



Photo by Andy's daughter Cora Weeks.

Why not both? The Two Careers of Andy Weeks

by Jane Branscomb

Allow me to introduce Andy Weeks, an oil painter and attorney who lives in Lake Claire with his wife, Elisabeth, and their two daughters.

Andy and Elisabeth have been together since high school. When he graduated from Atlanta College of

Art (now SCAD Atlanta), he joined her in New Orleans for her final year of architecture school at Tulane. Out of college, they moved to California. Why? "Because we were kids," says

Cont. on p. 8

Two+ Homes in Lake Claire

by Beth Damon

This is the fifth installment of our fascinating series on Lake Claire neighbors who have lived in two or more homes in Lake Claire. This month we feature Vicki and Brandon Smith on Harold Avenue. They moved into 498 Harold in June 2006. They had been training for a marathon in the 'hood with their friends Adam Cohen and Glenn Frankel (end of Harold and Muriel at the time) for several months. Vicki reminisced, "Each time we ran by 498 Harold, I said to my husband, "That's the kind of house I love!" I had no clue it was Craftsman style; I just knew it was what I pictured a "home" looked like."

Not many months later they saw the house was for sale and went to see it. "We didn't leave the showing!" Vicki exclaimed. "We literally parked in front of the house and stayed there while several other couples toured the house. Our agent was furiously getting a deal together for us because

this was the height of the housing boom.

We LOVED the charm of the 1930s home, and we felt like we landed a big fish being in the neighborhood with so many eclectic homes and Frazer Forest right across the street. We LOVED Bill Fleming's street jams, and we slowly & surely got to know our neighbors."

Years went by, and Brandon and Vicki had been there for 10 years seeing every home around them being renovated. Vicki's brother and sister-in-law were relocating, and they started seeing open-concept homes when they toured places together. Even though it's just the two of them, and they did not "need" any more space, Vicki and Brandon started looking too.

"We actually found a home in Kirkwood and put an offer on it, and

Cont. on p.11

******Save the Date!******

Lake Claire Annual Arts & Crafts Sale/Stroll

The 5th Annual Lake Claire Arts and Crafts Sale as a walking/porch event is coming on Saturday, December 7, rain or shine!

For any new folks to the 'hood, this event involves artists/vendors/food/music located at homes and other outside places in the central part of the Lake Claire neighborhood. The event is predominantly about the artists and crafters exhibiting and selling their creations, and benefiting public schools, and we have delicious food trucks as well as kid-bakers and other culinary delights. And our small group of talented musicians performs for free and adds great atmosphere.

The only entry requirement to participate in this event is the agreement to donate 10% of your proceeds, which we then donate to some of the Midtown Cluster Elementary Schools, with a small portion to Lake Claire Neighbors for reimbursement

of expenses/hosting. Consider your rain plan in advance (e.g., prearrange stand-alone tents for yourselves if you aren't on a covered porch).

Seeking Volunteers: We are a very small committee, always stretched thin. If you are able to volunteer for tasks (e.g., arranging porta-potties, food trucks, sponsors, errands such as picking up from copy center), please contact lakeclaire-craftfair@gmail.com.

Sponsors: Business folks, please advise if your business would be interested in being a sponsor. The amount is up to you. Sponsors' monies pay for porta-potties, flyers, and other necessities, with the balance going to the schools. Write to lakeclaire-craftfair@gmail.com.

Cont. on p. 11

Roundabouts Coming to Ponce de Leon Avenue

by Kevin H. Posey

If you live in Lake Claire, or really anywhere in Atlanta, you know how dangerous Ponce de Leon Avenue is between Moreland Avenue and Scott Boulevard. When Frederick Law Olmstead designed the parks along it over a hundred years ago, the road was meant to be a pleasant parkway. Unfortunately, the Georgia Department of Transportation, which controls this road, turned it into a high-capacity thru-route allowing those living in the eastern suburbs to zoom into Atlanta.

In what might be an act of contrition, GDOT is trying to fix this notorious corridor so that it is safer to use. You may have gotten a card in the mail that has a QR code linking to their plan, which centers on roundabouts at key intersections. Roundabouts are considered safer

than intersections with traffic lights and stop signs because collisions are usually offset, not the dreaded "t-bone" type that so often prove fatal. Vehicles entering the roundabout are required to yield to traffic in the circle, but don't have to come to a complete stop if traffic is clear.

Going west to east, the first roundabout will be at the intersection with East Lake Road. The second will be at the start of Scott Boulevard. Both will add pedestrian crossings on all sides, but persuading motorists to stop for people using those crosswalks may be a problem. This is due to the gentle-to-nonexistent vertices in GDOT's designs that allow motorists to enter and exit the roundabout at some points without really slow-

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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.

Calendar for September

See the variety of neighborhood events at the Land Trust (Page 14).

Note: Frazer Forest Volunteer Workday with Trees Atlanta cancelled for September.

- 1-15** Horizon Theatre presents *Wild with Happy*, by Colman Domingo. www.horizontheatre.com/
- 10** Dine-Out with Naan Stop to Support the Mary Lin PTA. 20% of the profits go to Mary Lin. See details Page 3.
- 11-29** Theatrical Outfit presents *A Raisin' in The Sun*, www.theatricaloutfit.org/raisin-sun/
- 19** 7:15 p.m. Lake Claire Neighbors monthly meeting. Hybrid, Zoom & Frazer Center Rose Room, 1815 S. Ponce. See

lakeclaire.org for info and Zoom link. Always 3rd Thursday of the month.

- 19** Creek Rising, South Fork Conservancy's premier benefit event at Zonolite Park, 5-7:30 p.m. See details Page 3.
- 21** Fiddler's Green (every 3rd Saturday at the E Church). 7 p.m., fantastic folk and Americana musicians. aaffm.org/aaffm-events/
- Oct. 3-27** Actor's Express: *A 3rd Way*, by Lee Osorio, actors-express.com/play-page-a-third-way/

Save the dates:

- November 10, 2-5 p.m., Frazer Fall Festival, Cator Woolford Gardens; see details Page 5.
- December 7 - Lake Claire Arts Fest Stroll, see Page 1; start registering.

