



Lost in the Letters – New Neighborhood Bookstore

by Liya Yalew

Lost in the Letters, a bookstore/writing studio, is a recent addition to the community. Located at 1655 McLendon Avenue, bordering Candler Park and Lake Claire, they are in the space that the original Flying Biscuit occupied for nearly 30 years. Following their opening, the Lost in the Letters founder was able to showcase more about its mission, programs, and events planned for upcoming years.

Lost in the Letters was originally

founded as a public reading series in 2012, promoting writers throughout Atlanta and the Southeast. By 2013, the Letters Festival was initiated, a celebration that gathers artists and writers to showcase their work through readings, dialogues, and workshops. After years of operating in various venues, borrowed spaces, and pop-ups, the studio finally decided to establish a permanent shop. Scott DeMer, the founder

Cont. on p. 11



What do we want? *Peace.* Where do we want it? *In our backyards.*

by Amy Chillag

As the world's troubles grow darker, many of us look to nature for solace. The rustling leaves, the fluttering of a bird's wings, the hooting of an owl, the buzzing of bees as they visit our flowers. We are instantly unburdened, as if a heavy weight has lifted into the clouds. To be outdoors is a salve for our mental health. Cortisol levels go down; our heart rate slows. We breathe deeper, we exhale.

Here in Lake Claire and Candler Park, we are truly privileged that we can access this nirvana in our own backyards—our private nature preserves that give our minds a break and renew our spirit.

When one of the loudest and most polluting of lawn equipment, gas-powered leaf blowers, rev up for hours

on end, day after day—silencing the sounds of nature, fouling the air, and exposing us and their operators to toxins—we not only feel unwell, we are in danger.

The noise penetrates walls with decibels as high as 100dB (just 70dB is enough to cause hearing loss with prolonged exposure), gasoline fumes fill the air with toxic chemicals—blowing pesticide, mold, pollen, and animal feces up to 200 miles an hour. It destroys our air quality in seconds on our block, in our yards, on our daily walks with children and pets. It blows off beneficial topsoil that gardens, grass, and pollinators need.

I recently posted to the neighborhood (Lake Claire and Candler Park)

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Ben Farmer: Community-building through Music

by Jane Branscomb

Ben Farmer caught the music bug in middle school. A Decaturite, he became a regular at Eddie's Attic, where he was inspired by watching artists like Shawn Mullins, Indigo Girls, John Mayer, and Michelle Malone hone their craft. He and his bandmates frequented the Monday Open Mic nights, and by high school, they dreamed of winning one to score a gig there.

Once Ben convinced his parents he was serious about pursuing music, they gave their blessing, and he enrolled at Berklee College of Music in Boston. Berklee was one of a handful of music schools that offered a guitar program; and one of an even smaller number that embraced electric guitar.

In his first year at Berklee, he keenly felt what it was like to be a small

fish in a big pond, "It was an extremely humbling experience," he says. "But it took so much to get there that failure was not an option." He reveled in being surrounded by teachers and students alike from whom he could learn, with great passion for music. "It was a full-on music-nerd experience, and I loved it!" He threw himself into it and graduated with a degree focused on guitar performance and songwriting.

Los Angeles was next. Ben landed a job with Ethos Bottled Water that gave him an inside look at the workings of a successful startup (Ethos was later bought by Starbucks) while allowing him flexibility to keep up with his music. He was playing in several bands and teaching private lessons when, af-

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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 May

Some important and fun events coming up, and in addition to these, please see the variety of neighborhood events on the Land Trust calendar, Page 15.

2 Frazer Forest volunteer workdays with Trees Atlanta, 9 a.m.–noon. Help restore and maintain our beloved neighborhood old-growth forest. Pre-registration required. Space limited. frazercenter.org/about-us/events.

3 Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (CSM) Community Appreciation Picnic, 4–6 p.m., on the CSM Lawn (McLendon at Connecticut). Hope folks see this in time! RSVP to lori@cliftonsanctuary.com so they can get a food headcount. See article at right.

3 Ben Farmer's Student Open Mic (see more details in Jane Branscomb's article on Ben on Page 1), Red Light Café, 553 Amsterdam Avenue. Ben's talented students get to play accompanied by a full band. Starting 6 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.); all ages, no cover.

3 The Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra, Inc. Spring Concert, 2 p.m. Clairmont Oaks, 441 Clairemont Ave. Decatur. The concert, which includes both classical and popular music, is free and open to the public. The Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra is a friendly, relaxed organization where musicians of all ages and levels of ability can come together to share their love of music. We invite people who play violin, viola, cello, or bass to join us in music-making. For further information, contact Lynn Farnham at lynnandpaul1@bellsouth.net or (404) 502-7614 (cell phone). See article in last month's Clarion!

14 Trees Atlanta's annual fundraiser, Root Ball, on May 14. www.treesatlanta.org/rootball.

16 Fiddler's Green Coffeehouse (3rd Saturdays), 7 p.m. \$10 at door (members \$8). Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Featuring acclaimed songwriter and performer Pierce Pettis, from Fort Payne, AL. More details on the musicians, music schedule, other info: aaffm.org/aaffm-events/.

17 The Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra, Inc. Spring Concert, 2 p.m. Briarcliff Oaks, 2982 Briarcliff Rd. NE. This is a repeat of the concert on Sunday, May 3. Concert includes classical & popular. Free! See article last month about our Lake Claire residents in the Orchestra, Paul & Lynn Farnham and Patricia Emerson!

21 **The Lake Claire monthly neighborhood meeting—third Thursday.** Lake Claire Neighbors has hybrid meetings, in-person at the Frazer Center and virtual on Zoom. See lakeclaire.org for updates and Zoom info. Join and get Zoom link at lakeclaire.org/resources/newscastr-sign-up/.

30 Lake Claire Park Workdays with Trees Atlanta – last Saturday of the month. 9 a.m. to noon in the park. Info: treesatlanta.org/calendar.

June 5 **Evening Save-the-date:** Neighbor-in-Need Silent Auction Fundraiser & free live concert (The Sundogs Tom Petty Tribute, Michelle Malone, and Canyonland). Decatur Square. See www.neighborinneed.org.



Community Appreciation Picnic
 Sunday, May 3rd, 4:00-6:00pm
 Clifton Lawn, 369 Connecticut Ave. NE, Atlanta, 30307

Let us show our appreciation for YOU!

Please join us as we celebrate YOU, our Clifton community. We want to show YOU how grateful we are for all YOU do for Clifton! Please invite those you know who contribute to our mission's work.

RSVP to lori@cliftonsanctuary.com so we can get a headcount for food. Can't wait to see YOU there!

