



## Little Neighborhood Discoveries

by Heather Friedman

It never ceases to amaze me how many unique treasures there are to find throughout our quaint Lake Claire 'hood. I already take immense pride being the only neighborhood I know to claim residency for a famed emu. But to maintain sanity during the pandemic, I frequently stroll our streets, and every day I find new treasures. They all have one special thing in common: they are symbols of community. From sidewalk artistry to poignant BLM signs. From painted rocks waiting to be discovered in little nooks and crannies, to

free plants left on a wall with a sign: Take one to enjoy. This is a community of beauty and generosity.

One of my favorite gifts are the little libraries that have sprouted up on every other block (first written about in the Clarion in March 2015 see, [www.lakeclaire.org/clarionarchives/2015/2015-03.pdf](http://www.lakeclaire.org/clarionarchives/2015/2015-03.pdf)). What a joy it has been to grab a new book each week and leave a novel for someone else to devour. But now it is not just books. Two weeks ago, I found one of my favorite little libraries, and it was a box of sticks for firewood col-

lected by two furry "branch managers!" And over Spring Break, my son and I painted wooden blocks to drop off at the "Little Art Gallery Library" on Arizona! It is such a great gallery, filled with Lake Claire artistry that changes daily. It even has miniature gallery patrons who live there and admire all the new works that arrive. (Note the two different iterations pictured here.) The spirit of the gallery, like the lending book libraries, is to take something that speaks to you, or leave a gift of art for a neighbor. Over the course of one week, I saw three

new paintings, a vase, magnets, and even beaded jewelry; all labors of love from our community to be shared with someone else.

So, take a stroll throughout our beautiful Lake Claire community, and see where you can share your gifts and passions to brighten another neighbor's day. Every day, I give my mom an update on the latest works in the gallery as I walk by. She said, "You have THE MOST INCREDIBLE NEIGHBORHOOD!" She is absolutely right (but don't tell her I finally admitted that).

## Why Support Lake Claire Banner—and Other LC Merchandise

Displaying Lake Claire's banner helps highlight our neighborhood so that folks know it when they see it, and purchasing it makes a valued contribution to our fundraising.

Lake Claire's banner was designed by resident Leslie Hodges. Over several months in 2015, Lake Claire held a neighborhood-wide contest for a design of a new neighborhood hanging banner, that we could then use for fundraising as well. We received some beautiful designs. In a close contest, three of the ten entries were the top winners. In a run-off of the three, Leslie Hodges' design, shown here, was the clear winner.

Leslie and her husband, Danny Waggoner, have lived on Southerland Terrace since 1977! Leslie is a graphic artist. She said in her artist's statement for the banner contest, "We feel lucky to live in an area blessed with so many big, beautiful trees, lovely homes, and diverse wildlife. On our street, we have often been treated to the 'who-cooks-for-you' mating call of

the Barred Owls. Once I was startled awake in the middle of the night by the haunting sound of an owl near our bedroom window. It was loud! A few years ago, I sat on the grass with neighbors in their backyard and gazed at one of these creatures as it perched on a low limb, and it observed us just as intently. The cat in the illustration is our beloved 'Kitty,' a pampered and contented indoor kitty-cat, but he has a keen interest in the birds and other animals outside. His favorite observation post is our screened-in front porch, but for the banner, I chose to put him in an attic window similar to many in the neighborhood."

Leslie also mentioned that when they bought the house in 1977, they



met neighbors who are now lifelong friends. She said, "We were present for their weddings and baby showers. Then, we watched those kids grow up to be fine young men and women in what seemed like the blink of an eye. Now, with the passage of time, we have gotten to know new neighbors. The cycle continues as we watch their children arrive and grow just as quickly."

Leslie started working as a graphic designer out of a studio in her Lake Claire home in 1988. "She said, 'I get to spend my days doing what I love, in the place that I am the most comfortable in the whole world. Seeing so much talent from our neighborhood expressed in all the entries for this competition, I am pleased and

happy that mine was selected and to be able to contribute to Lake Claire. I hope folks in our community enjoy it."

In more recent years, Lake Claire has begun offering a special deal when one buys the LC banner and pays dues together (see the LCN website, [lakeclaire.org](http://lakeclaire.org)). As announced last month, now Lake Claire, in collaboration with FineArtAmerica, offers a way to buy many other neighborhood items with imprints of the 'Ski Lake Claire' and '30307 Not Just a Zip Code' logos. Just like at Shutterfly, all of these images can be made into coffee mugs, clothing, face masks, etc. For more details, go to the Shop and Support tab at the top of the LCN website. They do not make the banners and bumper stickers; these items will continue to be ordered directly from LCN via cash, check, or PayPal.

**THE CLARION IS PRINTED  
ON RECYCLED PAPER.**

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 Cover banner photo by Sarah Coburn

*The Clarion Newspaper (and its predecessor Neighbors Monthly Newsletter and its predecessor Lake Claire Neighbors Flyer) has been written, edited, and distributed by volunteers since 1989.*

## May Calendar

**1** (You may get this in time) Artists' Pop-up Market in the Pine Lake Neighborhood. **Rain date May 8.** Social distancing and masks required. [patch.com/georgia/tucker/calendar/event/20210501/1032099/pine-lake-artists-pop-up-market-one-day](http://patch.com/georgia/tucker/calendar/event/20210501/1032099/pine-lake-artists-pop-up-market-one-day).

**1-16** Actors Express will be streaming *F\*7THGRADE*, ending May 16, with Jill Sobule, singer-songwriter with many 1990s hits. Price: \$15. And, streaming and free, *Crossroads*, a journey of living and what one would sacrifice in order to live. Info at [www.actors-express.com](http://www.actors-express.com).

