



January 22, 2021

Please put **Saturday, April 17** on your calendars for our city's **Earth Day**. We are planning it as usual to be held from 9am to 2pm at City Hall; and have already made arrangements for a shredding service. More details later, but I wanted to give you an early heads-up about the date.

In other dates for spring activities, we will have a **community litter cleanup on Saturday, March 6, 9am to 12pm, along PIB between N. Berkeley Lake and S. Berkeley Lake Roads**. Please bring a face mask and water to keep hydrated. A limited quantity of gloves, safety vests, and trash grabbers will be available. Please join in this effort to beautify our city; and meet in the Berkeley Village parking lot at the southeast corner of PIB and North Berkeley Lake Road intersection.



Then on **Saturday, March 27** we are planning a **stream cleanup event**. More about this later.

Many of you have contacted me about your frustrating attempts to get **COVID vaccinations**. If you are 65 or over the state designates you 1-A which gives you access now, but the demand far outpaces the supply of vaccine. Please continue to check our [regional department of public health's website](#) which is where I finally found an appointment and got my first shot this week. You can also check Publix, Kroger, and Ingles



who have some supplies, and [this state website which updates weekly](#). If you get an appointment and can't go, please call and cancel so they can give that spot to someone else who needs it. I will continue to talk weekly with other mayors and health officials and report to

you, but you have an opportunity coming up on Wednesday, January 27 to ask questions directly to Dr. Arona, Dr. Toomey, and other outstanding medical leaders. That [virtual meeting is free and can be accessed here](#).

JANUARY 27, 2021 | 8-9:30 AM

ONLINE HEALTHCARE SUMMIT

Tune in as Gwinnett's top healthcare leaders offer a briefing on the current state of COVID-19 response and care in our community. Get the factual information you need to know how to best navigate through and coexist with COVID-19.

Register at: <https://bit.ly/35mcJpF>



Use these links to try to register for an appointment at the following locations:

- [Publix](#)
- [Kroger](#)
- [Ingles](#)



The public health people could really use some help and due to budget restrictions are relying more than usual on volunteers. You don't have to be a nurse or doctor to join the Medical Reserve Corp GA East Metro (MRC GEM). Members come from all walks of life, including the medical and health professions. There is no minimum commitment, though you must complete the basic training requirements to respond in an emergency. Here's a picture of MRC members setting up a tent for COVID testing recently. [Follow this link to join MRC](#) or get additional information. If you have specific Covid-19 volunteer questions, feel free to contact one of our Berkeley Lake residents, Patty Thumann at patty@pbjmediaholdings.com. Thanks, Patty, for



all that you and your colleagues are doing in this difficult time.

Ordinarily we do not see much of the coyotes in all the beautiful woods around us, but the next 4-6 weeks are **mating season for coyotes**. Males may become more aggressive towards small pets during this time, so please be aware and cautious about leaving your fur babies out alone.

I have mentioned to you before that our county commissioner Ben Ku has told me his goal is to support more citizen involvement on boards, etc. He has recently let me know that that includes young people, too. Applications for the **Gwinnett Youth Commission** are now open. GYC gives teens a behind-the-scenes opportunity to learn about Gwinnett County Government. Due to the pandemic, the class will be limited to 15 people. [Follow this link to learn more about the GYC](#). We have some very bright young people in Berkeley Lake who may have a lot to share. **The application deadline is Monday, April 12.**



Many thanks to John Homonek and his happy band of volunteers who have come to the aid of our purple martins. With prior approval from the Georgia Safe Dams Authority they recently installed 11 new poles on the dam with 12 gourds per pole. That took us from about 70 gourds to 132 gourds now. We are anxious for the birds' arrival in mid to late February, and appreciative also to those of you who donated money for supplies. John says, "We had a group of 9 guys what worked from 10 to 5 one day and 7 guys that worked another day to finish up. That's over 60-man hours in the cold! We have a great community of people who are willing to help out." Indeed, we do!





Speaking of valuable volunteers, I am always particularly grateful to **Susan Hanson and other members of the Berkeley Lake Conservancy**. Susan provided the following info to share with you: “Berkeley Lake is a great place to live; with good neighbors and many native trees and shrubs. To keep our environment healthy, we need native plants for birds, bees, and butterflies. If a plant originated in Asia it may produce a berry that birds will eat, but it is like you’re eating junk food. Birds need to eat more, and the seeds reproduce more non-native plants. Did you know that privet hedge is the most invasive plant in Georgia? More invasive than KUDZU! English ivy is one of the worst plants for the environment. Where it grows it prevents native plants from growing. There may be native plants growing under the English ivy. Mahonia and

Elaeagnus plants (seen here) growing in Berkeley Lake are also top offenders. Would you consider removing the non-native invasive plants from your yard this winter? Winter is the best time for removal as there are no snakes or mosquitoes. If you do not know how to identify these plants, I would be glad to help you and suggest the best way of removal. I have the name of one company that removes invasive non-native plants. Berkeley Lake is a “Tree City”. It would be great if we were also a “Native Plant City.”



I read recently that Alpharetta is making an effort to control **golf carts** or “Low Speed Vehicles” in their city. Low Speed Vehicles, four-wheeled electric vehicles with a top speed of 20 to 25 mph, are allowed on public streets, if equipped with head lamps, turn signals, tail lamps, stop lamps, mirrors, seat belts and other safety gear. Some of our Berkeley Lakers enjoy theirs here which may, by Georgia law, be operated if properly equipped subject to the same traffic/operation laws as an automobile. Our streets are, as you know, so curvy and hilly that extra care is needed for safety in any vehicle. Please be sure to use your lights; and watch for cars and walkers. I don’t want to lose any of you.

Since this is such a stressful time, I thought this **list of resources** might be helpful to someone you know.

Georgia Crisis Hotlines

- [GA CARES Warm Line](#): 1-844-326-5400
- [Peer2Peer Warm Line](#): 1-888-945-1414
- [Georgia Crisis & Access Line](#): 1-800-715-4225
- [The Crisis Text Line](#) - Free text line that serves anyone, in any type of crisis, providing access to 24/7 support and information via texting. Text HOME to 741-741 from anywhere in the USA or Canada, anytime, about any type of crisis.

National Crisis Hotlines

- [Veterans Crisis Line](#) - 1-800-273-8255
- [National Sexual Assault Hotline](#) - 1-800-656-4673
- [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) - 1-800-799-7233

Suicide Prevention

- [Stop A Suicide Today](#) - Helpful website that provides suicide prevention information for someone experiencing suicidal thoughts, their friends, and family.
- [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) - 1-800-273-8255 - This national lifeline provides free confidential support 24/7, 365 to anyone who is suffering from a mental health crisis that involves thoughts of suicide.

Overdose Prevention

- [The Georgia Overdose Prevention Project](#) - An advocacy and prevention organization that provides information on Georgia's amnesty laws when it comes to helping an overdose victim as well as providing free naloxone kits to Georgians through the mail.

Addiction Resources

- [In The Rooms](#) - Resource for finding virtual Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings 24/7.
- [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#) - Helpful suggestions and resources on finding addiction treatment centers for friends or family members struggling with addiction.

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