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

by Lori White

We appreciate the myriad of ways our Lake Claire neighbors volunteer at the shelter. They have provided dinners for our guests; served an already prepared meal; helped to organize our clothing closet; sorted through our pantry to make sure all items are in date; landscaping; and painting. We are flexible

and can provide many opportunities that would accommodate your schedule! If you are interested in volunteering, please email me at lori@cliftonsanctuary.com. We love our neighbors! AND—we want to appreciate you—please see the invitation above; we hope you get your Clarion in time to join us on May 3.

The Georgia Boy Choir

by Hudson Williams

Hello, I am Mary Lin fifth grader Hudson Williams, and I'm part of the Georgia Boy Choir. Our choir sings professionally all across the country, and the world, to bring joy and happiness to the community around us.

We had a concert in April with the Cantores Minores boy choir from Finland. It is called the Georgia Boy Choir International Festival, and it took place at Atlanta Symphony Hall. We sang enthralling pieces of music, like Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms, which is one of the greatest arrangements of all time. I loved seeing my neighbors around me, cheering me on.



I hope to see many of you at one of our future concerts.

Editor's note: Hudson is eleven years old and lives on Palifox. He has a friend in the Choir who is another Mary Lin student, who lives in Candler Park.. More info on the Choir can be found at georgiaboychoir.org/.

News from Lakeshore Drive, the Park, and Frazer

by Dan Curl

Upper Lakeshore: Lake Claire Park and Watershed infrastructure repairs and improvements are in the planning phase, as is the large storm drain traversing Lakeshore. The partially blocked drain has created a scour pit causing additional blockage and has been undermining the east sidewalk. The city has shared a simple line drawing with Friends of Lake Claire Park indicating potential line extension extending north of the entrance and re-connecting to the current drain line about midfield. Trees at properties adjacent and all the way down to Ponce de Leon have been mapped and marked. Installation of a permanent stairway from the playground to the tennis court awaits final city approval. The city has approved a contract to remove invasive plants from the park on a monthly basis.

Lower Lakeshore (unincorporated DeKalb): In the Frazer forest and gardens, fallen trees and underbrush were removed from the forest across from the garden entrance. Development of the north slope of the Jaqueland mansion continues. The terrace and steps were

completed last year. Landscape plantings along either side of the steps are ongoing. Distressed trees along Ponce de Leon were removed. Additional plantings along the PDL sidewalk and north garden will diffuse noise and block sightlines. Both garden lawns have undergone significant maintenance. Paths have been redone and await final paving. The failed footbridge abutment near PDL is being repaired.

I've not heard about plans for the mansion. My guess is that the garden and mansion are being transformed to accommodate "Destination Wedding" type events. Jaqueland and the adjacent cottage can sleep upwards of 30 as currently configured.

On a personal note: my daughter Hana was married at the Gardens last December. I was impressed with both the staff and caterer. Two long-time Lower Lakeshore residents have moved: Hayden Ballew to his hometown of Jasper and Christopher Piper to Blue Ridge.

Editor's note: Thanks, Dan, and keep us apprised!

What Children Notice in Frazer Forest

by Dina Shadwell

On a weekday morning in Lake Claire, a group of young children gathers around a fallen log in Frazer Forest. One is stirring "soup" in a pocket of rainwater. Another is crouched low, studying a bug through a magnifying glass. A few are hauling sticks, turning them into tools for whatever game is unfolding. A teacher points to a bright yellow clump on the log. It looks like a fungus. The group pauses. There are a few quiet "oohs," a closer look, and a round of guesses about what it might be. Nothing about the moment is planned, but it's exactly the kind of moment the children have come to expect.

At the Frazer Center, these experiences are part of our nature-based curriculum, developed in partnership with Georgia State University's Urban Child Study Center. The goal: give children time in the natural world, and let learning grow from their encounters. A child carefully builds a "home" for a roly poly using moss, pebbles, and small plants. Another group circles around a slug stretched along a log, watching closely as it barely moves. Where is it going? Why so slowly? Some lessons are less predictable: one day, a child knocked a caterpillar off a leaf, and it became a moment to talk about what living things need to survive, and why it matters to leave them where they are. Those moments begin to add up. Teachers hear children repeating in their own words what they've learned, not something they've memorized, but ideas they've started to carry with them.



A Frazer Center student getting a close look in Frazer Forest with her hand-crafted binoculars.



Frazer Center students watch a slug barely moving.

The forest also changes how children move and interact with one another. The ground is uneven, with roots and logs to step over. For some children, that challenge makes a difference quickly. Then one student first arrived, he needed a wheelchair to navigate the terrain. With support, he began spending time on the ground—touching, playing, moving in new ways. Other children stayed close, including him in what they were doing. By year's end, he was walking through the forest on his own.

These shifts don't happen all at once. They build slowly, often in ways that are easy to miss unless you're looking for them. Kim Corson, Frazer's Nature-Based Curriculum Coordinator, has spent years helping teachers and children find their rhythm in the forest. She doesn't just focus on curriculum or milestones. She talks about attention—slowing down, looking closely, and not rushing past what's in front of you. "There's a lot of wonder out there that people miss," she said. "If you know to look for it, you'll find it."

Frazer Forest sits right here in Lake Claire. Neighbors pass through it every day, often with dogs, often on their way somewhere else. From the path, it can feel quiet and still. But just off to the side, there is usually something happening—a spider building a new home, a pop of red from a hearts-a-bustin' bush, a hawk perched on a limb in a patch of sun. Most of it goes unnoticed, unless you're open to the wonder of it.



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Wild in Lake Claire

by Sara Gottlieb

Although summer seems to be coming on very quickly across the south, I've been enjoying the spring ephemerals in recent days. These are somewhat obscure plants that grow on the forest floor and emerge and/or bloom only in early spring when it starts to warm up but before the trees have leafed out. Some favorites in our area include trout lilies, bloodroot, and Trilliums. There are many species of Trillium, several of which can be found in nearby places like Frazer Forest, including *T. cuneatum* (little sweet Betsy, pictured on Page 8 with an insect covered in its pollen), *T. luteum* (yellow toadshade), and *T. catesbaei* (bashful wakerobin, pictured on Page 8). I love the whimsical common names of these plants!

Meredith W. wrote that the pawpaw trees she planted 7 years ago finally flowered (see photo on Page 8 of pawpaw flowers by Sara G. at the Land Trust this month)! She only has two trees, though, and only one flower be-



Daniel's anole

tween them, so when she hiked at Stone Mountain recently, she brought a small paintbrush and gathered some pollen to transfer and hopefully produce fruit.

