all are part of the fabric of 30307. Lake Claire Land Trust, Emory Campus, Deacon Burton's, and what other stories are there to share? Please connect, or invite someone to share his or her tale, so we can keep the stories for posterity.

You're welcome to reach out to me with any questions, or ideas, at boyd@wondershopatl.com. Looking forward to connecting all the dots of our community in the upcoming year at www.30307.org.

THE CLARION
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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.

June 2018

1 - 24 Theatrical Outfit, *110 in the Shade*. 1936. July 4. Three Point, Texas. In the middle of a heat wave, while locals are desperate for rain, Lizzie Curry daydreams away fears of becoming a spinster in a tiny, dusty town. www.theatricaloutfit.org/shows/110-in-the-shade

2 & 16 Lake Claire Land Trust Drum Circle, sunset to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Bring a friend, and spread the word! See Land Trust stuff on Page 14-15.

3 **Lake Claire Community Land Trust Annual Meeting**, Lake Claire Co-Housing Common House (directly across the Arizona Ave. cul-de-sac from the Land Trust entrance), 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Friends and neighbors are welcome, refreshments will be served, and your feedback is requested. For details see pp 14-15 here and go to lcclt.org

3 - September 2 *Winnie-the-Pooh: Exploring a Classic* exhibit at The High Museum. Milne's stories of Winnie-the-Pooh—a much-loved bear with a weakness for honey—have delighted both children and adults for more than ninety years. Generations of readers have been captivated by the adventures of Christopher Robin and his bear, and today Pooh remains one of the most popular children's characters of all time. This exhibition, organized by the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, explores the history and legacy of Pooh through original sketches, photographs, memorabilia, and letters. The exhibition also includes interactive elements that bring Shepard's illustrations to life.

8 - 9 **Winnie-the-Pooh Musical at the Alliance**. Concurrently with the High exhibition (see above June 3), the Alliance Theatre at The Woodruff Arts Center will present *Winnie-the-Pooh*, a musical based on Milne's beloved stories. This collaboration is the High and the Alliance's fourth in a series of exhibition and theatre productions based on the work of children's book authors and artists. Info: www.high.org/exhibition/winnie-the-pooh-exploring-a-classic

9 Lake Claire Compost Project Spring Work Day, the Land Trust, 10 a.m. to noon at the Land Trust. See article pages 14/15.

LAKE CLAIRE WAHOO—SWIM TEAM!

2 June, 8 a.m. and 8:45 a.m., Junior Wahoo Academy Lesson I
 5 June, 5 p.m., Tuesday, Wahoo Dual Meet at Leafmore
 12 June, 5 p.m., Tuesday, Wahoo Dual Meet at Clairmont
 19 June, 5 p.m., Tuesday, Wahoo Dual Meet at Garden Hills
 25 June, 5 p.m., Monday, Wahoo Dual Meet v. Venetian
 27 June, 3 p.m., Wednesday, Division II Championships at GA Tech
 30 June, Saturday, Championship Finals at Georgia Tech
 See www.teamunify.com

16 Community Work Day at the Land Trust, 4 to 7 p.m. Pizza and drum circle follow. Note the change to summer work day hours.

16 - July 29 Actor's Express presents *The Color Purple*. See article on Page 3.

18 - 29 Mary Lin for Rising Kindergarten students "Rocket Readiness," see www.marylinelementary.com/news-and-events.

18 - June 24 Horizon Theatre presents *Citizens Market*, a hopeful group of immigrants as they form an unlikely family, working to master the ups and downs of language, love, and staying afloat in the city. www.horizontheatre.com/plays/citizens-market.

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

24 Summer Children's Garden Planting, Gnome Land Creation & Summer Solstice Celebration, 4 to 6 p.m. at the Land Trust, see pp 14-15 and for more info: Missladybug@ladybugeventsllc.com.

July 2018

1 - 27 7 Stages Youth Creates, a training program for teenagers, see www.7stages.org/education/youth-creates. Info on new season to be released: www.7stages.org.

1 - 29 Actor's Express presents *The Color Purple*. See article on Page 3.

4 Please see article on back page about fireworks frightening dogs, and consider not using them.

7 & 21 Lake Claire Land Trust Drum Circle, sunset to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Bring a friend, and spread the word! See Land Trust stuff on Page 14-15.

13 - August 19 Horizon Theatre presents *How Black Mothers Say I Love You*. Read more at www.horizontheatre.com

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

21 Land Trust Community Work Day, 4 to 7 p.m. Pizza and drum circle follow. Note the change to summer work day hours.

28 10th annual Land Trust Jerry Jam!!!! Go Grateful Dead!! See article pp 14/15.

We hope the calendar is useful to you. Let me know what interests you for regular inclusion here. I love theatre, you may have noticed, and we always include Land Trust and other events I deem of importance—but what else would you like to hear about? I always hope people (especially parents, as we want to include schools' info) will send stuff in. I want this to be a resource for you! ~editor@lakeclaire.org ;-)

Atlanta Theatre and Dance Scene this Summer (and other musings)

by Beth Damon

From local productions to Broadway musicals, Atlanta's theatre scene has a lot to offer. See the Atlanta Ballet or visit Atlanta's own world premieres, theatre classics, and children's shows. Must-visit venues include Actors Express, the Theatrical Outfit, the Alliance Theatre, and many others including (closest to Lake Claire) 7 Stages and Horizon Theatre Company, in Little 5. And don't forget our own Lake Claire residents who are actors and directors, and check them out. We are lucky to have so much talent in our neighborhood. If you missed it, check out the story on our actors and directors on Tuxedo, in the October 2017 Clarion, Page 1 (lakeclaire.org/2017/10/11/october-2017-clarion).

Actors Express (West Midtown, in the King Plow Arts Center) :

The Color Purple, June 16-July 29. Alice Walker's beloved novel is brought to life in this landmark musical. Read about the new season at www.actors-express.com. Building history of the King Plow: Walker-Sims Plow Company built it in the early 1900s. It was bought out by Clyde Lanier King and two partners who renamed it the Atlanta Agricultural Works, and in 1906 again changed the name, to the Atlanta Plow Company, and in 1928 to the King Plow Company. In 1936-38 the plant was expanded to its present size of 165,000 square feet. At its zenith the plant employed 300 people. Sales eventually declined, and the factory closed in 1986. Terminal West, a 7,000-square foot music venue, is also located within the King Plow Arts Center. Parking is annoying.

Horizon (Little 5 Pts.):

Citizens Market by Cori Thomas, May 18-June 24. A hopeful group of immigrants form an unlikely family. June 20-23, *Freaky Friday* performed in Piedmont Park, a musical based on the novel by Mary Rodgers and the Walt Disney Motion Pictures. Tix at www.horizontheatre.com/plays/freaky-friday-in-piedmont-park/. *How Black Mothers Say I Love You* is next in the season, July 13-August 19. Read more at www.horizontheatre.com.

The Theatrical Outfit (84 Luckie Street, downtown, Five Points area)

Theatrical Outfit is a 29-year-old professional, nonprofit theatre that for many years staged productions in Georgia State University's Rialto Center. In 2004, Theatrical Outfit moved into its own home that we native Atlantans know well: the old Herren's Restaurant (open over 30

years and closed in 1987). By the way, Herren's was downtown Atlanta's first restaurant voluntarily to desegregate, which they did in 1962, and I remember my parents being so happy about it when I was at Morningside Elementary School, revealing my age. Write to me at editor@lakeclaire.org to let me know who else remembers those delicious freshly made Herren's cinnamon rolls.

May 31 - June 24: *110 in the Shade*. See the rest of the season at www.theatricaloutfit.org.

7 Stages (Little 5 Pts.):

June 25-July 27: Youth Creates, a training program for teenagers, see www.7stages.org/education/youth-creates. Info on new season to be released: www.7stages.org

Atlanta Ballet

The 2018-19 season starts in SEPT this time! The fall lineup includes one of dance visionary Jiri Kylian's signature celebrations of dancers' physical limits, *Return to a Strange Land*. Sinewy forms entwine in intimate embraces before spiraling across the stage in graceful lifts. They are physical bodies in space detached from place and time—travelers in a strange land. They move as counterpoints, exploring the limits of centrifugal force and, seemingly, gravity. Rising Brazilian choreographer Ricardo Amarante, recognized for his emotionally charged, purely neoclassical style, complements the program with a world premiere. And Atlanta Ballet will also welcome a special performance by Czech National ballet of *Vertigo*, a pas de deux by Mauro Bigonzetti. Read all about this at www.atlanta.net/partner/atlanta-ballet/280/

Cobb Energy Center

2018-2019 Signature Series - info@cobbenergycentre.com

Alliance Theatre

alliancetheatre.org

One more local treasure you should check out:

Collegium Vocale (Most performances are at the Glenn Memorial Church on Emory campus.)

