



June 23, 2022



I always look forward to our city's **celebration of July 4**. It's on a Monday this year and as usual we will gather at 11 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, eat Chip McDaniel's popcorn, and generally enjoy a good time with your neighbors. Scott Lee will, as always, provide great music (thank you Scott!) and the city will provide cookies and cold drinks. Debbie Peters and her GASP group (Georgia After School Program) will be leading kids in games and activities which is always a joy. Faces will get painted, water balloons will be tossed,

and there will be limbo and hula hoop contests. We have invited the fire truck to come which the kids always love, and if there's not a fire somewhere they will be joining us. I hope the weather will be good, but if it looks rainy, please check Nextdoor or Facebook to see if there are any changes in plans.

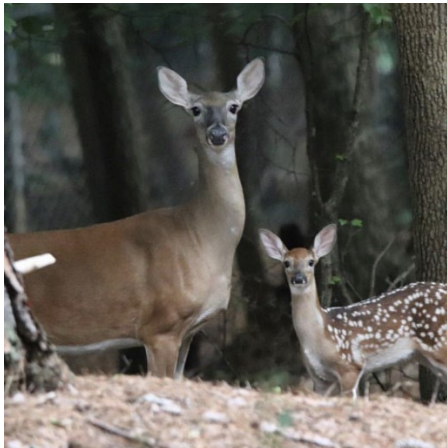


Whenever **holidays** come around, we always **wonder if our trash will get picked up as usual**, or if there will be a change. Waste Management provides a link where you can check your own specific address to find out. You may want to make a note and save this website somewhere for future checking - <https://www.wm.com/us/en/holiday-schedule>.

**On Saturday July 16** Gwinnett’s **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day** takes place from **8-11 AM at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds**. Here’s your chance to get rid of paints, pesticides, batteries, weed killers, fluorescent bulbs, propane tanks and more. Check out this link for more details: [Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day – Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful \(gwinnettcb.org\)](http://gwinnettcb.org).

If you have unused prescriptions, the CVS at 5095 Peachtree Parkway near the Forum is a **drug takeback site** that is convenient for all of us.

**I want you to know about two things that I will be discussing with Council soon so that you can share any input you may have with council members or me.** We will very soon be setting the millage rate for next year and I will be recommending a drop in that rate from 1.746 to 1.455. Our property values are increasing so that for this year I believe we can drop the rate and still be able to collect enough taxes if we continue with our very careful fiscal management. There is some concern on the part of some on the Citizen Finance Committee about doing this, since most if not all other cities have raised theirs last year and costs are really going up a lot now, as you know from managing your own budgets. However, I think we’ll be ok for this year. Council will consider everything carefully as they always do and decide. Secondly, we will be digging into our contract with Waste Management. There were some complaints a while back, but we haven’t heard much recently since they moved to respond to our concerns. Also, some exploration of other companies has made our situation look pretty good by comparison. However, if any of you still have any concerns or opinions about this, now’s the time to let us know.



This is the time of year when mama deer will often hide **fawns near your home** for the day while they forage, hoping that near humans they will be safer from predators. Please don’t assume a fawn is an orphan, because unless they are crying, running around looking for mom or showing signs of dehydration (curled ears) or hunger, they should be left alone. We are advised to contact a wildlife rehabilitator before moving a fawn.

Susan Hanson and our dedicated Berkeley Lake Conservancy members always encourage us, as you know, to **stick with native plants** in our landscaping. The City had a special seminar with a visiting speaker not long ago about that and we are all pretty convinced, but it’s hard to know what plants to use instead of some very common non-natives that we see everywhere. Here’s the [best thing I have found to help with that, and this website is Susan-approved](#). It’s great to have someone like Susan, a Master Gardener that we know and trust, to help us with good advice.



Many of you already know and appreciate the **Southwest Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce** which supports businesses in Norcross, Peachtree Corners, and Berkeley Lake. They have relevant speakers to educate, inform, and inspire, networking opportunities to build business referrals and growth, and volunteer opportunities that make our local area a better place for us all. At the most recent First Friday event the speaker was Tim Echols, Georgia Public Service Commissioner. I learned from him that Georgia now ranks fourth in the nation in electric vehicles. Who knew?! There are also weekly (free) coffees that offer casual and friendly networking opportunities. John Nevins (who is on their board of directors) or I would be happy to answer questions about this group if you have any. The mayors of Peachtree Corners and Norcross will be speaking with me at the next breakfast meeting on July 8. Please [visit the SWGC website](#) for more information on upcoming events.

I have two **featured Berkeley Lake businesses** today.



**Touchstone Therapeutic Massage** is owned by Linda Craigg, a 20-year resident of our city. She has 23 years of experience, specializing in deep tissue, neuromuscular therapy, sports massage and injury prevention/rehab. Her clients include teens to seniors, corporate clients and professional athletes. She’s located at 4720 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard. Berkeley Lake residents are welcome and receive a discounted rate. Linda has been highly valued and recommended by many of our neighbors for years. For more information, call 770-316-0582,

or visit the website at [touchstonemassage.net](http://touchstonemassage.net).

**Berkeley Lake Counseling Center, LLC** is a collaborative mental health private practice located at 4720 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Building 400, Suite 4202. In this picture are (left to right): Tali Boots, LPC, (512-766-7789) is a sex therapist. Kate W. Knott, LLC, MS, LPC, NCC, (770-421-5946) assists with healthier ways to manage life's issues. Annie Russell, M.Div., LPC, (678-883-6125) of Liberating Minds Psychotherapy LLC, offers traditional psychotherapy as well as Biblically based therapy. Jessica Buchholz, PsyD, Licensed Psychologist (762-499-3975) helps with anxiety, perfectionism, adults working through childhood trauma, and teens struggling with independence. Come to their Grand Opening and meet these ladies this Friday, June 24 from 4-7 PM and welcome them to the neighborhood!



This month’s **Fun Fact about Berkeley Lake:** Our City has recently been declared the 8th best place to live in all of Georgia. See [here for further info](#) or to see what other places were listed. In another article we were the **4th best place to raise a family in Georgia and the Best Place overall to live in Gwinnett.**

See you on the Fourth at the parade!



*Lois D. Satter*