



Dear Neighbors,

When the editor of the Clarion asked me to write something for the May issue, I wasn't worried, until it hit me how difficult the effort might be considering this message will have been submitted on Apr. 12. It is impossible to know if by the time the first of May comes around, we will still be maintaining social distance and self-isolating, as we have been doing since the first stay-at-home order was issued by the mayor on March 23, or if we will be doing some modified version of it, or maybe even be back to normal, or a new normal. Whatever happens, the only comparable event in recent history was WWII -- when almost everybody was directly affected by the harsh reality of a country at war on two fronts; as a consequence, there was universal rationing of just about everything, millions of men and women joining the military services, an unprecedented number of women going to work in

factories and many other occupations formally limited to men, and the overwhelming sorrow of so many lives lost. The difference now is that it concerns a medical threat to every human being, a radical shut down of the economy, a drastic restriction of movement both in public and in private, and there is no way to know what things will be like after it's all over.

Yes, we are living in strange times! Yet life has to go on, so let me concentrate on that. As for the Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN), I can confirm that it hasn't shut down, even though we haven't had regular meetings for the last two months. Obviously Beth Damon is keeping up her great work with the Clarion, while Nancy Dorsner continues to maintain the LCN website. And I'm happy to report that Carol Holiday and Beth Grasshof were able to process a variance request using Zoom for a virtual meeting,
Cont. on p. 3

Covid-19 Religious Holiday Realities

by Beth Damon

These past weeks, that have now stretched to months, have brought many new challenges. On top of juggling the stresses of our new reality, many of us adapted important holiday rituals in the absence of our families, communities, and even basic supplies. I don't know many people who aren't feeling the strain of balancing all of this.

Passover came first, April 8-16. Central to the Jewish holiday Passover is the gathering in person at the Seder table to retell the story of the Exodus, the Israelites' journey to freedom. In answer to a central Passover question, "What makes this night different from all other nights," this year was particularly different from all other years, and the holiday had

to focus on the spirit—rather than on the letter—of Jewish law. For the eight days, although it was via Zoom and other platforms, or smaller family gatherings (Orthodox Jews do not use electronics on the holiday), many families read from the Haggadah to remember one of humanity's most powerful stories of liberation.

Easter was Sunday, April 12 (and for the Orthodox Christian community, Sunday, April 19). Easter also includes worship and family gatherings, not to mention Easter egg hunts. Notwithstanding these turbulent times, Christians around the world worshiped together -- through innovative means such as Easter Worship Online and Live-Streaming

Lake Claire Children on Learning Online

The Clarion did a quick check at the end of April with a few neighborhood children to see how they are enjoying and/or coping with learning from home and the pros and cons of home study. Shanthi Acharya, 7 years old and a first grader at Mary Lin (Claire Drive), said that she enjoys doing projects at home, but "it is kind of hard being home without friends."

Synove Olson, age 9, who also goes to Mary Lin (Leonardo), said "The best part of home-school is being able to finish early. The worst part is absolutely everything else because I don't get to see anyone like friends, family, and teachers." Synove sent us the picture above.

Jordan Levs, fourth grade, age 10 (Harold Avenue), said, "I don't like that it's a different schedule, and we don't have the same things every day at the same time. I DO like that we get to stay home, and we can sit on our own sofa and do the work!"

Abigail Levs, age 6, in kindergarten (also Harold Avenue), said, "I like I can chat with my friends on the computer. What I don't like is that pressing the buttons on the computer sometimes hurts my hands."

Michael McGill, age 12 (Delaware Avenue), said, "The good things are you get a lot more sleep and feel refreshed in the morning. The bad thing is it's hard to focus sometimes because you are comfortable, and there aren't any teachers telling you what to do all the time."

Jett Friedman, 7 years old until May 18, and a 2nd grader at Mary Lin (also Delaware Avenue) opines, "I like learning online because I get to spend time with my family. I miss my friends and my teacher."

Ian Cambas Stocking, age 11, in 6th grade at Inman (Nelms), adds, "Virtual learning has been pretty good so far. It's very laid-back and much more relaxed. There have been some things that are a little hard to adjust to, like when there are problems with the websites we have to

Cont. on p. 3



Support Still Needed for Groups and Restaurants

If you are able to give, many agencies can certainly use your help. The Giving Kitchen, the charitable arm of Staplehouse, supports people in the service industry, often in medical emergencies, but they helped recently when a server was mugged and his bicycle stolen. Even when there isn't a health and economic crisis, *Hosea Feed the Hungry* and *Homeless* and *The Atlanta Community Food Bank* need help. Please remember to check and see if your company matches contributions, making dollars go twice as far. And don't forget restaurants and

other small businesses (many of whom were mentioned in the last Clarion). The effects of the Coronavirus outbreak on small businesses are obviously very real and distressing. Our continued support makes a significant impact. This link lists ways we can help restaurants in trouble: www.eater.com/2020/3/17/21182293/coronavirus-relief-funds-restaurants-food-service-workers. Thank you. ♥

**THE CLARION
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Cont. on p. 5

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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.

May Calendar

This is the shortest calendar ever in the Clarion! These are the only events that we know for sure that will happen in May at the time of submitting the Clarion to the printer in mid-April. We suggest that you check websites of theatre, music, and other venues, as well as those of Lake Claire and the Lake Claire Land Trust: Lake Claire Neighbors: lakeclaire.org; Lake Claire Community Land Trust: www.lcclt.org.

19 NOT Voting Day (It has moved to June 9.) This primary election will include votes for president, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House, along with state and local offices.

21 Lake Claire Neighbors monthly meeting—and every 3rd Thursday. Please check website to see if it will be back in the Rose Room at The Frazer Center (7 p.m. socialize, 7:15 meeting. Pizza provided free from Savage) or via Zoom (as it was in April). Minutes are always on the website, and when room, in the Clarion. (Remember, check website at lakeclaire.org before going, just in case.)

Tasty Music Offerings

As more festivals, performances, and concerts were canceled due to the coronavirus shutdown, musicians of all stripes and sizes have taken to social and streaming platforms to play live for their fans. This includes a vast array of music, from opera to rock to Americana to folk, and more. Some will require registration or a subscription, but most are free, often with digital tip jars and opportunities to directly support artists by buying music and merchandise.