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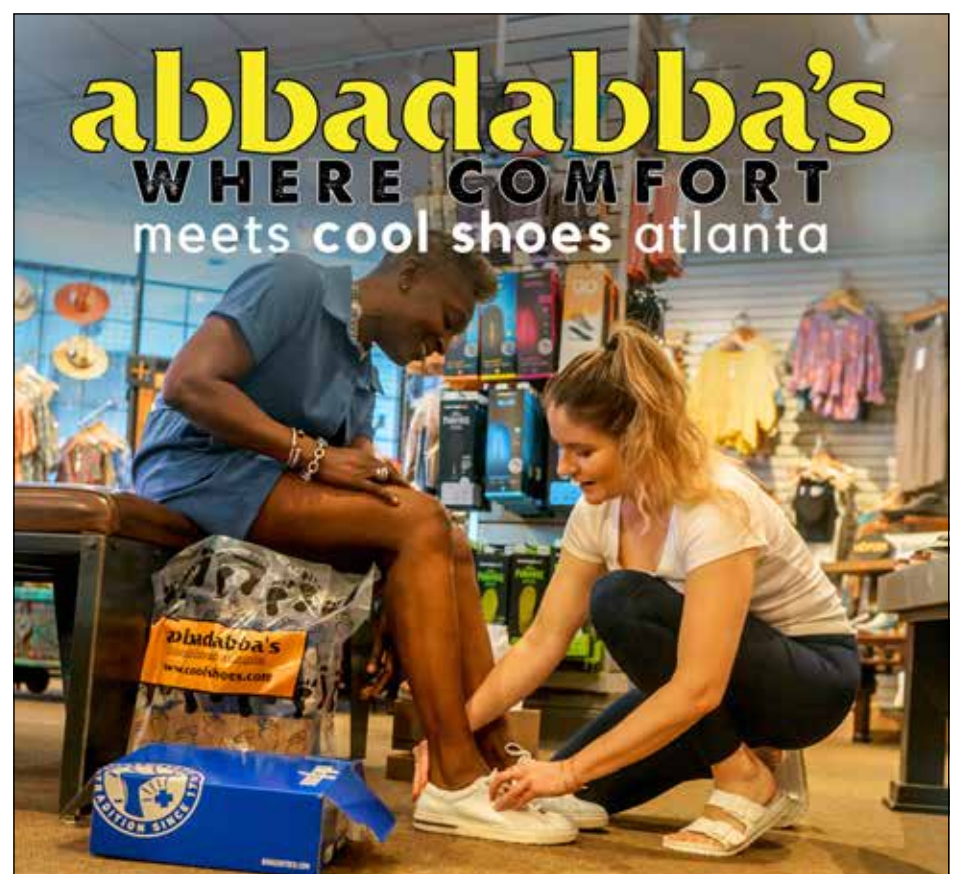
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Learning from Neighbors – Jean Bean

by Jordan Braunig

Since moving to Lake Claire in 2020, I have loved getting to know the creative and kind people who call this neighborhood home. Though we arrived in the midst of the pandemic, in a time of quarantine and distance, the warmth of neighbors could be felt even from six feet away. Whether it was a neighbor sharing some extra tomato seedlings, or helping me build a trellis for our blackberries, or gifting us an old trampoline, from our first days in Lake Claire we have benefited from the wisdom and generosity of neighbors. The truth is that the people that I've gotten to know best since moving here are often the people with whom I've undertaken a project. It was this realization that made me want to write in the Clarion about learning from neighbors. I hope that occasional articles on learning from neighbors will give me an extra push to meet neighbors and an extra push to learn new skills. There are so many things I want to learn how to do: how to build a greenhouse, how to drive a stick shift, how to make kombucha that doesn't taste like vinegar, and how to plant a perennial garden that doesn't look patchy and pathetic.

Recently, I had the good fortune of getting to learn about house-painting from my neighbor, Jean Bean. Some people have names that let you know that you're going to like them, and that's how I feel about Jean Bean. Jean is a real gem of a human being, not just because her name rhymes, but because she is warm and funny and honest. And, as it turns out... she's a gifted painter and a patient teacher.

We met Jean, who lives just around the corner on Hardendorf, because she would occasionally walk dogs when folks were out of town. But it was when Jean painted our across-the-street neighbors' house before it went on the market that we learned that she was a skilled interior painter. As it turns out, we had a few rooms that could use a freshen-



ing up and new coat of paint, so we asked Jean if she'd like the gig (Jean is retired after a career working for Fulton County). What she didn't know when she said yes was that I had hopes of apprenticing. Affable and kind, Jean was happy to take me on as a student.

She started me out on the easy stuff, lining the windows and door frames with painters' tape, removing the outlet plates, dusting the baseboards. If I thought that I was going to get off easy with just doing prep work, Jean had other ideas. She put a brush in my hand and told me that I would start with "cutting in." This, she explained to me, was the more precise painting that happened around the edges, in the spots that the roller couldn't get to. She taught me how to get the paintbrush full of paint, but not so wet that it would drip. Not every house painter is an art school grad, but it is fun to learn from someone who has a deep relationship to paint. She taught me to feather the paint out; I had never feathered paint before. We talked as we worked. I heard about her childhood in Ohio, art school, a stint in

Cont. on p. 12

Dine-Outs to Support the Mary Lin PTA

Please support Mary Lin PTA and generous local restaurants who participate in this program the whole school year, AND, of course, have delicious food while doing so! This month there is only one: September 10, with Naan Stop. 20% of the cost of your meals will go to Mary

Lin PTA. The URL to order food was not available as of Clarion's going to press; please check the Lake Claire/Candler Park Facebook page or contact Aviva Berman at avivaberman@gmail.com. Save the date, and spread the word.

Estate Planning? Me? Why Estate Planning for Families isn't Just for the Wealthy

by Jodi Greenberg, J.D.

"If I don't have a lot of money, I don't have to worry about estate planning, do I?"

This is one of the most common feelings about making a will. Many consider the estate tax the overriding reason to have a will. True, some fortunate people desire an estate plan to accommodate and reduce estate tax liability, but this tax currently affects couples with a net worth over \$27 million. That leads us back to the question: why do it?

The truth is, a lot of pain can be avoided and many benefits achieved through good planning. Two examples:

1. If you die without a will, your property is given out based on de-

fault rules, which may not match how you would choose. Those with children are often surprised to find that the default rule is to divide all assets among their spouse and children, with the result of the children potentially co-owning your accounts and family home with your spouse.

2. If your children are minors, a court-appointed conservator must administer any assets they would receive with strict court oversight and limitations, and once your child turns 18, he or she will receive all property to do with as he or she pleases. This can be burdensome on the surviving parent until the children turn 18. Ad-

Cont. on p. 11



Rise Up for Creek Rising 2024!

by Tracy Frank

Looking forward to cooler weather and some fun to welcome fall this year? Look no further than Creek Rising, South Fork Conservancy's premier benefit event at Zonolite Park on September 19, from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Friends of South Fork Conservancy come together annually to support and celebrate the health of the creek and trails that connect neighborhoods along the creek, from the Atlanta Beltline to Tucker. This year, we have more exciting progress to report and celebrate!

In addition to a scrumptious meal and festive drinks, there will be chances to bid on cool getaways, gourmet restaurants, artisan quilts, and beautiful art. Don't forget about the exciting raffle prizes, including a Big Green Egg, an encounter with sea lions at the Georgia Aquarium, and a sunset tour of the Beltline. Plus, the biggest rubber duck race in Atlanta!

As you walk along the Zonolite

paths, Virginia Highland Plein Air artists will be painting scenes of the creek, and musicians will serenade you. To learn more about the history of the creek, visit with local archaeologists, who will show you incredible artifacts they've found in the creek over the years.

Purchase individual tickets to the event or become a Host or event Sponsor. Whatever you do, don't miss out on the fun! southforkconservancy.org/creek-rising-2024. Please see more info on Page 6.

