



March 6, 2024



At our last City Council meeting Kim Berry was celebrated as the first winner of our Berkeley Lake LENS contest. Her beautiful photo will be proudly displayed in City Hall for all to enjoy. The prize for our monthly winners is a \$50 donation to the charity of their choice (sponsored by Ginny Nevins); and Kim directed her prize to our own Berkeley Lake Chapel. You can enter your own photos on the LENS website: <http://berkeleylakelens.com/>. The committee chair, Chris Kimberley, and the technical advisor Dov Jacobson have worked very hard to create this way for you to share your photography with us easily online. You will find directions to join the contest before you enter a photo and if anyone needs help in managing this process, Chris has generously

contributed his mobile number (404) 384-4386. Just text him a message first and he will call you back.

This weekend is our usual time-change collection of food and household goods for the nearby Duluth Co-operative Ministry. Julie Huntington and her fabulous volunteers will be picking up items this **Sunday, March 10, beginning at 1 PM**. Items can be placed in bags at your mailbox this Sunday or put in the collection bins available at both City Hall and the Chapel now. Please no glass containers. Some of the most needed items are peanut butter and jelly, canned fruit and vegetables, pasta and pasta sauce, canned tuna and chicken, personal care items, toilet paper, and laundry detergent. Also, monetary donations are welcomed and helpful!



Please save the date for our city's **Earth Day** when we haul off things that you no longer need. This year it will be on **Saturday, April 20 from 10 AM to 2 PM**. Besides the usual two trucks from Waste Management and the shredder truck sponsored by Jill Rice and Tracey Settlege, we will also have Fully Furnished Ministries here to take reusable furniture and the metal recycling guy who will take a lot of stuff you might not think of - see below. It's good to keep all of this stuff out of the landfill.



- Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners
- Washers, dryers, water heaters
- Microwaves and Metal signage
- Lawn mowers, gym equipment
- Junk cars, trailers, small aluminum / metal Jon boats
- Car parts and batteries
- Piping, sink faucets & fittings
- Outdoor furniture and grills
- DVD players, VCRs, gaming systems
- Cabinet knobs
- Metal, computers, wire, old cords /wiring, steel/copper/aluminum/brass
- No TVs of any kind or furniture unless it's all metal



**Kay Lee, Berkeley Lake's City Historian, is looking for old photos of Berkeley Lake**, especially from the first 50 years, from 1950 to 2000. There were many annual events going on, like fish fries, regattas, Easter egg hunts, spring BBQ, fall festival, or just send general pictures of the lake. You can contact her at [kayflee66@gmail.com](mailto:kayflee66@gmail.com) or [770-355-0525](tel:770-355-0525). Thanks so much to Kay for managing this effort for us!

Berkeley Lake continues to have a mutually appreciative relationship with our **police** officers. They were thrilled with all the Christmas gifts you brought for them to give kids who might not otherwise receive much. Similarly, they are now **collecting gently used or new children's books**, so please bring any of those that you can to City Hall and I will make sure they get them. Our officers recently chased a vehicle off of S. Berkeley Lake Rd. and down PIB ending with all suspects captured and no one injured. These guys had "allegedly" committed a carjacking in the city of



Suwanee. We are not immune from crime here, and our officers work so hard to protect us. Let's find them some kids' books!

I want you to know that our City Council is considering a **possible name change of Peachtree Industrial Boulevard to Peachtree Boulevard**. Other nearby cities have already done so. If you have opinions about this, please let one of us know.

**GWINNETT**  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

ANNUALS PERENNIALS  
VEGGIES HERBS  
TREES & SHRUBS HOUSE PLANTS

**SPRING PLANT SALE**

5150 Sugarloaf Pkwy, Lawrenceville, GA 30043

**APRIL 16-18  
9AM-4PM**

LOCATED INSIDE OUR GREENHOUSE BY BUILDING 600

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO START YOUR SPRING GARDEN!

Gwinnett Tech's annual spring plant sale will be held **April 16-18, from 9AM-4PM** inside their greenhouse in front of Building 600 at 5150 Sugarloaf Pkwy. They'll be selling a variety of student grown plants including annual seasonal color, sun/shade perennials, house plants, trees/shrubs, and veggies/herbs!

**Advance voting is continuing for the March 12 Presidential Preference Primary.** Registered voters can vote in advance in person every day, including weekends, through March 8 from 7AM to 7PM at the Pinckneyville Park Community Center. To check the status of your voter registration, see a sample ballot, and find your polling location, visit the Secretary of State's [My Voter Page](#).

As it gets warmer, I hope everyone will watch out for **snakes**, both to take care of the good ones, and to avoid the bad ones - which in our area are copperheads. This picture shows one of the good guys, a king snake, eating a copperhead so you can see what they both look like. Possums and foxes eat small snakes also.



You can join a **Yoga class** at nearby Shorty Howell Park (2750 Pleasant Hill Rd) on **Saturday, March 16 or Saturday, March 23 in the Activity Building from 9AM-10PM**. The instructor is Lisa Collins, founder of *To Each Is Om*, and the class fee is \$13. It's open to all skill levels ages 18 and up.

In a recent Mayor's Message, I talked about our **stormwater improvements project** which has been awarded to the Dickerson group. If you see their trucks in your neighborhood, you will know that those your tax dollars are at work. Stormwater infrastructure is becoming much more expensive as you probably know. Storms are becoming more severe while pavement and rooftops replace trees and woodlands, which would slow runoff and absorb water from those storms. In metro Atlanta, where from 2005 to 2014 the number of heavy downpours was 75 percent higher than in the 1950s, the city's tree canopy loss was almost half an acre a day from 2008 to 2018. We need to hang onto every tree and natural area that we can in our city to mitigate these problems. **I don't know how much longer we can avoid the stormwater infrastructure fees that all the cities around us have been collecting from their citizens for years.**

**“This is something that could contribute to thinking about how we can be more beneficial to nature in the future, not just focusing on planting pollinator gardens, but also protecting forest patches within our cities as well.”**

- Kennesaw State University professor Clint Penick on the surprising number of species of bees found in Georgia cities

I recently attended a meeting with Homeland Security Advisor Stanton Gatewood to learn about **potential cybersecurity threats** and ways we can prevent or mitigate them. [Here are useful DHS/CISA tools and services that he referenced.](#) He pointed out that there are billions of people on the internet with you (66.2% of the world's population) and some of them mean you harm. Please stay aware of possible threats and backup your data.



Here's a picture of our recent **celebration of Arbor Day with a tree planting at City Hall.** Susan Hanson, who chairs our Berkeley Lake Conservancy, has been working with our City Hall staff on arrangements for this year's project. Susan suggested a native fringe tree which has clouds of fragrant white flowers to honor our city's continuing achievement as a **Tree City.**



Our featured Berkeley Lake business neighbor this month is Ser Familia - a 501c3 nonprofit whose goal is to offer proactive solutions to Latino families facing a variety of crisis situations. They serve

families in metro Atlanta with physical and mental health navigation, legal assistance, domestic violence, youth programs, senior services, parenting classes, etc. For more information, contact Maribel Gonzales at [mgonzales@serfam.org](mailto:mgonzales@serfam.org) or call 678-363-3079. They are located at 5000 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Ste. 160.

This month's **Fun Fact about Berkeley Lake:** according to the Marietta Daily Journal, Berkeley Lake is the third most expensive city in metro Atlanta with a typical home value of \$724,925.

Looking forward to seeing all your pictures on Berkeley Lake Lens!

*Lois D. Salter*