



# September 2nd 2026



Walkers gather at City Hall for memorial hike.

## Hike Around the Lake in Full Gear

*September 11<sup>th</sup> - Gather at City Hall by  
7:30 AM*

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<sup>th</sup>** in heavy gear. He has done this for the last three years in memory of the 343 firefighters who 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 before 7:30 AM that morning**. As always, I will have homemade cookies waiting for walkers when they return to City Hall.

## BE A PART OF BERKELEY LAKE'S FUTURE

### *Unified Development Ordinance - Version 2 Now Open for Review*

The study and possible revisions of our **Unified Development Ordinance** have made good progress in response to all the input we have received from citizens. Many thanks to all who took the time to wade through the lengthy first version of the document. Your efforts were not in vain, and your comments and suggestions have resulted in a second version, which is now also open for your review and comment.

If you have given your email address to the city to receive Mayor's Messages, you should have already received information about this directly. If you did not receive it, please check your spam folder, or contact City Hall to make sure you are on that email list. I posted this information on multiple social media sites last week, so I hope you have already seen it. If you are still having trouble finding it, access to the new version can be found [here](#).

**UDO Version 2 will be available for your review and comment through September 7<sup>th</sup>.**

## CITY BUSINESS & BUDGET

With the recommendation of our Citizen Finance Committee and the unanimous vote of Council, we have set a new millage rate of **1.179 mills for the year 2026**, which is the rollback rate. As an example, for a home with a fair market value of \$825,000 in 2025, the city property tax was \$394.02. For a home of the same value in 2026, the tax will be \$389.07—a **4.95% reduction in taxes year to year**.

Secondly, the City Council approved **\$458,169.00 for our 2026 Stormwater Project**. That will consist primarily of repairs to stormwater infrastructure in Berkeley Walk and Berkeley Commons, pursuant to last year's visiting expert inspections, as well as other locations identified by staff or through citizen complaints. The project was put out to bid in accordance with state law and will be funded by SPLOST.

## AROUND THE CITY

### Scouts Building Birdhouses

I'm excited to let you know that a group of Scouts is **building 20 birdhouses** and, with the **guidance of Margaret Bergeron, who leads our Berkeley Lake Conservancy**, will be placing them around the city on September 19th. If you see them, please stop to say hello and thanks.

### Check With City Hall Before You Build

Please check with City Hall before starting any home projects, including replacing existing structures. Our staff would much rather get you off to a good start than have to stop you later. If a structure is demolished and replaced in the same location, that is not simply a repair—it is new construction that needs a permit. If the structure was nonconforming, it also needs a variance. **Call (770) 368-9484** and you'll be so glad you did!

### Health Alert: West Nile Virus

Mosquito surveillance traps placed by health officials have tested positive for **West Nile virus** in DeKalb and Fulton counties, and two human cases have been reported. We are advised to cover exposed skin, especially at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active, and to be vigilant in removing even small amounts of standing water. They can breed in as little as a quarter inch of water in only 48 hours—in flower pots, tarps, and the like—and they love ivy and weeds. I haven't received any notices yet about Gwinnett County, but this is pretty close, so please protect your families and your neighbors. Mosquitoes can be more than just a nuisance.

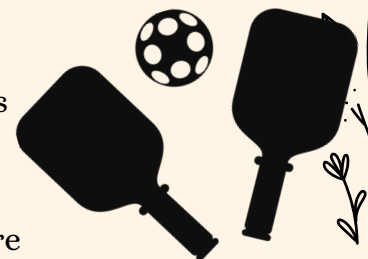
### Silver at Atlanta City Finals!



Berkeley Lake Women's ALTA team - silver at Atlanta City Finals.

**Congratulations to the Berkeley Lake Women's ALTA pickleball team**, who took home silver at Atlanta City Finals!

Amy Keel  
Amy Parker  
Barbara Geier  
Christy Mahon  
Dawn Murphy  
Donna Pickert  
Elizabeth Cattell  
Jill Rice  
Julie Keller  
Kim Berry  
Kathy Zusmanis  
Lynn Yates  
Peggy Lyons  
Ronni Pridemore



Did you know there are **6 beautiful new lighted pickleball courts** in our city over at the West Gwinnett Aquatic Center? Enjoy some great pickleball on weekday mornings. All levels are welcome, and there are plenty of groups who also play at night. Ask one of our proud Pickleballers listed here for more information.



