



## Trees Matter—in Lake Claire and all over Atlanta

Atlanta residents are speaking out loud and clear. Trees matter. As Maria Saporta pointed out recently in the Saporta Report, for nearly two years, the city and its consultants have been working on a new tree ordinance. Countless community meetings were held, and the public has been promised draft legislation of a new ordinance since June. At the beginning of November, the city's consultants were to present at two "Tree Ordinance Rewrite Community Meetings." The standing-room-only crowd the first night made a "resounding call for a stronger tree

protection law"—expressing great disappointment in the "outline" of a new ordinance, which provides less protection than the current tree ordinance. The public's response was so intense that the city, with no explanation, cancelled the 2nd meeting only a few hours before it was to convene. The first night's meeting—also attended by four city council members—was so charged that Councilmember Matt Westmoreland took the microphone and apologized: "I think we owe it to our residents, our constituents, and our tree canopy to come out with a strengthened tree

ordinance," Westmoreland said. "It needs to be stronger than the current ordinance." He said that with climate change and with Atlanta's growing population, it's even more important to protect our existing trees.

Yes, it is possible for Atlanta to welcome new development and new residents while maintaining and even increasing our tree canopy. After all, that was the promise of the Atlanta City Design Studio and its Urban Ecology Framework plan. But from what the public has been able to discern from the proposed rewrite of the tree ordinance, the reality is falling far short of the visionary goal of protecting and expanding our tree canopy to at least 50 percent of our city [including in Lake Claire, as many may know; even old-growth trees that protected the watershed near the Frazer Forest were recently cut down by a developer. ~ Ed.].

Kathryn Kolb, founder of EcoAddendum and an advocate for our natural old-growth forests, called the outline a "severe disappointment" that apparently incorporated little community input. "The bottom line is you could cut anything, just like today," she wrote, adding that developers may have to pay a little more, but that the city could grant variances for even the highest value trees. The appeals process could be



## 2019 Inman Frosty 5K

The 8th Annual 2019 Inman Frosty 5K will be on Saturday, December 14, at 9 a.m. This fun race along the Beltline supports the staff and kids at Inman Middle. Registration is on [ACTIVE.com](http://www.active.com) but the link is [www.active.com/atlanta-ga/running/distance-running-races/inman-frosty-5k-2019](http://www.active.com/atlanta-ga/running/distance-running-races/inman-frosty-5k-2019). Teachers run for free, and students pay just \$10. Use code "eagles" for the discount.

We are still looking for local businesses to sponsor. If you are interested, email Allyson Cummings at [allysoncummings@mac.com](mailto:allysoncummings@mac.com).

It's a great way to start your day with a jaunt/stroll on the mostly flat course through the Virginia Highland area to O4W Park on the Beltline and back to Inman's Field of Dreams.

See you soon! ~ Frosty

**YOU ARE INVITED!**

**THURS DEC. 12**  
from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

At the Frazer Center Atrium

LAKE CLAIRE ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Dec 26 is Boxing Day!

Happy KWANZAA

Chanukah is December 22-30

Family Fun at the end of 2019—join your neighbors.

Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN) provides vegetarian & meat lasagnas, beverages, and cake.  
Attendees: please bring other stuff: side dishes, salads, other desserts, bread, etc., bring serving utensils.

**Happy Holidays**  
Join us!

HO, HO HO!  
HO, HO HO!

© DAMON DESIGNS

Mark your calendars now to join your Lake Claire Neighbors On December 12!

We hope to see you at the Xmas Holiday party Thursday night, December 12—and the following Saturday morning, December 14, for the Arts & Crafts Sale—see details in the Calendar on Page 3.

Cont. on p. 13

## Neighborhood Halloween Celebration Great Success

The last week of October (just missing being in last month's newspaper) many Lake Clarions enjoyed one of Lake Claire's signature parties of the year, the Annual Lake Claire Halloween Parade and Party. Kids (of all ages, including many adult kids-at-heart) paraded through the streets of Lake Claire, ending up in Lake Claire Park. Please go to the Centerfold to see some of our own pirates, princesses, super heroes, monsters, witches, and dragons.

Thanks to organizer Matt Stacy and MANY other volunteers, who helped in a myriad of ways. A real example of its "taking a village," this was once again a great event.

Cont. on centerfold, p. 8-9



THE CLARION IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.



Clifton Sanctuary  
Ministries | 40 Years

December 1, 2019

Dear Friends:

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you. It's been a great year at Clifton, and it only happens because you, **our awesome neighbors**, have continued to help serve the Clifton men in 2019. Last month, we celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Think about it – every night for four decades you have served men who are homeless! Simply amazing!

So many people in the neighborhood have been instrumental in enabling this success to happen. Responding to our sign out front by dropping off essential items, serving meals and making bag lunches, cleaning out and reorganizing our clothes closet, painting and updating our computer classroom, and continuing to provide much needed financial support. We couldn't do this work without you – our fantastic partners in transformation!

Because of the many ways you serve this ministry, the little church up on the hill in Lake Claire, our sanctuary, is helping men find employment and stable housing, learn to live sober, and be good neighbors. Some success stories this past year include men who have graduated from our program and gone on to secure full-time positions with MARTA, SecurAmerica, and UPS, among others!

The men of Clifton have enjoyed a great year. We successfully completed Our HomeAid renovation project; this year we cleaned and painted the dining room, remodeled the men's restroom, repaired our much needed sign out front, manicured the grounds, rebuilt a parking lot wall, cleaned, organized, landscaped, and more. Our home looks amazing.

We had some fun times this year, too. The summer provided many youth groups who came from all across the country to share meals and great conversation with our guests. They learned what our neighbors in Lake Claire already know – **the Clifton men are fun to be with**, and many of them can tell a great story...and a few tall tales.

As hard as we try to work ourselves out of a job, we still have work to do - the demand for our services is steady and constant. Partner agencies, such as the Veterans Administration, are daily referring men to us, knowing that they will be well cared for, emotionally and spiritually supported, and given the opportunity to transform their lives. **None of this would be possible without the support we receive from you – the best neighbors in the world!** We hope you'll continue to invest in the lives of the men of Clifton and add them to your holiday gift list. Please drop a check in the mail using the enclosed envelope, or contribute on our website [www.cliftonsanctuary.com](http://www.cliftonsanctuary.com).

