



December 10th, 2020

Dear Community,

This past Sunday night we gathered at the lake for our annual lights-on holiday event. It was raining; it was cold; we hardly recognized each other through our masks and our hoods, our scarves and a few awkward umbrellas.

It didn't matter. It was great to see each other. Just for a little while—holiday music, crazy jumping reindeer and all—wow. Hello neighbors. Remember us?

Moving into these next days: COVID is still here, with a vengeance. This weeks' positive case count jumped 53% higher than last weeks, a jump unrelated to increased state-wide testing (which actually decreased). The virus rate in Georgia is rising steadily.

I've been on three conference calls in the last week that have included Amber Schmidtke, Ambassador Birx, Dr. Fauci, and Robert Redfield from the CDC. So——what do I have to say that is any different from the last 34-plus weeks of these calls?

*Some things remain exactly the same.* It continues to *matter* that we don't put someone else's health at risk by not wearing a mask. Someone like a front-line worker; like a neighbor; like a stranger who'll never know how they became infected.

*Some things are amplified.* December 7th, 2020 marked the 79th anniversary of Pearl Harbor where 2400 souls died. On December 8th, 2020 COVID-19 surpassed that historic number by nearly 200 lives.

*Some things are different.* Things will get increasingly difficult and more vigilance is now required as we slowly move toward the distribution of the vaccine. These inseparable next futures were the headlines of all three calls since last Tuesday. The roll-out and dissemination of the COVID vaccine timeline and strategy is as yet incomplete. During the months ahead we'll need to continue to wear masks, keep a social distance, and wash our hands to protect our families and community. A small price; an arguably light lift.

As I continue to write with updates and news please be aware that the Pine Lake Announce list is going away on December 15th. We are now migrating to a City-hosted list specific to municipality-related information. If you haven't yet signed on to the Resident Roster you can do so at the link on the [City Website COVID-19](#) page. Or you can go directly to the form here: [Resident Roster Sign-up](#).

Stay safe. Stay well.

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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/>