



September 6, 2017

The only candidates who signed up to run for our three city council seats were the guys who currently hold them. With no challengers, the incumbents will be automatically elected to new four year terms, but we will still be asking you to **vote in a special referendum** regarding package sales in our city. Here is the ballot question you will be asked to decide: *Shall the issuance of licenses for the package sale of distilled spirits be approved?* Early voting starts Monday, October 16 and runs through Thursday, November 2 at City Hall between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Election Day is Tuesday, November 7 and the polls will be open at City Hall from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Please come out for this and if you are able to help as a volunteer poll worker in the voting process, please contact our election supervisor Pat Chapman at City Hall, 770.368.9484, ext. 102 or deputy.admin@berkeleylake.com. **Congratulations to Rod Hammond, Scott Lee, and Chip McDaniel** who will continue to serve as Council members. This represents a serious commitment on their part to our community well-being, and we all appreciate it.

Please join us **at City Hall on October 28 for Take Back Drugs Day**. If you have unused prescriptions, you can avoid flushing them which, for those on sewer, sends them to the Chattahoochee River. It's amazing how many of our drugs survive the water reclamation process to affect fish and wildlife, and there's also the concern for children in your home who might get into some old medicine that could hurt them. Major Spellman has committed our police and representatives of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to come that day and take our old or unneeded drugs for safe disposal. **At the same time, we will be honoring our local public servants, both our police officers and citizens in Berkeley Lake** who volunteer their time to lead homeowner associations and service organizations like the Chapel, BLOSOMS, etc. These people make a huge difference in the life of our community and we are all grateful for the gift of their time and effort. **Drop by for a minute on Saturday, October 28 between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM to celebrate your Hometown Heroes!**

And while we are recognizing people who serve our community, I want to publicly thank our **City Attorney Richard Carothers** who has just completed **25 years of service** to us. Many of you know Dick and appreciate the very high level of care and competence he has brought to this job for all these years. He is the best municipal law expert around and other cities who have their own attorneys often contract him on a limited basis when they have particularly challenging issues to



face. They can borrow him occasionally, but Berkeley Lake is lucky enough to have him full time, and his 25 years of experience with our city serves us wonderfully well. Your entire City Council, staff, and many former council members join me in saying, “Thank you, Dick Carothers!” Pictured above left to right: Rebecca Spitler, Bob Smith, Dick Carothers, Rod Hammond, Scott Lee.



I have arranged for you to be able to **retire old flags properly** by placing them in a box in my office at City Hall. You can leave them there on October 28 or at any time from now on during regular City Hall hours. I will give them into the care of Advanced Disposal which has arranged with the local Boy Scouts to retire them respectfully in accordance with the U. S. Flag Code.

I am communicating with **emergency management** personnel with Gwinnett County to stay current on the possible impact of Hurricane Irma. It is a very strong storm and no one knows at this time exactly where it will go, but it is likely that we will see strong sustained winds and rain late in the weekend or early next week. Please stay alert to the weather. In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, the Colonial Pipeline people restarted Line 2 on Monday, September 4 and Line 1 on Tuesday, September 5. So, barring future weather disasters we can expect gas prices to be dropping from the spike we recently saw due to the Harvey interruption.

The Atlanta Lovers of Music Association presents Orquesta MaCuba on Sunday, September 10, at 5:00 PM at our Berkeley Lake Chapel. Read more about the concert and purchase tickets [here](#). The concert will be hosted by Rod Hammond, one of our city council members, and his wife



Andrita, so please come out and join them for some music on that evening. Picnic table seating is available and you may also bring lawn chairs and coolers. In case of inclement weather, the concert will take place in the chapel.

We will also have a concert at the Chapel picnic grounds a week later on **Sunday, September 17 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM**. This is another in the Sunday Kind of Groove series benefitting our local public schools. Grits Hits features the Top 40 gold records of the South which should be a fun evening. For information go to this [link](#) or contact Debbie Peters, 770-368-2076; ak509@bellsouth.net.

I have been asked to nominate someone from our city to represent us on the **Artworks Gwinnett board of directors**. The goal of this group is to make the arts more visible in our county and to help business leaders understand the economic power of the local arts and entertainment sector. If you are interested in participating with other county leaders in this effort, please let me know. Don’t be shy about exploring this. There is a lot of talent and artistic interest out there in our city and I don’t think this would involve a major commitment of your time.

School is off to a good start at **Berkeley Lake Elementary** under the great leadership of their new principal, our own Lesley Pendleton. The Rice Settlement Team of Keller Williams is supporting the teachers by filling their supply closet with things that teachers often buy for kids or classrooms

with their own money. If you want to help, you can drop off any of these items at the school, at City Hall, or on the front porch of Jill Rice or Tracey Settlege.

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| Dry Erase Markers | Pencils |
| Blue Pens | Sharpies |
| Kleenex tissues | Post it notes |
| Copy paper | Highlighters |



Congratulations to **Chris and Marlene Holben**, our August Yard of the Month! Their home overlooks a large pond that feeds into Lake Berkeley supporting a variety of waterfowl, turtles, deer, and other interesting creatures. The Holbens moved to Berkeley Lake in 1975 and have worked for years to create a peaceful and serene garden with a wide variety of plants around their pond. There’s a fire pit, horseshoes, seating areas and paths to meander and enjoy the garden. It’s a very beautiful space and they often share it generously with friends. Thanks to them and to Rice Settlege Realtors for sponsoring our Yard of the Month program.

From time to time we get questions about **animals**. Approximately two years ago, the city adopted the Gwinnett County Animal Control Ordinance that covers domestic pets and livestock because animal control is a service provided throughout the county regardless of municipal jurisdiction boundaries. Enforcement of that ordinance is the responsibility of the Gwinnett County Animal Welfare and Enforcement Unit. The full ordinance may be found at this [link](#). If you have questions about the county ordinance or enforcement, you may speak to an animal control officer by calling 770.339.3200. Complaints or violations should be directed to 770.513.5700. Our City Marshal now only deals with regulations that are specific to Berkeley Lake concerning the keeping of exotic animals and the feeding of wild animals.

Gwinnett’s **Public Safety Fall Festival** might be fun especially for those of you who have kids. It costs nothing and will take place at Coolray Field, 2500 Buford Drive, Lawrenceville on September 23 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Gwinnett’s Police and Fire departments will have “touch-a-truck” for the kids and emergency vehicle displays that include a police helicopter, an ambulance, and a ladder truck. Police will show S.W.A.T. gear, while the fire specialty teams will perform various demonstrations. Animal Welfare and Enforcement will assist with pet adoptions and parents can have their kids’ car seats checked.

Here’s an interesting new Berkeley Lake business: **ScanTech Sciences, Inc.** designs, builds, and operates world-class Electronic Cold-Pasteurization™ (ECP™) treatment facilities for food safety and sterilization. Their patented E-beam technology treats food products such as fruits, vegetables, herbs, spices, and ready-to-eat commodities for insect infestation, bacteria, mold, and pathogens. As an added benefit, ECP™ significantly extends the shelf-life of food without harming taste, color, odor, texture, or the environment. Learn more at www.scantechsciences.com.

Check out these three, yes three, new restaurants in Berkeley Lake:

Sushi Machine, 4790 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Suite 204, 770-558-4983,
www.thesushimachine.com

Breakfast King, 4790 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Suite 112, 770-696-9576

Rice n’ Pie, 3980 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Suite 800, 770-302-0320, www.ricenpie.com

Lois D. Alter