



January 28, 2022

As you know we have a tiny staff to manage our city tasks, so we try to make the best use of technology to provide good service. **This keeps costs (and your taxes) low.** Last time I checked, of all the Gwinnett cities that have property taxes, we were the lowest, and we still don't have a stormwater utility fee like the others do. That doesn't happen without a lot of careful management. I want you to feel comfortable to call City Hall and if necessary to leave a message, because both of the two people in the office may be on other calls. A message left there will also be delivered electronically to me or the City Marshal wherever we are at that moment. So keep this number handy **770-368-9484** and let us know what you need. We want to help as quickly and as efficiently as possible.

One of those two folks in City Hall is the truly outstanding leader of our staff - **Berkeley Lake's City Administrator Leigh Threadgill.** With a degree from Davidson and a Masters in Public Policy from Georgia Tech, then valuable experience with the Cities of Wilmington, NC and LaGrange and Forsyth County; she is a remarkable asset to our city. Since I've been featuring a staff member monthly in these messages to you, here's a little info to help you get to know Leigh. She's an animal lover, who studied in Kenya during college "so that I could see all the cool African fauna. There, I lived on a wildlife ranch with no power or plumbing. The African night sky is like a planetarium, shooting stars all around." Leigh's been married to a Presbyterian pastor for 21 years and has "three amazing kids who give me purpose and bring me joy." Running is one of her favorite things. She says, "I can honestly say that I have worked in local government for over 20 years, and I love what I do. My job is more like a calling, and it fulfills me each and every day." What a blessing to have someone with her level of skill, commitment, and kindness on our team!



One of our staff's current projects is chasing down all the various people that we make available to you on **Earth Day. Please put Saturday, April 23rd from 10 AM - 2 PM** on your calendars and save the date. Jill Rice and Tracey Settlege have committed again to sponsor the cost of the shredder truck and we will, of course, have our own Waste Management guys for "Big Trash" and others there to help.

For more dangerous stuff you can take poisons, batteries, pesticides, etc. to the **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, February 12th from 9 AM until 1 PM.** This event is free at the **Gwinnett County Fairgrounds, 2405 Sugarloaf Parkway in Lawrenceville.** The event website has a [complete list of acceptable items and guidelines as well as information about how to volunteer.](#)



A note from Susan Hanson, chairperson of our Berkeley Lake Conservancy: “Privet hedge, the most invasive non-native plant in Georgia, is growing in the new addition to the greenspace. Could you help us remove the privet? Plan to meet at Patton’s parking lot **February 12th at 2 PM** and walk down PIB to enter the greenspace beside the guardrail. Wear waterproof shoes and gloves.”

I got a call recently from one of our citizens who was enjoying some exercise in our greenspace when two large dogs ran up and jumped on her. Their owners were nowhere in sight and the dogs continued to jump on this lady and nearly knocked her down. When the owners appeared they stated their belief that leashes are not required in Berkeley Lake. I want everyone in our city to be able to enjoy our greenspace safely and comfortably so let me clarify this. We have adopted Gwinnett County’s animal control ordinance which states: **“It shall be unlawful for any owner or possessor of a dog to fail to keep the dog under restraint or control.** A dog is considered not under restraint or control when it is running at large. Reasonable care shall be taken to ensure that it is on a leash and under the control of a competent person or it is off leash and obedient to and under voice command of a competent person who is in the immediate proximity of the dog any time it is not restrained.” So please keep your dogs leashed unless they are walking right beside you and reliably obedient under voice command. Romping through the woods out of sight of their owners and jumping on people doesn’t meet this requirement.

I think I probably work more closely with our police officers than most people, and that experience has led me to appreciate them a lot. I think it’s helpful for more of our citizens to get to know them as well, so if you are interested and have time, I want to recommend that you sign up for the next **Citizens Police Academy.** They are accepting applications until Thursday, February 10th, and the program will run from March 8th through May 5th on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30 – 9 PM. Learn about Crime Prevention; Gangs; K-9; S.W.A.T; Use of Force, etc. Email william.Rooks@GwinnettCounty.com if you’re interested in applying.





The Red Cross is in a real crisis with the worst **blood shortage** in over 10 years. They really need our help; and if you donate in February, Amazon will give you a \$10 gift certificate. Find where to donate blood by using the [Red Cross website](#) or by calling 800-733-2767.

Karen Geiger is the coordinator of the BLOSOMS Foodie Circle. From Karen: “We are going to participate virtually in the Atlanta Community Food Bank **5K Hunger Walk** to raise money for food security and accessibility in North Georgia, including Gwinnett. We will be gathering at **BL City Hall at 1 PM on Sunday, March 6th** and doing a walk around part of the lake together as "virtual" participants in the walk. We would love to have as many local participants as possible **join the Berkeley Lake Foodies team!** If folks want to support the effort but don't want to walk, they can also donate to ACFB specifying Berkeley Lake Foodies. [Register to walk or donate here](#). Any questions, please contact me at 770-366-6851.”

Georgia’s First Lady Marty Kemp is urging us all to be more aware of **sex trafficking** all around us in plain sight. Please go to iamonwatch.org for more information and to see some things to watch for. If you see something that concerns you, please [report it to the FBI](#) which investigates human trafficking.

I have been asked by a manager for Atlanta Gas Light to share with you some information on how to recognize a **gas pipeline leak**. Look for blowing dirt, discolored vegetation, or bubbling of standing water. Listen for a hissing or roaring noise. Smell for the distinctive rotten egg odor associated with natural gas. Do not try to identify the source or stop the leak yourself which could be very dangerous. Avoid any sources of ignition including cell phones. You can call their 24-hr. emergency response line at 800-289-8151 with the location and any other information. And remember to call before you dig. The number for that is 811.

As you know we had a storm related power outage since my last message to you. **Georgia Power** did a good job of getting us back on pretty quickly and so, on your behalf, I thanked the Regional Manager with this message: “I was so grateful when the power came back on early this morning. You guys are everybody’s heroes. Please tell the linemen when you have an opportunity how much Berkeley Lake appreciates them.” This snowy picture was taken by our State House Representative Beth Moore who enjoys walking through our city.

For future reference, outages can be reported at georgiapower.com/storm or by phone at 888-891-0938. I am signed up for Outage Alerts which will automatically notify me via phone, text, or email when there is a service



interruption and provide me with restoration updates. I urge you to consider signing up also if you haven’t by visiting that website above. If you ever have a concern about the electric wires entering your home or business, contact Georgia Power for assistance coordinating necessary repairs at 888-660-5890.

City of Berkeley Lake – Mayor’s Message

While I’m thinking of emergencies, please make sure you are always aware of changing weather conditions and have a way to receive **weather alerts** on your phone. I always try to keep you informed as I get alerts from Gwinnett’s Emergency Management people; but some storms come up fast, and your own phone is the fastest alert. Mine advised me of a tornado in my immediate vicinity once when I was downtown at a mayors’ meeting. Our phones alert us wherever we are.



Berkeley Lake fun fact: We were recently [designated in the AJC as the seventh best place to retire](#) in the state of Georgia.

Retired or not, enjoy this beautiful place that we share,

Lois D. Salter