

Mayor's Message

September, 2007



Our city is beginning to develop a **Comprehensive Plan** to envision our goals for the coming years. The first step is to meet with interested citizens and explain the process we expect to use before we proceed. Please join us at the Chapel at **7 PM on Thursday, Sept. 20** to hear more about this. It's very important to have citizen input.

The **city election** planned for next November will not take place because only 1 person qualified for each of the 3 seats open. Your new council members, beginning in January, are Frank Lombardi - former council member and current P&Z commissioner, and Rebecca Spitler - former Miramont president and currently chair of the Berkeley Lake Conservancy and Gwinnett Open Land Trust Boardmember. I will be honored to serve again as your mayor. I regret that more folks weren't willing and able to run for office. Please be on the lookout for anyone that we can begin to encourage for the next time and let me know who that might be. I can appoint them to committees and thus get them into the business of the city at a comfortable pace.

We have received written proposals from 10 architectural firms who are competing to design our new **City Hall**. These will be studied carefully before any choice is made.

For years some of our citizens have enjoyed **walking along the Chattahoochee** below our dam. Now that there are private homes there we have been asked not to do this. People understandably freak out when they see some stranger in their back yard. In fact the developers of River District have hired their own police to patrol the area and arrest trespassers. I would hate for that to happen to someone who was innocently unaware, so I pass it on to you.

I am happy to tell you that all of the **infrastructure** work that was identified years ago has now been completed. The process was professionally monitored throughout to insure an excellent job. I know it has been stressful for homeowners near the various projects, and I do appreciate everyone's patience.

We have a new committee on **Building Process Review** which will study our system as a citizen would encounter it in building something in the city and suggest improvements. Wayne Mitsch is serving as chair and George Sipe as liaison to Council. Members include Irvin Gunter, Bob Herb, Randy Johnson, and Bill Smith.

Having talked with the Ga. Power people about **power outages**, I want to remind our citizens that if someone in your home has a serious health threat and relies on electric equipment to monitor or control it, Ga. Power will prioritize your home to get power resumed before others. If you have a need that may qualify for this emergency priority, please contact Ga. Power and ask to be put on their list.

At one point our city website used to have a forum for citizens to share their recommendations with each other for vendors and services of all kinds. Since that is no longer available, one of our citizens has created a website to provide this. You can check it out at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cobl/> He asks that it not be used to recommend any business in which you or your family has any financial interest. It's not for advertising, just for **sharing recommendations with your neighbors**.

Please report any incidents of crime in our City to me or to our **Chief Police Liaison**, Doug McClure. We keep a very close watch on our public safety and want to know of any incidents, as well as to help when we can. You can reach Doug at 678-858-7184. His email address is dm132001@yahoo.com I recently sent to Council a summation of police incidents for the second quarter. There were only two in those 3 months. One was a young driver who swerved to avoid another car, crashed into the entrance at River Mansions, and did some damage there. No one was hurt and he was not one of our residents. The other incident noted on Lakeshore was not something that actually took place in our city. Doug was trying to help one of our residents who found that someone had gotten information off her driver's license and was trying to open a credit card in her name. He counts this as a fraud, and I put it in the "Other" category.

The Chapel's **Fall Fun Run is Sept. 15th** Join them for some fun on that day.

Fall Earth Day is Saturday, October 13. The trucks for "big trash" will be at City Hall from 9 AM until noon. We will also have a recycler who will take just about everything but car batteries, including computers, etc. Remember this is a service for our citizens only, so bring your proof of residency. Last time we had to turn some folks away. Unfortunately we can't afford to do this for everyone outside our city.

The City's **Fall Festival is Sunday, October 28.** Look for more information soon and contact LeAnne McDaniel if you can volunteer to help on that day.

I have been working with Britt Collins to plan for our **Veterans' Day** celebration in November. If anyone is interested in helping plan for this event, they should contact me or Britt.

You will recall that Patty Thumann who lives in Berkeley Walk has been leading a group of our citizens (parents or not) who are interested in supporting and improving **Berkeley Lake Elementary School**. I have tried to assist her since the success of the school supports our property values. I have talked with all of the following to convey concerns expressed to me about trailers and overcrowding: the school's principal, our school board member, our county commissioner, the school superintendent, and his chief of staff. I believe the best thing those concerned can do, aside from speaking directly with our school board member, is to find a personally satisfying way to support the school. I have identified many avenues for that which I can share. If you would like to help, please contact me or Patty. One example is the Box Tops for Education Program. Box Tops on hundreds of products are worth 10 cents each to the school. Contact Anita Wallace 770-242-6848 or Anita@blespta.org for more information.

Coming soon: a packet of **emergency preparedness information** that will be delivered to each home in Berkeley Lake. September is National Preparedness Month and the City is finalizing work on these but it may be October before you receive them.