



Judge Johnny Mason—Marathon Runner for Justice

by Brian Spears

Many Lake Claire residents will recognize their neighbor, Johnny Mason. If you are an early riser, you may well have seen him running along the streets in Lake Claire. He has run more than 40 marathons in the thirty or so years that he has lived in the neighborhood. But more than a marathon runner, Judge Johnny Mason is a gifted and energetic lawyer who has served as a Judge on the Georgia State Board of Workers Compensation for over thirty years.

Now, Johnny is taking his legal career in a new direction: international dispute resolution. Johnny's new direction grows out of his lifelong ties to Atlanta and his longstanding commitment to human and civil rights. "When I was born in 1956, Grady Hospital was segregated. My mother had to give birth to me at Hughes Spaulding Hos-



pital because that's where the Black children had to be born." His parents were active members of historic Ebenezer Baptist Church. "I was baptized by Daddy King (Martin Luther King, Sr.). I remember enjoying Easter Egg hunts in Daddy King's backyard, and running around with all of the King children, Marty, Bernice, and all of them." Johnny's parents "were very involved with civil rights while I was growing up. We were taught that everybody's equal."

Cont. on p. 5

Important Opportunity: Lake Claire October Nominations

The annual Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN) Executive Committee elections are in November. According to our neighborhood bylaws, 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 (in-person or via Zoom) since last November.

Please think about serving the neighborhood in this valuable fashion. If you will meet the requirement as of the October meeting (that is, you will have already attended at least three meetings, and the October meeting is your 4th or more), do consider leadership in the neighborhood, a very good cause, and a needed and appreciated community function. The October meeting is Thursday, October 15, hybrid via Zoom and in-person at the Frazer Center.

Register now! Annual Craft Fair, first Saturday in December

by Beth Damon and Annsley Klehr

The 7th Annual Lake Claire Craft Fair is **Saturday, December 5**, rain or shine, a wonderful community event—and an opportunity to get a head-start on holiday gifts. For any new folks to the hood, this event is akin to a walking tour of the south side of Lake Claire, involving arts and crafts for sale, food, live music, and more, even a holiday photo booth. One of the signature events of this neighborhood, it is well-attended by residents from all over Atlanta and beyond. It takes place on these designated streets: Connecticut Avenue, New York Avenue, Arizona Avenue, Delaware Avenue, Casson, and Indiana Avenue (between Connecticut & Arizona). The event showcases handmade art by local artists and crafters of all ages; children are welcome and prominently featured.

Sponsors: Your funds support some of our Atlanta Public School's Midtown Cluster schools. Sponsors will be featured on social media and their logos on a color page in the November Clarion, in order of donation amount. (Donation amounts are not disclosed.) Our sponsors make this community event possible, and investing in our schools is an excellent community commitment.

Attention Hosts: since many of our artists do not live on the designated streets, we need hosts who live on those streets, and we are already working hard to get host homes and assign artists there. You do not have to commit to be home, and artists can set up in the yard, sidewalk, or street in front of the house.

Artists' Entry Requirement: 10%
Cont. on p. 11

Lake Claire Halloween Parade

by Michelle and Matt Kottheimer

October 24 is Lake Claire's annual Halloween party and parade. The parade starts at 4:30 p.m., lining up on Marlbrook, for 30 minutes of schmoozing and costume admiration. Then at 5pm, the parade marches down Ridge-wood Road to McLendon Avenue, ending at Lake Claire Park for food, treats, and fun. All are welcome to join the march and/or line the streets to cheer on our tiniest ghouls & goblins. AND Don't Miss the Costume Competition!

There is still time to volunteer and/

or sponsor. Volunteers are needed to prepare signs, make social media posts, hand out treats, and be costume contest judges. (Teenagers are welcome to volunteer in exchange for community hours.)

Sponsors: We need neighborhood sponsors to help make this event a success. To volunteer or become a sponsor, please reach out to Michelle at: michelle.kottheimer@gmail.com and Matt at: mattkoty@yahoo.com.

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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.

October Calendar

In addition to these, please see the variety of neighborhood events on the Land Trust calendar, Page 15, and see flyers on pages 7 and 10.

3 Frazer Forest volunteer workday 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.

3–4 Candler Park Fall Fest, 11 a.m.–7 p.m., plus 5K & Fun Run. In Candler Park. Lake Claire Land Trust & others will have tables. <https://fallfest.candlerpark.org/> Two days of music, art, food, games, rides, and special attractions, and Free!

4 Yoga in the Gardens: 8:30–9:30 a.m. Spend a quiet Sunday morning surrounded by the natural beauty of Cator Woolford Gardens in this donation-based, all-levels yoga class. For more details, visit frazercenter.org/about-us/events.

5 Last day to register to vote in order to vote in Nov. 3 election. (And see Jane Branscomb's article Page 3 for more electoral deadlines.)

8 Freedom Park *Sunset Tree Tour: The Living Legacy of Freedom Park – Trees, Trails, and Civic Roots*. Thurs, Oct 8, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Freedom Park Conservancy

10 Trees Atlanta annual tree sale. 8 a.m.–1 p.m. at the Carter Center, with a selection of native trees, grasses, and shrubs, and get advice from plant experts.

14 Dekalb History Center, noon, Lunch & Learn featuring cultural landscape specialist Andrew Kohr and author Jeff Dingler discussing historic cemeteries in the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area and volunteer options to help maintain these irreplaceable burial places. Free. Bring your lunch and enjoy. www.dekalbhistory.org/.

