



October 22, 2025

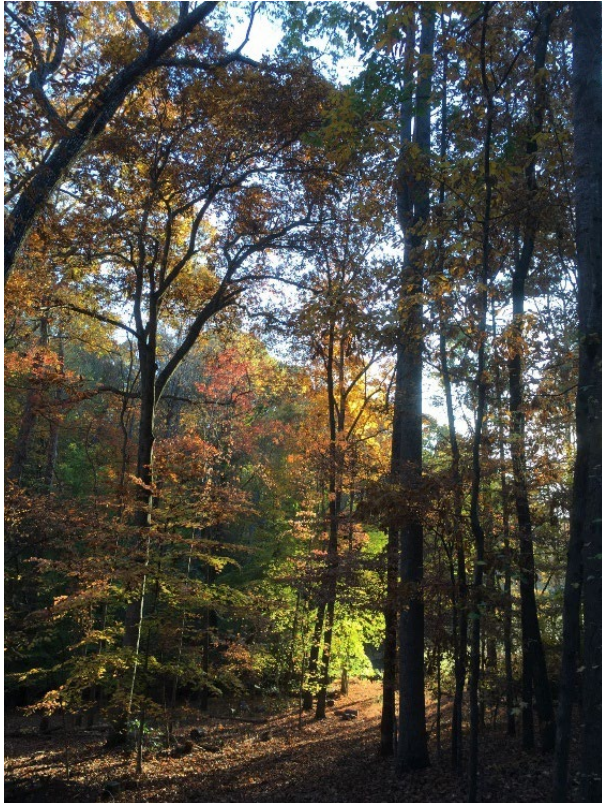
Many many thanks to all of you who came out on October 14 to hear the master students of the Georgia Tech Urban Design Studio make their first public presentation about **our city's commercial and industrial areas**. We had a very full house, and all our citizens were interested, attentive, and constructive. This [initial presentation](#) was intended to present findings and high-level recommendations to garner public feedback to further guide the planning process. If you weren't able to attend, you can read all about it on our website – see link above. On **Thursday, November 6 at 6 PM**, the students will return to City Hall for an **updated presentation** on their ideas for the city's commercial areas, incorporating the feedback that you have given. I checked all the city events calendars I could find and hope this date will present no conflicts.

Please remember that our city is also in the process of [updating its zoning and development regulations](#). Led by a team from TSW, a consulting firm with extensive experience writing zoning and development codes, the project includes a **public outreach component** to gain valuable feedback from residents and other stakeholders. Members of the TSW team led a Drop-in Public Kick-Off Meeting on October 26, 2024 and an on-line survey was available through November 2024. Since that time, the **consultant team has been drafting the new regulations. Input can continue to be provided** to the team through the [project website](#). Stay tuned for future engagement opportunities.

Please don't forget our **voting for city council candidates**. You can find information about each of them in a previous Mayor's Message and [on our website](#). Advance in-person voting began on October 14 and is still available in City Hall from 9 AM until 5 PM on the following dates: October 22-25 and October 27-31. On November 4 the polls will be open in City Hall from 7 AM until 7 PM. You can keep up with how [many votes are being cast on our website](#).

As you vote for these important city offices, please also make time to head over to the **Pinckneyville Community Center**. Unfortunately, you have to go there to vote in the election regarding the **Gwinnett County public schools ESPLOST, and for the state's Public Service Commission** elections. Sorry it's not all in the same place, because I know you are all busy, but I also know you will agree that these are important, too.

Here is another opportunity for you to give input in an area even beyond our city. Gwinnett is working on an update to their **master plan for trails around our county**. I know some of you really enjoy hiking on various trails and you can attend one of the upcoming public meetings (see [this link](#)) for details. Additionally, [here is the link](#) to their online survey so you can give your input that way.



As the leaves start to fall, I want to remind you to **refrain from raking or blowing leaves, grass clippings, or yard debris into drainage ditches, roadways, catch basins, ponds and other drainage ways**. Leaves and other yard debris can result in clogged storm drains causing localized flooding and property damage. Or if they don't clog storm drains, leaves and yard debris can flow through the drainage system into our waterways compromising the health of our streams, rivers and lakes. Leaves and yard debris can be blown into natural areas (under shrubs or in the woods) on your property. Fallen leaves make good mulch; they help hold moisture for growing plants and shrubs and prevent erosion of bare soil. Alternatively, bagged leaves, grass clippings and yard debris can be set out for collection and disposal by Waste Management.

