



2025 Lake Claire Halloween Parade Coming!

by Michelle Kotheimer

Please join us on **Saturday, October 25** for Lake Claire's annual Halloween party and parade! The parade line-up starts at 4:30 p.m. on Marlbrook Drive, east of Ridgewood Road. 30 mins of shmoozing and costume admiration, then starting at 5 p.m., the parade will march down Ridgewood Road, to McLendon Avenue, and make its way to Lake Claire Park for food, treats, and fun!

All are welcome to join the parade or line the streets to cheer for our tiniest ghouls & goblins. Don't miss the **COSTUME COMPETITION!** Judges will select the winners in the following categories: Best kids' group; Best individual; and Best Family costume. Pictures will be in the next Clarion.

Seeking Volunteers: We need your help! Can you help prepare signs and social media posts or sling treats? Teenagers can help, too.

Sponsors: We need you! Please reach out to michelle.kotheimer@gmail.com and matkoty@yahoo.com to sponsor or volunteer.

We hope to see you then for what has become one of Lake Claire's signature fun events!

Safety and Signage Update on Harriett at Clifton

by Hurst Williamson

Thank you to the neighbors who supported the engineering study of the Harriett Ave. & Clifton Rd. intersection to improve safety for pedestrians, APS students, and turning vehicles. The ATL DOT promptly completed their work and determined that there is not enough crossing traffic to merit an all-way stop at either Harriett or Muriel Avenues. However, the DOT has rec-

Artists: Registration open!

Lake Claire Annual Crafts Fair

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

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 much appreciated), exhibiting and selling

their creations. The 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. As a bonus to the arts and crafts, there are food trucks – and music throughout the participating streets. We hope everyone will plan to attend this always-fun event, get a head start on holiday shopping,

Cont. on p. 3

Pen Sherwood: Anything but Plain

by Jane Branscomb

In a house called Bunnywood Cottage ("my husband was born in the year of the rabbit"), at a corner to whose stop sign is appended in paint on the nearby utility pole, "and smell the roses" – which do indeed grow along the curb – lives Janpen Sherwood. "Full Moon" in Thai, "Magnificent Moon" in Chi-

nese, or locally, just "Pen." The English nickname is fitting for someone whose hands must always be busy painting, drawing, sewing, or writing letters.

"I love writing letters!" Pen says. She met her husband Andrew 26 years ago as pen pals, introduced by her friend

Cont. on p. 8

ommended moving forward with better signage for pedestrians crossing Clifton at Harriett and Muriel — as well as an adjustment of the parking clearances on the corners to allow for better visibility. We are hopeful these improvements will help.

And finally, the city has recommended to GDOT that the speed limit on Clifton between Ponce de Leon Avenue

and DeKalb Avenue drop from 30mph to 25mph. We are also hopeful that this change will move forward and make a positive impact on the street, though a timeline remains unclear.

Thank you again for your support in the effort to make Clifton safer. For more information or with questions and suggestions, please contact hurst.williamson@gmail.com.

Lake Claire Officers

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

Clarion Staff

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

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 October

Plus, see Land Trust happenings on P. 15.

4 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.

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

16 **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/. **Last meeting before election!** See **article Page 3**.

18 Fiddler's Green Coffeehouse (3rd Saturdays), 7 p.m. \$10 at door (members \$8). This month: Friction Farm (charming troubadours from Western N.C., a modern folk duo); David Singley (singer-songwriter-guitarist, coming all the way from St. Paul, MN!) For more details about the musicians, music schedule for the balance of the year, and other info: aaffm.org/aaffm-events/

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

No Mary Lin Dine-outs as of going to press, but mark your calendars for a Meet-and-Eat at Sweet Auburn on December 2. For info about future dine-outs or questions, please contact Esther Lippman, estherlippman@gmail.com.

Lake Claire Merchandise

Lake Claire in collaboration with the FineArtAmerica offers a way to buy neighborhood items online, including our Lake Claire banner, designed by Leslie Hodges on Sutherland Place, the 'Ski Lake Claire' logo, and the '30307 Not Just a Zip Code' logo. Coffee mugs, clothing, face masks, etc. See the LCN website lakeclaire.org.



Clarions waiting for delivery teams

New Need for Clarion Volunteers!

One of the important volunteer jobs for the neighborhood is distributing monthly* Clarions to people's porches. It's a great way to help the neighborhood, to get steps, and (**high schoolers**) to earn community credit. Time-sensitive delivery is the last week of each month (monthly except no Clarion in July & August.).

We will need a new delivery person for Mathews and New York starting with the January issue (which is delivered the last week of December/first week of Jan.). It is one route now, comprising 55 papers, but if we get two volunteers, it could be two people, or a

family could share it. When there is an occasion that you can't deliver by the deadline, we find help, so don't hesitate because of the monthly commitment.

Speaking of help, we love volunteer delivery folks for back-up for when regular volunteers can't deliver by the first week of month for any reason. This way you'd only need to be available occasionally.

Please email Miriam at distribution@lakeclaire.org to volunteer or if you have questions. Thanks to all our Clarion deliverers, most of whom have done it for many years, and some of whom are kids.

Photography Exhibit for Displaced in the New South

by Beth Damon

Displaced in the New South is a 1996 film by David Ziegler, former LC Resident (Arizona Avenue) that took place last month at the Ciné Theater in Athens; unfortunately, we didn't know about it as of the September Clarion deadline in late August. The film highlights Asian and Latino immigrants in Georgia. There were a few thousand in Georgia in the 1980s, but by 1994, there were more than 300,000. Displaced in the New South explores the cultural collision between Asian and Hispanic immigrants and the suburban communities near Atlanta where they settled. Featuring unforgettable people like Suttiwan Cox, ESL teacher and stand-up comic, the film is a moving, sensitive case study of a nationwide trend that often brings explosive political upheaval all across the country.

