



Endgame for the Beltline Streetcar?

by Kevin H. Posey

Rumors are circulating that Atlanta's leadership is souring on the Beltline Streetcar. In response, a group pushing for a streetcar on the Atlanta Beltline recently posted this quote on LinkedIn from a Midtown business owner:

"I'm hoping that it (Beltline rail plan) will pass, and I know there is some opposition. Frankly, I don't really understand why."

It is not hard to figure that out. Here are just a few reasons:

1. It is hugely expensive—one recent analysis put the cost of the entire loop at almost \$3 BILLION. That does not account for either inflation, or inevitable cost overruns.

2. The Streetcar is so expensive that it is sucking-in cash from more

deserving projects throughout the city. These include bus rapid transit (BRT) lines in neighborhoods much less prosperous than those along the initial Streetcar segment on the Eastside.

3. It has no chance of getting federal funding. This was true under the Biden Administration, which is why it was never submitted to them. Under Trump, no new transit dollars are likely. So, there's no way to staunch the bleeding of more MARTA funds to the streetcar.

4. It will sever connectivity along the corridor with a fence to keep people off the tracks. Currently, people can cross the path freely, but that will

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From the Inside Out: The Very Personal Pottery of Ana Vizurraga

by Jane Branscomb

For most of the 1980s Ana lived in Lake Claire, though she didn't realize it at the time: her home was on the east side of Clifton Road. She was there while she completed her B.A. in Ceramics at Georgia State University; there when she met and married Peter Peteet, and they purchased the site of a former gas station and car wash at Oxford Place and DeKalb Avenue; there as they built their home, her pottery studio, and Peter's auto repair garage on that site. There until they moved into their current home in 1990. "We're dug in," she says of Lake Claire. "We have everything we need here."

Entering their magical home, hidden away behind an inconspicuous gate, I face a beckoning staircase that reminds me of San Francisco's Moraga Steps. The risers are faced with ceramic tiles, sculpted and



Ana at home

glazed by Ana to give the effect of walking into a forest. I did not climb them but thought, what a lovely way to turn in for the night.

Ana's parents, one from Denmark and one from Peru, met in an ESL class in Boston. Her father an aeronautical engineer, they carted their growing family to Seattle, Kansas City, Peru, and back to Seattle before landing more permanently in north



Hector Pineyro & Family on last month's snow day

Two+ Homes in Lake Claire

by Beth Damon

This continues our series on residents who have lived in more than one home in Lake Claire. It has been interesting and so much fun to hear these folks' stories. I hope you've been enjoying them as much as I have. This month's article features Cindi Gatton and Hector Pineyro.

Hector Pineyro is a builder, from Argentina, and his wife, Leslie, is an attorney, from Memphis. Their son, Gaston, is 19 years old and was

born in Atlanta; he is a sophomore at the University of Tennessee, and he was five when the family moved to Lake Claire. He grew up on the Inter-Atlanta soccer fields, Hector told me. Their daughter, Raquel, is eight years old and was born in Lake Claire; she is in third grade at Mary Lin. "So," Hector mused, "she is First Generation Lake Claire."

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Atlanta when Ana was nine. (Asked how to pronounce her first name, she answers, "Either way. When I work with kids it can be 'Anna Banana' or 'Ana Platana;' both work!")

"Art has always been what I've connected with," Ana says. "I've always been a maker. As I recently told my daughter, it's how I've always made sense of the world and how I've worked through things in my life."

Ana describes two waypoints on her journey to ceramics. During a summer in Denmark around the 3rd grade, she was captivated by a pottery the family came upon while

visiting town shops. Then in an independent study class in high school she decided she would teach herself how to throw on the wheel. "My teacher only did 'clean' stuff. I loved her dearly, but I really needed to get into the material." Unfortunately, the school's only pottery wheel broke down shortly after she got started, and no one knew how to repair it.

At Georgia State, coming from "a very practical family," Ana at first thought she would pursue graphic arts. "Of course, back then it wasn't

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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 February

In addition to these items, please see the variety of neighborhood events on the Land Trust calendar, Page 15, and a listing of live music in Atlanta on Page 11.

1 Frazer Forest Volunteer Workday with Trees Atlanta, 9 a.m.–noon. Help restore and maintain our beloved neighborhood old-growth forest. Space is limited; pre-register at fraziercenter.org/about-us/events.

1 Pop-up art show in Lake Claire, 416 Lakeshore Avenue, noon–4 p.m.: Ivy Darnell (crochet bowls and other items), Jeanne Flint (jewelry and wearables), Leigh Reynolds (mixed media art and button flower bouquets), Pen Sherwood (ceramics and art), Claire Vohman (tea towels, magnets, more – see ClaireWasHere.com)

1–23 Horizon Theatre presents *The Great Comet of 1812*. Back by popular demand; it got rave reviews the first time they produced it, and it's the same cast. Mixing pop, soul, folk, and electronic dance music with classic Broadway, tix/info: www.horizontheatre.com/

6–23 Actors Express presents *Queen Marie Antoinette*. Hilarious and audacious take on one of history's most provocative icons. Info and tix: actors-express.com/whats-on/#season37

8 Opening night at Theatrical Outfit for *The Lehman Trilogy*. See article Page 3. Runs through March 2 (closing performance is a matinee performance Sunday, 3/2). www.theatricaloutfit.org/lehman-trilogy/#

10 **Mary Lin Dine-Out.** Come to The Daily on Hurt Street for a Mary Lin dine-out this month. Mention Mary Lin, and 10% goes back to our PTA. Please support Mary Lin PTA. See article below, and for info, contact Aviva Berman, avivaberman@gmail.com.

13 *Bust* opens on the Alliance's Coca-Cola Stage. Running through March 16, its subject is "what happens when your rage against injustice is more than the physical world can bear?" Humor, suspense, and surrealism about what it costs to be Black & free. Info and tix: my.alliancetheatre.org/

14 **Land Trust Valentine's Day Dance & Fundraiser**, 7–11 p.m., First Existentialist Church, 470 Candler Park Dr. NE Atl. 30307, with live music from The Ex-P.A.N.D. Band. Suggested donation: \$20/person. See announcement Page 15 and graphic on Page 16.

15 Fiddler's Green Coffeehouse, always the 3rd Saturday, 7 p.m. \$10 (members \$8) cover. The 1st Existentialist Church in Candler Park. February's featured artists are "Barefoot McCoy" & "Max and Maggie and Friends." Info: aaffm.org/aaffm-events/

20 **The Lake Claire monthly neighborhood meeting** is the third Thursday of each month. Great News!! Lake Claire Neighbors is continuing Hybrid meetings! Both in-person at the Frazer Center and virtual, on Zoom. See lakeclaire.org for updates and Zoom info. Sign up for neighborhood mailings and the Zoom link at lakeclaire.org/resources/newscast-sign-up/.

22 Lake Claire Park Work Day, 9 a.m. to noon. See article below, and contact flcpark@lakeclaire.org for info.

27 Dekalb History Center's 17th Annual Black History Month Celebration, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. This year's program highlights the diversity of the Caribbean diaspora in the metro area by showcasing unique aspects of Caribbean culture such as food, film, and music. There will be a number of fabulous speakers & another delicious meal prepared by Phenomenal Food/Chef Holly. Tickets are now on sale at dekalbhistory.org/.