A few weeks ago, while walking by the retention pond at the Lullwater Preserve, Meredith saw what she thought was a snapping turtle swimming but quickly realized it was going way too fast for a turtle and got excited to see an otter. The "otter" then got out of the

water, and it turned out to be a beaver. Meredith went back to where she saw it working on the bank and saw a small beech tree it had felled and eaten the inner bark off of. What a lucky sighting!

While being still against a tree at Lullwater Preserve, Meredith had a titmouse hop onto her head and pluck some hair to use for nesting material! Meredith tells the full story in her most recent Substack: meredithwalters.substack.com/p/the-magic-of-listening-to-trees.



Daniel's Carolina wren

stack.com/p/the-magic-of-listening-to-trees.

Daniel G. had several wildlife intrusions into his home, including a Carolina wren appearing to check its emotional temperature in his basement (see photo above) and a green anole, which invited itself in the door (see photo above left).

Cont. on p. 8

A Survival Story

(The Story of Chanel, one of the Unseen Everyday Lifeline Miracles)

by Scott McLane

Chanel's arrival Christmas 2025.

Chanel was found tied to a pole, surrendered in the field, 3 days before Christmas, and was extremely emaciated. Her body score upon arrival was 0.5 on a scale of 0-9!! Most animals don't survive this, but Meghan Moore wasn't going to let that happen. Three days after Christmas, Chanel's angel, Meghan Moore, stepped up to foster her through thick and thin. Below is a brief chronology of Chanel's recovery through her dedicated foster's own words, that I've taken from Meghan's posts on the Adoptable Pets of Lifeline Facebook page. I don't have room here to list the details of the dozens of vet and therapy visits, but I hope you get the picture.. There are dozens of similar stories happening every day, though not all quite as dire, among the

1000 Lifeline dogs in foster care.

If I were try to paint the broad Dekalb/Lifeline picture for you, to start, there are almost 1000 dogs in foster care, plus 600 dogs and cats at the shelter. Lifeline's job is like managing Grady Hospital on a Saturday night 24/7 - Various degrees of triage, with a 90% success rate! Chanel's story is just one example of the miracles created by the dedicated staff and volunteers everyday.

Chanel Update! January 11. She has been doing really well. She unfortunately needs a partial tail amputation, and they can't do that until she gains some more weight but we are working on that! She's goes for a recheck and weigh-in at the shelter tomorrow, and I will post another update soon. She did finally get her first bath the other day and did so well! She let us wash

her whole body (tail was wrapped and protected), her face, her ears, her feet and even let us blow-dry her. She was a perfect angel for the whole experience! I know she feels soooo much better. I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who has helped me with her care the past two weeks! People have been so helpful with toys and diapers and heaters and peepads. We are so grateful.

Chanel Update! January 20. You'll be happy to know as of today Chanel has gained 15.5 pounds! She is doing so well! Due to how emaciated she was, she has some pretty intense muscle loss. After lots of research, I have figured out the best way for her to gain back muscle and not be too rough on her joints is hydrotherapy. I am hoping to raise \$1000 to help cover this. The initial fee to be evaluated by their



Chanel at her arrival at the shelter

vet is \$245, and then she will need to go for regular sessions till we can get her healthy again!

Chanel (aka Raven) update! March 23. Raven had her final PT ap-
Cont. on p. 14

Save the Date—Roots Revival 2026

by Jesse Bathrick

Join us at Mulberry Fields for music, local food, s'mores, and the lighting of the Chickabilly.

Admission is free, but here is how you can "level up" your experience: (1) Become a Roots Revival Host: Support the magic of the Fields! Hosts get VIP perks (early access, exclusive host and

sponsor hour); (2) Swag Bag (includes 2026 T-shirt, enamel mug, and s'mores kit); (3) Drink Tabs (2-4 drink tickets included with your wristband).

Get more information and join at www.friendsmulberryfields.org/roots-revival-2026-host-sponsors.



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Save the Date!

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Thank you to every client, friend, and familiar face who's been part of our story over the last 10 years. Here's to the next decade of serving our neighbors with care, connection, and expertise!

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Hello – Safe Journey: Skiing in and around Lake Claire

May Birthday people

- Layla Klehr, 17, Hardendorf Ave. Layla was a Clarion kids' page writer for many years and continues writing as a teen – I hope many in the 'hood get their start here!
- Sarah Wynn, Harold Avenue
- Jennifer Hubert, Harold Avenue, and Anna Pless Peel, Ridgewood.
- Vivian Baker, Claire Drive, turning 11! And several adults: Bob Caine, Leonardo, Reece Barclay on Hardendorf; and Linda Hoopes on Claire Drive, who keeps us apprised of Fiddler's Green every month!

11 Adler Waugh, turning 15, Leonardo

16 Peter Olson, Leonardo

18 Liz Baker, Claire Drive; Jett Friedman, Delaware Ave, turning 14 (again, hard for me to believe!)

19 Joseph McGill, parents on Arizona Avenue

20 Aiden Rogers, Ridgecrest

23 Mayla Carper, Leonardo, turning 13

24 Cara Yang, 13, McLendon Avenue

27 Edie Haggerty, Harold, 14

28 Sadie Stevens, Leonardo, another former frequent Clarion contributor, 16!

Take a minute, and send life cycle events for the **SUMMER** issue by May 18 to editor@lakeclaire.org. That means send all three months, June, July, and August! We need YOUR help to make this series inclusive of the 'hood!



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What Do We Want? *Peace.*

Continued from page 1.

Facebook page (not my first rodeo) in a fit of frustration about the overuse of leaf blowers, and more than 100 of our neighbors shared the same sentiments. They feel powerless to do something about this. They say their protestations fall on deaf ears.

“Aren’t cars just as polluting?” They are not.

Most gas-powered leaf blowers have a two-stroke engine which produces emissions far more polluting than any car or truck. They do not have pollution control devices, inefficiently burning a mixture of oil and gas. A commercial leaf blower operated for one hour emits about the same amount of pollution as driving a car 1,100 miles from Los Angeles to Denver, according to the California Air Resources Board. That is **one blower**, at one house—multiplied by thousands throughout our neighborhoods, citywide. One hour of lawn mower use is equivalent to driving 300 miles. In California, studies found that gas-powered landscape equipment and other “small off-road engines” (SORE) produced significantly more smog-forming emissions per hour than modern passenger cars.

We’ve become used to reports of air pollution, especially in big cities like Atlanta. We have a number of bad air days. Last April the American Lung Society’s “State of the Air” report gave Atlanta a failing grade, slipping from a ‘C’ the year before. The exhaust from leaf blowers contains known carcinogens like benzene, formaldehyde, and fine particulate matter (PM2) linked to asthma, heart disease, and COPD, according to the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society. There is increasing evidence that air pollution—the tiny particulate matter from gas emissions—is connected to dementia.

