



Atlanta to Offer a Rebate for E-Bike Purchases

by Kevin H. Posey

The City of Atlanta, the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), and Propel ATL are partnering to launch an incentive program aimed at encouraging city residents to get e-bikes. Studies on e-bike use show conclusively that they often supplant cars for trips to a greater extent than conventional bikes. This is thanks to their battery-powered motors, which add a little oomph when climbing steep hills like those on what I call the “McLendon Avenue Rollercoaster.” The expectation is that more e-bike use will lead to fewer polluting, dangerous motorists racing through Atlanta’s neighborhoods.

The incentive will take the form of a rebate for e-bikes purchased at local bike shops. Those with lower incomes will be eligible for the largest subsidy, but all residents have a chance to participate.

Those who meet the income criteria for the largest rebate can receive \$1500 for a standard e-bike and \$2000 for the larger cargo e-bike. These latter bikes are handy for hauling bulky items, kids, and so forth. For those with incomes above the threshold, the potential rebate is \$500 for a standard e-bike and \$1000 for the cargo variant. The income threshold has not been announced as of this writing.

Rebates will be limited to one per resident. This may pose a problem for anyone planning a vast fleet of e-bikes, unless you have a large family



of eager cyclists. Participating local bike shops will be announced later. The rebate program goes live in the spring of this year.

The amount available for the rebates isn’t unlimited. Roughly 800 to 1000 e-bikes are expected to be purchased under this program, so this program may have a short run before funds are exhausted.

Unlike other subsidy programs for e-bikes elsewhere in the U.S., such as in Denver, this one doesn’t require a voucher. The rebate is deducted from the purchase price at the point of sale. So, if you manage to get to a participating bike shop before the program funds are all spent, you can get an e-bike for a lot less than the price right on the spot.

Keep an eye on the ARC website for further information and updates: atlantaregional.org/what-we-do/mobility-services/atlanta-e-bike-rebate-program/. You can also sign up on their site for emailed updates. Happy shopping!

New District, New Legislative Session

by Saira Draper

Last month I wrote about the new legislative and congressional maps passed by the Georgia General Assembly in response to a finding that the previous set of maps violated the Federal Voting Rights Act. At the time, there was an open question as to whether the new maps would hold up in court. Since then, a federal judge has released his decision. In a

blow to voting rights advocates who wanted the new maps thrown out, the judge sided with the State and said that Georgia sufficiently complied with his instructions in creating the new maps.

So, the new maps will stand. At least for now.

Cont. on p. 10

Lived in 2+ Homes in Lake Claire

by Beth Damon and Miriam Herbers

We are two long-term residents of Lake Claire (Miriam since 1978 and Beth *only* since 1990). Between the two of us, we know many people who have lived in more than one house in Lake Claire, including Miriam herself. And we feel certain that there are others.

This is the first article in a new series to feature such neighbors who have lived in two or more homes in our LC ‘hood. It will be fun to discover some of the reasons people have had for moving, though we know why they wanted to stay in Lake Claire, of course! This month’s article features Miriam, Ken and Terri Evans, Sherri McLendon, Reuben Haller and McKenzie Wren, and Debbie Livingston (and tangentially, Scott McLane & Ann Shirra). So, here we go . . .

Ken and Terri Evans’ first Lake Claire residence was a triplex (since torn down) at the end of Almeta, for six months in 1985. They moved to 416 Harold Avenue in late 1985 with daughters Anslee (4) and Melinda (2). Daughter Holly arrived in January 1986. In January 1988, Ken and Terri moved to 269 Mathews Avenue. Over the next few years, their daughters Sarah, Katie, and Joanna joined them. Terri said that they are friends with the current residents of their previous home at 416 Harold, Nathan and Brooke Reser, who are expecting their first child in March. The families met through their church, Immanuel Anglican, and the Evanses were delighted to learn that the Resers lived in “their” house! While none of the Evans’ daughters live in Lake Claire now, Holly, Sarah, and Joanna all rented in the neighborhood for a while, and Anslee lived in Candler Park for about a year. They all agree that Lake Claire is a wonderful place to grow up and live.

Next, **McKenzie Wren’s/Reuben Haller’s** story, which is better told by Reuben than by us; please see Page 7.

Miriam Herbers, in 1978, rode MARTA to GSU nursing school with Marlyn Rosenberg, when both lived near L5P. Marilyn told Miriam about a house for rent that Patrick Burke owned on Arizona Avenue. Being dependent on the bus to get to school

and work, Miriam thought it was too far away, but her husband, Mark Sanger, and she looked at it, learned that MARTA came that far down McLendon, and decided to rent the house. When Patrick later decided he wanted to live there, Miriam and Mark bought a house on McLendon, where they had their two daughters. At the time, they were unhappy with Mary Lin and were hoping to move to Decatur. Good fortune led them to an open house event at 300 Arizona, which they loved, and where Miriam still lives. Their daughters were getting old enough to want to ride bikes and have cats. Mark and Miriam loved the yard and the (then) quiet street. They decided they would make the school work for them. Mark got involved with the PTA and later became PTA president. Burges and his daughter, Abi, were the first people they met in Lake Claire; Patti and Burges introduced them to the Land Trust, and that takes us to the present, Miriam said, adding “Lucky us!”

Sherri McLendon lived in Vickie Perkins’ house on Nelms in 2000, next door to friends Marilyn Rosenberg, Norman Glassman, and their Amata Community. She often cooked in Amata’s barn house kitchen, before moving into 284 Arizona Ave., with her partner, Scott, in 2002. This was a house that Charlie Pope, Patti and Burges Richardson, and Mark and Miriam Herbers renovated and later sold to Bob Arko. Sherri and Scott lived there for several years. Afterward, they lived on the Georgia coast for a brief time, then relocated to Asheville, North Carolina. In 2020, Sherri returned to Atlanta with their son, Riley Parker, so that he could attend Midtown High School (formerly Grady High), where he is currently a senior, on the robotics team, and a future engineering major. Today, Sherri and Riley live in Carol Vanderschaaf’s cottage on Indiana Avenue with their fluffy terrier mix, Tesla.

Debbie Livingston and Scott McLane bought and renovated Olin McDaniel’s house at 358 Arizona in February 1982. They sold it to Brian

Cont. on p. 6

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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.

February Dates

(Plus, please see Page 15 for Land Trust events and Page 13 for live music in Atlanta; no Mary Lin dine-outs this month.)

1–18 **Theatrical Outfit** presents *Remember This: The Lesson of Jan Karski*. Your Clarion editor, who is also a theatre aficionado familiar with both Broadway and Atlanta offerings, recommends this play. The actor gives a dazzling, tour de force solo performance. Jan Karski, a Polish diplomat and freedom fighter during WWII, battled his way across Europe to bring evidence of the Holocaust to Western governments. www.theatricaloutfit.org/remember-this/.

1–25 Aurora Theatre presents *Knead*, a one-person show written and performed by Lake Claire's own Mary Lynn Owen, re memories of her mother and the bread-making process (in real time, on stage). Your Clarion editor and MANY others I am sure saw it originally at the Alliance in 2018. Impactful play. Though it's a hike for us ITPers to go to Lawrenceville, let's support Mary Lynn Owen and Rob Cleavland, longtime Lake Claire residents & accomplished Atlanta actors. It's worth the trek. Info: www.auroratheatre.com/productions-and-programs/view/knead/

3 Frazer Forest Work Day, 9 a.m.–noon. Help restore and maintain our beloved neighborhood old-growth forest. Pre-registration required. Space is limited. frazercenter.org/about-us/events.

15 Exciting News! Lake Claire monthly meetings now "hybrid," i.e., simultaneously in-person and on Zoom. In person: Frazer Center, Rose Room, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Ave. and via Zoom, contact lakeclaire.org for Zoom link. Always the 3rd Thursday of the month.

17 Fiddler's Green (every 3rd Saturday at the E Church in Candler Park). This month Dana Cooper & Georgia Grass, 7 p.m. See aaffm.org/aaffm-events/ or 404-444-2334.

Classified:

Your friendly neighborhood pet sitter: Longtime Lake Claire resident now accepting new clients. Pet sitting (dog, cat, and exotics) and dog walking. Former vet tech and now 18+ years of pet sitting experience. References from your neighbors available. I offer a free meet & greet and a discount to Lake Claire residents. Tina Smith, 404 247 0914.

Volunteers Needed

Are you the kind of person who likes to point out mistakes in the Clarion made by our team who spends untold hours creating the best-looking neighborhood newspaper around, and for free?

We forgive you! Join our team!
— editor@lakeclaire.org.

Welcome, New Treasurer

by Beth Damon

The Clarion joins Lake Claire Neighbors (and Lake Claire neighbors!) in welcoming our new treasurer, Leigh Reynolds, who joins us this month.

