



June 19, 2014

As most of you are aware, our community leaders and elected officials work hard to create, maintain, and follow through on a **Comprehensive Plan** to guide our actions. This is necessary to make sure our citizens have input in determining our long range direction and goals. We are currently reviewing our progress on the 2030 plan we created some years ago and which you can read [here](#). (This is a large document and may take a few minutes to load.) While we're updating it, I want everyone to have a chance to contribute your constructive ideas. There will be a meeting for that in City Hall on **Monday, June 30 from 6-8 PM**. If you cannot attend you can still have your say by completing [this survey](#). Please share your thoughts, one way or the other.

Again this year we will **celebrate July 4th** together as we have in the past. Please decorate your cars, kids, and selves for the parade which will convene at Berkeley Lake Elementary at 11:00 AM and begin to march about 11:30. When the parade concludes at the Chapel, there will be games and prizes for the kids, food for purchase, and plenty of patriotism as we honor Independence Day. I have some volunteers who have agreed to help in all this, but if you would like to help also with kids' games or whatever, please let me know. I do hope it won't be rained out like last year, because I'm looking forward to food, fun, and friends on that day. See you there!



I have noticed and picked up more **trash on our roadsides** lately and heard complaints from some of you as well. If you see someone break our city's litter ordinance, please get a tag number and report it to our Ordinance Enforcement Officer. You can also contact Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful at gwinnettcg@gwinnettcg.org and they will make a report to law enforcement officers. They ask that you record the date, time, make and model of the car, license # and what type of litter to help them in their report. I may be naive, but I have a hard time thinking our Berkeley Lake neighbors are throwing all this out. Since the economy has improved there's a lot of construction going on, and some of those workers may be throwing

out trash or having it blow off the back of trucks. If you have a project going on, please talk to your contractor and/or workers about the importance of keeping our community clean.



Congratulations to Bryan Stuart (at left) who has recently been asked to serve on the Board of Directors for the Southwest Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce. He replaces **Don Allen** of River District who is retiring. Both men are a credit to our city and an asset to the larger community that the Chamber serves.

Congratulations also to **Tom Merkel** of Miramont who has been chosen as one of 40 outstanding leaders countywide to participate in Leadership Gwinnett’s Class of 2015. This is a very high honor and will require a significant commitment of time on his part throughout the coming year. Tom is President and CEO of The IMPACT! Group.

Again this year we are having a **School Supply Drive** for needy kids in our area who won’t have crayons, pencils, or much of anything to take to school in August. If you can help, please bring some to City Hall and we’ll get them to the right place. This drive is being coordinated by the Southwest Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce.

You may want to know about **Operation Second Chance**, or **Jail Dogs**, which began as a partnership between Sheriff Butch Conway and the Gwinnett County Sheriff’s Department and Society of Humane Friends of Georgia. The program saves dogs from Gwinnett County Animal Control, vets and trains them, and offers them for adoption. It’s a great way to get an already well trained pet, and to save a life.

Please remember that school is out and **kids are playing** throughout our community. We need to be especially alert for all the little ones on their bikes and skate boards as we drive through and around the city.

Hollywood comes to Gwinnett! Recently Council members Rodney Hammond, Bob Smith, Rebecca Spitler and I were able to tour Atlanta Media Campus Studios where they have already filmed “Hunger Games”, “Fast and Furious”, and “Walk in the Woods” (with Robert Redford and Nick Nolte).



This redevelopment of an older manufacturing area is on 160 acres of land near the intersection of I-85 and Jimmy Carter Blvd. We met with Jim Jacoby who’s already redeveloped Atlantic Station from a former brownfield wasteland and is the visionary developer on this project. He says this will be "the largest film and television media complex outside of California." Beyond the 7 sound stages, they'll soon have a film school, hotel, Class A office space, etc. leading to a \$4 billion impact on our area economy. The future's so bright I had to wear shades! You can read more about this [here](#):

Want to learn how to attract butterflies? You may want to attend a free class on **Butterfly Gardening** July 1, from noon to 1:00 PM. There is no cost, but pre-registration is required by June 27. Contact Timothy Daly at 678.377.4010 or timothy.daly@gwinnettcountry.com at the Gwinnett County Cooperative Extension Office, 750 South Perry Street in Lawrenceville.

Remember to spend your dollars whenever possible with Berkeley Lake businesses. In this edition I’m featuring the following in their own words:

Fabulous Finds Estate Liquidators, Inc. – Rochelle McDonald, 404.906.7308, 4331 South Berkeley Lake Rd., [Fabulous Finds website](#).

“We help people liquidate their homes or businesses due to relocation, downsizing, foreclosure, or the loss of a loved one. Our first priority is to my clients. We want to provide the best possible experience in this often stressful environment of liquidating their belongings.”

Pam Williamson – 770.662.5985, 3996 N. Berkeley Lake Rd.

“I work with small to mid-size businesses by helping to organize, structure and support financial and back office operations. I also work with individuals in a similar manner by helping them bring balance to their lives.”

In closing, I wish you a very happy Fourth, and I want to share the following with you. I can’t find an attribution, but these are not my words. I just think they’re worth your consideration:

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated, but they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured. Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags. Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward. Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Ruttledge, and Middleton. At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months. John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished.

City of Berkeley Lake – Mayor’s Message

So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.

Lois D. Alter