**1** This will play throughout May and June: *Working—A Musical*, at the Alliance Theatre, the "Under the Tent Series." Includes songs by Lin-Manuel Miranda. For detailed info on all the artists and logistics, see [alliancetheatre.org/production/2020-21/working-a-musical](http://alliancetheatre.org/production/2020-21/working-a-musical). **The Alliance** also is streaming many other productions, for all ages! See [alliancetheatre.org](http://alliancetheatre.org) for all of their creative offerings.

**2** Cowabunga! Homemade boxcar event for kids and "insane adults," announced for last month, has been postponed to May 2 in hopes that we can get more than 2 pre-teens and 1 old fogey to race. "Sign up, you slackers!" says the organizer. It's fun and easy. Speaking of "insane," guess who organized it. If you dare to participate, contact: [boyd@sumowriter.com](mailto:boyd@sumowriter.com).

**5 at 10 a.m. Work Session on the Tree Protection Ordinance;** the work session will be a time for the Atlanta City Council to discuss details of the ordinance in its entirety. (See last two Clarions for the serious concerns.) Materials for this session will be posted the day before on the CDHS Committee presentation page, at [citycouncil.atlantaga.gov/council-members/advanced-components/list-detail-pages/calendar-meeting-list](http://citycouncil.atlantaga.gov/council-members/advanced-components/list-detail-pages/calendar-meeting-list). Public access and comment details can be found on the notices which have been posted. If you have time, this is a great way to show your citizen commitment to Atlanta and our endangered tree canopy.

**7** Opening of Gallery 378's May exhibit. Gallery 378 is on Clifton, the dividing street of our two great neighborhoods Lake Claire and Candler Park. Exhibit continues through end of month; see Page 5 for details.

**8** Rain date for May 1 Pop-Up Artist Market, see above.  
**8** Printed maps at 506 Spring Dr., 30072

**8** New family movie night at Lake Claire Community Land Trust! Kid-friendly snacks and socially distant spacing will be available. Movie Nights will be monthly on second Saturdays from May 8 through October 9. Details will be posted on the Land Trust community news board at the Arizona Street cul-de-sac entrance.

**10** Horizon Theatre show with a Mother's Day theme will be May 10, and Monday, June 14, with a Juneteenth theme. Free tix, info: [tickets.horizontheatre.com/southbound1](http://tickets.horizontheatre.com/southbound1).

**10** Theatrical Outfit Silent Auction opens at noon. See May 15.

**11** through May 16: Birds, y'all!! Atlanta Bird Fest. Series of bird- and birdwatching-focused events organized by the Atlanta Audubon Society. [www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents.html](http://www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents.html)

**15** Theatrical Outfit's "Our Lucky Stars Virtual Gala," from the comfort of your home—a fun evening of homemade cocktails, fabulous auction items, and lots of surprises! Contact Tess Malis Kincaid at [tess.kincaid@theatricaloutfit.org](mailto:tess.kincaid@theatricaloutfit.org) for more info.

**19** You likely know: speaking of slackers, taxes due!

**20** **Lake Claire monthly meeting, via Zoom. Always the third Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. To receive occasional informational e-mails about and happenings in Lake Claire, as well as reminders of upcoming meetings, please sign up at [lakeclaire.org/resources/newscast-sign-up/](http://lakeclaire.org/resources/newscast-sign-up/). Lake Claire's current info can always be found on the website at [lakeclaire.org](http://lakeclaire.org). You have to get your own pizza, though.**

### OTHER:

**Plaza Theatre Drive-In Movies!!** As of Clarion publication, only April was posted, so please see: [plazaatlanta.com/drive-in-movies/](http://plazaatlanta.com/drive-in-movies/)

**The Atlanta Opera:** the 2020-2021 mainstage season has moved to 2021-22; stream unlimited Atlanta Opera productions and special content. See [atlantaopera.org](http://atlantaopera.org).

**Dad's Garage:** not performing onstage, but bringing great improv and live shows virtually. See [dadsgarage.com/](http://dadsgarage.com/).

**Theatrical Outfit** will present in the next few months, *Fires In The Mirror: Crown Heights, Brooklyn, And Other Identities* by Anna Deavere Smith, and a virtual wine tasting, "TO Hearts ATL." See details at [www.theatricaloutfit.org](http://www.theatricaloutfit.org).

**More things to do in Atlanta in May:** [gosouthatlanta.com/things-to-do/events/atlanta-in-may.html](http://gosouthatlanta.com/things-to-do/events/atlanta-in-may.html)

Calendar entries for the **June/July summer combo issue** to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org) by May 18.



## Kids' Karate!

by Lisa Orejudos

Hi Everyone! Just wanted folks to know that our son's karate dojo will have their awesome summer camps this summer! Sensei Doug/Atlanta Karate are amazing. They run the afterschool karate classes at Mary Lin Elementary as well as other area

schools. My son loves their camps so much that we moved his week at Space Camp so that he can attend the Golden Hue week at Atlanta Karate! Best of all, your kid doesn't need to know any karate to participate in all but one of their camps.

## Honeybee Swarms

by Marcy Cornell

Dear Lake Clarions,

This spring and summer, if you happen to see an unexpected cluster of honeybees, please don't panic! And don't call an exterminator; call a beekeeper.

I know a basketball-sized clump of bees can be alarming, but they are not dangerous. As beehives grow, especially as they're ramping up production after their winter austerity, they sometimes swarm, which means that a portion of the bees in the hive, along with a queen, fly off together in search of a new home. They land wherever they can (I've seen this happen on anything from high-up branches to trash cans), and then they send out scout bees to find an appropriate home. Their idea of "appropriate" is unfortunately often different from ours—say, your soffits, or inside your nice hollow porch columns. If you can call a local beekeeper in time to collect them, you can usually save yourself or your neighbors the headache of having them removed. The beekeeper will relocate the bees to a proper beehive, where colony size can be better managed.

