



Happy 2019, from the Clarion!

Another Wonderful Neighborhood Potluck Ended Lake Claire's 2018!

A crowd of 70+ of us enjoyed food, fun, and conviviality with neighbors old and new on Thursday evening, December 13. All had a great time and enjoyed good food at the annual Lake Claire Christmas/holiday party. Joe Reed's music was a great addition to the traditional fanfare.

Our Lake Claire president Joe Agee thanked everyone who had contributed to Lake Claire's successes in 2018—and wished Kathie Ryan, who always does a lot for this event behind the scenes, a happy birthday. We were happy that our Atlanta City Councilperson, Natalyn Archibong, was able to join

us again this year, and we missed our police officers.

Everyone went away full on Thursday night. As always, Lake Claire provided vegetarian and meat lasagnas, beverages, and cake, and neighbors brought delicious and creative side dishes, including one that I *Cont. on p. 6*

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

by Beth Damon

If you didn't get around to using the envelope stuffed in the December Clarion to make a contribution to CSM, it is not too late. Please either use the envelope from last month, or go to www.cliftonsanctuary.com/contribute/volunteer/. You will see many volunteer opportunities and a button to donate. As many of us know about our long-time neighbor, CSM provides short-term (30-60 days) emergency shelter for homeless men aged 35-years and older who are seeking self-sufficiency and independent living. CSM partners with a range of metro-Atlanta service organizations and relief agencies to meet its mission of ending homelessness. This includes the Veterans Administrations in a special effort to end homelessness among military veterans. Additionally, Clifton offers a 2-year transitional housing program. Participants in this program are provided with their own rooms in a multi-unit house. A small rental fee and employment is required. During their stays, participants are offered financial & budgeting counseling, life skills coaching, and job training. It is the oldest house-of-worship shelter operating in Atlanta, since 1979.

You may have noticed that one of the large old oaks that fell down on CSM property at McLendon and Connecticut destroyed the sign (see picture). That sign always showed the CSM "wish list." There is no sign, but there is still a wish list, if anyone would like to contribute to that. And with the prominent sign missing, this is the first time that the Church (what

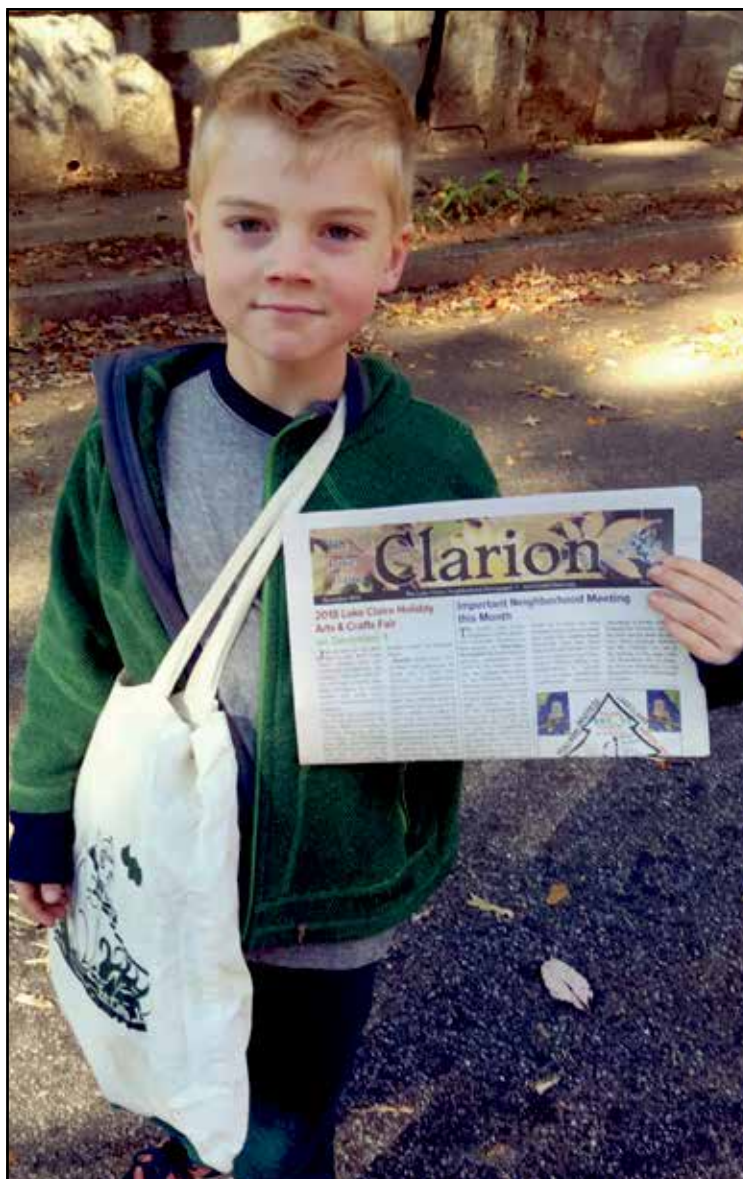


we old timers call CSM) had to buy toilet paper in many years. They can always use such staples as toilet paper, paper towels, safe cleaning products (e.g., Clorox, vinegar), sandwich bags, disposable bowls and plasticware (compostable = all the better), hand soaps, travel-sized toothpaste, etc. CSM hopes for another quote from a sign company soon, as the first one they got was out of the price range. BTW, if you buy anything via Amazon (hah—IF!), please make it a habit to use this link: www.smile.amazon.com. Choose Clifton Sanctuary Ministries as the charity you wish to support, and then make your purchase. Amazon will share part of your purchase price with Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. It is an easy way to support CSM, and after the first time, CSM will be your default charity.