This is the second-oldest community chorus in the Atlanta area, and their performances are beautiful and inspiring. Collegium Vocale is committed to preserving and promoting the choral arts in the greater Atlanta community by performing a repertoire of secular and sacred works. Our layout artist is in this group, but don't tell her I'm publicizing this; she's very modest.

Message from the Lake Claire Prez

Dear Neighbors,

With this message, I would like to recognize and thank the **Clarion** advertisers. Long-timers include the law firm of Neal and Wright and Cynthia Baer, who also sponsors many events in both the Lake Claire and Candler Park neighborhoods. Other dedicated advertisers deserving mention are John Morgan and Sherry Warner along with the BOND Federal Credit Union. They all keep our neighborhood publication financially viable. Advertising revenues have been completely paying for printing costs, along with providing extra funds that help the Lake Claire Neighbors pay expenses and continue support for our wonderful local institutions that make us what we are: a very stable but unique area of Atlanta.

Of course, as some recent events have shown, we still need to be vigilant and take common sense precautions that the Zone 6 police officers who regularly attend our meetings advise. These include never confronting a perpetrator, always calling 911 for any kind of suspicious activity, and not leaving anything of value visible in your car.

Also deserving thanks are the many residents who have contributed articles keeping us informed about events and issues important to the neighborhood. In particular, I want to thank the children whose views are important to us all. Beth D., the editor, started the kids' page several years ago and reports that it is her favorite part of running the Clarion. Everyone, of course, is encouraged to join these select groups!

Well, there is some good news at the street level. As I'm writing, Muriel Avenue just got repaved. A very poor job was done a couple of months ago, but contacts with Natalyn Archibong and her Lake Claire representative, Valencia Hudson, got the City to make things right. Also some good news for our local environment. Along with the recent work by the Frazer Center and Trees Atlanta to clean up and improve the Frazer forest, Kathryn Kolb, Master Naturalist, will join the effort. She is the director of EcoAddendum, a nonprofit organization located in Decatur dedicated to the preservation of native ecology, which will provide valuable guidance for systematic short and long-term plans for restoration. As for our nearby environmental groups, the Candler Park Conservancy hosted members and guests at its Beavers, Blue Grass and BBQ event on May 6, highlighting the great work it has been doing. And the Freedom Park Conservancy



has just hired Laura Hennighausen to be its first executive director, which is a big step for the long-term development of the FPC. Not to be left behind, the Lake Claire Land Trust has inaugurated a children's garden in partnership with Ladybug Events LLC.

On the housing front, the owner of the property at 551 Hardendorf decided to drop his request for a variance and has put the lot up for sale. The site was originally one property but the City somehow determined that it could be made into two. Consequently, there is now a new house being finished at 555 Hardendorf that didn't require a variance but where a once stood very large healthy tree that had to be taken down because of reckless construction. The builder has been cited, but the tree is still gone.

Other environmental news concerns the Horizon School property that has recently been sold. In the May edition of the Clarion, it was noted that, of the **268** trees located on the site, **235** will be taken down for a proposed development of 43 single units. An appeal has been filed at the Atlanta Tree Commission which will, hopefully, reduce the canopy loss.

By the time you read this edition, many of you may have had a few Margaritas and large amounts of guacamole or maybe the other way around. I'm talking about what has almost become an American national holiday known as el Cinco de Mayo. But first let's get a couple of basics out of the way. It is not Mexico's 4th of July, which is September 16, and July 4 is not much celebrated in that country. It's pretty much a U.S. thing. And, just in case you're wondering, about 81 million avocados are consumed this day, only second to the approximately 106 million for the Super Bowl! That's a lot of guacamole. Of course, thousands of gallons of tequila are downed along with many other liquids.

Cont. on p. 13.



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* * * EDUCATION MATTERS * * *

Grady Cluster Update

by Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Neighbors Education Chair

On April 18, Superintendent Meria Carstarphen of the Atlanta Public Schools (APS) addressed the Grady Cluster at Inman Middle School. She reviewed the Grady Cluster budget, facility renovations, transportation, and school safety issues.

Budget:

Student Success Funding Model: School budgets for the 2018-2019 calendar year were revamped and adopted by the Board of Education on May 7. APS changed the current formula to one called Student Success Funding Model (SFF) the better to address equity, while maintaining stability. Transitions strategies have been implemented so that no school sees a huge budget swing from the previous funding formula to the new one. It will create a temporary cap on what percentage of per pupil funding a school can lose or gain in one year. The new formula will also ensure that all schools have the same minimum level of baseline services offered. Some of the district-wide changes:

- 30 schools: less funding than with previous allotment formula
- 31 schools: more funding than previously
- 11 schools will require a baseline supplement
- 5 schools hit the gain cap of 3%
- 12 schools to hit the loss limit of -2.5%
- 28 schools to receive small-school supplement

As the schools get to have a bit more freedom as to how they use their budgets, Springdale Park Elementary School, Hope Hill Elementary School, and Inman Middle School are parting ways with their media specialist, while other schools have chosen to allow for larger class sizes. Our schools' budgets are not large enough to accommodate all the needs.

State Budget: Governor Deal restored the K-12 education funding after nearly 16 years of payment reduction. However, according to the Quality Based Education funding formula, schools should have been receiving this money, but since the 2013 fiscal year, the formula has seen annual austerity cuts to the combined tune of more than \$214 million. So, even though there has been some restoration, the overall cost and effect the austerity cuts have had, in fact, do not make up the difference—costs have risen for the teacher retirement system, pension plans, and sustaining investments in strategic priorities.

Renovations: The Grady Cluster has been bursting at the seams, and the renovations proposed only alleviate some of this overcrowding. The current renovations proposed timeline:

- The Walden Fields being completed by August of 2018
- The Howard Middle School construction Aug 2018 - June 2020
- Grady High School construction January 2020 - July 2021
- Morningside Elementary Construction Feb. 2021 - July 2022

What does this mean?

Howard Middle School will have more than enough space for its growing body of students, especially compared to its over-crowded predecessor, Inman Middle School. However, Morningside is

way over capacity, and even with its renovations, no square footage is being added. That leads us to ask the question about what will happen to the Inman Middle School building. It will first become a swing space for Morningside Elementary, but beyond that, possibly another elementary school. This means more elementary school students, new catchment boundaries being formed, and more students at the high school level.

Let's take a look at Grady High School before and after the renovations. Currently, it's way over-crowded with trailers and no space to grow. The renovation will renovate what is there and add 18 addition classrooms, 3 laboratories, and a new administrative suite. Unfortunately, it still will be under capacity for its population estimation. And that means that the Grady Cluster needs to start thinking about the future and looking for other possible solutions. According to Carstarphen, "We will max out the Grady site for max capacity. The question we will have to ask is, "How will we think about the rest of the capacity?" We need enough time to get into the next SPLOST."

Annexations

APS is working hard to collaborate with the City of Atlanta when it comes to annexing more properties into the city and adequately planning for new students and capacity numbers at the school level.

Transportation

There are bus driver shortages nationwide, and other school districts have seen bus driver walk-outs due to low pay and student behavior. APS has approximately 68 driver vacancies, including Mary Lin Elementary's Lake Claire Bus. This has caused a great deal of chaos, and often the students don't arrive for 30 minutes to an hour after the scheduled drop-off time. Good news is that APS makes sure all bus drivers have insurance, changed the retirement plan, and does higher level background checks (think criminal) and opioid exposure tests. Currently APS is hosting recruitment events, campaigning for new drivers on local networks, billboards, etc., and started a permit assistance program with a focus on literacy skills. APS' long-term actions are to consider compensation for fiscal year 2019 to a total of \$12 million. It is also looking into affordable housing so those who drive can live near the schools.

