



June 27, 2018

Our city works hard to keep the big picture in mind and to plan ahead, rather than just reacting to things as they pop up. To do that proactively we hold meetings with our “stakeholders” every few years to reconsider what we’ve accomplished and what needs doing. We meet with these community leaders and regular citizens to solicit their input and suggestions which are then incorporated by our City Council into a **Comprehensive Plan**. This is used to guide the city into the next few years with clarified goals and measurable outcomes. You may read our last Comprehensive Plan [here](#) and if you want to participate in the planning process, let me know or call Pat Chapman in City Hall. We value your opinion and your time.

It’s almost time for another **Berkeley Lake parade!** Decorate your cars, kids, pets, and people and join the parade at Berkeley Lake Elementary on Wednesday, July 4 at 11:00 AM. We will begin to march about 11:30 AM. When the parade concludes at the Chapel, there will be the usual fun and face painting for the kids. Hot dogs, drinks, and other goodies will be available for purchase



and all our City Council members will be helping everybody celebrate. Scott Lee will be playing music and Chip McDaniel is bringing his popcorn machine. Rodney Hammond and Bob Smith will be entertaining dignitaries. Rebecca Spitler and her husband, Brigadier General Rex Spitler, will be leading the parade in their truck with me and Scott Hilton in the back. Scott Hilton, as many of you know, is our Representative to the State House. Our State Senator David Shafer has attended in past years, but he will be off campaigning for Lt. Governor that day. I

have invited the two people running to replace David to come and visit with you at our festivities so you can get to know them a little bit. Republican candidate [Matt Reeves](#) is coming with his wife Suzette. Democratic candidate Zahra Karinshak will be out of town that day, but you can read about her [here](#). In case of rain, check the Nextdoor website for information about possible changes. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Today’s Hometown Hero is the one you’ll see on July 4th cooking hot dogs for everybody as he has for many years – Lou Mitcham. When asked what he does for fun he said, “Helping other

people; helping people helps God to answer prayers.” Accordingly, he has served our city for many years as its Charity Coordinator, organizing clothing, food, and school supply drives for the Norcross Cooperative Ministry where he volunteers regularly. I think his favorite campaign is for Christmas toys. Here’s a picture of him presenting a check to the Co-op, having already unloaded a bunch of toys for kids into their warehouse.



Thanks to Meredith Najewicz who this week discovered lots of bright green blobs (apparently paint) floating in the lake and spent considerable time trying to scoop them out with a strainer! I have written before in a Mayor’s Message urging everyone in our city to monitor carefully the workers that they hire for home projects. **Few cities are blessed with people who care as much about the environment as we do, and contractors are usually not aware of our expectations unless you discuss it with them in advance.** We have caught people before dumping paint in the lake, construction trash in the greenspace, and garbage on our roadsides. Don’t let this happen on your watch.



Many of you know **Dick Carothers** who has been our truly outstanding City Attorney for over 25 years. I am sorry to share with you that Dick took a fall last week and broke himself in multiple places. He has been in Gwinnett Medical Center in Lawrenceville with only one working appendage, his left arm, and is in a lot of pain, but has now been moved nearer to us at Joan Glancy Rehab Center. You may send your “get well” wishes or cards to 1809 Buford Highway, Buford, Georgia 30518.

Please remember to bring backpacks and school supplies to my office at City Hall. We always collect them in the summer for our needy kids at Berkeley Lake Elementary School. This year we need to double our efforts because we are also collecting for the [Georgia Foster Care Foundation](#) at the request of Cheryl Bridges who lives in Miramont. She’s trying to help kids who can’t currently live with their parents, and they (and their foster parents) truly need all the help they can get! Please bring as many school supplies as you possibly can, and imagine what it might feel like to be a kid with no shiny new Crayolas®, no backpack, with nothing at all in many cases. I get a kick every August picking out the latest boy backpack and girl backpack with accompanying stuff. It doesn’t cost much and will make you feel great! If you don’t have time to run by City Hall, call me or Cheryl and we’ll arrange to get them from you.



Heads up to the new law against holding cell phones while driving. There is lots of information out there about this and I won’t bore you by repeating it here, but if you need information, let me know. Just don’t be supporting a cell phone on any part of your body while driving after July 1, 2018. My son has already bought me some gizmo to attach mine to my car’s air conditioning vent. Hopefully, you can find something similar soon.

I am so excited to share the news that one of our City Councilmen has just won a very prestigious national honor! **Rodney Hammond**, who served for years as Chairman of our Planning and Zoning Commission before being elected to City Council, has been chosen by the American Psychological Association to receive the Presidential Citizen Psychologist Award in San Francisco this summer. Rodney, as most of you know, has been a huge asset to our city for many years and we’re so proud of him. Please congratulate him when you see him.



Joe and Brittany McDonald of Hermitage Plantation are this month's winners of **Yard of the Month**. They have the yard everyone loves in the spring, with beautiful azaleas, irises, and such green grass. They started with a good foundation, and especially love their perennials that return every year. Thank you, Joe and Brittany for making the drive on North Berkeley Lake Road and Frederica a beautiful one!

Our **Berkeley Lake business featured today is All Kids First**, an autism treatment center which has recently been nationally recognized and accredited by the Behavioral Health Center of Excellence. They work with students, families, and caregivers to maximize the potential of young people on the autism spectrum. They are located at 4720 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard and can be reached at (770) 558-6055. See [here](#) for more information.

Happy Fourth, everybody!

Lois D. Salter