



August 3rd, 2020

Dear Community,

I wrote my first letter to the City on March 3rd; today is August 3rd. I think this is my thirtieth letter.

A lot has happened in five months. And a few things have remained very steady.

Pine Lake has, to date, a total of eleven residents who have tested positive for COVID. That's the total over a period of months. Only one person was hospitalized and subsequently released.

I believe that the City's early response has helped stabilize us to this point. We very quickly closed our public buildings, City Hall, the beach, our court (except for a brief re-opening), moved council meetings to ZOOM, eliminated a third of our side-by-side parking spaces. We held weekly council meetings for sixteen consecutive weeks, ending on July 7th. A team was created to insure that our businesses had personal guidance through the initial maze of assistance programs and grants. All these decisions have continued to protect and support our residents, our neighbors, our staff, our businesses.

It isn't enough and we won't ever be done. Our surrounding 30083 zip code doubled the number of positive tested cases between June 28 and July 26, from 404 to 809. Please remember that asymptomatic COVID-infected folks account for up to 35% of cases. We can only work to keep city spaces safer and disseminate information—which basically remains the same thus far: *Wash Your Hands. *Wear A Mask. *Keep A Distance.

Starting today all staff is returning to a full work schedule. During the reduced staffing hours over the last few months our city administrator was also out on medical leave for four weeks. As we begin this final month of summer, *please* continue to be patient as everyone works to catch up within this ever-evolving "new normal."

In other news: the lake endured an unusually large algae bloom, likely fed by the upstream number of people staying at home, working on their yards, fertilizing lawns and plants. Councilmember Woods, Raoul Martinez, and I met with an environmental specialist from the GA. EPD several weeks ago to verify the diagnosis. We chose to let the lake recover naturally, as it has every summer, and were once again reminded that a tiny body of water in a densely urban environment is a very fragile thing.

With many of us at home more often, we are sharing public spaces—more than usual. Please be aware of pedestrians if you are on a bicycle. Please keep your dogs on a leash when you're out walking. Please avoid doing anything that creates the necessity of a possible trip to the hospital or a close-quarters face-to-face shouting match. No need to incite hostile aerosoling.

Thanks to everyone who has been in direct contact with me and/or your council members. I am not on the private FaceBook pages and in these days of social distancing and ZOOM, hearing directly from residents and neighbors who live where I've been elected to lead helps remind us what a community is all about.

Speaking of ZOOM: Council meetings are the 2nd Tuesday and last Tuesday of the month. Next one is on 8/16, same day as the run-off election. Go to the Clubhouse and vote.

Continue to protect each other. We are the only vaccine so far.

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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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