



February 13, 2026

Many of you enjoy using our **City Directory** to connect with your neighbors for various reasons. It's one of the things that makes our city unusual in our mutual care of each other. It requires a lot of work for our city staff, so when it comes time for the yearly update, I hope everybody will help them promptly with the information needed. Now is the time for that! If you registered an email address with the city in the past, you should have already received instructions for updating your directory information online. Updating your listing online is the most efficient method, so please check your spam folder if you can't find it in your inbox. Residents for whom the city does not have an email address on file and who need to update their directory listing may do so by emailing an [update form](#) to directory@berkeleylake.com. The update form can be completed in your browser, Adobe Acrobat, or a similar PDF program. Once completed, email it to directory@berkeleylake.com or hand deliver it to city hall. The **deadline for updating directory information is February 28th at 5 PM, so please be sure to respond as quickly as possible.** Let's get this done!

Our city has an unusually good relationship with our police officers and it's important that all of us continue to support this. For that reason, **I have invited some of our Police officers to come and talk with you directly in a Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, February 24th at 7 PM in City Hall.** There you will have the opportunity to meet the new West Precinct Commander and learn practical, proven steps you can take immediately to reduce the risk of crime in our homes and neighborhoods. The presentation will focus on how awareness and prevention—not luck—play a critical role in keeping communities safe. Overall, the goal is to emphasize the importance of maintaining a strong, connected community, while equipping Berkeley Lakers with simple, effective strategies that help us protect our ourselves and our property. If you have questions about our FLOCK cameras, COPS, or any other police programs, now's your chance to ask directly. I am always relieved and grateful when I talk with our Precinct Commander about local crime stats. Once when we were looking at a map, he referred to Berkeley Lake as "a black hole" on the map because crimes were taking place all around us, but it's important not to get complacent. Crime prevention is a responsibility for all of us, not just our officers, and we need to do our part. I look forward to seeing you on February 24th.



Our **LENS** contest continues to be a pleasure for all of us. Check out this beautiful picture by **Jacqueline Gonzales**, which she titled “Autumn in Paradise Cove”. She donated her prize money to Mosaic Georgia.

Then there is this recent winner entitled “Captain America” from **Gary McBride** of Hermitage. Gary designated the American Legion, Post 134 for his winners award.



We are all indebted to our Arts Committee led by **Chris Kimberley** for managing the LENS program, especially to **Dov and Judy Jacobson** who provide all the technological expertise and to **Ginny Nevins** who donates the prize money for charities every month. Chris reports that in 2025 a total of 98 pictures were entered by 36 different photographers, 14 of whom were first timers.

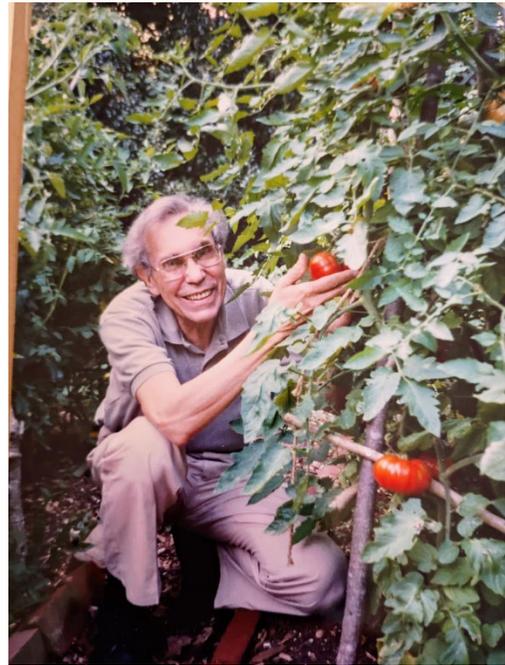


The most recent winner is **Kim Berry** with her picture titled 'Brrrrr'. Kim really has an artist’s eye with her photography. She has designated the The Foundation for Fighting Blindness for her award.