Early March

1 Frazer Forest Volunteer Workday with Trees Atlanta, 9 a.m.–noon. See Feb. 1 for details.

2 Theatrical Outfit, Matinee 2 p.m., final performance of *The Lehman Trilogy* (see Feb. 8 above & article Page 3).

Dine-outs to Support Mary Lin PTA

Please support Mary Lin PTA and generous local restaurants who participate in this program throughout the school year, AND have delicious food while doing so! This month: Dine at The Daily on February 10. 10% of profits will go back to Mary Lin PTA when you mention Mary Lin.

The Daily is at 100 Hurt Street

in Inman Park. www.shopthedaily.com/atlanta-hurt-st. For more information, contact Aviva Berman, avivaberman@gmail.com. Please save the date, and spread the word.

IF you are a restaurant owner willing to help Mary Lin PTA in this way, please contact Aviva at the email above!

Lake Claire Park ~~Work~~ Fun Days

In case you missed the article last month, Lake Claire Park work days are the 4th Saturday of every month (2/22, 3/22, 4/26, 5/24, 6/28, 7/26, 8/23, 9/27, 10/25, 11/22), 9 a.m.–noon. Contact Judy Hammack, Friends of Lake Claire Park, at flcpark@lakeclaire.org

for information. Or just walk down to the park and join in the fun.

See last month's Clarion for more details about Park renovations and improvements. Judy and the Park friends hope to see **you** in the park!

The 2025 Legislative Session is Underway

by Rep. Saira Draper, House District 90

By the time this column appears in print, the 2025 session will be well underway. I hope to keep you apprised of what's happening at the Capitol via columns in the monthly Lake Claire Clarion. But I also invite you to subscribe to my newsletter that will hit email boxes every week during the legislative session. You can do so at www.sairadraper.com.

This year's session had a lovely start with a moment of silence to remember Georgia native son President Jimmy Carter's passing away. The session runs through April 4, 2025. During this time, we will pass the state budget and consider state laws that can have direct impacts on our daily lives.

Democrats enter the House this term with 80 seats. Republicans hold the majority with 100 seats. Because Republicans also control the Georgia Senate and the Governorship, they maintain the GOP trifecta that they have enjoyed since 2005. While I don't know exactly which issues the Republican legislative leadership will prioritize this session, they have signaled an interest in taking up a variety of issues, some of which are of substance, and others that are in the "culture war" category. Regardless of which bills move forward, I'm ready to fight for the values of House District 90, and I welcome your partnership in doing so—I love hearing from constituents and seeing you at the Capitol.

I'm proud to share that I was elected by my colleagues in the House to serve as the minority party's Chief Deputy Whip for the '25-'26 term. As a member of the leadership team, I'm involved in designing and executing our strategic vision. The direction of our caucus (and of the Georgia Democratic Party more broadly) is something I've given a lot of thought to, and I'm grateful my colleagues have entrusted me to help lead us into these next pivotal years. Our team is laser-focused on doing what we need to do to flip the House. Breaking up the Republican trifecta will fundamentally change our negotiating power in the legislature, allowing us more effectively to advocate for the issues the majority of Georgians care about, but that Republicans thus far have refused to take up—issues like



"What an honor it was to swear in for my second term with my kids by my side!" ~Saira Draper

Medicaid expansion, reproductive rights, gun safety legislation, and protecting the Okefenokee Swamp from mining, to name a few.

This legislative session I will continue to be a leading voice in elections and voting rights. The legislature has been selective in the bills it has taken up over the past several years, opting to advance the priorities of election deniers and conspiracy theorists. With the presidential election now in the rearview mirror, my hope is we can finally focus on sound and apolitical election administration improvements, and recenter Georgia voters in the discussions.

Another issue I'll be following closely this session is the safety of our children. Like so many of you, I was horrified by the Apalachee High School shooting last year. As a mother and a legislator, it was hard to accept that the shooting might have been prevented had the legislature taken action on gun safety bills. Republicans this session are signaling they want to address the safety of our children, and so far they have proposed mental health services for children and more security on school campuses. Whether they will have the courage to address the gun epidemic remains to be seen.

Finally, I expect transgender children to be the target of unnecessary, hateful legislation again this year. I am aware of no known instances of transgender athletes playing on girls sports teams in Georgia, and yet the Speaker of the House, as well as the Lieutenant Governor in the Senate,

Theatrical Outfit and Berman Museum: Theatre Collaboration

by Beth Damon

The Theatrical Outfit (TO) and The Berman Museum collaborated to present *The Lehman Trilogy*, by Stefano Massini, adapted by Ben Power. Weaving together nearly two centuries of family history, the play charts the humble beginnings, successes, and eventual failure of the financial institution that would bring the global economy to its knees. It is a Tony Award-winning play, featuring three actors, Andrew Benator (whom you may have seen in the Bremen/TO previous collaboration, *Remember This: The Lesson of Jan Karski*,—he has worked in regional theatres across the U.S.); Brian Kurlander (who starred most recently in *Indecent*, and has acted in numerous plays all over Atlanta, e.g., Actor's Express, the Horizon, and the City Springs Theatre Company); and Eric

Mendenhall (*Big River*, who previously slung waffles at Horizon, and was also in the Confederacy of Dunces at TO, among many other plays); and directed by Matt Torney (who directed Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and other productions). It will run on the TO stage in downtown Atlanta, from February 5 to March 2.

"Since the World Premiere at the National Theatre in London, *The Lehman Trilogy* has wowed audiences on Broadway and has been performed all over the world," says Matt Torney, Artistic Director of the Theatrical Outfit. "It tells the story of the rise and fall of the Lehman Brothers bank, which was the first bank to fall in the financial collapse

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Advocates for Dekalb Animals (AfDA): Our 2024 Achievements and Hopes for 2025

by Scott McLane

We hope that you are energized for a strong 2025 in the world of animal advocacy. We are! While there is more work to do, AfDA spurred significant gains in 2024! You helped make these gains happen.

* Building on the 5 Common Sense Solutions, the County has stepped up with increased veterinary services via a mobile clinic and free food give-away.

* AfDA is recognized as an effective and impactful organization in our County and its surroundings, with significant influence in local government elections, gaining more visibility for animal welfare issues,

and influencing legislation.

* At AfDA's urging, the County began using the two tools provided in state law to secure release of animals held for court cases. Happily, this has led to many animals being released from the hold. We ended 2024 on a good note, with the County taking some long overdue action on 27 Court Case dogs that were held in the shelter system nearly two years while their cases languished.

* Utilizing its authority to order cost of care, the court ordered the owner of 15 dogs, who wanted to take

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has repeatedly declared his intention to address this "issue." This is such a disservice to Georgians; we have only 40 legislative days to grapple with the real issues Georgia families face and pass policies to help them. Spending precious time and resources on a non-issue to score cheap political points is a dereliction of our duties.

Remember, democracy dies in

darkness. Your thoughts and participation are always welcome, and particularly so while we are in session. You can call my legislative office at (404) 656-0274, go to www.sairadraper.com/contact or visit my office in Room 604 of the Paul Coverdale Office Building, across the street from the Capitol. And stay up to date by signing up for my newsletter.



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Become a Steward of Frazer Forest

by Dina Shadwell

If you've lived in the Lake Claire area for any length of time, chances are that you are familiar with the "hidden gem" of a greenspace in your own backyard—almost literally, for some residents.