With gratitude,

*Leslie*

Leslie Prince  
CSM Board of Directors

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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.*

**December Calendar**

**1-24** Alliance Theatre, Coca-Cola Stage, *A Xmas Carol*, and on the Hertz Stage, Dec. 5-24 *Courtney's Cabaret*, [alliancetheatre.org](http://alliancetheatre.org)

**1-29** Horizon Theatre presents *Waffle Palace*, and Dec. 7-31 *Madeline's Christmas*, [www.horizontheatre.com](http://www.horizontheatre.com)

**1-29** Theatrical Outfit presents *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberly*, [www.theatricaloutfit.org](http://www.theatricaloutfit.org)

**1** Come Have S'More Fun! Children's Garden Jam-a-Long Kids' Drum Circle, 4 to 6 p.m. at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust, at the dead-end of Arizona Avenue.

**4** DeKalb History Center's last Lunch & Learn of the year will be presented by Kennesaw State University and Civic Georgia. A temporary exhibit will be placed in the lobby before the program begins followed by a panel discussion. The topic will be U.S. immigration policy and the impact seen through each policy turning point through history. Info: Rebecca Selem, 404-373-1088 ext 24, [selem@dekalbhistory.org](mailto:selem@dekalbhistory.org), [www.dekalbhistory.org](http://www.dekalbhistory.org)

**7 & 21** Drum Circle at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust, 8-11 p.m. Walk/bike/carpool to the Arizona dead-end. And see lots of info every month on the Land Trust on the Clarion's penultimate page (this time, Page 13).

**10** DeKalb History Center, *Hops at the History Center Author Event*, hosting author Janice McDonald, discussing her book *Residents of Oakland Cemetery*. Info, Rebecca Selem, 404-373-1088, ext. 24, [selem@dekalbhistory.org](mailto:selem@dekalbhistory.org)

**12** Lake Claire Annual Christmas Potluck - details in the Tree Invitation on Page 1. Note there is NO monthly meeting in December. Other months, the 3rd Thursday of the month.

**13-22** Actor's Express Theatre Company presents *Ho Ho Ho for the Holidays*, with Libby Whittemore, [www.actors-express.com](http://www.actors-express.com).

**14** 9 a.m. The 8th Annual 2019 Inman Frosty 5K, details article Page 1.

**14** Frazer Forest Volunteer Day with Trees Atlanta, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Help maintain the old-growth forest in your own backyard. Trees Atlanta experts will guide volunteers in removing invasive species in this ongoing forest restoration project. Sign up at [www.fraziercenter.org/about-us/events](http://www.fraziercenter.org/about-us/events)

**14** Annual Lake Claire Artists Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale - one of Lake Claire's signature events of the year! Lake Claire Neighbors and Mary Lin Elementary co-host the 2019 Lake Claire Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair. A share of the proceeds will help both organizations support local charities and community work. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Atrium in the Frazier Center, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30307. FREE admission. Local artisans, crafters, photographers, painters, potters, jewelers, and more, will sell their original artwork. All items are handmade—no mass-produced, store-bought, resale, or imported items. Payment by check, cash, or credit card accepted. Check out the children artists! Also available, baked goods/finger foods. .

**21** Lake Claire Land Trust Community Work Day, 2 to 5 pm. NOTE: NEW WINTER HOURS! Pizza and drum circle follow. See info on the Land Trust every month, this time on Page 13 of the Clarion, or go to the LCLTC website. The Work Day is always followed by the Drum Circle, which begins at 8 p.m. (see December 7, above.)

**29-31** Annual three days of performances, *Widespread Panic* brings in the New Year at the Fox. Single day and 3-Day passes will be available. There will be a 4 ticket limit per person per night (not per transaction). Over-limit orders WILL be cancelled. Tickets available at [foxtheatre.org](http://foxtheatre.org), the Fox Theatre Ticket Office, and 855-285-8499.

**31** Clarion picks for NEW YEAR'S PLANS: **Widespread Panic** at the Fox (see above); **Venkman's** New Year's Eve with Ruby Velle and the Soulphonics, Old 4th Ward, Creative comfort food classics are paired nightly with the eclectic live music lineup curated by Nicholas Niespodziani and Lake Claire's own Peter Olson, father of this month's talented featured writer on the Kids Page, [venkmans.com/events/2019-12/](http://venkmans.com/events/2019-12/); **NYEAV**—New Year's East Atlanta Village Street Party, includes family fireworks starting 8 p.m., many bands, drinks, including free hot chocolate—[www.atlanta.net/events/detail/nyeav-2020/125637/](http://www.atlanta.net/events/detail/nyeav-2020/125637/). Note: Atlanta Peach-drop not happening this year as of Clarion press-time.

**Congrats to the New Neighborhood Board:**

Miriam Herbers, Safety VP; Beth Grashof, Zoning VP; Melissa Pressman, Environment VP; Nancy Dorsner, Communications VP; Eileen O'Neil, Treasurer/Finance VP; Pen Sherwood, Fundraising VP; Carol Holiday, Planning VP and NPU Rep.; and Joe Agee, President. Come see them in action at neighborhood meetings always the 3rd Thursday of the month (except for this month when we have our Xmas party/see calendar, opposite page).

**And Thank You:**

Angela Rhoton and Kenny Jones, of Connecticut Ave., for answering the Clarion's call for volunteers to upload Clarions to the web.



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**Upcoming Events:**  
*Holiday Tasting*  
December 11th, 6:30 to 8 pm  
Tickets \$25

*Holiday Champagne Class*  
December 17th, 6:30 to 8 pm  
Tickets \$65

## Wild in Lake Claire: Holidays in the Hood

by Flora Fauna (aka Carol Vanderschaaf)

Holidays in the Hood... Flora Fauna hopes you are all celebrating in the proper way. That is to say you are planting you native plants for next year or donating to some humane cause... Or perhaps you are out buying all the (mostly unneeded or unappreciated) presents you can carry, creating more waste and, in the end, more garbage, than this world needs. Well, hell, it is the Holidays and we all must be happy in our own ways. But please read our nature tales anyway.

Bernard S. reports "When driving down the street late one afternoon last week, I had to come to a stop on Indiana Ave. There must have been about fifty or more doves on the street. They were probably eating acorns or pecans crushed by tires... I figured out that they were on their way South, to warmer skies, and had stopped for dinner."

A traveling and anonymous LC resident tells us jealous folks (BD, editor, and me, Flora) that while in Morocco, that person saw, "storks galore on top of roofs, and minarets...flying."