15 **The Lake Claire monthly neighborhood meeting—third Thursday.** Lake Claire Neighbors has hybrid meetings, in-person at the Frazer Center and virtual on Zoom. ***This is the nominations month for elections in November! Info in article on Page 1.*** See lakeclaire.org for updates and Zoom info. Join and get Zoom link at lakeclaire.org/resources/newscast-sign-up/.

17 Clifton Sanctuary Ministries hosts kids' Halloween decorating event, 10 a.m. at CSM. See full details in the article on Page 3

17 Members of the Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra are giving an extra concert at the Decatur Library, 4:30–5:30 p.m., 215 Sycamore Street, Decatur. More info is on the library website.

17 Fiddler's Green Coffeehouse (3rd Saturdays), 7 p.m. \$10 at door (members \$8). Doors open at 6:30 p.m. This month: Mick Kinney and friends. Musician details, music schedule, info: aaffm.org/aaffm-events/.

24 Lake Claire Halloween Parade and Party!!! 4:30 p.m., Marlbrook @ Ridgewood. Please see article Page 1.

26 Halloween House Decorating Contest Registration Deadline – see poster with details on Page 16.

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

November Reminders

Friday, November 6: deadline to register for the Lake Claire Crafts Fair.

See article Page 1 for link to website to register and get info. **We need sponsors and hosts!**

Sunday, November 8, rain or shine: Frazer Fall Fest, inclusive & sensory fun for infants to preschoolers, all ages welcome. 2–5 p.m., Cator Woolford Gardens. More info, see article Page 5.

Classified Ad

Neighborhood pet care: Teen petsitter/dog-walker. Reasonable rates and many days available. Reliable, with great neighborhood references. Call or text Cody Piercy 770-639-8428



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Semiquincentennial Showtime!

by Jane Branscomb

What better way to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence from the tyranny of a distant king than by casting an informed ballot—**early and in-person**, if possible! Here's a checklist with resources:

1. Confirm your active registration status, and find polling place hours and times (or track your absentee ballot if you're voting that way) on the My Voter Page, mvp.sos.ga.gov. Make sure your registered name matches that on your photo ID.
2. Put the Election Protection Hotline, 866-OUR-VOTE, into your contacts. Call this nonpartisan resource any time if you have problems with registration or voting, or see anything amiss at the polls. Go to 866OURVOTE.org for hotlines in other languages.

3. Compare candidates, and prepare your personal voting guide on BRANCH.vote. You can also annotate your choices and share with friends who want advice.
4. Make an appointment with yourself (and a few friends?) for when and where you will vote. Arrange your transportation or, if you need a ride or can volunteer to give rides, go to RideToThePoll.com.
5. Before you leave home, make sure you have your photo ID and voting guide or notes (no consulting phones in the voting booth). If you want to check wait times, DeKalb County's election website has a tab for that.
6. After you vote (or while you're in line), text 3 friends to go vote. Then wear that "I Voted" sticker with pride. You earned it!

KEY ELECTION DATES

10/5 Last day to register in order to vote in 11/3 election
 10/23 Last day to request absentee ballot (if necessary)
 10/13–10/30 Early in-person voting (BEST!) – Vote at any open location in DeKalb County. *Mon-Fri 7-7, Sat 9-6, Sun 12-6. Absentee ballot drop boxes at select locations. (These hours are for DeKalb County only.)
 11/3 Election Day – Vote at the specific precinct polling place listed on your voter registration card. Polls open 7-7.

Climate Anxiety and an Antidote

by Sam Collier

I can forgive a person looking away, frozen in fear and dread, even wanting to believe it's a hoax. Climate change seems bigger than we could ever solve. Inevitable. That's daunting. Avoidance is understandable. So, I can forgive someone for just trying to live their life and not think about it.

I was managing to do that until sometime in the early 2000s when it hit me how very long CO2 lasts in the atmosphere, and how it was accumulating more and more with no end in sight. Before long I had plunged into a dark period of profound anxiety. For about a year and a half, I had this sinking despair that I couldn't shake. Anxiety, like denial, is an unhealthy re-

sponse to a perceived threat. Both can be paralyzing, preventing a healthy response, and thereby compounding the experience. A therapist eventually helped me recognize that while anxiety is unhelpful, fear is an appropriate response to a threat—one whose purpose is to spur us to action. I turned to what I call "solutions bathing" (see the Japanese practice of shinrin-yoku, forest bathing)—scanning for things people around the world are discovering and inventing, building and planting to solve the problem.

I was an environmental activist for decades before it sank in that CO2 lasts for centuries in the atmosphere, mak-

Cont. on p. 7

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

by Lori White

Greetings Clifton Sanctuary neighbors! This Halloween, we would like to invite the neighborhood kids to help us decorate the shelter for the holiday! We will have sidewalk chalk, spooky cobwebs, cutouts to hang up, and any other suggestions from the kids.

Hot chocolate and cookies will be provided. Come join us on Saturday, October 17, at 10 a.m. at CSM, 369 Connecticut Ave., corner of McLendon.



Please email lori@cliftonsanctuary.com with any questions. We look forward to seeing our great Lake Claire neighbors and friends!



The Eastside Beltline

Keep AVs Off the Beltline

by Kevin H. Posey

On September 9, the board of directors for Better Atlanta Transit, of which I am a member, voted to take an official stance on autonomous vehicles on the Atlanta Beltline. The resolution, which passed unanimously with one abstention, reads:

Better Atlanta Transit (BAT) hereby opposes the use of autonomous vehicles (AVs) for passengers on the Atlanta Beltline. This includes the existing Beltline path and adjacent right-of-way.