Leigh lives on Lakeshore with her partner David Gelin (aka BBQ Dave). She has lived here for seven years. Leigh is a frequent volunteer

at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. She is actively involved in recycling/re-use projects with Publix Bakeries and Chalice Thrift, among other places. We are thankful that Leigh has added another volunteer effort to her list, joining our ranks of Lake Claire Neighbors and Clarion volunteers.

Mary Lin 5th Annual Rocket Fuel Fund has Blasted Off!

by Jeannie Beckett

What an amazing first semester we have had at Mary Lin. With your generous support to the Mary Lin Education Foundation, we can keep up this momentum. The Foundation's Rocket Fuel Fund provides Mary Lin with the resources it needs to ensure that every teacher and Mary Lin Rocket thrives, including providing advanced and continuing education training for its teachers, subscriptions to enrichment tools like Lexia and Stemsopes, outdoor improvements, and funds to support our newly beloved chicken coop.

THE ROCKET FUEL FUND IS THE ONE BIG ASK THIS SCHOOL YEAR.

Our goal is to raise \$100,000 by February 29. Our website gives information on the Fuel Fund, how past funds have been utilized, giving lev-

els, and more. This year, we need to raise an average of \$200 per student to meet our goal; every dollar counts. With enrollment down this year, we encourage those who can to give generously. Those who make a minimum donation of \$150 will receive a yard sign delivered to their homes. It's the coolest—and you don't want to be the only one on your street without one. If you donate \$750 or above, you will receive an invite to our special donor's reception. And don't forget to check if your employers match your donation - that doubles your power of impact!

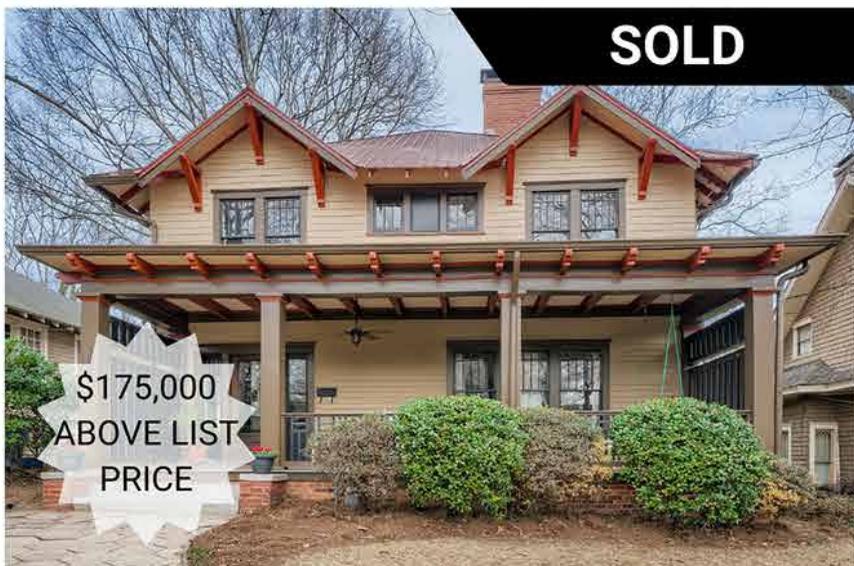
If you have any questions, contact this year's Chair, Emily Newton at eshoemak@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for supporting our Rockets! secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/DZgenSjXsSfg_fOcixFfEw

Neighborhood Dues for Lake Claire

Suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household, but as with NPR, any amount is appreciated. Pay at lakeclaire.org via the link **OR** by check in the mail to Treasurer, Lake Claire, PO Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107. The following folks paid dues since the November 2023 Clarion:

Debbie Livingston
Sam Beresford
Timothy Smith
McKenzie Cunningham
Patricia Grindo

Scott Long
Mary Swan Lamar
Ruth Rucker
Melanie Bliss



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Stop Signs on McLendon Go Missing, Again

by Larry Compton

As many of you know, the Safer McLendon Project consists of a team of Candler Park and Lake Claire neighbors organized under the Candler Park neighborhood (CPNO) Infrastructure Committee. The team has a vision to make the thoroughfare safer by sharing the roadway with bikers and pedestrians for a much safer and more enjoyable experience for all.

In the spring of 2023, both neighborhoods, Candler Park and Lake Claire, voted to approve the Safer McLendon project plan. (For additional information, visit safermclendon.org/design-concepts/ and download the Improvement Plan booklet.) Stop signs were added at key intersections along McLendon Avenue as part of Phase One of the project.

Sadly, unknown individuals recently removed three of the new stop signs along McLendon in Candler Park and Lake Claire. The most recent theft occurred overnight on January 5-6. The signs were stolen from the intersections of: McLendon and Mell (Candler Park); McLendon and Brooks (Candler Park); McLendon and Connecticut/Ridgecrest (Lake Claire)

This is the third time that the new Lake Claire stop sign at McLendon and Ridgecrest/Connecticut was stolen. On January 6, two of the stop signs were found in the storm drain in front of the Candler Park Market. Quick action by the Infrastructure Committee and the City of Atlanta DOT restored all three stop signs by 8:30 p.m. on the same day.

Although stealing stop signs may seem like a harmless prank, this actually endangers pedestrians and causes driver uncertainty due to the presence of road markings without proper signage. CPNO Safety and

Lake Claire Neighbors have engaged with Atlanta DOT and the Atlanta Police Department Zone 6 leadership team on this topic and are currently in the process of filing a police report to launch an investigation (as of the Clarion deadline). Theft of road signage is considered larceny (theft of property) and is a crime. More importantly, removal of stop signs is extremely dangerous and threatens the safety of pedestrians, bikers, and drivers, especially considering that many of these signs are at Atlanta Public Schools' bus stops.

We ask that anyone observing active sign removal call or text 911 immediately. Also, if you have any information regarding the recent theft or if you notice that a sign is missing from the new intersections please contact safety@candlerpark.org, infrastructure@candlerpark.org, and president@lakeclaire.org.

Editor's note: Larry Compton is the CPNO Safety Officer.

For LifeLine Our Animal Shelter is More than just a Warehouse.

A Mission and a Story

by Scott McLane

Lifeline supports and provides a number of animal welfare services such as Pets for Life, Lost Pet Reunification, and affordable vet care, among others. As part of its mission, Lifeline has always provided free spay/neuter (S/N) vouchers to be used at its clinics, but just recently began participating in spay/neuter free voucher program to be used at participating Spay Georgia clinics throughout the state. It has also formed a relationship with several private clinics in Dekalb County where volunteers can schedule their favorite shelter dog and personally transport him/her to and from for S/N. Participating S/N Voucher Clinics in Dekalb:

Columbia Belvedere Animal Hospital,
404-289-5231

Dearborn Animal Hospital,
404-377-6477

Lifeline Animal Project,
404-292-8800

Winters Chapel Animal Hospital,
770-394-0030

To kick this off, Lifeline secured West Georgia Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic to come on Fri, Sat and Sun, Jan 5-7, to neuter all available male dogs at The Community Animal Center (CAC) and Dekalb County Animal Services (DCAS)! The event came up just short of the goal, but 150 dogs, that would normally not be neutered until foster/adoption, were neutered in 3 days thanks to the relentless staff and a cadre of dedicated volunteers. FYI, this was not funded by our taxes, but once again Lifeline is finding a way to step up and do the things our citizenry does not always have the will to do.



This is Kenny. He is available on the Lifeline website; he's potty-trained, crate-trained, dog friendly, people friendly, and an expert snuggler. Contact Scott at 404-786-0325.

Lifeline's Seventh Core Value:
"Every life has worth, and every animal is an individual. We owe the animals in our care their lives. If they can be saved, they will be saved."

Peyton passed away in our shelter last night. He came to us just yesterday, a weary soul found in a barn. Fourteen years old, underweight, half an ear missing, and struggling to breathe. His microchip, dating back to 2009, was a silent witness to a life that once was—a life that had somewhere turned bleak and lonely.

In his final hours, Peyton experienced moments of love and care that had been missing for so long. We cleaned his crusted nose, combed out his matts, and he purred, basking in the affection he so deserved. He clung to our warmth, his body going

Cont. on p. 12

Dangerous Scam "Callback Phishing"

by Rashida Herbers

Callback phishing is when a phishing email directs you to call a number instead of clicking on a link. These emails are often fake notifications that encourage you to make a call to correct an alleged error. A recent scam impersonating the popular streaming service Disney+ is a great example of this tactic. Cybercriminals send an email that appears to be an invoice from Disney-Plus, saying that you will be charged for a new subscription and directing you to call the number provided if this was an

unauthorized purchase. To make the email more alarming, the amount of money shown is three times the advertised price of a monthly subscription. If you call the number in the email, a cybercriminal posing as customer services will answer. They will ask you for sensitive information, like your payment method, and may even try to gain remote access to your device.