Then there is the noise pollution. It is not just ear-damaging loud. Gas-powered leaf blowers produce very low frequencies that can reach through walls and windows from far greater distances than other lawn equipment. Constant noise at these levels can trigger stress-

related health issues, according to the Hearing Health Foundation.

When that cool breeze and bird song is chased away by ear-shattering decibels day after day - we feel depressed, then angry that we must go back inside, close our windows, and become hermetically sealed on a new spring day after a long winter.

“It is out of our hands.”—No, it is not.

There are many Atlanta and Decatur lawn companies now advertising all-electric equipment. If you must have a lawn crew, hire them. They don’t pollute the air, and they are far less loud.

Groups that work to save pollinators say we should leave the leaves and do a lot less “cleaning up.” It will bring more butterflies, birds and bees to your yard; they like a little mess.

A thin layer of mulch on your lawn helps suppress weeds and retain moisture. If it’s too thick, you (or a worker) can rake them into garden beds and tree bases that need the nutrients and protection, according to the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. Those fallen leaves serve as habitat for butterflies and moths, especially during the winter.

Decatur’s Beecatur initiative urges people to plant native and have less turf grass—which in order to look uniform- uses toxic pesticides and herbicides to kill anything that doesn’t fit in with those blades of grass. They’ll show you how. These are lawns that our children and pets play on. Natives need less water, less tending to, less poison. We have gorgeous examples of flowering front yards in Lake Claire, with little sod, that don’t need ‘mow and blow’ lawn crews. Check out Xerces.org.

More than 200 cities, counties, and several state have passed bans or restrictions on gas-powered leaf blowers. That won’t work in Georgia. The state passed the LEAF (Landscape Equipment and Agricultural Fairness) Act. It prevents local municipalities from banning or restricting any gas-powered lawn equipment.

I recommend changing hearts and minds, and that’s why I write to you in

City Forest Certification: Nurturing Lake Claire’s Backyard Forests

by Collin Clayton

“The City Forest Certification program helps us be more intentional about making our yard a welcoming and supportive habitat. The City Forest volunteer was very helpful and offered ideas and encouragement to help us achieve certification,” Lake Claire resident Joe Follman said. “Our yard hosts uncounted thousands of birds, insects, and mammals every year, either as residents or pass-through migrants.”

Through a process of learning and adapting his charming slice of the urban forest, Joe’s front yard is now City Forest Certified by Trees Atlanta. Joe systematically removed invasive *Nandina* plants from his yard. This plant bears berries which can be fatally toxic to birds. He replaced them with native Sweetspire—a plant whose blooms provide vital nectar to bees, butterflies, and other essential pollinators.

The City Forest Certification program helps strengthen Atlanta’s urban forest ecosystem. Trees Atlanta pairs trained volunteers with homeowners and residents in the community to help them set achievable goals that promote healthier trees, thriving native plants, and wildlife-friendly yards. Next time you’re out for a stroll, keep an eye out for the “City Forest Certified” garden plaques sprouting up in yards across



the Lake Claire neighborhood. Each one represents a resident who’s helping to grow a healthier forest for all.

Since the program launched in 2023, participants in Lake Claire have collected 367 City Forest acorns (acorns are points given for completing sustainability goals in yards and gardens. In addition to adding trees, other activities can include hosting a plant swap, attending a talk, or volunteering with Trees Atlanta on their quest to collect 16 acorns with at least one in each of the program goals).

Rob Pyecha’s yard was recently certified. He shared what a visit was like: “We walked our small property for about an hour and 30 minutes. The Trees Atlanta volunteers made us feel accomplished for the hard work that we’ve put in over the last three years to make our plot as ecologically friendly as possible, while giving some actionable tips for continued steward-

Cont. on p. 14

the Clarion today.

We can do something healthy for the community by not polluting on our own property.

I am asking my neighbors to think about making a change when it comes to how your deal with your yard. A change that will benefit you, your children, grandchildren, your neighbors, and nature.

Resource list

* List of native plant growers in Decatur—I’m going to reach out: www.beecaturga.com/native-plant-growers.

* apnews.com/article/gas-powered-leaf-blower-bans-landscaping-climate-bcd6f7ffbd92abdf00d-

[699457ce5333a](https://www.google.com/maps/@33.751441,-84.383041,15z)

* Great map on this site of where the worst emissions of lawn equipment comes from (I know we aren’t interactive but check it out! It’s fun, LOL. Look at Atlanta!): pirg.org/edfund/resources/lawn-care-goes-electric/

* www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/10/04/gas-powered-leaf-blowers-ban/86457674007/

Editor’s Note: Many of us leave our leaves in the yard as an intentional, eco-friendly practice, for natural fertilizer and wildlife habitat. My yard is pictured above, with the City-Forest certification.

Wild

Continued from page 5.

Bernard and Genise S. walked out their back door recently and saw a big red-tailed hawk on the side of their swimming pool about to take a bath. It didn't seem to be bothered by them, or maybe it had so looked forward to this bath that nothing was going to stop it. Genise snapped a great photo of this beautiful bird (see photo by Genise S. below).

Speaking of birds, Wade H. was cruising pretty fast on his bike down the hill on McLendon towards Decatur, when a Cooper's hawk flew out of some trees, soared right in front of him, alarmingly close, before proceeding directly into a large picture window on someone's house, seemingly trying to brake its impact at the last minute with a furious flapping of wings, but making a clumsy body slam into the window instead. Most likely, it was attacking its reflection. Wade didn't get to see it recover its dignity as he passed swiftly by on the bike.

A recent post in the Lake Claire and Candler Park Facebook group caught my eye. It was a photo of a swarm of bees on a tree in neighbor Douglas B.'s yard, requesting help from a local bee-



Genise's red-tailed hawk



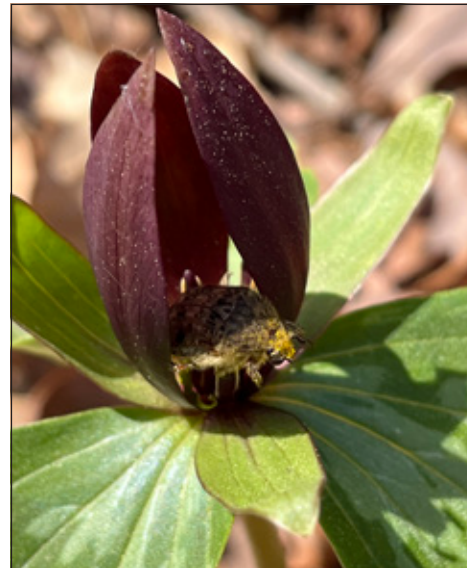
*Bashful wakerobin
(Trillium catesbaei)*



Wade's possum on the fence

keeper to catch the swarm. This is a common occurrence in the spring, when bee colonies split and seek out a new place to build a hive. Coincidentally, I received a message from an organization called Swarmed (beeswarmed.org/) which helps connect people with local beekeepers to catch swarms.

