



The Art of Mural Maintenance

by Kathy Evans

We closed down DeKalb Avenue on Earth Day in 2007 to dedicate the 343-foot “Native Waters” mural, which depicts the major rivers of Georgia. A marching band, scores of volunteer artists and organizers, and other neighbors gathered in the street to celebrate the culmination of the efforts of more than 100 volunteer artists and workers under the direction of muralist, David Fichter.

DeKalb Avenue itself—or rather,

the ridge it follows—was the inspiration for the mural. The road, along with MARTA and CSX tracks, and an earlier Native American trail, traces the ridgeline that forms the Eastern Sub-continental Divide. The ridge separates waters of the Chattahoochee-Flint-Appalachicola watershed (on the north) which flow to the Gulf of Mexico and waters of the

Cont. on p. 3

APS Scenarios to Deal With Overcrowding at Midtown High

by Patrick McGrath

On March 1, Atlanta Public Schools (APS) released scenarios to deal with overcrowding at three schools: Midtown High School, Maynard Jackson High School, and Woodson Park Academy (www.atlantapublicschools.us/redistricting). According to APS projections, Midtown High School is overcrowded, with a projected peak utilization rate of 113% by the 2025-26 school year. Two scenarios for Midtown High School were officially presented (www.atlantapublicschools.us/cms/lib/GA01000924/Centricity/Domain/3789/MidtownOptions_MeetingSlides.pdf) at a community meeting on March 9. In the first scenario, no rezoning would occur, and various innovations and enhancements would be explored to reduce utilization to 95% capacity. These could include residency reviews, adding capacity through room usage modifications and temporary spaces, and innovative changes to classrooms such as virtual learning. The extent and impact of these innovations on student learning and reducing capacity remains to be worked out over the next six months.

In the second scenario, Centennial

Academy, a K-8 charter school serving neighborhoods west of Midtown, would be rezoned from Midtown High School to Washington High School effective for the 2024-2025 school year, impacting 219 students. Additional residency verification or innovative enrollment solutions would be needed to reduce capacity by 52 additional students to reach the 90% capacity goal.

Concerns from community feedback included a lack of transparency on what these various innovations and enhancements would entail and about the total efficacy of Scenario One as a long-term solution. Concerns around Scenario Two included decreasing the diversity of Midtown High School and the promotion of further segregation.

While rezoning of Mary Lin Elementary was not included in the final two scenarios, documents released from a public records request indicated that two additional redistricting scenarios were considered by APS which both included Mary Lin. One scenario redistricted Mary Lin from Midtown High School to Maynard

Cont. on p. 9

Amazon Distracted Atlanta Years Ago: What Did It Cost Us?

by Kevin Posey

Although Jeff Bezos is no longer CEO of Amazon, he remains its largest individual shareholder. Therefore, it can be said that he has done a public service for the nation: he has taught a multitude of cities that it is foolish to use incentives to entice corporate investment. He pulled this off by encouraging governments all over the U.S. to bid for everything from warehouses to headquarters complexes, but The Washington Post reports that Amazon is now reducing the commitments it agreed to or walking away from them entirely.

In our region's case, several jurisdictions—the city of Atlanta, Stonecrest, and others—sought to entice the company to pick them for a second headquarters, also known as HQ2. Instead, the company chose Arlington County in northern Virginia, and New York City. The latter hastily backed away from their incentive package after large citizen protests. Some warehouses were sprinkled around the Atlanta metro area, effectively becoming consolation prizes.

Arlington's victory is now a curse. As the Post reports, no direct giveaways have gone from the county

to Amazon because the company is backing away from its employment plans there. This may seem like a silver lining amid bad news. Unfortunately, “winning” means that even more personnel time has been focused on the company's plans than in the case of those communities that were screened out earlier in the bidding process. Personnel time that's been devoted to Amazon is time that could have been spent on making streets safer, housing more affordable, or transit more extensive.

Cont. on p. 9

We need someone to deliver monthly* Clarions to homes on Oxford Place + Petes' Import Garage on DeKalb Ave + new townhomes on DeKalb at Oxford and at Gordon, Southland Terrace, and Candler Park Apartments (the ones at DeKalb and Rocky Ford). Please let me know if you can cover any of these routes or if you know someone who could. Great way to help the neighborhood. Just need to be available to deliver the last week of the month, and if you have a conflict any month, we will help. Good way to get steps/good way for high schoolers to get community credit and learn responsibility. Contact Alicia at distribution@lakeclaire.org. (*No Clarion in July and August.)

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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.

April Calendar

Great variety of events at the Land Trust (see Page 11) and live music (Page 9)! And see Mary Lin articles below.

1 & 6 Frazer Forest Volunteer Workday with Trees Atlanta, 9 a.m.–noon. Help restore & maintain our neighborhood old-growth forest. Pre-registration required/Space is limited, at frazercenter.org/about-us/events.

1 Theatrical Outfit production *Tiny Beautiful Things*, based on the best-selling book by Cheryl Strayed, explores her time as an anonymous advice columnist. Playing through April 23. Info/tix at www.theatricaloutfit.org/shows/tiny-beautiful-things/. Please support live theatre!

1–2 Last two days of Horizon Theatre's run of *Kim's Convenience*. I watched the series on Netflix that was based on this, which was excellent. Mr. Kim, a Korean immigrant, dispenses fatherly wisdom and potato chips from his Toronto convenience store counter in an up-and-coming neighborhood. Info/tix: www.horizontheatre.com/plays/kims-convenience/.