Originally the ancestral lands of the Muscogee and Cherokee nations, Frazer Forest is part of a tract of old-growth remnants—including Fernbank Forest, Lullwater Conservation Garden, and Deepdene Park—that were protected from commercial logging. The 39-acre property was purchased in 1922 by Cator Woolford, a co-founder of the company that eventually became Equifax. By 1952, the property was acquired by the founders of the Cerebral Palsy Center of Atlanta, now the Frazer Center. The land is held in trust to ensure that Frazer can carry out its mission of fostering inclusive communities for children and adults with and without disabilities.

Inspired by this beautiful outdoor resource, Frazer Center has created an inclusive, nature-based curricu-

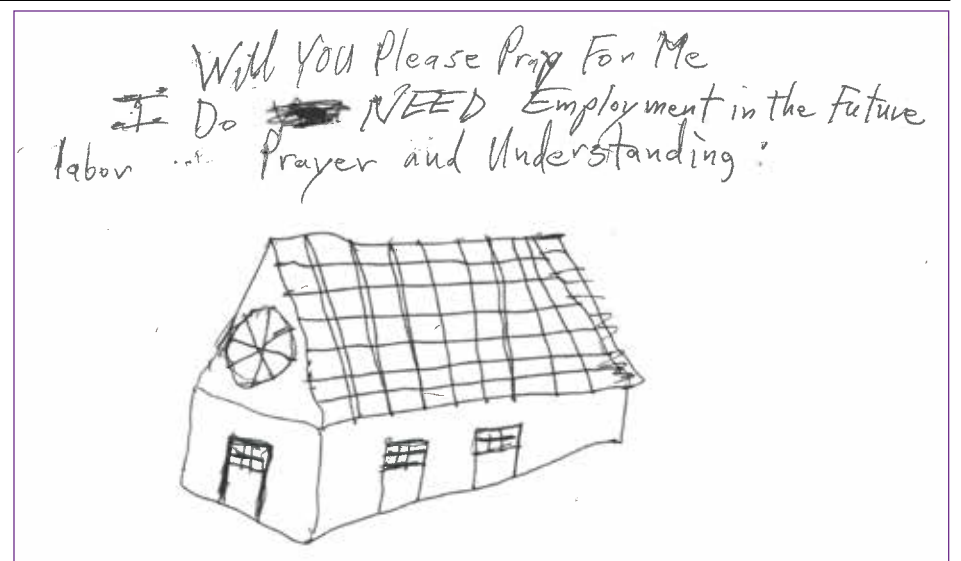
lum for our early childhood education program, and we are working to offer the curriculum to other early education centers serving under-resourced communities and to open Frazer Forest to them for field trips.

Frazer's adult participants and staff enjoy the benefits of being in the midst of this serene woodland, and even though it is not a public park and does not receive public funding, neighbors and other visitors are welcome to enjoy Frazer Forest from sunup to sundown whenever there is not a private event happening on site.

But this precious old-growth forest needs protecting and nurturing to remain the valuable community resource that it is. And that is happening through Frazer Center's partnership with Trees Atlanta and the volunteers who show up every month to join the cause. Over time, invasive species have come to threaten the forest's large native overstory trees, shrub species, and herbaceous ground cover. With four creeks and



*Frazer Forest Volunteer 1, English Ivy 0!
(A Frazer Forest volunteer tackles English Ivy.)*



Joe Coppage's message, written while struggling with homelessness

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (CSM)

by Lori White

In 1979, four members of the spirited Clifton Presbyterian Church responded to a call to homeless ministry. They invited three men experiencing homelessness to come with them to their church, where they could shower, share a meal, and spend the night. One of these men was Joe Coppage. A staple in the neighborhood, Joe was known by the neighbors as a gentle and kind man, who struggled with schizophrenia. He was always willing to accept meals from neighbors, but would never accept the invitation to go inside and sleep for the night.

Clifton Presbyterian Church served Joe for many years, as he was one of our original guests. Now, 45 years later, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries continues to provide a place for

rest, sanctuary, and nourishment for 18 men experiencing homeless every night of the year, providing Christian hospitality in its truest form. We also have a transitional housing facility across the street called Joe's Place, named after Joe.

In celebration of our 45th anniversary, you might have noticed a picture of Joe hanging on our front porch. Pictured above is a sweet, simple message that Joe wrote while struggling with homelessness. After all of these years, we have not forgotten our roots.

We are grateful for our history, and for the opportunity to continue to serve in our community.

nearly eight acres of floodplain, Frazer Forest also suffers from creek bank erosion and flooding. The experts at Trees Atlanta have helped Frazer create a long-term forest restoration plan that prioritizes projects seasonally. Every month, a Trees Atlanta team guides individual volunteers through one small part of the larger project. Bit by bit, invasive species are tackled, making room for native plants to emerge and find their way to the light.

No part of the Frazer Forest long-term restoration plan could happen without these volunteers, many of whom live in the Lake Claire, Candler Park, and Druid Hills communities. Monthly work days happen on the first Saturday of each month, with some exceptions. If you would like to join the efforts and become a steward of the forest in your backyard, please

visit Frazer Center's website where monthly volunteer events are posted (frazercenter.org/about-us/events). Donations are always welcomed (frazercenter.org/give). However you may choose to support Frazer Forest, you are helping to ensure that you—and generations to come—will be able to access and enjoy this beautiful, old-growth greenspace right in your own neighborhood.



Theatrical Outfit and Berman Museum: Theatre Collaboration

Continued from page 3.

in 2008, but in a very unexpected way. It begins when a young Jewish man called Henry Lehman stepped off a boat at a dock in New York City with one piece of luggage, dreaming of America (like so many other immigrants). It is a story about brotherhood, economics, immigration, and assimilation, about the loss of identity, and most importantly, about how generations of Lehmans attempted to keep the business afloat through some of the most turbulent moments in American history. The play captures something powerful about the spirit that fueled American Capitalism, and also something about how the dream of America grows in unexpected directions with the turning of each generation. The Lehmans are not the heroes of this story, just a complex lens through which we can view the 'magical music box' of the American story in all its brilliance

and contradiction. At its heart, the play is a story about three Jewish immigrants from a small town in Bavaria, and how each of them left his mark on his adopted home."

Since I had to write this by our newspaper deadline at the end of January, I have not seen the performance as of this Clarion publication. However, as an avid theatre lover familiar with these actors and the director, who frequently attends plays in New York and Atlanta, I think this sounds like a must-see performance.

Get info and purchase tickets at www.theatricaloutfit.org/lehman-trilogy/#.

Please note that this production tackles mature themes/language and includes references to s**cide and abuse. TO recommends the play for audiences ages seventeen and older.

Hello – Safe Journey: Skiing in and around Lake Claire

Birthday people:

1 – Linda Maynard, Delaware Ave (Gosh, this birthday makes you officially old... but still no "grays.")

2 – Isla Roberts (Happy 12), Claire Drive; Daniel Babinslei, Harold Ave; and Luke Mawson-Puckhaber, happy 13, Palifox Drive.

3 – Beth Damon, your illustrious and dedicated Clarion editor, Delaware Ave. 70 is the new 60, 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 16), Claire Drive; Anne Weldert, Harold Ave

14 – Gillian Landgraff, Harold Avenue

16 – Joanna Babinslei, Harold Avenue

17 – Ava Capps, Harold Avenue, happy 16

18 – Ben Farmer, Hardendorf Ave

27 – Esther Williams, happy 17! – Congrats on THREE Lake Claire streets-lives on Harold, proud grandma on Delaware, and Daddy on Indiana.