Editor's note: Tracy and her husband Todd have lived at 309 Gordon for 2 years, having moved from Los Angeles. Todd is in the entertainment industry, which is why they moved here, and Tracy is a Life Coach for Women. They absolutely love Lake Claire and say that people have been so welcoming and have become very close friends.



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Dekalb Commission Considering Important Ordinances to Restrict Transient Animal Sales and Breeding

by Scott McLane (slightly edited reprint from *Decaturish*)

Animal overpopulation and overcrowding of animal shelters have been front of mind lately, and the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners is considering legislation regulating animal breeding and sales. The legislation would prohibit transient and outdoor sales of some animals and would establish a companion animal litter permit. The county operations committee discussed the legislation on July 22 and deferred both pieces of legislation for 30 days. The draft animal litter permit ordinance states that the county commission has found and declared there is a problem with pet overpopulation in the county “that has resulted in a threat to public safety and health, inhumane treatment of animals, mass killing of animals at the local animal shelters, and escalating costs for animal care and control.”

Lifeline Animal Services, the organization that operates the shelters in DeKalb and Fulton Counties, recently announced the DeKalb shelter took in a record number of animals in July. About 1,005 animals came into the DeKalb County Animal Services shelter last month. That exceeds the DeKalb shelter’s capacity by about 500 animals. Of note, 451 of the animals were lost dogs. As of Aug. 5, there were 555 dogs and 125 cats at the shelter. DeKalb County Animal Services also had 702 dogs and 193 cats in foster homes. The optimum capacity for the DeKalb shelter is 475

pets, according to a spokesperson for Lifeline. (*Editor’s Note: The shelter was built in 2017 to house 325 dogs. There are 30 dogs in a room built to house cats!!*)

Uncontrolled breeding has been one cause of overpopulation, and “the commissioners find that part of the solution that regulation of the transfer of dogs and cats will help alleviate the county’s pet overpopulation crisis by allowing the county to permit Companion Animals Litters and overseeing the means of obtaining a dog or cat,” the draft ordinance states.

Claudine Wilkins, a former prosecutor and animal law expert, is working with the county on these animal-related pieces of legislation. She is trying to solve at least one problem in DeKalb—unregulated breeding.

“To give you an idea of what we’re trying to do is not to punish legitimate breeders,” Wilkins said during the July 22 OPS meeting. “We’re talking about the people who go unregulated and don’t care about genetic matching, showing their dogs, standards, and confirmation.” She added that having a companion animal litter permit would help protect animals, legitimate breeders, and consumers. It would also “stop the flood of animals into the shelters,” she said. Some highlights of the animal litter permit requirement in the draft ordinance are:

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DeAnna Julian, Frazer Center’s New CEO

Frazer Center Welcomes New CEO

by Dina Shadwell

The Frazer Center Board of Directors has named DeAnna Julian as Frazer’s new Chief Executive Officer.

She began her tenure on July 15. Julian comes to Frazer Center after serving as Executive Director of The Arc of Southwest Georgia, an organization committed to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities. She has extensive experience working with people with disabilities as an educator, service coordinator, and nonprofit administrator, with a background in both early childhood education and adult services.

Julian earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Special Education and Teaching from Georgia Southwestern State University, and her Master’s Degree in Education and Transition Services from the University of Kansas. She is a committed advocate for people with disabilities. As president-elect of Service Providers Association for Developmental Disabilities (SPADD), Julian collaborates with

Georgia’s public and private advocacy organizations and policymakers to positively influence the quality of life for people with disabilities and their families, including through day-to-day services such as those provided by the Frazer Center.

“We could not be happier about DeAnna joining Frazer Center to lead it through its next stages of growth,” says Greg Sale, Frazer Board Chair. “Her wealth of knowledge, her connections, and her experience with both children and adults with disabilities make her uniquely qualified to serve as Frazer Center CEO.”

“Words cannot express my enthusiasm and gratitude for this incredible opportunity to serve as the new CEO for the Frazer Center, a leading organization with a mission and vision that I truly believe in,” says DeAnna Julian. “The Frazer Center has a rich history of leadership and inclusivity that spans across decades. I feel we are well positioned to continue that great legacy, and I am so excited to lead the next chapter of creating a lasting impact for the communities we serve.”

Neighbors walking through Frazer Forest may occasionally see DeAnna with her 5-year-old Australian/Shepherd mix, Lexi, on a leash of course! If you would like to reach out and welcome her to the neighborhood, her email address is d.julian@frazercenter.org.

Editor’s note: Frazer’s volunteer day with Trees Atlanta is cancelled for September. Also, please mark calendars for Frazer Fall Festival, Sunday, November 10, 2–5 p.m., Cator Woolford Gardens; it includes sensory play activities, crafts, seasonal food and drinks, face-painting, music, and more. For infants to preschoolers. Hosted by the Frazer Center Parent Teacher Action Committee.



of the guests. It is a safe place to be.”

We are grateful for Troy and know he will make a difference in the community when he leaves our program.

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

by Lori White

People often wonder how someone becomes homeless. Here is a short bit about one of our guests, Troy H., and his story of how he is making the most of his experience here at Clifton.

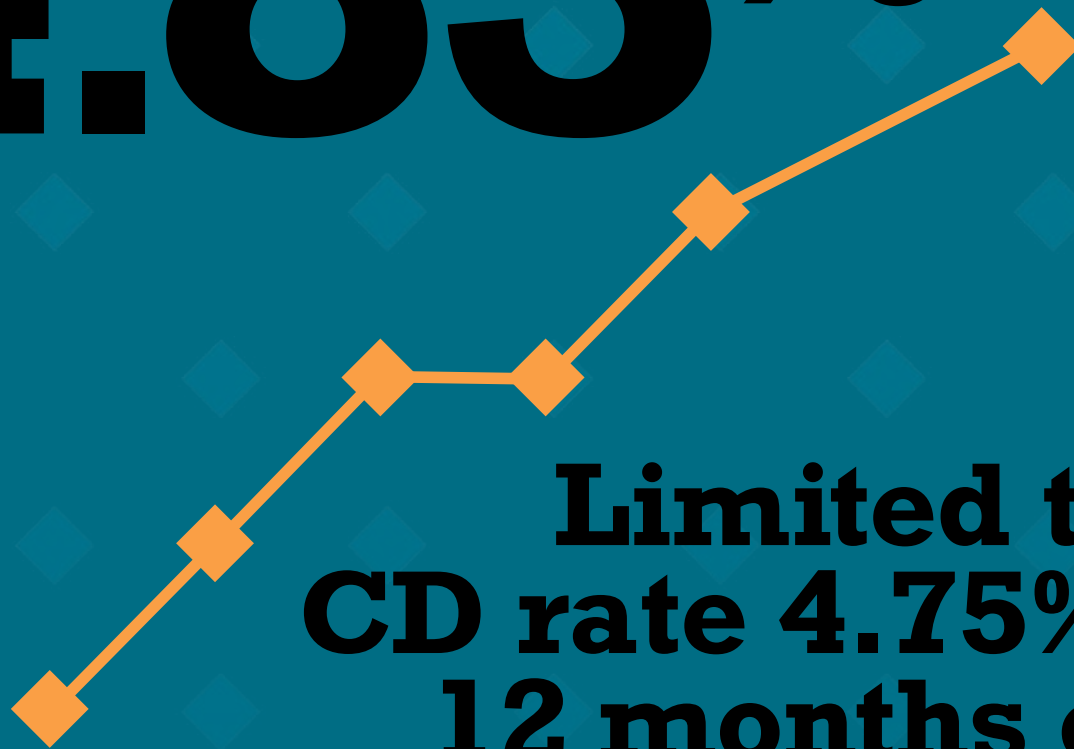
Troy became incarcerated for a crime he did not commit and waited two years for his trial. He did not take a plea deal because he knew he was innocent. While in jail, he lost his family, job, and eyesight. Troy struggled with diabetes, and with the combination of an unhealthy diet in jail and no medical treatment, he became almost completely blind. Once his trial came, Troy was found innocent and released with nowhere to go. He was dropped off at the Atlanta Rescue Mission and referred by

