



The Flourishing Music and Acting Careers of Peter and Alyssa Olson

by Stell Simonton

Alyssa Olson was seven years old when she had her first singing gig. She performed “Surely the Presence” at a cousin’s wedding. Her future husband, Peter Olson, was 16 when he picked up a guitar for the first time. “I couldn’t put it down,” he says. Weeks later, he joined a band.

Today, the Leonardo Avenue couple have three children who are also musically inclined. “There are lots of times [at dinner] when we have to ask our kids to take a break from singing,” Alyssa laughs.

Music and performing came early for the two, but neither could have predicted the direction it would take in their



Peter & Alyssa with YRR at Chastain Park, 2021 – Photo by Emily Butler

adult lives. Peter tours with the highly successful band, “Yacht Rock Revue,” playing as many as 100 shows a year. The band was featured in Rolling Stone

Cont. on p. 10

Dekalb Law Department Once Again Fails our Shelter Animals

by Scott McLane

We continue to fight for the dogs who have been forgotten by our Courts. Please see this case, and write to the CEO’s office to ask for them to follow up. The law department reports to the CEO. She does care.

THE CASE: On August 25, 2023, Animal Enforcement seized eight dogs along with two deceased ones from a property notorious for neglect and tethering. Many of the dogs were only a few months old. Upon discovery, the animals were found in horrific conditions: open sores, overgrown nails, and severe malnutrition. One of the deceased dogs was reported to have roaches crawling

over its emaciated body, with feces leaking from its rectum. The surviving dogs were either tethered, limiting their mobility, or confined in crates sealed shut with wires and rags, surrounded by trash, dried feces, and a bug infestation. The level of suffering was undeniable.

TODAY: One year and six months later, Zeppo, Bossy, Cassidy, Rigby,
Cont. on p. 3

Editor’s Note

We sincerely apologize for statements made in an article in the March issue of The Clarion entitled “Protect Our Trees.” It is not our policy to publish articles that portray anyone or any business in a negative light, and we failed to prevent this from occurring last month. The article erroneously named Liam Homes, a business that was in no way associated with the projects described. We owe our deepest apologies to Liam Homes for its inclusion in this article in error. We take full responsibility for the mistake and have taken steps to improve our process.

We are committed to remaining a publication that serves all neighbors and celebrates the Lake Claire community that we treasure.

Protect our Trees Rebuttal / Proud Partner of Liam Homes

by Steve Raimonde

Hopefully the title of this article grabs your attention. My name is Steve Raimonde and I am a Lake Claire neighbor. Like many in our wonderful neighborhood, I too love trees and am pretty darn fond of owls and many other bird species. I have no reservations sharing that I live at 421 Ridgewood Road NE where I have resided since 1998. I share this because my home is uniquely positioned with an amazing backyard view of the confluence of deep backyard lots of Almeta Avenue and McLendon Avenue respectively. My family loves this natural view filled with old growth trees; we also quite love hearing the owls and other birds.

I sell real estate. It is my career and it is how I provide for my wonderful family. As part of this career, I genuinely love helping families navigate the process of buying and selling homes, often during times in their lives where, if properly served, life goals can be achieved. It was not happenstance when I chose the tagline “Achieve with Steve!” For

me to be successful, my reputation is paramount, and I take my reputation very seriously. A portion of my business comes from new construction homes. I partner with multiple builders and I am very proud of my close partnership with Liam Homes. When Liam Homes name is inaccurately portrayed, I know it also reflects on my reputation.

Liam Homes responsibly builds quality homes in Atlanta while always complying with zoning-related rules and regulations. When evaluating parcels for potential projects we are subject to, and comply with, tree ordinance, boundary tree and lot coverage requirements. Sometimes we remove trees in order to build a home but we ALWAYS seek to minimize such tree removal. In all projects, a certified arborist has inspected all the trees on a parcel and has determined each tree’s health. If we remove a healthy tree, a recompense is established and we pay it, and we also plant a tree, or trees, to replace the one

Cont. on p. 15

Lake Claire Officers

President: Joe Agee, president@lakeclaire.org
 VP Finance & Treasurer: Jay Severa, treasurer@lakeclaire.org
 VP Planning & NPU Rep: Carol Holliday, npu@lakeclaire.org
 VP Zoning: Beth Grashof, zoning@lakeclaire.org
 VP Environment: Melissa Pressman, environment@lakeclaire.org
 VP Safety: Deanne Uroic, safety@lakeclaire.org
 VP Communications: Nancy Dorsner, comm@lakeclaire.org
 VP Fun(d)raising: Pen Sherwood, fun@lakeclaire.org
 Education Chair: Annsley Klehr, education@lakeclaire.org.

Clarion Staff

Editor: Beth Damon, editor@lakeclaire.org
 Advertising: Pat Del Rey, advertising@lakeclaire.org
 Distribution: Alicia McGill, distribution@lakeclaire.org
 Layout: Véronique Perrot, layout@lakeclaire.org
 Contact Lake Claire Neighbors at PO Box 5942,
 Atlanta, GA 31107, 404-236-9526 or
www.lakeclaire.org.

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The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not those of Lake Claire Neighbors Officers, or the Clarion staff.

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 April

In addition to these items, please see the variety of neighborhood events on the Land Trust calendar, Page 18, and a listing of live music in Atlanta on Page 13.

- 5** 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 frazercenter.org/about-us/events.
- 12** 11a.m. 80th Commemorative Ceremony for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Roosevelt's Little White House State Historic Site, 401 Little White House Rd, Warm Springs, GA 31830. **Senator Raphael Warnock will be the guest speaker** during this annual ceremony honoring FDR! Additional speakers include FDR's great-grandson, Haven Roosevelt Luke. See GaStateParks.org/LittleWhiteHouse. Warm Springs is only 2 hours away, an easy drive, and what a fantastic program opportunity!
- 12** Frazer Center – Gather in the Gardens, 5 p.m. VIP Reception, 6 p.m. Main Event. Enjoy an evening in Cator Woolford Gardens and Estate House for a great mission—Frazer Center's inclusion programs for adults and children with and without developmental disabilities. See frazercenter.org/about-us/events.
- 12** **Lake Claire Land Trust's Peace & Love Fest.** Get ready for Spring's coming-out party, with food, drink, artists' market, and live music on the Land Trust stage! You could check out the Frazer Center event & come afterwards to the LT, and still catch many acts! And see other LT events on Page 15
- 13** The Annual Candler Park Easter Egg Hunt, 3 p.m. in Candler Park
Info: sydney.boguess@gmail.com
- 13** 2nd Annual Feeney's Fun Run & Virtual Run, Decatur Legacy Park. Info/sign-up: runsignup.com/Race/GA/Decatur/Feeney5kAtlanta
- 17** **The Lake Claire monthly neighborhood meeting** is the third Thursday of each month. 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/newscastr-sign-up/.
- 19** Fiddler's Green Coffeehouse, always the 3rd Saturday, 7 p.m. \$10 (members \$8). This month: (1) Nicholas Edward Williams and (2) Lonesome Redwing. Presented by Atlanta Area Friends of Folk Music (AAFMM). For more

details about the musicians, music schedule for the balance of the year, and other info: aaffm.org/aaffm-events/

- 22** **Mary Lin Dine-Out.** Come to **Bona Fide** for a Mary Lin dine-out this month. Be sure to mention Mary Lin, and 10% goes back to the ML PTA. See article below for more info.
- 25** Photo Contest for Freedom Park. See details on the flyer, Page 6. Submissions up to May 8.
- 26** Lake Claire Park Work Day, 9 a.m. to noon. Park work days are the 4th Saturdays (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 info, or just walk down to the park and join in the fun.
- 26** Opening Reception for Chester Old's exhibit "Burning Books," new work and more work, 6–9 p.m. in his unique home studio, 1933 McLendon, Unit A, on-street parking. WchesterOldArtist@gmail.com
- 26** Yacht Rock Revue, Ameris Bank Amphitheatre, Alpharetta, 8 p.m., with Peter Olson (see article Page 1), yachtrockrevue.com.

