



October 10, 2024

Saturday, October 26 is a big day for us at City Hall, where we will have four events going on the same day in an effort to help you make the best use of your time. **From 10 AM until noon** on that day you can bring your unneeded prescriptions to turn in to the **drug take back police** officer that we will have in attendance. You can bring all kinds of **electronics** that you no longer need for **recycling**. Our City Marshals will help you offload those behind City Hall, and we will get them to a good place. You can meet and talk with the very knowledgeable consultants whom we have hired to **review and update our zoning and development codes that govern our city**. You've heard me talk about this before; and I continue to want as many of you as possible to have input into this. The consultants held a pop-up event at the July 4 parade, and **this is another opportunity for you**. If you cannot make this one, you, of course, can still link to the [project website](#) to learn more about what is being considered and to give your input there. Last but not least we have invited **leaders of the Gwinnett Department of Transportation** to answer your questions about the upcoming **Transit Referendum** which you will be voting on November 5. The Transit Plan includes over 75 projects that could provide transit access to every citizen and business in Gwinnett County, in addition to two shuttles directly to the airport. There is more information about the [Transit Referendum](#) and the [Transit Plan](#) that it would fund at these links, but it may be valuable for you to talk directly to the experts about this as you decide how you feel about this possible investment of your tax dollars. We wanted to make that available to you.

Transit Plan Proposed Service Diagram



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While thinking about the **November 5 General Election**, I want to remind you to check out the Secretary of State Office's [My Voter Page](#) (MVP). Here you can find polling information, **view a sample ballot**, and more. I always try to study the whole ballot before I go. Our votes are important and deserving of some thoughtful advance consideration. Registered voters can begin **advance in-person voting** any day including weekends from **October 15 through November 1, 7 AM to 7 PM**.



As many of you know, one of our City Marshals is a former firefighter. **Rob Hiller has been commemorating the service and sacrifice of firefighters at the World Trade Center every September 11** for the last 20 years. This year he was joined by a bunch of Berkeley Lakers who wanted to participate with

him in that simple memorial. They all walked around our lake together and (if they didn't have to rush off to work) were welcomed back at City Hall with homemade cookies and drinks.



While I'm thinking of firefighters, here is a reminder: **fall is a good time to change your smoke alarms**.

We are all so grateful to the **Georgia Power team** that has worked in our community and around the state recently repairing power lines from the hurricane. As it happened, I had just met a few weeks before the storm with some of their management leaders in response to concerns from one of our homeowner association presidents. I had invited them to come and meet with me, Rob Hiller, and Leigh Threadgill in City Hall to talk about the fact that we have so many power outages and to ask what could be done about that, if anything. Georgia Power sent not only their Metro Regional Manager but also their Engineering Supervisor for Gwinnett and their Forester/tree expert. He explained that the challenge in our city is all the huge, beautiful trees that are so treasured here. As storms are getting stronger with climate changes, these old trees sometimes constrict their roots during droughts, which makes them more likely to fall and take power lines with them. I have explored the cost of burying power lines in the past and it is shockingly expensive. Our trees, of course, do help us a lot by slowing down water runoff in severe rains. Georgia Power agreed to come and survey our whole city for possible tree problems in our right-of-way. I agreed to caution all of you to please have your trees checked regularly by an arborist to see which ones may be rotten inside. **Call City Hall if you need to make arrangements for removal within our guidelines. That number is 770-368-9484.**

I want to let you know about some community entertainment coming up on Friday, October 25 and Saturday, October 26. The **Berkeley Lake's Got Talent** variety show will feature Berkeley Lake residents competing as musicians, singers, dancers and comedy acts. Can't wait to see that! Tickets are available online at <https://blchapel.org/community-outreach-and-events/>.



The winner of our city's August Lens contest is **Christy Mahon** with her picture 'Abundance'. The charity she has chosen to receive her prize money is Fully Furnished Ministries which has offices right here within our city. As always, the prize is provided by **Windsor Realty and Ginny Nevins**, seen here with Christy and **Judy Jacobson**. Judy prints and frames the photographs for us every month to hang in City Hall.



I am always proud of how our Berkeley Lake citizens find so many **ways to help others**. Here are two more opportunities:

Hurricane Helene Pet Food Drive

We are collecting pet food for areas devastated by Helene. Many are without power and unable to access food for their pets.

