



Watercolor by Sage Bader, Connecticut Avenue
To Help us Feel the Peace of Nature During Stressful Times

Where in the Heck is Lake Claire?

by Boyd Baker

Welcome to our second Covid March! Yes, these are strange times. It's been a year since the world went on randomly-followed lockdown, and we're still hoping to get back to normal. Have you looked around at nature lately? Its "normal" is the same as it ever was. The shrubs leaf out, the flowers bloom, just as they've always done. About five years ago I wrote the piece below. Since you may find yourself with some extra time and skills these days, maybe it's worth considering. If we all spent about 30 minutes this month planting some flowers, the payback would be awesome. Stay healthy and hopeful!

Sooner or later you'll probably hear the question in the title if you live in this beloved neighborhood. I learned years ago to say

we're next to Candler Park or between Little Five Points and Decatur. Even some who live in our neighborhood don't know that Clifton Road is the Mason-Dixon line that divides us from Candler Park. So I say, "Let's do something about this!"

I'm not talking about having a major festival in Lake Claire or put up a neon sign: thinking maybe something subdued and classy. Maybe something not even super obvious but something unique. My idea is to "highlight" our neighborhood so that folks know it when they see it, at least in spring, by planting daffodils.

Imagine it. You turn off of Ponce or DeKalb, heading down Clifton. All of a sudden, your eyes are dazzled by row upon row of brightly colored flowers on one side of the street. (The houses on the east side are commonly considered to be in Lake

Claire, and those on the west to be in Candler Park.)

In front of each house, or in the grass between sidewalk and road, would be beautiful welcoming yellow daffodils. How cool would that look each spring? And it's virtually labor-free since once you plant them, daffodils don't need any real tending. On top of that, they multiply on their own. And, they pop out BEFORE your grass really grows, so they'll disappear with your spring's first lawn mowing!

This is a Community-based crowd-funded kinda project. If a decent number of us make an effort, each year more and more folks will join in. Here's what you do:

- TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS (not everybody will read this story);
- Buy daffodils bulbs now [or daffodils already

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Cowabunga—Safe and Fun Activity!

by Boyd Baker

In March 2013, Lake Claire hosted a little event called the COWABUNGA. Some of you may have heard of it. Some of you may have participated. Basically, it was a homemade boxcar event for kids and insane adults.

The whole premise was to create something that parents and kids could do together to be creative, improve their technical skills, and have a little friendly competition. I did it when my kids were small. They're now almost 20 and 17. Ya think we're ready for another one?

I'm thinking we could plan one for late March or early April, but could use some help planning. This will be a Covid-safe event, as each family unit would work

together to build their racer. On race day, masked racers will only compete against the clock to make things even safer. Times will determine winners.

Here are the rules we "played" by at the first race...

- Homemade rods
- Rods are gravity-powered. Must start WITHOUT ANY HELP.
- Less than 5 feet wide & 10 feet long.
- At least 4 (four) wheels—that touch the ground at all times.
- Braking systems are optional—but encouraged. Remember Fred Flintstone-style brakes require good shoes.v

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Frazer Center Screens 6000 Waiting

by Dina Shadwell

The Frazer Center invites the community to an online screening of *6000 Waiting*, an important new documentary created by The Storytelling Project of the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities, in partnership with L'Arche Atlanta. The "6000" in the film title are the number of Georgians with disabilities on the waiting list to receive Medicaid waivers which would allow them to receive support services—the kind of services that Frazer provides.

Historically, people with developmental disabilities would receive Medicaid support only if they lived in institutions. Thanks to the persistence and hard work of advocates for people with

disabilities, states can now issue waivers which "waive" the requirement of living in an institution before receiving support. Georgia's legislature, however, releases such limited funding for Medicaid waivers that the state remains well below the national and southeastern average in prioritizing support for people with disabilities.

Getting to the top of Georgia's Medicaid waiver waiting list can take five to ten years or longer. That means, once a person with a disability graduates from high

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 Cover banner photo by Sarah Coburn

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March Calendar

Atlanta theatres and music venues are still re-imagining; including drive-in movie style productions, socially distanced live shows, streaming, Zoom, and recorded performances. Ditto other businesses, of course including restaurants, are trying to survive (e.g., take-out, outside dining, inside socially distanced dining). Send anything relevant for the Lake Claire April calendar (by March 18) to editor@lakeclaire.org.

1-? Actors Express launched *Crossroads*, streaming, started Feb. 26, via podcast and AE's website. End date not announced as of Clarion press-time, check www.actors-express.com/. "Three friends in a dead-end town. An innocent game propels them into a journey of living and what someone will sacrifice in order to live."

1-31 Streaming the whole month! The Alliance Theatre continues its virtual production of *Sit-In*, by Atlanta's renowned bestselling author, playwright, and Civil Rights activist, Pearl Cleage. See details at alliancetheatre.org/production/2020-21/sit.

1-April 11 "Orchid Daze," Atlanta Botanical Gardens, see atlantabg.org/calendar/orchid-daze/.

2-21 Theatrical Outfit begins its Spring 2021 Mainstage Season with *The Catastrophist*, by Lauren Gunderson, based on the life and work of Dr. Nathan Wolfe, in partnership with Marin Theatre Company & Round House Theatre. How do you plan for catastrophe? Virologist Nathan Wolfe, named one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People in the World for his work tracking Ebola and swine flu, proposed pandemic insurance years before the Coronavirus outbreak. Hear his story—presented entirely digitally. Playwright Lauren Gunderson returns with a time-jumping tale based on the life and work of Nathan Wolfe. A deep and exciting dive into the profundities of scientific exploration and the realities of facing one's own mortality, it is a theatrical experience built of and for this moment in time. Tickets at theatricaloutfit.org or 678-528-1500..

3 Dekalb History Center Virtual Book Talk. Mark Pifer discussing his recent book, *Hidden History of Old Atlanta*, which delves into the long history of the area stretching back thousands of years to when Native Americans called the area home, and sharing the lesser known history and stories of African Americans and new immigrants. 12 - 1 p.m. online via Zoom, free to participate, but get the Zoom link in advance from www.dekalbhistory.org/.

5 Candler Concert Series virtual concert: Gabriela Montero, Piano. 8 p.m. Free, but advance registration required. A great opportunity to hear and experience Venezuelan pianist Montero's visionary interpretations and unique improvisational gifts. Program details at schwartz.emory.edu the week of the performance. While free, you may support programs with a donation at the website.

