

Lake Claire Holiday Craft Fair: Covid Style

Come one, come all to the greatest (Socially Distanced) Lake Claire Craft Holiday Fair Walking Tour of All!

The popular annual arts and crafts sale, one of Lake Claire's signature events, has been repurposed. We are calling all artists, vendors, and business people who live in Lake Claire (or not) who want to be a part of the Lake Claire Holiday Craft Fair Walking Tour. This will occur on the first weekend of December. With Covid in mind, it will look a bit different than years past. Our idea is to have artists/vendors/businesses selling their wares and located outside, MASKED, throughout the Lake Claire Neighborhood, and we will distribute a walking tour map. We also want to hear from anyone who is not an artist him- or

herself but wants to participate by having an artist or artist's wares on his or her porch (some artists might want to participate without actually hosting or might not have a suitable porch). We will ask that when you arrive at a porch, you are considerate about holding back as appropriate for social distancing.

Please note, you do not have to be a resident of Lake Claire to participate, but you will have to be in Lake Claire, and we are hoping to get spaces for those who aren't Lake Claire residents but want to participate. Anyone interested in participating, either as artists, or as hosts of others' art, should reach out to Annsley Klehr at education@lakeclaire.org by November 15.

Cont. on p. 4



Covid Chilinaro

by Boyd Baker

A gorgeous fall day with cool temps and a slight breeze is just about as perfect weather as you plan for an outdoor party. Due to the Covid 19 virus, this wouldn't be any normal party, though.

Each year residents on Leonardo come together in October for a good-natured-who's-got-the-best-chili competition, with awards for best side, dessert, and presentation as well. Normally,

this all takes place in one yard with all the chilis on a communal table. This year things would have to be different, or not at all.

Being outside; requiring all to wear masks when near others; and setting up competitor tables at the end of driveways and at least 6 feet apart on the street, became the template for a safe and successful event this year. Whether it was the awesome

weather, the fact that no kids had sports activities to attend, or the reality that no one was traveling, this year was the largest ever.

We had over 17 chilis entered and some wildly creative presentations. Folks strolled down the street stopping at tables to pick up their sample cups of chili from each contestant, and

Cont. on p. 7

South Ponce Property Update—A Dorfer's Perspective

by Wayne Darcey

Doesn't bad news always come on a Friday? Maybe a letter from a lawyer, or an outrageous bill. This particular bad news was neither, only the latest episode in a saga that has been going on for decades. It came in an email from a trusted friend with inside knowledge.

"There is a family that has a contract on BOTH lots formerly belonging to Ed Tamas. They want to build a

'family compound' for themselves and their four children and one grandchild."

The email went on to describe plans to enlarge and extend the corner house at 1715 South Ponce de Leon and the yellow brick house next door at 1723, and construct three new houses and a swimming pool in back. Hmmm, I thought. That's probably better than the 16 condominiums in the last de-

veloper's proposal.

I read further. "From the last house, the plan shows a small drive going from that house to the dead-end of Hardendorf. I know that the family has already been over to speak with some of the Dorfs at the end of the street..." Hard stop. W H A A T ! ? ?

It turns out that "some of the Dorfs" was my neighbor Dave, who happened to be in the yard the day Mr. Prospective Owner drove to the dead end. Engaging him in conversation, Dave in no uncertain terms informed him of the op-

Cont. on p. 7

Reminder—Clarion Costume Contest!

If you haven't, you can still send your individual or family Halloween costume photo to the Clarion. We had said November 1 was the deadline, but the deadline is extended to November 15. Up to twenty five pictures will be featured in a photo spread in the December issue and on the Lake Claire website.

The top ten will win TEN-DOLLAR gift cards to Candler Park Grocery (Halloween candy or something more healthy). Be sure to send files that are 1 mb or larger to editor@lakeclaire.org, anytime on or before November 15 (strict deadline because of publishing deadline).

THE CLARION IS
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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.

November Calendar

Please continue to support restaurants to the extent you are comfortable, as they try to survive with social-distance type seating, delivery, and take-out.

3 Vote! What is a horse's primary concern when voting? [Just seeing if anyone reads this.] Answer: a stable economy..

7-14 Help the Land Trust with donations for our yard sale. See article Page 11.

14-15 Land Trust Yard Sale!! Socially distanced, fundraiser. See article Page 11.

15 Deadline to send a picture of kids (and adult kids) in your Halloween costume to the Clarion. Winners will be pictured in the December Clarion centerfold and win prizes as noted on Page 1. Send a file that

is 1mg+, and note the child's name and street, to editor@lakeclaire.org. See article Page 1. Also deadline for anything else you are sending to the Clarion for the December issue.

19 Lake Claire Neighbors monthly meeting—and every 3rd Thursday. Live from Lake Claire via Zoom! lakeclaire.org for updates and Zoom information. **Important Note: This is the meeting for elections for the LCN Exec. Committee. Please see details on Page 3.**

24 Author Travis Swann Taylor, talking about his new guidebook, *111 Places in Atlanta That You Must Not Miss*, virtual and free, by the DeKalb History Center. dekalbhistory.org

26 Gobble gobble. What's likely to be the best side dish this night?—Masked potatoes.

Send calendar entries for the December Clarion by Nov. 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org.

Freedom Park Conservancy Update

by Naka Nathaniel,
LCN Rep. to the Freedom Park Conservancy

The Freedom Park Conservancy is halfway through its work on a master plan. The master plan is intended to give the Conservancy a series of projects to bolster the city's official arts park. SWA, a Houston-based design firm, was chosen to develop the plan. The firm has worked on numerous park projects, most relevant to the Park Conservancy board was their work on Buffalo Bayou Park in Houston.

A small team from SWA visited Atlanta in August. Along with the help of locally based, Sycamore Consulting, they shared their initial findings in September through a video conference presentation titled, "What makes a great park great?" The public reactions to their first presentation was then added to a second presentation on Oct. 15. This second session gave attendees the opportunity to instantly weigh in with their opinions via online polling. Attendees were able to consider the initial themes around nature, art, and civic links. There were several goals established pertaining to

location, since the park connects the King and Carter Centers and the In-town neighborhoods to downtown.

