



March 7, 2022



This **Sunday, March 13** is Spring Forward Day. In Berkeley Lake we all know the drill for time change days, so please have your **nonperishable food and household items out by your mailboxes by noon** so Julie Huntington and her valiant volunteers can pick them up and deliver to the community food ministries. We will have collection bins at City Hall, the Chapel, and the mailbox at 888 Lakeshore Drive beginning Friday morning, March 11. Please no expired food as the co-op is required to throw out any out-of-date food. Thanks to all who help with this effort twice every year.

Remember our city's **Earth Day is on Saturday, April 23 from 10 AM - 2 PM**. Go first to the Chapel parking lot where Jill Rice and Tracey Settlege have committed again to sponsor the shredder truck. There you will also find a truck from Fully Furnished Ministries, a faith-based furniture bank run by volunteers who collect and deliver furniture to veterans needing housing, women fleeing abuse, refugees, hurricane and fire victims, and others who need help. If you have any furniture or household goods that could help someone, please offer it to these folks before moving on to our City Hall parking lot where you will find our own Waste Management guys waiting for "big trash" and a metal recycling guy. We will also be collecting towels or washcloths and flat sheets, not fitted ones, for animal shelters. These need to be clean and have no holes, fringe or strings which can choke some of the animals. If you have American flags that are worn or faded, you can leave those with me, and I will get them to a Scout troop that will respectfully retire them with honor. I appreciate the Chapel opening their parking lot for us and remind you all that someone will check your proof of Berkeley Lake residency at the entrance to both parking lots.



Many of us are concerned about non-native invasive plants that can be such a problem in our beautiful City, but not sure how to recognize and remove them. **Susan Hanson, Chair of our Berkeley Lake Conservancy**, is always a willing and helpful resource if you have horticultural questions, and she says



English ivy seen here is one of the worst invasives. The other photo is mahonia, also very invasive. Birds eat the berries (junk food for them) and spread the plant in many places. Japanese honeysuckle, Chinese privet, and Nandina are other problem plants. **The city is sponsoring a guest lecture given by Eli Dickerson on Saturday, March 26, at 2 PM in City Hall.** He is the Chief Ecologist at Fernbank Forest who for 7 years has led an



extensive ecological restoration to improve forest health and biodiversity. Susan says, “Our whole City is a wonderful forest, and we need to improve its health. We are glad to share this program with our neighbors and would like to know how many people will come so we can prepare.” Please contact City Hall at (770) 368-9484 to make a reservation.



You may remember that last August **our Congresswoman Carolyn Bordeaux** hosted a job fair in Duluth with more than 70 businesses in attendance. With great feedback from business owners, she has decided to **host another job fair on March 23 from 1 PM – 4 PM, at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds in Lawrenceville** covering the cost of rent, tables, parking, etc. and expecting to have 2,000 jobs available from about 45 different employers so far. If your business would like to participate, contact Rob Tester in her office at rob.Tester@mail.house.gov. If you’re thinking of a job change, go check it out on March 23.

Rob Hiller, one of our City Marshals tells me, “**Katrina Grier** has put together some sort of fundraiser to replace my stolen vest. I’m humbled by the generosity of our neighborhood.” Yes, Berkeley Lake neighbors consistently come through for each other. Bulletproof vests are quite expensive, and this was Rob’s personal property. Thanks to Katrina and all those she rounded up to help.



Here’s a reminder from one of our neighbors that **driving fast at night** on our curvy hilly roads is quite dangerous because of all the deer in our city. After finding a dead deer in his yard he says, “Any driver doing the 25-mph limit will probably not hit a very quick deer sprinting across, but cars going faster cannot react in time.” I’m passing on his words to the wise. A collision could be bad for you as well as the deer.



