



December 21, 2021

Many of us have been concerned recently about **hunting** in our city. I met with three county leaders of the police and signed some documents giving them the jurisdiction to arrest not only hunters, but anyone walking on our dam. They have promised to make sure that all the officers in our area understand the arrangements we have made. If you see hunters, call 911. If you get a new officer who has not been apprised, ask him or her to speak to their Precinct Commander. If you know of anyone who might be hunting, please make sure they understand before they get arrested. I have asked that signs be posted saying:

**NO HUNTING**

**This property is under surveillance and violators will be prosecuted.**

I attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting recently to hear former County Commission Chair **Wayne Hill**'s fascinating thoughts after many years of building, leading, and serving



Gwinnett. Wayne is the guy standing next to Santa in this picture. When asked what he thinks are the **most intractable problems** today, he said traffic and crime, and "people just aren't courteous to each other anymore." I am grateful that so many of our Berkeley Lakers are still striving for courtesy and mutual respect for each other, despite our differences.

Wayne said something else that caught my attention: "Anytime you see someone who's

getting good things done, they have for sure got real good folks around them, probably some who are smarter than they are." That is certainly true regarding me and our small **city staff**. They work so hard, and I appreciate them so much. I brought them lunch and a homemade Christmas cake this week. Scott Lee provided the beautiful poinsettias and Bob Smith (center in picture), in spite of his disruptions from a recent house fire, showed up with lovely gifts for each of them. Other council members have brought treats and similarly shown their appreciation to these folks who make such a difference for us all. I will continue to try to



better acquaint you with them by featuring one in each Mayor’s Message. **This month’s featured staff member is Lila Hunter.**



Lila loves animals and the people animals have brought into her life. She fosters and works very hard volunteering with Canine Pet Rescue and holds an appointed position on the Gwinnett Animal Advisory Council. That group studies and discusses animal related issues and legislation to advise our Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners. As a member of the Georgia Pet Coalition, she has worked on state level legislation as well, and currently has 7 adopted rescue dogs at home. She says, “My best friend, George Hunter, and I have been married since 1995. He works in the technology part of the banking industry, and he is also a gifted photographer.” Lila has run three marathons and countless half marathons; her favorite was Chicago. She is our Court Clerk and Deputy City Clerk and says, “I truly enjoy serving this city!” Here she is with Prince, one of the Budweiser Clydesdale horses whom she was helping to look after on their visit nearby.

One of my recent virtual meetings with state mayors seemed alarming to me. It was regarding **cyber security** and possible attacks on cities in the way that Atlanta was held for ransom recently. I was told that cyber security insurance will be getting harder to obtain and afford. Cities are being increasingly targeted, and the Feds are sending money to help, but that money is almost entirely identified for rural areas. I discussed this with our staff and felt a lot better. Not only do we have good insurance, but every bit of our data is backed up in an entirely different geographical location. Every precaution has been taken.

Some of us have been interested for quite a while in getting **glass recycling availability that is convenient to us**. We know that putting it in our home recycling containers is not helpful because the glass breaks and contaminates all the other recyclables, making them unusable. There were some recycling places to which you could take stuff, but now one of those has come to our own city. You can leave clean, empty glass containers in this big green thing in Pinckneyville Park by the baseball complex 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They take clear and colored food and beverage bottles and jars. Here are some [frequently asked questions about glass recycling](#).



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🐝 🐝 🐝 I’ve been asked to tell you that during winter months there are fewer flowers and other sources of food for **bees**. Since our bee populations are threatened, here’s a way to help. Grate an apple and add some water in a bowl. The bees will be able to get the sugars from the fruit and drink the water and not drown since they can stand on the fruit pieces.



We have some **special people to thank in our city**. Big thanks to **Jill Rice and Tracey Settlege** for generously paying for 17 humongous pizzas which I had the pleasure of delivering to the Gwinnett County Animal Shelter. Just as we have fed the police, the fire department, the hospital, and the public health workers, we wanted to let the animal shelter staff know that we appreciate them and all their efforts. They told me there that the official state dog of



Georgia is The Adoptable Dog, and they’ve got a bunch of them over there desperately needing homes.

Thanks also to **Julie Huntington** who always coordinates our city’s twice yearly food drive. She and her volunteers collected approximately 260 bags of food, and \$430 for our local co-op food ministries. None of this is possible without everyone who donated and without a great group of volunteers: **Kayla English, Susan Hanson, Debbie Peters, John and Amy Parker, Jim Sheppard, Joy McCleskey, Tod and Lee Ann Senne, Bill and Mary Lou Heaner, Tim Shaw, Sandy and Bill Lacy, Grant Roberts, and Chris Huntington.**



And going on right now is the **Windsor Realty** group’s food collection as votes for their Christmas Lights Contest. Ride around on boats or in cars to see the joyful seasonal displays around our city, and then vote at City Hall for your favorite one with canned food for the local ministries. Thanks to **Ginny Nevins and her team** for all this fun, and food for those needing it.

Here are some things I learned recently from the Atlanta Regional Commission about the **state of our region**. Crime is residents’ top perceived issue facing metro Atlanta, the first time that crime has topped the survey. One in three residents, or 33%, said they are working at home all or most of the time, while another 21% did so occasionally. Those figures are up from last year’s survey. Real estate is getting much more expensive especially in rapidly changing urban neighborhoods with the region’s oldest homes. For example: in an area near the BeltLine in southwest Atlanta, home prices per square foot increased by 658% between 2013 and 2020, from \$23 to \$173.

Last month I shared with you the possibility of **mounting some very high-tech cameras** in several places around our city and asked for your feedback. All that I got from our citizens was positive, and the police recommend them very strongly. These cameras have allowed them to catch some suspected murderers in cities very near us, as well as a young man who was riding around shooting a gun into random houses. When I reported all this to our city council, they agreed to put some at the places recommended to me by the police.

**Fun Fact about Berkeley Lake:**

This month [Stacker](#), a data journalism hub, **listed the Top 10 places to live in Georgia, and Berkeley Lake was #6.** The 5 ahead of us were Alpharetta, Decatur, Collier Hills North, Johns Creek, and North Decatur.

Merry Christmas to you all and best wishes for safe and joyful holidays with your family and friends. We’re all hoping for a very happy new year.

*Lois D. Satter*