



November 21, 2013

Thanks to all who contributed to our **CITY CELEBRATION** last Saturday. I had two goals for that event. One was to bring our citizens together to enjoy each other, have a good time, and commemorate the successful completion of our new dam. The second goal was to raise money for charities that need our help. I can report to you that we accomplished both of those things, and I think a good time was had by all. There were worries about the weather and we didn't have much time to plan because the dam was just approved on Oct. 25. Nevertheless, we had a really great party and spent less of the city's money than we have in some past fall festivals because our City Charity Coordinator, Lou Mitcham, was chiefly in charge of the planning and he managed to get a lot of participation at little or no cost. Bryan Stuart also worked tirelessly beside Lou and ponied up \$400 of his own money to buy food the night before. We raised \$1,724 for the Norcross Cooperative Ministries and the Paws and Stars Animal Rescue Group. We also collected almost 100 bags of nonperishable food for NCM as well as toys including a brand new child's bicycle which thrilled them. The Relay for Life Team collected more money and sold baked goods. This is such an amazing community!



There are so many to thank. The Chapel and BLHA donated the use of their space and BLHA matched their president's personal contribution with another \$400 of their own. John Zibrida and Cadillac Tattoo made wonderful live music for us and Scott Lee did his DJ and cooking thing. Arts and crafts for kids were provided by Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church, and Chip McDaniel provided kids' games. Joe Voyles loaned us his tractor and Tevis Stine his trailer which Bryan Stuart drove for the kids' hay ride. Hay was donated by Jeff Sharp of Select Landscapes



(770-729-8842). The city has settled on Jeff as the least expensive and very competent landscaper for our needs and you may find occasion to use his services at your homes. Publix donated gift certificates for food. Don't we all love Publix? Debbie Peters helped us find a clown as well as recruiting Todd Coker and his pontoon for boat rides. Thanks, Todd. People loved that. Jacob Peters helped his mom and Todd serve popcorn and apple juice on the boat and worked hard all day at any other task as needed. The Southeastern Railway Museum brought a small train for kids who were thrilled to be able to blow its horn.

Andrita and Rodney Hammond worked hard all day cooking and entertaining special guests. Here is Rodney with our state legislator, Tom Rice. Jim Donnelly and Anne Carpenter helped also. Volunteers from Duluth High School helped a lot, and the firemen from Station 19 came with their big truck and ambulance for the kids to enjoy. Guitar Center Gwinnett (1455 Pleasant Hill Road [\(678\) 380-6730](tel:678-380-6730)) donated a wonderful new electric guitar for our raffle which was won by John McCrory of NCM. He plans to give it to the Ministry to raffle off again! Chana Phillips won the 50-50 raffle and donated all her prize money to the charities, even though she said it was the first thing she'd ever won in her life. When it was all over, we took leftovers that the NCM couldn't take to Mt. Carmel UMC and Fire Station 19 as thanks to both of those groups for helping us.



I also want to share with you some of the nice letters I've gotten from people who worked on our dam. Karl Myers is one of the most outstanding geotechnical engineers in the southeastern US and he says, *"This has been one of the most enjoyable projects of my career in dams - not just for the technical aspects, but for working with all the great folks involved."* From the GEMA reimbursement guy Marty Itzkowitz, *"I would personally like to thank Tom Rozier for making my job easier. He is a pleasure to work with."* And most importantly from the head of the Georgia Safe Dams Program, Tom Woosley: *"Kudos to you for celebrating this great accomplishment. **Through the hard work of so many people the city now has a dam in tip top shape.** It was a pleasure to work with everyone involved. It is amazing what can be accomplished when folks*

have a can do attitude and this dam rehabilitation certainly represents what can be done. Enjoy the day of celebration and I look forward to working with the city during the next round of inspections.”



This week I’ve had the pleasure of delivering your money to NCM and to the Animal Rescue folks. It’s not too late to contribute to either. Just bring a check by City Hall made out to Norcross Cooperative Ministries or Paws and Stars Animal Rescue and we’ll get it to them. Lou Mitcham is already on his next mission to collect as many new toys as possible to brighten the holidays of needy kids, so bring them by as well. Thank you SO MUCH to everyone who helped to make this such a great day

for Berkeley Lake, for the dogs that got adopted, for all the good your money will do for NCM, for making so many kids happy. Is this a great place to live, or what?!!

Our featured Berkeley Lake business for this issue is **Touchstone Therapeutic Massage** at 4720 PIB, Suite 103 in the Horizon Center. It’s owned by Linda Craigg whom many of you already know as a 12-year resident of Berkeley Lake. She’s now moved her business within the City and specializes in deep tissue & sports massage, neuromuscular therapy, and injury rehab. Her clientele ranges from teen, elite and Olympic athletes to families, corporate clients and seniors. Other services include nutritional and wellness coaching, and small group fitness classes. Talk with Linda about stress reduction, acupuncture, skin care, and anti-aging. Call (770) 316-0582 to schedule a complimentary consultation, or visit the [website](#).



Next door to Linda’s business is **JLI Sports and Family Chiropractic**, same address but Suite 104. The owner, Dr. Jinjiang Li and Linda Craigg both supported our celebration, so please support their Berkeley Lake businesses if you have a need for these services. You can reach Dr. Li at (404) 491-1618 or jlisportschiro@outlook.com to make arrangements for family chiropractic needs or sports injury rehabilitation.

Lisa D. Salter