

SMOKE SIGNAL



VOLUME 53, ISSUE 6

Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

September, 2020

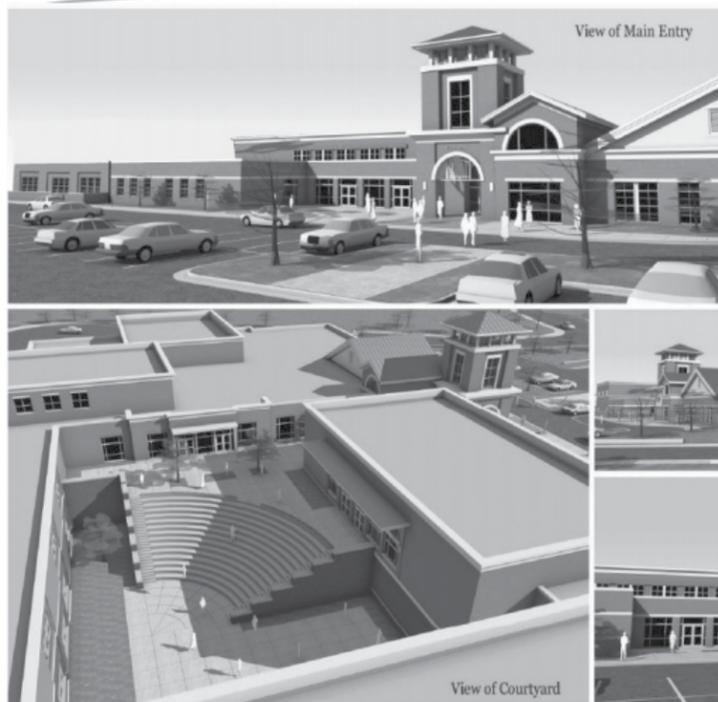
www.smokesignalnews.com

Happy Fall!

Autumn 2020 in the Northern Hemisphere begins on Tuesday, September 22
Stay Safe and Happy!



PROPOSED SMOKE RISE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



According to the DeKalb County School District Communications Department, our new Smoke Rise Elementary School is scheduled to open in August 2021.

Smoke Rise is one of our newer prototype elementary schools. This design provides a split level courtyard, abundant natural light,

classroom and common spaces and classroom square footages in excess of GA DoE requirements.

The new building will have a science lab with a door to the courtyard, a large gym and cafeteria with a stage for performances. The school also will have additional safety measures such as controlled entry via vestibule. Outside, the students will have two play areas with play equipment and field space.

(See the article on page 5 for more information about the new elementary school!)

Look inside for...

Tucker Talent Showcase..... pg 4
 Lilburn Co-op Update pg 6
 Do You Figure It's a Chigger?..... pg 8
 Wildlife in Smoke Rise..... pg 11

Tucker's Citizen of the Month

By Susan Gilbert

The August *InTucker* magazine featured our very own Frank Luton as the Citizen of the Month, recognizing his many contributions to our city and our community. His fellow *Smoke Signal* staffers wanted to add our appreciation for who he is and all he does by sharing his story here.

Frank's wife, Barbara Luton, has been a devoted staff writer for the *Smoke Signal* for many years, covering topics like the Stone Mountain Women's Club, the local libraries and various charitable causes. Seeing that we always need fresh, new material and help managing the business aspects of the paper, Frank stepped up several years ago and offered to help. The most pressing need was for someone to help manage our advertisers. Without them, we'd have no paper, because ad revenue covers the cost of designing, printing, bagging, and delivering the 2,300 papers every month.



Frank Luton

An avid walker, Frank can be seen out and about in our community at all times of the day. During these walks, he documents his surroundings in photographs and reports fascinating and unusual items in the *Smoke Signal*.

My favorite Frank story happened on a dreary morning with rain coming down so hard the windshield wipers couldn't keep up. Late for an appointment at a home on Minute Court, I slowed and carefully navigated around someone's garbage can that had rolled out into the middle of the intersection blocking two-way traffic. As I maneuvered around it, never thinking of doing anything about it, I noticed a car ahead of me had stopped just through the intersection. Someone was donning rain gear and bravely venturing out in the roadway to move the obstruction. That was Frank.

Some people retire looking for rest and relaxation, sitting on a beach sipping cold beverages. Not so for our neighbor Frank. Once he retired from his management position with Bell South, he started his own consulting firm helping companies develop new ideas and think outside their comfort zones. One of his methods was taking groups rock climbing in the Rockies to get them out of their corporate environments.

Almost 20 years ago, when his Smoke Rise neighbors banded together to create an 18-hole golf course and country club on 175-acres of rolling hills the

...continued on page 3

We Need YOU!

Smoke Rise - this is YOUR paper! The Smoke Signal began more than 50 years ago and remains, to this day, a community newspaper created, written and produced by volunteer, Smoke Rise neighbors for the entire neighborhood.