A traveler to another neighborhood who often visits, Meredith W., reports back, "I just had a pileated woodpecker fly right in front of my nose to a tree not twenty feet away while I was walking through Deepdene. His red crest was brilliant and beautiful in the crisp, fall sunshine. After a minute he flew to a tree about 5 feet from me, a little above eye-level, then seemed to notice me and flew quickly to a tree 10 feet away, perched for a moment, and then must have decided it wasn't quite far enough, because he took off again for a higher and farther perch. I also saw a doe and a young buck not yet fully grown in Emory's Lullwater Park."

Beth D. saw the reappearance this week of a hawk couple who resides in the trees surrounding Emory Law School (Clifton at N. Decatur Road). From her workplace window, she witnessed one of the couple diving after an unlucky squirrel or bird.

Ilene S. reports that she has a "flock of migrating birds including robins, starlings, cedar waxwings, even some blue jays, and both house and purple finches have taken residence in my attic." And, in addition, Ilene had a squirrel "in my attic about a year ago... we sealed off the hole it has made... now there is a new opening, and I don't know if it's the same squirrel or not but I must have a very squirrel-friendly attic." (Flora's Note; you are not alone, Ilene.) Ms.

S. also reports that she's heard a rumor "that Sandhill Cranes are on the move and that hopefully we will see them soon." Elizabeth K. has seen, "towhees and brown thrashers in her yard, now cat-free." Thanks to her for forwarding an article on climate change which references these two Georgia resident birds.

I, Flora Fauna, have little personally to report. With the recent freeze, my swamp sunflowers are browning. When I'm outside I hear acorns dropping on my metal canopy and wonder what is going on. Is this a message from nature for me or from a disgruntled squirrel? Is it related to the "raking sounds"\* reported lately on NextDoor? Odd phenomenon in our hood.

On October 10 the National Audubon Society announced a groundbreaking climate report, *Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink*, noting that "two-thirds of America's birds are at risk. The good news is that if we can keep global temperatures down, it will help up to 76 percent of these species."

Eight Georgia birds were considered of high concern, including Red-headed Woodpecker, Fish Crow, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Brown Thrasher, Nelson's Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, and Yellow-throated Warbler. For Lake Claire's zip code 30307, the threat includes: "6 species, high vulnerability—including red headed woodpecker; brown thrasher (the official state bird of Georgia); and yellow-throated warbler; 14 species, moderate vulnerability—including American robin; Canada goose; and field sparrow; 23 species, low vulnerability—including wood duck; American crow; bald eagle and broad-winged hawk; 57 species, stable—including chimney swift; snowy egret; and little blue heron." So enjoy those birdies while you can.

The National Wildlife Foundation reports that studies show that we've lost 92 million Red-winged Blackbirds since 1970. If this species so suited to adaption is having a hard time, the fate of other less adaptable birds and other wildlife is worrisome. In Minnesota the *Lawns to Legumes program* received \$900,000 in funding this year from the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources. Even small plantings can provide benefit for pollinators. Replacing manicured lawns with perennial plants improves water qual-

**Cont. on p. 11**

## PAWS Atlanta and Featured Pet Sami

by Kris Byron



**Meet Sami:** Sami is a super snugly, one-year old puppy who is dog-friendly and perfectly pint-sized at 35 lbs. She currently lives in a foster home with two other dogs and has bonded excellently with them. She has lots of energy and is eager to play but also loves to cuddle with you on the couch. She has been a quick-learner—she waits until she gets the OK to eat and is house-trained and crate-trained. She has ears for days, a velvety coat, and chocolate eyes you could get lost in. Contact PAWS Atlanta at 770-593-1155 or [info@paws-atlanta.org](mailto:info@paws-atlanta.org) to meet Sami, pictured above and on Page 15 herein.

**Introducing PAWS Atlanta:** Every weekend, we walk amidst the tall pines on trails on four acres of land on Covington Highway right outside highway 285. Just where is this oasis? At PAWS Atlanta, Atlanta's oldest no-kill shelter! There, we walk about a total of 30 medium or large dogs. We sometimes even bring home one to foster!

PAWS Atlanta provides shelter to

both cats and dogs. Most of the cats live in one of the colony rooms in the "cat house," a ranch-style house that has separate rooms where about 10-15 cats live. Each of these rooms also has access to a small enclosed outdoor space. PAWS Atlanta also has a partnership with Java Cats in Grant Park, a cat coffee shop. All of the cats at Java Cats are from PAWS Atlanta and are available for adoption. PAWS also has well over 100 dogs available for adoption. Most of the dogs have both an indoor and outdoor kennel and are walked daily by staff or volunteers.

We always need more volunteers to help out with our efforts! PAWS is a great place to volunteer: The other volunteers are fabulous, and PAWS staff—many of whom have worked for PAWS for a decade or more—are always helpful and warm. The animals are cared-for medically by an on-site veterinary clinic.

Once you have gone through volunteer orientation, volunteers do many things to help around the shelter and off-site. Here are but a few examples: Volunteers help take care of all of the animals—walking dogs, petting cats, and bathing animals. Volunteers help make enrichment toys for the animals in their care; these toys allow our animals to use their minds and to better tolerate the shelter environment. Volunteers help with marketing efforts—taking photos of animals that are available for adoption or taking dogs to off-site events. Volunteers also assist with the clinic or PAWS-sponsored community events.

In addition to their pet adoption services, PAWS Atlanta also provides services to the community. Twice a month, the shelter's vet clinic offers

**Cont. on p. 15**

## 2019 Chilinaro

by Boyd Baker

Longtime residents of Lake Claire likely know about Leonardo Avenue's neighborly chili cook-off known as Chilinaro. This year's Leonardo Avenue event was leaner than most—due to date changes for erratic weather—but the competition was still fierce. It always includes chili entries, sides, and desserts, plenty of food to go around for all the "Leos." Winners are judged by popularity. Awards are given for Best Presentation, Best Dessert, Best Side, and Best Chili (see picture P. 7).

In the end, everyone got full, and some walked away with trophies. 2019 Winners: Best Presentation — The Weeks Family; Best Dessert—Sadie Stevens (2nd year in a row, last year along with her sister Amelia); Best Side—The Bliss Family (received the coveted golden pig); Best Chili—The Craney Family.

*Congrats to all the winners and to Leonardo for its street initiatives, fun stuff, and conviviality. ~Ed.*

**Cont. on p. 7**

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# Clifton Sanctuary Ministries—40th Anniversary

by Lori White, CSM Director of Community Relations

What a beautiful day we were blessed with on Sunday, October 27 to celebrate CSM's 40th Anniversary. Friends from the neighborhood, volunteers, staff, board members, donors, and the men at Clifton all gathered in fellowship to celebrate this special ministry. There was food and lively music provided by Albert White and the Meter Tones. And thanks to Gregory Ellis, our event was covered by Channel 46 news! A good time was had by all!!



