



August 27, 2019

**Since next week begins with Labor Day, I want to remind everyone that your trash pickup will be a day late that week, coming on Saturday, September 7 rather than the usual Friday, September 6.** Our next delayed pickups will be the weeks of Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day, followed next year by Memorial Day and Independence Day.

While I'm thinking of **Advanced Disposal**, I want to share with you that I've gotten two questions about why the county gives a slight cost break to senior citizens, but our city doesn't. I have shared those concerns as a factor for consideration with our City Council because at the end of this year we will be reconsidering the current contract. There are lots of things that we'll be considering, some of which we offer that Gwinnett County doesn't, like free yard waste pickup for which Gwinnett charges extra and hauling big stuff off on our Earth Day. Also, it's important to note that even with these extra services, the current rate to our citizens is less than the county's rate with the senior discount.

As you know from my last Mayor's Message, I have been in touch with our regional **Georgia Power** manager about problems with outages in our area. He responded by coming to our city so that I could drive him around and acquaint him with our topography and trees and discuss at greater length the problems we have been having. During our brief road trip, he pointed out to me that since 2013 they have invested half a million dollars in upgrades and improvements to our area. I responded that we certainly do appreciate that, but that we are still having problems, so he ultimately agreed to try to move us up in their schedule for trimming trees in the rights-of-way.

Please prepare yourselves for that because, of course, the downside to it is that we all hate it when people show up and start whacking our beautiful trees. I confess that the first time they came through after I moved to Berkeley Lake, I was horrified, and threw a polite hissy fit with their tree trimming contractors. They patiently explained to me that they were only removing trees or limbs that might be expected at some point to fall on power lines and cause outages. Please bear with them when they come this time and remember that we asked for this trimming to keep the power flowing around Berkeley Lake.

I recently attended a meeting of community leaders with **BJay Pak, US Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia** who has been much in the news of late. The following bits of his remarks seemed to me to be things that might be of interest to you. He urged us all to be supportive of our law enforcement officers who are facing increasingly difficult challenges. Among those are gangs which in Georgia used to be mostly local but now include



national ones like the Bloods, Crips, and the Ghost Face Gang which originated in Georgia. He says mass shootings are “a matter of when, not if” and repeated the mantra “see something, say something.” He is seeing a rise in crimes against the elderly, and a rise in domestic violence in our state, including 88 deaths last year. In the opioid crisis as doctors are pressured to lower their prescription rates, people are moving to heroin and meth which he says are easily available on the dark net. Addiction is increasing for all drugs and we need more prevention and treatment “because we can’t enforce our way out of this problem.” He talked about human trafficking as a kind of “whack-a-mole” situation and concluded by cautioning that “keeping people safe is not just my job, it has to be everybody’s.” I think he’s right about that.

Regarding the addiction crisis, I also met recently with leaders of the Navigate Recovery organization in Lawrenceville. I was impressed by the help that they offer to people and have shared their information with our city council members. If any of you want to reach out to Navigate Recovery, call (678) 743-1808.

I am currently working on another **Hometown Heroes Day** in Berkeley Lake to recognize our law enforcement officers, to let them know how much we appreciate them, and to collect unused drugs. The Precinct Commander and I have settled on **Saturday, October 26** for that event at City Hall. It will be from **10:00 AM until noon** on that day, so save some time to come by and talk with our officers. Jill Rice and Tracey Settlage will be feeding them coffee, donuts, and chicken nuggets.



I have also been in contact with our Precinct Commander about a **wreck** that occurred recently when a car left the road on Lakeshore and crashed into the property of one of our neighbors. That driver is being prosecuted for multiple citations and will be required to make restitution to the property owners for damage caused. She is going to plan for extra enforcement of speeding and reckless driving violations in our city and asked me to encourage our citizens to report when they observe any of those.

She also said, “Any vehicle descriptions or license plate numbers are always helpful if they can be safely obtained.”

DeKalb County has recently been finding **mosquitoes infected with the West Nile virus** in traps that it sets out for testing. In humans West Nile virus can produce flu-like symptoms, and in some cases, it leads to swelling of the brain and spinal cord which can be fatal. I caution you again to remove anything that would hold even a quarter inch of still water where mosquitoes can breed from your property. Also be wary of English ivy which is a favorite place for both mosquitoes and snakes.



On August 1<sup>st</sup>, I attended the ribbon cutting to open the new **Gwinnett Medical Center Primary Care and Specialty Center-Peachtree Corners**. You will find it in what used to be Ippolito’s on Peachtree Parkway.



They will deliver primary care and corporate health programs from GMC Primary Care, as well as cardiology, gastroenterology, obstetric and gynecologic care from a variety of local specialists. Additionally,

onsite offerings will include orthopedics, 3D mammography and digital X-ray. Shown here with me are Dr. Bedri Yusuf - VP and Chief Physician Executive, Beth Moore – our Representative to the State House, and Michael Boblitz - VP of Planning and Business Development. You may also want to know that beginning this Wednesday, August 28, the Gwinnett Medical Center-Duluth, located at 3620 Howell Ferry Road, will be called Northside Hospital Duluth because Gwinnett Medical is combining with Northside Hospital. I am told that “patients of the Gwinnett Health System will notice virtually no changes in their regimen of treatment and care.”

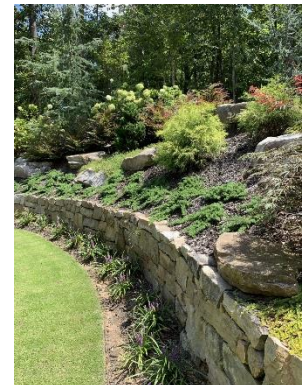


**This month’s Hometown Hero is Barbara Carroll** who has led the Berkeley Walk homeowner association for years and also supported our larger city in many ways. Barbara has an office furnishings and design firm as well as doing property management for 6 office buildings, and she kindly used that expertise to help us when we built and furnished City Hall. Her avocations include volunteer work for her church and enjoying her grandchildren. She loves Berkeley Lake for the small town feeling and connections it builds with her neighbors.

**Tracey Settlege and Jill Rice are organizing a Toy Drive for the Norcross Cooperative Ministries.** Please consider buying some new toys for kids who would have none on Christmas without your kindness and get them in to City Hall or to Tracey and Jill as soon as possible. NCM needs time to organize which kids will get what and wrap all the presents, so get your Santa hats on!



**Congratulations to George and Lara Stickney** who were selected for August’s Yard of the Month. They have beautiful stone work throughout their yard that provides a backdrop for perennials, knockout roses, creeping jenny and more. The stone retention walls hold a wide variety of colorful blooming shrubs like hydrangeas, skypencil hollies, jasmines, and interesting tree specimens.



Have a happy Labor Day, everybody, and if you’re traveling, come home to us safely.

*Lois D. Salter*