After the Athens screening, there was an exciting panel consisting of David, Suttiwan Cox, Carola Reuben and Tadessa Bantiweson from the film, Emory University scholar Yami Rodriguez, author of the upcoming book Mexican Atlanta, and Eric Mofford, David's co-director on the film. A photography exhibit accompanied the film. I am happy to report that though we missed reporting the film screening and panel, the exhibit will be up at the University of Georgia through this coming December,



and that David is working on a tour to Atlanta and other locations. (We will let you know when that is.)

The September screening was the first public screening of the film since its 1995 premiere at the Carter Center and the PBS broadcast. David said that this process has been a wonderful homecoming experience for him and his wife Maryann, and that he hopes to see all of you soon.

You can find the photography project at the UGA Special Collections Library, with fascinating photos of immigrants during the mid 1990s. The Special Collections Library is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m.–7 p.m., and it is free to the public.

Important Opportunity: Lake Claire October Nominations

The annual Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN) Executive Committee elections are in November. According to our by-laws, all nominations must be made at the regular LCN meeting in October, i.e., at this month's meeting. The basic requirement for nomination, whether self-nomination or by another, is attendance at a minimum of four regular meetings since last November.

Please think about serving the

neighborhood in this valuable fashion. If you will meet the requirement as of the October meeting (you will have already attended at least 3 meetings, and the October meeting is your 4th or more), do consider leadership in the neighborhood, a very good cause, and needed and appreciated. The October meeting is Thursday, October 16, hybrid and in-person. A slate of officers is also presented.

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries – Guest Highlight!

by Lori White

Mr. Cameron came to Clifton after serving time in prison for insurance fraud. His conviction was overturned, and by the time he was released he had lost everything. Dealing with depression and PTSD, Mr. Cameron got involved with the Justice Program through AA. Over the course of 6 years, he experienced unstable housing situations and lived out of a van for 4 years.

Mr. Cameron was made aware of a program called Positive Impact Health Centers, and after becoming involved, he was referred to Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. He now resides at our transitional housing facility, Joe's



Place, and he serves as a Night Host. He is celebrating his graduation from the Positive Impact Health Recovery Program this month! He says about his time here with Clifton, "Clifton has given me a different perspective on humanity when it comes to service work and gratitude. I have learned not to take blessings for granted."

If you are delivering a meal or volunteering around our campus, give Mr. Cameron a high five. He is making great progress on his journey towards independence and healthy living.

Lake Claire Crafts Fair

Continued from page 1.

and enjoy catching up with friends and neighbors.

To register (deadline ***NOVEMBER 7***, so you have about a month), volunteer, sponsor, host, or be a food vendor, see our NEW website, www.lakeclaire-craftfair.com, or scan this QR code.

The streets included are: McLendon Avenue (south side), Connecticut Ave., Delaware Ave., Arizona Ave., Indiana Ave., New York Ave., and Casson Street. We match artists with host homes if you

don't live on those streets.

Products:

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.



com. Remember, confirmation from us is required; do not assume your participation is confirmed until you receive the written confirmation.

BUSINESSES, Organizations, and Individuals who wish to sponsor: We welcome new sponsors! Sponsorship amount is your choice; sponsors' logos/names are listed in order of sponsorship amount on all publicity.

Amounts are not mentioned. Please go to the website, and choose *Sponsors* for more info and to register.



LAKE CLAIRE REAL ESTATE



NEW LISTING! 4BR, ONLY \$595K!

4 BR | 3.5 BA | 2160 SQ FT | 2-CAR GARAGE

ANOTHER HOME UNDER CONTRACT!



Unlock your real estate dreams this year!

John Morgan, Managing Broker and Founding Partner of Park Realty, has been a trusted expert in the dynamic world of Atlanta real estate since 2007.

John specializes in helping people buy and sell homes, townhouses, condos, and investment properties across metro Atlanta. He is a committed client advocate focused on maximizing your return on investment and understanding your priorities.

As the only locally-owned real estate company in the neighborhood, Park Realty offers a boutique experience and unmatched local insight. John has been an intown Atlanta resident since 1993 and a Candler Park/Lake Claire homeowner since 2000, so he knows the community inside out.

John also manages several of his own rental properties (long- and short-term rentals, including Airbnbs), giving him a unique investor's perspective.

In this complex and changing market, John's well-honed negotiating experience ensures you get the best outcomes possible in every transaction.

John puts relationships first. If you're ready for a seamless and neighborly real estate experience, contact John today!

RECENTLY SOLD



622 HAROLD AVE
ATLANTA GA 30307
\$875,000

SOLD PRE-MARKET
FOR 50K OVER
LIST PRICE



2112 PALIFOX DR
ATLANTA GA 30307
\$730,000

SOLD FOR 30K OVER
LIST PRICE IN 5 DAYS



337 CLIFTON RD
ATLANTA GA 30307
\$700,000

SOLD FOR 15K OVER
LIST PRICE IN 4 DAYS



1792 DEKALB AVE
ATLANTA GA 30307
\$601,000

SOLD FOR 16K OVER
LIST PRICE, HIGHEST
PRICE IN COMPLEX
EVER

JMORGAN@PARKREALTYATLANTA.COM
 770.655.9423
 1651 MCLENDON AVE, ATLANTA GA 30307





Frazer Center's Inclusion Team

by Dina Shadwell

This spring, Ignacio Mendoza and Hannah Etchison joined Frazer Center as our new Inclusion Specialists—and quickly became a dynamic duo. Their mission: support children with identified needs and their families, and help teachers build inclusive classrooms where every child thrives.

Hannah and Ignacio each found their way to Frazer through different career paths, but they share a conviction—inclusion is vital and early intervention support is a much needed service in the community.

