



New Art-O-Mat line called Talking Heads, reminiscent of the face jugs of North Georgia and South Carolina; Ann crafted them from sand and polymer clay.

Ann Shirra: Cultivating Creativity

by Jane Branscomb

A California girl whose mother and grandmothers were all great gardeners, Ann Shirra spent her childhood summers outside. She busied herself building miniature villages in the garden beds with rocks and twigs, populating them with toy dinosaurs. In college she took a couple of art classes, but otherwise, she says, art was not a big part of her life.

That changed when, after retirement and before Covid, a friend introduced her to a “Make a Thing a Day in February” group. She liked the idea of trying something new, and the group promised to be a non-judgmental space that encouraged participants to abandon self-censorship and perfectionism and simply create something—a loaf of bread, a poem, a song—every day. “The idea is just to keep moving and realize how much art can be incorporated in your everyday life,” Ann says.

“Some are going to be good, some aren’t going to be good, and you know you’re planting a seed,” was her attitude. Exposure to the wide range of creative forms others were sharing piqued Ann’s curiosity, and one of them drew her into a creative business endeavor

she continues today.

Art-O-Mat (artomat.org) grew out of North Carolina’s fallow tobacco fields – or rather, distribution lots. Artist Clark Whittington repurposed an old cigarette vending machine to dispense pack-sized artworks as part of a solo exhibit at a café in Winston-Salem. When the paintings came down, the café owner asked him to leave the machine. That was in 1997. Today there are more than 200 Art-O-Mats across the globe selling work from over 400 artists—including our own Ann Shirra!

Ann makes several lines of small sculptures for Art-O-Mat. One of the most popular is Tiny TVs—a marble embedded in polymer clay with bits of added hardware. The images behind the “screen” vary. There are Tech TV with tornadoes, spaceships, or chemistry formulas (these are popular in the Art-O-Mat at Georgia Tech); there’s a Pet Flix series, and another she calls Tiny Terror TV. Her prototypes of three new lines have just been approved, so she’s ramping up production on them. Cripes, It’s Cryptids! are American and international folk creatures—think

Cont. on p. 9

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

Lake Claire Annual Craft Fair

Mark your calendars for the 6th Annual (!) Lake Claire Craft Fair as a walking/porch event **Saturday, December 6, rain or shine!**

For any new folks to the ‘hood, this event involves artists/vendors/food/music located at homes and other outside places in the central part of the Lake Claire neighborhood. The event is predominantly about the artists and crafters of ALL ages, (children appreciated), exhibiting and selling their creations. The only entry requirement to participate in this event is the agreement to donate 10% of your proceeds, which we

donate to some of the Midtown Cluster Schools, with a small portion to Lake Claire Neighbors for reimbursement of expenses/hosting.

Since we started this event during Covid as an outside event, it has been held the first Saturday of December. This year it will be held Saturday, December 6, rain or shine. We encourage artists to think about your Plan B if rainy, e.g., prearranging stand-alone tents for yourself if you aren’t on a covered porch.

Cont. on p. 11

What Is the Public Service Commission, and Why Should We Care?

by Stephen Wing

This vaguely helpful-sounding government body regulates public utilities like water, gas, and electricity on behalf of everyone who depends on them—namely, everyone. Its five commissioners are elected to ensure that our state’s electric monopoly, Georgia Power (a subsidiary of The Southern Company) and other utility providers serve the public interest. With the first PSC elections in five years coming up in November, it’s time to take a closer look.

Since 1890, federal law has outlawed business monopolies – except for electric utilities. All states with electric monopolies have a regulatory body like the PSC to guard against corporate

greed. But ours, according to energy expert and former PSC candidate Patty Durand, is the nation’s least effective.

Durand’s nonprofit, Georgians for Affordable Energy, documents the Commission’s habit of promoting Georgia Power’s interests instead of the public’s. Her newsletter, “Energy Updates,” tracks the direct correlation between our climbing electricity rates and Georgia Power’s record-breaking profits. The following was adapted from her PSC Fact Sheet and a report she helped to write on the expansion of Plant Vogtle.

All five of our current PSC commis-

Cont. on p. 14

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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 September

See Land Trust happenings on P. 15. Please write editor@lakeclaire.com to weigh in on whether you found the list of theatre offerings that I have always included to be helpful. Otherwise, henceforth, this monthly calendar will be abbreviated as it is this month, to neighborhood stuff and music.

6 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. ALSO, NOTE **OCTOBER 4**, as the Oct. Clarion may not be there by then.

11 **Dine-out** to support the Mary Lin PTA This month Mary Lin “Meet and Eat” at Moxie Burger, anytime between 5:30 and 8 p.m. Connect with other Mary Lin families, make new friends, celebrate a fabulous start to the new year. A portion of the proceeds will be donated back to the school. Please support Mary Lin PTA and generous local restaurants who participate in this program. For information contact Rachel Frank at rachel.s.weinthal@gmail.com

18 **The Lake Claire monthly neighborhood meeting** – 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/.

20 First-ever Candler Park Classic Golf Tournament 2025, sponsored by neighborhood superheroes Cynthia Baer & Sue Hamilton. Please see candler-park-golf-classic.perfectgolfevent.com/

20 Dekalb History Center, workshop that delves into the most productive ways to preserve family and community history. Didn't have room here for details but looks fascinating; info/tix: dekalbhistory.org.

20 Fiddler's Green Coffeehouse (3rd Saturdays), 7 p.m. \$10 at door (members \$8). This month: Tina & Her Pony (indie folk/Americana) and The Moon and You (cello, guitar, vocals). For more details about the musicians, music schedule for the balance of the year, and other info: aaffm.org/aaffm-events/

27 Lake Claire Park Work Day, 9 a.m. to noon. Park work days are the 4th Saturdays, 9/27 (this one), 10/25, 11/22, 9 a.m.-12 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.

Save the Dates

Oct. 4 Land Trust Fall Plant Sale – Details, more info, updates, www.LCCLT.org/new-events.

Nov. 9 2–5 p.m. Frazer Fall Festival, Cator Woolford Gardens. Sensory play activities, crafts, food, face-painting, music. For infants to preschoolers. Hosted by the Frazer Center Parent Teacher Action Committee. frazercenter.org/about-us/events.