10 Beginning sundown, Isra/Mi'raj (27th day of Rajab, the seventh month in the Islamic calendar)

14 Daylight Savings Time begins

17 Dekalb History Center hosts their 2nd Virtual Book Talk at noon. Jeremy Katz, Senior Director of Archives at the Breman Museum in Atlanta, RE his recently released book, *The Jewish Community of Atlanta*. Online via Zoom and is free to attend; get link: www.dekalbhistory.org/

18 Live from Lake Claire (via Zoom)! Lake Claire monthly meeting. lakeclaire.org for updates and Zoom information. Always the third Thursday of the month. Sign up for mailings at lakeclaire.org/resources/newscast-sign-up/. Lake Claire's current info can always be found on the website at lakeclaire.org.

19 The Enchanted Harp! On Schwartz's virtual stage. Info at schwartz.emory.edu/virtual-stage. Harpist Elisabeth Remy Johnson is featured in this program which includes two fantastic collaborations: Saint-Saens's *Fantasia* with Jessica Wu, violin; and Arnold Bax's *Fantasy-Sonata* with Yinzi Kong, viola.

20 Believe it or not, it's the first day of Spring!!

26 Concerts@First music series offers diverse programs with reputed soloists and ensembles performed in the beautiful setting of the Sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta. Now presenting on March 26, Bach's *Lunch* with "Dynamic Duo," a virtual concert with David Coucheron, violin, and William Ransom, piano, teaming up for the first two Sonatas of Johannes Brahms, in G Major and A Major. Info at www.firstpresatl.org/concerts-at-first/.

27 Beginning sundown, Pesach, 5781 (14th day of Nisan)!

28 Palm Sunday (Easter is April 4), and Holi, a Hindu holiday!

Notes. Advance notice: "Beautiful Blackbird Live" starts April 8; at the Alliance, see: alliancetheatre.org/production/2020-21/beautiful-blackbird-liveRE. And reminder for the Atlanta Opera: the 2020-2021 mainstage season has moved to 2021-22; stream unlimited Atlanta Opera productions and special content. See atlantaopera.org.

New initiative in Atlanta offers alternative to calling the police!! See this month's Security Report, on Page 11.

You didn't get your Girl Scout cookie fix? See Page 12!

Kids need a Covid activity? See Cowabunga, Page 1!

City of Atlanta Solid Waste and Yard Services announces:

Effective in mid-February, the City changed to collection of solid waste and recycling materials on alternate weeks, as well as yard trimmings on alternate weeks. To sign up for service reminders, dial 3-1-1, or visit www.atlantaga.gov/solidwaste



Free Food Commune in Edgewood

Watching Pam Noud, the director of Free Food Commune, flit around the co-op on a Saturday afternoon brings a sense of wonder. She assigns a place in line to a sponsor here, re-directs boxes of bananas there, and then films for their Facebook page, all while organizing a team of volunteers and keeping scrupulous notes.

The mission of Free Food Commune is simple: "Reduce food waste." The co-op abides by a "freegan" blueprint, which the Oxford Dictionary defines as "a person who rejects consumerism and seeks to help the environment by reducing waste, especially by retrieving and using discarded food and other goods."

"I have a conviction about this food," says Pam, "that if I am not doing this work it will end up in a landfill." She's not wrong. According to the RTS website, "80 billion pounds of food are thrown away each year in the U.S. Food is the single largest component taking up space inside U.S. landfills." Meanwhile, during the pandemic 50 million Americans, including 17 million children, are currently experiencing food insecurity. We have more than enough food to feed everyone, and yet the FDA estimates that 30-40% is wasted rather than going to alleviate hunger. "We come in when you are literally throwing the food in the dumpster, and we swoop in and take it in that moment," says Pam. "We take what is left when groups gave away as much food as they could, but there is still some left. The group has received vehicle donations, established dry and refrigerated storage, and purchased a "mooler," or moving cooler. As a co-op, Free Food Commune is under the financial sponsorship of Feeding Georgia Families, ensuring that all donations to the co-op are tax deductible.

Rescuing Food From Charities, Farmers Markets, and Grocery Stores

Free Food Commune partners with several local charities that serve food insecure families, including

Food for Lives, Whitefoord, Second Helpings, Making a Way Housing, Hosea Helps, and Feeding Georgia Families, all of which provide their overruns to Free Food Commune for wider distribution. It is through these sources that name and store brands are represented on the "Free Food Commune" food tables.

Most of the fresh produce at Free Food Commune comes from the Atlanta Farmers Market. Pam picks up a trailerful of lovely, near-perfect produce that the Free Food Commune volunteers then arrange on the tables at Edgewood Church the next morning. Free Food Commune also rescues food immediately after grocery stores have thrown it away. They collect "breads, meats, cheeses, yogurt, milk, [and] produce." On the Free Food Commune Facebook page, there is a video of Pam presenting well wrapped, still hard-frozen packages of different cuts of chicken and beautiful bags of green grapes that she rescued.

Coming Together Over Food & Friendship Every Saturday

As a co-op, Free Food Commune charges just enough to cover "the cost of our operating, which is acquiring, storing, and transporting the food," Pam says.

- 12-2 p.m. is for contributing Sponsors (\$35).
- 2-2:30 p.m. is completely free and operates under a first come, first served policy.
- 2:30 p.m. Take food to feed you, your animals, or select for composting.
- Free Food Commune is always looking for volunteers, who also get free food!

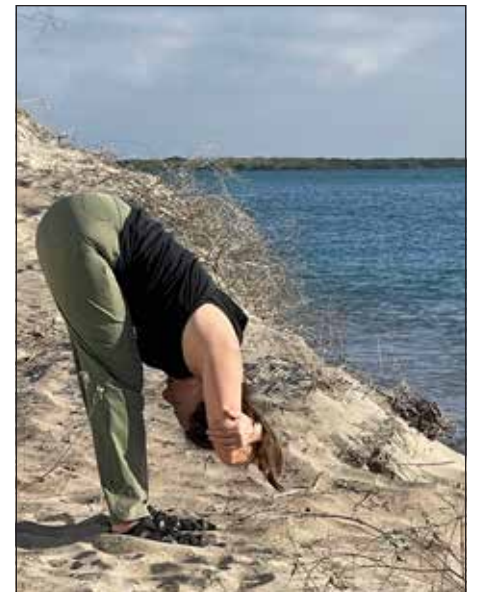
Free Food Commune's distribution on Saturdays is at Edgewood Church, 1560 Memorial Drive, S.E., 30317. The above is edited from an article by Mary Virginia Coffman at Wholesome Wave Georgia. Please see more about this superlative organization at www.wholesomewavegeorgia.org/about.