SWA also polled participants on their reactions to ideas such as reorienting traffic flow around the Carter Center, enhancing the park next to the Jackson Street bridge, and reimagining the Moreland/John Lewis Freedom Parkway intersection. Other polls were conducted on the public's level of interest in creating more or less programmed spaces around the parkland, arts, and economic engagement. Full recaps of the video sessions are available at freedom-park.org. SWA also has an interactive map (swa.mysocialpinpoint.com/freedom-park-programming-map), where it is collecting ideas and opinions.

The master plan was undertaken because the neighborhoods are vastly different from what they were like 25 years ago when Freedom Park officially opened after the successful fight against the highway. The park's first designs were conceived in **Cont. on p. 11**

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404-434-1500
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Clifton Sanctuary Ministries: Sad News

by Leslie Prince, President, CSM Board of Directors

I've loved a lot of Clifton guys, but probably none more than Mitch. Mitchell Childs passed away last week after a 2-year battle with lung cancer. I'll never again get to hear his famous, "Hey, baby!"—and that makes me sad.



Mitchell Childs

Mitch and I worked together at Gourmet Foods for a dozen years or so—I was a consultant in the transportation department; he kept things tidy... and truth be told, was probably the one in charge. Mitch had lived the good life—great family, steady job, owned his own home. But the untimely death of his wife long ago sent him in a downward spiral. Some years back, Mitch came to work one afternoon and clearly was in bad shape. Fortunately for me, we had a kind and very patient manager, but everyone has his or her limits, and I could tell this was the last straw. I asked Mitch if he was tired of living on the couches of assorted friends, who might or might not have the power turned on, and if he would he be interested in a place

where he would have a hot shower, 3 meals, and a comfy bed each night. He said yes... I called Mrs. Jenkins and asked her to save me a bed and, before he could change his mind, Mitch and I were off to Clifton Sanctuary Ministries ("Clifton").

Over the next month or so, I had a front row seat to Mitchell's transformation, which included sobriety and rediscovering his purpose in life. Prince and Mrs. Jenkins worked hard! Mitch volunteered to help anytime there was a task to be completed, welcomed new guests with his wonderful smile, and prepared the snacks for weekly AA meetings. And eventually, he was allowed to come back to work... thanks, Tim. A few months later, Mitchell moved to Joe's Place, where he excelled in the program. When Mitchell graduated from the Clifton program, he had more money saved than most folks I know!! Best of all, his relationships with his children, grandchildren, and extended family improved and eventually became rock solid.

So, fast forward to last weekend. I attended Mitchell's funeral with my friend Dana, who also worked with us and literally managed Mitch's life. She introduced me to Mitchell's daughter, Pam, who through the tears, told me that none of the great things about Mitch's life in the last dozen years or so would have happened without Clifton. I could only manage to say that I loved her dad.

So, on behalf of Mitchell and his family, let me say thank you to the staff, guests, and volunteers who loved Mitch and assisted in his transformation. Mitchell's story is exactly why Clifton exists... I'm just thankful to have been on the front row.

Grady High School—Great News

As a Grady alum, your editor is proud to report that the Committee charged with this matter has

now recommended that the school's name be changed to **Ida B. Wells High School**. The Board of Education will discuss and vote on this at its meeting on November 2. The Committee had narrowed it down to five possible names; the four others were Midtown High School, Piedmont High School, Freedom High School, and Thomas E. Adger High School. Ida B. Wells (1862-1931) was a journalist, a leader in the civil rights movement, and a founder of the NAACP.

Current and former students, including the school's student newspaper, *The Southerner*, had called for the school to be renamed.



Lake Claire Leadership/ October Meeting

The annual Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN) elections are this month. All nominations from the floor must be made at the regular yearly LCN meeting **in October**, then voting takes place at the LCN Nov. 19 meeting (via Zoom). There were no nominations from the floor at the October meeting, and the current officers were all willing to stay on. Plus, these are the continuing appointed positions: Annsley Klehr, Education Chair, Naka Nathaniel, Representative to the Freedom Park Conservancy; Ben Klehr; Representative, Candler Park Conservancy; Robert Bryan Davis, to Clifton Sanctuary Ministries; and Jennifer Silver,

City of Atlanta Department of Films. Thank you to everyone who gives his/her/their time to our neighborhood!

At the October meeting, we also discussed donations to the Frazer Center, Mary Lin, Zone 6, the Atlanta Firefighters, CSM, the Land Trust, the Security Patrol, Freedom Park Conservancy, Candler Park Conservancy, Friends of Lake Claire Park, and the Ponce de Leon Public Library, had officers' reports, and an update on the Ponce property (see Page 1).

Stay informed! Sign up at lake-claire.org/resources/newscast-sign-up. Check website for Zoom links for meetings.

Safety in Lake Claire

by Miriam Herbers

Surprisingly, zero crimes have been reported to APD in Lake Claire since September 1 through October 10. This could be because people are not reporting items stolen from cars, since I do see reports on NextDoor that cars are being rummaged through. Or possibly, we are all doing an excellent job of keeping valuables out of sight. By our reporting larcenies, APD will know where to increase patrols; they will have accurate information only if they are told. They would also like surveillance videos of people creeping around on your property, even if nothing is taken, because the video could solve another theft.

We have a great and safe neighborhood, part of which is because we greet people when out walking, which creates an atmosphere of belonging and shows we are a caring community.

Zone 6 has a new commander, Major Peter Ries, who came to us from Zone 4. (Zone 6 contains Boulevard Heights, Cabbagetown, Lake Claire, Candler Park, Druid Hills, East Atlanta, East Lake, Edgewood, Emory Village, Glenwood Park, Grant Park, Inman Park, Little Five Points, Old Fourth Ward, Ormewood, Kirkwood, Poncey-Highland, Sweet Auburn, Reynoldstown, Virginia Highland, and Woodland Hills.