A few other observations I wanted to share this month included a huge possum that my husband and I saw walking along the fence in our backyard—it stopped for a moment to look at us (see photo by Wade H. above), a little DeKaye's brownsnake that turned up in my garden while I was weeding, and a big luna moth we found while hiking at Stone Mountain Park (my photo at right). And finally, back to the theme of spring ephemerals, I finally saw a plant I've sought for a long time but never found before: ramps (see my photo at



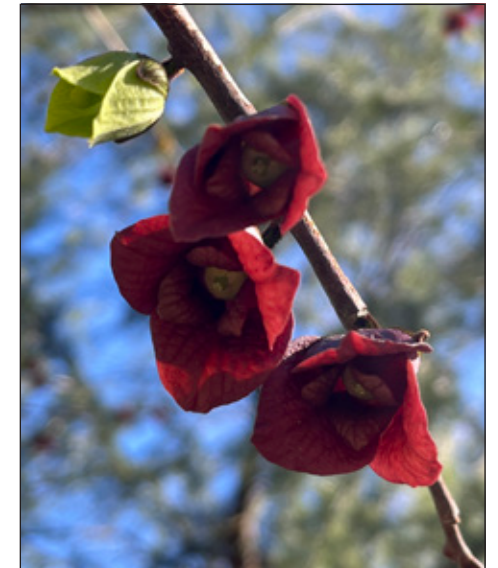
*Little sweet Betsy
(Trillium cuneatum)*



Ramps (Allium tricoccum)



Luna moth



Pawpaw (Asimina triloba) blooms

left). These "wild leeks" are a delicacy and can be over-harvested where they grow. The ones I saw were just off the Bartram Trail in Pisgah National Forest at Jones Gap. Alas, ramps are very rare in Georgia and restricted to a couple of far northeastern counties.

Spring ephemerals are a great reminder to keep hope alive. Fellow nature observer Grace Lewis (@kalmia creations on Instagram) said, "The world is broken, but their petals still open. Awaiting opportunities of a finite aboveground life... Ready to embrace the rain, often turned upwards towards an unpredictable early spring sky."

If you'd like to report a wildlife sighting for inclusion in a future column, please submit it here:
bit.ly/WildInLakeClaire.



Musician Ben Farmer

Continued from page 1.



Patricia, Leah, and Ben Farmer

ter a year, he launched his independent music career.

The shape of that career, based in Atlanta since 2006 and from Hardendorf Avenue since 2009, constantly morphs: There is always playing music, but also producing, teaching, mixing live bands, and sometimes transcribing for books or editing audio for podcasts. Ben describes himself as a lifelong music learner. “I never run out of things



Ben at the Land Trust's Jerry Jam

to study or learn about in the music and audio world. So usually, when an opportunity comes my way, I think, ‘I can get paid for this, and I can learn about this particular realm that interests me.’”

That trait shows in Ben’s love of teaching (“I genuinely enjoy coaching and mentoring people and exploring music with them”) and in his improvisational bent as a lead guitarist (influences include Jerry Garcia, Bill Frisell, Freddie King, and “the Jimmies”—Page and Hendrix).

Another through-line of Ben’s music career is community. For 15 years he has organized showcases for his students once or twice annually. He hires a drummer and pitches in on guitar, bass, singing—whatever is needed, so that each gets to perform with a full band for a live audience. His students range from pre-teens to retired adults, and Ben is proud of how supportive they are of each other. He also loves that they get to see each other at different stages of development as musicians; some students are with him for five, even ten years.

During the Covid lockdown, Ben and his neighbor Yoshi Furuta started playing together in the front yard on weekends. Neighbors gathered to listen and socialize, building relationships after a spell of high turnover on the block. Other Hardendorfers Jim Bilotto (mandolin) and Meghan Riley (vocals) joined in, forming the Noisy Neighbors. They play for Hardendorf trick-or-treaters every Halloween and at the street’s annual Fall block party. That “mini-festival” has come to feature almost exclusively Hardendorf bands, as musicians have gotten to know each other over the past few years.

“We have an incredible amount of musical talent on the street,” Ben remarks. “There are five or six bands that either practice on the street or have multiple members who live on Hardendorf. And the quality is incredibly high for such a concentrated area. It’s pretty amazing!”

Ben is gratified to count a number



Ben Farmer’s music student open mic at Red Light Café

of Hardendorfers among his students. One of them, Adam Pressman, came to him as an already-accomplished songwriter, wanting to elevate his guitar skills. Ben introduced him to Dave Skalka, a longtime student and excellent lead guitarist, who had not had the chance to play original music. That pairing started a collaboration that continues today in the band Jarvis Taylor, with Jim on mandolin and Ben on bass. They released their first EP last year and have played at Eddie’s Attic and Smith’s Olde Bar, so far in 2026.

Ben describes the Noisy Neighbors’ music as improv-forward Americana rock, often using classic songs from groups like the Grateful Dead and Rolling Stones as vehicles for their own unique jams. Jarvis Taylor is an original music act at the intersection of indie, classic, and country rock styles. Electronic music production is another, very different interest of Ben’s, that he traces to his youth in Decatur during the golden era of hip-hop. It was rekindled after he met wife Patricia, an aerialist, and they created a circus group with friends. “We became very popular in certain music festivals and scenes where there was more of an electronic music culture, more like DJs, not so much live music. As I was expanding into that world, I got increasingly interested in making electronic music.”

I hope to pick up that story in a feature on Patricia for a future Clarion. For now, you can get info about music lessons and what Ben’s up to at www.benfarmermusic.com.

And head to Red Light Café on Sunday, May 3 for his next Student Open Mic (doors at 5:30 p.m.; all ages, no cover). I’ll see you there!

Editor’s Note: This article is part of Jane’s Lake Claire Creatives series about neighbors whom you might not know are talented individuals, whether accomplished amateurs or consummate professionals. To read about the other creative Lake Claire residents that Jane has featured, see: lakeclaire.org/clarion/clarion-archives/, starting with February 2024.



Jarvis Taylor at Eddie’s Attic

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Lost in the Letters

Continued from page 1.

of Lost in the Letters, explained, “Once we added more regular meet-ups for people to write... it became clear to us we could use a physical space, whereas before, with only the readings and workshops, we were fine with borrowing spaces.”