## BERKELEY LAKE LENS - JUNE WINNER



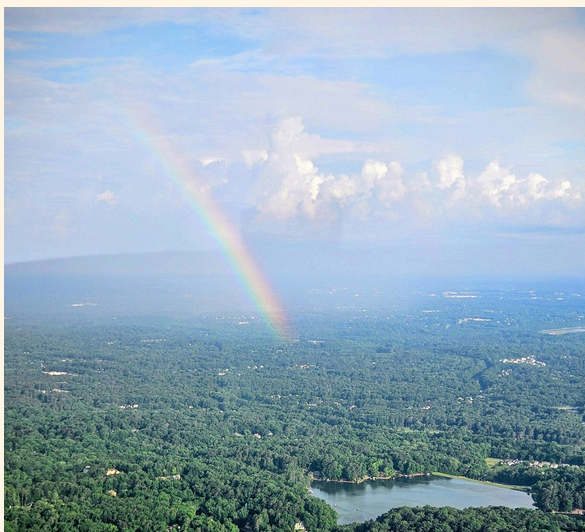
*"Just another evening in paradise.." - Kathy Sanders.*

*Kathy (middle) receives her prize at City Hall.*

When you've seen one Berkeley Lake sunset, you've seen only one. **Kathy Sanders** nailed the June Lens competition with a moody variation on a well-worn theme. Kathy urges us all never to take for granted the daily spectacles of life in our city. She knows from experience: Kathy and her husband, Dag, moved here twenty-two years ago. A decade later (after she helped issue the bond that saved our dam), they left Berkeley Lake. They tried to, but they couldn't stay away. The Berkeley Lake Boomerangs soon moved back. Kathy even moved her mom, Nina, to the lake. She donates her prize money (sponsored by Windsor Realty) to the Berkeley Lake Chapel. You can see her soulful sunset and many others at [BerkeleyLakeLens.com](http://BerkeleyLakeLens.com). Add your comments and send in your own photographs, sunset or otherwise.

*-Dov Jacobson*

## BERKELEY LAKE LENS - JULY WINNER



*"Berkeley Lake Up High" - Carlie Beach & Orion Wingfield.*



*Carlie and Orion receive their prize and framed print at City Hall.*

Dive into a rainstorm - go home with a rainbow! **Carlie Beach and Orion Wingfield** did just this, as Orion piloted their tiny plane over Berkeley Lake on their wedding anniversary. As they dropped through the clouds, Carlie took the remarkable photo that won the monthly Berkeley Lake Lens competition. Residents of Hermitage Plantation, the couple has shared a love for flight since they first started dating, when Carlie introduced Orion to aviation with a gift of his first flying lesson. Now they are spreading this enthusiasm by donating their prize money (sponsored by Windsor Realty) to EAA Young Eagles, a program that gets young people up in the air. Although they won the July contest, we had to delay this award until the end of August, when the couple returned from Japan - presumably in a somewhat larger plane. View their photo, 'Berkeley Lake Up High,' along with many others at [BerkeleyLakeLens.com](http://BerkeleyLakeLens.com). Add your comments, and submit your own prize-worthy Berkeley Lake photos.

*-Dov Jacobson*

## SAVE THE DATE

### Electronics, Metals Recycling and Drug Takeback Day - October 24<sup>th</sup> 10AM - 12PM

Mark your calendars! On October 24<sup>th</sup>, we're making it easy to recycle responsibly.

#### Yes, please bring:

TVs, printers, phones, refrigerators & freezers, washers & dryers, water heaters, microwaves, dishwashers, air conditioner units, metal signage, lawn mowers, gym equipment, junk cars, trailers, small aluminum or metal jon boats, car parts, piping, outdoor furniture, grills, car batteries, DVD players, VCRs, gaming systems, sink faucets & fittings, cabinet knobs, computers, wire, old cords & wiring - and most anything else made of steel, copper, aluminum, or brass.

#### Sorry, we cannot take:

No fluorescent bulbs, no paint, and no construction materials.

Please remember this is for our citizens' household waste only, not businesses. For hard-to-recycle items, Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful is a wonderful resource at [gwinnettcg.org](http://gwinnettcg.org).

### Drug Takeback

We're teaming up with the Gwinnett County Police Department to help you safely clean out your medicine cabinet. Too often, unused and expired prescriptions sit forgotten in our homes, where they can lead to accidental poisoning or misuse - and flushing them or tossing them in the trash harms our water and soil.

Gwinnett PD officers will be on hand to collect your items.

#### Accepted:

Tablets, capsules, patches, and other solid forms of prescription and over-the-counter medications. Pet medications are welcome too. Tip: Leave pills in their original containers, and feel free to scratch out any personal information on the label.

#### Not accepted:

No liquids, no syringes or "sharps," and no illicit drugs.



*Lois D. Salter*

Mayor, City of Berkeley Lake