Hello—Safe Journey— Skiing in and around Lake Claire

December Birthdays

- Nov. 1 Jane Merkle (Connecticut)
- Nov. 2 Woody Spivey (Harold) turns 12
- Nov. 3 Seija Olson (Leonardo) turning 8
- Nov. 6 Cora Elisabeth Weeks (Leonardo) turns 5
- Nov. 7 Sue McAvoy (Leonardo) xoxo
and Aviva Berman Billinkoff (Harold) (& welcome!)
- Nov. 10 Avery James Cooper—7 years old (Leonardo)
- Nov. 11 Susan Ledbetter (McLendon), Elizabeth Knowlton (Arizona)
- Nov. 12 Tim Bonner (Harold, welcome!)
- Nov. 14 Marilyn Schertz (Arizona)
- Nov. 15 Aileen Mary Styczynski—7 years old (Harold)
and Aileen Cole (Harold—welcome!)
- Nov. 18 Debbie Livingston (Connecticut)
- Nov. 22 Andrew Sherwood (Harold—congrats "octogenarian plus one!")
and Criss Wood (Harold—welcome!)
- Nov. 23 Christina Woodhouse (Harold, welcome!)
- Nov. 24 Anne d'Agostino (Connecticut)
and Georgeanne Wasick (Harold, welcome!)
- Nov. 26 Mindy Kidd (Harold, welcome!)

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

Lake Claire Holiday Craft Fair

Continued from Page 1

Artists and Crafters who want to participate in this Lake Claire Holiday Socially Distanced Craft fair, please fill out this survey, which among other things, lets you voice your choice for the date and time, either December 5 or 6. The date will be announced on the Lake Claire Neighbors Website, and flyers will be distributed all around Lake Claire, with the map of addresses.

tinyurl.com/y3nlvpan

We will provide receipt books to artists, and artists will be respon-

sible for collecting their money, 10% of which will go to Mary Lin Elementary School. Artists will provide 10%, and LCN will write one check to Mary Lin.

We are excited to be able to hold this fun Lake Claire holiday tradition in a socially distant fashion. Please respond soon, since the planning window is rather short by the time the Clarion comes out the first week of November.

We hope to see you there!



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Wild in Lake Claire

by Flora Fauna (aka Carol Vanderschaaf)

Wild times, wild times!! By the time the Clarion and this article reach you, we may have a new president, or worse, the same old president fighting to keep the office he just lost. There will also be a new Supreme Court Justice, as well as possible changes in the Senate majority party. The Halloween Party will be over... or perhaps just beginning. For sure we will have more deaths from Covid 19.

Can we look toward nature for solace? So far, it is still with us. It is harder, however, to meditate, in the light of raging wildfires and furious hurricanes. Where can we take refuge? What have we done to our world? Whose camp should we be in, AOC or ACB? Or, as Hamlet would muse, to wear a mask or not wear a mask? need to stop myself but still must ask, when has a matter of science become a political football?

Scary times, scary times!!! Why have storm troopers been encouraged to “stand by” in the land of the free and the home of the brave. Why have “Vote Drop Off” boxes been situated so that only a few folks can get to them? Fortunately, our far-flung correspondents have some fine things to report, not being such damsels nor dukes of dismay as your truly, FF.

Let's begin with Meredith W., who says, “I don't have much new to report—just a lot of the usual (which never ceases to amaze me)—deer, great blue herons, great egrets (or white morphs of the great blue herons, I'm not sure which; they're the ones on Candler Lake at Emory), red-tailed hawks, red-shouldered hawks, bunnies, squirrels, chipmunks, lizards, Eastern box turtles, baby river cooters, orb weavers, blue jays, thrashers, wrens, and a cardinal couple that politely asks for pecans on my deck railing. We had about 30-40 cicadas all crawl up the pine trees in our front yard on the same day and leave their cool-looking shells. I've never seen so many at once before. And we did see a giant and scary-looking caterpillar that turned out to be a hickory-horned devil (photo



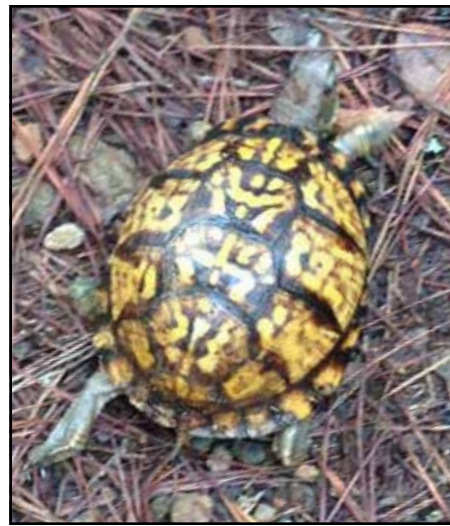
here)—misnamed, if you ask me, since they're gorgeous, don't sting or bite, and they turn into regal moths.

On the flora side, we saw the daisies a few weeks back at Arabia Mountain, and they were breathtaking. And our swamp sunflowers are blooming, along with lots of goldenrod, blue mist flowers, and white heath asters: the bees are thrilled. I love being able to provide them with late-season pollen sources, and the bonus is, they're beautiful and require absolutely no maintenance or effort on my part.

Speaking of hawks, I was looking from my kitchen window and saw a large hawk swoop down from over the house and land under a large winter honeysuckle bush. I assume he saw a squirrel or a chipmunk. I'm not sure what he was, but I think he was a juvenile Red Shouldered Hawk. He stayed there quite a while, but I didn't see him catch anything.”

Frank of Lake Claire writes, “Dear Flora Fauna—We have a squirrel in our backyard with a gray top and red bottom & tail. We call her red pants because it looks like she's wearing a pair of red pants. She is active in defending her territory from other squirrels and likes to pull out flowers as well. She has teats on her abdomen and probably is a mama squirrel. We have also seen a little woodpecker with a red crest on its head and black wings with white dots. This recent arrival has come by multiple times - unless there are multiple birds of the same species. There is a new resident in the backyard—a chipmunk, which we assume is young because of its big head and a little body. We also saw an owl on Nelms, in a tree; it looked at us with its ghostly face and then flew away as if to say ‘Happy Halloween.’”

Dorothy D. “has had hummingbirds every day, at least one or two, for quite a while, but saw them only once in the last 3 days. Perhaps they're moving out. I'll keep putting out sugar water until nobody shows up for awhile.” (FF adds: the last Ruby Throated Hummingbirds are seen in Atlanta in mid-October. Several other species of hummingbird have been known to visit in the winter months, so you can keep those feeders out.) Dorothy added, “I started to wash my car, but it's pointless. I park between a large oak and a large pecan tree, and the day after I wash the car it's covered with a sticky film. I think it's the pecan tree causing the problem. Walking on the Medlock-Mason Mill path recently, I saw a box turtle and a large possum in a tree on the same day! Very exciting! Here is the picture



I took of the box turtle, but I couldn't get a photo of the possum.”