## Holiday Season at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

The holiday season begins early at CSM. From mid November through New Year's day, many churches and individuals support the ministry. From special meals to gifts, volunteers and supporters go the extra mile to make the season special for the men who call Clifton home. But the best of traditions in the guests' view is when they give back to the community. Throughout the year, the men participate in activities in Lake Claire and in nearby Candler Park. Such activities enable the men to be part of

passing through them. At this time of year, the men of Clifton hold three special nights of Christmas Caroling. Hot chocolate, apple cider, cookies and other refreshments are served afterwards. No experience or talent is necessary; all are welcome. This is a very special look at the meaning of Christmas through the eyes of Clifton's guests. **Be on the lookout for the dates of this year's caroling on the Lake Claire website and on the marquis at the corner of McLendon and Connecticut Avenues.**



## Chilinarido

Continued from Page 5



Chilinarido winners



# Halloween Parade and Party, *Continued from Page 1*



All pictures on pages 8 and 9 as well as the one on Page 1 are by Gretchen Connell, neighborhood photographer. She does children's portraits, bar mitzvot, weddings, etc. (She also photographs the Lake Claire Swim Team.) Contact her at [gretchen.connell@gmail.com](mailto:gretchen.connell@gmail.com), and here is a link to some of her work: [gretchenconnell0.wixsite.com/mysite](http://gretchenconnell0.wixsite.com/mysite).







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## Wild in Lake Claire

*Continued from Page 5*

ity by reducing fertilizer runoff from lawns, and the plants provide habitat for birds and other wildlife. The Board of Water and Soil Resources is the lead agency for the program, teaming up with Blue Thumb Partners, a coalition of public and private groups offering guidance and funding to promote landscapes that help protect water quality. Bravo!

Greenpeace is promoting the Reuse Revolution, a movement to stop the proliferation of plastics that are not biodegradable and which are polluting our environment and poisoning our marine life. We may already be a part of the reuse revolution if we

are using cloth bags to carry home our groceries or, more forcibly, by pressuring our politicians and corporations to address the plastics issue. Lake Clarion Dorothy D. is part of this revolution. FF was very impressed with Dorothy when she brought along a covered camping bowl to take home her leftovers after dinner at a nearby restaurant, while I, Flora Fauna, embarrassedly took mine in an everlasting restaurant-supplied to-go container.

And one more note re the big CC. From the news this past month, Venice is drowning. Tourists and locals alike are enjoying the sights in high-water conditions with water almost over their high boots as well as covering St. Mark's Square. In fact, the Square was closed, probably to keep those tourists from being swept out to sea. The proposed floodgates aren't in sight, having apparently never been completed due to graft and corruption. Arrividerci, La Serenissima.

Well, before I drown in tears thinking about high waters, I'd better finish up. I wish everyone merry holidays and a happy New Year. And don't go near the water.

~ Your dame of dystopia,  
Flora Fauna

P.S: Please contact my associate [cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net](mailto:cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net) with any flora or fauna news. She is a more optimistic and approachable person than I. She disagrees with many of my opinions and considers herself more reasonable than I could ever be.

*\*Editor's note to Flora: Raking sounds? OMG: It's "Leaf Blowers Gone Wild," a potential new movie.*



Lake Claire's Wild Writer, Flora Fauna

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

### December Birthdays

Dec. 7 Jeff Debell, Harold Avenue

Dec. 10 Happy b'day, Tim Kline, Leonardo Avenue

Dec. 12 Henry Allen—Happy 7!!!!—Harold Avenue

Dec. 13 Happy b'day to Laura Tanguturi and Colleen Golden (both on Harold)

Dec. 17 Happy b'day to Dawn Aura (Arizona Ave.) & Josh Golden (Harold)

Dec. 19 Happy b'day to Elliott Williams, Howard Circle

Dec. 26 Happy 7th birthday to Cabot Williams, Howard Circle

Dec. 31 Happy b'day Cara Haycak Tobin, Hardendorf

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

## Fireworks—Please Consider

by Dawn Aura

With New Year's Eve around the corner, many of us pet owners are hoping our neighbors will be conscious this year of the effects on animals. We have an emu living in the back yard, and many of us in Lake Claire have dogs and cats. The noise of fireworks frightens animals tremendously. One time a piece of the fireworks fell into Big Lou the Emu's sanctuary! Firework displays at public places usually last fifteen minutes or so, and you can expect that they will end shortly. But when residents shoot them for longer periods, usually spread over an hour or more, it becomes very difficult for the terrified animals to endure, not knowing when the next one will come or when they will stop.

Please reconsider shooting your fireworks for a long time. How about a more concise, finite 15- to 30-minute period like the displays in downtown Decatur or Piedmont Park? That would be so helpful to many of us who have pets that live close by to

the fireworks' shot-like sounds. Animals (including emus) would still be frightened, but I think it frightens them so much more when it goes on and on. Thank you for your consideration.



## Keeping An Eye on the Crime and the Time: Lake Claire Security Report, October 10 - November 14, 2019

by Cecily Stevens

10/10/19 Harold Ave. - Larceny from Vehicle  
10/10/19 Adolphus Ave. - Larceny from Vehicle  
10/16/19 Leonardo Ave. - Larceny from Vehicle  
10/17/19 - Palifox Dr. - Larceny from Vehicle  
10/20/10 Tuxedo Ave. - Larceny from Vehicle  
10/23/19 McLendon Ave. - Larceny from Vehicle  
10/25/19 Gordon Ave. - Auto Theft  
10/25/19 McLendon Ave. - Larceny from Vehicle  
10/25/19 Arizona Ave. - Larceny from Vehicle  
10/27/19 Palifox Dr. - Larceny from Vehicle  
10/27/19 McLendon Ave. - Larceny from Vehicle  
11/3/19 Ridgewood Rd. - Larceny from Vehicle  
11/3/19 Marlbook Dr. - Larceny from Vehicle  
11/5/19 Hardendorf Ave. - Larceny Non-Vehicle  
11/6/19 Claire Dr. - Larceny from Vehicle  
11/8/19 Palifox Dr. - Larceny from Vehicle  
11/10/19 Lakeshore Dr. - Larceny from Vehicle

Package thefts, vehicle break-ins, and burglaries tend to spike around the holiday season. Here are some tips for safe and happy holidays:

Online shopping: if you're not home to receive packages, consider having them shipped to your office or a location where someone will be able to receive them.

