



December 20, 2023

Our 2023 stormwater improvements project has been awarded to the Dickerson group who expect to begin work on January 8, 2024. The locations included in the upcoming project are predominantly in Hermitage Plantation as a result of the last round of our stormwater inspections. In addition, a few other locations around Lakeshore Drive and River Mansions have been included as a result of issues identified by staff or citizens. All of the maintenance work is expected to be completed by the beginning of April.

There will be **some changes in our trash services** as we move into 2024. Yard waste has previously been collected every Monday, but effective the second week of the new year (because of the holiday pick-up schedule), it will be collected on Friday along with our garbage and recycling - everything on the same day. The yard waste will now be delivered to a landfill that produces renewable energy.

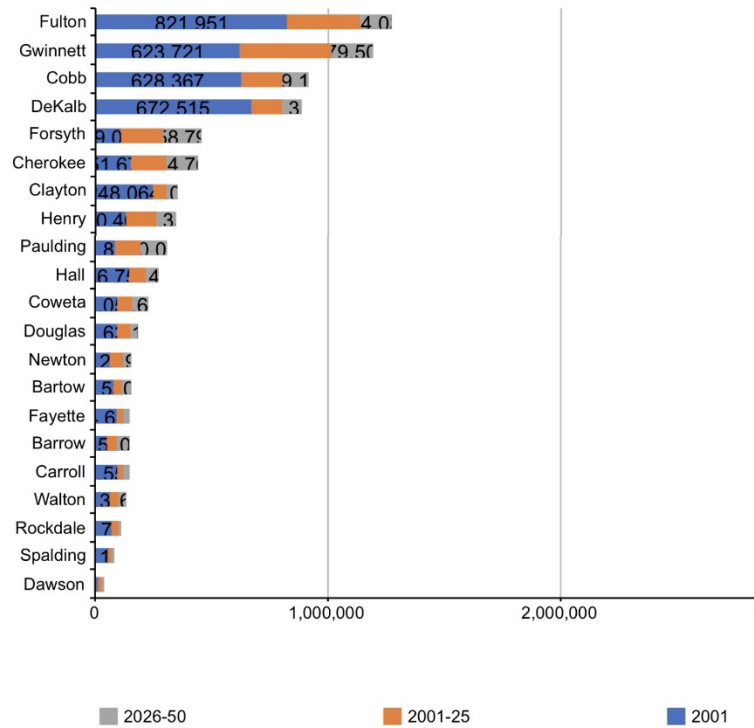


Berkeley Lakers really came through for our police officers and the kids they help through their Fill the Sleigh Drive! You filled my office with toys, and I want to pass on this thank-you from our police leadership: "I just want to say thank you again for all the donations. Major Griffin and other officers at the precinct were excited about the ability to brighten a kid's day. If there is anything we can assist you guys with, please reach out to me and I will see what we can do. Thank you again. Merry Christmas!" Our

Berkeley Lakers have made a merry Christmas indeed for all the kids you helped! Special thanks to all who contributed and to the homeowner associations, who supported our police and passed the word about this.

The Atlanta Regional Commission studies all kinds of data in an effort to advise business and government leaders in planning for the future.

I learned a lot recently at a meeting that some of you may find interesting. They forecast that metro Atlanta will add approximately 1.8 million new residents and 860,000 new jobs by 2050. This forecast is lower than previous forecasts due to lower national fertility rates and slowing migration. Slowing population growth is a global phenomenon among developed countries. Only the 75+ and the 56 - 74 age cohorts will grow in share of population by 2050. Almost 900,000 people aged 75 and older are forecast to live in our region by 2050.



The aging population will impact travel, community design, and health care, to name a few. The ARC identified important concerns related to housing and climate change. The latest forecasts released in March 2023 indicate that the Atlanta region will be significantly impacted by higher temperatures and increased rainfall. Housing prices have risen across the region. The median sales price increased 52% from Jan 2019 to Jan 2023 (\$230K to \$350K). Supply is at record lows, and fewer residential units have been constructed this past decade than in any of the previous five decades.

Whenever **holidays** come around, we always **wonder if our trash will get picked up as usual, or if there will be a change.** [Waste Management provides a link where you can check](#) your own specific address to find out. You may want to make a note and save this website somewhere for future checking. Since Christmas falls on a Monday this year, yard waste will be collected on Tuesday December 26th and garbage and recycling will be collected on Saturday, December 30th. New Year’s Day also falls on a Monday so yard waste, recycling and garbage will be collected on Saturday, January 6th.



