



May, 2014

Thanks to all of you who have contributed information for our new **City Directory** and to our staff who worked on its preparation. It is now complete and I hope you have received your copy. We are making arrangements to get directories to new residents as they move into the city, along with some other welcoming information. We have also distributed the laminated emergency preparedness information to new residents of our city.

Before our major dam repairs there was only one way out for water from the lake and that was over the spillway. Now there are three ways. The main one is the new standpipe, but when water rises faster than the standpipe can handle it, water will also go over the old spillway. The other new feature is a lower level emergency drain, and I recently received a question about how it might be used in the future. Since it is somewhat difficult to operate, requiring someone with training, time, and significant strength, City Council has carefully considered this and concluded that the emergency drain should be used only in genuine emergencies. That might be (Heaven forbid) a leak or break in the dam which I hasten to add we have no expectation of, or an approaching hurricane-strength storm like the one in September 2009 which damaged the old dam. It takes about 30 minutes of hard work to open the valve by someone who knows what they're doing and has major muscles. Ask Bryan Stuart or Scott Lee about the muscle component! They are the only ones so far in our city who have been trained by the contractors who built the dam to do this. Council also accepted my suggestion that we open the valve briefly every other year as a test, just to assure that it is working correctly. I consulted the following before I made my recommendations to Council about this and they all concur: our City Engineer, the Piedmont Geotechnical principal engineer, and the president of BLHA.

A number of people have asked about removal of the **silt fencing which has remained on the dam** since the dam construction was finished. Representatives of J. M. Wilkerson Construction, the contractor which provides the warranty on the dam, including the sod, have asked the city to maintain the silt fencing in place through the growing season.

Berkeley Lake is now officially recognized as a **Compassionate City**, thanks largely to the leadership of LeAnne McDaniel. I believe our citizens have long been an unusually compassionate group, working quietly together for years to collect food for the hungry, clothes, toys, school supplies, etc. for the needy, and money for homeless animals. Hopefully this recognition will encourage others to join in these efforts. You can read the Compassionate City Resolution passed unanimously by our City Council in the minutes of our April meeting [here](#). You can also visit the Compassionate City by following this [link](#) to sign the pledge personally. If you would like to join LeAnne’s group who are working together on this, please contact her directly and she’d be glad to hear from you. Many of you know LeAnne already, since she’s lived here for 13 years and been active with BLOSOMS and BLHA throughout that time. Give her a call at 770.797.9579.



One of the City’s major responsibilities is **paving and road maintenance**. To that end we have commissioned a professional engineering survey of all streets in the city so that we can get an unbiased and professional recommendation of what streets will need paving and in what priority order. That was done in March and you can read about the process and plans for the future in the minutes of the April and May City Council meetings on our [website](#). Similarly, we also commissioned a professional engineering study of the stormwater infrastructure between 243 and 264 Lakeshore Drive and the watershed above that area which drains into it. We will be moving forward to ameliorate this situation in the immediate future.

Our city is diminished by the loss of **Diane Cuttino** who moved last week to New Jersey to be close to family. For years Diane cheerfully lead Berkeley Lake's Can-Do Program collecting food for Norcross Cooperative Ministries twice a year. Prior to his death her husband Phil Cuttino also served the city as a City Councilman. They both left a hole in our community and we wish Diane well as she leaves us.



There are a few folks who enjoy **walking along the Chattahoochee below our dam**. It’s a beautiful area but unfortunately this puts them on private property in the backyards of homeowners in River District. There is an easement along the river there, but it is granted to the county only for necessary maintenance of the sewer line that runs along there. When I consulted our City Attorney, I was told that sewer easements are subsurface and the property owner retains all rights to the ground above. The 150-foot buffer from the river restricts development but doesn't allow the public to walk along it at will. Most of us would be uncomfortable seeing strangers walking around behind our homes, because it’s difficult to know whether they are just friendly birdwatchers or criminals casing our homes for future

burglary. Our River District neighbors feel the same way; and some of them have asked me to pass on to everyone their request not to trespass in their backyards.

