



October 11, 2018

I know you're not used to getting three Mayor's Messages from me in the same month, but we have a lot going on that I want to share with you. First, I want to thank all of our citizens who came out to the **Town Hall meeting** with the seven candidates for U.S. Congress, state senate and house seats, and county commission. You wrote great questions for me to ask and listened respectfully to all the candidates' answers, which is certainly more than can be said for much of the political discourse elsewhere of late. I was so proud of our Berkeley Lakers! Many of you said you appreciated the chance to meet these people directly, and the candidates appreciated meeting you, too. I appreciated, as always, our city council members, who all helped. Scott Lee always provides sound equipment and expertise for city events and that is so important. Chip McDaniel and Rebecca Spitler were our very efficient and accurate timekeepers, and Rodney Hammond and Bob Smith gathered, studied and sorted the questions. Lesley Pendleton, principal at the school, was a great hostess. It was a good night. Many thanks to all!



Our next big city event is the **Hometown Heroes Celebration on Saturday, October 27 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM at City Hall.** We are honoring all our police officers who will be there collecting your unneeded prescriptions for proper disposal, and also our own community leaders. Please come by that day for the **drug takeback event** and thank all our hometown heroes. Jill Rice and Tracey Settlege will be providing snacks, and it should be a great day!

**Gwinnett County is celebrating its bicentennial this year and those festivities include a torch run similar to the tradition associated with the Olympics.** The torch will be carried from place to place by young people from local schools, and it comes to our City Hall on October 23, leaving on November 1. However, before that it goes to our local Pinckneyville Community Center on **October 15**, and I want to alert you to **expect traffic delays** on that date from **3:00 PM to 5:30 PM.** **South Berkeley Lake Rd., Buford Highway, and South Old Peachtree** will be affected so you may want to avoid those on the afternoon of October 15.

As you may recall from a previous Mayor’s Message, our city is working on a regular update of its **Comprehensive Plan**. This is a minor update upon the completion of the five-year work program cycle outlined in the 2014 Comprehensive Plan document which can be found on the city’s website at this [link](#). The purpose of this update is to assess the city’s progress on the 2014 work program, determine if there are any significant changes that would affect the plan's stated goals, and set the next 5-year work program. Professional staff from the Atlanta Regional Commission are facilitating the planning process for the city. We appreciate the participation of our homeowner association presidents and other community leaders who recently attended a Steering Committee meeting; and all interested citizens are invited to attend the **Open House and the public hearing with the city council** offered to the public at large. The Open House is coming up on **Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 5:00-7:00 PM** and the public hearing will be **Thursday, November 15, 2018, 8:00 PM**. Both of these events will take place at City Hall. The goal is to have the final plan update document approved by the council at their November 15, 2018 meeting. From there, it will be transmitted to the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for review. If you have any questions about our planning process, please call City Hall.

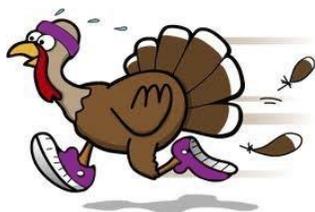
It still seems pretty warm for October and the **snakes** are still out. As it begins to cool, they will gravitate to the residual warmth of the pavement on driveways and streets in the evening. Please continue to be alert for copperheads, and don’t kill the nonpoisonous snakes. They are our best protection against copperheads. In this picture a nonpoisonous black snake is strangling a copperhead which has the characteristic “Hershey kiss” markings down both sides.



You all did a great job bringing school supplies for needy kids recently. Our next collection as it begins to get cold is for **coats** that I can take to the **Norcross Cooperative Ministry**, and **children’s toys** to help Santa out. Please bring any of these needed items to my office at City Hall when you can and enjoy the good feeling it gives you to help someone less fortunate. The Co-op does a great job of getting these things to people who really need them without building dependency. If you prefer to write a tax-deductible check, please make it out to the Norcross Cooperative Ministry.

Here’s one more request for anyone who would like to serve on one of our **city committees**: Finance, Berkeley Lake Conservancy, or Arts committees. There may also be an opening on our Planning and Zoning Commission at some point. If you’re interested in serving on any of these, please let me know.

One of our most outstanding Berkeley Lake businesses, **LAN Systems is having an electronics recycling event with hot dogs and s’mores on October 19**. They kindly invited me, so I asked if I could invite the rest of you. You would all be most welcome to attend! [Here’s how to RSVP.](#)



It’s time again for Berkeley Lake Elementary School's **Turkey Trot and Pancake Breakfast!** It will be on Saturday, November 3, and many of you enjoy this every year. The 4k will begin at 7:30 AM while the 1.5-mile fun run will begin at 8:15 AM with the pancake breakfast to follow immediately after the races. Registration forms are at the school and or register on active.com under BLES Turkey Trot at [this link](#).

Our next **Sunday concert features Carole King favorites, this Sunday, October 14!** 6:00-8:00 PM, lakeside behind the Chapel. To get your tickets and benefit our local schools, go to [this link](#). For questions, call 770-368-2076 or e-mail Debbie Peters at [ak509@bellsouth.net](mailto:ak509@bellsouth.net).

I want to close this Mayor’s Message with a quote from Deke Copenhaver, former mayor of Augusta, triathlete, and businessman. I thought about this a lot in preparing for our recent Town Hall meeting, and I think it’s worth sharing:

“I still believe in the strength of our nation and the yearning of most of America’s citizens to find causes to rally around as opposed to perpetually being led to focus on issues which divide us. I also firmly believe that local governments can, and should, play a major role in moving our nation beyond the hyper-partisan political quagmire we now find ourselves in by setting the example of what true commitment to putting public service above party politics can look like. I’ve often reminded people that at the local level there is no “us” and “them” as at the end of the day there’s only “us”. As our communities rise or fall, we rise or fall together.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lois D. Salter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.