



April, 2014

Thanks to all of you who have contributed information for our new **City Directory**. Out of 723 households in the city, all but 238 chose to participate. City staff has worked hard on this preparing all the helpful information that we include and proofreading the content. It has now been sent to the publisher and citizens can expect to receive a copy in their mailbox around the end of April.

You may have noticed that some **road signs** around the city are getting old and grungy looking. We have made some efforts to get them cleaned but as they get older the reflectivity is impaired making it difficult to see them at night as well as we'd like. Of the 485 signs inventoried within the City of Berkeley Lake, about 277 of those signs are city maintained. The city engineer has been tasked with the job of producing a bid package for replacement of 40 of those signs including missing ones and those in poor condition, and a few signs in fair condition. When we get those replaced, things should be looking better around here.

While I'm thinking of signs, I want to remind you about the [city's sign ordinance](#). This ordinance governs not the road signs mentioned above but those signs used for advertising. This kind of sign is a source of controversy for many cities. We have struggled to be fair to the advertisers and also to prevent unsightly signage in our city. We have some citizens who just don't like any roadside signs at all in the city and remove them when they see them. Sometimes those signs are illegal and our Ordinance Enforcement Officer hasn't gotten to them yet since he's a part-time employee. Then again sometimes the advertiser has actually done the right thing but had his or her signs stolen after paying good money for them. I would urge everyone to acquaint themselves with the ordinance before you put up or take down any signs.

It's finally springtime, thank Goodness! Time to clean out your excess stuff and bring it to City Hall for **Spring Earth Day – Saturday, April 19th from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM**. We are not having a citywide garage sale because we have always done that in conjunction with Fall Earth Day, but if you need someone to take your unneeded household goods you can contact NSPIRE at 678-298-2073 or [visit them at their website](#). This nonprofit which helps the homeless works with

[HOPE HOUSE](#), a program outreach focusing on single women and mothers with children transitioning from domestic violence. We’ll have provision for you to donate used cell phones, computers, and other electronics on site at City Hall that day, as well as our Advanced Disposal folks, as usual. Remember to bring proof of residency in the city. Here’s a picture I took last Earth Day of our guys who were helping that day.



Many thanks to Julie Huntington and all her volunteers who on March 9th helped collect over 80 bags of food and some significant cash donations from our city for Norcross Cooperative Ministries. Berkeley Lake has been doing this twice a year on the time changes for years now and it makes a real difference for a lot of people who need the help. If you’d like to help in the fall, contact Julie.

There’s been some concern lately about **nesting birds** in our city and I have some information about that to share with you. I am told that all birds of prey and song birds are federally



protected, along with their active nests and eggs. That means hawks, owls, eagles, cardinals, robins, chickadees, etc; but does not include pigeons, English house sparrows and grackles. Someone cutting a tree with a known and visible nest of a federally protected bird like a hawk is subject to some hefty legal action at the state and federal level. Many times old trees with holes in them are habitat to nesting owls, pileated

woodpeckers, and other cavity dwellers, so if the tree is not a threat to the household, it's better to allow it to stand for wildlife.

You will recall from the last *Mayor’s Message* that I had appointed Chet McQuaide from Berkeley Walk to be our city’s Community Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Chet will coordinate local **emergency response information** with HOA presidents who are the natural and recognized leaders within their neighborhoods. [Here is information](#) that Chet has recently compiled for all our citizens to supplement the 2 laminated emergency guides that were produced and given out by the city previously. Thanks, Chet.

Our **next art show in the Blue Heron Gallery** at City Hall will be “Print Me” – works by DB Love. Come learn about monotypes, linocuts, and drypoints, and vote for the 'People's Choice' award to identify your favorite work shown there. There will be an **Opening Reception** for the show on **April 26th at Berkeley Lake City Hall from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM with live music by The Dover Drive Jazz Trio!** Paintings will remain on display until May 31st but I hope lots of you will come out to enjoy the music and art that day.

On that same day BLHA is extending an invitation to all City of Berkeley Lake residents to spend a day on the lake and create new memories with your family and friends. Join them on **Saturday, April 26, 2014, at 9:00 AM** in the picnic area behind the Chapel. Enjoy a pontoon boat ride or try out a kayak, canoe, or paddle board. Bring the kids and their fishing poles to challenge your skills at catching a fish. Free sample of fish food will be available to feed the fish from designated areas. Boy/Girl Scouts are welcome to join in and earn your merit badges. Volunteers will be serving lunch at a nominal price from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. That Saturday should be a great day in Berkeley Lake!

Our city has been known for years as a beautiful community. We’ve worked with the **Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful** organization for a long time to support the work they do throughout the county and they have supported us in the past as well. At our last city council meeting, city leaders passed a resolution reaffirming those goals and pledged to do all they can in this worthwhile work. We signed our names to the banner that you see here.



Lisa D. Alter