



March 7, 2011

Our **Spring Earth Day** will take place on Saturday, April 16th, from 9:00AM until 1:00PM at City Hall.

- Advanced Disposal will take yard waste and large household items such as desks, mattresses, box springs, etc. No construction debris, wet paints, or entire trees.
- Iron Mountain will provide paper shredding.
- Roy Crawford will take scrap metal, appliances, lawn mowers, grills, car and truck batteries, etc.
- ReBoot will take your computer and information technology equipment, cabling and other electronics. They also provide donation forms for tax deduction.

Please remember that this is a service of your city provided only to you as citizens. You will need to bring identification showing a Berkeley Lake address. Homeowner association leaders may want to organize cleanup projects on Earth Day within their neighborhoods as has been done in the past. This is a good time for volunteers to pick up roadside trash or join together for other community improvement efforts.

The door-to-door **CAN-DO drive** is under way to help the Norcross Cooperative Ministry. It is called "It's About Time" and will take place on Sunday, March 13th to coincide with the Daylight Savings Time change. This week, volunteers will leave a bag at your house for you to fill with canned goods, cleaning products, etc., so please be on the lookout for that. Then on Sunday, March 13th, at 2:00PM they will return to pick up filled bags that you've placed by your mailboxes. Diane Cuttino is coordinating this effort for the city. She has already delivered no less than 40 bags of food collected at City Hall to Norcross Cooperative Ministries, and we thank those of you who have been bringing cans in to us there. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please email Diane at can-do@berkeley-lake.com.

I got a question recently about the hoped-for support from **FEMA**. There was a concern that if we passed the bond referendum they might be less inclined to provide funds. That's not how they operate. They made it very clear from the beginning that they only do reimbursements and that we would have to fund everything, present them with various evidences of same, and only then would they send money to reimburse for the portion they agreed to. The Director of GEMA has asked FEMA to meet with him and his staff, me and our engineers, and the Safe Dams folks in the GEMA office downtown on March 10th. Additionally the Director is going to Washington and will speak to the national head of FEMA on our behalf. I am very grateful for all his help.

The **city's paving project** in Miramont and Berkeley Walk has gone well but there are a few things on which we are following up. A mailbox in Miramont was damaged, a small stretch of paving remains to be done, and manholes have to be raised. The latter is the responsibility of the county water people and we have notified them to come and do it, hopefully soon.

I know that some of you have been distressed by the mess on **North Berkeley Lake Road** which seems to have been torn up a long time. This is a county project which they agreed to do as recommended by a city funded traffic safety study. StreetSmarts, a highly respected traffic engineering company, did the study which measured both the speed and volume of traffic throughout our city and found this road to be a big problem. Speeders along there have long presented a demonstrated danger. On one occasion a car left the road and wound up inside a home on North Berkeley Lake Road. Signs have not been effective, and the police can't sit there routinely to slow or stop people. For a while the city paid off-duty police to do that and it did help, but the county will no longer allow us to do that. The professional traffic safety engineers designed and recommended a roundabout and several medians to slow the traffic. We hope that will ultimately make the situation better, but clearly it is causing quite an adjustment for everybody. I will call the county again to see if they can move to completion a little faster.

I am happy to report that **Duluth High School** which our students attend has received the following recognitions from the State Dept. of Education:

- AP MERIT SCHOOL: Schools with at least 20% of students taking AP exams and at least half of the AP exams scoring a 3 or higher.
- AP STEM ACHIEVEMENT SCHOOL: Schools with students testing in at least two AP math courses and two AP science courses and at least 40% of the exam scores on AP math and AP science exams earning scores of 3 or higher.

The BLOSOMS are planning an **Easter Egg Hunt** for children of Berkeley Lake residents at the Chapel on Sunday, April 24th, at 2:00PM.

I consulted with our homeowner association presidents and with our city council about their wishes for possible increases in city street clearing of ice and snow in **future winter weather** events like the one we had recently. I did this in response to concerns from 3 citizens who wanted the city to do more about this. The presidents and council members were alerted to this question in advance so they could consider and talk with their neighbors. It was the unanimous consensus of both homeowner presidents and council what was done in response to the last storm was sufficient, and that it is not necessary to clear all the roads in the city during winter weather conditions. No one seemed to want to pay additional taxes for this. I do stay in contact with area emergency management agencies and will continue to alert your council and homeowner presidents when snow is expected so they can pass the word. Then we can be prepared if we get snowed in for a few days. I'm told that county emergency vehicles are prepared to get through those conditions to us if needed.



Lois D. Salter
Mayor