Bernard reports that he “couldn't possibly beat Dorothy's picture of that cute turtle! Unfortunately, he continues, “the only thing I have to report is that I solved the mystery of what had been happening to the flowers of our butternut squash. This morning, while eating breakfast, I saw that one of the sleazy creatures (Squirrels...) was sitting on the compost pile enclosure and chomping happily on one beautiful yellow flower! So now, my garden hoses and extension cords are no longer enough!” Curse on them!

Beth on Delaware had a 20-year old glorious jade plant that she had put out on her deck for the summer, and recently saw it had been eaten down to the trunk in one day. Later, she saw the culprit, who had come back for dessert, and she snapped this photo, noting, “Those *critters* (maybe a different word used) are unscrupulous.” She suggests to try spraying peppermint around succulents.



Amy S. reports that the beavers on Candler Park Pond have had a hard summer. “Lots of heavy rain events wiped out one or more of their dams, on multiple occasions, but they are living examples of the Biden concept of Build Back Better.” (See picture at top.)

Genise is seeing “Lots more chipmunks this year and more hawks cruising the 'hood at very low altitudes (cause and effect?), as well as sitting atop our trees.”

My friend Melissa B. educated



me about possums recently. These creatures will never win a beauty contest but might be cited for heroism. Melissa refers to these ugliest of creatures as ‘our allies’ and basically scavengers. She notes that they eat fleas and ticks as well as any dead things that might be left behind by other creatures. Melissa, who grew up in rural southwest Georgia, also informed me, and I, you, that October is the time of year that Copperheads have their babies. Step lightly!

Miriam H. has been wondering why there seem to be more hawks around lately. Well, Miriam, it is not your imagination. Recent studies report that this is so. Hawks have moved into (and stayed in) moderately or heavily urbanized areas, provided there was enough prey. (The researchers calculated prey abundance using Project Feederwatch data.) By the end of the study period, hawks were actually somewhat **more** likely to occur in places with ***fewer*** trees. So there you have it.

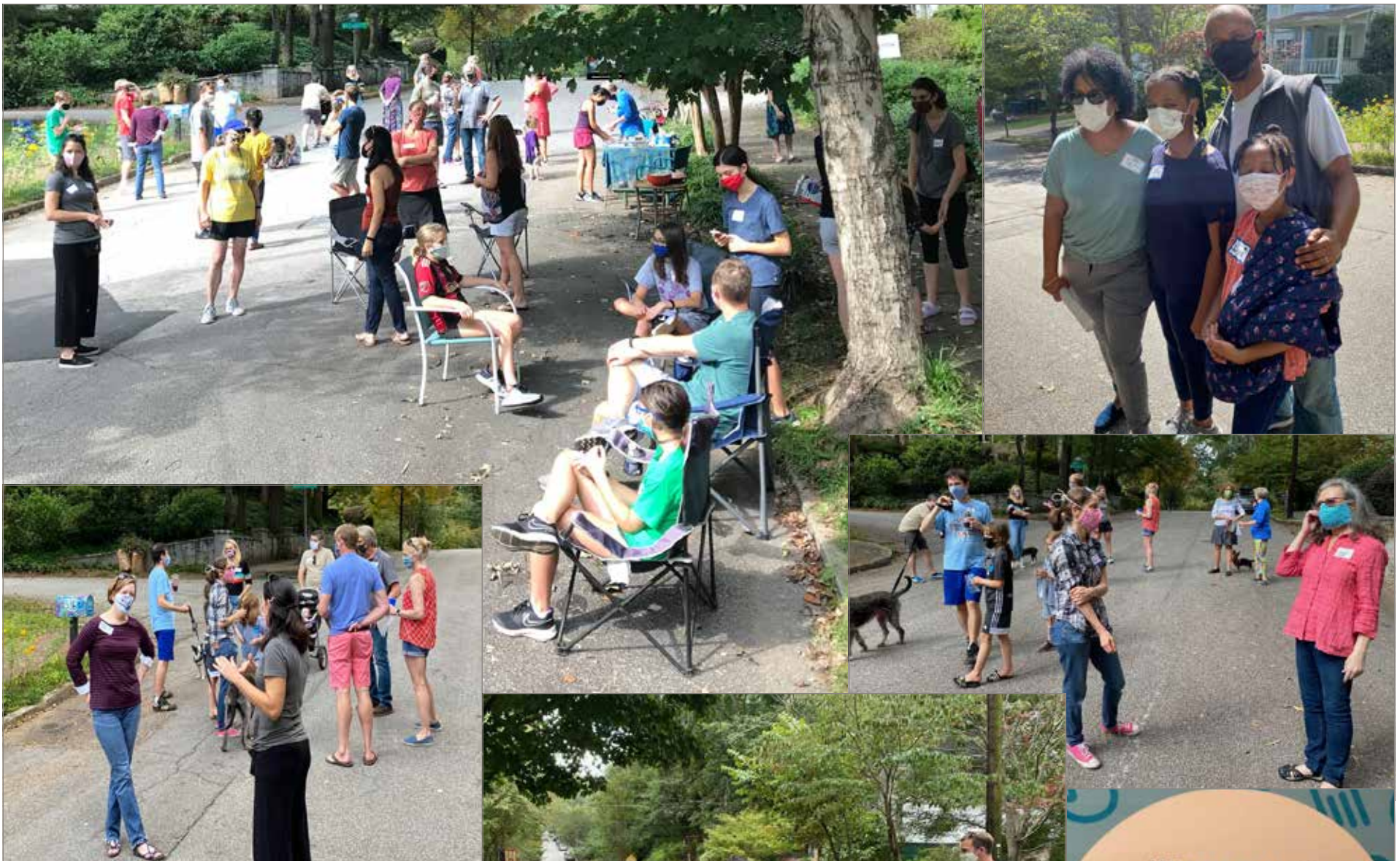
I, Flora Fauna, haven't had much fauna action lately. I recently put some suet and birdseed into my feeder (which is about 10 feet away from my backdoor) so that my little dog Nattie could have some fun. I had taken everything down due to some unwanted visitors, but since I hadn't seen any of them recently I decided to let Nattie enjoy herself. Let it be noted that she's never caught a squirrel. And may she never do so!