Julie Huntington and her wonderful volunteers made the biggest haul ever in our **recent food drive for cooperative ministries.** She says: “Too many bags and boxes to count, but I’m guessing in the 225+ range. Lots of great help! Bill and Sandy Lacy, Amy and John Parker, and Jim and Janine Irwin, Jim and Nancy Sheppard, Susan Hanson, Debbie Peters, Beena Meshramkar, Tod and Lee Ann Senne, Kayla English, Cindy Purcell, Don and Kaye Berg, Dan Huntington.

We had two completely full pickup trucks and a sedan filled. Debbie Peters bought new signs that really helped a lot.” Thanks so much to all these folks!

Gwinnett County’s **Bring One for the Chipper** program transforms live Christmas trees into mulch which will soon line the pathways and flower beds of our local parks. You can leave live trees between December 26, 2023 and January 24, 2024 at our local Fire Station #19 on North Berkeley Lake Rd. To be accepted for treecycling, live Christmas trees must be free of lights, tinsel, decorations, and tree stands. Artificial trees will not be accepted.



I am always grateful to **John and Ginny Nevins** for organizing the **Christmas lights contest**, and to all of you who decorate our city so beautifully for the holidays. I hope you got the flyer that went out in mailboxes but if not contact admin@windsoratlanta.com with questions. You vote for the best light display with cans of food which are now being collected at City Hall and will be delivered to Neighborhood Cooperative Ministries.



As you know our citizens committed years ago to protecting the environment through the purchase of greenspace. Approximately 73 acres is protected as a nature preserve which buffers residential areas from lights, noise and extreme stormwater events. The city granted an easement on this entire area to the Georgia Piedmont Land Trust and there is an [ordinance in place to protect it, which you can read here](#). I’m writing to you about it now because I want to **protect not only the environment but our citizens from mistakes that could be costly**. For example, you will find that any kind of wheeled vehicles are not allowed and carry \$1000 fines. Recently, one of our citizens reported the tag number of a vehicle which was carrying four-wheelers for use in our greenspace. I reported that to our police Precinct Commander and will continue to do what is necessary to protect this area, but I do hope also to educate everybody so that no one gets in trouble.

Our City Marshals patrol the entire area on foot regularly and often. They have torn down deer stands, removed trail marks from trees, etc. Please read the ordinance carefully when you get a chance and help us protect this area which buffers and protects a big part of our city.

While I am cautioning folks, I also want to remind you that, although we cherish our very old and very large trees in Berkeley Lake, some of them look fine on the outside until they fall, potentially injuring someone or a home, knocking down powerlines, etc. When this big one fell, there was not even a storm. **Please consider having a qualified arborist check your trees on a regular basis.** When I did that, there were some that I thought might be iffy that were OK, and some that I thought were fine that were rotten inside creating a risk to my home and my neighbors'. And it's always best to call City Hall before removing trees to make sure you don't run afoul of our tree ordinance. Our City Hall staff is very helpful and will not feel bothered by those kinds of questions.



That helpful staff is also now reminding me that **we are at the beginning of business license renewal season.** The MyGov platform is set up to start renewals, and almost 40 business owners, [including home-based businesses](#), have already begun the renewal process. You might be wondering if you need a business license because of activities you conduct at your home. A business license is required if you are doing any of the following:

1. Administering a business from your home
2. Using your home address to register a business with the Georgia Secretary of State
3. Producing or making anything for sale at your home (no direct sales from home)
4. Storing business property at your home (outside storage is prohibited)
5. Providing a service, even an online service, from your home
6. Managing rental property from your home

Most of our citizens have preferences about the types of businesses they would want operating near their homes and families. In response, your elected City Council members have [created licensing which allows us to regulate this](#). I assure you that this is not a moneymaking proposition for our city. Most home-based businesses have two or less full-time employees and the cost associated with that is only \$52, which I doubt even covers the cost of staff time in administration. Most other cities get all into your business by charging you a proportion of your business's profits. Not us. We have made this as simple and painless as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Lila Hunter, lila.hunter@berkeleylake.com or 770-368-9484 Ext. 104. She will be happy to help you.

I know that some of you are interested, as I am, in **the possibility of someday having a county sewer available to all in our city so that we can get off of aging septic tanks.** Other than the county officials who manage sewer systems, the person who knows more about this than anyone local is our own **Steve Seitz.** I asked him to share some of his knowledge for inclusion into the Mayor's Message, but he gave me more than I can include here and, of course, this is not an issue for many in our subdivisions who are already on sewers. If, however, you have a septic system, and would like to learn more about this, I urge you to contact Steve. He can share information very clearly and answer most questions that you may have.

This month's **Fun Fact about Berkeley Lake:**

Travel and Leisure magazine recently featured an article citing Berkeley Lake as the richest small town in Georgia.

I wish all of you the blessings of the holiday season with your families and friends. Be safe and find some time to be peaceful.

Lois D. Satter