



November 19, 2012

Many of you have noticed the **street repairs** we have begun to Lakeshore Drive and Little Ridge Road. A 1/3 mile section of Lakeshore Drive, between #265 and #370, has been milled and cracks sealed in preparation for paving which should be completed very shortly. We are also repairing and patching potholes, tree roots, edge undermining and other problems in a larger area. Please be careful along these roads until work is finished.

I am pleased to report that we have negotiated a drop in the interest rate which the city pays on the greenspace bond down to 2.05% which will **save the city more than \$150,000**.

Congratulations to Miramont subdivision which has been chosen by the Gwinnett County Police Department as their Master Community of the Year. That is quite an honor and it derives from their participation in the COPS program. COPS stands for Community Oriented Police Service and involves improving education and communication among residents of participating neighborhoods in an effort to minimize crime of any kind in the area. It also involves getting to know the community's local police representatives to build trust and rapport for the benefit of all. I would especially like to recognize and thank Robin Sansone, the Miramont resident who leads this effort for the neighborhood. She works with 10 block captains throughout their subdivision, and I'm hopeful that other neighborhoods will consider a similar effort.

I met with City Homeowner Association Presidents on October 25 to discuss current issues and to solicit from them suggestions of leaders within their neighborhoods who might be willing to serve the City on one of our **citizen committees** in 2013. It's a good way to get to know your neighbors and to have some impact on things that affect us all. If you would be willing to serve on the Arts Advisory Committee, the Berkeley Lake Conservation Emergency Management



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, or the Finance Committee, please let me know. You can find more information about these groups on the [Committees](#) page of our website.

During the Thanksgiving Holiday, stop by City Hall for the **Art Show opening Sunday, November 25th from 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM**. The Blue Heron Gallery will feature the artwork of city resident Britt Taylor Collins, "The Veterans' Artist." Come and see original oil paintings, giclee prints, and fine art photography that span the years from World War II to present day operations. Britt's work may also be viewed at www.bootsonthegroundART.com and this show will remain in City Hall until mid-January, 2013. Pictured above is a group of veterans gathered around one of Britt's works.

Since we've just celebrated Veteran's Day I want to thank Steve and Carol Seitz and all those who help with the **memorial crosses**. The City pays for them, but like so much else this wouldn't happen without the work of dedicated volunteers.

I want to thank everyone who supported all the community activities we've had recently including the Turkey Trot, and the BLHA Fall Festival. I was able to get the commander of our local police precinct and his wife who is also a police officer to attend the Fall Festival and introduce them to some of our citizens who were there. It's helpful to build those relationships with the officers who protect and serve us. They both told me what I already know: that we are very lucky to live in Berkeley Lake. That was especially evident in the "Can Do" food drive that Diane Cuttino continues to lead so well for us to benefit the local food co-op. She and her helpers collected 178 bags of food and toiletry items, and one of our citizens donated a check for \$300 to help heat homes and pay for other necessities. Thanks also to Roxanne Egan who organizes Earth Day for us and Lou Mitchum who helped out on that day.



progress now as we're rebuilding the **dam**.

You can certainly see a lot of visible progress. Huge amounts of dirt have been trucked in and every bit of it has been checked by geotechnical engineers (not just our contractors) and certified as approved for this project. The contractors are working hard to stay on schedule, and when I met with them last week they said they will work Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving which they had hoped to take off. They've worked many Saturdays and I occasionally take them homemade cookies on weekends. They laugh about me trading cookies for dirt, but I really appreciate how hard they're pushing this effort, and I know you do as well. During the week of November 26-30 they have booked Aquatic Environmental to come and kill the remaining fish with a chemical called rotenone. That will allow BLHA to get a healthy balance of fish restarted when we begin to refill the lake. We are preparing a written appeal to Tom Woosley of Georgia Safe Dams to allow us to begin refilling the lake as soon as the piezometers are installed and base readings obtained from them. You will begin to see grass sod installed on the lower part of the dam in early December.

Your City Council has voted unanimously to **annex** the Hermitage Plantation subdivision into our city. This was recommended to us by the outside professional city planner who did the research for our Comprehensive Plan. As you recall the annexations we completed last year allowed us to cut our millage

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rate in half, and it would be great if we could lower it further. Economies of scale and the SPLOST funds that come with additional population as well as a larger voice with officials beyond our city are all significant. We will be sending a letter to every home in Hermitage about this and the Council will hold a public hearing and vote again on the issue in December. It is unanimously supported by our homeowner association presidents as well.

Having heard from some citizens who are concerned about **traffic violators**, I arranged with Gwinnett Police that they would make us a "special op" site for extra enforcement with particular attention to stop sign runners, speeders, and mailbox bashers. They can't keep this up forever, but for a while we've had this extra attention. That, of course, means that some of us have been the ones who got ticketed. We're now being patrolled by not only cars but motorcycles, which can more easily park in less visible spots to catch violators.

I got a call from one of the local businesses that was featured in the Mayor's *Message* last issue saying his business showed a marked increase immediately after that came out from customers who said they read it. I hope we will all continue to **support our Berkeley Lake businesses**. Here are three more to remember.

[Todd S. Afferica, DDS, 770.449.1497](#) – Dr. Afferica is celebrating 20 years in dentistry in the metro Atlanta area. This is a family-oriented general dental practice that also offers cosmetic dentistry and Velscope (oral cancer screenings). They say they are thrilled to be practicing in their lovely new office here in Berkeley Lake.

[Sai Fresh Foods, 404.448.4724](#) – is an Indian grocery store which sells fresh vegetables (Georgia grown), Georgia peanuts, lentils, spices, frozen entrees, curries, sweets, biscuits, snacks, juices, breads, etc. Go by and introduce yourselves to Urmila Penakalapati and V. Jambulapati, the owners.

[Christian Building Inspectors, Inc., 770.849.0920](#), – is a full service residential and light commercial inspection company. Owner Rod Harrison has over 23 years experience as an inspector and is International Code Council Certified.

The Women's United States Basketball Association (WUSBA) has joined forces with the U.S Marine Corps to have fun and collect canned foods and toys for kids in December. A series of basketball games will be held at old Norcross High School (Give West) located at 2595 Beaver Ruin Road, Norcross, Georgia on December 2, December 9 and December 16, 2012. Each fan who purchases an adult ticket for \$5 and brings ten canned goods or a new unwrapped toy or a \$5.00 donation will receive a raffle ticket, a coupon for a free round of concessions (sandwich or pizza slice, chip or popcorn, a candy bar and a drink) plus a free ticket to a future 2012-13 WUSBA Winter Basketball regular season game. The Marines will be there collecting toys, and raffle prizes include a trip to Disney World, a cruise to the Bahamas, Schwinn ten-speed bicycles, Longhorn Steakhouse Family Feasts, Papa John's Pizzas, and many more. Our own outstanding athlete Marilyn Childress, who is a member of the Georgia Soccer Hall of Fame, will be there on December 2 to serve as an Honorary Coach. For further info, see [WUSBA Can Slam-Toy Fest Schedule](#).

Happy



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I always enjoy the efforts made by our neighbors to beautify their homes and landscapes like this one at 802 Lakeshore. I can't wait to see the Christmas lights!

Lis D. Alter