BIRTHDAY EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER
 CELEBRATE FREEDOM PARK'S BIRTHDAY WITH US ALL MONTH LONG!

| | |
|---|--|
| * Tuesday, Sept. 2 Kitty Dare 1029 Edgewood Ave 5 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | Tuesday, Sept 16 Fellini's on Ponce 909 Ponce de Leon Ave 11:30 a.m. – 12 a.m. |
| Thursday, Sept 4 The Albert 918 Austin Ave 11:30 a.m. – 11 p.m. | ** Saturday, 9/20 Freedom Park Tree Walk, Peace Bell 3 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Sept 9 La Fonda on Ponce 923 Ponce de Leon 11:30 a.m. – 11 p.m. | Tuesday, Sept 23 Fellini's Candler Park 1634 McLendon Ave 11:30 a.m. – 11 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Sept 9 The Ballog – Shop Night 2033 Hosea Wms Drive, 6-8 p.m. | * Thursday, Sept 25 Wisteria * 471 North Highland Avenue 5:30-9 p.m. |
| ** Wed., Sept. 10 History Afoot Thematic Walking Tour, Peace Bell & Carter Center, 6 p.m. | ** Monday, Sept 29 "The Spirit of Freedom Park: A Conversation on Parks, Art, and Civic Life," The Carter Center, 6:30 p.m. |
| * Thursday, Sept 11 Bread & Butterly! 290 Elizabeth St 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 5:30-9 p.m. | Tuesday, Sept 30 La Fonda Candler Park 1639 McLendon, 1:30 a.m. – 11 p.m. |
| ** Monday, Sept 15 Freedom Park Tree Walk, Peace Bell 6 p.m. | |

Cocktail of the Month
Kitty Dare
1029 Edgewood Avenue
Sun, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.,
and 5-9 p.m.

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED
 ** ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED, at
 FREEDOMPARK.ORG

Sponsored by Freedom Park Conservancy

The Spirit of Freedom Park
 a conversation on
Parks Art & Civic Life
 Hosted by Freedom Park Conservancy

6:30pm • Monday, September 29
 The Carter Center
 Doors open at 6pm

Drawing on the history of grassroots activism, Freedom Park Conservancy invites you to join us in a conversation to explore the renewed importance of civic life:

Monday, September 29

Doors open at 6 p.m. - Program begins at 6:30pm.

The Carter Center, The Cyprus Room

453 John Lewis Freedom Pkwy NE, Atlanta, GA 30307

Free parking on-site

Moderated by Kevin Green, President & CEO, Midtown Atlanta, with Justin Cutler (Commissioner, Atlanta Department of Parks & Recreation), Susannah Darrow (Founding Partner, Purpose Possible), Leanne Webster (Director, Rule of Law Program, The Carter Center).

Registration is free, yet space is limited: www.freedompark.org

How Lake Claire Taught Me to Love Atlanta

by Royce Mann

At the Lake Claire Land Trust, there is a stone marker which claims to be the “center of the known universe.” When I was kid, I took this claim literally. I would gleefully point the marker out to my friends, proud of the fact that everything just happened to actually revolve around my neighborhood. Of course, I was wrong, but the feeling that this community is special never faded. I have called Atlanta home for my entire life, and aside from a couple of years in Little 5 Points and nights spent at Emory while attaining my degree, that home has been at the corner of Connecticut and DeKalb Avenue in the Lake Claire Cohousing community. It has been the perfect home, not simply because of my loving parents and wonderful brother, but because of the people in this neighborhood.

It truly takes a village to raise a child, and I am forever grateful that my village was Lake Claire. In many ways, it was this village which instilled my commitment to serving this community and taught me to love this city unceasingly, even when our local leaders too often turn their backs on those that need them most, like our low-income and unhoused neighbors. My love for Atlanta is the reason I chose to stay here through college. I owe this city so much, and the only way I know to repay that debt is through advocacy. It's why I have been on the frontlines fighting for violence prevention, equitable resources in our schools, and the right of all Atlantans to have a say in the decisions our city makes. Atlanta has an incredible history of activism, and we see that spirit alive today. It is alive in the young activists still fighting against the corruption that suppressed their voices to build Cop City and in the unhoused residents of Old Wheat Street demanding dignified treatment and an end to the inhumane sweeps that killed Cornelius Taylor.

My love for Atlanta is also why I am running to serve on the Atlanta Board of Education. If elected this November,

I will be the youngest person to serve in a citywide office in Atlanta history, taking my oath just a few months after my 24th birthday and just five years after graduating from Midtown High School in the middle of a global pandemic. Many people see my age as a hindrance. I see it as an asset. Our schools are not effectively preparing our students to succeed post-graduation, and our Board of Education desperately needs someone who understands what it's like to grow up in this city and to be a student in today's world.

The truth is, Atlanta is failing to live up to its promise. It is unacceptable that the city that raised Dr. King and elected John Lewis to congress is home to the worst income inequality in the country. Atlanta claims to be the city too busy to hate, but unfortunately it often acts like a city too busy to give a damn, and those most frequently forgotten by the city are low-income, predominantly Black communities. To truly achieve a city that works for all Atlantans, we must create more affordable housing, public transit, and good-paying jobs. We must also build an educational system that equips young people growing up in this city with the knowledge, skills, and resources to thrive here long term. This will be difficult, especially as leaders at the state and federal level continue to cut funding from our schools, but it is possible and it is necessary, because our kids cannot afford anything less.

Right now, only around one in three elementary school students in Atlanta can read on grade level. As if this isn't concerning enough, the disparities between Black and white students are especially alarming, suggesting a continued failure by Atlanta Public Schools to effectively support and empower all students. In APS, Black and low-income students are significantly more likely to be suspended and less likely to graduate. Of course, solving the issues

Cont. on p. 11

Clarion New Distribution Manager

by Beth Damon

I heartily thank Alicia McGill and Miriam Herbers, both well-known for their volunteerism in Lake Claire.

Alicia has served as the Clarion's distribution manager since **September 2014!** Effective this issue, she turns the reins over to Miriam Herbers. Many thanks to Alicia, who during her long tenure streamlined the Clarion delivery process and seamlessly managed the team of street volunteers, frequently delivering Clarions herself when people were on vacations or life took over in other ways. Thanks for these many years of service, Alicia; what a joy it is to work with you.

Thank you, Miriam, for taking over yet another volunteer responsibility in service to Lake Claire. Miriam has served in a variety of positions for Lake Claire Neighbors and has been crucial

to the Land Trust's growth and existence. Her contributions to the Land Trust would be its own, much longer, article. She also volunteers with Trees Atlanta. Both Alicia and Miriam volunteer for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. Professionally, Miriam was a registered nurse, which certainly informs her caring nature.

We have a great team of volunteers (thank you all!), including children, that deliver the Clarion to your porches, but we can always use back-ups for when regular volunteers can't deliver by the first week of the month for any reason.

