



October 9, 2014

As you may remember from my last *Mayor's Message*, **Fall Earth Day** will be Saturday, October 11 from 9 AM to 1 PM. As usual for fall Earth Days we will also hold a **City-wide Garage Sale** on Friday, October 10 and Saturday, October 11 between 8 AM and 2 PM each day. City staff has placed advertisements in the newspaper and online. Each participating homeowner will be responsible for designating your home as a participating sale location, usually with signs and/or balloons. For Earth Day the city has arranged for the following, but please remember that this service is provided at no cost only to our citizens. Bring identification showing a Berkeley Lake address in order to dispose of or recycle items.

- Iron Mountain will be providing secure paper shredding.
- Advanced Disposal will be accepting yard waste and large household items such as desks, mattresses, box springs, etc.
- Crawford Metal Recycling will be accepting scrap metal, appliances, lawnmowers, grills, car and truck batteries, and other metal items.
- Touch the Future will be collecting used cell phones, computers, cabling and other electronics as well as wheel chairs, walkers, shower chairs and other small durable medical equipment and technology items. Donation receipts will be provided. There is a \$5.00 recycling charge for each CRT monitor.

**The following items WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED: construction debris, wet paints, entire trees, televisions, microwave ovens.** If you need to dispose of a television, please call Advanced Disposal at (678) 495-0058 to make arrangements with them to pick the television up at your home.

On Saturday, Nov. 8 please come out and support Berkeley Lake Elementary School at the **Berkeley Lake Turkey Trot**. Join a 4 mile run or a 1.5 mile fun run through the beautiful streets of Berkeley Lake. All funds raised will be used for playground improvements at the school. Be there at 8:30 AM. Go to [this link](#) for more information or [here](#) to register

Also on that day, our city celebrates its **Fall Festival, Saturday, November 8 from 11 AM to 3 PM**. You may remember it was a great success last year. A good time was had by all and quite a lot of money was raised for local charities. We hope to do even better this year. There will be several live musical performances, bouncy houses, a trackless train for you to ride around on, homeless

pets for adoption, food for sale, pontoon boat rides, popcorn, and s’mores to make over a firepit. We are expecting visits from a firetruck, a police car, and the Atlanta Hawks Fan Force.



The Norcross Cooperative Ministry will be there collecting nonperishable food and household goods which I hope you will all bring. There will be raffles for an electric guitar, smart phones, bluetooth speakers, restaurant gift cards, and a 50/50 prize where you could win half the money collected. There will be children’s games, face painting, bubble making and lots of fun for little persons. This has been organized thus far by Lou Mitcham and me, and we would love to have help from anyone else. If you can, please contact me. Most importantly, please come and bring a bag of food for NCM. It will be a great day!



There was some concern from several of our citizens about a party at the Chapel / Picnic Area that was noisy late into the night. The city does have a **noise ordinance** which you can read [here](#); and the property owners as well as the partiers to whom it was rented can be held responsible for any violations on their property. I’ve contacted leaders of both the Chapel and BLHA to suggest that they protect themselves from possible citations by making noise ordinance information a part of their signed rental contracts. Hopefully, late and loud parties won’t be a problem again in the future, but if they are, citizens affected may want to contact leaders of those organizations before making a report to the city. I’d hate for these community organizations to get cited and possibly fined if that could be avoided by a friendly phone call.

I’ve written before about our city’s **Comprehensive Plan update** and I promised to provide you with results of the citizen survey when they were available. They were presented and discussed at our last city council meeting but if you missed that you can read about it [here](#).

The following **Halloween Safety Tips** are provided by our local American Red Cross.

- Look for flame-resistant costumes.
- Plan the Trick-or-Treat route and make sure adults know where children are going. A parent or responsible adult should accompany young children as they make their way around the neighborhood.
- Make sure the Trick-or-Treaters have a flashlight. Add reflective tape to costumes and Trick-or-Treat bags. Have everyone wear light-colored clothing to be seen.
- Visit only the homes that have a porch light on. Accept treats at the door – never go inside.

- Instead of masks which can cover the eyes and make it hard to see, use face paint instead.
- Walk only on the sidewalks, not in the street. If no sidewalk is available, walk at the edge of the roadway, facing traffic. Look both ways before crossing the street, and cross only at the corner. Don’t cut across yards or use alleys. Don’t cross between parked cars.
- Be cautious around strange animals, especially dogs who may be frightened that night.

If you are welcoming trick-or-treaters at your home, follow these safety steps:

- Sweep leaves from the sidewalks and steps.
- Keep the front porch light on.
- Clear the porch or front yard of any obstacles that a child could trip over.
- Restrain any household pets.
- Use a glow stick instead of a candle in the jack-o-lantern to avoid a fire hazard.