Ignacio has degrees in psychology, concentrating on Applied Behavioral Analysis. Hannah's career has taken a more circuitous route, with a B.A. in Religious Studies, but when her parents fostered a child who had several diagnosed disabilities, "It opened my eyes to how much enjoyment there can be, how fulfilling it is to know people with disabilities."

For Ignacio and Hannah, every day is different, depending on what situations they walk into. Each Inclusion Specialist is assigned classrooms to visit daily, and both check in across the center to offer support. "Maybe a child is expressing a certain behavior that a teacher is concerned about," Ignacio explains. "We can come in and model behavior for the teacher, provide coaching, or share visual equipment like timers or other tools to help the teacher best support the child." The pair share an office, and they both appreciate having each other to bounce thoughts and ideas. In addition to providing classroom support, Ignacio and Hannah coordinate with any therapists who serve children at Frazer, and

they facilitate communication with each child's team—parents, teachers, therapists, and administrators—so strategies are consistent at school and at home.

They offer developmental screeners for all the families at Frazer, supporting children and families and connecting them with appropriate early-intervention resources. When results simply highlight skills that could be strengthened—such as fine- or gross-motor—they partner with teachers to plan activities that reinforce those motor skills so the whole class benefits.

"As the Inclusion Team, we are trying to foster acceptance, understanding, and embracing differences," says Hannah, "not only for children with disabilities but for diverse families, people of different demographics and identities." Both Specialists hope Frazer can continue welcoming more and more children with identified needs. However, that growth requires capacity: staffing, space, time, and funding. With more resources, the team could expand trainings for teachers and provide workshops for families and community members seeking guidance. Meanwhile, the Inclusion Team is dedicated to their mission of ensuring that each child, with and without disabilities, is able to thrive in their natural classroom environment. "That's what success looks like for us," says Ignacio.

If you would like to know more about Frazer Center's Inclusion Team and Early Intervention program, please email Hannah and Ignacio at inclusion@frazercenter.org. For more information about Frazer Center, visit www.frazercenter.org.

An Update from Advocates for Dekalb Animals

by Scott McLane

Advocates for Dekalb Animals continue to be a vital element to improving animal welfare in Dekalb. This is an update to their strategic plan and an update in general regarding what's been going on in Dekalb County regarding advocacy for animals. Please contact them with questions or if you have skills that you can offer the Advocacy team. As always, please invite your friends and neighbors to join. Here is the report:

1. New for us this second half of 2025, we have decided that we should support the efforts to get our Dekalb shelter animals into homes. So, we will be doing some posts around this effort. It is not our intention to have this monopolize our agenda, but it is appropriate to our mission of animal advocacy.

2. Along these lines we are also asking our county and eventually our city officials to join in this support effort. DCTV is prepared to do "spots" with dogs and officials, and we are moving forward on this initiative. Our goal is to help our officials understand more personally that they have a role in improving animal welfare.

3. **There are three commissioners up for re-election in 2026**, and we intend to remind them that we are there to support them in return for their support to improve animal welfare in Dekalb. These commissioners are: Michelle Long Spears, District 2; Nicole Massiah, District 3; and LaDena

Cont. on p. 11

How a Lake Claire-based Nonprofit, Up3, is Reimagining Life after Foster Care

by Beth Damon

Anne Carelli is a long-time resident of Lake Claire (on Harold Avenue). She is deeply committed to helping foster youth in a world where they often face daunting odds. Her small but ambitious nonprofit is carving out space for a different narrative. Since launching in 2019, Up3 has supported foster teens across Georgia by pairing them with tailored mentorship, academic assistance, and opportunities to explore their own interests, a transformative twist on traditional social service models.

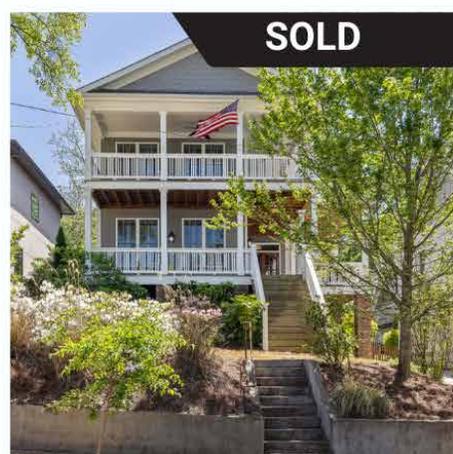
Behind Up3 is a simple yet powerful idea: that every teen carries unique interests worth exploring, and that nurturing their passions can build confidence, life skills, and vocational direction. The organization's mission is to help "cultivate foster teens' individual areas of passion to expose them to new experiences, build confidence, teach critical life skills, and expand vo-

ational opportunities" Up3's approach stretches well beyond homework help, in providing:

Academic Resources (including tuition assistance, tutors, laptops, and other school-related costs); **Personalized Passion Curriculum** (each youth explores and deepens a personal interest – music, tech, mechanics, culinary arts, just to name a few—with customized learning plans); **Mentorship** (Volunteers offer consistent, hands-on mentorship to help teens build real-world skills, confidence, and connections); **Transition Support** (Crucially, Up3 doesn't stop at age 21. Youth continue to receive support during and beyond their transition out of care, bridging a systemic gap that few organizations attempt to fill.)

As Anne told me, together, these components help foster youth to envision a

Cont. on p. 11



**Your Neighborhood Expert
with over 40 Homes Sold in
30307 in the last 2 years**

MOVING OR PUTTING DOWN ROOTS?