Follow these tips to stay safe from callback phishing scams: (1) Be suspicious of emails that contain

a sense of urgency. Cybercriminals use a sense of urgency as an attempt to catch you off-guard and get you to act impulsively. (2) Consider the email's context, timing, grammar, and other details. For example, does the invoice reference your real credit or debit card? (3) **Do not call phone numbers provided in emails.** Instead, navigate to an official website to find the best contact number for that organization.

Lived in 2+ Homes in Lake Claire

Continued from page 1.

Otis and Michele Moody (circa 1989), and their daughter, Rachael Otis, lives there now. They moved to 312 Arizona, which was owned at one point by Crescent Dragonwagon and her husband, who sold it to Cara Litton (owner of a renovation business) and her partner, who started renovating it based on a design by Greg

Ramsey (who designed and lived at Lake Claire CoHousing). He redesigned it to work better for Debbie and Scott; Scott was the contractor and did a lot of the work on the house while he was working fulltime as a paralegal. Scott, and his wife Ann Shirra, still live in the same house. In November 2004, Debbie moved



1988: Debbie & William at 358 Arizona



Debbie's apartment, Janie's house, 262 Connecticut



Debbie's current house, 1764 Marlbrook

into Janie Wright's apartment, at 262 Connecticut, on a 6-month lease; she lived there for fifteen years.

After Janie passed away in January 2020, Debbie moved out, but was on her way before that. She had purchased 1764 Marlbrook in July 2018, had it torn down, and built her current home (pictured below left), which she and David moved into just as the world shut down on March 17, 2020. "I had plenty of time to unpack," Debbie smiled.

Debbie also told us, and this illustrates why I wanted this series to include people's stories vs. just lists of physical addresses, "There is so much to say and so many stories that I could tell of our lives in these different homes. I am so grateful to have landed in such a great community of people. My neighbors are my friends. Some have moved on and some, well, we are growing old together. I was

afraid that moving over to Marlbrook was going to be too far away from the battleship streets, but that hasn't been the case. We are all still connected, family and friends."

Stay tuned for more of this history next month! We are in the process of contacting others that we know of, and if you have lived in more than one house in Lake Claire, and you're willing to share your story, please write to editor@lakeclaire.org—and include pictures if you have them. This series is a "sister" to Beth's former series "30+ Years in Lake Claire," some of whom were 2nd generation owners in homes they grew up in (e.g., Rachel Otis on Arizona, Tess Horn on Arizona, Kathie Ryan on Harold), and we still welcome anyone who fits that category to be featured here; please let us know.

On moving within Lake Claire, Elijah Haller, at age 11, wrote the following in our second Kids' Corner, right after the series was conceived:

This is the second of what I hope will be a fun new series and a way for young writers to participate. This month's article is written by Elijah Haller. --Editor

My name is Elijah Haller, and I am almost 12 years old. I was born at home in Lake Claire, on Arizona Avenue, and I have basically grown up at the Land Trust. I feel like I know everyone in this neighborhood! I definitely know my way around. The drum circle really turned me on

and play bass - we played three songs without any practice ever! I have so many memories at the LT - playing with friends, playing on the metal structure, running around, building fairy houses. I've had a booth selling necklaces and stuff there. So much has happened there. When I was 2,



Elijah Haller (current) with Charlie Toole and Maxx Brough. Photo: McKenzie Wren

to being a drummer. I have been playing music at the LT since forever and started playing with my band when I was 10 with two other neighborhood kids, Tendal Mann and Noah Green-Lowe, who both live in the co-housing. I have played at LT music festivals with my band but also the LT is where I get to hear good music and there are so many great musicians who play there. And everyone is really nice!

Once I got to go up on stage with Ralph Roddenberry

I went door to door playing my ukelele and was dressed only in a tie and angel wings. There are so many kids in this neighborhood; there are at least 3 of my friends on every street, and it's nice that I can just walk to people's houses. When I was little we played at the LT, and now we hang out at Candler Park Market and Candler Park. We feel safe, and it's a nice place.

The fact that I know so many people makes me feel safe because I always know where I can go if I need help, or water, or a snack!

Lake Claire is pretty loose - it's not uptight. Lake Claire feels like it's in the middle of things to me - everything is accessible and I can walk or bike a lot of places. When I was 7 we moved from Arizona Avenue to a house on New York which put me even closer to more friends. We play basketball, foursquare, hockey, & football on our street,

and the kids on the street often all play together. On our street we also have block parties and

we set off fireworks and have a lot of fun. Lake Claire is a great place to live!

Reuben Haller writes...

When I moved to Atlanta in 1994, the town felt like a rocket ship taking off! It was two years before the Olympics, and Atlanta was abuzz with dynamism, excitement, and energy. I had come for the summer to visit my friend Lee Goldsmith who was working for the newly created Circus Camp. Little did I know this connection would result in me finding a new home, a career -- and a wife!

What I did know soon after I arrived on July 6, 1994, was that I liked Atlanta so much that I wanted to move here. But where to live? I spent a lot of free time that summer driving around to get to know the neighborhoods, to see what felt right. I remember returning several times to the Midtown neighborhood when I felt homesick for San Francisco. Then one day I drove down Arizona Avenue to the cul-de-sac, and I got a tremendously positive feeling, though I didn't know why. I saw someone walking down Arizona, rolled down my window, and asked if they knew of any place to rent on the block. They said no, and I left. I knew nothing about the Land Trust or the neighborhood-- I just felt in my bones that this place was special.

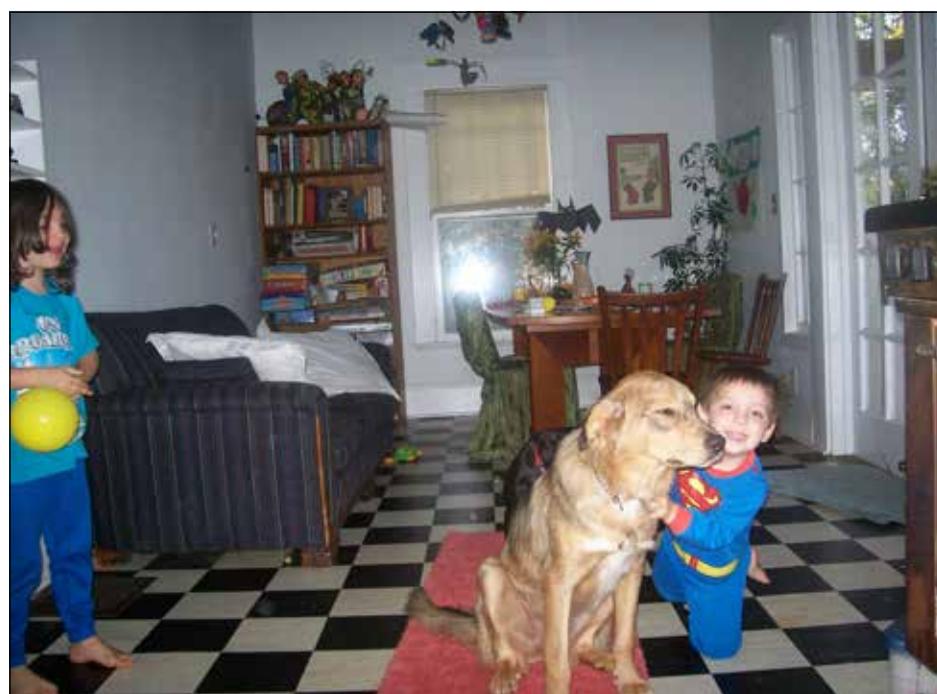
I ended up moving into an apartment on Oakdale in Candler Park that I couldn't afford and that was too big. I got a break on the rent, though, because the bathroom floor had rotted out and collapsed. The owner hired Scott McLane to fix the floor and replace the toilet. Scott and I got to talking and soon discovered we shared a love for the two best quartets ever in the history of quartets: the Marx Brothers and, of course, The Beatles! Soon I moved into the in-law apartment below the house of Scott, Debbie Livingston, and their two little boys. So, because of a toilet, I ended up moving to Arizona Avenue, onto the very block I had driven down months before. Lucky me! I soon found out I had moved into one of the most special, positive, and unique neighborhoods in the country. Alas, however, try as we might, the humor Scott and I have shared over these last 30 years has never really risen above the level of that sunken toilet.

