



November 28, 2022

**Early voting in the runoff election** for one of Ga.'s U.S. Senate seats is happening now through Friday, December 2. Registered voters may vote in-person from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. at our usual polling place in Pinckneyville Community Center, even if you didn't vote in the general election. You may also, of course, choose to vote on the regular election day, Tuesday, December 6.

Speaking of that recent general election, **Gwinnett's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)** passed and is expected to provide \$1.35 billion over the next six years, 25 percent of which will go to cities and the rest to the county. Berkeley Lake has used this type of funding in past years to help build our City Hall, our Children's Park, to pave city streets, buy our City Marshal vehicles, etc. Gwinnett citizens apparently continue to prefer this type of taxation to additional property taxes, since sales tax is paid by all who spend money in our county. Gwinnett is a retail destination for many all over northeast Georgia who come to shop at Mall of Georgia and many other venues, and in doing so, they help pay our taxes. Learn more about the renewed SPLOST program at [GwinnettSPLOST.com](http://GwinnettSPLOST.com).



**Windsor Realty will once again be sponsoring the Berkeley Lake Christmas Lights contest** to collect canned goods (and non-glass bottles of shampoo, body wash, etc.) for

those in need through your "votes" (one canned good/bottle = one vote). Please nominate your

neighbor or yourself by submitting a picture of the nominated home (within the city limits of Berkeley Lake) and the address along with the homeowner’s agreement to participate. To get the agreement form, please email [delois@windsoratlanta.com](mailto:delois@windsoratlanta.com). Participants will then get a sign in their yard with their entry number. To vote for your favorite entry, place canned goods marked with the entry number in the bins at City Hall for collection. Each nominated home will also be displayed at City Hall for your convenience. All canned goods will be donated to Neighborhood Cooperative Ministries. This is an especially tough year for many to put food on the table, so let’s get started a bit earlier this year! All “votes” will be collected and counted between December 1 and December 22 in time for delivery before Christmas. Big thanks to Ginny and John Nevins and DeLois Greenwood for making this happen every year. They’re feeding the hungry and making holiday joy for us all!

And here’s another opportunity for Christmas kindness: our **Gwinnett Police** are accepting toy donations for boys and girls ages 3 to 12 years old. Toys will be distributed during their Santa’s Community Workshop event for local children. Toys should be new, unwrapped, and priced \$10 or above, but they will not be accepting weapons as toys. Donations will be collected through Friday, December 16. **Gifts can be dropped off at our City Hall.** We have created an office for police use within our City Hall in an effort to support them on a regular basis. Let’s also help them with their toy drive for kids!



December is such a busy month, so please save these dates for our **Chapel’s HO-HO HOLIDAY VARIETY SHOW**. On two evenings, Friday, December 2 and Saturday, December 3 there will be singing, a one act play, and a dash of holiday “cheer” plus desserts, all to raise funds for various outdoor Chapel landscape needs. Cost is \$20 per person, and you can reserve a seat and select a performance date by sending an email to: [hoho@blchapel.org](mailto:hoho@blchapel.org). There will also

be a **HO-HO HOLIDAY PARTY & SILENT AUCTION** on Saturday, December 17, at 7 p.m. This will be a free and festive evening with Holiday ‘nog’ and BYOB drinks. Please bring an appetizer! The Silent Auction will have boxed gifts to bid on. Included in the boxes will be themed items from the BLOSOMS ‘Circle’ groups such as pickleball items, games, and more. Early bidding starts at 3 p.m. and ends at 9



p.m. 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.

Our recent **Berkeley Lake Food Drive** collected about 160 bags of food and received a \$400 donation from the David B. Quin Fund through the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. I love that we do this twice every year, and I particularly want to thank Julie Huntington and her magnificent volunteers: Janine and Jim Irwin, Amy and John Parker, Cindy and John Purcell, Susan Hanson, Beena Meshramkar, Lee Ann and Tod Senne, Kayla English, Wendy and Tim Shaw, Debbie Peters, and Dan Huntington. Many thanks also to each of you who contributed. I hope you feel really good about that!



Gwinnett has opened a new **Veteran and Family Services** office at 567 Swanson Drive in Lawrenceville. Veterans and their families can walk into the office to connect with a Community Navigator and find resources available to them from Gwinnett County, community organizations (like Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 90), and state and federal agencies. Our city is investigating ways to help veterans also, and I’ve asked Bryan Stuart, a veteran himself, to lead that effort. We hope to have an event in the coming year that will raise funds to help veterans who are struggling. Stay tuned for more information, and you may be able to help.

Whenever **holidays** come around, we always **wonder if our trash will get picked up as usual**, or if there will be a change. Waste Management provides a link where you can check your own specific address to find out. You may want to make a note and save this website somewhere for future checking <https://www.wm.com/us/en/holiday-schedule>.



My **featured Berkeley Lake business** today is Mathnasium. They help kids of all ages and skill levels, whether they’re struggling in math, doing okay but could be doing better, or are already excelling but need more of a challenge. To learn more about this math learning program, call 770-881-8462 or email [berkeleylake@mathnasium.com](mailto:berkeleylake@mathnasium.com).

This month’s **Fun Fact about Berkeley Lake**: Last week one of those real estate rating services published an article indicating [Berkeley Lake as one of the best places to live](#) in the entire eastern part of the U.S.

City of Berkeley Lake – Mayor’s Message

As the song says, “It’s the most wonderful time of the year.” It certainly is in Berkeley Lake. I hope you all enjoy it with your family and friends.

*Lois D. Salter*