



September 13, 2010

Over the course of the last 4 months, our staff has worked to design a [beautiful new website for our city](#) and to write informative content for it. The new Berkeley Lake website has many features designed to improve communication between the city and our citizens including [Notify Me](#) and [Citizen Request Tracker](#), a tool for citizens to report issues to be addressed by city staff. As members of our staff work to address issues, status updates are sent via email to the requester. Is that cool or what?!! Citizens have already begun to use these features. Our staff continues to work diligently to provide additional information such as [Frequently Enforced Ordinances](#) and [Popular Projects](#). Visitors will find answers to frequently asked questions throughout the site as well as a [Resource Directory](#). Twitter users can follow *Berkeley_Lake* to receive website headlines and events as posted. Facebook users can visit *City of Berkeley Lake, GA* to view that information as well. Many thanks to Tom Rozier who has worked so hard on all this. I have wanted for a long time to use technology as an active support for our citizens, and he has made it happen.

Gene Rodgers, our Ordinance Enforcement Officer, has asked me to bring [Frequently Enforced Ordinances](#) to the attention of our citizens from time to time. Our goal is to keep people out of trouble with Gene! This month, I'm reminding our citizens that parking on the right-of-way is not allowed between 2:00am and 6:00am. See [code section 74-3](#), also available on our new city website for additional information.

Please don't forget our special meeting this Thursday before the September council meeting at 7 PM with our Gwinnett Police Precinct Commander and their **crime prevention** officer. I continue to work with the Commander to get extra police patrols in our city and with our security officers to get the best coverage from them as well. Our security officers are actively patrolling for door-to-door solicitors and stopping them for questioning. When appropriate, they escort them out of our city.

There are updates on the website regarding the **sidewalks project** and the Lakeshore Drive **water main project**. Please check it out if you have an interest.

The City Treasurer and our citizen Finance Committee are currently considering issues related to **next year's budget**. Not an easy task. We thank them for their time and input.

Everyone please mark your calendars for our **Fall Earth Day** which will be Saturday, Oct. 16 from 9 AM to 1 PM at City Hall. Advanced Disposal will be on-site to take large household items and yard waste (but no trees, wet paint or construction debris). Reboot will be here to take your working computer systems, software, phones, cell phones, printers, scanners, fax machines, etc. Roy Crawford take scrap metal, appliances, lawnmowers, grills, car batteries, etc. Iron Mountain will shred your documents. Remember that this service is only available to Berkeley Lake citizens, so bring picture ID.

We will also be having the **citywide garage sale** again in conjunction with Earth Day on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 15-16 from 8 AM to 2 PM, so you may want to be cleaning out and preparing for that. As before, the city will place newspaper advertisements and put up signs; and individual homeowners who choose to can mark their houses as places for customers to stop. The city is working to arrange for a charity to come by on Saturday afternoon to collect things that did not sell from those who would like to contribute their leftovers to a good cause and get a tax deduction. Anyone interested in participating should contact Roxanne in City Hall.

I have met with Rob Woodall who is the Republican nominee to replace John Linder in Congress to discuss our difficulties with FEMA and the **dam repair** project. He and his assistant visited the dam after our meeting and I hope they will be able to help us in Washington. I also continue to work with the Director of GEMA to get an answer out of FEMA, but we still have no official response yet. It's been almost a year, and when I expressed my frustration about that, Mr. Woodall indicated that this may not be unusual for FEMA. We continue to hope for the best, and more importantly, to work towards it. I have been working to get us some stimulus funds which would pay 45% of the interest on a bond for dam repair, but we cannot arrange for a bond until we know how much we'll need and have a referendum of our citizens. I know you are tired of hearing about this, and I am tired of talking about it, but we plod on.

Fall Festival will be on Sunday afternoon, October 24th at the Chapel. We are cutting the cost this year to hold city expenses down, and as usual, the BLOSOMS are volunteering all the work to put this on. They really need some help with children's games, etc., and I urge you to join them in this fun event if you possibly can. Please contact Lane Shutt or Betty Covington to see what you could do.

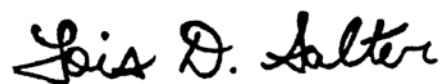
I met recently with leaders of the United **Peachtree Corners** Civic Association who wanted to talk with me about their plans to make Peachtree Corners a city. They are currently exploring options and details of this process.

I received a request not long ago from someone who lives just outside our border who would like to be **annexed into Berkeley Lake**. I passed that on to the council which is considering the request currently.

Our council members, Tom Rozier, and I, as well as several of our Finance Committee members have joined the **Berkeley Lake Elementary** PTA as community members to show our support for them. It only cost \$5 and the first 15 of you who join will get a free cheesecake sampler! Please contact Anne Carpenter or sign up in City Hall. Remember, supporting the school supports your property values.

Thanks to Rebecca Spitler who initiated and managed a 2009 Urban & **Community Forestry Grant** project for our city. The purpose of this project was to complete the Urban Forest Assessment that was started in 2008 as a Pilot Project with the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station. She coordinated educational events, the development of a brochure, training materials and updates for our new city website, and a comprehensive street tree inventory that will be used to create a Street Tree Master Planting Plan. A greenspace tree inventory will be used to create an Urban Forest Stewardship Plan to ensure that the greenspace continues to be maintained as a healthy forest and a comprehensive review and revision of the current tree ordinance will be presented to the city council. This last item fulfills one of our Comprehensive Plan goals. If citizens have thoughts about the tree ordinance, please let us know. It has already been worked on extensively by our staff, the Berkeley Lake Conservancy, and the Planning & Zoning Commission. Rebecca has spent so many hours on the grant and all associated activities. I know from other mayors that grants are getting harder to come by and often take so much staff time that they don't even try for them. Rebecca's donated time has made this possible for us.

On September 30th, City Hall will be finalizing the contact information to be included in the **2011 City Directory & Handbook**. About 85% of our property-owners have completed a Citizen Information Form which means that if the directory were printed today, about 15% of our folks would not be included. If you have not completed a form or wish to confirm that your form was received, contact City Hall at 770 368-9484. At this point, it is more helpful to contact City Hall to confirm receipt than to complete a duplicate form and submit it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lois D. Alter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.