



Thanksgiving Volunteer Opportunities

U.S. Census figures show a drop in Georgia's poverty rate, but several charity leaders say they see just as much need, if not more—especially during the holiday season, which includes Thanksgiving as well as Christmas. On Thanksgiving, we can pass along more than treasured family recipes—a tradition of volunteerism. Lake Claire kids already frequently demonstrate their spirit of volunteerism—at neighborhood events and with their help on the Clarion.

The Atlanta Community Food Bank has several opportunities available through its partner agencies to provide Thanksgiving baskets, serve food, and offer basic needs for families. See acfb.org, email help@acfb.org, or phone 404.892.FEED (3333) x2004.

Hosea Feed the Hungry always needs volunteers: See 4hosea.org/programs/holiday-dinner-events/, phone 404-755-3353, or email contact@hoseafeedthehungry.com.

Another opportunity is with **Lift Up Atlanta**. www.liftupatlanta.org/

Neighborhood Theatre:

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time

by Beth Damon

Last month "our" own Horizon Theatre in Little Five collaborated with the Aurora Theatre in Lawrenceville to present *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. The run ended at Horizon on October 27, BUT it will re-open at the Aurora Theatre in January.

It is a dramatic play about a 15-year-old boy on the autism spectrum. It begins quite abruptly with

the death of a neighbor's dog, spirals into a mystery to be solved, and then it becomes much more convoluted with many of life's challenges. I found the play quite simply captivating.

The boy, Christopher, is portrayed by Brandon Michael Mayes, a recent graduate of Brenau University and the Gainesville Theatre Alliance. He does an outstanding job in the role, **Cont. on p. 2**

Important Neighborhood Meeting this Month

The annual Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN) Executive Committee elections are at our November meeting, the third Thursday of the month. According to our bylaws, all nominations must be made at the regular yearly LCN meeting in October. The basic requirement for nomination, either self-nomination or if nominated by another, is attendance at a minimum of four regular meetings since last November. At October's meeting attendees had an opportunity for nominations, and a slate was presented, as follows, the starred names re-upping from this year: Miriam Herbers for Safety VP;

Beth Grashof for Zoning VP; *Melissa Pressman for Environment VP; *Nancy Dorsner for Communications VP; *Eileen O'Neil for Finance VP; *Pen Sherwood for Fundraising VP; *Carol Holiday for Planning VP and NPU Rep.; *Joe Agee, President. We hope you are able to come and cast your vote in support of your neighbors who willingly volunteer their time for the neighborhood. And thank you to everyone who volunteers time to make our neighborhood great, whether elected or not, including those who deliver the Clarion every month to 1500+ porches, those who advertise in the Clarion (which

allows us to cover our own printing costs and often have a surplus to give the neighborhood), and to everyone who helps the neighborhood financially with your dues and purchases of Lake Claire items at lakeclaire.org/shop-support. You all contribute to allowing our neighborhood to contribute to so many worthwhile neighborhood initiatives).

We hope to see you at the November meeting, **Thursday, November 14**, at 7 p.m., in the Rose Room at The Frazer Center, for free pizza from Savage, with the meeting beginning at 7:15 p.m.

Calling Artists and Crafters!

by Julie Roseman

Kids and Parents, alike, there is still time to get crafty for our Lake Claire Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair. Do you make jewelry? Or maybe you know how to knit scarves? How about key chains, ornaments, or candles? We want you to have a chance to sell your work!

On **Saturday, December 14**, Lake Claire Neighbors and Mary Lin Elementary are hosting the 2019 Lake Claire Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair. A share of the proceeds will help both organizations support local charities and community work. Mark your calendars: Saturday, December 14, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Atrium in the Frazier Center, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30307. FREE admission.

We are looking for local artisans, crafters, photographers, painters, potters, jewelers, and more, to sell their original artwork. All items must be handmade—no mass-produced, store-bought, resale, or imported items.

Details: Artists keep 80% of their sales; Payment by check, cash, or credit card accepted. Only handmade items accepted. **Children artists are welcome and encouraged.**

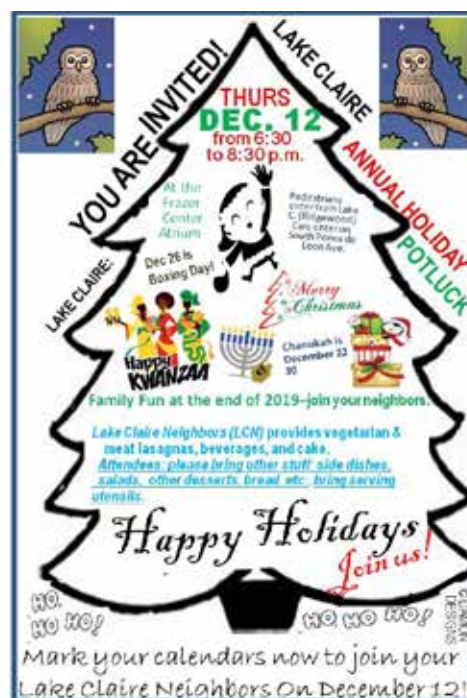
Cont. on p. 7.

December Annual End-of-Year Neighborhood Potluck

Only a few weeks left of 2019!... How did that happen? December is around the corner, and, December is "National 'Hi, Neighbor' Month." (*I'm not kidding.*) So come to say hi to your neighbors at two annual Lake Claire events, the Arts and Crafts Fair on Saturday, December 14, and the annual December Xmas potluck. Come for the 4 Cs—conviviality, good chow, good cheer, and catch-up with folks you haven't seen in a while—or relax with those with whom you've been working and playing throughout the year. Our December tradition is to have this pot-luck gathering the 2nd Thursday of the month and **no neighborhood meeting**. Vegetarian and meat lasagnas, cake, and beverages are provided, and we ask neighbors to bring sides, salads, bread, desserts,

etc. As always, the party will be in the Atrium at the Frazer Center, who has graciously hosted our monthly meetings and get-togethers again all year. In addition to neighbors' contributions and lasagnas, beverages will include both wine and non-alcoholic selections. As of Clarion press-time, we don't know if we'll have an entertainer playing Xmas songs, so please check the website closer to the date.