BAT does not oppose the use of passenger AVs on streets in the vicinity of the Atlanta Beltline, provided that due care is taken to ensure that their use does not jeopardize public safety or conflict with the use and operation of the Atlanta Beltline.

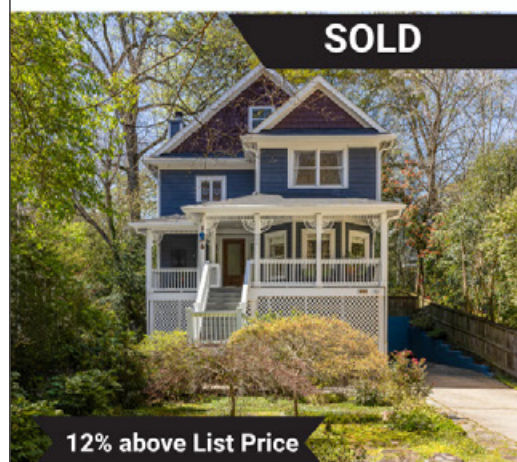
BAT reiterates its support for a parallel path to separate bikes and other

micromobility from those on foot to relieve dangerous levels of congestion.

I wrote this resolution in response to an alarming column that the Atlanta Journal Constitution published written by a local attorney, Eric Tanenblatt. In it, Tanenblatt opposed the unfunded, billion-dollar streetcar plan and endorsed adding autonomous vehicles (AVs) to the Beltline.

He is correct to say that the streetcar is inappropriate on today's Beltline. As anyone who uses the Eastside path knows, the congestion caused by forcing those on foot to share space with those on bikes, scooters, and other forms of micromobility is exceedingly dangerous. Serious collisions occur with regularity, but Tanenblatt's proposal would do nothing to remedy this.

Cont. on p. 7



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Previous Fall Fest, photo by Debbie Livingston

Frazer Fall Festival, Sunday, Nov. 8

by Joanna Harbin

Join us at the Frazer Center's Fall Festival in Cator Woolford Gardens, featuring uniquely fun inclusive and sensory play activities.

There are many fall festivals popping up around the city, but this one is designed specifically with the littlest ones in mind—with sensory play, arts and crafts, face-painting, music, zen zone, and more, for infants through preschoolers, and activities inclusive of children of all abilities. Plus, it's right here in Lake Claire!

All are welcome. Hosted by the Frazer Center Parent-Teacher Action Committee. Proceeds support Frazer teachers and family-led cultural events throughout the year.

Seasonal snacks and drinks will be available along with adult beverages for adults (\$5 suggested donation).

Admission: Free for children | \$20



Young Fall Fest Attendee at the Sensory Play Station, photo by Debbie Livingston



Young Fall Fest Attendees at the Sensory Play Station, photo by Shelby Crews, Student Volunteer Photographer

for adults. Tickets & info: frazercenter.org/about-us/events. Donations towards PTAC are accepted even if you are unable to attend: frazer-ptac-contributions.cheddarup.com.

The Fall Fest is Sunday, November 8 (rain or shine), 2–5 p.m., Cator Woolford Gardens, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Ave NE Atlanta, GA 30307. The event is open to the public. For more information, visit: frazercenter.org/about-us/events/.

Volunteers are needed: High school juniors/seniors or college-age volunteers are welcome to help run activity stations or capture photos/video (4 volunteer hours). Email ptacchair@the-frazercenter.org to sign up.

We hope to see you there!

Judge Johnny Mason

Continued from page 1.

While attending the University of Pennsylvania on a football scholarship, Johnny was drawn to religious studies and philosophy. “My experience at Ebenezer has something to do with my gravitation to those disciplines, particularly religion. By the time I graduated, I had completed the course requirements for a master’s degree in religious studies.” Foregoing invitations to tryout camp from several NFL teams, upon graduation Johnny returned to Atlanta to get married and start his career.

His interest in civil rights and justice drew him to the legal profession. In order to learn more about practicing law and the role of judges, he contacted a judge of the federal Court of Appeals based in Atlanta. After speaking for fully two hours, “when I walked out of Judge Tuttle’s office, I knew that that’s what I wanted to do.” Judge Mason promptly enrolled in law school in 1981, and, following admission to the State Bar of Georgia, established his own law firm, handling criminal defense, workers compensation claims, and civil rights cases. “One of my specialty areas was police misconduct,” he noted.

Johnny was particularly interested in becoming a judge, because “as a judge you have the opportunity to make sure—100 percent—that whatever ‘justice’ is, that justice is done on the cases that you’re involved in. As a judge I can make sure that I’m fair and I’m doing justice to people.”

In 1995, Judge Mason was appointed as an Administrative Law Judge with the Georgia State Board of Workers’ Compensation. In 2000, on appointment by Governor Barnes, Judge Mason served one year as Chief Judge of the Georgia Office of State Administrative Hearings and, thereafter, returned to the Workers’ Compensation Board, where he continues to serve as Judge.

Throughout his judicial career, Judge Mason has lived in Lake Claire. “I learned that they were building new homes in the cul-de-sac along McLendon, on Lake Claire Court; I moved in on December 31, 1993.” Several years

later, Johnny moved to Tuxedo Avenue, where he and his wife, Gillian Grable, still live. For many years, Johnny and Gillian have hosted neighborhood outdoor potlucks at their home.

Johnny and Gillian share a common interest in human and civil rights. They met when they were active in organizations opposed to the racist Apartheid system of in South Africa. Their work culminated when “... in 1994, we got to go to South Africa as international election observers under the auspices of the American Friends Service committee and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law.”