Please email Miriam at distribution@lakeclaire.org or me at editor@lakeclaire.org to volunteer or let us know if there is ever a problem with your Clarion. Welcome, Miriam!

Girl Scout Troop 21669 4th Grade Service Project Little Free Library: Star Books for Kids

by Annabelle Perrins and Sloane Abrams

For our 2024-2025 service project, Girl Scout Troop 21669 decided to make and donate a Little Free Library for the Candler Park Playground so that kids can have access to read more books. We also painted the new Candler Park sign for July 4th. This project was paid for with money we raised selling Girl Scout Cookies.

We want to thank the Atlanta Tool Bank, located in Chosewood Park, for providing tools and help. Director of Education CJ Clark showed us how to use different tools and helped us build the Little Free Library. Thank you also to the Candler Park Conservancy for helping us install the Little Free Library and letting us paint the new sign.

Some of the benefits of this Little Free Library are that community members that usually drive to a library now can walk to their park and get books. Kids and adults can pick out and leave books when they visit the playground too. We can all share books as a community.



The authors in front of the finished Free Library

We thank everyone who helped us complete our service project. Remember to donate books when you take books. We hope you enjoy the library!

Editor's note: Both Annabelle and Sloane are currently fifth graders at Mary Lin, but this service project was completed over the summer at the end of their fourth grade year.



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Back to School: Legal Considerations for the Transition to College

by Jodi Greenberg

As children head off to college this fall, don't be caught unawares! Most students preparing for college are considered legal adults (18+), marking a significant transition, in which parental authority to make decisions or access critical information is substantially limited or removed altogether. However, the appropriate legal authorization can facilitate continued involvement within your child's comfort zone and be a good conversation starter about your involvement in this next phase. This article reviews some of the tools your young adult child can use to cover these situations, including medical powers of attorney, financial powers of attorney, HIPAA authorizations, and FERPA waivers.

Healthcare Powers of Attorney (POA): In Georgia, our medical POA is called the advance directive for health care. This document allows people to name a trusted individual, called an "agent," to speak on their behalf regarding medical decisions, but only in situations where they are unable to communicate for themselves. It also lets them declare other specific medical treatment preferences

General Powers of Attorney (POA): A general POA allows your child to name an agent who will have the power to handle their money and legal affairs for their benefit. Like the advance directive for health care, this document does not interfere with students' own rights to be the primary decision makers for their financial affairs when they are physically and mentally capable of doing so. A general power of attorney is customizable and can be drafted to be effective immediately so that the agent can legally access and manage a student's financial affairs at any time, or it can be drafted to be effective only upon disability, for students who only want their parent involved in case of emergency. While forms may be available through your university or online, we recommend your child seeks legal advice to ensure the power of attorney is properly drafted and tailored

to their specific needs, as requirements vary by state.

HIPAA and FERPA waivers: HIPAA authorizations are authorizations for release of information protected by the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act. This document allows a specifically authorized medical professional to include a parent in conversations and decisions relating to the child's health. The healthcare POA noted above typically includes a HIPAA release to the agent in times of medical emergency so that any healthcare provider can share information with the agent when the student is unable to communicate. FERPA waivers provide permission for the school to share some or all of the information otherwise protected by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) which protects the privacy of educational records which includes grades, academic standing, disciplinary events, and financial aid information for your student. These documents should be provided freely upon request by your doctor's office and student resources, as applicable.

Practical Considerations: If your child attends school in a different state than their primary residence, it may be worth completing these documents in both states. While we generally recommend your child consult an attorney about their rights and options, particularly regarding a general POA, some schools' student services will offer forms for all of the above documents which will be enforceable in the jurisdiction of the educational institution. If your child is concerned about loss of independence, it is worth noting that both medical and financial POAs reserve decision-making authority to the student, while they are able, and can be structured so that they only allow for parental involvement in times of emergency. They can also be revoked at any time.

Jodi Greenberg is a lawyer at Neal & Wright LLC, a law firm founded by two

Volunteering for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (CSM)

by Lori White

Our Lake Claire neighbors always bless us in a variety of ways. From volunteering on campus, to financial support, to in-kind donations, we are very grateful. Recently one of our special neighbors gifted us with some pre-season Falcon's tickets. Since we had more guys than tickets, we held a friendly contest, who could keep his bed area the neatest for a week! Our winners are pictured here.

The guys were so grateful to have this opportunity. As you can tell from the smiles on their faces, this was an evening they will not forget. You never know how much your kindness, as our neighbors, helps to transform the lives



of the men who come through our program.

"A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees." Amelia Earhart

Frazer Center CEO DeAnna Julian Appointed to Georgia Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission

by Dina Shadwell

Frazer Center is proud to announce that Chief Executive Officer DeAnna Julian has been appointed by Governor Brian Kemp to the Georgia Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission (BHRI Commission), a state-wide body tasked with evaluating and improving Georgia's behavioral health system.

The BHRI Commission was established in 2019 by the Georgia legislature to conduct a comprehensive review of the state's behavioral health services and to develop long-range recommendations for systemic improvement. Its work addresses critical areas such as access to care, workforce development, behavioral health in schools, and ser-

vices for vulnerable populations. The commission's recommendations have already influenced major legislation, including the 2022 Georgia Mental Health Parity Act, which ensures insurance coverage for behavioral health on par with physical health care.

Julian, who has dedicated her career to advancing the rights and opportunities of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), brings more than two decades of leadership experience to the commission. She previously served as Executive Director of The Arc of Southwest Georgia and has been recognized with the Annette Bowling Advocacy Award and

Cont. on p. 7

Lake Claire residents, Daniel S. Wright and Sherry Neal.

Important disclaimer: This article is not legal advice and establishes no attorney-client relationship between the

reader and the writer, nor may this information be relied upon to make legal decisions. Everyone's situation is different. Please consult an attorney before making decisions about estate planning.



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Frazer Center

Continued from page 5.

Albany's "Top 40 Under 40" honor.

"I'm deeply honored by Governor Kemp's confidence in me," said DeAnna Julian. "I've spent my career standing alongside people with developmental disabilities, working to make sure their voices are heard. Serving on the BHRI Commission means I can help shape a future where all Georgians have access to the behavioral health care they need and deserve. I'm excited to work alongside others on the commission to turn good ideas into real, lasting change."

"We're so proud of DeAnna," said Greg Sale, Board Chair of Frazer Center. "She's a strong advocate who understands the real-life challenges people with developmental disabilities face. Having her at the table means Georgia's policies will be more compassionate, more inclusive, and more effective."