Safety and Security Procedures

APS wants to ensure the safety of all students. There is a state law required by all schools to have an all-hazards plan; APS requires their schools to practice drills in 6 categories – lockdown, shelter-in-place, earthquake, evacuation/reverse evacuation, and medical emergencies. Though safety and security plans are site- and school-specific, all staff is trained immediately to report suspicious persons or activity, and to maintain control and be responsive and follow the directions of all public safety responders. All schools require identification from individuals outside of the school.

Since APS adopted their own police force, those officers are assigned to every middle and high school with a cluster of officers assigned to each elementary school. The police officers work to build relationships with both the students and the com-



Follow-Up on G3 (Robotics) at Grady

Congratulations to G3 at Nationals in Houston a couple of months ago. Just after Clarion publication, we heard that the team was 10-0 in qualifying rounds, and 12-2 overall. They were a semi-finalist in the Newton Division—a first for Grady! G3 finished the season ranked in the top 2% of over 4,500 international teams

munities. The schools have over 4,500 cameras as well as closed-circuit television monitored 24/7 by the Safety and Security team. This same team monitors all threats made to the district via social media.

Social/Emotional Supports. APS has :

- Trained in mental health first aid for all the members of the social work department: counselors, SLETS, SST Specialists, psychologist, etc.
- Partnered with 5 behavioral/mental health providers to support families and students
- Partnered with the Anti-Defamation League and uses their *No Place for Hate* curriculum
- Implemented their Social Emotional Learning Initiative (SEL).
- Incorporates the frameworks of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and Restorative Practices

Questions to ask ourselves about the Grady Cluster

- Where does all of this leave us in 5 years?
- What kinds of conversations do we need?
- How to prepare for maximum capacity?
- How can we be helpful in this process?

All of this information gives us a lot of food for thought. It sheds light on the upcoming growth and also the difficulties that APS faces. If you are interested to hear more or be a part of these conversations, make sure to 'Like' and follow the Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools at www.cinsatlanta.org



Eden in Lake Claire

Continued from Page 1

of this now out-of-print book.

In the book, Staci's love of gardens and landscape history is palpable. She is a champion of greenspaces as healing oases. She sees Cator Woolford Gardens as a great example of that. Not only does it have "great history and beauty, but it has a higher purpose," with two non-profits on the estate: **The Atlanta Hospital Hospitality House** offers respite to outpatients and caregivers of patients in local hospitals. **The Frazer Center** serves children with and without disabilities and adults with developmental disabilities. "Mr. Woolford would have loved that," says Staci. And she hopes to create a Part 2 to Seeking Eden.

Cator Woolford Gardens is open to the public (sunup to sundown) when there are no private events happening on the grounds. **Leashed** dogs are welcome, too. The gardens are available for rent, and proceeds benefit the inclusion programs of the Frazer Center which is charged with maintaining the gardens and forest. Feel free to escape the urban bustle and step into this Lake Claire oasis for a bit of natural healing.

A Royal Affair on Leonardo

On a dark and humid Saturday morning in May, one could hear the slapping of newspaper deliveries hitting the driveway and the constant roar of ladies' laughter in the distance. As the sun peaked through the clouds, a collection of neighborhood area women gathered to watch the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry to American Megan Markle.

They started as early as 5:30 a.m., donning sequins, feathery hats, fascinators, jewels, tiaras—and many just showing up in pajamas and t-shirts. "Come as comfortable or fashionable as you'd like," read the invite. And as the crowd assembled in St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, so did the revelers in the tiny "English Cottage" on Leonardo Avenue.

HR Hostess, Lisa Waugh, said, "Months ago, it started as sort of a lark, like, an off-color suggestion to get up and watch the wedding with girlfriends." And then it grew into an event fit for a princess. Shopping for outfits, the perfect tea to serve, pulling out grandmother's china... it was becoming a wedding for the ages.

While sporting her favorite Wonder Woman pajamas, Marlbrook resident Susan Amato said, "I'm just glad I could be comfortable because it's really early before my caffeine kicks in."

Wedding guests were treated to traditional scones, petit fours, cucumber and egg salad tea sandwiches, smoked salmon, and a strawberry blueberry trifle. Assorted English teas and Pimm's cocktails rehydrated the onlookers waiting for the big moment. Lady Lynn Ivester of McLendon, a recent Windsor visitor and frequent UK traveler, was able to give locational

tidbits and insights better than the TV announcers.

Wendy Baker, winner of the best dressed contest in her themed hat, gloves, pajamas, bathrobe and slippers, said, "Don't you guys dress like this every Saturday?"

Yes, Wendy, every Saturday, to pick up the newspaper when it hasn't walked off.



Guests and Lake Claire residents of Leonardo, Marlbrook, McLendon, and Harold around one of the buffets



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Lake Claire: Proud to be Tree Huggers

Tree Removal in the Neighborhood Possibility for Action

by Meredith Walters



Brooks Avenue lot during tree removal. Photo: Tom Zarrilli

Lots of people in the neighborhood were upset when all the trees were taken down on the small lot at the corner of Brooks and McLendon. A passionate debate ensued on Next-Door about the value of trees versus growth (and the possibility of having both). I was deeply saddened to see the trees chopped down, as I always am, but reading the comments by all the people who were also concerned about the loss gave me hope.

I know from past experience as a Tenant Organizer in San Francisco that there is power in numbers. By getting formerly homeless, low-income tenants together and helping them speak up at the right place and the right time, we were able to get previously negligent landlords to maintain their buildings and make needed repairs, and we even got the Board of Supervisors (their city council) to pass laws that expanded the

tenants' rights and made their buildings safer.

I see the potential for our communities to have greater power to protect our trees by organizing in the same way. With that in mind, I've started a Facebook group for folks who are interested in taking action to make sure we're keeping as many of our beautiful trees safe as we can.

The idea is simple: to help more people know when trees are threatened and what they can do about it so that more of us will speak up when we can make a difference.

Like many of us, I don't have a lot of free time, so I'm envisioning something super simple with shared leadership so that everyone does a little and nobody feels overwhelmed. My basic idea is for a "tree team" to keep an eye out for Tree Removal signs or proposed projects in the community

Cont. on p. 14.



Brooks Avenue @ McLendon—bare—sad. Photo: Tom Zarrilli

1900 Dekalb Avenue Tree Removal

by Jane Hudson

Atlanta has long enjoyed its iconic reputation as the City in the Forest, but will we be successful in maintaining that designation? Or, will that honor be ceded to another city that's more effectively protecting one of its most valuable natural resources?

Because the vast majority (estimated to be 94% or more) of Atlanta's forest and trees are on private property (approximately 76% of trees are on private *single family* property alone), it's been easy to be complacent, believing that property owners wish to preserve valuable assets. Recent trends involve tearing down existing homes and then rebuilding at the maximum allowable size for the lot, resulting in significant tree loss and impervious surface increase. Recent research conducted for the City of Atlanta Planning Department by Tony Giarrusso of Georgia Tech, confirmed this phenomenon, "The losses in trees between 2008 and 2014 were mostly on private property. Many of them," said Giarrusso, "were on lots where smaller homes were replaced with big ones... Lot-by-lot loss. And it's sneaking up on people."(1) "Atlanta's tree cover (goal is 50%) fell from nearly 48% in 2008 to 45% by 2014," he said (2). Professor Giarrusso also noted "the quality of the trees has gone down." "Those temporary forests on land cleared for development but sitting idle since the recession don't really make up for the old hardwood forests that had been in those places before," said Giarrusso (1).

Replanting new saplings does not replace the tremendous value inherent in native, old growth trees, especially where stands of trees lived and worked together.

Much has been written about the myriad advantages that living amongst trees affords us, including: moderation of climate, decrease in CO₂ and building energy use, improvement in air and water quality, enhancements to human health and wellbeing, mitigation of runoff and flooding, decrease in noise impact, habitat for birds and other animals (4).

The property at 1900 DeKalb Avenue is comprised of 3-4 acres and has been home to the Horizons School for 30+ years. The property, owned by the Gordon family, includes a house that was part of an historic Gordon family farm in the 1870s. An old foundation, a well, and "teachers' houses" were on the property. The spring head on the property is the



headwaters of the Peavine Creek watershed on the Continental Divide.