Greetings and Namaste, Lake Clarions!

by Frani Green

As we continue to navigate through the pandemic, one of my most favorite things to do to continue to keep me out of the loony bin is a Standing Forward Bend (Uttanasana).

This is a great way to help stretch your back and hamstrings, and strengthen your thighs and knees, so much more than a toe touch. It helps calm your nerves, brings oxygen and blood flow up into your face and brain, and it is quite soothing. You can let your arms hang, opening the shoulders, or even grab onto each elbow with your head inside your arms. I literally do this every day. It helps me focus, and it opens my body in such a way that I feel like I have a new outlook...which I do! Open your eyes and look at the world upside down, and it will change your point of view and focus. Breathe deeply,



and see if you can hold it for one minute. Once you have held the pose, SLOWLY roll back up, one vertebrae at a time, and when you get to the top, roll your shoulders up towards your ears, and then release; this helps regulate your blood pressure after being upside down. ENJOY!!!

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

by Lori White

CSM Board Members are awesome! In particular, Richard Kellogg spearheads Clifton's efforts against Covid. "I consider all of us at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries to be very blessed, given that to date we have had no Covid-19 infections among our guests, staff, and board members. Considering the very transmissible nature of the SARS-2 Coronavirus that has caused the global pandemic, along with the dynamics of our congregant community, it is actually nothing short of a miracle," he said. Richard has been volunteering at Clifton for about 5 years as a member of Eastminster Presbyterian Church and has been on the CSM Board of Directors for the last three. After retiring in late 2014 as an infectious disease scientist from the US Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, following the Ebola crisis, he decided to focus on some outstanding life priorities. One key priority was to find more meaningful ways to put his Christian faith into action through works that served neighbors in the community. Since the men's shelter at Clifton offered such a great opportunity, Richard jumped in, serving dinners, washing clothes, and doing maintenance projects around the facility. He was asked to serve on the CSM Board of Directors starting in 2018 and began working with Gordon Slade on the Facility and Operations Committee. And then along came the pandemic.

Given Richard's past professional experience as an infectious disease

microbiologist for over 30 years at the CDC, he could see the turmoil, disruption, and devastation this virus had the potential to cause. At the CDC, Richard had spent a significant part of his career in bioterrorism preparedness and emergency response and contributed to the US Health and Human Services Response Plan for Pandemic Influenza. What was particularly disconcerting to him about the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus was the high transmissibility, delayed clinical symptoms, lack of available testing, and high degree of spreading by people without noticeable disease symptoms.

Under the above circumstances, Richard volunteered to serve as the Covid-19 Coordinator for Clifton Sanctuary, with a focus on keeping up with the most up-to-date information and developing policies that would help protect CSM staff, clients, volunteers, and the surrounding community. Thanks to information readily available from CDC, Partners for Home, the Gateway Center, and Mercy Care, we have been able to implement effective policies and practices that were instituted by dedicated members of Clifton staff (Leslie Prince, Mia Covington, Jeffrey Harris, Lori White). One of the key policy practices that has been religiously followed is the testing of all staff and clients every 14 days. This potentially expensive practice has

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Stoplight at Clifton and McLendon

You may have noticed at the intersection of Clifton Road and McLendon Avenue that a flashing red signal light and an all-way stop sign have replaced the traditional green/yellow/red traffic light. The thoughts behind this change were that too many people speed to get through the traditional lights, and that the corner was dangerous for pedestrians. The test situation started at the end of December. If you have feedback, feel free to contact our Councilperson, Councilwoman Natalyn Archibong, narchibong@atlantaga.gov.

Please remember that a flashing red signal light means exactly the



same as a stop sign: STOP! Drivers are required to come to a complete stop, yield to traffic and pedestrians, and proceed when the way is clear, just as is true at a stop sign.

Keeping an Eye on the Crime and the Time: Lake Claire Security Report

by Miriam Herbers

This month I expanded the search for 911 calls to Candler Park and Kirkwood, as they are our closest neighborhoods to Lake Claire. From January 4 through February 4, there was 1 burglary, 16 larceny from cars, 3 other larceny, and 1 stolen car reported in the three neighborhoods put together. Three of those were in Lake Claire.

Here is a question for readers: **Do you want streets published where these incidents occurred?** Feel free to write to me at safety@lakeclaire.org. I stopped including streets once I noted that most incidents involve larceny from cars. Further, I do not think there is more to be said about not leaving items in cars. Listing streets creates anxiety, I thought, but I will resume if readers prefer. Also, from accounts on Nextdoor, I think there are more car break-ins that are not reported to police. Both the APD and CPLC patrols use these reports to know where to patrol, so please report any incidents.

On another note, APD has initiated a new program. It is the **Policing Alternatives and Diversion Initiative**, known as "PAD," partnering with the City Services hotline to accept calls in APD Zones 5 and 6. Lake Claire is in Zone 6. This initiative gives officers the option to divert people to alternative programs in certain situations, instead of arresting them.

Here is how it works: residents call **311** and make a referral to PAD for concerns related to mental health, drug use, public disturbances, persons seeking shelter or food, or other quality of life concerns. To make a referral to PAD, dial 311 and select "option 1," to speak to a customer service agent. **The 311 hotline cur-**

rently accepts calls to PAD from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Members of the PAD team would then go to the location and offer the person shelter, in the case of homelessness, or connect them with other services with the aim of keeping more vulnerable individuals out of the criminal justice system and focusing instead on social support for people who are not committing serious crimes. The PAD team plans to respond to requests within 30 minutes, though some may take longer. As an example, if a resident sees someone sleeping outside next to their building, they can call 311 instead of 911 to get help for that person.

Hopes are for this program to expand to the entire city by the end of the year. 311 is still the number to call for other city services such as bulk pick-up, missed trash pick-up, potholes, etc., as before.

Note the new trash collection schedule on Page 2.

Frazer: 6000 Waiting

Continued from Page 1

school, usually at age 21, unless that person and his or her family have enough money to pay for support services, he or she must go without.

