

Mayor's Message
June 2010



This is our first *Mayor's Message* that will be sent only via email. It costs money to mail them, and since I just sent one very recently, I'm cost-cutting here. Please use the '*forward to a friend*' link to forward this email or pass the word to your neighbors who might not get emails.

Since July 4th falls on Sunday, this year's celebration will be held on Saturday, July 3rd. The parade will line up in front of Berkeley Lake Elementary School at 10:30 and begin the procession at 11:00. In another effort to cut costs, we will simplify our Independence Day Celebration by not providing a meal as we always have for many years. The City will provide simple refreshments like lemonade and cupcakes, and I hope you will all feel free to bring a picnic lunch if you want to spread it on the tables behind the Chapel. The children's games will be held on the Chapel's front lawn between 11:30–11:45. **We still need volunteers** to orchestrate our traditional games like watermelon eating, the hula hoop contest, water balloon contest, and the three legged race. If no volunteers are found, this activity will have to be canceled, so please consider helping. If you feel you can help with either the refreshments or kid's games, please contact our Deputy City Clerk, Roxanne Egan, at City Hall (770) 368-9484, Ext. 104 [or via email](#). Happy Fourth of July to everyone, even with all these changes!

Also on July 3rd, we'll be showing off more of our local artists from 11 AM until 1 PM. Thanks to Carol Seitz and our Arts Advisory Committee members for arranging this new show in the Blue Heron Gallery in City Hall. The theme is "Summer in the City" and it will be displayed through August featuring work by Rigsby Barnes, B.J. Barrett, Diane Cuttino, Phyllis Ingham, D. B. Love, Jo Lackey, Elsa Liebenberg, Gia Lillie, and Carol Seitz. Come by and see it when you can, but many of you will enjoy it in conjunction with our festivities on July 3rd. Just walk on over after the parade.

As I'm sure you are aware, we have already had three [Public Hearings about the 2010 millage rate](#) currently being considered. They have all been very well attended, and we will have the last one this **Monday, June 28, at 7 PM in City Hall**. Please come if you have not had a chance to be heard, or even if you have and have thought of something else you want to say.

I am encouraged that the **Safe Dams Program** has finally consented to write a letter in our behalf which may be helpful in convincing FEMA of the validity of our full claim with regard to funding Lake Berkeley dam repairs. They had resisted

that for some time, but have finally consented after the intervention of the GEMA Director whom I have come to know personally as a fellow member of a state board on which I serve. FEMA still has not finalized their commitment to us, because all their funds have been frozen in Congress since February. This is all still a work in progress, but I am more hopeful now.

I met recently with the **presidents of all 7 homeowner associations**. They hung in with each other for almost 3 hours of some very lively discussion. Everyone was quite forthright in expressing their opinions but also mutually respectful of each other, which I much appreciated. There were questions presented to me for which I prepared answers. [Those answers have been posted on our website.](#)

Many of you have followed with interest and concern the plight of our citizen, Chris Holben, in dealing with the **development of property** above him on PIB. This week about 30 of our citizens attended the Gwinnett Board of Commissioners meeting to speak against the developer's request to eliminate the required buffer between his commercial property and Chris's home and pond. In a surprise move, the developer's lawyer suggested that their own request be "denied without prejudice." In an effort to discern where this might go from here, I asked our Deputy City Administrator, Leigh Threadgill, to contact the Gwinnett Planning & Development staff and ask questions. She learned that if the developer wants to pursue this, he is normally required to wait 12 months. However, he can apply for a time waiver, and if the BOC grants it, then he could bring it up in as little as six months from the date of the BOC decision. Either way, he will have to start the application process over, which means submitting a new application to receive a new case number, etc. The City would be notified again and we would notify our citizens. Thanks to all those who attended the meeting. I believe you made a difference.

As you know we're working on a **new edition of our City Directory**. There are still a few people from whom we have not heard and we need them to complete the project as quickly as possible. Whether updating your own information or helping your neighbor to submit their own form, it can be done electronically via [downloading the form from our website](#) or you can complete the paper form available at City Hall. Many of us enjoy having the directories which also contain a handbook of helpful information for citizens and the directories come in handy in emergency situations where neighbor to neighbor communication can be crucial.

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