



March 16, 2018

There's been some interest already in our yearly **Earth Day** celebration. We're having it this year on Saturday, April 21 from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Our staff will be on hand at City Hall, along with vendors and volunteers to assist you with shredding documents, disposal of unwanted items and recycling of others.

- Advanced Disposal will be accepting yard waste and large household items such as desks, mattresses, box springs, etc.
- Crawford Metal Recycling will be accepting scrap metal, appliances, lawn mowers, grills, car and truck batteries, and other metal items.
- Iron Mountain will be providing onsite shredding. **Thanks to the Rice Settlege Team** for sponsoring part of the shredding cost.

**Please remember that this service is provided by the City of Berkeley Lake at no cost only to citizens, so bring your identification showing a Berkeley Lake address** in order to dispose of or recycle items. The following items will not be accepted: construction debris, wet paints, entire trees, televisions, microwave ovens, tires. If you need to dispose of a television, please call Advanced Disposal at [\(678\) 495-0058](tel:6784950058) to make arrangements with them to pick the television up at your home.



**All Berkeley Lake kids are invited to the BLOSOMS' Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 31 at 10:00 AM at the Chapel.** There will be categories by age, up to 12 years old, so even the littlest will have a chance of getting some eggs with candy and toys, and Golden Eggs for special prizes! The BLOSOMS ladies will be setting up at 8:30 AM and could use some grownup help in hiding the eggs. Call Jill Rice or Tanya Oskey to volunteer.

This picture also brings to mind today's **Hometown Hero**. That's **Debbie Peters** with the Easter Bunny. She led the Chapel as its president for 8 years, and you've also seen her helping kids daily to cross the street near the school. When her home burned a few years ago, she says her neighbors were her best asset. "Here in Berkeley Lake, everyone is family, with sincere and meaningful relationships." When asked what she would change, she thinks we all, not just kids, need a reduction in screen time. "Personal connections are being lost, and they are our real treasure."

**Wayne and Fran Mitsch have won Berkeley Lake’s Yard of the Month award** for March. Congratulations to them and thanks to the Rice Settlege Team of Keller Williams which sponsors this monthly recognition for our city. Fran and Wayne have a beautiful woodland garden full of native azaleas, Lenten roses, rhododendrons and lots of hostas. Ask them to show you the Mitsch Daffodil, or some of the double blooming daffodils transplanted from an aunt’s garden in the North. They have done a beautiful job of incorporating native ferns, hearts a-bustin’, anise and other deer resistant plants around beautiful sunset views of Berkeley Lake. Their home is nestled in a quiet private cove which they share with deer, foxes, coyotes and perhaps an occasional beaver.



Marsha Anderson Bomar, whom I know as a Duluth City Council member and Executive Director of the Gateway 85 Community Improvement District, is doing a **Women’s History Month presentation at the Duluth public library on Tuesday evening, March 20 at 6:00 PM.** I have heard her speak before and think you might find this to be an interesting evening.



Some of our local runners enjoyed the **Wildcat 5K Fun Run/Walk** through downtown Duluth last year which raises money for our local high school football team. It will take place again this year on Saturday, April 21 at 8:00 AM. You can sign up [here](#).

I recently met with some of the local leadership for **Georgia Power** for a review of their response to Hurricane Irma, the most recent big storm that hit us so hard. Irma’s damage was a real challenge for Georgia Power because so many personnel and resources had been sent to Texas for Hurricane Harvey, and then sent to Florida where Irma was expected to be the worst. When Irma veered, the damage was unexpectedly severe in our state and Georgia Power pulled repair crews from as far away as Canada to help us. Hurricanes are certainly unpredictable, but I believe every effort was made to help us get back to normal as quickly as possible. They also wanted us to know that they are upgrading their communication to customers’ cell phones. In a storm damage situation, you can now use your cell to access outage maps and information, get text updates for your specific location, etc. which should be helpful. Let’s hope we don’t need help anytime soon!

As most of you know, our city has been awarded the **Tree City recognition** every year since 2000. One of the requirements which must be met yearly is community planting of trees to celebrate Arbor Day. Thanks go to our Berkeley Lake Conservancy chair Susan Hanson and member Chris Kimberley who are seen here planting for us all.



My neighboring mayor of Duluth, Nancy Harris, serves on the Board of Directors for the Atlanta Regional Commission. The ARC studies and attempts to provide guidance for municipal and county governments throughout the metro area, so talking with Nancy is quite educational. I learned from her that **Gwinnett will soon overtake Fulton as the most populous county** in the state and that the **aging** of our population and **transportation** difficulties for us all are major concerns. By 2030, 1 in 4 people in metro Atlanta

will be over 60, affecting plans for housing, healthcare, and mobility, among other things. Nobody needs to tell you that transportation is a huge problem here because we all struggle with traffic, affecting businesses’ desire to locate here (bringing jobs), and our quality of life in general. Nancy says that 70% of commuters in the metro area cross two or more county lines to get to work, so transportation is not just a local county problem but a regional issue that will require regional solutions.

I learned at another meeting that traffic is expected to get exponentially worse as more shipping comes into the deepened port at Savannah. That is a very good thing for our state’s economy and they’re adding these huge cranes to unload containers from the ships which will then be transferred by trucks up through Georgia to the whole Eastern seaboard. However, the increasing truck traffic through Atlanta will have significant impact on our already overcrowded roads. Ugh!



**Welcome to Todd Wilhite who has recently been hired as another City Marshal.** Gene is introducing him around, so some of you may have met him already. Todd spent 20 years as a police officer, retiring as a Sergeant, in a city where he supervised the Community Policing Unit for 6 of those years. He also supervised other units, winning two Medals of Honor, and the Chief’s Special Recognition Award twice. He and his wife have two children. Todd told me that, although he met some very interesting people in the back of his police car, he never felt he had to berate them. He tried to treat them all “as if they were my grandmother.”



**Sunday Kind of Groove Concerts return! Mark your calendar:**

**April 22, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Behind the Chapel**

**Raffle for Berkeley Lake Elementary School led by our neighbor and BLES Principal Dr. Lesley Pendleton.**

**DIVAS! Greatest Hits of Linda Ronstadt, Carole King & Stevie Nicks**

Click [here](#) for info and tickets

Sunday Kind of Groove Concerts are outdoor, bring-your-picnic style on beautiful Lake Berkeley and benefit the Duluth Cluster Schools Foundation. DCSF provides the extras (technology, equipment) that our schools so sorely need but which are not provided by tax dollars.

Here is the info on the other 2018 concerts:

[May 20 - BEATLES! The Big Chicken Beatles Band!](#)

[September 16 -- THE BILLY JACKS! Smokey 70s Classic Rock!](#)

[October 14 – A Magnificent Carole King Tribute! Up On The Roof!](#)

If you prefer to buy tickets in advance by check and/or purchase multiple events, please e-mail [ak509@bellsouth.net](mailto:ak509@bellsouth.net) or call 770-368-2076.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day to everybody!

*Lisa D. Salter*

