

The
Lake
Claire

Clarion



Summer 2025

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V.33, #6-8

Boyd Baker: Arts, Community, and the South

“I’ve never wanted to regret that I didn’t try something.”

—Boyd

by Jane Branscomb

As a youngster, Boyd Baker was given an old, hand-crank printing press. He put it to use when he decided he wanted to start making some money, creating a flyer to advertise his availability for odd jobs and chores. Unfortunately, business wasn’t booming in their Doraville apartment complex. But those writing, layout, and marketing skills would prove valuable in many later ventures.

At UGA, he approached his friend Derek Yaniger, whose cartoons ran in *The Red & Black*, with the idea of putting his art into a book. They pulled together the content, laid it out, got it printed, and sold it around the campus and town.

In another entrepreneurial venture during college, Boyd and a friend started a new fraternity when they didn’t see one that was what they wanted. Beta Theta Pi is one of the oldest social fraternities in the country, but UGA didn’t have a chapter at the time. “This was nothing like the fraternity experience you see in the movies,” he says: “It was a lot of work! It was a business” to manage the house, the members, the finances.

Boyd earned a journalism degree with an advertising major, and he ap-



plied it in “regular jobs” for a few periods after college. But he had known from the moment he read “How to Make Money Without a Job” as a young teen that a “9-to-5 forever” life was not his future. The book’s suggestions were what today is known as the gig economy. “It blew my mind!” he remembers. Looking back now, he describes his career as “a series of projects.”

Boyd met the future Wendy Baker when he managed a Gorin’s Ice Cream shop in Athens, his first job out of college. They became friends; and ten years later they started dating. Boyd was living on the edge of Lake Claire, with a job in marketing. One day he and two friends came up with another book idea and threw in together to produce it. “The Belly of Atlanta” was a guidebook to “all the cool spots that we would want someone to tell us about if we were visiting in town.”

As a new couple, Boyd and Wendy lived in Cabbagetown for a time. Then for a change of scenery, they packed up their horse, two dogs, and a cat and

Cont. on p. 9

Waymo Is Here: You May Want to Run

by Kevin H. Posey

Do you like to live dangerously? Do you fancy taking incredible risks just to get to Trader Joe’s? Has your spouse taken out a big life insurance policy on you and is looking for options to, ahem, speed things along?

Well, good news! Uber will soon be offering rides via **Waymo**, a robotaxi firm that’s been terrorizing, um, serving people in San Francisco and Austin for some time now. You may have even noticed Waymo vehicles, with their weird, Borg-inspired equipment array on top, roaming the streets in our neighborhood.

This is actually part of their initial testing. For these tests, you are actually the subjects. Yes, I know, you didn’t sign up to be a crash test dummy. But don’t worry, Atlanta City Council took care of that for you by allowing them

onto our streets.

Are these tests dangerous? Well, these bots pretty much act like human drivers. For example, I saw one in Candler Park encroaching on a crosswalk, just like humanoid motorists do. According to a report last year in *The Washington Post*, this practice is something of a habit of Waymos in San Francisco:

“When I try to cross my street at a marked crosswalk, the Waymo robotaxi is often wouldn’t yield to me. I would step out into the white-striped pavement, look at the Waymo, wait to see whether it’s going to stop—and the car would zip right past...”

But that’s not the only commonality we fleshy types have with our motodroids. According to a list obtained by Austin’s Fox 7 News:

Cont. on p. 11

Millions at the Alliance: Almost Like Being on Broadway!

by Beth Damon

In early May, some friends and I attended the world premiere of *Millions*, at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta’s Woodruff Arts Center. Inspired by the novel and film, the play was amazing. I hope this *Clarion* comes to you in time to attend—it’s playing through **June 15**.

The book is by Bob Martin (*The Prom*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*), music and lyrics by Tony Award winner Adam Guettel (*Floyd Collins*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Days of Wine & Roses*),

Tony-winning Director Bartlett Sher (*Light in the Piazza*, *South Pacific*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*); there are a bevy of Broadway actors and some extremely talented children. The set was fantastic and professional.

The Alliance has a long history of launching productions to Broadway. Eleven shows that had their start at the Alliance went on to have successful runs on Broadway. This could be the twelfth!

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The Clarion is published monthly.

The deadline for advertising and editorial consideration is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Letters to the editor should be limited to 300 words or fewer.

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 Summer

Fun summer events, and see Land Trust stuff on P. 15.

June

1–15 Alliance Theatre, on the Coca-Cola Stage: *Millions*, a heartwarming new musical about two brothers, their newly widowed father, a train robber, and (possibly) a miracle. See review on Page 1, I highly recommend it. Info/tix: www.alliancetheatre.org/production/2024-25/millions.

1–22 Horizon Theatre: *Laughs in Spanish*, by Alexis Scheer. Humor, heart, and cultural exploration. Horizon is a treasure of our extended neighborhood. Info/tix: www.horizontheatre.com/plays/laughs-in-spanish/

1–22 Actor's Express, directed by Freddie Ashley: *Doubt, A Parable*. Winner of Tony & Pulitzer Prize. Info/tix: actors-express.com/play-page-doubt-a-parable/

4–29 Theatrical Outfit, *Young John Lewis*. Info at www.theatricaloutfit.org/

7 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.

8 Land Trust Annual Open House & Potluck, and tour of grounds. See details P. 15

19 **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/newscast-sign-up/.

21 Fiddler's Green Coffeehouse, always the 3rd Saturday, 7 p.m. \$10 (members \$8). This month: Admiral Radio and Tom Eure & Amelia Osborne. For more details, go to aaffm.org/aaffm-events/

28 Lake Claire Park Work Day, 9 a.m. to noon. Park work days are the 4th Saturdays, 6/28 (this one), 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.

July

5 Frazer Forest Volunteer Workday with Trees Atlanta, 9 a.m.–noon. See description for June 7.

17 **The Lake Claire monthly neighborhood meeting** is the third Thursday of each month. Please see info above, June 19.

18 Variety Playhouse, Yacht Rock Schooner & Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus Queen Show – doors 7/show 8. See info, plus all their other offerings this summer, which there wasn't room for: www.variety-playhouse.com/calendar/

19 Fiddler's Green Coffeehouse. July's music - Harm's Way and Marc Gunn (Celtic folk musician). For more details: aaffm.org/aaffm-events/

24 Actor's Express, *A Strange Loop*, book, music & lyrics by Amanda Washington. Through Aug. 31. Info/tix: actors-express.com/play-page-a-strange-loop/.