First Presbyterian Church to Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. Once he got settled in at Clifton, we were able to help him obtain necessary paperwork to get eye surgery at Grady. Troy now has restored vision, and he continues his journey of regaining mental stability—and hope. With the help of the staff, his Social Security, Medicaid, and Disability payments have been reinstated. He says, “I pray every morning and night.”

Troy’s goals moving forward are to give back to the community by working in a non-profit organization that helps others. He says, “Clifton is the best in Atlanta. You can relax and feel at home. They have good staff that help with the needs and wants

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Wild in Lake Claire

by Sara Gottlieb

I've added a new tool to my wildlife-observation toolbox—a trailcam. This is simply a motion-activated camera housed in a weather-proof box that can be mounted anywhere you want to capture photos, short videos, or time-lapse sequences of activity in a fixed location. I originally got the trailcam to determine what sort of critters have been pilfering tomatoes and pawpaws from my garden, but I set it up in my backyard the other day to see who uses the birdbath I set up a few months ago. Just before I sat down to write this column, I was reviewing the photos from the last 24 hours and found the first photo in the sequence featured a beautiful red-shouldered hawk landing on the birdbath and splashing water out before taking a drink (see photo by Sara below). What a nice surprise.

Another unexpected backyard surprise recently was a large raccoon, ambling along the top of the fence in my backyard, which is topped with barbed wire (see photo by Wade H. below). I was inside, chatting with a friend who had come to visit from out of town when my husband stopped us and exclaimed that we had to look outside to see what was going on. The raccoon had climbed up there to eat the berries on a big poke plant growing through the fence, but then could not seem to figure out how to get down. It wandered back and forth, and we even went outside and tried offering it a broom handle propped against the fence as a ramp to climb down, but eventually it found a way behind the tree that grows on both sides of the fence and made its way through my neighbor's yard.

Something I've been noticing since

as soon as it started to get warm is the large number of green anoles just about everywhere from my front stoop to the recesses of the garden. As the summer wore on, I started noticing a lot of tiny, juvenile anoles popping up just about everywhere outside (see photo by Sara at right). They must be finding conditions in Atlanta to their liking.

Meredith W. reports that she had what she believes was a yellow-bellied slider turtle laying eggs in her front yard. She was at it for at least a half-hour, digging with alternating back legs only about 20 feet from the street. It was an interesting choice of location, as Meredith has a large and wild backyard closer to the creek that she walked past to get to the busier front yard. Meredith put a wire cage over the nest after cutting holes in it for the baby turtles to crawl through once they hatch out.

Meredith also reports having seen a couple of fawns at Lullwater Preserve. Interestingly, there were at least two sets of twins last year, but she has only seen singletons this year. Meredith saw a raccoon in her yard, and two mink across the creek. She has also enjoyed seeing some baby green anoles and five-lined skinks shorter than her ring finger from the tip of their tails to the tips of their noses. So adorable. Meredith has seen a bald cardinal (no feathers above her shoulders), this one a mother with a loud baby to feed. It makes her think that raising young is stressful for everyone, though the feather loss may very well not be related to stress. Still, it makes Meredith smile when she sees her.

Meredith says she has seen TONS of spiders this summer—mostly the non-native, invasive Joros, but some others as well, including one gorgeous writing spider (*Argiope*) that she no longer takes for granted. During periods of rain, she has been enjoying



lots of beautiful fungi, and she just planted some Jerusalem artichokes to add to her growing list of native edibles. Finally, Meredith reports having heard a broad-winged hawk in or near her backyard, though she never got a glimpse of the bird.

B.S. has noticed the arrival of yellow finches (American goldfinches) in his yard. They usually come when the cone flowers have dried up, and the birds enjoy munching on the seeds. It's always exciting to have them back!

Bridget P. spotted a majestic tiger swallowtail butterfly in her joe pye weed plant. The pollinators go crazy for the flowers of this plant every year!

Andrew F. says that back in early June, his family took a short trip to Dahlenega and saw a range of mountain critters, including a groundhog, opossum, and white tail deer. Speaking of deer, he also saw a juvenile deer on a walk in early August in Thomson Park (small but has some of the best old growth forest inside the perimeter). He was walking looking up in the canopy, heard a rustle, turned and saw a deer was just about 12 feet from him, chowing down and seemingly unafraid. He took a video & some photos (one featured below) as the deer gradually grazed away

from him. Andrew also saw a ton of Joro spiders, which he didn't see in that forest last summer but have found their way there this year. He also unintentionally walked through one of their webs, and a Joro was on him momentarily. Although they're harmless to humans, it was pretty disconcerting having such a big spider on his torso!

A few other observations I had this summer worth mentioning include: a clearwing hummingbird moth on my bergamot, a luna moth on the side of a driveway on McLendon, lots of hummingbirds at my feeders and on various flowers in the garden, Gulf fritillary caterpillars on my passion-flower, black swallowtail caterpillars on my fennel, and all manner of bumble bees and carpenter bees on the flowers on my vegetable plants and native plants in the garden.

I didn't travel as much this summer as I sometimes do, but that certainly didn't diminish my ability to enjoy nature and spotting wildlife. As Gary Snyder, the poet and essayist said, "Nature is not a place to visit, it is home."

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



Two Careers of Andy Weeks

Continued from page 1.

Andy.

They reasoned that they'd never lived on the west coast, and if ever there were a time, this was it. They pointed their truck toward San Diego (which neither had ever visited) but were open to being seduced by someplace else along the way. Albuquerque's beauty almost did that, but they made it to San Diego, and there they stayed for 10 years.

The first in his family to complete college, Andy reckons he benefitted from parents who had no preconceived notions of what he should do there. "My folks were very enthusiastic and encouraging about whatever it was I wanted to do." Art school it was. He had always loved to draw and had created a comic book once in high school. So that field was his first thought for his future. But once in school he found that he excelled in his fine art drawing classes, which ultimately led him to painting.