Although Judge Mason did not know it at the time, his “experience in the anti-apartheid movement, including observing the first democratic elections in South Africa in 1994 and meeting Nelson Mandela—the whole international aspect of it had something to do with my interest now in international law.” As a result of that interest, Judge Mason is transitioning into a new career as a peacemaker.

To do so, he enrolled as a student with the United Nations University’s two-year master’s program in international law and dispute resolution. “I just love what (the United Nations) stands for, which is inclusive of all humanity. When you look at the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and look at all of the work that the United Nations does—the goals and the principles and the mission—to me it is the highest point of what humankind has come up with.”

His training in international law “touches on a broad range of international pieces, from human rights to trade and investment. My current course is on Cyber-Warfare and Cyberspace.” Johnny explains his decision to move into international dispute resolution is the result of his interest in human and civil rights. “My perspective of life is treating people fairly, in every respect. That, to me, is a human right.”

Editor’s Note: Brian Spears has lived in Candler Park nearly thirty-five years. He is a civil rights attorney.

Heath: An Everyday Shelter Story

by Scott McLane

This is the story of sweet Heath (don't worry, it has a happy ending). Not unlike the thousands of dogs that pass through the Dekalb Animal Shelter every year. But Heath won my heart more than most. The "sign posts" below are excerpts from staff and volunteer notes about Heath.

June 28: Intake. Intake is the small room where a dog is initially assessed, vaccinated, and temporarily housed. It is a dog's first experience at the shelter after coming out of a small cage in an Animal Control vehicle, after being trapped, usually with a metal catchpole. Necessary, but not the greatest start to their shelter experience. Heath was initially growling and snapping in his kennel. Once in the exam room, he had a high wag, solicited petting, and took treats gently. He was overall easy to handle. Heath was very tolerant of all medical handling.

June 29: Heath's 2nd day. Heath

was initially low growling in the kennel when I approached but settled when I began feeding him bits of cheese. His behavior was not forward or offensive and was indicative of fear, anxiety, and stress. I left some more treats for him and returned a while later, and he displayed relaxed body language, so I began attempting to leash him. He retreated from the leash several times, running to the back of the kennel, but was very responsive to treats, so I laid down a treat trail leading out of the kennel and leashed him as he stepped out. He walked with his tail tucked and head low, but was non-reactive to the dogs we passed. Once outside, he immediately began displaying loose wiggly body language toward others. Once in the yard, he eliminated several times, indicating some sort of house training. He spent a while sniffing around before approaching me to sniff. He then allowed me to pet him on his

head, ears, neck, and back, leaning in for more whenever I stopped. After that he remained loose and wiggly. Setting to Level 3 for initial barrier reactivity/shy fearful behavior, and difficulty leashing.

July 19: Initial Playgroup Assessment. Selective, gentle play. Good gate greeting and entry, another dog rushed him, a brief verbal altercation occurred, and Heath was removed and muzzled. He was very focused on removing the muzzle and showed no negative interactions, so we removed the muzzle. He was appropriate in all interactions and briefly engaged in gentle play.

July 20: Volunteer Experience. Met this delightful dog today. Easy to leash and harness. Treat motivated, learned 'sit' in 5 minutes. Lap dog, but also wandered the play yard. Enjoyed scratches all over and climbed onto

chair with me. Will give kisses...

Aug. 1: Photo session notes. So cute and fun and playful! He is very engaging. Loves a booty scratch! Playful and likes to run after toys. Really affectionate and loves to give hugs. Cutest thing ever!

Aug. 4: Staff note. Reactive towards people passing his kennel, but calms once leash is present. Did not do well with tools during spot cleaning, reactive, stiff and growling at scooper when it approaches his kennel. Has to be removed from kennel for spot cleaning.

Aug. 18: Heath is placed on the "At risk" list for potential space euthanasia. At Risk due to difficulty handling for spot cleaning, and kennel stress presenting as charging kennel door and pacing.

Cont. on p. 11



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Climate Anxiety and an Antidote

Continued from page 3.

ing our current challenge so much more difficult than ending smog (which we did), or acid rain (which we also did), or closing up the ozone hole (which we are doing). How did we score those other wins? We listened to the scientists on causes and solutions. We passed legislation both preventing the pollution and incentivizing better practices. Things got better.

The first step for turning around climate change is to stop putting more CO₂ into the atmosphere. I decided that electricity production was key. If about a fourth of CO₂ emissions come from power plants, then decarbonizing electricity was an important start. Add to that electrifying the transportation sector, source of another fourth or so of emissions, and we would be halfway there!

I bought shares in the company that provides my power. Southern Company owns Georgia Power, Alabama Power, Mississippi Power, and now, Southern Gas. They are a big piece in the stable climate puzzle. I started attending annual shareholder meetings and speaking up as a shareholder everywhere I could. Then, I joined with the many institutional investors working on climate—ones whose positions require them to take the long view. Pension



Sister Barbara with Sam



Sister Pat Daly with Sam

funds, for example. I learned about the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, a coalition that includes pension funds, charitable foundations, religious organizations, and more. I met activist nuns like Barbara Aires of the Sisters of Charity and Dominican Sister Pat Daly who had been in dialogue with power companies for decades.

Eventually, some of us environmental activists teamed up with the nuns to file shareholder resolutions with Southern Company. By 2020, the company had announced a commitment to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 and to get halfway there by 2035.

This commitment was made during the first Trump administration, and many other corporations made similar pledges. The economic calculus involving assets that last 30 to 70 years or more, as power plants do, does not hew to electoral terms. Still, an administration can impact the speed and direction of corporate actions. The Biden administration incentivized the push toward decarbonization, passing laws that helped move us toward targeted goals. The laws were designed to end not on a given date, but when the target had been met—in other words, to sunset once they had fulfilled their purpose.