Getting to Celebrate b'days AND Anniversary:

18 – Ann Shirra and Scott McLane ♥♥ anniversary ♥♥, Arizona Avenue

Take a minute, and send life cycle events for the March issue by February 18 to editor@lakeclaire.org. We need YOUR help to make this series inclusive!

CLARION HELP: Available to help deliver Clarions?

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Jewelweed flower that bloomed in Meredith's yard on December 1 (example of how late winter starts here)



A buck seen on one of Meredith's walks

Wild in Lake Claire

by Meredith Walters

A friend once said that winters here are great because by the time they start in earnest, you can already see the end of them. I tend to agree. I'm not a fan of cold weather, and I miss the dense and diverse life that flourishes in Atlanta in warmer months. But this winter has surprised me and seems to be offering something special.

Let me pause here to say I'm grateful for the opportunity to fill in for Sara as a guest columnist this month, as she was traveling during the writing deadline. Nobody that I was able to reach-out to had any encounters with flora or fauna to share, so I'll focus on my own by necessity.

We had two opossums visit our deck at the same time last month (one is pictured here), and I had two lovely experiences with birds—first, I heard the ancient, haunting calls of sandhill cranes while on a walk near my house in Lake Claire, and I had the extreme pleasure of seeing (and hearing) two groups fly south high overhead. (Sandhill cranes are one of the oldest species of birds and have been around for over two million years.) Secondly, while sitting in my yard meditating one afternoon, two great blue herons flew directly over me, then one circled back and flew over again.

All the rest of my most noteworthy encounters with nature had to do with the special offering I mentioned that I'm receiving this winter. That is, they all had to do with death.

There was the Cooper's hawk who

landed in the stream just yards from where I stood to drown his prey. And the group of deer I saw running at the top of a ridge, flanked by what I thought at first glance to be a small deer but soon realized was a coyote chasing them. I've never seen a coyote running after deer, and from what I understand, it's not terribly common (for adult deer, at least). As if that weren't enough, as soon as they passed, a large vulture swooped down and landed on a tree about ten feet above the exact spot where I'd seen them run. Then last Saturday evening I went out my back door a little after sunset and saw a large barred owl in the mulberry tree just off our deck. I've heard owls, but never seen them in our yard before, and certainly never so close to the house (or me). The owl sat calmly on her branch, looking back and forth between me and the snowy ground below her.

I know many cultures consider owls to be omens of death. I don't usually feel that association with them, but that evening, looking at the nearly full moon and the silhouette of the owl, something about her felt like a message that death was here, as well as something else. It struck me so much that I mentioned it to my husband and went to bed with a chill of foreboding. The next afternoon, my cousin called to let me know that my aunt had died the night before. She'd had colon cancer, but fortunately passed away in peaceful sleep, without pain, surrounded by the people she loved. It reminded



Opossum on Meredith's deck

me of the other message I'd felt from the owl—that death was here, but so was something else. Support from beyond. Something to help through the loss. In other words, like my aunt, I don't have to deal with death alone.

The gift that winter and the natural world are giving me right now seems to be an invitation to acknowledge death and stop ignoring it or pushing it away. It is everywhere, after all. It is also not the ending I've always assumed it to be. Rather, it's a transformation. The necessary flip-side of life. Nobody in the natural world, including humans, lives without death. I see it in the trees all around me that I love so much—they only exist because previous generations of trees lived and died and poured their nutrients back into the soil. And those ancient, long-ago fallen trees are still very much here in the wood, bark, and leaves of today's living giants. My sense is that I'm be-

ing invited to see death as an ally, hard and heart-wrenching as it is. I'm not sure how to do that. I'm definitely not there yet, and the meaning still isn't fully clear. But I'm open to it, and I'm sure nature will continue to help me learn.

I'll be writing more about this on my Substack publication—Real-World Magic: Unlikely Discoveries and Unexpected Joy in the Natural World. I'd love for you to join the conversation there as I share how this story unfolds: meredithwalters.substack.com/.

Thank you, Meredith, for being the guest columnist this month. Readers, Sara Gottlieb will return next month with her reflections and your wildlife sightings. To report a wildlife sighting for inclusion next month or in a future column, please email sara.gottlieb@gmail.com.

Two+ Homes in Lake Claire

Continued from page 1.



Hector & family – in current Harold home

Hector, Leslie, and Gaston moved to their first Lake Claire house at 1806 New York Avenue. They were previously living in Inman Park in a small condo and wanted to stay as close to Inman Park as possible. But, Hector said, “Now, we are all in for Lake Claire.” I asked him what they loved about New York Ave., and he said “We loved our neighbors—and still do. We love the walkability to parks, restaurants, Little Five, downtown Decatur, Oakhurst, the Beltline—we walk a lot. This neighborhood’s friendliness cannot be beat.”

The family built their second—and current—house, during Covid, at 421 Harold Avenue. They wanted more space and a full yard. “Our old house shared a driveway and had no backyard. We did not want to move far from 1806 New York Ave because we love Lake Claire. It took a long time to find the right lot in Lake Claire, and we are so happy with our new home, its proximity to our old home and neighbors, as well as our wonderful Harold Avenue neighbors.”



Hector & family – Halloween in front of New York Ave house

Cindi Gatton moved to 2070 Palifox, in the summer of 2007 after her youngest son, whom she had raised in the ‘burbs in Sandy Springs, left home. She was ready to downsize. She said she’d always been an OTP kind of person, but she was ready for a change. She looked in Morningside and Decatur, but fell in love with Lake Claire. “I knew the minute I saw 2070 that it was perfect for me,” Cindi said. “The previous owners had done beautiful hardscaping in the yard, including a jazz frog band and fountain in the front, but the house itself and the backyard garden needed a little TLC.”

About moving from the ‘burbs, Cindy mentioned that she was worried that her kids might feel somewhat lost when she moved intown. But that first year, many of their friends had gone to college at Tech and GSU, and it was easier to visit them from Palifox than it ever was up in Sandy Springs. And the kids’ comment was, “Mom, why didn’t you do this sooner? We would have loved being in-town kids!”

After updating the inside, and ten years of English cottage gardening (which means lots of weeding!), Cindi realized in 2017 that she needed to downsize again. She said that there are many lovely condo communities in 30307 (“I know, because I checked almost all of them out,” Cindi told me), but most are on Ponce or Dekalb Avenue. Then she met a woman volunteering at the Botanical Gardens, and Cindi was surprised to find that her fellow volunteer also lived in Lake Claire. “It was a complex I’d not heard of, Sutherland Place Lofts.



The back steps in Cindi's garden on Palifox



Cindi's first home on Palifox



Cindi & kids home from college, the 1st year on Palifox



Cindi's current home, 1838 Gordon Manor (Sutherland Lofts)

I loved her unit, and when I learned that there was a similar unit for sale in the building, I jumped on it,” Cindi exclaimed.

Cindi further noted, “I think Sutherland Lofts is one of the best kept secrets in Lake Claire. Tucked into the neighborhood but away from traffic, it’s been the perfect downsize for me. I do miss my Palifox garden, but I don’t miss taking care of it, and I am so happy to be in this neighborhood!”

I appreciate both of you, Hector and Cindi, for spending the time to

add to the previous residents’ stories of living in more than one home in Lake Claire. And, here it is a year later—this series started in February 2024; every issue since then has featured one or more folks, which adds up to many more than I expected. If you’ve not seen the articles, do go to lakeclaire.org/clarion/clarion-archives/. If you’ve lived in more than one home in LC, please contact me at editor@lakeclaire.org. You don’t have to be a writer, you may bullet-point your details, or if you don’t want to write anything at all, we will interview you.. Let’s keep this going!