When shopping at stores/malls, keep your car clear of any bags or packages. Don't leave anything of value in your car.

Grocery shopping: avoid leaving your bag or purse in the cart while you shop, where thieves can quickly grab it. Avoid slider crimes.

When pumping gas, lock your cars, have your keys in your pockets. Do not leave purses and other items on your seats in plain view. Look for credit card skimmers at gas pumps. If the credit card reader is loose or seems suspicious, think twice before using it.

When traveling, put home lights on a timer, and have someone collect your mail and packages. Always be aware of your surroundings. Don't be an easy target.

Going out of town this holiday season? CPLC Patrol members can request vacation patrols. Visit [www.cplcpatrol.org](http://www.cplcpatrol.org) to learn more about the many excellent reasons to join the Candler Park Lake Claire Patrol.

## December into January in the Lake Claire Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

Finding two white buds on my 'Autumn Moon' *Camellia sasanqua* in late October, really in too much shade and rarely watered, although I made a gigantic effort this summer—finding these reminded me that the *sasanqua* is a wonderful plant for our climate. Blooming in fall and early winter (unlike *Camellia japonica*), it showcases flowers when they are rare, has shiny dark leaves that provide screening, and comes in a variety of sizes. I prefer the white and red flowers at this time of year, but the pink can be pretty too if not situated near leaves that turn yellow or orange in fall. I ordered 'Autumn Moon' and 'Yuletide' from Camellia Forest Nursery in Chapel Hill, NC, and highly recommend them.

Another useful evergreen, if you have the right spot for a 25-foot holly, is *Ilex* 'Mary Nell,' a narrow pyramid able to produce female and male flowers on the same plant so it does not need a separate pollinator plant to form the clusters of berries that many birds enjoy. In addition, the spiny leaves provide good shelter.

Keep on gardening, and keep soil covered. Human activity produces

34 gigatons of carbon dioxide a year. Although there is no way that plant photosynthesis can keep up with this, studies show that plants take up more carbon dioxide than thought previously, even during the night when photosynthesis is not occurring. If you have not limed our acidic soil for vegetable gardening, there is still time for rain and cold to help the earth absorb a light sprinkling of lime. Just be sure not to lime an area where you plan to grow potatoes in the next two years because they like a slightly acidic soil and are less likely to get scab.

What all garden soil does need on a regular basis, because it is removed by vegetable production, is nitrogen. This fertilizer is produced in a number of ways. One of the most intriguing is that rain and lightning together bring down atmospheric nitrogen, which is why plants look so bright and bushy-tailed after a thunderstorm *vs.* being sprinkled with fluoridated water. Unfortunately, this is not enough nitrogen for plant needs. The best method is to add organic matter that through mineralization by microorganisms releases nitrogen as ammonium and nitrate. Using compost additionally

offers all the micronutrients required as well as phosphorus and potassium needed for growth. The only problem with this is that time and moisture are needed also, which is why it is a good idea to apply an inch or more of compost on your garden right now to get the benefit of winter rains. There is nothing wrong with purchased organic fertilizers, but compost has the added benefit of improving the soil as it feeds it.

Synthetic fertilizers require energy to be produced, of course, pollute ground water, and add salts to the soil if not applied exactly as recommended on the packaging (alas, rarely read by users). Too much nitrogen can also make plants more attractive to pests such as aphids. Native perennials, shrubs, and trees rarely need more than a mulch of leaves to keep them fertile unless all the topsoil has been removed from your property. I learned most of these scientific details from Lee Reich's *The Ever Curious Gardener* (New Society Press).

On another topic: Thank you, Andrew F., for your words about mosquito spraying on p. 3 of the November *Clarion*. As Beth, the newspaper edi-

tor, keeps repeating, let us aim next year to make Mr. Mister disappear! After all, how many hours a week do you spend in your garden? Do you fall into a group who may be especially endangered by a mosquito bite? Do you live on a street where a mosquito-borne disease has been detected? Even the CDC tells us to apply mosquito repellent, wear clothing to cover your skin if working outdoors, and keep the mosquitoes outside through use of screens or closed windows and doors. Nowhere do they tell us to kill insects. In fact, much of their warnings are about travel because most dangerous diseases carried by mosquitoes are in other regions.

It seems to me that people are mainly afraid of what is unfamiliar and strange to them. So that people from regions with no big trees want to cut down what they fear will fall on their family and property. Or city people think that wild animals will kill them if they walk in the woods. Or indoor people believe all insects out there are bad and dangerous. In actuality, humans are the most dangerous beings on the planet. With that happy holiday message, I wish you All a Good Night.



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# LAKE CLAIRE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

## Thank You, Appleseed Tree Service!

by Bernard Spenle

A few weeks ago, a large branch from a poplar tree broke off and fell down the embankment separating DeKalb Avenue from the path along the gardens of the Lake Claire Community Land Trust. The branch landed on the slope of the Land Trust as well as on DeKalb Ave., pulling down a Georgia Power line. This resulted in a loss of power for a section of the neighborhood. The Georgia Power crew came quickly, restored power and removed the branches from the street. However, they left large sections of the tree on the sidewalk, blocking passage.

One neighborhood resident using a wheelchair was unable to make his way to the MARTA station to go to work, and another neighborhood

resident notified a Board Member of the LCCLT. Word was passed along to Mark Collins, of Appleseed Tree Service, who came immediately, and we were able to remove the foliage, thus clearing the path on the sidewalk. Mark then came back later on his lunch break, and together, he and I cut the branches into logs, which we then moved to a wood rack for future use. Several days later, (again during his lunch break), Mark came back to cut the larger branch remaining on the slope into manageable pieces so that we could split it into firewood.

We want to thank Mark and Appleseed Tree Service for responding quickly and correcting a situation which was inconveniencing all pe-

destrians who use the DeKalb sidewalk. Appleseed Tree Service has been helping the Land Trust and the neighborhood for many years, and we appreciate their assistance, both the proactive and reactive services that they provide.

*Note: The Land Trust Board also wishes to thank Bernard Spenle, who for many years has steadfastly stepped up to keep the Land Trust going with his skills in carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, and any and all kinds of maintenance and repairs. On the same note, if any readers of the Clarion possess any similar skills, we would love to have more volunteers joining Bernard in his exemplary service to the community.*



## Trees Matter

*Continued from Page 1*

eliminated, and homeowners could cut one healthy tree on their properties each year.

