



May 24, 2011

As you know our citizens voted to approve the sale of tax exempt municipal bonds to finance necessary work on the dam. **Several people expressed an interest in buying some of those bonds so I am writing to you all to let you know how to do that.** The general obligation bonds are about to be sold to the public through an underwriter, Merchant Capital, L.L.C. If you're interested you can email Trey Monroe at trey.monroe@merchantcapital.com, with your name and phone number, and you will need to do so pretty quickly. The Underwriter expects the Preliminary Official Statement to be released to the public on or before May 27, 2011. The Preliminary Official Statement will contain all relevant information related to the securities. The bonds will be issued in the denomination of \$5,000 and any integral multiple thereof. If you prefer to call Trey, his office number is (404) 504-2763.

There will be a [special called meeting of City Council on Thursday, June 2nd](#) to discuss bond sales, dam repair, and other issues as needed. Our City Engineer Rich Edinger will be there as well as Trey Monroe of Merchant Capital, so if you have questions I hope you will join us on that evening in City Hall at 8:00 PM.

We have been anxiously awaiting an official review of our engineer's plans for the dam by the Georgia Safe Dams Program. The original expectation was that we would **begin work on the dam** in July, but nothing can go forward until it is approved by Safe Dams. Their work load is very heavy and they, of course, take their responsibility of safety review very seriously, so we have just had to wait. My latest word from Tom Woosley of Safe Dams was on May 19th when he wrote me as follows: *"I have had numerous requests on the status of our review lately. Here is where it currently stands. One of my staff members has completed their review of the design and given me their comments. I now need to review their work and then the comments will be issued. Given my current schedule I would hope to get to the review the week of May 31st with comments going out sometime that week or early the following week. This is the best I can tell you at this point."* So that's the best I can tell you as well. The bottom line is that we just don't

know yet if we'll be able to begin as originally hoped, but I will keep you informed.

I am happy to tell you that our **appeal was delivered to FEMA** by GEMA with additional letters from them which strongly supported our appeal. GEMA really went beyond the usual expectations to argue for us and to help us. Just today I was copied on an email from the Deputy Director of GEMA to the appropriate bureaucrat at FEMA which said: *"To reiterate a point made several times; it is the City's and our request that this appeal be completed as soon as possible. The City is hoping to begin repairs to the dam this summer. Anything you or we can do to expedite the appeal determination would be much appreciated."* I hope for the best, as I know you do.

I regret to tell you that there have been [two burglaries](#) recently in our area. One was my next door neighbor's home and one was not in the city but across from us on North Berkeley Lake Road. There was also one on Bay Way Circle in April. I have spoken with the Precinct Commander of the Gwinnett Police and they are assigning us extra patrols to add to our own safety patrols. I have shared information again with our homeowner association presidents about the [COPS program](#) which has been proven to be a significant deterrent to neighborhood crime. Only Miramont has participated in COPS because it requires a significant commitment in time to attend meetings, etc. but I do hope other neighborhoods will consider this. If you're interested, please talk with your homeowner association president. The program works through specific neighborhoods. There have also been some instances of "entering auto" crimes, again mostly outside our city, but I remind you to lock your cars, even in your driveways; and don't leave valuables in plain sight within the car if you can help it. Even without a COPS program we can get to know our neighbors and watch over each other's homes whenever possible.

This year's Independence Day celebration will be held on **Monday, July 4th**. The parade will line up in front of Berkeley Lake Elementary School at 10:30 AM and begin the procession at 11:00 AM. The City will provide refreshments like lemonade and cookies at the Chapel, and you may want to bring a picnic lunch for your friends and family. Homeowner association presidents are discussing a cooperative effort to create other festivities, so you may hear more about that. Children's games can be held on the Chapel's front lawn if we can get volunteers to lead games like watermelon eating, the hula hoop contest, water balloon contest, and the three legged race. If no volunteers are found, this activity will not take place. If you're interested in helping in any way with our celebration, please call Roxanne at City Hall at (770) 368-9484, extension 104.

Also on the Fourth of July, stop by City Hall and see the new Art Show, **Our Nation, United** in

the Blue Heron Gallery. The Grand Opening for this show will be on Monday, July 4th, from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM. If you are interested in having your artwork included in this show, please contact a member of the [Art Advisory Committee](#) by June 20th. Those ladies are Carol Seitz, BJ Barrett, Diane Cuttino and Sandy Lacy, and we thank them for all their efforts.

Our own **Britt Taylor Collins** was recognized on April 29th for his artistic abilities and talents by The State of Georgia. In a ceremony attended by the Honorable Brooks Coleman - Georgia House Representative of the 97th District, the Honorable John Yates - Georgia House Representative of the 73rd District and a World War II Veteran, as well as Nancy Harris - Mayor of Duluth and myself, Britt was presented with the [House of Representatives Resolution 915](#) recognizing his outstanding talent and patriotism. The invitation to this event said that Britt *"has been portraying the American soldier's courage and honor through his paintings, photography, and illustrations for many years and is recognized as one of the top artists in his field. Many of his paintings are displayed in museums across the United States and Europe and collections at the White House. Britt Taylor Collins has served as the USAR Ambassador for the State of Georgia."* You will recall that he also created our city's logo and has served the city as a volunteer in multiple ways for many years. As we come into Memorial Day, I thought you might want to join me in congratulating Britt on this particular honor.

Lois D. Salter
Mayor

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