



December, 2014

I hope you were able to come and enjoy the **Fall Festival**. As I said in the last *Mayor's Message*, I had two goals in planning it: for our citizens to come together and have fun, and secondly to raise funds for local charities. Donations exceeded \$5,500.00 and it's not too late to add yours to one of the following that we supported:



Animal Companion Rescue Foundation
<http://www.animalcrf.org/>

Georgia Piedmont Land Trust <http://www.gplt.org/about-us.html>

Norcross Cooperative Ministries <http://www.norcrossco-op.org/aboutus.htm>

Rainbow Village <http://rainbowvillage.org/>



Here's a picture of our city's Charity Coordinator, **Lou Mitcham**, presenting money and canned goods to Norcross Coop. He is chiefly responsible for this great event.

Many thanks to all the others who helped on that day, especially the following:

Nathan Ridgeway, who leads worship every Sunday at the Chapel, lent us his van for a shuttle.

Bryan Stuart lent us his sound system for our musicians.

Rebecca Spitler and **Jacob Peters** worked hard from early until late on everything needed.

James Peters, Jason Brown, Jim Zumpano, Ted Sir, Bob Smith, Tom and Mikal Kitchens, Mike and Elaine McDowell, and Scott Lee helped and/or gave boat rides.

Chip McDaniel and Sally Rich-Kolb worked at the Compassionate Berkeley Lake booth helping kids make signs and feeding them popcorn.

Our four musical groups entertained us so well, including **Philip Howard’s** band playing jazz and blues, and **Bill Downey’s** group, seen below playing everything from gospel to 50’s music. We also had a professional accordionist **Susan Clearman**, and **Pat Chapman’s** washboard band group. They were all wonderful!



Lila Hunter and my friends from **Mt. Carmel United Methodist** provided games for the kids, caramel apples, bubbles, and face painting.

The **Atlanta Hawks, Publix, the Guitar Center, and Costco** all supported this event with donations of time or money. Many thanks to these corporate good citizens.

Seven families adopted a homeless dog that day from those we had available on site. If you can provide a home for another one, please let me know and I’ll help you with that.

Our next effort is the **Christmas Toy Drive** that we do every year. Lou Mitcham is also coordinating this event and has begun collecting toys already as seen here at City Hall. These will be given to Norcross Cooperative Ministries before Christmas for needy kids. If you can contribute toys or a check to NCM, please drop it by City Hall, or call me and I’ll pick it up. I am also collecting checks for the Salvation Army if you prefer. I hope this makes it easy for you to spread a little holiday joy.



There is one other holiday event that I want to share with you. **On Saturday, December 20 from 10:30 AM until noon Santa Claus will be stopping by the Medlock Bridge Animal Hospital** so you can **photograph your kids or pets with him**. Bring your own camera and a donation for animal rescue. You will receive not only the photo op with Santa,

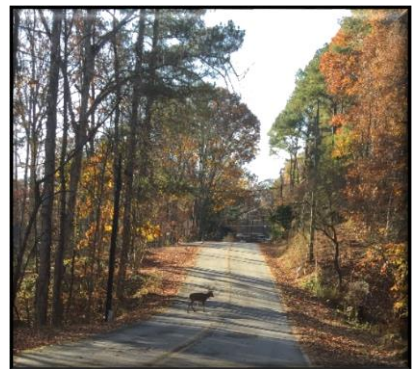


but coupons for pet grooming and a free doggie nail clip. This is a great Santa with real white hair and beard, as you can see here.

This is the time of year when I am recruiting new folks to serve on our **city committees**. You can find out about them [here](#) on our website. Please let me know if you are interested in helping in this way. One such group is our Berkeley Lake Conservancy. Its Chair **Susan Hanson** asked me thank our city for the money to buy split rail fencing for the Henderson Nature Area near the water wheel on Bay Way Circle. **Charles Carroll** was nice enough to take his truck to Gainesville to get it and **Jim Gawlas** helped to install it. Thanks to all.

It’s the time of year when deer are more interested in each other than in avoiding your car, so please be extra careful as you drive through the city.

I want to let you know about the good work of the **Southwest Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce**. They are organized to support businesses in the Berkeley Lake, Norcross, and Peachtree Corners area. You can get further information about them from me or Don Allen in River District. We have both served on their board of directors and can help you get involved with this group. Come find out more about business development in our area. It’s important to us all. Visit their website [here](#).



As you do your holiday shopping, please be sure to patronize our Berkeley Lake businesses. You can get gift certificates for massage at Touchstone Therapeutic Massage (call 770-316-0582) or great food at MacKenzie’s, or stocking stuffers from Zaxby’s or Dairy Queen. **I wish you all the greatest peace and joy throughout the holidays and in the new year.**

Lois D. Salter