“To sum up, the current pay-to-cut policy is continued, and costs to cut trees are not high enough to offset land value, so it still incentivizes cutting down trees,” Kolb wrote. There is “no solid tree protection for even the highest value trees.” As she sees it, Atlanta is a city in the forest. “It has a native urban forest unlike any other major city in the United States,” Kolb said. And Atlanta still has many pockets of old growth forests. **Many native trees have natural life spaces of 500 to 800 years. Once they have been cut down, those forests cannot be replaced.**

A new tree ordinance for Atlanta could become a model for the whole region—that’s one reason why we must get it right. We need to make sure that we change the metro area’s mindset when it comes to cutting

down trees. Developers inside and outside the city need to pivot in how they look at trees—and learn to develop around them. “My hope is that eventually developers will realize that mature trees add irreplaceable value to their developments,” said Saporta, and we (Clarion) agree.

Raphael Bostic, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, did not really know this part of the country when he moved here in July 2017. He quickly saw that Atlanta’s native trees are what set our city apart from other places he has lived. Bostic, an avid bird watcher, recently stated: “When you fly into Atlanta, all you see is trees.” We owe it to him and ourselves to keep it that way. To the city leaders and their consultants: **we can, and must, do better.**

*Thank you to Maria Saporta, The Saporta Report, from which this is condensed for space reasons. See the full article at [saportareport.com](http://saportareport.com). ~Ed.*

## Adopt Your Favorite Corner of the Land Trust!

Here is a new way for neighbors to get involved with the Land Trust—by adopting a particular area of the Land Trust to maintain. This includes weeding, but also taking on any projects you envision to improve your chosen area, or any needed repairs, in coordination with the Land Trust Grounds Committee. Your area could be large or small, as long as it has definite boundaries. This could be a great way to spend family time or time with close neighbors, with a picnic afterward.

Remember, y’all—it takes a village!

Help keep your Land Trust beautiful.

Contact [grounds@LCCLT.org](mailto:grounds@LCCLT.org) to volunteer or to learn more.

## Upcoming & Ongoing at the Land Trust...

### December

**Sun. Dec. 1** – Come Have S’More Fun! Children’s Garden Jam-a-Long Kids’ Drum Circle, 4 to 6 p.m.

**Sat. Dec. 7 and 21** – Drum Circle, 8 to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or car-pool. Bring a friend! Please help spread the word. The Drum Circles are the Land Trust’s gift to our community, but your donations help keep it going.

**Sat. Dec. 21** – Community Work Day, 2 to 5 p.m. **Note new winter hours!** Pizza and drum circle follow.

**Land Trust Supporters—Renew early for 2020!** Anyone can be a Land Trust Supporter by donating \$10 a year. Donate online via [www.LCCLT.org/stewardship](http://www.LCCLT.org/stewardship); mail a check made out to “LCCLT” c/o Treasurer, 270 Arizona Ave., Atlanta GA 30307; or use the mailbox in the cul-de-sac. Include your email, and we’ll add you to our email list. Include your mailing address, and we’ll mail you a bumper sticker. A donation is not required to get on this list! Sign up on our home page at [LCCLT.org](http://LCCLT.org).

## Frazer Center and GA Tech's Excel Program

by Dina Shadwell, Communications & Development Coordinator, Frazer Center

Maggie Guillaume has been interning with Frazer's Child Development Program (CDP) since September. She came to Frazer via the Georgia Tech Excel Program, an inclusive, four-year college certificate program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In the Excel program, student activities are focused on academics, social skills, independent living, and career development. The Excel students live on campus and are paired with volunteer mentors who are traditional Georgia Tech students trained to assist the Excel students with meeting their goals. Students also have access to career coaches and tutors.

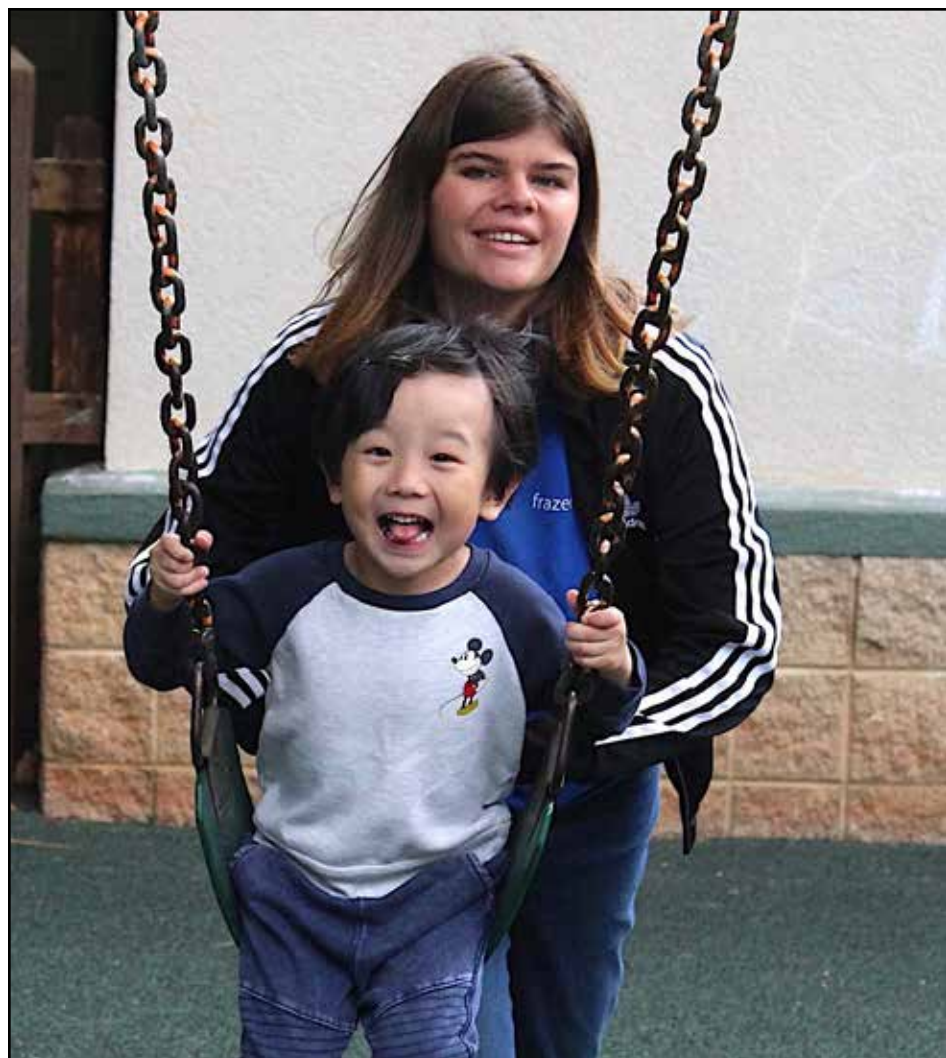
Excel students have an internship every semester except the very first one. Nathan Heald, Career Development Coordinator and Lecturer in the Excel Program, says the students gain the most through experiential learning. "They get to try out jobs they're interested in and build their resumes. We want the students to learn what's a good fit or not." "The Excel program is great," says Susie Riddick, Frazer's CDP Director. "They thoroughly train the students to be on their own, helping them get from point to point in their career development, like scaffolding."