August

2 Frazer Forest Volunteer Workday with Trees Atlanta, 9 a.m.–noon. See description for June 7.

16 Fiddler's Green Coffeehouse — This month's musicians are Eliot Bronson & TBD. Check closer to the date at aaffm.org/aaffm-events/

21 **The Lake Claire monthly neighborhood meeting** is the third Thursday of each month. Please see info above, June 19.

Send items for the September issue by August 15. The hard-working Clarion volunteers get a little break for the Summer. Thank you, Véronique, Pat, Alicia, & deliverers!

Kathi Kelley, June 15, 1956–May 7, 2025

We are so sad to lose our friend Kathi at such a young age, and we are heartbroken for Steve, losing his Special K. When able, Steve plans a party to celebrate her life, as Kathi would have wanted. Kathi would also have loved donations to the Land Trust instead of flowers.

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. As a 35-year LC resident, I'm not surprised that there are so many others who are committed to staying in Lake Claire. It has been fun meeting them, albeit often virtually, and I hope you've been enjoying reading their stories as much as I have enjoyed continuing the series. This month's article features Sara Rossi, Jeff DeBell, their daughter, Emma, and their goldendoodle, Olive (8 years old). It seems like yesterday that Emma won the Clarion kids' contest, but *wow*, she is almost 18 now, and is a rising Midtown senior!

In 2016, Jeff and Sara bought their first house at 498 Harold. They were looking for a great elementary school in Atlanta for Emma, and they found Mary Lin. Sara had an appointment to meet their new realtor, and she met her

in the front yard of 498 Harold. It was her fastest sale, ever!

Sara walked in and felt the house "hugged" her. She called Jeff, who was on his way to a job out-of-state and told him they needed to put an offer down ASAP; Vicky and Brian accepted their offer two days later!

Sara and Jeff just loved their "LITTLE blue house" on Harold. Jeff built an amazing tree house in the backyard; it still stands (see picture Page 8). They got their puppy Olive there in 2017.

In 2020, they needed more space, as Emma was in middle school, and Olive had grown into a full size dog. Sara kept walking with Olive in front of a house at 586 Harold, thinking of how beautiful it was and fantasizing. Sara said, "I loved that "BIGGER blue house" on Harold!" Then, one day, she began seeing that work was being done to this house, so



LITTLE blue house

she found the contact info for the owners and reached out directly to them. "They confirmed that they were getting ready to put the house on the market as they were leaving and moving to Colo-

rado. They promised that they would contact me when the house went on the market... and they did!"

Cont. on p. 8

Rest in Peace, Les Garber

Paul Leslie Garber Jr., known to friends and loved ones as Les, died Thursday, April 3. Born in Atlanta on March 20, 1945, he had recently celebrated his 80th birthday. He was the eldest son of Paul Leslie Garber, Sr. and Carolyn White Garber, longtime residents of Decatur, GA. He lived in Lake Claire with his wife, June, for more than 35 years.

Living much of his life in Atlanta, Les graduated from Druid Hills High School in 1963 and from Emory University in 1968. He later received his master's in education from Georgia State University.

His parents nurtured Les' appreciation of traveling. After high school graduation, Les and several friends traveled through Europe by bicycle. Then he joined the rest of his family to travel further in Europe and the Middle East. During the Summer of 1964, Les and his brother, David, remained in Israel at the archaeological site of the Masada as diggers.

Les was intrigued by photography

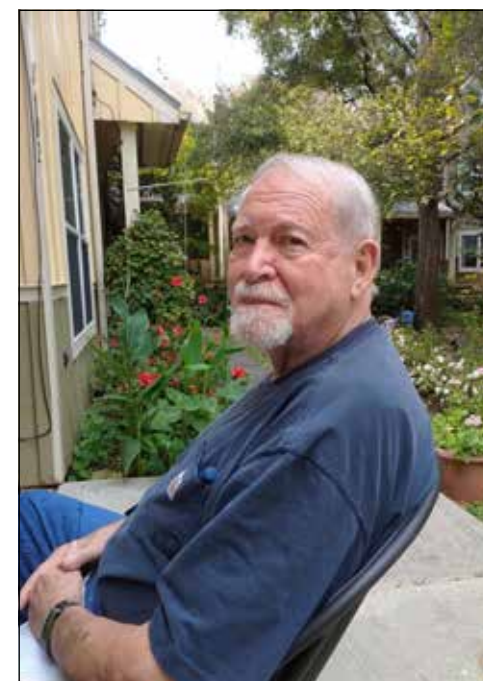
and audiovisual production early in his life. This led to one of his first jobs with TRAV (Television, Radio and Audiovisual) services at the Presbyterian Center, then located on Ponce de Leon in Atlanta. Through his years as an educator, he introduced photography, print making, and film production for students to engage them in learning and support their creativity. Between 1970 and 1972, Les' earliest efforts at innovative education resulted in Riverwood School, which was housed in a log cabin located in south Dekalb County.

During the mid-1970s, Les lived on and sailed his sailboat between Florida and the Bahama Islands. Deciding that he wanted to accomplish more with his life, he returned to the mainland. In 1974, he moved to Farmington, New Mexico to be a science teacher and then the principal at the Navajo Mission School. It was there that he first met Lorraine Wilson, who had been employed as a curriculum advisor. Three years later, Lorraine and Les moved to

Atlanta to put their educational experiences and shared ideals to work in the founding of Horizons School in 1978. They worked tirelessly to create an educational environment that nurtured the joy of learning, the conquest of challenges, the pursuit of collaboration, and the embrace of the diversity of our world.

Les liked nothing better than starting a new project. His optimism and love of new adventures led him in many directions. Building everything from the facilities at Horizons School, to furniture, intricate boxes, and carved figures, was a challenge and joy for him. He was immensely proud of the Horizons students who participated in the building and renovation projects. He liked to create scavenger hunts, puzzles, and games to facilitate friendship-building as well as learning.

Les loved to explore caves, swim, snorkel, scuba dive, and most of all sail. Les was delighted to plan field trips for students that incorporated swimming with manatees, spelunking, camping



in the north Georgia mountains, and rock hunting that expanded the definition of geology to include Rocky Road ice cream! Horizons School trips to Savannah, Ga, Yellowstone National Park, Mexico, and Costa Rica were special memories and sources of stories.