Early May

- 1** Trees Atlanta's annual fundraising event, Root Ball 2025. Please consider donating. For details see article Page 3.
- 1–7** Chester Old's Art Exhibit at gorgeous home studio. By appointment. Details & how to contact him, see April 26 above.
- 2–18** *The House of Blue Leaves*, with Alyssa Olson (see Page 1). Fri/Sat p.m./Sun. matinee, Lionhart Theatre, Norcross.
- 3** Frazer Forest Volunteer Workday with Trees Atlanta. For more details, see April 5 above.

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! The last two for this school year are April 22 (see above) and May 19 at Moxie Burger. For more information, contact Aviva Berman, avivaberman@gmail.com. Please save these dates, and spread the word.



Trees Atlanta Beautifies Our 'Hood

by Beth Damon

Trees Atlanta is a nonprofit community group that protects and improves Atlanta's urban forest by planting, conserving, and educating.

In recent weeks, Trees Atlanta has been working with Lake Claire neighbors to plant trees in the Lake Claire neighborhood. Many mature trees that line our neighborhood have been planted by Trees Atlanta and volunteers over the years, and we're glad to have more

trees added to Lake Claire. Perhaps you have planted a few and have watched the trees grow over the years. Recent new plantings have been on McLendon, Tuxedo, and within Lake Claire Park; see pictures here and another on Page 6.

In addition to planting new trees, Trees Atlanta's Forest Restoration team focuses on public forested spaces that need invasive removal and ecological restoration. Trees Atlanta staff and volunteers have been working in Lake Claire Park for many years. Some Lake Claire residents (e.g., Rob Pyecha) are volunteer Certified Forest Stewards. These Stewards train with Trees Atlanta to be project leaders in the effort to improve the condition of the forest, through invasive plant removal. Rob and others lead monthly invasive removal projects in Lake Claire Park, and you can sign up to join a project on Trees Atlanta's website, www.treesatlanta.org/.

Protecting our trees and improving our neighborhood's tree canopy are things that help to improve our community, investing in our long-term resilience and well-being. More trees means lower summer temperatures and reduced energy consumption by investing in the tree canopy cover for neighborhoods in Atlanta. Urban trees decrease energy bills for residents, absorb pol-

Cont. on p. 6



Photo by Margaret Witten

Shelter Animals

Continued from page 1.

Jubert, Ju-Ju, and Rhapsody remain trapped in legal limbo at the overcrowded DeKalb shelter, awaiting resolution. The owners have not been located for legal service purposes, and the County Law Department, which can pursue steps for release of the animals, has made little progress in locating the owners. The usual legal methods—such as the Motion to Dispose and Cost of Care—are inapplicable because no formal charges have been filed against the owners, and due process concerns have stalled any action. **This prolonged paralysis highlights critical flaws in the systems that are supposed to ensure justice for animals suffering from cruelty and neglect.**

WHAT'S GONE WRONG: There is also a troubling discrepancy between Animal Enforcement's records and court documents. According to Animal Enforcement, one of the owners pled guilty to neglect in August 2023, leading to the seizure and a court-imposed five-year ban. However, there is no corresponding record in the Magistrate Court system, aside from unclear notes suggesting that the dogs may have been surrendered, and the case may have been transferred to State or Superior Court. Our investigation shows that the only record of this case exists in Magistrate Court.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: These dogs deserve a better future. Please take a moment to contact County CEO, Lorraine Cochran Johnson's office, at amsawyer@dekalbcountyga.gov to ask for her help in getting the dogs released by directing the County Law Department to take the necessary steps to release the dogs from Court Hold. Two key actions are recommended:

1. Revisit Motion to Dispose because the defendant has failed to appear for court: Despite discrepancies between Animal Enforcement and Magistrate Court records, there is evidence that one of the owners was charged with neglect and attended a court date where he qualified for the Public Defender's services. *He missed*



Very sweet, inappropriately named 'Savage' available for adoption / foster at Dekalb Animal Shelter in Chamblee subsequent dates, and based on this alone, the County may file for a Motion to Dispose.

2. Expedite Cost of Care Hearing because the law recognizes good faith efforts to serve and provides a remedy the county has successfully navigated: The Cost of Care petition has been filed, but no hearing date has been set due to challenges in locating the owner. The County has made significant efforts to find the owner, even hiring a private attorney to assist. It is time to proceed with the Cost of Care hearing and demonstrate to the Judge that the County has acted in good faith and fulfilled its due diligence obligations, as was seen in recent successful Cost of Care hearing, *State v. Dylan Lovett*.

These sweet dogs have endured far too much and deserve the chance to thrive in loving foster or adoptive homes where they can heal and trust again. Despite their extended stay at the shelter, they have never been adequately promoted for fostering, except by a few dedicated volunteers. If you are interested in fostering, please contact foster@dekalbanimalservices.com.

Editor's note: LifeLine manages DeKalb & Fulton County Animal Services, the only open-intake shelters in Atlanta, 18,000 animals each year. They help over 43,000 pets every year. We can help make a difference for these animals. E.g., fostering for a short time makes a huge difference for doggies to get away from shelter confinement. As LifeLine says on their website, bring home your best friend! ~Beth



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Wild in Lake Claire

by Sara Gottlieb

There is almost no challenge in my life that I don't seek respite from by going outside to see what the natural world has in store for me. The last few months have been chock-full of challenges coming during the most difficult time for me to get outside due to the short days and cold temperatures. Things have finally eased up a bit, and spring is starting to arrive, as have opportunities to observe plants waking, animals nesting, bees foraging, and all sorts of other natural phenomena.

A few weeks ago, while recovering from a medical procedure, I felt well enough to take a walk at Mason Mill Park with my husband. We saw a hawk fly up into a loblolly pine tree, where it appeared to be working on a nest. A wildlife officer wielding a snake hook showed us another location where a hawk had been working on a nest, but we didn't see any activity there. Another highlight of the walk was seeing a long line of turtles sunning themselves on a log in a wetland area (see photo Page 12).

Since I've been rather home-bound lately, I've been paying more attention to wildlife activity right around my house. The hole-riddled box elder tree outside my office window is definitely becoming home to a pair of squirrels, which has been busily filling one of the cavities up with nesting material. It's quite comical to watch them wriggle into the hole with their feet and tails sticking straight out behind them. In what might be a dramatic pairing, there is a Cooper's hawk building a big stick nest in a pecan tree over my backyard neighbor's house. I see it flying to and from the nest and have been hearing it call. Once there are hungry hawk chicks to feed, the box-elder squirrel family had better be on guard! Last, but not least in the nesting department is a mourning dove that has repurposed a nest in the Peace rose right against the front of my house. She has already been sitting on it for nearly a week (see photo above right) so there should be dove chicks soon.

My final close-to-home observation



Possum



Burrowing owl

was of a rather large opossum (top photo), which I spied walking along the top of the fence between my backyard and my neighbors' right in the middle of the day. I spotted it from my 2nd floor office window, and it was moving quickly, but I was able to run downstairs and get outside in time to snap some photos of it as it made its way along the fence. It appeared perfectly healthy and purpose-driven, and it was gone within a few minutes. I saw it again a few days later walking along another boundary fence.

Bernard S was in South Florida recently, and he saw a different type of wildlife than what is most often observed around Lake Claire. Right outside the place he was staying, there was a culvert for rainwater, and Bernard



Mourning dove on her nest

was surprised one late afternoon to see an owl mounting guard at the opening of the culvert. He learned later that it was a burrowing owl (photo above). They build their nests underground, and he could see several in the area, enjoying the setting sun, sometimes with a companion nearby.

