



May 19, 2026



**Memorial Day** as you know is this coming Monday on **May 25**. I hope many of you will find time to join your neighbors at the lake's edge behind our Chapel on that day for our usual **service of remembrance at noon**. I am grateful to BLHA who will open their gates on that day at 11:30 AM, to Britt Collins who will share an original story and song, and to BJ Van Gundy who has again consented to come and play "Taps" for us. Some of you will gather and listen from your boats. Others are welcome to come by land for this brief time together. The gates will be closed at the conclusion of this gathering which will honor those who have given their lives for our country. Thanks also to the ones I call the "Berkeley Lake Good Guys" who manage our memorial flags. The city pays for all the materials, and stores the crosses with

names and flags throughout the year, but this group of volunteers spends a good bit of time making these individual markers, putting them up, and taking them down. Many thanks to all.

Then on **Saturday, May 30** we will be holding the **Berkeley Lake Blood Drive from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM at the Chapel** to help the Red Cross. I am always so grateful to Chip McDaniel for organizing this and to all the citizens who come out to help in this life-giving way. [Here's the link to find out more and sign up.](#)

We are all looking forward to this year's special **July 4 celebration** since we will be honoring the 250th birthday of our country. The leaders of our Chapel are helping with that celebration in two ways: they will as always welcome us to conclude our parade on the Chapel grounds, eat hotdogs, popcorn, play games, and so on. This year in addition they are making available these **nifty T-shirts** and using funds raised entirely to benefit local families in need, which seems a good way to honor our country. [Order yours now at this link.](#) Presale ends May 28th.



**Gary McBride** of Hermitage Plantation is quite a successful photographer. This photo is his most recent winner of our **LENS competition**. His ability to capture colors is amazing. Thanks as always to Dov and Judy Jacobson for managing the competition, to Ginny Nevins for supplying the winner's charitable contribution, and to Chris Kimberley for leading the Arts Committee.



Our Berkeley Lake Conservancy (BLC) and our two City Marshals have been working with Alana Broxton, a local Eagle Scout Candidate and one of her scout leaders. They are planning the **placements around our city for 20 bird houses** which she is going to build for us. Many thanks to all of these folks, especially Margaret Bergeron, a Master Gardener, who leads the BLC.



**Rob Hiller**, one of our City Marshals who is a retired firefighter, is planning to repeat his **yearly hike around the lake on September 11** in full gear, which is quite heavy. He has done this for the last three years **in memory of the 343 firefighters** that died on 9/11. It has been meaningful for others to join him, so if you would like to walk, please gather at City Hall that morning before 7:30 AM. As always, I will have homemade cookies waiting for walkers when they return to City Hall.

Our **City Attorney, Dick Carothers**, has been selected to be inducted into the Georgia Municipal Association **Hall of Fame!** He will be recognized in Savannah at the annual GMA convention on June 29, 2026. Dick has been wonderfully supportive of our city for over 30 years and made a huge contribution to Berkeley Lake's quality of life. The Hall of Fame recognizes municipal officials that have made extraordinary contributions to municipal government and exemplify the very best in public service. We have been so fortunate to have Dick all these years, and are very glad to see him recognized and honored statewide.



This month's **Fun Fact about Berkeley Lake:** In the last five years, the value of an average home in Berkeley Lake has gone up by 59.6%.

*Lois D. Salter*