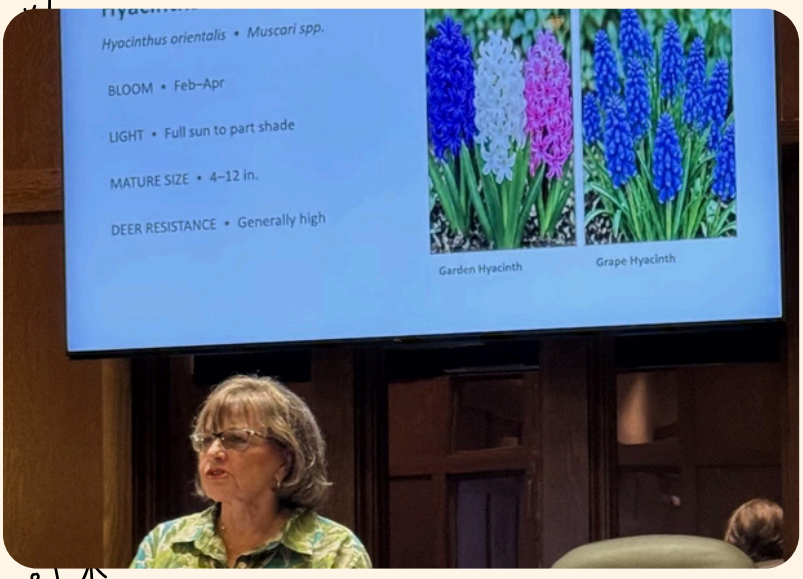
Berkeley Lake the City of Lake — Mayor's Message

November 18th 2026



Residents fill City Hall for the Master Gardeners' fall gardening program.



Margaret Bergeron shares bulbs for early spring color.

A Phenomenal Outpouring of Kindness

I want to thank all the people who have worked so hard this last month as community volunteers:

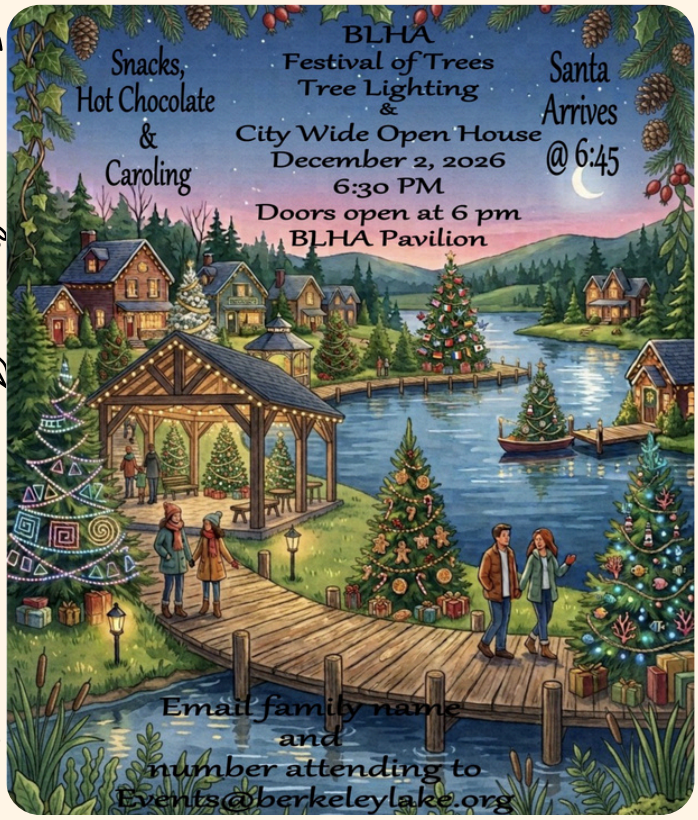
- the pick up of **food and household goods** for the local co-op
- the blood drive to help the **Red Cross**
- the **Berkeley Lake Good Guys** who manage the city's flags and crosses that honor our veterans
- the **Master Gardeners of the Berkeley Lake Conservancy** who had such a great turnout of citizens to hear about fall gardening
- and their leader **Margaret Bergeron** who kindly assisted a troop of Scouts in building and erecting 20 bird houses around our city.