Finally, did you wonder how the envelopes got in the Clarions? One night, many of the CSM guests themselves got together and stuffed the 1400+ newspapers. I arrived that evening according to plan, to assist them, and they had already finished.

Young Volunteerism in Lake Claire

Around two dozen Lake Claire neighbors are involved in the effort to produce and deliver our newspaper. Though the editor, layout artist, and distribution and advertising coordinators are named in the masthead, many more are involved, including the regular column contributors, adult and child writers, poets, artists, advertisers, and our "Clarion Carriers," some of whom have been volunteering for many years. (Long before I signed up as editor, I was a deliverer for many years starting in 1990, and a handful of folks who are still doing this also started back in those years.) In an age in which many neighborhood publications are online only, this team faithfully delivers the newspaper the old-fashioned way—in person! Whether it's a familiar neighbor (sometimes assisted by kids who love helping and learning the importance of volunteerism) or a newcomer contributing to the same vital community spirit that has drawn so many to Lake Claire, you've probably seen someone showing his or her commitment, *door-to-door*. When you get the chance, let him or her know you appreciate it, and consider filling in for someone who might need help on



Truman Orr, volunteer

those steep driveways—or as backup during a vacation or illness. It is really one of the easiest ways we have to build closer ties to those around us. If you are looking for a

way to help and might like to be a back-up to deliver Clarions to front porches while 'getting in your steps,' please contact me or Monique at *ed-*

Cont. on p. 9

**THE CLARION
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 Cover banner photo by Sarah Coburn

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

January Calendar

1 to Jan. 21 Holiday Ice Skating in metro Atlanta! From now until Jan. 21, **Skate-the-Station** at Atlantic Station, one of the largest rinks in the Southeast, and **The Rink/Park Tavern**, holiday games & views of midtown. Also, but only until Jan. 13, **Skate-the-Sky**, roof of Ponce City Market—great views while skating! See times and prices for all of these and more at atlantaplanit.wabe.org/2018/12/07/8-holiday-ice-skating-rinks-in-metro-atlanta/

5 & 19 Drum Circle, 8 to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Bring a friend! Please help spread the word.

12 5K "Run with the Dogs," a run/walk at 9 a.m. rain or shine. "Pup trot" at 8:30 a.m. Registration: Decatur High School beginning at 8 a.m. Walkers of all levels. T-shirts guaranteed only if you pre-register by Jan. 1. Dogs receive bandanas. Walk begins on Commerce. \$30 by 1/7/19, \$35 if late. Teachers and City of Decatur employees \$25. Contact Bethanyatkinson@yahoo.com.

12 to April Live the Legacy, Center for Civil and Human Rights, 100 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd. A collection of photographs presenting a broad exploration of the processes, problems, and benefits derived from non-violent demonstration as taught and practiced by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., from 1968 to the present day. More info atlantaplanit.wabe.org/events/live-the-legacy-series/.

17 7 Stages, 8 p.m., one night only, *Stories I Can't Tell in Church: My Life as a Straight White Male Baptist Minister Ally of the LGBTQ Community*, www.7stages.org to buy tix and to see info on other shows.

19 Land Trust Community Work Day, 2 to 5 p.m. Pizza and drum circle follow. Note winter hours!

21 MLK Jr. Service Day—School is out—Hopefully, find Volunteer Opportunities. See article to the right.

25 to March 3 Horizon Theatre—*The Wolves*, by Sarah Delappe, a thriller about a girls' indoor soccer team and navigating big questions & tiny battles. See www.horizontheatre.com/plays/the-wolves/. (13+, adult situations and language).

26 to Feb. 24 Actors Express—*Octoroon*—MacArthur Genius Grant recipient Branden Jacobs-Jenkins turns a nineteenth century melodrama on its ear in this hilarious, riotously subversive romp. www.actors-express.com.

FEBRUARY NOTES:

Note: Theatrical Outfit's season starts in February with The Pitmen Painters, by Lee Hall. More to come in the February Clarion.

Saturday, Feb. 9 – Mid-Winter Land Trust Dance Party, 7 p.m., First Existentialist Congregation (See article on page 11 for details.)

Atlanta Music Theatre Festival Returns for 2019

Founder Benjamin Davis announces today that submissions for the 4th Annual Atlanta Musical Theatre Festival (AMTF), to be held in the summer in Atlanta, are officially open. The deadline to submit new works is

February 1, 2019. Selections will be announced in April 2019, at the annual selections announcement event (details forthcoming). Please contact Ryan Oliveti with any questions or requests at ryan.oliveti@gmail.com.

MLK Service Day

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is 'What are you doing for others?'" Here are just two of many volunteer opportunities around Atlanta. Another suggestion is to contact girl and boy scout leaders; in the past there was a clean-up day at Lake Claire Park, but as of going to press, I haven't been able to find out any details. First, there is Hands-On Atlanta—for information, contact www.handsonatlanta.org/volunteer. The second that I could confirm is to help Decatur's senior citizens: the 17th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Service Project held the whole weekend of January 19-21, involves doing small

repairs and yard work for elderly homeowners. Volunteers may sign up for one or more of the following shifts: Saturday, January 19: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 to 5 p.m.; Sunday, January 20: 1 to 5 p.m.; and Monday, January 21: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 to 5 p.m. To volunteer to make home repairs, do yard work, help with logistics, or assist the food committee, please contact Lee Ann Harvey, 770-652-8593 or leann.harvey@decaturga.com. People of all ages may volunteer as individuals or as part of a group, and volunteers are invited to attend a celebration cook-out on Monday, Jan. 21, at 5 p.m. at the Solarium. See www.mlkserviceproject.com/volunteers/

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Frazer Celebrates 70th Anniversary in 2019

by Dina Shadwell

The Frazer Center has evolved over the years, with different names and locations, but the vision has remained the same: to offer research-based education, vocational support, and therapeutic intervention to children and adults with developmental disabilities. Fostering inclusive communities is the heart of Frazer's mission.