One great resource for all things bee-related is the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers' Association ([metroatlantabeekeepers.org](http://metroatlantabeekeepers.org)), which has a great deal of helpful information, including beekeepers who can come collect swarms, and those who offer removal services in the case that a swarm has already made its home inside a structure. One word of caution: an exterminator can often seem like a more attractive (and cheaper) alternative to removal, but please keep in mind



that a dead colony of bees smells absolutely terrible for a very long time, and also that an undefended hive attracts bugs, rodents, and very often, more bees, so that you quickly find yourself back in the same situation. Plus, and on a more cheerful note, that ball of bees won't hurt you! Bees get defensive over brood and honey, and a swarm has neither. They are entirely preoccupied with finding a new home. A brave beekeeper can put a bare arm right into a swarm without being stung (but honestly, I've never been able to bring myself to do it!). It's about as docile as bees ever get. And even without intervention, an uncollected swarm will usually find itself a new home and move on in under three days, but often much sooner.

There are quite a few beekeepers in our area, so if you spot a swarm, please call one, or look one up on the MABA website. You may also contact me, at [mcornell@gmail.com](mailto:mcornell@gmail.com). I'm a Georgia Master Beekeeper and a honey judge, and would be happy

*Cont. on p. 6*

## Opportunity to Help People Get Their Lives Back

The Central Outreach and Advocacy Center's 10 Mile Challenge, "In Their Shoes," was featured in last month's Clarion. Over \$65,000 was raised to provide critical services to people experiencing homelessness. Melanie and Jason Bliss, Cara and David Ste-

vens, and Allison Troxell and Darcy Troxell-Capello, all of Lake Claire, walked ten miles on April 17.

It's not too late to donate. The link is: [tinyurl.com/s3wd8dc](http://tinyurl.com/s3wd8dc)

Melanie thanks all who donated, sponsored, hosted, and walked.



## CSM's Garden is Coming Back to Life!

by Lori White

One day while Lake Claire neighbors Susan Moss O'Donnell and sons Hugh and Henry were at the shelter organizing Clifton Sanctuary Ministries—CSM's pantry for a Scouts project, it came up that we were looking for volunteers to tend our garden this summer. Susan jumped at the opportunity and said it would be a great project for the Scouts to take on. Susan has done a wonderful job spearheading the plans! Thanks to neighborhood Scout Troop 101, Clifton's garden is coming back to life this summer! The boys have been busy preparing the land and making compost with worms. Neighbors have pitched in and donated various items to help with the garden. What



a great project that benefits so many. Thanks guys, we are excited to see the fruits of your labor!



## Frazer Center to present at National Conference

by Dina Shadwell

Inclusion and innovation are central to the Frazer Center's culture, and that is precisely why Frazer has been invited to present at the largest national gathering of nature-based early education professionals, hosted virtually by the Natural Start Alliance. The Natural Start Alliance asked Frazer Center to become part of a cohort to help ensure their guidelines for nature-based preschool professional practices were not only safe and effective but inclusive of all children. As Frazer's Child Development Program team continues to develop and implement our new nature-based curriculum, a challenge has presented itself—how effectively to measure and evaluate the outcomes from this new curriculum.

Early childhood programs are mandated to be licensed and to meet other stringent regulatory and ac-

crediting criteria. Since there are currently no widely accepted national or state standards for nature-based early learning, these programs tend to be small, with limited operating hours. This may allow them to be exempt from licensing, but it keeps them from being a practical choice for working families, or qualifying for public investment that makes it possible to serve children from families with limited incomes. De facto, nature-based learning becomes accessible only to those who can afford it. Enter Dr. Gary Bingham, Director of Georgia State University's Urban Child Study Center. Dr. Bingham and a group of graduate students are working with the Frazer Center to create, use, and test a tool for measuring the impact of the new na-

*Cont. on p. 5*

Poisoning our neighborhoods is big business.  
It's unhealthy for us, our pets, wild birds,  
pollinators, and it ends up in our local waterways.

\$6.8 billion = home and garden pesticides  
market size value.

70 million pounds of pesticides dumped  
on lawns each year



## Dues for Lake Claire

Suggested annual neighborhood dues are \$20/year per household. Lake Claire banners are \$45; a package deal of dues/banner is only \$60! Please read about the history of Lake Claire's banner on Page 1.

Since the APRIL Clarion, the following folks paid dues.

- Tom Sternberg
- Sue McAvoy
- Steven Cywilko
- Matthew Woehrmann
- Patricia Grindo
- Diane Ludington
- Julie Salomon
- Patricia McCann
- Carol Holliday

Pay at [lakeclaire.org](http://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.



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<https://www.facebook.com/parkrealtyatlanta/>

## May Exhibition at Gallery 378

by Tom Zarrilli

Gallery 378 announces the solo exhibit *Doors and Windows*, by Lake Claire artist Karen Hennessee. This exhibit features “French Laced Windows,” a series spanning 1986 through 2020. This series explores the relationship between the viewer and the viewed through French laced windows. Using manipulated digital imagery and installation, Karen reveals the often unseen interactions, whether real or imagined. The exhibit



hibit also includes works focused on doors and other windows; laced or not, shuttered or not. The attraction becomes the stories they seem to reveal or conceal—the unfolding of what appears to be or might not be... door as entrance or door as exit; window for looking out/letting in, or window for looking in/keeping out.

The exhibition will run from May 7 through May 30. For additional information please call 404 530 9277.

## Outdoor Places to Eat Lunch

With infectious disease experts recommending that people eat outside to prevent further spread of Covid-19, even if vaccinated, many restaurateurs have created outdoor spaces. Please continue to support restaurants to the extent you are comfortable, as they try to survive with outdoor seating, socially distanced seating, delivery, and take-out.

For those who are comfortable eating in person outdoors, there are many good choices. Many recommendations appeared recently on NextDoor, including Rising Son in Avondale Estates, Las Brasas in Decatur, Mezcalitos (outdoors, Oakhurst), Paolino (outdoors, Oakhurst), and directly across the street, the Universal Joint: beautiful spot to eat outside with great foods and wine.

