

Mayor's Message to Council
November 15, 2007

I met recently with presidents from homeowner associations to solicit budget requests, suggestions for committee appointments, etc. In view of the recent concerns voiced by some citizens that information about council agendas and issues posted on our website and advertised in the newspaper was insufficient notice for them, I offered to email our council agendas before each meeting in the future to hoa presidents. They liked that idea, and will forward it on to their citizens as they see fit. They said they preferred to receive this kind of information as opposed to emails from other individuals, and I said I would pass that on to everyone.

I have recently attended a meeting at Gwinnett County's water reclamation facility and received the following information with the suggestion that I might pass it on to our citizens (quoting here) "to clear up some misconceptions. Releases are being made from Lake Lanier to meet downstream needs which include a lot more requirements than fish and mussels. Metro Atlanta drinking water is taken from the river below Lake Lanier so releases must be made to meet that need. There is also a minimum required need for a flow to assimilate treated waste water put back in the river by the city of Atlanta and other downstream municipalities. In addition flows are required downstream for a variety of public uses such as drinking water, industrial plants, energy plants (nuclear and coal-fired) as well as the endangered species." The water wars going on around us are mostly beyond the purview of the City, but I did want to pass that on to you as requested.

I have received a request from a citizen to close the greenspace to pedestrians during the extreme drought we are experiencing. His thought is that pedestrians might create a fire hazard. Please consider this and let me know your wishes in this matter.

At our last meeting Council instructed me to ask the BLEMA chairperson if he would streamline and simplify the draft emergency management plan he had submitted to us. I did so and he is working with his committee on that now.

Berkeley Lake's recent Fall Festival was one of the best we've ever had and I'm sure we are all very grateful to the BLOSOMS for planning and coordinating the activities.

As you recall I have asked before for your suggestions for 2008 committee appointments. I just wanted to solicit those again and remind you that I'm currently working on that for next year.