



June 28, 2021

I am really excited about our city's celebration of July 4<sup>th</sup> this year because so many people will be helping. As usual our parade will gather at 11:00 AM at Berkeley Lake Elementary School and march down the hill together to the Chapel. There you will be able to meet and talk with some **county and state leaders**, including our Gwinnett County Commission Chair Nicole Love Hendrickson, our area's County Commissioner Ben Ku, our Police Precinct Commander Eddie Restrepo, and our Representative to



the Georgia House of Representatives Beth Moore. I invited our U. S. Congresswoman Carolyn Bourdeaux, but she will be out of town that day and is sending her Outreach Director Matt Yarbrough. He regularly attends our city council meetings to stay aware



of our issues and to offer assistance, but this would be a chance for citizens to talk with him directly and informally. I believe that the more our citizens have a chance to interact with our public servants, the better it will be for our city. This is not a day for "politicking" or partisanship,

because on July 4<sup>th</sup> we are all Americans – just an opportunity to share ideas respectfully and learn from each other. **Debbie Peters and her GASP group (Ga. After School Program) will be leading kids in games and activities** including face painting, contests for water balloon tossing, watermelon eating, hula hooping, and limbo dancing.



There will be a visit with **Princess Elsa** from Frozen and we will be making balloon animals, too, so I think this will be the best ever! **Scott Lee** will, as always, provide great music; and **Chip McDaniel** will be serving popcorn, but the big news in food is that **BLHA will be feeding us all lunch! This is their very generous gift to all our citizens, not just their members, so if you want hamburgers, hot dogs, fried fish and hushpuppies, be prepared to show your proof of residency in Berkeley Lake, as you do on our city's Earth Day. The City will provide cold drinks, and Anne Carpenter, local Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, will provide dessert.** Look for her red, white, and blue "bomb



popsicles.” I hope all will enjoy this time together. Remember that the Fourth’s on a Sunday this year, and I hope those of us who go to church can make it to an early service. I am also fervently hoping that after all these preparations, it won’t rain! Check Nextdoor and Facebook if the weather looks bad that day as I will post any change in plans there.



Many thanks to our Random Acts of Kindness ladies who worked so hard to celebrate graduates, educators, first responders, and healthcare workers. I’m sure you have seen the 2 big banners in front of City Hall recognizing our graduates. Those were provided by Ginny Nevins and Windsor Realty. Additionally, special bags of homemade cookies were delivered with personal notes of thanks to the others listed here who

served our community well through a long and difficult year. All of us Berkeley Lakers deeply appreciate you and are celebrating with you. Special thanks to **Ginny Nevins and Page McAleese** who have coordinated this big and multifaceted project! They lead the Random Acts of Kindness circle, which is a part of **BLOSOMS, the Berkeley Lake Outstanding Sisters of Merriment and Service.**



Thanks also to **John Cochran and B. J. Van Gundy** who played their trumpets beautifully for our Berkeley Lake remembrance of Memorial Day. Also, to **“The Anonymous Good Guys”** who manage the City’s flags and crosses. It was a very good day.

**Kid fishing lessons are taking place every third Friday from 5:30 to 7:30 PM and they welcome all kids in our city,** not just BLHA members. They are having a great turnout of kids of all ages who want to learn from experienced fishermen. This is coordinated by the Lake Management Committee, and I’m not sure who is having the most fun, the kids or the older folks! Either way, as **Buddy Booker** says, “Post pandemic, this and the



other events coming up go a long way toward re-engaging people in our community.” Thanks to Buddy, and to all his buddies, young and old!

You may be interested in this [article about our city](#). “Residents of Berkeley Lake are highly educated, with 25% of them holding a master’s degree or higher, and 41% a bachelor’s degree.”

**Here’s a special caution** to remember on summer holidays. Many of us enjoy decorating our dogs for the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade or standing around afterwards on the pavement. I did that one year and a neighbor who was kinder and more attentive than I pointed out to me that my sweet yellow lab was patiently lifting her feet which were burning on the Chapel parking lot. I was horrified and moved us both to the grass. I pass on her caution now years later which I still remember with sadness. Also please **protect pets** who are frightened by fireworks sounds. Statistically July 4<sup>th</sup> is the worst night of the year for pets to escape, run away, and/or hurt themselves.

**Congratulations to the Harpers, our June yard of the month winners!** Thank



you for all that you do to keep our city looking beautiful! Thanks also, as always, to the Rice Settlege Team who sponsor our Berkeley Lake yard of the month recognitions.



*Lois D. Salter*