

Mayor's Message

April, 2010



Earth Day is from 9am-1pm on **Saturday, April 17**, at City Hall. The City has arranged for the following companies to participate:

Advanced Disposal – large household items Shinall Recycling – scrap metal
Electronic Recycling – electronics, computers Iron Mountain – paper shredding

Remember that we provide this service only to Berkeley Lake citizens, so you must bring proof of residency in our city. We hope homeowner associations will continue the tradition of cleaning up roadsides in their areas also on that day.

The Berkeley Lake Lifesavers will hold a gently used **book sale** at or near City Hall on **Earth Day**. Come shop and support our Relay for Life team. Hardback books \$1, paperbacks \$.50. All profits benefit the American Cancer Society.

It's time for a **new edition of our City Directory**. This is a lot of work for our staff, but you can make it easier to produce this time by downloading the form online and submitting it electronically. The form also gives you the opportunity to provide other contact information for future use. You can find the form on the City website at www.berkeley-lake.com or you can complete the paper form enclosed with this letter, but please do one or the other as soon as possible. Many of us enjoy having the directories which also contain a handbook of helpful information for citizens. The new directory will only contain contact information provided by those who return the form. The form only takes a couple of minutes to complete and send, but be sure to read the directions first. We don't want anyone to be left out.

I'm sure you have all seen the **City of Berkeley Lake public safety car** patrolling our city. The officer is carrying a cell phone for use only by Berkeley Lake residents. That number is **770 780-2456**. You may call that number to share non-emergency information with officers, but remember that in an emergency you should, as always, dial 911. They are doing foot patrols regularly in the greenspace as well.

In March, Council voted to make a change to the schedule for future meetings. Beginning with the regularly-scheduled Council meeting on April 15th and for each month thereafter, **Council meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month will consist of a work session at 7PM, lasting approximately 45 minutes followed by a formal Council meeting at 8PM**. Time available between the work session and formal session will be used by Council members for informal discussions with citizens, who are welcome to attend the work sessions as well.

The City is sponsoring an educational opportunity, **'Enhancing Your Landscape with Trees,'** on Saturday, April 24, 2010 from 10am-12pm at City Hall. Learn how trees can add to your landscape and support an amazing array of wildlife. Professional foresters/ arborists will discuss: planting the right tree in the right place, maintaining healthy trees, 9 things you should know about trees, what is the value of that tree, how trees support wildlife in an urban environment. Attendees will receive an informational booklet to complement a slideshow presentation and a tree seedling and will participate in our Annual Arbor Day Tree Planting which supports our annual recertification as a Tree City. The City is sponsoring the event free for our citizens as part of our Urban & Community Forestry Grant, however space is limited. To sign up, email deputy.clerk@berkeley-lake.com or call 770-368-9484. Include your name, home address, phone number, email address and number of attendees in your email and reference 'Tree Class' in the subject line.

Our city has **ordinances requiring permits** and follow up by our City Building Inspector **for projects like heating and air conditioning, plumbing, and electrical changes** to your home, designed to assure the your safety and that of your neighbors. A new water heater improperly installed could burn down your house and endanger your neighbors' as well. We also require a permit for significant land disturbance activities, so if in doubt call City Hall at 770-368-9484 to see if you need a permit for any of your spring fix-up projects.

Thanks to everyone who attended the recent Town Hall Meeting to hear about the **problems with our dam and our ongoing efforts to resolve them**. People listened patiently for hours in a "standing room only" crowd until every last question was answered. We've all seen town hall meetings on TV in other cities where people were screaming in each other's faces like poorly parented five-year-olds. There is certainly no lack of passion, concern and worry about this issue in our community, but people listened and spoke politely, asked intelligent questions, and treated others with respect and civility. I was so proud of our citizens! This is such a difficult situation, but if we continue to work together, we'll get through it in the best possible way.

For those unable to attend, you can listen to a voice recording of the meeting on our website. The engineers' presentation is available there under *Reports*, then *Public Works*. We will continue to update the website in the FAQ (frequently asked questions) section and under *Lake Berkeley Dam Issue* on the main page.

Since the meeting, we continued to work with FEMA until they quit returning our phone calls. Our efforts have moved them to increase the scope of the project that they accept as damaged in the storm from @19% to @26%. Those percentages are averages of a whole page of lines on which they assign a percentage to many separate items, which is why I use "@" to describe the percentages. It's complicated, as you can imagine. The bottom line is that our negotiations have caused them to move upwards from a rough estimate of @\$400,000 originally to @ 1.7 million dollars – understanding as we all do by now that FEMA would pay only 75% of those amounts if the project did cost \$4 million. They are still refusing to accept what is obvious to both our engineers and those from Piedmont Geotechnical Consultants – that the whole structure was damaged in the storm. They continue to speculate that there were some vague "preexisting conditions" (they don't say what) within the dam for the last 30 years which suddenly caused all this damage to show up the day after the storm. When we talk about observable evidence (no water in augur holes before, no cracks before), they just maintain that this is their opinion and they're sticking to it. I continue to work with all 3 of our federal legislators and have spoken with a professional lobbyist who would help us for free.

