



March 12, 2015

Very soon we will be producing a **new City Directory**. You should be receiving an email in the next few days with instructions on how to update your information, so please be on the lookout for that and respond promptly so that staff can complete this project quickly. If you don't receive this it may mean that we have an unusable email address for you, so you can contact directory@berkeley-lake.com for inclusion. Be sure to give us your street address as well as email. Photos and biographies are free if you'd like to add those and help your neighbors get to know you better. Leaders of homeowner associations and other neighborhood groups can update text about their organizations by sending that information to this address also. Things work better around here when we work together, and the Directory makes that easier to do.

Please join the Berkeley Lake Conservancy for a walk through the Berkeley Lake Greenspace at 3:00 PM on Sunday, March 22.

Hopefully the native azaleas and many of the trees and bushes will be budding. Susan Hanson, a Master Gardener who leads our Conservancy, will be pointing out various plants and trees as well as where to look in the coming months for different ferns, bushes, and flowers. It's a good chance to learn what some of the invasive plants (privet, English ivy,



etc.) look like. These should be removed not only from the Greenspace but also from our yards. Our beautiful Greenspace is protected by the Georgia Piedmont Land Trust of which Mayor Pro Tem Rebecca Spitler is president. We are blessed to have this beautiful forest in our community. Plan on meeting at the corner of Ridge Road and North Berkeley Lake Road to enter the Greenspace at 3:00 PM sharp. We may learn something about birds, too. Some of you have noticed the loud birds flying very high in the sky recently. They were Sandhill cranes returning north. Another flock may fly over soon.

I think most of us are now aware that the **area along the Chattahoochee**, while a beautiful place to stroll, is not a public right of way. So if you stroll there, you will be on private property in people’s yards, and this is a concern to them. As I’ve said in previous Mayor’s Messages, none of us feels comfortable looking out our back windows to see strangers who may or may not have good intentions towards us. We are unusually fortunate in Berkeley Lake to have such beautiful places to walk that are public. Please stick to those and stay out of your neighbors’ yards.

All Berkeley Lake residents 65+ years young are invited the **Annual Senior Luncheon** hosted by BLOSOMS on Monday, April 13 at noon at Lake Berkeley Chapel. (Thanks to the Chapel Board for donating the use of the Chapel). If you’d like to attend, please RSVP by April 1 to Lane Shutt at laneshutt@gmail.com or 770-448-4379 or June Spruell at bjspruell@bellsouth.net or 770-582-1994.

On Saturday, April 4 at 10:30 AM at the Chapel, BLOSOMS will also have an **Easter egg hunt** for the children of Berkeley Lake.

The city has recently replaced a lot of traffic signs that were getting old and worn looking. They not only look bad but begin to lose some of their night visibility after a while, so this is a safety consideration as well as making things look better around here. We will continue to do this as other ones age. We have also completed the **stormwater infrastructure project** on Lakeshore Drive. Remember that Berkeley Lake is one of the few cities that shields you from the county’s stormwater fee and does not charge one of its own.

We are just completing the process of issuing **business licensing certificates** so if you have a home-based business and haven’t taken care of this yet for 2015, call City Hall ASAP. If you have neighbors or friends who may need this and not be aware, a gentle reminder could keep them from fines later.

I continue to hear complaints about people running **stop signs**. As you know our Police Precinct Commander has been very attentive to our concerns and run multiple “special ops” when I requested that intervention. She and I met this week to talk about the fact that with spring



coming more children will be out and about. Kids expect and trust that the grownups will do what they’re supposed to and stop at signs. It’s very hard to see a child playing near the road’s edge on our hilly curvy streets if we’re not really alert. This picture is a good reminder of how a small child can disappear behind the pillar of your windshield. Major Higginbotham tells me she has heard comments such as, *“I stop when I’m on main roads where it really matters but only slow down in the*

neighborhood; I can see what is coming.” You may be able to see a car but something smaller like a walker or child can be hidden in your blind spot. She and I have agreed that when I send out this Mayor’s Message, she and her officers will begin a special effort at Berkeley Lake stop signs which we’re calling the “three count challenge.”

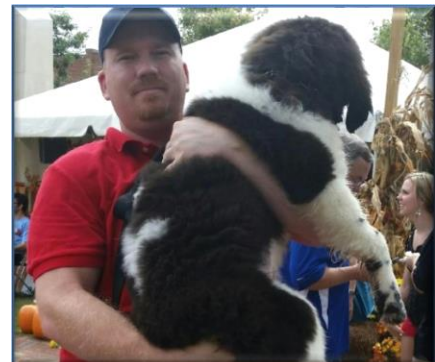
We challenge each of you to stop, count to three, look all ways (around blind spots) and proceed. Let’s all make this muscle memory and do it with every stop sign. [This video is from Denver](#) but if you will start about 1:20 into the video it gives good tips and explains A-pillar blind spots.

On Saturday, April 18, the City of Berkeley Lake celebrates Earth Day from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. We have a tradition of neighborhood groups removing trash from roadsides in conjunction with our Earth Day and hopefully that will continue. If you can participate, contact Roxanne in City Hall and she will provide you with garbage bags and gloves to assist you. Staff will be on hand at City Hall with vendors and volunteers to assist in the disposal of unwanted items and recycling of others.

- 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, lawn mowers, grills, car and truck batteries, and other metal items.
- Touch the Future will be collecting donated 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.

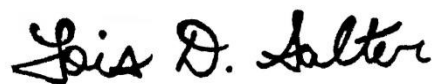
Please remember that this service is provided by the City of Berkeley Lake at no cost only to citizens. Bring identification showing a Berkeley Lake address in order to dispose of or recycle items. The following items WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED: construction debris, wet paints, entire trees, televisions, microwave 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.

You all did a great job on **our two recent “helping” projects!** We collected \$1300, lots of pet food, beds, blankets, and towels for the animal rescue. Here’s our City Charity Coordinator Lou Mitcham helping with the dogs. And many thanks to Julie Huntington and her volunteers who collected well over 100 bags of people food and a \$300 check for the Norcross Cooperative Ministry last Sunday. This was a wonderful community effort.



Some of our citizens have a strong interest in bringing **Google Fiber** to Berkeley Lake. As Google considers expansion towards Berkeley Lake you can [visit this link in your browser](#) to register interest. When you put in your address it will say Google Fiber is not available here yet, but we are trying to show Google a strong demand in this area.

The **weather** has been kind of unpredictable lately with a fast swing from winter to spring. As we leave the recent icy rain and snow in the rearview mirror, I want to remind you all that you can call the Fire Department or Police at 911 for the fastest response to clear the roadway of downed trees to make sure emergency vehicles can get through, when needed. Also be aware that City Hall closes whenever Gwinnett County schools close due to inclement weather. That’s the best way of keeping our staff safe and letting our citizens know in advance what to expect about snow days. As we now enter tornado season, please keep an eye to the sky and remember all the safety information the city compiled and gave out to each home. Stay safe!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lois D. Alter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".