



March 5, 2012

Since giving our contractor notice to proceed on February 2nd, the following progress has been made on **dam repair**. The contractor cut a notch in the dam and installed two new siphons for lowering the lake. As of February 29th, the lake elevation had been pulled down to elevation 951 (the normal pool elevation is 974.6). When it gets to elevation 940, we plan to install a pump system to continue draining the lake. The target elevation is 912. That will leave about four feet of water in the lake to accommodate the pump system. The contractor has submitted a pump design for approval. He has submitted and we and Gwinnett County DOT have approved a [Traffic Control/Detour Plan](#). **North Berkeley Lake Road will be closed to through traffic from March 19, 2012 to February 2013.** That will certainly change things around here! You can expect to see erosion control BMPs (Best Management Practices) erected and clearing and grubbing of trees in mid March. The fish removal plan is for the contractor to electrically stun the fish, put them in oxygenated live haul tanks and take them to a storage facility in Ball Ground, Georgia. Any remaining fish not captured by the electro-fishing technique will be captured with a seine net and removed. Remember that, like all construction sites everywhere, this one is off limits to the public for their own safety. I've talked with the contractor about developing a designated and safe observation spot since so many of us are interested in seeing what's going on, but until we work that out, please keep yourselves and your kids at a safe distance.

I am so proud of all that our **Berkeley Lake Conservancy** has been doing. They've recently worked very hard to remove a lot of invasive plants from our Greenspace area. Check out the before and after [pictures in an article on our website](#). You'll be amazed. My thanks to our BLC committee members and the additional volunteers they recruited for this project including Kevin Osburn, Chris Kimberley, Cary and Marty Thornton, Donna and Jim Gawlas, and Sharman Sykes. The Berkeley Lake Conservancy will be hosting a Wildflower Walk on Sunday, March 25th at 3:00PM through the Greenspace, hoping to see Piedmont azaleas and other spring ephemerals blooming. After the walk, Susan Hanson, our activist Conservancy chairperson, has invited us to her home. Seeing Susan's garden will be a treat and on top of that she's making Mexican casserole for us. Bring an appetizer to share and your choice of beverage. If you would like to join us on the **Wildflower Walk and garden gathering afterwards**, please RSVP to [Lisa Hackney via email](#). Way to go BLC!

Our city's next **Earth Day will be Saturday, April 14th from 9:00AM until 1:00PM** so you can start your spring cleaning now. Our city staff is working on the usual arrangements to help you remove things you no longer need. I know that some of our homeowner associations are also planning their neighborhood cleanups to coincide with that date so check with your HOA leadership to see how you can get involved with those efforts as well.

Diane Cuttino is organizing another City of Berkeley Lake Can-Do drive to collect nonperishable food and household items for the Norcross Cooperative Ministry. To help us remember, she's holding it in conjunction with the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. Move your clocks forward at 2:00AM on Sunday, March 11th, check the batteries in your smoke detectors and make a difference for those in need by donating canned goods and other items. Diane and her volunteers will be preparing and delivering empty bags to your homes on Tuesday, March 6th. Please fill those bags and place them by your mailbox before 2:00PM on March 11th. They'll collect the bags and deliver the donations. Thanks to Sweetwater Package Store which donated bags. Diane says some of the bags are quite big, but you don't have to fill them. Any small contribution would be greatly appreciated.

We have been honored as an official Tree City for many years now; and as part of our maintenance of that title we will soon be planting some trees to **celebrate Arbor Day**. Come if you'd like to participate on **Sunday, March 11, at 3:00PM at City Hall**.

The suit filed by the county against all of its cities years ago has finally been settled. Our city will shortly be receiving a settlement payment, but more importantly property owners will be paying a lower county millage rate than in unincorporated areas to offset services that the county does not provide to them in the area of planning and zoning and code enforcement. That agreement is to govern the next 7 years in **Service Delivery Strategy** issues between the county and city.

The Blue Heron Gallery at City Hall will be opening a new show on Saturday, April 7th from 10:00AM until noon. It's called *A Cup of Jo* because the gallery is featuring the works of local artist, **Jo Lackey**. Come by and have a Cup of Jo (coffee) and meet Jo. We appreciate our city's Art Advisory Committee for all their work supporting the arts in our community. They are: BJ Barrett, Diane Cuttino, Patty Green, Sandy Lacy, and Carol Seitz, who chairs the group. Many thanks, ladies!

I recently visited **Berkeley Lake Elementary School** to read to 3 classes. Dr. McLeod, the outstanding principal (shown here) would welcome any of you to come read or volunteer in other ways. I hope some of you will consider doing that, because I think you'd enjoy it.



On March 21st at noon in the Chapel, the BLOSOMS are hosting another of their **Senior Luncheons**. If you are 65 or older and would like to be treated to a lovely lunch, please RSVP to [Lynne Short via email](#) or call (973) 951-9393 by March 16th.

Preliminary plans for a **farmer's market** at the Chapel are to have about 10 vendors every Thursday from 4:00PM to 7:00PM, May through August. We'll be discussing this at our next city council meeting on March 15th, so if you have thoughts you'd like to share, please join us.

By now I hope you've met our **new security officer**, Barry Hauser. He is an Army veteran and former Military Police officer, a native of Marietta. Mike Frassrand was promoted, but will still be with us some as well. I've gotten several compliments already on Barry from our citizens.

Lois D. Salter
Mayor

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