Jambase has done a great job of compiling tasty music offerings out

there these days, a “living document” that will be kept updated until it is no longer needed: www.jambase.com/livestreams. Some notable concerts are May 2, 6, and 9 (see details at the link), Jimmy Buffett’s Cabin Fever Spring 2020 Tour, *The Disco Biscuits* (several dates), and “Ellen Berman’s Corona Classics Livestream Concerts” (several dates, see link). And this NPR link is another resource: www.npr.org/2020/03/17/816504058/a-list-of-live-virtual-concerts-to-watch-during-the-coronavirus-shutdown.



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Dear Neighbors

Continued from Page 1

while Jennifer Silver, the LCN's new Film Liaison to the City's Office of Entertainment, secured a donation from a movie company, and Annsley Klehr is still working on APS issues.

On a more human interest level, one of the most challenging realities of the current situation is having to stay home for we don't know how long yet. Of course, it will be different for those who have families than for those of us who are single. So far I'm actually enjoying it. One thing is the general lack of noise: few cars, buses and trucks going by, not many people out walking, not much construction activity, and the weather is very pleasant so far. Then, there is opportunity to get a lot of things done around the house and yard that have been put off for quite a while. Also, there is a lot of time for catching up with friends and relatives, as well as stacks of unread books and articles. All of a sudden I started thinking of it as sort of a retreat that would lead toward some type of spiritual enlightenment. The feeling actually lasted for almost two days, I think, until I couldn't help surfing the net and binge-watching more of my favorite shows on MeTV.

Because of the unusual circumstances we're in right now, there is still something liberating or at least therapeutic in watching programs from the 50s and early 60s to get transported back to the time when I was growing up. But it wasn't a period with no problems. There was always the looming possibility of long-range bombers and/or missiles with atomic warheads coming over from Russia that could wipe out entire cities and surrounding areas. The threat, of course, was real, but looking back on it the responses were pretty funny. In Elementary school I remember very loud air raid sirens going off all over town for practice drills and school kids being told to crawl under their desks in case a mushroom cloud appeared. Unfortunately, that would have been the last thing we would ever see, desks or no desks. Then there were the bomb shelters that some people made near or in their homes, and if possible in secret, so neighbors wouldn't come banging on the locked entrance assuming there would be time before a missile or bomb exploded. However, it appears not much thought was given to what life would be like after it was "safe" to come out. By the fifties, the nuclear weapons being produced by both sides were something like 3,000 times more powerful than the original atomic bombs dropped on Japan, not to mention the large increase in radiation. If that weren't bad enough,



Joe Agee, bartending at LCN Xmas Party 2019

and a good thing I didn't know this at the time, many cities were targeted with multiple bombs or missiles just to make sure that nothing was left standing or living.

Even so, this was a time of innocence and simpler living, and there was a very positive side about how the way of life was portrayed in shows like *Leave it to Beaver*, *Ossie and Harriett*, *Andy Griffith*, *Green Acres*, and *Perry Mason*. The latter is the one that I remember most, *Perry Mason*. It ran from 1957 to 1964. I was 13 when the first episode came out and was fascinated with the showcase of the latest model cars with giant tail fins (I think they were supposed to look like rocket ships) and happily supplied by the Ford and GM companies. Having seen most of the reruns during the last few years (and a lot more since isolating), I consider myself something of an expert. I hope this turns up in my obituary.

The overall plot of the show was pure 50s. Based on the initial evidence presented at the beginning of each episode, all of Perry's clients couldn't look guiltier. Just to reinforce the point, Lt. Tragg, the always snarky homicide detective, would come up to our attorney with a big grin and gloat: "The murder weapon has your client's fingerprints all over it, we have matching blood stains on his clothes, an iron-clad motive, and several witnesses who will swear that your client vowed to kill the victim. Your famous courtroom antics aren't going to work this time; your client's going directly to the gas chamber (the form of execution in California at the time), hahahaha." I loved this guy! But by the end of the trial, Perry, with the crucial help of Paul Drake, his private investigator, and Della Street, his adoring secretary, would run circles around the hapless prosecutor Hamilton Burger, setting the

Volunteer Opportunity

Several groups have been mentioned last month and this month who distribute food via the food bank and other worthy organizations. "Free-FoodCommune" is a member-group whose members donate \$10 toward costs and directly receive rescued food worth 5 times that or more. Many families depend on this food to feed their families. Shopping takes place on Saturday afternoons at Edgewood Church, 1560 Memorial Drive, S.E. The group is looking for volunteers to help work the tables; this is a way to donate a short amount of time, even an hour or two, and make a huge con-

tribution. At this time, volunteers and participants observe social distancing as recommended and wear (non-medical) masks. Please wear a mask and bring tupperware containers, if you have extras.

Volunteers arrive at 10:30 a.m. to set up; then participants come to get food 12-2 p.m. Please see the Facebook page [freefoodcommune](https://www.facebook.com/freefoodcommune/) for more details (www.facebook.com/freefoodcommune/). The address is: Edgewood Church: 1560 Memorial Drive S.E., Atlanta, GA 30317. Any questions, feel free to call Pam at 404-822-5685.

LC Children Learning Online

Continued from Page 1

go on then points get taken away because we can't get on the websites. Or when you forget to check in to a certain class and then miss an assignment and then have even more work, or when I don't understand a certain topic it's a little harder than at school because at school they can explain it to us better."

Sol Cambas Stocking, age 6, kindergarten (also Nelms), likes that "Whenever I get hurt immediately I have help, and I can snuggle with my mommy more, and also I have my own computer." He dislikes that, "Work is harder to do because it's harder to concentrate, and it is hard

to hear on the Google-meets with my class. Plus, I miss playing with my friends and teacher at school."

Finally, Emma Sullivan, age 12 and a 6th grader at Inman (Arizona), told us, "I like that we can go at our own pace, and we can stay in our pajamas all day. I don't like that we cannot see our friends and teachers, and that you can't immediately ask questions."

Thank you to everyone who participated, and we hope you will all be back safely at school in the not-too-distant future. Remember to wash your hands a lot!

Keeping An Eye on the Crime and the Time: Lake Claire Security

by Miriam Herbers

There was just one car break-in reported to APD this month, which is a positive note.