The story begins in 1948 when Anne Lane was searching for a program for her daughter Anita, who had cerebral palsy. Best practices of the day recommended institutionalization. Wanting more opportunity for her daughter, Anne Lane joined forces with her friend and civic leader Rebecca Frazer to create the Cerebral Palsy Center in 1949 in the basement of St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Peachtree Street. In 1952, the Frazers and Lanes led a community-wide fundraising campaign to acquire the former 39-acre estate of Cator Woolford (founder of the Retail Credit Company, now Equifax), located in the Lake Claire/Druid Hills neighborhood. The estate was put into a trust, and the Cerebral Palsy Center moved into "the big house" that is now home to the Atlanta Hospital Hospitality House.

In 1961, the Cerebral Palsy Center moved up the hill into a new building—Frazer's current location. In 1975, the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) was passed, which ensured that children with disabilities

receive a free public education. In light of the new law, Frazer shifted its focus to serve children under five and adults over 17. In 1989, a new wing was dedicated for the Adult Program, and in 1994 the children's program enrolled its first typically developing children. Today Frazer is in partnership with the Adaptive Learning Center to provide an inclusive early education environment where all children have room to flourish.

In 2018, Governor Deal signed into law the Employment First Act, establishing employment as the first and preferred option for anyone who wants to work, regardless of his or her disability. It's a promising step toward a stronger, more inclusive Georgia and should help fortify Frazer's Supported Employment Program for adults with disabilities.

As for the community greenspace, Frazer has developed partnerships with Trees Atlanta, Eco-Addendum, and the neighborhood Friends of Frazer Forest to help restore and maintain the old-growth forest. Cator Woolford Gardens was dedicated as Frazer's social enterprise in 1998, with a redesign by Cooper Sanchez in 2017. It is a "hidden gem" among engaged couples and photographers looking for an enchanted backdrop, and all proceeds from rental of the gardens support the programs of the Frazer Center as well as the upkeep of the gardens and forest.

Cont. on p. 9

Wild in Lake Claire

by Flora Fauna (aka Carol Vanderschaaf)

Happy New Year to all!

For the first paragraphs of the column I am going to put my head in the sand. The reason? I love fireworks! ... now down into the sand. Warning ... since I cannot see the keys and never took touch-typing I may make some mistakes. Fireworks are so exciting but they ain't much fun for birds and other wildlife. There's the notorious case in Beebe, Arkansas, where 5000 Red-winged Blackbirds died when they were thrown into a panic when illegally discharged fireworks were set off nearby. The birds flew off, crashing into buildings, cars, trees and even people. Fireworks also leave behind much poisonous debris and pollute the water and soil long after they've lost their sparkle. Some places are working to alleviate these problems by packing their fireworks to be quieter or by moving them away from wildlife areas. Some towns have actually cancelled the pyrotechnics!

Well, I must get the sand out of my eyes and ears and continue with news I can deal with:

The big news this month is the Sandhill Cranes. They've been seen by several neighbors, Ilene S., Jane M, Janie W., Elizabeth K. and Meredith W., among others. The most exciting report came from Meredith, who heard from someone at a meeting of the Urban Ecology Framework that a group of cranes had landed in Candler Park. Wow! The cranes come through Atlanta on their fall migration from October 18 to December 14. There is a Sandhill Crane Festival held in Birchwood, Tennes-

see, on **January 19 and 20**. There will be buses to take visitors from the community center to the fields where the cranes gather. Also, the Tennessee Aquarium will be taking people for tours along the Tennessee River. There is also a Cherokee Removal Memorial near the Crane festival. Native peoples' performances and other activities will be featured there.

In the 'hood, Miriam H. reported two bluebirds at her yard bird feeder. She said she's seen them in Frazer Forest but rarely in her yard which borders the Land Trust. At the same time the bluebirds were visiting, a cardinal and a yellow finch came along. Miriam lamented that she didn't have her camera with her. I lament with her ... that would have been a beautiful picture.

And in case you missed the fake news here's a little dose for you:

- Coal is the energy of the future.
- Commercial insect sprays are nutritionally sound for your kids.
- The recent climate report from renowned world scientists is nothing but fake news.

I do wish you all a good worry-free year.

Yours somewhat truly,
Flora Fauna

PS: Please contact my assistant cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net if you have any floral or faunal reports --or if you have any comments on this column.

PPS: Flora, you crack me up. Thanks for keeping up with the real and fake news. ~Editor

Wild Mushrooms in Lake Claire

by Bernard Spenle

Amid the flora of our planet, and more particularly our quadrant of this country, there is a fascinating and widely varied category: mushrooms. We mostly think of this group as food, or poison, but they are very interesting plants/fungi for many reasons. For one, they come in many more shapes than the typically pictured round cap over a stalk. They grow in a range of environments. One aspect of mushrooms that I find so interesting is the ingenious way in which they reproduce. I guess nature wanted to cover all its bases in devising so many options.

The basic idea is that all mushrooms produce spores. These spores are disseminated, and when some find a favorable environment, they send out one or more *hyphae*, which start producing a web of root-like

hair called *mycelium*. When two *mycelia* from different spores, but of the same species, connect, they become capable of producing a fertile fruiting body (that we know as the mushroom).