REACH OUT FOR INSIGHT AND
ADVICE ON NAVIGATING TODAY'S
REAL ESTATE MARKET

678-358-3369



Cynthia Baer
Associate Broker

#1 Agent KW Realty Metro Atlanta

#1 Agent Dekalb Board of Realtors

[cynthiabaer30307](#) cynthia@cynthiabaer.com

cynthiabaer.com [Cynthia Terry Baer](#)

KW METRO ATLANTA
KELLERWILLIAMS. REALTY

Wild in Lake Claire

by Sara Gottlieb

Late August and early September in Georgia is prime pawpaw fruit time, and my little grove of trees in the Peace Garden at the Land Trust bore an amazing crop (see photo on Page 9). This did not go unnoticed by the local wildlife. For those not in the know, pawpaws (*Asimina triloba*) are North America's largest native fruit, though rarely if ever found for sale in any store or farmer's market. The fruits are rather squishy when ripe and do not store or travel well, so the best way to get to taste one is to grow your own! I hosted a small gathering of Georgia Native Plant Society members from the surrounding neighborhoods at the end of August to taste the fruit, share seeds and seedlings, and share tips on growing this beautiful, native tree.

I learned from past seasons that wildlife loves to eat pawpaw fruits, so this year I carefully covered each fruit with a mesh bag. Alas, as the fruits started to ripen, I realized something was tearing right through the mesh to get at the sweet morsel inside. I set up my trailcam to discover the culprit and found there were many: possum, raccoon, rat (see photos above right), mouse, chipmunk, squirrel, and birds were all making a go at it! In spite of the onslaught, I have managed to save a few fruits, which we've eaten raw, in pancakes and in vegan cheesecake. What a treat, for people and wildlife alike!

Meredith W reported having tons of jewelweed blooming, which the hummingbirds love. She frequently sees at least three or four—usually fighting each other. They're such fierce, brave, big-hearted fighters. Recently, Meredith heard the squirrels sounding alarm in the trees around her back porch. It turned out there was a raccoon at the bottom of the stairs. It didn't run far before turning toward her and standing upright on its back legs and staring at her. The raccoon then walked toward Meredith and came up the steps until he was on the step just below her. It moved its nose closer to her feet, at which point she backed up, and it ran.

Finally, Meredith came across some odd tracks at Lullwater Preserve over the summer. They were somewhat small and looked like a domestic cat's, but were in a place where this was highly unlikely. Meredith put up a trailcam, and a few days later when she checked the footage, she saw an adorable coyote pup prance across the screen. It seems there was a family of them in the area. Several weeks later, after seeing them a few times on the trailcam, Meredith had the honor of seeing one in person!

Ginger L shared a photo of a praying mantis on a pole, just minding its own business, but we didn't have room in the Clarion – check it out on my post on the Lake Claire facebook page. Jane B sent a photo of a snakeskin threaded through the spokes of her bike (see Page 9).

Bernard S reports that he was sitting on his couch after being outside, when he noticed a large (1.5") insect on his sock (see Page 9). He took it outside, and it flew away. The insect turned out to be a yellow-legged mud dauber wasp. A friend of Bernard's in Decatur saw a hawk grabbing a squirrel and drop it when surprised. His friend quickly set up a camera next to the squirrel, and sure enough, the hawk came back to recover its meal. It made for an impressive short movie!

Daniel G wrote to say that on his evening walks he crosses the bridge on the northeast corner of Candler Park and stops to feed the eastern box turtles in the water (pictured at right). Turtles apparently prefer turkey hot dogs. If they aren't waiting in the water, they come out from below the cement on the riverbank to feed. One time he saw them completely out of the water, as in the photo.

In early September, I started seeing reports of abundant clusters of ringless honey mushrooms at the bases of trees and near old tree stumps. One evening, while out for a walk on Nelms, I came across an impressive stand of these fungi, which are a plant pathogen, and stopped to have a closer look. See my

Cont. on p. 9



Raccoon on Sara G's trail cam



Rat on Sara G's trail cam



Daniel G's Eastern box turtle

Pen Sherwood, Anything but Plain

Continued from page 1.

when she lived in Thailand and he in America. She made a collage of postmarks, stamps and cigar bands to commemorate their courtship (see picture page 9); and stamps and postmarks appear often in her artworks. Pen maintains correspondence still with family and friends around the globe. She even has a certificate of appreciation from President Obama for thousands of hours of letter-writing to U.S. service members through *SoldiersAngels.com*. True to their tagline, “may no soldier go unloved,” Pen would decorate her letters with painted flowers, thank them for their service, tell them about New York and Long Island where she then lived, and send care packages. In reply she would learn whether they received her mail in North Carolina, perhaps, or in Afghanistan.

To the list of Pen’s favorite things may be added libraries, clay, friendships, the image of a hand-made doll she saw on Pinterest. About the only thing Pen does NOT like is a plain, undecorated surface: “Anything white, I paint it!” Case in point: their front door, currently receiving its adornment with painted peonies. Of clay Pen says, “The first time I touched it I thought I LIKE THIS. I went out and bought 40 pounds of clay that day.” She figures it must have been deep in her Chinese blood.

Pen grew up second-generation Chinese in Thailand – her grandfather fled China during the second Sino-Japanese war – in “a big, Chinese-style house with five families.” Unlike American kids, she says, she did not have access to art materials like crayons and Play-Doh as a small child, instead playing outdoors with her cousins. So, when one day at the age of about 3 ½ she was transfixed by the image of a Chinese opera singer on a wall calendar in her uncle’s office, she grabbed whatever paper and implements she had seen adults use and tried to reproduce it. “I just thought, that is so beautiful, and I want to do a beautiful thing with my own hand.” Her mother never saved any of her childhood artwork, and that memory faded until recently when she

borrowed a library book to teach herself Chinese brush painting. Upon turning a page, her eyes fell on that same beautiful image: “I had a eureka moment: I’ve done this before! I got chills.”

When Pen was six, friends hired her to design clothes for their paper dolls. They paid her in fresh paper, a boon for someone conserving her lunch money to buy art supplies. When they brought these things to school to play with them, though, the teachers would confiscate them – “Not allowed!” – and throw them in the trash. “I was art deprived,” she announces, “but now I’m free!”

