



April 7, 2025

Our **Berkeley Lake Earth Day** is almost here, so let's all be ready on **Saturday, April 26 from 10 AM until 2 PM**. Besides the usual two trucks from Waste Management and the shredder truck sponsored by Jill Rice, 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.



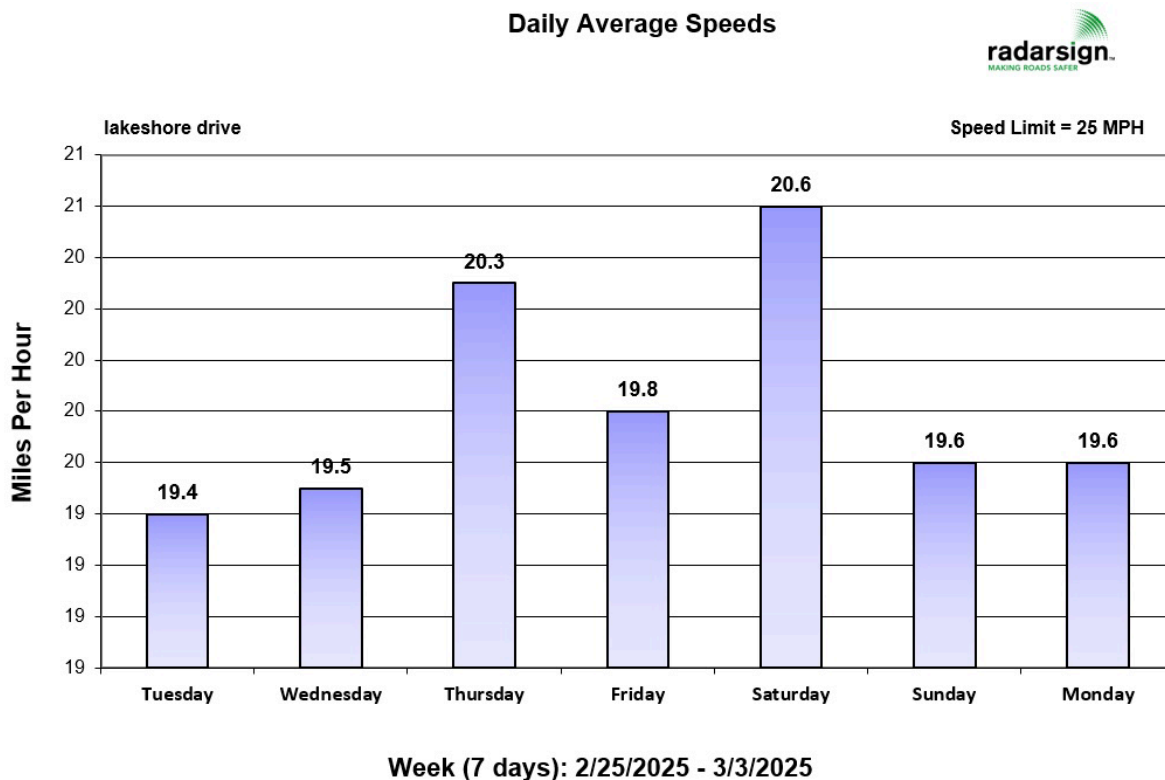
Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, washers, dryers, water heaters, microwaves, metal signage, lawn mowers, gym equipment, junk cars, trailers, small aluminum / metal Jon boats, car parts and batteries, piping, sink faucets & fittings, outdoor furniture and grills, DVD players, VCRs, gaming systems, metal cabinet knobs, computers, wire, old cords /wiring, steel/copper/aluminum/brass. No TVs on that day.

Thanks to our staff for organizing all this. **Please remember to bring your ID showing that you live within our city.**

If you have leftover paint, tires and other hard to get rid of things, you may prefer to go instead on that same day to the [county's recycling event](#) at Coolray Field. From 9 AM to noon, you can drop off electronics, clothing and sneakers, latex and oil-based paints, and tires. Paper shredding will also be available there onsite.

Michelle Wong (Berkeley Lake resident and Georgia **Native Plant** Society member) and some of her plant society buddies will be an interesting addition to our Earth Day this year. They will be set up near the Chapel at a table to provide info and complimentary packets of native plant seeds to interested visitors, so stop by and see them if you can. More information is available at <https://gnps.org/georgias-native-plants>.

I thought you might be interested in the results of a weeklong **speed measurement** conducted by Police recently in our city. Looks like our average speeds are under the limit, but Lakeshore is probably our most challenging for curves and hills.



I met again recently with 4 regional managers of **Georgia Power** to talk further about what could be done to minimize power outages in our city. Last time I talked with them I told them that many of our citizens are very interested in burying powerlines around the lake. Since that meeting they had done a study and came back to me with the results, which were not encouraging. It would cost \$2 million just to begin near City Hall and start around the lake, but that would not even get the whole of Lakeshore Drive. Lots of trees and shrubbery would be lost, mailboxes moved, and other disruptions. Aside from the tremendous initial costs, underground lines are harder to repair because they have to dig them up and find the damaged place. The lines don't go down as often from trees in a storm, but when there is a problem it takes longer to find and repair.