PLEASE consider becoming a contributor, editor or joining our staff. It's a rewarding way to give back to your Smoke Rise community! Contact us today. staff@smokesignalnews.com

Tucker Distributes Thousands of Face Masks through Mail Service

In an effort to continue to protect the community from the spread of the coronavirus, the City of Tucker acquired an additional 21,000 masks to be distributed to residents and businesses. Any Tucker resident seeking a mask can get a pack mailed to them by registering via phone, email or the city website.

"In our previous mask giveaways, we drew huge crowds and long lines, something we are trying to avoid this time around," said Assistant City Manager John McHenry, who is overseeing the program. "This time, we are excited to allow folks to register from the comfort of their homes, and a few days later, their masks will arrive in their mailboxes."

"This is all part of Tucker's #maskmovement campaign, as we strongly encourage the use of masks for the protection of our citizens and the community."

You can sign up to receive a face mask at www.tuckerga.gov/masks or by emailing your contact information to masks@tuckerga.gov. You can also call (678) 597-9040, to speak with a representative.

Tucker has been at the forefront of the mask movement, already distributing 13,000 face coverings to residents, restaurants and care facilities across the city. This new batch of masks will be split between medical grade and disposable masks. Applicants can choose which type of mask they want to receive. On the web at: www.tuckerga.gov/masks/





Smoke Signal

P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085
 A non-profit service organization devoted to furthering neighborhood cooperation with the aid of good neighborhood communication.

Editorial Committee... Cheri Schneider.....(770) 717-9914
 *AvivA Hoffmann.... helloaviva@hotmail.com
 * This Issue's Editor-in-Chief
 Recording SecretarySusan Gilbertsgilbert@apogee.net
 Corresponding Secretary ..Barbara Bruschi.....(770) 934-4644
 Treasurer.....Harry Strack(770) 365-9381
 Classified Ads.....Harry Strack(770) 365-9381
 Display Ads.....Harry Strack(770) 365-9381
 Church News.....Susan Gilbertsgilbert@apogee.net
 Health NewsCheri Schneider, M.D.(770) 717-9914
 Flyer InsertsBarbara Luton.....(770) 491-6711
 Recipes and Home.....Joyce Ray(770) 491-9015
 Social MediaPat Soltys(770) 573-9715
 News You Can Use.....AvivA Hoffmann helloaviva@hotmail.com
 Staff Writers.....Rene Boven.....(770) 905-5404
 Joel Gilbert
 Susan Gilbert.....(404) 312-8328
 Joyce Ray.....(770) 491-9015
 Pat Soltys.....(770) 573-9715
 Barbara Bruschi(770) 934-4644
 DistributionLaura Smith.....(770) 934-7595
 DeliveryMorgan Taylor and Charlie Smith

Views and/or opinions expressed in articles, stories or letters published in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the Smoke Signal or its staff. The information contained in it is believed to be accurate, but not warranted in any way. It is the policy of the Smoke Signal to publish signed letters to the Editor. We will not publish unsigned letters, but will withhold the writer's name upon request. All content may be edited.

Preferred Formats for Smoke Signal Submissions

When sending articles and photos to the *Smoke Signal*, it is helpful if articles could be sent in .doc or .docx format. Articles sent in .pdf format cannot be edited or changed in any way. Also photos sent in .jpg format can easily be opened and formatted to fit a particular space, so that is also a preferred method. Thanks for helping us make your neighborhood paper the best it can be!

The *Smoke Signal* is posted to www.smokesignalnews.com the first of each month. Go to the "Smoke Signal Digital" link. You'll also find the link posted to the *Smoke Signal News* Facebook page each month with posting of pictures and stories throughout the month. For questions, contact Pat Soltys at pat@smokeriseagents.com.

Smoke Signal Deadlines

SEPTEMBER 13

Please e-mail articles to:

staff@smokesignalnews.com

(Word documents or text file attachments preferred)
 PLEASE DO NOT SEND CLASSIFIED ADS TO THIS E-MAIL ADDRESS

Extra copies may be picked up at The Smoke Rise Community Garden on Hugh Howell Rd.

Deadline for classified ads is SEPTEMBER 10

SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

Cost: \$150 by check to *Smoke Signal*
 Deadline to Receive: 6:00 p.m. on 19th of month
 Flyer inserts should be 8 1/2" x 11" (flat, not folded)
 Please provide 2,300 copies
 Reservation Required:
 Contact Barbara Luton, (770) 491-6711 by 15th of month.

"Like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews or visit our website at www.smokesignalnews.com Link to the digital version of the *Smoke Signal* at <http://eepurl.com/pjn4v> or scan this QR Code with your smart phone!