That is a pretty phenomenal outpouring of kindness and generosity from our small city.

Public Hearing: UDO & City Budget

As you know our city has worked for over two years now to update the zoning and development regulations of the City in one unified development ordinance (UDO). I am proud of all the efforts that have been made to involve as many of you as possible in this very important project, and relieved that we are finally coming to some consensus as we near the end of all this work! **Tomorrow night (Nov. 19)** is yet another chance for citizen input. The city council, after studying recommendations from the planning and zoning commission, will hold another public hearing on not only the UDO but also on our city budget. You are welcome to join us at **8 PM in City Hall** for these important considerations. Review the draft UDO and related documents **here.**

MORE TO COME!



Festival of Trees

To help us get ready for this holiday season the BLHA folks are hosting the whole city, not just their members, at a "Festival of Trees" event at **6:30 PM (doors open at 6 PM) on December 2 in the BLHA Pavilion.** There will be a parade of Christmas trees sponsored and/or decorated by members of our community. I'm looking forward to this event and hope to see you there. Here is further information.

Play Santa for Local Kids

As I do every year at this time, I am also calling on those of you who want to play Santa Claus for some needy kids. This holiday season you can help our police officers in their efforts to spread joy to local children. They are collecting **new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls ages 3 to 15.** Toys should be valued at **$10 or more.** Please bring them to **City Hall no later than December 10** so I can get them delivered to our local police officers. The officers really enjoy this and appreciate the help from us.





Help Families Keep Their Pets

Sue Swanson is continuing her collection of pet food and supplies to support the local animal shelter and to help people keep their pets at home when money becomes a difficult issue for them. Please continue to bring pet food, beds, toys, etc. to City Hall, or directly to Sue if you prefer.

CITY PROJECTS UPDATE

Projects That Benefit All of Us

Our city staff has been busy working on some projects that will benefit all of us. We had an engineer study the feasibility of **adding pedestrian infrastructure around Lakeshore Drive.** As you probably know this is limited due to various constraints, including right-of-way availability and topography. This analysis also evaluates the feasibility of adding a sidewalk to Little Ridge and Ridge Roads.

We have also completed the **re-paving project in Miramont and Habersham** as well as repair work around the intersection of Lakeshore Drive and Little Ridge Road. The final cost of that project was **$459,812.17.**

The **2026 stormwater project** to repair infrastructure in Berkeley Commons and Berkeley Walk is underway and should be complete by the end of the year.

THE MARSHALS' ROUNDUP



Electronics kept out of the landfill.



GCPD's M.D. Forrester and City Marshal Rob Hiller at the Drug Take Back.

Thanks to our **City Marshals** for their successful day of electronics recycling and drug take back. Look at all the stuff we kept out of the landfill!

Here's another reminder from them that hopefully will be helpful to all of our citizens: **Please remember that a permit is required if a structure is being replaced, even if in the exact same footprint.** To that I would add my perennial reminder: it's always easy to call City Hall and get clear advice before beginning any kind of project. **770 368-9484**

BERKELEY LAKE LENS -SEPTEMBER WINNER



Randy Riser's winning photo.



Randy Riser receives flowers from Mayor Lois Salter at City Hall.

From Dov Jacobson and the LENS group:

Patience pays off! In his youth, Randy Riser was a busy local newspaper and TV news photographer who chased his subjects all over the Carolinas and Georgia.

Now, after several other careers, Randy relaxes in Berkeley Lake and lets his subjects come to him. This young hawk perched on his gutter and demanded a close-up.