The studio invites visitors to socialize, work, read, write, or simply reflect in a peaceful space. DeMer said, “Lost in the Letters is designed to create all the chances of engagement for people who are writing, reading, or engaging in those creative practices.” On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Sundays, the space serves as a writing studio for members. On Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, the space is a bookstore, reading lounge, and workspace for the public. As a writer and member of Lost in the Letters and the Candler Park community, Cara Haycak feels that the studio, “brings all the writing creativity into a community... that hadn’t existed until now.” She believes that, unlike her recent workspace, this studio will grant her more “creative freedom and inspiration.”

DeMers said the bookstore/writing studio started as a small, fun project that transitioned into annual programs, and finally into their official studio, known today. As they were developing, DeMers says they “learned a lot along the way,” regarding scheduling, planning events, and outreach.

The studio also plans to host art exhibitions and various workshops throughout the year. The workshops focus on multiple topics, from revision techniques and connecting with genres, to structuring contemporary literature.

One of the workshops, the Young Writers Studio, allows high schoolers to connect with professional authors, develop skills, and attend sessions that push students past what they are taught in school. DeMers says, “There is a constant demand for teenagers’ attention,” he said, and he hopes he “creates a space where we are not trying to man your attention but to help you find your own creative voice.” Hardendorf resident Layla Klehr works with the

Lost in the Letters studio to create and visualize the community of students. As a young writer, Klehr also benefits from the creative and peaceful space. She said, “A lot of the time, home is not that peaceful space, especially for a student with a family.”

Walking into the studio, Haycak says that the book’s display in the front of the space was the first thing that captured her attention. She felt that “people are being treated to works of art... opposed to a regular bookshelf.” Although the studio also acts as a bookstore, the books displayed are specifically written by authors who have collaborated with them. DeMers said the selection helps the studio narrow down choices and “focus on celebrating authors that we have a connection with.”

The decision to settle in Candler Park was partly influenced by the neighborhood’s vibrant atmosphere. One factor that drew DeMer into the community is the constant rush of people walking around the area. He notes there is a large “creative energy” in the Candler Park/Lake Claire neighborhood, with many people working in the writing, film, and music industries. As DeMers explained, “Being able to contribute to that creative energy is an amazing opportunity.”

Editor’s note: This is Liya Yalew’s debut article in the Clarion. She is a freshman at Midtown High School, an Atlanta native who was raised in Lake Claire and lives on Harold. Her hobbies include writing, music, and tennis. I hope she will grace our pages again soon; welcome and thank you, Liya.

Spring Updates from the Candler Park Conservancy

by Alex Long

I am a Lake Claire resident and volunteer with the Candler Park Conservancy. There are many other Lake Claire residents involved in the CPC, and of course, the park is used heavily by both of our neighborhoods. Spring in Atlanta brings sunshine, fresh energy, and plenty of activity in the park. The CPC has been busy, and we are excited to share a few recent updates and what is ahead.

Park Accessibility and East Entrance: One of the most heavily used entrances to the park, especially for Lake Claire residents, is on the east side at Marlbrook and Terrace. For years, it was easy to miss and hard to use safely. Working closely with the City of Atlanta and using dedicated bond funding for ADA improvements, we designed and completed a cleaner, safer entrance. The project connects the park to neighboring sidewalks, adds signage, and creates an ADA-accessible route with a direct path to the popular playground.

Pool House and Bathroom Updates: The City of Atlanta completed several important pool house improvements during the off-season, including roof resurfacing, locker room refreshes, and bathroom updates. We look forward to having the new facilities open by summer.

Love Your Park Volunteer Day: We love Candler Park, and we know our neighbors do, too. In February, we co-hosted a Love Your Park event with Park Pride, Hands On Atlanta, and the

Parks Department. More than 40 volunteers joined us for a morning of hard work and community spirit, removing more than 40 pounds of trash, clearing a large area of invasive privet behind the Amy Erwin Memorial Garden, and repainting the tennis court practice wall. Thanks to all!

Culvert Clearing on Freedom Park Trail: We have also been partnering with the City to clear the culvert behind the golf course to prevent flooding along the Freedom Park Path. The City removed remaining debris and invasive overgrowth, making way for native plantings that already helped address flooding concerns in the area.

Keeping It Green: Last year, the Conservancy partnered with Park Design and Trees Atlanta to create a master tree planting plan for Candler Park, which came to life this March. Volunteers helped plant 85 trees throughout the park, from the Freedom Park connection in the northeast corner, along Terrace by the golf course, around Callan Circle, and across the park to the southwest corner at McLendon/Candler Park Drive. The trees are carefully selected native species to help grow the

Cont. on p. 14

Lake Claire Neighborhood Dues

Suggested annual dues are \$25/year per household effective this year. We appreciate your helping LCN to serve the community. Please see how to pay at lakeclaire.org/membership.

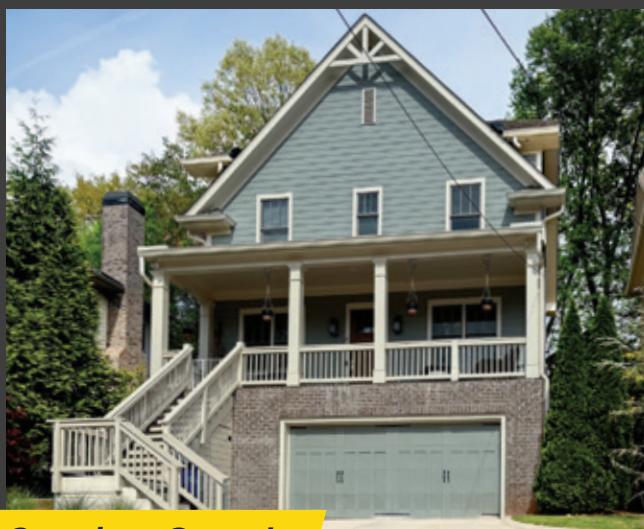
These folks have paid since the last issue: Jonathan Cordova, Dorothy Dabbs, Rodger Burgess, Mary Jo Bryan, Ralph Gilbert, Joe Follman, Sarah Johnston, Sarah Goodfellow, Janice Whitener, J. Miller Tobin, Kathy & Bob Watson, Colleen Bittinger, Lucas Gosdin, Stephanie Samsom, Maria Baars, Brian Collins, and Carol Holiday. THANKS TO ALL!

Classified Ads

Neighborhood pet care: Teen pet-sitter/dog-walker available. Reasonable rate and many days/times are available as needed. Very reliable, and has great neighborhood references. Call or text Cody Piercy 770-639-8428

S.A. Electrical Services— Your Lake Claire neighborhood electricians. Family-owned and operated for over 30 years. No job too big or too small. Call or text 404-731-6415. And remember: **MORE POWER TO YA!**

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CP Conservancy Update

Continued from page 11.

future canopy, improve habitat, and keep the park greener and cooler for generations to come. Thank you to everyone who came out to dig in and help.