Keep AVs Off the Beltline

Continued from page 3.

Why? Because AVs aren't safe enough to share path space in such crowded conditions. We all know from media reports and our own experiences that AVs are far from error-free. In Atlanta, robotaxis blow past stopped school buses loading and unloading kids, get stuck at traffic lights in flash mode, and jam up cul-de-sacs. Put AVs alongside the Beltline path full of families with small kids, and you invite disaster. A fence would be required to keep people young and old out of the AVs' path. That would be exactly the same situation if a big, speedy train were put on the Beltline.

A fence would squelch the vibrancy of the Beltline. One need only look at the eerily quiet Charlotte Rail-Trail

with its fenced-off Lynx track to see what that would be like. It would simply destroy one of the city's best amenities. Atlanta doesn't have enough of those to ruin what it's got now.

The City of Atlanta and Atlanta Beltline leadership must not even discuss a streetcar alternative as bad as the streetcar itself. They need to quit messing around and put that empty right-of-way to use with something that we can afford today and takes care of a demand that's already out there: A parallel path to separate people on foot from those on bikes and scooters.

Write your councilmember today and tell them to quit stalling, before someone comes up with an even worse plan than an AV track.



Brilliant. Long-term plans were made, and things looked hopeful.

The second Trump administration brought a swift reversal of those policies. It terminated renewable energy projects, some on the brink of going live. The moves jeopardized private investment decisions and caused some businesses to go bankrupt. Meanwhile, of course, the President and others with megaphones were pounding the message that climate change is a "hoax," stoking widespread scorn for an established scientific fact. To further complicate things, the administration under-

mined the shareholder rights that had allowed advocates to bring our concerns to upper management. Today it is much harder for nuns and others to file resolutions than it was just three years ago.

To keep from slipping back into despair, I'm doubling down on solutions bathing. It's actually quite fun! Next month I'll share some of my favorite finds. And I'll keep on working. I hope you'll join me. As Paul Hawken says, we can't afford to give in to a "game over" mentality. We have to embrace that it's GAME ON for solving this epic problem.

Wild in Lake Claire

by Sara Gottlieb

Last night, my husband and I were walking down Arizona Avenue to Candler Market, and a beautiful barred owl flew right over us and lit on a branch in one of the neighborhood's majestic oak trees. The absolutely silent flight of an owl is an amazing thing to witness, and it was a reminder to always be on the lookout for the wonders of nature, even when engaged in otherwise mundane activities. Jacqueline C. shared this photo of a barred owl in her backyard. Another surprising bird sighting was made by Christa C. of a large red-tailed hawk on the grass by Mary Lin Elementary School.

One really fun activity I was involved in this past month was helping to coordinate a Great Pollinator Count event at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust (see my photo below). Sponsored by the Foodwell Alliance, this event was part of a region-wide effort to give people an opportunity to learn about the role of plants and pollinators in our own neighborhoods by choosing a single plant to observe for 15 minutes while counting all the pollinators that visit it. The data are uploaded to a database that is analyzed by scientists, contributing to a citizen science effort that can help us understand how to best support these crucial members of our environment.

A. Hendershot shared a photo of a katydid that appeared on his window



Jacqueline's barred owl



Christa's red-tailed hawk

on Tuxedo Avenue. It had a great leaf-like disguise. He was able to examine it closely without disturbing it. Also, his son, Paolo, thought it was funny to lick the window (see at right). Speaking of disturbing, Dan G. shared a photo of a large copperhead snake that had seen better days before crossing South Ponce near the Frazer Center. Dan also snapped a great photo of one of the suddenly ubiquitous Joro spiders that will haunt us at least through Halloween. See both pictures on Page 9.

Meredith W. reports that jewelweed is blooming in her yard, and the hummingbirds are loving it. It seems to be a favorite for fueling up for their upcoming migration, and she loves hearing their buzz in the yard and seeing their fierce, flashing feathers and faces.

On a walk last week, Meredith came across two Eastern box turtles in the



Great Pollinator Count event at the Land Trust



A. Hendershot's katydid (and son's tongue!)



Dan's flattened copperhead

trail in two different places. She also came across a baby snapping turtle on a path alongside South Peachtree Creek. She wasn't sure whether to intervene or leave it be, but it was heading away from the water and already looked pretty dry, so she moved him to the edge of the creek about fifteen feet away.

Speaking of turtles, Sage B. was leading a group of students from the Oak House School on a hike to the creek below Candler Park Golf Course and found a soft-shelled turtle there (she snapped the picture top right).



Dan's Joro spider

The young explorers were very excited by this discovery!

I hope those kids and readers of this column will take this as a cue to appreciate the wild world all around us. In the words of recently departed Dolly Parton: "I make a point to appreciate all the little things in my life. I go out and smell the air after a good, hard rain. These small actions help remind me that there are so many great, glorious pieces of good in the world."

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



One of Meredith's Eastern box turtles



Sage's soft-shelled turtle

Hello – Safe Journey: Skiing in and around Lake Claire

Happy October Birthday to:

October 1: Emerson Frank (Hardendorf) turns 7 years old!

October 2: Happy b'day, Margaret Witten (Tuxedo), dedicated Clarion delivery person, now older again than our friend DPS until next year, as it should be.

October 5: Chloe Rachal will turn 15! (Howard Circle) and Emma DeBell (Harold) 18!