I do have some flora action. My swamp sunflowers are sporting a riot of color in my front yard. These beautiful flowers don't take much work. I remember planting some a few years ago, and each year more of them seem to bloom brighter and even more glorious.

Well, let's bring the column to an end for now—and hope that when we meet again it will be in a brave new world of science and sanity! And I do feel much better now.

~ Flora F.

PS. If you have any sightings or garden happenings you'd like to share, please contact my very pleasant associate, Carol, at carvans82@gmail.com.



Harold Avenue Stroll: Strangers No Longer

by Sharon Doochin

This July, August, and September created a lot of change and activity on Harold Avenue. When walking my dog, Betty White, I started noticing “for sale” signs appearing. It was almost as if they were political statements! First one house, then three or four more the next day, it seemed daily as if realtors were literally vying for action. Within a period of 90 days, Harold Avenue had SEVENTEEN changes! So, after the dust started to settle, Harold Avenue hosted the “Harold Avenue Stroll,” to greet old and new neighbors.

It was so nice to meet all the new folks and wonderful to get to mingle with some seasoned friends we’ve been missing, some of whom have been isolated because of Covid. Our street is really a great place to have a home, put out a welcome mat, raise a family, walk a dog, and enjoy the Frazer woods. It has been said that once Harold Avenue gets into your heart, you never really leave.

Thanks go out to Judy Langford and Bob Thompson, for setting up the welcome tables. Their space was perfect and well appreciated. Thanks to Pam Levine Haggerty for home-grown flowers and all the baked

goods. Also thanks to many others who brought yummies and to all for coming out.

Welcome to our new neighbors! Kim and Ian Mackenzie moved in on September 3, and Carolina and Jaron Moler moved in on August 30. Aarti Sharma and Navin Kulkarni moved in during August. Eden and Jonathan Parks and their daughters, Millie and Charlotte, came in September. Kate and Tim Bonner with their daughter Camille arrived at the end of August; Eric Erickson and Christina Woodhouse moved in during September; Adam, Spring, and their daughter Lillian joined us in the last two months. Dr. Tammy Lin and Dr. Jean Kolovich also arrived in September, as did Ezra Bilinkoff and Aviva Berman with their two children [Liaz and Zeo?... sorry if incorrect]. Cortney Fritz and Matt McNeill with son Declan McNeill moved in, as did Jordan Bralinig and Casey Fishman with Levi, Asa, and Ezra, in mid-September; Aimee and Scott Nash with their kids Althea and Guthrie, moved from Candler Park; and Coron and Bill Gordon arrived with their daughter Wyatt. And two families moved but to other

houses on Harold! A special thanks to them—Sara Rossi and Jeff Debell with their daughter Emma; and Megan and Mark Cole with their daughters Regina and Aileen.

Hopefully, I have mentioned everyone—and spelled all the names correctly. With so many changes, I apologize if not. Lastly, let me say to all the new neighbors from all of us long-timers on Harold Avenue: **WELCOME HOME!**

Editor’s Note: Thank you, Sara Rossi, Bob Thompson, and Ian Mackenzie for sending many pictures, though we only had room for these. What a great—and socially distanced—neighborhood event.



New Book by Lake Claire’s Andrew Sherwood

Andrew has come out with a collection of essays on his years of running around the world, from a first disastrous attempt at cross-country in a Scottish boarding school to national championships in late middle age in America. He has been followed by inquisitive monkeys in Malaysia, attacked by vicious magpies in Australia, had an armed escort beside the River Nile, taken part in an Olympic Games Marathon Trial, raced up a precipitous Welsh mountain, and broken a world record with his team from Atlanta. You can buy this e-book, *A Runner Reminisces*, on Amazon, at books2read.com/u/bMPLVV! And Happy Birthday, Andrew, on November 22.

South Ponce Property from 'Dorfer

Continued from Page 1

position he would face if he persisted in trying to create a driveway onto our street. Although I wasn't there, I imagine his words might have included something like "over my dead body." In any case, Dave left no doubt.

Thus commenced a series of what seems like rapid-fire events that has continued to this day, as the developer pursues a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for the project. At a site meeting on July 14, seventeen Hardendorf 600-blockers showed up unannounced, met the prospective owners and the architect, and received a first look at plans for the two sites. Subsequently, there has been nearly constant communication among the "600 Block," the Lake Claire Neighbors Zoning Committee, and new friends, our nearby neighbors on Clifton Road and South Ponce, planning, researching, and strategizing next steps.

Emotions on the Dorf were running high, but we were forewarned that opposing a COA for its impact on our "quality of life" would be ineffective with the City of Atlanta Urban Design Commission, issuers of a COA. No matter how impassioned or reasonable the plea, it would fall on deaf UDC ears.

We were deeply worried. With each revision of the plans that we saw, Building E and its parking pad crept ever closer to Hardendorf, and the buffer of trees and vegetation between the dead end and Building E went from a few trees to practically nothing. Appeals to the Druid Hills Landmark District Preservation Committee, who had been interacting with the developer, about the plan's impact on the dead end went nowhere. And I haven't even mentioned the myriad of widespread concerns about the front and middle sec-

tions of 1715 and 1723 South Ponce.

Enter the Urban Design Commission (my heroes at this point in the process). As it turns out, what matters to the UDC, and what they exclusively refer to when considering an application for a COA, are the rules, both City of Atlanta ordinances and Druid Hills Landmark District regulations. As we studied the legal requirements, we found in the site plans what we considered to be many aspects where they were not in compliance with the rules. Perhaps most gratifying, the UDC Staff Reports prepared for both the September 23 and October 14 UDC meetings, at which 1715/1723 were considered, describe from an expert's perspective the same issues we had identified.

On September 23, the Urban Design Commission deferred the

developer's application to the next meeting, to give the developer time to address the multiple deficiencies UDC Staff found in their plans. On October 14, the UDC again found multiple deficiencies in the plans and once again deferred the application, this time until the November 9 UDC meeting.