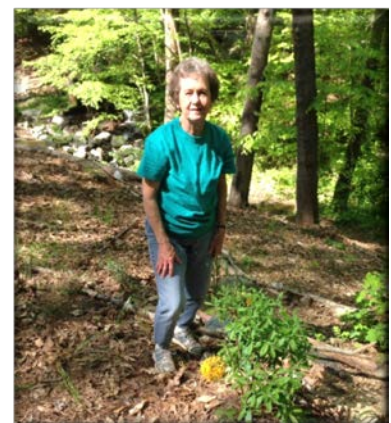


Many of you are enjoying **Mackenzie’s Restaurant and Tap Room**. Much has been written about it on Nextdoor Berkeley Lake and you can see their great menu [here](#). Please continue to patronize this fine restaurant and all the other businesses in our city. I hope more of you will make the decision that Ken Weatherford, Paul Diaz, Linda Craigg, and others have made to bring your businesses home to Berkeley Lake. If

you need help to explore available commercial space in the city, call City Hall.

Despite the rain and chilly weather, **Spring Earth Day** at Berkeley Lake on April 19th proved to be a big success. Vendors and volunteers were present to help residents dispose of unwanted items and recycle other items. Advanced Disposal received 4.66 tons of yard debris and large household items. Crawford Metal Recycling collected approximately 1.6 tons of scrap metal, including one or more grills, bed frames, metal doors, lawn mowers, trimmers, metal chairs, appliances, wire and other miscellaneous items. City staff members helped out Touch the Future by being their staff for the event as well. They received durable medical equipment and electronics donations on behalf of Touch the Future, who then came by City Hall on Monday and picked up those donations. Touch the Future is an organization that provides affordable computers and durable medical equipment to individuals who are disabled, seniors, qualified veterans or from disadvantaged communities. Many thanks to Britt Collins, whose help on Earth Day is always appreciated; Patrick Gallagher who volunteered to help residents unload their items; and to the Scouts from Pack 650 who picked up trash and helped beautify Peachtree Industrial Boulevard within the City of Berkeley Lake.

Susan Hanson and the rest of her **Berkeley Lake Conservancy** members continue to work on the Henderson Nature Sanctuary near Bayway Circle. Our city has provided funding for plants and trees there and for the planned split-rail fence which will be installed soon. I asked Susan to share information from time to time that might be helpful for our homeowners. Here’s this issue’s installment: *Blooming now in the Henderson Nature Sanctuary—also known as Fowler’s Mill—is the native shrub known as Virginia sweetspire (Itea virginica). Many of the native plants planted there*

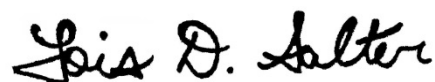


were chosen specifically because they are good pollinator plants. Pollinator plants are plants preferred by bees and butterflies. Bees are needed to pollinate the majority of our food supply. No pollination means no blueberries, no tomatoes, as well as most fruits and vegetables. Look for lots of flowers to bloom all summer and fall for our bees and butterflies. To keep bees and butterflies alive and working for us, we need to limit pesticides. Lawn pesticides that kill mosquitoes will also kill butterflies and bees. To keep mosquitoes away, try instead a ThermaCELL mosquito repellent that repels mosquitoes. You can buy it in the hunting department of Wal-Mart.

Safe Kids Day FREE May 17 from 11:00am to 1:00pm. This free event features games, a bike rodeo, a bounce house, crafts, contests, and activities. All superheroes wearing a costume will get a prize. Bogan Park, 2723 North Bogan Road in Buford. Call 678.277.0850 for more information.

Totally Tomatoes Workshop FREE May 20 from noon to 1:00pm. Tomatoes are the most popular vegetable plant, and no garden would be complete without them. Attend this free workshop to learn how you can plant bountiful tomatoes in your garden. There is no charge to attend, but pre-registration is required by May 16. Gwinnett County Extension Office, 750 South Perry Street in Lawrenceville. To register, contact Timothy Daly at 678.377.4010 or timothy.daly@gwinnettcountry.com.

Please remember to vote on May 20 in the primary election. This is the first step in the process of choosing who will serve you in many county, state, and federal offices for the next few years. Make your voice heard. It’s important to us all.

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