



November 30, 2020

Your City Council has spent several months working on some changes to our noise ordinance in response to some citizen concerns. [Check it out on our city website if you are interested.](#) I have asked them to do some reconsideration of our sign ordinance as well, and we will turn our attention to that in the new year. Meanwhile the moratorium I requested on parts of the current sign ordinance is still in effect. **Changes to ordinances** move slowly, and there are good reasons for that. We want to be thorough, giving consideration to all aspects of issues and also to provide our citizens time to share their input.

Ginny Nevins and Windsor Realty have sponsored our city’s **Christmas Lights Contest** for the last 7 years by collecting “votes” for the best display in the form of canned goods to be donated to Our Neighborhood Cooperative Ministry. In view of COVID concerns they will avoid collecting cans this year and just donate \$1000 to the Ministry to celebrate our city’s lights. Ginny says, “Every home that lights up Berkeley Lake is a winner this year.” Thanks to her generosity, a lot of needy people will also be big winners in this very difficult time. Thank you, Ginny, and Windsor, and thanks to all of you homeowners who create such beauty and joy with your fantastic displays. People come from far and wide to see them and we all enjoy them so much throughout the holidays. The BLOSOMS are organizing a socially distanced boat tour on Dec. 13th at 6 PM since so many of the decorations are facing the lake. That should be fun.



As you know we have multiple folks working on volunteer projects around our city that are meaningful to them and to many others. It’s one of the nicest things about living in Berkeley Lake.



One of those groups has been supporting **the purple martin colony** for 20 years and they now need some help from the rest of us. These birds are lovely to watch as they eat lots of bugs for us, but their gourd homes were damaged in the recent storms. I have obtained permission from the Georgia Safe Dams Authority for John Homonek and his other volunteers to be on our dam briefly to repair and/or replace the poles for the purple martins. John needs volunteer workers and donations for materials, so if

you would like to help with this project, please contact him. Thanks to all for their contributions of both time and money.

While I am thinking about storm damage, I want to publicly thank our **City Marshals** for all they did to help our city get through the difficult days of power outages and street blockages from trees and power lines. I was told by several of you that they really went above and beyond expectations in supporting and assisting you, and I know we are very fortunate to have such committed and caring guys in this role.

As you know we had some trouble recently when power lines went down in storms and small fires were caused by electricity back-feeding into the broken lines from people’s **home generators**. To prevent such problems our city’s building inspector advises that both an electrical permit for the electrical work as well as a plumbing permit for the gas needed to service the generator would need to be issued for any new generator being installed. You can find information [about popular projects needing permits](#) on the city’s website. Here is some other [helpful information](#) on the internet that you might want to review about the [use and potential dangers of generators](#).



As you know, Berkeley Lake folks have tried our best to let our **police** know how much we appreciate them with multiple meals and treats. Last week we did that again and I want to give particular thanks to Beena Meshramkar who made lots of homemade brownies, as well as others who contributed cards and goodies.



On Saturday, Dec. 12th from 12 PM to 4 PM the Berkeley Lake Chapel is hosting a Holiday Market with food, fun, and entertainment. Come by and enjoy some barbeque and a visit with Santa.

It’s the time of year when I am working on the **Mayoral Appointments** I will make for 2021. If you are interested in serving on a city committee, please let me know. There is information about committees on the city’s website.



I met this last week with our **County Commissioner Ben Ku** at his request. He has been very attentive to our city and was just checking in to see how we were and what we might need. I talked with him about my hopes that the county will find ways to be more supportive in helping homeowners move from septic tanks to sewer wherever possible, among other things. He is looking for ways to increase citizen involvement as decisions are made by creating more citizen advisory boards in various areas. If you have a particular interest or area of expertise, let Ben know. He also wants to create better online responsiveness to citizen concerns and is working on making Gwinnett a model of transparency and easy connectivity for problem resolution. He shared the following information about elections:

The Gwinnett County Board of Voter Registrations and Elections certified the recent election during its November 9th meeting. Here is the official and complete [Election Summary Report](#). Prepare for the January 5, 2021, runoff election by checking your voter registration, especially if

you moved recently. If you plan to vote absentee, you can [request an absentee ballot](#) now. Registered voters can also cast their ballots advance in person from December 14th to 31st, with the exception of December 24th and 25th, when the polling locations will be closed. Here is more information about [advance voting times and locations](#).

Lois D. Satter