



February 22, 2013

Weather has forced a **change of plans on the dam**. We had expected to be completely finished by now but the rains have not allowed any span of dry days sufficient for us to install the centipede sod that would protect from erosion what we have so carefully built. A decision was made this week to temporarily cover the dam in erosion control matting and then demobilize until late April or early May when the weather will be less rainy. At that point we'll need about a week of repairs and a week of sod installation to finish. We will no longer need to have the road closed after today, but the county has also closed a portion for their sidewalk work. We have finished our part of the sidewalk. I contacted the county DOT and was told, "*We will make sure that our contractor is out of the road by Friday so that your reopening of the road will allow traffic through. Our contractor will need to have single lane closures throughout our project, but they will allow vehicles to pass with either flagging or pilot cars.*" Based on that, I'm expecting the road to be open today. We will continue filling the lake with the careful safety monitoring that we promised Georgia Safe Dams when they acceded to our request for water accumulation. Meanwhile BLHA is working on developing fish habitat and plans for silt removal. Contact Steve Seitz or Bryan Stuart to help. We've finished the landscaping at the River District entrance and appreciate their patience with this project which has had such an impact on their neighborhood.

Thanks to our **Berkeley Lake Conservancy** volunteers (Susan Hanson, Lisa Hackney, Kevin Osburn, Donna and Jim Gawlas) seen here planting trees for Arbor Day near the Henderson Nature Area at Bay Way Circle. The dogwood and native azaleas will be a spot of beauty in our community for many years into the future. Here's a timely tip from your Berkeley Lake Conservancy: English Ivy is a very invasive plant which may have been planted as a ground cover but will quickly cover an entire yard and grow up trees, eventually killing them. If you have ivy in your yard, please consider removing it from the trees. This time of year is a great time to remove ivy from your yard, when there are no snakes and no mosquitoes. Pull it up and put it in bags for the garbage man. If you remove the ivy, you may discover wild flowers in your yard.



Thanks for all of you who contributed your thoughts for consideration in the **visioning session** we had last month. Council, staff, planning and zoning commissioners, and the city treasurer spent most of a Saturday working on plans to better our city. I had also invited Tom Rice, our state representative, who

came for part of the time. We studied every citizen comment submitted to us and various city issues; and some of us have homework going forward. Some of that includes the following: Rebecca Spitler agreed to work with Chambers of Commerce and our business owners to explore what could be done to support business property values in the city. Anne Carpenter will explore ways to promote residential property values and "curb appeal" with sidewalks, etc. With the Finance Committee, City Treasurer Pam Williamson will study the adequacy of the city's reserves based on our current and projected needs. Planning and Zoning Commissioner George Kaffezakis has the expertise to study where sewers might be built in the lake area and will also explore issues relating to "aging in place" for our city. I agreed to explore with staff and engineers the possibility of installing reflectors on the Ridge Road curve similar to the ones that have been so successful on the curve near 506 Lakeshore. This would, we hope, slow people down and prevent people crashing into the Miramont fence. We all agreed that community cohesiveness is an important goal to which we will all contribute in every possible way, and that the city should sponsor community events like Fall Festival, July 4<sup>th</sup>, etc. that bring citizens together. We discussed modifying the tree ordinance in such a way that tree density requirements would continue but with less hassle for citizens needing to remove trees. After much discussion about traffic concerns and enforcement options, the group agreed to continue our present arrangements but to study the effects of future developments. It was thought that changes over time might shift the funding balance, making possible local police services in Berkeley Lake. Deputy City Administrator Pat Chapman will work with the Atlanta Regional Commission to update our comprehensive plan along the lines we discussed.



Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10th. It's time once again to set your clocks forward and show your generosity by contributing to the **City of Berkeley Lake "Can" Do! for Hunger food drive**. For those new to Berkeley Lake, this volunteer effort consists of attaching a flyer with a bag to each residential mailbox in the city during the week prior the beginning of Daylight Saving Time. Residents fill the bags with non-perishable grocery items and place the bags on the ground near their mailbox by 2:00 PM on Sunday. Volunteers collect the bags and deliver them to the [Norcross Cooperative Ministry](#). You can also drop a check made out to NCM at City Hall any time during regular business hours. Volunteers are needed to help out as follows:

1. **Sunday, March 3, 4:00 PM:** Meet your neighbors at Diane Cuttino's home (496 Lakeshore Drive) to staple flyers to 750 bags provided to us by the Norcross Cooperative Ministry. Bring a stapler if you have one!
2. **Monday through Wednesday, March 4 - 6:** We need drivers or walkers to drive or walk different routes throughout the city and hook bags on each mailbox.
3. **Sunday, March 10, 2:00 PM:** We need folks to meet at the City Hall parking lot, pick up the bags at each mailbox and deliver them back to City Hall. This does not take long to do.
4. **Sunday March 10 (and maybe and Monday, 11):** Calling all trucks. Thankfully we have had a spectacular response in the past and expect this time will be no exception. We could use 2 or 3 trucks to be filled on Sunday and deliver the bags to the Norcross Cooperative Ministry. Note: they're trying to open for us that Sunday. If not, we will deliver Monday morning.

It's very important to let us know as soon as possible if you can help. Please contact Diane Cuttino at [dpc2@bellsouth.net](mailto:dpc2@bellsouth.net) if you are able to participate as a volunteer. Just indicate 1, 2, 3 or 4 with your name and contact info. Feel free to call Diane with questions – (770) 441-0616.



I want to introduce you to the new officer patrolling our city - **Don Plemmons**. Before joining our security company he was serving our country in Iraq as a cavalry scout doing long range surveillance with the airborne infantry. I hope you'll have a chance to meet him soon as he makes his rounds. He says he loves working in our beautiful city.

Here's a way to **help our local elementary school** and save yourself some money. TrueBlue Schools participants with Georgia Natural Gas are eligible to receive a discount up to \$0.15/ per therm off their monthly gas bill and for each enrollment in the program, Berkeley Lake Elementary School receives \$5 every month. If you are thinking of switching your provider or are already a GNG customer, please enroll in the TrueBlue Schools program. Visit [TrueBlueSchools.com](http://TrueBlueSchools.com) or call 1-866-ONLYGNG and use promo code TRUEBLUE to sign up for the program.

Each girl in our local Girl Scout troop is trying to sell 300 boxes of cookies to finance a trip to their founder's home in Savannah and earn a marine biology patch. Contact Jamie Bell (daughter of Janet and David Bell on Lakeshore) at (770) 729-8333 to buy cookies and **support our local Girl Scouts**.



As you know we have been buying back the bonds we issued for the dam repair. We've recently **repaid another \$700,000.00** and will continue until they're all gone.



This month's featured **Berkeley Lake business** is [Mathnasium](http://Mathnasium.com). Located at 4895 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Ste. 104, (770.881.8462), it is a learning center where children grades 1-12 go year-round to

improve their math skills through a time-tested, personalized program that employs diagnostics and direct instruction.

### Save the dates!

Earth Day Spring - April 27<sup>th</sup>

Fall Festival and Chili Cook-off - October 12<sup>th</sup>

Earth Day Autumn - October 19<sup>th</sup>

City Wide Garage Sale - October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

*Lisa D. Salter*