



January 6, 2012

Welcome Habersham! The lovely homes on Habersham Lane are now a part of Berkeley Lake. Owners recently filed petitions with the city to join us and the Council approved that request. The thirteen homes on Habersham Lane and two on Bush Road were annexed, and we are very glad to have them as a part of our city.

Thanks to Susan Hanson for committing to lead the Berkeley Lake Conservancy again in 2012. With her Master Gardener training she has done a wonderful job for us. She is planning to start the year off with an attack on invasive plants. If you can join her team for the **“Big Workday in the Greenspace” on Saturday, January 14**, please contact Susan at susanchanson@bellsouth.net.

I have received word from GEMA that the processing of our funding has moved past the environmental review phase, has been reviewed by the state and is now at **FEMA** headquarters in Washington so they can formally notify our three federal legislators from Georgia. That’s the last step before the money can be released to us. Will Rogers once said, “We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress,” but our legislators are so familiar with our concerns that I believe they’ll move that formal announcement along quickly. Our GEMA supporters believe that also and tell me that they hope to be able to let us know in only a week or so when our funding can be accessed. That will be a very happy day, indeed.

Welcome to Barry Hauser, our new patrol officer. Mike Frassrand will continue to patrol also sometimes, but he has been promoted and most of our patrols will be done by Officer Hauser. He is a former Military Policeman having served as such for the U. S. Army. You can reach our patrol by calling their Berkeley Lake cell phone at (770) 780-2456 but in an emergency, call 911 first.

Applications for Occupation Tax Certificates, otherwise known as **Business Licenses**, for home-based and non-home-based businesses are due at City Hall by March 1st. For those who held a certificate in 2011, you can expect a renewal package any day now in the mail. For those who need to apply, you can find the forms under [Residents, Home Occupations](#) and [Businesses, Business Licenses & Registration](#).

If you want to **recycle your Christmas Tree**, [Click here](#) to find a convenient location to “Bring

One for the Chipper” now through January 16th. Please remember to remove your lights, decorations, and stand. You can join the volunteer chippers on Saturday, January 21st from 9:00 AM to noon at Bethesda Park. [Click here to sign up](#). Volunteers must be 12 years of age and older.

Little known facts about Berkeley Lake: Did you know that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office website indicates that there are 79 patents issued to inventors residing in Berkeley Lake, Georgia? If you're interested in seeing for yourself, [click here and you can see for yourself](#). We certainly have some smart people around here.

I enjoyed my time at **Berkeley Lake Elementary School** recently as “*Principal for the Day*.” I invite and encourage any of you to visit also and I think you'll be as impressed as I was. You don't have to be a “Pretend Principal” because the real one will welcome you as she did me. Just call to arrange a visit. They appreciated our support for their Turkey Trot, where a good time was had by all.

There have been some bear sightings in the metro suburbs north of here, but I emphasize not in Berkeley Lake. They are being pushed out of their habitats more and more in the north Georgia mountains, so in the interest of being prepared if one does show up, I share this. Adam Hammond, wildlife biologist for the state Department of Natural Resources was quoted in the AJC as follows: “There has never been an unprovoked bear attack on a human in Georgia. But danger could arise if bears become accustomed to humans supplying them with food. The best thing people can do is just basically allow the bear to remain wild. Don't do anything to tame the bears. Don't feed the bears on purpose. Don't allow the bears to continually get into your garbage or bird feeders. Bears have an innate fear of people, but over time with food, they can lose that fear, and that's not a good thing for the bear or for people. You just need to respect them and give them their space.” This is, as you know, the same advice we've been given before about all wild animals. [More information about black bears in Georgia](#) is available at the Department of Natural Resources website.

As we begin a new year, I ask again for any citizen volunteers who might be willing to serve on a **committee** to help our city. There is information on our committees on the website. Anyone with an interest please contact me at mayor@berkeley-lake.com.

Thanks to Diane Cuttino who led our city's fall “Can Do Food Drive” to benefit the Norcross Cooperative Ministry. In our current economy, they are getting fewer donations, and needing more. You responded with about 140 bags of food which was collected by Diane with help from **Mikal Kitchens, June Spruell, Carol Seitz**, and some Duluth High School students. **Tom Kitchens** delivered it all to the Ministry in his truck. This makes a real difference for some folks in need, and demonstrates how important volunteers are in our community. I hope you'll all find a way to volunteer in the coming year.



The amazing **Kitty Dales** has lived in Berkeley Lake longer than anyone else, to the best of my knowledge. She recently celebrated her 93rd birthday at the Lake Berkeley Chapel and I snapped this picture.

I wish everyone in our city a **Happy New Year** with your family and friends. As we begin a new year I offer my thanks particularly to our staff and council for all they have done in this year to support our city and each other. They've worked very hard to overcome some significant obstacles. Blessings on you all.

Lois D. Salter
Mayor

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