Meredith W was thrilled to hear and see sandhill cranes passing over her house a few times in February, including one time they were so low that she could hear them from inside the house. The arrival of Spring in March was confirmed by some beautiful trillium and bloodroot (see photos Page 12) blooms. And on Valentine's Day, Meredith was excited to find otter tracks by South Peachtree Creek at the Lullwater Pre-

serve in the mud left after the creek flooded its banks. She was surprised to find them right next to one of the busiest parts of the trail, and there were what she believes to be mink tracks nearby as well. Then last week, she came across a small sapling that had been cut down by a beaver. Meredith hopes to catch a glimpse of these animals themselves in days to come.

Farther afield, Meredith had a fun encounter with an armadillo while hiking at Cloudland Canyon. She was tired and dragging her feet on the trail, when her husband, who was walking behind her, called her name. "What?" she snapped, illogically annoyed at the disturbance. As soon as she snapped, something darted right in front of her across the trail. It was the armadillo her husband had been trying to call her attention to. Meredith jumped about a mile from shock, then laughed at how much the armadillo and she had scared each other. Still, it stopped only a couple feet from her and continued to root about in the leaves, and she got to spend a good few minutes observing and taking pictures up close (see photo on page 12).

Back in the neighborhood, I also heard the sandhill cranes during their spring migration in February. In my case, it was as I was leaving Lowe's, where I had just picked up some bird seed to refill my feeder. I was in the car, leaving the parking lot, and anyone watching me would have thought I'd gone mad, be-

Cont. on p. 12

Trees Atlanta Beautifies

Continued from page 3.

lutants, reduce maintenance costs for streets and storm-water infrastructure, increase property values by making neighborhoods more beautiful, walkable, and desirable places to live, and combat the urban heat island effect.

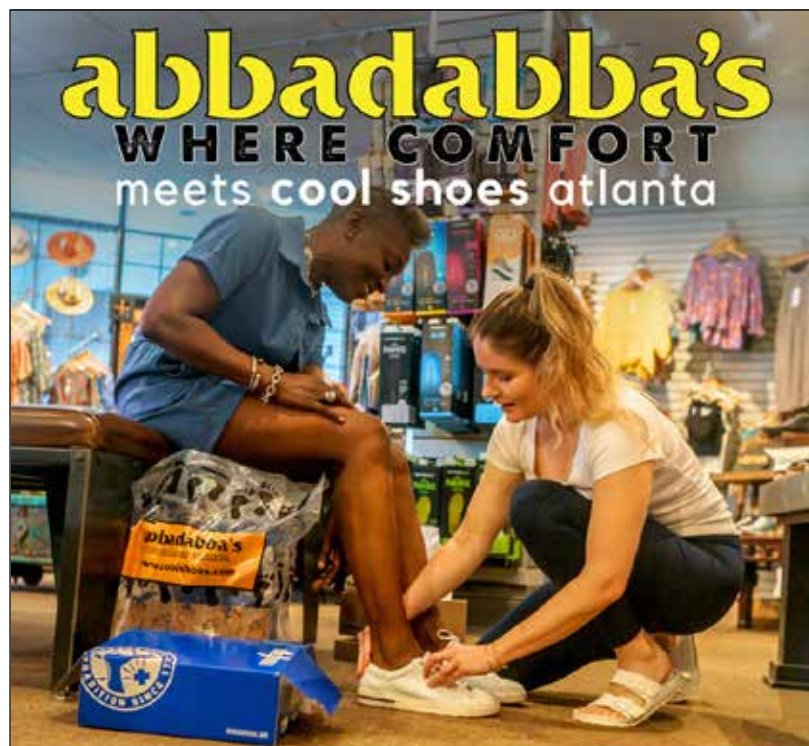
Please visit treesatlanta.org to learn more about Trees Atlanta's planting programs, sign up to volunteer, and to request plantings. Look out for more details about any neighborhood-wide planting and invasive removal projects. If you would like trees planted in your own right-of-way and/or front yard, they would love to hear from you. Finally, this link is to sign-up as a volunteer for their next Lake Claire project on April 26:

www.treesatlanta.org/get-involved/events/forest-restoration-in-lake-claire-park-a0VUd0000HEENtMAP. At this

link, you can also see what to wear and what to bring. This is for volunteers ages 12 and up. Volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Volunteers who are 16+ are allowed to attend without their parents/legal guardians present if they bring signed waivers with them to the project.

To support Trees Atlanta's work, please consider donating or purchasing tickets to their annual fundraising event, Root Ball 2025, which will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2025.

At right: Trees Atlanta Volunteers included these AKA sorority members doing a service project – Photo by Margaret Witten.



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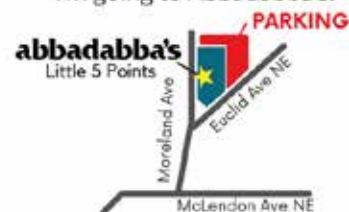


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SUBMISSION DATES
April 25 - May 8

WINNERS ANNOUNCED
May 19

SUBMISSION CATEGORIES

Professional
Adult Hobbyist (19+)
Teen (Ages 13-18)
Youth (Under 13)

SUBMISSION THEME

Freedom Park is Atlanta's designated Art Park. As part of our efforts to promote the arts in the City of Atlanta, the Freedom Park Conservancy is launching an annual photography contest - **The Park is Art!** Submitted photos should be scenes or objects within Freedom Park

Submit Your Entry at freedompark.org starting April 25

Each category will have a prize winner

Each winner receives a framed print of their photo, which will be displayed for a limited time at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum



Why Should You Join the CPLC Patrol?

by Matt Johnson

As neighbors, we all want to feel safe and secure in our community. It's a question we hear often: *Why should I join the Candler Park Lake Claire Patrol (CPLCP)?* At first glance, assuming the Atlanta Police Department (APD) is fully staffed and well-equipped, it might seem like a security patrol is an unnecessary luxury. However, while APD plays a vital role, there is still a significant gap where a neighborhood patrol like ours can make a difference. Let's explore why joining the CPLCP benefits our community, strengthens public safety, and supports our police department's efforts.

Bridging the Gap in Public Safety. Though APD is doing its best with available resources, the reality is that not every zone is always fully patrolled. Some areas, including ours, may go without a dedicated officer on the beat at all times. This is where the CPLCP steps in. Our patrol operates part-time, providing an additional layer of safety by having a dedicated officer on duty during key hours. These officers have full police powers, responding to both emergency and non-emergency calls in our neighborhood. What does that mean for you? When you call 911 or report an incident, our CPLCP officer can respond quickly—sometimes in place of an APD officer, or alongside one. And here's the key benefit: our officers are exclusively assigned to our area while on duty, meaning they're not pulled away to other parts of the city. This improves response times, reduces crime, and enhances the overall sense of security

within Candler Park and Lake Claire.

What the Patrol Does. From keeping an eye on suspicious activity to responding to calls like teen parties, car break-ins, and alarms, the CPLCP officer is actively working to keep our neighborhood safe. They've responded to a variety of situations, including a car veering off Candler Park Drive and into the park, and even helping deter mischievous teen behavior without resorting to arrests. They also perform vacation checks on member homes, providing peace of mind when you're away. And while we all know how frustrating traffic violations can be, our officers do not normally issue traffic tickets—except in rare instances, like when a teen driver was caught doing doughnuts in the Candler Park parking lot (a story that still makes us chuckle!). The goal is not to police for the sake of tickets, but to provide a strong, visible presence that promotes safety.