Please remember that the Ridge-wood gate to the Frazer Center will probably be closed to vehicles (open to pedestrians), so if you drive in from Lake Claire, you'll enter/exit on Ponce de Leon. Finally, to repeat, **the party is the second Thursday, not the customary third Thursday of the month.** We hope to see you there, **6:30-8:30 p.m.**



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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.

November Calendar

1-3 ABCs of Organic Gardening with Jairo Restrepo of La Mierda de Vaca. Over the 3-day workshop, Friday-Sunday, participants will engage in dynamic lectures and hands-on demonstrations to learn to how make organic fermented, bokashi type fertilizers; liquid biofertilizers made with cow manure; native microbe brews; and mineral brews for nutritional deficiencies and crop pests and diseases. More details in last month's Clarion. In case you get this in time, registration: sites.google.com/view/abcatlanta/home.

1-10 Theatrical Outfit presents *Safety Net*, about the first female fire captain in an Alabama town at war with opioids, facing it head-on, heart-out, and under scrutiny. Meanwhile, her spitfire-of-a-mother, Xenia, tries to conjure stability with bundt cake and Bible verses. When Chris' mysterious childhood friend drifts into their lives, daughter and mother find themselves at a tipping point between what's safe and what saves. Tix/info: www.theatricaloutfit.org/shows/safety-net/

1-January 2020 Volcanoes 3D is ready to erupt at Fernbank's Giant Screen Theatre. Experience the story of volcanoes stretching from Earth's beginnings to modern day "Amazing footage showing the constructive and destructive forces. FernbankMuseum.org or call 404.929.6400 for more information.

2 & 16 Drum Circle at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust, 8-11 p.m. Walk/bike/carpool to the Arizona dead-end. And see info every month on the Land Trust on the Clarion's penultimate page.

5 Dekalb History Center Lunch and Learn: Mera Cardenas and Sarah Lisle from the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Alliance will be talking about the exciting restoration of the Lyon Farmhouse. selem@dekalbhistory.org; www.dekalbhistory.org/.

6-Dec. 1 Actor's Express Theatre Company presents *Downstairs*. Irene is content, slow to anger and quick to forgive—that is, until her brother Teddy comes to live in her basement, and she must split her loyalty between her controlling, volatile husband and the unstable kid brother who needs her. Demons from the past emerge to peel back layers of dark family secrets long buried, pushing this uneasy family to the brink. A Hitchcockian thriller about casting out your demons and mending the past. Info/tix: www.actors-express.com/plays/downstairs.

9 9 a.m. until noon. Freedom Park Bird/Butterfly Garden Exciting Work Day. Corner of Candler Park Drive and North Avenue. Working with Cub Scout Troup 568 to plant new native plants. Educational talk before planting begins. Join us!

14 Lake Claire Neighbors monthly meeting—3rd Thursdays, Rose Room in The Frazer Center, 7 p.m. socialize, 7:15 meeting. At this meeting: nominations for LCN Officers (always in October; election at the November meeting; see Page 1 article). Free Pizza (THANKS, SAVAGE).

16 Lake Claire Land Trust Community Work Day, 3 to 6 p.m. Pizza and drum circle follow. The Work Day is followed by the Drum Circle, which begins at 8 p.m. (see November 2, above.) The Land Trust is a valuable resource in the Lake Claire community, and your donations (both "sweat equity" and \$\$), help keep it going.

22-January 2020 *Waffle Palace Christmas* at the Horizon Theatre. Heartfelt southern humor scattered, smothered and covered in a spicy holiday sauce. The charming characters from our sell-out *Waffle Palace* are back in this long-awaited sequel; full of fun, laughter and Christmas cheer. Horizon's exciting new Holiday tradition! www.horizontheatre.com/plays/waffle-palace-christmas/

28 Gobble gobble, see volunteer opportunities on Page 1. Also 1/2-day marathon and other events: www.atlanta.net/events/seasonal/thanksgiving/

Early December:

5-24 Alliance Theatre, Hertz Stage—*Courtenay's Cabaret: Home for the Holidays*, see alliancetheatre.org/production/2019-20/courtenays-cabaret-home-the-holidays.

7-13 Horizon Theatre's production of *Madeline's Christmas*, see www.horizontheatre.com/.

12 Annual Xmas Potluck, see page 1 for details.

14 Lake Claire Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale, see Page 1.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time

Continued from Page 1

making us feel a range of emotions for his character. He is on stage for the entire 2½-hour performance, and he completely and convincingly throws himself into the part. The father (played by Christopher Hampton) gives a nuanced performance of someone coping with his special needs child, complicated by things I can't mention without giving plot surprises away. All of the 8 actors except for Christopher play a variety of roles, from the trusted people in his life to strangers that he encounters, and all performances were exceptional.

The play is visually stunning, with a unique set of very little props, using lights and grids to portray several different environments on the same set that never changes. The AJC reviewer called it "a marvel of technique."

Tenacious and intelligent, Christopher is better at solving equations than navigating a world that is stubbornly out of sync with how his mind works. After being wrongly accused of murdering the dog, he resolves

to find the real culprit. But, when his investigation uncovers painful truths about his family, he embarks on a thrilling adventure that upturns his world. I can't say more without revealing too much, but I will say emphatically that if you missed it in the neighborhood, it is worth the drive from Lake Claire to the Aurora Theatre in Lawrenceville.

The play is co-directed by Horizon's artistic director Lisa Adler and Aurora's associate artistic director Justin Anderson. Theatregoers familiar with Adler's and Anderson's previously established expertise in directing character studies (her *Time Stands Still*, for example, his *Singles in Agriculture*, for another) might be surprised by the pronounced knack for in-your-face wizardry they demonstrate here. The show will reopen on January 9 and play through February 9 at Anderson's Lawrenceville venue, 128 East Pike Street (tix: boxoffice@auroratheatre.com; see: www.auroratheatre.com/productions-and-programs/current-season/).

Wild in Lake Claire: Happenings in the 'hood

by Flora Fauna (*aka* Carol Vanderschaaf)

First, let's look at happenings in the 'hood or with 'hoodites.

Ilene S. says "Hi, I've seen a few monarchs fluttering around. And this morning at 5 a.m., I was woken up by a Barred Owl conversation outside my window. They also woke up one of my dogs who barked at them."