From the Inside Out: The Very Personal Pottery of Ana Vizurraga

Continued from page 1.

computers, it was ruling pens. Everything was so neat and tidy and clean and tight.” She took that course at the same time as her first ceramics class and quickly realized that graphics was not for her. With ceramics, “I loved the material, and I loved the community that was there. Everybody was so supportive and shared everything.”

She was working on the pottery wheel when one of her professors, a hand-builder himself, encouraged her to start altering her pieces. She was attracted to the flexibility of that and has been primarily hand-building ever since. “It’s just the right medium for me.”

A two-year assistantship at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center afforded her studio space and access to kilns after college. She also enjoyed teaching an adult hand-building class at the YWCA in Virginia Highland, then accepted a gig at Callanwolde that persists today. “I’ve been teaching hand-building there one night a week for about 35 years,” she mused.

Ana appreciates utilitarian pottery, for a while making all of the plates for their family. “I made a mold and then altered the borders. I used to make mugs; I’ve made lots of different bowls,” she says. “So I do like making utilitarian work, but I guess what I really like is making the pieces that come more from my heart, or my soul, or from wherever: they’ve got to come out.”

I asked about a Madonna-like sculpture atop the piano. “I made that when I was pregnant with our first child,” Ana said. “I remember making that little baby. I had made almost

the whole the piece, and I was working on the baby. I carried it around with me, you know how emotional you are when you’re pregnant; I was just carrying it around and crying.”

Nearby sits another piece featuring a baby. In “Sentinel Dog,” a beneficent, seated dog watches over a peacefully sleeping infant. Ana is fond of dogs, and they are frequent subjects of her work.

On the wall above is a piece titled “Surrender.” It shows a woman with a calm expression in a canoe that is rushing downstream toward her wayward paddle. “But she’s not worried,” Ana notes, she’s thinking, “whatever; what are you going to do?”



Small Figures

From these pieces, perhaps 12 to 14 inches high, we turn to some diminutive ones, figures that nestle easily into a cupped palm. “I really like the smaller ones, too. There is something wonderful in holding one close. You’re having a dialog with it while you’re making it.”

She picked up a smooth figurine of a frog, saying, “This one is actually in reference to my daughter.” She explained, backing up to tell a story of her first child’s birth. “When Henry was little, an owl came to our window while I was nursing and was calling out in the middle of the night. I sort of felt like that was his totem. Then when we came home from Illari’s birth, our dog was carrying on about something outside where we had a small fountain. Just as I opened the door to let him out, I realized there was a big frog sitting there.”

Ana’s talents and interests fit well with her job at the Michael C. Carlos Museum, where she helps develop educational programming and works with students of all ages. Though she joined the staff in 2013, her work

with the museum began decades earlier with a contract engagement. A friend who knew of her hand-built figures of dogs connected her with the Museum, which sought a potter for a video project about the making of a type of ancient ceramic dog sculpture found in western Mexico. Called Colima dogs, they evolved in the Colima culture of roughly two thousand years ago. She completed the video shortly after Henry’s birth in 1994.

It was a similar project 30 years later that introduced me to Ana. I attended her presentation at the Museum on the process used by fourth century BCE Greeks to make the terracotta figurines known as Tanagra, after the city where they were found. Ana described how she’d researched and recreated the mold-cast process; how the Greeks cast the pieces without heads so they could make variations; how they were likely painted and equipped with accessories like staffs or other held objects. You can see Ana’s video of this work on YouTube.

Ana and Peter’s home is a veritable art museum itself. Walls and tabletops are decorated with creative and found objects contributed by each of them as well as many other artists. “The way that we collect is from friends and people we know, so there’s a relationship with the work,” Ana explains. The art leans toward fanciful, mythical, or meditative. Ana once attended a presentation by famed ceramic artist Dame Magdalene Odundo, whose words about the inside and outside of vessels rang true and stayed with her.

“When I build my work,” Odundo said, “I concentrate on the interior of the vessel, with a visual awareness that the exterior takes its form from the internal template. Although the inside of each piece is hidden and enclosed, my hope is that the viewer can imagine it by examining the exterior and the empty space that the piece occupies. This idea of inside and outside is very similar to how we see ourselves as people.”

This philosophy comes through loud and clear in Ana’s art. “My work is personal,” she says. Indeed.

Editor’s note: This article is part of Jane’s Lake Claire Creatives series about neighbors whom you might not know are talented individuals,



Staircase in Ana’s Home



Inspired by the Mexican tree of life, Ana made this piece, “Letting Go,” during “an emotional time when there was a lot of change happening. Everything was taking flight, and I just had to let it go.”

whether accomplished amateurs or consummate professionals. Contact her at JaneBranscomb@gmail.com (JaneBranscomb at gmail dot com). to suggest that someone be featured or to volunteer to write for the series. To read about the other creative Lake Claire residents that Jane has featured in the series, see lakeclaire.org/clarion/clarion-archives/, go to 2024, and start with March.



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🎵 Live Music! 🎵

by Beth Damon

Here's the music coming up that we know as of press time. Thanks to my friend Lorie Flacker for the bulk of the research; I only tweak a little. Please support live music and our local venues!

