



November 6, 2013

I am so happy to report to you that our dam was thoroughly inspected by all the relevant agencies on October 25th and passed with flying colors! The city was even complimented by bureaucrats who were impressed by the accuracy and timeliness of all our extensive record keeping necessary to justify their funding. That rare compliment is in fact due to our City Administrator, Tom Rozier. He has been a pleasure for them to work with, as he is for the rest of us who benefit from his attention to detail on a regular basis. This ordeal has dragged on for over 4 years, and other than the ongoing safety testing which multiple engineers will continue to do, it is finished. FINALLY! I am so grateful to Tom and Bob Smith who also helped throughout this project, and to our engineers and contractors who have done a really great job under difficult circumstances. I have invited them all to a party so that you can thank them, too. You may recall in my last letter to you that I asked you to save the date of **Saturday, November 16th**. We are planning a **CITY CELEBRATION** on that day from **11:00AM to 3:00PM** to commemorate this occasion. The Chapel is donating the use of their space and I hope the whole community will come together and have a good time. We will have a "bouncy house" for the kids, a sweet shop with goodies for sale by Berkeley Lake's Relay for Life Team, arts and crafts for kids provided by Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church, music, food and games. We're planning a Book Swap so that you can bring books that you no longer need, and take a book passed on by a neighbor. Do you have other ideas? If you want to help in any way (paint little faces, grill hamburgers, etc.) contact Lou Mitcham at (678) 221-7591. He has been planning all this for all to enjoy. As we celebrate, we want also to remember others who are less fortunate. Norcross Cooperative Ministries will be on site collecting food and nonperishable items; and since the holidays are almost here, we will be collecting toys for needy children as we did last year. We have so much to be grateful for. Please come with something to share and/or bring your checkbook.



Here is a review of our journey to a new dam: In September 2009 a national disaster was declared after a hurricane storm system flooded much of the metro area and damaged our dam. In October 2009 we were working hard with various engineers and agencies to discover the extent of the damage while siphoning water out of the lake. In March 2010 we held a Town

Hall Meeting with 110 citizens present to explain what was needed to fix the problem. Since I had been unable at that point to get a commitment from FEMA, citizens voted in a referendum to sell bonds and foot the whole bill if necessary. Thank goodness FEMA finally came through and construction began in February 2012 continuing until October 2013. The original estimated construction cost was \$4,472,190 and the final cost was \$4,622,839. That’s an overage of \$150,649 or 3.37%. The largest single item of overage was hourly geotechnical engineering costs due to rain delays (\$59,474) but other overruns were necessary for additional drain systems, removal and disposal of corrugated metal pipe found under the ground in the construction zone, and additional fill material. After hauling off all the damaged materials, about 1000 dump truck loads of fill material were brought in; and every bit of it had to be tested and approved for our dam. Not just any old dirt would do. The total spent on the dam, including testing, design, siphoning and construction is \$4,920,446; and we expect to spend about another \$14,000 on post-construction monitoring. With all the best monitoring equipment built into this dam, it is SO much stronger and safer than the previous one. The experts expect it to last at least 100 years, so we won’t have to endure all this again anytime soon. The water level is now up to 6.6 feet below full pool after being down to bare mud at one point. Along the way community leaders worked together to remove sediment and plants that had years to grow on the lakebed, to build fish habitat and carefully reintroduce the best balanced fish population. There have been major difficulties and very stressful situations through all these years, but we’ve worked together and weathered them. That has truly been our greatest achievement. Thank you all!

Election results are in and Rodney Hammond, Scott Lee and Chip McDaniel will serve on the City Council beginning January 1. Thanks to Pekka Ignatius and Jeff Morgan for their willingness to serve our city and to Lane Shutt and her wonderful volunteers who managed our election: Rigsby Barnes, Tom Kitchens, Tom Kolb, Barbara Skrobko, Virginia Andreu, Diane Dyer, Libby Koenig, Betty Covington, Dale Johnson, June Spruell, Carol Seitz, Lou Mitcham, Pam Williamson and Marilyn Gates.

Gwinnett County voters have approved the renewal of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (**SPLOST**) by 57%. The portion of those funds which will be allocated to our city is expected to be about \$1,095,776 of which most (83.5%) will be used on our streets. The remaining 16.5% or about \$170,625 will be spent on our City Hall. Council plans to finish in the basement there.

BLOSOMS is hosting the “65+ Yrs. Young Fall Luncheon”, aka “**Senior Luncheon**”, on Thursday, November 14th at 11:30AM, at the Lake Berkeley Chapel. This has been a BLOSOMS’ tradition for years and many of our seniors who live in Berkeley Lake enjoy the delicious home cooked dishes and socializing. This year there will be BINGO and card games after the luncheon. Please RSVP before November 11th to: Carol Seitz (770) 840-7734, Lynn Thafvelin, (404) 431-4964, or Jill Rice, (770) 330-7477.

Please don’t forget the **Berkeley Lake Turkey Trot** hosted by Berkeley Lake Elementary School PTA, City of Berkeley Lake and Lake Berkeley Chapel. It’s Saturday, November 16th at 8:30AM at the school. You can choose a 4 mile Run or a 1.5 mile Fun Run. You can [register online](#) or download a [paper registration form](#).

Also on Saturday, November 16th from 10:00AM until 6:00PM there will be a **Holiday Craft Market** at the Pinckneyville Park Community Center. Admission is free and you may find some hand-made art, jewelry, pottery, crafts, or clothing that you like.



Thanks to Britt Collins (seen here center) for volunteering to help on Earth Day.

Thanks to those in our city who work to honor veterans by creating, maintaining, and erecting the crosses which you see along Berkeley Lake Road. Gwinnett County is celebrating **Veterans Day** on November 11th at 11:00am at The Fallen Heroes Memorial, located on the grounds of the Gwinnett

Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. For more information about the Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial, visit the [website](#).

Spis D. Salter