



October
13th 2026



GCPD at previous Recycling & Drug Take Back Day.

Recycling & Drug Take Back Day

Saturday, October 24 — 10:00 AM until Noon

Mark your calendars for our Recycling and Drug Take Back event on **October 24, from 10:00 until noon**. This is a wonderful opportunity to responsibly dispose of unwanted items and help keep our community and environment clean.

Our metal recycler will accept most anything made of steel, copper, aluminum, or brass. For the Drug Take Back, our friends at the **Gwinnett County Police Department** will be on hand to collect unused and expired medications — free, with no questions asked. Full details on accepted items are below.

Metal Recycling — We'll take:

TVs, printers, phones, refrigerators & freezers, washers & dryers, water heaters, microwaves, dishwashers, air conditioner units, metal signage, lawn mowers, gym equipment, junk cars, trailers, small aluminum or metal jon boats, car parts, piping, outdoor furniture, grills, car batteries, DVD players, VCRs, gaming systems, sink faucets & fittings, cabinet knobs, computers, wire, old cords & wiring - and most anything else made of steel, copper, aluminum, or brass.

We cannot take:

No fluorescent bulbs, no paint, and no construction materials.

Please remember this is for our citizens' household waste only, not businesses. For hard-to-recycle items, Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful is a wonderful resource at gwinnettcg.org.

Prescription Drug Take Back

Gwinnett PD will accept tablets, capsules, patches, and other prescription drugs. No liquids, syringes, or sharps.

Early Voting Begins October 13

Early voting for federal, state, and county elections begins **October 13th**. Election Day is **November 3rd**. I try never to go vote for anything until I have studied the ballot in advance. You can do this as well as get other information at <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov>.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dedication of Bernie's Woods

Please join us for a special occasion in our community. On **Sunday, October 18 at 2:00 PM**, we will gather to unveil the newly erected signs in the woods formerly known as the Greenspace — now officially named and dedicated as **Bernie's Woods**. I will share a few words about Bernie, in whose honor and memory these woods are named. All citizens are warmly welcome to attend this meaningful dedication. We will **meet at the trail entrance off Ridge Rd**, about 200 feet from N Berkeley Lake Rd, near the trail signage posts.

Fall Gardening at Berkeley Lake

We have some wonderful Master Gardeners in Berkeley Lake. On **Thursday, October 29th at 7 PM** in City Hall, they will share information and answer your questions regarding:

- Preparing your landscape for the Fall
- Vegetable Gardening tips for the Fall and Winter Season
- What to plant now for Winter and Spring Enjoyment

This program will be hosted by the Berkeley Lake Conservancy Committee. Hope to see you there.

Fall Food & Household Goods Drive

On **Sunday, November 1**, Julie Huntington and her happy band of volunteers will be collecting non-perishable food and household goods for the local food co-ops. You know the drill. You are always so generous when we do this twice a year. Please get your stuff out that day **by 1 PM** for pickup.



Berkeley Lake Blood Drive

I am always so grateful to the members of our community who invest their time and energy arranging for our Berkeley Lake Blood Drive. It is such an important contribution to the health of our community.

Please join them at our Chapel on

Saturday, November 14, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM and save some lives.

Help Families Keep Their Pets

If children or adults in Berkeley Lake would like to help families in need keep and care for their pets, there are 2 local programs that rely on donations of dog, cat, and rabbit food as well as bedding and toys. Sue Swanson has kindly offered to pick up and deliver donations to whichever organization people would like to help.

Gwinnett Animal Welfare Center Pet Food Assistance Program: Short-term, community-funded free pet food distribution is available for eligible residents experiencing temporary financial hardship through mobile distributions or the animal center.

Planned PETHood of Georgia: Offers community resources and a Pets in Crisis Support Program serving Gwinnett County to help keep families and pets together during major temporary hardships. You can reach Sue to arrange pickup at zca8@msn.com or just leave your donations at City Hall in my office.

Thank you for your help with this!

BERKELEY LAKE LENS -AUGUST WINNER



"Lunch" - Karen Quin.



Karen (center) receives her prize at City Hall.

Karen Quin attracts a lot of winged visitors. She brought this hungry Monarch to her yard by planting purple butterfly bushes. Each spring she offers a lakeside nest to a mother goose and her goslings. Recently she even hosted a full-sized bald eagle! We recently celebrated Karen with flowers from my garden and a generous donation from Windsor Realty to her chosen charity — the Lake Berkeley Chapel.