You can now report certain crimes online with the new Community Online Reporting System. The system will allow you to submit reports at your convenience rather than having to wait for a police officer who may be on a high-priority call. This system is not designed for all crime reporting and is limited to the following categories: Custody Order Violations; Damage to Property; Fraudulent Use

of Credit Cards; Gas Drive-Off; Harassing Communications; Identity Theft; Lost Property; Supplemental Report—adding additional information to an approved APD report. Go to: www.atlantapd.org/i-want-to-report-a-crime. If you are not sure, call 911, and the operator can direct you. If you have questions about reporting a crime, please email apdwebmaster@atlantaga.gov. Finally, please remember, filing a false police report whether online or in person is a misdemeanor crime punishable by law.

stage for a witness or just somebody in the audience to jump up and yell, "Yes I did it, I did it! He/she didn't deserve to live!" And then everything was right with the world. I think that was the point of most of the shows of the era, especially considering the dangers of the Cold War. It was also a time when men wore suits, women hats and gloves, \$100 was considered a lot money, gas was 20 cents a gallon, you could tell the difference be-

tween a Ford and a Chevrolet, pay phones were everywhere, and you could always find somebody in the telephone book.

I know the above nostalgia excursion won't protect me from COVID-19, but it really helps to feel a lot better during a time when it seems the world has been turned upside down.

Be well and stay safe.

~Joe



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Frazer Center Update

by Dina Shadwell

The Frazer Center doors have been closed since March 13 in response to COVID-19, but we are still buzzing behind the scenes. Frazer's leadership team holds daily virtual meetings to monitor the situation and to create solutions to the inevitable funding and operational issues during these uncertain times. Our teachers are finding ways to stay engaged with their students online, keeping in mind the recommended limitations to screen time for young children (less than one hour for ages 2 to 4, and no screen time for infants under 1 year, according to the World Health Organization.) Teachers continue to provide ideas for projects that families can do at home, and some are becoming adept at Zoom gatherings so classmates can see each other again.

Keeping Frazer's Adult Program participants engaged has proven to be more challenging during this time since most do not use computers. And since the program is funded through public sources like Medicaid and Vocational Rehabilitation, if Frazer staff is not providing their usual support to participants, then Frazer cannot bill for those services. Although Medicaid is currently working on a plan to help organizations like Frazer through this period, it is unclear if or how much revenue will be recouped. Thanks to Frazer's

healthy financial reserves before the pandemic, all staff have continued to receive full pay and benefits. But those reserves are taking a major hit.

Revenue from events in Cator Woolford Gardens has come to a halt, but all weddings that were on the calendar during this time are being rescheduled to later dates at no additional cost to couples. Frazer's annual gala fundraiser, Gather in the Gardens, has been rescheduled for September 13, 2020. Should it become necessary to remain closed through May and beyond, the Frazer team will continue to find solutions. We are hopeful that through individual donations, unrestricted grants, and judicious managing of expenses, Frazer will come out the other side of this pandemic—if not “returning to normal,” then creating a new normal for our life-changing services for children and adults with and without disabilities.

We are grateful to our Lake Claire neighbors for keeping an eye on the forest and grounds. If you need to alert us to any pressing situations during this closure, please contact CEO Paige McKay Kubik at 404-895-4210 or p.kubik@frazercenter.org. If you would like to make a donation to the Frazer Center, please visit frazercenter.org/give. Thank you!

Join the COVID-19 Chronicles

by Rebecca Salem (DeKalb History Center)

I hope this note finds you healthy and in good spirits! We at the DHC have been taking the pandemic in stride, and we are about to launch “The COVID-19 Chronicles.”

We are contacting Lake Claire and other DeKalb residents to ask for your stories, photos, and videos that

describe how your experience has been during the pandemic and sheltering-in-place. The goal is to gather stories so that we can preserve this part of our history for future generations. Please help us to spread the word by sending to me at selem@dekalbhistory.org. Be safe!

Religious Holiday Realities

Continued from Page 1

compassion, forgiveness, and perseverance. The Quran and Hadith remind observers that the true value in fasting is achieved through the embracement of the humane ideals of celebration of difference and honoring of human dignity of all, equally and without distinction.

At my Seder table, I was the only one physically present, but it was still moving, and it was remarkably similar to Seders in the past. On Zoom, we read from the Haggadah, performed traditional rituals together, joked, and sang, and then we ate together but separately. There is a line

in the text of the Haggadah, which loosely translated means that in every generation, we must feel as if we ourselves had been cast out of Egypt. This year there was added resonance to the idea. All three of these holidays took on a new resonance in the midst of our current situation, since Passover, Easter, and Ramadan are all defined by togetherness—eating together, and praying together.

If we are still on “lockdown” when this Clarion comes out, all of us at the Clarion hope that folks are taking care of their emotional needs along with their physical needs.



Hello—Safe Journey—Skiing in and around Lake Claire

MAY Birthdays

- 2 Layla Klehr, turning 11, Hardendorf Avenue (one of this month's featured children—page 12)
- 3 Sarah Wynn, Harold Avenue
- 4 Bill Fleming and Jennifer Hubert, both Harold Avenue
- 9 Vivian Baker, Claire Drive, turns five! Bob Caine, Leonardo, and Reece Barclay on Hardendorf
- 11 Adler Waugh, turning 9, Leonardo
- 16 Peter Olson, Leonardo
- 18 Liz Baker, Claire Drive; Jett Friedman, Delaware Ave, turning 8 (so glad Jett is back home!)
- 19 Joseph McGill, Delaware Avenue, will be 19 (at 21, we'll stop mentioning age!)
- 20 Aiden Rogers, Ridgecrest, turns 16
- 23 Mayla Carper, Leonardo, turning 7
- 27 Edie Haggerty, Harold, turns 9
- 28 Sadie Stevens, Leonardo, turning 10

MAY Graduations

Congratulations to our Lake Claire grads, after studying online this semester!!!!

Send us life cycle changes for the next issue—it's a combo issue for June/July!—help make this series inclusive (editor@lakeclaire.org) by May 15.

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries Update

by Lori White

I hope this email finds everyone in Lake Claire safe and healthy. Thank you for walking beside us and helping to serve our guests during this time. We have continued to stay hunkered down at the shelter, and all our guests and staff have remained strong and in good spirits.

I wanted to take this opportunity to say thanks to everyone who has continued to rally around us and provide dinner meals, lunch items, monetary gifts, and other supplies that we have so graciously received during this time. With the variety of ways that individuals have given, we wanted to remind you that our organization is a listed charity on **AmazonSmile**. By going to [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and selecting “Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, Inc.,” your purchase will give us 0.5% donated to our ministry on eligible purchases that you make on Amazon. If you already have another

charity chosen and would like to select Clifton, go to [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile), then under “Accounts and Lists,” choose “Your AmazonSmile,” and you will see the option to “Change Charity,” where one can search and select Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, Inc. It is a simple way to contribute as you shop on Amazon!! (And we all know how much we love Amazon, but especially recently, and ongoing if we are still stuck at home in May!)