Another art form she started in childhood is “visible mending,” as the now-trendy practice is called. If a piece of clothing had a rip, she’d repair it with beads or embroidery. She even applied the principle to a bit of previously damaged ceiling in their house. Rather than have the sheetrock replaced, which would require moving everything out of the room and dealing with drywall dust, Pen applied a spray of flower decals to the wall and ceiling to transform the flaw.

When we met, Pen wore jeans embroidered with hearts and flowers and a printed top to which she had added colorful beads and stitching. Wearing



“Memory of My Dad,” oil on canvas. Photo by Jane B.



Pen Sherwood in a blouse she embellished with beads and embroidery, holding a well-worn denim shirt that “needed more colors.” Photo by Jane B.

such hand-embellished clothes to an art class at the library earned an invitation to teach embroidery there. She has added classes in clay ornament painting to her embroidery offerings at multiple libraries around the County.

Almost entirely self-taught, Pen also paints in oils, acrylics and watercolor; makes mosaics of clay and glass scraps; does quilling and collage using cutouts from hand-painted paper; digitally designs prints for her own custom-printed clothing; and makes sculptural, functional and decorative



Andrew Sherwood, age 5, with clay “companion” modeled after a Pinterest image.



Collage commemorating Pen and Andrew’s courtship. Photo by Jane B.



Experimental hand-carved ceramic plate with Asian script. Photo by Pen

pieces in clay. Some of her work is on *FineArtAmerica.com* (search by name), where you can choose it for home décor, stationary, apparel, and more.

Pen told me about one painting with a foreground of hundreds of colorful flowers on a dark field. “I like painting on a black background. I start painting... and I think of beautiful things coming down from the sky. Buddhists don’t believe in souls, but maybe spirits come down from the sky and decorate the world with their beauties. I think each individual has their own beauty. So that is the thought that came to mind when I made this painting, that we should decorate the world.”

On Pinterest a hand-made doll she **Cont. on p. 9**

Pen Sherwood

Continued from page 8.

saw captivated her, so she recreated it in clay. When she noticed with glee that its stance exactly mirrored that of her husband in a photograph when he was 5, she placed the clay figuring beside the photo “as a companion.” (See photo.)

Pen had no gardening skills when she and Andrew bought their Lake Claire home in 2011. She opted to honeymoon at home because he traveled extensively for his work, and that’s when they dived into gardening. The yard is now a profusion of flowers and art. One corner she dubs her “friendship garden,” happily reciting which plants and which bits of art were gifts of whom.

Pen grew up speaking Thai at school and one Chinese language with her grandmother at home, later learning Mandarin as well. Although English is her fourth language, she speaks it a mile-a-minute in bursts of enthusiasm and laughter – it’s been a challenge to decide which 1,000 words to share here!

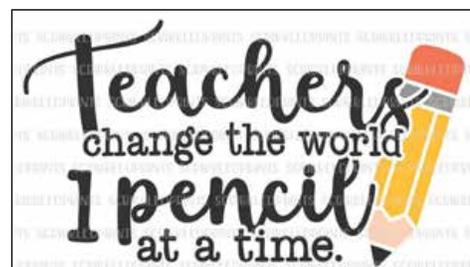
You’ll just have to meet her and explore her eclectic work yourself:

★ Works currently on display at Northlake-Barbara Loar Library in Tucker

★Featured artist for December at Epiphany Gallery, 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave

★Will be at the Lake Claire Crafts Fair, Dec. 6

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.



Wild

Continued from page 7.

photo here. While reportedly edible, they are not considered “choice” for consumption, and they can cause some people to have upset stomachs. I decided not to test my luck—I foraged plenty of tastier edible mushrooms earlier this summer. When you can be sure enough of something you’ve found in the wild being edible, taste can be a wonderful sense to add to your palate for observing nature:

“This sudden sweet loot appearing, I felt like we were tricking the world—living in urban loopholes.”

~ Aspen Matis, *Your Blue Is Not My Blue: A Missing Person Memoir*

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



Sara G’s pawpaws



Jane B’s snakeskin



Sara G’s ringless mushrooms



Bernard S’s yellow legged mud dauber

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS

from the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF
of

BOND
Community
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Your Neighborhood financial institution since 1972.



433 Moreland Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30307



Up3

Continued from page 5.

future rooted in their own potential, not just escaping trauma, but rewiring their trajectory. A large part of what drove Anne in starting Up3 is that the outcomes for youth who age out of care are grim and devastating: **Only 3%** will earn a college degree; **20%** will instantly become homeless; **50%** will develop a substance dependency; **60%** of males will be convicted of a crime; and **70%** of females will become pregnant within a year. Anne knew that these aren't just numbers, they are warnings. As one foster care advocate put it, "We should be overwhelmed by these statistics." And impatient to do something about them, Anne said.

While national statistics paint a bleak picture, Up3 offers a beacon of hope, building bridges for foster teens to succeed academically, develop life skills, and discover personal pathways forward. By nurturing their passions and pairing that with concrete support, the organization enables a new kind of foster-care success story.

Small nonprofits like Up3 remind us that change doesn't always arrive via sweeping reforms, but rather through one mentor, one teen, one passion at a time. As young people navigate foster care's pitfalls such as educational gaps, emotional trauma, and systemic neglect, Up3 offers something different: a chance to dream beyond merely survival. By focusing on what makes each young person unique, and nurturing those passions, Up3 is doing more than just helping teens survive the system, it's giving them the tools to build a life beyond it. And in a world overwhelmed by statistics and bureaucracy, that may be the most powerful intervention of all.

Up3's approach shows that when foster teens are given space to discover what excites them—and are supported academically & through mentorship—they achieve more than just stability. They begin to flourish.

