



September 16, 2016

Snakes are much on my mind lately having been bitten by a copperhead, an experience I would not want for any of you. After 3 days in the hospital I had to spend many weeks at home with my foot elevated, during which time I did some research that I want to share with you. For starters, [please review the Mayor's Message from last June about snakes](#), and recall that the best defense we have against poisonous snakes is nonpoisonous ones. Like many of you, seeing any snake creeps me out, but at this point I seriously wish I had a whole bunch of king snakes slithering around in my yard. They eat other snakes, as do coyotes, possums, and raccoons. Just before this happened to me I read an article in the AJC about a big upswing in the number of copperheads in the metro Atlanta area, which they attributed to the fact that people have killed off so many of the nonvenomous snakes. To help you figure out which is which, this is what a copperhead looks like and you can visit [here to view pictures of other snakes in Georgia](#). The copperhead, which now recurs in my nightmares, has markings that look like Hershey kisses along its sides. I ran into mine about 10:00 PM in the middle of my driveway right at the edge of the street, and I will never walk at night again without a humongous flashlight. I have since read that 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM is the prime time for people to be bitten. They often stay in holes or other cooler hiding places during the heat of the day and come out later to hunt for mice, bugs, etc. They like the residual warmth of the concrete at night. Please do be very careful, don't kill the good snakes, and get rid of English ivy which, along with mosquitoes, is a favorite snake hangout. I know of another copperhead sighting in Berkeley Lake that fortunately didn't result in a bite, and of another of our neighbors who lost their much loved dog to a copperhead bite. We are so blessed to live in this beautiful natural area, but I want you to be more alert than I was to **stay safe!**



There have been some concerns this last week about our **waste removal**. If you have called Advanced Disposal with a complaint that was unresolved, please do call City Hall and let us

pursue it. Also remember my [heads-up to you in a previous Mayor's Message that they no longer take glass for recycling](#). Glass breaks and make other recyclables like paper, etc. unusable, so most if not all recycling companies are moving away from it.



I think everybody who came to our city's **July 4th celebration** had a great time. Here's a picture of our state senator and state legislator – David Shafer and Scott Hilton with Paul Revere (Myers) in his truck driven by his wife Elaine. Our two state dignitaries both had such a good time that they asked me to invite them again next year! Thanks to Bob Smith and all those who made them welcome and

supported our celebration in various ways, especially Lou Mitcham who cooked and coordinated everything and Bob and June Spruell who helped decorate the Chapel for us. Also thanks go to Chip McDaniel who brought his popcorn machine and unicycle and Scott Lee who provided music for our parade. A good time was had by all.

Speaking of city celebrations, it's almost time for **Berkeley Lake's Fall Festival!** Join us on Saturday, October 15th from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM. There will be bouncy houses, children's games, food, live music, and lots of fun. Let's hope it doesn't rain this year. If it does, check [Nextdoor.com](#) for possible changes in plans.

Berkeley Lake's City-wide Garage Sale will be held on Friday, October 7th and Saturday, October 8th between 8:00 AM and 2:00 PM, each day. City staff will place advertisements in the newspaper and online. Each participating homeowner will be responsible for designating your home as a participating sale location with balloons, signs, or whatever. Then after you've cleaned out and sold stuff, we'll follow up on **Saturday, October 22nd with Berkeley Lake's Fall Earth Day**. Staff will be on hand at City Hall with vendors and volunteers to assist in the disposal of unwanted items and recycling of others. Advanced Disposal will be accepting yard waste and large household items. Crawford Metal Recycling will be accepting scrap metal, appliances, lawn mowers, grills, car and truck batteries, and other metal items. 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. Check the Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful website for alternate recycling locations for specific materials not listed here. The following items will not be accepted: construction debris, wet paints, entire trees, tires, televisions, microwave ovens, paper for shredding. 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.



Please join me in congratulating Gene Rodgers who reached his 10th year anniversary serving our city on August 1st. Being City Marshal is a challenging job, and we are glad we have him looking out for us.

As we approach the “Dog Days of Summer” I want to remind you to **be careful about heat injuries**. Obviously never leave kids or pets in a car even very briefly, but here are some other precautions: Drink plenty of fluids. In hot environments, it is possible for the body to lose one liter of fluids per hour. Thirst is not a good indicator of fluid loss; don’t wait until you are thirsty to drink fluids. Eat light. Caffeine, alcohol, diabetes, or medications for high blood pressure and allergies can increase the risk of heat stress. The following should get immediate attention: heavy sweating; headaches; dizziness/lightheadedness; weakness; mood changes (irritable or confused); feeling sick to your stomach; vomiting, fainting; pale and clammy skin. Heat stroke is no joke. Don’t let a happy day on the lake or tennis courts become a disaster.



The Southwest Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce is beginning a **Center for Leadership** program. The Center’s mission is to serve business, nonprofit, government, education, and community leaders by offering growth opportunities in our backyard – to introduce leaders to each other and foster synergy. We have leaders of all kinds in Berkeley Lake and some of you might like to join this group. [To explore further follow this link.](#) To apply, [download application here.](#)



We are all reading a lot about the Zika virus lately so please forgive me for harping about **mosquitoes** again. Looking back, I seem to write more about mosquitoes than anything else in Mayor’s Messages, but Zika certainly raises the threat level from nuisance to real health concerns. It has not showed up in our area yet, but we don’t want to wait until it does to take precautions. [We have a lot of good information on the city website.](#) One person asked about spraying and I’ve checked into that. Research finds a correlation between aerial pesticide spraying and an increased risk of autism among children (TIME 4/30, Sifferlin). Research presented at the Pediatric Academic Societies 2016 meeting “finds a correlation between the aerial spraying of pesticides to kill mosquitoes and an increased risk of developmental delays

and autism among kids.” So the best protection we have right now is to be diligent about eliminating any standing water near your homes. We all need to be working on that.



We're looking forward to another couple of **Sunday Kind of Groove Concerts** behind the Chapel benefitting AADD. Bring a picnic supper and enjoy these events from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on

- September 11: **Classic Recall** Timeless Classic Rock Hits!
- October 16: **Up on the Roof** Magnificent Carole King Tribute!

For tickets call (770) 368-2076 or debbie@aadd.org – yes, there is a pull up your boat option!

Debbie D. Salter