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Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (CSM)

by Lori White

We are happy to announce we have completed the exterior renovations to Joe's Place. This large project, funded by grants from the Fraser Parker Foundation and Eastminster Presbyterian Church, has greatly improved the functionality and appearance of the complex. We had several large trees with comprised roots removed, a new driveway installed, new stairwell, a new retaining wall built, a new drain system installed that leads to a rain detention garden behind the facility, and all new landscaping.

We hope that you, our Lake Claire neighbors, enjoy these improvements. We are so grateful for the opportunity to complete this project!

Friends, there are so many ways to get involved with Clifton. If you are in-



terested, please email me at lori@cliftonsanctuary.com and let us know what interests you. Volunteers are the heartbeat of our ministry.

Dekalb County Ordinance Establishing a Litter Registry for Dogs, Cats, Domestic Rabbits — Passed in a 7-0 vote on May 13!

by Scott McLane

The following is the presentation made by UGA Law Professor Lisa Milot to the Dekalb County Board of Commissioners on April 11, regarding that ordinance. Professor Milot worked closely with the County Law Department in drafting the ordinance. She also worked with the state legislature to draft HB 311 regarding transient “pet” sales, mentioned below.

Fact Sheet: The Problem. DeKalb County is experiencing a pet overpopulation crisis that threatens the health, safety, and general welfare of its residents and animals and has resulted in escalating costs to taxpayers for animal care and control. While the State of Georgia requires that breeders producing and transferring more than one litter of companion animals in a 12-month period obtain a Pet Dealer license, the

law is difficult to enforce since no notice is required when utilizing the one-litter exemption from licensing. As a result, illegal breeding—**also the net result is that illegal breeders collect the profits from pet overproduction while law-abiding citizens pay the associated costs.**

The Solution. This ordinance fills a critical hole in State law by requiring that anyone not licensed by the Georgia Department of Agriculture who produces a litter of puppies, kittens, or domestic kits in DeKalb County provide notice of the same to DeKalb County Animal Services. It exempts GDA-licensed breeders, shelters, and rescue organizations.

Why This Ordinance Is Needed: *It reduces the economic burden on taxpayers and nonprofits for animal control*

Frazer's Adults with Disabilities Take on New Challenge with Bike Camp at Chastain Park

by Dina Shadwell

A group of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities from the Frazer Center recently participated in a unique week-long bike camp at Chastain Park, thanks to a partnership with Florida-based nonprofit Adventure For All and local fitness technology company Wahoo.

Held in early spring, the camp brought fifteen Frazer Center participants together for a transformative experience that combined physical activity, confidence-building, and community connection. Each day began with mind-body exercises to help participants develop coordination and calm nerves—before they ever sat on their bikes. “Adventures are such a key aspect of learning how to take on life,” said Adventure For All founder Chase Pettey, who led the camp with his team. “They inspire confidence and teach resilience.”

Adventure For All's mission is to “redefine the human potential for all humans with exceptionalities,” and they put that mission into action in Atlanta. Participants of all ability levels worked toward riding independently, with many making significant progress over the course of the week. Helping to make it happen was Wahoo, an international fitness technology company headquartered in Atlanta just minutes from Chastain Park. Wahoo provided sta-

services and overcrowded shelters. Annually, DeKalb County taxpayers spend over \$11 million to impound, care for, transport, and euthanize companion animals. In addition to these public funds, nonprofits and private donors spend additional millions and countless hours to supplement management of excess animals. The proposed litter registry provides a means both to identify unlawful breeding and to tailor affordable spay/neuter programs for greatest effectiveness, ultimately reducing the

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tionary and two-wheel bikes, along with staff to assist campers. When weather interrupted one of the outdoor sessions, Wahoo opened its headquarters to the group for a tour and hands-on exploration of its smart fitness equipment—ending the day with a pizza party.

By the end of the week, some participants were riding independently, while others still needed support—but all were gaining confidence, balance, and courage. Robin Armond, Developmental Disabilities Professional at Frazer Center, saw that progress firsthand. “It was a very impactful experience for our group,” he says. “The energy, the encouragement, and the sense of inclusion were felt in every moment. The camp staff didn’t see disabilities—they saw potential, strength, and ability. That kind of respect and recognition means the world.”

Adventure For All has seen such success with its method that Pettey is currently developing a mobile app to help parents teach their children with disabilities to ride a bike using the same approach.

Once the camp wrapped, Pettey and his team promised to return to Atlanta for another biking adventure next year. In the meantime, Frazer Center's wheels are turning to find more opportunities for its adult participants to keep their skills—and their confidence—growing.



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Wild in Lake Claire

by Sara Gottlieb

Spring is in full swing in Lake Claire, and I can sense summer right around the corner. All the green things are madly growing, flowering, and fruiting, and animals are becoming more active. There are so many opportunities to interact with wildlife and to observe various forms of wildlife interacting with each other right in our own backyards.

I was walking on DeKalb Ave. from the MARTA station, thinking about how many squirrels I've seen lately, but also that I've been seeing a lot of hawks that should (in theory) be keeping the squirrel population in check. As I was having that thought, a hawk flew across the road to the train right-of-way on the other side and made an attempt at grabbing a squirrel, unsuccessfully. The hawk then flew back across the street, toward me, nearly clocking a cyclist on the head in the process.

One day in the past week, I heard my neighbor's dog barking like crazy in the backyard. I went outside and was looking around my porch when my neighbor pointed out there was a big possum on the top of the fence and that was what



Possum on the fence

the dog was barking at (see photo here). The possum stayed stock still until my neighbor reined in her dog and took him inside. Then, it carefully came down from the fence and headed away.

There seems to have been a rabbit baby boom in the neighborhood this spring! Beth D. has seen multiple baby bunnies in her yard on Delaware in the past two weeks. Alicia M. also has been seeing baby bunnies in her yard on Arizona. I recently discovered a baby bunny has taken up residence in one of my community garden plots at the Land Trust. It is not afraid of me at all, so I've been able to take some great photos of it nibbling at my plants, including the stereotypical carrot tops (see one of my photos on page 8).

Patricia D reports that she saw a surprisingly bright red bird with black wings and tail in the tall, dense trees outside her 3rd-story kitchen window. According to identification guides at the Cornell & Audubon websites, it was a male, breeding scarlet tanager, in migration back from South America to summer north.

