



June 12, 2012



Welcome to Pat Chapman, our new Deputy City Administrator. She is doing a wonderful job and I hope you will have the chance to meet her soon if you haven't already. She replaces Leigh Threadgill who was celebrated by a host of well-wishers recently at the reception before our last council meeting. Leigh is pictured here with city residents Susan Hanson, Chris Holben and Randy Kirkus. Many thanks to Lane Shutt and Kay Lee for organizing such a nice occasion for us all. Below are **my thoughts about Leigh** as she leaves us.



Years ago when I faced the daunting task of replacing Jackie Wall, Leigh Threadgill was recommended to me by someone who knew her well, and whom I trusted completely. He described Leigh as having "extreme smarts, the absolute highest integrity, and genuine kindness for everybody." Even though that was high praise, it turned out to be a surprisingly accurate description, and she turned out to be an amazing asset to our city. After politely declining my persistent efforts to hire her several times, she finally consented to leave a good job with benefits and join us. Later I wondered guiltily sometimes if she regretted the decision. We certainly never did. Leigh came to work for us in a converted bait shack. Does anyone remember the tiny storage cupboard in which you couldn't even stand up? No heat. No air conditioning. That's where Leigh would crouch to provide nourishment for her baby. There were a hundred other inconveniences, but Leigh never complained. The previously described "genuine kindness for everybody" actually came with a sunny disposition that surmounted difficulties with a smile.

Leigh was the City of Berkeley Lake's first employee who had professional experience and training in public administration and government. Historically the City had been richly blessed by others who served us with dedication and very hard work, but until Pat Chapman came recently as her replacement, none of us knew the kind of stuff that Leigh knows. We have all relied on her over and over to guide us through the incredible changes our city has undergone in recent years. It would be hard to overstate the scope or import of all these changes; and it was hard not only to accomplish them but to keep us out of trouble in the process. Looking back now it seems to be a Godsend that she came to us when she did, and stayed as long. As Tom Rozier has said so succinctly, "Leigh was just a gift."

***Leigh, it is very hard to lose you.
Your imprint will be on this city forever.
And we will be forever grateful.***



Besides the reception for Leigh we've had some other nice events recently. Our **local Girl Scout troop planted a butterfly garden** across from City Hall with the assistance of their leader Wendy Weber, BL Conservancy chair Susan Hanson, and Kathy Sanders. Thanks to our new business neighbor Greg Sampson of Zaxby's who provided chicken sandwiches for all the scouts and those who attended the dedication of their butterfly garden.

As it happened, the same day the girl scouts were celebrating, Carol Seitz and her Arts Committee folks were having their grand opening across the street at City Hall of their latest show in the Blue Heron Gallery. It's one of the best they've ever done and if you haven't seen **Walk on the Wildside**, I urge you not to miss it. Here's a picture of some of the scouts when they went over to join the "wild" folks.



The **Lakeside Market is doing well on Thursdays from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM** and they're even having live music most days making it a really pleasant community event. Come, bring a friend, and be aware that there's usually parking in the Chapel spaces that aren't visible from the street because of the vendors set up there. Last time I went people were parking at City Hall and walking across the street when there were lots of open spaces right there at the Chapel.

We have some places in the right-of-way along our roadsides where shrubbery and underbrush is encroaching again. This becomes dangerous both for walkers who have no place to get off the road quickly when a car approaches, and also to drivers who can't see ahead a safe distance particularly on curves. **The City is about to send out a crew to cut vegetation back** to improve this situation as we did a few years ago. As then, we are letting you know in advance so that if you prefer to do the cutting in front of your house you may do so. Just be sure you do it within the next two weeks. We plan to begin our project on or shortly after Monday, June 25th.

Again this year the City is working with BLHA to help our citizens **celebrate July 4th**. The City will rent the Chapel and provide prizes for children's games. BLHA will have food for sale after the parade at the Chapel.

As many of you know, we now have approximately 100 new businesses in our expanded city limits. I want to encourage everyone to buy locally whenever possible so each month I will be **featuring a few of these new business neighbors** to let you know what products and services are available right here in Berkeley Lake. This month's featured businesses are:

[Flower Expression 404-921-4099](#) - Lisa Widjaja, owner

Online florist and gift shop serving the Berkeley Lake and Duluth areas. Family owned and operated.

[Berkeley Lake Pet Boutique 678-206-0777](#) - Teresa Torres, owner

Professional grooming services and products for all breed of cats and dogs in a low stress grooming environment. Over 23 years of experience.

[Avala International, Inc. 770-453-9688](#)- Nancy Zeng, owner

Lamps, accessories and wall décor. Hand-thrown and hand-decorated Chinese porcelains. Handcrafted solid-wood Chinese furniture reproductions.

Please keep in mind the **upcoming T-SPLOST referendum** on July 31st. I urge everyone to become informed about this important regional transportation improvement issue and vote. You can get more information from the [Department of Transportation website](#) or from the [Atlanta Regional Commission website](#). It is not too late to register to vote on July 31st. The deadline to register is Tuesday, July 2. To register, contact the Gwinnett County Voter Registration and Elections office at 678-226-7210 or [Voter Registration website](#) for instructions. Don't forget that also on July 31st is Berkeley Lake's freeport exemption referendum. Early voting begins July 9. Check back on the city website for further information and a sample ballot.

We have just renewed our partnership with Gwinnett County for participating in the federally-funded Community Development programs. One that may be of particular interest to our residents is the **Housing Rehabilitation Program that can assist homeowners who meet income and other eligibility requirements** with major repairs such as replacing roofs, heating equipment, faulty wiring or plumbing, installing insulation and making a home more accessible for a disabled person. Anyone interested in getting more information can stop by City Hall for a brochure or [find it on the city website](#). You can also call the Gwinnett County Community Development Program directly at 678-518-6008.