Brick Store Beer Garden and the White Bull (they share a terrific out-

door patio in back of the two restaurants), Wheelhouse, Café Lily, First Watch, and the Imperial (on College Avenue at Mead). The General Muir has a nice patio and is a yummy, fun spot for lunch. They are only open Wednesdays-Sundays, though. Also, Sprig has a lovely patio and great food. Ducks Kitchen, off College Avenue, has good food and a lovely patio area.

There is Sun in My Belly in Kirkwood, walking distance from some of Lake Claire. Parker’s on Ponce had a great menu and patio. Sweet Melissa’s has take-out and a few tables, next door to the Brick Store.

Melton’s on North Decatur Road at Scott is a fun and well loved institution. They have a nice patio and good food. Calle Latina in Decatur (next door to the Decatur MARTA station), is delicious. Pastries-a-Go-Go next to the CVS in Decatur has a nice patio. And of course, on Dekalb Ave, there is Fox Bro’s BBQ. Last, I think we all know about La Fonda Latina and Fellini’s, a hop-skip-and-a-jump away, at Clifton and McLendon, both with great outdoor spaces and to-go food.

If you have other suggestions, send to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org), and we will publish next time. Bon appétit!



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

by Miriam Herbers

PAD (Policing Alternatives and Diversion Initiative Community Referral Services), previously initiated in Zones 5 and 6, now extends to Zones 1 and. This is whom to call for homelessness, mental health, and other concerns—when a person needs help but does not need to be arrested. Hopefully, this will prove successful enough to be available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week in all zones of the Atlanta Police Department.

The City states, “With PAD ATL311 Community Referral Services, you can make referrals to ATL311

for non-emergency quality of life concerns related to mental health, substance use, or extreme poverty. PAD will respond to the referral request and offer individuals short-term care navigation, stabilizing support systems, and warm referrals to other service providers.

PAD 311 Community Referral Services are currently available in Atlanta Police Department Zones 1, 4, 5 and 6, and will be Citywide by the summer. To submit a referral, contact ATL311 by dialing 404-546-0311, option 1, Monday–Friday, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

## Walk Through Lake Claire’s History

The Clarion Archives can be a fascinating walk through our neighborhood history, concerns, and past and present neighbors and activists. This is a great resource for both longtime and new residents.

New residents with spare time (and these days, why wouldn’t you have that?) can go to the website at [lakeclaire.org](http://lakeclaire.org) to view publications starting in 2000. As noted on the

banner on Page 2, the Clarion’s predecessors were a flyer that started in 1989, followed by a newsletter for many years, and in present times, a newspaper which is delivered to all Lake Claire homes and also put into a pdf and posted on our website. This sets us apart from many other neighborhoods who either have newsletters or only online publications.

## Frazer Center to Present at National Conference

*Continued from Page 3*

ture-based curriculum on children’s developmental milestones. This measurement tool is key to creating regulatory standards and accreditation for nature-based preschool programs, thereby making them accessible to families with low income.

Until that time comes, Frazer hopes to create a positive impact in our wider community by crafting a program to share with other early learning centers in the metro area that serve families with low incomes. This field-trip program will provide free access to Frazer Forest and the newly developed nature-based curriculum, as well as training sessions for teachers. We also hope to inspire early childhood educators across the country at the Natural Start Alliance conference this summer. Dr. Bingham and Frazer pre-K teacher Caitlin Pittard will present a seminar on the development and implementation of the evaluation tool. Susie Riddick, Frazer Center Director of the Child Development Program

(CDP), and Courtney Kiser, CDP Inclusion Coordinator, will lead a seminar on inclusion inside the classroom and outside in nature-based settings. For more information about Natural Start Alliance, visit [naturalstart.org](http://naturalstart.org); for more information about the Frazer Center, visit [frazercenter.org](http://frazercenter.org).

*As a reminder, a top priority of the Frazer Center is protecting and nurturing the native growth in the forest. This is just one reason that dogs must be leashed at all times when in Frazer Forest. Unleashed dogs are a primary spreader of invasive seeds, especially Japanese chaff flower. Unleashed dogs have also created spur trails throughout the forest, contributing to erosion and the suppression of native species. Not to mention, terrorizing the dogs appropriately on leashes. **Thank you for respecting this request. Enjoy the Frazer Woods, Lake Claire friends—both human and canine!***

# Honeybee Swarms

Continued from Page 3

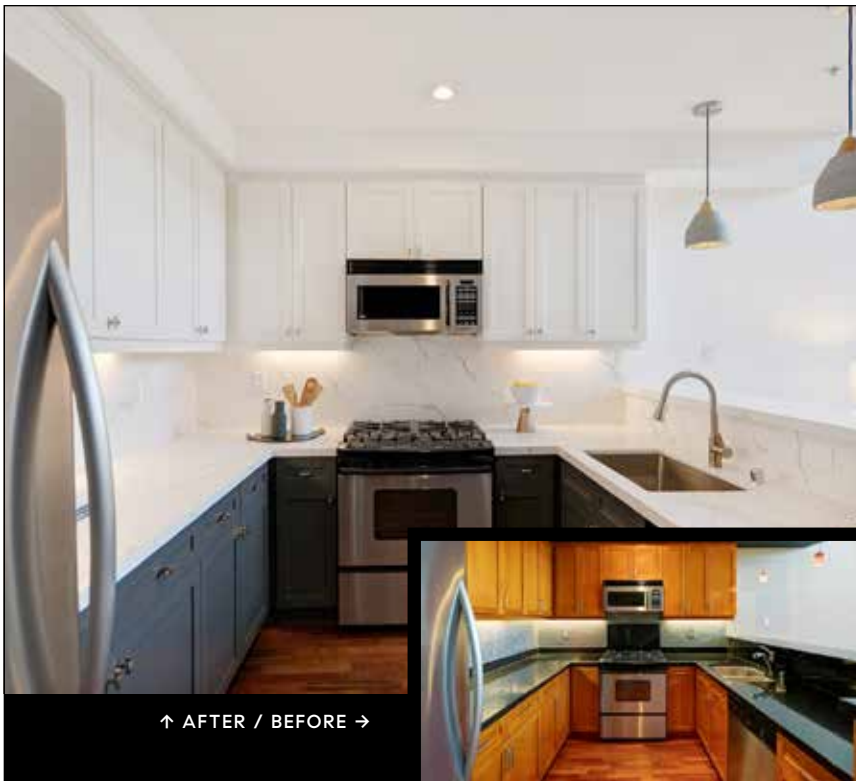
to come scoop up your bees and give them a nice home in the neighborhood—because even the bees want to live in Lake Claire!



