



August 23, 2021

As you will recall from my last Mayor's Message you were all invited to a **meeting that we had in City Hall regarding bicyclists in our city**. Some of our citizens have been worried about bikers who go too fast on our streets, don't stop at stop signs, block driveways in groups, and generally scare the bejeebers out of walkers. All those concerns and more were expressed and discussed with two leaders of large biker groups who routinely lead big group rides through our city. These guys were brave enough to come listen to our complaints; and when it was over, we all felt they were sincerely committed to making things better. If you didn't make it to the meeting you can contact Lila Hunter at City Hall who will share the notes she recorded from the meeting. I agreed to pass on to all of you that we need to try when possible to walk facing traffic and not spread out all over the whole road with dogs, friends, and baby strollers. That's increasingly dangerous anyway with more and more quiet electric cars on the road. Also, as of July 1 there's a new state law requiring car drivers to give at least three feet of space when passing bikers so as not to hit them or run them off the road. Called Joshua's Law, it also requires that if there's an available lane, you have to get over. You can cross a double yellow or white line to give three feet of space, or if you can't cross the line because of oncoming traffic, you have to slow down at least 10 miles per hour below the speed limit when passing them. The biker leaders agreed to address their groups before they begin rides through Berkeley Lake to urge compliance with all laws and general courtesy expectations, and even to correct their riders when they see someone causing any of the problems we mentioned to them. They know how to reach all the other biker groups and will contact them as well on our behalf. There are a lot of people in these groups, and it is a huge help to us for these guys to intercede with them all, for us. We agreed to stay in touch and to work together to build and keep a positive relationship. One of them said to me recently, "We will continue reinforcing the messaging within our own group as well as the larger community. Let us know if you sense an improvement (or not). While it can obviously take some time to change behavior, I would hope that your residents start to see it happen." I hope so, too, and I am most grateful for their help!

Speaking of bikers, one of our own Berkeley Lakers left Seattle on August 1 to pedal 4,000 miles cross-country to Bar Harbor, Maine! **Dan Miller**, 63, is doing this to raise money for Rainbow Village. Astonishing, and what a great thing to do! Way to go, Dan!



2020 Growth of Gwinnett Cities			
city	2010 Pop.	2020 Pop.	% Growth
Auburn	7,061	7,704	11%
Berkeley Lake	1,847	2,171	18%
Braselton	7,587	15,673	108%
Buford	12,587	16,248	29%
Dacula	4,459	6,552	88%
Duluth	26,757	31,873	19%
Grayson	2,564	4,556	78%
Lawrenceville	27,318	30,629	12%
Lilburn	11,691	14,502	24%
Loganville	10,445	13,706	9%
Norcross	15,006	16,650	11%
P'tree Corners	38,136	44,701	17%
Rest Haven	60	63	5%
Snellville	18,326	20,573	12%
Sugar Hill	18,953	25,701	36%
Suwanee	15,409	20,786	35%

Source: U.S. Census, 2020

I have been studying some **recently released census data** that may interest you. As reported to me by the Atlanta Regional Commission, Atlanta is now the ninth largest metro area in the country, with a population of nearly 6.1 million. That’s up about 800,000, or 15%, since 2010. Only Dallas and Houston grew faster. Housing growth lags significantly so it’s becoming harder and harder to find a place to live. Our own city has grown 18%, as you can see on this chart of Gwinnett cities’ growth, from the Gwinnett Forum.

I recently attended a Southwest Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce meeting to hear our new county commission chairwoman speak

and thought you might like to hear some of what she said. **Nicole Love Hendrickson** (to my right in this picture) intends to lead our county by “building on the Gwinnett standard” of which we

can all be proud. She said, “Things often go unnoticed when they’re going right,” and she thinks much has been and is going right in our county. For example, only 4% of national police departments have achieved the outstanding CALEA recognition that we have, and Gwinnett crime (especially violent crime) is trending downwards here while increasing elsewhere. She intends to serve and represent all in a very diverse



county where more than a third of us speak another language. She pointed out as an example of our encouraging job growth that a company called Intuitive is investing more than \$500 million to expand their facility in Peachtree Corners. Intuitive will be engineering and manufacturing robotic-assisted surgical systems and training surgeons and healthcare workers to use them. This expansion on Spalding Drive will include a six-building campus, and they expect to offer starting salaries around \$130,000 in manufacturing, production, distribution, engineering, sales, training, and customer service. That will have a large impact on our area because, as my friend the Peachtree Corners Mayor told me, some of those people are going to want to live in Berkeley Lake.



As I told you last month, I was hoping our city would be able to purchase the **property** on PIB that is contiguous to our greenspace. I am very, very happy to report that we did successfully conclude that purchase, with the uncompensated realtor assistance of Ginny Nevins. Some of our council members (Rodney Hammond, Bob Smith, and Rebecca

Spitler) attended the closing with me, and we were ably assisted by our outstanding City Attorney, Dick Carothers. He really is the best municipal attorney around. Bob Smith, in particular, was a huge asset to us in this effort because of his many years of professional experience in land purchasing and development, as well as his unfailing commitment to our city. I will be working to gain approval of federal money to pay for this.

As soon as I signed the purchase documents, our Berkeley Lake Good Guys went to work cleaning up all the mess on the property. Led by **Jim and Donna Gawlas, Steve Onufrak, Chip McDaniel, Tom Weber and Adam Bounnakhom** tore down the deer stand and hauled off old tires and all kinds of junk and accumulated trash from our new greenspace property. Gotta love the volunteers in our community!! They are really quite amazing.



In another follow-up from the last Mayor’s Message, none of you stepped up during the qualification period to run for the City Council spots I described to you last month. I believe that is an affirmation of the good work of **Rodney Hammond, Scott Lee, and Chip McDaniel**, the incumbents who offered themselves to serve another term. All three have done an excellent job in the past, and I look forward to working with them going forward. A City Council position requires a significant commitment of time and attention. Thanks to these three for their service. It makes a real difference to us all.

Lois D. Satter