To sum it up, the UDC has twice determined that the application as currently constituted tries to cram too much into too small a space (my words, not theirs); the additions to the historic buildings are inappropriately sized and/or inappropriate for the Landmark District; the three proposed new houses are too tall and too large; and a rear tree canopy has not been maintained as required. There are multiple other issues as well. So far, the applicant has resisted. We shall see what happens on November 9.



Covid Chilinardo

Continued from Page 1

check in to see how that neighbor was doing these days.

In the end, the Best Presentation award (Chili Planter) went to the Bliss family for their take on REM's "It's The End of the World as We Know It." Best Dessert (ceramic Chili Rista) went to Debbie Livingston for her "Dig Deep Chocolate Mousse Cup." The Gosdin-Moorhead family took home the Best

Side Award (Golden Pig) with some scrumptious Cheddar Biscuits. And the big winner for the day (The Hallowed Sombrero) was, once again, a first-time entrant to the competition—the Harkey family—with their Fiesta Chicken Chili. [The picture of the winners is on Page 1.]

Everyone loved the chance to decorate his or her own table, stroll along the street visiting different

tables (like a *real* chili competition), and visiting with neighbors they haven't really seen in months. Next year, with hopes that there will be no Covid shadow over the event, it looks like this new multi-yard format will become the standard. Never underestimate the power of community and being neighborly. It can give hope and support when needed most.



Thanks to Debbie Livingston and Boyd Baker for pics (and for the one of Debbie and her yummy mousses, David Tsao).



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Warner Construction Inc. father/son team installed the Legacy Marker with care and generosity

'Hooper Street Stories' Historic Legacy Marker Installed

by Edi/th Kelman, Project Manager,

Early Edgewood-Candler Park BiRacial History Project

A year ago October, the Early Edgewood-Candler Park BiRacial History Project appealed to our neighbors for assistance to help bring the Hooper Street Historic Marker into being. We are so pleased to let you know that late this September the Legacy Marker was installed on Hooper Avenue, in a quiet, leafy spot about 90-feet in from the corner of Oakdale Road. It becomes the fifth historic marker on our Walking Tour of African American sites in the Candler Park neighborhood. Find time to view the new marker and get a sense of the resilient Black family life that persevered with vitality on Hooper for 100 years.

Among the contributors to the interpretive panel's vision and content are Antioch East Baptist Church members, former Hooper residents, and descendants from the Patterson, Green, Poythress, Crockett, Wise, Carey, and Clark families. The mother of former Atlanta City Council President Caesar Mitchell, Mrs. Carnella Sloan Mitchell Robinson, provided the compelling 1930s-1950s photos of Hooper residents that she generously shared from her mother's inheritance album and Ms. Carnel-

la's early years living on Hooper.

This Legacy Marker has actually been an organic 10 years in the making, from early conversations with Michelle Hughes, who lived with her family in the original Hooper home, built in 1900, to the open house event hosted by the Hooper home's current residents, Matt Kirk and Brigid Barry. We are so grateful for support from the historic Hooper stakeholder families, and the marker site property owner, Katherine Cimino; graphic designer, Raja Schaar; panel fabricator, Fossil Industries; father-son installation team Warner Construction, Inc., current Hooper residents and area neighbors, Antioch East Baptist Church, First Existentialist Congregation, and the Candler Park Neighborhood Organization; they are all so important to this Legacy Marker's realization.

You may be interested to explore the History Project's website and the Interactive Tour site hosted by the Freedom Park Conservancy and Emory Center for Digital Scholarship:

www.biracialhistoryproject.org;
opentour.emory.edu/freedom-park/jane-s-walk-atl-candler-park-biracial-history-project

Dog Fostering

by Kris Byron, Volunteer and Foster Parent, PAWS Atlanta

- Have a dog-friendly pup who would like to have a pal around for a while?
- Thinking about adopting a dog but not sure you're ready to take the plunge?
- Is your home too quiet after having to put down a beloved pet, but you feel like it's too soon to "replace" him or her?
- Or, are you just looking for ways to contribute and help out Atlanta's homeless pet population?

Become a dog foster parent for PAWS Atlanta.

Fostering provides dogs with a temporary home outside of the often more-stressful shelter environment and gives them a chance to improve or master skills such as leash-walking and house-training. By helping to socialize the dog and learn new skills, you increase the chances that it will find its "forever" home.

PAWS Atlanta provides all supplies—bowls, bedding, food, crate, toys, etc.—and all medical care needed (typically through the PAWS on-site vet) while the dog is in foster care. PAWS Atlanta also is there to

answer questions you have—either the foster coordinator will answer your questions, or she may put you in touch with someone like I am (a foster coach), who will work with you to answer any questions you have about your pup.

As a foster parent, you provide love for the dog in your care and time to provide basic training and other care. You are also expected to communicate with the PAWS Atlanta staff about your concerns, to follow their foster guidelines, and to bring the dog in for medical care and adoption visits.

Fostering isn't always easy. You are likely to be sad when the dog gets adopted. But you are providing a true gift to this pet and the family that ends up adopting it. And that makes the difficulty worth it.

If you are applying to become a dog foster parent, go to www.paws-atlanta.org/foster and complete the foster application. Email the completed application to our Foster Program Coordinator, Ellee, at foster@pawsatlanta.org to set up a virtual home inspection and appointment.



Serena and Taylor Running with Fosters

Thanks for Paying Your Neighborhood Dues

We appreciate everyone who has continued to send dues during these challenging times. Suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household. Since the September Clarion, the following folks paid dues:

Shruti Sain
Kim Shriver
Steven and Judith Friedman
Melanie Cole
Lisa Sharling
Ashley Fowlkes

Tyler & Ellen Higgins
Steven Johnson
Ballast Outdoor Gear, LLC
Beth Grashof
Jeanne Hatcher
Martha Grover
Michael Bauer

Julia Wilson
Christopher Scimone
Rebecca Wiles
Brooke Seals
Tonie Howard

Pay at lakeclaire.org via the link or, to Eileen O'Neill,

Treasurer, Post Office Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107.

Thank you to all these and others who have paid dues and/or contributed your time to Lake Claire.

November into December in the Lake Claire Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton, knowltonew@earthlink.net

Are there thugs in your garden? Absolutely. You probably know not to purchase English ivy, mondo grass, or liriope, all of which I have seen in cute little pots at the big box nurseries. And of course you are not going to add kudzu or Japanese honeysuckle. However, there are many other plants with smiling faces waiting to get a toehold on your property.