DATE	BAND	LOCATION
Saturday, Feb. 1	The Sundogs- Tom Petty Show	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, Feb. 1	Rubblebucket	Terminal West
Saturday, Feb. 1	Grizfolk	Alter at Masquerade
Saturday, Feb. 1	Sweet Melissa's Blues Revue	Will Henry's Tavern
Saturday, Feb. 1	Grayson Capps	Eddie's Attic
Saturday, Feb. 1	Airshow	Smiths Olde Bar
Saturday, Feb. 1	Neko Case (and book signing)	Tara Theater
Sunday, Feb. 2	Adam Ezra Group	Eddie's Attic
Monday, Feb. 3	Mary J Blige	State Farm Arena
Monday, Feb. 3	Clarion editor Beth's b'day	Anyone reading this?
Tuesday, Feb. 4	Freedy Johnston	Eddie's Attic
Wednesday, Feb. 5	Ax and the Hatchmen	Vinyl
Feb. 6-8	String Cheese Incident	Tabernacle
Thursday, Feb. 6	Carsie Blanton	Smiths Olde Bar
Thursday, Feb. 6	Dwight Yoakam	Fox Theatre
Feb. 6-8	(The Mavericks/49 Winchester opening)	
Friday, Feb. 7	Bill Murray & his Blood Brothers	Variety Playhouse
Friday, Feb. 7	John McCutcheon	Eddie's Attic
Friday, Feb. 7	Flatland Cavalry	Roxy
Friday, Feb. 7	Blair Crimmins & The Hookers	Northside Tavern
Feb. 7-8	Mother's Finest	City Winery*
Saturday, Feb. 8	G. Love & Special Sauce	Terminal West
Saturday, Feb. 8	Drifters/Platters and Coasters	Rialto
Saturday, Feb. 8	Mutant County Line	Wild Haven
Thursday, Feb. 8	League of Sound Disciples, FAAFO	Aisle 5
Saturday, Feb. 8	Matthew B Mayes/Jupiter Coyote	Eddie's Attic
Saturday, Feb. 8	Magnolia Express	Hyde Brewin
Saturday, Feb. 8	The REMakes	Variety Playhouse
Monday, Feb. 10	The Bad Plus	City Winery*
Tuesday, Feb. 11	Early James	Vinyl
Tuesday, Feb. 11	Max Frost	Terminal West
Wednesday, Feb. 12	Almost Monday	Aisle 5
Thursday, Feb. 13	Father John Misty	The Eastern
Thursday, Feb. 13	India.Arie	Center Stage
Feb 14-15	JRAD	The Eastern
Feb 14-19	Jam Cruise (STS9, Thievery Corp, etc)	Miami, Cozumel,
	Belize, 95% sold out! Jamcruise.com/lineup/	
Friday, Feb. 14	Joy Oladokun	Variety Playhouse
Friday, Feb. 14	Drew & Ellie Holcomb	ASO
Friday, Feb. 14	Vday fundraiser with The ExPand Band	E-Church
Friday, Feb. 14	Sister Wife Sex Strike/Doom Scroll	Eddie's Attic
Saturday, Feb. 15	Robert Ellis	Eddie's Attic
Saturday, Feb. 15	Chatham Rabbits	Eddie's Attic
Saturday, Feb. 15	Dash Rip Rock	Smiths Olde Bar
Saturday, Feb. 15	Frankly Scarlet (Valentine's Ball)	Smiths Olde Bar
Saturday, Feb. 15	Magnolia Express	The Moody Hotel
Sunday, Feb. 16	Brendan James	Eddie's Attic
Monday, Feb. 17	Rick Springfield & Richard Marx	ASO
Wednesday, Feb. 19	The Steel Wheels	Eddie's Attic
Thursday, Feb. 20	Marc Broussard	The Eastern
Thursday, Feb. 20	Yes, Ma'am Family Band	Eddie's Attic
Feb 21-22	Billy Strings	State Farm Arena
Friday, Feb. 21	Toro y Moi & Panda Bear	Tabernacle
Friday, Feb. 21	The Main Squeeze	Terminal West
Friday, Feb. 21	Zydefunk	Northside Tavern
Friday, Feb. 21	Gr8ful Dude & Craig Neely	Tucker Brewery
Saturday, Feb. 22	Matt Nathanson	Center Stage
Saturday, Feb. 22	Zoso- Led Zeppelin Experience	Tabernacle
Saturday, Feb. 22	Uncle Lucius	Vinyl
Saturday, Feb. 22	Shadowgrass	Terminal West
Saturday, Feb. 22	DWLLRS	Aisle 5
Saturday, Feb. 22	Sweetwater Anniversary	Sweetwater Brewery
Saturday, Feb. 22	Lanta Gras	Kirkwood
Sunday, Feb. 23	David Gray	Roxy
Sunday, Feb. 23	Dave Mason's Traffic Jam	Center Stage
Sunday, Feb. 23	Fantastic Negrito	Hell at Masquerade
Tuesday, Feb. 25	Sons of Cream	Center Stage
Wednesday, Feb. 26	Brennan Edwards	Eddie's Attic
Thursday, Feb. 27	Robin Trower	Variety Playhouse
Thursday, Feb. 27	The FunkMaysons	FTE
Thursday, Feb. 27	John Waite	City Winery*
Friday, Feb. 28	Foster the People	Tabernacle
Friday, Feb. 28	Ariella	Eddie's Attic
Friday, Feb. 28	Stop Light Observations	Terminal West
Saturday, March 1	Shovels & Rope	Terminal West
Saturday, March 1	Wilder Woods	Terminal West
Saturday, March 1	Papadosio	Buckhead Theatre
Saturday, March 1	Maxwell Street	Variety Playhouse
Sunday, March 2	Run Katie Run/ The Surly Trolls	Napoleons
Tuesday, March 4	Dropkick Murphys	Eddie's Attic
Tuesday, March 4	Gary Clark Jr	Tabernacle
Tuesday, March 4	The String Queens	The Eastern
Wednesday, March 5	Hackensaw Boys	City Winery*
Thursday, March 6	The Magic of Motown	Smiths Olde Bar
Thursday, March 6	Lilly Hiatt	Center Stage
Friday, March 7	Martin Sexton	Masquerade Alter
Friday, March 7	Zeds Dead	Eddie's Attic
Friday, March 7	Jesse Welles	Roxy
Saturday, March 8	Bright Eyes	Terminal West
Saturday, March 8	Joe Bonamassa	Tabernacle
Saturday, March 8	Get the Led Out	Fox Theatre
Saturday, March 8	Moe.	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, March 8	Diggin Dirt and Blue Talk	The Eastern
Sunday, March 9	Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles	Aisle 5
Wednesday, March 12	Ani DiFranco	Fox Theatre
Thursday, March 13	BJ Barham	Buckhead Theatre
Friday, March 14	Big Head Todd and the Monsters	Eddie's Attic
Friday, March 14	Magnolia Express	Variety Playhouse
		Cherry Street Brewing



Charlotte Rail Trail

Beltline Streetcar

Continued from page 1.

end if the Streetcar is built. That sort of fence is responsible for making the Charlotte Rail Trail (pictured here) a far quieter, more subdued place than the Beltline.

5. The Beltline is too overcrowded for anything but walking on busy days. It needs a parallel path to separate those on wheels from those on heels. Building a streetcar line eliminates that option.

6. The Micromobility Revolution that took place just a few years ago has upended transportation thought. Bikes were once thought of as having marginal utility due to terrain & weather challenges, but e-bikes

sharply reduced those problems. Now, e-bikes and scooters serving those of all abilities make short distance trips far easier than they would be via a slow, oft-delayed streetcar.

7. We don't need an overpriced streetcar to add density along the Beltline. The rapidly changing landscape of the Eastside is an example of the powerful allure of Trail-Adjacent Development.

8. There is plenty of room on nearby streets for dedicated lanes for buses and so forth. Therefore, the Beltline need not be ruined by an outdated, late 20th century transit scheme.

DATE	BAND	LOCATION
Saturday, March 15	Tommy Richman	Center Stage
Saturday, March 15	Perpetual Groove	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, March 15	Donovan Woods	Vinyl
Saturday, March 15	Josh Joplin	Eddie's Attic
Sunday, March 16	Magnolia Express	FTE
Tuesday, March 18	Deftones with the Mars Volta	State Farm Arena
Wednesday, March 19	K.Flay	Variety Playhouse
Wednesday, March 19	Screaming Orphans	Eddie's Attic
Thursday, March 20	Lunar Vacation	Terminal West
Friday, March 21	The Infamous Stringdusters	FTE
Saturday, March 22	Sam Burchfield	Terminal West
Saturday, March 22	JohnnySwim	Roxy
Sunday, March 23	JoJo	Tabernacle
Sunday, March 23	Nefesh Mountain	Eddie's Attic
Sunday, March 23	Mutlu	Eddie's Attic
Mar 23-24	Gregory Alan Isakkov w/Atlanta Pops	ASO
Tuesday, March 25	Connor Price	The Eastern
Wednesday, March 26	Patterson Hood	Terminal West
Mar 26-27	Mary Gauthier	Eddie's Attic
Friday, March 28	Mike Farris	Eddie's Attic
Friday, March 28	AJ Ghent	City Winery*
March 28-29	They Might Be Giants	The Eastern
Saturday, March 29	Jason Isbell	Fox Theatre
Saturday, March 29	The Ain't Sisters	Terminal West
Saturday, March 29	Adam Knight's Buried Alive (PHISH Tribute)/ The Grateful Brothers (Dead/Allman Bros tribute)	Smiths Olde Bar
Saturday, March 29	Magnolia Express	Mad Life Patio
Sunday, March 30	Angelique Kidjo	ASO
Sunday, March 30	Alan Sparhawk	The EARL
Mar 30-31	Madeleine Peyroux	City Winery



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AfDA: Our 2024 Achievements and Hopes for 2025

Continued from page 3.

his 15 dogs housed in the shelter for 641 days, to pay \$71,000 or relinquish the dogs. Even though the owner was being charged less than \$10/day—it costs approximately \$35/day to house and care for dogs at the shelter—this is still a major shift in policy for the county. Happily, that owner, who allegedly mistreated the dogs, relinquished them to be adopted.