Letter to the Editor:

From a Smoke Rise Neighbor

I've been dealing with an issue for more than three years! The issue is a stray dog that I saw one day sitting at the end of the cul-de-sac on Marthasville Court. I spoke with the man who claimed, "It's just the neighborhood dog." Yet the dog was sitting in his driveway unleashed, as if he belongs there. This dog constantly walks onto my property and leaves his waste and his fleas behind. I'm concern he's not leashed. In eight years of having my rescue dogs, who are Shit-zu they have never had FLEAS. NEVER. So, I guess I had been lucky until now.

My home has been infested with fleas for the past three weeks. I had to remove and throw out my carpet, throw out both dog beds, throw out my couch which I had only purchased six months prior. I also had to throw out some clothing and now have to replace items. I've treated my house and yard and am still treating it, which is expensive. And, this stray dog is still leaving his waste and more fleas behind. The morning I wrote this letter, I stepped in huge chunks of waste belonging to a dog. It was not from my dogs.

Yes, it's no one's affairs if I'm infested or bitten up nightly with fleas in my home. But, if I'm following my neighborly rules of picking up my dog's waste, leashing my dog or keeping my dogs off your yard, then I feel everyone with dogs or cats needs to do the same. I want to get the word out in the neighborhood, so that if anyone sees this black, stray, dog (I believe the dog is a lab, but not sure) or can contact the man whose yard he constantly sits in - please call Animal control to get him help. I called, but they can never catch the dog!

There is also a stray, white cat running rampage through my yard and other yards. These stray animals might be carrying all sort of diseases and might pose a problem for not only my dogs, but others as well.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Connecting in New Ways During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Chris George: Senior Pastor
 Bart McNeil: Associate Pastor of Administration, Ministry Support and Congregational Care
 Becky Caswell-Speight: Minister of Families, Faith Formation and Connection
 Jeremy Colliver: Minister of Youth, Mission and Communication
 Jim Smith: Pastoral Care Associate
 Amanda Coe Burton: Ministry Director for Children and Families
 Harrison Litzell: Co-Director of Weekday School
 Stacey McNeil: Co-Director of Weekday School
 Telephone: (770) 469-5856 • SmokeRiseBaptist.org

SUNDAY
 9:45 a.m. Attend Sunday School Online
 Schedule Available at SmokeRiseBaptist.org
 11:00 a.m. Attend Worship via Live Streaming
 Live Stream Available at SmokeRiseBaptist.org
 5:00 p.m. Outdoor Children and Youth Activities
 (Activities are outside with social distancing and masks)
 MONDAY
 5:00 p.m. Weekly Devotional Video Link at SmokeRiseBaptist.org
 WEDNESDAY
 6:00 p.m. Journeys Spiritual Formation and Bible Study
 Opportunities Online and In-Person
 Schedule Available at SmokeRiseBaptist.org
 (In-person events are outside with social distancing and masks)

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III
 Pastor of Senior Adult Ministries ~ Rev. Jeanne Simpson
 Director of Mission & Youth ~ Mark Sauls
 Office Coordinator ~ Christina Wetzel-Sizemore
 Director of Weekday Ministries ~ Celeste Sears
 Director of Respite Care Center ~ Helen Wilborn
 Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zabarac
 Organist ~ Carole Mitchell
 Choir Director ~ Joy Chittick
 5801 Hugh Howell Road ~ Stone Mountain, GA 30087
 770-469-4881 ~ www.eastminster.us

Sundays:
 9:30 a.m. Zoom Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Live streaming of Worship service
 Our Sunday service information can be found on our website at <https://www.eastminster.us/remotesundays>

MC3 Church

Senior Minister: Art Stansberry
 Worship Minister: Leslie Riley
 Student Minister: Will Tyler
 Children's Minister: Rae Tyler Caggiula
 Telephone (770) 783-1035
www.mc3.life

Sunday Worship at Parkview High School Auditorium
 9:30 a.m. Coffee and donuts; adult and student c-groups; nursery and Sunday school for infants to 5th graders.
 10:30 am. Worship service
 C-groups throughout the week at various homes -- check out our website for more times and addresses
 Business Address and Hours:
 1316 Rockbridge Rd, Suite M
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087
 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Mailing Address: 1227 Rockbridge Rd., SW, STE 208-251
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087

First Moravian Church

Pastor: Rev. Elroy Christopher
 Congregational Acolyte: Bill Hitz
 Telephone (770) 491-7250, (770) 755-8289
www.gamoravian.org
 Sundays:
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School-Adults & Children
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time

Incarinate Word Lutheran Church

Please join us for worship on Sundays at 8:45 a.m. at the First Moravian Church sanctuary
 4950 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain, GA 30087

Mountain West Church

Pastor: Michael Shreve
 Worship Arts Pastor: Gary Robinson
 Telephone (770) 491-0228
www.mwchurch.com
 4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain
 Join us Sundays at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. for services hosted live at live.mwchurch.com. You can also join us Wednesday evenings .at 7 p.m. for our Wednesday Connect Service.



