



August 12, 2024

After reading some social media comments recently, I **began to feel that I have failed to adequately clarify for everyone the role of our City Marshals**. What follows is my attempt to remedy that, and to give you some idea about how to get help for things that are not City issues. I want everybody to get what you need in a timely manner, but I want to do that without unnecessarily blowing up your tax rate. Marshals make a big difference for all of us by doing the following:

- Dam inspections and maintenance
- Storm water inspections \*during\* (if on duty) and after storms
- Erosion and sediment control inspections (weekly at all construction sites) and monthly county meetings
- Project management and field inspections of all public works projects
- Facilities maintenance for City Hall and playground
- Regularly walk the greenspace looking for evidence of poachers or “urban campers” and appropriate response
- Emergency management liaison to county
- Running off unpermitted solicitors (during business hours)
- Enforcing property maintenance regulations
- Meeting with and receiving phone calls from citizens
- Assisting with business licenses
- Preparation for and attendance at our Municipal Court
- Daily surveillance throughout the city

The last one is the only thing most of us notice, and it is, of course, not 24-7, but it is quite significant! Because our Marshals become so familiar with our homes, they can notice things that are of concern, use their City Directories to contact the homeowner, or contact the police. They maintain a close and valuable relationship with our county police, and it is not for nothing that the Precinct Commander describes Berkeley Lake as “a black hole” on his crime maps. It makes a difference to have the eyes of Marshals (and friendly neighbors) on our homes.

Some years ago, I did a deep dive into information regarding the possibility of having our own city police. I would love to have that, as I’m sure you would, but, believe me, you do not want to pay for it. If you are interested in all that I found out, I would be glad to have a lengthy discussion with anyone about the pros and cons, but in my best judgment the situation we have now with our Marshals and a close working relationship with our Gwinnett County police is the best option. So who to call for emergency and non-

emergency responses? Obviously, any life-threatening emergency or currently happening crime warrants a call to 911. However, Gwinnett also has a non-emergency number that can help with many issues. If you're faced with an issue like a tree down or a power line down, the non-emergency line is a good resource. They can transfer and triage to other agencies like Georgia Power. The police or Gwinnett Fire will come and clear a lane of traffic if they have the manpower and equipment available. If anything happens in the city after hours or over the weekend, that is the best option. During normal working hours, you can contact City Hall about a tree down on a city street and we will respond. If there is a dead animal in the right-of-way the non-emergency number is also who to call, as it will connect you with animal control. Any non-emergency police reports can be done through this number, and some can be filed over the phone without an officer being dispatched. **The non-emergency number is 770-513-5700.**

South Berkeley Lake, North Berkeley Lake, Bush, PIB, and South Old Peachtree are all county roads. If there is an issue with any of these roads the county has an [online self-service portal to request work](#).

Georgia Power also has an [online resource to report outages for power](#) and a separate [portal to report streetlight issues](#).

I hope all this is helpful and I would be glad to discuss any of it further, as would our City Marshals. If I haven't made something clear, please call City Hall at 770-368-9484 and let us know. We want to help.



**I want to thank everybody again who contributed to our amazing City celebration on July 4.** Debbie Peters and her GASP group always do such a great job feeding us hotdogs, drinks, and providing wonderful activities for the kids. Scott Lee helped with the kids' games and provided music while Chip McDaniel fed us popcorn and Tevis Stine helped with traffic. Anne Carpenter of Berkshire Hathaway Homes Services (real estate) served everybody red, white and blue popsicles and cookies. Our city staff members were all there helping, and a good time was had by all!



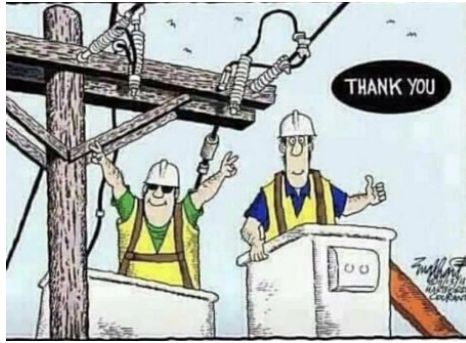
Also there on July 4 were two of our expert consultants who have been hired to help us **review and overhaul our zoning and development regulations**. This was the first of several public engagement opportunities to discuss the project with citizens and capture citizen comments. [Learn more about the project](#) and stay tuned for future chances to ask questions and provide feedback.

I think it's a good time to remind everyone about our **city rules for signs**. Call City Hall with questions if you like. We will be happy to help. Basically, if you want to exercise your



freedom of speech in this election season, you should be fine if your sign meets size limits and if it's at least 10 feet back from the edge of the pavement on your property.

My latest information from the Atlanta Regional Commission indicates that we continue to experience steady growth, led by a strong economy. The fastest growth occurred in the City of Atlanta, followed by Cherokee and Henry counties. **Gwinnett County's population topped 1 million** for the first time.