Tess, our Food Coordinator and longtime resident of Lake Claire (see *Clarion*, March 2020), has been busy planting tomatoes, peppers, corn and squash in our new garden space. The guys will have fresh fruits and vegetables available for healthy eating; we are just getting started!

We pray for protection and provision for each of you. We will keep you posted. We appreciate you all, and we love our Lake Claire neighbors!

Hardendorf Mini Porch-Fest

Several Saturday afternoons in April, music wafted through Lake Claire from Hardendorf Avenue à la Oakhurst Porch fest. In explanation for those who don't know, in October Oakhurst hosts Porch Fest, with musicians performing on different porches throughout the neighborhood, and that is what materialized on Hardendorf; from 4 to 5 p.m., musicians played on porches on the

400-block; from 5 to 6 p.m., people played on the 500-block; from 6 to 7, it was the 600-block. People strolled by and listened in small groups, while maintaining social distance from non-household members.

Philip Campbell of Hardendorf conceived of the idea, noting "crazy times, and there are always a lot of us walking up and down our wonderful street, but even more so now."

He heard someone playing his saxophone, which led to organizing other neighbors who are musicians to play from their front porches or yards at the same time, with other neighbors enjoying many performances. Most of the music was acoustic, but Philip Campbell noted the unveiling of the duo *Ben & Yoshi*, plugging in and playing from their respective front porches/yards. The second week, Pa-

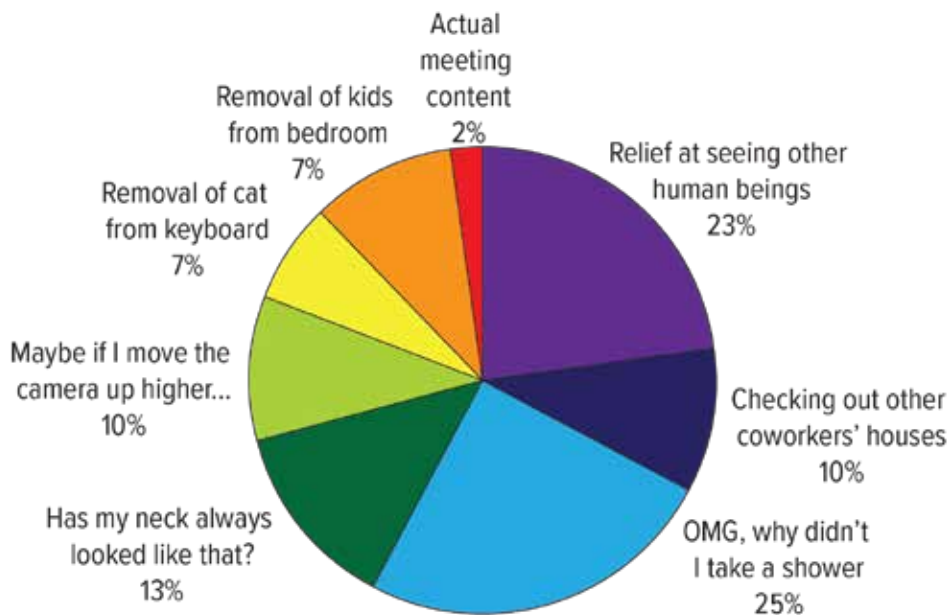
trice Buford of the Amblers did a solo gig in the 500-block.

If we are still walking the neighborhood in May, do walk down Hardendorf on Saturday afternoons, just in case the tradition continues.

Except for the one of Patrice Buford (by Beth Damon), thanks to Susan Rutherford of Hardendorf for the pictures.



Diagram of Zoom Meeting Attention Span



Wild in Lake Claire

by Flora Fauna (*aka* Carol Vanderschaaf)

Has this quote by T.S. Eliot been running through your mind lately:

*This is the way the world ends
This is the way the world ends
This is the way the world ends
Not with a bang but a whimper.*

It has through mine. Well, as you may know, Flora Fauna is your Dame of Dystopia. But this is just a little jest. I, Flora, do not believe the world is ending. In fact, this pause in what we refer to as our normal life gives many of us time to observe and appreciate the natural world around us. Let us raise our voices (six feet apart) in song and praise the joys of our mother earth.

Miriam H. says it all; “All I have to say is that if we have to stay home this is a beautiful time for it to happen, with warmer weather, happy birds, and beautiful flowers. I especially enjoy sitting on my deck in the dark listening to the owls. Nesting season is February and March for barred owls but, like the coronavirus, does not know boundaries; the owls do not watch the calendar.

Meredith W has been “using my time to be better at identifying plants and birds, including what plants we can eat. If you are not familiar with it, *Seek* is an awesome app that helps with plant identification. You can then read about each species you find. (*Seek*, an app to remember!)

We’ve also been using the time to tackle the invasives in our yard (kudzu, ivy, porcelain berry, honeysuckle, privet, cherry laurel, monkey grass, Japanese knotweed—if it’s invasive, we probably have it). If anyone else is bored, he or she is welcome to come to our yard and spend some time pulling vines. It is very satisfying, and is a great solo activity. ;)

I’ve seen a lot of snakes and baby-making recently. I saw two Midland watersnakes going at it in Emory’s Lullwater park and two giant snapping turtles “wrestling” in Candler Lake. We found two baby Dekay’s Brown Snakes in our yard, and I saw a beautiful Eastern kingsnake crossing the S. Peachtree Creek Path.

My husband and I saw a fox cross the road just in front of us while traveling down The Byway (in Virginia Highland)—the first one I’ve seen in the city. As for water fowl, I saw some napping wood ducks off Burnt Fork Creek and a bunch of Blue-winged Teals on the Emory grounds while walking today. And we’ve had lots of rabbits (more babies!), red-tailed hawks, red-shouldered hawks, northern flickers (surprisingly loud), nuthatches, blue jays, cardinals, vultures, wrens, robins, and towhees in our backyard.