# Carpenter Bees

As happens every year, there is a “buzz” about trapping and/or killing carpenter bees. In fact, carpenter bees are some of our best native North American pollinators. Over 80% of the world’s flowering plants require pollinators to reproduce. These bees work from the first sign of spring until the end of summer. They use a special kind of sonic ener-

gy that makes them more effective at their job. In the spring, the males are more protective of nests and might come close, but **they do not have stingers**. As summer comes, they become less “in your face” and just get busy pollinating. They are great for pollinating tomatoes; please consider allowing them to live!



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Decatur  
312 Huron Street | \$720,000

## Wild in Lake Claire

by Flora Fauna (aka Carol Vanderschaaf)

Here we are in Spring. Try peeking out your door at all the blossoms and the greenery. May always makes me think of the song from Camelot, “Tra la! It’s May! The lusty month of May! That lovely month when everyone goes blissfully astray.”

Frank W. on Indiana, went astray and reported, “I’ve recently seen three rabbits, one on Nelms, one on Adolphus, and one on Arizona. I’ve seen two possums in our neighborhood, and multiple hawks. I also noticed a squirrel ‘with light red pants’ who looked like one I nicknamed “red pants.” He continued, “I’m sure some of these squirrels live in our squirrel house. Recently I saw one squirrel on top of the house and another with his head poking out of the hole, who ran out, and another one from inside poked his head out of the hole. It looked like a happy family.” (Flora’s note: Frank is lucky to have a squirrel house. All of my squirrels seem to live in my attic.) Frank reports many things as he is bicycling around town, including “a dead possum and snake in Virginia Highland, where I also saw a green lizard.”

Ilene S. has seen “blue jays, red tail hawks, blue birds, mourning doves having sex in my backyard (Flora’s note: *they* obviously know it’s the lusty month), titmouses (or is it mice), robins, and goldfinches,” and has heard owls, though not as many as a month ago, and a bull frog. She’s seen “a Carolina Wren, a red-bellied woodpecker, and either a downy or a hairy woodpecker (not sure which), plus lots of crows.”

Meredith W. found “a green tree frog when I was pulling ivy in our yard, and a great blue heron rested on the branch of the pine tree just across the creek from us for a long while one afternoon. A few weeks ago, I saw a great blue heron at the very top of a tulip poplar in our neighbor’s yard, probably 100 feet in the air. It was funny to see its silhouette so high up. A pine warbler and red-bellied woodpecker have joined the chickadees, tufted titmice (mouses?), cardinals, and Carolina wrens that eat the pecans and walnuts I put out. A red-shouldered hawk is nesting two yards down from us in a tulip poplar, and they’re making lots of noise. And I’ve seen several northern water snakes cuddling to stay warm while sunning themselves over Candler

Lake in the Lullwater Preserve. On the flora side, we’ve recently added to the native edibles in our yard with hazelnut, red mulberry, and American persimmon. I’m excited.”

Kristan N., a new contributor, tells “Wild, “At the end of March on a walk with our newborn son, we spotted two red-headed woodpeckers while walking south on Lakeshore Drive near Lake Claire Park. Their brilliant red color was easily visible through the trees. With their populations declining, we felt lucky to catch a glimpse! After showing my husband your reply, he said, “Stop the presses!” He thought that it was a red-bellied woodpecker. It is hard to argue the point because his eyes are much better than mine. That’s not quite as exciting because they are more common, but we enjoyed the sighting, nonetheless.”

And speaking of woodpeckers, my helper Melissa, who walks my little dog Nattie, saw two pileated woodpeckers in her yard in the Midway neighborhood. A couple of old trees in her backyard had fallen recently, and the woodpeckers were taking advantage of an easy meal. (FF note: pileateds are large and beautiful birds. I saw my first when I lived on Lakeshore Drive in the 1980s. When I first spotted it, I thought I was looking at a cardinal but I soon realized I was looking at the crest of the pileated!)

Sue and Bill from Leonards shared this story: when they returned from an out-of-town trip, Quebby (their cat) was so excited to see them that



he presented them with a rabbit (dead or alive, they weren’t sure). Thankfully for the bunny, Sue pried Quebby’s mouth open, and he dropped his catch... and the rabbit (yes, alive!) hopped away to freedom.

Andrew S on Harold shared, “We watched a hummingbird sip from an azalea and lily of the valley in our yard today, at least ten days earlier than usual. Global warming maybe? (FF note: that does seem early, maybe one nice thing to come from global warming.)

Miriam H. tells us that “there are many turtles in the Land Trust pond, and (human) families visit them daily. They are red-eared sliders, although some have a yellow strip over the eyes instead of red.”

And speaking of turtles, let us remember World Turtle Day celebrated on May 23. The day is celebrated in a variety of ways, including doing research activities and, even more fun, dressing up as turtles! But where does one go, when dressed as a turtle? To visit the Land Trust, of course!

Miriam also reminded us about a cicada swarm that will be arriving soon. Please visit the New York Times, 3/28/21, for the full article. It’s well worth a read!

Final words for May by Marty Rubin:

“May. The lilacs are in bloom. Forget yourself.”