*“And the walls come tumbling down!”
Be sure to look for more to come about this old Sears site at Hugh Howell Road and Mountain Industrial Boulevard.*

Frank Luton...continued from page 1

Coffers helped preserve for this purpose, he and his wife Barbara were there and have been steadfast supporters over the years. Frank served as President of the Smoke Rise Community Association that maintains the chimneys, mini-lending libraries and conducts other civic projects throughout Smoke Rise. Afterwards, he served as both its past President and Board Member.

Seeing a need to preserve our past, Frank has served as the President of the Stone Mountain Historic Society and later as its past President and Board Member. And in service to our Tucker businesses from before we were a city, Frank served as an officer of the Tucker Community Association. As if that wasn't enough, he has been a Rotarian for many years, having served as President of the Sandy Springs Rotary Club and as a member of the Stone Mountain Club.

Some may recognize Frank from his highly visible role as the announcer for many years for the Stone Mountain Fourth of July Parade or from his work as a Tucker Days volunteer. When not volunteering for these many good causes, Frank is president of his Dixie Dollar Investment Club, and you might see him working the cash register at the Friends of the Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) Thrift Store on Lewis Drive in Tucker. Two days a week, he is there helping their mission to fund the repurposing of donated items like wheelchairs, walkers, and other medical devices for use by those in need.

We are so fortunate having neighbors like the Lutons!



COVID Crazy Hair Day

SRP: Back in School!

By Grier Kellett, SRP Middle School Lead ELA Teacher

Smoke Rise Prep (K-8), Stone Mountain's best kept secret, focuses on the core values of character, culture, and curriculum. In order to shape well-rounded students, our teachers and parents create an atmosphere that aligns with those core values. One way that we accomplish this is to create a healthy balance between academic rigor and enriching activities.

Smoke Rise Prep is back in school! We are implementing a phased in hybrid model. Our elementary students had an option to begin in person or virtually on August 19. Our middle school students will be given the same options after Labor Day. Our school is rigorously following all CDC-recommended safety precautions. All students, faculty, and staff must wear masks (with daily mask breaks), social distance, wash hands frequently, and receive daily temperature checks. Our number #1 priority is providing a quality education as safely as possible while providing flexible options according to our families' comfort levels. Additional information can be found on our website at www.smokeriseprep.org.

Smoke Rise Prep now operates on a four-day academic week, Monday to Thursday, with Fridays being Enrichment Days from home. Our teachers have been busy preparing engaging, project-based lessons that will challenge students both in person and virtually. Our small class sizes create the optimal learning environment. To hear more about specific grade levels and to learn about additional offerings, contact info@smokeriseprep.org. Spaces are limited!



MP German Auto Specialist





Specializing In

-  **Brakes, Tires, Alignments**
-  **Check Engine Light and Diagnostics**
-  **Coolant, Power Steering, Transmission, and Break Flush**
-  **Heating and Air Conditioning System Service**
-  **Routine Maintenance and Service**
-  **Major Engine and Transmission Repairs**
-  **All Electrical Trouble Shooting**
-  **Emission Repairs**

15% OFF

- Seniors
- Military Active Duty and Veterans
- First Responders and Educators

*ask for details









Call for Seasonal Specials

770-496-0890

4633 Hugh Howell Road • Tucker, Georgia 30084

www.mvppermanauto.com



TrueWay Renovations

Don Trueblood
404-386-9291 | dontrueblood@gmail.com
www.truewayrenovations.com
Call now! FREE estimates

**LAW OFFICE OF
PEATSA C. WALLACE LLC**

Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney
Health Directives, Probate & Administration
Business Formations/Contracts, Tax Law,
Domestic Partnership Agreements & Dissolutions

SENIOR DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE



*“Have briefcase, will travel”
– She will come to you!*

Office: 2345 Main Street, Tucker
770.938.3919 or 678.570.8543
peatsawallace@bellsouth.net

Over 36 years experience
Tucker Resident



**ART Station Presents
A TOUR OF SOUTHERN GHOSTS... Virtually**

The ART Station has presented A TOUR OF SOUTHERN GHOSTS for the past 34 years at Stone Mountain Park. All fall special events at Stone Mountain Park have been canceled due to COVID-19. Therefore, ART Station will present the 35th annual event virtually.

The virtual event will be called the 35th Annual Southern Ghosts Storytelling Festival (virtual). It will feature seven of ART Station's master storytellers. The event will go live on the ART Station website (www.artstation.org) on October 15 at 10:00 a.m. Ticket prices are \$15 to access the event. After you purchase the event, you will receive a link to the event that will be good for 72 hours. You may watch as many times as you want during that 72-hour time period. You may also have family and friends over (social distance, of course) to share the event.

For additional information, visit the ART Station website or email info@artstation.org

**Charity Golf Tournament
at Smoke Rise Country Club
Monday, September 14
7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Golf for a (great) cause at the 21st Annual Golf Classic to benefit Lekotek of Georgia! Money raised makes it possible for the non-profit to provide services to children and families with special needs. To learn more about the event and to purchase tickets, visit www.lekotekga.org.



