



October 11, 2022

Please don't forget our yearly **Electronics Recycling and Drug Takeback Day** this **Saturday, October 15 from 10AM to noon at City Hall**. Our city staff will meet you behind City Hall where you can conveniently drive by and drop off computers, phones, etc. that you no longer need. We won't be taking TVs or CRT monitors because recyclers charge to take each of those individually. If you have those, here's how to get rid of them: our Waste Management guys will take TVs no more than 3 feet wide for free if you call them and arrange a special pick up. [For larger ones you can use WM's Bagster service](#). Other options: [New Life - flat screen tvs \\$20, other tvs \\$40](#) (Cumming) or [E Recycle -all tvs and crt monitors \\$25](#) (Tucker). At the same time **prescriptions and drugs** will be collected and disposed of safely by police officers who will join us on that day. This will be an opportunity to speak with our officers. **Even if folks have nothing to bring that day, I would really appreciate it if some of us stopped by behind City Hall to say hello and thank you to our police**. Finally, you can drop off non-perishable food items for the Neighborhood Cooperative Ministries that day, and United States flags that need a respectful retirement. I hope to see you there.



Also, this Saturday is **Paint Gwinnett Pink, a 5K run and walk on October 15** that is the signature fundraising event for our local Gwinnett hospitals. Every dollar they raise stays in Gwinnett County, supporting things like tomosynthesis 3D mammography - the cutting-edge image technology that allows healthcare professionals greater visibility of breast structures and possible cancers with 15% fewer false alarms. This happy event will be at Coolray Field, and I hope some of you can come out to support the fight against breast cancer. This race is a qualifier for next year's Peachtree Road Race, and all registration fees will help cancer patients locally.

Advance voting for the November 8 election starts next week at **Pinckneyville Park Community Center** which is conveniently right here in Berkeley Lake. It begins on **October 17** and goes through **November 4 from 7AM to 7PM each day**. If you'd like to preview your ballot before you go, see <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/> to consider your important decisions.

The Gwinnett Board of Commissioners recently voted to place a renewal of the one-cent special purpose local option sales tax, known as **SPLOST**, (when it would otherwise expire) on this November ballot. If voters approve, the 2023 SPLOST program would raise funds over the next six years that would go directly towards transportation projects, public safety facilities and equipment, senior services facilities, and more. [Here is more information and answers to frequently asked questions](#). The Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce has publicly endorsed this SPLOST, saying: “Gwinnett already maintains the lowest sales tax rate in the state of Georgia making it an attractive location for business and talent. Voting to continue this funding requires no tax increase, supports Gwinnett’s continued growth, and directly aligns with the Chamber’s public policy agenda to ensure Georgia’s best-in-class business climate.”



Our usual **Time Change Food Pickup will be on Sunday, November 6**. We are so fortunate to have Julie Huntington and her great bunch of volunteers who will collect your bags of non-perishable food and household goods from beside your mailbox at 1PM on that day. They will deliver them to the Neighborhood Cooperative Ministries who really need our help, so please mark this date and don’t forget.

December is such a busy month, so please save these dates for our **Chapel’s Holiday Variety Show**. On two evenings, Friday, December 2 and Saturday, December 3 there will be singing, dancing, a one act play, and a dash of holiday 'cheer' plus desserts, all to raise funds for various outdoor Chapel landscape needs. More information and tickets will be available soon at \$20 per person. The Chapel is a Berkeley Lake institution that has supported all aspects of our community for so many years. I hope we can come together to support its landscaping project.

I continue to attend virtual meetings with mayors from around the state to learn what I can that might be helpful to you. One of the recent ones was with Cara Convery of the Georgia Attorney General’s Office’s new **Gang Prosecution Unit**. Gang members are now in every county of Georgia numbering approximately 71,000, with about 50,000 in metro Atlanta. They are recruiting in middle and elementary schools. I don’t want to sensationalize this or spread fear, but we can no longer afford to be careless about reasonable safety precautions. Some of you are still leaving your doors unlocked. Another meeting was with Special Agent Charles Kicklighter of the GBI’s **Cyber Crime Center**. He says cyber crime is now more profitable than the global illegal drug trade. In 2021 66% of businesses were attacked, incurring \$20 billion in damage. These criminals are typically international using very sophisticated tools, so prevention/mitigation of harm is key. Back up your data offsite and offline, use multi-factor authentication, and always use updated software. Our city does all these things and is very careful, but individuals need to be alert to these problems as well. Please protect yourselves and your businesses. And lastly, I have been asked to urge you to get a flu shot. **Flu** is at high to moderate levels right now in

City of Berkeley Lake – Mayor’s Message

Georgia. Only Texas has a higher rate of flu infections than our state, and medical advisors are predicting a bad flu season this year.

I have been asked by one of our citizens to let you know about the **great perks of the Gwinnett Library**. Through them you can get free access to online sites like the New York Times or Ancestry.com, free access to podcast rooms, video/audio editing suites, and 3-D printing - including free instruction. You can tour a local branch with a librarian to learn more. Ask about getting a free pass to the Atlanta Zoo, Railway Museum, etc.



Our City Marshals have continued to monitor the **mulch pile fire** off S. Berkeley Lake Road. It is still smoldering but under control. You may recall that the police aviation unit previously removed water from our lake with what’s called a “Bambi bucket” attached to a helicopter and dumped it on this fire. If they need to do this again, they will contact me and/or the president of BLHA whose number I have given them. They are very determined to be respectful of our community. Captain King reported to me after the last operation that they had removed 2,592 gallons of water and offered to replace it, but Bill Lyons and I deemed that unnecessary. I told the Captain that we

are grateful for all that he and his officers do to protect our community.

I read with interest recently in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (in an article by our own Karen Huppertz) that Peachtree Corners is installing “innovative and high-tech structures intended to cool down urban areas by greening them up.” They are using “steel covered fiberglass structures with a mesh cylindrical upward and outward spreading canopy overlaid with climbing plants. Ultimately each will provide 215 square feet of shade to help create a cool place.” This confirmed what I previously reported to you from a mayors’ meeting that trees make a huge difference in local climate. The Georgia Tech expert in that meeting said, “**Every tree counts!**” It made me proud of how our city has for years worked to protect every tree possible.



Speaking of trees, as the leaves start to fall, I want to remind you please to **refrain from raking or blowing leaves, grass clippings, or yard debris into drainage ditches and roadways**. That can result in clogged storm drains causing localized flooding and property damage. If leaves and other yard debris don't clog storm drains but instead flow through the drainage system into our waterways, the health of our streams and lake is adversely impacted. You can blow leaves and yard debris into natural areas (under shrubs or in the woods) on your property. Fallen leaves make good mulch; they help hold moisture for growing

City of Berkeley Lake – Mayor’s Message

plants and shrubs and prevent erosion of bare soil. Alternatively, bagged leaves, grass clippings and yard debris can be set out for collection and disposal by Waste Management.



My **featured Berkeley Lake business** today is the San Luis Taqueria & Cantina at 4790 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard. I’ve taken two groups of people to eat there, and everybody enjoyed it immensely. They make the salsa fresh every day and I particularly recommend the salmon tacos. Please go by and check them out when you get a chance and tell them you’re a citizen of Berkeley Lake. We want our businesses to know that we support them.

This month’s **Fun Fact about Berkeley Lake**: Property taxes remain very low (1.4 mills) but cover stormwater infrastructure **without** a separate fee. I can’t think of another local city that doesn’t charge for that. We try to keep things simple.

Please enjoy our beautiful fall. The leaves are always so pretty in Berkeley Lake.

Lois D. Salter