



August 29, 2012

We are continuing progress on the **dam repair** in spite of the rain and some unexpected difficulties which have been discovered as we excavated. Until we dug everything up it was impossible to know exactly what was under there because the city had no records of the original dam construction or the later renovation in the 1980s. We have found some unpleasant surprises, like an old corrugated pipe under the road that had to be removed and ground water in areas we didn't expect, which have necessitated change orders. So far our contractors have only asked for an additional 3 weeks on the timetable and they hope not to use all of that.

Both the contractors and your council are making every effort to ensure both that the project is done in the best possible way and in the least necessary time. The council is having special called meetings when necessary to act quickly on change orders, so if you want to attend a meeting, don't assume that it will always be at the regular time. Check the website, newspaper advertisements, or the postings at City Hall, all of which we use to let everyone know of our meetings.

I have asked and hope to receive permission for us to begin refilling the lake before all is completed on the dam, possibly as early as November. Our engineers think the deep part could hold water safely while the last things like getting grass on the dam are done, but Safe Dams will have to approve this and it would be very closely monitored.



I met recently with a gentleman who is leading an effort to start a **new Southwest Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce** in the areas of Berkeley Lake, Norcross, and Peachtree Corners. There are multiple chambers in Fulton County that focus on specific localities, and the goal of this one would be to do that while working in concert with the Gwinnett Chamber. This new group wants to support existing area businesses as well as the cultural and performing arts, and attract new ones with a special emphasis on economic

redevelopment. If any of you are interested in joining this new chamber or providing leadership for it, please contact me and I will help you to make that connection.

I know that many of you have heard news reports about the deaths in Texas from West Nile virus. I urge you again to make sure you have no standing water around you that could breed **mosquitoes**. Even a quarter inch of stagnant water could do this in a very few days. Our city continues to put out mosquito larvacide but the best hope is for all individual homeowners to monitor their own areas in ways that we cannot. I have gotten questions about the remains of the lake, but water continues to move through there and a few fish remain to eat the mosquito larvae. Before we begin to refill, those last fish will be removed but for now, they're helping with this problem.

Many of us are struggling with mortgage difficulties and I want you to know about a state program that may help. **HomeSafe Georgia** provides up to 18 months of mortgage payment help for those who are unemployed or underemployed through no fault of their own. There is no cost to apply and no closing cost, and the interest-free loan is forgiven over a 5-year period. We have info available in City Hall, or go to [HomeSafe Georgia](#) for more details.

This year's **Turkey Trot fun run**, a collaborative effort of the Berkeley Lake Elementary School PTA, the City and the Lake Berkeley Chapel, will be held on Saturday, November 10th. Please save the date.

Our City is the beneficiary of two **Eagle Scout projects** currently in the works, led by Ben Kucera and Max Musser with the guidance of our Berkeley Lake Conservancy Chair Susan Hanson and the City Council. Thanks to all, especially these young men, their Scout troops, and their parents.

Berkeley Lake recently hosted the Gwinnett County "**Can-Do**" luncheon at City Hall. Thanks to Diane Cuttino who continues to lead our city's effort and asked me to share the following with you. Ambassadors from each Gwinnett city gathered to report their collection progress and upcoming plans. Jack Lane, Co-President of the Norcross Cooperative Ministry, gave a presentation about NCM and its accomplishments and future goals. They started in Norcross in 1988 with 1,000 clients and in 2011 had 12,000. Their mission is to transform lives by assisting their clients to climb out of their cycle of poverty. Their food and personal care distribution is part of their bigger picture. They also provide utility and short-term housing assistance to clients in need. This is funded by grants and monetary donations. There is a tremendous need in this area. Any contributions dropped at City Hall will be delivered to the Norcross Cooperative Ministry. Just write a check to NCM if you would like to contribute.

Former City Council representative **Debbie Guthrie** passed away this week and will be missed not only by her husband Steve and their family, but by many others in our city. Debbie worked very hard on Council, particularly in the planning for our current City Hall.

I continue to promote businesses within our city and hope you will **Buy Berkeley Lake** whenever possible. Here are three to consider:

[The Law Office of David S. Lee, LLC](#), (678) 474-0005 - Representing the citizens of Gwinnett County and more particularly, Duluth and Berkeley Lake for over 10 years in the areas of personal injury, criminal defense, DUI and real estate closings, David S. Lee has been a member of the Georgia Bar since 1991. From 1991-2001, David Lee worked as the Senior Assistant District Attorney in Fulton and DeKalb Counties.

[Making Ideas Visible](#), 770-329-4213 - Julie Stuart, principal - Creative visual strategy and facilitation for innovative businesses and organizations so they get clarity on where they are headed and how to get there. Clients include GE, Victoria's Secret, CDC, Eli Lilly, IHG, Toyota and United Way.

Pam Williamson 770.662.5985 - Pam works with individuals and small business partners on developing and strengthening empowerment within themselves and their organizations through individual coaching and financial operations consulting. A former Controller of Habitat for Humanity International, she leads teams on humanitarian missions to Africa and Asia. She holds an MBA from Washington University in St. Louis and has extensive experience in financial operations of for-profit and not-for-profit organizations.

Lisa D. Alter