* The 25 cities in our County house approximately 40% of our county population, and they must also pass the transient sales and litter permit ordinances for the county to have enforcement powers in those areas of the county. As of this writing, Brookhaven has passed the transient sales ordinance, and other cities are placing it on their agendas.

We would have liked to have made more progress last year, as there were a number of items that were started but not completed. That said, we were working with an administration which had no interest in our animal overpopulation problem, so it was clearly an uphill battle. We DID change that, however. We now have an administration that **recognizes the issues** and a solid Board of Commissioners who also **understand and care**.

So what got started but not completed?

* The “Pet Neighborhood” overflow buildings to increase the capacity of our shelter by 120 dogs: it is now scheduled to be completed between March and May of this year.

* Sidewalk Sales legislation: passed, but not yet codified.

* Unregulated Breeding legislation: still in discussion, which seems to be dragging on forever.

* We are starting 2025 with our Court Case animal count as high as it was at its highest.

What is our plan for 2025?

* We want to embed ourselves as a force within the County, starting with **establishing working relationships with our new CEO and the Board of Commissioners**.

* We will continue to pursue the issue of **Court Case animals** and our law department being speedier and more proactive in using the tools they have to close these cases quickly.

* Continued pursuit of **legislation such as sales, breeding and**

tethering to include passage, codification, and enforcement.

* Improved tracking of the County commitments for us to **hold them accountable**.

* **Ongoing communication** to our members and the public with the hope of growing our force in all county districts.

Cost of Care does work!

Eight years ago, the County Animal Advisory Board began asking for DeKalb County to file for Cost of Care as a means to recover some of the expense of long-term holding of animals and also as an incentive to reduce the lengthy confinement of the animals. In Spring of 2024, the Commission passed a resolution (spearheaded by Commissioner Michelle Long Spears) to authorize the County Attorney to take this action.

Finally, we received this from our County Attorney, Viviane Ernstes, on 12/20/24. “I wanted to let everyone know that today, the State Court in the Daylan Lovett Cost Lawsuit ordered Lovett to pay \$71,280 into the Court’s registry for the costs of impoundment and care of 15 dogs impounded since 2023. If Mr. Lovett does not deposit the funds ordered by the Court into the court registry by 12.26.2024, the fifteen dogs will be forfeited to the County, by operation of law and may be surrendered and adopted. This update is public and may be distributed as appropriate.” (And, as noted in the 4th bullet point in the first section, this caused a fantastic and positive result for those fifteen dogs.)

Shelter Updates

As of January 17, the shelter (built for 288 dogs in 2017) housed **515** dogs. Lifeline’s target is to reduce this number by five each week until a maintenance number of 475 dogs is reached. The numbers of dogs in the shelter continues to decrease due to a combination of slightly slower winter intake and major promotions in December and January which reduced adoption fees to \$25. But sadly, it continues to be necessary to humanely euthanize adoptable dogs.

Originally scheduled to be started in September, ground has yet to be broken on the “Pet Neighborhood” overflow buildings next to the shelter. This will push the planned open-

ing of March–May 2025 back several months.

Editor’s note: Regular readers of Scott’s monthly column—and dog lovers familiar with the situation in Dekalb County—will recognize how heartbreaking it has been (1) for dogs being held for long periods of time in animal cruelty cases, stuck in the shelter sometimes for years, and barred from finding loving families, while cruel owners face charges and manage to postpone court dates. Charges include neglect, dog fighting, puppy mills, and abuse. Happily, as Scott noted in the article, the numbers in Dekalb County are going down, if only it were happening faster. And (2) for healthy, adoptable dogs who have to be euthanized because of space considerations.

There is much good news in this article, and as Scott points out, things are moving in the right direction with the new administration.

Communities like ours can help make a difference for these animals who have found their way into animal shelters, for whatever reason. Even if



This is what volunteering at the shelter is all about.

you can only foster for a few weeks, it makes a huge difference. Consider becoming a monthly donor to support the ongoing work and programs Life-Line provides in the shelters, community, and through the clinics, to help keep people and pets together in loving homes. Animals bring such joy and comfort into our lives. ~Beth

Neighborhood Dues for Lake Claire

Suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household. Pay at lakeclaire.org via the PayPal link, OR with the old-fashioned check in the mail, to Jay Severa, Treasurer, Lake Claire Neighbors, P.O. Box 5942, Atlanta Georgia, 31107. These are the folks who’ve gotten a head start on 2025 dues; thanks to all:

HAVE A MOMENT OF FAME IN THE CLARION
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View of the Land Trust on Recent Snow Day, by Stephen Wing

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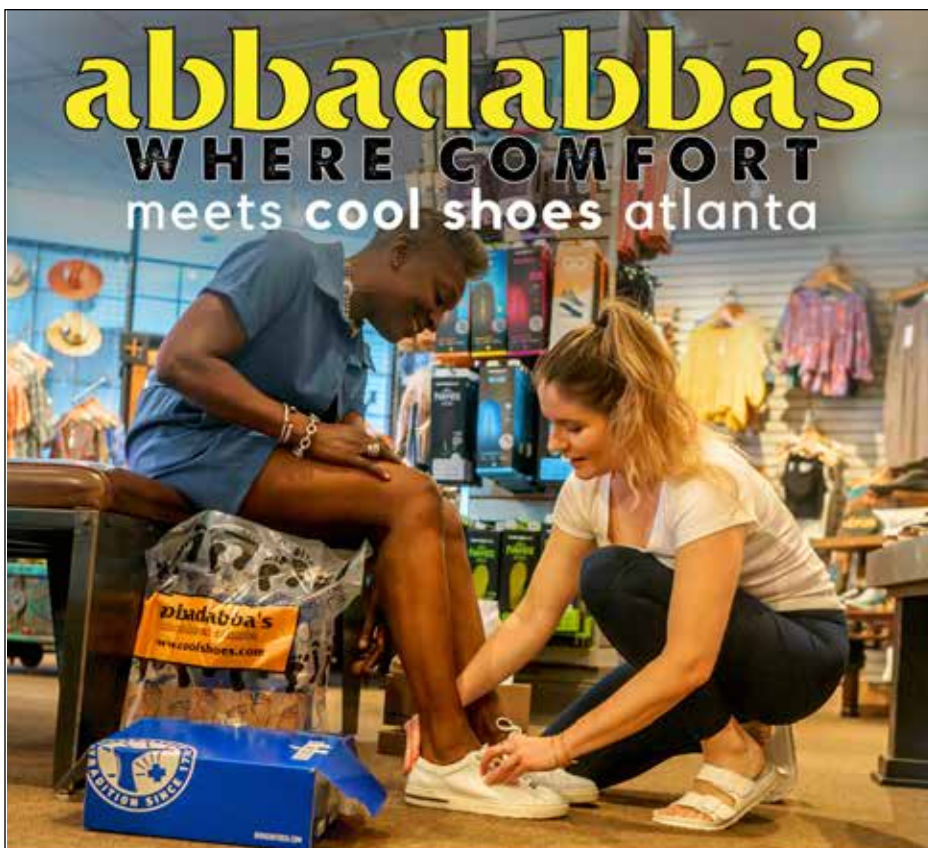
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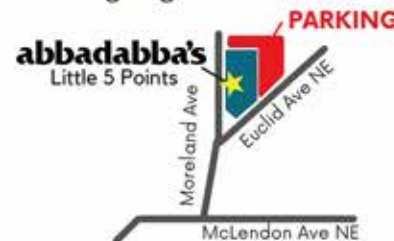


