



January 13, 2020

I want to **feature the BLOSOMS in this issue** because although we are a city of unusually committed volunteers and community caring, I can think of no other organization that does as much for our community as this one. Just in recent months the ladies have made and delivered floral arrangements to two senior centers, donated 53 new coats to Berkeley Lake Elementary, helped Norcross Co-op at their Merry Elves gifting event as well as making and delivering dinner to the local fire station.



BLOSOMS meets once a month September through May, on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7:00-9:00 PM. Dues are \$50 for the year and new members can join at any time in the year. Members can choose to participate in special interest groups like the following:



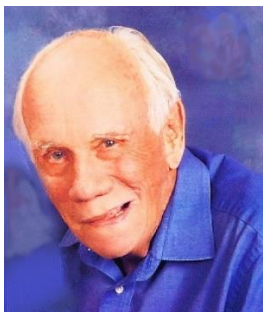
- **Book Club:** Monthly book reading and discussion
- **Care:** Additional ways to serve our community such as volunteers for BLES needs, Helping Mamas, Random Acts of Kindness, Second Helping Atlanta, plus driving and providing meals for BLOSOMS in need.
- **Crafters:** All kinds of fun crafts are made by these ladies who help each other through the process.
- **Foodies:** Cooking lessons; “what’s for dinner?”, demonstrating instructions on preparing your best recipes, wine tasting/pairing, field trips to local farmers’ markets
- **Gamers:** Monthly game night and game day to play cards, Mexican Train, charades, spoons and other games in a member’s home.
- **Line Dancing:** Alpharetta American Legion, Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM, Thursday nights in Duluth. New dancers are welcome, and instruction is included. The cost is \$10 per time for the instructor.
- **Lunch Bunch:** Monthly luncheons at different restaurants in the area.

- **Nights Out:** Attending concerts, evening lectures, movies or shows, botanical gardens and more.
- **Outdoor Adventurers:** Walking, water activities, hiking and biking.



The next meeting is January 21, 7:00 PM at the Chapel. I hope to see you there. Whether you are new to Berkeley Lake, or have lived here for years, you will be most welcome. Please contact Roni Pridemore (ronipride@gmail.com) or Shelley Waxweiler (shelwax@gmail.com) if you need more information. BLOSOMS are a real blessing to this community!

It seems that every year our city is recognized by some group or agency as the best of something, and none of these honors have been sought by us. You can read the latest [here](#) which **designates Berkeley Lake as the best suburb in all of Georgia, as published in USA Today** and 247 Wall St. – a business and investment publication.



I cannot note the passing of each citizen but I want to pay special honor to **Dick Lillie** who left this life on Christmas Day at the age of 96. Dick served our Navy in WW2 aboard an aircraft carrier and survived two kamikaze attacks on May 11, 1945, during the Battle of Okinawa. He was forced to abandon ship in shark infested waters and was rescued five hours later by a destroyer. In spite of that experience he continued to love the sea, taking his yacht the “Ebb Tide” up and down the

Atlantic and riding out hurricanes. I will remember Dick fondly as something of a hurricane himself and loved to listen to the stories he shared at some of our city’s Memorial Day events. He loved the home he made on our lake with his wife Gia, an outstanding artist who passed before him. He built this lighthouse there at the water’s edge. Dick was buried at the National Cemetery in Canton, Georgia on January 9, 2020 with full military honors, and he will be missed here in Berkeley Lake.



I want to thank the citizens of River District who came out on Christmas Day to pick up trash that had been dumped on Berkeley Lake Road. It is thought that someone had taken a bag of trash from a dumpster just outside our city to search for information that could be used for identity theft and then left the trash strewn along the roadside. Remember we have the shredder truck coming as always to Berkeley Lake’s Earth Day and **protect your information** until then. Many thanks to our neighbors who jumped so quickly on that trash on our roadside. People continue to amaze me around here.



At the good suggestion of Carol Seitz, I recently asked for and received a meeting with county officials at **Pinckneyville Park** to review their offerings in **recreational activities for adults**. June Spruell went with me and we were both pleasantly surprised at all that is available right here in our city. See below for adult and senior clubs/groups. All clubs are free and open to the public.