When a cute little house down the block came up for sale on the corner of Arizona and Adolphus I jumped and bought it. I found out this house had a storied past. A coven of witches had lived there! 344 Arizona Avenue was known as "Patrick's house" after a beloved community member. And of course, longtime Lake Claire residents, Miriam Herbers and Mark Sanger (of blessed memory) had also lived there (as Beth & Miriam described on Page 1). I announced a neighborhood moving party. The community showed up and, I do not

exaggerate, they moved all of my possessions from one house to the other in one hour; a big parade of neighbors carrying my stuff. Bob Arko even towed my furniture with his tractor.

In the meantime, I had left teaching and became a professional clown! (Thanks Carrie Heller and Circus Camp). Then, into my life came a sparkling beautiful human being. McKenzie Wren and I ended up getting married after about a 10-minute courtship (possibly 15 minutes). We had a true Lake Claire wedding. We married next door in the yard of the late, great Judi Horn, who was also largely responsible for introducing us. Her daughter Tess and family still live in that house. After the ceremony (which included a didgeridoo player in a tree) we had a samba procession down Adolphus to our reception, held at The Amata Community in a glorious pavilion. Genise Spenle and Patty Richardson baked exquisite wedding cakes that all enjoyed after a community potluck. A true neighborhood wedding.

When the babies came along, both born at home, we eventually burst out of 344 Arizona, and moved all of four blocks away, all the way to New York Avenue, where we suddenly had a slew of new and wonderful neighbors. This July will mark 30 years that I have had the good fortune to live in this warm, welcoming, close-knit neighborhood, a true community. I am grateful to all my neighbors and especially to those who created and sustain the Lake Claire Community Land Trust.



2 pictures above: 344 Arizona circa 2006 and 2007. Elijah and Devon, who turn 24 and 21 in March and February of this year



Recent photo of (L-R) McKenzie Wren, Elijah Haller, Devon Haller, Reuben Haller, standing in front of their home on New York Avenue



FEBRUARY 2024

REAL ESTATE MARKET UPDATE



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🔑 John Morgan, Managing Broker and Founding Partner of Park Realty, has been a trusted expert in the dynamic world of Atlanta real estate since 2007.

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🏘️ As the only locally-owned real estate company in the neighborhood, Park Realty offers a boutique experience and unmatched local insight. John has been an intown Atlanta resident since 1993 and a Candler Park/Lake Claire homeowner since 2000, so he knows the community inside out.

🏠 John also manages several of his own rental properties (long- and short-term rentals, including Airbnbs), giving him a unique investor's perspective.

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Wild in Lake Claire

by Sara Gottlieb

I am introverted by nature; left to my own druthers, I'd avoid any situation that involves groups of people, and I even enjoy periods of time all by myself. But, I know it's not healthy to spend too much time completely alone as we are social creatures. So are many wild animals (and we're even learning how many plants have social networks mediated by mycelial fungal networks). This time of year, I really get a kick out of seeing the large flocks of robins and red-winged blackbirds that move about the neighborhood, descending into yards in noisy groups (especially the blackbirds) to feed together.

One day in early January, I was walking up New York Avenue when I noticed a large paper wasp nest hanging from a branch in a tree over the street. When I stopped to get a better look, I also noticed a large flock of red-winged blackbirds perched throughout branches in the tree, descending in sub-groups to the yard below (see photo top right). It was fun to watch them from this vantage point, as I frequently observe them descending into my adjacent neighbor's large, open backyard as well as into my small backyard, where they mob the bird and squirrel feeders for quite a while before something signals them to move on.

This month brought several new contributors (welcome!) with unusual hawk sightings. Julie R saw a beautiful Cooper's hawk sitting on her fence (see picture here by Jed R) at the corner of Muriel and Harold Avenues, across from Frazer forest. She had never seen a hawk this close up! The hawk didn't move at all when she walked by with her dog. The description at allaboutbirds.org matches the bird in her photo: an adult Cooper's hawk has upright posture with a long tail. Bluish-gray upper parts with a contrasting black cap and a red eye. Underpants (leg feathers) are pale with dense reddish barring. Bill is fairly small and strongly hooked.

Patricia D reported seeing an unusual bird later on the same day as Julie, but this one was on the lower limb of a large tree just across Candler Park Drive from Mary Lin Elementary. While out for a walk, she was alerted to the hawk's presence by a squirrel madly barking from a tree 20 feet away. The bird was quite large and may have been 2 ft tall or more. It appeared plump, with white-checked breast feathers with brown speckles, feathers on ankles down to talons, looking very healthy. Patricia's photos of this bird were from farther away than Julie's, making it

impossible to get a positive ID from them, but I would speculate it was the same Cooper's hawk or possibly one of the more common red-shouldered or red-tailed hawks seen regularly around the neighborhood.

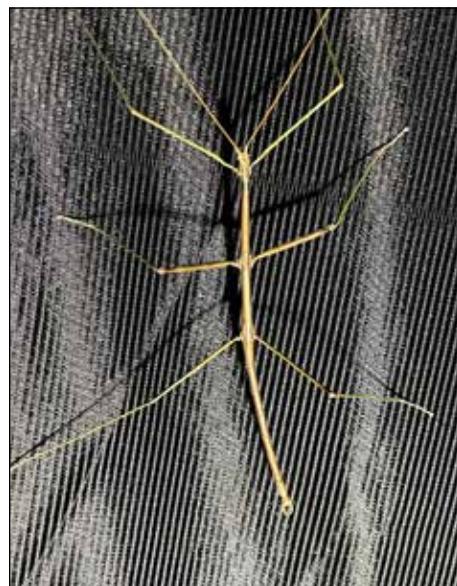
On the rest of her walk around Candler Park and Lake Claire, Patricia reported seeing and hearing many wrens, phoebes, cardinals, & mockingbirds. She also saw small deer tracks in the mud. Patricia lives on the third story of a Lake Claire building, where her north-facing kitchen window is always greeted by sightings of cardinal pairs, as well as brown thrushes, which live in just the right habitat of deciduous and evergreen trees, including a massive holly and some cedar (or cypress).

Meredith W reported observing a barred owl flying nearby while calling, which then landed practically on top of another owl. They then scuffled, making their hooting, monkey-like noises, before the first owl flew to a nearby branch. It reminded her that this is mating season for owls.

The last few times she worked in the yard, Meredith observed an eastern phoebe following her around, perching nearby and flying close. This has happened frequently enough, and they've stuck around so long that she wondered if she was disturbing flies that the phoebe was trying to eat, or if there's another reason that they come close. [Sara notes: phoebes are known to be relatively "tame," and they nest around buildings, making them easy to observe.]

Meredith also reported that she has spent time this winter removing some large privet to be replaced by native holly, viburnum, chokeberry, and American plum, which should increase wildlife activity in her yard. She also observed a great blue heron in the creek behind her house.

Bernard S reported finding a stick bug on his tent during a camping trip



Stick insect



Flock of red-winged blackbirds



Cooper's hawk

(photo at left) and being reminded of a scene in the movie "Master and Commander." Miriam H noted that after January 9's rain, the Land Trust pond reached its overflow drain for the first time in a while.

I always want to encourage readers to observe nature in the real world (even if it's just out your window), but as we face days of very cold and rainy weather, even I sometimes resort to observing nature vicariously and virtually. One of the social media accounts I started following over the past year is one that features a

platform filled with different foods, drink, and even puzzles for a family of crows to display their antics, personalities, and inter-bird interactions. The videos are accompanied by a very dry narration and the crows' arrival is always announced by the statement, "The Crows Are Here." Check it out for yourself here: www.instagram.com/milkhouse6000/.

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

New District, New Session

Continued from page 1.