October 7: Todd Fernandez (Leonardo)

October 11: Scarlett Capps (Harold) and dear wonderful Kim McRae (Delaware)

October 19: Kusher Thomas Tanguturi turns 12 (Harold Avenue)

October 19: Boyd Baker—You're old now! (Leonardo). Happy 60-something! (I'll never tell!)

October 23: Izzy Kaiser—Happy 18th birthday! ('dorf) and Rachel Weinthal (also Hardendorf)

October 27: Happy birthday, Wing! (ex-Arizona Ave.) Much appreciated faithful contributor to the Clarion, you'll always be featured 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 18.

News from Mulberry Fields, Candler Park

by Jesse Bathrick

*Sunny day sweeping the clouds away
On my way to where the where the gardens yield
Can you tell me how to get to Mulberry Fields?*

Mulberry Fields Community Garden and Greenspace, a Candler Park Oasis, is located down the alley at 1301 Iverson Street. Starting last month, Saturday, Sept. 12, Mulberry Fields began hosting Mulberry Brew Crew, 9-10 a.m. And we will do it all over again every month, on the second Saturday, so on October 10 and November 14, bring your own mug and enjoy some of our fresh coffee, while meeting your neighbors.

The Changing Season. As the summer ends, so does the growing season. A number of gardeners replanted a second mid-summer crop that will produce in mid-fall. But for others, it's time to clean out the beds, discard de-

bris or infested plants, add compost, and plant a fall garden or prepare the plot for winter.

In 1999 when the garden began, Atlanta was in growing zone 7B. But with a warming climate and more buildings and concrete, the city has trapped more heat, and Atlanta is now in growing zone 8B. This has meant changing what we plant and when we plant. In late September, gardeners can plant broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and collards, as well as root crops like carrots, beets, turnips, and leafy greens.

Garden Friends and Foes. The mosquito buckets have worked well this

Cont. on p. 11

Lake Claire Neighborhood Dues

Suggested annual dues are **\$25/year** per household. We rely on—and appreciate—your willingness and generosity to help LCN to serve the community. Please 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. Please note any family members' names you'd like included here. And, we still have a great promotion—\$5 off the Lake Claire banner, when you buy a banner at the time you pay dues.

These folks have paid since the last issue:

Sarah Goodfellow, Will Stultz, Sara Gottlieb, Alex Hendershot, Lesley Lochridge, Noah Glassman, Susanne Hollinger, The Mohan family

THANKS TO ALL! Be famous, and be listed in a future issue! (And most important, of course, support the 'hood and its good causes.)

SUNDAY SLOWDOWNS

FALL MUSIC SERIES & BYO
PICNIC AT THE LCCLT
5:30P-8P

4 OCT
GIDDY UP

11 OCT
ALO VER MUSIC
BROTHER SAM & THE
PEACHTREE RAMBLERS

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Annual Craft Fair

Continued from page 1.



Photos by Debbie Livingston

of your proceeds will be donated to some of the Midtown Cluster Schools, as are sponsors' monies, minus minimal costs such as flyers and a small amount to Lake Claire Neighbors for costs.

Register now! The month of October is the time for artists, sponsors, food vendors, and hosts to register (deadline Friday, November 6). Register at our website: www.lakeclairecraftfair.com. Registration is confirmed when you receive the written confirmation, usually



within a week of registering.

Mark your calendars to come enjoy the ambiance of the day, while buying local, handmade presents! If you have any questions, please reach out to lakeclairecraftfair@gmail.com, and we will happily answer you.

Mulberry Fields News

Continued from page 10.

year. And we have learned a lot about managing and caring of this mosquito control system, making it more comfortable in the garden. We learned, for example, that during periods of plentiful and frequent rain, we have serviced the buckets more frequently, emptying excess water and adding another BTI dunk about every two to three weeks; during hot and dry times the buckets can be serviced once a month. And adding to our success ridding the garden of pesky mosquitos, several neighbors around the garden are also using this bucket method to control mosquitos, which has added to its effectiveness of our buckets. The honeybees, lady bugs, and butterflies thank us for using this non-toxic mosquito control method. We also have noticed a huge decrease in fire ants this year, likely due to the

construction project last year in the green space that also disrupted ant nests deep in the ground. All the while, native plants around the garden are attracting more pollinators.

Garden Rentals. Mulberry is now open for birthday parties or small school field trips. All the rental information is on our website www.friendsmulberryfields.org/.

Coming Improvements. The Friends of Mulberry Fields crew has formed a new committee exploring options for capital improvements in the garden. The options we are considering for the upcoming year include building a gazebo, installing a composting toilet, and upgrading the fencing around the animal pens to increase safety for the animals and our guests.

Heath: An Everyday Shelter Story

Continued from page 6.

Aug 20: The Incident. This happened on the day Heath was neutered and was still feeling the effect of surgery and anesthesia. It resulted in his being removed from the public area adoption floor and housed in the isolation kennels. The ACS was having issues getting the leash off Heath, while he was fine leashing from the cleaning kennel and was able to place him back into his kennel with no issues, but his leash got tangled under his plastic recovery cone. The ACS attempted to untangle the leash, and Heath attempted to bite him. I went to assist. When he exited the kennel, he immediately got stiff, turned around and lunged for me, I straight-armed him to keep him away and was able to straddle him to prevent him from lunging for me again while I attempted to clip the figure 8, which failed. He continued to try to bite me multiple times but due to him having a cone on he did not make contact.

