



September 1, 2020

Berkeley Lake has just been rated the best place to live in Gwinnett and the 6th best place in Georgia. See [this article](#) in the Atlanta Journal Constitution for details.

As the Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources finishes the project on South Berkeley Lake Rd., I know that some of you are anxious for them to clean up the remains of their work in our area. I'm **sending this contact again for you to use** if you have any concerns.

Email: DWRConstruction@gwinnettcountry.com Phone: (678) 376-7027

Many of you who live on the lake may intend to build, replace or repair sea walls, docks or boathouses while the lake is down. **Before beginning any construction, educate yourselves about the rules and permit requirements for your project.** The [city's website](#) is a great resource for finding helpful information. If you have questions or need clarification on what is required, contact City Hall (770) 368-9484. Understanding the requirements early will allow you to ensure you have secured all necessary permits and approvals in time to do your project while the lake level is optimal.



The **children's park** next to City Hall is open again. We know that kids need a safe place to be outdoors and get some exercise and play, but we urge you to use this area safely. Masks, safe distancing, and hand sanitizing is still important for the kids and all those around them. This picture was taken before the pandemic, but today she'd have to wear a mask if kids from other households were enjoying the park with her.

Constitution Week is held September 17-23 each year, and I always try to remind you then to remember it gratefully. Did you know that the Preamble to the Constitution is the first time the phrase, *the United States of America*, is used? "*We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America*". George Washington wrote that, "*it (the Constitution) appears to me, then, little short of a miracle.*" I'm with George.

Our Berkeley Lake Conservancy under the able leadership of Master Gardener Susan Hanson has just completed their efforts on behalf of the **Great Georgia Pollinator Census**. I share this with you because some of you may want to help with it in the future, and Susan would be happy to facilitate that. Citizen scientists across Georgia count the kind and number of pollinators in their yards and gardens by choosing a favorite pollinator plant in their own gardens. For 15 minutes they count and categorize the insects on a UGA census form and then log in the



count. This is important because pollinators (bees, wasps, flies, some birds, butterflies) are absolutely essential for our food supply. The BL Conservancy planted and maintains a pollinator garden at City Hall.



These pictures were taken there by Ed Zawacki. All the plants are native and most are labeled. Stop by for a visit. Orange butterfly weed is essential for monarch butterflies. Georgia aster is on the list of "rare" plants in Georgia. Just remember yellow jackets are not pollinators. Insecticides that kill mosquitoes also kill butterflies and essential pollinators so please avoid those. In our Henderson Nature Sanctuary (also known as Fowler's Mill) there are trees that are great for bees: basswood, Devil's walking stick and witch hazel. Go to [pollinator census website](#) for more information on the census. You might also enjoy [this video](#) based on Georgia's pollinator protection plan.

Our country, state, and county have some very important decisions to make soon. Here are two sites that I want to refer you to if you need help [obtaining an absentee ballot](#), of trying to [find your polling place or make sure you're registered](#), etc.



This month’s Yard of the Month winner is Donna Pickert. If you are on the lake, you can’t miss her bright yellow chairs on the dock. Just beyond the dock are her stunning Limelight Hydrangeas. She and Doug worked many hours on creating a beautiful and inviting space for friends and family. The slate chip path is a great way to meander through her garden. Her favorite plants are the seasonal tropicals she brings here from her hometown of Pensacola. Donna would love to give you a tour, and she will choose our September Yard of the Month. Thanks to the Rice Settlege Team for sponsoring



this monthly honor in our city. There is something new to learn from each month’s winner.

Lois D. Salter