



September 9, 2022

As you know this time of year I am always preparing to appoint people to **city committees**, which happens at the beginning of each year. If you are interested in serving on the Berkeley Lake Conservancy, the Planning and Zoning Commission, or the Citizens Finance Committee, please let me know. There may be an opening coming up. The involvement of people who are so generous in volunteering their time is one of the major strengths of our city.

There have been some questions about **door-to-door soliciting** in our city. Our Code of Ordinances forbids this without a permit from City Hall. Our permit requires fingerprinting and a background check, among other things which is an effort on our part to make sure people wandering around our homes are no threat to us, or our children. However, the Constitution protects the free expression of religion; so people going door-to-door talking about their faith (i.e. Jehovah's Witnesses) are not required to have a permit. We do require charitable and religious organizations that are soliciting contributions or donations to get a certificate of notification from city hall, but if they are not hitting you up for any money and just witnessing their faith, we don't restrict that. You, of course, always have the ability to restrict who gets your time and attention. I personally don't open my door to strangers. I will check to see if there is someone who legitimately needs help, but I can do that without opening the door. I don't want to reinforce behaviors in our city that I'd rather not see. That is a choice you can make. If you would like to read about the requirements, [here's the ordinance regulating door-to-door solicitation](#).



Some of you have become alarmed by the **major changes and growth that are happening near our city**, particularly the major redevelopment being planned for The Forum in Peachtree Corners. In response to your questions and concerns, I attended a meeting recently with Tim Perry who is the Managing Partner for North American Properties. He has previously led the acquisition and redevelopment of Atlantic Station, Colony Square, Avalon, East Cobb's Avenue, and major projects in other states. He

shared plans for a major renovation of the Forum to include more green space, lots of patio seating, a food hall, a plaza, event space with a stage, a concierge building, valet parking, and a new parking deck.

City of Berkeley Lake – Mayor’s Message

He wants to “fulfill people’s desire for connectedness” with regular “experiences” like Tuesday for Toddlers, Ladies Night Out (with “swag”), etc. because “experience is the new anchor,” and if “experience is what we buy, density is the currency.” And it is that density that I am hearing concerns about. There are plans for multifamily residential buildings and a hotel because, Mr. Perry says, density is needed to support businesses. For what it may be worth, here are my thoughts upon hearing all of this. Growth, huge growth, is coming. Like it or not, Gwinnett is the fastest growing county in the state. We can either work hard to manage it well, or let it jump over us, leaving all those people still on the roads driving through our area, just coming from farther out. We have all seen the effects of a “dead mall” which drags down property values all around it. I will, of course, continue to be attentive to development beyond our city that affects our citizens and try to keep you informed. Both Leigh Threadgill (our City Administrator) and I have strong collegial relationships with Peachtree Corners city leaders and have found them to be very responsive to our concerns. Meanwhile you may want to [read this article from the Atlanta Journal Constitution about how another city, Alpharetta, is handling this kind of redevelopment.](#)

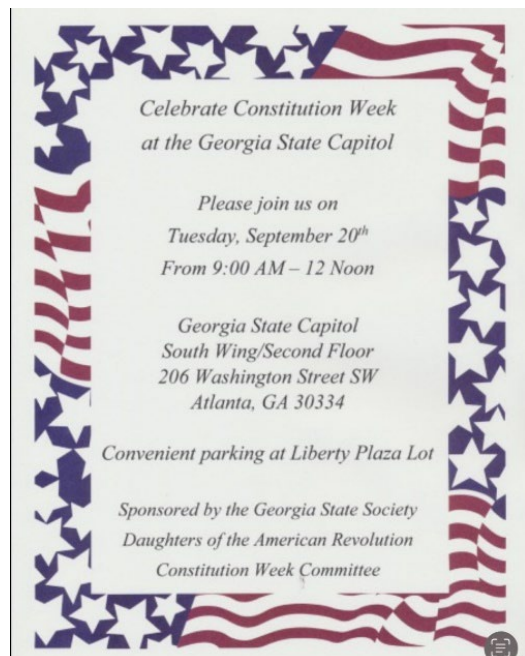
A couple of Berkeley Lakers have contacted me recently in a hurry to get a **home test for COVID**. I have placed about 20 tests in my office at City Hall for any of you in a similar situation. Please take only what you need and replace them when you can do so conveniently.

Our yearly **Electronics Recycling and Drug Takeback Day** is set for **Saturday, October 15 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at City Hall**. Our city staff will meet you behind City Hall where you can conveniently drive by and drop off computers, phones, etc. that you no longer need. We won’t be taking TVs or CRT monitors because recyclers charge to take each of those individually. If you have those, here’s how to get rid of them: our Waste Management guys will take TVs no more than 3 feet wide for free if you call them and arrange a special pick up. [For larger ones you can use WM’s Bagster service.](#) Other options: [New Life - flat screen tvs \\$20, other tvs \\$40](#) (Cumming) or [E Recycle -all tvs and crt monitors \\$25](#) (Tucker). Also on that day prescriptions and drugs will be collected and disposed of safely. Finally, you can drop off non-perishable food items for the Neighborhood Cooperative Ministries that day. I hope to see you there.