1–15 The Alliance Theatre presents (on the Coca-Cola Stage) *The Boy Who Kissed the Sky*. A family musical inspired by Jimi Hendrix. alliancetheatre.org, where you can also see the Alliance's many other offerings!

8 Lena's Place Coffeehouse, 8–10 p.m., variety of singer/songwriters. A coffeehouse in the Central Congregational United Church of Christ (Central UCC), the 2nd Saturday of the month. \$5 donation goes to a different local charity each month, listed at www.central-ucc.org/music-and-arts/lenas-place/

9 Lake Claire Land Trust Community Easter Egg Hunt and Potluck, 9 a.m. to noon. More details on Page 11, where you'll find many more exciting Land Trust events.

11 & 25 Walking Club, Frazer Center & Land Trust, 1–2 p.m. Join participants in Frazer's adult program on a leisurely walk from the Frazer Center to the Land Trust and back, alternate Tuesdays.

15 Peace & Love Festival FUNdraiser, 3–11 p.m. at the Land Trust. See article on page 11.

15 Gather in the Gardens, 6 p.m. Frazer Center's annual fundraising gala in Cator Woolford Gardens features a cocktail reception, live entertainment by acoustic trio Lilac Wine, dinner catered by Zest, and live and silent auctions benefitting Frazer's inclusion programs for adults and children with and without disabilities. Tickets and more info: frazercenter.org/about-us/events

15 Beginning week of 5-week theatre program at the Land Trust. See article on page 11.

20 Live from Lake Claire! The Lake Claire monthly neighborhood meeting (via Zoom) is the third Thursday of each month. lakeclaire.org for updates and Zoom link.

20 Actor's Express presents Josh Harmon's *Prayer for the French Republic*. I (editor) saw it on Broadway, and it was excellent, in spite of his earlier plays IMHO. Highly recommend, and Actor's Express produces great theatre. Playing through May 14. Info: actors-express.com/whats-on/#35.

21 Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Merely Players Presents, located at the Doraville Civic Center, 3770 Central Avenue, Doraville. It's inside the Perimeter! Your illustrious editor saw their last show - it was well done! Info/tix: www.merelyplayerspresents.com

28–1 May Atlanta City Nature Challenge, Help put Atlanta on the geo-map! Participate at your leisure all weekend. Led locally by Fernbank, For more details, visit frazercenter.org/about-us/events.

30 Mary Lin Rocket Run! A 5K & 1-mile fun run. Online registration ends 27 April. See article below.

1 May Frazer Forest Volunteer Workday with Trees Atlanta, 9 a.m.–noon. See April 1, same deal.

3 May Mary Lin Dine-Out at Shake Shack. See details of this one and all the April ones in the article below.

13th Annual Rocket Run!

by Heather Stewart

Join us on Sunday, April 30 at Mary Lin for the 13th Annual Rocket Run! We are offering NEW pricing for families and runners ages 5-11 year of age, as well as discounted group registration rates. See runsignup.com/Race/GA/Atlanta/RocketRun5Kand1MileFunRun for all details.

Support Mary Lin PTA Dine-Outs!

by Sarah Perlin

Please support Mary Lin PTA, these generous local restaurants, AND, of course, have delicious food while doing so!

April 12–15 (Wed.–Sat.): Speakcheesy—be sure to enter “Grill the Love” or “Mary Lin” in the comments section. 25% comes back to Mary Lin!

April 18 (Tue.): Naan Stop—order online by Mon, April 17, and swing by the convenient pick-up location in Lake Claire. 20% coming back to Mary Lin thanks to Naan Stop & Joan Arkins Realty.

May 3 (Wed.): Shake Shack, Old 4th Ward location. Enter the promo code DONATE2023 on the Shack App for pickup, delivery, or kiosk when checking out, and 25% of your total meal purchase will come back to Mary Lin!

Thanks!!

THE CLARION IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

The Art of Mural Maintenance

Continued from page 1.

Ocmulgee-Altamaha watershed (on the south), which flow to the Atlantic Ocean.

The mural depicts the flora and fauna one would see along the waterways on a journey to the sea and reminds us of our vital connection to the natural world. In a series of workshops, school children and adults learned about the watershed and submitted ideas for the mural—images that ranged from favorite river and sea animals and local leaders and friends to a portrait of historical figure Horace King, who had been born into slavery and became one of the most accomplished bridge builders of the 19th century, constructing the first covered bridge over the Chattahoochee connecting Georgia and Alabama.

After receiving snapshots, clippings, and a list of ideas, David Fichter, the muralist, (seemingly magically) sketched them into a coherent story of Georgia's "Native Waters"—and eventually transferred the sketch to the wall where scores of skilled and unskilled artists painted the images under his direction.

The wall, which ranges in height from about 6 to 15 feet, is owned by Lake Claire Co-Housing and functions as a retaining wall behind their parking lot. Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN) and a group of residents organized fundraising, grant-writing, wall prepping and priming, and coordination of volunteer painters who worked in two-to-four-week sessions over approximately 18 months.

The condition of the mural held up well for the first decade with only a few issues. Atlanta has a not-so-great distinction as the only location in over 30 years of mural-making where Fichter's work has been tagged with graffiti. It happened only a few times in the early days, though one of the first tags was a giant word sprayed over the beautiful swimming sea turtle. Among the volunteers was a self-described "graffiti artist" who was appalled by the destructive act. He also reported that a chorus of commenters on an Atlanta artist message board castigated the tagging of another person's art with graffiti. They recognized the huge puffy letters spray-painted over the sea turtle as the signature of a local young woman but would not give up her name.