2019 Lekotek Annual Golf Classic



Joycemray@bellsouth.net
joyceforhomes.com
D: 770-491-9015
M: 404-316-2299

Joyce Ray
The best way home.

Chapman Hall Premier Realtors
1772B Century Boulevard, Atlanta Ga. 30345

Celebrating 30 years in Metro Atlanta Real Estate Sales

Stewarding Family Wealth

Serving Clients in Tucker and Decatur for More than 30 Years.

We listen, plan, and guide towards your preferred future.

We offer Comprehensive Financial Planning, Investment Management, Retirement Planning, Estate Planning, and Charitable Gift Planning.



[/company/centurion-advisory-group/](https://www.centurionadvisory.com/)

[/centurionadvisory/](https://www.centurionadvisory.com/)

From This Generation to the Next

Ask for Our

- Couple's Weekend Planning Guide
- Inheritance Checklist

Contact Randy Brunson:
Email: rbrunson@centurionag.com
Call or text: 678.478.5781
Website: CenturionAG.com
Home Office: 5900 Millstone Lane

We'd Enjoy Connecting With Our Smoke Rise Neighbors.

770.817.0525 | CenturionAG.com | 6340 Sugarloaf Pkwy., Ste. 120 Duluth, GA 30097

Centurion Advisory Group is an independent fee-only wealth management firm registered with the state of Georgia as an investment advisor.



In this time of COVID-19, Main Street Theatre misses the stage and all of you! So, the theatre is excited to bring more opportunities to you throughout the rest of 2020!

Show Tucker Your Talents!



- Are you aching to be in front of an audience?
- Have you learned a new quarantine talent?
- Are you ready to showcase your inner superstar?

Main Street Theatre is excited to announce its very first talent showcase, starring YOU!

How it works:

1. Pick a creative way to show off your special talent in two minutes or less.
2. Practice your special talent. (We're looking for anything! Dancing, singing, playing an instrument, reciting poetry, doing a monologue, family skits, a miniature comedy set... anything goes!)
3. Have someone record your talent in a well-lit space. If you're using a phone to record, please film landscape, rather than portrait style.
4. Name your file "FirstName-LastName" and upload it.
5. Send an email to carrie.harris@tuckertheatre.com with the following information:
 - Name
 - Age (if the artist is a minor or you want to share)
 - A description of your talent (i.e. song title, name of poem or play, instrument you're playing, type of dance)
 - Artist's (or parent/guardian's) email address

Submissions accepted through September 15.

Then, theatre staff will enjoy watching all of the videos and will put together a talent showcase to premiere live for all of Tucker to see in November.

MST reserves the right to withhold any video that does not support its mission and vision. MST is happy to clip any videos that showcase talents longer than two minutes long. If you choose to submit more than one talent, MST may showcase only one of them.

If you have any questions, email carrie.harris@tuckertheatre.com.

UPLOAD VIDEOS TO:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/wDjVOuohjapDyv1JUNU7>



BECOME A MEMBER FOR A DAY TO EXPERIENCE MEMBERSHIP

CONTACT HEATH MCDANIEL, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR, 770.908.2582 EXT. 4
4900 CHEDWORTH DRIVE | SMOKERISECC.COM

Developing Fellowship through Sports Leagues *By Susan Gilbert*

Smoke Rise Country Club welcomes the neighborhood to “serve it up” and “tee it up” for fun outside right now. Tennis and Golf at the club continue attracting young families, their children, and active seniors to Get in the Game! While this pandemic has been hard on most businesses, people are tired of being cooped up in their homes and want to get outdoors, get some exercise, meet their socially distanced neighbors, and have some fun and fellowship. Membership is at an all-time record-high - expected to top 400 in the coming months!

A great way to embrace the community is with the club’s League Play. Here is a message from Head Tennis Pro, Jim Richards:

“To become a focal point for sports fellowship in Tucker and the surrounding areas, Smoke Rise Country Club has been actively establishing in-house leagues from ALTA C level novice teams to our newly formed Men’s ALTA AA team.

Nonmembers are welcome to sign up and join in these competitive leagues, or for beginners and those who need a tune-up, join Tennis 101, a great way to be among novice players and grow your game. Each year, children enjoy our Summer and Fall Sports Camp programs offering Tennis, Golf, and best of all, a chance to make new friends!

Practice makes perfect, and many of our guests and members went on to take part and win sanctioned tournaments by the end of the summer. Our 10-week beginner tennis courses for adults have produced four new teams in less than a year that can play both in-house leagues and inter-club leagues.

The golf department has launched a new golf academy under Drew Dallanegra, our



SRCC Children’s Tennis Programs

new Assistant Pro with a “Launch monitor” for swing analysis. This device, along with professional golf instruction, will have you hitting more consistently in short order. The adult program and solid junior program both provide instruction and in-house leagues, again for Smoke Rise residents and members alike.