You may want to begin planning and organizing your stuff for the City’s **Earth Day on April 25th from 10 AM until 2 PM**. Our city staff has already booked the shredder truck, sponsored by The Rice Settlege Team, and also Fully Furnished Ministries who repurpose discarded furniture, as well as our usual solid waste hauler, and the metal recycler who will take the following: refrigerators / freezers, washers / dryers, water heaters, microwaves, dish washers, air conditioner units, metal signage, lawn mowers, gym equipment, junk cars, trailers, small aluminum / metal jon boats, car parts, piping, outdoor furniture, grills, car batteries, DVD players, VCRs, gaming systems, sink faucets & fittings, cabinet knobs, miscellaneous metal, computers, wire, old cords / wiring & most anything else made of steel/copper/aluminum/brass.

Here is the NO list: no TVs of any kind, no fluorescent bulbs, paint, or construction materials. Please remember that this is for our citizens' household waste only, no truckloads of stuff from businesses.

Many of us remember with deep gratitude our former mayor, **Bernie Cohen**, who recently passed away. Bernie was a man of uncommon vision, courage, and tenacity. Without him, we would not have our city's greenspace, and that is quite a legacy to us all. He was lovingly cared for throughout a lengthy and challenging illness by his amazing wife, Faye Harwell, who now invites us to a **memorial service on Saturday, February 28th, 2 PM, at our Berkeley Lake Chapel**. All are welcome.



Following months of study and public engagement (thanks to all who participated!), I'm pleased to share with you, the Berkeley Lake [Peachtree Industrial Small Area Plan](#), produced by a Georgia Tech design studio of master's students in the City and Regional Planning program. This plan is intended to establish a vision to guide development and redevelopment in the **non-residential areas** of the city, generally located along the Peachtree Industrial Boulevard corridor. The majority of the property in the study area is zoned for industrial use, and much of it was developed with commercial and industrial businesses that the city annexed back in 2011. Over time those **developments have deteriorated** with age, and some businesses have vacated. Most of the **nonresidential areas aren't serving city residents** but are oriented to pass-through traffic on PIB, or are employment centers drawing commuters from the greater metro area. I very much appreciate all of our citizens who came multiple times to interact with each other, with our staff and the Georgia Tech people; because it's so important that we **be proactive** about how the nonresidential areas of the city redevelop. City staff routinely get requests from developers looking to build gas stations and warehouses and new businesses looking to move in to do new/used car sales, vehicle storage, and contractor offices rather than neighborhood scale retail and service businesses that could benefit city residents. Not only are we missing out on local businesses that meet local wants and needs, but **we are also vulnerable to development with environmentally threatening uses**. Frankly, this is what worries me the most. We should all care about the **businesses locating upstream** and the impact those businesses could have on water quality, or even air quality. Remember the recent Biolab disaster in Conyers? Finally, the **aesthetics and character** of the nonresidential areas are incompatible with the residential areas. If the decline continues, resulting in blight, property values could be threatened. The future starts with a plan, even if there are ideas in the plan that aren't ripe for action. It is imperative to have a roadmap to **revitalize the commercial and industrial areas of the city**, and it can start with this plan. A lot of time and effort has gone into it. Thank you for all the citizen attention and contribution so far. Now please read the result and see what you think.

In a previous Mayors Message, I wrote about the **celebration this year of our country's Semiquincentennial**, and solicited ideas that any of our citizens might have to honor our country's 250 year anniversary. One of those citizens, John Jenkins, sent me the following information which I want to share with you. The **Freedom Plane National Tour: Documents That Forged a Nation** is a traveling exhibition from the National Archives that will bring Founding-era documents to only eight American cities throughout 2026. The tour will **arrive in Atlanta on March 27th and documents will be on display at the Atlanta History Center until April 12th**. Admission is free but advance reservations (tickets) are strongly encouraged. You can [find more information here](#).

This month's Fun Fact: I recently attended a meeting of Partnership Gwinnett and learned, among other things that Gwinnett has a low 3.2% unemployment rate, compared to 4.4% nationally.

Lois D. Salter