



April 23, 2013

I am so pleased to let you know that **we expect to further lower taxes this year**. Our citizen Treasurer and Finance Committee have studied the budget being proposed to council and recommended its approval along with a lower millage rate that supports it. Our annexations and careful management have made this possible in spite of the fact that there was very little change in property values between 2012 and 2013. We'll hold public hearings at the council meetings on Thursday, May 16 and Tuesday, June 18. Note that the June meeting is not on the regular third Thursday date as some of our council members will be unable to attend that day.

Our contractors for the **dam reconstruction** are planning to remobilize next week if the weather cooperates. Bob Smith, Tom Rozier, and I will be meeting with them and all our engineers on Wednesday about this. Let's all hope that when they get that heavy equipment back on the slope of the dam, the earth is dry enough for them to complete the remaining work in a minimum amount of time. We will all be so glad to see this finished! The rains, although delaying completion, have brought us a lot of water back into the lake – it's now about one-third full. We're glad to get a jump on that before the dry days of summer come.

Upcoming Events Calendar

Senior Luncheon

Lake Berkeley Chapel
Wednesday, April 24
12 Noon

Thanks to our BLOSOMS and Chapel for providing this perennially pleasant event for our seniors. If you have questions, call Betty Covington at 770-263-8367 or Lane Shutt at 770-448-4379.

Spring Earth Day

City Hall
Saturday, April 27
9AM – 1PM

The shredder truck and all the usual folks will be there to help you (see details [here](#)), but remember to bring photo identification showing your city address. Thanks to our staff who always work hard on this event and to Lakeshore Drive resident Lou Mitchum who will be helping as a volunteer.

Conservancy Event

Spring Earth Day
Saturday, April 27
9:30AM – 12 Noon

We will be removing invasive non-natives from the area across from City Hall that morning. Please come if you can help. Wear gloves and long pants.

Conservancy Event

Spring Earth Day
Saturday, April 27
4:30PM

We plan a walk at City Hall and Henderson Nature Sanctuary (Fowler's Mill) to identify trees and wildflowers. Bring your own **picnic supper** to eat afterwards in the picnic area as guests of Berkeley Lake Homeowners Association. Thanks to Susan Hanson for organizing all this.

BLHA Fundraising

May 1 through Summer

May 1st begins a whole series of events in our city planned by Carol Seitz who chairs the city's Arts Advisory Committee. That evening at 7PM, adults will enjoy "**Fish and Sips**" as well as each other's company. Later on there will be events for children, local artists, in fact for everyone to enjoy throughout the summer. See details [here](#) for **The BIG Fish Event** and contact Carol to participate, volunteer, or sponsor an event. Click [here](#) for more information on sponsoring events.

Lakeside Market

Thursdays

May 2 through August

4PM – 7PM

Springtime brings a **return of our Lakeside Market** at the Chapel every Thursday, 4PM-7PM, from **May 2nd** through August, 2013. Producers to supply the market include (but are not limited to): Wally Bee's Honey, Aromas by Johnette & Majlov Skincare, Merilily Gardens, Nature's Garden Soaps, Sweet Tea Factory, Burnell Farms, Rosemary Knoll Eatable Delights, Great Harvest Bread, Red Barn Farm/Mill, Farm2Market - Carroll Farms fruits, King of Pops, TK Gourmet, Simply Southhard, Pappardelle's Pasta, Watsonia Farms - fruits and produce, Cotton Cravings, Bella's Best Baked Goods. After summer begins, we will have fresh produce from the Berkeley Lake garden as well as more produce from other locals.

Congratulations to our own Tom Merkel who lives in Miramont. He was recently featured in the *Gwinnett Forum* for helping military and veteran families to find housing and connect them to various helpful programs. Tom has been appointed chairman of the Veteran's Housing Group Initiative for Lean on GeorGla. You can read more in the April 19 issue at [Gwinnett Forum](#). Way to go, Tom!



Berkeley Lake welcomes new restaurant:

Wings n Philly Bistro – 4900 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., 678.691.7518, serves up fresh grilled sandwiches, gyro wraps, hand-cut salads, fried rice dishes and more to eat in or take out.

Our featured Berkeley Lake business for this issue is:

[Greentree Creations](#), 770.456.5660 – Owner Jane Burke is a wood artist creating framed marquetry pictures, decorative boxes and engagement ring boxes which she sells at art shows and through her websites, www.JaneBurke.com and www.gtcreations.com. Jane has been teaching the art of marquetry and inlay at woodworking stores since moving to the Atlanta area 14 years ago and has appeared on television demonstrating her unique craft.

Lois D. Salter