



April 20, 2018

Remember our yearly Earth Day celebration this weekend on Saturday, April 21 from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Our staff will be on hand at City Hall, along with vendors and volunteers to assist you with shredding documents, 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.
- Iron Mountain will be providing onsite shredding. **Thanks to the Rice Settlege Team** for sponsoring the shredding cost.

Please remember that this service is provided by the City of Berkeley Lake at no cost only to citizens, so bring your 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, televisions, microwave ovens, tires. If at any time of the year 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.

Our **Hometown Hero** this time is **Renee Jansen**, president of the Berkeley Lake Homeowners Association. When asked what she does for fun, she laughed and said, “What is fun? I have two boys under the age of 7!” Apparently, they keep her quite busy, but she does sometimes get to enjoy coffee with friends and walks outdoors. Her goal for those boys is to become “respectful and to make positive contributions to society.” She wishes for “a more selfless society, with people who try to serve each other.” In my observation, Renee embodies that goal in her leadership within our community, and I appreciate her kindness, fairness, patience, and equanimity. Those are some pretty significant leadership qualities! Here’s a picture I took of her with our City Marshal, Gene Rodgers.



The **county is taking input from citizens** to help make a plan for its future. If you would like to help in creating the Gwinnett 2040 Unified Plan, please click [here](#) to take an online survey from the comfort of your own home at a convenient time. There are a lot of smart people in our city. Make your voices heard before the May 31 deadline.



I have been asked to share with you that on May 10 at 7:00 PM in the Norcross Community Center (10 College Street) the Georgia Association of Conservation Districts (GACD) is hosting a free public presentation called “Fear or Fact? Exploring the **Human/Coyote Conflict**”. This presentation is suitable for all ages, and will be a science-based exploration of the dynamics between humans and coyotes, as well as offer appropriate, practical strategies for feeling safer, and to provide resources to call upon when feeling endangered. [Here’s](#) more information if you’re interested.

You may have heard that our county is seriously **exploring what can be done to ease traffic congestion** in the future. Did you know that Atlanta has the fourth worst congestion in the country behind New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco? Also in the category of contests we don’t want to win: “spaghetti junction” has the #1 worst congestion in the whole USA. Ninety percent of vehicles on I-85 carry just one person - the driver, so people who spend hours in these cars are starting to be more open to mass transit. Gwinnett County Transit already carries 5,300 riders daily (and that’s growing) mostly down to the MARTA station in Doraville, but also into downtown and the Emory area. I recently attended a presentation for city leaders and found all this most interesting, so I’m sharing. Bus Rapid Transit is a prominent topic which would be on dedicated lanes of highways, but heavy rail is also being discussed from the current end of the line in Doraville to a multimodal hub which could be built in Norcross near the intersection of I-85 and Jimmy Carter Blvd. You may attend a public open house to learn more about what’s being considered and to give your input on **April 24** from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Snellville City Hall, 2342 Oak Road Southwest, Snellville; or on **April 25** from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville.

Kids who want to be cops can get a sneak preview this summer. The Gwinnett County Police Department is holding two sessions of its summer **Youth Police Academy** in which participants will learn about topics including SWAT, crime scene investigation and gang awareness. They may tour the county jail and the 911 center as well. The middle school session, for students who will enter grades six through eight in the fall, will be held from June 11 to June 15. The high school session, for students who will enter grades nine through 12, will be held July 9 to July 13. Each session will be held Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. It’s free to all Gwinnett County students. Those interested should fill out an application, which is [available online](#).



I recently had a very pleasant visit with one of our Berkeley Lake Master Gardeners, Jane Burke, who lives in Hermitage Plantation. Her garden is really something to see and she’s very generous with great advice. She alerted me to the upcoming **Master Gardeners' Plant Sale on April 28 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. The Gwinnett County master gardeners are selling trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, vegetables, and herbs, including native and pollinator plants for sustainable gardens. Only checks and cash will be accepted at this rain or shine event at the Lilburn City Hall - 2817 Church Road, NW, Lilburn. I bought some plants last year from another of our Master

Gardeners, Susan Hanson, who had nurtured them to offer at this fundraising sale. They made some bright spots in my yard.



Speaking of Master Gardeners, **Susan Hanson’s is our April Yard of the Month!** Susan chairs our Berkeley Lake Conservancy and is always willing to share her love and knowledge of native plants. She has led the effort to beautify the area near the old millwheel on Bayway Circle. Susan helps out with garden projects throughout the city, including at the Chapel. Please stop and congratulate her when you can. I’m told that you may go home with a seedling for your own garden!

Our city supports and participates in Partnership Gwinnett, an organization which works to support business and economic development in our county. They, in cooperation with the University of Georgia’s Small Business Development Center, are sponsoring a contest for **aspiring entrepreneurs**. You can submit your business plan summary for a chance to win cash prizes and recognition. The Established Business Category is open to individuals 18 years of age or older who currently own or manage a licensed small business in Gwinnett County that is 36 months old or less as of February 1, 2018. The Pre-Venture Category is open to contestants who live in Gwinnett County and have an idea for a business but are not yet open for business. See [here](#) for more information.



There’s a **Sunday Kind of Groove Concert this Sunday, April 22, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM** behind the Chapel featuring DIVAS! Greatest Hits of Linda Ronstadt, Carole King & Stevie Nicks.

Get tickets: <https://freshtix.com/events/sundaygroove422> These concerts are outdoor, bring-your-picnic style and benefit the Duluth Cluster Schools Foundation. Future concerts include:

- **May 20 – BEATLES! The Big Chicken Beatles Band!**
- **September 16 – THE BILLY JACKS! Smokey 70s Classic Rock!**
- **October 14 – A Magnificent Carole King Tribute! Up On The Roof!**

If you prefer to buy tickets in advance by check and/or purchase multiple events, please e-mail ak509@bellsouth.net or call 770-368-2076.

Memorial Day is coming up and we always like to honor our veterans. I wanted to let you know that on Sunday, May 20, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM, the Southern Order of Storytellers and the Collins Hill Library in Lawrenceville will host a **Memorial Day Celebration: Veterans Storytelling Program**. They are looking for veterans who would like to share a personal story about his or her service or anyone who would like to share a true story *about* a Veteran he or she has known. This sounds pretty nifty to me! The stories should be about 10 minutes long – shorter is fine, or up to fifteen minutes would be all right also. If you have a story, please contact Denise Mount at ddm9328@yahoo.com or by phone at (404) 735-9328.

There is a **drug takeback** on Saturday, April 28 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM at Norcross City Hall, 65 Lawrenceville St., Norcross, 30071.

City of Berkeley Lake – Mayor’s Message

Please bring any **children’s books** that you no longer need to my office at City Hall or leave them in a plastic bag at my house. I’m collecting them for kids at Berkeley Lake Elementary to read over the summer. Thanks!

Sis D. Alter