



March 14, 2016

Many thanks to Julie Huntington and her volunteers who **collected food for Norcross Cooperative Ministries throughout our city** this past weekend, and of course, to all of you who donated. Over 100 homes participated, providing 162 bags of food and a cash donation of \$300.

All of our Berkeley Lake children up to 8 years old are cordially invited to the BLOSOMS **Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM on the Chapel grounds**. It's always a lot of fun, and we appreciate the work that goes into preparing this for our kids. The Easter Bunny will have lots of eggs hidden and be available for photos with you and your little cherub. The BLOSOMS ladies will provide hot chocolate and special prizes for those who find the golden eggs. If it rains on that date we'll try again on Easter Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00PM. Thanks, BLOSOMS!



For years I have been bugging everybody to do everything possible to **prevent mosquitoes**. This year that becomes even more important because of the Zika virus which they can carry. According to a recent article in the Gwinnett Daily Post, "There is no vaccine or treatment for Zika, which has caused outbreaks in at least 26 countries in the Americas." Our city has for years put altsid briquets in ponds and even made it available to private homeowners to use on their property. Altsid, which can be bought at hardware stores, kills mosquito larvae before they can develop in still water. In moving water like the lake or streams, the larvae are eaten by fish, frogs, etc. but larvae can mature rapidly in even a quarter inch of still water over as little as 48 hours. That means that many places around your home could be creating problems: the dish holding water under your flower pot, children's toys left outside, etc. Even English ivy (which is also disastrous for trees) creates a major haven for mosquitoes, because the layers of leaves hold water that doesn't evaporate quickly. I urge you strongly to make a survey of your property soon, and to eliminate anything that could hold stagnant water, even briefly. If you need advice about getting rid of English ivy, our Berkeley Lake Conservancy members can provide some guidance, and suggest some other ground covering plants, if need be, that are far less problematic.

While I'm thinking of things I frequently bug you about, I want to remind you again to **lock your cars**. Please don't make yourself a target for opportunistic crime.

On Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, Berkeley Lake holds its annual **Spring Earth Day** from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Staff will be on hand at City Hall with vendors and volunteers to assist in the disposal of unwanted items and recycling of others.

- Advanced Disposal will be accepting yard waste and large household items such as desks, mattresses, box springs, etc.
- Crawford Metal Recycling will be accepting scrap metal, appliances, lawn mowers, grills, car and truck batteries, and other metal items.

**Please remember that this service is provided by the City of Berkeley Lake at no cost only to citizens. Bring identification showing a Berkeley Lake address in order to dispose of or recycle items.** The following items WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED: construction debris, wet paints, entire trees, tires, televisions, microwave ovens, small durable medical equipment, and technology items. If you need to dispose of a television, please call Advanced Disposal at [\(678\) 495-0058](tel:678-495-0058) to make arrangements with them to pick the television up at your home.

**Important Note:** Paper shredding will not be available at this event. However, free shredding (limit five copier paper boxes) will be offered at the Gwinnett Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division Earth Day event on April 9, 9:00 AM to noon, at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves. Also available at this county event are electronics recycling (\$10 cash fee per TV or monitor, \$5 cash fee per printer), tire recycling (limit 8 tires per vehicle; no dealer tires), paint collection (limit 8 one-gallon cans per vehicle; cans must contain 25% wet, usable paint; no paint thinners, stains, spackle, oil paint cans, rusted paint cans, or dried-up paint), and toner/printer cartridge collection.

City staff has begun the process of updating citizen information for the **2016 Berkeley Lake City Directory & Handbook**. Within the next 24 hours, residents who have registered an email address with the city in the past should receive an email with instructions for updating their directory information online. Residents for whom the city does not have an email address on file should receive a letter with a form for updating from the city by March 21<sup>st</sup>. The deadline for updating directory information is March 31<sup>st</sup> so be sure to respond as quickly as possible!

