



August 13th, 2020

Dear Community,

I got an email last week from a representative at Decide Dekalb. She asked me for a few highlights about our city—something not featured on the PL website. It was a great request and gave me a chance to think about who we are and what we typically do, without the current public health and community health crisis that we're all experiencing.

I've been thinking about what makes our little city unique. Here are a few fact: 1/ Three of the last four Mayors are LGBTQI; 2/ Our constructed wetlands cleans the water that passes through the City to the downstream residents of Dekalb County; 3/ The majority of our commercial district-by far—is occupied by independent, minority-owned businesses; 4/ Since August of 2016, Pine Lake has had all-female leadership, including Chief Green and Judge Wiggins.

I've been thinking about the last Mardi Gras pancake breakfast as well, and the five breakfasts we've missed since March. Our Beach House Saturdays average 40 people every month and have been a reliable gathering since I moved here in 1999.

By now we'd have had several Town Halls including the Kid's Town Halls and Tot's Town Halls held regularly since I took office in 2016. The Municipal Arts Panel would have produced its "Pollination Celebration" concert on the beach and soon be announcing the recipient of the annual MAPMakers Grant for the 5th year in a row. The Artist Market at the lake would be in month four and the Pine Lake Lounge would be continuing to regularly feature great music. The Pine Lake Community Choir would be rehearsing for an upcoming performance.

We'd be swimming. Picnicking together on Memorial Day and July 4th. Celebrating National Night Out with Chief Green and our officers at the Luau this week.

The 20th LakeFest would be less than six weeks away and counting down to what many residents call the "Pine Lake family reunion." FlashMob rehearsals would start soon; Pine Lake artists readying their inventory for booth after booth of local talent on display.

We look forward to doing all of this together again.

I think about what we've been doing since March: Collectively and individually, we have planted fruit trees and created art installations in parking spots with plants tended by neighbors and stenciled turtles customized by our children (mostly). We sang to each other on the tennis court when it seemed safe. We have an active food bank delivering directly to families in need; we delivered 7000 lunches to first responders. We've cleaned the beach, pulling weeds in the hot morning sun. From March 24 to July 7 we held weekly council meetings to keep city leadership extra-available. We created a team that continues to keep all our Pine Lake businesses up to date on grants and stays in touch to lend support.

I'm writing this brief list to remind us of the rich, interactive, and energetic place we live. I found it remarkably easy and delightful to call up a memory from a breakfast that makes me laugh or a shared, sweaty effort that was rewarding—the list is endless and stretches back twenty years—and it is grounding during these days that can feel unsettling at times; a reminder of the power of this robust "little bitty city."

When I say “we,” I hope everyone knows there are so many residents and neighbors and staff and officers and kids and friends who have made this (incomplete) list the year-after-year experience of living in this City. I’m talking this Thursday, August 13th, to be reminded of why I live here.

Your Mayor,

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Melanie Hammet
Mayor, City Of Pine Lake GA
“Arts’ Natural Habitat”

Pine Lake City Council Meetings - Zoom – second and last Tuesday at 7:00 PM
Conference line: 1 (929) 205 6099
Meeting ID: 813 0156 9377

PL COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.pinelakega.net/Covid19Updates.aspx>
Georgia COVID-19 hotline: 1-844-442-2681.

<https://www.dekalbhealth.net/covid-19dekalb/>

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