



August 3, 2015



Thanks to all who came out to enjoy our **city's July 4th festivities**. We always have a good time, even in spite of a rain delay this year. Thanks also to Greg Sampson, owner of our Berkeley Lake Zaxby's, who donated gift cards for prizes in our children's games.



Our next city celebration is the **Fall Festival on Saturday, October 3 from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM**. There will be bouncy houses, children's games, food, boat rides, and live music, so save the date!

Last time our Berkeley Lake Conservancy hosted a program it filled up City Hall, so I'm excited about their next one. Join us to hear their special invited guest Ron Smith speak about "**Planting a Pollinator**



Garden" on Saturday, September 12 at 1:00 PM in City Hall. His talk will be

followed by a walk to nearby Henderson Nature Sanctuary to see the pollinator plants that our Berkeley Lake Conservancy members have planted there. Ron is one of the



leaders of the Georgia Native Plant Society and the [Greater Atlanta Pollinator Partnership](#). Come learn how to invite some butterflies

into your yard! To reserve a seat, e-mail Roxanne Egan at City Hall, deputy.clerk@berkeley-lake.com

Our Berkeley Lake Conservancy would also like to thank and congratulate all of our neighbors who have worked hard to **clean up some invasive non-native plants**, such as Chinese privet, on

their property. Removing these plants is important for the overall ecology and wellbeing of the natural habitat in our beautiful city. Privet is a successful invasive species because of its ability to outcompete and therefore displace native vegetation, and that causes problems. Special thanks to the Lee family, 66 Lakeshore Drive, for the effort of cleaning up their property this spring. If you have a problem identifying these plants, contact Susan Hanson or one of the other Berkeley Lake Conservancy leaders and they can help.

I thought you might like to read about us in a recent [Atlanta Magazine article](#). I’m not sure how they found out about Berkeley Lake but they said nice things.

I hope everybody is enjoying their **City Directories** on which our staff worked so hard. Special thanks to **Marilyn Suriani** who donated the beautiful artwork that adorns its cover.

It’s back to school time. If you can contribute a backpack, pencils, or other **school supplies** for a needy child at our Berkeley Lake Elementary School, please drop them by City Hall. I’ll get them delivered for a little person who needs them.

I recently took two of my own little persons to see the current exhibit at Oglethorpe University Museum of Art which features **beautiful sculptures of birds done by Berkeley Lake artist Lee Letts**. You can see it, too, if you get there before August 23. Click [here](#) for more details about the exhibit.



We haven’t had any unusual **coyote** activity, but we all know they’re an ongoing presence in suburban neighborhoods now, so I’m sharing some info here that I found on www.urbancoyoteproject.com. They have some helpful suggestions about what to do if you run into one while walking your dog. I do that daily and have never seen a coyote, but that doesn’t mean I won’t; so I think it’s helpful to be prepared. They suggest that you keep your dog on a 6 foot leash. This length is long enough to let your dog have some freedom but not so long that you can't easily control your dog should you need to, especially at a moment's notice. Be especially alert if walking your dog at sunrise and sunset hours and stay out of overgrown brushy areas. If you come across a coyote, stand tall in an assertive posture. They are wary of humans and your presence is usually enough to drive off a coyote. Maintain eye contact and yell at him. Do not turn your back on the coyote and do not run. Running away can trigger a coyote’s prey drive and may cause him or her to chase you. Avoid leaving your pet outside alone, especially at night, and don’t keep pet food outside.

I recently attended a meeting with other mayors at which the results of a survey of local **“Millenials”** by the Atlanta Regional Commission was discussed. I thought it was interesting for our city’s future planning, and you might as well. If so, see the survey results [here](#).



Congratulations to Rebecca Spitler who has been chosen for the Regional Leadership Institute. She and other outstanding leaders in our state will benefit from training and working together for the good of us all. Besides being our Berkeley Lake Mayor Pro Tempore, Rebecca is president of the Georgia Piedmont Land Trust and serves on the Executive Board of the Gwinnett Municipal Association.

The Gwinnett County Office of Emergency Management is offering **free Community Emergency Response Team training**. It starts Tuesday, September 8. Participants will be trained in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Courses are open to all Gwinnett County residents 18 years and older who pass a background check provided by the Gwinnett County Police Department. The training consists of eight sessions that take place from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM on Tuesdays. A course review and disaster simulation will take place on Saturday, October 24 from 8:00 AM to noon. For more information or to sign up for the courses, please e-mail ema@gwinnettcountry.com. Sign up soon; class size is limited to 25 participants, and it would be great to have some folks with this training in our neighborhoods.

The **Turkey Trot for Berkeley Lake Elementary School is Saturday, November 7**. Many of you enjoy this fun run every year, and the school appreciates the support. Please save the date and I’ll share more details when I get them.

Support our Berkeley Lake businesses!

Agha Restaurant - 4790 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Suite 112, 678-368 4186.

Agha Restaurant is a casual dining Indian/Pakistani restaurant serving authentic dishes from the Far East. Specializing in traditional vegetarian and non-vegetarian curry items, they also have a wide variety of snack and quick bites as well as an extensive lineup of flavorful desserts. Agha offers a daily buffet serving a variety of vegetable, chicken and beef dishes, with new menu items every day. Hours are Sunday—Thursday: 11:30 AM to 10:00 PM and Friday—Saturday: 11:30 AM to 11:00 PM. See www.AghaRestaurant.com