The mushroom's job is to disseminate the spores, and I suppose that each has adapted and taken advantage of its specific situation. For example, some puffballs (white balls on almost nonexistent stalks) grow in clusters on dead logs. When they have matured, a hole opens up at the top of the envelope, and if a branch falls onto the mushroom, it shoots the spores into the air, and the wind carries them away. Another is the stinkhorn. They come in a variety of shapes, but most involve a phallus-like growth which has a foul smelling slimy tip. That odor attracts spe-

cific kinds of flies and beetles, which swarm the area and walk on and roll in that spore-filled slime. They then proceed to carry the spores away.

What we think of as the typical mushroom has a cap with the underside covered by gills, or a sponge like texture, as in the *Boletus* genus. With the cap being on a stalk that elevates it from the ground, it gives room for the wind to carry away the falling spores.

My favorite dissemination method is that of the bird's nest group (*Nidulariales*). It matures into a cup or saucer-like shape the size of a nickel, with one to four capsules containing spores. When a drop of rain falls into the cup, it splashes the capsules out of the nest, where the spores are released from the capsules after their shells decay. There many other ways



Bird's nest fungus

used to keep mushrooms reproducing. They have an important place and are useful in nature. And, if you find the **right ones**, they can also become a delicious meal.



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Thanks to Annsley Klehr for all of these articles. Annsley is the Lake Claire Education Chair and Mary Lin Representative to the Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools (CINS). ~ Ed.

Walden Athletic Fields

by Annsley Klehr

If you have ever gotten on the expressway from Irwin Street, you would pass right by the Walden Athletic Fields (a.k.a. Walden Sports Complex), nestled in between Irwin and Freedom Parkway. These fields are promoted as Grady High School's athletic space, but they will also be used by other schools. The space is designed to allow students to practice baseball, softball, lacrosse, football, and soccer. Using \$7 million in SPLOST funding, grass fields were

put in for softball and baseball, while turf was used for the other fields.

These fields were desperately needed for the lack of athletic space in intown Atlanta. They are a beautiful addition to the Grady Cluster. You can find site drawings at: www.atlantapublicschools.us/cms/lib/GA01000924/Centricity/Domain/4657/Walden%20Athletic%20Design%20AUDC%20Package%20031717.pdf

College and Career Academy

by Annsley Klehr

The Board of Education voted (7 to 1) to pass APS's newest school addition (coming in 2020), the College and Career Academy. Accommodating 800 students, the goal is to create a school that trains high school students for jobs in medical, automotive, culinary arts, and construction, as well as other fields. The project is thought to cost roughly \$12 million, using over \$7 from sale-tax dollars, and an addition \$3 million from a Georgia Technical College System grant, and some other contributions. The proposal is to use a district building on Windsor Street to house the school. The school will be set up as a half-day school so that students can participate at their home high school, but will also have access to classes at the College and

Career Academy unavailable to them at their home schools. The hope is that students who are not ready or are not interesting in going directly to college can still have career paths. Though the ABOE thought this school a necessity, there was debate over whether this project was fiscally responsible, since all building costs have increased and that the ABOE is spending over their projected budget.

To read more, visit: www.atlantapublicschools.us/cms/lib/GA01000924/Centricity/Domain/9279/ACCA%20Executive%20Summary.pdf.

Special thanks to ABOE, Leslie Grant, for taking the time to give me an update!

Plastic Straws

by Lynn Nomad

We in Lake Claire can take a stand against the pollution caused by plastic straws—by refusing straws when offered and making a statement to those who offer them to us. Straws lead to micro-plastics in the oceans; 40% of plastics in the ocean come from single-use items, such as plastic straws. Two months ago, Seattle banned the use of straws, prohibiting their use in food service businesses—including restaurants, food trucks, coffee shops, grocery stores, delis, and cafeterias. They are prohibited from providing customers with plastic utensils, plastic straws, or plastic cocktail picks. Seattle has become the first major US city to enact a plastic

straw and utensil ban, though there are similar bans in Santa Cruz County and Malibu. The ban carries a \$250 fine for violators. Similar legislation has been discussed in New York City, San Francisco, and Los Angeles but is not currently law. The European Union is trying to ban single-use plastic by this coming May.

A New York city council member recently announced his plan to ban plastic straws from the city of 8.5 million people, amid a growing effort across the globe to cut back on plastics. "We depend on plastic, and that is a trend we have to reverse immediately," said city council member Rafael Espinal, who discussed his proposed ban at a

46 APS Schools Beat the Odds

by Annsley Klehr

In an email from Meria Carstarphen, Atlanta Public School's Superintendent's, she congratulates 46 of APS schools. The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) reports that "46 APS schools, or 52 percent of our schools, 'Beat the Odds!' Not only that, but in addition, APS has the second highest percentage of schools that beat the odds when compared to other metro-area districts. But, wait, there's more! We beat the overall state rate, which came in at 32 percent! These schools include Mary Lin Elementary School, Hope-Hill, Inman Middle School, and Grady High School.

So, what is **Beat the Odds**? According to Carstarphen:

- The *Beat the Odds* calculation represents whether a school's performance on the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) was higher than schools with similar characteristics across the state. Due to changes in the Beating the Odds calculation and changes in CCRPI, this year's analysis is not comparable to previous years.

- The new calculation for this year includes variables that are outside of a school's control, such as school size, percent directly certified, percent English language learners, percent of students with disabilities, percent of students in each race (excluding Native American), school churn rate, whether a school is defined as non-traditional and the school type.