During his school years, Andy says, the Atlanta College of Art encouraged a conceptual approach to artmaking. Afterward, he itched to break out of his academic frame and "mix it up; paint in a way that felt fun." In San Diego he took to painting plein air seascapes.

"I learned so much! It made me a way better painter. There was a kind of abstraction because you have to work quickly. It was like flying by the seat of my pants: I never knew what

I was going to get," he says of that period. He exhibited and sold some of his work, while earning the better part of his living as a teacher of art history and studio art.

The couple's next move was to New York, where Andy earned his master's degree in fine art at the Pratt Institute. More teaching followed. Andy had discovered that he enjoyed teaching more than he had expected to. Especially teaching art history. But, he says, "teaching for me was very physical and kind of exhausting, and I didn't know if I'd be great at it forever." He began looking at which of his skills he could leverage into another career. Signs pointed to law, though at first he did not take the idea too seriously. Eventually he decided, "Well, let me take the LSAT. I'm sure I'll do very poorly, and we can put that to rest." As it happened, he reports, "I really enjoyed studying for it! It tapped into this whole different part of my brain. And it made me think about how you tend to create a path for yourself if you have a talent, and you might ignore other talents."

Andy entered UGA law school with an interest in doing something related to intellectual property, et voila: today he is an in-house IP attorney at Coca-Cola. He says his art background helps him connect with the graphic designers and other creative folks he works with. In addition, he has done pro bono work in sup-



Karst, oil on canvas, 48" x 60"



The Old Man's Sleeve, oil on canvas, 20" x 32"

port of outside artists, serving on the board of Georgia Lawyers for the Arts and providing free counsel at several of their clinics.

"It's great to do because artists are often not in a position of strength in those situations, and they don't even know what their rights are." Also "they're not going to be in the same financial circumstances as the person who might be taking advantage of them."

But Andy's own painting life is not behind him. Actually, he was dismayed when some of his artist friends assumed that going to law school meant he was through painting. "It felt dismissive. I mean, whatever hours you're spending doing stuff, you want it to be stuff you really want to do. I found practicing law to be super satisfying, really enriching and great. And I don't see that as mutually exclusive to being a painter



Smoldering, oil on canvas, 12" x 12"



I Run to the Sea; It was Boilin', oil on canvas (diptych), total size 20" x 32"



The Heliades, oil on canvas, 32" x 40"

who takes painting seriously, too."

Andy similarly rejects a binary choice in terms of painting style. "I never saw the distinction some folks make between abstraction and realistic or naturalistic painting because the goals for me were the same regardless of what I was doing. It was always about how to make light and color work, and how to build a composition, regardless of whether there were a subject or not. If you look at my work now and stuff I did ten years

ago, you'll see I'm always flip-flopping back and forth between painting something so that it looks like 'a thing,' having a subject, and then just pure abstraction."

He continues, "Sometimes pure abstraction is very satisfying because I don't have to find a subject to paint or think, 'What is the content of this work?' It's just composition and color. But then I find I eventually will hit a wall where that doesn't feel satisfying, and I just don't have any idea



Pullman Yards #1, oil on linen, 30" x 36"

what to paint, so I need a subject."

Andy views it as healthy, as an artist, to be stylistically divergent. He takes inspiration in this from artists like Picasso, whose work from one five-year period to the next is "sporadic and crazy and risk-taking, and it's from a time when artmaking wasn't about career-building but almost the opposite: a Bohemian endeavor."

And there's the rub: "For me, subject is probably always part of the challenge of my making a successful career as a painter, doing it as my day job. Because I love to paint; it's really important to me. But what I

don't really love is the idea of building a brand for myself as an artist." Andy acknowledges that doing so is valuable for artists who can; and also that there's value in pushing an idea to continue to develop it. For him, the unifying objective in all of his paintings is to "use light and color to create depth of space and pull you in." That, he thinks, is what makes painting unique and powerful.

"If I go to a museum and I look at someone else's painting and I love it, usually what I love is that I can look at this thing, and it's simultaneously a surface that I can see was worked and built, and a space that I can kind of imagine myself into: I see it too."

More of Andy's work can be seen on Instagram at [Andy.Weeks.Art](https://www.instagram.com/andy.weeks.art/), www.instagram.com/andy.weeks.art/.

This article is part of the Lake Claire Creatives series about neighbors whom you might not know are talented individuals. Contact Jane-Branscomb@gmail.com to suggest that someone be featured or to volunteer to write for the series.



Submerged, oil on canvas, 16" x 20"

Need Clarion Volunteers

Seeking volunteer delivery folks for placing Clarions on neighbors' porches. Great way to get steps, and (high schoolers) to earn community credit. Time-sensitive delivery last week of each month, but no Clarion July & August. Even when current routes filled, need back-ups for when regular volunteers can't deliver by the first week of month. Email Alicia at distribution@lake-claire.org. We also welcome articles, and feedback. I hope everyone had a great summer. ~Beth D.



Cynthia's Average Listing in 30307

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More than One Lake Claire House

Continued from page 1.

it was accepted,” said Vicki, “but... walking around the neighborhood there I just didn’t feel like it was “home.” We got out of the contract and stayed put.”

Months later Vicki was getting Michael Lyman (on Harriet) to give them an estimate to redo their master bath, and he and his partner told her that the house three doors down on Harold was being renovated. It was a 1950s brick duplex and pretty run-down. The folks next door to it (Chris and Alex—they have since moved to LA) purchased the property, then decided not to renovate. There were plans drawn, but that was it. Later, as Brandon and Vicki were walking their dogs, she casually asked him if he could have everything he wanted in a house HERE in Lake Claire, would he ever consider renovating. He said “yes,” and Vicki was off and running!

They purchased the property from Chris and Alex and started renovations through Michael’s company that following September. Vicki remembers going over to clean up the yard and their 498 next door neighbors asking why in the world they cared about 476 and the yard! She said that she told them she and Brandon

were moving there, and “they were shocked. This was Craig and Emily Allen, who subsequently moved from Harold to Hardendorf years later!” Vicki and Brandon moved over the July 4 holidays in 2016, she notes, “with dollies and their own strong 40 something bodies!”

The 476 Harold home is a Prairie style home so much different than the Craftsman Vicki first fell in love with. They added a third floor to the duplex so that the main floor is completely open and airy. People continually use the word “Zen” when they describe the home. They have a massive 3-tiered retaining wall in the back yard that she used to call “The Great Wall of Lake Claire,” and through the years they have grown a pretty decent bushy garden back there. “We definitely don’t look like we are in the city of Atlanta!” Vicki smiled.

Vicki summarized their whole time living in Lake Claire, “From 2006 to now what I love about this neighborhood is the people. Our neighbors have always been so kind. They get our packages and keep up with our house when we are away. We get caught talking for 30 mins outside when all we might have intended to do is say “hey” and move on. I love the nature, the flowers,



Vicki and Brandon in front of 476 Harold

the sidewalks, Candler Park Market (whew! Has that saved us in many pinches when we needed eggs or salad fixings or...beer and wine!). Overall, we are grateful we signed up to run a marathon all those years ago because if we hadn’t we might never have landed in Lake Claire.”