This was disappointing because the local artist, Katrina Guettler, who worked for hours atop scaffolding to paint the huge intricately detailed turtle, had volunteered to tutor the young "artist" in executing a repair. Guettler repainted the turtle

without the help of the perpetrator and for years there were few other tags—except a small, neat marking on the side of the MARTA train near the mural's center. In an acknowledgement of the humor and its authenticity, we decided to leave it.

By the beginning of the pandemic, however, the condition of the mural was declining, and it was attracting more graffiti. But there were several issues to address before we could simply begin painting again. The wall was constructed with open cement blocks, and because it held moisture, small areas of paint began to peel. In early 2020, we addressed the issue by installing a proper cap of solid cinder blocks, splitting the cost between Co-housing and LCN's mural repair fund. This helped, but it seemed to create a new problem with discolored driplines below the cap, possibly caused by leeching salts from the new mortar. We need to arrest this problem before repainting.

Co-housing also discovered a significant problem with the structure of the wall, which had shifted slightly and required stabilization that included installation of large metal plates on the face of the mural. The plates blend in surprisingly well, but will need to be painted with the images they cover.

Finally, though the composite wood panels used for cut-outs – above and off-set from the wall (including the large tree at the center, a leaping dolphin, and Horace King's portrait) – were coated with marine sealant, the material has deteriorated. A new lightweight, weather resistant metal material is now available for remaking the cut-outs.

We are now planning for full repair and restoration, which, like the original painting, will be done in stages. Here are ways you can help.

How Can You Help Restore the 'Native Waters' Mural?

- Are you good at chemistry or masonry? Can you help us figure out how to seal the mortar under the cap to prevent further leaching?
- Are you good at photography and able to take detailed reference photos for the panels we need to replicate?
- Do you have a garage or warehouse space for painting the cut-outs?
- Are you good with a jigsaw?
- Are you comfortable on scaffolding to prime the bare spots (with our special primer?)
- Do you have scaffolding or a boom lift we can use?
- Do you have carpentry skills to install the cut-outs?
- Can you raise funds? Contribute funds? Write a grant?

If you'd like to offer help please email Kathy Evans: kathrynevans@outlook.com.

Free & Low-Cost Resources for Pet Owners

by Scott McLane

Lifeline will be holding two public events in May as part of its mission to promote responsible and affordable pet ownership. These are:

First, **Healthy Pets DeKalb: Saturday, May 6**, Honeysuckle Park, 3037 Pleasant Valley Drive, Doraville, GA 30340, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Second, **Healthy Pets Fulton: Saturday, May 13**, Westside Reservoir Park, 1660 Johnson Road N.W., Atlanta, GA 30318, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

- FREE rabies vaccinations for dogs and cats
- FREE canine distemper/parvo (for dogs) or feline distemper vaccine (for cats)
- FREE microchips
- Vouchers for FREE spay or neuter surgeries at the two LifeLine Spay & Neuter Clinics
- FREE pet supplies such as food, leashes and collars

Lifeline's Healthy Pets DeKalb & Fulton events provide a fun atmosphere for the whole family. There are playgrounds so the kids can entertain themselves, and all humans receive free hot dogs, barbeque, chips, water, and more! Although the lines can be long, they move fast, and everyone agrees that the freebies LifeLine offers for pets are worth the wait.

Anyone can volunteer to help make these amazing events a success! Opportunities include flyer distribution, event preparation and breakdown, spay and neuter education, Spanish language translation, and more. To volunteer at Healthy Pets events, please email volunteer@lifelineanimal.org. To donate supplies for these events, please email community@lifelineanimal.org.

LifeLine believes that everyone should have access to pet care resources, so they offer programs and



Poppyseed, available for adoption

events to help bridge the gap in communities with little-to-no access to them. Healthy Pets events help keep pets healthy and with the people who love them. These events help prevent unnecessary surrenders due to lack of affordable veterinary care and are funded by LifeLine through generous donations.

Lifeline's Community Animal Center (CAC), 3180 Presidential Dr. Atlanta, Ga 30340:

Lifeline's Community Animal Center houses a full-service, affordable veterinary clinic open to the public. The clinic offers a wide range of pet services, from pet wellness appointments to lab services, digital x-rays, and surgery for owned pets. The LifeLine Spay & Neuter Clinics offer low-cost spay/neuter surgeries to help owned pets and community cats live happy and healthy lives.

Editor's Note: Please consider adopting Poppyseed, so the poor doggy doesn't continue to suffer the indignities of these folks dressing her up in sunglasses and silly outfits! You can make a difference for her and other animals in animal shelters. If you can foster, even temporarily, it makes a huge difference. Support the ongoing work and programs LifeLine provides in the shelters, community, and through these clinics as outlined in this article, at lifelineanimal.org/donate/. Animals bring such joy and comfort into our homes and lives. ~Beth





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Frazer's adult participants and Trellis staff in the Ability Garden at Callanwolde

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries Gardening Time

by Lori White

It's that time of year again to begin preparing our garden for a harvest. Lake Claire community member Bob Arko is planting some fruits and greens to get things started. Each summer we have been blessed with fresh food that has been grown on our campus (see picture from last year!). We are also able to share this with others. This season we are having a plaque made in memory of our sweet

neighbor, Susan Moss O'Donnell, who was so instrumental in getting the garden going as a project with her sons in boy scouts. We always have an outpouring of support from our neighbors with this project. If you are interested in sharing your gardening skills with us, please contact me at lori@cliftonsanctuary.com and we can get you plugged in. Here's to growing good stuff!!