In previous years, schools were designated as "Beat the Odds" or "Did Not Beat the Odds," but the new calculation this year has separated "Did



Not Beat the Odds" into two tiers—Within the Expected Range, and Below the Expected Range. With this new framework, in addition to the 46 APS schools that Beat the Odds, 26 were classified as "Within the Expected Range" and 16 were classified as "Below the Expected Range." This means a total of 72 APS schools, or more than 80%, either Beat the Odds or performed Within the Expected Range. This is how we compare to other metro-area school districts and the state:

Gwinnett County Public Schools	56%
Atlanta Public Schools	52%
State of Georgia	32%
Fulton County Schools	29%
Clayton County Public Schools	29%
DeKalb County Schools	25%
Cobb County School District	14%

Thoughts to consider: Our scores are doing well, but we must keep asking ourselves, if the calculations keep changing each year, how can we compare where we've been to where we are going? What progress are we making? To learn more about this topic, feel free to visit: gosa.georgia.gov/beating-odds-analysis. This information is from both Meria Carstarphen's email (12/7/18) and atlsuper.com/2018/12/07/46-aps-schools-beat-the-odds/

press conference on the southern tip of Manhattan, with the Statue of Liberty in the background.

American Airlines announced last month that in November they banned plastic straws and stirrers on their flights and will soon phase out single-use plastic in their lounges. The lounges won't serve drinks with straws, and plastic won't be used for flatware. Plastic water bottles will no longer be served, and reusable bags will be given to customers taking food to-go. Drink stirrers will be replaced by bamboo sticks. Cumulatively, the company says their changes will eliminate 71,000 pounds of plastic waste

annually.

Straws easily make their way to the ocean when washed down storm drains. And because of their size and plastic composition, plastic straws typically cannot be recycled. The danger of plastic straws may be among the more well-known threats to marine life. An agonizing video from 2015 of scientists spending nearly 10 minutes removing a plastic straw from a sea turtle's nostril had more than 24 million views on YouTube. Fish also eat the straws. That turtle has since become an unofficial mascot for the anti-plastics pollution movement.

Neighborhood Holiday Party

Continued from Page 1

always look forward to, Pen Sherwood's Thai soup. Please see the evidence of this yearly, fantastic neighborhood party on these two pages. Obviously, these parties take a lot of organizing behind the scenes. Thank you to all who helped pull it off—

including Kathie Ryan, Miriam Herbers, Joe Agee, and Pen and Andrew Sherwood. Anyone else, please forgive me not listing you by name, as we went to press before I heard from anyone—as with everything in our wonderful, volunteering, neighbor-

hood, it was a collaborative effort. Thank you to the Frazer Center for hosting us—at this party and our monthly meetings all year. Last but not least, thanks to Greg Hutchins, the owner of Candler Park Market, for the wine discount.



Councilwoman Natalyn Archibong with Neighborhood prez Joe Agee



Multi-instrumentalist Joe Reed, skillfully switching from uke to violin to guitar





Prez thanks all who helped and introduces Joe Reed



All pics pp. 6-7 by Beth Damon

Christmas Caroling at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

by Beth Damon

The men of Clifton sang to Lake Claire during their annual three special nights of Christmas Caroling. Several Lake Claire neighbors joined in the fun, and others of us enjoyed the singing as we walked home from the annual Lake Claire Xmas party on the Thursday night of the 3-day CSM event. CSM served refreshments, and the hot drinks and warm voices raised our spirits on the chilly evening when I walked by.

In the CSM guests' view, the best thing about being our neighbors in Lake Claire is to give back to the community. Throughout the year, when they are able, the men participate in activities in Lake Claire and in nearby Candler Park. Such activities enable the men to be part of the neighborhood, not just passing through it. The Christmas Caroling is a very special annual event, and it was once again such a nice feeling for



those of us who live on streets around CSM to hear their voices raised in song. If 2018 ended before you had a chance

to donate to our special neighbor CSM, consider a donation; see the article on Page 1, and go to www.cliftonsanctuary.com.

January into February in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

If you make one resolution this new year, determine that you will **not spray** (or have sprayed) your yard for mosquitoes. Think about this carefully. How many hours do you really spend outside on your property, anyway? Even those who exercise regularly outdoors by running, bicycling, and even walking a dog, spend very few minutes of it in their actual yards. Killing your own mosquitoes will not protect you on the road or in the woods.

I see some nice screened porches in our neighborhood. If you are a person who likes to sit outside, enjoy the sunshine, fresh air, birdsong, and smell of flowers, consider having your porch screened or an existing patio or deck covered with screening. And, if you are a gardener as I am and spend a good bit of time outdoors, carry a mosquito repellent and apply it when necessary. Yes, some mosquitoes in some places do carry disease. Protect yourself. But just as you would not inoculate your child with something that kills everything that moves in her body, including the good microbes in gut and on skin, so do not poison the "beneficial organisms essential to functional ecosystems" to

eliminate one species of insect.

Trucks roll through our neighborhood advertising that the only good bug is a dead bug, when the neonicotinoid pesticides they spray are more dangerous to us all the way up the food chain than any bug. Surely we know by now that we cannot believe advertisers and that our country has a poor record of putting people before profit. Why is it that Europe bans certain pesticides? Do we actually believe that their science is wrong and that we know better?

Has anyone else noticed the large drop of insects around us? Not just bees and butterflies, but every sort of beetle and bug has greatly declined in my garden, not to mention ants and worms. The December 2 issue of the *New York Times Magazine* contained an article by Brooke Jarvis titled "The Insect Apocalypse is Here."