We hope to feature many more personal histories in future issues. Please

contact me if you have lived in more than one house in Lake Claire, been in Lake Claire 30+ Years, or are a multi-generational owner living in or near the house in which you grew up. Anyone who fits one of those categories, please write editor@lakeclaire.org. Craig & Emily, you are “outed,” please write, and I personally know many more of you who fit —please contact me and keep this going! ~Beth

LC Annual Arts & Crafts Sale/Stroll

Continued from page 1.

lakeclairecraftfair@gmail.com. Sponsors’ logos will be prominently displayed in the Clarion and in social media, in order of donation amount. (Donations in the past have ranged from \$100 to \$1000.) Sponsors link: tinyurl.com/3a8sxn9y

Artists/Crafters: We are thrilled to invite you to participate once again—or for the first time—in this annual community event that benefits the whole neighborhood as well as our public schools. The **deadline to register as an artist is NOVEMBER 8. Artists of ALL ages are welcome. We love our younger participants!**

The streets included are: McLendon Avenue (south side only), Connecticut Ave., Delaware Ave., Arizona Ave., Indiana Ave., New York Ave., and Casson Street (limited to these streets in order to increase the foot traffic and walkability). So, Lake Claire residents will not necessarily be located at their own residences; we match artists with host homes on the designated streets. *If you do not live on one of these streets, we will assign you to a place on one of these streets.*

Product reminder: You must hand-make your items to be included in this craft fair; they cannot be handmade by anyone other than yourself; they cannot be made in another country.

Registration links are up and running, on the online Clarion, the LC/CP Facebook page, and the LC website. Meanwhile, if you have questions, our address is lakeclairecraftfair@gmail.com. Below are the registration links. Remember, confirmation from us is required: You will hear back from the LC Craft Fair within a week of your submission. If not, please email lakeclairecraftfair@gmail.com. Please do not assume your participation is confirmed until you receive the written confirmation.

Artist/Crafter Registration form:
tinyurl.com/2bhmf3fm

Host Registration form:
tinyurl.com/yhh4x437

Sponsor Registration form:
tinyurl.com/3a8sxn9y

We will announce further details in the October Clarion and on the Lake Claire website and Lake Claire/Candler Park Facebook page.

Estate Planning for Families

Continued from page 3.

ditional concerns arise at 18. As much as we love our children, very few of us would have entrusted our 18 year-old selves with a substantial chunk of money without any limitations.

A well drafted will can ensure the family members of your choice receive your assets at the time you think is appropriate. It can also set up a trust for anyone who is too young or immature to be expected to care for his or her own finances and appoint a trustee who can manage them on their behalf, provide for one’s children’s care, and transfer the money to them directly when, hopefully, they have reached the level of maturity you would have wanted.

Perhaps more importantly, a will allows you to declare your preference for your child’s guardian, which will generally be honored. Without a will, you have no say in your child’s guardian and leave it up to the Court to de-

cide which relative is best. This can sometimes lead to familial dispute even in the best cases, and can lead to your least favored relatives seeking custody in the worst cases.

While probate processes aren’t always easy, generally speaking, having a clearly drafted will is a responsible way to ensure your loved ones are taken care of with the least amount of stress and uncertainty.

Jodi Greenberg is a lawyer at Neal & Wright LLC, a law firm founded by two Lake Claire residents, Daniel S. Wright and Sherry Neal. Important disclaimer: This article is not legal advice and establishes no attorney-client relationship between the reader and the writer, nor may this information be relied upon to make legal decisions. Everyone’s situation is different. Please consult an attorney before making decisions about estate planning.

Learning from Neighbors – Jean Bean

Continued from page 3.

Charleston in her early twenties, a grad program that took her to Nebraska, how she met her wife (great story!), her work in local government, her love of fly fishing. It turns out painting is conducive to sharing, and we shared our stories freely.

When the “cutting in” is done,

the fun begins. Loading a roller with paint and getting to roll it across wide swaths of wall is a real delight. You want to work it diagonally. You can’t judge how the job is going to look when the paint is still wet. After the first coat, all the spots that need attention will jump out at you; usu-

ally nothing that a schmear of joint compound and a quick sanding won’t take care of. I loved rolling. Like so much in life, all the annoying and tedious work is what gives you the freedom to let loose and roll. In no time we finished the room, and the results are impressive.

Jean is encouraging me to take on a bigger room next time. Like any good teacher, she wants to see me spread my wings and fly. I have learned a lot, for sure, and maybe I could do it on my own. But, truth be told, I think I’d prefer her company.



You're invited to Creek Rising

Join South Fork Conservancy’s annual celebration and fundraiser on Thursday, September 19 at Zonolite Park. This is your chance to support community trails and creeks while enjoying live music, animal ambassadors, a silent auction, dinner, and more!



Scan the QR code or visit SouthForkConservancy.org to learn more.



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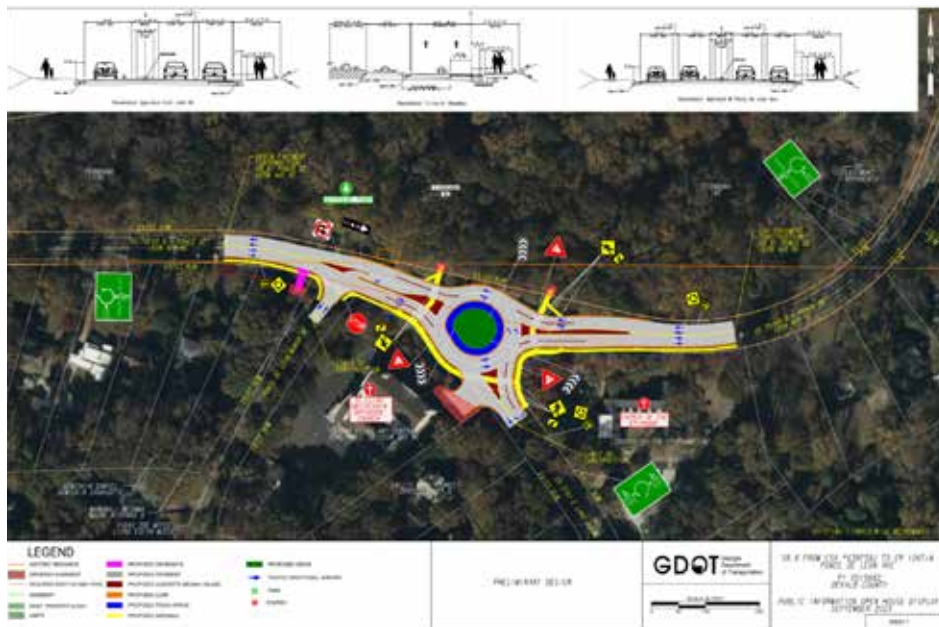
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Roundabouts on Ponce

Continued from page 1.



Screenshot from GDOT's plans.

ing down. A remedy for this would be to sharpen the corners or raise up the surface of the crosswalks to make them like speed tables. Unfortunately, there's no indication that GDOT is considering this.