★ Of the 32 youth the team at Up3 works with all of them have graduated high school or are working on their GED (only 40% of foster youth in GA graduate high school).

★ One Up3 youth graduated college

(only 3% of foster youth receive a four-year degree) and six are pursuing a college education

★ Seven Up3 youth are in technical school

★ NONE of the Up3 youth are homeless (20% of youth aging out of care are homeless and 60% are homeless within three years)

For those inspired to make a difference, the path forward is clear: Unlock their passion, help them own their potential, and watch them claim their own purpose.

I wanted to highlight Anne as one of our Lake Claire neighbors doing valuable community work, and I also wanted to give her the opportunity to seek support: there are various ways to support these teens, as a mentor, volunteer, or donor. Georgia Tax Credit gives Georgia tax payers (business & individuals) a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for contributions made to Up3 through the Fostering Success Act. Mentors provide tailored support, offering not just academic help, but transportation, encouragement, and real-world lessons. Donations help cover tutoring, supplies, tuition, and experiential learning programs. And volunteers and advocates can help spread awareness, recruit youth, and share Up3's mission with others.

To learn more about Up3 and how you can help, please contact Anne at anne@up3atlanta.org or visit www.Up3Atlanta.org.

Lake Claire Candler Park Patrol

We all want to feel safe and secure in our community. APD is a great police department, but there is a gap where the CPLCP makes a difference. Zones are not always fully patrolled. This is where the CPLCP steps in. Operating part-time, we provide an additional layer of safety by having a dedicated officer on duty during key hours. Our officers can respond quickly to 911 calls, with or without APD officers, and are exclusively assigned to our area, not pulled away to other parts of the city.

Concerns for DeKalb Animals

Continued from page 5.

Bolton, District 7.

4. We are continuing to focus on legislation which includes introducing new legislation as well as following up on how the laws that currently exist are being enforced. We hope to provide some insight for citizens to report effectively and follow up on the violations that they see in our community.

5. We believe that Dekalb's law department has improved tremendously thanks to the influence of CEO Lorraine Cochran Johnson in the speedy processing of the court cases so that animals held in these cases can be released as quickly as possible. That said, we are not losing our focus on this and will continue to raise awareness when a case has been allowed to drag on too long.

6. We need to do a better job connecting with our cities. Our local city governments should be supporting animal welfare initiatives as well. To that end if ANY OF YOU have a connection to any city officials, please let us know. We could really use your help.

7. The shelter overflow units ("PET Neighborhood") are mostly built with the remaining work being minor punch list items, landscaping, etc. We are waiting to hear of an official grand opening date, and we will let you know as soon as we know.

8. We continue to grow our organization in both members and active supporters. Given that, we may be moving to a more automatic system for commu-



Saratoga

nication such as MailChimp.

9. As always, we continue to support the **Five Common Sense Solutions** prepared by the County Animal Services Advisory Board and adopted by the Board of Commissioners in 2023.

Thank you all for your ongoing support. (Contact info: Facebook: [@advocatesfordekalbanimals](https://www.facebook.com/advocatesfordekalbanimals); Instagram: [@advocatesfordekalbanimals](https://www.instagram.com/advocatesfordekalbanimals); website: www.advocatesfordekalbanimals.com (work in progress!))

Shelter Updates

As stated above, the "Pet Neighborhood" will be coming on line soon, hopefully by our next issue.

Great news: The Dekalb Animal Shelter has not euthanized any dogs 'for space' in the 4-week period from mid-August to mid-September! No one is sure why. Our outcomes have not surged, but our intake numbers have dropped from the unsustainable numbers we were experiencing.

*Editor's note: Fostering for a few weeks makes a **huge** difference for dogs stuck in shelters for long periods. Or if not possible, consider becoming a monthly donor to support the ongoing work and programs at lifelineanimal.org. As LifeLine says on their website, bring home your best friend—so much love, as evidenced in this picture of Saratoga. ~Beth*

Achieve with Steve!
FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS



- EXPERIENCED – \$55M sold since 2022!
- Atlanta REALTORS® Association Consistent TOP PERFORMER!
- TRUSTWORTHY as the day is long!
- PLUGGED IN!
 - Candler Park FallFest Stage Sponsor
 - Lake Claire Wahoo Sponsor
 - Lake Claire Halloween Parade Sponsor and Parade Leader
 - Coach
 - And yes, former APS School Bus Driver!

LIAM HOMES

BUILDING NEIGHBORS IN ATLANTA

and

Achieve with Steve!

Partnering responsibly to deliver amazing new homes in Lake Claire and Candler Park



Sold!

2024 New Construction
McLendon Avenue



Sold!

2025 New Construction
Gordon Avenue



Coming soon!

2025 New Construction
1779 Indiana Avenue

steve@kellerknapp.com
404.434.1500



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: Andrew Perrins, Linda Jackson, Aimee & Chad Durham, Thomas Stemen, Lesley Lochridge, Xavier Decollogne, Pat Del Rey, Leslie Brant, Claire Carothers, Sarah Ray Connors, Kathy Christensen
HAVE A MOMENT OF FAME IN THE CLARION—PAY YOUR 2025 DUES!



Neal & Wright
Your Family... Your Business... Your Firm!

40 Franklin Street
Suite 100
Avondale Estates, GA 30002
(404) 257-6494
www.nealandwright.com

Sherry Neal, J.D. Sherry@nealandwright.com	Dan Wright, J.D. Dan@nealandwright.com
Jodi Greenberg, J.D. Jodi@nealandwright.com	Jessica Cole Jess@nealandwright.com

- * **Commercial Real Estate**
- * **Wills, Trusts, & Estate Planning**
- * **Corporate & LLC Formation**
- * **Other Business Legal Services**





Design build / Remodel / Repairs

Serving Lake Claire and Atlanta for over 20 years!