For years **Pam Williamson** has supported our city faithfully as its Treasurer and leader of the Citizen Finance Committee. Her “day job” with the Habitat for Humanity organization has been taking more and more time and travel, so it has become necessary for her to pass the torch to a new **City Treasurer**. Although Pam is very hard to replace, we are fortunate in her timing, because **John Pendleton** has just retired from a stellar career with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), and few people in the country could advise us better on government financial matters. In John’s work as Director, Financial Markets and Community Investments, he reviewed and guided all sorts of government services and led teams examining the efforts to keep US military forces prepared. He has received numerous awards including two Distinguished Service Awards, and we are

honored and grateful that he will be volunteering this kind of experience and skillful service to our city going forward. Many thanks to both Pam and John.

And speaking of benevolent and highly skilled retirees, **Bob Erwin** has recently been appointed to our city’s **Planning and Zoning Commission** to replace the estimable George Kaffezakis whose “day job” has also gotten quite demanding. Bob is a registered architect and just retired from a senior faculty position with the University of Georgia. Having been admitted to the American Institute of Architects, Bob moved to Georgia for a position with the Southern Solar Energy Center, under President Carter, where he was promoted to the lead architect, designing numerous solar building projects throughout the southern United States. He subsequently held various other senior positions, actively supervising projects around the globe - work which eventually took him to more than 40 countries. Throughout his career, Bob has worked closely with both the private and public sectors to deliver buildings that met their design goals while complying with all applicable building and zoning regulations. What an asset he will be to our P&Z! Thanks to both George and Bob.