If you don't have access to it, this link seems to have most of the story: www.half-earthproject.org/the-insect-apocalypse-is-here/. Thanks to the Aspergy record-keeping of ordinary people as well as scientists in

places like Denmark and Germany, we know that numbers of flying insects have declined by 75-80% in about a quarter of a century. It doesn't matter whether you like these insects or not. When we eliminate some of our environment, nature (or sometimes we) may

be able to apply a band-aid; however, more and more rapidly now, we are making changes that challenge the future of life on our (gulp, only) planet.

Think long and hard about this. Discuss with your friends and neighbors. Even a small, local change in our behaviors can help. Meanwhile (big breath) here in Lake Claire, days

are already getting longer, and it is time to plant the seeds of flowers and vegetables indoors that take 12 or so weeks to reach a size large enough to go into the ground. I have listed these before but am glad to answer questions in an email.

If you will be traveling this year, plan to visit an arboretum, a botanical garden devoted to trees, where you can see how those in full growth do best in various areas. Our state arboretum is Thompson Mills Forest, 330 acres in the northeast mountains near Braselton. Farther away, you may like to visit the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, Massachusetts, 281 acres designed almost 150 years ago with the help of Frederick Law Olmstead, the same man who designed the parks that run along Ponce de Leon Avenue. If you are on the west coast, the Arboretum on the UCA-Davis campus has been in existence for 80 years and has many educational programs.

Arboretums have also developed around cemeteries. Spring Grove, the second largest cemetery in the country, was developed in 1844 to

Cont. on p. 10

The pesticides for mosquitoes are more dangerous to us, all the way up the food chain, than are any bugs!



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Frazer Center Celebrates 70th

Continued from Page 3



Yvonne De Carlo (aka “Lily Munster”) was part of Frazer’s (then Cerebral Palsy Center’s) fundraising efforts in the 1950s

Frazer continues its commitment to fostering inclusive communities for all people and works toward the day when inclusion is the accepted norm in educational, vocational, residential, and social environments. To

celebrate its 70th anniversary, Frazer is unveiling a newly redesigned website (www.frazercenter.org) and giving a fresh take to the annual spring fundraising gala: *Gather in the Gardens*. Stay tuned for details.



1954: Ed Sullivan visited as part of a fundraising campaign—picture from Frazer Archives

Reminder: Holidays over/School is in session!
 Drive safely. Look out for your neighbors, especially the little ones coming to and from school.



Young Volunteer in Lake Claire

Continued from Page 1

itor@lakeclaire.org or distribution@lakeclaire.org.

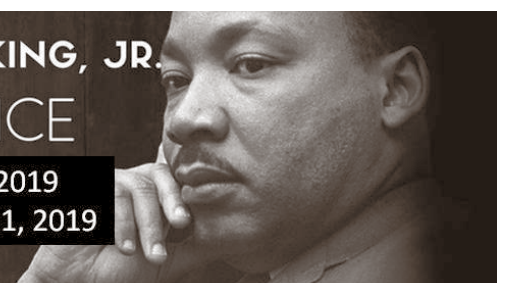
Have you noticed our occasional notes asking for more Clarion deliverers? The newest volunteer to answer one of these calls for help is Truman Orr, pictured here and on Page 1. Truman is in the first grade at Mary Lin, and he has taken over two routes (with parental supervision). Within the last few months, we've featured several other of our young volunteers, including Lilly and Sebastian Amato of Marlbrook (see October issue picturing Sebastian with best friend Jett Friedman of Delaware), and Nathaniel Wellen (then on Harold Avenue, featured in the August issue, though the Wellens have since moved to the West Coast). We have other young volunteers of varying ages, including high schoolers.

Our new volunteer, Truman, lives on Harold Avenue, and he likes reading, running, and basketball. We asked why he volunteered to deliver the Clarion, and he said, “I like running up all the driveways, and I like having a job.” Last month, his first one, his job involved delivering the Clarions the first week of December in the rain, including a lengthy McLendon route with long driveways, which he accomplished with his trusty sidekick, shown here, Kima dog.

We like having you on the Clarion volunteer staff, Truman; thanks for your commitment and hard work and putting the papers on the porches!
 ~Beth

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE

Dr. King’s Birthday: January 15, 2019
 Observed 3rd Monday: January 21, 2019



December into January in the Garden

Continued from Page 8

create a calm and consoling burial place outside Cincinnati, Ohio. Two years ago, I went looking for the grave of my third great uncle, Reverend John Winspeare McCarty of Ireland, who had died in Cincinnati in 1867 of T.B. at the age of 35, leaving behind his widow, a Polish-American singer named Louise Rosienkiewicz, and their two daughters. Although McCarty had graduated from Kenyon College's divinity school, served as a chaplain in the Union Army dur-

ing the Civil War, and been a popular rector at Christchurch Episcopal, there was apparently no money for a tombstone when he was buried in a plot owned by the church. However, gazing around at the vast panorama of trees and shrubs, I felt that my great uncle had achieved a better resting place than under the purest marble or the strongest granite.

Elizabeth Knowlton may be reached at knowltonew@earthlink.net. ~Beth



Thanks for Paying Your Neighborhood Dues!

Lake Claire suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household—but just like with Public Radio, any amount is much appreciated. Lake Claire Banners are \$45, but a package deal including dues and banner is only \$60! **Join these neighbors who have paid dues since the last issue:**

For 2018:

Melissa Aberle-Grasse, N.S. Nathaniel, Kelly Crutcher, Joe Agee, Kathy and William Watson, Harsha Tanguturi, Brian Sweney & M. Clifford, Douglas Marlatt, Julia Bourne, Elizabeth Brock, Cecily Stevens, Pen Sherwood, Judy Hammock, Katherine Gass, Dan & Linda Courture, Christine McKenna, Katie Cardwell, Katie Orr, Kim Bennett, John D'Agostino, Susan Beeching, Susan Amato, Juan Salafranca, Heather Friedman, and Sara Rethinger.

