



June 20, 2019

A **black bear** has been spotted by three of our neighbors in Miramont, South Berkeley Lake Road and Paradise Cove (Lakeshore Drive.) Kaye Berg, Miramont HOA President, contacted the Department of Natural Resources who said that they are aware of a group of young bears that are traveling through this area. Obviously, we shouldn't approach bears (tell your kids this), but they're unlikely to attack people. They can be skittish if they are eating and may take an upright stance which doesn't necessarily mean they are going to attack. Don't leave any trash outside unsecured, or pet food or bird feeders. Thanks to Kaye for sharing this advice.



I have also consulted the Chattahoochee Nature Center's Wildlife Director who spoke recently at our Wildlife Seminar. She shared [this article](#) and said there was a bear peeking into the LA Fitness at Johnson Ferry and Roswell Road a while back. That's certainly a crowded urban area. River and water corridors are like highways for wild animals because they can go under roads and largely avoid humans. That, of course, makes Berkeley Lake a prime thoroughfare since we are right on the Chattahoochee River and have worked hard to keep our greenspaces. All kinds of animals are being run out of what used to be forests in north Georgia but are now becoming subdivisions. I expect we will see more of them searching for any space they can find.

All this makes the **Wildlife Seminar** that we had recently in City Hall all the more timely, and it was certainly well attended. Every seat was filled and the comments were all very appreciative of our expert speaker Kathryn Dudeck. She surely knew a lot and fielded our many questions well.



Perhaps we can get her to come again next year for those of you who were unable to be there. The little fox kit was photographed in Paradise Cove by Jack Langley.



The city will soon begin trimming back low-hanging branches and other vegetation on our rights-of-way. If you notice **problems on county-maintained roads**, Tom Rozier shared this information and link to the [Citizen Self-Service form](#) on Gwinnett County's website. You can use that form to make requests regarding sight distance issues, road signs, pot holes, etc. related to county roads such as Bush Road, North and South Berkeley Lake Roads and Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in this area. It's a good idea to snap a picture of situations to upload them

with your request. If you need help figuring out what is and is not a county road, [this map](#) can be helpful. If you need assistance with issues where the county commission may need to make a decision, Ben Ku is our Gwinnett County Commissioner in District 2. He can be reached at: 770.822.7002 or emailed at Ben.Ku@gwinnettcountry.com.

I always love our **Berkeley Lake July 4 Celebration**, but I’m particularly excited about it this year. Our local fire department is bringing a big fire engine to lead our parade and provide our kids with some fire safety training afterwards at the Chapel. Also joining me in the parade will be our State Representative Beth Moore, our County Commissioner Ben Ku, and hopefully our State Senator Zahra Karinshak. Mayor ProTem Rebecca Spitler and Major General Rex Spitler will transport these important guests at the head of the parade. We will meet as usual at the elementary school at 11:00 AM to line up and begin the parade about 11:30 AM. Debbie Peters and her Georgia After School Program (GASP!) will sponsor children's games and face



painting at the Chapel, including hands-on making 'The Great GASP! Snack' for kids to enjoy. She’s having a water balloon contest, a 3-legged race, and watermelon eating contest so it should be a great day for kids.

Crowell Brothers Funeral Home (nearby on Peachtree Industrial) will bring a nice canopy for us to keep the little ones out of the sun, and Lou Mitcham will be cooking hot dogs again this year. Chip McDaniel is doing his popcorn thing again for us and Scott Lee will, as always, provide music. Many, many thanks to all these folks for helping us to have such a wonderful celebration. A few more volunteers are needed to help with the decorating on July 3. Call Vivian McDaniel at city hall, 770.368.9484, if you can help. Should it rain (Heaven forbid), check Nextdoor to see if we’re canceling.



While I’m thinking about this, I want to confess to a mistake I made at a previous July 4 celebration. I had my dog with me on a leash and was talking to a friend when someone came up to me and said, “Lois, your dog is lifting her feet.” I felt awful because I hadn’t noticed that her feet were burning on the hot pavement. The Journal of the American Medical Association says if the air temp is only 77 degrees, asphalt will be at 125 degrees and skin destruction can happen in 60 seconds. I’m sharing this in the hopes that you will do better than I and **protect your puppy’s paws by keeping them out of the sun and on the grass.**

Here are some pictures of the celebration we had recently upon completion of the **Water Wheel Renovation Project, led by John Homonek and Mark Jacobson** with the help of many generous



volunteers. You can see what a great job they did, and what a good time was had by all who came out that day to thank them.

Mayor ProTem Rebecca Spitler and Council Member Scott Lee recently attended a review of Gwinnett’s Emergency Services with me. It was quite impressive to learn that we have the



second largest police force in Georgia (only Atlanta’s is bigger) and that they have won numerous awards and multiple accreditations. They have more than a hundred open positions which have been authorized, but recruiting is difficult. It takes nearly a year to train an officer before they can handle the job, and the three of us came away with even more respect for our police officers, 12 of whom have lost their lives on the job in Gwinnett. We saw a SWAT



team practice, checked out the bomb techs, hazardous materials equipment, fire and rescue staff, and a fabulous K-9 officer. We are truly fortunate to live in a place that is served by such competent and dedicated officers.

As you know, Tracey Settlege and Jill Rice coordinate our **Yard of the Month awards** in Berkeley Lake. Tracey has sent me two this time to congratulate.

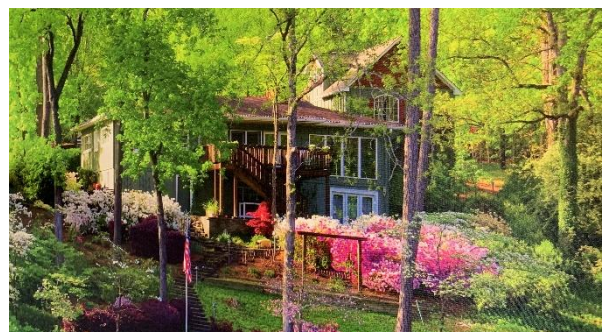


The May Yard of the Month is "Frog Hollow." Kelli Waters and her husband at 432 Lakeshore Drive have been working on their yard with help from his brother who owns Sage Design. They have focused on deer resistant plants with 2-3 seasons of interest such as conifers and camellias. Some of the highlights are Blue Atlas Cedar, Weeping Blue Cedar, Hinoko cypress, and a Hemlock tree. They have gorgeous perennial beds full of flowers with color and interest to enjoy.



Roni and Rob Pridemore, who won our June Yard of the Month, have been working for years on their gardens at 766 Lakeview Lane. Their home is beautiful from both the lakefront and the street. They have a very mature landscape filled with stunning oak leaf hydrangeas, full grown azaleas, and forsythia. There are meandering stone paths that allow you to wander through the garden and enjoy the gardenias, daylilies, and plum yew up close. Roni and Rob are

having a great year with their tomato plants, and so may have lots to share later this summer. They generously hosted the progressive dinner for BLOSOMS recently and had about 100 people there to enjoy the beautiful landscape they have created.



City of Berkeley Lake – Mayor’s Message

The Rice Settlege Team is planning to sponsor a School Supply Drive for Berkeley Lake Elementary School. More info to come, but as you are beginning your back-to-school preparations, please remember to help our teachers!

See you on July 4th. Happy Independence Day to all!

Lois D. Satter