



October 8, 2010

The city has still not gotten an answer from FEMA, so we do not know how much money we will ultimately need for **dam repair**. I continue to work on that, but we have reached the time when we are forced to look into bonds to finance repair that will begin in the spring when the design and permitting phases are completed. The meeting on Oct. 3rd was called to discuss an advantageous bond program that I have applied for in which the federal government would subsidize 45% of the city's interest payments. These are stimulus funds that would save us a lot of money if we could get it. Please read the minutes of that council meeting for details. Tom has recorded them in more detail than usual since this is such an important issue. I will also be meeting with homeowner association presidents soon to discuss all this.

We have quite a few events coming up in the city. Please remember **Fall Earth Day** on Saturday October 16th from 9AM to 1PM at City Hall. Advanced Disposal will be on-site to take large household items, but no trees, wet paint or construction debris. Reboot will be here to take your working computer systems, software, phones, cell phones, printers, scanners, fax machines, etc. Roy Crawford takes scrap metal, appliances, lawnmowers, grills, car batteries, etc. Iron Mountain will shred your documents. Remember that this service is only available to Berkeley Lake citizens, so bring picture ID with a BL address.

As in the past we have scheduled a **Citywide Garage Sale** to coincide with Earth Day weekend so you can clean out your house and sell or donate things you no longer need. That's scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Oct. 15-16 from 8AM to 2PM. The City will place newspaper advertisements and put up signs; and individual homeowners who choose to participate can mark their houses as places for customers to stop. The city has arranged for a charity to come by on Saturday afternoon to collect things that did not sell from those who would like to contribute their leftovers to a good cause and get a tax deduction. Just put items at the end of your driveway after 2PM on that Saturday and mark them NSPIRE. Anyone interested in participating should contact Roxanne at City Hall. She will make sure the charity pickup has your address so as not to miss you, but they will pickup from others as well if marked clearly.

The Annual **Berkeley Lake Fall Festival** will again be sponsored by the City of Berkeley Lake and organized by BLOSOMS. It is open to all residents of Berkeley Lake and their guests, but parking is limited so try to come with a neighbor. The event will be held "rain or shine" on Sunday, October 24th at the Chapel. Come enjoy the celebration from 2PM - 4PM. There will be games,

prizes, inflatable jump & slides, face painting, pumpkin painting, candy in the haystack, hot dogs, and music by Scott Lee. Thanks to the BLOSOMS and Scott for all their work to create joy for our children and community fun for our city.

Our city's Arts Committee under the leadership of Carol Seitz is scheduling their next **Art Show** to coincide with Fall Festival, so our citizens can enjoy both on the same day. This show is entitled "Season of Celebrations" and will be held in the Blue Heron Gallery in City Hall. The show's grand opening will be on Sunday, October 24 from 2PM – 4PM, but if you can't join us for the festivities then, it will be on display for a few months afterwards. Don't miss it. As Carol says, "There is always a reason for celebration!"

The Berkeley Lake Track Club has announced the eighth **Fall Fun Run** to raise funds for the Chapel. Runners (and walkers) come on out on Saturday, October 16th. Registration begins at 8AM with the race starting at 8:30AM. The rain date is October 23rd.

Runners will have another event to enjoy when the **BL Elementary School has its Turkey Trot** on Saturday, November 13, at 8:30AM. They'll be running from the school down through Berkeley Walk and back to the school where they'll then enjoy a big Pancake Breakfast. Come out and support the school.

The **public safety presentation** that we had before the Sept. council meeting was really helpful, I thought. The Gwinnett Police crime prevention officer presented a video of a master burglar describing his methods; and the precinct commander and other officers participated in answering citizen questions. They also had a slideshow created with helpful information specific to Berkeley Lake. I've put it on our website for those of you who were unable to attend, so you will get a little bit of what was offered that evening. There was discussion with several of our city security officers who were there as well.

Council Member Jim Donnelly has asked me to emphasize how important **alarm systems** are, both for preventing fires and burglaries. Few of us realize that a fire doubles in size every three minutes.

Please remember to **update your email address** with City Hall to keep *Mayor's Messages* and other city information coming to you. If your email address changes, just call to let us know, and you may want to make sure your spam filter is letting it through.

Our feature in this edition of **Gene's frequently enforced ordinances** focuses on necessary permits. Heating & Air Conditioning Permits and inspection are required for any heating and air installation, alteration or renovation, including furnace replacement and air condenser unit replacement. Plumbing Permits and inspection are required for any plumbing installation, alteration or renovation, including water service line replacement and water heater replacement. See our ordinance Chapter 14, Section 2 for additional information on both of these.

Congratulations to Miramont! They recently collected 65 bags of food for the Norcross Co-operative Ministry under the leadership of Kaye Berg and Kim Berry. NCM is a faith-based, non-

profit, ecumenical ministry dedicated to providing emergency assistance to families in our area. It's supported by twenty-three local churches and numerous businesses, civic and social organizations, foundations, and individuals. I'm told that food banks are struggling to meet real needs in these difficult times and I urge you to help this one if you can. You can donate food, clothes, toys, small appliances, or your time since NCM is run by volunteers. Their address is 2275 Mitchell Rd, Norcross, 30071.

Sis D. Alter