Meredith W has been enjoying all the flowers—jack-in-the-pulpit, trillium, blue-eyed grass, fleabane, red and painted buckeye, and mountain laurel. There's a mountain laurel bush at Emory's Lullwater Preserve that has dark pink blooms—by far the pinkest she's ever seen. The oakleaf hydrangea in her yard is just starting to bloom, as is the Virginia sweetspire. Meredith has been loving seeing goslings around Candler Lake. She saw a young one trying to snuggle up under her mother's wing as they sat next to the main path—it was adorable (see photo to the right by Meredith W). She has seen lots of skinks and snapping turtles, plus elk with the cute white butts on a trip to Great Smoky Mountains National Park (photo above).

Debbie L. shared some great photos of a family of barred owls (see one of the photos Page 8) at Clyde Shepherd Park in Decatur that I've been seeing posted in various birding groups on Facebook.



Elk in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park



Canada goose and goslings

The parent owls have been observed busily bringing small mammals and reptiles back to the nest, stashing them in nearby trees, and even feeding pieces to the babies once they emerged out onto branches. The big, fuzzy babies are quite adorable, but must be a real handful for the parents!

Marc B captured a photo of a mushroom near Lake Claire Park in early

May (page 8). He was experimenting with shooting from below the mushroom, so the viewer could see its underside.

Miriam H has been wondering: there seem to be more red shouldered hawks, which she loves, rabbits, and cardinals this year. She has not heard or noticed catbirds yet and wonders if she's missed

Cont. on p. 8

Wild

Continued from page 7.

them. I admit that I have heard and seen very few catbirds (their calls sound a bit like a cat emitting a single meow). They are definitely here, but seemingly in fewer numbers than in previous years. Meanwhile, there are indeed a lot of cardinals—or possibly the ones that keep coming to my feeder are the same ones taking full advantage of the feeder. My trailcam captured a great photo of a cardinal flying toward it from the feeder (unfortunately, no room in the Clarion, but check out the Lake Claire/CP Facebook page in June).

Although I love observing nature and talking about it, I'm no David Attenborough, the legendary narrator of an untold number of nature documentaries from all over the world. Attenborough recently turned 99 years old, and he has attained a level of wisdom I can only hope to approach. He said, "It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living."

If you have a nature observation you'd like to share, please send it to sara.



Baby bunny, with what's left of a carrot top (by Sara G)

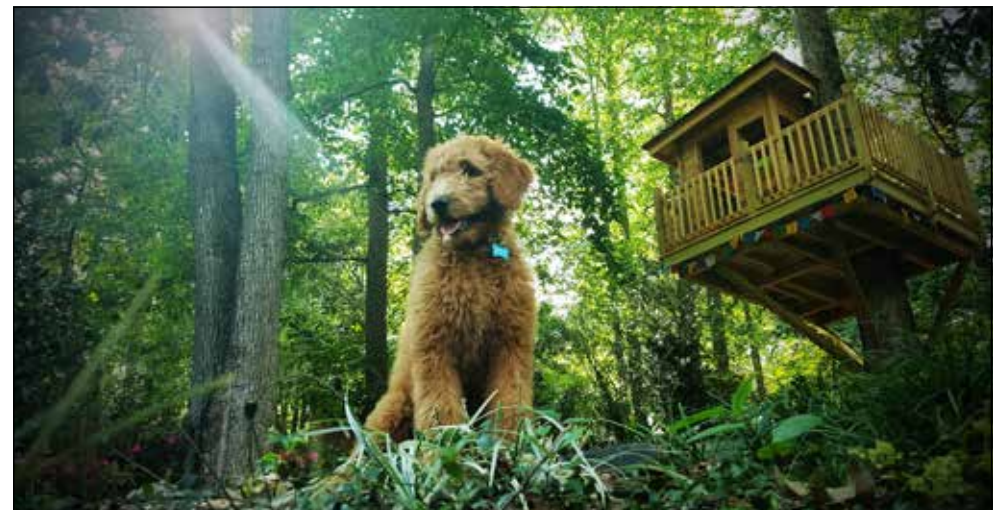


Marc B's mushroom

gottlieb@gmail.com



Barred owl parent in Clyde Shepherd Park (by Debbie Livingston)



Olive in Sara & Jeff's first Harold home

2+ Houses in LC

Continued from page 3.

Jeff came to see the house and called Sara to tell her that she "had" to come and see the inside. Sara loved it; it was perfect for them. They put an offer down, and the owners accepted it (even though they had higher offers), as they wanted to honor Sara's earlier contact. It's heartwarming when a seller connects with the potential buyers, knowing instinctively that a beloved home will be taken care of by good people.

So, in 2020 right at the beginning of the pandemic, Sara and Jeff closed on 586 Harold and moved two blocks up the street, face masks and all at the beginning of Covid.



BIG blue house



Current backyard / Showing a movie for Emma's birthday

Jeff and Sara say that Harold has been great to them, and the neighborhood is wonderful. They appreciate the quietness and peace of the street, how walkable and safe it is, and the short distances from the Beltline and Decatur.

"We LOVE our wordly neighbors with shared interests and the community we have created here, and of course, we love the Frazer Center Forest, the Land Trust, and our favorite store, Candler Park Market!"

Boyd Baker

Continued from page 1.

moved to Boulder, Colorado. One of the “projects” Boyd initiated while there was to create a community newspaper called *The Front Ranger*. He also picked up bits of ideas for future ventures that he would act on later in Atlanta.

When the Bakers’ second child was on the way, they decided to move back closer to family—to Lake Claire, in particular. The timing was right for them to rent, and later own, the house on Leonardo where his stepfather’s mother, Billie Dale, was no longer safe to live alone. A few of us who have been here longer than the Bakers’ 21 years still remember fondly our long chats with Billie when our kids were selling wrapping paper for Mary Lin.

Boyd quickly became the “Mayor of Leonardo,” organizing neighborhood events, e-mail lists, and generally being in the know on all the local goings-on. He and Wendy started hosting a street-wide chili cookoff, with neighbors uniting to enter the winner in Cabagetown’s Chomp & Stomp competition. Though participating in Chomp & Stomp was fun—choosing a theme, dressing up for the booth, serving folks in the wider community—those who had to corral the kids in that mayhem found it nerve-racking. So after a couple of years, that part was dropped, and the Bakers continued “Chilinarado” as an annual neighborhood tradition.

Wendy was teaching, and Boyd was the main caregiver for the children. But he had a job in advertising, and “it was crushing,” he says. So they took the leap for him to leave the job and hang out his shingle as Sumo Writer, freelance writer and editor, working from home. Sumo Writer continues as a side hustle today.