Aug. 22: Volunteer note. I have passed Heath a number of times yesterday and today while he has been in his kennel; he's always been calm, approached the door and taken treats from my hand gently. Today I met him for the first time outside of his kennel when another volunteer brought him into the Food Storage Room. He enthusiastically greeted me and about five other women in the room with a wiggly body, soliciting pets, affection, and gently taking any treats on offer from everyone. He was engaging and responsive when I called him over (with a wiggly body, licking, and puppy enthusiasm); conversely, he took direction about things like having his feet in my lap or nibbling playfully on jewelry when those behaviors were not welcome. I pet him on his face, back, and legs and handed his leash near his neck; he remained wiggly with soft body language and friendly disposition. I felt comfortable interacting with him for the duration of our visit.

Aug 23-Sept 11: I (Scott) walked Heath almost every day in this time, and all I experienced was one



of the sweetest dogs I had ever met at the shelter, loved by all.

Sept 8: Placed on the euthanasia list with a Sept 11 "deadline". Heath had several adoption inquiries but no solid takers by Sept 11. His "deadline" was extended by 24 hours. Long story short, his restriction of "no out-of-state adopters" was lifted and a wonderful couple from Indiana drove overnight on Sept 12/13. I have had updates and photos from the adopters who say he is the perfect dog!

I hope this chronology of staff and volunteer experiences with Heath provides insight into the daily challenges of caring for **500** dogs, a story that is repeated in some fashion 500 times a day.

Editor's note: Pet owners are familiar with reactions to those recovery cones—"cones of shame." This story really hit me when I thought of that stress coupled with the stress of being abandoned and confined in a kennel. The day-to-day accomplishments of Lifeline and its volunteers are amazing. Please, if you are able, help in some way, be it fostering or donating. This month is "Adopt a Shelter Dog" month. How about a unique birthday president of sponsoring in someone's honor? Here is a link: lifelineanimal.org/donate-today/.

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*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rates are effective as of the date of publication and subject to change without notice. A \$500 minimum deposit is required. New money must come from another financial institution. Membership eligibility is required.

Upcoming & Ongoing at the Land Trust

Sat., Oct. 3: Fall Plant Sale, 9 a.m.–noon. It's that time again! This twice-yearly sale benefits the Land Trust as well as beautifying your yard. All proceeds benefit the Land Trust.

Sat., Oct. 3: Land Trust Drum Circle, 8–11 p.m. (and every month on the 1st Sat.), \$5 donation requested. No alcohol please. Rain date: Rain date: Oct. 17.

Sat./Sun., Oct. 3 & 4: Candler Park Fall Festival, 11 a.m.–7 p.m. The Lake Claire Community Land Trust will have a table at the Candler Park Fall Fest this year! Stop by to learn more, become a sustaining member, and support the LCCLT by purchasing an ice dyed T-shirt and hand designed stickers. If you would like to volunteer at the table, email info@LCCLT.org.

Sun., Oct. 4: Blair Witch Gathering, 3–5 p.m. For six years, the neighborhood's Blair Witch has been a beloved symbol of fall and a community tradition rooted in creativity, care, and welcoming what may seem unfamiliar. Join us for a public potluck as Micheal guides us in gathering natural materials and building Blair together in the Land Trust amphitheater. Guests can help construct and decorate her or create wreaths, welcome notes, and other natural decorations. Afterward, stay for the first **Sunday Slow Down** concert of the season featuring GiddyUp!

Sun., Oct. 4: Sunday Slowdown Music Series, 5:30–8 p.m. Free live music series every Sunday in October highlighting talented musicians from Lake Claire and surrounding neighborhoods. Bring your own picnic dinner. GiddyUp will kick off the Sunday evening music series. GiddyUp arose at the Lake Claire Crafts Festival December 2025 and includes Paul Shaw (guitar and vocals), Mel Shaw (vocals), Adam Fristoe (mandolin and vocals), Leonard Wortzel (banjo), and Frank Williams (fiddle). A twangy musical uplift with hints of folk, bluegrass, originals, and eclectic tunes from across the board that will get you up out of your seat—GiddyUp—to boggiewoggie with the beat. (GiddyUp will be back THIS next Crafts Fest, December 5!)

Sun., Oct. 11: Death Café with Denise Johnson of EOL 101, 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., Oct. 11: LCCLT board meeting, 4:30–6 p.m. (every month on the 2nd Sunday) in the Greenfield around a picnic table. All are welcome to sit in and speak up. Come in person, or contact us at info@LCCLT.org for a Zoom link.

Sun., Oct. 11: Sunday Slowdown Music Series, 5:30–8 p.m. See description Oct. 4. This week, Alo Ver Music and Brother Sam will perform. Alo Ver blends traditional Appalachian sounds with contemporary folk influences, specializing in clawhammer. Sam of Brother Sam & the Peachtree Ramblers is a local Georgia singer and songwriter who plays Americana, country, rock, and acoustic music. Also will appear at December 5 Crafts Fest this year!

Mon., Oct. 12: Monday Play Group, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (and every Monday except the first Monday of the month). Join this playful gathering with your children ages 6 and under. Contribution of \$10/drop-in or \$15 monthly per family.

Tue., Oct. 13: Community Potluck Dinner, 6–8 p.m. We're excited to bring back our monthly Community Potluck Dinners! Please bring a dish, dessert, or beverage to share. To help keep cleanup simple, we encourage everyone to bring their own plate, cup, and eating utensils.

Sat., Oct. 17: Community Work Day, 1–4 p.m. (and every month on the 3rd Saturday). We'll be weeding, spreading wood chips, doing special projects, and more. Bring drinking water and work gloves. Rain date: 4th Saturday. (Check the website if the weather is iffy.) **Workday hours have switched back to afternoon hours (1–4 p.m.)**

Sat., Oct. 17: 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.