With no Medicaid waiver and the support it affords, many individuals with disabilities face overwhelming obstacles such as poverty, isolation, mental, emotional, and physical distress. The parents and guardians of such individuals may be forced to choose between going to work or staying home to care for their loved one(s) with disability. Everyone, with or without disabilities, deserves

Saving Trees can be as Easy as Opening your Mouth

by Greg Levine, Co-Executive Director of Trees Atlanta

Many individuals have successfully stopped unnecessary tree removal merely by giving friends/neighbors some good reasons not to cut down a tree. Reasons include tree longevity of 100 years of doing good for the community; benefit of cooling your house or sidewalk in the summer, saving energy and money; trees keeping your house warm in the winter by blocking wind; trees improving property values. They provide food and homes for wildlife. They provide a place for children to play/climb. They clean the water and air. Their roots prevent erosion and reduce water runoff. They actually improve soil quality. You love the tree! It is a beautiful living thing. Pleading and begging are not beneath me and have worked with neighbors... so far. Understand that some trees must come down because they are diseased, damaging property, or considered a hazard. In those cases, suggest a good replacement (a na-

tive shade tree). After all is said and done, you will feel better for trying to save a tree or understanding why it was removed; if you're lucky you may have a good story to tell of how you saved a tree.

*This is a slightly edited article that Greg wrote about 15 years ago for Trees Atlanta, published with their permission. Now, there is a **new tool available to help**. It is a free text message service to alert the subscriber each time a new tree permit record is created in Accela (the City of Atlanta's online permitting database) for properties within a half mile of the subscriber's address. A text is sent within 24 hours of an application being posted in Accela. **Want to receive these alerts? Text TREES to (404) 637-0080.** Trees Atlanta is a nonprofit community organization that protects and improves Atlanta's urban forest by planting, conserving, and educating.*

Current Tree-Saving Initiatives

by City in the Forest

The City is rewriting the Atlanta Tree Protection Ordinance, which will not be revised again for another decade. Last month, the City Planning Department released its proposed Tree Protection Ordinance draft. Sadly, the Planning Department's draft fails yet again to protect Atlanta's trees. It destroys the appeals process and does nothing to reduce clear-cutting and mass grading on large properties. A Citizens Group has spent many months working with the City and other professionals to create a "Citizens Group

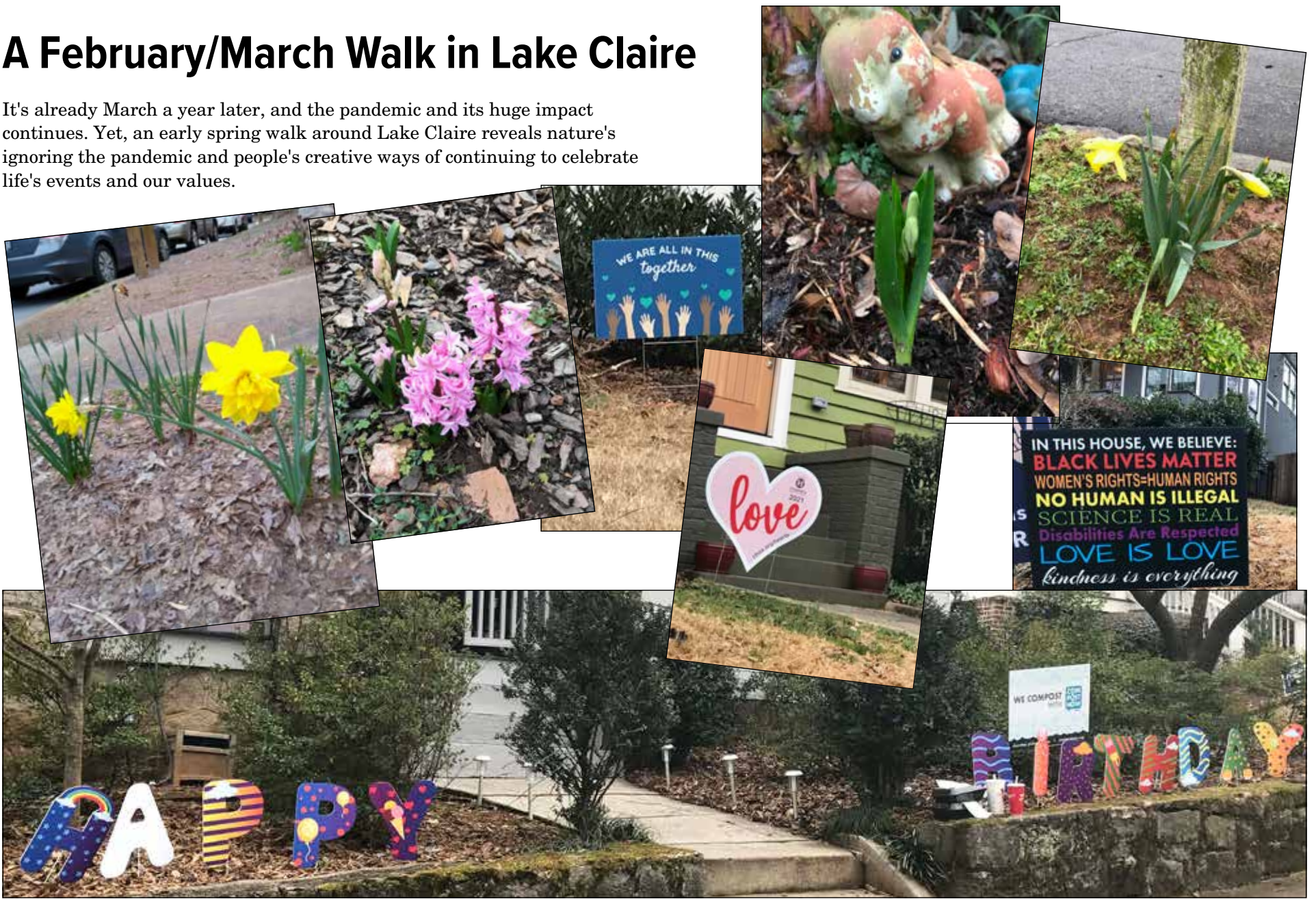
Blended Draft." The blended draft saves the best parts of the Planning Department's draft, but closes loopholes and fixes major problems. It includes effective enforcement measures, is fair and balanced—including innovative ways to protect trees that will even save builders time and money. There is much more information about this than space in the Clarion. To see what you can do, go to the website for "City in the Forest," at cityintheforest.org.wordpress.com/takeaction/.