Some years ago, I admired a pink, white, and green leafed ground cover in an Arizona Avenue yard. Miriam soon informed me she had been fighting to get Chameleon Plant (*Houttuynia cordata*) out of her garden from the moment someone had given her “that pretty thing.” A steep front yard on McLendon, surrounded by sidewalk, retaining wall, driveway, and house foundation, also has a sea of the stuff. Most of these difficult slopes are filled with English ivy or periwinkle, anyway, but I keep watching for signs that chameleon has jumped the one open boundary onto the neighbor’s ground.

Alstroemeria is a great floral flower, and that’s where it belongs, in a vase. After accepting a single plant 15 years ago, I am continually

ripping it out of the dry pebble path where I thought I would let it run. There is still one growing up against a dark foundation corner, regardless of directions that it needs six hours of sun and regular water. Since Pen on Harold has admired it, perhaps I can off-load it there. Spring starflower (*Ipheon*) spreads easily and needs no care, which is why I have been trying to remove it from a flower bed for 20 years, a bed choked with its bulbs. Another such plant is spider lily (*Lycoris radiata*), easy and pretty at the end of the summer, but multiplying at a rate only welcome in wild spaces. At least we can eat the increasing tubers of Jerusalem artichokes, also known as sunchokes, when their tall stalks and yellow flowers are done in by frost.

Each year garden magazines announce new varieties of ornamentals, vegetables, and herbs that promise improvements over older varieties. I leapt to try Newton basil because of its “high resistance to fusarium wilt.” However, as usual, all of my basil, Newton and the regular Genovese, had dark stems and leaves by the end of the summer. I have since read

that initial infection comes from the seed, not potting soil or plants, and that would explain why I am doomed to have it forever despite growing all my own plants in bagged soils. Even my four-year rotation is not enough in such a small yard.

November is the month for planting spring flowering bulbs. If you did not pre-order them, look for firm bulbs in your hardware or big-box stores—just be aware that the varieties are limited, and the bulbs may have sat out of refrigeration for many weeks. Recently I have been advising waiting until Thanksgiving to begin planting because the weather has been so warm. However, this past September, highs were running 15 degrees lower than in the previous three years.

You may also put in spinach, onions, garlic, and parsley if you can find the plants, because these will sit during the winter and grow vigorously in spring. Kale and collards too will survive with a little mulch of straw or shredded leaves pushed up around them. Did I write about the Malabar spinach plants that appeared in the flower border this year

from seed that I “threw away”? Transplanted to the bean trellis, they shot up (future thugs?), and most formed berries before we got around to eating the leaves. That last planting of bush beans I urged two months ago was truly beautiful in September, sturdy and green in plentiful rain, white blossoms, and tiny beans forming. Then one night Something came through and chomped the top half of every plant, probably the same creature who returned in October to crush half the okra patch. I can only imagine it must have been climbing a tomato tower and fallen off backwards. Ah, the joys of gardening!

But now the holidays approach. I have my eye on a recently published book, *The Modern Cottage Garden*, by Greg Loades, that suggests new ways to mingle the old-fashioned cottage working garden with the modern perennials as used by Piet Oudolf in the small spaces we have today. Given that I dislike Oudolf gardens (too much tall grass and Big Yellow flowers), I am eager to see what this book can offer me in a climate where the beloved, old-fashioned flowers tend to peter out by July.

Dear Neighbors,

Fall is in full swing and although family gatherings and get-togethers look a bit different we want to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and hope you are finding plenty to be thankful for. We are continually thankful for our clients during these challenging times and could not be more grateful. We want to share some good news about the Real Estate industry and how it affects you.

For the past several months, buyers have signed an increasing number of contracts to purchase homes – well above where the market was at this time last year. National home prices have increased 5.9% according to the CoreLogic Home Price Index Report. (August 2020 Report). Homeowners who are willing to sell their houses right now will play a big role in whether the trend continues. The market needs more homes to satisfy ongoing buyer demand. Maybe it’s time to leverage your equity and move up while eager home shoppers are ready to purchase a house just like yours.

If you or anyone you know neighbors, co-workers, family members or friends are thinking about making a move please let us know. Don’t forget about our interest free Compass Concierge Program. Concierge helps you get your home ready for market by immediately providing the upfront costs for repairs and updates. This added value is a game changer for Sellers.

Give us a call any time. We are here for you if you have any Real Estate questions.



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Bringing Back the Land Trust Yard Sale

by Elizabeth Sullivan

As you probably know, due to Covid, LCCLT has been unable to have the fundraising parties we have enjoyed in the past. Other fundraising is needed. So... reviving a tradition that goes back to the days when we were still paying off our mortgage, the Land Trust will have a yard sale on the weekend of November 14-15, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both day. The

primary location will be 290 Arizona Avenue, with likely spillover to close neighbors' properties. We are asking for donations, which can be dropped off November 7-14 at 290 Arizona Avenue. Please call or text me at 678-984-6452 to set up a time so that items can be stored safely in the garage. Books can be dropped off two doors down at 300 Arizona

without prior arrangement; just set them on the porch, out of possible poor weather. It would be very helpful if you could price your items beforehand. If you have large items to sell, please feel free to sell online and donate the money to the LCCLT.

Thank you all in advance for your desire to help fund our lovely piece of heaven in the city!



Visit "The Game Spot" at the Land Trust, Courtesy of Girl Scout Troop 19717

by Marlie Petite

Hi! My name is Marlie, and I'm a 6th grade student at David T. Howard Middle School. My Girl Scout troop, Troop 19717, built a community library in my garage for our Bronze Award Project. It's called **The Game Spot**. We built this because of Covid-19, which has kept most kids indoors on tablets and TVs. The Game Spot will provide kids with board games and puzzles to play with, so they are not on screens all day. It is located at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust near the playground.

We invite the community to "get one, give one." Please stop by to pick up a board game, puzzle, playing cards, or coloring book. We also need donations of kid-appropriate games. My Girl Scout Troop was inspired by sharing economy groups like the "Buy Nothing Project" and "Little Free Libraries." We hope that The Game Spot helps kids to cope with these stressful times and that it inspires many family game nights across the community.