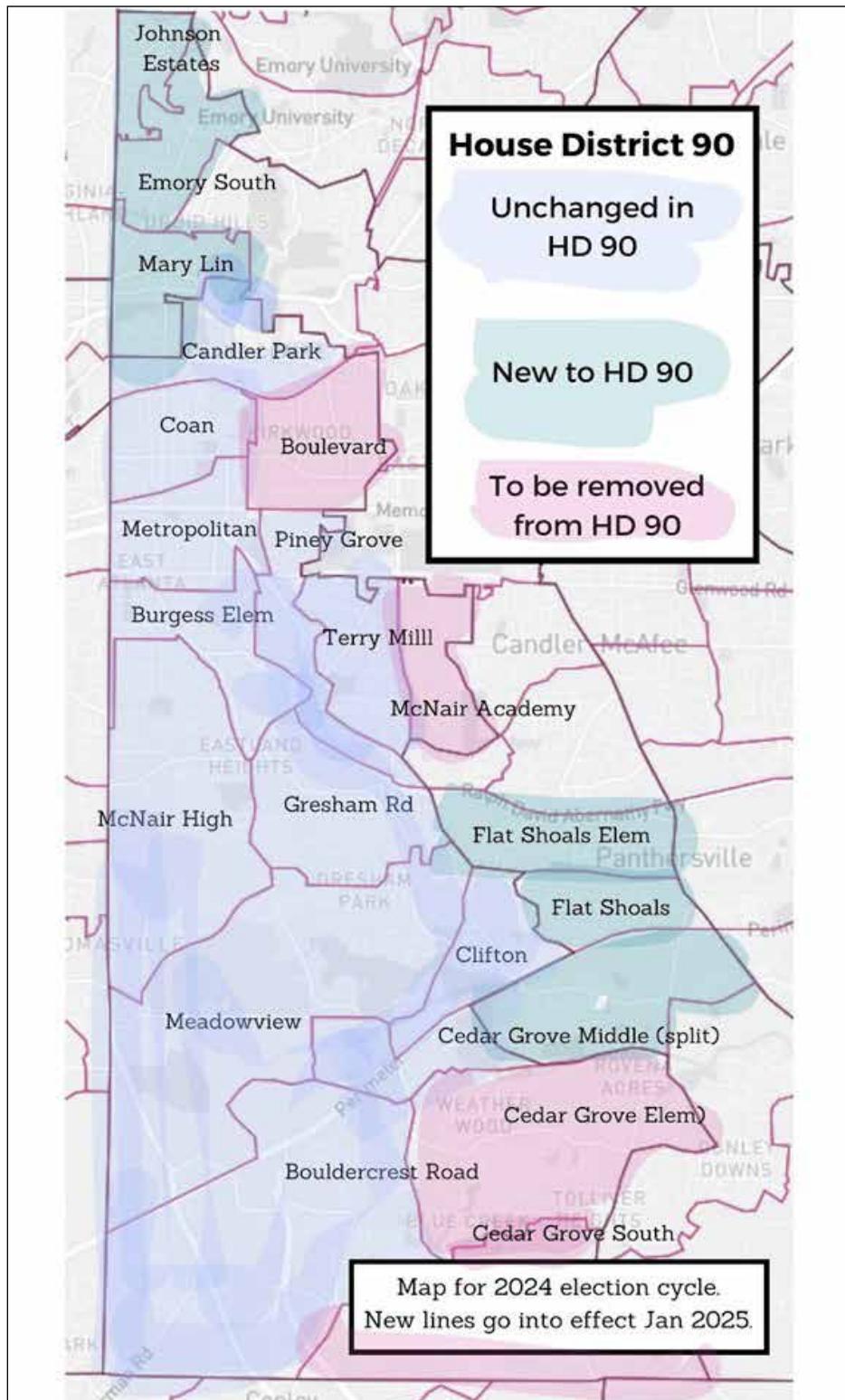
Under the new maps, the boundaries of House District 90 change. Though 70% of the district remains intact, we will lose a few precincts to other districts, and we gain a few new precincts, as well. New additions to House District 90 include the other half of Candler Park, parts of Druid Hills, DeKalb portions of Virginia Highland, DeKalb portions of Morningside, and portions of Panthersville, including South DeKalb mall. We will lose the southern portion of Cedar Grove, areas around East Lake, and most of Kirkwood.

The State appealed the court's finding that its original maps, passed in 2021, violated the Federal Voting Rights Act by diluting the voting power of Black voters. If the State's appeal is successful, the possibility exists that the maps will change yet

again. The uncertainty of all this is bad for voters, and really underscores why politicians shouldn't be the ones drawing political maps. However, it seems that for the 2024 election cycle, at least, the maps are finally set.

The 2024 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly began on January 8. Until late March, my colleagues and I will be voting on statewide laws and policies that impact you and your family. In addition to passing the State's annual budget which allocates over 30 billion in state funds, anything from gun safety, to education, to healthcare is fair game under the Gold Dome. Election season has started so there will be a lot of posturing and political agendas on display.

Republicans control the House



This is clearer in color, which you can see at www.lakeclaire.org/clarionarchives.

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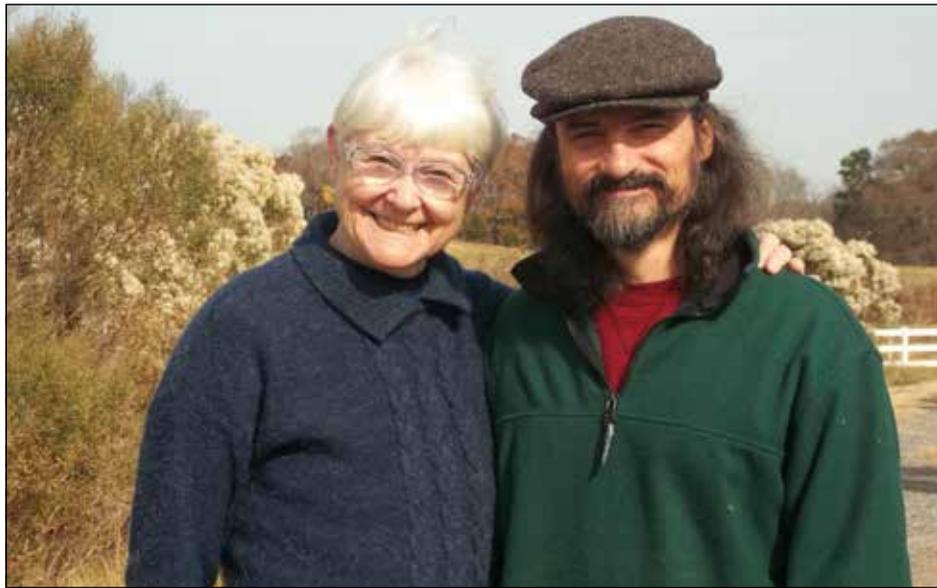
and Senate, and therefore drive the agenda. During the Governor's state of the state address, he laid out his hopes for the 2024 legislative session. While I applaud some initiatives, including a renewed focus on healthcare and possible Medicaid expansion, I am concerned about a number of misplaced priorities and the omission of vital issues. I'm also concerned by Governor Kemp's divisive rhetoric, which I expect will only ratchet up as the 2024 election cycle heats up.

This session, I resume my push for practical, fair, pro-voter election policy. I also remain prepared to fight attempts to change how Georgians vote

amid false claims of election fraud. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House have all indicated election policy will be on the table this year. Given that it is an election year, expect proposals that will make voting more difficult under the false pretexts of election security and "increasing trust in our elections."

For more frequent updates during the legislative session, sign up for my newsletter at sairadraper.com/newsletters and follow me on social media

Saira Draper is an attorney, voting rights expert, and the State Representative for Georgia House District 90.



A Poem and Its Story

by Stephen Wing

For several years in her seventies my late mother, Carol Ann Wise Wingeier, hiked a portion of the Appalachian Trail every summer with her slightly younger cousin Nancy. They started at the Trail's southern terminus at Springer Mountain and picked up each summer where they'd left off the year before. But they were slow walkers and had not quite reached Georgia's Blood Mountain when Nancy's health forced her to drop out. I thought surely somewhere on the internet I would find a website for connecting with a hiking partner of one's own age . . . but no such luck. Finally it dawned on me that I could take Nancy's place on the next segment of the hike myself.

I had traveled many times by canoe, hauling packs and canoes over an occasional portage but otherwise letting the water carry the weight. I had hitchhiked across country, hoisting my backpack for short intervals

before tossing it into the next car. But I had never quite seen the point of hiking long-distance, carrying everything I would need on my back, mile after mile and day after day. Not until Mom and I had left our vehicle behind at the trailhead did I finally get it: backpacking is the only way to reach these wild places where a vehicle cannot go, and only once you're out there does it become breathtakingly clear why it's worth the trouble.

In my case, the pleasure of spending time so far from civilization was compounded by the rare opportunity to spend it with my aging Mom. This poem captures one of my most treasured memories, so it's no wonder that it came out all in a rush, whole and complete, requiring almost no revision. It was published in the online journal *Cobalt Review* and will appear in my forthcoming book *Washed in the Hurricane*, coming out around Earth Day 2024.

View from a Mountain Ridge

"Mom," I ask on the way to the car,
 "Do you remember hiking with me
 on the Appalachian Trail?"
 Single file, step by step along the ridgeline
 of Blood Mountain, three days
 to walk ten miles, Mom leading the way
 with a hiking stick in each hand, one long
 leisurely conversation, long overdue—
 the trail winding between prehistoric
 outcrops of granite, climbing and descending
 through a luminous wilderness,
 wild forest falling away on either side
 on steep leaf-shadowed slopes
 in green-tinted sunlight—
 cooking breakfast and dinner in doll-size
 aluminum pans over her tiny propane stove,
 camping one night in a shelter
 of rough-hewn stone and weathered beams,
 the next in her cramped pup tent
 in a dry wash below the trail
 among rocks and roots and fallen leaves,
 the most level place we could find—
 That was seven years ago,
 when Mom was seventynine,
 and everything's changed now, except
 once again I match my steps to hers
 as we cross the parking lot
 hand in hand, headed for the car
 to visit Dad in the hospital after his bypass,
 and she looks at me in one of her
 flashes of lucidity, without blinking,
 as if through a momentary gap
 in drifting early morning mist,
 without even a heartbeat's
 hesitation, her voice clear and firm, declaring,
 "The highlight of my life!"