We are exploring financing options in a preliminary way until we know more about what this will actually cost us. I have even completed the forms to apply for an earmark to the 2011 federal water and energy bill. That's a very long shot, but we must leave no stone unturned. Our engineers are moving forward to finalize plans, get permits and approvals, etc. because nobody disagrees (even FEMA) on what must be done, and we don't want to lose time on such a lengthy project. I have made the engineering data available to citizens who request it. We actually have a fine geotechnical engineer who lives here, George Kaffezakis, who after studying the data felt that "our engineers are working in our best interests." This issue has drawn a lot of attention from local news outfits, none of which I sought, but I have tried to represent our case there as well as possible. We will continue to keep you informed as all this progresses. If you have questions, please check the website, and then call me if you don't find an answer there.

Lisa D. Salter

Citizen Contact Information Form

Be green! This form is available for electronic download and completion at: www.berkeley-lake.com



Please read instructions before completing each item.

The City of Berkeley Lake is updating contact information for its citizens with the intent of providing relevant information in a timely manner when necessary and for preparation of the next edition of the City Directory. Please complete this form **for your household** and indicate your wishes regarding whether you want individual pieces of information to be included in the next release of the City Directory. **Please note that contact information provided to the City is subject to Open Records Request disclosure in accordance with Georgia Law.**

Whether you want to be listed in the City Directory or not, please identify the household to which this information sheet belongs by printing your street address in the field below. If you choose to provide no directory or emergency contact information, completing this field and returning the form will indicate to the City that you do not wish to be contacted further about the matter. *There is no need to enter the City, State or ZIP Code for addresses within the City.*

Street Address

City Directory Info

Print your name(s) as you would like to be listed in the City Directory. Information included in this field will be listed with the address above in the directory. Leave this field blank if you do not want to be listed in the directory.

Examples: 'Jane and John Doe' or
'Mr. and Mrs. John Doe' or
'Jane Doe'

Directory Name

Enter a 10-digit telephone number you would like to have listed with your name and address in the City Directory. Leave the field blank if you do not want a phone number listed in the City Directory.

When completing the form electronically there is no need to enter dashes or punctuation.

Phone Number

Mailing Address (if different) and Contact Information

The information provided in this section may be used by City staff to communicate with **YOU** in emergency and non-emergency situations. **The information provided below will NOT be included in the City Directory.**

Enter your mailing name and address **only if it differs from your information** entered above. Leave these fields blank if you want us to use the information entered above for sending mail to you.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Please complete **at least one line** in the table below **for each adult in your household.** Use a second line if more than one phone number can be used to contact a person. If additional lines are needed, attach an additional page.

Name	Telephone #	Phone # Type Mobile/Work/Other	eMail Address
		<input type="text"/>	

Please turn this page over to continue (or go to next page if form is printed on separate pages or if you are completing the form electronically). See bottom of next page for submission instructions. Questions? 770-368-9484.

Committees

Print Form

Submit by Email

The City of Berkeley Lake benefits from participation on Citizen committees. Please darken the circle beside any of the following committees or Commission in which you have an interest.

- Finance
- Emergency Management/First Responders (BLEMA)
- Arts Advisory
- Policy Advisory
- Conservancy (BLC)
- Planning & Zoning

Questions and Concerns

Please use the space to the right to ask questions and note concerns that you would like to communicate to City Hall.

Please mail or bring this completed form to City Hall at 4040 S Berkeley Lake Rd, Berkeley Lake, GA 30096. If you are completing the form electronically, use the buttons at the top of page 2 for printing or emailing. Optionally, you may also save this completed form as a file, attach it to an email and send it to clerk@berkeley-lake.com with 'Citizen Contact Form' in the subject line. Questions? 770-368-9484.

**City of Berkeley Lake
Earth Day at City Hall
Saturday April 17, 2010 from 9am – 1pm
Requires Proof of Residency within City**



Who: Advanced Disposal
What: Yard waste and large household items such as desks, mattresses box springs, etc. NO construction debris, wet paints or entire trees



Who: Iron Mountain
What: Paper Shredding



Who: Shinall
What: Scrap metal, appliances, lawn mowers, grills, car and truck batteries, etc.



Who: Electronic Recycling Services
What: Computer and information technology equipment, scientific, laboratory and medical instruments, cabling and other electronics