Lucky Squirrel

Continued from Page 12

little bamboo sticks at it, and then Anna and I rushed back in the house to get my dad to come with us to see what it was. We rushed because the neighbor has dogs that might injure the tiny creature.

My dad, Anna, and I went back out to get whatever it was. We found out that it was a **Baby Squirrel!!!** Anna said, "we should help the squirrel." We went and got gloves and a box and put the tiny squirrel in his new temporary home. Then we went to read about what to do. While my Dad read, I went back to my backyard to get a fig from our fig tree for the squirrel to eat. My dad said he read baby squirrels cannot eat solid foods yet because "a baby squirrel has to be ten or twelve weeks old to eat solid foods" but we didn't know exactly how old he was.

The next day my parents started to feed him some kind of juice. Then a couple days later my mom went to the store to get puppy milk for the squirrel. We got this suggestion from a person we called who saves baby

squirrels. She also told us the best thing for the squirrel would be for us to get her back with her mama. For a couple of days, we tried to get the squirrel's mom to come find it. We safely put the squirrel box by the tree where his nest was. We did this every morning and late afternoon but mom never came back.

Over the next month or so, I named the squirrel Lucky, and she grew and ate more. Lucky occasionally made guest appearances in my Mary Lin virtual classroom; she quickly became a classroom favorite. One day, after deciding what was best for Lucky, my mom, dad, sister, Lucky, and I all drove for about an hour and a half to drop Lucky off at a lady's office that rescues squirrels. We saw about 30 baby squirrels, and the lady, who was a horse doctor, told us she currently had 70 squirrels she was taking care of. Lucky should get released with his new friends in the next few weeks, and we are proud that we helped him survive. Good Luck, Lucky!

Freedom Park Update

Continued from Page 2

the middle of Atlanta's planning for the 1996 Olympics. The subsequent growth of the neighborhoods and the excitement of the Beltline helped spur the Conservancy to find the funding for the master plan. The master plan process has also taken into account the importance of public spaces in the age of a global pandemic. Outdoor spaces are now more important and making them safe and accessible has become a greater priority.

The final public engagement session will be on December 16. As with the previous meetings there will be presentations made at noon and 7

p.m. Recaps of all the meetings are found on the Freedom Park Conservancy's website. The final version of the master plan is expected to feature a map or aerial view showing proposed improvements and future projects. There will also be renderings of prospective 3D views, giving the community an idea or feeling of some of those future spaces. The master plan will also include cost estimates so the Freedom Park Conservancy can work with City of Atlanta's Parks and Rec Department and other stakeholders to raise funds for projects and improvements to the park.



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER

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

This month we feature Lucca Raimonde, 10 years old and in 5th grade at Mary Lin, who lives on Ridgewood. What a heartwarming story!

Thanks to all the Lake Claire children who read and contribute to the Kids Page each month.

Add **your** creativity to theirs. Submit your work to editor@lakeclaire.org, by **NOVEMBER 15** for the next issue of the newspaper, which will be the December issue. We hope this column is a

good starting place for kids' future writing—and artistic—careers.

AND, kids, don't forget the Halloween Costume Contest (See Page 1 for details.. you have until November 15! CASH PRIZE)

CONTEST WINNERS

Four winners submitted their entries by the deadline this month and correctly found last month's pumpkin and spooky cat!! Lena Aprati, age 3, was the first to find it. Lena goes to Primavera Preschool, and she lives on McLendon Avenue. Lena also won special credit for telling us her Halloween plans. She decorated a contact-free treat slide to give treats safely to neighbors on Halloween night. Safe, fun, and spooky are the themes for this year! This is Lena's first Halloween as a Lake Claire resident and neighbor. Good job, Lena!

The second-place winner is Eli Garland, age 10. Eli is in the 5th grade at the Friends School of Atlanta. He lives on Indiana and has been a good contributor to the Clarion; he is personally responsible for my knowledge of the danger of nandina berries. Thanks, Eli! The third-place winner is Hayden Pittman, age 7, in the 2nd grade at Mary Lin, who lives on Marlbrook and who has been good at this before. The fourth-place winner is Vivian Baker, age 5, kindergartener at Mary Lin, who lives on Claire Drive. She also wins extra credit for telling us her Halloween plans. Vivian is going to hit a piñata for Halloween this year in place of trick-or-treating. What a good idea, and lots of candy!

Lena, Eli, Hayden, and Vivian, good on you, and thanks for participating. You won the contest over the VAST numbers of Lake Claire kids who participate every month in the contest on the Clarion Kids' Page. Attention Lake Claire kids—add your name to the list of winners in the future. To all of those kids who didn't win, please do keep reading this page and keep playing. See our new contest at left.



Lucca and his sister, Isabella

Lucky Squirrel

by Lucca Raimonde

It was the first day of September 2020, after school. I was on my back porch with my best friend, Anna Kate. I was playing Roblox with her when I heard a bird-like call. I looked up; a hawk caught my eye. I saw the hawk land in a nest high in a tree. Then, as I was walking out of the screened porch, the back door, like it always does, made a loud noise as it closed. I think the noise scared the hawk away, or the hawk couldn't find what he was looking for. I called my friend to come with me to see what the hawk was trying to catch. I saw the hawk swoop to the ground, now in the in my neighbor's backyard!

Our neighbor has chickens, and she lets us come over whenever we want to see them. Our priority wasn't chickens now but we went to see what the hawk was trying to get. I went over the fence to see what it was so I could help it. It was small and hiding under tall grass. I threw two

Cont. on p. 11

NEW CONTEST!

Hello, Kids! International Tolerance Day is always on **November 16**. In honor of that day, the hidden picture this month is a graphic representation of tolerance. The winner/winners will have their pictures in the next Clarion. To win, send e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org, identifying the page number where you find the graphic, and include your name, age, school, street, and grade, along with a photo of yourself. (Please tell your parents to send large picture files, 1mb+. They can choose the size on their phones, since we know they won't be using cameras, lol.) For extra credit, tell us what tolerance means to you. (Extra credit = your art or writing will be published.) **Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you cannot win two months in a row. The deadline is NOVEMBER 15. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.**



Lena Aprati, 1st place winner



Eli Garland, 2nd place winner



Hayden Pittman, 3rd place winner



Vivian Baker, 4th place winner