



May 16, 2023

I attended a meeting recently with a representative of the **Atlanta Regional Commission**, which studies all kinds of data with the goal of guiding businesses and governmental entities in their plans for the future. There was a lot of information - too much to relate here, but I want to share a few things that might be interesting to you. **Housing** and the lack of it is a major concern. I hear about that in multiple meetings. Fewer residential units have been constructed this past decade than in any of the previous five decades! Housing prices have risen across the region. The median sales price increased 52% from January 2019 to January 2023 (\$230K to \$350K). Supply is at record lows. The latest forecasts of **climate** change released in March 2023 indicate that the Atlanta region will be significantly impacted by higher temperatures and increased rainfall. Storms are becoming more severe as a result. Pay attention to the weather. People are staying home. **Remote workers** now exceed all workers that use transit and carpool combined. It's becoming much harder to find workers, because the **working age portion of total population is decreasing**. Only the 75+ and the 56 - 74 age cohorts will grow in share of population by 2050. Almost 900,000 people aged 75 and older are forecast to live in the region by 2050. The aging population will impact travel, community design, and health care, to name just a few.



I always look forward to **Memorial Day**, when our city honors those who died in the service of our country. We do it in such a quiet, simple, and loving way by gathering at noon while BJ Van Gundy plays "Taps" out across the lake. Come stand with us behind the Chapel or at City Hall or on your boats. Here's a picture of BJ last year. We appreciate him, as well as the volunteer bunch that I call the Berkeley Lake Good Guys who manage the city's memorial crosses and flags. **See you at noon on Monday, May 29.**

On **July 4** we will gather as usual at **11:30 AM** in the Berkeley Lake Elementary parking lot to line up our parade. Decorate your cars, kids and dogs, and follow Scott Lee and his wonderful music down the hill to the

Chapel. There Debbie Peters will be providing hotdogs and children's games - always a joy!



We've had several other events recently. **Earth Day** is always a hit and we are so grateful to our staff who help make that happen. Also, to Jill Rice and Tracey Settlage who continue to donate the expensive shredder truck. Your contributions to Fully Furnished Ministries will help a lot of people who need furniture as they try to better manage their lives under difficult circumstances. We recycled 3,700 pounds of scrap metal and shredded 3,500 pounds of paper, hauling off 15.72 tons of trash that would

otherwise have been difficult to get someone to take. It was a good day!



Mark your calendars for our next **Electronics Recycling and Drug Takeback** event. **That will be at City Hall on Saturday, September 30 from 10:00 AM until noon.**

Many thanks to everyone who contributed time, effort, and money to our city's **VALOR Day event in support of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV)**. In this picture left to right you see our main guys: Rex Spitler - our retired U.S. Major General who led this effort, Bob Smith - City Council Member Extraordinaire, who always supports everything we do, Britt Collins - who assisted us on site in every way, Buddy Booker - who worked for days organizing our fishing preparation, and City Marshal Rob Hiller - who like Bob Smith contributes quietly and effectively in everything we do around here. Their efforts led to our contributing almost \$4000



to this great cause, making Berkeley Lake 2nd of 39 current DAV community fundraisers. Thanks to the following generous donors: Bill and Peggy Lyons, Wynn Barton, Mikal and Tom kitchens, Michael and Brenda Johnson, Eileen Barnes, Ginny and John Nevins, George and Becky Kaffezakis, Gary Volino, Rex and Rebecca Spitler, Steve and Carol Seitz, Tom and Mickey Merkel, Mike Thorpe and Nina Tally, Carol and Michael Benator, Lois Salter, Brian and Alison White, David Quin, Bob Smith, Jill Rice, and some who remained anonymous. Special thanks to Tim Shaw and

JR's Log Cabin who contributed lunch, as well as the BLHA and Chapel who allowed the use of their facilities. It's not too late for you to join all these generous people in helping. The website to make donations is: <https://support.dav.org/campaign/Valor-Day-at-Berkeley-Lake>.

In other good news, Berkeley Lakers really came out this past weekend and lined up to give blood. The Red Cross staff said they were running out of bags for us to fill! Blood supplies have been running very low, and someone we care about could need that kind of help unexpectedly at any time. Special thanks to Chip McDaniel who organized this **blood drive** for us and to John Pendleton who managed it on Saturday, as well as to all of you who donated!



There is a metro-wide **burn ban** now through September 30, so all types of outdoor or open burning are prohibited. For more information, call 678.518.4980 or visit GwinnettFireMarshal.com.

Unfortunately, our City Hall parking lot is not large enough to be used as a park and ride. On most days it's not a problem, but on one day recently, all the spaces were filled and there was no room for people coming to City Hall to take care of business or for parents who wanted to get to our city park with their kids. If you need to gather with friends to go someplace and leave your cars, please consider other options available nearby.



As you may remember from a previous Mayor's Message, Berkeley Lake has been designated an Urban Wildlife Sanctuary by the Humane Society of America. I was reminded of this recently when one of my neighbors found this **den of foxes** underneath his porch. I thought you might want to know that this is the time of year when mama foxes come closer to our homes to protect their kits (babies). I don't think any of them have ever harmed any of us or our pets, but they could surprise you one day soon. Foxes will repay your hospitality by eating rodents and small snakes.

Your **City Hall staff** is small but mighty. They want to help you with any concerns or questions you may have, so feel free to call them at 770-368-9484. It's always safer to ask about the tree ordinance, any building plans that you have, etc. before proceeding with any project. Advice from your neighbors, while well-intentioned, could be wrong or out of date, so please check first to avoid problems later.

The **farmers market at Thrasher Park** in Norcross has begun and will continue **every Wednesday until September 6, starting at 4:00 PM and ending at 7:00 PM**. Besides good fresh food, there will be activities for the family and live music, so go if you can and enjoy.

My featured Berkeley Lake business for today is AB Advantage at 4729 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Suite 100. I enjoyed meeting the owner Adner Colon when I cut the ribbon at their grand opening. He is a behavior analyst who works with autistic kids. Adner said, "We are committed to fostering a collaborative culture where everyone is respected and valued. As thoughtful risk-takers, we always strive to discover new possibilities that enhance the lives of individuals with autism and inspire conversation around possibilities for people with autism." He's seen here showing staff member Lila Hunter around. You can reach him at 973-883-5850 or adner.colon@gmail.com.



This month's **Fun Fact about Berkeley Lake:** Residents of Berkeley Lake are highly educated, with 25% of them holding a master's degree or higher, and 41% a bachelor's degree.

Enjoy your summer!

Lois D. Satter