For 2019 (these proactive neighbors already paid this year's dues):

Eileen O'Neill, Pat Del Rey, Angela Rhoton, Carol Holliday, Robin Singer & Judy Berger, Tori Campbell, Anne Marie Reines, and Rachel Patzer.

Get **your** name in print! But more important than that, contribute to worthwhile and fun initiatives of our 'hood. Pay at lakeclaire.org (go to Membership and to the link using PayPal) or with the old-fashioned check in the mail, to LCN, Attn: Eileen O'Neill, Treasurer/VP Finance, PO Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107. Thank you to all who have paid dues and/or contributed your time to our great neighborhood, Lake Claire!



Hello – Safe Journey – Skiing in and around Lake Claire

January Birthdays:

- 3 – Leah Braun, Claire Drive, turns 13
- 3 – Lisa Morris, Sutherland Places
- 5 – Dave Kaiser, Hardendorf Avenue
- 12 – Tamar Williams, Harold Avenue
- 12 – Tiffany Mawhinney, Howard Circle
- 15 – Sophie Oren, Leonardo, turns four
- 16 – Theo Emanuel, Marlbrook, turns four
- 18 – Cynthia Baer, Gordon Avenue, thanks for your continuous support
- 19 – Genise Spenle, Arizona Avenue
- 27 – Alice Antia, Connecticut Avenue
- 28 – Tom McGill, Delaware—Happy birthday, my friend and next-door-neighbor

Send us stuff for February (editor@lakeclaire.org) by January 15.

Why Not Poison Rats

With colder weather setting in, we are faced with the dilemma of how to deal with (as Flora Fauna calls it) “the invading neighbor whose name starts with ‘R.’” There are good reasons not to use poison, and being humane to ‘them’ is not necessarily one of those. Poisoned rats can be eaten by owls, hawks, cats, dogs, and other animals that we don’t want to poison. I would be heartbroken if one of my cats came home with spasms and trembling due to neurological

damage from eating a poisoned rat. We would have to decide whether to watch our cat suffer until it died or take the horrifying act of putting it down.

Many folks discussing this on NextDoor reported having good results controlling rats and mice with peppermint oil. You need to get the concentrated oil from a health food store or online. Just saturate cotton balls with the oil and toss them around your crawl space or attic.

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to promote your business in the Lake Claire neighborhood and the LC/CP business district.

Go to our website for pricing, or contact Pat, our advertising coordinator at advertising@lakeclaire.org.

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Dance the Mid-Winter Blues Away!

by Dave Fasano

On **Saturday, February 9**, the Lake Claire Community Land Trust is sponsoring our usual

LAND TRUST BENEFIT



HAIR OF THE DOG

AND FRIENDS

February 9, 2019

Doors at 7:00, Music at 8:00, Dancing all night!

First Existentialist Congregation

470 Candler Park Drive NE, Atlanta 30307

\$10.00 Adults, Kids Free, No Coolers

mid-winter evening of musical entertainment at the First Existentialist Congregation, featuring the Radio Ramblers and Hair of the Dog. The Radio Ramblers are Michael Ellis and Alton Leonard. Mike was a long-time radio host on WRFG's "Good Morning Blues" program, and Alton has performed around Atlanta in a variety of musical ensembles. Together they create an eclectic mix of musical styles and performance. Hair of the Dog is an Atlanta institution in the Cajun and Zydeco communities. Husband and wife Johnny and Audrey Ferguson are the mainstays in a group that also includes Johnny's mother, Barbara Panter, on fiddle. The evening will give us an opportunity to get rid of the winter blues and dance the night away.

Suggested donation is \$10 for adults, and children are admitted free. Beverages will be for sale at reasonable prices. All proceeds benefit the Land Trust. Please mark your calendars now to join us in case the February Clarion comes later than this—let's celebrate at First E, 470 Candler Park Drive, Atlanta. Doors open at 7:00, music starts at 7:30.

See Land Trust events in the calendar, p. 2



What Is a "Neighborhood"?

by Stephen Wing

Once upon a time there was a neighborhood. It was a neighborhood where neighbors knew each other—not just by sight or even by name, but as friends who gathered regularly with their families for neighborhood events, winter, spring, summer and fall. There was an Easter egg hunt every spring, a Fourth of July "cook-off" every summer, a Halloween pumpkin carving every fall, and a potluck supper once a month, year-round. Parents shared the responsibility for these neighborhood gatherings and their kids grew up playing together.

For a while, there was even a New Year's Eve party every winter that unfolded in stages at three different houses—one for supper with all the kids, one for party games as the clock ticked toward midnight, and finally one with adult beverages to celebrate as the New Year arrived. Afterward, everyone could walk home safely no matter how many beverages they'd enjoyed. For years there was a huge neighborhood street sale every Memorial Day weekend, combined with a street dance. All the neighbors donated their cast-off items and came out to dance to raise money for a pet neighborhood project. This pet project—a tract of community-owned land where kids could play and gardeners could garden—was a central focus for many of the neighbors. For others it was just a green, pleasant space to get together with their neighbors.

The children of the neighborhood were too young to know that all of this made their neighborhood special. But they never forgot their childhood friends from the old neighborhood. Their parents had lived in other places and knew that all neighborhoods were special, in different ways, because the people who lived there were all unique. But not every neighborhood had a place for neighbors to gather and get to know each other, so not everyone

knew how special their neighborhood was.

