



August 9, 2013

There will be a **City Election** on November 5, 2013 to fill council seats currently held by Anne Carpenter, Jim Donnelly and Scott Lee. Qualifying will be August 26 - 29, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at City Hall and the qualifying fee is \$27. Candidate forms and additional information are available [here](#) on the city website and at City Hall. The last day to register to vote is October 7, 2013. Early voting begins Monday, October 14, 2013 during regular business hours and ends Thursday, October 31, 2013.

As I write this we're pushing hard when weather permits to complete **the dam** before September 9 which will be the four-year anniversary of the original nationally declared disaster storm. FEMA has a rule that all repair work must be completed within four years so we've already submitted an appeal in a proactive effort to be granted more time. We may not need it (I hope) but as usual we're leaving no stone unturned. I fully expect that if we do need it, the appeal will be granted under the circumstances. Most of the sod has been laid, but there is still work needed to clean and repair the toe drain; and then there will be inspections by our various engineers, by GEMA, Georgia Safe Dams Program, and FEMA. Hallelujah, the end is in sight!

The City Council has voted to sell **property that the city owns** across the street from City Hall next to the Chapel property, where Bush Road comes into Berkeley Lake Rd. Sealed bids must be submitted to the City Clerk at City Hall by 1:00PM on Wednesday, August 28, 2013. Bids will be opened before the public at that time and no late bids or any less than \$12,000.00 will be accepted. This property is constrained by covenants which make it unbuildable; and further information about it and the process is available at City Hall. You can view the bid notice [here](#).

Some of our folks have had some difficulties and confusion in keeping up with requirements from both the city and their homeowner association. They aren't the same and it may be that neither is comprehensive for your needs. We want to remind property owners that when doing a home improvement or major landscaping project please **check with both the city and your respective HOA about permits or approvals**. Many projects, such as painting and gutters, etc. don't require city permits but might need HOA approval if the subdivision has architectural controls on the exterior appearance of properties in its covenants. And, even though an HOA has approved something like a major landscape project, it might not meet city regulations. Checking with both can save time and money. More information about city permits can be found in the [FAQ's](#) on the city website; and I know your homeowner boards will be glad to help you with their pertinent information.

Here's news of an ordinance change that will affect many of us. Our citizens have apparently become accustomed to and accepting of the high value our community places on trees. Council wanted to continue requiring the same tree density we have established, but make the permitting process less of a hassle for people where possible. To that end, **Tree Removal Permits** will no longer be required for fallen, uprooted or arborist-certified dead, dying, diseased or dangerous trees. Two healthy standing trees per year can also be removed for any reason without a permit



as long as all other requirements regarding tree density and buffers are met. That last part is important, so please be careful about it and get help if you need it to understand the requirements. More information can be found [here](#) on the city website.

Thanks to Julie Huntington who was the first to respond to my request for someone to take **leadership of our Can-Do Project** when Diane Cuttino moves to New Jersey. It is truly wonderful to live in a community where people are so willing to volunteer in the many good causes we have around here. We will all miss Diane for this and many other reasons, but we wish her well as she leaves us and appreciate the ongoing program she designed and built here. It will continue to help a lot of people.

As you know I have been promoting our businesses located in Berkeley Lake. This time I'd like to recognize two that are located elsewhere but owned by Berkeley Lake citizens who have supported the community by sponsoring the Big Fish Event.

Barry Newton's **Interactive Automation** provides custom electronics and automation for residential, commercial, and marine customers. Services include audio & video, lighting, heating and air control, cabling, home theater, networks, security, etc. Barry's business is in Chamblee, but he lives on Lakeshore Drive. Check out <http://interactiveautomation.com> or call (770) 455-4578.

Windsor Realty is in Norcross, but agents Ginny and John Nevins also live on Lakeshore Drive. Ginny was recently honored with the Five Star Professional Award for the Greater Atlanta Area which is awarded to fewer than 7% of all agents in the Atlanta market as announced this month in *Atlanta Magazine*. Call Ginny at (404) 447-0069 or John at (770) 856-5945.

It is my hope that business owners who live in our city will also bring their businesses into Berkeley Lake as Wayne Mitsch has done. Way to go, Wayne! If you own a business elsewhere, please contact Tom Rozier or Pat Chapman in City Hall to investigate the possibilities and I think you'll be very pleasantly surprised at the money you could save. In almost all cases the cost for business licenses and occupational taxes are remarkably lower than in similar locations beyond our borders. Wayne says moving here saved his real estate

Mayor's Message – August 9, 2013

appraisal business thousands of dollars. Check it out! Save money, cut your commute, and support your city.

Donna & Mark Jacobson have also recently moved their **Jacobson Interiors & Renovations** to Berkeley Lake. With over 15 years of experience, their success is based on happy client referrals. Call them at (770) 265-8369 to talk about custom designed porches, pergolas, kitchen & bathroom makeovers, discounted brand name furniture, accessories, artwork, drapery etc. **Support Berkeley Lake Businesses!**

Lois D. Salter