First Aid is at your fingertips - download the free American Red Cross First Aid App. You can find all of the Red Cross apps in the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store by searching for American Red Cross or by going to [redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps](http://redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps)

Thanks to Eric Musser for organizing the first annual **Car-TOON or Treat** at the Chapel picnic grounds on Friday, October 31 at 6pm. This is an adaptation on the Truck or Treat concept and a safe alternative to going door to door for Trick or Treat. He is looking for volunteers to hand out candy from the trunk of their cars or their pontoon boat, sponsoring a game (bobbing for apples for example) and/or helping with setup and clean-up. We expect that we will get a good number of children that will dress up and go from ponTOON to ponTOON and Car to Car performing the classic ritual of Trick or Treat. There will be Halloween cartoons for kids and adults are encouraged to bring your favorite spooky beverage of choice. If you bring your adult "trick or treat" mug by the "Deadman's Pirate Toon", Eric will fill it up with his world famous Green Pirate Grog. Please participate and help to make this a great event. If you have a child, just show up on Halloween. If you don't have children, please show up and hang out with friends. If you want to volunteer, hand out candy, or sponsor a small Halloween game, please just drop an e-mail to Nicole DeLeone [thedeleones@gmail.com](mailto:thedeleones@gmail.com) or contact Eric Musser.

I posted the following on Nextdoor Berkeley Lake a little while back, but I thought I'd add it here also for those of you who didn't read it there. I know there has been a lot of distress in our community about our **tree and fence ordinances**. The bottom line is that it is a constant and very difficult struggle to find the best compromise in our ordinances between a homeowner's right to enjoy his/her personal property and the limitations on his/her enjoyment that are reasonable for the benefit of neighbors. Many people for many years have worked very hard at that thankless job – Planning & Zoning Commissioners and City Council members. The result are the ordinances that we have which are available for you to view anytime on our website. The tree ordinance is

a particular problem for Berkeley Lake because there are many lots around the lake that are small, originally little fishing cottages, on septic systems that require open space for tanks and field lines. If we make the tree density requirements too severe, we literally take away the right to have a home there. Additionally, it would hurt the newer subdivisions where lots didn't have much tree density to begin with and people would never be able to cut a tree. At my suggestion, city council recently increased the tree density requirements and we all hope we've hit a better "sweet spot" in the competing needs of our citizens. Our staff is on top of the issues and has worked with both homeowners being discussed on Nextdoor as well as everybody else in the city. One citizen was recently fined \$8,000 for cutting trees without a permit. We are doing what we can, and I hope everybody will find the patience to give your neighbors time to replant and finish projects. We are not just a Tree City (and yes, we do have better tree protections than other cities); we are also certified as a Compassionate City. Please hang in there with each other a little longer, and know that our city staff is indeed enforcing ordinances.

I got a request recently from one of our community’s leaders that I urge everyone to keep our comments to each other about issues as **positive and mutually respectful** as possible. I pass that on to you with my own wholehearted support for that idea. I hope that whatever our differences of opinion, we can always treat each other kindly.

I’ve also been asked to remind you that if you perceive some change you’d like to see in our **greenspace**, please don’t do-it-yourself. The Berkeley Lake Conservancy manages our greenspaces throughout the city and you can contact its chairperson Susan Hanson with your ideas. If you decide to cut trees, paint signs, etc. you may find yourself facing a significant fine. It doesn’t belong to any one person and no one should be making those decisions alone. I don’t want your good intentions to get you in trouble.

I think many of you heard about the *Georgia Business Insider* publishing our city’s median income of \$141,944, making us **the most affluent town in the state**. Several other publications have similarly identified us as such in the past, and I always hope the criminals aren’t reading it. Remember to lock your doors, including cars, and use normal precautions. Sometimes I think we get complacent because we have almost no crime within our city, but no place is completely immune. Don’t make yourself what the police call a “volunteer victim.”

**Please support the following businesses in our city:**

**Berkeley Lake Dental LLC - Dr. Duc Huynh**

770-807-8733, <http://berkeleylakedental.com/>

At Berkeley Lake Dental, you and your family will find all dental care you need under one roof: from braces to dentures, root canal therapy to implants, crowns to cosmetics, simple to complicated wisdom tooth removal. Berkeley Lake Dental is your friendly, full-service family dental office, located at 4720 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Unit 5102, Norcross, GA 30071, open Mon-Fri 8:30AM - 5:30PM and Sat. 8:30 AM - 3:00PM.

**Polly Bell LMSW, Psychotherapist**

(470) 514-3718, <http://pathwaycenter.com/clinicians/polly-bell/>

Polly enjoys helping people in various stages of life work through challenges using their own strengths and values to see their way through to the next stage. She also works with specific problems like addiction, anxiety, depression, family issues, mental illness and some of the darker parts of life. She is located at 4530 S Berkeley Lake Rd, and available weekdays, evenings and weekend hours.

*Lois D. Alter*