



November 3, 2021

There's a lot going on this weekend in our city. On this **Saturday, November 6 from 10 AM until 3 PM there will be a Holiday Market at Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center, 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard.** I try to go to this every year to buy gifts from local crafters, vendors, and artists. It's free and there will be a kids' room with make-and-take crafts, a food truck, and more.

**Our time-change food drive is this Sunday, Nov 7.** Please try to get your bags of non-perishable food out by your mailbox by noon. If you would like to volunteer to help with bag pick up, contact Julie Huntington at [huntingtonx7@yahoo.com](mailto:huntingtonx7@yahoo.com). The Duluth Co-op food ministry especially needs canned meat, vegetables, fruit, pasta and rice, spaghetti sauce (canned or plastic), boxed cereal and oatmeal. Peanut butter and jelly are always good. There will also be collection boxes at City Hall and the Chapel.

Also, this weekend (although not in our city) you can take your hard to get rid of stuff to the **America Recycles Day event on Saturday, November 6 from 9 AM to noon** at Coolray Field in Lawrenceville. They will recycle your electronics, paint, clothing, sneakers, tires, and paper items if you place them in disposable containers in the trunk or back seat of your vehicle to be removed by volunteers. Paper shredding is limited to five copier boxes. Oil and latex paint will be limited to 10 gallons total per vehicle. Recycling electronics is free except for TVs, monitors, and printers. There is a \$35 cash fee per projection or console TV, a \$15 cash fee per flat screen TV or computer monitor, and a \$5 cash fee per printer. For more information, visit [Gwinnett County Solid Waste](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com/solidwaste) or call (770) 822-7141.



Thanks to all those who brought stuff to **our own E-recycling and Drug Takeback Day** recently. One of our police officers collected four big grocery bags full of unneeded prescriptions; and we got a whole truck full of computers, iPads, phones, etc. Those will have their hard drives cleared and then be given to charities. It was a good day!

I have been **exploring the possibility of mounting some very high-tech cameras** in several places around our city. Our police precinct commander feels very strongly about their value in catching criminals, but I have had some reservations because they're pretty expensive. You can't just buy them and stick them out there; they have to be monitored constantly. I recently met with other mayors in our county and

asked the ones who are already using them (most are) if they’re worth the cost. The answer was a very emphatic “Yes, definitely!” I have asked our city council members to be considering this; and I’m letting you as citizens know also that we will be talking about it. If you have any thoughts, concerns, or opinions, please share those with us soon.

It’s **deer mating season** again. Be alert in your driving because a buck may lose his mind and chase a doe out into the street, causing an accident.

Bob Smith, (the city Council member whom I appointed to be liaison to our citizen Finance Committee) and I met recently with an independent outside auditor. Our city always brings an expert in yearly to study everything about the way we spend money and critique it to see if we could do better. This gentleman professed himself to be very impressed with **our city’s financial situation**. We have no debt which is quite unusual for cities, and we do not expect to have any, barring some unforeseen disaster. We are unusually transparent in reporting (in writing and verbally) every month on the monies we have spent and how that stacks up against our planned budget. The yearly budget is studied by our citizen Treasurer, Pam Williamson, as well as the citizen members of our Finance Committee before it gets to our city council members. The budget is advertised in the newspaper, posted on the window at City Hall, posted on the website and discussed at two or more City Council meetings. It will be discussed at our next council meeting which, of course, you are always welcome to attend.

Each year the city inspects approximately 20% of its **stormwater infrastructure** and those inspections are set to begin in the next few weeks. Inspections are done by geographic zone, and this year they will occur around Lakeshore Drive. Inspectors from Keck & Wood, our contracted city engineering firm, should be in a vehicle marked Keck & Wood and wearing yellow vests. I asked them to be very identifiable to ensure that no one would wonder about who they are and whether they should be here. None of us wants strange people poking around near our homes if we have no idea who they are.

Please remember that **Veteran’s Day is Thursday, November 11**. You can attend a service at nearby Perimeter Church at 9:30 AM on that day to honor veterans, or an outside service at 11 AM at the Fallen Heroes Memorial at the Gwinnett Justice and Administrative Center. That ceremony will be streamed live on Facebook @GwinnettGov. **If you want to be active in helping military and veterans’ families**, [here is a lot of info on resources](#) supporting both, as well as how to volunteer to help either or both groups effectively.



Thanks to the BLOSOMS **Random Acts of Kindness** ladies who are feeding several people in our city currently with “meal trains” for people who have had accidents, injuries and various special needs. They are also collecting all kinds of goodies for the teachers at Berkeley Lake Elementary School to fill a “Teachers’ Treat Trolley.” The principal, our own Lesley Pendleton, gave us some tips on some of the teachers’ favorites. Lesley looks after her staff and we are pleased to support her in supporting them. Good schools make good neighborhoods.



Please sign up for our **Berkeley Lake Blood Drive** coming to the Chapel on **Saturday, November 20 from 10 AM until 4 PM**. To schedule your donation appointment, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter the sponsor code: *Berkeley*. Hospital demand continues to outpace donations creating a situation which is frightening and unsustainable. Please help.

As most of you know, Berkeley Lakers have fed and celebrated several groups nearby to let them know how much we appreciate them. We have taken yummy meals on multiple occasions to our police precinct, our fire fighters and paramedics, to the medical workers in our nearest hospital, and to the public health teams at testing and vaccination sites. This week we are adding another group to that list. **With a very generous donation from Jill Rice and Tracey Settlege of Keller Williams Realty we will provide 50 meals to the hardworking staff at the animal shelter in Lawrenceville.** I’ll try to get some good pictures for you of that event.

For the next few months, I will be featuring one of our staff members in these messages to help you get to know them better. **Rob Hiller** is one of our City Marshals who is a great photographer, skateboarder and mountain biker. He has two 200-pound (each!) therapy dogs with whom he visits special needs children at schools and hospitals. He has lived a lot of places including St. Louis, San Diego, Santa Barbara, San Francisco, Honolulu, Vancouver British Columbia, and Nürnberg Germany, and was on the Cobb County Fire Department’s helicopter rescue team. He says, “My daughter danced for 15 years and as a result I love the ballet.” Certainly, a man of quite eclectic interests, and he takes good care of us in our city.





Some of you have wanted a **reasonable way to recycle glass** for some time, and we finally have a place to do that, thanks to the efforts of our county commissioner, Ben Ku. You can take all colors of food and beverage bottles and jars to the 24/7 drop-off located in the parking lot of OneStop Norcross, 5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross. Recycle empty glass with labels and metal lids left on. Leave out corks, cardboard boxes, plastic

bags, ceramics like plates or mugs, and heat-resistant ovenware like Pyrex because they will contaminate the load and make it less valuable. You can learn more about glass recycling in Gwinnett by reading this [myths vs. facts](#) article.

**Fun Fact about Berkeley Lake:** Niche gave the city an overall A+ rating and top mark in the "good for families" category.

As we head into the Thanksgiving holiday, I am aware of how much there is to be thankful for around here. I am grateful for so many of you and all you bring to our city. Enjoy this beautiful time of the year!

*Lois D. Satter*