We seem to have had a lot of **power outages** lately. After one of them, I was pleased to pass on an appreciative email that was sent to me by **Sue Swanson** about Ga. Power linemen. Since I think many of you also appreciate those guys, I thought I would share with you the response I got from the two high-level managers with whom I am sometimes in contact. One said: "What a wonderful email and compliment, Mayor Salter! We are so thankful for our line workers and the endless hours that they endure to ensure that our communities have electricity." The other added: "As the saying goes, not all heroes wear capes. Our

linemen, as well as other team members, take pride in restoring service to our customers. Mayor Salter, thank you for your kind words and **we appreciate the residents of Berkeley Lake wholeheartedly!**" I appreciate Sue for taking the time to send this positive feedback. Both managers have passed Sue's appreciation on to those who manage the line workers so that they could pass this note and kudos along to their teams. Thank you, Sue!

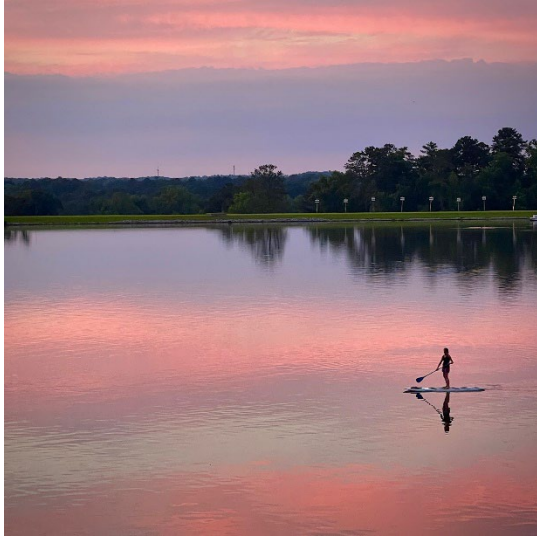
Please remember as you travel through our beautiful city that we are not only a Tree City, but also recognized as an Urban Wildlife Sanctuary by the Humane Society of the United States. It is a rare privilege and a daily joy to see deer, possums, wild turkeys, raccoons, and all the unusual birds that share this amazing natural area in which we live. Most of those critters stay out of our way, but the deer sometimes are unable to move as fast as speeding drivers on our hilly, curvy roads. **If you drive too fast around here, you become not only a danger to the deer, but to yourself and other humans.** Please bear that in mind, drive slowly and carefully, and stay safe.



The backpacks and **school supplies** that you brought to my office have been delivered to our police officers and they are most appreciative. Thank you so much for helping them to help kids who need these things to start off their school year. I had originally told you that I needed to get them by a certain deadline, but the receiving officer said they are going to continue to collect them all through this school year. That means you can feel free to drop any school supplies by my office at any time and I will make sure they are delivered. Thank you so very much!



**Support our local businesses!** In this issue, I am featuring **Vicuña Mountain Promotions** which has been in the promotional supply business for over 10 years. Being a family-owned business allows them to offer competitive pricing and fast completion times of apparel, trophies, patches, awards and much more. All work is done in-house including screen printing, embroidery, and engraving. Call [678-852-6046](tel:678-852-6046) or visit 3970 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Suite 400 in Berkeley Lake.



The **winner of the June Lens contest is Jill Rice** with her picture, "Peace be with You". That's Kim Keene on the paddle board in this beautiful sunset. Jill has directed her prize money (sponsored as always by Windsor Realty) to **Canine Pet Rescue** in Dacula. The photo contest has now finished its first seven months and has been well received. Over 100 photos have been submitted and all the pictures entered to date can be viewed on the

Lens website: [BerkeleyLakeLens.com](http://BerkeleyLakeLens.com). Let's keep it going because our city undoubtedly has some fabulous photographers! You can register either to just view the entries or to enter the competition.



The **July LENS winner is Resa Mechling** with this gorgeous photo: "Proof through the night that our flag was still there." Resa has designated **Planned Pethood** as her charity for the award. Let's see what photos the rest of you have to share. If you plan on uploading directly from an iPhone, it is necessary to change the format that is used to store pictures on the phone. If you need any help, please text Chris Kimberley at [404-384-4386](tel:404-384-4386). Chris chairs this city committee and he wants me to stress that it is not technical excellence that wins; it's the best portrayal

of what life in Berkeley Lake means to you. Also, that votes by our arts committee members are made without knowing the photographers.



Please remember our **Electronic Recycling and Drug Takeback on October 26, 10 AM to noon**. More about that later, but please save the date.

This month's **Fun Fact about Berkeley Lake**: our city has been certified as a Tree City for 24 years now. This is not just a nice honor; it strongly affects our property values and our quality of life! According to a recent study reported by REI: "**Neighborhoods with more trees have lower energy bills, higher property values, cleaner air and water, and milder heat waves.**"

*Lois D. Salter*