It was around this time that Boyd launched perhaps his most ambitious project to that point: Good Gracious Variety Show. He was a big fan of *A Prairie Home Companion* on NPR and had seen a couple of other local models, one in Boulder and one in Oxford, Mississippi. He knew the South has great talent, “but how do you get them in front of people?”



From the Frosty 5K

“The whole idea to me was putting together something like an old-school Ed Sullivan Show. You have music; you have poetry or spoken word or a writer; you have comedy in there; you have bits of what I always call the medicine: a spotlight on philanthropy or somebody doing something good in the community.” He aimed to have one or two acts that were relatively well-known for their draw; but the magic, to him, was that each of them brings their own audience, and each audience member gets a taste of something unfamiliar that may spark a new interest. “Cross-pollination,” he calls it. All told, he put together over a dozen Good Gracious shows. He admits he’d love to come back to it, “but then it’s finding the time and energy. Wrangling artists is like herding cats.”

As their children got older, Boyd needed a space to work outside the house. That’s when he started Wondershop, a co-working and community activity space. He ran Good Gracious out of there, and thought, “A variety show’s cool; what about a podcast?” He and Good Gracious sound man Martin Steib launched that. “We realized it was really cool because then I could meet all these people once a week at Wondershop and interview them, and let them play live music, and tape it. And they got to know what Good Gracious is about, so when I was organizing a show I could say, Hey, do you want to do this?”

“We were still doing live shows, then the crazy Covid hit and stopped the



From the Good Gracious Show

world. I’d always wanted to have a little food spot, and I planned to do that at Wondershop. I went through the permitting and all, then the City just shut down, and the guy who owned the building decided to sell it.” Boyd baked from home during the pandemic, taking orders from friends and neighbors for Saturday morning delivery. He also baked for his friend Jason Waller for a year during Covid, trying to help him keep Waller’s Coffeeshop open and showing him how a kitchen could work better. Two years later, “careful what you wish for; I got my little food spot [Howdy Atl Biscuit Café, in Grant Park]. It wasn’t in my neighborhood, which is what I wanted, but Grant Park is a similar neighborhood. The past three years have been pretty much night and day just trying to figure out how to keep the lights on and make that work.”

By now it’s clear that Boyd Baker is a creator! Here are a few other things he’s started: At Mary Lin, a Daddy-Daughter Dance that was later renamed the Small-Tall Ball; the Rocket Run; and the Mary Lin Education Foundation. For the middle school, he took over the Inman 5K and, moving it to winter, rebranded it the Inman Frosty 5K. He created another 5K in honor of Congressman John Lewis.

The nonprofit that many of his ventures operate under is called Community Arts Live. Its web page sums up Boyd in a nutshell: “I’m Boyd Baker, and I love the South. ...My South, with



The Baker family

its heart being Atlanta, is bursting with creativity and talent that changes the world daily. I want folks to know my South. I started Community Arts Live as a way to create projects that support and connect artists and communities.” Check out past and ongoing events on communityartslive.org.

Editor’s note: This article is part of Jane Branscomb’s Lake Claire Creatives series about neighbors whom you might not know are talented individuals, whether accomplished amateurs or consummate professionals. Contact her at JaneBranscomb@gmail.com (Jane-Branscomb at gmail dot com).



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Hello – Safe Journey: Skiing in and around Lake Claire

JUNE birthdays:

- 6/3 Yoni Williams turns 13 (I think). Lives on Harold and Indiana and grandma on Delaware!
- 6/7 Pen Sherwood, Harold Ave.
- 6/10 Margit Peel turns 5! On Ridgewood.
- 6/12 Steve Lamb, Delaware Avenue (♥♥♥♥)
- 6/12 Craig Allen, Harold
- 6/16 Clara Bloomfield turns 12 – Sutherland Place
- 6/19 Zoe Kaiser turns 12; Hardendorf
- 6/21 Hayden Pittman, turning 13, Marlbrook
- 6/21 Both Patrick Edmondson and son Dylan, Lakeshore Avenue
- 6/28 Shawn Gillespy, Marlbrook
- 6/28 Wendy Baker, happy birthday! Leonardo
- 6/30 Rashida Herbers, Arizona

JUNE anniversaries:

- 6/23 Sue McAvoy & Bill McKinnon – Leonardo (7 yrs went by in a flash!!)
- 6/27 Wendy and Boyd Baker – 20+ years, Leonardo (See Article P. 1)
- Belated Congrats!** – Ryan & Alison Gesser celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary this past fall and their 25th year on McLendon Avenue in June.

JULY birthdays:

- 7/3 Brandon Bransford, Palifox
- 7/6 Missy Urda, Harold, AND Josephine Peel, Ridgewood, turns 8
- 7/10 Happy b'day to the Clarion's buddy, Mike McGill, 18 years old!!!!— Arizona Ave.
- 7/17 Happy b'day to Colin Calderera, Hardendorf
- 7/19 Luna Herbers turns 8! – Arizona Ave.
- 7/24 Jason Weidert, Harold
- 7/29 Georgie Rogovin, Hardendorf, turns 10!

AUGUST birthdays:

- 8/1 Patricia Emerson, turns 91!
Wow, congrats, Patricia! (She says, "Put the age in the Clarion, as I am so glad to have made it!")

And a few neighbors a bit younger:

- 8/3 Jasper Sibille, turns 19, Ivy Place
- 8/5: Ally Bliss, turns 20, Leonardo
- 8/10 Elizabeth Herbers, Arizona Ave.
- 8/13 Lyriq Gaspard Sibille, turns 13, Ivy Place
- 8/16 Peter Belle, McLendon Ave.
- 8/18 Mark Haggerty, Harold Ave.
- 8/26 Mollie Bloomfield turns 16 – Sutherland Place

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



Patricia Emerson, Gordon Ave., Happy birthday on 8/1! Still a Clarion delivery volunteer!

Waymo

Continued from page 1.

"Many complaints on this list, provided by the City of Austin, accuse the driverless vehicles of stalling and speeding.

First responders have reported cases of Waymo cars being involved in a crash, passing security checkpoints and blocking police escorts."

See? They're just as terrible as we humans are.

Now, Waymo begs to differ. They conducted a study that was published in *Traffic Injury Prevention*, in which their paid researchers announced that Waymo vehicles had a far better safety record than those driven by, well, you. As we all know, there's nothing more accurate than a study exonerating the company that paid for it.