Old growth trees reside here that are **at least 150 years old**. This forest contains both historic and specimen trees, in addition to many beautifully formed mid-aged trees that are well on their way to becoming high value specimen trees. This forest has impressive species diversity including: white oak, southern red oak, northern red oak, dogwood, sugar maple, red maple, American elm, hickory, water oak, silver maple, tulip poplar, catalpa, southern magnolia, black gum, beech, post oak, persimmon, black oak, pecan, winged elm, and white ash. These are all native forest trees, and all are in stands and clusters, interspersed with roads, parking areas, and buildings.

Currently, there are about **272 trees** on the property, **240** of which may be cut down to make room for a 43-unit townhouse development, approximately half attached and half detached homes. With the recent building boom we see development trumping the environment, masquerading as progress. But what is this "progress" costing us?

"A report from the U.S. Forest Service shows **Georgia is leading the nation—in tree loss.**"(3) The study, co-authored by David Nowak, examined "a five-year period from 2009 to 2014. It found Georgia lost an average of 18,000 acres of **urban tree cover** per year—**more than any other state.**"(3) Separately, according to a 2018 report by Urban Forest and Urban Greening, Georgia was one of the states with the greatest annual net % loss (-0.40%)...(-18,830 acres/year)."(4) These rates are appalling

Cont. on p. 8.

Tree Removal on Dekalb Avenue

Continued from Page 7



and are not sustainable.

An inverse relationship exists, such that tree coverage decreases and impervious surface increases. “About 40% of new impervious came from areas that were previously tree-covered” (4, pages 35 and 37). This dynamic will have serious implications when rainfall and storm water has nowhere to go other than down streets and to lower lying areas, causing flooding and other problems.

An appeal regarding 1900 DeKalb Avenue was heard by the Tree Conservation Commission on 5/16/18. The appellant asked that the decision on the tree removal permit for the property be deferred, until a better plan is submitted that develops this site with greater care and attention to trees. Thankfully, the Tree Conservation Commission upheld the appeal.

What will it take for Atlanta to maintain its identity as the City in the Forest? Active citizen involvement in advocating for improved Tree Ordinances that truly protect trees, considering trees at the beginning of the permitting process with a commitment actively to plan to preserve trees. When that fails to occur, appeals need to be filed for review by the Tree Conservation Commission in City of Atlanta. FAILURE TO ACT NOW will result in losing what is left of our incredibly beautiful, beneficial, and valuable urban forest.

(1) www.wabe.org/atlantas-tree-canopy-may-not-shrink-risk/

(2) www.thedailybeast.com/atlantas-building-boom-is-destroying-its-famous-forests

(3) [www.wabe.org/study-on-urban-tree-loss-puts-georgia-at-top-](http://www.wabe.org/study-on-urban-tree-loss-puts-georgia-at-top-of-list/)

of-list/

(4) www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2018/nrs_2018_nowak_005.pdf

Editor's Note: The fear of the removal of so many historic trees brings this issue to the forefront, and there has been much more publicity lately about how Atlanta's building boom is destroying its forests—the remainder of the dense woodland that covered the Appalachian foothills before the city emerged before the Civil War. Some of Atlanta's trees are 200+ years old, making them a point of civic pride, as Matt Smith pointed out in a recent article in the Daily Beast. Atlanta's tree ordinance is woefully lacking: the city regularly signs off on projects that remove trees even in the setbacks along the edges of lots, where the ordinance recommends they be retained. As Ms. Hudson notes above, Atlanta's status as a “City in a Forest” is definitely threatened. For builders, the small (to them) fees are just a part of doing business. As Tim Keane, Atlanta's planning commissioner, said, “Nobody's expecting the trees to be saved. They're just expecting to have to write the check at the end.” And, apparently, many of those planning homes aren't concerned enough to hire architects to design homes that save tree canopy. This has recently been demonstrated not only at the old Horizon School property discussed in the article above, but elsewhere both in Lake Claire and in nearby Kirkwood. In Kirkwood, the heated homebuilder-vs.-activist clash took place concerning 100+ year-old trees; we “tree huggers” lost, and a subdivision called Oak Park now stands on Norwood Avenue, homeowners

having bought the \$750+K homes before building even began. At the Lake Claire neighborhood meeting in May, we held a vote on a variance to reduce a side yard on a corner lot on Harold. The plan for a new single-family house, on the site where the existing house will be demolished, would potentially include cutting down trees totaling approximately 138 inches in diameter. These trees create a large canopy that is nearly contiguous with the Frazer Forest. Concerned neighbors encouraged the applicants to adjust the plan to preserve many of these native trees, which provide a

gorgeous and significant canopy and serve an important role in the forest ecosystem. Though the variance was rejected by vote of LCN at the meeting, the variance request will be evaluated by the NPU and then the City's BZA (Board of Zoning Authority), which makes the final decision. My three references are worth reading in full: reference (2) above; atlanta.curbed.com/2016/11/11/13489992/kirkwood-subdivision-oak-park-half-sold, and atlanta.curbed.com/2018/5/16/17361904/atlanta-trees-ordinance-development.



The Peace Garden

Dear Neighbors,

The Peace Garden at the corner of Hampton Terrace and Dekalb Avenue was a symbol to promote universal love and to speak out against violence in our schools. It was destroyed by vandalism in January 2017. Given the increase in mass shootings and recent events in Florida, I urge that it be rebuilt. With proper preparation, materials, and a couple of strong volunteers, I am confident that the

art work could be repaired in one or two days. I am willing to organize this project and have rescued some of the original parts. Its restoration would send a powerful message that we cherish our children and that love trumps hate (no pun intended).

Please contact me at 404-373-7672 if you have time and willingness to help.

Peace and Love, Teri Stewart.



The Peace Garden as demolished, January 2017

June into August in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

As promised, this month I will explain how to grow plants from seed. Recently an acquaintance told me with awe that the late, great Celestine Sibley did this; I realized that it was time to spread the word that planting seeds was not some piece of magic, any more than composting leaves, but a natural process that happens outdoors all the time.

In early spring, many vegetable seeds are planted directly into the ground. I will concentrate, however, on starting seeds in pots because that will enable you to start tropical plants, like tomatoes, in the winter; germinate tiny flower seeds that might be washed away in a rain (or be dug up by squirrels); and have, for pennies, large-sized perennials and biennials ready to go into the ground in fall. For this you will need containers, germinating soil, and light.

Let's start with the perennials because this is the season to sow them. If you are successful, annuals and vegetables will seem a breeze. Beebalm, balloon flowers, columbine, flax, gaillardia, malva (in place of hollyhocks that usually succumb to rust), Maltese cross, painted daisies, Shasta daisies, and strawflowers may be perennial for you. I tend to treat columbine and foxgloves as biennials since they usually flower the next spring and then fade away. Nicotiana, an annual farther north, comes through the winter here and flowers best the following year, maybe because I never start it early enough.

For every packet of seeds you buy, though, you must read its printed instructions. Seed companies vary in how much they provide, and you may need to go to the Internet to get more specific directions. If the year's date is not on the packet, add it yourself because old seeds can have less or no germination. Of all the flowers I listed above, I have found gaillardia to be the easiest, and it now comes in amazing shades of red, yellow,

and apricot as part of the Arizona Sun series. Often perennial seeds need a period of cold before germinating to mimic the conditions found outside. Sometimes you just refrigerate the packet (dry cold); others, you plant the seed, water it, and refrigerate (moist cold). Following this cold stratification period, if needed, planted seeds should be kept warm and moist to believe that it is time to germinate.

I recommend using a good quality germinating mix, such as the one I order from Gardeners' Supply in Vermont. Since the soil is shipped dry, and you add the water, this is not as expensive as it sounds. Recently, a friend ordered both the germinating and potting soil from them and was also very pleased. After I wet the bag's contents with warm to hot water (one quart for every four quarts of mix), I fill 3-4" plastic pots with the germinating mixture and sow one kind of seed in each container according to directions. Some seeds need light to grow and should just barely be covered. Be sure the surface is damp by using a sprayer or a very gentle light watering. Then label your pot in some way, cover the pot with plastic wrap, and place the container in a warm spot. This last directive is much harder as appliances have gotten more efficient and the top of the refrigerator or a stove's pilot light is no longer an option. After having many cheap heat mats break the first month I used them, I finally ordered a seedling mat that has lasted several years made by Hydrofarm from Johnny's Selected Seeds.