Membership is Vital. The continued existence of the CPLCP depends on you. Our patrol is entirely funded by the generous support of our community members. All membership dues, after processing fees, go directly to the patrol's operating costs—paying our officers, maintaining the patrol vehicle, and keeping our efforts running smoothly. The patrol can only continue if we maintain (and hopefully grow) our membership base. Unfortunately, we've seen a troubling trend: many of our valued members have not renewed their memberships, despite repeated communications through emails and personal-

Join the Frazer Center 2025 City Nature Challenge

by Dina Shadwell

The City Nature Challenge takes place April 25-28. This global event began as a friendly competition between San Francisco and Los Angeles as a way to celebrate the first ever Citizen Scientist Day. For the seventh year in a row, Fernbank Museum is leading Atlanta's participation in the City Nature Challenge, and Frazer Center is partnering in the effort. We hope our Lake Claire neighbors will join the fun and help put Atlanta on the geo-map.

The mission of the contest is to connect city residents to their local nature, and to collect urban biodiversity data and make it available for science, management, and conservation purposes. The object of the Challenge is to see which city can make the most observations, find the most species, and engage the most people. Atlanta's numbers increase every year, and we hope our neighbors will help keep that trend going.

How can you participate? It's easy! During Friday, April 25 through Monday, April 28:

- **Download the iNaturalist app** from your favorite app store.
- **Go Outside.** Explore nature, either in your own backyard or local greenspace.
- **Find Wildlife.** Any plant, animal or fungi in Atlanta counts.
- **Take a Picture with your**

Smartphone. Your phone will geo-tag and date-stamp it.

- **Share Your Observations:** Upload your observations through the free iNaturalist app. Or simpler yet, take the photo while using the iNaturalist app, and your photo is automatically shared.

And that's it! There's no cost, there's no registration. You don't even have to know what it is you are observing. The iNaturalist app helps identify species, and experts using the app help confirm.

Observations can be made anywhere in the city, even in your own back yard or along a city sidewalk. We think Frazer Forest makes a great place to participate, and your observations will help us learn more about the biodiversity within our neighborhood old-growth forest. The 2025 Atlanta City Nature Challenge makes for a great family or school project. There might even be a friendly competition between Frazer's Pre-K students and our adult participants.

We hope YOU will don your Citizen Scientist cap, show your Atlanta pride, and get outside! For more information, visit: frazercenter.org/about-us/news/city-nature-challenge-2025

ized cards. This is a critical issue. Each member essentially funds a portion of a patrol shift, and when memberships lapse, we lose the ability to fund those vital shifts. Fewer members means fewer patrol hours.

How You Can Help. Renew your membership today! If you're not yet a member, we urge you to join. We need your support to keep the patrol running smoothly. It's quick, easy, and your contribution goes directly to improving our neighborhood's safety. Plus, when you sign up, you'll get a shiny new CPLCP

member sign to display proudly in your yard.

Visit www.cplcpatrol.org to sign up or renew your membership today. We offer both monthly and annual options, with discounts for seniors, condo/townhouse residents, and more.

Let's come together as a community to ensure Lake Claire and Candler Park remain safe, welcoming, and vibrant. Your support makes all the difference. Thank you for being an essential part of this effort!



Spring into a

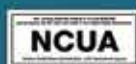
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Updates from your State Representative

by Saira Draper

The numbers are glaring.

The Democrats in the House are close to parity with the Republicans (just a 10-vote difference), but you wouldn't know it by the number of bills sponsored by Democrats that received a vote by the end of crossover day. By the time we cleared that critical milepost in the 2025 session, 221 bills advanced through the House; only 16 of them were sponsored by Democrats. I predict that imbalance will only get worse before the gavels fall on the 2025 session on April 4. Republicans will find bills to use as "vehicles": they will strip out the original language and replace it with language that may be entirely unrelated to the original bill. And because that bill has already passed one chamber, the new language won't receive the same degree of scrutiny in that chamber again.

The use of "vehicles" is a time-honored strategy at the Gold Dome. But it's anti-democratic. And bypassing process like this sets us up for a frenzy at the end of the session. There won't be thoughtful debate. There won't be an opportunity to point out problems in proposed laws and fix them before they are final. There won't be enough time for any of that, the Republicans will argue. That means the voices of more than half of all Georgians—more than 6.5 million people who are represented by Democrats—will be ignored. There was so much that we hoped for this session that never stood a chance at a fair hearing or an honest vote because it was proposed by a Democrat.

I heard from you that you wanted us to focus on guns. You wanted us to protect our children from finding a loaded weapon and unintentionally using it on a playmate. You wanted us to protect our children from the trauma of hiding in the corners of their classrooms or taking cover under their desks as an armed classmate randomly fires on fellow students. The Democrats had solid ideas that would have been effective. But instead, the GOP pushed through a

"comprehensive school safety bill" that didn't even include the word "gun."

You also wanted us to protect the ballot and make it easier for Georgians to vote. While the GOP made noise about agreeing with good election legislation, they found creative ways to make voting harder.

Overwhelmingly, Georgians wanted us to protect and expand healthcare for impoverished children and the elderly. Instead, the GOP, led by Gov. Brian Kemp, voted to give an outsized kickback to the wealthy rather than use the funds to expand Medicaid.

On the other hand, you didn't want us to focus on culture wars. Yet the GOP at the General Assembly ratcheted up its war on transgender youth. Republican lawmakers worked to curry favor with President Donald Trump's by echoing his "America First" campaign theme with a license plate bearing that slogan. They claimed they were promoting patriotism and not Trump's agenda. Right. They stepped into foreign affairs by voting to block state agencies from buying goods from foreign companies deemed a security threat and to prohibit foreign governments from buying land near any of Georgia's 13 military installations.

They even booked legislative time to make cornbread the official bread of Georgia, Brunswick stew the official state stew, the Pineywoods cattle the official Georgia heritage cattle breed, and the marsh tacky horse the official Georgia heritage horse breed. Republican leaders have wasted precious legislative time on issues that go against the wishes of most Georgians while insisting there isn't time to deal with the legislation Democrats propose to make Georgian's lives better, safer, and richer.

The Capitol is a tough environment in which to work. One where you have little power, and the other side is willing to give nothing unless it's for something in return. Democrats, including myself,

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (CSM)

by Lori White

Homelessness can happen to anyone. Here is a short testimony of one of our guests, Troy Hobbs, and how Clifton is working with him to have a fresh start.

Troy became incarcerated and waited two years for his trial. He did not take a plea deal because he believed in his innocence. While in jail, he lost his family, job, and eyesight. Troy struggled with diabetes and the combination of an unhealthy diet in jail, and with no medical treatment he became almost completely blind. At trial, 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 the necessary paperwork to get eye surgery at Grady. Troy now has restored vision and is continuing his journey of regaining mental stability and hope. With the help of 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

have had success in passing legislation by working it into already existing legislation sponsored by Republicans. We are also effective in making Republican legislation better—when they are willing to work with us. But there is always a tradeoff that comes with these successes. Sometimes we are asked to stand down on certain issues or not speak against certain bills. Sometimes we owe a favor later. And if we ever become too "difficult," they won't work with us anymore. I'm constantly evaluating the balance of the value of "successes" with the value of what I must give up in order to achieve those successes.

But tallies like this crossover day's tally—205 Republican bills vs 16 Demo-



Troy Hobbs

needs and wants of the guests. It is a safe place to be." Troy is now living at Joe's Place (our transitional living facility), serving as a Night Host at Clifton, and he assists our Food Coordinator with preparing meals for the guests. We are grateful for Troy and know he will make a difference in the community when he leaves our program.

cratic bills—are a somber reminder that our successes are mere crumbs in the big scheme of things. Winning more seats is required to get the kinds of policy changes that the majority of Georgians seek.

And I'm working hard on that.