Smoke Rise continues to provide a smart alternative to cabin fever at home. Come and enjoy the wide-open spaces of more than 170 acres of beauty close by your home. We invite you to learn more about these

special sports programs for adults and children. We’d love to see you at the Club!”

To learn more about Membership, contact, Heath McDaniel at hmcDaniel@smokerisec.com; Tennis Program, contact Jim Richards at jrichards@smokerisec.com; Golf Program, contact Drew Dallanegra at ddallanegra@smokerisec.com.



SRCC Ladies Senior Playoffs

Contact yogagram.40@gmail.com
or 678-777-7817

Y.O.G.A

Yoga Offers Greater Awareness

Results on the Inside are as Valuable
as Those on the Outside

Breathe, Relax & Stretch Your Way
To Better Health
with Barbara Greenberg
Certified Kripalu Yoga Instructor

B. HARRY STRACK, JR.
Certified Public Accountant
Comprehensive Accounting Services
Computer Business Services

TIGER TAX

6015 Antebellum Drive • Stone Mountain, GA 30087
Phone: (770) 365-9381 | Fax: (404) 921-9092
TigerTaxStrack@att.net • www.TigerTaxStrack.com
Tiger Tax on Facebook

Magnolia Room
CAFETERIA

SOUTHERN CAFETERIA DINING AT ITS FINEST

LOCAL AND FARM FRESH, SHERRY’S PRODUCE IS OUR EXCLUSIVE
SOURCE FOR FRESH VEGETABLES AND FRUITS. COME TASTE THE DIFFERENCE!

4450 HUGH HOWELL ROAD TUCKER, GA 30084
770-864-1845 MAGNOLIAROOMCAFETERIA.COM
MONDAY-SATURDAY: 11:30AM-8PM SUNDAY: 11AM-8PM

Prayer Shawl Ministry

By Barbara Luton

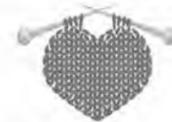
Members of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club meet once a month at the clubhouse to knit and crochet prayer shawls to be given away. Six members have made 20 shawls to be donated.

The shawls are given to Woman’s Club members, their family members and friends of members. The shawls go to those suffering from illness, recovering from surgery or going through medical treatment. They have also been given to those suffering from COVID-19. The shawls are given to caretakers who also need support. Smoke Rise neighbors Pat Sartain, Linda Smith and Kim Sekulow’s mother have been given shawls.



Standing: Betty Pompey, Prayer Shawl Group Member. Seated: Pat Sartain, Smoke Rise Resident

The shawls are also used for another project of the Woman’s Club. They are donated to Ignatius Spirituality, a program for Ignatius House, a facility for women recovering from some form of abuse.



The New Smoke Rise Elementary School

By Caroline Croom

The brand new, state of the art, 950-seat Smoke Rise Elementary School facility is meticulously being erected right on schedule. The long-awaited school building is scheduled to open in August of 2021.

Members of the Construction Advisory Council, along with proud Principal Pamela McCloud, had the opportunity to visit the facility on August 12. Their excitement became apparent upon witnessing the lengthy project become a reality. They could see the light at the end of the tunnel. The countless planning and collaboration meetings are finally paying off. The new Smoke Rise Elementary School, although it’s unfinished, is phenomenal. In retrospect, during the October 2019 groundbreaking ceremony, 5th grade student Xavier Ragland mentioned the dream of a construction zone being transformed into a teaching zone for students of all backgrounds. This statement certainly holds true today. The new Smoke Rise Elementary School has gone from blueprint to manifestation.

In summing up the words of our esteemed leader, we are excited about our new journey. We are excited to move learning from an old home into a new complex with 21st century technology. We are excited about the new design with state-of-the-art classrooms. We are excited to move forward continuing to make gains as we hold onto our 2019 89.2% College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) score. This is a significant jump from a past score of 59.3% in 2016. The final destination to a score of 100% and the new Smoke Rise Elementary School facility, here we come!

The Smoke Rise Elementary School family graciously extends a very special thank you to the Construction Advisory Council (CAC) and all those who made the dream of a new school a reality.

Good Things are Happening at our Lilburn Co-op! (Part 1 of a 2 Part Series)

By Lois and Bob Jernigan

During the COVID-19 times, the Lilburn Co-Op has continued to meet the needs of our community. To keep our volunteers and staff safe, everyone in the building must wear a mask. As an extra precaution, the LILY'S CLOAK store has been closed to the general public. During this down time, staff and volunteers have been painting and reorganization of the store has been done to provide safe shopping. In August, the store opened only on Saturdays to the public, with masks required and other safe practices in place. The Lilburn Co-Op is located at 5329 Five Forks Trickum Road just past the Kroger store and across from Bruster's Ice Cream. Food and other donations are accepted 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and closed on Sunday.