Inclusion is a big component of the Excel program. Maggie is a junior now, and during her tenure she has had the opportunity to audit traditional classes along with her required

Excel courses. She has studied such things as art history, environmental science, psychology, human development, and industrial design. Outside of academics, her mentors have helped her with things such as cooking and navigating MARTA and ride-sharing options so she can commute independently. That independence is expanding into her work at Frazer. "She's taking on more responsibility," says Cathy Davenport, the lead teacher in the Frazer classroom where Maggie is assigned. "She's more social and engages more now. I asked her to model us, and she is learning how to coach the children. It's great to have Maggie in the classroom."

"I love it!" says Maggie. "I really like being in a school setting where I can observe the kids and understand them better. I can help them." "Maggie is learning a lot of practical skills," says Heald. "She is really enjoying it, personally and professionally." Because this arrangement has been so successful, Riddick is already considering more Excel students for future internships. Frazer's partnership with this amazing Georgia Tech program promises to help all involved excel.

*If you would like to help people with disabilities live in more inclusive communities, please remember the Frazer Center in your end-of-year giving. [www.frazercenter.org/give](http://www.frazercenter.org/give).*



Maggie Guillaume and Frazer Student



## 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:

Beth Grashof, Steven and Judith Friedman, Justin Victor, Steven Goldberg, Paula Dressel, Marilyn Schertz, Melanie Levs, and Jennifer Silver.

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](http://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!

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## PAWS Atlanta and Sami the Featured Dog

*Continued from Page 5*

pet wellness services—with low-cost vaccinations and other veterinary services. PAWS also operates a pet food bank for pet owners who need the assistance. In the summer, children can participate in one of their summer camps that teaches kids about responsible pet ownership.

In fact, there is no shortage of ways to help out PAWS Atlanta and the animals in their care. As we mentioned previously, you can donate your time. We would love to see more Lake Claire residents become PAWS volunteers. You can donate your money. When you think about your giving this year, we hope you consider donating to PAWS Atlanta. Finally, you can donate goods or services. Your expertise may be helpful

to us, or you may think of ways that you can make a donation for one of the auctions we run to raise money for PAWS. Even something like an open bag of pet food can help us help others who are in need.

You can drop off donations at our house at 430 Leonardo Avenue, N.E., anytime. Please feel free to reach out to one of us at [krisbyron1@gmail.com](mailto:krisbyron1@gmail.com) or [ross.rubenstein@gmail.com](mailto:ross.rubenstein@gmail.com) to find out more about PAWS Atlanta.

*Editor's Note: Adding to what PAWS Atlanta calls a "Failed Foster," I just adopted 3-4 year old Taffy, whom I've been fostering from them since August. They run a fantastic organization, and we will feature more of their pets in future Clarions.*



### If your Clarion does not appear on your doorstep...

If you do not receive your Clarion by the end of the first week of the month, please let us know at [distribution@lakeclaire.org](mailto:distribution@lakeclaire.org) or [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org).

We will make every effort to get your paper to you.

Also let us know if you are willing to be a backup Carrier for when your Carrier has an unavoidable delay due to life's little surprises!