DeKalb Avenue Repair Update



In mid March, Atl-DOT finally made some baby steps in long-promised repairs. They filled 45 of the DeKalb Avenue potholes. They are putting in turn lanes, after taking community feedback intermittently for the last four years; the turn lanes should help significantly. On March 9, as reported last month, there was a town-hall held for concerned neighbors. Atlanta City Council District 5 Rep Liliana Bakhtiari reports that the lights in the middle lane were malfunctioning, so they blocked off the middle lane and are installing new lights while awaiting the repaving. [This may have happened by the time this Clarion comes out.] Coun-

cilperson Bakhtiari said that she is heartened to see attempts to remedy at least some issues quickly after the March townhall meeting. Thanks to Liliana Bakhtari for keeping after ATLDOT. Stay tuned for updates.

Outside with Frazer Center

by Dina Shadwell

Pollen allergies aside, April is a glorious time to be outside in Atlanta, and Frazer Center's children and adults are taking full advantage. And you can, too!

Frazer is partnering with Trellis Horticultural Therapy Alliance to create gardening opportunities for our adult participants. Trellis uses "the power of gardening and nature to enrich the lives of people living with disabilities." To that end, Trellis has come together with Callanwolde Fine Arts Center to create gardening programs and an "Ability Garden" on the Callanwolde grounds. Several of Frazer's adults meet with the Trellis staff twice a month—once at Callanwolde's Ability Garden, and once at Frazer Center's Courtyard Garden, where the adults are cultivating veggies from seed. Both gardens contain raised beds that allow for people

using wheelchairs to participate. Through the program, Both Frazer's adults and staff can soak in the sun AND the research-based benefits of horticultural therapy, such as reduced stress, lower blood pressure, increased feelings of well-being, and the self-confidence that comes from trying new things, discovering new abilities, and enjoying the (literal) fruits of one's labor—or fun!

Frazer's children are reaping the benefits of outdoor learning with our newly developed inclusion, nature-based curriculum. Kim Corson, a Frazer teacher since 2016 who has been promoted to Nature-Based Program Coordinator, trains the other teachers by modeling the lessons with each classroom of older toddlers, preschoolers, and pre-k students. Kim also leads an outreach component by sharing the curriculum, at no cost, with early education centers in under-resourced communities. She provides training to those teachers and creates field trip opportunities for their students in Frazer Forest.

You too can enjoy the springtime beauty of Frazer's grounds while supporting the inclusion, nature-based programming that Frazer provides. Please join us for Gather in the Gardens, an annual fundraising gala in Cator Woolford Gardens on Saturday, April 15, at 6 p.m. You'll enjoy a cocktail reception, live entertainment by acoustic trio Lilac Wine, a seated dinner catered by Zest, and live and silent auctions. Your attendance ensures that the adults and children who benefit from Frazer's programming will continue to learn and flourish. Tickets for Gather in the Gardens are available now at 32auctions.com/GIG23.



Children from the Our House Early Childhood Education Center on a field trip to Frazer Forest, with Frazer's Nature-Based Program Coordinator Kim Corson.



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Girl Scout Spring Enrollment has begun for Rising Kindergarten through 3rd grade girls! Together with Girl Scout friends, girls can gain the confidence to try new things, speak up in class, and even understand that what makes them different makes them shine.

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Wild in Lake Claire

by Sara Gottlieb

Spring has arrived with a vengeance in Lake Claire. The area is recording its earliest dates of extremely high pollen counts in over 30 years. Spring-blooming flowers, trees, and woodland ephemerals are blooming 2-3 weeks earlier than is typical. I was surprised to discover the pawpaw trees I planted in the Peace Garden at the Land Trust in full bloom in early-mid March (see photo). A scan through my garden photos from previous years has this occurring 2-4 weeks later in 2022 and 2021. By the time this column is posted, the pawpaw and other flowers of early spring will be long gone, and the wait will be on for the delicious fruits of summer.

Meredith reported being very excited to see lots of animals becoming more active again with the warm weather. Eastern towhees, cardinals, Carolina wrens, bluebirds, chipping sparrows, and more are singing their hearts out in her yard every morning and evening, and she's seen a few green anoles, a tree frog, Eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies, a garter, Northern water, DeKay's brown snakes, and lots of carpenter bees. One carpenter bee divebombed Meredith when she approached the mailbox, and her husband noticed him hanging out there earlier, so apparently he's staking that as his territory. Readers may be glad to know that the males are the more aggressive ones, and they don't have sting-

ers. Meredith loves these solitary bees regardless, and invites them to whatever wood they want since she's never had any structural damage.

Squirrels or birds have stripped Meredith's last remaining honeysuckle bush of nearly all its bark. Though she's getting rid of the non-native, invasive honeysuckle bushes with natives, at least the animals are making good use of them in the meantime. And it means nesting season is starting. Speaking of nesting, Meredith saw a red-shouldered hawk near a nest that a pair used in the yard behind hers a couple years ago, so she wonders if they'll use it this year too.

Bloodroot are blooming, alongside rue anemone and trillium, and Meredith has been enjoying the red-buds as well (Sara notes: all these were visible in Frazer Forest in mid-March, along with spotted geranium, fern fiddleheads, crabapples, and planted specimens of red buckeye). And the turtles are back out! Larger than a mixing bowl or barely bigger than a quarter, single file or double-deckered, Meredith loves seeing them packed onto logs, especially when they stretch all their legs out like they're flying above the water.