Editor's Note: Saira Draper is the State Representative in the Georgia General Assembly for House District 90, which includes Lake Claire. Thank you, Saira, for taking the time to keep us informed, and for your work.

You can contact Rep. Draper at saira.draper@house.ga.gov.

Peter and Alyssa Olson

Continued from page 1.

in 2020, and last year it opened for REO Speedwagon and Train. Currently on tour across the country, YRR will be back in Georgia at Alpharetta's Ameris Bank Amphitheatre on April 26.

Alyssa, who teaches music, has jumped into a new acting career just since the pandemic. She plays a dead-beat mom in the Lifetime movie *The Lies We Bury*, which came out in January, and she spent February in Texas on the set of a thriller to be released in the fall.

The Olsons are grateful they can work in these creative fields. They both grew up in Columbus, Indiana, a town of about 50,000, and went to the University of Indiana. Peter initially planned to follow in his father's footsteps and become a doctor, but switched his focus to physical therapy and then teaching. He continued to play in the band that had formed in high school. Alyssa studied opera at Indiana's Jacobs School of Music and earned a degree in vocal performance. Throughout her childhood, she had taken voice lessons and performed. "I sang at weddings, corporate events, and Christmas parties," she says. She also got involved in community theatre and had the title role in the musical "Annie" at age twelve. At thirteen, she won a contest at the Little Nashville Opry in Nashville, Indiana, that allowed her to open for the musician of her choice: Tanya Tucker. During college, she continued to sing at the Little Nashville Opry, as well as with Peter's band. "I was singing pop music and opera at the same time," she says. "It kept it fun."

But by the end of college, Alyssa felt burned out on music and took a break from it. She joined Peter in Atlanta in 2003. By then he had decided his primary goal was to build a successful band. He and band members from college teamed up. "We had cut our teeth on learning to play covers," says Peter. Initially they played open mics across Atlanta, from Limerick Junction and CJ's Landing to Eddie's Attic and Smith's Olde Bar. "The band started to get some little gigs," Peter says—and then they got more. They were operat-

ing in two lanes: writing original music and playing covers.

In 2007, they formed Yacht Rock Revue, and their bread and butter became yacht rock. This style of music from the late 1970s and '80s was originally called soft rock, light rock, or West Coast sound, and it was played by bands like the Doobie Brothers, Kenny Loggins, and Steely Dan. The name Yacht Rock came later in a rebrand of the genre, Peter says. While the music has a light, breezy feel, it takes skill to play.

"We gained a lot of respect early on because the songs are difficult to play and sing," he says.

Peter is a frontman for YRR, singing and playing guitar, keyboard, and percussion. He's also the business manager of the 10-member band. Nick Nie-spodziani, whom Peter has known since childhood, is the musical director.

YRR draws a broad audience, from nostalgic older fans to college kids who find the music ironically appealing at first and then keep coming back. The pandemic brought a lot of change, however; the band began live-streaming shows on Facebook. Peter and Alyssa also began to perform together on a Facebook livestream from their basement studio.

Alyssa worked in the event planning business for more than a decade, first for Gooseberry Events in Atlanta, then forming Sashay Creative Events with a partner. Clients included Cator Woolford Gardens in Lake Claire. But with young children at home, she put event planning aside. During the pandemic she began to think, "I'm going to get back into acting." She signed up for acting classes at the Alliance Theatre as soon as social isolation ended. She began to get work as a movie extra, then snagged roles in student films, many made by film students at SCAD.

"The pandemic changed the landscape of auditioning," Alyssa says. Actors now video their auditions at home and submit them to websites such as Backstage and Actors Access, where

Cont. on p. 11



Alyssa & Peter in their basement studio, demonstrating how the teleprompter mirrors an image. Alyssa uses it when making video recordings for auditions. Photo: Stell Simonton



Olson family (from left): Seija, Synnove, Alyssa, Peter, Naven. Photo by Kristine Polstra

Leonardi Gras 2025

by Rachel Sammons

With warm sunny weather and a cool breeze in the air, the setting was perfect for a festive street parade. Neighbors, family, and friends gathered on Saturday, March 1 for the 4th annual Leonardi Gras tribute to Mardi Gras on Leonardo Avenue. Spirits were high as all laissez les bons temps rouler—"let the good times roll"!

The spectacle included families in costumes, decorated scooters, bikes, and wagons and, of course, colorful beads to wear and throw. Kids from all over the greater Lake Claire neighbor-



hood showed up to take part in the festivities, making a grand event!

As it is awards season, the KREWE de LEO Award for the best-decorated float was judged. After great deliberation, this year's award went to two (!!!!)



Peter and Alyssa Olson

Continued from page 10.

casting calls appear. It's a tough business to break into. "A lot of the work is auditioning," she says. "A lot of it is out of your hands." Her big break came in 2022 while she worked as an extra on the set of the movie *A Walton's Thanksgiving*. The director approached her and offered her a small role in the movie playing the character Selma.

Alyssa continues to teach music to about 20 students, while auditioning and working in commercials and movies. And the couple's children are each studying a musical instrument and singing. Synnove, 14, and Seija, 12, are students at Howard Middle School. Naven, 8, is at Mary Lin.

Peter and Alyssa bring an entrepreneurial spirit to music and acting. "We're planners," she says. They also value individuality. "We're all a little weird, a little crazy," Alyssa says. "That's what makes everyone unique. I think that's what we need more of!"

You can follow Peter's band at *YachtRockRevue.com* and find Alyssa's latest film credits on IMDB.

Editor's note: This article is part of Jane Branscomb's Lake Claire Creatives series about neighbors whom you might not know are talented individu-



Alyssa as the villainous Barbara Porter in the Lifetime movie The Lies We Bury, released in January.

als, whether accomplished amateurs or consummate professionals. Contact her at JaneBranscomb@gmail.com (Jane-Branscomb 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 this series, see lakeclaire.org/clarion/clarion-archives/, go to 2024, and start with February.

paraders, and they happen to be Leonardo's two youngest babies—Morgan (Boiled Crawfish) and Beckham (King Cake Baby). Congratulations to Rohleder-Harbin and Gosdin, parents!

The parade began at the top of Leonardo at McLendon and rolled at 3 p.m. down the street, hooking a right on Marlbrook to arrive at Adam and Tiffany James' home for a post-parade potluck party. Revellers feasted on chicken and andouille gumbo, jambalaya, Henri's King Cakes, and homemade dips and desserts. While sipping Pat O'Brien hurricanes, parents watched over their little ones as they played on the greatest playset. New to the event this year, dancing ensued with all ages cutting a rug as DJ Lett spun some festival favorites and classic party tunes.

As is tradition, young and old elbowed their way to get a piece of cake, hoping to find the hidden baby, signaling being crowned King or Queen. With two king cakes in play, two lucky folks were crowned. Quickly, laughs broke out over the look of shock on King Jake's face when he learned that getting the baby also means you host next year's Leonardi Gras! Since the party moves locations each year, it looks like partygoers may be at the corner of Leonardo and Marlbrook in 2026! Just kidding, Jake!

Leonardi Gras is quickly becoming

Photos by Debbie Livingston



Our two Krewe de Leo award winners

ing one of the street's favorite events, bringing the community together to enjoy great company, delicious food and drinks, and simply a chance to pass a good time, mais cha!

Wild in Lake Claire

Continued from page 7.



Armadillo seen by Meredith and her husband

cause I stuck my head out the window while driving to try to see the birds aloft in the sky, and I had a huge smile plastered on my face while I simultaneously tried not to crash into anyone.