Check your pots every day. Seeds germinate at different rates, usually faster than what is stated on the packet (probably with the same wisdom as companies who tell you delivery will occur later than it actually takes). As soon as you see little green shoots coming out of the soil, remove the plastic wrap and place the pot in light. At this time of year, that means

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within 1-2 inches under fluorescent lights or someplace that will not be disturbed in dappled shade outdoors. A windowsill is not adequate when the sun is so high in the sky.

When seedlings have a couple of pairs of real leaves (not the first two simple leaves, called the cotyledons, which initially feed the plant and then fall away), you may "pot them up," meaning give each its own home in a six-pack or small pot, each with drainage holes, filled with dampened potting soil. Take a seedling by a leaf, never the stem, and gently pry it out of the pot and separate from its fellows with a small popsicle stick, plant label, or the like. Make a little hole in the new pot with your stick, and gently lower the seedling into it, pushing soil firmly up against the roots. Water thoroughly until it runs

out the bottom. If you have read that it is hard to transplant this particular perennial, you may want to pot it up in a peat pot so that the whole thing can eventually be placed in the soil.

Within a month or two, plants will be sturdy enough to be set out in their permanent garden spots with a little compost in the holes. Autumn is often dry, so water deeply once a week, and keep the ground mulched around the stem, not over leaves or any crown. That should be sufficient care until springtime when you can fertilize. By then you will have sowed tender vegetables and most of your annual flowers indoors and can consider yourself a "real" gardener.

Feel free to contact Elizabeth, who welcomes hearing from you, at knowltonew@earthlink.net. ~Ed.



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Here you will find lifesaving classes right in the comfort and ease of your own neighborhood.

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Saturday mornings 9-12:30 & Sunday afternoons 2-5:30
at Wondershop, 1392 McLendon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30307.



Solarize Atlanta Arrives, Bringing Affordable Solar Power

by Chris Campbell

Have you considered adding a solar power system to the roof of your house, but balked at the cost? It may be time to take another look, thanks to the Solarize Atlanta program that just launched.

I'm a long-time Lake Claire resident, and also an electrical engineer. Four years ago I took the plunge and got a solar power system for our house. The solar panels on my roof generate electricity during the day, powering any loads that happen to be on in the house (e.g., air conditioning), and then any excess power flows backwards through the meter and towards the grid, where Georgia Power pays me a small amount for it.

Besides reducing my power bill, I personally like the idea of generating my own power, with zero emissions, and as an engineer I wanted to get more familiar with the technology, so I took the leap even though it was expensive. Now, four years later, the Solarize wave has reached Atlanta, bringing more affordable solar power and giving my neighbors the chance to get a solar power system for a lot less than I paid for mine.

Solarize programs are community-led efforts to bring discounted, high quality solar power systems to a defined region, typically a town or county. Georgia has seen several Solarize programs in recent years, including Solarize Athens and Solarize Decatur-Dekalb. The Solarize Atlanta program launched in April and has multiple local civic organizations partnering up to get the word out and educate their constituents, including Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, Environment Georgia, Central Atlanta Progress, Sierra Club, Southface, and the City of Atlanta's Office of Resilience.



If you had previously dismissed the idea of solar power due to cost, you should take another look because the prices have come down significantly. Today's systems are 30-40% cheaper than when I got my system just four years ago! The Solarize programs get that cost down even further by effectively organizing a bulk purchase via all of the participating households. Solar power is been a somewhat unrealistic fantasy for decades. But in the last five years, costs have finally come down to the point where these systems start to pay for themselves in 5-10 years, instead of 20-30 years. Further, in just the past year or so, energy storage technologies (batteries) have started to become economically viable, and adding storage can make a solar power system more useful, by shifting some of that free sun energy into the evening hours.

For lots more information, check out the Solarize Atlanta website at SolarizeATL.com. Definitely take a look at the short presentation (first

"Download" link on the home page) that explains all of the basics. Then check their calendar ("Important Dates," in right side of website) and

see when they are offering an info session that is at a convenient date and place for you to attend. They'll have community leaders at those sessions, as well as reps from the installer company, and they'll be able to answer your questions. It's also likely that they'll have an open house event over the summer (not yet scheduled by press time for this article) so please do check that website for those dates.

Finally, I would be happy to answer any questions, or even meet up at my house to show you what goes into a solar installation. You can find my contact info at www.ElectrifyAtlanta.com, a reference website that I set up years ago to assist people in transitioning to a cleaner lifestyle, both in transportation (electric vehicles) and in power consumption (solar power). I hope to see you at a Solarize Atlanta event!



Hello—Safe Journey: Skiing in and around Lake Claire

June birthdays, and anniversary, AND marriage

First, congrats again to all Lake Claire Graduates!! Way to go!

6/3 Yoni Williams—birthday—turns 6, I think, Harold Avenue and proud Grandma on Delaware Ave

6/7 Pen Sherwood, Harold Avenue

6/8 Patricia and Ben Farmer—anniversary—Hardendorf

6/9 Jacquelyn Howard-Fleming's birthday, Harold

6/12 Steve Lamb's birthday, Delaware Avenue (the Clarion loves you, you'd better be reading this)

6/12 Happy birthday, Craig Allen, Harold

6/13 or 17, we're not sure: Ellen Ericson, happy birthday on Gordon Avenue

6/19 Zoe Kaiser's birthday, turns 5; Hardendorf

6/20 Sharon Doochin's birthday, Harold Ave

6/23 **Congrats** to Sue McAvoy & Bill McKinnon—on their nuptials—

Leonardo

6/27 Wendy and Boyd Baker's **anniversary**—20+... Leonardo

6/28 Shawn Gillespy's 15th birthday, Marlbrook

6/28 Wendy Baker, happy birthday! Leonardo

July birthdays

7/3 Brandon Bransford, Palifox

7/6 Missy Urda, Harold

7/9 Carrie Ericson, Gordon Avenue, turning 16 years old

7/10 Happy birthday to the Clarion's buddy, basketball and pogo-stick whiz, and everything else he tries... also Frida & DIEGO's buddy—Michael McGill, 11 years old!!!!—Delaware Avenue

7/17 Happy birthday to Colin Calderera, Hardendorf.

7/24 Jason Weidert, Harold Avenue

Take a minute right now, and send life cycle events / important rights of passage, etc., for the month of August to editor@lakeclaire.org, by July 15. Please help us make this feature inclusive of our LC 'hood.

Heads up, Lake Claire: Two Copperheads spotted in the last few days:

one in Deepdene and the other on the North Ponce running trail.

They're also the most likely snake to bite, although their venom is relatively mild, and their bites are rarely fatal for humans. Copperheads can sometimes be found in wood and sawdust piles, and construction areas. They often seek shelter under surface cover such as boards, sheet metal, logs, or large flat rocks. Just be aware when you and doggies are walking in the neighborhood.

Troop 13553

Continued from Page 1

odist Church's (Now Neighborhood Church) Blessing of the Animals community event in Candler Park, handing out dog treats and bandanas.

In addition to earning several badges over their two years as Brownies, the troop had a backyard campout, toured the Waffle House museum, led arts and crafts at a local senior living facility, toured the Beltline with Ryan Gravel, went ice skating, and participated in the Phoenix Rising Service Unit's World Thinking Day Celebration representing the Philippines their first year, and Peru the following year.

The Brownies used proceeds from their cookie sales towards their service project. They bought supplies and handmade dog and cat toys for Lifeline Animal shelter. They also volunteered to walk shelter dogs at Lifeline.

When the troop bridged to the Junior level, they camped at Camp Misty Mountain and Camp Timber Ridge and participated in classic scouting activities including canoeing, archery, kayaking, and rode the "giant swing." They spent a weekend together at a troop family's beautiful home on Lake Lanier for team-building and learning exercises, as well as swimming, kayaking, canoeing, and games.

Also as Juniors, the girls went geocaching, learned about dance and fitness, visited Briscoe Field to earn an aviation badge and spent time with a female professional pilot, went skating, learned about jewelry making, went fishing, taught team building games to a Lake Claire brownie troop at the Lake Claire Land Trust, and represented Israel and Great Britain at the World Thinking Day celebration.