Medicaid waiver issuance. Donations to Frazer's Flourish Fund are always welcome, and more action items will be provided after the screening of 6000 Waiting. The screening takes place via Zoom on Thursday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. The film lasts about 30 minutes and will be followed by a brief panel discussion and Q&A session. Attendance is free, but space is limited and registration is required. For more information and to register for the screening, visit frazercenter.org/about-us/events.

A February/March Walk in Lake Claire

It's already March a year later, and the pandemic and its huge impact continues. Yet, an early spring walk around Lake Claire reveals nature's ignoring the pandemic and people's creative ways of continuing to celebrate life's events and our values.



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Wild in Lake Claire

by Flora Fauna (aka Carol Vanderschaaf)

If April is the cruelest month, then March must be the kindest. As Spring begins her colorful dances on her first day, March 20, we will find ourselves in the middle of a month with many days celebrating our environment. The second Friday in March is Solar Appreciation Day, March 2 is World Wildlife Day, March 20/21, is Spring (vernal) equinox, the 21st is the International Day of Forests, March 22 is World Water Day, March 23, World Meteorological Day, and the last Saturday of the month, which in this case is March 27, is Earth Hour. That is the evening when we all are encouraged to turn off all electrical appliances from 8 to 9 p.m. Its purpose is to acknowledge climate change and take responsibility for our ecological footprint as well as to discuss viable solutions to address our climate crisis.

On to our 'hood sightings:

On February 12, my friend Melissa was walking my little dog Nattie when she heard the unmistakable calls of the Sandhill Cranes. (That's Melissa, not Nattie.) When Melissa looked up, she saw two V-shaped flocks of the cranes heading north over the Land Trust. Later that same evening, she and her partner, Jonathan, saw a fox while driving along Carter Road near the East Lake golf course. The fox stopped to stare at them and then went calmly on its way. Foxes seem to be becoming more an urban sight as coyotes are moving in to take over their more suburban territories.

"I don't have any unusual sightings to report other than the usual Great Blue Herons, ducks, and geese," says Meredith. "There are some Hooded Mergansers hanging out at Candler Lake in Lullwater preserve," she added, and "I've seen a lot of crane-fly orchids around, and was excited to see a seedbox plant in our yard. Oh, and I found a baby brown snake when cleaning out the English ivy." (Ed. note: some of those others are on the run already.) Meredith later "saw some female goldfinches on my (dried) swamp sunflowers... also saw a hermit thrush in the bushes in our front yard and have seen several ruby-crowned kinglets around. Lots of pileated and downy woodpeckers around, along with a red-bellied and a yellow-bellied sapsucker."

Mr. GP saw a Cooper's hawk sitting on a wire at the Land Trust.

Bernard S. reported that he went to see "a good friend who lives near Clarksville. He lives in the woods and has a bird feeder outside his kitchen window. He somehow managed to build this squirrel-proof feed-

er so that all the squirrels can do is wait at its base for the birds to drop some seeds down. All sorts of birds came, including a bigger and clunky but cute woodpecker. Surprisingly, the cardinals were the biggest bullies, chasing everyone when they were on the feeder. My friend said the only problem he has had was that a bear pushed the whole thing to the ground once. He had to rebuild it with a heavier post." Bernard more recently reported "a big crowd of grackles right now (and they have a lot to say)." This message from Florida, where he and Genise have been vacationing. While there, he saw the lizard here and lots more. They saw a huge murmur of thousands of small birds in the sky, such that one couldn't tell where it started and ended. The egrets and ibis were busy munching in the marshes on the edge of the roads, and he thought that he saw a group of two or three storks. (Bernard knows these because they traditionally nest on church steeples in Alsace.) He added that he was driving at the time and could have been wrong.

"Nothing much," from Miriam H., she said, adding: "Just enjoying the activity at my bird feeder. Also happy to see sporadic blooming jonquils, quince, camellias japonica, winterberries, and others to brighten up the wintry days." As has been stressed in the Clarion, the Audubon Society recommends cutting the red berries from nandinas, but Miriam said, "I have not done it. Instead I try to keep my feeder full of nutritious seeds so that they need not go there."

On Delaware Ave., Beth D. has spotted her resident northern cardinal family nearly every day in February. She has "seen the couple for 20+ years, though they're not likely the same ones, since the average life span is often 3 or so years. Though it seems counter-intuitive, our Georgia cardinals are 'northern' cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). There is an old folklore saying that 'when a cardinal appears in your yard, it's a visitor from heaven.' These days we can all use that," she said.

Dorothy D. was walking her (new) dog recently, noting, "when we turned the corner on Ridgewood approaching the Frazer Center, there was a possum crossing the street. I stopped to watch it, thinking it would scurry away when it saw us. However, it didn't. It wandered around in the middle of the road, going first in one direction and then another. A neighbor called out that we should stay away, that it might be rabid. I did call the Georgia DNR when I got



This lizard was on the boardwalk in a marsh in Florida. ~ Bernard Spenle

home to report the animal. The person I spoke to said they had already sent someone out, he thought, to see about it. I later started reading about it and found that though all mammals carry rabies, it is extremely unusual in possums. But the animal I saw was definitely not behaving normally, and I steered clear and kept my dog away from him. So be careful around animals with suspicious behavior, but let's not forget that, all in all, possums are great neighbors. One possum can eat 5,000 ticks in one season!"

Dorothy further said that she has seen lots of red-winged blackbirds, of course, all males. Interesting that the males and females migrate separately. The males arrive early and

stay late!

Well, on to next month. April showers should bring May flowers. So even in the bluest skies there will always be some grey. Let's hope we make it through exonerations and pardons and what may yet come. Oh, dear, Flora must hold her tongue.

Please note: **Wild's e-mail address has been changed to floweryfauna@gmail.com**. We would love to have more reports from other parts of Lake Claire in addition of our more loyal reporters who live near the Land Trust. You are more than welcome to send any news or comments to that email address. Thanks from F. Fauna and her devoted assistant, C. Vanderschaaf.

Where the Heck—Daffodil Project

Continued from Page 1

bloomed], at garden/hardware stores (whatever variety and as many/few as you like);

- Plant them between your sidewalk and street (put them in your flower beds too, if you like them).

