



September 17, 2018

SPECIAL EDITION

I am very excited to let you know that Berkeley Lake will be having a **Town Hall Meeting so that you can meet and question seven candidates for office on Tuesday, October 2 at 7:00 PM.** Unfortunately, we can't fit everybody into our City Hall, so we are renting the **cafeteria at Berkeley Lake Elementary School** for that evening. I have invited both Democratic and Republican candidates for our U.S. Congressional District 7, State Senate District 48, State House District 95 and County Commission District 2. To be fair to everyone I gave the 8 candidates 22 possible dates and allowed each of them to pick the dates that were best for them. October 2 worked for everybody.

The format is as follows: Each candidate will be given two minutes for an opening statement to introduce themselves and their platforms. Then our Berkeley Lakers will be able to ask brief respectful questions, and candidates will conclude with another two-minute final statement. I will be conducting this meeting in accordance with our city charter rules which you can read in its entirety [here](#), but in particular:

Anyone wishing to speak "shall first secure the permission of the presiding officer, and then shall give their name and address in an audible tone of voice for the record, and direct their remarks to the council as a body rather than to any particular member, limiting such remarks to two minutes unless additional time is granted." Additionally as presiding officer I am bound by our Berkeley Lake Code of Conduct (see [here](#)) to assure the following: "Presiding officers of city meetings shall not permit personally disparaging remarks or comments that reflect negatively on the character of others (rather than expressing a different point of view), and shall declare such persons out of order...."

It has been suggested to me that I might be crazy to organize and try to referee a political discussion in the current climate of very uncivil discourse. Many elected officials have avoided true town hall meetings that used to be held frequently, preferring either partisan rallies which they are reasonably sure will be attended only by people who already agree with them, or virtual "town hall meetings" by telephone where they can cut disagreeable people off the line. This is understandable considering the way some people behave. However, I do have great confidence in our Berkeley Lake citizens. I believe that we can do this, and that it's important for us to do this. Whoever gets elected needs to know that Berkeley Lakers are not only intelligent and

attentive to our political environment, but also that we uphold an expectation of basic mutual respect and courtesy.

It’s very rare for this many extremely busy candidates to make themselves available to you, so I urge you all to be there. Here is preliminary information on them as provided by their campaigns:

For U.S. Congressional District 7



Carolyn Bourdeaux’s career has been dedicated to policy and public service. After graduating from Yale, she took the advice of her parents, both of whom were public school teachers, to do work that contributed to the common good. She went to work on Capitol Hill, eventually joining the staff of Congressman and now-Senator Ron Wyden, for whom she drafted language on his early support for same-sex marriage and crafted legislation on transportation, public health, regional development, and children’s nutrition. She went on to earn a PhD in public administration, and since 2003 has taught at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. During the Great Recession, she served as Director of the State Senate Budget and Evaluation Office, devising bipartisan solutions to Georgia’s budget crisis. She was honored with a special resolution for her significant service to the state. She lives with her family in Suwanee, where her son attends public school.

Rob Woodall will not attend because he will be in Washington that day, but I have invited his aides to come and hand out flyers and yard signs.

For State Senate District 48



Zahra Karinshak is a military veteran, former federal prosecutor, and whistleblower attorney who has lived in Gwinnett County for over 24 years. She is also a mom to two teenage daughters and has been married to her husband, Bruce, for 27 years. Zahra is running to bridge the political divide and to restore trust, ethics, and civility back into our public discourse. In the State Senate, Zahra will work with all constituents — Democrat, Republican, and otherwise — to move our state forward.



Matt Reeves is the Republican nominee for State Senate for our area. Matt is a business and real estate litigation attorney and partner at Andersen, Tate & Carr. Matt, his wife Suzette and three school-age children live in Duluth, and he graduated with honors from the University of Georgia School of Law and Mercer University. Matt’s Senate campaign is focused on reducing the state income tax, keeping Georgia #1 in job growth by remaining pro-business and strengthening education and traffic solutions, making Georgia a national leader

in adoption and foster care, and reforming Fulton County local government through if necessary re-creating Milton County. Matt can be reached at mreeves@atclawfirm.com, 770-236-9768, votemattreeves.com, Matt Reeves for State Senate on Facebook, or [@VoteMattReeves](https://twitter.com/VoteMattReeves) on Twitter. Matt will personally bring you a yard sign if you contact him and request one.