Alternatively, they have agreed to do what they call "enhanced maintenance." That means they will trim and/or remove some trees near the "wire zone". They expect to begin this work in our neighborhood around the second week in May and will be sending out postcards and door hangers to notify you if they will be doing any work on your property. They will use a staff of professional utility arborists and specialized contractors whom they expect to do an excellent job in our area. If you have questions, concerns, or want to speak with the arborist in charge of the work, please contact Georgia Power's customer support team at 877.276.0578 or georgiapowertrees@southernco.com. They also plan to beef up system performance in our area by adding what they call "self healing" infrastructure that will often help keep the power on for more of us. I appreciate all their efforts, and hope the "enhanced maintenance" goes well.



Many thanks to Julie Huntington and her amazing volunteers who on our **recent food drive** collected 1,253 pounds of stuff for people who really need it and delivered 200 bags of food to the co-op, all on a rainy day. The David B. Quin fund contributed an additional \$400 which they could use to buy extra things that are needed. Thanks to all our Berkeley Lakers who donated and especially to these heroic helpers:

Sandy and Bill Lacy
Cindy Purcell
Susan Hanson
Rob Jones
Amy and John Parker
Kayla English
Kaye and Don Berg
Beena Meshramkar
Debbie Peters
LeeAnn and Tod Senne
Joy McCleskey
Jamie, Chris and Dan Huntington

We are all invited to the **Maytime Arts Festival** right here in our city on **Saturday, May 10 at the Pinckneyville Park Community Center**. Admission is free and you can shop for unique arts and crafts while enjoying live entertainment and food trucks. There will be a Kids Zone from Noon - 4 PM and then an adults only after party from 5 PM to 9 PM with adult beverages. Artists and Vendors are wanted, so if you would like to be one of those, please call 678.277.0920.



Also on that same day, **May 10 from 9 AM until 3 PM you can stop by the Berkeley Lake Chapel to donate blood** for the Red Cross. It's so important to help them keep their supplies adequate for those whose lives depend on them. That could be some of our friends or family members. Information is here to help you sign up.

I have been asked by the county to let you know that a Special Primary on June 17 and a Special General Election on November 4 will be held for the position of **Public Service Commissioner**. The Public Service Commissioner regulates the rates, services, and quality provided by electric, gas, and telecommunications corporations in Georgia, as well as pipeline safety regulations. For more information, please visit the

[Georgia Public Service Commission website](#). For more information regarding key election dates, such as advance voting dates, times, and locations, or voting by mail, please visit the [Gwinnett County Elections Webpage](#). You may also contact them by phone at 678.226.7210.



I have asked BJ Van Gundy to come again this year and play “Taps” for us on **Memorial Day**. On Monday, **May 26 at noon** Berkeley Lakers will stop a moment to honor those who have died for our country. You are welcome to join me and BJ at the edge of the lake behind the Chapel or you may prefer to observe from the water or from your home. The sound carries out around the city. To facilitate this memorial, BLHA will open their gates from 11:30 AM until 12:15 PM on that day for us to come and gather together briefly. I know many of you have family activities on that day, but I think it’s important for us to stop for a moment and remember. Many thanks to BJ and to BLHA.

As many of you know, Councilman **Bob Smith** passed away recently, having served our city and community with distinction for many years. Bob’s integrity, kindness, intelligence and diligent hard work will be very hard to replace, but according to our city ordinances, the City Council was charged with the task of choosing someone to fill his spot on Council until the next city election. They considered several outstanding candidates but ultimately chose **Barbara Geier** in a unanimous decision. Barbara lives in Berkeley Walk and has been a BLHA member for almost 30 years. She



served the Berkeley Lake Chapel for five years on their Board of Directors and four years as Secretary. After a stellar legal career at King and Spalding, Powell Goldstein, and corporate Coca-Cola, Barbara is now enjoying community service as a Master Gardener. You can see her work in the Chapel gardens, but she also leads a team that created and maintains a pollinator garden at Berkeley Lake Elementary School. Barbara also served on our city’s Planning and Zoning Commission. Her resignation from that body to serve on the City Council led to the appointment of **Dave Meilander** who will do a wonderful job on our P&Z. Berkeley Lake is truly blessed with such outstanding people willing to contribute their time and efforts to serve our city.

The winner of the February **Lens contest** is Andy Anderson. His photo is 'BL Angler Bob Smith' and his chosen charity is Neighborhood Cooperative Ministries. Thank you, Ginny Nevins for the prize money and Andy for this lovely picture of Bob. We all miss him so much!



Some of our neighbors who are concerned about **deer** have invited Ben McCullar of the Urban Wildlife Program at the Ga Department of Natural Resources to speak at 7 PM on April 22 at Pinckneyville Community Center. Please come if you would like to learn about deer resistant plants, deer deterrent strategies, and deer-related projects in Georgia.

This month's **Fun Fact about Berkeley Lake:** According to Zillow, the average price of a home in Berkeley Lake has gone up 7.1% just in the last year.

Lois D. Salter