For bulbs, dig a hole, put fat end down, cover with dirt. So easy! Then, each Spring, when they come up, decide where more daffodils would look nice. Maybe you add bulbs to an elderly neighbor's yard (with his or her OK, of course) or an unattended strip around Lake Claire. In a few years, we'll have quite a spectacle each spring and a source of quiet pride in our neighborhood. Now go get some bulbs—and share them with your neighbors!

If we were not procrastinators, we would have ideally planted our early spring bulbs back when the temperature was a consistent 50°F at night, October-December. If bulbs are still firm and onion-like, though, they should be fine to plant now, and maybe they'll bloom next year; Boyd's is a long-term project. Many daffodils are already blooming (as in this picture of Boyd's yard). Let's do it! "When daffodils begin to peer, with

heigh! the doxy over the dale, why, then comes in the sweet o' the year."
From The Winter's Tale ~Ed.



Dues—due in 2021!

Suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household. Lake Claire banners are \$45; a package deal of dues/banner is only \$60! The following folks paid dues since the last issue.

Ashley Cragin
 Stacy Sutton
 Amy Chillag
 Mary Jo Bryan
 K Butler Waterhouse
 Ann Mauney
 Pen and Andrew Sherwood
 Lori Blank

J. Miller Tobin
 Erin Crymes
 Susana Jacobsohn
 Sherry McHenry
 Virginia Apperson
 Patricia Emerson
 Jane Merkle

Pay at lakeclaire.org via the link **OR** with the old-fashioned check in the mail, to Eileen O'Neill, Treasurer, Post Office Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107.

Lake Claire Merchandise

In collaboration with the FineArtAmerica Company, Lake Claire Neighbors is offering an exciting way to buy online a vast number of items that will include the Lake Claire banner, by Leslie Hodges, the 'Ski Lake Claire,' and the '30307 Not Just a Zip Code' logos. All of these images can be made into wall art, coffee mugs, apparel, face masks, and a variety of other possibilities

that will be ideal for gifts and home decorations. Orders will be shipped directly to the customer. For more details, go to the Shop and Support tab at the top of the LCN website (lakeclaire.org). Please note that the FineArtAmerica Company does not make hanging banners and bumper stickers, so these items will continue to be ordered directly from the LCN via cash, check or PayPal.

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

Continued from Page 3

been provided free of charge by Mercy Care (Saint Joseph's and Emory Healthcare) from funding provided by Fulton County and the City of Atlanta.

We now look forward to the ready availability of the vaccine as a means better to protect our CSM community. The support from our volunteers, staff, clients, and community has been incredible, and Richard says he is thankful for the opportunity to serve in a meaningful way during this very challenging time. "The CSM experience has thankfully bolstered my faith in the basic goodness of people during difficult times

and united by a common cause." says Richard. Thank you, Richard, for helping to keep us safe and healthy during these unprecedented times!

Editor's Note: If you didn't previously make a donation to Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, in the envelope inserted in December's Clarion, I hope you will still consider supporting CSM, either utilizing that envelope by mail or dropping it in the CSM mailbox, OR go online to make a donation at www.cliftonsanctuary.com/donate. You could also donate to CSM through Amazon Smile purchases at www.smile.amazon.com.



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Candler Park
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Lake Claire
 590 Lakeshore Drive | \$650,000

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Hello – Safe Journey – Skiing in and around Lake Claire

March Birthdays:

- March 3 – Judy Langford and Robin Singer, both on Harold Avenue
- March 6 – Dalton Troxell-Cappello, Almeta, becomes a pre-teen! (13)
- March 8 – Kai Nathaniel, Lakeshore Avenue, turns 11
- March 14 – Jennie Caine, Leonardo
- March 20 – Kaia Wiltsee, turns 12
- March 23 – David Damon, Forrest Avenue, Beth's brother. Important role of providing emotional support for the editor behind-the-scenes
- March 29 – Victoria Weldert – Happy Six!!
- March 30 – Darcy Troxell-Cappello, Almeta, turns 10
- March 31 – James Crutcher, Hardendorf, and Carol Vanderschaff (she's WILD!) (Indiana Ave.)
- Happy belated, McKenzie Wren, 2/20!

Send us stuff—birthdays and other life cycle changes for April—help make this series inclusive (editor@lakeclaire.org) by MARCH 15.



We are thinking of Janie Wright, who passed away a year ago.

Education Matters

Grady High School (soon to be Midtown High School) tidbits of interest

Georgia Milestones tests are moved to March (as of Clarion publication, we think 3/8-19, but check website at www.atlantapublicschools.us/grady for that and other events). The debate club is debating at tournaments virtually and doing great. The GO Team meets by Zoom the first Monday of every month. (See www.atlantapublicschools.us/domain/10721.)

Grady Stadium

The Atlanta Board of Education has voted to change the name of Grady Stadium to Eddie S. Henderson Stadium. The change will be effective later this year, probably at the same time the name of the school is changed to Midtown High School. The athletic field at the stadium already bears his name. Henderson was the first African-American in Georgia to complete the requirements to be a certified athletic director. He started out at Grady, then became the principal at Archer High School, and then became the school's athletic director. He passed away in 2001.

Atlanta Public Schools' Meal Kits

APS is distributing meal kits on Saturdays around the district. This

began in mid-February; they distribute seven-day pop-up meal kits, which each contain 7 breakfasts and 7 lunches per kit, to children ages 1-18 in the City of Atlanta. APS Transportation distributes these meal kits on Saturdays at the Hightower Station Shopping Center parking lot, located at 2636 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SW, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Meal kits are limited to one per child.

APS and Covid Strategies

In an effort to mitigate Covid in our schools and community, APS has adopted a Comprehensive Covid-19 Testing Strategy, in collaboration with public health officials, community partners, universities, and healthcare organizations. School-based APS Care Centers work with community resources to provide testing for the following groups:

- Students, teachers, and staff with symptoms identified through health screening protocols;
- Students, teachers, and staff who have had contact with someone with Covid-19 in school or a workplace;
- All students, faculty, and staff with possible exposure in the context of outbreak settings
- Surveillance testing for individuals who are asymptomatic.



Cowabunga

Continued from Page 1

- Driving position is FEET FIRST ONLY.
- No weights/ballast on rods—weight of materials and rider only. Need more weight, eat a doughnut.
- Helmets required—long pants, elbow pads, retainers, facemasks, goggles, red scarves optional.
- No crybabies.
- BE GOOD TO THE NEIGHBORS. Racing hill is offered by wonderful families and friends—it's a gift. Respect their yards, property, kids, etc. (no trash, potty language)

Racing is fun! Come out with a team, family, or solo, and race like-minded maniacs at 10:30 a.m. on a Saturday. Kids, teens, and old fogeys welcome! Here's a little video of the race we previously had: www.youtube.com/watch?v=t43_MLhiYks.