678-878-5740

Ga. State board licenced contractor

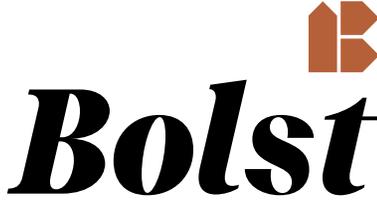
www.mandc-construction.com

For all your real estate needs...



Sherry Warner
Associate Broker &
Lake Claire resident

Sherry Warner
Homes



404 784 8848 *mobile*

404 482 2293 *office*

sherry@SherryWarnerHomes.com






abbadabba's

coolshoes.com

WHERE COMFORT meets cool shoes atlanta

LITTLE 5 POINTS

404-588-9577
421-B Moreland Ave. NE

EAST COBB

770-565-3569
255 Johnson Ferry Road

BUCKHEAD

404-262-3356
4389 Roswell Road

abbadabba's
Little 5 Points

FOR ALWAYS
FREE PARKING



Tell the attendant,
"I'm going to Abbadabba's."

Pumpkin Carving at the Land Trust 10/26/25



Join us on Sunday October 26th, 3 - 5 pm for pumpkin carving, pumpkins provided by the Land Trust. Please bring carving utensils and a dish/snack to share. More info at www.lcclt.org

LAKE CLAIRE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST
PRESENTS

WEST
(formerly WEBSTER)

PERFORMING DYLAN'S DEAD PHISH
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
THE MOSIER BROTHERS

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 18
5:00PM

\$10 DONATION FOR THE LCCLT **KIDS FREE!** **FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE**

270 ARIZONA AVE. ATLANTA GA 30307

West (formerly Webster) Annual LCCLT Fundraiser, Saturday Oct. 18

Neighborhood band WEST (formerly Webster), known for its blend of jam, rock, blues, bluegrass, country and more, is back for its annual LCCLT fundraiser on Oct. 18, starting at 5 p.m. This year's theme: "Dylan's Dead Phish."

Commonly referred to as the venue's "house band," Webster/WEST will be joined by the Mosier Brothers (Jeff & John), a legacy Georgia bluegrass jam rock band. Donate \$10 at the door to support the LCCLT (kids free). Food and beverages available. For more info, check LCCLT.org and WEST's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/webster.atlanta.

Hello – Safe Journey: Skiing in and around Lake Claire

Happy October Birthday to:

- October 1: Emerson Frank (Hardendorf) turned 6 years old!
- October 2: Happy b'day, Margaret Witten (Tuxedo), dedicated Clarion delivery person, now older again than our friend DPS until next year.
- October 5: Chloe Rachal will turn 14! (Howard Circle) and Emma DeBell (Harold) 17!
- October 7: Todd Fernandez (Leonardo)
- October 11: Scarlett Capps turns 20! (Harold) and Kim McRae (Delaware)
- October 19: Kusher Thomas Tanguturi turns 11 (Harold Avenue)
- October 19: Boyd Baker—You're old now! (Leonardo). Happy 60-something! (I'll never tell!)
- October 23: Izzy Kaiser—Happy 17th birthday! ('dorf) and Rachel Weinthal (Hardendorf)
- October 27: Happy birthday, Wing! (ex-Arizona Av.) **Much appreciated** faithful contributor to the Clarion, you'll always be here, as long as I run the Clarion, **ex-pat or not!!!!**

Marriage Anniversaries:

- October 6—Judy Langford and Bob Thompson (Harold)
- October 15—Sara Rossi and Jeff DeBell (Harold)

Send us new family additions, anniversaries, b'days, and other life cycle changes for the next issue—November approaching already!? **The year is zipping by!** — **Help make this series inclusive** (editor@lakeclaire.org) by **October 15–18.**

Forest Bathing: A Slow Walk Back to Yourself

by Spurgen Brown

Forest Bathing – Shinrin-yoku – is the Japanese art of slowing down in nature and letting the forest work its quiet magic. In Japan, medical doctors regularly prescribe it to their patients. It's not a hike. It's an unhurried sensory journey: feeling the texture of bark, breathing in pine-scented air, listening to birdsong. Science shows it lowers stress, boosts immunity, and restores mental clarity. A guided session is like a gentle ceremony – you step away from the noise, awaken your senses, and remember your place in the living world.

The forest offers no agenda, yet gives you exactly what you need: peace, renewal, and a deeper connection to yourself.

Spurgen Brown is a certified Forest Bathing Guide, trained in Barefooting, Earthing techniques, and Silence Therapy, among other skills. Join him at the Land Trust to experience Forest Bathing for yourself. "Love offerings" encouraged. Contact him at cinematocyogi@gmail.com for more info or to claim your spot.

For details, more information on the Land Trust, including any Land Trust events, please visit www.LCCLT.org.



Introducing the New, QR-Enabled Self-Guided Land Trust Tour!

by Stephen Wing

Great news! The Land Trust has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Community Corps, a foundation formed to distribute the assets of Horizon School to other nonprofits. It seems fitting for one Lake Claire nonprofit to pass the torch to another, and the Community Corps apparently agreed. Our grant proposal was drafted by Lisa Vitello, a board member who has now moved on after two years of service. Her vision was to re-center the educational mission of LCCLT, our primary emphasis as a 501(c)3 nonprofit. Her proposal included a whole wish-list of improvements at an estimated cost of \$15,000. At a third of that amount, the check we received was still generous, but required a serious weighing of priorities.

High on the priority list is a complete refurbishing of our front entrance: a new information kiosk, a new map with a key listing each location marked with a QR code, a new bulletin board embedded in a colorful mural, and more. But the project we chose to start with is a set of new signs identifying points of interest around the Land Trust, from the custom-designed gate at our front entrance to José Cambas's Chicken Palace on the Nelms corner to Peace Pond, adjoining the Amata community at our third corner.