Bernard S., one of our wandering correspondents, reports that "We went for about a week to Sapelo Island and were welcomed on the campground by lots of little black crabs. Old timers said that they had seen them on the beach but not on the campground in the previous years. (Maybe the beach is becoming too toasty for them...)" He continues, "I also saw a "skink" blue tail lizard there. It was the biggest one that I have ever seen at about a foot long. It had two very pretty straight pale lines on his back. I'm sorry that I did not have my camera or phone to take a picture. (*FF is, too.*)....The various storms have reconfigured the island. Some parts have disappeared while others are now where there was only water before. That's it for now. Hopefully, the colder weather will bring creatures out. (I did notice a lot of cut branches on the ground from our poplar tree. Squirrels must be busy building their winter lodging.)"

Miriam H. reports, "I have enjoyed a large and beautiful Barred Owl lately. Usually smaller birds alert me. That's all for me."

Reported on NextDoor: "On Sunday night/Monday morning of this past week, at about 4 a.m., my dogs went nuts over a pack of three coyotes coming down Howard Circle, northeast from Palifox, past the stop sign at DeKalb Place, and on toward the traffic circle at McLendon. If my dogs' barking woke anyone, my apologies, but I intentionally let them bark for a few minutes to scare the pack on their merry way, as there are lots of outdoor cats on our street. A later comment was posted stating that coyotes also run on Connecticut Ave. during the night. (*FF urges you as well to keep your cats indoors.*)"

Meredith W., our-out-of-the-hood reporter, saw many things out of the 'hood. "The biggest animals I've seen recently were a couple of owls and young, male deer, but they were in Emory's Lullwater Park (deer), Morningside Nature Preserve (owl), Ira B Melton Park (owl), and by the South Peachtree Creek Trail (deer). We did see a couple of wood ducks on South Peachtree Creek, which was exciting. And we're currently trying to solve a mystery about our new house: we found some scat that was either coyote or raccoon, have heard something

large moving around at night, and recently woke up to sounds in the night that (at least, in my sleeping stupor) sounded like coyote howls. We've yet to see anything, though. Maybe it's time to get a night camera."

Andrew F. reports, "While not novel, a baby squirrel fell from a tree yesterday in front of our house. The little fella was definitely hurt in the fall, so a wildlife rehab (*Aware*) picked him or her up for mending." He continues, "Have continued to see bats flying around our parking lot in the dusk hours. **And also more passion butterfly caterpillars than I've seen in prior years; there are a lot this year! Possibly connected to our going a year without spraying for mosquitoes (we did the "pollinator-safe" service but stopped when we realized that was inaccurate marketing). Has also correlated with seeing more spiders, and honestly the amount of mosquitoes is the same as years prior; not any worse.**" This is a belated report. It was supposed to appear in our September column.



Passion Vine Butterfly, aka Gulf Fritillary. Top: caterpillar; bottom: adult.

Another report from Sapelo: Dorothy D. saw alligator tracks on the beach there. Scary. Apparently, they are going from the marsh to the ocean to find food. I remember reading a book on Australia which talked about ocean-going crocodiles, great big ones where we were included in their diet.

I, Flora Fauna, continue to have hordes (well, more than usual) of Gulf Fritillary Butterflies around my back yard. I had at least two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds coming to my feeders until the day I didn't have a chance to refill those feeders. Those fickle little birds didn't hang around. I haven't seen them since. They're not supposed to leave Georgia until November 13, so I did expect them to stay

around until then even if they had to miss one dinner! I, Flora Fauna, must brag about some bright yellow flora in my front yard. Small though my yard is. It is awash and abloom in bright yellow swamp sunflowers. They are so dependable and easily cared for. They just seem to be more abundant and taller each year.

Well, let's slip out of our cozy and safe (for now) little 'hood and see what's happening the world around. Halloween is over, so I guess there is nothing scary out there and, with Thanksgiving on the way, there may be lots to be thankful for. Well, you decide. Like Sgt. Joe Friday, I'll just give you a few facts.

Can our state bird, the Brown Thrasher, be our canary in the coal mine? A recent Audubon report suggests it is one of the most threatened bird species. As its habitat and food sources disappear, it will decline and perhaps become extinct along with other threatened species such as the Red-headed Woodpecker, Fish Crow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Eastern Towhee, and Eastern Whip-Poor-Will. There are five climate related threats in Georgia: sea level rises, urbanization, extreme spring heat, heavy rain, and false spring. Well. I guess we've seen them all.

So maybe we need to think about our personal climate change plans. No one else can do that for you! But first look around us at the fires in California, the tsunami that just hit Japan, the hotter days, etc. Maybe you still don't believe the climate is changing but make your list just for fun.

I, Flora Fauna, would love to hear your ideas. In the meantime, enjoy the Brown Thrashers while you can. Take in all the beauties of our world while they are here. Keep cleaning your recyclables and putting them in the big blue Recycle can. And if you're thinking of using pesticides on your yard, please read Andrew F's comments in Paragraph Four above.

I would also appreciate any information about local flora or fauna you might send to my assistant, *cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net*. (She is a very nice person, not as cranky as I am.)

Thank you for all, having the chutzpah to read this!

~ Flora Fauna

I, your illustrious editor, second Flora Fauna on two things. (1) Don't be fooled into thinking there are pollinator-safe mosquito services. If they supposedly have organic oils in them, just use organic oils. (2) Flora Fauna's assistant is a very nice person! ~ Beth D.

Lake Claire Crime Report (September 1 - October 10, 2019)

by Cecily Stevens, Lake Claire's VP Safety

Clifton Rd. 9/9/10 Larceny from Vehicle; Matthews Ave. 9/11/19 Larceny from Vehicle; Arizona Ave. 9/20/19 Auto Theft; Connecticut Ave. 9/20/19 Burglary (Non Residential); Palifox Dr. 9/24/19 Larceny from Vehicle; Arizona Ave. 10/1/19 Larceny from Vehicle; Claire Dr. 19/5/19 Larceny from Vehicle; Hampton Terr. 10/7/19 Auto Theft; Harold Ave. 10/10/19 Larceny from Vehicle.

On October 3, APD arrested Quinlan Pinkins, 19, in relation to two armed robberies of pedestrians in Candler Park on September 26 (1400 block of McLendon Ave. & on Clifton Rd.). Pinkins has been charged with armed robbery, aggravated assault, and possession of a knife during the commission of a felony.

As of October 14, APD had made one arrest (and still has one outstanding arrest) in the two August armed robberies at Fellini's.