So, when you see reports that call Waymo's safety into question, relax. Sure, they may lock you inside after mysteriously stopping in the middle of a busy Austin highway, as reported by *Chron*. Or, they may trap you as they



continuously circle a Phoenix Airport parking lot for no apparent reason, as related by *Road & Track*. But, isn't technological progress worth taking extreme risks with your own life or those of your loved ones?

Atlanta City Council thinks so, even if this particular form of progress is one almost nobody asked for.

Les Graber

Continued from page 3.

Les' curiosity and energy took him in many directions. He became a Coast Guard Captain, and a licensed small aircraft pilot. He thrived on making wine, hard cider, and beer as well as rum raisin ice cream and Mexican-style fresh cheese pie. He was fascinated by animals and the positive responses they nurtured in people. This led to chickens, ducks, llamas, and other livestock at Horizons as well as dogs, ferrets, and parrots in his home. He approached gardening with eternal optimism each spring. He planted a kiwi vine that tried to consume his house along with peach, persimmon, and pomegranate trees which eventually produced fruit.

This quote from his mother's letter to a family member on June 4, 1947, turned out to be prophetic:

"Les is walking everywhere and always into something. I thought he'd

learned 'No, no' about almost everything but every day he gets into something else I never dreamed of. He adores the outdoors, rocks, sticks, flowers, leaves, etc. Chasing him, I've been places I've never been before. He likes everything he's ever been given to eat. He is very friendly and thoroughly enjoys everyone."

Les is survived by his wife of 42 years, June Bridgford Garber; his brothers, David White Garber and John Carter Garber; his niece, Leslie Michelle Garber; and his nephew, Jonathan David Garber.

Editor's note: Lake Claire's condolences to you, June. I know I join many other longtime LC residents in remembering the joy of seeing llamas and other animals on our daily walks past the school. May Les' memory be a blessing.



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McLendon Avenue



2025 New Construction
Gordon Avenue



2025 New Construction
1779 Indiana Avenue

Editor’s Notes and Requests re Dogs

As this summer Clarion comes out, Atlanta’s typical summer temperatures have already arrived, with some 80°+ days already upon us as of this writing in late May. More warmer-than-average temperatures are likely on the way. For many, Summer means vacation, relaxation, and fun in the sun, but the high temperatures can put your dog in danger of heat exhaustion. Please keep in mind that animals are at particular risk for heat stroke if they are older, very young, overweight, not conditioned to prolonged exercise, or are dark colored (vulnerable to overheating on sunny days, their dark coats absorb sunlight).

Second request re dogs: Please do not offer a pet for free. Many people do not realize the possible dangers awaiting “free” pets. There are those who pretend to offer a good home, but in reality will use your pet as a “bait” animal for dog fights. Sadly, he or she could be sold to a lab , or in the case of smaller pets,

become snake food. There are many animal abusers, and some of them are very good at fooling people. Please, always ask for a rehoming fee and veterinarian references, and please be careful.

The Clarion volunteers get a little break now, and we’ll be back in September, but in the meantime, I continue to seek contributions. I welcome any Lake Claire neighbors’ participation, both your writing and ideas, so please contact me before fall with your thoughts and/or contributions. My hope springs eternal, albeit summer approaching. LOL, what a wit. (My dad used to say that I was half right, with that statement. Get it?)

Congrats to all of our neighborhood’s grads!!

I hope everyone has a great summer. ~Beth D.

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 since the last issue; thanks to all: Annie Taylor Haimes; Kalle Waterhouse; Eric Wallens; Rodger Burgess; Daniel Rosmus; Beth Damon

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Litter registry in Dekalb Co.

Continued from page 5.

economic burdens associated with pet overproduction.

It provides law enforcement and animal control officers an easy and expeditious tool to combat the illegal production of pets. Under State law, no one is required to provide notice that they have produced the one litter they may breed and sell without needing to be licensed as a Pet Dealer. This ordinance provides a means easily to verify whether a litter has been produced legally, either pursuant to a Pet Dealer license or in connection with registration, or if it has been produced illegally.

The Ordinance protects responsible, legal breeders, and people whose pets inadvertently produce a litter. This ordinance does not affect GDA-licensed breeders. It also does not impose costs on legal, unlicensed breeders or a person whose pet becomes pregnant accidentally. These individuals are only required to provide notice of the birth of a litter and maintain basic records.

The Ordinance identifies DeKalb County residents who would most benefit if offered free or low cost spay/neuter surgeries for their pets. Approximately one-third of pet owners with intact animals are happy to have their animals altered if it is made affordable. A litter registry provides an efficient means to identify individuals to invite to events such as the upcoming DeKalb County Spayathon, whose participation would most reduce local pet overproduction.

Finally, it follows existing precedent in Georgia. The proposed litter registry is analogous to the Georgia Saltwater Information Program (SIP). Under state law, commercial saltwater fishermen—like commercial pet breeders—are required to be licensed, are subject to inspections, and must maintain in-depth records concerning their activities and legal compliance matters. The SIP fills the gap otherwise present in this regulation and reporting scheme by requiring that saltwater fishermen not required to obtain a Commercial license obtain a free SIP permit if they choose to engage in saltwater fishing. The pro-



Saratoga

posed litter registry functions comparably in the dog, cat, and domestic rabbit production context.

Shelter Updates

*** The construction of the “Pet Neighborhood” is moving along at a rapid pace.** These 10 structures will provide 120 indoor/outdoor kennels—fully heated and plumbed—for dogs that are inappropriately housed in the back of the shelter. The addition of these kennels will not change the Shelter’s sustainable weekly goal to maintain 475 or less dogs on the property, meaning weekly euthanasias will continue if the influx of animals continues at current pace.

*** The Shelter took in 155 dogs in just the 7 days of the second week of May!!!** This resulted in 40 dogs on the weekly euthanasia list. Many of the dogs on this list will be adopted/fostered/rescued, but too many sweet very adoptable dogs will be euthanized.

*** Governor Kemp signed HB 331 into law** with an effective date of July 1, 2025. The law prohibits the sale or barter of dogs, cats, and domestic rabbits in unregulated and outdoor locations such as parking lots, sidewalks, roadsides, parks, and seasonal flea markets. The bill’s intent is to help curtail reckless backyard breeding by reducing opportunities for illicit pet sales to oc-



Millions

Continued from page 1.