PS: Flora always welcomes contributions to Wild. Please send them to my excellent assistant, C. Vanderschaaf, c/o me at: [floweryfauna@gmail.com](mailto:floweryfauna@gmail.com).

## Wild No More

by Flora Fauna

Warning... Warning... Warning! Flora Fauna may have to update the name of the Wild column to keep up with recent sad events in the ‘hood. In April, someone on Nextdoor reported an incident: her yard had been mistakenly sprayed by TruGreen. She woke up one morning to find their signs all over her yard. She was particularly upset because she and her husband had been keeping a chemical-free yard. There was much discussion back and forth on the platform with many folks advising her to sue. Others were more lenient, saying the company had a good reputation. I myself say ARGH! I just don’t understand the need to poison a perfectly good yard. Of course, that company is not the only one.

The yard was being sprayed “for bugs,” mosquitoes probably. Unfortunately, the spray went over everything nearby, including a beautiful swallow-tailed butterfly which lay in the road shivering in its death throes. In this same yard, children and pets often play. I can’t help but wonder why the homeowner didn’t explore another way to get rid of the mosquitoes other than to kill other beautiful and beneficial creatures and perhaps inflict long-term health issues on children and pets. For much wildlife, because of spraying for mosquitoes, it is “wild no more.”



Clarion suggestion: Join Facebook group “END TOXIC YARDS,” committed to stopping the poisoning of our neighborhoods,  
[www.facebook.com/groups/252017342965086](http://www.facebook.com/groups/252017342965086)



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# News From Our Nearby Neighborhoods

## Kirkwood Urban Forest Bridge Burned

Many Lake Clarions may know about the Kirkwood Urban Forest and include it in your walks from Lake Claire. On April 15, the Kirkwood Urban Forest pedestrian bridge was burned; emergency crews responded and put out the fire. The Kirkwood Neighbors Organization (KNO) is seeking information related to this fire and requesting monetary donations to rebuild the bridge, according to a press release from them. Atlanta 911 received two calls reporting a fire at the Rogers Street entrance to the Kirkwood Urban Forest, before 5:00 a.m. that day. Police and fire crews responded, and firefighters successfully put out the fire. If any LC neighbors have information that could be beneficial to this case, they should reach out to Lt. Douglas of the Atlanta Fire Investigation Unit at 470-421-5552 and reference case number #21023832.

The pedestrian bridge to access the Kirkwood Urban Forest was



built in 2016-2017 by KNO and funded through the neighborhood and a matching grant from Park Pride. The project took several years to plan, finance, and build, and it was truly a labor of love --which is why seeing it destroyed is so disheartening for all involved. Donations are welcome to help rebuild the bridge, by donating on the KNO website: [www.historickirkwood.org/kirkwood-urban-forest-bridge](http://www.historickirkwood.org/kirkwood-urban-forest-bridge). The estimated repair costs are \$25,000+.

## The Hawk in Little Five Points

Little Five Points now has the HAWK Signal that makes crossing Moreland Avenue easier. A H.A.W.K. Signal, (High-Intensity Activated Cross-Walk beacon), is a traffic control device that stops traffic for pedestrians to cross on-demand. Once pedestri-

ans push the crossing button, lights will flash red, alerting drivers to stop. Once traffic has come to a stop, pedestrians can cross safely. If you haven't seen it in person, head down to L5P. The HAWK signal is in front of Junkman's Daughter.

## New Shop in Candler Park

A brand new storefront has opened right next door to the beloved Candler Park Flower Mart: The Studio at Candler Park—a creative workspace and art gallery. It has original art, vintage finds, and a rotating curation of “all things pretty.” The light-filled space will also serve as a gathering place for the neighborhood, including an option to rent it out for photo shoots or private events. It is Shannon Coppage's working studio, where she paints primarily abstract art on raw linen, shared with her partner, Reed Knauth, the talented artist behind Rosebud Studios. Inspired by her love of nature, Reed uses watercolors, gouache, and oil pastel on pa-

per to create vibrant botanical paintings. They plan to host fun events, as soon as it is safe to gather indoors—think flower arranging workshops, cocktail “how-tos,” and pop-up shops to spotlight local fashion and design talent. Opening this space is the realization of Shannon's longtime dream, since studying industrial design at Georgia Tech.

The Studio is open weekdays from 10 to 5 or by appointment. View photoshoot booking details, upcoming pop-up shops, and more at [www.thestudioatcandlerpark.com](http://www.thestudioatcandlerpark.com). You can also stay up-to-date on happenings at The Studio on Instagram: @[thestudioatcandlerpark](https://www.instagram.com/thestudioatcandlerpark).



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

### May Birthdays:

- 2 Layla Klehr, turning 12, Hardendorf Avenue
- 3 Sarah Wynn, Harold Avenue
- 4 Bill Fleming and Jennifer Hubert, both Harold Avenue
- 9 Vivian Baker, Claire Drive, turns six! Bob Caine, Leonardo, and Reece Barclay on Hardendorf
- 11 Adler Waugh, turning 10, Leonardo
- 16 Peter Olson, Leonardo
- 18 Liz Baker, Claire Drive; Jett Friedman, Delaware Ave, turning 9 (pictured Page 1)
- 19 Joseph McGill, Delaware Avenue, will be 20 (at 21, we stop mentioning age!)
- 20 Aiden Rogers, Ridgecrest, turns 17
- 23 Mayla Carper, Leonardo, turning 8
- 27 Edie Haggerty, Harold, turns 10
- 28 Sadie Stevens, Leonardo, frequent Clarion contributor, turning 11

### May Graduations:

Congratulations to our Lake Claire grads, many of whom studied online again!!!!

Send us life cycle changes for the next issue—it's a combo issue for June/July/summer!—**help make this series inclusive** ([editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org)) by May 18.