If anyone sees the large snapping turtle with a pink nose that used to frequent the creek in Candler Park (at



Stinkhorn (photo by Genise Spenle)

the end of hole 6), I’d love to know. We named her (or him?) Lucia and want to see her again but haven’t been able to since early last year. Also, I forgot to say that I saw a bat sleeping in the open by itself on a privet just beside the S. Peachtree Creek trail. It was very cute! Probably a hoary bat, but that couldn’t be confirmed. And we’ve seen quite a few hairy and red-bellied woodpeckers in our yard as well,” said Meredith.

Dorothy D. had a wonderful day; “I saw a pair of house finches at my birdbath and 2 or 3 yellow-rumped warblers. On my walk near Candler Park I saw a bluebird, some rusty

crowned sparrows I couldn’t identify and heard a pine warbler, robins, of course, chickadees, and Canada geese in the pond. Someone asked me recently where all the blue jays have gone, and I realized I hadn’t seen many for a while. However, yesterday there were three in my yard. I just saw a white throated sparrow at my birdbath with bright yellow markings on his head. I know they’re not unusual but he was beautiful. Clear days, fewer cars, storm, less pollution. Then I saw an Indigo Bunting! Then two house finches, then a female cardinal, now a brown Thrash-

Cont. on p. 9

Available for Adoption

by Kris Byron, Volunteer & Foster Parent, PAWS Atlanta

At nearly two years old, **Trembles** has lived at PAWS Atlanta since she was a kitten. She is SUPER affectionate. She loves people and seems to enjoy the company of other cats (although could also live without them). Her back end is paralyzed but she gets along well by scooting (she does not really enjoy her wheelchair). She

is looking for someone who will take good care of her needs: She takes medication daily but does so easily with pill pockets. She also needs to be cleaned regularly (because she does not have control over her bowel or bladder). She is genuinely one of the sweetest cats the PAWS Atlanta staff has ever met! Now, she just needs a forever family who will return all the love she has to offer. Trembles lives in the vet clinic at PAWS Atlanta.

Looking for an adorable coach potato? **Trigger** is your pup. This five-year old dog loves people and is

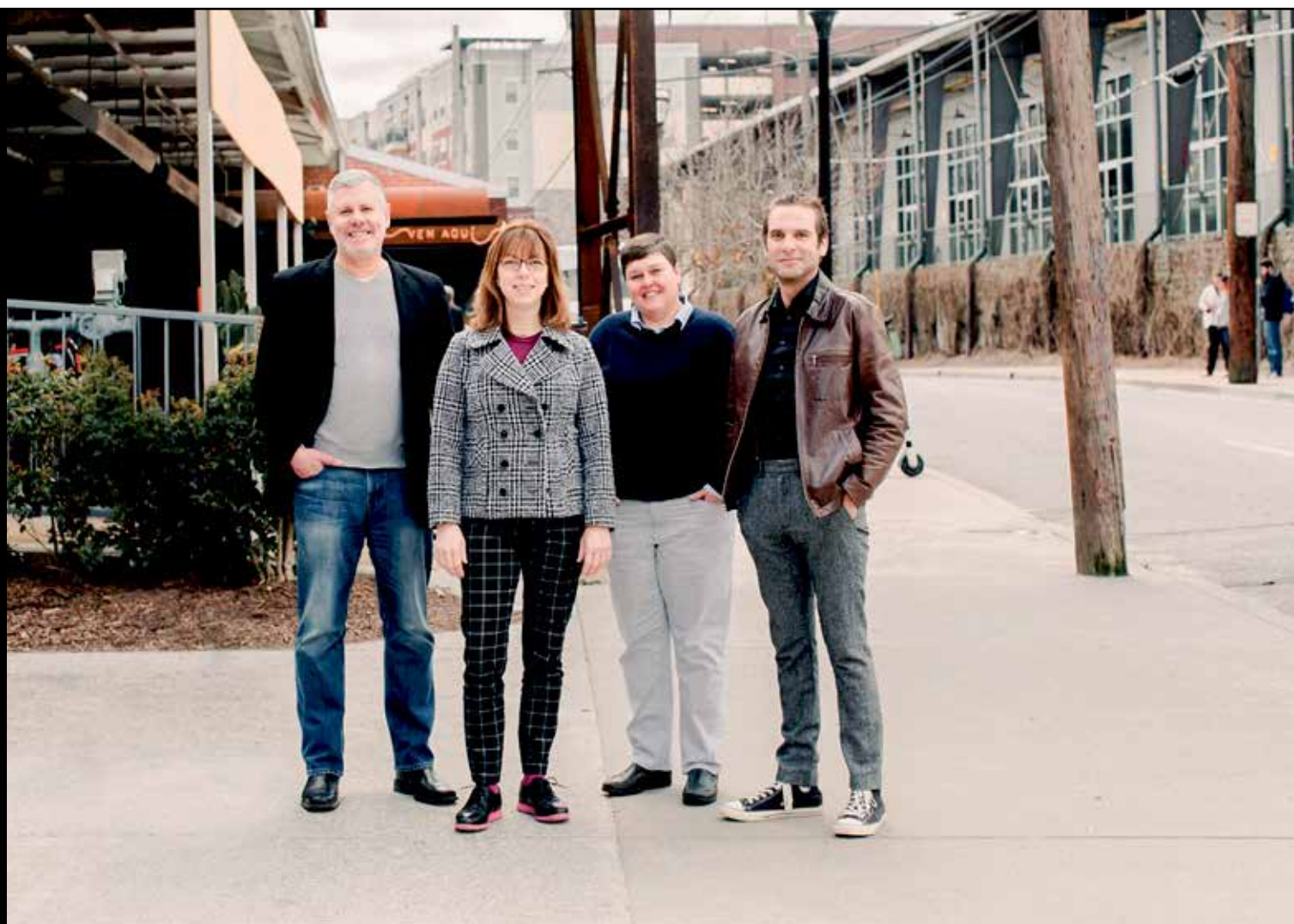
house- and crate-trained. When living in a temporary foster home, he got a fabulous report card: “Trigger is doing great! He is still really good in the house, goes all day uncrated with no problems. He likes to snuggle, and is never too far away. He really enjoys going outside, and does some super cute bunny hops and spins when he knows it’s time to go out.” With his cute picket-fence smile and funny antics, he will win you over in a heartbeat. Trigger currently lives at PAWS Atlanta.

