



October 20, 2017

Drop by City Hall for a minute on Saturday, October 28 between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM to celebrate Hometown Heroes Day! 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, city committees, 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 generous gift of their time and effort. Jill Rice and Tracey Settlege will be kindly providing yummy treats for those of you who come by to thank these folks. Our police do a great job for us and recently caught someone going 108 mph through our city. While you're thanking a police officer, you can also give him or her your old or unneeded drugs for safe disposal, because this will also be our **Take Back Drugs Day**. Major Spellman has committed our police and representatives of the Drug Enforcement Agency to come that day and take these off your hands. If you have unused prescriptions, you can avoid flushing them which, for those on sewer, sends them to the Chattahoochee. 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. Join us! This will be a good day for our city.

As most of you know, **Rodney Hammond, Scott Lee and Chip McDaniel** (pictured here) were unopposed in qualifying for their seats on City Council so they will serve us for another four years beginning January 2018. Congratulations and thanks to them for their continuing contributions to our city. Although we won't need to vote for council members, a **special referendum will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at City Hall between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM** to decide the following simple ballot question: "Shall the issuance of licenses for the package sale of distilled spirits be approved?" Early voting is available at City Hall Monday - Thursday, from now through November 2 during regular business hours, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM. For more information, see the [Elections page](#) of the city website.



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I am happy to share with you that the **millage rate will be dropping again this year** to 1.69% below the rollback rate. That means that not only is the millage rate going down, but we will be collecting less total taxes. There is more information about this [here](#) on our website. Thanks not only to our wonderful staff and City Council who are managing our tax dollars well, but also to

our citizen Finance Committee who review all our major financial decisions under the leadership of our City Treasurer, **Pam Williamson**. Committee members who watch over your money are **Calvin Grier, Dorris Hollingsworth, Pekka Ignatius, Tracey Settlage, and John Small** with the support of **Bob Smith**, their very able Council Liaison. Thanks to them all!

I met recently with our Homeowner Association presidents and asked them to be aware of and encouraging to any of their neighbors who might serve well on our **city committees**. Besides the Finance Committee, we also have the Berkeley Lake Conservancy, and there is renewed interest in an Arts Committee. If you wish to volunteer for any of these, or on the Planning and Zoning Commission, please let me know. I don’t know what openings there will be at the end of this year, but I will be appointing replacements, so I’d love to hear from you. None of these take a lot of time, but these leaders have a real impact on our community.

I hope you are all enjoying this beautiful fall in our city. I took this picture the other day at **Chic and Joyce Newman’s** house at 802 Lakeshore Drive. They decorate for every season and even put out treats for walkers who pass by. Love our neighborhood spirit!



The Gwinnett County Office of Emergency Management has tapped into an existing feature on cellular telephones that alerts users when an imminent threat to safety occurs in their area. The new **wireless emergency alerts** will be sent by the County to all wireless phones that are located in close proximity to an emergency in Gwinnett. Alerts will include the time and type of alert and any action residents and visitors in the affected area should take. I believe that Gwinnett’s Emergency Management organization does an excellent job for us, and according to its Director Greg Swanson: “These alerts will be sent to any enabled mobile device in range of the broadcasting cell tower, so it helps us reach those who need to avoid or evacuate a specific area in the county or to shelter-in-place to maintain their safety.” The alerts will be sent when emergency events—such as an earthquake, immediate evacuation, fire, or hazardous materials leak or spill—pose a threat to life. To ensure that you receive these lifesaving alerts, make sure the emergency alerts feature is enabled and activated on your mobile device. Click [here](#) for more information about wireless emergency alerts.

Some of you have been concerned about the difficulty of finding a **glass recycling** location. The nearby City of Norcross is now offering this at 345 Lively Avenue Public Works, Utilities & Parks facility. This is for glass only – glass bottles (soft drinks, wine bottles, beer bottles, and other glass bottles). No other types of glass will be accepted. No mirrors, window panes or drinking glasses. This service will be available Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM– 5:00 PM. Please ring bell at front door for assistance.

Each year our **Berkeley Lake Elementary School strives to earn the Community Partnership Award** by building relationships with members of the Berkeley Lake community who don’t have children attending BLES. Most of our City Council members join the PTA to support this effort. Membership is only \$7 per person and you don’t have to attend anything. If you would like to join your City Council members in this, please print the membership form at [this link](#) and

drop it and payment by BLES. The deadline for the award is the last day of October, so please join by October 27th so they can collect everything to send in. We’d like to help them win this.



Another way to support the school is the yearly **Turkey Trot**. Many of you have participated in this fun run around our city before, and this year’s date is **Saturday, November 11**. You can get information and register online [here](#).

I recently received some information from Theresa Sipe about **coyotes**. You may find [this research reported in Emory Magazine](#) helpful. Here’s a quote from scientist Larry Wilson in the magazine article: “People think coyotes live and hunt in packs, but that’s actually a myth. In most of the areas around here, it’s typically a breeding pair and their offspring. When you get rid of an adult, you’re probably going to have young males that don’t know how to hunt, and they’re more likely to go after easy targets. They are amazingly adaptable, so as long as there is habitat and food supply, there will be coyotes. That’s why it’s really better to learn to coexist. As predators go, coyotes are on the small side, so they rarely go after large pets. The mainstays of their diet are vegetation and berries, rodents, and the occasional tasty bit of road kill—call it fast food. Coyotes are furtive, stealthy, and smart, and usually they can live alongside humans undetected.” Thanks to Theresa for sharing this.



Happy Fall Y’all!

Lis D. Salter