The BHRI Commission is composed of 24 appointed members who work through subcommittees including Children & Adolescent Behavioral Health, Hospital & Short-Term Care Facilities, Mental Health Courts & Corrections, and the newly formed IDD subcommittee on which Julian will serve. Upcoming priorities include expanding crisis



Frazer Center CEO DeAnna Julian's swearing-in with Governor Brian Kemp. With DeAnna is her extended family member, Ryan Ramirez

services, addressing workforce shortages, and improving care coordination across public systems. Julian's appointment underscores Frazer Center's growing role in shaping policy at the state level. Founded in 1949, Frazer Center is a nonprofit organization in Atlanta's Lake Claire neighborhood that provides inclusive early education for children with and without disabilities, and community access and supported employment programs for adults with developmental disabilities. Frazer also operates Cator Woolford Gardens, a social enterprise and event venue, and stewards the 39-acre old-growth Frazer Forest on its campus.

For more information about Frazer Center, visit www.fraziercenter.org.

Mulberry Fields Is Growing Again

by Friends of Mulberry Fields (Candler Park)

Big changes are underway at Mulberry Fields Community Garden! Since February 2025, the garden has been undergoing a major transformation to address long-standing issues with erosion, stormwater runoff, and flooding. Now, after months of steady progress, we're excited to share that the space is nearly ready for community use once again.

This project is part of the Wylde Center's capital campaign to improve all five of its gardens. Here in Candler Park, the focus has been on building long-term resilience and refreshing the garden infrastructure for the next generation of growers. With generous support from Candler Park Neighborhood Organization (CPNO), our neighbors,

and Friends of Mulberry Fields, the space is coming back to life.

Rain Gardens & Drainage: A major component of the work has been the installation of engineered rain gardens to capture and redirect stormwater. These new features are now planted, mulched, and doing their job beautifully. The lower rain garden, located where the basketball court used to be, has been especially soggy after recent rain—but additional plants may be added to help it thrive.

Lawn, Gravel & Paths: The lawn has been seeded, and a second round of seeding is planned for the fall to encourage fuller growth. Gravel has been spread in key areas, and grading has

How Elected Officials can help DeKalb Animals

... (from *Advocates for Dekalb Animals* website)

by Scott McLane

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO): Lorraine-Cochran Johnson

- Can do the most for animals—most important decision-maker
- Decides how county budget gets used for animal services (e.g., shelter and enforcement staff)

- Hires and oversees key people to protect animals from abusers (COO, County Attorney, Public Safety Director, etc.)

7 DISTRICT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

District 2: **Michelle Long Spears**;
District 6: **Ted Terry**

- Create and decide laws for animals (e.g., spay and neuter, breeding laws, etc.)

- Have budget influence for animals (e.g., funding for shelter and enforcement)

- Can create the DeKalb Office of Animal Advocacy to help protect abused, neglected, and homeless animals

JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS: Donna Coleman-Stribling, Solicitor General; Sherry Boston, District Attorney

- Prosecutors, the District Attorney and Solicitor General decide if and how to charge people accused of harming animals

- Magistrate Court Judges conduct

hearings and trials related to animal abuse and neglect

- Oversees all county animal court cases

Below are CEO Loraine Cochran-Johnson's stated positions for action items regarding animal welfare in Dekalb County. These "commitments" were made in response to an **Advocates for Dekalb Animals** questionnaire sent to every Dekalb County CEO candidate in the summer of 2024.

Advocates for Dekalb Animals is confident that CEO Cochran-Johnson is fully committed to following through on all of these commitments, and that the path forward to accomplish them, which can be complicated, is being established. **Please write CEO Cochran-Johnson to let her know of your support for her moving forward on these commitments.**

"Understanding DeKalb animal shelter overcrowding is at a critical state, I will take immediate actions once elected CEO to counteract the adverse conditions we now see.

1. Also, understanding that the first-year revenue associated with the \$7.5 million earmarked by SPLOST II funding will be collected in 2025, I'd

Cont. on p. 11

helped water flow properly across the site.

Raised Garden Beds Are Ready: The biggest visible change? Brand-new raised garden beds have been constructed and filled! The soil is in place and ready to grow with plot assignments to be finalized in August. We just ask that gardeners wait until receiving their plot numbers before planting. A note to future gardeners: soil was delivered and spread with equipment, so not every bed has an identical amount. If your bed has a little extra, feel free to share—it's a community garden, after all!

Chick-a-Billy Zone & Upper Garden Features: The upper garden is open, and Fiona the goat and her friends (including some very charming chickens) are always happy to say hello. Fiona is especially happy to welcome anyone with appropriate snacks like kudzu, mulberry leaves, privet, English Ivy, and carrots (lots of carrots). And last, but not least, the hobbit houses are open for play.

Mulberry Fields is truly coming back to life, and we're so grateful to everyone lending their hands, hearts, and shovels along the way.

Wild in Lake Claire

by Sara Gottlieb

I'm a bit in denial that we're on the back side of summer, even with cool fall-like temperatures for the past week at the beginning of August and ever-shortening days. This column only includes my own summer observations (with one exception), as I fed my denial of the approach of September by procrastinating too long on outreach to my usual contributors. Dan G did send me a beautiful photo of a barred owl in Candler Park in June that was too late for inclusion in the summer column (see photo at right).



Chanterelle mushroom harvest

Early summer in Atlanta seemed unusually cool and wet, which resulted in some incredibly productive mushroom foraging opportunities. All manner of beautiful, unusual, and occasionally smelly fungi popped up in various places around the Land Trust, including borderline offensive stinkhorns (didn't have room for photo). On the more appealing side, this was a spectacular year for deliciously edible chanterelle mushrooms (see photo above). I discovered a very productive spot along a popular trail in DeKalb County (a mushroom forager never gives up her secret spot!) and twice gathered more than five pounds of choice specimens for use in a variety of recipes (sauce,



Barred owl

paté, pickle, sauté) and still have many frozen for later consumption.

In July, my husband and I attended the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference at Western Carolina University, a gathering that has occurred annually for over 40 years and is attended by hundreds of native plant enthusiasts from across the southeast and many from farther away. Several highlights of the conference included keynote talks by Doug Tallamy of "Homegrown National Park" fame, Drew Lanham who is an ornithologist with a knack for poetic language and challenging thoughts about the intersections of nature, race and culture, and Alan Weakly, the curator of the herbarium at UNC Chapel Hill and a driving force behind the app FloraQuest, which aims to bring scientific plant identification to the masses. Sticking with the fungal theme, I joined a walk in the woods on campus with Tradd Cotter, a mostly self-taught mycologist with highly amusing anecdotes about people and their pets learning the hard way that "any mushroom is edible for about 30 minutes." In addition to their edible properties, Tradd discussed the fascinating associations that fungi have evolved with various plants both living and dead. Fungi have evolved ways to decompose materials and synthesize compounds that the world's best chemists haven't even dreamt up. We even found several cordyceps fungi (think

"The Last of Us") with their zombified insect hosts.

I don't know if it was the seemingly unrelenting rain pattern resulting in more standing water, but I've seen more dragonflies and damselflies around the 'hood this summer than I can ever recall (see my photo below). While seeing these winged hunters near a body of water is not unusual, I've seen them in parking lots, garden plots, and roadsides in abundance this summer. Another charismatic insect that I encountered several times was the annual cicada. This year was not marked by an outbreak of periodical cicadas when millions of the insects emerge from their 13- or 17-year underground sojourns spent sucking on tree roots, but the vast majority of cicada species are the annual kind, though individuals' life cycles last 2 to 5 years. I was visited by these alien-looking creatures on my back porch, in my vegetable garden (see photo top right), and I even saw a couple of young cardinals trying to make a meal of one on a sidewalk.

Speaking of insect meals, the other day I observed a medium-sized green anole with a grasshopper bigger than its head in its mouth on some pineapple sage I have planted on my front stoop (photo bottom right). While it is always exciting to see nature in action, I was a little dismayed by this because I had been enjoying being surprised by the bright green grasshopper so well camouflaged among the green leaves of my sage plant. But, reptiles have to eat, and later in the day I saw yet another grasshopper on a different plant near my front door.

The neighborhood kids have all gone back to school and even though my school days are long behind me (and even my own offspring has graduated from college!) I consider lifelong



Adult cicada emerging

learning about our natural world to be one of life's joys. I often come up with more questions than answers in this realm. As Drew Lanham puts it, "There really aren't hard-and-fast answers to most questions, though. Wilderness means living in the unknown." (*The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*).

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



Dragonfly



Green anole eating a green grasshopper



Ann Shirra

Continued from page 1.

Yeti or Chupacabra. Veg-O-Matic is a CSA box: a wooden tray filled with vegetables. (CSA = community-supported agriculture; look it up.) And her Talking Heads are two-inch faces made from sand and clay in the style of North Georgia Face Jugs or Ugly Jugs, which have roots in the pottery of enslaved Africans.

While Ann doesn't mean to take her work further, some participating artists sell pieces that promote their larger artwork. That's all fine with the Art-O-Mat folks, whose mission is "to encourage art consumption by expanding access to artists' work." Art-O-Mat is always looking for new artists, Ann says, and "the cool thing is that some of the artists are 12 and some of them are 98. It's a really accessible outlet."

Each piece dispensed by the machine costs \$5, half going to the artist. Which brings us to the business side of things. While she enjoys the creating, Ann says it's been a learning experience to manage production, track all the size and weight constraints, and try to make a little profit in the process. "You really have to move from one thing that you pore over intently to something that you can get down and make over and over again. But when someone opens a box you want them to go, 'Wow this is so cool!'" She creates anywhere from 200 to 400 pieces each month – sometimes working, she says, the way other people knit: while watching a movie or listening to an audiobook.

A delightful aspect is learning where her work has traveled. "You put a bio in there, so every week or two I'll get someone who's bought my art tell me where they found it. They'll send a picture of it on a windowsill in Alaska or something. So that's fun!" Ann can truthfully say that she has sold her artwork at the Smithsonian Institution. She has fans in Australia as well as across town at Tech. There are Art-O-Mats in bars, restaurants, and senior activity centers. The machine doing the hottest business is one in a Las Vegas hotel.

With a masters in public administration, Ann's professional career was



Prototype boxes for four lines of Art-O-Mat art to be dispensed in vintage, repurposed cigarette machines

largely as an assistant commissioner with the Georgia Department of Labor. She counts herself fortunate to have had "very creative, forward-thinking leadership" and says it was highly rewarding work. She led rapid responses to major business shutdowns or layoffs, like the closure of the Brown & Williamson plant in Macon. Her team helped 2,000 people secure the benefits they were due, complete high school equivalency if needed, find new careers. They also worked with the community to support the workers and help them stay in Macon. After she retired, she volunteered with Great Promise Partnership helping at-risk high school students find paid internships. "A lot of kids get placements with companies while they're in high school, but these are kids who had a lot of promise but really didn't have the wherewithal to do that." She placed students at the Federal Reserve Bank, Wellstar Hospital and other high-level companies. It was during this time that she joined Make a Thing a Day in February. "And then Covid came," she says.

During Covid, Ann's husband Scott installed a free little art gallery – another national movement to make art accessible – in front of their Arizona home. "It's been so much fun to watch. Lots of kids will contribute, and then I can tell professional artists put things in there. Arizona is a nice walking street. A lot of people will come by and see what's new." Sometimes she uses



Ann in front of her Arizona Ave Little Free Art Gallery. Please create and bring a piece to share!



Sample Tiny TVs and Cactus Caps

the gallery as part of her discernment for a new idea. "If people don't like something it's just going to sit there, so maybe I need to rework that!"

Now Ann herself is a master gardener. Her yard is a haven for pollinators with an abundance of native flowers and grasses, and has earned Trees Atlanta's City Forest certification for environmental stewardship and community engagement. When you drop by to "make art, take art," which she highly encourages, you can also snip a few sprigs from the "neighborhood herb garden" she maintains in her yard!

"One of the favorite things I'm taking away from the past few years is, you know, we're all creative in some way. Just giving yourself permission to give it a try and not be intimidated is a good lesson. I want more people to visit their



Neighborhood herb garden in front yard to help make your dinner taste better

creative sides. Everyone's got it!"

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 Jane at JaneBranscomb@gmail.com (JaneBranscomb at gmail dot com). To suggest that someone be featured or to volunteer to write for the series. I so enjoy this series! I've known Ann Shirra since the early 90s when her house was behind mine, but have learned so much new about her here. 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.

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Lake Claire Craft Fair

Continued from page 1.

To learn more about how you can

- **Register** (registration deadline Nov. 7),
- **Volunteer**,
- **Sponsor** (deadline Oct. 14 for print AND online, otherwise Nov. 7),
- **Host** (registration deadline Nov. 7), or
- **Be a food vendor...**

visit us at our new website: sites.google.com/view/lakeclairecraftfair or scan this QR code:



Like us on www.facebook.com/groups/1171946276321822/.

The streets included are: McLendon Avenue (south side only), Connecticut Ave., Delaware Ave., Arizona Ave., Indiana Ave., New York Ave., and Casson

Street. Starting in 2023, we limited it to these streets in order to increase the foot traffic and walkability while maintaining the same number of vendors as in other years. So, Lake Claire residents will not necessarily be located at their own residences; we match artists with host homes on the designated streets. If you do not live on one of these streets, we will assign you to a place on one of these streets.

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

Please register via the website. Meanwhile, if you have questions, our address is lakeclairecraftfair@gmail.com. **Remember, confirmation from us is required; do not assume your participation is confirmed until you receive the written confirmation.** Again, the registration deadline for artists and for volunteer host homes: Saturday, November 7.

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

Concerns for DeKalb Animals

Continued from page 7.

create an Animal Task Force comprised of LifeLine Animal Shelter Volunteers, DeKalb Animal Services, and an expert in the delivery of animal services to spend six months hashing-out needed elements and enhancements to the existing LifeLine facility to ensure its functionality and ability to better meet the needs of animals and community.

2. Thereafter, during the Fall of 2025, I'd move forward with the development and issuance of an RFP for the procurement of a contractor who can expand the existing animal shelter.

3. Also, I believe discussion should be given as to if the current location of LifeLine Animal Shelter is the best location for the expansion. Personally, I have considered a more central location, e.g., along Memorial Drive, but I believe we need in-depth conversations before a final decision is made, as such a move may be cost prohibitive. I believe in following the science, and it could be that the greatest amount of LifeLine Animal Shelter users are closer to the current location.

4. It is my intent to have development plans in place by mid-year 2025 so we can begin expansion activities during the Fall. However, if my targets are too aggressive, I will defer and adjust, because the goal is to get it right

this time. I joined the Board of Commissioner in 2019, however all parties involved in the last animal shelter expansion acknowledge that their actions were rather short-sighted and not enough thought was given to the actions taken and long-range planning.

5. As the CEO, I would propose to the governing authority (DeKalb County Board of Commissioners) the issuance of a Government Bond against the expected revenue to begin immediate construction. If not, since the SPLOST II is a six-year revenue collection, if we wait until revenue is fully materialized from SPLOST II, it is possible there could be no action until 2030. As the Board of Commissioners is the only body vested with the capacity to encumber revenue and levy debt, I must have their support to float a Bond."

Shelter Updates

The construction of the "Pet Neighborhood" is nearing completion by Labor Day: 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 euthanasia will continue if the influx of animals continues at current pace.

The Shelter continued to experience unrelenting intake this Summer! The number of dogs continues to hover around 500, with weekly Intake for July and August approaching record numbers. The goal, and euthanasia list, set each Tuesday after closing, is to maintain the shelter at 475 dogs. Amazingly, as of this Clarion going to press, we have not had to euthanize any animals for space for the first 3 weeks of August due in large part to an extensive social media presence by LifeLine and volunteers.

Intake June 2024: 259 /Intake June 2025: 339/Intake June 2023: 307. Owner surrender consistently accounts for about 10% of intake.

Lake Claire Taught Me to Love Atlanta

Continued from page 3.

underlying this failure is much more difficult than simply acknowledging it, which is why we need investment in supports that are proven to help students succeed and bridge gaps to opportunity for Black and low-income families.

I am running for the Board of Education because I believe in what is possible for our families. We can expand access to high-quality Pre-K and literacy-based daycare programs through community partnerships and by utilizing the dozens of vacant properties owned by the district. We can fight the school-

to-prison pipeline by implementing a restorative, trauma-informed approach to student discipline that addresses the root causes of behavior issues by connecting students with wraparound services. We can double the number of counselors in our schools, create a Student & Family Support Hub in every school cluster, integrate more arts education, financial literacy, and life skills into the curriculum, expand apprenticeship and trade certification programs, and work with MARTA to alleviate transportation barriers by giving every high schooler in APS free

access to public transit. I believe we can accomplish all of this and more because it is what our city and our students deserve, and I'm gonna fight like hell to get it done because that's what my community taught me to do.

Editor's note: I have been impressed with Royce since I covered him in the Clarion when he wrote the poem "White Boy Privilege" at age 14. If you'd like to contact Royce or get involved, his website is royceforatl.com, and his email is royceforatlanta@gmail.com.

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Public Service Commission

Continued from page 1.

sioners routinely accept campaign contributions from corporations they are charged to regulate, including Southern Gas, Southern Services, and the nonprofit Electric Membership Cooperatives that serve about half of Georgia's households. Georgia Power, which serves the other half, does not donate directly to commissioners, but its law firm, Troutman Sanders, does. So do many of the firm's top lawyers.

Commissioners serve six-year terms, far longer than other state offices, conveniently delaying their accountability to voters. But thanks to a legal loophole, four of the current five were appointed by the governor after a sitting commissioner resigned in mid-term. Such appointments typically go to business-friendly political donors with little utility expertise, giving them the advantage of incumbency when they eventually appear on a ballot. Naturally, Georgia Power also contributes to candidates for governor.

The PSC allows Georgia Power an 11.9% "Return on Equity," or guaranteed profit, high above the industry norm of 9.7%. This minor-sounding difference boosts the company's annual profits by about \$700 million over what most U.S. utilities are allowed to earn.

The PSC often operates in secrecy, conducting back-room deals with Georgia Power with near-zero transparency. Its reports are heavily redacted because the company is permitted to define transmission and construction cost estimates as "trade secrets," something few other states allow.

The PSC is on record opposing the appointment of a "Consumer Utility Counsel," a public advocate who speaks for residential and small business customers. Forty-five states have one; Georgia's was abolished in 2008. Legislation reinstating it has failed twice in the past two years, partly due to PSC opposition.

The PSC consistently approves Georgia Power proposals that raise electric rates—and profits—while ignoring lower-cost alternatives. Twice they have voted not to expand Geor-

gia's rooftop solar program, limiting the number of customers allowed to connect household solar panels to the grid and adding an onerous connection fee. Instead, they approved profitable Georgia Power solar farms.

The most blatant example is the two new nuclear reactors at Plant Vogtle—the most expensive power plant on Earth—partially financed by an added fee on residential and small-business electric bills. (Big business and industry were exempt.) Vogtle's energy cost is \$170 per megawatt-hour, compared to \$35-\$50 for a solar-plus-storage system. The expansion triggered the largest rate hike in state history, totaling 23.7%, though Georgia Power has strategically paused the hikes until after November's PSC elections.

The PSC imposed no limits on the cost of the project. Because of Georgia Power's guaranteed profit margin, the more time and money the project took, the higher its profits soared, eventually reaching \$17 billion. Cost overruns, meanwhile, often caused by poor design, management, and construction, totaled \$20 billion. The PSC-approved rate increases will reimburse most of these overruns. In effect, customers were forced to shoulder much of the Vogtle investment; Southern Company shareholders get the dividends.