## Oakhurst Dog Park

Since leashes are required by law in Lake Claire Park (and all City parks), many of us take our dogs to Oakhurst Dog Park for the off-leash play experience. Ever wonder why the path is lined, wood chips spread, and poop bags replaced? The Oakhurst

Dog Park invites you to “Come volunteer!” It would be priceless, they say, if some folks could offer an hour or two to make the dog park better! Volunteers gather for these light duties every Friday, starting at 9 a.m.

### Why Leash the Dogs in LC Park

This is about leashing dogs in Lake Claire Park, a frequent discussion on NextDoor and every once in a while in the Clarion. Leashes are required by law in City parks, but the issue is as much about the law as it is about being considerate of neighbors. There have been far too many incidents with unleashed dogs over the years. It doesn't matter how friendly one's dogs are, how much you think they “love children” (a clear example of anthropomorphizing dogs—a dog I had fitting that description for years seemingly got jealous of a child sitting next to me and snapped at her, the dogs teeth scratching the child's face), or how great the dog has been to date. The fact is: dogs can be unpredictable. A dog on a leash meeting a dog off-leash is a particular problem. As someone said on NextDoor, “no one can guarantee a dog won't get spooked by whatever. Of course many people don't think their dogs will cause harm, but it's not logical to count on that.” Another person rightly noted, “if all of the dogs are on leashes, together we owners can decide whether they might be introduced off-leash or if it's not a good idea/time/etc.” There are great dog parks nearby in Oakhurst, off Freedom Park, in Decatur near St. Thomas More, and in Piedmont Park; people who want their dogs to run free will hopefully take them there.

## May into June in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton, [knowltonew@earthlink.net](mailto:knowltonew@earthlink.net)

For two months I've given garden advice to the neophytes. Are the more advanced gardeners squirming with boredom? Let's talk about established gardens again.

In the Big Box stores, I see signs proclaiming, "Perennials—they come back each year!" Well, sort of. We are perennials, too, right? Some of us live for many years, it is true. Others have much shorter lives. Some don't make it 'til two. But all of us eventually succumb; it's just a fact. And plants have finite lives also.

In the South, heat combined with humidity is not a friend of many perennial plants, the real killer being the failure of our nights to cool down. We live in Atlanta with its skyscrapers and pavement and constant destruction of trees and shrubs. This is planting zone Eight, folks. Have you ever looked at a White Flower Farm catalog? (You don't have to buy.) Established nursery catalogs are good teachers because they don't want angry, disappointed customers who will write bad reviews. See that little zone range printed with each plant? When it ends in 7S, the S is for South, and it means the plant is not for us. Astrantia, Delphinium, Eupatorium, some bearded (German) iris, English lavender,

lupines, many peonies, most foxgloves, and tulips—I could go on and on listing the flowers that are perennial in colder climates but will struggle and disappear in our city.

Plants that bloom early are often perennial here: hellebores, woodland phlox, and narcissus come to mind. Many irises persist. Daylilies are real troopers. Cranesbill geraniums, the Shasta daisy 'Becky,' *Monarda* (bee balm), garden phlox, salvias, *Echinacea* (coneflower), hibiscus, and then the fall asters and mums may all return but also may require a certain amount of coddling. I have successful native coneflowers but have never kept a hybrid more than a year of two, for instance. You must provide perennials with good drainage (in clay?), feed, water if it does not rain—and we have serious, long droughts some summers. They may suffer from mildew, black spot, and persistent insect damage. Finally, it is difficult for them to keep throwing out flowers for our long season, April through November; therefore, you may have a beautiful plant in June that just sits there the rest of the year. (I have noticed, with amusement, that the very flowers that are perennial here are often the ones

forbidden shipment to the western states because they are invasive.)

So, grow your favorites, and also depend on annuals to provide continuous blooms. Because they survive only by producing seed for the next generation, they will provide bountiful flowers with some watering and dead-heading. Plant them among your perennials to fill in the bare or dull spots and in your vegetable gardens for picking. Add compost as you go and a little organic fertilizer. Many of them are easy and tough (marigolds, zinnias, melampodium), self-seed promiscuously (e.g., cleome), enjoy shade (impatiens, coleus, torenia, browallia), bask in sun (annual salvia, tithonia, nicotiana), or open at night (moonflowers). If your garden is full of life, including bees, flies, wasps, moths, and butterflies, you can participate in the Great Georgia Pollinator Census August 20 and 21, coordinated by the University of Georgia Extension, [ggapc.org](http://ggapc.org). I did last year, found it easy and fun, and was relieved that so many pollinators actually showed up at the giant zinnia I selected to monitor.

Last year's rain was an anomaly, over 75 inches by the end of October as opposed to our average 50. Rainfall fell off in November and has not increased since. Since you may need to begin watering in May, usually a dry month, invest in some good quality watering cans, hoses, and hose attachments. I highly recommend the Gardena attachments that, once threaded onto taps and hoses, allow you quickly to change your watering configurations with snap-on ease and no leaking (as long as you provide fresh washers annually). I just cleaned them out at the Scott Blvd. Ace, but I am sure you can get them to order more.

Here comes summer! Feed, water, mulch (with sustainable, natural materials), and harvest your vegetables and flowers regularly to keep them coming. This is your garden with the dog galloping around on his chosen path, children rolling on chemical-free clover/grass/weeds, friends now vaccinated and chatting nearby, and you picking some bush beans for dinner or a bouquet for the table. All's right with the world.

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# Lake Claire Community Land Trust Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 11, 2021, 1 p.m.

The Land Trust Board of Directors invites all our friends and neighbors to its 2021 Annual Meeting. These events are not only a legal requirement for nonprofit corporations, but are also an important part of our annual cycle. Please join us to share your concerns and learn more about All Things Land Trust.

This year, due to COVID-19, the meeting will most likely be held on Zoom. To receive an invitation and link, sign up under "Email List" on any page of our website, [LCCLT.org](http://LCCLT.org), or email us directly at [info@LCCLT.org](mailto:info@LCCLT.org). The information will also be shared publicly on the website and across social media. Look for more

details in the June/July combo issue of the Clarion.