### Christmas Tree Recycling

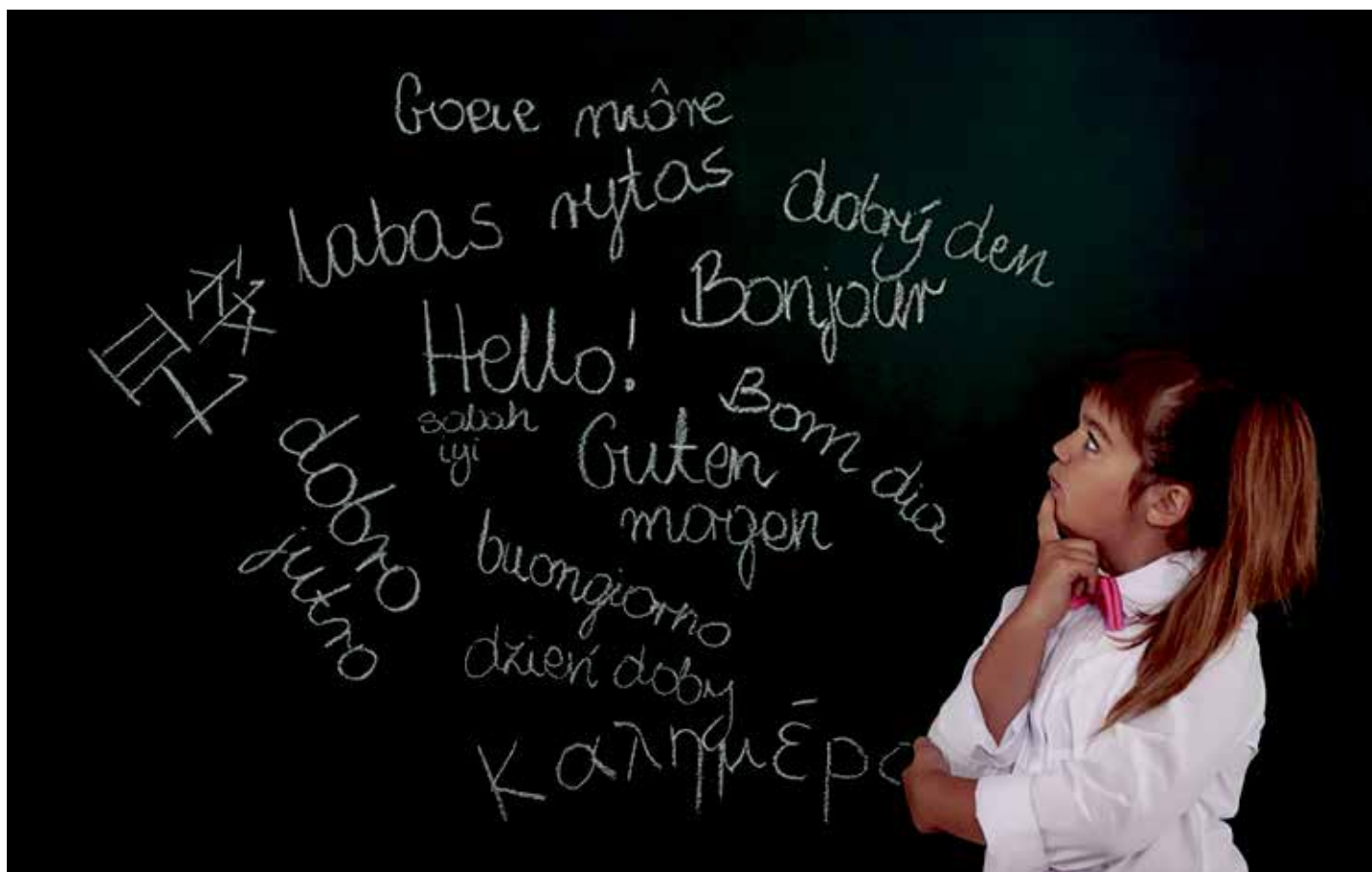


### Make it a Greener 2020: Let's TREEcycle

An important recycling effort involves your living Christmas tree after the holidays. With millions of real Christmas trees sold in the United States every year, Christmas tree recycling is an important way to give a renewable, recyclable resource back to the environment.

Atlanta residents have several ways of recycling their Christmas trees after the holidays:

Most Home Depot locations participate in tree recycling. Last year, in exchange for bringing your tree to be recycled take home a free load of mulch and/or a tree seedling to plant from one of these Home Depots. As of Clarion publication, information wasn't available, so please phone the Home Depot before taking in your tree. Also, see [www.pickyourown-christmastree.org/GeorgiaTreeRecyclingDisposal.php](http://www.pickyourown-christmastree.org/GeorgiaTreeRecyclingDisposal.php).





# LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER

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

This month's featured writer is Synnove Olson, age 9, who is in the 3rd grade at Mary Lin. She loves drawing, art, writing stories, singing, and writing songs. Syn-

nove correctly solved the word search submitted by Lee Shanlever last month, and she won the extra credit prize of being a featured writer. This picture shows Synnove solving the word search (sister Seija and guinea pig Rocket are also pictured).

Hey there, Lake Claire kids of all ages:

We want to see your creativity. Submit your work to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org) by **DECEMBER 15** for the January 2020 issue of the newspaper. We hope this is a good starting place for kids' future writing careers. Who would know that a 9-year old had such good writing skills?! We are impressed. Congrats, Synnove!



Synnove, Featured Writer and 3rd Place Contest Winner

## Thanksgiving

by Synnove Olson

My favorite thing about Thanksgiving is spending time with my family because Thanksgiving is a time to be with family and friends and also people you love. But Thanksgiving is also a time to be thankful for everything you have in your life. I am thankful for my friends, family, and food. Thanksgiving is a time of love, friends, family, and thankfulness.

I am thankful for YOU! I also love the feast we have every Thanksgiving. We take turns saying what we're thankful for, and it brings us together as a happy, healthy, family.

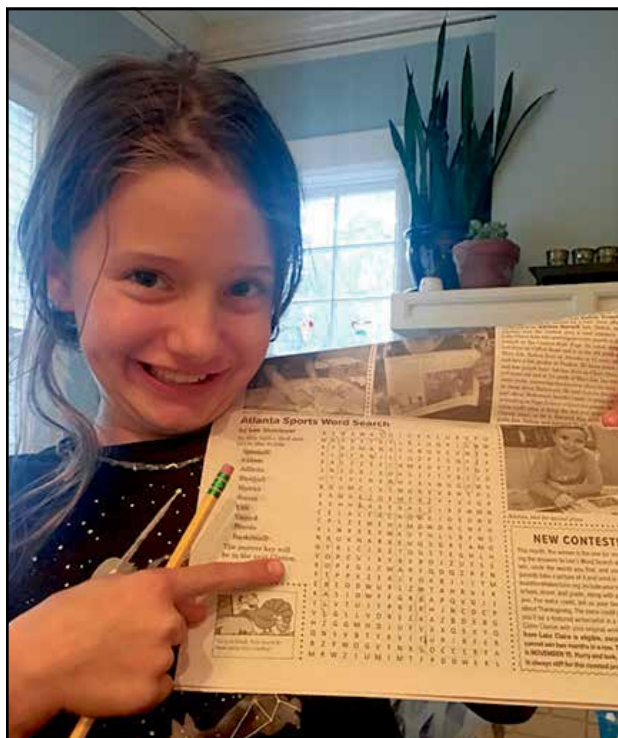


Darcy Troxell-Cappello, First Place Winner

## CONTEST WINNERS

This month, Darcy Troxell-Cappello won the prize for finding the hidden graphic. Coming in second, Johanna Heutel also won extra credit by telling us her favorite thing about Thanksgiving. She said, "My favorite thing about Thanksgiving is the food, and my favorite food is Mac and Cheese. I hate mashed potatoes." Synnove Olson came in 3rd place, and also won extra credit. Darcy, Johanna, and Synnove won the contest over a vast number of Lake Claire kids who participate every month in the contest on the Clarion Kids' Page. Darcy is eight years old, lives on Almeta Avenue, and is in the 3rd grade at Mary Lin. Johanna is nine years old, is in the 4th grade at Mary Lin, and lives on Palifox. Synnove is nine years old, a 3rd grader at Mary Lin, and lives on Leonardo.

**Congrats to all 3 of you!!** To all of those kids who didn't win, please do keep playing. We know that competition is stiff. See the new contest to the right.



Joanna Heutel, Second Place Winner

### NEW CONTEST!

We all know that fun holidays, such as Santa coming down the chimney, happen in December. But December is also "Write a Friend Month," "Read a New Book Month," and "Learn a Foreign Language Month." Find a December graphic about one of these topics somewhere in this issue. To win, send an e-mail to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org), identifying the page number, and you must include your name, age, school, street, and grade, along with a picture. Ask a parent to take a picture of you, perhaps of you finding the hidden graphic, or doing whatever you like. For extra credit, either tell us a new book you started this month, whom you have written to recently, or what new language you started learning! 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 DECEMBER 15 for next year's (that is, January 2020) issue. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.**

**THE CLARION WISHES EVERYONE IN LAKE CLAIRE  
A FANTASTIC NEW YEAR—STAY WARM, AND  
SEND US YOUR IDEAS FOR NEXT YEAR—ANYTIME!**