Uncle Buck is my husband’s shelter favorite. This guy needs a special someone – but he will pay you his gratitude with a multitude of love. Uncle Buck has neurological issues in his back half that are likely genetic. He sometimes stumbles when he walks, and he dribbles urine (and needs a belly band to prevent messes). That said, this guy is a charmer. He’s a little shy but he’s quick to warm up. When you pet him, he presses himself into you for maxi-

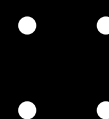
mum contact. He’s laid-back and lovable. He loves nothing more than to take a leisurely stroll while staying close to you. Uncle Buck currently lives at PAWS Atlanta.

To meet Trembles, Trigger, or Uncle Buck, go to PAWS Atlanta (5287 Covington Highway, Decatur) or contact PAWS Atlanta at 770-593-1155 or info@pawsatlanta.org. (As of press time, PAWS Atlanta is still closed to the public, and we can’t be sure about May, so please check the website for updates.)





COMPASS



Should You Stay or Should You Go Now?

The most common questions I receive from past clients, neighbors, friends, and family are:

1

COVID-19: How is this going to affect me buying or selling?

2

Should we stay in our home and renovate, or should we move?

3

Where can we spend the least, to gain the best return?

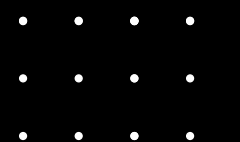
4

Do you know professionals who can help with the work?

5

If we sell, can we find a home within our budget?

Often people ask if they should stay in their current home and renovate, or if they should sell their home and buy a new one. In the current market, it is sometimes better to renovate. Our job is to provide the best advice to help you make your home ownership decisions. We're happy to come out, sale or not.



—Jo Gipson, Candler Park Resident since 1995; Realtor since 2002



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Doggies and Rat Poison ;-(

by Beth Damon

A couple of weeks ago, at midnight, my 2-year old doggie collapsed and was hardly able to lift her head. I rushed her to the ER at Village Vets of Decatur, where they found her unresponsive, and immediately began emergency treatment. After having her on an IV for 2 days with antibiotic and Vitamin K (counters the effects of rat poison, which is an anti-coagulant), she recovered, but they strongly suspect that she did ingest rat poison. I do not use rat poison, which means she had to have gotten it on a walk. Please folks, please please, do not use rat poison. In this neighborhood, many of us may find little furry creatures seeking refuge in our basements or crawl spaces. Poison and poisoned mice and rats can be eaten by owls, hawks, cats, dogs, and other animals that we don't want to poison. I know any of you would be as heartbroken as I if a cat or dog got neural damage or died from eating a poisoned rat or ingesting poison. I was lucky that Taffy survived this ordeal and is almost back to normal; they

couldn't confirm for sure whether it was poison or anaphylactic shock from insect bites, but they found no puncture marks on her, so they suspect the former, based on bloodwork showing her blood slow to coagulate.

Many people report having good results controlling rats and mice with peppermint oil. You need to get the concentrated oil from a health food store or online. Just saturate the cotton balls with the oil, and toss them around your crawl space or attic. Please help protect our beloved pets and other animals.

As an aside, this veterinary emergency room allowed only one person in the waiting room at a time, everyone wore masks and gloves, and they were very careful with intake and checking-out to make sure that clients observed social distance and extreme cleanliness measures. I highly recommend this ER, under normal circumstances, and now during the lockdown, and it is located 2 miles from Lake Claire.



Wild in LC

Continued from Page 7

er with house finches waiting on the sidelines. Taking baths seem very popular today. (I had a shower myself.) Now a male cardinal. I'm going to have to start giving out numbers!"

"I've seen lots of goldfinches in various stages of changing into their summer colors," reports Ilene. Several yellow rumped warblers. A red bellied woodpecker. And heard a bull frog croaking. The barred owls are still talking at all hours of the night. And I saw a hawk eating something in a tree on Arizona, couldn't tell what kind it was."

Friends on Delaware held a "socially distanced happy hour," in mid April, where each person brought his or her own cocktail and chair and spaced them outside appropriately distanced from each other. While

chatting, Beth D. reported, "we saw a huge hawk fly over. This got the conversation started on wildlife. All of us have heard the 'who cooks for you' call of the barred owl predictably every night around 7:30, followed later in the evening by the sounds of coyote yipping." Beth saw a large rabbit (see picture below), the first time she's ever seen one in her back yard of 30 years, which is surrounded by a tall privacy fence so not easily accessible, and the little fellow obligingly waited while she got her camera, and after the picture, took off with a flash of his/her bunny tail; the other immediate neighbors, Steve, Kathy, Alicia, Tom, etc., have also reported seeing an abundance of bunnies on Delaware of late—or else one or two are *really* making the rounds in

our yards.

Genise S. saw a "mushroom in the stinkhorn family, while walking along the north side of McLendon. At first we thought it was a flower with dog poop on it," she said, "but then we bent down and smelled the foul smell and saw its thick stem. We looked it up in a mushroom book. It is an *Asero rubra* and is also known as an anome stinkhorn or Starfish fungus. (See picture, page 7). The brown shiny foul smelling part is called "bleba," and attracts flies which in turn spread the mushroom's spores."

Melissa B. requests that we all be careful when disturbing soil/mulch around our shrubs, as the aforementioned bunnies often burrow in these areas. M. also reports a pair of Red-tailed Hawks pushing their fledglings out of their nest. Beware little bunnies!

Frank W., Arizona, saw several rabbits in the early evening, two on Nelms and one on Adolphus. He also had several owl sightings and saw a lizard on his back porch. A blue-jay family moved in a few months ago in his backyard and are very entertaining to watch fluttering from tree to tree. "Listening to their variable and creative songs is inspiring," he noted.

Flora Fauna has had a little action in her own yard, a teeny chipmunk who has made an occasional appear-

ance. It is sometimes chased by my dog, N., in a zigzag dash around the yard. Thus far the chipmunk has won! FF also has finally coaxed her tulip vine cuttings to burst into leaf and bloom up the lattice (sort of) hiding her garbage cans.

So, as I end this monthly communication with the 'hood, I am hearing T.S. Eliot again creeping into my brain,

*We are the hollow men
We are the stuffed men
Leaning together
Headpiece filled with straw.....*

Out, out damned Eliot! You are too glum. Allow me, cvanderschaaf, to butt in with a little Shakespeare:

*Where the bee sucks there suck I.
In a cowslip's bell I lie:
There I couch when owls do cry.
On a bat's back I do fly.
After summer merrily.
Merrily, merrily shall I live now
Under the blossom that hangs on
the bough.*

Ah, that's much better! Happy distancing. Hope to see you a little closer soon.