Miriam H reports two red-shouldered hawks frequenting the area around the Land Trust and doing a good job of keeping rodent population in check. Miriam walked with Jane



M and Genise S to Deepdene Park to see a healthy crop of bloodroot in bloom. She also reports there are at least 10 turtles counted in the Land Trust pond, including a baby.

Andrew F writes about hiking through Mason Mill with his children and coming upon two snakes. One was a DeKay's brown snake on a forest trail. The other was either another DeKay's brown snake or a brown water snake swimming by the rocks in Burnt Fork Creek. Interestingly, this snake didn't slither away when they came close to it but lifted its head out of the water, perhaps to appear more menacing, and just sat there for about 30 seconds before deciding just to swim under some rocks.

Ilene S was sitting on her back porch and caught sight of a flash of bright yellow, followed by many big butterflies that were flying towards a large Magnolia tree in a neighbors' yard. They were quite large and moved so fast that she couldn't focus binoculars on them. Ilene had the impression that there was some black on them, so wonders if they were Sulphurs, perhaps a Southern Dog-Face. If anyone has seen these and knows what they are we'd love to know. She also recently saw another pair of Rufous sided Towhees.

Frank W concurs that spring has arrived early this year and the birds have been quite active, flying this way and that in Lake Claire and adjoining neighborhoods. This bird spring fever also happened in his very own backyard on Indiana Avenue, where he witnessed the "bluejay wars." Several bluejays were squawking at each other, posturing and relocating, trying to establish dominance or impress the others. Frank also saw a few Canadian geese flying north, a very large owl again, and several hawks, including a red tail hawk in Candler Park. Hopefully we will con-

tinue to witness these beautiful birds in the spring time and every season of the year, and **the only way to do that is ardently to preserve our beautiful urban tree canopy.**

Nadia B was driving north on Connecticut Avenue when she saw a red-tailed hawk sitting on the grass very close to the road. She pulled over to take a picture of it, and then it took off towards the Clifton Sanctuary carrying a delicious squirrel snack (see photo); probably not what was intended when CSM put a request for snacks on its marquee sign.

Speaking of snacks, I count myself among a relatively small group of people ever to snack on a pawpaw fruit. My husband was able to forage quite a few from trees growing in the woods on his family's land in South Carolina a couple of years ago. At least as exciting as being able to taste this fruit was saving the seeds and watching them grow (ever so slowly) into seedlings last year. Walter Reeves' Georgia Gardener column a few years ago included a rather hilarious suggestion for having the patience to grow pawpaw from seed to fruiting tree that involves Moby Dick: www.walterreeves.com/landscaping/pawpaw-growing-from-seed/ I'm still several years away from being able to "close [the] book and recite, 'And I only am escaped alone to tell thee,' as you take a bite from a delicious pawpaw!" There are several promising stands of pawpaw in the neighborhood, including the mature trees I planted at the Land Trust, Frazer Forest, and Kirkwood Urban Forest—see if you can find them for yourself, and mark your calendars in September for pawpaw fruit harvesting!

If you'd like to report a wildlife sighting for inclusion in a future column, please email sara.gottlieb@gmail.com



Pawpaw flowers

Buy Lake Claire Merchandise



There are several ways to buy Lake Claire swag. First, Lake Claire, in collaboration with FineArt America, offers a way to buy neighborhood items online, including our official Lake Claire banner (pictured) which is designed by our local Lake Claire artist Leslie Hodges of Sutherland Terrace. Other items include stickers and magnets of the "Ski Lake Claire" logo and the "30307 not just a zip code" motto. In addition, there are coffee mugs, clothing, and more. See Shop and Support tab at the top of the LCN website lakeclaire.org.

Second, hanging banners and bumper stickers will continue to be ordered directly from LCN via cash, check, or PayPal. And finally, much of our merchandise, including our banner, is now available at the Candler Park Market, 1642 McLendon Avenue. Show your neighborhood pride with these fabulous Lake Claire items. Any questions, contact fun@lakeclaire.org.



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Hello – Safe Journey – Skiing in and around Lake Claire

April Birthdays

- April 2, Tyler Bliss, Leonardo, turns 15!
- April 6, Bridgette Maddux turns 13, Harold Ave.
- April 10, Kelly Crutcher, Hardendorf
- April 12, Aarini Kakkar, Southerland Terrace
- April 15, Jim Wilson, Delaware Avenue
- April 17, Joe Agee, Harold Avenue
- April 18, Deacon Baker, Leonardo
- April 19, Emily Allen, Harold
- April 21, Jamie McGill, my favorite Jamie in the world, Delaware Avenue
- April 23, Dan Geller, Marlbrook
- April 27, Claudia Restler, Lakeshore Drive
- April 28, Sara McGill, my favorite SARA in the world, Delaware Avenue, turns 18—and congrats re school!!
- April 28, Kevin Restler, Lakeshore Drive
- April 30, Beth van Arkel, Southerland Terrace

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- April 3: Pen and Andrew Sherwood of Harold, 12th wedding anniversary! Congrats!
- Belated, March 15: Kim McRae & Frank Zamor, Delaware Avenue, 26th anniversary!!!

MEMORIES:

3 years this month since Janie Wright left us in 2020; 4 years since Gay Arnieri left us in 2019. They both made a deep impact on this neighborhood and many people. Rest in Peace, Lake Claire misses you guys.

Take a minute, and send life cycle events for the MAY issue by April 18.