The Candler Park Lake Claire Patrol is staffed by off-duty APD officers. CPLC Patrol officers are aware

of the recent uptick in vehicle larcenies and other crimes. More CPLC Patrol members means more patrol hours. Please support a safer neighborhood by joining the CPLC Patrol and recruiting your neighbors. Visit *cplcpatrol.com* for details. If you have any questions, email *cplcpatrol@gmail.com*.

Reporting crimes helps pinpoint crime patterns in the neighborhood and can help with other investigations, plus APD can redirect patrols to help counteract these issues. If you are hesitant to call 911 (you shouldn't be), then you can call Zone 6: 404-546-5700. If you do call 911, state that it's a non-emergency and that you are in City of Atlanta Zone 6, Beat 608. You will be transferred to Atlanta 911.

Finally, remember to clean out your car. By simply removing all viewable items (regardless of value) from your vehicle, you will greatly reduce the odds of your vehicle being entered illegally.



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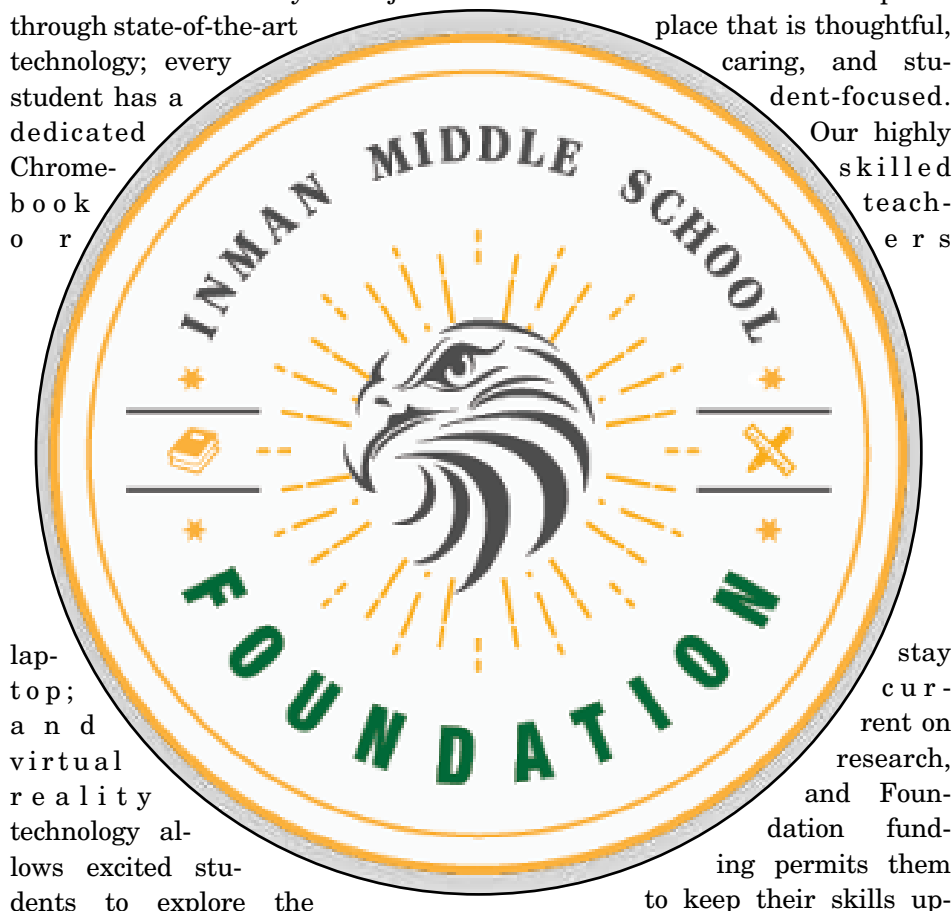


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Inman Middle School “Eagles” Soar with Support of Foundation

by Melanie Bliss, Inman Foundation Board Member and Parent

When some of us imagine middle school, we picture dark years wedged between bright fun of elementary school and experiential learning of high school. However, a walk through Inman Middle is illuminating and surprising – there is brightness, fun, projects, and experiences. Energized students learn an array of subjects through state-of-the-art technology; every student has a dedicated Chrome-book or



laptop; and virtual reality technology allows excited students to explore the world. Moreover, teachers have additional certifications and training, enabling them to provide creative, cutting edge teaching strategies. A key partner in providing these tools and training has been the Inman Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that supports two key pillars of Inman's strategic plan: technology and development.

The Foundation's mission is to provide a stable, long-term funding source for the people, programs, and technology that offer an exceptional learning environment. The Foundation builds infrastructure capacity to address physical and innovation needs of learning, largely through technology. Secondly, the Foundation funds teacher training, such as gifted certification and Google certification. The Foundation supports the Educational Advisory Foundation (EAF), which provides experienced tutors for in-school intensive instruction to students needing additional support. The EAF is a win-win for everyone, as it assists teachers with staying on

pace, lowers the student-teacher ratio, and participating students saw gains last year of 79% and 35% in their STAR reading and STAR math scores, respectively.

Inman Principal Dr. Kevin Maxwell and his staff consider themselves fortunate. Dr. Maxwell stated, “Inman Middle School is a special place that is thoughtful, caring, and student-focused. Our highly skilled teachers

stay current on research, and Foundation funding permits them to keep their skills up-to-date and to acquire the latest in instructional quality, which is often not covered by APS.” Dr. Sparrow, a seventh grade life science teacher, stated that she is “truly thankful for everything the foundation has done,” because when she started at Inman she needed classroom supplies and resources that were unavailable. She is also grateful for training she received at Georgia Tech that was made possible to her from a Foundation grant. Many teachers describe the confidence and excitement students feel when they meet with EAF tutors. “My kids absolutely love it,” said sixth grade teacher Ms. Lonza. The Foundation truly helps all students, regardless of age, grade, and ability.

The 2018-2019 school year was a record year, as the Foundation raised over \$125,000. Our goal for 2019-2020 is \$150,000. We hope all parents will consider a generous donation, but take note—**donations do not just come from Inman families!** If you are a community resident or business owner, please consider making a

Grady Renovations Update

by Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Neighbors Education Chair and Mary Lin Representative to the Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools (CINS)

On Wednesday, August 21, Grady High School held an informational meeting to go over what the future of Grady will look like. The meeting began with Alva Hardy, APS Facilities, and Betsy Bockman, Grady Principal, presented the exterior design, spending most of their presentation on the parking at the front and the newly created secure front entrance. They briefly touched on the interior/space plans. The remainder of the meeting was comprised of community questions and feedback.