Another oversight in GDOT's design concerns a mode that's very popular in our neighborhood: bikes. No bicycle lanes or paths are marked on the roundabout designs. This means that cyclists face a dubious choice of getting in the travel lanes with impatient, distracted motorists or using

the sketchy pedestrian crossings.

A better design would be one that emulates Dutch design practices. Dutch roundabouts can accommodate pedestrians and cyclists without causing excessive motorist congestion. Vertices are sharp enough to slow motorists, thus enabling pedestrians to enter the crosswalk without as high a chance of being run over. Cyclists get their own circle just outside the main one and, like the pedestrians, benefit from motorists being forced to slow down.



Aerial view of a Dutch roundabout, a waaay better design than what GDOT is planning.

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 Leigh Reynolds, Treasurer, Lake Claire Neighbors, Post Office Box 5942, Atlanta Georgia, 31107. Since the last Clarion, the following folks paid dues:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Ana Collins | Lisa Holloway |
| Jay Severa | Beth Grashof |
| Ruth Dinkins | Julia Bourne |
| Sharon Pomeranz | Mary Elizabeth Sloop |

Be famous in the Clarion by paying your dues before the next issue—October.

Dekalb Commission Ordinances

Continued from page 5.



Adopt sweet Tuxedo 404-786-0325

– Owners of a female animal must get a litter permit before the birth of a litter or within one week after the birth of the litter.

– There would be a limit on the number of permits an owner could apply for in one year.

– Litter permits would expire six months after they are issued.

– The litter could not be sold without vaccinations and a microchip or before being eight weeks old.

Another ordinance would restrict the transient and outdoor sales of dogs, cats, and domestic rabbits in DeKalb. This ordinance is still being evaluated by the county law department. “That is one that will put some restrictions around selling puppies or kitties on the side of the road,” DeKalb Commissioner Michelle Long Spears said.

Shelter expansion this fall

In other animal-related news, the county purchased 10 prefabricated animal kennels that will be constructed and installed at the Lifeline DeKalb shelter to increase its capacity

by 120 dogs. A spokesperson for Lifeline told Decaturish that the kennel space will be located in the field next to the DeKalb shelter. Each kennel unit can hold up to 12 dogs. Facilities Management Director Clyde Stovall said during the OPS meeting that six kennels are already being built off-site. The department is working on getting a land disturbance permit to begin construction of the concrete pad that the kennels will sit on, as well as utilities and stormwater infrastructure. (Editor's note: This permit has been in process for over a year!)

Kip Robinson, the project manager for the kennels, said the first six kennels should be completed by the end of the month or the beginning of September. The construction of the pad and all 10 kennels will be finished around September or October.

Spears said that she started to become familiar with animal-related issues by looking at the shelters, but she realized that though the shelter is how the county is managing the problem, it's not necessarily getting to the root of the problem. “Having the overflow means there's going to be an extra 120 spaces for dogs, but we're going to fill up,” Spears said. “Say that perhaps we did another 120, it would just fill up. You have to get to the root of the problem.” She added that policy, education, resources, and communication are needed to face the issue head-on.





JERRY JAM
Festival & FUNdraiser
Sept. 14, 2024 2-11pm

In Support Of And Hosted By
Lake Claire Community
Land Trust
270 Arizona Ave. NE
Atlanta, GA 30307
WWW.LCCLT.ORG

TICKETS
www.freshtix.com/events/jerry-jam-2024
ADULTS (21+): \$20
TEENS (13-20): \$5
KIDS (12 & UNDER): FREE

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FREE PARKING @ CLIFTON SANCTUARY
BYO WATER BOTTLE! REFILLING STATION AVAILABLE
NO PETS ALLOWED

Live Music • Artist Market • Face Painting
Food Trucks • Bake Sale • Beer & Wine

LINE-UP
Growing Up Dead 2-3p
Dead End 3:30-4:30p
Concrete Canyons 5-6p
String 'n' Bones 6:30-7:30p
GR8FLDUDES Token Rhyme 8-9p
Webster 9:30-10:45p

QR code for tickets

Back-to-the-Basics (Part 2): Aquamation

by Denise Johnson

If you're looking for an alternative burial option that is gentle, eco-friendly, energy-efficient, and cost-effective, you don't have to look much further than our own back yard. We are very fortunate to have an aquamation facility just a stone's throw away from Lake Claire in Tallapoosa, Georgia.

The Miller Funeral Home became the first funeral provider in Georgia to offer aquamation services in 2021. Aquamation, scientifically known as alkaline hydrolysis, is an accelerated version of the body's natural decomposition process that uses a water-based method instead of a fire-based method to return our bodies back to nature. The process uses a specialized vessel where a combination of gentle water flow, temperature, and an alkali solution accelerates the natural breakdown of the body. At its most basic level, aquamation mimics the natural decomposition process of traditional burial, but instead of taking decades for microorganisms

to break down the body it happens in less than a day. The aquamation solution is 95% water, blended with an alkali solution of potassium hydroxide (KOH). This water-based process results in significantly lower emissions, leaving approximately one-quarter of the carbon footprint of fire cremation, which burns fossil fuels.

On a recent visit to Miller's aquamation facility that I organized for a group of local death-care professionals, I was inspired by the simplicity and practicality of this water-based disposition method. The price for aquamation is approximately \$2,295 compared to \$3,000+ for fire cremation, though both options offer significant savings over traditional burial. This can range from \$8,000+ once factoring in a casket, burial vault, cemetery plot, and related expenses. While aquamation has only recently become legal and available in the United States for human disposition, it has been used for centuries for the

Land Trust Notes

Community Potluck—emphasis on *community!* (6:30 p.m., 13th of each month). The old-fashioned concept of “potluck” is evolving. Beginning this month, those who find slim pickings at a conventional potluck dinner due to dietary restrictions or preference can bring a complete meal for themselves and join us for dinner – sharing a good time does not require food-sharing!

Family Drumming continues! (7:30 p.m., 1st Saturday each month). Does our Drum Circle start too late for your little ones? Round them up and come a half-hour early to join some experienced drummers for drum pointers and practice. Stay for as much of the regular Drum Circle as you can, starting at 8 p.m.

Upcoming and Ongoing at the Land Trust . . .

Sat., Sept. 17: Family Drumming, 7:30–8 p.m. (and every month on the 1st Sat.) with guidance from experienced drummers. Rain date: Sat. Sept. 21.

Sat., Sept. 17: Land Trust Drum Circle, 8–11 p.m. (and every month on the 1st Sat.), \$5 donation requested. No alcohol please. Rain date: Sat. Sept. 21. Check LCCLT.org/new-events for updates.

Sun., Sept. 8: LCCLT board meeting, 10–11 a.m. in the Greenfield. All are welcome to sit in and speak up. Come in person or contact us at info@LCCLT.org for Zoom link. Rain location: the Gorilla Grill.

Sun., Sept. 8: Death Café with Denise Johnson, 3–4:30 p.m. in the amphitheater. Denise Johnson of EOL (End of Life) 101 LLC hosts this monthly informal conversation about death and dying, with tea, coffee, and cake. Free, donations welcome.