We look forward to engaging with our community and getting honest feedback after a difficult year. Like everyone else, we look forward to brighter days ahead!



## Support the Land Trust by Eating Delicious Indian Food!

by Miriam Herbers

NaanStop is a family-owned Indian restaurant with three locations where the Idnani brothers proudly serve their mother's recipes. In order to survive the pandemic, they have adapted by offering takeout meals for pickup. Each month they donate 10% of sales on certain days to a local nonprofit. On **Tuesday, May 11**, it will be the Land Trust's turn. Neal Idnani explained that he has been bringing his family for nature walks on the Trust and that this is their gesture of thanks.

The meal feeds four, including two entrees, fresh baked naan bread, handmade samosas, basmati rice, and chutney. Vegan and meat entrees are available. Place your or-

der at [bit.ly/NSorderLC](http://bit.ly/NSorderLC), any time between April 29 and 5 p.m. on Monday, May 10, and it will be available for pickup between 5 and 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11. Pickup location will be given with confirmation of your order, but it will be here in Lake Claire, with masks and social distancing required. "First come, first served," so get your orders in before they sell out! 10% of sales will be donated to the Lake Claire Community Land Trust.

Throughout the pandemic, the Idnani family has been generous in helping us and other nonprofits as well. Please support them when eating inside is safe again.

## Important Big Lou Update

In early April, Big Lou was very sick again, possibly due to improper feeding by visitors. He threw up and could not eat for several days. To make things worse, his veterinarian (a large-animal vet who drives from Lithonia) was out of town. If you feed him, please don't pick random leaves or berries from the Land Trust. He should eat only: **WHOLE**—grapes, blueberries, strawberries, black-

berries, peanuts (shelled), and **CHOPPED UP IN BITE-SIZE**: apple, melon (Lou doesn't like watermelon), lettuce (any kind), spinach, celery, and green beans.

Please, folks, **ABSOLUTELY NO** leaves or berries from the Land Trust! Any questions? Contact the emu keeper, Dawn Aura, 678-643-5671, [dawnaura12@gmail.com](mailto:dawnaura12@gmail.com).



## New Friend for Aidan: Meet Gray, New Land Trust Duck

by Dawn Aura

We lost Eddie, the mallard partner of Aidan, several months ago. Eddie was a bit of a bully, so we gave Aidan some time alone. Recently, Wing and I drove to Augusta and found beautiful Gray, who is tan and gray, and has a blue bill, a Swedish Blue hybrid. (They are both males, but they were BFFs instantly. Aidan, who is 9 years old, took Gray, who is 8 months

old, under his wing! Gray is still a bit shy, so it is hard to take a good shot of him. Come visit them. Birds of a feather flocking together again in the small pond.

*Editor's note: Please check out the online version of the Clarion to see this in color; the Swedish Blue is a gorgeous looking duck!*



# 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 Lily Cornell. Lily is age 6, and she lives on Arizona Avenue; she is

in the first grade at Mary Lin. Fortuitously, Lily of the Valley is the monthly flower of May! We thank all the Lake Claire children who read and contribute to the Kids' Page each month. Add your

creativity to this page! Submit your work or your suggestions to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org), by **MAY 15** for the next issue of the newspaper, which will be the COMBO June/July/Summer issue.



Lily, Our Featured Writer

## Homegrown Veggies

by Lily Cornell

If you make a vegetable and fruit garden then you can have your own fruits and veggies. Like strawberries, radishes, cucumbers, and lettuce. You can make lots of foods with the vegetables and fruits you have from your garden.

If you have vegetables and fruits from your garden, then you'll have lots of things to make you healthy. And they're also really yummy. Some grow underground and some, like sugar snap peas, grow up and you can eat them right away. But vegetables like potatoes and carrots you have to pull them out of the ground and clean them before you can eat them.

## Contest Winner

Bo Baker, age 8, in the third grade at Mary Lin, won the contest last month to find the hidden picture of Earth in honor of Earth Day! Bo lives on Claire Avenue, and he is an avid Inter Atlanta soccer player. You will note in the picture that Bo found the picture on the phone. His mom had already recycled the paper copy; digital is perfect for Earth Day values, of course, which is what we had for the hidden graphic for April!

Congrats, Bo, 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, since the Clarion is delivered to 1500 homes plus posted online. We hope your parents enjoy hanging it on the refrigerator and sending to grandparents.



Attention other 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.



## Cowabunga, Kids!

Lake Claire's homemade boxcar event has been postponed to May 2!! It's fun and easy. Parents and kids could build together to be creative, improve your technical skills, and have a little friendly competition. Racing is fun! See the rules in last month's Clarion, Page 1. If you already recycled last month's, write to me at [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org), and I will send them to you. To participate, you or your parents should contact: [boyd@sumowriter.com](mailto:boyd@sumowriter.com), and he will send you the rules, as well.

## New Contest

MAY! April showers bring May flowers, and beautiful flowers continue to bud throughout Lake Claire. May's birth flowers are Hawthorn and Lily of the Valley. The month of May has fun and interesting days, many that have to do with books. Examples are National Family Reading Week (the first week of May), Children's Book Week, World Press Freedom Day, **Screen-Free Week**, and Reading-is-Fun Week. There is also Bird Day (May 4), Cinco de Mayo, which has evolved into a day to celebrate Mexican culture, Iris Day (May 8), and of course Mother's Day (May 9). May 12 is "Write a Limerick Day." In honor of books and of Mothers, take a minute now to find this month's hidden picture of a family reading for National Family Reading Week somewhere in this issue. The winner/winners will have their

pictures in the next Clarion.

To win, send e-mail to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto: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 what you will do for fun in honor of "Screen-Free Week," OR any other special day in May, mentioned above or not. OR - write a limerick about Lake Claire or life at home during Covid! 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 MAY 18. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.**