Here are some **other fall events** that I want you to know about:

On **Tuesday, September 20 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, BLOSOMS will meet at the Pavilion** behind the Chapel to kickoff a new year. I believe this group of powerfully positive women to be one of the best things about our city! They do so much good! If you are a Berkeley Lake lady, this is the best time to come see for yourself.

The Georgia Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will be celebrating **Constitution Week at the Georgia State Capitol on Tuesday, September 20 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM**. They will be located in the South Wing, adjacent to the beautiful Rotunda, on the Second Floor of the State Capitol, just outside the Office of the Governor. All who are



interested in the history of our state are invited and welcomed. There is convenient parking at Liberty Plaza just across the street from the Capitol. There will also be a free tour of our historic Capitol building for which you can simply sign up by sending an email to Vicky Frolich, vickyfrolichgadar@gmail.com. You can enjoy interesting displays, bell ringing, and Georgia peanuts for snacks and souvenirs.



Mosaic Georgia is a sexual assault and children’s advocacy center in Duluth. In Gwinnett County, sexual assault victims are treated there, not in the emergency room, providing a safe, and comfortable environment to receive necessary treatment and post trauma services. The **3rd annual Mosaic Masterpieces** fundraiser is a festive happy hour with music, savory bites, drinks, and an auction of artwork created by local professional artists and members of the community. The event is **September 29 at 6:30 PM** at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. [Here is more information on sponsorships, sponsor benefits, sign up forms, ticket purchases, and standard donations.](#)

The annual **Elisha Winn Fair**, sponsored by the Gwinnett Historical Society, will be **Saturday and Sunday, October 1-2**. Come to the Elisha Winn House, Gwinnett’s birthplace, at 908 Dacula Road in Dacula and enjoy a living history exhibit, good food, craft vendors, music, blacksmithing, weaving, spinning and military enactors.

Please don’t forget **Paint Gwinnett Pink, a 5K run and walk on October 15** that is the signature fundraising event for our local Gwinnett hospitals. Every dollar they raise stays in Gwinnett County, supporting things like tomosynthesis 3D mammography - the cutting-edge image technology that allows healthcare professionals greater visibility of breast structures and possible cancers with 15% fewer false alarms. This happy event will be at Coolray Field, and I hope everyone will come out to support the fight against breast cancer. This race is a qualifier for next year’s Peachtree Road Race, and all registration fees will help cancer patients locally.



Our usual **Time Change Food Pickup will be on Sunday, November 6**. We are so fortunate to have Julie Huntington and her great bunch of volunteers who will collect your bags of non-perishable food and household goods from **beside your mailbox at 1:00 PM** on that day. They will deliver them to the Neighborhood Cooperative Ministries who really need our help, so please mark this date and don’t forget.

The Gwinnett Board of Commissioners recently voted to place a renewal of the one-cent special purpose local option sales tax, known as **SPLOST**, (when it would otherwise expire) on the November ballot. Voters will decide on this and [if approved, the 2023 SPLOST program could raise funds over the next six years that would go directly towards transportation projects, public safety facilities and equipment, senior services facilities, and more.](#)



I recently attended a meeting of Gwinnett city leaders with Atlanta’s mayor **Andre Dickens** as well as our own county commission chair, **Nicole Love Hendrickson**. They spoke about the importance of cooperation across county and city lines especially in combating crime. As an example, our own City Administrator Leigh Threadgill has worked at great length with Gwinnett County and surrounding cities to get our crime-fighting cameras appropriately mounted on the roadways as I described to you previously. They are now operational, and the police are monitoring them. Chair Hendrickson reported that violent crime has actually dropped in Gwinnett. Mayor Dickens thanked us for our

collaboration on the Fugitive Task Force among other initiatives to “keep bad actors off our streets throughout the region.” They also talked about the Atlanta metro area’s transportation challenges, the inadequate and aging housing supply, and on a more positive note, the locally thriving entertainment industry’s contributions to our economy.

This time of year there are lots of **fawns** around, and neighbors sometimes find them hidden near their homes with no mom in sight. The doe is usually out feeding and will return, but if you are concerned that the fawn may need help, look at the ears. Crumpled ear tips mean that the fawn is dehydrated and mom is gone. You can find local rehabbers at www.animalhelpnow.org - just put in your zip code and click on the type of animal you have found. Never feed a fawn anything but unflavored Pedialyte.



I have two **featured Berkeley Lake businesses** today.



GASP! Georgia After School Program, Inc. provides safe, fun and affordable after school care in 22 Gwinnett Public schools, including our hometown Berkeley Lake ES. Because children stay at the school, GASP! keeps its aftercare cost low -- only \$65/week. Kids eat healthy snacks and get homework done. Then the fun begins: Sports, STEM, arts & crafts, dramatic play, face painting, nail salon, karaoke....non-stop action until 6:30 everyday! If you have questions, check <https://gasp-ga.com/>

or with our neighbor Debbie Peters at 770-368-2076.



B.H. Payne Construction, Inc. is known as a quality and service oriented general contracting firm focusing on details and customer satisfaction. They create a team environment combining tenant, architect, property manager and contractor. You can contact Brett H. Payne, President at 770-448-9533. Many of his clients have also become friends, which really says a lot.

This month’s **Fun Fact about Berkeley Lake:** Most cities and other governmental entities carry some amount of debt, but our city has been debt-free since 2015 and expects to remain that way.

Enjoy these last days of summer!

Lois D. Salter