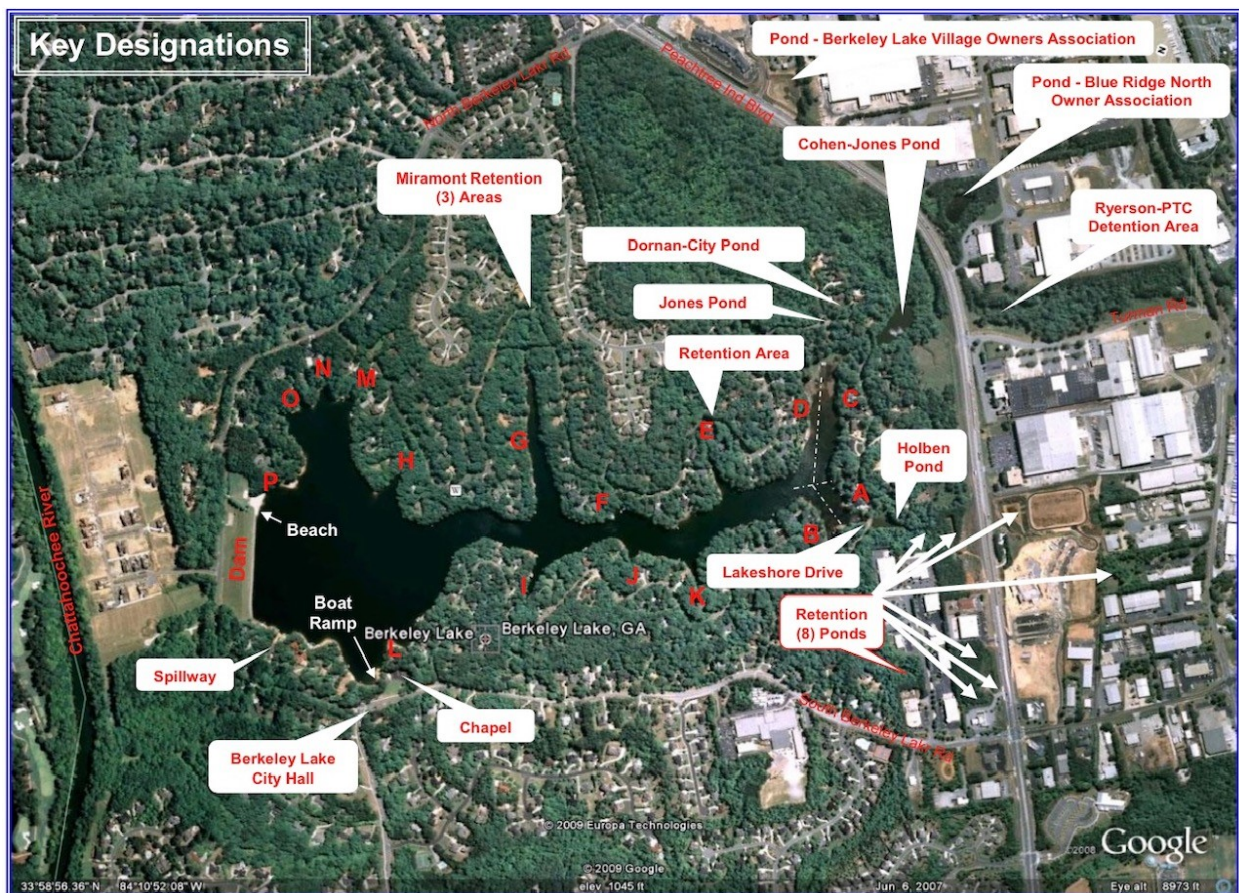


Our Berkeley Lake Elementary School has **two things to celebrate**. Their PE teacher, **Renee Birozes**, helped students raise almost \$5000 for the American Heart Association through the Kids Heart Challenge. This amazing program raises money for kids with "special hearts." It also helps kids learn how to keep their hearts healthy and teaches them some nifty jump roping skills. Their 2nd celebration is for the principal **Lesley Pendleton** who recently received the Administrator of the Year Award and during the ceremony was recognized as “an all-around impressive human!” On a visit to the school, I observed that Lesley cannot walk down the hall without little kids spontaneously grabbing her in hugs wherever she goes. I’d have to agree that’s pretty impressive.

You may remember that Lila Hunter and I have met and kept in touch with the **leaders of the 2 largest area bicycle groups** regarding some problems and past complaints from our citizens. These guys have made a real effort to communicate our concerns to other bikers. That effort, of course, has to be ongoing as different people move in and out of the area, plus people forget as time passes. I am maintaining that connection and communication with them and got a report recently that they continue to watch out for us in Berkeley Lake. Said one, “I did see one relatively large group coming around Lakeshore recently that was not part of our bunch, but they seemed well behaved. We’ll keep watching and reinforcing the message.” I am most grateful for their support which they are under no obligation to provide. I hope we’ll keep our part of the bargain by not running them off the road’s edge with our cars, or walking spread out all across the street. It benefits all of us to share the road safely.

There are a number of public-spirited people in our city who care a lot about our beautiful natural environment and work hard to protect it. Three of the best of those are **Faye Harwell, Donna Gawlas, and Steve Seitz**, all of whom have contributed to the information which I share with you here:

“Located at the opposite end of the lake from the dam, **multiple retention ponds** play a crucial role in the



care and maintenance of our lake. These ponds are stationed between the lake and the streams which are largely fed by culverts from the industrial areas across Peachtree Industrial Blvd. The ponds work as sentries standing guard around the clock, keeping the water entering our lake safer for swimming and fishing. Environmental hazards such as: stormwater runoff, silt, oil slicks, pesticides residue, heavy metals, and garbage are trapped. Pollutants settle to the bottom of the ponds, allowing cleaner water to flow into

City of Berkeley Lake – Mayor’s Message

the lake. In the last decade pond owners have noticed an increased volume of stormwater due to “gully washers” and more impervious surfaces upstream. This increased pollution has put more stress on the ponds. To a casual observer these ponds may appear to be only features of beauty which add economic value to the community; however, the ponds are integral to the protection of the water quality of our lake.”

This month’s **Fun Fact about Berkeley Lake**: its residents have the highest per capita income of any city in the state.



Spring is coming to our beautiful city. Get outside and enjoy!

Lois D. Salter