

January 31, 2017

As we begin each new year, I appoint members to city committees, and I wanted to thank those of you who give your time to support our community in this way. You might want to thank these people yourself when you see them. All of us are busy and it gets harder and harder to find good volunteers. Their work benefits us all.

Berkeley Lake Conservancy This group works hard together to watch over and beautify our natural areas around the city. If you would like to join them, contact Susan Hanson, the certified Master Gardener who leads this group.

Susan Hanson-Chair

(Council Liaison – Rebecca Spitler)

Jim Gawlas

Chris Kimberley

Ed Zawacki

Financial Affairs This is a group of citizens who review financial information and advise our elected officials on important decisions related to the city's budgetary matters. We are grateful for their attention and input.

Pam Williamson – Chair

(Council Liaison – Bob Smith)

Calvin Grier

Dorris Hollingsworth

Pekka Ignatius

Tracey Settlege

John Small

At the same time, I appoint council members to act as **Neighborhood Liaisons**, providing special help when needed to homeowner associations and their leaders, access to City Hall for HOA meetings, etc. I thought you might like to know who they are, and thank them as well.

Berkeley Walk and Berkeley Commons– Rodney Hammond

Berkeley Field and Habersham on the River - Chip McDaniel

BLHA and River Mansions – Scott Lee

Miramont and Hermitage Plantation – Rebecca Spitler

River District and Commercial Areas – Bob Smith

It's time to produce 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 right away so that staff can complete this project quickly. If you don't receive one it may mean that we have an unusable email address for you, so contact directory@berkeley-lake.com to be included. Be sure to give us your street address as well as email. There is no cost for photos and biographies if you'd like to add those and help your neighbors get 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.

Many thanks to Ginny Nevins and Windsor Realty for organizing our recent Christmas Lights contest. We all enjoyed the light displays at homes around the city. My grandchildren loved it! I think the lights get better every year, and we all appreciate the effort of homeowners in creating such a show. Here are the winners this year who each received a VISA gift card prize from Windsor Realty.

People's Choice Award was 760 Lakeshore Drive for whom the most canned goods were donated at City Hall. The real winners of this category are those in need who will benefit from the 477 canned goods donated to Norcross Cooperative Ministries!

Other winners include:

- Nostalgic*- 4149 Duckpond Ct.
- Clark Griswold*-4225 S. Berkeley Lake Rd.
- Storyline or Theme*- 3312 Glen Devon Lane
- Most Unique*- 786 Lakeshore Dr.
- Martha Stewart*-186 Lakeshore Dr.
- Best Lakefront Display*- 12 Lakeshore Dr.



In **planning for the new year** I met with our homeowner association presidents to get their input about possible changes which, of course, I also discussed with our council members. One of my concerns was that we have almost nobody participating in the citywide garage sale (4 homes this past year) so we will discontinue that, and individual homeowners will schedule their own garage sales at their convenience. In discussing our city’s Earth Days, we decided to have one this year rather than two, since the fall one has historically been less attended. Homeowner presidents did want a shredder truck so the spring one will have that and extended hours. **Earth Day this year will be Saturday, April 22** with more details to follow in future Mayor’s Messages.

We also discussed the lack of attendance at our city’s fall festival. Some suggested that since we began these years ago, new festivals have grown up around us in John’s Creek and Peachtree Corners as well as others. We may decide not to have one this year, and to either save your tax dollars or spend it on some other community activity. Suggestions and thoughts about this are welcome.

Whenever you hire someone to do any work around your house or yard, it’s a good idea to talk with the workers about how attentive our city is to the proper disposal of things. We have had instances of leftover paint being dumped in the lake, lunchtime trash falling off trucks as they leave town, and recently pruned branches from one home were dumped in the driveways of two other homes. In all these cases the homeowner was unaware that their workers had done this until they were contacted by our city’s ordinance enforcement officer. I know you don’t want this to happen to you or your neighbors, and your workers don’t want to be turned over to the police for prosecution, which we have done and will continue to do. All communities do not respond as we do, so when you hire someone, please help them to understand what is expected here.

Another problem that I’d like to head off for our homeowners is in placing **signs on the right-of-way along our streets**. We’ve talked about this in the past and I don’t want to harp on it, but just to say that if you have any doubt about how far back from the street you need to place a sign, just call City Hall. Our staff will be glad to help you.

If you have some time this weekend and some horticultural interest, you may want to attend a free meeting on Saturday to learn about **Unusual Plants in the Southscape Garden**. It’s February 4, 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Vines Park. Master gardeners will be available to answer your questions. Meet at the parking lot entrance. All ages; call 678.277.0900 for more information. Vines Park, 3500 Oak Grove Road, Loganville.