Candler Park Sign: A special shout-out goes to neighbor of the month Erin Ayers, who brought Valentine's Day cheer and springtime energy to the Candler Park neighborhood sign with fresh new designs. We love her creativity and neighborhood pride, and we are grateful for the color and care she brings to this community corner. Do you have an idea for the sign or interested in painting it yourself? Send us a note.

Pavilion Progress: Candler Park has become a favorite destination for birthday parties and gatherings, so we are excited to report progress on a new pavilion planned just downhill from the pool. With support from CPNO and park improvement bond funding, design work is underway, and the most recent drawings were delivered in early March.

Active Lawn and Amphitheater Project: Another exciting effort is

the Active Lawn and Amphitheater Project, which is part of the Park's broader master plan. This vision includes refreshing the park's playing fields, adding an "active oval" walking/running path, and transforming the hillside between the field and the pool house into a terraced amphitheater for events and performances. The amphitheater will also serve as a memorial to the Rose Hill community that was displaced during the construction of the Park. Additional fundraising will be needed to bring the full vision to life. We are currently working closely with the City, who have been great partners. We look forward to moving toward construction and launching a capital campaign soon.

Looking Ahead: There is more to look forward to this spring. As always, thank you to our LC and CP neighbors, volunteers, partners, and City staff who help make this park such a treasured part of the community. Candler Park continues to grow, improve, and welcome more people in more ways, and we are excited for what is ahead.

City Forest Certification

Continued from page 7.

ship." Jessica Naughton, another Lake Claire resident, shared that she "had a wonderful time discovering our yard through the eyes of the City Forest Certification volunteers. They pointed out so many plants I didn't know we had, the best of which was a creeping cucumber vine - my kids are obsessed with finding and eating the little fruit now! I appreciated the team's thoughtful, practical suggestions that worked for our family's goals and abilities."

It is important to remember that the urban forest isn't just for us humans—it provides critical habitats for wildlife. Research emphasizes that native plants support a greater number of beneficial insects than non-native ornamentals. These insects form the base of a food web that provides essential nutrition for wildlife. Over time, spaces like these create a daisy chain of habitats that reconnect fragmented ecosystems across the city. Neighbor by neighbor and block by block, individual actions help weave a growing network of habitats, big and small. Certification helps motivate folks to transform our

neighborhood spaces into pieces of a larger ecological puzzle.

The City Forest Certification program is accessible to all—you don't need a yard to participate. Whether you live in a house, apartment, or shared space, you can support the health of our urban forest ecosystem through awareness, action, and engagement with issues that matter. Business and large complexes can also be certified. Begin your journey today by visiting treesatlanta.org/cityforest and exploring the many free resources available to help you achieve your goal and take the first step to earn your very own garden plaque.

Editor's note: Collin Clayton is an Education Senior Lead at Trees Atlanta. He facilitates youth and adult programming with creativity and enthusiasm. As the coordinator of the City Forest Certification program, Collin supports metro Atlanta residents in making their properties and neighborhoods greener, healthier, and more sustainable.

Chanel's Story

Continued from page 5.

pointment today. She is weighing in at a whopping 74 lbs! The doctor says she looks great and is gaining back muscle beautifully! I've reached out to the shelter to see about her finally going up for adoption. I'd like to thank everyone who has helped Raven along her journey, we couldn't have done it without you guys! Now that Raven is finally healthy we are starting some work on training. I'm also thinking about getting her in for a few daycare sessions to try to help her with dog socialization. She seems to get along well with them but just doesn't understand how to play, other than chasing lol. She is an amazing dog, and I am in awe everyday about how much she loves life. For her to still be filled with so much love after such a horrible start to life is truly miraculous. If you or anyone you know is looking for a new furry family

member, please consider Raven! She is really something special. [Editor's Note: As of April 15 Chanel aka Raven is still available for adoption.]

Bruno's Story (which I've taken from our Editor Beth's post on her Facebook page)

One of my deepest concerns is the torture involved in cropping Dobermans' ears (and other dogs that are treated this way). Bruno and other doggies are so expressive using their natural folding ears and long tail. The tail is an extension of the spine involved in dogs' balance and movement.

Doberman ears are made to stand up through surgical shaping, followed by many months of "posting" that trains the cartilage to stay upright. This involves inserting a rigid form, a "backer rod," into the ear and securing it with

tape to keep the ear stretched upright while it heals and strengthens, typically until 7–8 months of age. The two ears are often connected by a "bridge" of tape to provide extra stability. They often get horrible ear infections. The dog's ears are sensitive and painful for many weeks after surgery. The dog often experiences phantom pain. And there are instances of post-surgery complications as well as no guarantee of success. Many vets refuse the cruelty, and in the UK and Australia, there is a ban on it, but the ban in some cases has shifted the practice underground, so instead of having the surgery done with anesthesia at a vet's office, their ears are sometimes just banded by amateurs, in homes (!) or puppy mills, to make sure the animal looks "scary enough," to be a guard dog or to be sold

to someone who expects the look. Only 9 states at this time regulate ear cropping. And veterinary schools do not generally teach cropping (or docking), and thus veterinarians who do perform the practice have to learn on the job.

Shelter Updates:

* As of April 15, there are 482 dogs in the shelter, which is seven above the manageable capacity of 475;

* There is still, and always will be, the frequent need for behavioral euthanasia's at the shelter, but as of April 15 we have only had to perform 2 euthanasias for space since **August 2025!**

* The Pet neighborhood addition of 120 kennels is still underutilized with approximately 40 court cases and DA dogs housed.

Upcoming & Ongoing at the Land Trust

Sat., May 2: Land Trust Drum Circle, 8–11 p.m. (and every month on the 1st Sat.), \$5 donation requested. No alcohol please. *Rain date: May 16.*

Sun., May 10: Death Café with Denise Johnson, 3–4:30 p.m. in the Gorilla Grill (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., May 10: LCCLT board meeting, 5–6 p.m. (every month on the 2nd Sunday) in the Gorilla Grill. All are welcome to sit in and speak up. Come in person or contact us at info@LCCLT.org for Zoom link.

Mon., May 11, 18, 25: Monday Nature Play Group, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (and every Monday except the first Monday of the month). Join this informal gathering at no cost, or make a \$5 donation to LCCLT.

Fri., May 15: Great Curious Garden Party 6–8 p.m. Mocktails provided by Curious Elixirs, food pop-up, mini market from 6 – 8p.m. Free event.