Worst of all, despite accelerating drought, heat waves, and hurricane damage, all five current commissioners are climate-change deniers. They have unanimously greenlighted new natural gas plants to power the grossly exaggerated demand of AI. Georgia, meanwhile, is the nation's tenth sunniest state, with a windy 100-mile coastline. Utilizing far cheaper solar and wind technology would save ratepayers money and create many more jobs for Georgians.

The PSC commissioners represent five geographical districts, but are elected in statewide balloting. This gives metro Atlanta voters disproportionately little say in who represents us on the PSC. The 2022 election was canceled when a lawsuit successfully

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:

Sarah Goodfellow
Sarah Carlin
Polly McKinney
Genise Spenle
Denise Dumais
Anna Munsey
Stephanie Teta
Stacy & Ed Hyken

Rev. Sarah V. Johnson and
Harold L. Newfield
Mary E. Sloop
Patricia Grindo
Evan Perlin
Laura Briceno
Jamie Cohen
Harold A. Weston

HAVE A MOMENT OF FAME IN THE CLARION—PAY YOUR **2025** DUES!

Hello – Safe Journey: Skiing in and around Lake Claire

Happy Birthday to:

September 1 Thomas Mayer turning 12 (Gordon Avenue)
September 7 Vickie Smith (Harold)
September 10 Alicia McGill (Arizona)
September 13 Lilly Amato—17th birthday (Marlbrook)
September 15 Harper Gamble turning 15 years old (McLendon Avenue), and Brett Peel (Ridgewood)
September 19 Dahlia Berman-Billinkoff. If I'm not wrong, she turns ONE!
Congrats!
September 20 Keely Baker (Leonardo)
September 22 Rene Godiers (Marlbrook)
September 23 Miles Judy (Lakeshore Dr.) 6 years old! Alyssa Olson (Leonardo)

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

challenged this system, then lost on appeal. Gov. Kemp allowed Republicans Tim Echols and Fitz Johnson—an appointee who has never faced voters—to extend their expired terms for three extra years.

Both claim they're running for reelection to "protect Georgia families against rising costs," but their voting record on the PSC speaks for itself. Their Democratic opponents will be hard-pressed to overcome the incumbent advantage and appeal to voters across the entire state. But for once the ratepayers of Georgia have a choice—at least those who are paying attention.

Note: Stephen Wing is a long-time board member with Nuclear Watch South. Though he also serves on the board of the Lake Claire Community Land Trust, this article does not represent the views of LCCLT in any way. And, as with all Clarion articles, opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the Clarion staff or of Lake Claire Neighbors, Inc.

To learn more and subscribe to "Energy Updates," visit georgiansforaffordableenergy.org. To download the Plant Vogtle report, visit truthaboutvogtle.com.

Big Changes at the Land Trust!

This year, two LCCLT Board members who have been part of the Land Trust since the beginning have stepped down (though not entirely out). We are thankful to Miriam Herbers and Linda Pace for their years of service to the land and its community. In their place two young people are stepping in, neither of whom is exactly new. Diana Powers and Martha Herbers-Sanger both grew up playing at the Land Trust as children of the original founding families. Diana joined the Board last year and has now taken on the role of Secretary. Martha joined us this year, along with our new Treasurer, Eric Dusenbury.

Thank you and welcome to them all!

We are also happy to announce that we are now interviewing candidates for a new contract position, the Land Trust Operations Manager, a major step we have been working toward for several years. The job posting received an amazing 39 applications, which at press time have been whittled down to 6 standouts. It's going to be tough to choose just one from such an impressive group, but we will be interviewing them during the last weeks of August (Clarion goes to press August 18) and will introduce you to our final choice in the October Clarion. Our thanks to all who applied.

Upcoming & Ongoing at the Land Trust

Sat., Sept. 6: "Jerry Jam" Fall FUNdraiser, 1–10:30 p.m. See article at right.

Wed., Sept. 10: BOND Community Federal Credit Union Annual Members Meeting, 6–8 p.m. Member-only gathering; food, drinks, and talent show. Sorry, BOND members only. Join your neighborhood credit union today!

Sun., Sept. 14: Forest Bathing: A Slow Walk Back to Yourself with Spurgeon Brown, 1–4 p.m. Let the natural spaces at the Land Trust work their quiet magic with a guide certified in the Japanese art of Shinrin-yoku. "Love offerings" welcome. For info, email cinematicyogii@gmail.com.

Sun., Sept. 14: Death Café with Denise Johnson, 3–4:30 p.m. in the Gorilla Grill. Denise Johnson of EOL (End of Life) 101 hosts this monthly informal conversation about death and dying, with tea, coffee and cake. Free! Donations welcome.

Sun., Sept. 14: LCCLT board meeting, 5–6 p.m. (every month on the 2nd Sunday) around a picnic table in the Greenfield. All are welcome to sit in and speak up. Come in person or contact us at info@LCCLT.org for Zoom link.

Sat., Sept. 20: Community Work Day, 1–4 p.m. (every month on the 3rd Saturday). Bring drinking water and work gloves. Rain date: Sept. 27.

Sat., Sept. 20: Tarot Class with Chakura Kineard of Unfiltered Glitter, 1–2 p.m. Beginners, 3–4 Advanced, \$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; contact info@LCCLT.org.

Sat., Sept. 20: Family Drumming with Drake Pendley & Rusty Gilbert, 7:30–8 p.m., \$5 donation requested. Stay for the Drum Circle if you can. Normal date pre-empted this month by Jerry Jam, back to the 1st Sat. in October.

Sat., Sept. 20: Land Trust Drum Circle, 8–11 p.m. (every month, usually on the 1st Sat.), \$5 donation requested. No alcohol please. The Drum Circle will return to the 1st Sat. next month.

Wed., Sept. 24: Land Trust Open Mic, 7–9 p.m. at the Land Trust amphitheater. All acoustic and spoken word performers welcome, or just come to listen.

Sat., OCTOBER 4: Land Trust Fall Plant Sale – SAVE THE DATE!

For details, more info, and updates of any of the above, please visit www.LCCLT.org/new-events.

YOUR EVENT HERE! Do you knowledge or skills to share in an outdoor setting? Get in touch at info@LCCLT.org, and let's discuss holding your class, workshop, or presentation at the Land Trust!

See You at Jerry Jam, Saturday Sept. 6!

by Frani Green

Greetings Land Trust Lovers! It's still summer in the ATL, but we're geared up for our annual "Jerry Jam" Fall Fest at your oasis in the City. From 1:30 to 10:30 p.m., we'll have a day of live music honoring Jerry Garcia and the Grateful Dead. Six bands will be performing, all donating their time for the benefit of the Land Trust. This is one of our main sources of FUNds, so put on your dancing shoes and bring your energy, love, and cash to support the hidden gem right in your neighborhood.