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Valentine's Day Dance & Fundraiser

Celebrate love and community this Valentine's Day at our traditional winter fundraiser! Enjoy live music, great food, and plenty of dancing, while supporting a wonderful cause. Live music will be provided by The Ex-P.A.N.D. Band, with beer, wine, and potluck snacks available. Bring

your favorite dish to share and join the festivities! All proceeds will support the ongoing efforts of the Lake Claire Community Land Trust. Join us for a fun-filled evening of connection, fun, and fundraising! Suggested donation: \$20. See flyer on the back page, Page 16!

Upcoming and Ongoing at the Land Trust . . .

Sat., Feb. 1: Yoga Class with Vada of Unveil, 11 a.m.–noon. (and every Saturday), \$10 per person. Please register in advance at LCCLT.org/new-events. Walk-ins also welcome!

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

Rain date: Sat. Feb. 15. Check LCCLT.org/new-events for updates.

Sat., Feb. 8: Yoga Class with Vada of Unveil, 11 a.m.–noon. *See Feb. 1 for details.*

Sun., Feb. 9: 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.

Sun., Feb. 9: LCCLT board meeting, 5–6 p.m. (and every month on the 2nd Sunday) in the Gorilla Grill (with the heater on!) All are welcome to sit in and speak up. Come in person or contact us at info@LCCLT.org for a Zoom link. Note: **same day, new time!**

Thu., Feb. 13: *Sorry: Community Potluck on hiatus until Spring*

Fri., Feb. 14: Valentine's Day Dance & Fundraiser 7–11 p.m., First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Dr. NE Atl. 30307, with live music from The Ex-P.A.N.D. Band. Suggested donation: \$20/person. *See announcement this page and flyer Page 16.*

Sat., Feb. 15: Yoga Class with Vada of Unveil, 11 a.m.–noon. Please register in advance. *See Feb. 1 for details.*

Sat., Feb. 15: Community Work Day, 1–4 p.m. (and every month on the 3rd Sat.). Bring drinking water and work gloves. *Rain date: Feb. 22.*

Sat., Feb. 15: Tarot Class with Chakura Kineard of Unfiltered Glitter, 2–3 p.m. for beginners; 3–4 p.m. advanced. \$25/person (20% goes to LCCLT). More info: www.unfilteredglitter.com. Please pay in advance via Venmo or CashApp; see LCCLT.org/new-events. Sliding scale available to women of color and LBGTQIA+ community if needed; contact info@LCCLT.org. **Note switch to 3rd Saturdays!**

Sat., Feb. 22: Yoga Class with Vada of Unveil, 11 a.m.–noon. Please register in advance. *See Feb. 1 for details.*

Happy 2025 to Lake Claire from the Lake Claire Community Land Trust!

by Linda Pace, LCCLT, Inc., Treasurer

Dear Clarion readers,

Many of you are friends of the Lake Claire Community Land Trust. The Land Trust, a community green space, is almost 40 years old. Most of us were in our thirties when the opportunity to create public land and dampen the density of intown development came along in the form of a public auction of land condemned and taken by eminent domain for the transit system construction. Yep, we won the bid.

Since the 1980s, most of the work to maintain this parkland and its goings-on has been done by volunteers. The current Board of Directors functions as a management group providing programming for children, adults and families (see www.LCCLT.org); soil, tree, and watershed maintenance; and necessary infrastructure to support programming and grounds. We are volunteers; you can figure that some of us have been around long enough (see math clues in last paragraph).

What was once possible to do with volunteers is no longer sustainable due to a number of factors, but mostly because of the 21st century demands on potential volunteers' time and energy. We are currently operating under a hybrid system of paying for necessary services and

work and trying to keep the model of volunteerism going. This system is a work in progress—or I should say, a **transition** in progress. We need this community's help. Please help us in whatever way feels right for you as you continue to enjoy what the Land Trust has to offer. If you enjoy hands-on participation, try plugging in to our Community Work Day on the 3rd Saturday each month. If you have organizational skills, if you are a systems person, we also need help behind the scenes with Board and committee work. Contact us at info@LCCLT.org for more information.

If you are too busy with children and/or careers, or whatever gives you purpose, to carve out a few hours a month to volunteer, please consider setting up a recurring donation. Our major fun(d)-raising model, music events twice a year, has sustained us as a volunteer organization with our occasional big expenses. We would like some budget certainty on hiring help to keep our programming going and keep you informed of all the wonderful things that are happening. Recurring donations are the key to this. Just visit www.LCCLT.org, and scroll to the bottom of any page for our Paypal link. One-time contributions help too!

Every neighborhood needs a Land Trust!
Help support ours at www.lcclt.org/.



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion writers and artists to participate in our 'hood. Each month, we try to feature a writer, poet, or artist. This month, we feature Zella Mickelson, who lives on Arizona Avenue and

is eight years old. She wrote about about one of the two exciting snow days a couple of weeks ago, and this is a picture that her dad took of her in the snow that day.

Any Lake Claire child or young adult who wants to add your creativity to this page, send to *editor@lakeclaire.org*, by February 15-18 for the March issue.



Zella on McLendon

Snow Day

by Zella Mickelson

Hi, my name is Zella Mickelson. On snow day, I had fun at Candler Park with my friends Goldie, Betty, and Luna. The golf course was wildy awesome! We slid down the huge hills covered in snow, which was pretty scary.

I had the most fun having snowball fights with my friends. We even ate some of the snow, and we didn't get brain-freezes!



Snowpeople in Lake Claire (clockwise from top left): Bob on Hardendorf (Silas Cordle); Fred the Snowman on McLendon (Allistair Belle); Melty Man on Matthews (Charlie Kotheimer); Pinky on Ridgewood (Isabella Raimonde)

VALENTINES DAY DANCE AND FUNDRAISER

Benefiting the Lake Claire Community Landtrust

When: 7-11pm Friday, February 14, 2025

Where: First Existentialist Church 470 Candler Park Dr. NE Atlanta GA, 30307

Suggested \$20 Donation

Live Music by The E.X.P.A.N.D Band

Beer, wine & potluck snacks, bring your favorite to share! Dance, mingle, commune, and raise money for our oasis in the city!

New Contest

Hi kids, we've had abnormally cold weather for Georgia this month. Find the Winter graphic in this issue. The winner/winners who find it will have their pictures in the next Clarion (March). 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 way to celebrate Winter or something you love about February. The extra-credit prize is to 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 HIGHLY coveted prize.**

Contest Winners

We don't seem to have a winner this month!! Last month's graphic must have been hidden **very well** in the newspaper. (Parents, if ever I miss a child who sent an entry, please let me know, I'll fix it in the NEXT issue.) **Kids:** See this month's contest on the left, and make your guess: it's your chance to be **famous** in a newspaper!