Even while the store was closed, the food distribution has continued, and clients are also being helped with some financial needs. Donations by individuals, Fresh Market,

Kroger, Chick Fil A, Pizza Hut, KFC, other companies, churches, schools, and community groups provided food for 319 households in May, 209 in June, and 197 in July.

A total of 45,399 pounds of food was given away during these last three months. It is made available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and clients can come every two weeks. They get canned foods, meats, milk, fresh fruit and vegetables, cereal, and staples. We give away what we have from donations and buy extra items from the Atlanta Food Bank. We provide donated bath soap, shampoo, dental supplies, laundry soap, toilet paper, and baby food and diapers as they are available.

Faithful workers have been present five days or more a week to pack food that is given to clients who wait in their cars. Special thanks to Patty behind the desk with her helpers keeping records. Elaine, Rosa, Bob and Lois Jernigan, and others work in the Pantry.

Bill and Trevor meet people at their cars. Patsy and many other drivers pick up and deliver donated food. Dale is our building manager, Dennis delivers food to shut-ins and seniors, Millie Norman is our Operations Manager, and Sharon Foster serves as the Co-op's Executive Director. Many others from local churches and the community also give their time.

To receive help, all families must have proof that they live in our zip code areas, have a Social Security Number for every person, and financial records to establish their need. Our Executive Director, Sharon Foster, meets with our clients to help them make, as she says, "better choices in tough times."

All too often, she hears from clients who cannot



Co-op volunteers Bob and Lois Jernigan with building manager, Dale.

pay their utility bills, rent, for car repairs, or child-care. They are looking for work but may have physical problems that prevent them holding jobs, and often jobs they are able to do are hard to find. We see the reality every day, "A few months without a paycheck exhausts any money

you have to pay just your basic needs."

In next month's *Smoke Signal*, look for "the rest of this story" where we will share some of the client's heart-wrenching stories and learn more about the devoted staff and volunteers who keep it going.



DID YOUR PAPER GET WET?

EXTRA COPIES OF THE SMOKE SIGNAL ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Look for the wooden box labeled *Smoke Signal*.

(They are no longer available on Smoke Rise Drive.)

Scott's
Pressure Wash

Professional pressure washing—all surfaces
Decks, Stained and Sealed

678-469-1599

scottspressurewash.net • scottspressurewash@gmail.com

ESTD 1962

BOB BAILEY'S
APPLIANCE CO

5100 Highway 78 East Stone Mountain, GA 30087
Phone 770.979.1077 Fax 770.979.1844
Website: www.bobbaileys.com

- ❖ Family Owned & Operated
- ❖ Quality Brands & Great Pricing
- ❖ Professional Delivery and Installation
- ❖ Serving Smoke Rise over 50 years

Miele JENNAIR BOSCH
KitchenAid
WOLF Thermador SUB-ZERO

MVP German Auto Specialist The European Dealership Alternative

YOUR SMOKE RISE NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITY FOR SERVICE AND REPAIR

Your Neighborhood Service Facility for over 25 years!

MVP Complimentary Services:

- Free Shuttle within a 5 mile radius
- Free Tow Service within a 5 mile radius
- Free Vehicle Pickup and Delivery with Every Service
- Free Alignment, Battery and Tire Check
- Free Complimentary Car Wash with Every Service

770-496-0890

4633 Hugh Howell Road • Tucker, Georgia 30084
www.mvpgermanauto.com

Nurse Kay By Dr. John Kennedy, Smoke Rise Resident and Surgeon

First of all, let me state at the outset—I'm a Yankee, born in Philly, and raised outside Pittsburgh. But it was not long before coming of age that I envied the nearly snow-free winters of the south. So, come college time, I headed south and never looked back. Well, I did go back to Philadelphia for medical school, but then it was back to Atlanta for my surgery residency at Emory. It was there I met a beautiful girl from Covington, and it was



a done deal that I would marry into the south. More of that later. We moved to Smoke Rise about 30 years ago and have loved our neighborhood ever since. I hope you will indulge me to share with you a bit about nurse Kay. My first rotation as an intern at Grady Hospital was on the Orthopedics team. We would manage all the patients with broken bones, no matter what the age. And, so it happened that our team went to the pediatrics floor on a daily basis. It was there that I met "Nurse Kay," as her young patients called her, a very attractive young nurse, with a contagious smile. She was just completing her nurse training when we met. It was not long before I gathered my courage to ask her out. The pediatrics ward became a favorite place for me to visit during that time, so that I might catch a glimpse of Nurse Kay

Bohanan. Nurse Kay would celebrate birthdays with the children unlucky enough to be hospitalized on their special day. She brought in special glasses for all of them to watch a 3D movie on television, a passing fad in television history. All the children loved her, and in time, so did I.