Wed., Sept. 11: BOND Community Federal Credit Union Annual Members Meeting, 5–8 p.m. This member-only gathering will feature food, drinks, and a talent show. Sorry, BOND members only. Join your neighborhood credit union today!

Fri. Sept. 13: Community Potluck, 6:30 p.m. (and every month on the 13th) in the Greenfield. Bring your own re-usable dinnerware, and something to share if you can. Label ingredients, please. **OR—new option!**—pack up whatever you've prepared for your family and come eat with us! Rain location: *The Gorilla Grill*.

Sat., Sept. 14: Join us, once again, for “Jerry Jam” FUNdraiser, 2–11 p.m. This year's musical tribute to the Grateful Dead features Growing Up Dead (2 p.m.), Dead End (3:30 p.m.), Concrete Canyons (5 p.m.), String 'n' Bones (6:30 p.m.), GR8FLDUDES/Token Rhyme (8 p.m.), and Webster (9:30 p.m.), along with the usual Artists' Market, bake sale, face painting, food trucks, and more. Please park at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, 369 Connecticut Ave. Walking and biking encouraged! Be respectful of neighbors who only have parking in front of their homes. Adults \$20 (21 and over), teens \$5 (13-20), kids free (12 and under). For tickets: www.freshtix.com/events/jerry-jam-2024, Sorry, **no pets allowed**. Note: the Land Trust no longer offers bottled water. Bring your own water bottle – refilling station available.

Sat., Sept. 21: Community Work Day, 9 a.m.–noon (and every month on the 3rd Saturday). Bring drinking water and work gloves. Pizza follows. Rain date: Sept. 28.

disposition of animal remains. So, it is not an entirely new innovation, but one that now finds itself perfectly poised for broader acceptance as environmental stewardship becomes a more pressing priority in our society's collective consciousness.

Both the Honey Creek Woodland Natural Burial Grounds in Conyers and the Miller Funeral Home/Aquamation facility in Tallapoosa provide Georgians with meaningful options that are not readily available in other parts of the country, so we're profoundly fortunate to have eco-friendly burial options in close proximity to

where we live and where we die. This accessibility empowers us to consciously and responsibly choose end-of-life burial options that are more closely aligned with our values. To learn more about the Honey Creek Woodland Natural Burial Grounds, check out my article “Back-to-the-Basics: Natural Burial Revised” in the last Clarion. And to join the community conversation on life, death and everything in between over coffee, cake and compassion, join us at the EOL101 Death Cafe on the second Sunday of each month at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust.

Lake Claire Community Land Trust

on

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

At Lake Claire Community Land Trust, we are committed to fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment where everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, socioeconomic status, or background, feels valued, respected, empowered and safe.



Diversity: We celebrate the diversity of the families, communities and city that we serve. We recognize that diverse perspectives strengthen our organization and enhance our ability to achieve our mission.

Equity: We are dedicated to promoting equity by challenging systemic injustices and ensuring fair access to opportunities, resources, and decision-making processes within our organization and in the broader movement.



Inclusion: We strive to create an inclusive culture where all individuals feel welcomed, supported, and encouraged to contribute their unique talents and perspectives.

Commitment: We acknowledge that achieving diversity, equity, and inclusion requires ongoing effort and a commitment to continuous learning and improvement. We are committed to integrating these principles into all aspects of our work, including our programs, policies, partnerships, and organizational culture.

If we are falling short of these values, we want to know (named or anonymous). Please fill out the form on our website homepage or email us at info@LCCLT.org. We are always open to suggestions on how to improve as well.



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.

We don't have a featured writer this issue, but we always hope to feature young artists and writers each month.

Add **your** creativity to this page! Send contributions to editor@lakeclaire.org by **September 15-18 for the October issue.**

Contest Winners

Contest Winners came from all across the 'hood and from many schools! **Lincoln and River Syfan** won First Place, finding the hidden graphic of "Summer Things to Do," in the Summer Clarion. Lincoln is 7, River is 2; Lincoln is in 2nd grade at Mary Lin and River at Freedom Park preschool. They live on Harold Avenue. **Hudson O'Dell** came in 2nd! Hudson is 7, also in 2nd grade at Mary Lin. He lives on Tuxedo. He wins extra credit for telling us his favorite thing about Lake Claire summers—the Lake Claire Pool.

Counting siblings as one entry, we had a 6-way tie for 3rd place: **Felix Elgarrista**, 8 years old, goes to The Waldorf School and is a 3rd grader who lives on Palifax. **Hudson and Emerson Frank**—Hudson is 8, 3rd Grader at Mary Lin, and Emerson is 4, Pre-K at Frazer Center; the Weinthal/Frank family lives on Hardendorf. **Zuzu Georgalis** is 12 years old, a 7th grader at Arbor Montessori School, and she lives with her mom and dad on McLendon Avenue. **Lily**



1st place winners, Lincoln & River

Cornell, 10 years old, a 5th grader at Mary Lin, who lives on Arizona, also won extra credit for telling us her favorite thing about summer is no homework! **Alice Alvarez** is a

4th grader at Mary Lin, who lives on Connecticut Ave. Alice also won extra credit by telling us her favorite thing about summer in Lake Claire: "There are lots of places you can go and make friends where the whole community can come, and friends and family can hang out there!" (This is Alice's first time entering!) **Naven Olson**, 7 years old, is a 3rd grader at Mary Lin. The Olsons live on Leonardo.

Congrats to all 8 winners! We love the first-time winners and the repeated winners that we see getting older as the years go on. GREAT JOB, Lincoln, River, Hudson, Felix, Emerson, Hudson, Zuzu, Lily, Alice, and Naven!!



2nd place winner, Hudson



3rd pl. tie winner Lily



3rd pl. tie winners Felix



3rd pl. tie winner Naven



3rd pl. tie winners Hudson and Emerson



3rd pl. tie winners Alice



3rd pl. tie winners Zuzu

New Contest

Hi kids, is everyone excited about the start of school? Somewhere in this newspaper is a graphic representation of back-to-school. The winner/winner who find it will have their pictures in the next Clarion (October). To win, write editor@lakeclaire.org, identifying the page number, and include your name, age, school, street, and grade, along with a photo. **(Your parents should 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 your favorite thing about September. The extra-credit prize is to be a featured writer/artist in a future Lake Claire Clarion with your original work. The deadline is SEPT 15-18. **Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this HIGHLY coveted prize.**

Important Editor Disclaimer to Parents: If ever I miss a child who sent an entry, please let me know, I'll fix it in the NEXT issue. Also, please reach out if you need extra copies, for grandparents to post on refrigerators or otherwise to celebrate the winners' 30 seconds of fame, editor@lakeclaire.org. (And thanks for the

note from a mom, "This column is very life-affirming with wholesome content, and, I'd imagine, memories they'll take into adulthood. I love it!" Thanks for the accolades; it's my favorite part of doing the paper! – B.D.) **Kids:** See our new contest at left, and make your guess: here is your chance to be **famous!**