~ Flora Fauna

(If anyone wants to share his or her sightings with the rest of the 'hood, please contact my assistant, cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net.)



Large rabbit spotted in BD backyard on Delaware Avenue

May into June in the Lake Claire Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton, knowltonew@earthlink.net

“Often we think of nature as ‘somewhere else’—but it’s really all around us, no matter where we are.” (NY Times Travel Section, Sun Apr 5, 2000) This could not be truer in the time of virus. Regardless of social distancing, by the time you read this, nature will still be available, whether in a small backyard, in the branches of a tree, or on a windowsill where perches a bird. And in our parks. Every day, groups of sheltering individuals are walking by our windows on their way to Lake Claire Park, the Land Trust, Candler Park, and other open spaces.

Do you know the tale of the ponds and waterways in Candler Park, the band of “hippies” who smashed open the culvert that ran from McLendon Avenue north to Lullwater Creek and released the water to its former stream bed? Then came the beavers who built the dams that formed the lakes and marshes, creating a wonderland for birds and others of us creatures. I was thinking about beavers the other day when I happened to read my ForestWatch (gafw.org) newsletter, in which *Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter*, by Ben Goldfarb,

was reviewed (Chelsea Green Publishing, 2018).

No matter how much Goldfarb had enjoyed fly fishing in a narrow, clear, fast-flowing stream, as he educated himself about how the environment works, he realized that the artificial streams where he too easily fished offered little to the trout or anything else attempting to survive there. The ideal stream turned out to be the messy, murky one built with the help of beavers.

What does this have to do with gardening? Everything. Not only does Nature abhor a Vacuum (emptiness), she also abhors vacuums (machinery) and anything else mankind has invented to clean up her messes. When Lake Claire neighbors sheepishly confessed that they didn’t “do anything with our backyard,” I congratulated them. Better to do nothing than destroy the total habitat and sustenance of every other species.

Let us say that someone has already destroyed the invasive privet, paper mulberries, and Japanese honeysuckle on your property. Trees have been irrevocably high-pruned and turf laid in our acid shade. We

obediently planted native perennials as instructed to attract bees and butterflies, but the latter have been killed off by mosquito spraying. It is too late now to plant trees and shrubs until fall, and it looks a trifle bare out there with nothing between us and half a dozen neighbors.

We need an uplift, and I suggest annual flowers sprinkled artistically through your vegetable beds where they will get the most sun, not the flowers already blooming in six-packs at nurseries still open, but the ones you will grow yourself without benefit of super fertilizers or pesticides. If Ace Hardware is still open, head over there; if not, order on line with Park, Select Seeds, or John Scheepers, who will quickly ship you the fast growing annuals—like cleome.

They say you can get tired of cleome (spider flowers). After forty years, I am still waiting to get tired of these tall, flowers with rose, violet, and white whiskered blooms. And once you have cleome (pronounced “klee O mee”), seedlings will always be popping up in the spring, especially if you compost. I do start some indoors, but frankly they do better sown directly, as do the rest of the flowers I will recommend. Just be sure you cover the soft planting areas with something to keep creatures from digging before the seedlings germinate.

Zinnias, sunflowers, marigolds, nasturtiums, morning glories, and hyacinth beans (the last two are vines) will all give you months of bloom because we have such a long growing season. All of them will be in bloom between four and eight weeks and have large seeds, easy for first-timers to handle. Nicotiana (flowering tobacco) is a beautiful plant that sometimes survives our winters but has seeds like dust, so you might want to start it indoors. Others, which do well in shade, like

begonias, browallia, coleus, and impatiens, take longer to mature and flower. Make a note to buy seeds for these next January, and sow them indoors also. Read seed packets carefully for directions relating to depth, light, temperature, and weeks until bloom.

But those vegetable beds! It is time to bring out the Big Guns. Transplant your tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and sweet potato slips this month. Sow more beans. Sow corn, cucumbers, field peas, melons, okra, pumpkins, and squash. You can still start tomatoes indoors—it is impossible to fail when sowing tomatoes. But remember, Mid-May is the beginning of Summer here, folks. Onward and upward!

*Editor’s Note: In addition to the companies mentioned, I like to and encourage you to support the **Wylde Center**, in Oakhurst. All plants are organic, and their mission is to educate, cultivate greenspaces, and build community, which they do through educational programs, events, and greenspaces that actively engage youth, families and individuals in their environment, health and community, and that develop skills in environmental science, sustainable urban living, organic gardening, health, and nutrition. Usually one could go there to purchase plants, but as of this writing (because of Covid) one must order on line, and go to pick up. Please read more about ordering and pick up and about their history and mission at www.wyldecenter.org/spring-plant-sale-online-ordering-delivery/. (Please check their website to see if the Wylde Center’s in-person Plant Sale at Oakhurst Garden has reopened to the public with social distancing when shopping.) It is a great organization to support, and the prices are quite reasonable.*

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Land Trust Eerily Empty Recently

The Peace & Love Must Go On

(but, unfortunately, not the P&L Fest)

by Stephen Wing

It's another beautiful springtime in Lake Claire, filled with the sights and smells of blossoming flowers and trees, cool sunny days, and just the right amount of rain. This might be the most beautiful spring yet. Or maybe we are all just appreciating the beauty we live amidst more than usual, since we're less distracted by the usual human activities. "Pandemic in paradise," as Reuben Haller called out, cheerful as ever, walking down Arizona Avenue with his dog.

The Land Trust, too, is in bloom. But alas, it has become clear that May 2 is far too soon to celebrate Spring in our usual style. All other events for May are now also canceled, including Drum Circles and Community Work Day, and our traditional Annual Meeting.

Unfortunately, canceling Spring Fest represents not only a loss of fun, but also a loss of funds for maintenance and other needs of the Land Trust. If the health crisis has not hit you financially, please consider making a donation large or small via PayPal at our website (scroll to the bottom of any page). Another way you can support us is through Amazon Smile, a website operated by Amazon.com with all the same products and prices. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Suspending the Work Days has hit us with a different type of defi-

cit. In the absence of vigilant volunteers, the weeds are having their own spring festival throughout our 1.7 acres. If you are feeling the urge to get outdoors and do some community service, mandatory or otherwise, please get in touch with our Grounds Committee chair, Brynan Hadaway, at brynan1865@gmail.com. She will set you up with a visual guide to the worst invasives and show you where your help is needed most.