While nature observations close to home are always a delight, I cannot neglect to remark on the vital importance of our public lands, near and far, for harboring much of the best of our shared natural heritage. Those lands are currently under very serious threat at the federal level, with mass firings of staff who work to steward our National Forests, Parks, Wildlife Refuges, and other types of natural areas that are owned by all of us. Additionally, there are proposals to sell these lands to build a national

sovereign "wealth" fund, or to give them to the states where they are located to do with as they see fit, or to build housing on them. This would be an irreversible, tragic error. Contact your representatives in Congress and let them know the value of our public lands should remain in their intact, well-stewarded form and not cashed out.

Writer and historian Wallace Stegner called national parks "the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst."

If you have an observation to share in a future column, please send it to sara.gottlieb@gmail.com



Trillium



Bloodroot



Turtles!

🎵 Live Music! 🎵

by Beth Damon

Here is 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
Wednesday, April 2	Clap Your Hands Say Yeah	Terminal West
Wednesday, April 2	Neon Trees	Buckhead Theatre
Thursday, April 3	BoDeans	City Winery
Thursday, April 3	Mono Means One	Aisle 5
Friday, April	Southern Cuture on the Skids	Star Bar
Friday, April 4	Neal Francis	Variety Playhouse
Friday, April 4	Rebirth Brass Band	Vinyl
Apr 4-5	Mental Awakening	Westside Motor Lounge
Saturday, April 5	Webb Wilder	Eddie's Attic
Saturday, April 5	Melissa Carper & Theo Lawrence	The EARL
Saturday, April 5	Michelle Malone	Eddie's Attic
Sunday, April 6	Walter Trout	City Winery
Sunday, April 6	Graham Nash	Byers Theater
Thursday, April 10	Squirrel Nut Zippers	City Winery
Friday, April 11	ZZ Ward	City Winery
Friday, April 11	St. Vincent	Tabernacle
Friday, April 11	Penny & Sparrow	The Eastern
Saturday, April 12	AWOLNATION	Buckhead Theatre
Saturday, April 12	Leonid & Friends: The music of Chicago	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, April 12	Experience Hendrix	Fox Theatre
Saturday, April 12	Soul Coughing	The Eastern
Saturday, April 12	The Floozies/Big Something/Sunsquabi	Tabernacle

DATE	BAND	LOCATION
Tuesday, April 15	Grateful for Biggie (mashup tribute)	City Winery
Wednesday, April 16	Asleep at the Wheel	Gas South
Thursday, April 17	Tank and the Bangas	Variety Playhouse
Thursday, April 17	Jon Batiste	Fox Theatre
Friday, April 18	Caroline Herring	Eddie's Attic
Apr 18-20	420fest (The Revivalists/Marcus King/GSBG etc	Pullman Yards
Saturday, April 19	Me'Shell Ndegeocello	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, April 19	The Black Jacket Sympony (Jimmy Buffet)	ASO
April 20-21	Peabo Bryson	City Winery
Thursday, April 24	Eric Gales	City Winery
Friday, April 25	Alison Krauss and Union Station	Chastain
Friday, April 25	Billy Pilgram	Eddie's Attic
Friday, April 25	Amos Lee	ASO
Saturday, April 26	Maxwell Street	MoonShadow Tavern
Saturday, April 26	KJ & the Funkmaysons	Garden Club
Saturday, April 26	Japanese Breakfast	Tabernacle
Tuesday, April 29	Pearl Jam	State Farm Arena
Tuesday, April 29	Gang of Four	Variety Playhouse
Tuesday, April 29	Kendrick Lamar and SZA	
Wednesday, April 30	Rüfüs Du Sol	Lakewood Amp
Friday, May 2	Amigo the Devil	Variety Playhouse
Friday, May 2	Hippie Sabotage	Tabernacle
Friday, May 2	The War and Treaty	Buckhead Theatre
Friday, May 2	One Night of Queen (Gary Mullen & the Works)	ASO
Saturday, May 3	Rhiannon Giddens & the Old-Time Revue	The Eastern
Saturday, May 3	LCD Soundsystem	Tabernacle
Friday, May 9	Grateful Shred	Terminal West
Friday, May 9	Badbadnotgood	Tabernacle
Friday, May 9	Billy Idol	Ameris Amp
Friday, May 9	Leftover Salmon	FTE
Saturday, May 10	Wilco w/Waxahatchee	Chastain
Saturday, May 10	JGBCB	Aisle 5
Saturday, May 10	The Temptations & the Four Tops	Fox Theatre

Hello – Safe Journey: Skiing in and around Lake Claire

April birthdays:

- April 2, Tyler Bliss, Leonardo, turns 17!
- April 6, Cash Hunter turns 9 on Hardendorf (thanks, Cash for being a big fan of the Clarion!), and Bridgette Maddux turns 15, Harold Ave
- April 10, Kelly Crutcher, Hardendorf
- April 12, Aarini Kakkar, Southerland Terrace
- April 13, Yasmin Mika Kianian, Clifton, turns 3
- April 17, Joe Agee, Harold Avenue
- April 18, Deacon Baker, Leonardo
- April 19, Emily Allen, Harold
- April 21, Jamie McGill, my favorite Jamie in the world, Arizona Ave., and Finn Manning turns 8, Mclendon Ave.
- April 23, Dan Geller, Marlbrook
- April 27, Claudia Restler, Lakeshore Drive
- April 28, Sara McGill, my favorite SARA in the world, Arizona Ave.
- April 28, Kevin Restler, Lakeshore Drive
- April 30, Beth van Arkel, Southerland Terrace

ANNIVERSARY:

April 16. Happy anniversary, Emily Smith from Parker!

MEMORIES

5 years this month since Janie Wright passed away in 2020; 6 years since Gay Arneri passed away in 2019. They made a deep impact on this neighborhood and many people. Rest in Peace, Lake Claire misses you.

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

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Coming soon!



2025 New Construction
1779 Indiana Avenue



Protect our Trees Rebuttal

Continued from page 1.

that was removed based on the ordinance – and also because it is the right thing to do!

Last month Lake Claire Clarion published an article called “Protect our Trees.” The distributed/printed version of the March Clarion issue that reached many of our front porches had the original version of this “Protect our Trees” article (thank you to the Clarion editor/staff for immediately modifying and re-distributing the electronic version once misrepresentations in this article were identified). While much of the content in this piece is representative of many of our feelings in the neighborhood, unfortunately, the article’s premise of one particular “developer” destroying mass tree canopy in our neighborhood, is 100% FALSE!

Here are the FABRICATIONS along with the FACTS:

- FABRICATION - “One developer alone, Liam Homes, has destroyed at least 70 large shade trees in our neighborhood in the past 4-5 years...”
- FACT - In the past 4-5 years (and actually, in the past 400-500 years) Liam Homes has built a grand total of 3 homes in Lake Claire/Candler Park. Two of the parcels have fairly well-known histories in our neighborhood: 1) 1333 McLendon Avenue had a huge tree fall on, and crush, the home that sat on the land. We purchased the land years later and built a beautiful new home on it – we removed precisely zero trees on this lot, and 2) 1827 McLendon Avenue was a vacant home at the corner of McLendon Ave and Ivy Place. It had an entire wall gone on the front façade of the home as well as meaningful roof damage that exposed the home to the elements (as a blue tarp was all that protected the house). The damage was caused by large falling limbs from a 34” (diameter at shoulder height) dead oak tree - we ultimately removed this and other dead trees from this lot. In

completing the three Lake Claire/Candler Park projects, Liam Homes did not destroy 70 large shade trees; we removed, and replaced, 1 healthy tree.

- FABRICATION - “If Liam Homes and their compatriots continue, we could wake up one morning to a silent spring with no birds visible or audible.”
- FACT – Neither Liam Homes nor I have this as a nefarious goal. Let’s again dig into facts. In these three total projects Liam Homes has completed in our neighborhood (and Candler Park) a grand total of 11 trees have been removed. 10 of these trees were Dead, Dying or Hazardous (DDH)! This designation is determined by a certified arborist. An example of a DDH tree could be like the one described above that was shedding large branches and damaging the existing home on McLendon and Ivy. Of the DDH trees we removed, many of them were small and/or ornamental trees. Again, in these three neighborhood projects, Liam Homes removed one single healthy, non-old-growth tree. We paid the prescribed fine and planted a replacement tree. The City of Atlanta would not have issued a Certificate of Occupancy had we not. This is dramatically different than the article’s oddly specific and inaccurate data.
- FABRICATION - “As a resident of one of the state streets, I have pointed the finger at Liam Homes as one of the worst offenders of the neighborhood and Candler Park because they have been very active on New York, Arizona, and now on Indiana Avenues, as well as other locations in the Lake Claire neighborhood (and Iverson in Candler Park has been particularly soured)”
- Well FACT, Liam Homes has never built a single home on New York, Arizona or Iverson. We are in no way “active” on those streets.

Neighborhood Dues for Lake Claire

Suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household, but as with NPR, more is always appreciated and will be put to good use 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 paid 2025 dues so far; thanks to all:

David Lewis & Danica Kombol
Sue McAvoy & Bill McKinnon
Debbie Livingston and David Tsao
Cynthia Gatton
Sherry McHenry
Miller Tobin
Sarah Herbert
Susan Rutherford
Jayma Hamilton

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It is true, we will be building a spectacular home on Indiana Ave. Pointing fingers is rude; Falsely pointing fingers is libel.

- FABRICATION - “Although rarely do citizens protesting the removal of trees actually win such cases, it has been my experience that some developers (excluding Liam Homes) are willing to negotiate...”
- FACT - Until now, Liam Homes has never once had an experience with the writer of this article unless a complaint came in anonymously. Regardless, Liam Homes cares deeply about their reputa-

tion in Lake Claire and Candler Park. Open, objective, fact-based dialogue is, and will continue to be, encouraged.

I want to express my thanks to the Clarion staff who worked with both me and Liam Homes to try to minimize the damage this article has caused. The article clearly and inaccurately targeted a quality, responsible builder – one can only hope the writer of the article simply did a very poor job of checking facts. I am proud to partner with Liam Homes and hope to do so for many, many years to come. Achieve with Steve!



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Covid, Dual-Weddings, and a Surprise Officiant

by Alicia McGill

Taylor Smith and Adam Ney had planned a dream elopement at the Old Edwards Inn in Highlands, NC. They had chosen a fantastic package and secured their booking. It was two years into the Covid-19 pandemic, and they had both avoided ever testing positive—until the Sunday before their wedding, when Adam woke up feeling sick.

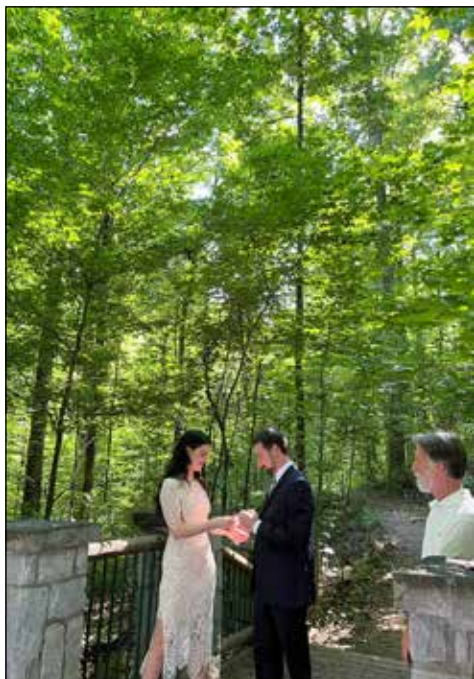
Fortunately, they were able to reschedule their small wedding. However, their honeymoon to Portugal was non-refundable and scheduled for the week after their wedding. With the couple determined to marry before their honeymoon, Adam's dad, Frank, took matters into his own hands. He got certified online to officiate non-denominational weddings. On May 26, 2022—also Frank's birthday—Taylor and Adam gathered with their immediate family, including their dog, Cowboy, who wore a black bowtie for the occasion, and exchanged vows on a bridge in the woods of our own Deepdene Park, where Frank officiated the ceremony. Taylor and Adam did not want Taylor to get sick also, so they hadn't had any physi-



Adam, Taylor and Cowboy in Deepdene

cal contact for over a week since Adam's positive Covid test; however, the two decided that their wedding kiss was worth the risk.

They held the reception in their back-



Wedding in Deepdene, Frank Ney as Officiant



Wedding in July in Highlands, NC



Beehive in Lake Claire!

by Local Beekeepers Lawrence Nieves and Sam Macey

The Lake Claire Community Land Trust welcomes 60,000 new winged residents! We have placed a beehive by the pond at the Land Trust. We are hopeful that by the time we hit the swing of summer, we will be able to offer hive tours for members of the community. Keep your eyes peeled for updates on the LCCLT community bulletin board.

Feel free to look at the hive, but please keep a bit of distance for both the safety of the bees and yourself. Hon-

eybees are kind creatures, but just like you and I, they don't like to be bothered. If you are interested in learning more or have any questions, please reach out to Sam at 678-428-7282 or Lawrence at 404-345-5427. We look forward to helping to pollinate Lake Claire!

See a close-up of the beehive on Page 19, and go check it out in person at the Land Trust!

yard on Delaware Avenue, with Taylor's dad baking his signature cheesecake for the occasion. Luckily, Adam was Covid-free by the time they left for their honeymoon the following week. However, once they arrived in Lisbon, Taylor began to develop symptoms—it turns out that the risky wedding kiss had come with a price.

When it was time to return to the U.S., the required Covid tests came back positive for antibodies for both Adam and Taylor, and there was a chance they would not be allowed to return home. Thankfully, with a note from a physician friend, they were cleared to fly back to Atlanta at the last second.

That summer, they had a second wedding, which took place on July 10,

pursuant to the original plan at Old Edwards Inn. The same immediate family attended, but this time Adam's dad could enjoy the ceremony as a spectator rather than as the officiant.

Now, Taylor and Adam celebrate two anniversaries: May 26 and July 10. On their first anniversary, May 26, 2023, they returned to the bridge in Deepdene Park for a special picnic, reminiscing about their unusual dual weddings that they would not trade for anything. Even though the couple felt very unlucky when Adam was first diagnosed with Covid, they now look back fondly on their two weddings and feel grateful to have gotten to celebrate such a special day twice.

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3-4 M.O.M.S Performance Academy
4:30-5:10 Conundrums
5:30-6:30 Dangerous Basement
7-8 Etta James Gang
8:30-10 Dawn Loves Nash feat.
Captive Eddies

WALKING, BIKING & MARTA
STRONGLY ENCOURAGED
BYO WATER BOTTLE,
REFILLING STATION
AVAILABLE

FREE
PARKING
@ CLIFTON
SANCTUARY

NO PETS ALLOWED



A new fence for the Land Trust Peace Pond. Margot, Luna, and Nate teamed up to help stain the new fence around the pond. The fence adds an additional element of safety but will not prevent folks from viewing and feeding the turtles. Children are required to be accompanied by an adult when visiting, but the fence features a child-proof gate just in case.

Fabulous Family Fun Fest II: A Vision in Search of Visionaries

More often than not, what greets a visitor to the Land Trust is the sound of happy children busy enjoying the playground. The joy of children is the heart of the vision of our community greenspace, and we serious grownups who sit through meetings and oversee the land try not to lose sight of that.

