



November 17, 2017

You may have noticed surveyors along South Berkeley Lake Road. Gwinnett County has begun field work for the county's water main replacement project there which will continue until about January 31, 2018. When completed, the **new water main** will enhance service flow and pressure, improve fire protection, and minimize future water main breaks in the area. If you find any stakes that the surveyors have set in place, please leave them there until the project is complete.

We had a great time at **Hometown Heroes Day!** We honored our police officers and our community leaders who each received a small gift of appreciation, and Jill Rice and Tracey Settlege fed all comers with coffee, donuts, and fried chicken! The city also presented a gift to our local police precinct created by our Berkeley Lake artist, **Britt Collins**, seen here to my right. I interviewed the community leaders who came that day and will be featuring one in each *Mayor's Message* so that you can get to know more about your community's public servants. I'll begin with Britt who has for years volunteered to help on the city's Earth Days, dam inspections, etc. and who created our city's logo. As U. S. Army Reserve Ambassador for the State of Georgia, Britt organized and commanded a military operation for our city to honor Memorial Day some years ago, complete with military helicopter rides for our citizens around the city.



One of the things I asked everybody I interviewed was to tell me something they believe very strongly. Britt's answer was: "I believe that the life of a good soldier fighting the good fight is the challenge and calling of every person. The responsibilities and duties of a soldier, both external and internal, when superimposed upon any and every profession or vocation most exemplify the Christian life."



One of my personal heroes is our City Administrator, **Tom Rozier**. He does so much for our city and does it so well, that I couldn't begin to describe his contributions, and he would be embarrassed if I tried. On December 7, we celebrate his 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the city, and your City Council members have started celebrating early with cake. Thank you, Tom, for all that you do for us!

I want to share some information that I hope will help with two things about which I often get questions. One is about **signs in the right-of-way**. I’ve written about this before and there is information [here](#) on our website, but basically you can’t post signs along the street unless its back far enough to be off the right-of-way. If you’re unsure about where that is in front of your property, call City Hall and our ever-helpful city staff will be happy to advise you. The second frequent question is about **how to make your concerns known to the county** for county issues, like things related to Berkeley Lake Road or Bush Road, both county roads. You can share your thoughts, opinions, or concerns conveniently [here](#). I hope this helps.

Thanks to Julie Huntington who again coordinated our city’s **food drive** which we do with every time change. This time we collected and delivered to the Norcross Cooperative Ministry approximately 140 bags of food, which I think is our most ever, plus a \$300 donation from our very generous neighbor, David Quin. Once again, there was participation from every neighborhood in addition to the many items dropped off at City Hall. Julie’s volunteers include her sons Jamie, Nathan, and Daniel Huntington seen here left to right, Kayla English and her son Will, and Debbie Peters. Be ready for our next house-to-house collection when the time “springs forward.”



Our next city project is the **collection of toys for needy kids**. From **now until December 8** you can leave toys at City Hall, and after that we’ll deliver them to the Norcross Co-op to get them ready for Santa. If you don’t have time to do Santa shopping, you can leave a check made out to the Norcross Cooperative Ministry at City Hall. They’ll use it to buy toys. This project is coordinated again by Lou Mitcham, seen here in a previous year presenting a check to the NCM lady after unloading toys. Lou has arranged this year for us to team up with our local police precinct. Our police officers have big

hearts for helping, as well as protecting and serving. If you would like to help by giving out gifts or unloading trucks, please call me at City Hall – 770.368.9484.

Our recent referendum on package sales of alcohol passed and I want to thank our citizens who helped you vote. They are: **Rigsby Barnes, Barbara Carroll, Betty Covington, Tom Kolb, Carol Seitz, Barbara Skrobko, June Spruell, Andrea Ramsay, Rick Waxweiler, and Pam Williamson**. There is still a great tradition of Berkeley Lakers coming together to support our city.

Berkeley Lake’s 4<sup>th</sup> annual **Christmas Lights Contest** is about to begin! Windsor Realty is coordinating it again this year and you have until December 16 to nominate your or your neighbor’s yard for this great competition. The kids in my family love this extravaganza that you put on in your yards every year, and I’m looking forward to it, too. See [here](#) for details.



Happy Thanksgiving to all! We all have so much for which to be truly grateful.

*Lois D. Salter*