It is obvious that they have their eyes on Broadway: the show stars three big Broadway names (Steven Pasquale, Ruthie Ann Miles, and Shuler Hensley); it is directed by well-known Broadway director, Bartlett Sher; all of the designers are Broadway folks; and so are the producers. If it does end up on Broadway, it may be a little different. We saw this very early on, the first week of May, and it may be tweaked a little as the run continues, perhaps tightening up parts of it. Sometimes a little bit of tightening happens in a production of this magnitude, and that is part of the purpose of a pre-Broadway out-of-town run.

It is a fantastic show, on many levels. Notably, it is always a treat to hear a new Adam Guettel score; his music

can be so beautiful and transcending. (A bit of trivia, Guettel is an American composer and lyricist of musical theatre and opera. Born into a musical theatre family, he is the son of Mary Rodgers and the grandson of Richard Rogers. Guettel has received two Tony Awards and two Drama Desk Awards.) Back to the play—it was also the debut performance for an extremely talented 10-year old, playing one of the brothers, and he and the other brother have angelic voices with power and control. It’s a heartwarming and hilarious story about a possible miracle. It has humor, adventure, and heart! I highly recommend this play, and I suggest you take your aspiring young actors (age 8 and up) with you.

cur. A similar measure has been passed as a local ordinance in 11 jurisdictions, including Dekalb County in September 2025.

Link to bill language and vote counts: www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70060

Editor’s note: As regular Clarion readers are aware from Scott McLane’s monthly column, LifeLine Animal Project manages DeKalb and Fulton County Animal Services, the only open-intake shelters in Atlanta, where 18,000 animals come each year. They help over 43,000 pets every year. Readers are also aware of the dire situation these animals have faced. Even those who cannot volunteer to the extent that Scott does can help make a difference. There are a myriad of ways to volunteer. One way is fostering for a few weeks (makes a huge



difference for doggies to get away from the confinement in the shelter). Consider becoming a monthly donor to support the ongoing work and programs at lifelineanimal.org. Pets bring so much joy to our lives (evidence: see the picture here). As LifeLine says on their website, bring home your best friend! ~Beth

“Visible Mending” Embroidery Classes at the Land Trust

by Janpen Sherwood (Pen)

Embroidery for me is a mindful meditation practice, a rewarding way to free myself from stress and frustration. The reward is something tangible I can wear, like a portable art gallery. Unlike other art forms there is no cleaning up afterward. It is also convenient to carry a small embroidery kit when sitting/waiting somewhere. In this class you’ll learn basic skills and stitches and how to use them to do “visible mending,” embellish clothes with thread, yarn, beads and buttons, give a “face-lift” to well-

loved and well-worn clothing.

“Visible Mending” Embroidery Classes with Pen Sherwood, every *Saturday in June, 10:30 a.m.–noon on the Land Trust stage. \$25/person (20% goes to LCCLT.) Register by making payment via Venmo @PenSherwood, or pay on arrival. Materials provided and also available for sale. Depending on how June goes, “Visible Mending” may continue through the summer and possibly longer. Check the calendar or subscribe at LCCLT.org for updates.*

Upcoming & Ongoing—Summer 2025

LCCLT board meetings – Sun. June 1, July 13, Aug. 10, 5–6 p.m. in the Greenfield (2nd Sunday every month except for June). All are welcome to sit in and speak up. Come in person, or contact us at info@LCCLT.org for a Zoom link. *Rain location: the Gorilla Grill.*

Annual Land Trust Open House & Potluck, Sunday, June 8, 1–3 p.m. See article this page.

“Rooted Tree” Yoga for Kids with Katie Pisani – Tuesday June 3, 10, 17 and 24, 10 a.m. at the Land Trust stage. See article this page for details.

Land Trust Open Mic – Wed. June 4, July 23, Aug. 27 in the Amphitheater, 7–9 p.m. All acoustic musicians, singers, jugglers, comedians, poets and clowns welcome, or just come to listen! Keep it family-friendly, please. Hosted by Nick Newell and Stephen Wing. Five minutes per performer; sign up on arrival.

Land Trust Drum Circle – Sat. June 7, July 5, Aug. 2, 8–11 p.m. (1st Saturday every month.). \$5 donation requested. No alcohol, please. Each Drum Circle is preceded by Family Drumming, 7:30–8 p.m. *Rain date: June 17.* Check LCCLT.org/new-events for updates.

Death Café – Sunday June 8, July 13, Aug. 10, 3–4:30 p.m. in the Amphitheater. Denise Johnson of EOL (End of Life) 101 hosts this monthly informal conversation about death and dying, with pastries and beverages. Free and open to all. (Donations welcome.)

“Visible Mending” Embroidery with Pen Sherwood – Sat. June 14, June 21, June 28 on the Land Trust stage, 10:30 a.m.–noon. See article this page.

Community Work Days – Sat. June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, 9 a.m. – noon. (3rd Saturday every month). Bring drinking water and work gloves. Rain date: 4th Saturday.

Tarot Class – Sat. June 21, July 19, Aug. 16 in the Gorilla Grill, 1–3 p.m. Chakura Kineard of Unfiltered Glitter offers Beginners’ lessons for the first hour, Advanced for the second hour. \$25/person (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 if needed; info@LCCLT.org.

“Jerry Jam” Fall Festival – Saturday, Sept. 6. Save the date!

Check LCCLT.org/new-events for chronological listings, updates, registration and payment info.

Annual Land Trust Open House & Potluck

Sunday, June 8, 1–3 p.m.

You’re invited! The Land Trust community gathers once again to socialize, share a meal, meet the new LCCLT board, get an update on the past year, and help to envision the years ahead. Bring a dish, dessert, or beverage to share if you can, along with your feed-

back, questions, and suggestions. It’s a perfect time to learn how your community greenspace works and how you can plug in to help. Non-disposable plates and utensils encouraged. A tour of the land follows.

“Rooted Tree” Kids’ Yoga Comes to the Land Trust

by Katie Pisani

As a student of yoga for over 25 years, I’ve come to rely on it. Yoga changes my mood, connects my mind to my body, relaxes me, energizes me, and makes me a better person.

After the Covid lockdown I noticed a huge shift in the behaviors, socialization, and emotional states of the preschool students I worked with, so I decided to get certified to teach yoga to children and teens. My goal is to equip kids and teens with tools to help their social, emotional, cognitive, and physical well-being. By bringing joy and playfulness to yoga, we open the door to a lifelong love of the practice.

The class I’m offering at the Land Trust is for rising 2nd through 5th graders. Classes generally include a check-in, breath-work, discussion, movement

(yoga postures), partner poses and yoga games, relaxation, working on journals or art (art supplies provided). Please have your child bring a yoga mat and water bottle and wear comfortable, easy-to-move-in clothing.

“Rooted Tree” Kids’ Yoga, every Tuesday in June, 10 a.m. at the Land Trust stage. Cost for one child is \$15 or \$55/month; two siblings \$25 or \$100/month, three siblings \$40 or \$140/month (20% goes to LCCLT). Register and pay via the LinkTree link at LCCLT.org/new-events (bottom of page). For more info: kmeverest@yahoo.com or 403-932-9160. Depending on how June goes, “Rooted Tree” Kids Yoga may continue through the summer and possibly longer. Check the calendar or subscribe at LCCLT.org for updates.

Land Trust Notes

Primavera Day Camp, every weekday June 23–July 18 (except the week of July 2–6), 9 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Primavera is a nature-based preschool with an emphasis on Spanish-language immersion, with campuses in Candler Park and Kirkwood. The lead preschool teacher is Maria Cannon, a native of Columbia with extensive experience with preschool children. This will be the third year the Land Trust has leased our grounds for the summer day camp. To sign up or learn more: mariaemilianom@gmail.com or 706-982-1641.

Vada of Unveil has suspended her weekly Saturday yoga classes at the Land Trust in order to hit the road and live in her van for a spell. We will miss her. **Jenny Shackelford** has also canceled her **Backyard Foraging & Herbalism plant walks** due to low turnout and a long commute. *Would anyone out there like to step in and share your expertise in either of these areas?*



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, a poet, or an artist. This month, our featured poet is Ames Yeend, who is eight years old. He won this honor by winning

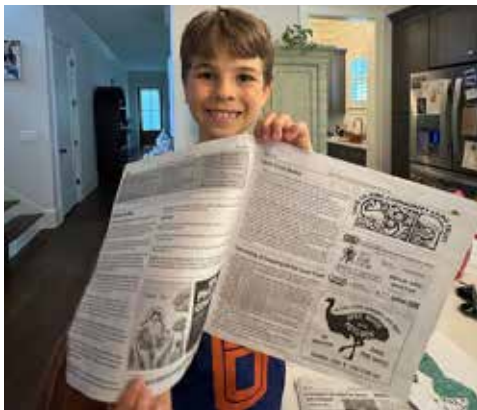
extra credit in the Kids' Contest this month. Ames is in second grade at Mary Lin, and he lives on Arizona Avenue.

Thank you, Ames, for your great poetry and your participation! We welcome any Lake Claire child or

young adult to add your creativity to this page. This page is very dear to Beth the Editor, one of her proudest accomplishments in the Clarion – and in life; so be sure to participate! Send to *editor@lakeclaire.org*, by **AUGUST 15-18** for the **September** issue.



Miles, 1st place winner



Ames, Featured writer this month and contest winner – 2nd place

Contest Winners

We have several great winners this month!! They found the graphic of “parents” day on Page 2. **Miles Brttingham** won First Place! He is 10 years old, in 4th grade at Mary Lin, and the family lives on Claire.

Our close second-place winner is **Ames Yeend**. His details are above; he wins extra credit for answering about his favorite thing in May—he said it’s his friend Penelope’s birthday! That earned him Featured Writer status this month.

We had a FIVE-way tie for 3rd place! **Frances Koval**, age 9, lives on Hardendorf and is a 3rd grader at Mary Lin; **Robert McLamb** is age 11, also at Mary Lin, 5th grade, and lives on McLendon; **Naven Olson**, 8 yrs old, lives on Leonardo Avenue, and is a 3rd grader at Mary Lin; **Genevieve Douglas**, age 9, lives on Ridgecrest Road,

and is a 4th grader at Mary Lin—she wins extra credit for answering about her favorite thing in May—it’s her birthday month!; and **Madison Light**, on Sutherland Place, is eight years old, and in the 2nd grade at Mary Lin. Madison won extra credit, saying his favorite thing about May is the start of Wahoos and flowers blooming, which inspire his art. He’ll be featured in a future issue. Congrats to all of you winners!

Everyone else: 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 a featured writer/artist!

Parents, I think these are the only winners this month; if we’ve missed anyone let us know, and we’ll put them in next time—I don’t want anyone to be disappointed!

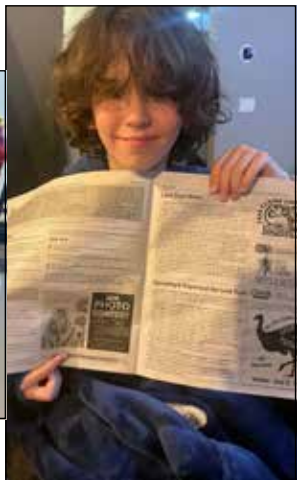
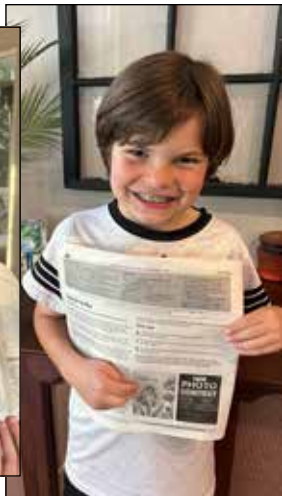
New Contest

Hi kids, is anyone glad for summer’s arrival and no school? So sorry for you that you have to hang out, swim, take walks, go on beach vacations, play games... this issue of the Clarion has a hidden graphic representing Summer. To win the contest, find the picture. The winner/winners who find it will have their pictures in the next Clarion (SEPTEMBER). 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 issues in a row. For extra credit, tell us your favorite thing about summer in Lake Claire. The extra-credit prize is to be a featured writer/artist in a future Lake Claire Clarion with your original work. The deadline is AUGUST 15-18. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this HIGHLY coveted prize. The deadline is AUGUST 15-18. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this HIGHLY coveted prize.

MY HAPPY SUMMER

by Ames Yeend

The last bell rings it’s time for summer
Aw man, what a bummer!!!
The pool is open, let’s dive in
I scare my friends with a ...shark fin!!!!
Fireworks, vacations, fly on past
School is here, what a blast!



Tied for third place (left to right): Frances, Robert, Naven, Genevieve, and Madison