Several years ago we hosted a festival just for kids, the Fabulous Family Fun Fest. It splendidly lived up to its name, though it did not become an

annual event as we had hoped. But children keep showing up to enjoy the playground, and the vision has not faded away. This is a call to anyone in Lake Claire who shares the vision and would like to help spread the joy. Who can organize a children's game or a three-legged race? Who has an art or craft to share? Who can paint faces, perform magic tricks, teach juggling or hula hooping? Who would enjoy building a miniature golf station? Who can

offer a lesson in safe tree-climbing or demonstrate a science experiment? Who can donate baked goods or raffle prizes, snacks or drinks, money for materials? Who can volunteer to help out with set-up and clean-up, logistics, safety concerns?

So far, this is only a vision. The folks who manage and maintain the Land Trust have their hands full. If this idea inspires you, please contact us at info@LCCLT.org and let us know how you

can help. You may or may not be able to take the lead, but we will keep you in the loop as things evolve, and hopefully by this fall a team will coalesce and a coordinator will emerge to take us to the next step. We have faith that "Fabulous Family Fun Fest II" will touch down when the time is right. In the meantime, the voices of children will keep echoing across the playground to remind us.



Upcoming & Ongoing at the Land Trust

Sat., April 5: Spring Plant Sale, see article above.

Sat., April 5, 19, 26: Yoga Class with Vada of Unveil, 11 a.m.–noon (every Saturday, but **not the 12th due to set-up for Peace & Love Fest**), \$10/person (10% goes to LCCLT). Please register in advance using the link at LCCLT.org/new-events. Walk-ins also welcome!

Sat., April 5: Family Drumming Time, 7:30–8 p.m. (and every month before the Drum Circle) with guidance from experienced drummers. Rain date: April 19.

Sat., April 5: Land Trust Drum Circle, 8–11 p.m. (and every month on the 1st Sat.), \$5 donation requested. No alcohol please. Rain date: April 19. Check LCCLT.org/new-events for updates.

Sat., April 12: Peace & Love Fest. Get ready for Spring's annual coming-out party, with food, drink, artists' market, and live music on the Land Trust stage! Volunteers needed. See article this page.

Sun., April 13: Death Café with Denise Johnson, 3–4:30 p.m. in the Gorilla Grill. Denise Johnson of End of Life 101 hosts this monthly informal conversation about death and dying, with tea, coffee and cake. Free; donations welcome.

Sun., April 13: LCCLT board meeting, 5–6 p.m. (every month on the 2nd Sunday) in the Gorilla Grill (with the heater on) or at a picnic table outside, depending on the weather. All are welcome to sit in and speak up. Come in person or contact us at info@LCCLT.org for a Zoom link.

Mon., April 14, 21, & 29: Nature Playgroup with Nature Play Studio, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., weather permitting. \$5.00 donation per child (must be accompanied by a parent). Bring bottled water and bug spray. See LCCLT.org/new-events for details and payment options.

Wed., April 16: Land Trust Monthly Open Mic, 7–9 p.m. on the Land Trust stage. Jugglers, comedians, acoustic and spoken word performers welcome, or just come to listen. Five minutes per performer. Keep it family-friendly. New!

Sat., April 19: Community Work Day, 9–noon (and every month on the 3rd Saturday). Bring drinking water and work gloves. Note switch to warm-weather hours! Rain date: April 26.

Sat., April 19: Tarot Class with Chakura Kineard of Unfiltered Glitter, Beginners 2–3 p.m., Advanced 3–4 p.m. \$25/pers. (20% goes to LCCLT). Please pay in advance via Venmo or CashApp; see LCCLT.org/new-events. Sliding scale available to women of color and LBGTQIA+ community; contact info@LCCLT.org.

Sun., April 20: Community Easter Egg Hunt, 9 a.m.–noon. Adults gather at Gazebo at 9 a.m. to hide eggs. (Pre-stuffed plastic eggs only) 10 a.m.: the kids hunt. Around 11 a.m.: potluck picnic; bring food to share & your re-usable plates, utensils. All forms of actual eggs are welcome as long as long as you take any leftovers home with you.

Sun. April 27: Backyard Foraging & Herbalism: A Plant Walk/Talk with Jenny Bailey, 1–2 p.m. (and every month on the last Sunday). Sliding scale, \$10–\$20 (25% goes to LCCLT). New monthly event!

Spring Plant Sale! Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m.–noon

by Sara Gottlieb

The Land Trust will be holding its spring plant sale on April 5 from 9 a.m. to noon at the cul-de-sac entrance (self-serve after that until the plants are all taken). There will be a variety of perennials dug from the Land Trust and neighbors' yards, vegetables and flowers started from seed, and house plants too. All proceeds benefit the Land Trust, so stop by and pick up some plants for your garden or your home.

Peace & Love Fest Returns, Saturday, April 12

by Frani Green

Greetings, Land Trust lovers! Spring has sprung, and that means it's time for our annual Spring Peace and Love Festival. Join us on April 12 from 3 to 10 p.m. for live music, artist vendors, food trucks, drinks, and a bake sale to support and maintain our beautiful land. This year's lineup includes M.O.M.S. Performance Academy, Conundrums, Dangerous Basement, the Etta James Gang, and Dawn Loves Nash featuring Captive Eddies.

Walking, biking, and riding MARTA are strongly encouraged. If you drive, please park at Clifton Sanctuary, 369 Connecticut Ave., a short walk away, not in front of neighbors' homes on near-

by streets. Bring your own water bottle; filtered water for refilling provided. **Festival volunteers needed! Please email Brynan at brynan1865@gmail.com if you can help out in exchange for free admission.**

The Land Trust is a nonprofit 501(c)3 that offers peace and tranquility, community and friendship... an oasis in the city. The land is under conservation easement, so it will remain a green space for (at least) our lifetime. If you can't attend and would like to donate, go to our website at www.lcclt.org, and find the donate button at the bottom of every page. See you on the dance floor!



Bees' entrance for the new hive at the Land Trust! (See article page 17.)



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 feature a writer, poet, or artist. This month, our featured artist is CALDER TAPPAN. He won this honor by winning the extra credit

prize in the Kids' Contest. Calder just turned five in February, goes to Freedom Park Preschool, and the family lives on McLendon; he entitled his contribution "Dr. Dracula and the Color-Changing Snake." Look out, Picasso!

We welcome any Lake Claire child or young adult to add your creativity to this page. This page is Beth the editor's favorite thing I've ever invented, so be sure to participate! Send to *editor@lakeclaire.org*, by **APRIL 15-18** for the **MAY** issue.

Contest Winners

We have some great winners this month!! **Charlie Ullery** won First Prize. He is 4, in pre-school at IPCP, and lives on New York Ave. **Ames Yeend** won the second-place prize! He is ten years old, at Mary Lin, and lives on Arizona Avenue. There was a close tie for 3rd place!—**Calder Tappan** and **Miles Brittingham**. And Calder won extra credit as noted above. Miles is ten, in 4th grade at Mary Lin. The family lives on Claire.

Everyone: See this month's contest below, and make your guess: it's your chance to be **famous** in a newspaper, and if you win extra credit, you can be our featured writer/artist!



Charlie, 1st place!



Dr. Dracula and the Color-Changing Snake, by Calder Tappan

New Contest

Hi kids, have you seen the new beehive at the Land Trust, pictured on page 17? Honeybees pollinate plants, produce honey, and are essential to the health of ecosystems and food production. Find a picture with a talking bee as you look forward to Spring weather. The winner/winners who find it will have their pictures in the next Clarion (MAY). 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 something else about bees OR what that sentence above meant about "ecosystems and food production." The extra-credit prize is to be a



Ames, 2nd place



Miles, 3rd place tie



Calder, Featured Artist and tied for 3rd place in Contest

featured writer/artist in a future Lake Claire Clarion with your original work. **The deadline is APRIL 15-18. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this HIGHLY coveted prize.**