Designed by Arizona Avenue neighbor Sara Whatley, who won last year's logo contest, each sign will include a

small QR code linked to a unique web page at LCCLT.org. There the inquisitive visitor will find the story behind that particular item—its origin and history, fun facts and anecdotes, historical photos, maybe even a video or two.

The beauty of this high-tech concept is that each page can be updated and embellished as new information arrives. So next time you take a stroll around the Trust, bring your phone and check out the virtual counterparts of your favorite features along your path. Some pages, you'll note, offer only the briefest backstory. If you recall something we left out, or have old photos or video to share, get in touch! A memory from the potlucks at the Big Gazebo, an incident at the Gorilla Grill, an interaction between your children and Big Lou—all are part of the interwoven story of the land and its community over four decades. All will help us hold on to the shared experience that keeps us connected. All will enrich the experience of new visitors exploring the Trust for the first time.

Many thanks to Lisa for her vision and proposal, to the Community Corps for their faith in us, to Sara for her creative energy, to Madison for handling the technical side, to Bernard and Sam for mounting the signs, and to Miriam for keeping the project moving thus far. Stay tuned as it continues to unfold.

FALL PLANT SALE Sat., Oct. 4, 10 a.m.–noon.

It's that time again! This twice-yearly sale benefits the Land Trust as well as beautifying your yard. We're depending on your donation of any plant divisions, cuttings or starters you're willing to share. Drop them off behind the Peace Garden just inside the Land Trust gate.

Pass the word to others who may want plants and/or have plants to share. Please label all donated plants before bringing them. All proceeds benefit the Land Trust.



Upcoming & Ongoing at the Land Trust

Sat., Oct. 4: Fall Plant Sale, 10 a.m.–noon See announcement above.

Sat., Oct. 4: Family Drumming, with Drake Pendley & Rusty Gilbert, 7:30–8 p.m., \$5 donation requested. Stay for the Drum Circle if you can. *Rain date: Oct. 18.*

Sat., Oct. 4: Land Trust Drum Circle, 8–11:00 p.m. (and every month on the 1st Sat.), \$5 donation requested. No alcohol please. *Rain date: Oct. 18.*

Sat., Oct. 11: Forest Bathing with Spurgeon Brown, 1–4 p.m. "Love offerings" encouraged. For info, email cinematicyogii@gmail.com.

Sun., Oct. 12: Death Café with Denise Johnson, 3–4:30 p.m. in the Amphitheater (and every month on the 2nd Sunday). All are welcome for a monthly informal conversation about death and dying, with tea, coffee and cake. Free! Donations welcome.

Sun., Oct. 12: 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.

Mon., Oct. 13: Monday Nature Play Group, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (and every Monday except the first Monday of the month). Free! Donations welcome.

Sat., Oct. 18: Community Work Day, 9 a.m.–noon (and every month on the 3rd Saturday). Bring drinking water and work gloves. *Rain date: Oct. 25.* One last morning workday; Nov. workday will be 1–4 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 18: 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., Oct. 18: "WEST" in Concert with the Mosier Brothers, 5 p.m. \$10 donation, kids free. The band formerly known as Webster performs their annual fundraiser for LCCLT. See article & flyer on Page 14.

Sun., Oct. 26: Pumpkin Carving, 3–5 p.m. Pumpkins provided; bring kids, carving utensils, and a dish or snack to share. See flyer Page 14.

Wed., Oct. 29: 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.

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



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 **Max Memberg!** Max is in the 2nd Grade at Mary Lin, and the family lives on Sutherland Place. Thank you, Max, for your candid thoughts and your participation! We welcome any Lake Claire child or

young adult to add **your** creativity to this page. This page is one of Beth's (the Editor) proudest accomplishments, so be sure to participate. Send to editor@lake-claire.org, by **OCTOBER 15** for the November issue.



Back to School

by Max Memberg

Mary Lin is the best school! There are lots of fun things that happen at Mary Lin. My favorite things are the teacher raffle, art with Ms. Rager, and playing with my friends at recess.

New Contest

Hi kids, Halloween always pops in one's mind for October, but did you know that numerous other observances are in October, such as World Mental Health Day (Oct. 10), International Coffee Day (Oct.1), World Teachers' Day (Oct. 5), and National Coming Out Day (Oct. 11)? To win extra credit this month, find a graphic about teachers and tell us the page number. The winner/winners who find it will have their pictures in the next Clarion (NOVEMBER). To win, write editor@lakeclaire.org, identifying the page number, and include your name, age, school, street, and grade, along with a photo. **Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you cannot win two months in a row.** For extra credit, tell us your favorite thing about October. The extra-credit prize is to be a featured writer/artist in a future Lake Claire Clarion with your original work.

Contest Winners

We have two great winners this month, who found the funny thing that can happen with poor punctuation. Robert McLamb won first place. He is 11 years old, lives on McLendon, and is in the 6th grade at Howard. Miles Brittingham is the close second-place winner. He lives on Claire, is in 5th grade at Mary Lin, and is a repeat winner here. **Congrats to both of you winners!**

All: Play the new contest; it's your chance to be **famous** in a newspaper, and if you win extra credit, you can be a featured writer/artist.

****Parents, if we've missed anyone, please let us know, and we'll put them in next time—I don't want anyone to be disappointed!**

The deadline is OCT 15. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this HIGHLY coveted prize.



Robert, 1st place!



Miles, 2nd place!

Seeking Sponsors for Crafts Fair!

Opportunity to partner with the neighborhood AND contribute to some APS Midtown Cluster Schools. To see the

benefits, please visit lakeclairecraftfair.com or contact Debbie Livingston at debliv54@gmail.com. We look for-

ward to having you participate with us! These are the sponsors as of going to press:

