



October 14, 2013

**The dam is done!** Technically it's described as "substantially complete" until FEMA, GEMA, and Georgia Safe Dams come to inspect it and approve it on October 25<sup>th</sup>, but the bottom line is that we have finally finished work on it. We have such confidence in the work quality of our engineers and contractors that I feel comfortable saying that we're done, and it is such a great feeling at long last to be able to tell you that. When the various agencies give their final approval, the last funds will be released to us and we will be able to pay off the remaining bonds. We are planning a citywide celebration on November 16<sup>th</sup>. More about that later, but please save the date.

There are some things about the new dam that I want to point out to everyone. The parking lot is bigger and surfaced in a more stable material that will be easier to walk on. There are monitoring wells across the entire structure which will allow us to continuously monitor the phreatic surface (ground water level within the dam) for safety. Piedmont Geotechnical Consultants will be



checking these at least weekly until we reach full pool and we will be monitoring after that to provide a level of safety which we never had in the old dam. Another new safety feature is the low level drain which can be opened to quickly and safely remove some water if there is a hurricane approaching like the one that damaged the dam before. The centipede grass will not only be very attractive but will reduce future maintenance costs by half or better. We have cleared the lakefront face of the dam of the small trees, etc. that had grown up in the last few years and installed bases for birdhouses. While the dam has always been a "No Trespassing" area, that will be far more important now because of all the metal pipes, etc. which are part of the monitoring system. To trip over them and fall down that slope would not be a good experience, and the days of kids sledding after snowfalls are clearly over. We are going to keep electronic copies of every document related to this project, and there are many. It was a problem for us that the City had kept no records of either the original construction or the renovation in the 1980s. We will not face that difficulty going forward.

**This Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, is our Fall Earth Day from 9:00AM until 1:00PM.** I think most of you know the drill. *Advanced Disposal* will take yard waste and large household items such as desks, mattresses, box springs, etc. No construction debris, wet paints, or entire trees. No TV's will be accepted at City Hall. If you need to dispose of a TV, please call Advanced Disposal and they will pick it up at your home. *Iron Mountain* will provide paper shredding and *Crawford Metal Recycling* will take scrap metal, appliances, lawn mowers, grills, car and truck batteries, etc. *Touch the Future* will take your computer and information technology equipment, cabling and other electronics as well as wheel chairs, walkers, shower chairs and other small durable medical equipment. They also provide donation forms for tax deduction. There is a \$5.00 charge for each CRT monitor. They do NOT take microwaves or TVs, just information technology and medical equipment. **Please remember that this is a service of your city provides at no cost only to you as citizens. You will need to bring identification showing a Berkeley Lake address.**

Regarding paint questions: Advanced Disposal will take your paint, but only if it is LATEX paint and only if it is DRY. The method they suggested to us regarding drying paint is to stir cat litter into it. They will only take the paint if it is completely solidified because when they compress the garbage, wet paint leaks out of cans and will drip out of their trucks onto streets. Not pretty! You can include completely dry latex paint in your weekly solid waste pickup if you like or bring it to our Earth Day event. If you need to dispose of oil-based paint, you may want to call a vendor such as [Atlanta Paint Disposal](#) as they provide pickup services or you can drop it off to them, but they do charge a fee for the service.

Also this weekend we'll hold the **Citywide Garage Sale** on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:00AM until 2:00PM. All you need to do is get your merchandise priced and displayed and put a marker by the street letting motorists know you're participating. The city will post signs in strategic locations around the city and advertise in the newspaper, on Craig's List and on Peachtree Corner's Patch.

If you are a registered voter in Berkeley Lake, don't forget our **election on Tuesday, November 5, 2013 to select three members for City Council.** Advance voting during regular business hours at City Hall or by absentee ballot begins today, Monday, October 14, 2013 and ends Thursday, October 31, 2013. On Election Day, the polling place will open at 7:00AM and close at 7:00PM. Please remember to have photo identification when voting in person. **On the same day that you go to City Hall to vote for city council candidates, I urge you also to go to your county voting place at Pinckneyville Park to vote as you see fit on the possible SPLOST extension.** Please see [the last Mayor's Message](#) for an explanation of SPLOST.

Our Blue Heron Gallery in City Hall is having a special show arranged for us by Diane Cuttino of Lakeshore Drive. She is sharing oils, watercolors and acrylics painted by her father who is a famous Impressionist from New York. His name is Santo and he's been recognized in Who's Who in American Art. Diane will be in our gallery on Friday and Saturday, October 18 and 19, from 11:00AM to 4:00PM to share these works with you, so stop by this weekend to see her. After that, the show will be open during City Hall business hours through the end of November. You can contact Diane if you like at (770) 441-0616 or [dpc2@bellsouth.net](mailto:dpc2@bellsouth.net).

Some of you will remember what the police call a "special op" that I requested to get drivers' attention for stop signs on Berkeley Lake Road. Please be advised that I have asked for another

one at **stop signs within Miramont** at the request of their homeowner association board. Do be cautious, because the majority of the tickets usually go to those of us who live here and use these roads most often. This is a “heads up.”

I want to alert you also that the **speed limit on Peachtree Industrial Boulevard** has been lowered to 45 miles per hour all the way from the Peachtree Parkway intersection to the Highway 20 intersection in Sugar Hill. In [this county announcement](#), you'll note they say this change was requested by city officials. That did not come from our city so they must have heard from others. I already got one ticket along there a few years ago rushing to a Chamber of Commerce meeting, so slow down with me and avoid a costly fine.

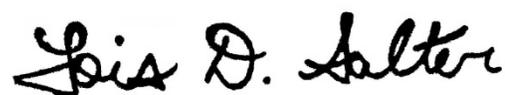
I hope you are enjoying the wonderful Fall weather as much as I am, in spite of all the leaves falling in my yard. I've been asked to remind you not to blow **leaves** and debris into the storm water drains and culverts, creeks, or the lake. Advanced Disposal will pick up your yard debris on Mondays. If you use a yard service, please make sure they know about this, too.

Last Friday Rod Hammond, Pat Chapman and I met with 3 county leaders in the field of **economic development**. I had invited them so we could acquaint them more thoroughly with our commercial areas and they could help us attract more businesses and increase property values. It was a productive meeting ending in a driving tour and they will be helping us formulate a proposed economic development ordinance for Council's future consideration.

Are your kids budding artists? They might like to enter the **Southwest Gwinnett Student Juried Art Exhibition** which is being presented by Kudzu Art Zone, Objet d'Art Gallery, and the Southwest Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce. Students in grades K-12 who reside or attend school (public, private, charter, or home-school) within the city limits of Berkeley Lake, Norcross and Peachtree Corners are eligible to enter. Artwork must be submitted starting December 18, 2013 and before noon on January 4, 2014. You can get [complete information and an entry form](#) on the web.

And don't forget the **Berkeley Lake Turkey Trot** hosted by BLES PTA, City of Berkeley Lake and Lake Berkeley Chapel. It's Saturday, November 16, 2013 08:30AM at the school. You can choose a 4 mile Run or a 1.5 mile Fun Run. You can [register online](#) or download a [paper registration form](#). All runners registered by Oct 27th will be guaranteed a t-shirt on race day. If registering after Oct. 27, t-shirts will not be available until approximately 3 weeks after race day.

**Greater Atlanta Montessori School** welcomes ages 12 months through 6 years and is open all year round at 3351 North Berkeley Lake Road. The Montessori Method inspires independence, cooperation, self-confidence, and excellence. Parents interested in learning more can schedule a tour by calling (770) 232-0330 or [visit them online](#).

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