If anyone is interested, reach out to me (boyd@sumowriter.com) and we'll get something organized.

Editor's note: check for updates on the Lake Claire website, in case this gets organized before the April Clarion hits the porches!



March into April in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton, knowltonew@earthlink.net

For beginners, this is the year you are going to start a garden: Prepare a garden bed; learn to plant seeds; work with your children. You have been looking over your land, perhaps, noticing where it will be sunniest this summer, not on the north side of trees or buildings, and not at the bottom of a hill where water and frost will collect.

Take a walk along the south side of McLendon towards Little Five Points. At eye level you will see that a number of households have used sunny front yards for raised beds that measure a few feet in each direction. These can be built with untreated wood or plastic boards, bricks, or concrete blocks, anything that will hold soil in place and define where things are growing. For gardening, only a couple of tools are necessary, and perhaps you can borrow them, initially. I have always found a shovel easier than a spade for both digging and moving earth, even chopping up clods in a small area. Second, you need a trowel for close work. And last, a pair of garden gloves and something to kneel on

make your work more pleasant.

On a clear day when the soil has had time to dry out a little, mark off where you want your garden bed, and push the shovel about six inches into the earth, lift up the soil, and flip it over so that the earth is upside down. Our local soil is thick, full of clay even if dark brown, feels smooth to the touch, and holds water well, too well because it lacks the tiny spaces for air and good drainage, quite the opposite of sandy soil where water flows freely through, drying out too quickly. If you are lucky, organic materials have been rotting away in corners of the yard, and you can add this stuff to the plot. If not, you may have to pay at first for a bag or two of compost or other such soil amendment. Or, maybe a gardening neighbor has some to spare. I never do because compost is gold, but you will have your own by next year.

Now turn over all the earth and amendments in the bed, mixing well, and making a smooth surface. Do not walk on the area because that will compact the ground again. While waiting to plant, cover the soil with

whatever mulch you will use later. Wheat straw is best for vegetables, and shredded leaves work well for flowers. Without the latter, you can use pine straw or bark around trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals (just never let mulch touch tree bark). Be sure to ask the others in your house what they would like to see or eat. Most will want tomatoes. I suggest some earlier things too: radishes and lettuces come to mind, easy to plant, fun to harvest, and ignored by squirrels. Since it is late to order seeds, make a trip to any Ace Hardware, where you will find a wide selection of Botanical Interests packets. Radishes come in various colors, and some lettuces are red; just make sure to buy leaf lettuces, the easiest. Go ahead and buy tomato (or pepper or eggplant) seeds at the same time, also favorite flower seeds like marigolds.

You are almost finished for March. When you get home, someone must read the packets to find out how deeply to plant the seeds (not much) and how close together. It is easier to space out tiny seeds than to fiddle with thinning them later. You can

plant in squares or in rows; just make sure to draw a diagram of what is where, or make some stakes to identify what you have sown, a good use for cut up white plastic containers. Firmly pat the planted area, and gently water it. If animals are likely to dig in the area, cover it with screening or other temporary covering.

Meanwhile, indoors, plant your tomato seeds in potting soil, water, cover the pot with plastic, and place it in a warm spot for germination; check the pot every day because as soon as they sprout, the seedlings must be uncovered and moved within an inch or two of bright light in order to grow stocky and strong.

(To be continued in April)

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Calling all Community Gardeners!

The Lake Claire Community Land Trust has a small number of garden plots available for rent by new gardeners for the 2021 growing season. The annual fee for rental of a community garden plot is \$40, plus a \$20 maintenance deposit for new gardeners only. If you maintain your plot as required in the Gardeners' Agreement, you will get back your deposit; otherwise that fee will be used to pay for maintenance. Gardeners who maintain their plots all year will be invited to renew their plots the following year. Gardeners will follow the Covid rules that the Land Trust has now (e.g., only open during daytime hours, 6 feet of distance from others, etc.).

Plots are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis and returning gardeners in good standing have first preference. Please contact the Garden Plot Coordinator, Sara Gottlieb at sara.gottlieb@gmail.com.



Have You Borrowed Our Garden Tools?

We are missing some tools from the Land Trust garden shed:

- wheelbarrow
- road rakes (heavier steel “hard” garden rakes)
- long-handled five-tine pitchforks

Any of these tools may or may not be marked with “LT,” or yellow paint. Please return ASAP, **no questions asked!**

“Pandemic in Paradise!”

Join the Land Trust Community on Zoom

Sunday, March 14, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

When COVID-19 rudely busted in and ripped up our 2020 calendar of events, the one event we couldn't cancel was our monthly Board meeting. Like just about everyone else, we've grown accustomed to seeing each other mostly online. But the Land Trust is a community, not just a seven-member Board, and it is getting lonely out in cyberspace. So, it's high time we opened our Zoom meet-

ings to the whole community of Land Trust lovers. Won't you join us for our March meeting, and invite other interested neighbors?

Spring will be arriving any minute, and the Land Trust is about to burst into bloom. The land has been enjoying your winter visits. Big Lou the Emu and goats love it when you bring your kids. The paths and gardens appreciate those of you who

have volunteered or donated to keep them beautiful for other visitors. Our monthly meetings are one more way to plug into this land and the community that has formed around it. We particularly need help from folks with financial expertise and grant-writing experience.

Contact the Land Trust secretary, Stephen Wing, at info@LCCLT.org for a Zoom invitation, and join us!

The Land Trust Needs Your Support

Despite what is happening in the world, the Land Trust is still here, still beautiful, still magical—and still in need of your love. The Land Trust is open during daytime hours, but please maintain 6 feet of distance from others. The playground is closed. The Land Trust now closes at 8 p.m. Please keep an eye on the website for changes. Anyone can be a Land Trust Supporter by donat-

ing \$10 a year. Donate online (www.LCCLT.org/stewardship), mail a check made out to “LCCLT Treasurer,” 270 Arizona Avenue, Atlanta GA 30307; or use the mailbox in the cul-de-sac. Include your email to be added to our email list; Include your mailing address for a bumper sticker. A donation is not required to get on the email list; sign up at LCCLT.org.