The Land Trust is still open to visitors during daylight hours, but the playground and the restroom are both closed for the duration. Please practice social distancing, and radiate extra kindness and care to any and all. Of course, anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19, or who has come in contact with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19, should stay home. Please respect our spring closing time of 8 p.m.

Gardeners may come for their garden therapy, but please wash your hands before and after coming to garden. Do not touch water spigots with bare hands; wear disposable gloves to avoid picking up germs from gates, spigots, etc. Bring your own tools from home, and don't share them.

If it is safe to gather and dance together by July, we'll see you at Jerry Jam. Watch for updates via email, Facebook, the Clarion, or www.LCCLT.org. Remember, any crisis is an opportunity to evolve. Here's wishing you health and long life from the Land Trust!

Ladybug Events Team sends our love! Contact Missladybug@ladybugevent-sllc.com for a personalized farm tour and link to our YouTube channel with meditations from Ms. Melabee and fun nature facts from Ms. Ladybug!



Help Gardeners in Need— Sponsor a Garden Plot

The Coronavirus pandemic has hit some folks pretty hard, and that includes some Land Trust gardeners. Renting a garden plot is a great way to bring in fresh, healthy food, but the plot fee of \$40 is too much for some of our regular gardeners this year. When you are thinking about how to help folks get through this trying time, consider donating \$40 to

this cause via the Land Trust website (lcclt.org)—scroll to the bottom of the main page and click "Support Us Now." Or drop a check in the mail to "LCCLT" c/o Treasurer, 270 Arizona Ave., Atlanta GA 30307; or use the mailbox in the cul-de-sac. Include a note that your donation is for the garden plot fund. Thanks for your support!

Love Letter to Lake Claire and the Land Trust

by Melanie Sharon, *aka* Melabee

My dearest beloved,

The moment I set eyes on you, I knew I was home. We have been together a long time now, and I know this separation has been difficult on all of us in many different ways. I feel deeply steeped in the goodness that is this community, and if there was a village in the middle of a city that could be the profound example of living in harmony with the planet and each other, it could definitely be us!

I know that this change may be hard on you. This time of separation may be difficult, but know we are home together. May we see this time as the chrysalis stage. May we take this time to truly step back and look at our lives and the way we are living in this world together. May we take this time to be really with our children. Let's take the time to see and hear and be with our inner child. Let's remember to play and laugh and really feel our bodies and minds and what may nurture them.

May we find new ways to ignite our passions and find new passions with compassion. Create! Create! Create!

Make art, cook great food, build gardens, forage, ride bikes, purge that closet, paint that mural, write that story down, hula-hoop, climb that tree, or take that time to show someone you care. Be with your family and make best friends with yourself. What do you really want, and what is important to you? Let us do our work individually so we can come back into community with our hearts bursting with the gifts we have to share.

I know change is hard, my dear, but it's the only thing we can truly count on, so let's do our best to be like water. Let us do what we need to do to keep ourselves and others safe. Let us continue to visit our magical gems, but make sure we do so with respect and safety. When we see each other, let us give a distant hug, where we hug ourselves, knowing that the more love we give to ourselves, the more love we can share with others in the future. Though we are separate, you are always in my heart. I know we can do this together, separately. Much love to all, see you soon.



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

This month we feature "the three Ls," Luke Mawson Puckhaber, Layla Klehr, and Lyriq Gaspard Sibille. Luke submitted a great idea for creative time during the time of sheltering in place. Lyriq and Layla have submitted poems. Luke is a 2nd grader at Mary Lin and 7 years old; he lives on Palifox Road and is impressive in his knowledge of the periodic table (see October 2019 Clarion for the evidence).

Lyriq lives on Ivy Place and is 7 years old. The picture of Lyriq below was taken on Saint Patrick's day, the day he wrote this poem. He traveled around the neighborhood looking for "Rockin Shamrocks," and he had a wonderful time seeing what other families put up in and around their windows. It was the family's first adventure into this new world of physical distancing but social CONNECTION! Layla Klehr just turned 11 on May 2. She loves to read and hang out with her friends. In quarantine, in addition to all of her school

work, she's been making corn tortillas, going on bike rides, and she did some pranks for April Fool's Day. GREAT JOB, Lyriq, Layla, and Luke, and thank you!

Hey there, Lake Claire kids of all ages: We want to see your creativity. Submit your work to editor@lakeclaire.org, by MAY 15 for the Summer (June/July) 2020 issue of the newspaper. We hope this is a good starting place for kids' future writing careers.

Sheltering in Place

by Luke Mawson-Puckhaber

Hey Guys! Do you want to hear about my life during the coronavirus? Here it is: Wake up, eat breakfast, go for a walk, schoolwork at home, play, eat lunch, schoolwork at home, play, watch TV, schoolwork at home, go for a walk, eat dinner. go to bed. Sounds boring, right? Well, there are some ways you can make your life during the coronavirus more interesting. Here is a fun game!:

You can make a restaurant during lunch-time!! Pretend your mom, dad, or sister is a customer. Make a theme. Make a name for the restaurant. Create a little story behind the restaurant. Make menus, signs, decorations, etc. The customer can reveal a secret job at the end of the game. This time the customer (my mummy) pretended to be a New York Times restaurant reviewer.

What will your game be like?!



Luke as a Waitperson

My Shamrock Adventure

by Lyriq Gaspard Sibille

I looked for Rockin Shamrocks, just me and my mom

We looked for Rockin Shamrocks on Saint Patricks Day

We went around the neighborhood We did it because it was fun!



Lyriq

Staying Safe

by Layla Klehr

I know staying at home is no fun, You would rather be dancing with your friends in the sun.

But staying at home is a labor of love. You want to fly free just like a dove. Once we do this we will be virus-free, And back playing together in harmony!



Layla

NEW CONTEST!
The month of May has fun and interesting days, many that have to do with books. Examples are National Family Reading Week (the first week of May), Children's Book Week, Screen-Free Week, and Reading-is-Fun Week. Find this month's hidden graphic of a family reading for National Family Reading Week. While sheltering-at-home, reading is a great thing to do with family! The winners will have their pictures in the June/July Clarion. To win, send an e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org, identifying the page number of the graphic, 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. (Please tell your parents to send large picture files, 1mb+. They can choose the size on their phones.) **Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you cannot win two months in a row. The deadline is MAY 15 for the Summer (June/July combo) 2020 issue. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.**