APS Scenarios for Midtown

Continued from page 1.



Jackson High School, and another scenario created a new high school at the Coan building from four elementary schools including Mary Lin.

Additional community and outreach meetings will be held in April. If Scenario Two is chosen, it will be presented at the board on May 1. If Scenario One is chosen, no board oversight is required. APS has creat-

ed a feedback form so that stakeholders may share their opinions on the proposed scenarios: docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSchpgCFQSKftoSpx5FTHoGMw20_2N2NrXMKObT3p5JrXNiPA/viewform. Additionally, the “Let’s Talk” platform can be used to ask questions and engage in the process (www.atlantapublicschools.us/domain/14240).

Amazon Distracted Atlanta

Continued from page 1.



The Atlanta news media is currently filled with reports that local government officials are upset with the lack of progress on the transit and complete streets improvements that were supposed to be paid for via the T-SPLOST tax increases. How much of that bureaucratic stagnation might we attribute to the futile effort to gain the favor of a company that is backing away from commitments nationwide? There is a better path to economic growth. Here are 3 solid steps to attracting jobs to our community:

1. Make the necessary investments in infrastructure—transportation, safety, education, etc.—that make us stand out from our peers. Don’t focus on just one company’s desires.

2. Once the city is well along with Step 1, our leadership must believe

in our community’s people. If they lack faith in their citizens’ value and capabilities, quality employers will stay away no matter what giveaways are offered. We will only get the dregs.

3. Act like the community is great. If we have made progress on Step 1 and have a high-quality community, we are good to go. Acting with confidence goes a long way.

Here’s another way to think of it: when was the last time you saw Ferrari offer sales incentives for their cars? They don’t have to, because their product is perceived as being of high quality. They had to work at that, as our leaders must.

♪ Live Music! ♪

by Beth Damon

This is the music I know about as of time we go to press the 3rd week of March. Always feel free to send more listings to me (by 15-18th of the previous month). Please check venues to confirm. **Please support live music—and local musicians!!**

Friday, March 31	Loudon Wainwright	Eddie’s Attic
Saturday, April 1	Larkin Poe	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, April 1	Bikini Kill	The Eastern
Saturday, April 1	Donna The Buffalo with The Ain’t Sisters	MOMS (Lilburn)
Saturday, April 1	Harvest Moon	MadLife Stage (Woodstock)
Saturday, April 1	Spafford/Orange Constants/Airshow etc	Steady Hand Brewery
Sunday, April 2	Paul Thorn	City Winery
Friday, April 7	North Mississippi Allstars	Variety Playhouse
Friday, April 7	Ryan Monroe + Josh Roberts	Eddie’s Attic
Saturday, April 8	Scot Bradlee’s Postmodern Jukebox	ASO
Saturday, April 8	Magnolia Express	Napoleons
Sunday, April 9	Billy Prine & the Prine Time Band	City Winery
Tuesday, April 11	The Verve Pipe	City Winery
Wednes, April 12	Iris Dement	City Winery
Thursday, April 13	Built to Spill	Masquerade
Friday, April 14	Sierra Ferrell	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, April 15	Little Big Town	Fox Theatre
Saturday, April 15	Frankly Scarlet	MOMS (Lilburn)
Thursday, April 20	The New Pornographers	Variety Playhouse
Friday, April 21	David Wilcox	Eddie’s Attic
Apr 22–23	Sweetwater 420 fest (PPPP, Neil Francis, Sunsquabi etc)	Sweetwater Brewery
Saturday, April 22	The Sadies	The Earl
Sunday, April 23	Ben Folds	ASO
Monday, April 24	Pedro The Lion	Terminal West
Wednes, April 26	Billy Idol	Roxy
Apr 26–27	Janet Jackson	State Farm Arena
Friday, April 28	Snarky Puppy	The Eastern
Friday, April 28	The Band of Heathens	Terminal West
Saturday, April 29	Fruit Bats	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, April 29	Hoodoo Gurus	Center Stage
Sunday, April 30	Natalie Merchant	ASO
Monday, May 1	Voodoo Visionary & Steeln”Peaches	Terminal West
Friday, May 5	Gipsy Kings	Fox Theatre
Saturday, May 6	Seal	Fox Theatre
May 5–7	Shaky Knees Fest (Muse/the Killers/Lumineers etc.)	Central Park

Mary Lin's Education Foundation Annual High Donor Party

by Jeannie Becket



It was the perfect spring evening for Mary Lin Education Foundation's annual High Donor Party. This year's hosts with the most were the ever-gracious couple Peter Kruskamp and Stephanie Schumacher. Over 90 donors attended an evening of merriment and appreciation of our beloved neighborhood school. Head Chair Claire Oates and Principal Sharyn Briscoe highlighted some of the many grants issued to Mary Lin Elementary with the generously donated funds. Principal Briscoe acknowledged the rezoning of Inman Park but, as always, made the heartfelt reminder: "Once a (Mary Lin) Rocket, always a Rocket!" The dynamic duo then shared their vision of outdoor improvements they hope to raise capital for next year. The decadent food was catered by our very own local companies Gotta

Have It (GHI) Catering and King of Pops. Music was provided by Peter and Alyssa Olson, as well as Parker Smith and George Kotler-Wallace from Guitar Shed.