Free Magazines at the Land Trust

Folks who miss picking up slightly out-of-date magazines in the Land Trust restroom will be happy to hear that free magazines are available once more at the Land Trust stage. The two side walls under the overhanging eaves are stocked with boxes of *Yoga Journal*, *Buddhadharma*, *Mother Earth News*,

Mountain Astrologer, *Lion's Roar*, *Parabola*, *Nexus*, and more. Please maintain a respectful distance if others are browsing at the same time. Land Trust secretary Stephen Wing brings the magazines from his part-time recycling job; thanks for helping to recycle them!



Garden plots overlooking Dekalb Ave. (photos by Beth Damon).



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers/writers/artists to participate. This month's featured writers are scout-mates from Girl Scout Troops 17097 and 19020, 4th graders at Mary Lin: Brynn Roll is 9 years old and lives on Sutherland Place; Zoe Bulloch is 10 and lives on Casson Street; Chloe Higgins is 10

and lives on Hardendorf; Regina Styczynski is 10 and lives on Harold. Chloe is in Troop 19020, and the other girls are in Troop 17097.

Girl Scouts have been innovative in adapting cookie selling so that it works for people during Covid. We appreciate Zoe, Brynn, Chloe, and Regina, for sharing the words below, and we thank all the Lake

Claire children who read and contribute to the Kids' Page each month. Attention, kids!—Add **your** creativity to this page! Submit your work or your suggestions to editor@lakeclaire.org, by MARCH 15 for the next issue of the newspaper, which will be the APRIL issue. And you have until March 15 to order cookies at the link in their article!

It's Girl Scout Cookie Season

by Regina Styczynski, Zoe Bulloch, Brynn Roll, and Chloe Higgins

Our Girl Scout troop 17097 has 15 girls. We are Juniors, which is the third 'rank' in Girl Scouts after Daisies, then Brownies. We all know each other very well and are friends with each other, because most of us go to the same school: Mary Lin Elementary. We are all in the same grade, which is 4th. Our troop does lots of fun things, like earning badges for Jewelry, Drawing, Simple Meals, and we also made holiday cards for the local nursing home.

We also sell cookies (like every other Girl Scout troop you know). There are 8 types of cookies, which include the most popular flavors Thin Mints, Samoas, and Tagalongs. So far, together, our troop has sold just over 3,000 boxes this year! Even though we are in a pandemic, we've had our best year because of our cookie-loving community!

We use our cookie proceeds to help the community, as well as saving up for things, such as badges and trips. Right now we are saving for a trip to Savannah, where we will visit the home of the Girl Scout founder, Juliette Gordon Low. We will go there next year when we are in 5th grade.

This year our customers could donate cookies to healthcare workers, and we've collected over 120 boxes. (Thanks to all doctors, nurses, scientists, and everyone else!) **Cookie sales end March 15**, so there is still time to reach out to your favorite Girl Scout to order your favorites at this link:

bit.ly/Troop17097Cookies

Thank you for reading our article!



Brynn & Zoe



Zoe, Chloe & Regina

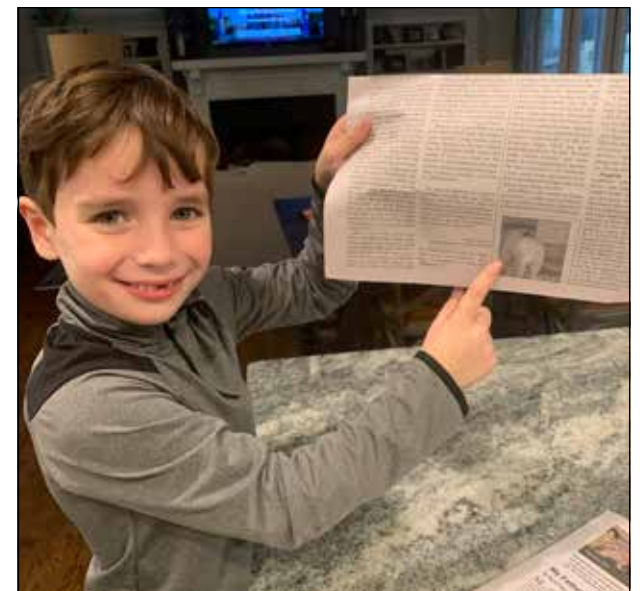


Cathrine Eason, 9, Tuxedo Ave.

Contest Winners

Emmy Ross was first to find the hidden graphic from February. She is 9 years old, in 3rd Grade at Mary Lin Elementary, and the Rosses live on Connecticut Avenue. Zach Lamb was a close 2nd-place winner. He is 7 years old and in Mrs. Ashley's first-grade class at Mary Lin Elementary. They live on Palifox. Emmy and Zach found the polar bear photo on the bottom of page 5. Congrats, Emmy and Zach, and thanks for participating. You won the contest over a VAST number of Lake Claire kids who participate every month in the contest on the Clarion Kids' Page. Your prize is your picture in the Clarion; now you are famous! The Clarion is delivered to 1500 homes!! Plus it's online!! We hope your parents enjoy hanging it on the refrigerator and sending to grandparents! Perhaps I should have a contest for counting how many superfluous exclamation points are in this column!

Attention Lake Claire kids—Add your name to the list of winners in the future. To all of those kids who didn't win, many of you came close this time. Please do keep reading this page and keep playing. See our new contest below.



Zach

NEW CONTEST!

MARCH! Spring is around the corner! Flowers are budding, and we are hoping for no more freezes that might kill those buds. March has St. Patrick's Day, Women's History Month, National Nutrition Month, and Fire Prevention Month. The monthly flower is the **daffodil**. Passover and Isra/Mi'raj are in March, though Easter is the first week of April. Holi (a Hindu holiday) is March 28, an ancient Hindu festival, also known as the "festival of spring," signifying the triumph of good over evil. Finally, Daylight Savings Time starts March 14. In honor of that, take a minute to find a cartoon about DST in this issue. 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 it, including your name, age, school, street, and grade, and a photo of yourself. **(Please tell your parents to send large picture files, 1mb+.) Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you cannot win two months in a row.**

For extra credit, tell us anything else you know about any holiday mentioned above and what it means to you. The extra-credit prize is that you'll be a featured writer/artist in a future Lake Claire Clarion with your original work. **The deadline is MARCH 15. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.**