A highlight of the troop's years at the Junior level is their trip to Savannah to visit the birthplace of Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of Girl Scouts. The troop stayed at historic and rustic Camp Low, toured the birthplace home, took a dolphin tour, went on a ghost tour, and more. The girls made all the travel plans and paid for nearly everything with money from cookie sales.

Another highlight was two troop members earning their Bronze Award, the highest award a Girl Scout Junior can earn. Lake Claire's own Ally Bliss was one of the awardees. The girls' Bronze Award project organized a book drive and established a functioning lending library for children attending after school programs and summer camps at Emmaus House in Peopletown.

Junior service projects included



Troop 13553 with their Care Packages for Clarkston Community Center in May 2018

making Express Bags for the Intown Collaborative Ministries Food Pantry, with donations of food items by generous troop parents, and sewing 28 handmade pillows for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston's waiting room areas, sleep lab, and bingo prizes. Cookie sales proceeds provided the funds for the pillows, and the girls learned basic sewing skills and used sewing machines in the Candler Park Arts Center at the former-Epworth UMC.

In their last two years as Cadettes, the troop took two camping trips to High Falls State Park (one freezing cold with no campfires allowed due to wildfire danger!), went to the annual Cane Syrup Festival at Dauset Trails, cooked and served dinner (shrimp and grits) at Lake Claire's Clifton Sanctuary Ministries as part of their badge work, taught team building and friendship skills to a St. Thomas Moore Brownie troop, went ice skating, visited Wall Crawlers, learned survival skills, earned their First Aid aid badge with a Grady Hospital ER/trauma nurse and paramedic, and represented Switzerland at World Thinking Day, and for their final year, attended the event as "tourists."

For their last service project, the troop assembled and donated "Care Packages" to the Clarkston Community Center (CCC). Cookie proceeds were used to buy CCC's requested hygiene products. The girls sorted and packed the items in bags and included handwritten, encouraging notes for female refugees served by CCC.

The girls in Troop 13553 embodied the Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law to its fullest, developed close friendships, and learned to do things the "Girl Scout Way." Although the troop has disbanded, the girls re-

main friends and will continue to see each other regularly in Lake Claire, Candler Park, or at school. The troop represented three different schools, and the majority of former members live in Lake Claire.

The troop would not have been so successful in learning, camping, cookies, service, badge work, meetings, and outings without countless hours of help from troop moms and dads who

drove, managed cookie sales, chaperoned, led meetings, and so much more. Lake Claire's Alicia McGill served as troop co-leader for four years, and she helped girls learn how to be great campers. Because these parents and many community volunteers gave of their time and resources, the girls had a rich and meaningful scouting experience. The skills learned and memories made are sure to last a lifetime.

Thanks for Paying Your Neighborhood Dues!

We appreciate our neighborhood's support of many wonderful initiatives, green spaces, donations to our Police and Firefighters, the Frazer Center, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, Lake Claire Park, etc. Lake Claire suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household—but just like with Public Radio, any amount

Joshua Golden
Gayla Jamison
Anne Weidert
Steven and Leah Pine Goldberg
J.C. Merkle
Bonnie Mitchell Lunceford
Joshua Golden
Gayla Jamison
Anne Weider

is much appreciated. A Lake Claire Banner package deal is only \$50 if combined with annual dues!

Join these neighbors who have paid since the last issue, including the folks who paid at the neighborhood meeting on May 17, the first nine here (and re. that meeting, see Minutes on Page 13):

Marilyn Schertz
Ricard Lorenc
Annsley Klehr
Christopher Gibson
Joseph Sinkule
Maya Abboushi
Chad Durham
Katherine Arrington
Véronique Perrot and Rustom Antia

Thank you all who have paid your dues and/or contributed your time for Lake Claire!

Get your name in print!

Pay your neighborhood dues at lakeclaire.org
(go to Membership to pay at the link using PayPal)
or with the old-fashioned check in the mail,
to LCN, Attn: Eileen O'Neill, Treasurer and VP Finance
PO Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107.

From the Prez

Continued from Page 3

Sadly, the origins of the celebration have gotten lost in the mists of time and what was once a noble historical commemoration somehow became more known for food and drink, which of course is not necessarily a bad idea. Nevertheless, as with the Mother's Day, a greeting card phenomenon that I mentioned a few issues ago, not the first time an event has turned into to something the founders never intended—and showing how weird history can get. So how did this one happen? The first celebrations took place after a large French invasion force got defeated at very small town in Mexico, called Puebla, on May 5, 1862. Unfortunately this setback didn't prevent the aggressors from eventually taking Mexico City and ruling the country for the next 5 years. However, according to David E. Hayes-Bautista in a recent book, *El Cinco de Mayo, an American Tradition*, the Latinos in the Southwest, who had been absorbed into the U.S. not long before, related the 1862 battle to the American Civil War. The French were actually supportive of the Confederacy, and many Latinos compared Benito Juarez, the embattled Mexican president at the time, to Abraham Lincoln: both seen as struggling against oppression and tyranny. Thus, the rejoicing began. Just to finish this part of the story, Lincoln was very much opposed to the French takeover in Mexico but the onset of war with the South didn't allow any intervention. Soon after 1865, the U.S. quickly helped dethrone the installed French monarch, Austrian Maximilian I, which allowed Juarez to return as president.

Yet May 5 continued to be observed by Latinos, especially in California. Not too long afterward, its original purpose began to fade, and by the 1940s became associated with the Chicano movement and Mexican cultural heritage in general. Then it started migrating across the country, when finally a big change happened around the 1980s. Beer and tequila producers couldn't pass up an opportunity for promotion and, probably beyond their wildest expectations, created a day almost entirely dedicated to drinking and eating with a little ethnic background thrown in. I wish I had invested my pension funds in beer and tequila back then. Avocado farming might have been a good choice, too. Anyway, the moral to all this is that the next time you have a Margarita or a Dos Equis and a few chips with guacamole on May 5, don't forget why it's really worth celebrating.



Minutes of the Lake Claire Neighbors May Meeting

On May 17 the neighborhood monthly meeting took place. As always, Savage provided pizzas. Lake Claire appreciates their continued support. President Joe Agee chaired the meeting. After welcomes and sign-in, we had guest speakers from the Atlanta City Council and the Atlanta Police Department. LCN officers gave reports, including Eileen O'Neill reminding folks of \$20 dues.

Sasha Hasanbegovic of BoxLock spoke about a pilot program offering lock boxes to protect packages and home deliveries.

The bulk of the meeting time concerned two variances, which were discussed and voted upon:

At **491 Harold Avenue**, (NE corner at Marlbrook), the applicant plans to demolish the existing house and requests a variance from zoning regulations to reduce the side yard



Lake Claire's Leah Pine Goldberg, Landscape Architect and Certified Arborist, demonstrating the width of the trees' root structures

setback for the new house from 17.5 feet (required on corner lots) to 10 feet, along Marbrook Drive. An April vote on the same request resulted in an 11-11 tie and went forward to the NPU without a recommendation. The NPU then asked the applicants to go back to the neighborhood to discuss it further.

The proposed house size is: 1st floor (1782 sf); 2nd floor (1630 sf); basement (200 sf finished, 1482 sf unfinished). Neighbors voiced concerns about the request that were similar to those expressed at the April meeting: the overall massing of the proposed house; the mass and height of the portion of the structure that would extend into the setback; the proposed removal of a large stand of trees on the lot, in particular, the mature canopy trees on the hill above the existing carport/utility structure; the challenges of slowing down storm water and preventing erosion on the steep slope (approximately 22 feet difference between highest point at rear and lowest at front); the added storm water impact if all the large canopy trees are removed; and the potential for additional storm water damage to a challenged drainage system just below the site. The property owner at 521 Harold Ave, the lowest elevation on Harold, discussed recent stormwater pipe failures on his property (replaced at public expense) and the marked deterioration of the wetland and stream bed that passes through his property and into the Frazer Forest. Neighbors also discussed the exceptional value of the Frazer Forest, a rare native old growth forest, important to our local

ecosystem. The variance vote was 51 opposed, 39 in favor of the request.