The new addition will be three stories high and include a STEM lab, new media center, counseling suite, and lab classrooms. The space between the new addition and the original building will become a secured entrance—much like newer schools have with the double-entry doors. The old entrance/lobby will be reworked for the new entrance. The current media center will be incorporated into the cafeteria to serve more students. The current classrooms housing engineering, labs, etc., will be regular classrooms. There will be other HVAC and renovations worked on, but this was not fleshed out at the meeting.

The new building will go somewhat where the trailers currently sit, with some orientation changes. The gravel lot will be paved to be an actual parking lot. A new visitor parking lot with ADA spaces will go in front of the old building with curb cuts in the sidewalk on Charles Allen. Some trees will be removed but will have to be replaced (inch for inch). The large trees closest to the sidewalk will remain.

There was almost no time spent on the plan for operations leading up to and during the actual build and renovation. The new portables will be installed on the front lawn near Eighth Street with a fence for security; installation will begin at the end of September. Construction will begin in January. There was no time allotted for logistics about this, timing of interior renovations, or parking dur-

ing construction. Overall, the neighbors appeared disgruntled about the parking in front of the school. They don't want the extra car movements and trash collection, potential issues with parking during events, and loss of green space. The parents generally were supportive of a safer and more easily accessible entrance and the other changes.

Questions to ask and to think about:

- What will be the impact to the current student population be during construction?
- The addition is thoughtful and includes spaces that the school desperately needs for both the STEM and science labs, and solves the very real problem of a safe/secure entrance. It does not address the overall current space issues. The design is built for 1500 students and we already are at 1455. If Grady cannot accommodate our children, what will?
- The front parking lot solves accessibility issues, but wondering if there are more creative solutions out there? It is common to find parking in the front of the buildings in suburbia, but we are renovating an in town building in an area with loads of traffic.
- Current problems with Grady appeared to be addressed, but might there have been a more holistic approach to the campus, which might solve multiple problems at one time?
- Have all the areas of accessibility and safety issues around the school been addressed?
- The planning committee behind the Grady renovations seems strong, but why did they not hold a public input meeting along the way? The issue with all the renderings just being shared means that it is now too late to have community input and be able to change the drawings. How do we know something has not been overlooked?

A special thanks to Janet Kinard, President of CINS, for helping with this article.

tax-deductible donation, and check to see if your business will match it. Be assured your donation directly impacts the academic success of young students at our neighborhood school, setting them up for future success. Furthermore, your donation fortifies Inman Middle as an exemplary institution where students desire to

attend and highly qualified teachers aspire to work, upholding Inman's solid reputation locally and statewide. You can learn more at www.inmanfoundation.org, where you can easily make your donation. For those of you who have already donated, thank you!



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Harvard Recognizes Frazer Center

by Dina Shadwell

Frazer Center was chosen as a finalist in the Zaentz Early Education Innovation Challenge at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The challenge “aims to seed the field of early education with new ideas, fresh thinking, and strategic approaches that have the potential for widespread and sustainable impact for children.” The Frazer team submitted a proposal for the creation of a forest-based curriculum that would not only be adapted to include children with disabilities but would serve children from low-income families throughout the metro Atlanta area. Frazer was one of five finalists selected out of almost 200 entries.

Reminiscent of the show *Shark Tank*, the challenge gives each team three minutes to pitch their ideas in front of an audience and a panel of judges followed by three minutes of Q&A. The judges and audience vote on first, second, and third place winners in three different categories of competition. Winners receive funding toward their projects. Participating in Frazer’s pitch were Susie Riddick, Child Development Program Director, and Tonja Holder, Development

Director, with support from CEO Paige McKay Kubik. The team had two weeks to become presentation-ready before a whirlwind trip to Boston. In front of a packed house of early education professionals, the Frazer team was awarded a third-place finish including \$2500 to help fund the proposal.

More and more research is confirming that exposure to green space creates positive structural changes in a child’s developing brain. Frazer is excited to begin creating this forest-based curriculum, which will fit seamlessly with the Creative Curriculum already in use in Frazer’s classrooms. Teachers will be part of the creation process and receive professional training in the latest practices of forest-based learning. Once the program has been piloted, Frazer looks forward to sharing access to Frazer Forest as well as the forest curriculum, at no cost, to metro Atlanta early education centers serving primarily low-income families.

If you would like to participate in Frazer’s mission of fostering inclusive communities, visit www.frazer-center.org/give.

Hello – Safe Journey: Skiing in and around Lake Claire

November Birthdays:

Nov. 1	Jane Merkle (Connecticut)
Nov. 2	Woody Spivey (Harold) turns 11
Nov. 3	Seija Olson—(Leonardo) turning 7
Nov. 6	Cora Elisabeth Weeks (Leonardo) turns 4
Nov. 7	Sue McAvoy (Leonardo) xoxo
Nov. 10	Avery James Cooper—6 years old (Leonardo)
Nov. 11	Susan Ledbetter (McLendon), Elizabeth Knowlton (Arizona)
Nov. 14	Marilyn Schertz (Arizona)
Nov. 15	Aileen Mary Styczynski—6 years old (Harold)
Nov. 18	Debbie Livingston (Connecticut)
Nov. 19	Sarah Shalf (Good luck, Sarah, on your move to Virginia! We miss you, already.)
Nov. 24	Anne d'Agostino (Connecticut)
Nov. 28	Gobble, gobble

Life-cycle events to editor@lakeclaire.org by NOV 15 for December issue. Please help us make this feature inclusive of our LC 'hood.

Calling Artists and Crafters

Continued from Page 1

Exhibits must be supervised by a parent at all times. Artists are asked to stay with their art exhibit during the entire sale period. Artists are asked to contribute a baked good or other finger food.

Volunteers are needed for set up, break down, and cashier positions (a sign-up genius will be posted in No-

vember). Please fill out this online application form to become a vendor: form.jotform.com/82388603894167. For more information, please contact Julie Roseman (julieroseman@yahoo.com) or Annsley Klehr (anzoid@yahoo.com), Holiday Sales Coordinators, for more details.



