



November 19, 2018

In the last Mayor's Message, I asked you to save the date on **Saturday, December 1** to come by City Hall and **celebrate Gene Rodgers** who is retiring at the end of that month after 12 years as our City Marshal. Please join us from **10 AM until noon** to say thank you and wish him the best in his retirement. I think we will all truly miss this guy who has watched over us all with kindness and diligence that really exceeded expectations. I remember sending him home at the end of a very long day when Hurricane Irma came through and being unable to make him leave until he felt sure we'd all be okay. People like Gene are very rare, and I hope you'll find the time to tell him so. Ginny Nevins of Windsor Realty is kindly providing food to help us celebrate and a big card for you all to sign. Please thank Ginny, too, when you see her. I'm told that BLHA will make Gene an honorary member for life, so hopefully you'll see him around a little in future years. At the City Council meeting last week, I appointed his replacement, Robert Adderly, who has been working with Gene for some time now to be ready to take over. You can meet Robert on that Saturday if you haven't already. Here's a picture of them both.



I recently got a question about whom to call if, Heaven forbid, there is ever a hazardous material spill near us. It's a good question and so I share the answer with the rest of you here. The answer, briefly, is: Call 911. Under the service delivery strategy agreement between Gwinnett County and its cities, the county has responsibility for **emergency management**, including hazardous materials response. There are several obvious reasons why this is the best plan. One is that spills happen in and move across multiple jurisdictions, so the larger all-encompassing jurisdiction (the county) is best able to respond seamlessly and expeditiously to them. Secondly, hazardous materials response is a huge training and staffing challenge. The county is able to and does maintain through its police and fire response forces a constantly trained and re-trained staff which is always ready with a vast array of equipment, 24/7. I have nurtured a close relationship with the county's emergency management organization and found them to be very responsive to us. At a recent meeting in Lawrenceville with other Gwinnett mayors, I asked if any of the 16 cities have any plans to respond to "haz-mat" emergencies. No one does, not even the biggest cities, and all expressed confidence in the county's emergency management.

We have had a lot going on lately. On October 23, the **Bicentennial Torch** came to Berkeley Lake. Thanks to all who came out to welcome the young runners with flowers, balloons, cookies, drinks, snacks, and music. They said it was a great celebration for them. If you want to know more about Gwinnett County’s 200<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, see [here](#).



A few days later we held our **annual Hometown Heroes celebration** to recognize and thank our police officers, city marshals, and community volunteers. We also collected about 60 pounds of unneeded prescription drugs for proper disposal by our police officers. Over the next few months, I will be featuring a Hometown Hero in each Mayor’s Message so you can get to know more about them. Special heroes for this event were Jill Rice, Tracey Settlege, and Bryan Stuart who all provided wonderful food for our honorees and citizens. Many thanks to them!



Each year at this time the mayor is responsible for **appointing various leaders for our community**. I appreciate those of you who responded to my recent request for anyone interested in serving on a committee or helping in one of the many ways our city of strong volunteers has developed over the years. [Here](#) is a list of my appointments for 2019. Please thank these good people when you see them. We are all busy, but these folks find time to make a difference for us all in Berkeley Lake. I encourage you to join them in finding some path that fits you to lead and serve. This reminds me of a quote from Brene’ Brown: “As you think about your own path to leadership, remember Joseph Campbell’s wisdom: ‘The cave you fear to enter holds the treasure you seek.’ Own the fear, find the cave, and write a new ending for yourself, for the people you’re meant to serve and support, and for your culture. Choose courage over comfort. Choose whole hearts over armor. And choose the great adventure of being brave and afraid. At the exact same time.” I know that stepping out as a community leader is scary for some of you, but there’s lots to do around here, and lots of people who will help you.

Our city staff and our professional planning consultants from the Atlanta Regional Commission have been working hard on **updating our city’s comprehensive plan**. The consultant has been to council meetings several times to answer questions from the public as well as holding an Open House for our citizens, meeting with a Stakeholders group of community leaders, and providing a survey for you (see last Mayor’s Message). Every effort has been made to get your input. I think you may be very interested in what all these people have come up with so far. See [here](#). There is a lot of information about demographics, community assets and challenges, housing values, etc.

Again this year, we are collecting **coats and blankets for the cold weather, and unwrapped toys** to help Santa. These will be shared between the Foster Children’s Foundation and the Norcross Cooperative Ministries. We need this stuff **no later than Monday, December 10**. You can bring them to my office at City Hall or contact me or Cheryl Bridges to make other arrangements for pickup. Go be Santa Claus!

Many thanks to Julie Huntington and her valiant volunteers who do our twice-yearly **food drives**. The one just completed took approximately 155 bags of food and another monetary gift of \$300 (from the David B. Quin foundation) to the Norcross Co-op. Here’s a picture of Julie’s sons Jamie and Nathan (assisted by Lilly the dog) rejoicing over all the food you donated! It will help a lot of hungry people. Other helpers include her husband Dan and son Daniel, Debbie Peters, Kayla English, Janine and John Irwin, Heidi Lloyd, and Sue Swanson. Great job, everybody!



I know that some of you are **dissatisfied with the service of the Duluth Post Office**. Please contact the Postmaster who is Alma Jackmon, either by phone at 770-232-2757 or email to [alma.j.jackmon@usps.gov](mailto:alma.j.jackmon@usps.gov). I would suggest email since it provides a written record. If results are not forthcoming, you may wish to send a second complaint and copy our U.S. Congressman who is Rob Woodall at [woodall.house.gov](http://woodall.house.gov) and/or call his local office at 770-232-3005. I will contact



Ms. Jackmon as well to let her know how unhappy our Berkeley Lakers are, but she needs to hear from more than me.

I want to add a note of **special thanks here for Scott Lee**. He is our City Council member who kindly provides music for all our city events – July 4, Bicentennial Reception, Hometown Heroes, Town Hall Meeting, the list goes on. I asked him to come through again for Gene’s retirement reception and he graciously acceded to my repetitive request. Here’s to our own Music Man! What would we do without him?!!

You may be sick of all the election craziness, but you’re not through doing your civic duty yet. Please remember to vote in the coming **runoff election for Secretary of State and for Public Service Commissioner on December 4**.

I know you are looking forward to the **Berkeley Lake Christmas Lights Contest**. The mayor of Duluth has already asked me for a boat and car ride through our city for herself and her grandchildren. Your fame is spreading. Ginny Nevins is coordinating this again and she will need the contact info for each nominee so that they can accept having an entry sign in their front yard or lakeside! You can nominate your own extravaganza or your neighbor’s by emailing [admin@windsoratlanta.com](mailto:admin@windsoratlanta.com). The votes will be tallied by cans of food marked with the entry number and dropped at City Hall as “votes”. There will be bins designated by signs at the sidewalk for collection. Self-nomination is totally acceptable, as is stuffing the “ballot box” (bin). All cans collected will be donated to Norcross Co-operative Ministries. Merry Christmas to all!



*Lois D. Satter*