The Foundation wants to thank all of the generous donors, the wonderful hosts Stephanie and Peter Kruskamp, Principal Briscoe, and the hardworking PTA Board. The Foundation especially wants to thank all of members of this year's Board of Trustees: Claire Oates, Amanda Rhein, Emily Newton, Kelly Downs, Lynn Eaton, Kristy Perez, Shari Golla, Matthew Cherry, Stacey Burton White and Jeannie Beckett.

Would you like to join our team? The Board will have FIVE open positions next year and are looking for parents for 2023-2024. Direct message our Facebook group or email clairecarothers@gmail.com.

Neighborhood Dues for Lake Claire

Suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household. Pay at lakeclaire.org via the link OR with the old-fashioned check in the mail, to Eileen O'Neill, Treasurer, PO Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107. Since the last Clarion, the following folks paid dues:

Laura Benjamin
Stephanie Smith
Michael Rethinger
Sarah Connors
Beth Redtke
Melissa Pressman
Maya Abboushi
Kelly Collins
Brian Collins
Mary Jo Bryant

Evan Perlin
Renata Creekmur
Brian Fitzgerald
Ashley Cragin
Ben Thayer
Ralph Gilbert
Sathit Chainam
Annsley & Ben Klehr
Christopher D. Campbell
Bill McKinnon & Sue McAvoy

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The Peace & Love Festival

by Frani Green

The Land Trust Peace and Love Festival FUNdraiser springs eternal, sprouting up again for the first time since 2019! It features live music on stage, art vendors, face painting, bake sale, raffle, beer/wine, and food trucks. Our lineup includes Hey Dreamer, The Ain't Sisters, Tire Fire, the Sensua Players, the Boo Hoo Ramblers, and returning headliner The Donna Hopkins Band. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at our bright yellow state-of-the-art ticket booth. Early tix at www.freshtix.com/events/peaceandlove-fest. Teenagers \$1, and kids free. **Sorry, no pets.** Please help preserve the peace and love with our neighbors by walking,

biking, carpooling, riding MARTA, and parking at Clifton Sanctuary, 369 Connecticut.

The Land Trust board has decided to stop providing water in single-use disposable plastic bottles, so remember to **bring your own water bottle!** Filtered water available for refills. BPA-free water bottles with the LCCLT logo for sale at the T-shirt table and elsewhere.

It takes a village and community effort to create the magic at our oasis in the city; to be part of making magic happen, please contact brynan1865@gmail.com to volunteer. Spread the word, pass the peace & love, and we'll see you there!



The Walking Club with Frazer Center Is Back!

by Amber Corbett

Last month we restarted our walking club with the adult participants from Frazer, which will continue every other Tuesday through November 14. We meet at the Frazer Center entrance at the end of Ridgewood Road NE at 1 p.m. (possibly earlier in hot months), journey through Lake Claire to the Land Trust, take a little break and then head on back. This is about

a one-mile round trip, but feel free to continue on once you get your heart rate up. Grab your walking shoes and join us! Please visit www.fraziercenter.org for more information or www.fraziercenter.org/give to donate. (*Ed's note: Amber included a summary of Frazer Center's history, but we didn't have room. See www.fraziercenter.org/about-us/our-history.*)

From Page to Stage: The 101s of Writing and Acting for the Theatre

by Lisa Vitello

Join us as we launch our long-anticipated theatre program at the Land Trust! Our inaugural six-week spring session will consist of five weekly 90-minute classes starting the week of April 15, culminating with a live stage performance on May 21. For writers, actors, or those who aspire to be either, over six sessions, participants will develop and hone their crafts in writing and/or acting for the stage, with each class focusing on the building blocks. There will be opportunities for those who want to work in groups and those who prefer to fly solo. Writers, be prepared to express yourself in your dramatic genre of choice, and to learn about creating/understanding characters, plot, weaving story, editing, and analysis of scenes, with peer review and feedback. Actors, you will learn to express yourselves through movement, to control your bodies and voices, to take direction and take up space. Practice performing characters real-

istically, and in front of an audience. As this is a new offering for the Land Trust and the community at large, to encourage participation we offer this experience on a sliding scale, based on the number of participants. Separate sessions will be offered for teens and adults if enough of either sign up. The Land Trust is offering a limited number of scholarships for motivated participants; contact me at lisa@culturebrave.org.

Recently arrived in Lake Claire from fabled Los Angeles, Lisa Vitello is a creative tour de force. She is a lauded filmmaker, an award-winning director of staged productions and a sought-after writer in several genres, with an MFA in creative writing. She is also the founder and Executive Director of CultureBrave (www.culturebrave.org); she is poised to launch a writing non-profit focusing on teens from marginalized communities in the upcoming months.

Sat., Apr. 1 Drum Circle, 8–11 p.m., \$5 donation requested. Rain date: Sat., Apr. 22.

Wed., Apr. 5, 12, 19 & 26 Richard S. Jones Memorial Poetry Circle, 7–9 p.m. Share a favorite poem with other poetry lovers, every Wednesday. Neighbor Jim Kissinger, host & organizer, named this weekly gathering for a departed poetry-loving friend. Bring a poem, bring a friend!

Sun., Apr. 9 Community Easter Egg Hunt & Potluck, 9 a.m.–noon. Tess Horn and Elizabeth Herbers, who grew up on Arizona Ave., will facilitate with the help of their daughters Zella and Luna of the current crop. At 9 a.m., adults hide eggs (pre-dyed at home); 10 a.m., kids find eggs; 11 a.m., potluck brunch. Join the Land Trust community to make this part of your tradition, too.

Tue., Apr. 11 & 25 Walking Club with Frazer Center, 1–2 p.m. Join participants in the Frazer Center's adult program. Leisurely walk from Frazer to the LT & back, every other Tuesday.