Sun., Oct. 18: Sunday Slowdown Music Series, 5:30–8 p.m. Stings and Keys, John Mickelson & Rex Hussman are both neighborhood music teachers who live to play music, and love to share it with the world.

Mon., Oct. 19: Monday Play Group, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (and every Monday except the first Monday of the month). See Oct. 12 for details.

Sat., Oct. 24: WEST (formerly Webster) Annual LCCLT FUNdraiser, 5–10 p.m. Neighborhood band WEST (formerly Webster) is known for its blend of jam, rock, blues, bluegrass, country, and more, is back for its annual LCCLT fundraiser. Performing with Neil's Dead Phish with special guest KJ & The FunkMaysons. \$10 suggested donation to the LCCLT with kids being free. Food and Drinks available. See flyer on Page 7.

Sun., Oct. 25: Annual Pumpkin Carving Potluck, 3–5 p.m. This family event is one of our oldest community traditions. Pumpkins are provided; bring kids, carving utensils, and a dish or snack to share. If you would like to volunteer to help with clean-up, please email info@LCCLT.org. Stay for the Sunday Slowdown Halloween inspired music series and to see your pumpkins illuminated on stage. See flyer Page 7.

Sun., Oct. 25: Sunday Slowdown Music Series, 5:30–8 p.m. Noisy Neighbors and Mid Rangers will be closing out the series and performing a spooky inspired set list! Check the website at www.LCCLT.org/new-events for more information on these awesome bands.

Mon., Oct. 26: Monday Play Group, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (and every Monday except the first Monday of the month). See Oct. 12 for details

Tues., Oct. 27: 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 and updates, visit www.LCCLT.org/new-events.

For details and updates, visit www.LCCLT.org/new-events.

LAND TRUST NOTES

Sunday Slowdown Music Series is a free live music series every Sunday in October highlighting talented musicians from Lake Claire and surrounding neighborhoods. Bring your own picnic dinner, settle in around the amphitheater, and enjoy time slowing down and connecting with neighbors, friends, family, and the LCCLT. See each date for band details.

Community Work Day hours have moved back to the afternoon, 1–4 p.m.

Acoustic Open Mic has moved to the last Tuesday of the month.





LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion writers and artists to participate in our 'hood. Adler Waugh is this issue's featured writer. He lives on Leonardo and is a 10th grader at Midtown

High. Instead of his personal picture, we've included the poster for the contest below. Thanks, Adler, for your volunteerism. Any Lake Claire child or young adult who wants to add your creativity to this page,

send to editor@lakeclaire.org, by **OCTOBER 18** for the next issue (**NOVEMBER—already?!**). And stay tuned for next month for the story of a very unique pet – a snail!!



Halloween and Cross-Neighborhood Initiatives

by Adler Waugh

I'm a 10th grader at Midtown HS, and I enjoy volunteering on the joint Candler Park/Lake Claire Halloween decorating contest to raise money that benefits CPNO initiatives. Lake Claire residents also benefit, since we in LC use much of the CP facilities, parks, businesses. It's a fun way to encourage cross-neighborhood coordination. And, I like Halloween.

New Contest

Hi kids, did you know that October is National Book Month, ADHD Awareness Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Depression Awareness Month, LGBTQ+ History Month, and Adopt a Shelter-Dog Month? Wow! Many good causes! And of course, Halloween falls

Contest Winners

Our first-place winner this month is Blaire Kelley, who just turned 7 on 9/21, is in 1st grade, at Mary Lin, and lives on Hardendorf. Congrats, Blaire!

In 2nd place is Susannah Arillo. Susannah is age 6, on Gordon Avenue, in the first grade—and she wins extra credit for giving us some pirate talk, saying wryly: “Walk the plank!”

And these tied for third place: Dawson Oates, 9, 4th grade at Mary Lin (whom I forgot last time!), on Hardendorf; Samuel Jackson, 10 years old in the 5th grade at Mary Lin, on Connecticut; Summer and Willow Barton (Summer is seven, in 2nd grade, and Willow is five and in Kindergarten, both at Mary Lin) on Southerland Place. Summer & Willow win extra credit for giving us pirate talk, saying “Argh, matey, scallyway.” Extra credit wins you the honor of being one of our featured writers in a future month. **Congrats to all of you!**

Parents: 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!**

in October, so to win this month, find a pumpkin in the paper and tell us the page number. The winner/winners will be pictured in the next Clarion. For extra credit, say something about any of those special days I mentioned. Email editor@lakeclaire.org, identifying the page number, and include your name, age, school, street, and grade, along



Blaire, first place winner



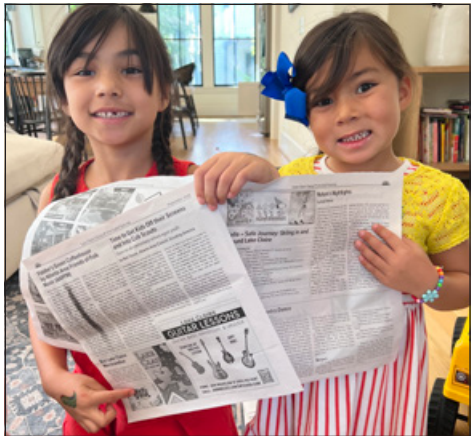
Susannah, second place winner



Dawson, tied for third place



Samuel, tied for third place



Summer and Willow, tied for third place

with a photo of yourself. (Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you cannot win two months in a row.) The extra-credit prize is that you'll be a featured writer/artist in a future Lake Claire Clarion. **The deadline is OCTOBER 18. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this HIGHLY coveted prize.**