

October 4, 2021

On Saturday, October 16 from 10 to 11 AM our city will hold a drive-through Electronics Recycling Event and Drug Takeback at City Hall. You can conveniently drive down behind our City Hall and hand

off computers, phones, etc. that you no longer need to me or to our City Marshal Rob Hiller. Old prescriptions and drugs will be collected by a police officer who will join us that day and dispose of them safely. The electronics will be delivered to New Life Technology Group, a nonprofit that recycles technology and redistributes them to kids in need of devices for school. You can also drop off non-



perishable food items for the Neighborhood Cooperative Ministries that day. Everybody who comes will leave with a sweet treat. I hope to see you there!

If you have hard-to-recycle items like tires, latex paint, etc. you can get rid of that stuff at Coolray Field on **November 6** when Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful celebrates <u>America Recycles Day</u>. It will be held from **9AM until noon on that Saturday, rain or shine**.



Susan Hanson, Chair of our Berkeley Lake
Conservancy, reports that the Great Georgia
Pollinator Census was recently completed for its
third year. The Georgia Extension Service promotes
this program to understand and advance pollinator
health because they are necessary for almost all
the foods we eat. Pollinators include bees, wasps,
flies, and butterflies, but not yellow jackets. Susan
conducted a count for us at the small pollinator
garden at City Hall. The plant that was most visited
was the native mountain mint, Pycnanthemum
incanum. It does not have a showy flower, but the
bees love it. This year she saw no honeybees, 5
native bees, 28 wasps, and 2 small butterflies.
There are many native trees and shrubs in the City

that are visited by pollinators, like the ones in our Henderson Nature Sanctuary near the spillway: sumac, basswood, devil's walking stick, and witch hazel. Flowers are needed by pollinators spring, summer, and fall and Susan urges us, "Do Not Spray for mosquitoes!!! An insecticide that kills mosquitoes will also kill butterflies and bees and all pollinators."

As the leaves start to fall, I want to remind you please to refrain from raking or blowing leaves, grass clippings, or yard debris into drainage ditches and roadways. That can result in clogged storm drains causing localized flooding and property damage. If leaves and other yard debris don't clog storm drains

but instead flow through the drainage system into our waterways, the health of our streams and lake is adversely impacted. You can blow leaves and yard debris into natural areas (under shrubs or in the woods) on your property. Fallen leaves make good mulch; they help hold moisture for growing plants and shrubs and prevent erosion of bare soil. Alternatively, bagged leaves, grass clippings and yard debris can be set out for collection and disposal by Waste Management.

The fall time change is coming Sunday,
November 7. As always Julie Huntington and
her valiant volunteers will be out collecting
for Berkeley Lake's usual time-change food
drive. Please leave your bags of nonperishable food at your mailbox no later
than 1PM Sunday, November 7. Julie &
company will pick up your bags and deliver
them to Neighborhood Cooperative
Ministries, which is a great steward of your
donations. They need our help, so please
don't forget on that day!



You may have noticed that **our nearby Gwinnett Public Library has moved to a new location recently in Duluth.** It's now in a brand new and bigger building at 3180 Main Street, between Duluth's City Hall and the railroad tracks. Last week Mayor Nancy Harris took me on a tour and pointed out some unusual art



installations. There's a functioning beehive built into a glass window in such a way that bees enter from outside and library visitors can watch their busy inner workings from inside. There's also this aerial view of our local part of the Chattahoochee with each tree made of different bits of living moss. They have to water it regularly up on the wall. Pretty cool. I think it's worth a visit to see this stuff, especially if you have kids.

I have written to you before about the tremendous changes that are coming to our area with the development of **Rowen**, the "knowledge community" that is expected to create 80,000 to 100,000 jobs on 2000 acres of rural land which has been bought in eastern Gwinnett. To update you: the nonprofit Rowen Foundation has been formed to manage this huge project, and they have hired the former president and COO of Research Triangle Park in North Carolina. Rowen, about three times the size of UGA's entire campus, will be the state's largest employment center focusing on agriculture, medicine, and the environment. It will obviously have a tremendous impact on our county but also on all of northeast Georgia.

Enjoy the fall weather in our beautiful city. Take good care of yourselves, and each other.

Lois D. Satter