



April 14, 2023



Please don't forget our city's **Earth Day on Saturday, April 22 from 10 AM to 2 PM**. We have booked the [Fully Furnished Ministries](#) for furniture repurposing and the Rice Settlege Team has again committed to sponsor the big shredder truck. Thanks Jill and Tracey! Please enter the Chapel parking lot for the shredder and the Fully Furnished Ministries truck, then head over to the City Hall parking lot where you'll find Waste Management for "big trash" as well as the metal recycling guy. City staff will be available to check your proof of residency in Berkeley Lake at both locations.

#### **VALOR Day**

#### **Bagels, Bait, Boats, and Barbecue!**

On **Saturday, May 6**, the City of Berkeley Lake is celebrating **VALOR Day**. VALOR stands for **Veterans Appreciation Lake Outing and Refreshments**. This event is our city's fundraiser for the DAV - Disabled American Veterans organization (which has the highest possible rating from Charity Navigator) beginning with breakfast at 7 AM. **Jill Rice** is generously donating and serving that. Participants will enjoy music (thank you **Scott Lee**), fishing from the dock or pontoon boats, and

conclude with a big barbecue lunch, generously provided by **Tim Shaw and JR's Log Cabin**. No fishing license is required for our private lake, which is only opened to nonmembers on this very special

occasion to support disabled veterans. All fishing gear and bait will be provided (thank you, **Buddy Booker!**) and the event will take place rain or shine, but only for the first 50 people who make a minimum donation of \$50 or (hopefully) more. If you or your business would like to be listed among the sponsors for this event,

you can contribute at one of these levels.



Sponsor Donation Levels:

\$250	1 Star
\$500	2 Star
\$750	3 Star
\$1000	4 Star

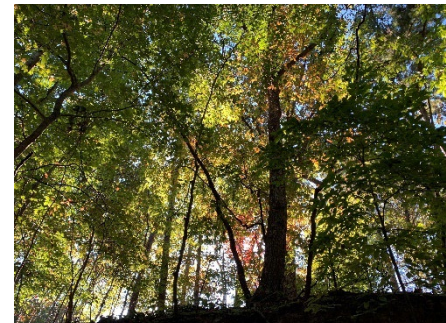
The website to sign up and/or make donations is: <https://support.dav.org/campaign/Valor-Day-at-Berkeley-Lake>. To volunteer your boat, contact **Resa Mechling**. To help serve lunch from 11 AM –12 PM, contact me or **Phyllis Tatgenhorst**. I am indebted to all these people who have jumped in to help with such a big project and a great cause, but particularly grateful for the excellent leadership of Rex Spittler, our retired U.S. Major General. **BLHA** is contributing the use of their lake and pavilion, and the **Chapel** their parking lot. **Britt Collins** and both of our **City Marshals** will be helping people find their way to a really good time. For questions, you can call me at (770) 368-9484 Ext.105. It's going to be a great day!!



I am very excited to introduce you to our newest **City Marshal, Marty Bozeman**. He brings 36 years of law enforcement experience to Berkeley Lake and in his spare time enjoys gardening, birding and nature photography. Marty grew up in Chamblee, and served as a Lieutenant for the Chamblee Police, a Major for the Henry County Police, and a criminal investigator for the Locust Grove Police. He also served 19 years with the state of Georgia and was the Chief Investigator of the Georgia Department of Transportation's criminal investigations unit. Before coming to Berkeley Lake, he worked part-time as a campus police officer for the University of North Georgia. Please introduce yourself to Marty when you see him out on his rounds. I think you will enjoy getting to know him.

Our city works hard to keep the big picture in mind and to plan ahead, rather than just react to things as they pop up. To do that proactively we have meetings with community leaders every few years to reconsider what we've accomplished and what needs doing. We meet with these citizen leaders to solicit their input and suggestions which are then considered by our City Council in preparing or refining a **Comprehensive Plan**. This is used to guide our city into the next few years with clarified goals and measurable outcomes. This process will be led by what we are calling a Steering Committee. I have asked the president of every homeowner association in our city to serve on this group or to designate someone in their place. Having invited those neighborhood leaders, I have also invited the presidents of the BLOSOMS, the Chapel, a Berkeley Lake business owner, a representative of the local economic development community, as well as two members of our Planning and Zoning Commission, and one representative from our City Council. We can all appreciate these already very busy leaders who are making time to work on this, and I will, of course, keep you apprised of their progress.

I recently received a letter from the Arbor Day foundation, congratulating Berkeley Lake on winning the **Tree City** award again. They go on to say: "Over the last few years the value and importance of trees has become increasingly clear. Cities and towns across the globe are facing issues with air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, and energy use.





Berkeley Lake has taken steps to create a brighter, greener future.” As always, we are indebted to our **Berkeley Lake Conservancy led by Susan Hanson** in our tree projects.

A **rabid raccoon was recently found in Buford**, and I wanted to share the following tips from Elliott Brack of the Gwinnett Forum to protect yourself and your family from rabies:

- Make sure your pets get their rabies shots regularly.
- Keep your pets on your property.
- Do not leave garbage or pet food outside. Food left out may attract wild or stray animals.
- Report any animal acting unusually to Gwinnett County Animal Welfare and Enforcement at 770-339-3200. They may display strange or unusual behavior. They may also act aggressively, avoid food and water, foam at the mouth, have trouble moving or move in a stiff, odd way. Stay away from any unknown animals, especially wildlife.

I have for many years really worried about the possibility of a **train derailment** near us. A lot of freight moves daily just above our lake and the Chattahoochee, and some of it is scary stuff. I recently sent a letter to members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives which said in part: “The unfortunate derailment and environmental contamination in East Palestine, Ohio is not unprecedented. There are more than 1,000 trains derailing each year in multiple states.” I urged them to “act now on rail safety.” I also asked our City Marshal, Rob Hiller, to study the topography between us and the railroad track and be prepared to help us react in the quickest and most protective way possible in the event of an accident. Rob has some valuable experience and training with hazardous materials and would be a very good resource for us if necessary. I certainly hope it never is.

**My featured Berkeley Lake business for today is Speedee Oil Change & Auto Service**, a full-service auto maintenance and repair facility fluent in service and speed. From new tires, quick oil changes to brakes, tune-ups, manufacturer scheduled maintenance, vehicle repair and more, Speedee Performance Certified technicians are ready to help you get back on the road. Speedee is located at [4810 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.](#)



This month’s **Fun Fact about Berkeley Lake:** The Atlanta Journal Constitution reporting on the 25 best places to retire in Georgia, said: “Berkeley Lake came out well at the #7 spot. The tiny enclave fell behind Dutch Island, North Decatur, St. Simons, Clayton, Druid Hills and Vinings, and was the only Gwinnett city making the top 25.”



Happy Spring!!

*Lois D. Salter*