



May 15, 2020

**Earth Day returns!** You will remember that I regretfully cancelled that in April, but I know you need it now more than ever. Many of you have used the last few weeks to clear out closets and basements so you've generated a lot of stuff that no longer "sparks joy." This will be a different kind of Earth Day so please be aware of the following modifications before you come **on Saturday, June 13 between 9:00AM and 2:00PM. You will still be checked for proof of residence in our city, but this time also for masks.** Everyone who enters will need to be wearing one of those to protect our staff and your other neighbors. Also, I have asked the Chapel board to let us use their parking lot so we can spread out and keep some distancing to protect people. They have kindly consented for this occasion and you will enter the lower gate, then stop by the shredder truck and another truck from a charity collecting things for victims of domestic violence. I invited them to come and take whatever is reusable to help someone before you exit the upper gate and go on over across the street to our city parking lot. There the trash trucks will be waiting to take yard waste and large household items for disposal. As usual, no construction debris, wet paints, entire trees, televisions, microwave ovens, or tires. If you need to dispose of a television, please call Advanced Disposal at (678) 495-0058 to make arrangements with them to pick the television up at your home. **There will be no metal recycling this time.** Ordinarily our city staff has been happy to help you by taking things from your car and depositing it into the truck. This time I'm asking that you **be prepared to put your own stuff into the truck** to minimize impact on our small staff. If you are elderly or feel physically unable to do this, please contact me in advance and I'll try to make special arrangements to help you.

I hope nobody feels cranky about wearing a mask. I really think protecting our staff and others is worth the extra effort. **Just yesterday Dr. Toomey said on a conference call, "I can't say it strongly enough! Everybody should wear a mask in any public setting!"** She asked the cities "to lead in that effort" so this is me leading. If you can't find a mask, you can contact [lila.hunter@icloud.com](mailto:lila.hunter@icloud.com). She is making very high-quality masks for a donation to Canine Pet Rescue. She made one for me with black labs on it (like my Ladybug) and some camo ones for Wayne Mitsch. If you know Wayne, you will get the significance. To make all this more pleasant, Ginny Nevins will be on hand giving out coffee, and possibly even homemade biscuits if you come before they're gone. Jill Rice and Tracey Settlage are contributing, as always, the cost of the shredder truck for us all, for which we are very grateful.



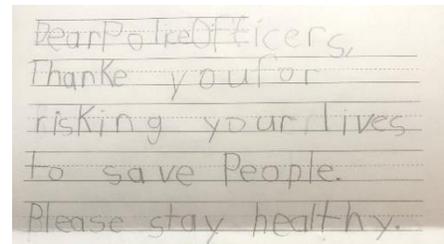
Here is some information from the charity I mentioned that will be **taking reusable things off your hands** that day: “NSPIRE Outreach and Hope for Domestic Violence assist our community’s most vulnerable populations with housing, food, clothing, counseling, life skills training, continued education and more. With 80-100 people in residence, your donations of gently used clothing and small household items provide vital support for our programs. We thank you. Used clothes = changed lives.”



I have already shared with you how proud I am of **our community’s support of front-line folks**. You’ve seen some pictures of Ginny Nevins (Windsor Realty) delivering hero banners and pizza dinners she bought and of Debbie Peters (GASP!) donating big edible thank-you notes. Debbie’s GASP! (Georgia After School Program) is right here at Berkeley Lake Elementary, and 16 other schools this year. “Safe, fun & affordable!”



Here’s a picture of Jill Rice and Tracey Settlege (Keller Williams Realty) hauling a carload of pizza to feed 120 public health workers after similarly feeding medical staff on another day at our local hospital. I wish you could see all the beautiful cards and notes made by Berkeley Lakers. Here’s one for the police.



So many of you brought yummy treats and personal notes that I couldn’t begin to list all the names. Dr. Arona’s chief administrator said it best so I pass it on to all of you here: **“You all are amazing!! Thank you so much for going above and beyond!”**



**I want to thank you again for being so responsive to the census process. Our city is still #1 in Georgia with 83.4% of you already having responded.** By comparison the state average is only 55.1%. This is important as you know because lots of money that you have already paid in tax dollars is allocated based on census data. We want our fair share. The sooner we all respond, the less effort and hopefully fewer tax dollars the Census Bureau will have to spend getting the data. Please help your neighbors if they need that in responding to the Census or call City Hall and they will try to help you. Let’s get this done!

**Our city’s 2020 Resurfacing Project is substantially complete.** The contractor will be working over the next two weeks to complete any remaining punch list items and cleanup, including shoulder backfill on Lakeshore Drive. After the asphalt has had two weeks to cure, the permanent striping will be installed. Thank you for your continued patience as we work with the contractor to complete this project.

I want to give you **an update on the county’s South Berkeley Lake Water Main Replacement project.** They have completed phase one of the project and are currently installing water lines on S. Berkeley Lake Road and Little Ridge Road. Weather permitting, the contractor is expecting to complete the pipe installation by May 20th. When that is complete, they will install the line to

connect the school to the water main which will take approximately three days, dependent on weather. Then the pipe will be pressure tested and chlorinated to make sure it’s safe and ready for use. That takes about one and a half weeks and then they’ll start switching services from the old line to the new line and restoration work can begin. As we near the end, we will have more specific dates for milling and paving on South Berkeley Lake Road, portions of Bush Road, and Little Ridge Road. Right now, the contractor is nearly three months ahead of schedule. Remember that if you have any concerns or questions about the project, you can email [DWRConstruction@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:DWRConstruction@gwinnettcountry.com) or call them at (678) 376-7027.

From Jill and Tracey: “The Rice Settlege Team is proud to announce that the **Yard of the Month** winners for May are Dory



and Scott Brown. Their giant hostas, roses, creeping jenny, ferns, Japanese maples and more are blooming in this Valley View yard that also has amazing sunset views over Berkeley Lake! Thank you, Lori Ziemba for choosing them! Remember, this month’s winner chooses next month’s winner! It’s



ok to let them know just how great your yard looks! Invite them over for a look! This is how neighbors meet neighbors they may not already know! At a safe socially distance space of course!”

Please remember that we will be conducting an **extra food drive** this week since the co-ops are really struggling. If you would like to give non-perishable food items or toiletry items, Julie Huntington, Beena Meshramkar, and volunteers will collect bags at your mailbox **this Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> after 1:00PM**. Until then there will be collection bins at 633 Lakeshore Drive (Meshramkar's) or 888 Lakeshore Drive (Huntington's). If you are interested in details about becoming a “regular shopper” for our co-ops, please contact Beena Meshramkar at (770) 633-6580 or [marybeena@yahoo.com](mailto:marybeena@yahoo.com).

The Southwest Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce compiled this list of nearby **restaurants** that are open and serving. It shows which have takeout and delivery and gives phone numbers, which may be helpful to you. <https://www.southwestgwinnettchamber.com/55727-2/>

**From my conference call yesterday**, Georgia has had 35,858 cases and 1,527 deaths. Gwinnett’s cases are 2,532 with 101 deaths. Dr. Arona has conducted over 10,000 tests in our area so far and is doing case investigation for all who had positive test results. Her office is handling over 1,000 calls a day and doing a great job. She says our Gwinnett hospitals are “in fabulous shape.” We can all be grateful for that good news. Everybody please continue to do what’s necessary to stay safe.

*Lois D. Salter*