



January 14, 2019

It's been years since we held a meeting for our citizens with police officers about how best to protect our property against possible crimes. I've asked our Precinct Commander to come and give us another **Safety Seminar on Saturday, January 26 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM at City Hall**. We fortunately don't have much crime at all in Berkeley Lake, but that is not something to take for granted. It would be naive think that any place will always be completely safe, and we all need to be aware of what we as individual homeowners can do to keep our very low crime rate going. Jill Rice and Tracey Settlege have kindly agreed to sponsor this event and they will be providing coffee and snacks for us that morning.

Additionally, I have invited all four of our recently elected public servants to come and be available to talk with you informally on that morning. Ben Ku, our new County Commissioner; Beth Moore, our new state house Representative; and Zahra Karinshak, our new state Senator, have all contacted me to see what they might do for Berkeley Lake and offered to come and meet again with our City Council. They've done that before and so I suggested that I'd like our citizens to have the benefit of that kind of conversation directly with them. They all accepted gladly with the caveat from our state legislators that they will be in session during that time and might have to attend a meeting down at the capitol. Barring that eventuality, they will all be here. I also invited **Rob Woodall, our U.S. Congressman** who was re-elected recently. His Chief of Staff tells me that the Congressman may come, and that would be a good opportunity for some of you to talk to him directly. I wish I could tell you for sure, but there has been no commitment yet. In any case it should be a good morning and I hope to see you all there.

Thanks to all of you who came out to celebrate Gene Rodgers as he was retiring. When I got up that morning and saw how cold and rainy it was, I thought we might have very few people



show up, but I was happily mistaken. Many thanks to Ginny Nevins and Bryan Stuart who

provided food, to Scott Lee who provided music, and of course to all of you who made time to show your gratitude and affection. **Once again, we were all reminded what a special place this is, and Gene left us knowing how much he was appreciated.**

One of the most frequent questions we get at city hall is **"Do I need a permit?"** There is a [Popular Projects page](#) on our city website that answers this question for most projects that homeowners might be considering. If you are still in doubt after that, please call City Hall at 770-368-9484 and our helpful staff will be glad to answer any of your additional questions.

Thanks again to Ginny Nevins for organizing the 5th Annual City of Berkeley Lake Christmas Lights Contest and to everybody that participated. Not only did Berkeley Lakers gladden the hearts of many with their joyful displays but you contributed 771 cans/boxes of food for the Norcross Cooperative Ministry. See here Ginny’s dog supervising the haul! Ginny and Windsor Realty provided a pre-paid VISA card as a prize to each of these winners. Congratulations to each of you and thanks for all the work you did on your holiday light extravaganzas!



- First Place with 214 votes - 760 Lakeshore Dr., the Cortez Family
- Second Place with 150 votes- 236 Lakeshore Dr., the Cochran Family
- Third Place with 84 votes - 3373 Glen Devon Lane, the Williams Family
- Fourth Place with 56 votes - 4629 Briar Hills Cove, the Becker Family

City staff members have worked with representatives of Advanced Disposal to develop [a more detailed version of *Garbage Guidelines*](#) so that our residents have a better understanding of how to prepare garbage, recyclables, yard waste and bulk items for pick-up. Follow the link to make sure you know the best practices and requirements for preparation, making pick-up arrangements for items that won't fit in the appropriate container, acceptable and unacceptable materials, etc. Our goal is to ensure our residents' positive customer experience by providing this information in greater detail and in a more user-friendly format. Questions regarding service should be directed to Advanced Disposal at (678) 495-0058.



National **Arbor Day** is coming up on Friday, February 15 and as chairperson of our Berkeley Lake Conservancy, Susan Hanson (right) is making plans for planting some more beautiful trees in our city. If you would like to help, please contact Susan. If you can't participate at this time, please remember to thank her and her other Berkeley Lake Conservancy members for all they do as volunteers to maintain the natural beauty in our city.

I know this is far ahead, but to help you plan for your spring clean-out, **please put Berkeley Lake’s Earth Day on your calendar for Saturday, April 27 from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM.** We have already booked the shredder truck and the other usual folks that will be here to haul off your unwanted stuff.



The Governor's Office of Student Achievement has recognized our **Berkeley Lake Elementary School with a Gold Award** for Greatest Gains. This award is given to schools that exhibit high growth in student achievement as measured by the statewide accountability system. Congratulations to principal Lesley Pendleton and all her hard-working staff. We're very proud of our local school.

Lois D. Salter