Stephen Wing's recent book Wild Atlanta documents Atlanta's urban forests and gardens in poetry, with photos by Luz Wright. It's available at WildAtlanta.net and at most nearby independent bookstores. Read more of Wing's work and/or subscribe to his blog "Wingtips" at StephenWing.com.

Note Requesting Clarion Volunteers

You may have noticed the somewhat flippant note on Page 3 about the person who wrote to us to complain about a Clarion typo, "Boom Swap," in place (obviously) of "Book Swap," on the Land Trust page. We caught it after the printer had printed the copies. I won't dignify the person's email by publishing it, giving him his two seconds of fame, but I wanted to take a moment to note that the Clarion staff does spend many hours on the newspaper. Everyone involved treats this responsibility as we would a "paid job," to write interesting content, to include neighborhood schools, to find timely news (as much as is possible with a monthly publication), to make sure it is delivered by the first week of each month to 1400+ homes in our 'hood, and to acquire and work to maintain the advertising funds that support it. We are one of few remaining neighborhood newspapers. Many have gone to online newsletters, or don't have a communication vehicle. We aim for perfection each time, but, as they say, we are perfectly imperfect. And though

I couldn't resist the flippant note on Page 3, we do hope you forgive any mistakes, and we do indeed always welcome help and constructive criticism, vs. complaints. Opportunities include once-a-month (last weekend of the month) delivery to porches of the papers (also good for high schoolers to get community credit hours), writing articles, and giving ideas for articles.

I take this opportunity to thank Véronique Perrot, Pat del Rey, Alicia McGill, Stephen Wing, Kevin Posey, Sara Gottlieb, and our delivery folks, for their excellent work, consistency, and dedication to writing, delivering, and supporting the Clarion in the ways that you do.

And while I'm in thank-you mode, thank you to our advertisers, many of whom have advertised in the Clarion for many years. Because of you, we are able to pay for ourselves, and sometimes have a little extra to give to Lake Claire Neighbors. This month we welcome BOND Community Federal Credit Union to the advertising ranks. Thanks, BOND! – Editor



Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

by Lori White



Through Clifton's comprehensive Night Hospitality Program, guests are presented with many opportunities to turn their situations around and get fresh starts. One such opportunity we learned about through our ministry partner, Intown Cares, is the Atlanta Center for Self-Sufficiency (ACSS). ACSS is a non-profit organization that provides workforce readiness, job placement, and life stabilization services to homeless and financially vulnerable men and women, including veterans, to empower them to reach their goals for self-sufficiency.

We are proud to say we have had

at least 10 of our guests go through the ACSS one-week program and graduate with job skills that have helped them obtain gainful employment. Once in the program, clients receive individual case management that further assists them on their journeys to become independent.

These resources are essential in providing our guests with the training they need to attain stable employment. We are thankful for these partnerships that walk beside us in providing comprehensive life skills training and counseling to our guests.



Lifeline

Continued from page 5.

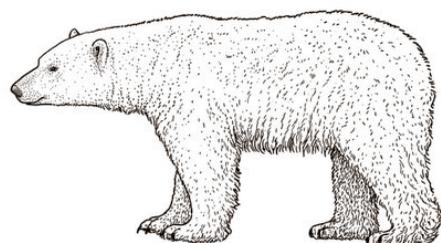
limp with trust and perhaps, relief. This morning, we found him gone, his struggle quietly ended in the comfort of a soft blanket and a full belly. His departure is a profound reminder of the countless animals who face similar fates, animals whose stories go untold, whose lives end without a whisper.

Peyton's story is a glimpse into the harsh realities faced by many animals. It's a testament to the resilience and enduring hope they possess, even in the face of neglect and abandonment. It underscores the vital role shelters play—not just as a place of refuge, but as a final sanctuary where love and care are given, even if just for a few moments.

As we mourn Peyton, let's remember the countless others like him. Each day, shelters across the country are filled with animals waiting for a second chance, for a family, for

a home. They wait for someone to notice them, to care, to extend a hand of kindness.

Peyton's story is not just about loss; it's about awareness, compassion, and the bittersweet role shelters play in the lives of animals. In sharing his story, we hope to shed light on the unseen struggles and to inspire a community of care and support for these innocent lives. Rest in peace, Peyton. In your final hours, you were surrounded by love, and your story will not be forgotten.



Hello – Safe Journey: Skiing in and around Lake Claire

B'day people:

- 1 – Linda Maynard, Delaware Ave (we miss your wit, your kindnesses, your presence)
- 2 – Isla Roberts (Happy 11), Claire Drive; Daniel Babinslei, Harold Ave; and Luke Mawson-Puckhaber, happy 12, Palifox Drive.
- 3 – Beth Damon, your illustrious and dedicated Clarion editor (over 12 years, but who's counting), Delaware Ave. 70 is the new 50 or something like that/Fill in the appropriate number for yourself!
- 4, 5 Ann Shirra (2/4) and Scott McLane (2/5), Arizona Avenue
- 6 – Happy b'day to Jennifer Ruddell, Hardendorf
- 9 – Amelia Roberts (happy 15), Claire Drive; Anne Weldert, Harold Ave.
- 14 – Gillian Landgraff, Harold Avenue
- 16 – Joanna Babinslei, Harold Avenue
- 17 – Ava Capps, Harold Avenue, happy 15
- 18 – Ben Farmer, Hardendorf Ave
- 27 – Esther Williams, happy 16! – Connections on THREE Lake Claire streets—lives on Harold, proud grandma on Delaware, and Daddy on Indiana.

Anniversary:

- 18 – Ann Shirra and Scott McLane ♥♥ anniversary 2013 ♥♥, Arizona Ave.

Take a minute, and send life cycle events for the March issue by February 18.

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Adult Services Programs Flourishing at Frazer Center

by Dina Shadwell

Frazer Center's Adult Services programs are flourishing under the leadership of Director Unondus Walker. Thanks to a two-year grant from the Sara Giles Moore Foundation, Frazer launched a pilot program, Project Achieve. The \$100,000 grant enabled Frazer to expand the services that can be provided to individuals with developmental disabilities beyond our standard operating hours.

Project Achieve allows for Frazer's Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) to meet participants one-on-one within their own communities. The DSPs help each participant build relationships in their neighborhoods, and they provide access to social, recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities in the metro area. Many of these opportunities have not been accessible to Frazer's participants because they commonly occur during evening and weekend hours when Frazer is closed. The Sara Giles Moore Foundation grant enabled Frazer Center to expand its staff so that Project Achieve could take flight, and the amount of time our adult participants have spent in the community has doubled since 2022. Although the grant funding is coming to an end, we expect to sustain and grow Project Achieve for years to come thanks to Frazer's entire community of supporters.

Frazer's Supported Employment Program continues to grow as well. In 2018, Georgia became an "Employment First" state, when Governor Nathan Deal signed a law declaring that employment should be the

first option for anyone who wants to work, regardless of disability. Frazer currently has 15 adult participants who are either employed or actively searching for work. Our supported employment specialists and job coaches help participants identify their skills, interests, and goals, then they work with businesses to create perfect employment matches that are a win for both the employer and employee.

Alicia Day is one such employee. She attended Frazer Center as a child, then returned in 2010 after completing high school. Alicia became the first adult participant in Frazer's Supported Employment program when she began working at Home Depot, and she recently celebrated her eleventh anniversary there! "Frazer Center is my second home, and Home Depot is my third home," says Alicia. "Frazer means the world to me."

Frazer Center is committed to providing person-centered support for every adult who chooses our programs. Whether the goal is employment, community engagement, or quality time with fellow participants and staff at Frazer Center, our dedicated, professional staff is committed to helping adult participants create the fulfilling, meaningful life of their dreams.

If you would like more information about any of our Adult Services programs, please contact Unondus Walker at u.walker@fraziercenter.org.

♪ Live Music! ♪

by Beth Damon

Music as of press time. Support live music and our local venues! Enjoy!