Sat., May 16: Community Work Day, 9 a.m.–noon (and every month on the 3rd Saturday). The Land Trust was created by countless hours of volunteer labor. That tradition continues with our Community Work Days on the 3rd Saturday every month. Getting together to get the work done is the surest way to build and experience community! We'll be weeding, spreading wood chips, doing special projects, and more. Bring drinking water and work gloves. If you like what you see here, plug in and participate! Rain date: 4th Saturday. (Check the website if the weather is iffy.) **Workday hours have switched to the morning hours for the Spring/Summer schedule and are from 9 a.m. to noon.**

Sat., May 16: Tarot Class with Chakura Kineard of Unfiltered Glitter, 2–3 p.m. Beginners, 3–4 Advanced, \$25/person (20% goes to LCCLT). Pay in advance via Venmo or CashApp; see LCCLT.org/new-events. Sliding scale available to women of color & LBGTQIA+ community if needed; contact info@LCCLT.org.

Sun., May 24: Science for Georgia – Climate Survival Training Monthly Skillshare Meetup, 3–5 p.m. Gathering to share skills and knowledge which are useful for community climate resilience and preparedness. Free! Donations welcome.

Mon., May 25 – May 29: KidsCHaCha's Outdoor Camp, 10:30 am – 12:30 p.m. See article below.

Wed., May 27: Land Trust Open Mic, 7 – 9 p.m. at the Land Trust amphitheater or the Gorilla Grill. All acoustic and spoken word performers welcome, or just come to listen. For details and updates, visit www.LCCLT.org/new-events.

YOUR EVENT HERE! Do you have 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!

KidsChaChaha's Outdoor Camp

Get ready for an unforgettable adventure with KidsChaChaha's Outdoor Camp! This magical experience invites children to step into nature, explore freely, and truly be themselves in the beautiful Land Trust Setting.

Campers will enjoy energizing yoga, creative music, and hands-on nature art, all while making new friends and building confidence in a fun and supportive environment. Every day is filled

with discovery, laughter, and meaningful connections with the outdoors. For many years, KidChaChaChaha camps at the Land Trust have been a favorite for families, with children returning again and again because they love the experience so much. Join us this May for a joyful, enriching, and inspiring camp your child will never forget!

Details at www.LCCLT.org.



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Thank You to Our 2026 Community Business Partners

We want to give a heartfelt thank you to our 2026 Community Business Partners. You'll see their logos on our new banner, their support helps keep the Lake Claire Community Land Trust going strong.

A special thank you to each of these local businesses who stepped up to support this space:

Oak Level Sponsor: Bond Community Federal Credit Union

Poplar Level Sponsors: Little Island Trading Co., Brick and Mortar, Pullman

Magnolia Level Sponsors: Cynthia Baer, SoulShine Schools, Candler

Park Marke, Lake Claire Neighbors

Dogwood Level Sponsors: Little Forest School, ATL Stratosphere Skateboards.

For more than 40 years, the Land Trust has been a shared space for gardens, gatherings, music, and connection with nature right here in the neighborhood. It takes real support to care for and maintain it, and these community business partners are a big part of making that happen. Next time you're at the Land Trust, take a look at the banner, and please show some love to the businesses that are showing up for this community.

LCCLT Tie Dye Shirts

We launched our first ever DIY Tie Dye Experience at the Peace and Love Festival, and it was a huge hit and success! Thank you, everyone who tie-dyed their own Lake Claire Community Land Trust Shirt with us—we had a blast while supporting our favorite place in the city! Want your own tie-dyed LCCLT shirt but didn't get to make one? We will have the DIY Tie Dye Experience set up next at our open house this summer. We also have some shirts already dyed if you'd like to buy one ready to wear. Email info@lccclt.org your size and we will coordinate a pick-up. Shirts cost \$20, and funds go directly to support the oasis in the city.





LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion writers and artists to participate in our 'hood. The May featured child is Nora Dyer, who is a girl scout in Troop 25142. As you will see, she is com-

mitted to animal rights. Thank you, Nora, and all of you (Elle, Mabel, Alex, and Reece) for your dedication to helping animals.

Any Lake Claire child or young adult who wants to add your creativity to this page, send to editor@lakeclaire.org, by **MAY 15** for the next issue (**SUMMER—JUNE/JULY/AUG**).

Girl Scout Cookie Time

by Nora Dyer

I like selling outside of Candler Park Market because a lot of people come up and buy cookies. And there are people we know because we are selling in the neighborhood. My teacher Ms. Dees

even came last year to buy cookies. We are selling cookies to help animals. We are going to buy supplies for Yellow River Animal Sanctuary.



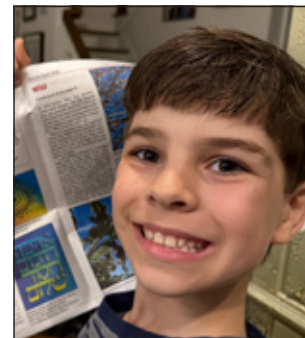
Girl Scouts, from left to right: Elle Craney, Mabel Robertson, Nora Dyer, Alex Benton, Reece Cameron

Contest Winners

Ames Yeend wins first place and Elodie Garrett second place! They found a graphic representing diversity in our last issue. Ames is eight years old, in the 3rd grade at Mary Lin, and he lives on Arizona Avenue. He is very good at this contest; if we didn't have the rule about not being eligible every month, he might do so! Elodie is five years old, in pre-K at Primavera, and she lives on Clifton Road. Elodie won extra credit by telling us she likes celebrating Easter and Valentine's Day—her prize is to write for a future issue. Congrats to both of you!



Elodie, 2nd place



Ames, 1st place

Important Editor Disclaimer to Parents: If ever I miss a child who sent an entry, please let me know, I'll fix it in the NEXT issue. Also, please reach out if you need extra newspaper copies, for grandparents, to post on refrigerators, or otherwise to celebrate the winners' 30 seconds of fame, editor@lakeclaire.org. And, it's available online at lakeclaire.org/clarion/clarion-archives/.

Kids: See our new contest below, and make your guess: it's your chance to be famous!

New Contest

Hello, kids! May is widely known as a month of spring renewal, characterized by blooming flowers, warmer weather, and the start of summer vacation season. It is heavily celebrated with holidays like May Day (International Workers' Day), Mother's Day, and Memorial Day. Somewhere in this newspaper is a graphic representing May Day. The winner/winners who find it will have their pictures in the next Clarion (Summer). To win, write editor@lakeclaire.org, identifying the page number, and include your name, age, school, street,

and grade, along with a photo. (**Your parents should send large picture files, 1mb+.**) Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, **except that you cannot win two months in a row.** For extra credit, tell us anything you like about May or enjoy celebrating with your family. The extra-credit prize is to be a featured writer/artist in a future Lake Claire Clarion with your original art, poetry, or writing. The deadline is May 15! **Hurry and look, because competition is always stiff for this HIGHLY coveted prize.**