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Common Solar Myths

by Kaveh Kamooneh, CEO of Better Tomorrow Solar

Most people recognize the environmental value of converting free, plentiful sunshine into clean, carbon free electricity. Yet relatively few have solar panels on their roofs. This is especially puzzling since many people regularly give up significant personal conveniences for environmental benefits instead of installing solar which offers significantly more benefits with very little sacrifice. Why is that? Why do so many inconvenience themselves to get just a little of what they value when they can get more of that same thing with little inconvenience?

Here are some of the more common reasons people cite for not going solar.

1. Solar power is too expensive. Clean solar power is considerably cheaper than the dirtier alternatives such as coal, natural gas, and all other fossil fuels for which consumers pay hundreds of dollars every month. That is true even if we do not include the considerable clean-up costs of the dirty fuels. Solar is currently cheaper, even if we don't calculate the monetary cost of such things as coal ash clean-up, radioactive waste storage, or carbon mitigation. Let's not even get into monetizing the en-

vironmental costs of dirty fuels. How much does cancer cost?

Solar power is thought to be more expensive because all the costs of solar have to be paid up-front. Once paid, the fuel (i.e., sunshine) and the conversion of that fuel to electricity is free for a long, long time. When you divide the up-front cost into the amount of power delivered over the years, the cost comes out to about a third or so of what we all now pay for dirty electricity. Really then, the problem with the expense of solar is a problem of financing. The dramatic price drop in recent years has made that financing problem a lot easier to solve. The price of solar was \$80/watt in the late 1970s. Now it is around \$3/watt. The average roof installation in Georgia is around 5000 watts.

That dramatic reduction in cost makes possible, in some cases, zero-down financing options where the loan payments are lower than the saving on the power bill. In other cases where the loan payments are higher than the savings on the power bills, the situation will probably reverse soon, since sunshine is expected to remain free while utility company rates will increase. Keep in

mind, solar panels are warranted to perform for 25 to 30 years and they typically last much longer, so the solar savings will continue years after the financing ends. Once all that is added up, solar turns out to be tens of thousands of dollars cheaper than the utility company bills. Can you afford not going solar?

Of course not every rooftop gets enough sunshine for the kind of pay-back we're talking about here, but why not at least get a free analysis of your home's solar potential and your financing options?

2. Solar is too complicated and requires maintenance and frequent tinkering. A solar system has no moving parts and only a few components. The flow of electricity from the solar panels to where it is needed in the house follows the natural flow of electrons through wires and does not require knobs or switches. The weakest component in the system is the inverter that changes DC power from the panels to AC power required by your appliances. Inverters are now warranted for 10 to 15 years. Reputable installation companies warranty their work on the installations for several years. Callbacks are rare.

3. I can't sell my house if it has solar panels on the roof, or my house value will be reduced. In fact, there is evidence that the opposite is true. In reducing the power bill, solar panels reduce the cost of living in the house. It stands to reason that a house that is cheaper to live in, costs more to buy. Estimates vary as to how much value is added, but there's increasing convergence on the view that home values increase with solar.

4. Solar panels will damage my roof, or cause leaks. Solar panels protect roofing material from the elements, so in fact they increase a roof's life. The installation of solar panels on pitched roof does require penetration into the roof and may in rare instances cause leaks. If a leak develops, it is simple to repair and reputable solar installers warranty against them. Leaks are rare, as penetrations in the roof are under roofing material and covered with metal flashing

5. Energy produced from a system I put on my roof will not make much difference. The government should incentivize or compel the adoption of solar power so it is done on a mass
Cont. on p. 9



Better Tomorrow Solar

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EVALUATION



3 DECIDE
IF SOLAR
MAKES SENSE



November into December in the Lake Claire Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

A month ago I wrote, “no rain since August 1,” on September 13, and now on October 11, still no rain. Oh, rain has been forecast many times, and we sit and wait (like some teenager by the phone, as one neighbor put it) only to be disappointed once again.

Continue to water newly planted trees, shrubs, and annual vegetable crops until the winter rains begin. And go on putting in woody plants and flower bulbs, making sure the latter are buried at least three times their diameter underground.

Continue working on your soil by having it tested at our county’s extension office (extension.uga.edu/county-offices/dekalb/agriculture-and-natural-resources/soil-testing.html) on Memorial Drive, or at least measuring your pH with an inexpensive kit. Take samples from three places in your garden. Our soil is usually acidic, but a perfect 6.0 is not necessary for successful gardening. If you do need to apply lime to raise the pH, fall is an excellent time to do it since it takes a little while to take effect. Most other soil additives can be added at planting time, but be sure to mix them in well.

Weather.com is your friend, particularly the hourly report to check if frost will come that night and when. Since a cold frame or an old blanket over supports will carry many non-hardy plants through a few slight freezes (and, frankly, we may never get a temperature below 20 degrees all winter), it is worthwhile to prepare for them.

Yes, clean up your fall garden, but not too much. A garden needs a gardener, not a mow and blow crew. Do carefully remove all dead tomato, pepper, eggplant, and other diseased plants to yard waste receptacles emptied by the city. Do break up other dead plant material for your compost heaps. But I leave standing anything with seeds for the birds. Dried *Echinacea* (coneflower) seed heads are a favorite with finches in the fall, and almost any annual produces seeds if not deadheaded towards the end of its life. Other “messes” around the yard offer food, shelter, and protection from foes. Yes, we want to remove non-native, invasive plants like English ivy, kudzu, paper mulberry (*Broussonetia papyrifera*), and the like. However, a garden with birds nesting in privet and honeysuckle,

with plenty of seeds and insects to eat, is still more alive than a “neat” yard with nothing more than mowed grass, a couple of lollipop shrubs, and one limbed-up tree.

Together with dead plants and chopped leaves, vegetable kitchen waste and fresh weeds provide everything you need for eventual compost. Roughly 20 times the former than the latter gives you the brown to green ratio for a good enough mix. If you are really lazy, just pile it up out of sight, and let it do its work. Kitchen waste can be buried in what will be a future planting bed. If it continues dry, dampen your piles. If you feel more energetic, turn the piles occasionally. If you want it faster, apply compost starter made of nitrogen and micro-organisms as you layer or buy a metal composter that can be rotated. But, whatever you do, **do not** let leaves leave your property!

Most of the perennials and biennials you plant now must be purchased locally because of winter conditions outside the South, and their spring shipping will be too late for our heat. Next year, plan for shipping orders to occur in September/October when you want perennials that will do well here but are too esoteric for local nurseries. (More and more of the established nurseries are closing, Niche Gardens in North Carolina biting the dust this year.)

Garden magazines must usually cater to the whole country, so read plant details carefully when you are considering an order. Forget any perennial that cannot grow in Zone 8 or 9 these days. As for bloom time, lean towards plants that flower between July and November. Take (or do not) the dependable *Baptisia* (False Indigo) with its lovely yellow, purple, or white flowers, drought tolerant, which thrives in Zones 4-9, and is ignored by deer. However, its bloom time is so early in the year that it is scarcely noticed in our riotous spring. Much more useful to me is *Chelone* (Turtlehead), for instance, Zone 3-8, pink flowers that open in September. It can take some shade and needs regular watering during drought but, along with sedums, asters, mums, and the beautiful Japanese anemones (“Honorine Jobert,” my ghostly white favorite along the curb), provides color when most perennials are long finished.

Thanks for Paying Your Neighborhood Dues

Lake Claire suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household. Lake Claire Banners are \$45, but a package deal of dues and banner is only \$60! Join these neighbors who have paid dues since the last Clarion: Alexander Urban, Sarah Perlin, Mary Jo Bryan, Kelsey Shaw, Janet Royalty & Leslie Brant, and Brian Sweny and Michael Clifford.

Please specify when you pay dues

if you do not wish to be listed in the newspaper. To contribute to worthwhile and fun initiatives of our ‘hood, pay dues at lakeclaire.org via the link OR with the old-fashioned check in the mail, to Eileen O’Neill, Treasurer, 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!**

Common Solar Myths

Continued from Page 8

scale. My installing solar is a waste of effort. The solution has to be sought in the political realm, not with individuals. Sure, it’s hard to see how one individual’s action can measure up to the magnitude of our collective harmful impact on our environment. Solarizing a house here or there is not going to make much of a difference. Political measures have to be part of the solution. But the point is that individuals going solar encourages, rather than distract us from the desired political solutions. For one thing, someone who invests in solar will be more likely to support pro-environment policies and propos-

als in the future. Furthermore, any one person who goes solar promotes the technology, actively or not. If you go solar, it makes it more likely that your neighbors will. The more solar on roofs, the more incentive for pro-environment policies among politicians.

There are of course good reasons for not going solar. Some roofs are shaded. Others are not properly oriented for solar. Solar contractors have online tools that can quickly determine the solar suitability of your roof. Contact one, and see. Or, you can just wait for the power company to supply free power to everyone!

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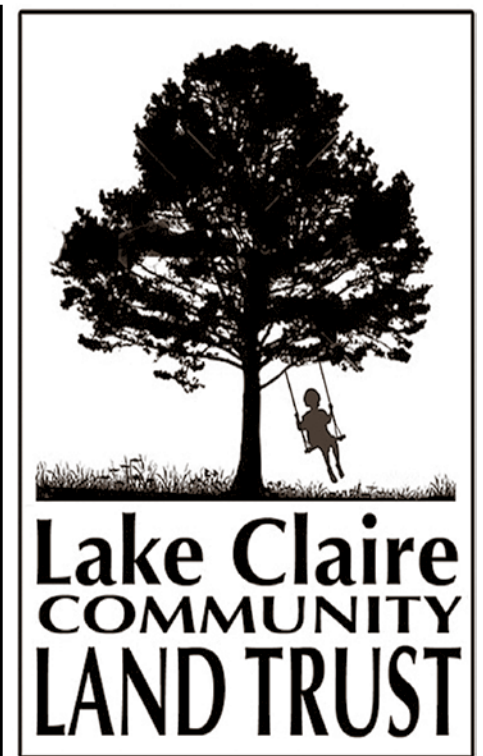
Come Have S'more Fun!

by Miss Ladybug

Our next event is December 1. We will be throwing our big S'MORE party! Come Have S'MORE FUN with the LCCLT and Ladybug Events! We will be hosting another Family Fun Drum Circle, so bring your instruments, your water jugs, and your smiles --and come share in the fun! We always have vegan and allergy sensitive options, so ALL are welcome. Our event is from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, 12/1. We ask for a \$5 donation. Thank you for making magic with us at the beautiful Space.



A Past S'mores Party,



Community Service: A Redundancy?

by Stephen Wing, Land Trust Secretary

“Community Service”—capital ‘C,’ capital ‘S’—is a legal term. It’s a requirement for graduation from many schools, and often a substitute for traditional penalties in courts of law. The Land Trust has frequently benefited from people assigned to do Community Service of both types. If you know anyone who has a Community Service obligation to fulfill, send them our way. They can email our Grounds Coordinator, Brynan Hadaway, at brynan1865@gmail.com.

On the other hand, “community service,” all lower-case, takes us to a different plane of reality altogether. Living in a neighborhood is pretty much a financial affair; qualify for a loan, pay the closing costs, the realtor, the lawyer, and file your deed. Living in a community is also a type of transaction, but on an energetic level. Membership in a community cannot be purchased; it requires a contribution that can be summed up as “service.”

This takes an infinite variety of forms: making a new neighbor feel welcome, visiting an elder, feeding

a cat whose people are out of town, lending tools or advice, even just listening to a joke or a complaint. One perfect example is the basketball hoop two of my neighbors erected at the corner of New York and Arizona, which irresistibly draws people of all ages out of their houses and into the street.

“Community service” is a bit redundant. In a sense, service is community, and vice versa: the intricate web of energies exchanged among people that knits them into something greater than the sum of its parts. The trendy term is “the gift economy.” Modern people can barely comprehend the strength of the ties that wove our grandparents and great-grandparents into village and neighborhood communities, much less the tribal bonds of our distant ancestors.

I know many people who have found satisfying ways to serve: volunteering to feed the hungry, build houses for the homeless, tutor underprivileged kids, serve on a PTA committee. But what about forms of

service that build community right here in Lake Claire, where we live? What about volunteering for a neighborhood nonprofit, like Clifton Sanctuary Ministries or the Land Trust?

Most of the volunteers who show up for Community Work Days at the Land Trust are from distant neighborhoods, even the suburbs, enchanted by our unique little patch of greenspace. A crew of bright young folks recruited by an organization called PlantLanta has been pretty consistent for the past few months. Folks who live closer by might bring their kids or walk their dog here, but few seem motivated to plug in and help.

If you receive my monthly Work Day emails, you might think I am asking for help. We do need the help; we have been battling invasive chafeweed this year, plus infestations of

kudzu, poison ivy, and air potato vine. But I am also offering something. Community doesn’t magically sprout from the soil like an invasive vine. It is what we earn for service, especially when shared with neighbors, on a regular basis, over months and years.

So, next time you’re chatting with your next-door neighbors, parents of your children’s friends, or best friends a few blocks over, bring up the possibility of a picnic at the Land Trust. A pizza picnic, for example. And why not the third Saturday of the month? Bring the kids, and take turns watching them. Community Work Day at the Land Trust only lasts three hours; start time varies with the time of year. This month we’re moving to Fall hours, 3-6 p.m. Quite synchronistically, a Drum Circle follows.

Don’t Put That Used Mattress Out on the Curb!

The Furniture Bank of Metro Atlanta

by Stephen Wing

Every time I see a mattress or sofa sitting out in the rain on somebody’s curb I cringe, wishing everybody knew about a wonderful organization that puts used furniture in good condition to good use. The Furniture Bank of Metro Atlanta will pick up your used furniture and donate it to individuals and families moving out of homelessness, battling HIV/AIDS, or fleeing domestic violence. This is a great service to those of us who lack the ability to haul their furniture to a thrift store. It is even more helpful to those replacing an old bed, as

thrift stores and other nonprofits cannot legally accept mattresses and box springs. The Furniture Bank is the only way to keep used but still usable beds out of the landfill (short of holding your own yard sale). Their most-needed items: dressers, nightstands, chests, coffee tables, end tables, sofas, loveseats, kitchen tables and chairs, twin mattresses and box springs. Visit their website at www.FurnitureBankAtlanta.org to schedule a pickup, find out more about the organization, volunteer, or make a financial donation.



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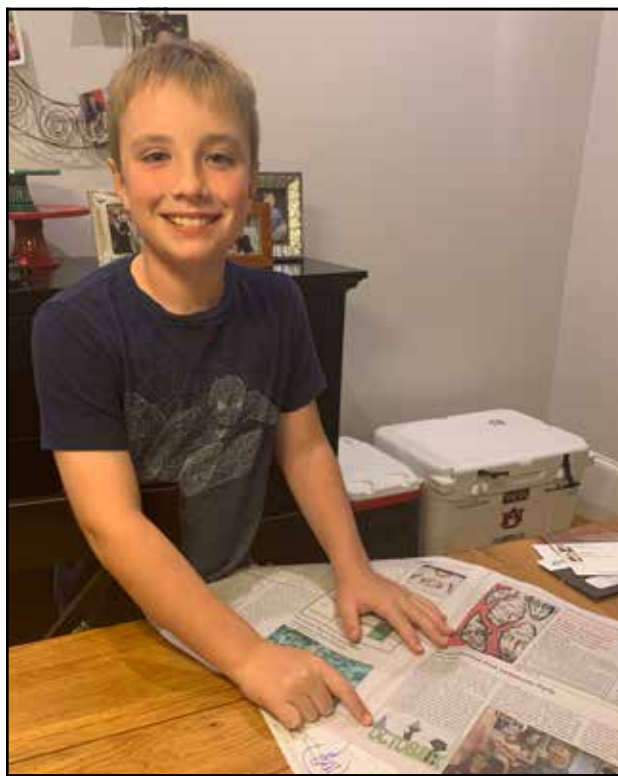
We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers/writers/artists to participate.

This month's featured writer is Lee Shanlever. Lee is 9 years old, and he is in the 4th grade at Mary Lin. His family

lives on Clifton Road. Lee has done something different and interesting; instead of writing or drawing something, he has created an Atlanta Sports Word Search. Thanks, Lee!

Hey there, Lake Claire kids of all

ages: we want to see **your** creativity. Submit your work to editor@lakeclaire.org. by NOVEMBER 15 for the DECEMBER issue of the newspaper. We hope this is a good starting place for kids' future writing careers.



Lee Shanlever, featured writer and contest winner



Dalton, tied for second place

Contest Winners

This month, **Lee Shanlever** won the prize for finding the hidden graphic, with **Dalton Troxell-Cappello** coming in second, by a hair. Soon after, we heard from **Adeline Harrell**. Lee, Dalton, and Adeline won the contest over a vast numbers of Lake Claire kids who participate every month in the contest on the Clarion Kids' Page. As noted above, Lee lives on Clifton Road and is in the 4th grade at Mary Lin. Dalton lives on Almeda, is 11 years old, and he's a 6th grader at Paideia. He loves soccer—and has purple hair! Adeline lives on Claire Drive, is 6 years old and in 1st grade at Mary Lin. Lee won extra credit, answering the question about his favorite thing about Halloween. He said that his favorite part about Halloween (besides candy) is going trick or treating on Page Avenue without his parents. The extra-credit prize is being the featured writer for a Clarion issue, so he is featured this month. Congrats, Lee, Dalton, and Adeline!! To all of those kids who didn't win, please do keep playing. We know that competition is stiff. See the new contest below.

Atlanta Sports Word Search

by Lee Shanlever

In this table, find and circle the words

- Baseball
- Falcon
- Atlanta
- Football
- Hawks
- Soccer
- Fan
- United
- Braves
- Basketball

The answer key will be in the next Clarion.

Have fun!

R	F	H	A	W	K	S	U	J	F	F	K	L	U	X	O	P	O
W	A	T	V	E	F	G	F	L	B	L	U	Q	K	J	U	N	W
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M	R	W	Z	I	U	M	I	M	T	F	P	D	D	W	E	K	L



Adeline, tied for second place

NEW CONTEST!

This month, the winner is the one (or more) finding the answers to Lee's Word Search above. To win, circle the words you find, and you or your parents take a picture of it and send in an e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org. Include your name, age, school, street, and grade, along with a picture of you. For extra credit, tell us your favorite thing about Thanksgiving. The extra-credit prize is that you'll be a featured writer/artist in a future Lake Claire Clarion with your original work. **Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you cannot win two months in a row. The deadline is NOVEMBER 15. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.**