Thursday, Feb. 1	Plain White Ts	Masquerade
Thursday, Feb. 1	The Steel Wheels	City Winery
Friday, Feb. 2	John McCutcheon	Eddie's Attic
Friday, Feb. 2	Rumours	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, Feb. 3	Big Something	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, Feb. 3	Magnolia Express	Napoleons
Saturday, Feb. 3	Webster	Napoleons
Sunday, Feb. 4	Gipsy Kings	ASO
Tuesday, Feb. 6	Matisyahu	Variety Playhouse
Tuesday, Feb. 6	Me Like Bees	Vinyl
Wednesday, Feb. 7	Susto	Eddie's Attic
Thursday, Feb. 8	Treaty Oak Revival	Buckhead Theatre
Friday, Feb. 9	Tinsley Ellis- album release	Eddie's Attic
Friday, Feb. 9	Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives	Variety Playhouse
Friday, Feb. 9	Steep Canyon Rangers	Terminal West
Feb 9-10	JRAD	The Eastern
Saturday, Feb. 10	HighBeams	Steady Hand Brewery
Saturday, Feb. 10	G. Love & Special Sauce	City Winery
Saturday, Feb. 10	Stop Light Observations	Terminal West
Monday, Feb. 12	Mac Saturn	Terminal West
Wednesday, Feb. 14	The Hip Abduction	Aisle 5
Thursday, Feb. 15	Emerson, Lake & Palmer	Variety Playhouse
Feb 16-17	Eliot Bronson	Eddie's Attic
Feb 16-17	Electric Avenue	Variety Playhouse
Friday, Feb. 16	Yam Yam	Aisle 5
Friday, Feb. 16	Post Sex Nachos	Vinyl
Friday, Feb. 16	Jaime Wyatt	The Earl
Saturday, Feb. 17	Magnolia Express	Joe's
Saturday, Feb. 17	LANY	The Roxy
Saturday, Feb. 17	Kind Hearted Strangers	The Earl
Saturday, Feb. 17	Frankly Scarlet	Smith's Olde Bar
Saturday, Feb. 17	Sweetwater Anni Party (Daniel Donato Cosmic Country)	Sweetwater Brewery
Sunday, Feb. 18	Kyle Tuttle	Aisle 5
Sunday, Feb. 18	Pink Talking Fish	Terminal West
Monday, Feb. 19	The Dead South	The Eastern
Wednesday, Feb. 21	Carbon Leaf	City Winery
Thursday, Feb. 22	Tristan Tritt	Aisle 5
Thursday, Feb. 22	Cat Power sings Dylan	The Eastern
Thursday, Feb. 22	Dwight Yoakam	Cobb Energy Center
Thursday, Feb. 22	Lilly Hiatt	Vinyl
Friday, Feb. 23	Marc Broussard	The Eastern
Feb 23-24	Pigeons Playing Ping Pong	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, Feb. 24	Flatland Cavalry	Buckhead Theatre
Saturday, Feb. 24	Kolton Moore & the Clever Few	Vinyl
Saturday, Feb. 24	Josiah and the Bonnevilles	Terminal West
Sunday, Feb. 25	Shemekia Copeland	City Winery
Tuesday, Feb. 27	Hurray for the Riff Raff	Masquerade - Hell
Thursday, Feb. 29	The Pleasures	Eddie's Attic
Thursday, Feb. 29	Paul Thorn & Steve Poltz	City Winery
Thursday, Feb. 29	The Kooks	Tabernacle
Mar. 1-2	Billy Strings	State Farm Arena
Saturday, Mar. 2	Skydog Gypsy	Aisle 5
Sunday, Mar. 3	Jon Batiste	Tabernacle
Mar. 3 & 5	Dave Mason's Traffic Jam	City Winery
Monday, Mar. 4	The Kills	Variety Playhouse
Monday, Mar. 4	Magnolia Express	RootStock
Friday, Mar. 8	JJ Grey & Mofro	The Eastern
Saturday, Mar. 9	Sleater-Kinney	The Eastern
Saturday, Mar. 9	Frankly Scarlet	The Garden Room
Saturday, Mar. 9	Cold War Kids	Buckhead Theatre
Saturday, Mar. 9	The Floozies	Tabernacle
Monday, Mar. 11	Maurice "Mobetta" Brown	City Winery
Monday, Mar. 11	Mahalia	Buckhead Theatre
Tuesday, Mar. 12	Jenny Lewis	The Eastern
Mar. 12-13	Josh Ritter	City Winery
Wednesday, Mar. 13	Bikini Trill	Aisle 5
Friday, Mar. 15	Sweet Melissa's Blues Revue	Will Henry's Tavern
Saturday, Mar. 16	Hippie Sabotage	Tabernacle
Saturday, Mar. 16	Hermanos Gutierrez	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, Mar. 16	Guster	The Eastern
Wednesday, Mar. 20	Nicki Minaj	State Farm Arena
Thursday, Mar. 21	Doom Flamingo	Terminal West
Thursday, Mar. 21	Jeff Sipe Trio	FTE
Saturday, Mar. 23	Sam Burchfield & The Scoundrels	Terminal West
Sunday, Mar. 24	Joshua Radin	City Winery
Monday, Mar. 25	Magnolia Express	Moonshadow
Tuesday, Mar. 26	Jake Blount	Eddie's Attic
Tuesday, Mar. 26	Pat Metheny	ASO
Wednesday, Mar. 27	Joe Satriani and Steve Vai	ASO
Mar. 28-31	Jason Isbell & the 400 Unit	Tabernacle
Thursday, Mar. 28	Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox	ASO
Thursday, Mar. 28	Kurt Vile and the Violators	Variety Playhouse
Friday, Mar. 29	PHYPHR	Aisle 5
Saturday, Mar. 30	Just Roxie	Eddie's Attic
Saturday, Mar. 30	Busta Rhymes	The Roxy

Lake Claire

Land Trust Notes

“Dead of Winter” Dance at the E Church, Sat. Feb. 10: It’s our annual indoor FUNdraiser to kick off the year! Join Lake Claire Resident-Emeritus Bill Fleming and his Ex-P.A.N.D. Band for a hot evening on a cold night, packed with vintage rock’n’roll and sweaty dancing (or listening and socializing, for the sedentary set). Beer, wine and soft drinks will be available for sale; bring a potluck dish to share if you can (and washable plates and utensils if you plan to eat). Doors open at 7 p.m., music starts at 7:30. \$15 suggested donation. First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Drive NE, Atlanta 30307. Come early if you can help set up, stay afterward to help re-set the space for Sunday morning services.

New Board Meeting Schedule: Starting this month, the Land Trust board is shifting its monthly meeting to the 2nd Sunday of the month, from 10 to 11 a.m. We hope this will better accommodate our neighbors who have children and are busy getting them to bed on school nights. Join us on Sunday, Feb. 11 at the Gorilla Grill (with the heater on) to inaugurate the new schedule. We are committed to keeping our meetings to one hour. A Fundraising Committee meeting will follow at 11:00 a.m., for those interested in helping us meet our financial challenges. All attendees are encouraged to speak up and join the discussion whenever you have something to contribute.

New LCCLT Logo Contest! Artists and designers of Lake Claire, take note! Looking ahead to the Peace & Love Spring Fest on April 13, we’ll need a new print run of Land Trust T-shirts. Why not a brand new Land Trust logo to decorate them? Our current logo by Roger Swift has served us well, but the creative talents of our community are an endlessly renewable resource, and it’s time to give someone else a turn. Submit your designs by Friday, Feb. 8 to info@LCCLT.org.

Magazine Exchange: If you’ve enjoyed the free magazines in the Land Trust restroom, you’ll be sorry to hear that our source has dried up, and they will no longer be replenished. In their place, we are now inviting you to bring your own magazines, once you’ve read them, and leave them on the restroom shelves for others to take. Family-friendly publications only! And please do your best to keep it neat.

The Price of Daffodil Bulbs Reduced! Two varieties: Ice Follies (white) & Carltons (yellow), both from highly respected family-owned Brent & Becky’s nursery. Order at Linktr.ee/lcclt using Paypal or Venmo, including email address. We’ll provide Lake Claire porch pick-up upon receipt. Each bag: 10 bulbs. 1 bag: \$5 / 2 bags: \$10 / 3 bags: \$15. Thanks for supporting the Land Trust while beautifying Lake Claire!

The details of the upcoming series are still being ironed out, but please keep an eye out for updates at www.LCCLT.org/new-events. We’ll see y’all there!

A Tarot Journey with Chakura Kineard

by Amber D. Corbett

Chakura Kineard joined us for some “Introduction to Tarot” classes last year, and we’re very excited to announce that she’ll be back soon with a reimagined Tarot series. Chakura is a spiritual artist and Tarot reader sharing her journey and insights with us, and we’re so thrilled to have her as part of the programming family at the Land Trust.

In an interview with Chakura for verygoodlight.com, Emily Sharp sums it up well. “Tarot is a pack of cards that are used to offer practi-

tioners and patrons guidance and answers to sometimes unanswerable questions.” The captivating, beginner-friendly Tarot classes that Chakura offers will provide a unique crash course, blending universal symbols with personal experiences to foster a diverse learning community for ages 13+.

