



May 29, 2018

I recently attended a meeting in Lawrenceville about **emergency services**, and learned a lot that made me feel good about living here. Our Gwinnett County fire fighters are trained for 16 months as EMTs and paramedics. They receive 80,000 emergency calls a year of which 75% are not fire but medical. There are trained “Haz Mat” and Swift Water Rescue personnel as well, and their overall departmental goal is to be no more than 6.5 minutes from dispatch to arriving on any emergency scene. Because with heart attacks “time is muscle,” our first responders are in direct communication on scene with cardiologists in the hospital, not just verbally, but with various high-tech instrumentation. They are particularly concerned that Gwinnett’s senior population will double in the next two decades, and they want to help us stay safely in our homes for as long as we can. To that end, they will make free home safety visits if requested to advise on potential hazards. There was a lot more information than I can put here, but if you’re interested in learning more or want to arrange a home visit, let me know and I’ll help. You can also join the Citizen Fire Academy if you want to ride the trucks, wear the gear, etc. Our county citizens rated the Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services a 4.8 out of 5, which is very high relative to other areas. Glad to be in Gwinnett!

This month’s Hometown Hero is Gene Rodgers, one of our City Marshals.

Gene watches over us all in a really caring way and we appreciate his kindness and dependability tremendously. He is a former Army Sergeant Major and loves our country, his family, and his church. His favorite thing to do for fun is going to NASCAR races. When asked what he wishes he could change about the world, he said he hopes for more acceptance and respect for others, regardless of our differences. I’ll say “Amen” to that! Here’s a picture of Gene



trying to corral some of our citizens at one of our Berkeley Lake festivities. He had to keep an eye on this bunch! (Randy Johnson, Rick Waxweiler, and Renee Jansen)



Many thanks to those of you who brought **children’s books** to my office recently. I could not carry them all to the school, so I recruited my helpful neighbor Jones Sir to help deliver them to Lesley Pendleton, our outstanding local principal. My next project is collecting **school supplies**. Please bring backpacks, pencils, notebooks, etc. to my office at City Hall before August for kids who will come to school needing these things.

Remember our teachers, too, who buy boxes of tissue, markers, etc. for their classrooms out of their own money. Please help if you can.



May’s **Yard of the Month** is at the corner of Bush Road across from City Hall. **Scott and Natalie Richardson** moved into an overgrown yard needing a lot of attention, but they worked hard and got some advice from our Berkeley Lake Conservancy. They attended Susan Hansen’s class about native plants, and the seminar we had in City Hall about how to trim and care for shrubbery and trees. They have several types of roses including the



black 'Baccara' rose, seen here. If you see Scott and Natalie, please congratulate them.

As you know, we always try to support our Berkeley Lake businesses. One of those, **the Frenik Marketing Group**, is holding a **Carnival to Crush Cancer on June 5 from 5:30-7:30 PM** at 4940 Peachtree Industrial Blvd, Suite 320, Berkeley Lake, Ga. All proceeds will go to cancer research and wish granting through the non-profit, Cooper’s Crew. The event will include games, drinks, and food. Please come if you can.



It’s not too early to begin planning for **our July 4th Celebration**. This year we will miss our own “Paul Revere” who joyfully led our parades for so many years. Paul Myers, seen here with his wife Elaine, passed away a few months ago, and we all agree that it won’t be the same without him, so **I’m declaring this year’s parade as an honor not just to our country’s independence, but to**



the happy memory of Paul Myers. Decorate your cars, kids, pets, and people and join the parade at Berkeley Lake Elementary on Wednesday, July 4 at 11:00 AM. We will begin to march about 11:30 AM. When the parade concludes at the Chapel, there will be the usual fun and face painting for the kids. Hot dogs, drinks, and other goodies will be available for purchase and Scott Lee will be playing music. In case of rain, check the Nextdoor website for info about possible changes. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Happy summer!

Sis D. Salter