You can see Karen's winning photo (and her 2024 winner) at berkeleylakelens.com. Check out all your neighbors' pictures, add your comments, and enter your own Berkeley Lake photos.



America Recycles Day – Saturday, November 7th

Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful hosts their annual America Recycles Day event on Saturday, November 7 at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. From 9:00 AM to noon, residents can drop off items that are typically more difficult to recycle, such as electronics, tires, clothing, sneakers, and latex and oil-based paints. Paper shredding will also be available onsite. Here are some things to remember before you go:

- Paper shredding is limited to five copier paper boxes
- Oil and latex paint will be accepted and limited to 10 gallons per vehicle (paint cans must contain 25% wet paint). No rusted cans will be accepted.
- Tires without rims are limited to eight tires per vehicle; no dealer tires
- Electronics recycling fees for TVs, monitors and printers

Project Lifesaver

Do you have a family member with a cognitive disorder, such as Alzheimer's disease or autism, who is at risk of wandering? If so, you should know about Project Lifesaver. It's a national proactive, electronic tracking program used to assist in locating people with cognitive disorders who may become lost and endangered. Enrolled participants wear a small transmitter on their wrist that emits an individualized signal. If they were to go missing, when you contact 911, the Gwinnett Police and the Office of Emergency Management's specially trained team will use the participant's individualized frequency to locate them. Search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes. In over 4,000 searches nationwide, time to locate the participant averages less than 30 minutes. To learn more or enroll a loved one, contact the Gwinnett County Police Community Affairs unit at PDCommunityAffairs@GwinnettCounty.com.

LIVING WITH OUR WILDLIFE



Deer at home in the Berkeley Lake.

Please Don't Use Pellet Guns on Deer

Recently it's come to light that some residents may be shooting deer with pellet guns to scare them away from landscaping.

While we understand the frustration with damaged yards, we kindly ask that everyone stop using pellet guns for a few important reasons:

Food Safety & Lead Hazard: Deer in our area are harvested and consumed by local families, as well as donated to community food pantries. Lead pellets may embed deep within the meat and are hard to detect during processing, creating a dangerous food risk for anyone eating the venison.

It Does Not Work as a Deterrent: Pellet guns do not keep deer away. Deer have tough hides and high pain tolerance; a pellet merely punctures the skin without discouraging the herd from returning.

It Causes Unnecessary Suffering: The pellets remain trapped in the flesh, causing painful abscesses, chronic infections, and sick animals.

If you are dealing with landscape damage and want effective, humane solutions, there are proven alternatives that may work. Please consider connecting with the BL Wildlife Advisory committee website <https://www.blbeacon.com/wildlife/index.shtml> for guidance on ethical population management and effective property protection.

Thank you for helping keep our community, food supply, and local wildlife safe and healthy!

A Welcome Visitor: The Virginia Opossum

The Virginia opossum is one of the few animals in North America that routinely eats venomous snakes and survives the bites. A protein in its blood has mutated to combat pit viper venom, giving the opossum roughly a hundredfold increase in resistance over any other mammal its size. In 1977, researchers injected opossums with 60 times the dose of rattlesnake venom known to kill a dog of similar weight. They monitored them for 30 days. Nothing happened. The widely repeated claim that a single opossum eats 5,000 ticks per season came from a 2009 Cary Institute study. So anything that gets rid of poisonous snakes and ticks is a welcome visitor in Berkeley Lake. If you see one, please allow them to continue their good work.



GRATITUDE TO OUR COMMUNITY



Neighbors gathered for the 9/11 memorial walk.

Thank You for the Turnout On the 9/11 Walk

Many thanks to all of you who came on September 11 to commemorate and honor the 1st responders who lost their lives on that day 25 years ago.

Neighbors enjoyed the walk and that time together, as well as the homemade cookies back at City Hall.

20 Birdhouses, Built by Our Scouts

I have enjoyed working with this group of Scouts (and a few dads), who built and installed 20 bird houses around our city.

A lot of work went into this project, and we are all indebted to **Margaret Bergeron, chairperson of our Berkeley Lake Conservancy**, who has supported them in all their efforts.



A Remarkable Gathering on the Budget

One of the most interesting gatherings in our city recently was a meeting to which all Gwinnett mayors and chief staff persons were invited, as well as some other outstanding community leaders in various fields. The speakers were **a former Member of Congress and a former Comptroller General of the USA**. A lively and at times astonishing discussion ensued about our national budget deficit, and several mayors have since asked if there might be some way they could share what they heard that day. You can access a voice record of that meeting at [here](#).



Lois D. Salter
Mayor, City of Berkeley Lake