On Saturday, March 5, the **City of Berkeley Lake celebrated Arbor Day**. Besides planting two new bushes at city hall, there was also a presentation about trees. All of this follows the announcement by the Arbor Day Foundation that Berkeley Lake was named a 2015 Tree City USA for the 17<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Rebecca Spitler, Mayor Pro Tem, started the celebration by telling the gathering of 20 about Berkeley Lake’s environmental focus truly setting it apart as a tree city. The Berkeley Lake Conservancy and its Chair Susan Hanson (seen on the right with Rebecca Spitler) were introduced and thanked for all the hard work they have accomplished in creating the Henderson nature area, removing privet from the greenspace, and holding the city’s annual Arbor Day tree planting event. Spitler switched hats to her presidency of the Georgia Piedmont Land Trust (GPLT) explaining the work they do and about GPLT’s new



and upcoming outreach programs. GPLT holds a conservation easement on the Berkeley Lake Greenspace which means that they will protect that precious resource in perpetuity. A part of that responsibility includes an annual monitoring visit to the greenspace with members of the Conservancy. That visit is generally conducted in the fall of each year.

Spitler introduced the conservancy's guest speaker Dale Higdon, a fellow GPLT board member, and his Tree Talk presentation, “What is this tree? ...and why should I care?” Higdon talked about



the benefits and identifying characteristics of trees. After the talk some of the attendees toured the Henderson Nature Sanctuary and others toured the Greenspace. Higdon also showed some interesting aerial photographs of our city including one from before the lake existed!

Further in observance of Arbor Day in Berkeley Lake, two bushes were planted. The selections were butterfly bushes that will give residents many years of enjoyment and help with pollination in the area. The first is an *Asimina Trilopa* or Paw Paw bush. It is an important bush for Zebra Swallowtail Butterflies. The second is a *Lindera Benzoin* or Spicebush and is a favorite of Spicebush Butterflies. Both complement each other and are important homes for pollinators. Thanks to our Berkeley Lake Conservancy for a great Arbor Day.

**A feature movie was filmed recently in Berkeley Lake.** “All Eyez on Me” is a biopic of Tupac Shakur. Your City Council and staff have endeavored to see that filming activities do not impinge on the enjoyment of our citizens in their homes, and I’m not sure many even realized this was going on at the time.

I read an article recently in the Atlanta Journal Constitution about **black bears** which are being forced out of the woods of north Georgia by all the residential development up there. It’s possible we could see one here in Berkeley Lake if it travels along the Chattahoochee down in this direction. There has never been a bear attack on a human in Georgia and they are more afraid of us than we are of them, but the usual precautions apply. As with all wild animals, leave them alone and don’t feed them. Here’s the [article](#) for more information.



Some of our fishermen are really enjoying the lake these days. Here's David Quin with a 3 ½ pound, 18 inch **fish** which he released immediately after posing with him. So, this one’s still out there waiting for some of the rest of you.

Most of us are massively frustrated by the **traffic** we encounter in our area. Gwinnett County is working on a Comprehensive Transportation Plan and wants your input. Take their online survey at [destination2040.metroquest.com](http://destination2040.metroquest.com) and/or speak up at a meeting in our area. You can go to Shorty Howell Park, 2750 Pleasant Hill Road this

Saturday, March 19 from 10:00 AM until noon, or the one in Norcross on Monday, March 21 from 6:00-8:00 PM. It's in Lucky Shoals Park at 4651 Britt Road. More information and other meetings are detailed on their website at [destination2040gwinnett.com](http://destination2040gwinnett.com).

Congratulations to our local **Fidelity Bank** which celebrated its grand opening recently, attended and enjoyed by several of our City Council members and local citizens. After cutting the ribbon to formally open the bank, the branch manager, Susan Slack, prepared to give the Fidelity lion a trim. They fed us all dinner and a good time was had by all.

**Support our Berkeley Lake businesses!**



*Lisa D. Alter*