Randy was the first photographer to join Berkeley Lake Lens, so this win was long overdue. He received flowers from the Mayor, with whom he shared horticulture tips, and a cash prize from Windsor Realty which he donated to The American Cancer Society. See more great photos by Randy and others at **BerkeleyLakeLens.com**, and submit your photos.

GRATITUDE TO OUR COMMUNITY

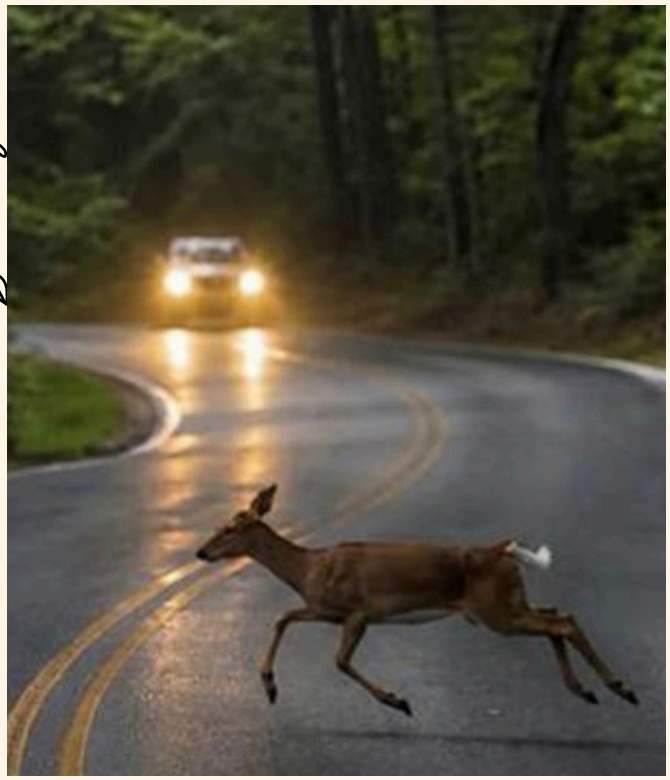


Bernie's Woods Is Dedicated

On Sunday, October 18 we gathered to unveil the newly erected signs in the forest formerly known as the Greenspace — now officially named and dedicated as Bernie's Woods to honor Bernie Cohen. His wife, Faye Harwell did the unveiling and as you can see, a good time was had by all.



LIVING WITH OUR WILDLIFE & LAND



Rutting Season: Drive With Care

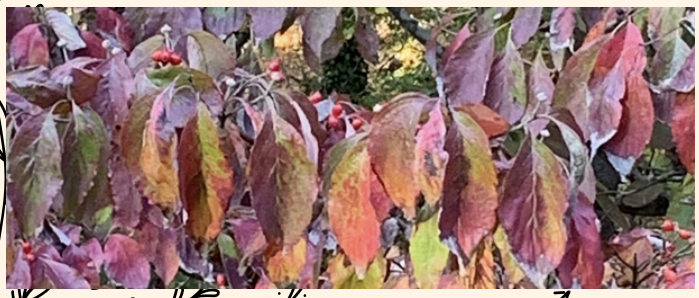
The deer rutting (mating) season typically spans from October through December, peaking in November. During this period, deer activity and unpredictable behavior increase dramatically, making it the most dangerous time of year for deer-vehicle collisions. **Please be especially careful when driving, especially early morning and late afternoon.**

If you find a dead animal, please notify Gwinnett Animal Control.
(770) 339-3200 · Email: DeadAnimalRemoval@GwinnettCounty.com
The animal must be placed along the street's curb to be picked up.

Keep Leaves Out of Ditches & Drains

Our fall leaves in Berkeley Lake are really beautiful, but as they fall, I want to remind you to **refrain from raking or blowing leaves, grass clippings, or yard debris into drainage ditches and roadways.** Leaves and other yard debris 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, rivers and lakes is adversely impacted. Leaves and yard debris can be blown 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.







Lois D. Salter

Mayor, City of Berkeley Lake