



October 20, 2011

**Early voting is now underway** for the special municipal election at City Hall and Lane Shutt is on duty to assist registered voters. Please remember to go by [during regular hours](#) through November 3rd for that, or on Election Day, November 8th from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. The question is: *“shall the City Council of the City of Berkeley Lake be authorized to permit and regulate package sales by retailers of malt beverages, wine and distilled spirits on Sundays between the hours of 12:30 P.M. and 11:30 P.M.?”*

I want to invite you to the **Berkeley Lake Turkey Trot** fun run which will be held at Berkeley Lake Elementary School **on Saturday, Nov. 12 at 8:00 A.M.** This year the Lake Berkeley Chapel is assisting with the school’s run rather than having a separate one of their own because as their president Debbie Peters says, this is *“a community outreach effort to benefit all.”* You can [download the registration form](#) at via the city website. Speaking of the Chapel, [you may want to read the Patch article about it.](#)

In another effort to help our local school, Diane Cuttino is coordinating **the collection in City Hall of personal care items** for students there who may need them. If you have extra soaps and shampoos from traveling or toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc., or can buy some to contribute, please drop them by. We are still collecting **nonperishable food** there also for the Norcross Cooperative Ministry.

I have been working with GEMA to get help in moving through the bureaucratic processes of obtaining the funds FEMA committed in granting our appeal. **FEMA** has now completed and signed the Project Worksheet (PW) for \$3.55 million, which is the major form necessary. This will include engineering and construction costs. Siphoning cost will be on a separate PW which is in process. The \$3.55M was developed using the estimates provided earlier by the City Engineer and the consultant from Piedmont Geotechnical. GEMA has confirmed for us that the PW is now in FEMA environmental review. The prior environmental assessment we have provided will help with this process. We won’t be damaging any endangered species. Following FEMA environmental review the PW will come to GEMA for state review. GEMA has promised me that they will process the PW in a single day or two. Because the project is greater than \$1.0 million, it will then go through FEMA in Washington for a Congressional announcement. This announcement process often takes a week or more. Upon execution of the PW by the City, we

will be eligible to request immediately up to 25% of the PW for expenses related to the project. Future payments against the PW will be made on a reimbursement basis with a final 10% hold back until inspection upon completion. None of this is cause for concern, but I wanted our citizens to understand the time parameters of the process. There's a lot of money committed to us here, but it doesn't seem to move very fast in arriving. Fortunately we have enough funds on hand to do what is necessary in the meantime.

While the lake is down homeowners have the best possible time to **repair boathouses and other near-lake structures**. As a "heads-up" I want you to know that our Ordinance Enforcement Officer will be reviewing those structures to make sure they are in compliance with our property maintenance ordinance. You may want to look into your repair needs before he does.

It's interesting to see **what's uncovered as the lake empties out**. One of our noted artists is focusing on what appears as a subject for her work. Do warn kids to be careful though, of walking around in the mud, not just to protect your floors when they come back in, but because I hear there is some broken glass in the mud. Britt Collins has been patrolling for that and trying to remove dangerous objects when he finds them, but please caution the kids.

I got several comments from citizens who bike around the lake in response to my cautioning bikers in the last Mayor's Message. I have been asked by several to remind everybody that **drivers and walkers have responsibilities, too**. Georgia law 40-6-56b: *"Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary, when feasible, the operator of a motor vehicle, when overtaking and passing a bicycle that is proceeding in the same direction on the roadway, shall leave a safe distance between such vehicle and the bicycle and shall maintain such clearance until safely past the overtaken bicycle."* "Safe distance" is explained in paragraph (a) of the same section: *"As used in this Code section, the term 'safe distance' means not less than three feet."* Also section 40-6-361: *"All low-speed vehicles are entitled to full use of a lane, and no motor vehicle shall be driven in such a manner as to deprive any low-speed vehicle of the full use of a lane."* Another gentleman who lives on Lakeshore writes me to say, *"I have seen many times when pedestrians are walking four or five abreast, chatting, and may not notice an oncoming cyclist. Pedestrians must understand that they are on a public road, and be alert to vehicles."* Okay, let's all be alert to share our roads safely.

If you live in or near the 100-year **floodplain**, you may find an Open House held by the county and various state and federal agencies to be informative. It's on October 26th from 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. These agencies have just completed a partial revision of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS). [Check our website for more details.](#)

On Wednesday November 9th at 2:00 P.M., the **first-ever nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS)** will occur on radio, television, and cable. This national-level EAS is not the same announcement you've seen before, but will enable the President to address the American

public during extreme emergencies. [See our website for more information.](#)

As you may have read in the newspapers, the judge finally ruled in the case tried over a year ago between Gwinnett County and its cities regarding **service delivery strategy**. The county filed suit some time ago because cities did not want their citizens to pay for services that the county did not provide them. Since the judge largely upheld the cities' positions, the county may appeal, but has not yet.

Lois D. Salter  
Mayor

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