You may recall that every year about this time I solicit unwrapped presents from you which will be distributed to kids by our police officers during their Santa's Community Workshop events. No toy weapons, please. The young teens particularly enjoy various kinds of balls and sports equipment. By participating, you're helping to provide hope, excitement, and the warmth of the season to families in need across Gwinnett. You are also supporting our local police and they really appreciate it! Donations can be left in my office at City Hall, and I'll get them to the precinct. Ho, ho, ho!!



Our usual time change **food drive is Sunday, November 2**. Please have your bags of **non-perishable food out at your mailbox by noon** on that day. Food can be dropped off early at City Hall beginning Wednesday, October 29. Donations will benefit our local co-op, Duluth Hands of Christ. Julie Huntington and her wonderful volunteers do a great job on this for us, and it makes a real difference for so many people! Please contribute!



You may want to know that our police officers offer several **Firearm Safety and Security classes** throughout the year to share guidelines and best practices for safe gun handling. These classes are taught by law enforcement personnel. Registration is required to participate, and seating is limited. Youth who plan to attend must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Residents are prohibited from bringing their own weapons to class. Visit GwinnettCounty.com/FirearmSafety to register. The nearest one to us is on **Saturday, December 6 at 10 AM**, at their West Precinct, 6160 Crescent Drive, Norcross.

Since there has been some **concern about reserves** in our city, I thought I would share with those of you who weren't able to attend our last city council meeting the remarks that I made to those who were:

"You have all received a copy of this budget that is being proposed and had time I'm sure to study it. I just would like to add that the budget was also carefully studied by our citizen finance committee a week or so ago when they met with me, our City Administrator, and City Treasurer. The committee members had no objections to this budget. During that meeting, we talked about the reserves which have accrued slowly over years as a result of the pattern we have had of moving any money left over in a budget line to reserves rather than finding something else to spend it on. I know from talking with officials of other municipalities that the latter is sometimes, perhaps often what happens elsewhere. Our management of money has been **extremely** conservative relative to other cities and I would be happy to discuss that more in detail with you at some point if you would like, but **no comparisons with other cities are relevant as I'm sure you know, unless that city also has the total responsibility for a high hazard dam**. When our dam was damaged by a storm in Sept. 2009, it took a little over \$5 million to fix it. Fortunately, after much time and effort, we were able at that time to obtain partial support for the repair from FEMA and GEMA. I do not believe we can count on that in the future based on multiple conversations being had now at the federal level about eliminating FEMA, and I don't believe we can expect that we will not continue to have very strong storms in the future. Climatologists are predicting that they will get worse.

Fortunately, our reserves are now approaching the former \$5 million repair bill. Not quite there yet, and of course future costs will have risen, but the financial management that has gone into

this accrual over time is a real achievement. **However**, there are other concerns that must also be factored into any consideration of reserves. The finance committee discussed other risks like cybercrime, as one example. The city of Atlanta has had to pay large amounts in ransom for their data twice recently in order for the city to continue to function. There are lawsuits and all kinds of unexpected eventualities. I told our City Treasurer just after that meeting, that with his support and that of our City Council, I would like to ask our Citizen Finance Committee to do a brief, high-level study of what risks to the city should be considered in a reasonable responsible preparation.

I want **also** to point out that with the master plan by the Georgia Tech Design Studio under way there is also the possibility of using some of our reserves to affect developments in our commercial and industrial areas, thus protecting the rest of our city. The process of making sure that all of our citizens have a chance for input into those very important decisions will take time. What they decide may take money.

Ultimately, how all this develops and how all of our money is spent will be decided by our City Council, so I bring before you tonight my suggestion to consult our finance committee about risks and bring that back to you for your consideration, and ultimately for your decision.”

The Council then considered this and unanimously supported my suggestion.

Lois D. Satter