



June 24, 2011

The city has completed sales of bonds and that process was more successful than we had expected. It was quite complex to obtain a public rating from Standard & Poor's. We had to create a large package of information that was ultimately published containing all types of demographic, economic, historical and financial information about the city and its local economy. After submitting this and holding conference calls between the rating agency, the city administrator and me to answer all their questions, we were assigned a credit rating which determines how expensive it is for us to borrow money. That rating put us in the 97th percentile of all Georgia cities. We were told that the reason such a small city achieved this was because the rating agency was surprised by how well our city is managed. We all as taxpayers owe a huge debt to Tom Rozier, our City Administrator, because even with our Deputy City Administrator absent on maternity leave, he has done such an outstanding job on the bond preparation. Bottom line = Tom saved us all money. The financial underwriters and bond counsel were also complimentary of our city auditor, David Dick, who completed a lot of extra work in a timely and very professional manner. I want to thank our citizen Finance Committee, led by Kathy Sanders, our City Treasurer. They have studied every nuance of this process and advised us well throughout. When all the bond process was finally complete, I told Tom Rozier I felt like I'd had a baby! He laughed, and said he did, too.

Because we were so successful in managing the bond process and have cut everything possible from our budget except public safety, **it appears that we will not have to raise taxes this year.** That decision has not been formally made by council, but the Finance Committee, Tom, and I have reviewed everything, and that is our recommendation. We may have to increase the millage rate somewhat to account for lower property valuations, but the amount of taxes the city collects will, I hope, not increase, even with the addition of the bond costs to repair the dam. That is a significant achievement, and an important one for our citizens in these difficult times.

I have contacted Tom Woosley of Safe Dams again this week about when they will be able to approve our **plans for dam repair.** He says it will be at least another week. The fact that we have

not gotten cleared by Safe Dams yet means that we will not be able to begin work on the dam at the expected time in July. When there's an update about that, we'll post it on the website. While waiting for approval we have been working on documents for temporary construction easements as well as landscaping plans for the front of River District so that when we reconstruct the road, we will be able to put back their landscaping. Additionally we are prequalifying contractors so we can move as quickly as possible when we are released to do so.

The City's Independence Day celebration will be held on Monday, July 4th. The parade will line up in front of Berkeley Lake Elementary School at 10:30 AM and begin the procession at 11:00 AM. After the parade, the Berkeley Lake Homeowners Association will be selling hotdogs, hamburgers, chips and soft drinks at the Chapel. Attendees may want to bring a picnic lunch for friends and family. The City has rented the Chapel for the celebration and will provide free lemonade as well as watermelons and prizes for the children's games. Children's games will be held on the Chapel's front lawn. Containers for our 'Can Do' All AmeriCAN food drive will be available at the Chapel and from 10:30 am until 1:30 pm at the Blue Heron Gallery at City Hall. If you're interested in helping in any way with the celebration, please call Roxanne at City Hall at (770) 368-9484, ext. 104 or David Lee at 770-447-8171.

Also on the Fourth of July, stop by City Hall and see the **new Art Show, *Our Nation, United*** in the Blue Heron Gallery. The Grand Opening for this show will be on Monday, July 4, from 10:30am -1:30 pm. Thanks to the ladies of the Arts Advisory Committee for organizing this: Carol Seitz, BJ Barrett, Diane Cuttino and Sandy Lacy.

Advanced Disposal Services will NOT run on Monday, July 4, 2011 but will be bumped back a day to Tues, July 5. Friday's solid waste pickup will be bumped back to Saturday of that same week. All normal services return on the following Monday, July 11, 2011.

I want you to know about some very outstanding young people in our city.

- **Clayt Kusera**, a resident of Miramont, requested a project to beautify the City and meet the requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout. He accepted the challenge to remove invasive plants and replace them with native plants in an area on Lake Berkeley across from City Hall. Other residents of Berkeley Lake also helped with the project: **Jordan Davoll** of Berkeley Walk and **Gerod Bond, Joseph Eaves, and Tyler Reeves** of Miramont. The work was done under the leadership of the Susan Hanson and the Berkeley Lake Conservancy. [You can read more about Clayt's project on our website.](#)
- **Ryan O'Rourke**, a resident of Miramont is another Eagle Scout. His project was reconditioning and improving the outdoor classroom at Mason Elementary School. This

included Constructing a sign for the entrance of the path, repairing and resealing four picnic tables, fixing the pavilion and lattice work and resealing both. He cleared the area of weeds and vines which had overgrown the pavilion, added a wooden border around the pavilion and path and spread mulch over the entire area.

- **O'Neal Wanliss**, also a resident of Miramont, was recently featured in *Sports Illustrated* as a track and field star who “won the 400 and 800 meters to be named MVP at the Taco Bell Classic in Columbia, S.C. An All-America and two-time defending Class-A state champion in the 400, O'Neal Founded Spikes 4 Tykes, a program that donates used track spikes to children in his parents' native Jamaica.” We can all join Sports Illustrated in congratulating this fine young man, as well as his parents Dean and Ena.

I'm not sure what's going on in our city to produce such fine young men, but I suspect it has to do with great parenting. In any case, I know you join me in congratulating them all!

Many of us were saddened by the recent death of former Berkeley Lake municipal judge and outstanding citizen, **Pete Rolader**. His passing was an historical loss for our city.

Lois D. Salter
Mayor

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