



March 20, 2017

As you know from the last Mayor's Message, **our city's Earth Day this year is Saturday, April 22 from 9 AM until 2 PM.** Remember that we are currently planning for this to be our only Earth Day this year, and that it's only available to our citizens with proof of residency in Berkeley Lake. Advanced Disposal will be there to take yard waste and large household items such as desks, mattresses, box springs, etc. Crawford Metal Recycling will be accepting scrap metal, appliances, lawn mowers, grills, car and truck batteries, and other metal items. The following items will not be accepted for disposal: construction debris, wet paints, entire trees, tires, televisions, and microwave ovens; nor will there be anyone accepting small durable medical equipment and technology items. If you need to dispose of a television, please call Advanced Disposal at (678) 495-0058 to make arrangements with them to pick the television up at your home. We **will have a shredder truck** for you. It is somewhat expensive and that cost is being donated this year **by Jill Rice and Tracey Settlege, our neighborhood Keller Williams Realtors, along with Susan Slack from our local Fidelity Bank.** Here's a picture of these ladies. You may want to thank them when you see them next. They even wanted to provide you with coffee and donuts, but we couldn't figure out how to move people through our small parking lot if you stuck around munching donuts. Sorry about that, but big thanks to Jill, Tracey, and Susan for supporting our city's Earth Day.



The City of Berkeley Lake has been named a Tree City USA city again this year by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. We have been awarded this honor every year since 2000 because of our Berkeley Lake Conservancy, our tree preservation ordinance, community forestry budget and Arbor Day observance. Our Berkeley Lake Conservancy has recently planted another tree in honor of Arbor Day and is leading a **Spring Walk in the Greenspace on Sunday April 23 at 4 PM.** This is the afternoon after our Earth Day and by then the leaves will all be on the trees so we can identify them. We plan to meet in the parking lot beside Patton's Meat Market. It would be nice to know how many people will come so please email City Hall, deputy.clerk@berkeleylake.com, to make a reservation. Susan Hanson,

Certified Master Gardener and chair of our Berkeley Lake Conservancy, will tell us all about trees and show off the new one planted for Arbor Day.



One of the nicest things about our city is the pride people take in it and the investments they make in keeping it beautiful. There are many of you and many ways that you find to do this, and I appreciate them all. Our various homeowner associations work hard in their areas; our Berkeley Lake Conservancy guards and nurtures our greenspaces; and individuals quietly pick up trash along our roadsides without anyone’s asking them to do that. Here’s one of those. Thanks **Donna Gawlas** (at left), and all the rest of you who care for our city! We are blessed to live in this place and we can all share in looking after it. As my grandmother always said, “Many hands make light work.”

Each year the state of Georgia issues a report card called the College and Career Ready Performance Index, a comprehensive measure of school improvement and accountability. Our **Berkeley Lake Elementary School** earned an 83% score this year, an increase of over 7% from last year. For the second consecutive year, they were recognized as a Five (out of five) Star Climate Rating as determined by student, parent and staff surveys. They were declared a No Place for Hate School by the Anti-defamation League, and implemented a Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Program. The staff is very proud of these achievements and the rest of the city shares their pride. I went recently to read to some second graders, and the positive climate which has been recognized in these awards is something you can feel there for yourself. The kids come up and hug their principal (Dr. Susan Bearse, seen here with me) when they see her and seem happy and well organized. I always enjoy my visits there and I urge you to volunteer at the school if you have time. Many thanks to our BLOSOMS who regularly support the school in many ways. Remember, a good local school supports your property values.



Each spring our Gene Rodgers goes around the city treating all public areas where water may provide a breeding ground for **mosquitoes**. The lake is not a problem because it has plenty of fish to eat the larvae, but catch basins and other areas without mosquito predators all receive a dose of Altosid® – a mosquito larvacide that is safe for use near aquatic environments. He doesn’t, of course, intrude onto private property, so I’m alerting you all to check out your own surroundings. Remember that mosquitos can breed in a quarter inch of water left for only 48 hours, so please be vigilant in monitoring anything that collects water on your property. “Toss and tip” is the reminder since mosquito-borne illnesses have occurred in our area. Zika hasn’t moved this far north yet, but West Nile Virus is here and we need to be proactive rather than waiting for an outbreak. It’s March so Gene’s making his rounds. Please do your part as well for all our sakes. If you want to use a mosquito larvacide, there are several brands available at home improvement or other hardware stores.

And remember that English ivy is the favorite spot for snakes and mosquitoes. I saw these goats removing some ivy in Dunwoody and stopped to take their picture. I was told by my friend who lives in that area that temporary goat visitations are “becoming the thing” in many neighborhoods, because it’s very difficult to remove the ivy and they do such a great job.



Our ordinances do not prohibit this. I have no experience or connection with this company, but you may look into them and others if you are interested.

I recently had lunch with the regional leaders of **Georgia Power**. They are finding that more and more people work from home which makes power reliability more critical to them in residential areas. Georgia Power's "self healing networks" saved 4 million customer outage minutes over the previous year. When it goes out, we all want it fixed fast!

Meet our new Police Precinct Commander, Major Everett Spellman, who has already spent 20 years serving and protecting us all. I am indescribably grateful to men and women like him who get up every morning (or night) and go out to risk their lives for the rest of us. The challenges they face grow more difficult daily, and I think few of us could meet them well. Welcome to Berkeley Lake, Major Spellman. And many, many thanks.



Lis D. Salter