



June 27, 2023



We are all looking forward to our **city parade on July 4. Please gather as usual at 11:30 AM** at Berkeley Lake Elementary School with your decorated cars, kids, and dogs. If it's a hot day, please remember to keep your dogs on grass as much as possible. I burned my dog's feet one year standing around in front of the Chapel on pavement visiting with folks. When we get somewhat organized and lined up, Scott Lee will as usual lead us down the hill to the Chapel with his wonderful music. There you will find Chip McDaniel making popcorn, Anne Carpenter of

Berkshire Hathaway Realty serving popsicles to cool you off, Berkeley Lake Dental providing water and soft drinks, and best of all Debbie Peters and her Georgia After School Program (GASP) folks serving hotdogs, painting faces, providing children's games, etc. We hope to have a firetruck visit for the kids if they are not busy putting out fires somewhere. I hope the weather will be good, but if it looks rainy, please check NextDoor or Facebook to see if there are any changes in plans.



Our Waste Management guy reached out about the **trash schedule** for our holiday week. Trash will be delayed a day but recycle and yard waste are on schedule.

July 3 - yard waste

July 7 - recycle

July 8 – garbage

I've been asked to remind you not to put **recyclables** in kitchen trash bags. [Here's some more info on recycling.](#)

On **Thursday, July 6 from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM**, veterans and their families are invited to learn more about the PACT Act, how to file a claim, and how to get updates on existing claims. The **deadline to register is Thursday, June 29**, and individuals can RSVP at PACTACTGA07.eventbrite.com

On **Friday, July 14 at 7:30 AM** I have been asked to speak to the Southwest Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce with the mayors of Norcross and Peachtree Corners. The three of us will be taking questions, and you may enjoy hearing **what is happening in our two close neighbor cities**. The event will take place at the Hilton on PIB. If you are interested, you can [register to attend or just learn more by exploring the chamber online](#).



Remember how nice it was to get a shiny new box of crayons for back-to-school? **Our police officers are collecting school supplies for kids** who may need some of those before school starts in August. If you would like to help them, I am collecting pencils, notebooks, backpacks, etc. and will deliver everything to our local police precinct. If you can drop some of this stuff by **my office in City Hall no later than Thursday, July 20**, we can support our police officers as they help some kids start the new school year off right. I want our police officers to feel that Berkeley Lake supports their efforts.



Thanks to Steve Shores who wisely alerted Georgia Power Sunday evening when this tree was damaged in a storm on Little Ridge. **Our City Marshals are wonderful to help in situations like this, but they are not on duty 24-7, and it saves time if you know who to call directly in their off hours**. Georgia Power is always good to come if wires appear to be threatened, and they have a big staff of tree contractors always available. You can also call 911 if a tree is blocking a road which would prevent emergency vehicles getting through.

Our City is in the process of **updating our Comprehensive Plan**, a plan which sets guiding principles for the City's growth and development; and we need to hear from you. Public input is critical to making sure the plan is representative of the community's vision. The Atlanta Regional Commission is facilitating the update and has developed, with input from your neighbors on our local citizen steering committee, a [public input survey](#) to garner feedback. Please spend a few minutes sharing your thoughts and ideas to help shape the city's future. Also, please attend the **public meeting on Saturday August 26 from 10 AM to 12 PM** at City Hall for another opportunity to participate in the comprehensive planning process. The more participation, the stronger the plan. **We have arranged for our Electronics Recycling and Drug Takeback to be on that same date and time (note change), so you can just drop in after you drop off your stuff!** Please save that date on your calendar. For more information about the Comprehensive Plan, visit berkeleylake.com.

Last year about this time we had a bear visit in our city. I have not heard of one so far this year, but I hear from other cities that they are nearby. As humans move more and more into the mountains north of us, bear-appropriate places are disappearing, and juvenile males in particular are pushed out of any available space. The most helpful thing we can do is to make sure we are not leaving food out and accessible. **Bears** that become dependent on humans are headed to a bad end. Also, keep your dogs on a leash. You don’t want them to get into it with a bear! If you do see a bear, give him plenty of space and an escape route into the woods. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) says, “It’s more scared of us.” You can reach the DNR at 800-366-2661, or call Gwinnett County Animal Welfare and Enforcement (GCAWE) at 770-339-3200. The Chattahoochee which runs through Berkeley Lake is a pathway for bears who can move along the river’s edge with minimum highway crossings or human encounters, so I expect we will see more and more bears in coming years. We are going to need to become more “bear wise.” For more information, visit bearwise.org. I found it to be both helpful and interesting.



This is also the time of year when mama deer will often hide **fawns** near your home while they forage, hoping that near humans they will be safer from predators. Please don’t assume that a fawn is an orphan, because unless they are crying, running around looking for mom, or showing signs of dehydration (curled ears) or hunger, they should be left alone. We are advised to contact a wildlife rehabilitator before moving a fawn.

We recently had some snakes crawl up the poles and get into **our Purple Martin homes** to eat the baby birds and/or eggs. Ever vigilant, John Homonek, Chris Kimberley, and their group of dedicated volunteers have resolved the problem by adding baffles to all the poles and relocating the predators. John is collecting money if you would like to donate to help pay for that. His Venmo is @John-Homonek.

As most of you know, the city is responsible for the pavement and stormwater infrastructure along all the streets in our city except **Berkeley Lake Road, Bush Road, Peachtree Industrial Boulevard and South Old Peachtree Road**, all of which are county roads. If you ever have a concern about anything related to those roads or along their rights of way, [here is an easy way to make that report and even to get feedback](#).

Our Mayor Pro Tem Rebecca Spitler and I recently attended a meeting of the Metropolitan Atlanta Mayors Association in Sandy Springs with Meg Pirkle - Chief Engineer for the **Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT)**. Ms. Pirkle said by 2050 metro Atlanta will have added population equivalent to



Denver’s current one and then showed us the designs for each of the **major projects** planned to accommodate that. The costs of these projects are going up and they are finding that bids come in at about 30% over their estimates. There are still some supply chain issues and a lack of truck drivers. A possible passenger rail from Atlanta to Savannah is being studied. Current work being done on the I-285 and 400 interchange should be finished by December. This summer work on the interchange between I-285 and I-20 east will begin, and next year on the I-285 and I-20 west interchange. They are planning a public private partnership to fund express lanes on SR 400 and users will pay tolls for 50 years. They also expect express lanes on the top end of I-285 to be funded with a public private partnership. There are five interchanges in the 316 corridor in Gwinnett that will get safety changes and

new signaling. Ms. Pirkle said a quick project for her takes three years and an average one 4 to 5 years. The really difficult ones will take much longer.

Congratulations to Susan Hanson who leads our Berkeley Lake Conservancy. She recently received an award from the Gwinnett County Master Gardeners Association for 30 years of service. We are grateful for all Susan has done during those 30 years for gardeners everywhere but particularly for us in Berkeley Lake.



This month’s **Fun Fact about Berkeley Lake:** Of the 984 occupied housing units in our city the median value is \$557,000 and 183 are valued at more than \$1 million.

Lois D. Satter