At **455 Hardendorf Avenue** (east side of street in first block from McLendon), the applicant plans to construct a one-story addition to the rear of the existing bungalow and seeks a variance to reduce the required south side yard setback from 7ft. to 4ft, to align the addition with the existing house. The lot is flat and the proposed addition will require the removal of one pecan tree located approximately 4 feet from the existing house. Neighbors on Harold Avenue, which is at a lower elevation, requested that the architect take care to contain storm water on the site and to avoid directing any additional water to adjacent homes at the rear. The variance vote was unanimous, in favor of approving, 51 in favor, 0 opposed.

Next steps: NPU-N will hear the recommendations by LCN at its May meeting. The final step in all variance considerations is a vote by the City BZA (Board of Zoning Authority).

One more vote at the meeting pertained to the East Lake MARTA development plan, presented by Julia Billings, City of Atlanta, Dept. of Planning. See more detail at lakeclaire.org. It was voted down (as of press time, I don't have the exact numbers, but it will be on the Lake Claire website in the minutes—this version of the meeting is the editor's summary, from personal notes while attending the meeting, not the official minutes, which are always posted on the website.)

Thanks for all you do for Lake Claire, and I hope to see you soon—perhaps at the neighborhood meeting on June 21 or July 19. Have a wonderful summer!

~Joe Agee,

Lake Claire Neighbors, Inc.

Check out the Lake Claire products, including “30307 Not Just a Zip Code,” at lakeclaire.org/shop

Lake Claire Compost Project Spring Work Day, June 9

by Corinne Coe

The Lake Claire Compost Project (LCCP) is nearly two years old and still going strong. It started in the summer of 2016 as a volunteer-led, community composting project for the Lake Claire Community Land Trust's Garden members and the immediate neighborhood.

Three graduates of **Terra Nova Compost's** 2016 Community Compost Advocate Training Program started the program. It is a 42-hour comprehensive composting course—the first (and still the only) of its kind in Atlanta. After completing the course, all students completed 32 additional hours toward a compost-focused service project. The program graduated sixteen Community Compost Advocates who together implemented ten community composting projects across metropolitan Atlanta.

The LCCP is a food scrap drop-off program aimed at diverting food

waste from the landfill and building healthy soil locally. Added benefits include lowering the carbon footprint of both the drop-off program participants and the gardeners who ultimately use the finished compost, and sharing and building practical, environmentally sound skills with one another.

Participants drop off their families' kitchen scraps at the Land Trust weekly, where it is processed on-site by volunteers. Most of the drop-off participants also volunteer for the project. Regular work days are scheduled spring, summer and fall.

If you are interested in participating in the drop-off program and/or volunteering for the Lake Claire Compost Project, please email me at corinne@terranovacompost.com. **The next LCCP Work Day is scheduled at the Land Trust for Saturday, June 9, from 10 a.m. to noon.**

Our Elder Statesman, Big Lou

by Dawn Aura

One day in April, Big Lou the Emu got very ill. We called the farm animal vet, who came in the night to see him. Big had thrown up so much that he had prolapsed his rectum, and could no longer even stand up. It was frightening. The good doc said he had thrown it all up, and gave him an antibiotic shot two days in a row and helped fix the prolapse. Next day Big Lou was almost back to normal, thank goodness.

We are wondering if someone had fed him some leaves or berries from the Land Trust that turned out to be toxic. PLEASE do not feed him random greenery ever again, as we could have lost him. Big Lou is an old man now, so we need to treat him with extra care.

You may still bring him things to eat, but everything must be one inch or smaller or he can't swallow it. Birds have no teeth, so they swallow their food whole and grind it up in



their craws, or gizzards. Strawberries, cut green beans, and grapes (his favorite) are fine. Cantaloupes, honeydews, pineapple, apples, lettuce, spinach, all need to be chopped in to roughly one-inch size pieces. One melon he doesn't like is watermelon.

The veterinary bill came to \$380, of which the Land Trust paid half. Use the donation jar out by Lou's gate if you'd like to help with this or Lou's feeding expenses. You can also mail a check made out to me, Dawn Aura, at 296 Arizona Ave. NE, 30307, with "Big Lou" on the memo line, or send it via Paypal to: Windeaglepress@yahoo.com. Since Lou is getting older, keeping him around will naturally begin to cost more. All donations for Big Lou will be earmarked for his feeding and future veterinary expenses. Thank you!

Please keep coming to visit him; he loves your company. As always, don't let kids yell or dogs bark near him. **And thank you for remembering the lesson of this scary episode—do not feed him leaves or berries.**

Lake Claire Community Land Trust ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, June 3, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

at the Lake Claire Co-Housing Common House

Join us to celebrate another year of community and conservation at the Land Trust! After refreshments and socializing, we'll update you on how things stand, then open the floor for feedback. Residents of Arizona, Nelms, and Adolphus are especially invited. Positive comments are encouraged along with complaints!

The Board will meet at 10:30 a.m. to complete our business before the celebration begins; you are welcome to come early for that. The Common House is located directly across the Arizona Ave. cul-de-sac from the Land Trust entrance. We hope to see you there.

Tree Removal in the Neighborhood

Continued from Page 7

that threaten trees. When a threat is identified, members of the team would do a little research to see what the project is, how many trees are involved, and what options we have for action (such as filing an appeal or attending a hearing). They would then spread the word to a wider list of folks who have indicated their interest in taking action to protect the trees.

This is just one idea; I'm sure there are other—and better—ones out there, and I hope to hear about them in the group. If you appreciate trees and the many benefits they give us (from shade, oxygen, and fewer greenhouse gases to wildlife and beauty), then please join us. No matter how much or how little time you have, there is a way you can help. You can find us by searching "CPLC Tree Guardians" on Facebook or going directly to www.facebook.com/groups/1861941154107670/ and

requesting to join the group. Or, if you're not on Facebook or have other questions, you can email me at meredithannwalters@gmail.com.

Editor's note: As noted above, last year's rezoning of this corner lot at Brooks and McLendon led to the removal of the large stand of mature trees separating the commercial district and homes. If you don't want this happening elsewhere in the neighborhood in the future, please consider joining Meredith's group to keep informed, as well as expressing your concerns to the officials listed below. According to several sources, the owner of the property at 1625 McLendon presented his request to rezone from single-family (R-4) to PDMU (planned density multi-use) on December 19, 2016 at Candler Park's neighborhood association. Though PDMU zoning allows commercial use, the proposal was restricted to two

additional townhouses with no commercial aspect. The request passed (without specifying the margin). The rezoning was debated throughout the NPU and ZRB process. Ultimately, the Comprehensive Development Plan for the neighborhood, which designated the property to remain single-family (the 4-unit apartment building having been grandfathered in), was **amended to allow the rezoning**. The amendment to the CDP was supported by Council Member Kwanza Hall, who represented Candler Park at the time! To weigh in on rezoning and other land use questions like this one, follow the news of our neighborhood organization, NPU, and our City Council representatives. This property was rezoned in the face of strong opposition, and the community's development plan was changed to allow this. You could ask officials what can be done to prevent such significant tree loss from hap-

pening in our neighborhoods. Leadership needs to hear from the wider neighborhood, especially as the City is considering updates to its tree and zoning ordinances.

Contacts (emails grouped below):
Atlanta Planning Commissioner:

Tim Keane

City Council, Candler Park:

Amir Farokhi

City Council, Lake Claire:

Natalyn Archibong

City Council President:

Felicia Moore

City Council At-Large Reps:

Matt Westmoreland, Andre

Dickens, Michael Julian Bond

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Fmoore@atlantaga.gov

Mwestmoreland@atlantaga.gov

Adickens@atlantaga.gov

Mbond@atlantaga.gov

10th Anniversary JERRY JAM, July 28, 2018

by Frani Green

Greetings Land Trust Lovers! We are so excited to be celebrating our 10-year anniversary of the JERRY JAM!

We all know how you love to dance and celebrate community, so come on out to our 10th annual festival honoring the music of the Grateful Dead. We have a great line-up of local musicians to entertain and give us their time and talent as we come together to FUNdraise for the Land Trust, our oasis in the city.

Our line-up is...

3:00 p.m. (Teen Bands to be Determined)

4:00 p.m. Uncle Don's Band

5:15 p.m. Tiger Kings

6:30 p.m. Electric Codpiece

8:00 p.m. Webster

9:30 p.m. Ex-P.A.N.D. Band

Suggested Donation: Adults \$10, teens 13-19 \$1, Kids under 12 free

NO PETS!! (We love our furry friends, but not on this day). And No coolers. We will have food and drink

for sale, artist's market, face painting, and bake sale. As always, bring your own re-usable plate and utensils and get \$1 off your meal.