Some families moved away; others stayed in the neighborhood as their kids grew up and left home. The neighbors grew old together, still gathering occasionally for meals and parties and meetings and work days to maintain the community-owned greenspace. But after many years they needed help caring for the land, and their pet project was taken up by younger folks, not all of whom lived in the neighborhood. And the annual traditions of the neighborhood began to disappear. The New Year's Eve party went first, because it took a lot of coordination to get three different hosts to volunteer, and a lot of work to prepare three different houses for company. But everyone remembered how special it was to celebrate the turning of the year with neighbors who were also friends, and friends who happened to be neighbors, with all the kids included. The street sale disappeared next, because the mortgage on the community-owned land was paid off, and it took a lot of hard work to gather all the cast-off items, set up the tables, and give away the leftovers afterward. The neighborhood parents grew too old for all that work, and the children were growing up and getting involved in other things. But they all remembered how much fun it was to work together—and dance together—for something they all loved.

The monthly potluck took no coordination at all. Everyone knew it was on the 13th of each month, and if they fixed a dish and showed up at the community-owned greenspace, others would be there with food to share. But the neighbors who showed up grew fewer and fewer, until the last few who kept coming decided to call it off. They still enjoyed the closeness that grew from getting together to relax and eat and talk every month for so many years, but the newer neighbors didn't realize what they had missed.

The next neighborhood tradition to disappear was the Fourth of July cook-off. This was a competition for the tastiest dish using one common ingredient, such as blueberries or walnuts. The judging took place after a potluck meal, and the winning recipes were published in the neighborhood newspaper. The day traditionally ended with a watermelon seed spitting contest. But when the person who had been coordinating it announced she was ready to pass it on, no one responded, and it became another memory.

That left only the Easter egg hunt and the Halloween pumpkin carving. These gatherings were always coordinated by parents of little kids for all the kids of the neighborhood. Friends who grow up hunting colored eggs and carving pumpkins together will remain friends, but they get older and move on to other kinds of fun. And then it's the younger parents' turn. There will always be new crop of little kids growing up in the neighborhood.

But the city is full of activities for little kids. Why should families choose an activity they can walk to when it's so easy to jump in the car? Why celebrate Easter and the Fourth of July and Halloween and New Year's with neighbors when there are so many unique, friendly people everywhere? Why should kids be friends just because they live in the same neighborhood? What is the value of a neighborhood beyond the re-sale value of houses and property? What *is* a neighborhood, anyway?

This neighborhood still has a community-owned greenspace. The mortgage is paid off, and the land has become a refuge for people from all over the city. It sits there, winter, spring, summer, and fall, quietly waiting, ready once more to become a gathering place for neighbors new and old, whenever someone decides to revive the old neighborhood traditions. Or start new ones.

What *is* a neighborhood, anyway?



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER

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

This month Sawyer and Layla Klehr (ages 5 and 9) of Hardendorf are the fea-

ured children. They wrote about an exciting piece of news that happened in Lake Claire—interesting and even fortuitous for some (in particular, the kitty cat in question).

Hey there, Lake Claire kids of all ages: we want to see your creativity. Write about anything that grabs you! Submit your work to editor@lakeclaire.org. We hope this is a good start for future writing careers.

Contest Winners

This month we declare a 4-person tie, as the winning entries poured in within a few minutes of each other. We heard first from Synnove and Seija Olson on Leonardo, and barely less than a minute later, Georgette Paige Rogovin on Hardendorf and Darcy Troxell-Cappello on Almeta. Seija, Synnove, Georgette, and Darcy, you won the contest over the vast numbers of Lake Claire children who participate every month in the Clarion Kids' Page. Congrats, all of you! As Peter Olson (dad of Synnove and Seija) said to Beth (the inventor of the contest), there are LOTS of great sleuths in our neighborhood these days! Many more sent in entries—to all of those who didn't win, please do keep playing. See new contest below.



Darcy

The Rescue

by Sawyer and Layla Klehr (with a little help from Mommy)

We were eating dinner in our house on Hardendorf Avenue, and then we heard sirens. We went to look out the window and saw not one, but two Fire Station No. 12 fire trucks pass by. Of course we were so curious, that we went outside and saw our neighbor's cat stuck high up a huge, old oak tree. By the time we got there, the fireman was way up his ladder, trying to get the cat down. We wondered why there were two fire trucks, and it turned out that the first fire truck didn't have a ladder long enough. As it turned out, the second ladder wasn't tall enough either!

The fireman yelled and tried waving at the cat. Apparently, the cat didn't like that, so he started jumping down to a lower branch before falling to the ground, unharmed. Everyone cheered. Who knew that the firemen really rescue cats? We thought it was only in books! The best part of the story is that the cat's name is Trouble!!



Fire Station no. 12 fire fighters and (from left) Alexander Silvas, Miller Wood, Layla Klehr, Sawyer Klehr



Georgette



Seija & Synnove

NEW CONTEST!

January! It is the beginning of a new year! And a new year can be very meaningful. You may know that Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday was January 15, 1929. Reverend King was a Baptist minister and social activist, who led the Civil Rights Movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968. We observe his birthday on the 3rd Monday of January every year. In honor of his birthday, take a moment to find a picture about this to become the next Clarion prizewinner. The winner will have his or her photo in the February issue of the newspaper. To win, send an e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org identifying the page number, with your age, school, street, and grade. For extra credit, tell us what you do to "give back" or help others on MLK, Jr. Day or why a new year is meaningful to you. The extra-credit prize is that you'll be featured in the Clarion with your writing or art. 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.