Tarot, for Chakura, is a narrative of the hero’s journey that everyone can relate to. “We will fall in

Cont. on p. 15

Lake Claire Community Land Trust Presents
Winter Dance FUNdraiser



FEATURING E.X.P.A.N.D. BAND

Saturday, Feb. 10 / 7-11pm
\$15 Suggested Donation

First Existentialist Congregation
470 Candler Park Drive NE 30307

PUT ON YOUR DANCING SHOES AND JOIN US!
 PLEASE BRING A POTLUCK DISH TO SHARE
 (INCLUDING INGREDIENT CARD). BEER, WINE AND SOFT
 DRINKS FOR SALE. WE’LL SEE Y’ALL THEN!
 (Please bring washable plates and utensils if you plan to eat.)

What Is Seimei?

by Lisa Vitello

Seimei is a non-touch healing art, and it’s coming to the Lake Claire Community Land Trust! On February 10, the Land Trust will host a free Seimei demonstration to introduce our community to the practice, and more specifically its utility in pain management.

Seimei is a Buddhist healing art that utilizes the third aspect of our human selves, the first two being body and mind. In Seimei, this third aspect is called our Houjyu, which is also known as the spirit, soul, or life force. Seimei is a non-touch art that works on the outer border of the body, the Rinkaisen. This peripheral layer is approximately 12-14 inches on each side of the frame, often referred to as the outer limit of the auric field. Recipients are first asked where they are feeling discomfort, pain or sickness, which will be the focus. They are then scanned for the root of the issue(s), as pain and illness are often the result of a weakness in another portion of the body: an organ, or a bodily system like the lymph, circulatory, or nervous systems. Any additional problem areas are then scanned as well.

Chronic symptoms take time to reverse, so in this demo the focus will be on newer symptoms, as they show faster results. The practitioner will first ask the level of pain, in order to gauge properly the improvement in the session. He will work on the affected system, and then ask for the level of change in discomfort. As the practice of Seimei is empirical, the goal is to obtain real changes in pain levels, range of motion, and other symptoms. Seimei practitioners have gotten verifiable improved results, including relieving congestion at this time of year.

Sounds intriguing, doesn’t it? If so, please join us at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust to experience this transformative modality, and to learn more about the practice. Saturday, February 10 at noon at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust, in the Gorilla Grill. You can read more about Seimei here seimeifoundation.org/, or contact Tim McGahren directly at 770.296.3187.

As this Clarion went to the printer in mid-January, please check www.lcclt.org/ for any updates!

Community Land Trust

Land Trust Sustainers Are Our Bottom Line

by Miriam Herbers

In last month's Clarion you heard from LCCLT communications director Stephen Wing that the aging of the founders has necessitated hiring people to do what was once done by volunteers. Our payroll is increasing year-by-year as we add new paid positions. Last month, when Land Trust treasurer Brynan Hadaway presented the budget for 2024, we learned that there may be a small deficit, which we can cover with savings if we must. The Spring and Fall music festivals will probably provide what we need—that is, if the weather cooperates.

But the weather is not dependable. What is dependable are the Land Trust Sustainers who donate a certain amount each month. I know you have heard the spiel from public radio fund drives; it is true. We love and appreciate every donation, of any amount. But it is the funds we can depend on monthly that make it possible to project the revenue we need to meet our known expenses.

Right now, our Sustainers cover

just a small part of what it costs to pay the people who are keeping the books, handling our website and social media, groundskeeping, and other necessary projects. If you have ever thought that you love having this little patch of greenspace under permanent conservation easement in your neighborhood and your life, but don't have the time or energy to scatter wood chips, pull weeds, dig up kudzu, prune trees, or do other physical work, we understand. But there is still something you can do that would be fantastic. You could consider becoming a Land Trust Sustainer. The most common amount is \$10-\$25 a month, but any amount is definitely helpful. You'll find a "Donate" button at the bottom of any page at *LCCLT.org*, which takes you to PayPal. Just click "make it monthly."

If we can get up to 100 sustaining members, it would go a long way toward reaching the goal of hiring a manager to oversee the running of the Land Trust (including fundraising). If you have an idea for a grant

or, better yet, can write a grant yourself, that would be great. If you have an idea to help the Land Trust build up an endowment that pays dividends, that would be a happy dream come true.

The Lake Claire Community Land Trust is where "community makes it happen" – whether by pitching in to help do the work, or by pitching in financially to make sure the work gets done. Everyone's contribution counts. Thanks for your support!



Upcoming and Ongoing at the Land Trust . . . February Events

Sat., Feb. 3: Land Trust Drum Circle, 8–11 p.m. (and every month on 1st Sat.), \$5 donation requested. No alcohol, please. *Rain date: Sat. Feb. 17.*

Sat., Feb. 10: Seimei class, noon, see article on Page 14.

Sat., Feb. 10: Dead of Winter Dance, 7–11 p.m., featuring the Ex-P.A.N.D. Band, First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Dr. Atlanta 30307. Music starts at 7:30 p.m. \$15 suggested donation. See Land Trust Notes on Page 14 for more details.

Sun., Feb. 11: LCCLT board meeting, 10–11 a.m. (and every month on the 2nd Sunday) in the Gorilla Grill. All are welcome to sit in and speak up—it takes a community to run a community greenspace! Come in person or contact us at *info@LCCLT.org* for a Zoom link. Fair weather location: picnic table in the Greenfield. **Note new meeting time!** See Land Trust Notes.

Sun., Feb. 11: Death Café with Denise Johnson, 3–4:30 p.m. Gorilla Grill (or outdoors if weather permits). Denise Johnson of EOL (End of Life) 101 LLC. hosts an informal conversation about death and dying, with hot drinks & snacks. Free.

Tues., Feb. 13: Community Potluck, 6:30 p.m. (and every month on the 13th) in the Gorilla Grill (with the heater on!). Bring your own reusable dinnerware, and something to share if you can, Please label your ingredients.

Sat., Feb. 17: Community Work Day, 1–4 p.m. (and every month on the 3rd Saturday). Bring drinking water and work gloves. Pizza follows. *Rain date: Sat., Feb. 24.*

Update on Blessing Bags of Warmth

This picture shows just a portion of what was picked up one day at the end of January by *Blessing Bags of Warmth's* founder Sherri McCoy. Sherri gave out the first batch to unhoused folks in less than 24 hours! She is truly a wonderful person. Thank you profusely to all who donated warm clothing items! Info at *www.blessingbagsofwarmth.com/*.



Tarot Journey

Continued from page 14.

love (VI - The Lovers), have dreams and wishes (XVII - The Star Card), and we struggle with excess and the shadow sides of life (XV - The Devil). You are the characters; life is the story." Addressing hesitations about trusting Tarot, Chakura reminds us that Tarot is a versatile tool embraced by individuals from diverse backgrounds. She believes that people should follow their own paths and do what feels right for them.

As we delve into the history of Tarot, we find the endorsement of Carl Jung, the father of analytic psychology, who believed in the benefits of a Tarot practice to underscore the

synergy between mental health and metaphysical work in a holistic healing paradigm. Chakura's journey, intertwined with the rich tapestry of Tarot, invites us to explore the mysteries, connect with our intuition, and embark on a transformative adventure through the cards. Chakura shares her initiation guided by intuitive mediums and encourages aspiring readers to start with a personal deck. She advocates reading one's own Tarot, emphasizing the empowering act of keeping a journal of questions and card meanings for clarity.



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER

We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers, writers, and artists to participate in our 'hood. Our featured artist this month is Lena Aprati, who won the extra credit prize previously for telling us her favorite things in

December are candy canes and Christmas. Lena is in the first grade and lives on McLendon. She said about this drawing in honor of Valentine's month, "Love is for everyone," and then added, "you can spread love to anyone and everyone."

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 February 15-18 for the MARCH issue.



Lena, featured artist

Contest Winners

I'm sad to report, no one won the Kids' Page Contest this month; it

was really tricky trying to find the graphic of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., hidden in the pictures of the Arts Fair! To all Lake Claire kids, do keep

reading the Kids' Page and sending in your guesses. See our new contest below left.

New Contest

Hello, Kids! Somewhere in this newspaper is a picture of a polar bear, our hidden graphic this month. International Polar Bear Day is an annual event celebrated every February 27 to raise awareness about the conservation status of polar bears. The winner/winners will have their pictures in the next Clarion. It is February, and we want you to be *our* valentine!

To win, send e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org, identifying the page number where you find the polar bear, 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.) For extra credit, tell us anything else you like about February, or what you do to help the environment. 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 FEBRUARY 15-18. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.