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Dog Supplies & Food
- Cat Supplies & Food

OR

DONATE FUNDS
HERE:




DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office, 2900 University Pkwy, Lawrenceville GA
 Printing Trade Company, 2790 Simpson Circle, Norcross GA
 Berkeley Lake City Hall, 4040 S Berkeley Lake Rd, Berkeley Lake GA
 Trent Shirt Company, 2887 Hwy 78, Loganville GA
 Big Sky Farm, 2625 Jones Phillips Road, Decatur GA


www.caninepetrescue.com
 Contact Info: adopt@caninepetrescue.com

Canine Pet Rescue is an extremely well-organized nonprofit which is run by Carla Brown, a state court judge, with the help of some very dedicated volunteers. They have been **delivering pet food and supplies to Augusta and various other hard-hit places in Georgia as well as North Carolina**. They help not only canines but horses, cats, and various other pets. Our City Hall is one of several drop off places to which you can bring unopened dog and cat food and new or "like new" pet supplies. They have already delivered four full trucks and trailers to locations in NC and GA, and the requests from rescues and shelters are coming in fast. Please help if you can by donating these much-needed supplies or [money that they can use to buy things in bulk](#).

My second suggested opportunity to help is right here in our city. **Berkeley Lake Elementary School** is looking for volunteers to serve as **mentors to students in grades 1 through 5**. Mentors will come for lunch once a week when possible and perhaps spend just a few minutes connecting with students through reading, arts and crafts, games, and other activities. I am signed up to mentor one of the charming Berkeley Lake Bears for 30 minutes once a week. Join me, and we'll get you a little bear of your own. [Here's more information](#), or call Hunter McRae at **678-301-7935**. We look forward to connecting our community to the Berkeley Lake Elementary School family.



As you know, housing costs have been much in the news lately in our county, state, and nation. At a recent meeting of mayors, I learned that in three areas – **median household income, per capita income, and**

median home value - Berkeley Lake is higher than any of the other cities in Gwinnett County. This chart provides more information if you're interested.

Income and Housing (read across)

Variable	Gwinnett County	Auburn	Berkeley Lake	Braselton	Buford	Dacula	Duluth	Grayson	Lawrenceville	Liburn	Loganville	Norcross	Peachtree Corners	Snellville	Sugar Hill	Suwanee	ARC 11 Counties
2024 Median Household Income	\$86,853	\$78,013	\$134,073	\$122,754	\$76,953	\$82,269	\$88,397	\$129,114	\$69,856	\$68,315	\$94,939	\$80,431	\$83,699	\$88,534	\$107,413	\$111,604	\$91,576
2024 Per Capita Income	\$39,321	\$33,874	\$74,366	\$54,033	\$36,113	\$27,930	\$46,345	\$48,899	\$29,213	\$30,153	\$41,123	\$37,244	\$55,860	\$36,561	\$44,712	\$56,098	\$48,513
2022 Households Below the Poverty Level (%)	9.5%	5.3%	1.8%	6.1%	11.5%	14.0%	7.8%	2.6%	16.0%	12.4%	6.8%	9.1%	10.8%	7.1%	7.2%	6.4%	10.1%
2024 Owner Occupied Housing Units (%)	66.7%	81.3%	86.7%	88.5%	64.9%	84.2%	58.0%	85.0%	52.0%	67.1%	73.7%	48.2%	54.8%	77.3%	75.9%	63.4%	62.7%
2024 Median Home Value	\$394,721	\$282,934	\$586,172	\$404,637	\$385,104	\$384,620	\$411,005	\$414,063	\$357,934	\$353,664	\$365,695	\$451,532	\$478,571	\$332,300	\$424,491	\$432,898	\$399,260

ONE great REGION

Source: ESRI

Arc



The **Girl Scouts** dropped by recently and left this colorful note of appreciation for our city staff. It was much appreciated. They all work so hard, and I am grateful for any recognition that they receive for that.

Our featured Berkeley Lake business this month is Catalyst Whole Health, run by Amy Parker. Amy says, "I am passionate about creatively helping others, whether through nutritious, tasty food ideas, an energizing workout, or bringing joy with one of my original paintings. After years of researching and learning how to nourish my family well, I decided to create

some products to share with others! I want to partner with those who desire to eat healthy and clean without compromising flavor." Amy is a Certified Health Coach (Institute for Integrative Nutrition), and a Certified Personal Trainer (National Academy of Sports Medicine) as well as a notable artist. Wow! Catalyst Whole Health is a home-based business that is licensed to produce baked goods for sale at local farmers markets. Contact Amy at: amy@catalystwholehealth.com.



Lois D. Salter