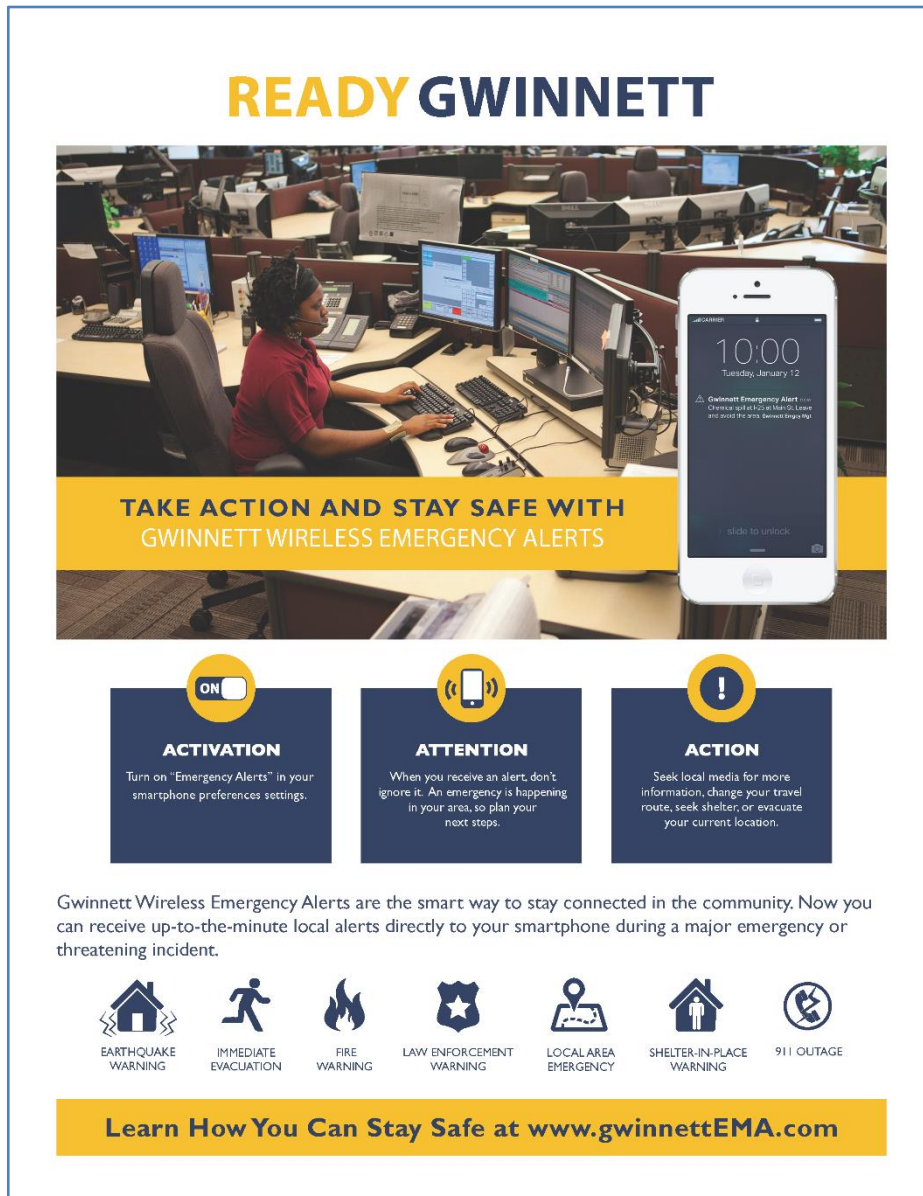
Another opportunity is **Gwinnett 101**, a class to be held from 6:00 to 9:00 PM on each Thursday beginning April 11 through June 27 to learn about our county. Participants will meet with county government leaders, visit county facilities, and network with others of similar interest. There’s no cost, but the group will be limited to 30 participants, who will be chosen by a selection committee. Applications must be submitted by March 3 and can be found at gwinnett101.com.

There were some questions recently about the white paint that appeared on Berkeley Lake Road. **Berkeley Lake Road** and Bush Road are the only ones in our residential areas that are controlled by the county and not our city. Both North and South Berkeley Lake Road from Peachtree Industrial to Bush are on the county’s resurfacing list for this year. There was some white pre-marking of areas that will need to be patched ahead of the work. It will be some time before the County Commissioners award a contract, probably around April. The actual work will be some time during the late spring or summer or even early fall of this year. The Gwinnett DOT Director tells me he may have a better idea of the month once they have the contractor on board.

I want everybody to know about the **new wireless alerts available to keep you safe in an emergency**. You are familiar with the sirens that go off when a storm is coming but that provides no information about what exactly to expect. The Gwinnett County Office of Emergency Management has tapped into an existing feature on wireless telephones that alerts users when an imminent threat to safety occurs in their area. The new wireless emergency alerts will be sent to all wireless phones that are located in close proximity to an emergency in Gwinnett. Alerts will include the time and type of alert and any action residents and visitors in the affected area should take. The messages will not duplicate AMBER alerts or extreme weather messages from the National Weather Service.

According to Emergency Management Director Greg Swanson: *“These alerts will be sent to any enabled mobile device in range of the broadcasting cell tower, so it helps us reach those who need to avoid or evacuate a specific area in the county or to shelter-in-place to maintain their safety.”*

The alerts will be sent when emergency events—such as an earthquake, immediate evacuation, fire, or hazardous materials leak or spill—pose a threat to life. To insure that you receive these lifesaving alerts, make sure the emergency alerts feature is enabled and activated on your mobile device. To find out if your mobile device is capable of receiving these messages, contact your service provider or visit the Gwinnett Emergency Management webpage at www.gwinnettema.com. Check out this nifty flyer for more information.



READY GWINNETT

TAKE ACTION AND STAY SAFE WITH GWINNETT WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS

ACTIVATION
Turn on "Emergency Alerts" in your smartphone preferences settings.

ATTENTION
When you receive an alert, don't ignore it. An emergency is happening in your area, so plan your next steps.

ACTION
Seek local media for more information, change your travel route, seek shelter, or evacuate your current location.

Gwinnett Wireless Emergency Alerts are the smart way to stay connected in the community. Now you can receive up-to-the-minute local alerts directly to your smartphone during a major emergency or threatening incident.

EARTHQUAKE WARNING IMMEDIATE EVACUATION FIRE WARNING LAW ENFORCEMENT WARNING LOCAL AREA EMERGENCY SHELTER-IN-PLACE WARNING 911 OUTAGE

Learn How You Can Stay Safe at www.gwinnettEMA.com

We want everyone to stay safe!

Lis D. Salter