

Mayor's Message
June, 2008



Again this year the City is throwing a party for its citizens to **celebrate July 4th**. At 10:45 AM the parade will line up at Berkeley Lake Elementary School. There will be a contest this year in 5 categories for the Best Decorated Pet, Child, Adult, Car, and Bike/Trike/Scooter. We will march at 11 AM and eat barbeque at the picnic grounds at 11:30. Remember that we don't want to use your tax money to feed the world at large, so this is for Berkeley Lake families and personal guests only. In case of rain we'll cancel the parade and eat in the Chapel. If you are willing to help with decorating, serving, or cleanup, please call Kay Lee ASAP. City residents are welcome to stay and enjoy the picnic grounds (thanks to BLHA) for the rest of the day, but please dispose of your trash appropriately. Swimming from the picnic area dock and fireworks are prohibited.

Gene Rodgers of our city staff is distributing a mosquito larvacide around the City. I urge everyone to be even more diligent than in previous years about emptying any water containers around their homes, such as flower pots, etc. **We need to be very cautious about mosquitoes.** They're a health risk, not just an irritant; especially to kids and elders.

Council has decided to **lower the millage rate** for our property taxes, continuing a downward trend. In 2003-5 the millage rate was 4.350. In 2006-7 it went down to 4.100. In 2008 it will be lowered again to 3.663.

We have received the **Tree City USA** recognition again for the 9th consecutive year. I have also received a letter from the National Arbor Day Foundation which says in part, "We noticed that Berkeley Lake was recognized in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* for your community's commitment to trees and the environment." They wanted to congratulate us, so I pass that on to you.

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Our City now has an ordinance requiring **business licenses**. If you have a business in our city, including the ones that are approved home occupations, please complete the application by downloading them from our website or pick an application up at City Hall. Select *Government*, then *Forms* from the main menu on the city website.

Our **Memorial Day observance** had a great turnout and seemed to be appreciated by all who attended. There are some wonderful pictures on the main page of our website. Many thanks to Britt Collins for all his efforts in organizing this event, to the BLOKES who cooked for us, to Mr. John Collins who welcomed us to his property on that day, and to our city staff who worked hard in preparation for the event. Thanks most of all to our veterans whom we sought to honor, and to all those who have served our country throughout the years.

As you know our City staff has taken on some heavy responsibilities in order to shield our citizens from the county **stormwater utility fees**. Recently they successfully withstood a Stormwater Compliance Inspection by the state Environmental Protection Division. They are preparing for another series of audits in late summer by the North Georgia Water Planning District.

I hope you are following our progress toward the creation of a **Comprehensive Plan** for the City through the year 2030. There have been multiple meetings to obtain citizen input and there is a link on our website for your comments as well. You can access the most recent draft of the document from the website as well as maps, visions and goals statements, and all sorts of related information.

Did you know that Berkeley Lake has its own **Meals on Wheels** program? Tracy Baird is the coordinator, and she needs volunteers who will be able to go around lunchtime to pick up the meals over on Howell Ferry Road and deliver them to just one home in our City. You can do this weekly, every other week, or once every four weeks. She also needs substitutes who can fill in on an as-needed basis. There are no weekend deliveries. Please email (tracy.baird@comcast.net) or call (678-969-0266) if you would be willing to help in any way.

We have some new flowers and landscaping around **City Hall** to keep it looking nice until the new one can be built. Information about that planning is available on our website.

Lisa D. Halter