



December 5, 2013

**City Council member Anne Carpenter is offering to wrap your Christmas presents!** She remembers a time in her life when caring for ill and aging parents amid the usual other stresses with job and family made her frantic in holiday preparations. Says Anne: "It's not really money that creates holiday goodness, right? It's doing for and helping others," and that's what she wants to do now that she has time this Christmas. **You are invited to bring your gifts to City Hall on Sunday afternoons, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1 to 5 PM.** She will wrap your presents at no cost to you, but donations may be made to the Norcross Cooperative Ministry or to the Paws and Stars Animal Rescue. Some of you might like to come and help Anne wrap and she would welcome that. Anne will also take appointments to wrap in-home for our seniors, the disabled, or others with special needs. She doesn't want our seniors to have to lug items to and from City Hall if they're not able to get out in the cold weather. You can contact her to make appointments at [anne.carpenter@berkeley-lake.com](mailto:anne.carpenter@berkeley-lake.com) or (770) 318-0032.



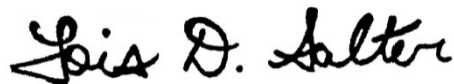
I have very good news to share! **Today the last of our bonds created to finance the dam are all paid off.** You will remember that our citizens voted in a referendum to borrow \$2.7 million when we didn't know if FEMA would come through to help us. Even when they did, the city had to pay all the bills before being reimbursed. Now all of that is behind us and our beautiful lake is coming back. I think you'll agree that makes for a very happy new year!

**Senator David Shafer** recently attended a meeting of the Gwinnett Municipal Association with me and Mayor Pro Tem Rebecca Spitler. Other city leaders were there with state senators and representatives to discuss the upcoming session of the Georgia Legislature and what issues coming before that group might affect our citizens. I also had lunch downtown with other mayors from throughout the metropolitan Atlanta region to discuss these issues. We talked about taxes, economic development, transportation problems, schools, Grady Hospital, etc.

As we reach the end of the year I am contemplating the **Mayoral Appointments to city committees for 2014**. If you would be willing to serve on one and would like to be considered, please let me know of your interest. You can find information about the Arts Advisory Committee, the Berkeley Lake Conservancy, and the Finance Committee [here](#) on the city website. There is information about the Planning and Zoning Commission at [this link](#) and there will be one opening there as Rodney Hammond comes off the commission and onto city council. Serving on one of these groups is not time consuming, and it is a great way to get to know more about the city and to make a difference here. I would be happy to talk with you about this if you have an interest. Email me at [mayor@berkeley-lake.com](mailto:mayor@berkeley-lake.com).

In my last *Mayor’s Message* I made an error that I’d like to correct. **Jeff Sharp of Select Landscapes** donated the hay for kids’ hayrides at our recent City Celebration and in thanking him I gave his phone number incorrectly. The right one is **(770) 837-1708**. That’s his cell phone which he said he didn’t mind my giving to our citizens in case you need him at your homes. We have found him to be the best in courtesy, competence, and price.

**Merry Christmas** and *happy holidays* to you all! If you travel to be with your families and friends, be careful and come back to us safely. We have a happy new year ahead of us in Berkeley Lake.

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