Please walk, bike, MARTA, Uber, Lyft, or park at Clifton Sanctuary, 369 Connecticut Ave NE, Atlanta 30307. Please take this seriously: Be mindful of our neighbors and do not move or park in front of orange cones or block driveways.

Put on your dancing shoes, and we will see you there!

Disposable is a Dirty Word!

Save a Dollar, Save the Planet

by Stephen Wing

For several years we've been offering a dollar off for meals at Land Trust festivals to anyone who brings a re-usable plate and utensils from home. Our loyal crowd of festival-goers seems to see this as a symbolic gesture; only a handful ever take us up on it.

Of course, one less paper plate and plastic spoon and fork in the trash isn't going to reduce the environmental impact of the festival by much. But our little festival is a perfect microcosm of what is going wrong in the wider world. What if every single festival attendee brought his or her own ceramic plate and metal spoon and fork in a handy re-usable shopping bag, carried it home afterwards, and washed it for another use?

Yes, the Land Trust would lose a couple hundred bucks. But our festival cleanup would be a breeze, and we would be relieved of the moral responsibility of sending all those plates and utensils to the landfill.

Of course, marvelous as it would be, that would not slow down the headlong death-spiral of human civilization into climate chaos and petrochemical contamination. To accom-

plish that, the vast majority of Earth's population would have to follow our example. And the average person does not seem inclined to give up the convenience of disposable dinnerware (bottles, cans, tablecloths, diapers, razors, takeout containers, etc. etc.).

It might make a difference if they understood how profitable it is to provide us with all that convenience. The plastics industry is projected to rake in **\$654 billion** worldwide in 2020. Most of the profits go to the 1 percent, the shareholders and executives who own and run the factories and refineries. All we consumers get is a tiny dividend of convenience—and a whole lot of plastic particles in our soil, water, and air. These particles never go away; they just break down into smaller and smaller particles that work their way up the food chain into our bodies. In effect, the plastic industry is bribing us with convenience to accept the wholesale poisoning of the natural world that sustains us.

We Americans think of ourselves as individuals first and foremost. But turn the telescope around, and look at the big picture. We are all part of a global civilization that is system-

atically destroying the life-support systems of the Earth to provide a short-term profit for a few. Through advertising and a myriad of subtle cues, we are all encouraged to consume as much as possible for our own comfort and convenience. This advertising is very expensive, and it totally pays off for its investors. The scientific study of human motivation is well-funded, and advertising works whether we believe it or not. Our only hope of averting global catastrophe is for we individual consumers to rebel against our programming, pitting conscious choice against ingrained habit, every minute of the day.

Convenience is not a human right. A life-sustaining planet is. Join the revolution! It could save you much more than a dollar.

Editor's note: And please don't ever use plastic straws. Straws (used on average just 10 minutes) create a pressing threat to our oceans. They require special facilities, and they almost always end up in a landfill, or worse, in sea turtles' noses and the stomachs of birds. Other materials may be used for straws that can be recycled.

Upcoming & Ongoing at the Land Trust

JUNE:

Sat. June 2 and 16 – Drum Circle, sunset to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Bring a friend! Please help spread the word. The Drum Circles are the Land Trust's gift to our community, but your donations help keep it going.

Sun. June 3 – LCCLT Inc. Annual Meeting, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Lake Claire Cohousing Common House. See boxed invitation this page.

Sat. June 9 – Lake Claire Compost Project Spring Work Day, 10 a.m. to noon. See article this page.

Sat. June 16 – Community Work Day, 4 to 7 p.m. Pizza and drum circle follow.

Sun. June 24 – Summer Children's Garden Planting, Gnome Land Creation & Summer Solstice Celebration, 4 to 6 p.m. For info: Missladybug@ladybugeventsllc.com.

JULY:

Sat. July 7 and 21 – Drum Circle, sunset to 11 p.m. Bring a friend!

Sat. July 21 – Community Work Day, 4 to 7 p.m. Pizza and drum circle follow. Note the change to summer work day hours.

Sat. July 28 – 10th annual Jerry Jam. See article this page.



Lake Claire
COMMUNITY
LAND TRUST

Children's Solstice Garden Party

by Andrea Zoppo

Join Ladybug Events for a family fun Solstice Gathering on June 24 from 4 to 6 p.m. We will gather with live music, crafts, and yummy treats! As always, we ask for a minimum donation of \$5. The summer solstice marks the astronomical beginning of summer and the longest day of the year. Let us join together to welcome summer fun with a garden parade and sunflower planting. Our last event was May 20, and we made faerie homes and hung faerie keys in the trees. Families took home lemon balm plants and kale from the children's garden.

We invite you to taste kale from the garden as well as harvesting a variety of mints. The echinacea is blooming, and the hyssop, bee balm, black eyed susan, and hibiscus are on the way. Our biggest challenge is the air potato vine, a new invasive that is not edible that is threatening to devour the children's garden.

If you are interested in helping us remove it and keep our efforts alive, please contact me at andrea.zoppo@yahoo.com.

Consider Ladybug Events for your next special event or birthday party. www.ladybugeventsllc.com



Patricia Emerson (R) attending Children's Garden Party



We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers/writers/artists to participate.

This month we feature Emma Sullivan, our writer, and Sawyer Klehr, our contest winner. Emma was featured just two months ago, but we hadn't received any

writing entries as of press deadline, so she kindly offered at the last minute to tell us what Mary Lin School is up to. Emma resides on Arizona Avenue, is 10 years old, and she just finished fourth grade at Mary Lin.

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. What are your plans for the summer of 2018? What do you love about Summer? We hope to hear from you!



Mary Lin Activities at the End of the Academic Year

by Emma Sullivan

This week at Mary Lin several interesting projects happened in the fourth grade. Yesterday, there was an egg drop, the Mary Lin Egg Drop. We use something like a machine to put the eggs in and then use it to drop the eggs off the roof of the school. There are lots of things you can use for an egg drop. Obviously, you use an egg, and you can use plastic, and cardboard, and stuff like that. You cannot use styrofoam or glass, or things like that. Another thing that happened at the end of our year took place today at school: it was a Greek Sculpture Garden. We took characters from myths and the olden days, and students dressed up as those characters, such as Aphrodite, or Venus, and we had to give a speech with information about the character. There were four main parts: the heavens, underwater, earth, and Mount Olympus.

Last, tomorrow there will be a veggie derby. Fourth graders are paired up in groups, four people to a group, and each group has one day to work together to construct a small car out of vegetables and fruits. Examples of how one may do it are using cucumbers as wheels, and carrots for the bottom parts of a car, or pretty much anything that is a vegetable or fruit. It is really, really cool!

NEW CONTEST!
There are many fun and interesting things to do in the summer. School is out, and what will you do with your time? Take a minute to find this month's hidden graphic of summer fun to become this summer's Clarion prizewinner. The winner will have his or her photo in the AUGUST Clarion. To win, send an e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org identifying the page number. For extra credit, tell us about any one thing you see on the hidden picture. The extra credit prize is that you get to write the article for the Kids' Page for August. Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you cannot win two months in a row. **Hurry and look;** competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.

Neighbors—
Please be very aware this July 4 regarding the frightening impact that fireworks has on dogs. If you can find it in your hearts not to use them, that would be the most humane.
If you must do it, please limit the timeframe to 10-15 minutes, not go on for an hour or more. That way the pets can shiver and hide for a short time, and then they can recover.
What affects them so much is local residential fireworks. The public displays are far away enough not to terrify them as much, and are for a much shorter duration.
Please this year, for July 4, and New Year's Eve, factor the dogs that we love into the love of fireworks.

Winnie-the-Pooh Lovers!!!!

See the Calendar for the Winnie the Pooh activities in the month of June!

Contest Winner

Sawyer Klehr, of Hardendorf Avenue, found the May issue's hidden graphic of a family reading for National Family Reading Week. Congrats, Sawyer! He is four and a half years old and just finishing pre-k at Primavera Preschool. He likes to jump in bouncy houses, play dragon games with his friends outside, read, and build with magna tiles. Asked for a comment, he said, "I love candy."

In times of joy, all of us wished we possessed a tail we could wag.
W.H.Auden