This year our line-up is amazing: 1:30–2:30 p.m., Sweet Melissa's Blues Revue; 3–4, Playd8te is Dead; 4:30–5:30,

Magnolia Express; 6–7, WEST; 7:30–8:30, String 'n' Bones; and 9–10:15, Token Rhyme. We'll also have food trucks, beverages for all ages, our usual bake sale, face painting, and local artists. So come on down, bring the family and all your friends, and we'll see ya on the dance floor! Love on all y'all's heads!

Walking, biking, and carpooling encouraged; free parking nearby at Clifton Sanctuary, 369 Connecticut Ave. Sorry, no pets allowed. Bring your own water bottle, and we'll refill it for you! Tickets: adults \$20, teens \$5, kids 12 and under free. For advance tickets: www.freshtix.com/events/jerry-jam-2025.

Meet the 2025-2026 Land Trust Board!

Stephen Wing, President: Stephen Wingeier (a.k.a. "Wing") has lived in Atlanta since 1990 with his wife Dawn. In 1993 they discovered the Land Trust and moved to Arizona Ave. After surviving cancer in 2006, Wing decided to shift his focus closer to home and joined the Land Trust board. He is a retired professional recycler and a published poet who writes a monthly blog, "Wingtips." In 2024 he and Dawn downsized and moved to Clarkston, but an invisible yo-yo string keeps bouncing him back to Lake Claire.

Diana Powers, Secretary: Diana (she/they) grew up on the Land Trust as the daughter of co-founder Richard Powers, which instilled a lifelong commitment to community, environment, and accessible natural spaces. She is now a community organizer who has worked with public, nonprofit, and community-based organizations and now leads the Small Business Support program at the Algiers Economic Development Foundation in New Orleans. She is excited to join the board and attend meetings remotely.

Eric Dusenbury, Treasurer: Eric and his wife, Karin, moved into Candler Park (a suburb of Lake Claire, he is told) in 1992. Their three children enjoyed exploring the Land Trust as they grew up and Eric grew to appreci-

ate what a special place the Land Trust is. Recently retired, he decided to focus some of his energies on helping to ensure the Land Trust is around for current and future generations.

Véronique Perrot, Board Member & Grounds Chair: Véronique and her husband, Rustom, moved to Connecticut Ave. in 1995. They and their two children spent a lot of time at the Land Trust. Véronique started attending LCCLT board meetings in 2018, and joined the board in 2019. She has chaired the Grounds Committee for nearly that long, coordinating the monthly Community Work Days, among other tasks. She also serves as the layout editor of the Clarion since 2015. Véronique is now a full-time weaver.

Martha Herbers-Sanger: Martha grew up exploring the Land Trust, attending neighborhood potlucks, and drifting to sleep to the rhythms of drum circles. Her parents, Miriam Herbers and Mark Sanger, were Land Trust co-founders. The Land Trust has always felt like home, and Martha is honored to join the board and give back to a place that helped shape her. For 20 years she has worked as an occupational therapist in the NICU at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and is now supervisor of the OT team. She lives in Kirkwood with her wife and son.



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



We hope this series is fun for kids and a way for young neighborhood writers and artists to participate in the Clarion. Each month, we feature a writer, a poet, or an artist. This month, our featured artist is **Genevieve Douglas!** She won extra credit last month, with the prize of being the fea-

tured writer or artist, and she drew a picture of her favorite thing about summer: the Lake Claire Pool! Genevieve is age 10, a 5th grader at Mary Lin who lives on Ridgecrest Road.

Thank you, Genevieve, for your great art 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 **SEPTEMBER 15–18** for the **October** issue.



Contest Winners

We have two great winners this month!! They found the graphic of Summer on Page 14. **Solenne Shipley** won First Place! She is 9 years old and starting 4th grade at Mary Lin. She won the extra credit prize by telling us her favorite thing about summer — that the pools around town are open. (Her prize is to write in a future issue.)

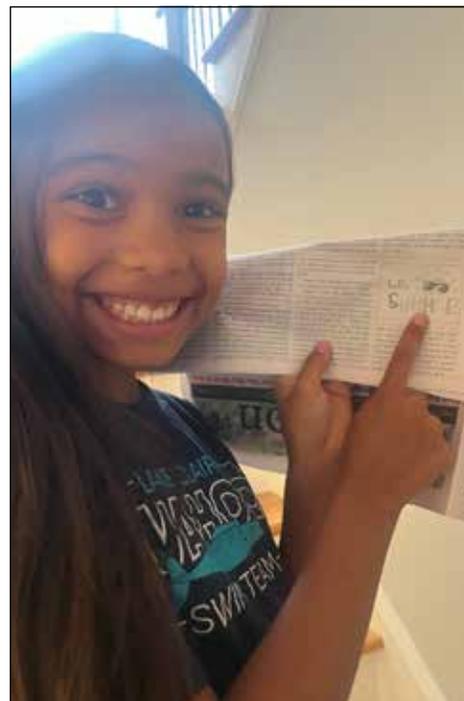


Solenne, 1st place!

Our close second-place winner is **Felix Freeman**. Felix is 9 and a starting 5th grader at ML who lives on Claire Avenue. He also won extra credit for telling us his favorite thing about summer. "My favorite thing about summer in Lake Claire is that everything is

New Contest

Hi kids, did you know that September is National Happy Cat Month? And Sept. 11 is National Hug Your Hound Day! September 19 is Talk Like a Pirate Day. But my personal favorite (after all, I'm an editor!) is Sept. 24, National Punctuation Day. To win extra credit this month, find a graphic about correct punctuation in this issue and tell us the page number. The winner/winners who find it will have their pictures in the next Clarion (OCTOBER). To win, write editor@lakeclaire.org, identifying the page number, and include your name, age, school, street, and grade, along with a photo. (Your parents should send large picture files, 1mb+). Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you cannot win two months in a row.



Genevieve—featured artist

For extra credit, tell us your favorite thing about returning to school. The extra-credit prize is to be a featured writer/artist in a future Lake Clarion

with your original work. The deadline is **SEPT 15-18**. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this **HIGHLY** coveted prize.



Felix, 2nd place!

lush and green and beautiful," he said. He too wins the prize of being featured in a future issue. **Congrats to both of you winners!**

Everyone else: See this month's contest below, and make your guess: it's your chance to be **famous** in a newspa-

per, 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!**