Thu., Apr. 13 Community Potluck Dinner, 6:30 p.m. at the Little Gazebo. 13th of each month at the picnic tables in the Greenfield. Bring a dish, beverage or dessert to share + your own plate, cup, utensils.

Thu., Apr. 13 Land Trust Board meeting, 8–9:30 p.m. Potluck attendees are invited to stay afterward for the year's first outdoor board meeting (note time shift). All welcome! Sorry, no Zoom link this time.

Sat., Apr. 15 Community Work Day, 9 a.m.–noon. Pizza follows. **Note switch to summer hours.** Rain date: Sat. April 22.

Sat., Apr. 15 Peace & Love Festival FUNdraiser, 3–11 p.m. Come out and play at our first post-Covid P&L Fest! See article above.

Sat., Apr. 22 Spring Plant Sale, 10 a.m.–noon. Tomatoes, okra, peppers, and other vegetables starts, herbs, and flowers. Gardeners, if you would like a specific plant we will try to get it. If you can donate extra plants after thinning your garden, leave them by the bulletin board on Friday afternoon or bring them at 9 a.m. Saturday morning, with labels. Volunteers needed before, during, and after the sale. Contact us at info@LCCLT.org.

Sun. Apr. 23 Family Yoga with Sound Healing & Origami Hearts, 2–3 p.m.; \$25/family (20% to LCCLT). Session closes with the soothing tones of sound healing, followed by an origami lesson so everyone will have something to take home. Registration required; visit LCCLT.org/new-events and scroll down to April 23 for more info & payment link.

Sun., Apr. 23 Creative Class for Kids with Brook Hewitt, 4–6 p.m. Free; donations welcome! Drop in any time to make and take home a creative project. Open to all ages/abilities; multi-media art supplies provided.

LAND TRUST NOTES—Foraging Tour & Picnic. Join Morgan Strickland of Flourish & Flora for a seasonal foraging tour. Learn to identify and use 15 edible and medicinal southeastern plants; enjoy a wild edibles picnic featuring three seasonal dishes and four herbal teas made from plants. Bonus: explore the scenic Lake Claire Community Land Trust; feed chickens and ducks; experience this very special model as a means of preserving community greenspace for future generations! Cost: \$30 for 2-1/2 hour Foraging Tour plus Picnic or \$25 for 1/2-hour Wild Edibles Picnic (10% to LCCLT). Maximum 16 people per tour, first come first served. Check for upcoming dates and sign-up at www.flourishandflora.com.

LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER

We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers, writers, and artists to participate. Marlie Petite is our featured writer for the month. Marlie is 13 years old, an 8th grader at DT Howard Middle School. In the picture, she

is cosplaying Bessie Coleman for women's history month. Thank you, Marlie, for your excellent writing skills this month and for continuing to keep us apprised about scouts' activities. To all the Lake Claire children and young adults who read and

contribute to the Kids' Page each month, we appreciate you. Add your creativity to this page! Send contributions to editor@lakeclaire.org, by April 15-18 for the MAY issue. Already???! Spring has sprung, summer is coming.



Winners Sylvie, Hudson, Felix, and Theo

Girl Scout Cookie Season

by Marlie Petite, Girl Scout Cadette, Troop 19717

This Girl Scout cookie season felt like old times before coronavirus was a word I knew. Troops spread out over the city to bring Girl Scout cookies to the masses, while raising money for activities and learning business skills. Some troops got to meet board members posing as secret shoppers, who evaluated the girls on their entrepreneurship and rewarded them with a special patch.

Our newest cookie, Raspberry Rally, was released at the end of February and sold out nationwide in one day, which shocked everyone! It was only available online, so I hope they make more available for sales next year.

The Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta Council brought back the Bling Your Booth contest. Daisy Troop 23006 from our very own Phoenix Rising Service Unit was a runner-up in Week 3 with their theme: "Peace, love, and Girl Scout cookies! 60s flower power!"

The past three years have been rough for everyone, not just Girl Scouts. But I see that we are starting to recover. Girl Scouts have been receiving lots of love from Atlantans at our cookie booths. Customers are buying multiple boxes and

sometimes share that they were once Girls Scouts and how much a box of cookies cost back then. All of the support has been great for keeping us positive and looking towards the future

Contest Winners!

The winners this month, who spotted Ramadan on Page 6 in last month's issue, are these four who live on Palifox: Sylvie Williams (Primavera, 6), Hudson Williams (Mary Lin, 8), Felix Elgarrista (Waldorf, 7), and Theo Williams (Primavera, 6). Hudson

won extra credit with his answer, "Ramadan is a Muslim Holiday where they don't eat anything all day, then they have a HUGE celebration where they eat tons of food when the sun goes down." Hudson's prize is being a featured writer/artist in a future issue! Congrats to you four, and to all Lake Claire kids, do keep reading the Kids' Page and sending in your guesses. See our new contest below.

New Contest

There are many special days in April, and a very special one is Earth Day on April 22 (which, btw, is also National Jelly Bean Day). To win, identify the page containing a picture of Earth. The winner/winners will be pictured in the next Clarion. For extra credit, tell us what you do to improve the Earth, on Earth Day or every day. Email editor@lakeclaire.org, identifying the page number, and include your name, age, school, street, and grade, along with a photo of yourself. (Please tell your parents to send large picture files, 1mb+.) Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you cannot win two months in a row. 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 APRIL 15-18. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.