• **VanGo Trip on February 5:** VanGo is a senior monthly trip to different art venues in Metro Atlanta like the High Museum, Art Fairs, The Convention Center Folk Art Festival and plays. This particular trip is to the Art Station, located in Stone Mountain, to see the play ‘Mama Makes

Up Her Mind’. It is a senior matinee performance at 10:30 AM and with transportation the total cost for the trip is \$18. After the play, they will stop for lunch before heading back to Pinckneyville.

- **Bridge:** Bridge is a card game that has grown here to include 36-40 seniors each Thursday from 9:45 AM-2:30 PM. They bring lunch and enjoy social time while playing.
- **Book Club:** They pick a book and then discuss it at the meetings. They have gone to using the center on a rotating basis as some of the members wanted to meet at their house instead.
- **Gourd Group:** They make art out of gourds and meet the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM.
- **Photography Club:** This meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 7:00-9:00 PM for lessons on how to take better photos.

Pinckneyville also hosts a **pottery studio**.

- Monday is Wheel (Intermediate) from 6:30 PM-9:00 PM
- Tuesday is Advanced Wheel from 6:30 PM-9:00 PM
- Wednesday is Wheel/Handbuilding (Beginners) from 10:30 AM-1:00 PM
- Thursday is Handbuilding (Beginners) from 6:30 PM-9:00 PM

All of these classes are \$121 for a 6-week session for ages 16-up. Open studio hours are also available. Contact the center for more information.



The center also has large and attractive meeting spaces, a dance studio, and so many other interesting activities that June and I were frankly amazed. The staff members were most accommodating and if you have suggestions, they will try to make them happen. I hope more of our citizens will begin to explore over there and enjoy this valuable amenity. Go check it out!

The county is planning to dig up **South Berkeley Lake Road** soon to **replace a major water main**. The last I heard from the engineer in charge of the project, they were hoping to begin the first week in February, but he’s been out of town and I couldn’t get an update for this issue. When I find out more, I will let you know but be on the lookout for this major construction project to begin soon.

I got another good citizen suggestion from Chet McQuaide who wondered if I might get the county elections officials to come out and **demonstrate the new voting machines** before they go into use. They have responded by setting up a demonstration for us at **Pinckneyville Community**

Center on Saturday, February 1 at 10:00 AM. I asked for a Saturday morning because I thought that would be easiest for our people to get to and I hope Chet and I are not the only ones there since they’re going to all this trouble. Come out and join us. A lot has been said and written recently about these new machines, so now we can see for ourselves.

This is a good time to remind everybody about **invasive plants**. Nandinas are so pretty with their red berries this time of the year, but they can be lethal to birds. See [here](#) for more information. Also, it’s a good time to be removing English ivy from your yards and especially trees, which it will kill. English ivy is the favorite place of snakes and mosquitoes, neither of which are out too much now so it’s easier to get after that ivy before it warms up.

Thanks to Windsor Realty for sponsoring the **6th Annual City of Berkeley Lake Christmas Lights** contest benefitting the Norcross Co-Operative Ministries with about 1,000 canned goods and a generous donation of \$250 from the Quinn Family. Thanks to all who participated and congratulations to these winners.



First Place: 724 and 725 Lakeshore Drive - The Mechling Household

Second Place: 4629 Briar Hill Cove - The Becker Household

Third Place: 4225 S. Berkeley Lake Road - The Bible Household

Fourth Place: 61 Lakeshore Drive - The Coons Household



Our Hometown Hero for this issue is Alan Lankford who leads the Berkeley Walk Homeowner Association. He says he appreciates the “very warm accepting community” in Berkeley Lake, the friendly people, and the opportunities to meet and really know his neighbors through studies at the Chapel, etc. Alan builds hot rods in his own separate garage (with a lift) and shows them not only in our July 4th parade but in the Duluth Fall

Festival and various car shows. He has a '63 Ford convertible, a '55 Chevy Bel Air, and a '68 Chevelle SS396. Alan has a Ph.D., is board certified in sleep medicine and co-founded the first sleep disorder center in Georgia. He is the Director of Research at a center in Gainesville for neurological disorders. He also gets a kick out of taking his grandchildren to our beach.



Lois D. Satter