For State House District 95

Scott Hilton is running for his second term to serve as our State Representative. In his first term, Scott was appointed to the leadership position of Deputy Whip and successfully passed six pieces



of legislation. Rep. Hilton currently serves on the Health & Human Services, Education, and Intragovernmental Coordination committees. In his first two years, Scott was a champion for adults and children with special needs, expanded school choice, and helped deliver Georgia's first income tax cut. Scott and his family reside in Peachtree Corners and are active members of our community.



Beth Moore is the 2018 Democratic candidate for House District 95, which includes the City of Berkeley Lake. Beth grew up in Dunwoody and graduated high school from Wesleyan, before attending UGA on the HOPE Scholarship and later earning her law degree from Georgia State University. She now manages her own successful entertainment law practice representing clients in Georgia's booming music, film and television industries. As a Peachtree Corners homeowner and first-time candidate, Beth prides herself on being a Democrat married to a Republican and is running on the simple notion that we can be socially inclusive and fiscally responsible while making smart investments in Georgia's future.

For County Commission District 2

Lynette Howard did not send any information but has committed to be at our meeting to answer your questions.



Ben Ku is the grandson of Chinese immigrants who helped engineer the original MARTA rail. He has been on the forefront of technology with over 20 years of software development experience and created some of the first websites and apps launched worldwide. Ben wants to upgrade transportation, representation, and communication in Gwinnett County and will add a unique and visionary perspective to the board of commissioners.

These are the candidates for county, state, and national office that are closest to us. There is plenty of press coverage for higher offices. There will be an Atlanta Press Club debate on October 23 between gubernatorial candidates to air on Georgia Public Broadcasting and another November 4 debate on Channel 2.

The deadline to register to vote in the November 6 general election is October 9. You can find out if you’re registered to vote at [MyVoterPage](#) or register online at the Georgia Secretary of State’s [website](#).

A stop sign has been stolen in Berkeley Walk. If you have seen one where it shouldn’t be, please let us know. These signs are expensive and the confusion created when they’re removed is dangerous for drivers.

As you know, the city is reviewing and updating our **Comprehensive Plan** with the assistance of staff from the Atlanta Regional Commission. All of our homeowner association presidents and other community leaders have been invited to participate on the Steering Committee, but the input from interested citizens is welcome as well at the following meetings in City Hall:

Thursday, September 20, 2018, 8:00 PM – Initial public hearing with City Council

Wednesday, September 26, 2018, 5:00 PM – First Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 5:00 PM – Public Open House

Wednesday, November 7, 2018, 5:00 PM - Second Steering Committee Meeting

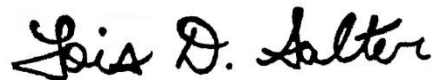
Thursday, November 15, 2018, 8:00 PM – Second public hearing with City Council

Please remember this year’s Hometown Heroes Celebration and Drug Take-back Day at City Hall on Saturday, October 27 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. I have again invited all the police officers who serve and protect us to come by and enjoy snacks, kindly provided by our local realtors Jill Rice and Tracey Settlege. I hope you will come by to thank them, as well as the community leaders who serve us so well as homeowner association presidents, etc. They are Hometown Heroes, too, and deserve our recognition and thanks. Bring medications that you no longer need so they can be safely disposed of without freaking out the fish in the Chattahoochee.

Thanks again to **Tracey Settlege and Jill Rice**, local realtors who have been regularly recognizing and rewarding a **Yard of the Month** for our city throughout the summer. They are on hiatus until next spring now, but we have enjoyed their pictures and the spotlight they’ve shown on our local beautifully landscaped homes.

All Berkeley Lake ladies are welcome to the **first BLOSOMS meeting** of this year, Tuesday, September 18 at 7:00 PM at Amy Waldheim's home at 3648 Habersham Lane. Everyone please bring an appetizer or dessert to share and your dues of \$40.

See you on Tuesday, October 2, 7:00 PM at BLES! Grab a neighbor and bring them along.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lois D. Alter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.