



October 4, 2016

I'm excited about our **Berkeley Lake Fall Festival** coming up on Saturday, October 15 from 11 AM until 3 PM. There will be bouncy houses, kids' games, food, boat rides and lots of fun, but I'm most excited about the music. This year we have **3 live music performances!** Many



Burning Sensations



Gospelites

of you know and have enjoyed Jim Fox's Burning Sensations band and we're delighted to have them, as well as the Gospelites, seen here playing before at one of our Fall Festivals. Our own Bill Downey plays with them and we all love their music. You may not be as familiar with Big Murder, but [here's a video](#) of them playing. Certainly something for everybody to enjoy this

year! Let's hope it doesn't rain. If it does, please check Nextdoor for possible changes in plans. With so much going on at the Chapel there won't be room for parking, so please park at the Berkeley Lake Elementary School. We will have a shuttle van to get you conveniently to and from this event.

Berkeley Lake's City-wide Garage Sale will be held on Friday, October 7 and Saturday, October 8 between 8 AM and 2 PM, each day. City staff have placed advertisements in the newspaper and online. Each participating homeowner will be responsible for designating your home as a sale location with balloons, signs, or whatever. Then after you've cleaned out and sold stuff, we'll follow up on **Saturday, October 22 with Berkeley Lake's Fall Earth Day**. Staff will be on hand at City Hall from **9 AM until 1 PM** 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. 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 the same date as Earth Day, **Saturday, October 22, Susan Hanson is leading a nature walk through the greenspace at 3 PM.** Susan, a certified Master Gardener and chair of our Berkeley Lake Conservancy, does a great job educating us about plants, etc. I have really enjoyed this in the past. Please meet and park at City Hall and you can carpool over to the greenspace.

About this time every year I am on the hunt for **community leaders** to serve on our Finance Committee, Berkeley Lake Conservancy, or Planning and Zoning Commission. If you have an interest in serving, there may be an opening for 2017, so please contact me and let’s talk.

Once again, we will be collecting bags of food on the Time Change Weekend, Sunday, November 6 after 1 PM for the Norcross Cooperative Ministry. Please look for reminders in your mailbox or on Nextdoor Berkeley Lake. Simply place bags of canned or boxed food and nonperishable items at the foot of your mailbox, and volunteers will be by to pick them up. Last spring we set a record for the number of bags collected and are hoping to exceed that this fall. Many thanks to Julie Huntington who coordinates this important effort.



As you know we have very important **federal, state, and county elections** coming up. I always like to see a **sample ballot** before I go to vote, and you can find this and lots of other valuable information at [MyVoterPage](#). You can confirm that you are registered, get directions to your polling place, request an absentee ballot, find early voting information, etc. It’s really helpful.

Trees are a passionate issue for our city and concerns arise fairly often about them. The difficulty for our City Council is always to find some rule that is a middle way, meeting the needs of people who pay for property to shape their cherished living spaces as they desire insofar as possible, while also honoring in a fair and reasonable way some communal vision for our city. I think we would all have to agree that is a tall order, and it’s one that we struggle with continually. That tension between the private property holder’s rights to his or her home and what the rest of us want to see when we look at our neighbor’s yard is a struggle.

You can read the rules on the [Tree Removal page](#) on the city website. If there’s some part of the ordinance with which you disagree you are truly most welcome to come to a City Council meeting and suggest something better. We can certainly change things. Last time we did that we increased tree density requirements by 25%. I would urge you before you do so to talk with some of your city council members to find out why a particular decision was made, because I think you might find that there are other considerations to everything which are not apparent until you start digging into things. For example, if we make the tree density unit requirement high enough that you can’t see your neighbor’s house through a lovely curtain of trees, then another

neighbor's home on a smaller lot won't have room for the necessary septic system and field lines. You may have to plant the lovely curtain of trees on your own property.



Every time people cut trees, the rest of us feel it. I know that I do. We usually feel as if the lot has been clear cut when it hasn't, because it's such a shock to us. Recently another concern arose about this and our staff is working to ensure that our ordinances are followed. Everybody please hang in there, and if you have ideas regarding how this can be done better, let us know at the next City Council meeting. Just please try to get the whole picture beforehand. We can make better progress that way.

Remember the last **Sunday Kind of Groove Concert** of the season behind the Chapel benefitting AADD. Bring a picnic supper and enjoy from 6-8 PM on October 16. This time it's **Up on the Roof**, a Carole King Tribute. For tickets call [770-368-2076](tel:770-368-2076) or email debbie@aadd.org – and yes, there is a pull-up-your-boat option.

Save the date: Saturday, November 12 is the Turkey Trot fun run benefitting Berkeley Lake Elementary School. This run through our city is always a good time, and we wish the runners and the school leaders well in this year's event. You can get all the information and register at [this website](#).

Happy Fall Y'all!

Lois D. Salter