Kay was born in Covington, went to Oxford and then to Emory for nursing school. We were married in my fourth year of residency; we both worked very hard during those early years to be able to afford to buy a house. After she got her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, she worked at Emory, first on a regular floor, then in an Intensive Care Unit. She became lifelong friends with many of those she worked alongside. It was easy to recognize that any acquaintance might well become a lifelong friend to Kay.



In the early years of our marriage, she went back to school to get a Master's Degree in Nursing. It was about that time that Kay started looking for a larger home for our family. I recall her checking out the school districts, and the communities around us. She found some new homes being built in Smoke Rise, and next thing I knew, we were driving around on Kanawha this and Kanawha that. This was before the days of Google maps, and Waze, and GPS, and we literally got lost in the neighborhood looking for the way out. We put in an offer on a house already under construction, soon enough to have some input on the design, and we live in the same home to this day.

Kay put her career on hold when our children, Rachel and Michael, grew a bit older, to be a more devoted mother and wife, and during that time was very active at Smoke Rise

...continued on page 8

Go Dawgs!

By Frank Luton

In the August issue of the *Smoke Signal*, I wrote a piece on "What Do You Do When There's Nothing To Do?" I have asked all my friends to be on the lookout for opportunities that would allow me to be engaged and actively doing "stuff."



Silver Dawg Frank with the Notre Dame Leprechaun mascot

Sometimes they just come along. Back in 2018, I saw a notice from my alma mater, the University of Georgia, about volunteering for something called "Silver Dawgs." So, before the day was out, I applied and was accepted, even without any information as to exactly what being a Silver Dawg entailed. All I knew was that it had something to do with UGA athletic events.

The creation of the Silver Dawgs is attributed to a similar group at Notre Dame. When Georgia visited South Bend, Indiana, in 2017, there were people dressed in green coats all around the campus, welcoming Bulldogs to their home with open arms.

When the Georgia fans returned to Athens, the Georgia Athletic Board decided to implement a similar program after many fans talked about the way they were so nicely treated. The fans wanted to show the same hospitality, when Notre Dame came to Athens in the fall of 2019. One Athletic Board member said, "why don't we do it and not wait until the Notre Dame game in 2019." And the Silver Dawgs took off!

I was one of the original Silver Dawgs and have worked all the football games in 2018 and 2019, including the Notre Dame game. I was lucky enough to be one of the escorts for retired Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz for that game.

I have thoroughly enjoyed what I do as a Silver Dawg. I work more than 12 hours on game day, welcoming visitors to Sanford Stadium, giving directions, answering questions, and making them feel at home, even though they may have never been to a Georgia game. In 2018, the Silver Dawg role expanded to almost all athletic events at the University of Georgia.

So, I keep at it, and finding the Silver Dawgs has been a real blessing for me.

Time to Sell!

The demand for homes in Smoke Rise is very high and the inventory of homes is very low. If you have been thinking about selling, this may be the best time!

I personally handle the listings in Smoke Rise for our team. Call me for a free consultation to help you with decisions on pricing, timing and preparation. When you are ready, I will put our selling machine to work for you!

Pat Soltys
678.717.7903
pat@smokeriseagents.com

Great Agents • Superior Service

Experience the Difference! Our team is experienced, creative, technology savvy. Strong, focused marketing, buyer & seller tools - excellent transaction management.

- Exclusive Honor & Respect Program
- Innovative Marketing
- Multiple Web Sites for Each Listing

- Custom Search Tools
- Professional Photography
- No Dual Agency, You Are Represented

High Tech - High Touch, Service Worthy of Recommendation

404.876.4901 • 770.573.9715

What is Your Home Worth? go to www.real-estate-prices.com

www.smokeriseagents.com

The Custom Frame Shop

est. 1978

*Great Selection of Classic and Unique Mouldings,
Friendly Service, Excellent Quality and Craftsmanship*

"New Location" • 4195 Fellowship Rd, Tucker
Formerly on Main Street • Convenient parking

770-491-3305
www.tuckerframeshop.com

Kitchens, Basements, Decks, Additions, Baths,
Screened Porches, Window and Door Replacement,
All Phases of Construction, General Improvements & Repairs

Light Commercial Work
Welcome

Handyman Services
available at "Costs Plus"

Mention this ad for up to
15% OFF

In business since 1980. All work done by our all American staff.
References Available • Free Estimates • Licensed & Insured

770-452-1925

ACS INC.
Heating & Air Conditioning
Quality Since 1969



ACS has been keeping Smoke Rise homes comfortable for over 30 years!

WE OFFER:

- Seasonal Tune-ups
- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- System Replacements
- Indoor Air Quality Products

CALL TODAY 770-939-7500



The Salon you have been looking for... where you discover your own Style.

1825 Rockbridge Road
Stone Mountain Festival Shopping Center
770-879-1071

salon j. christian

Belco Electric
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED
SINCE 1972

Fast, Dependable 24-hr. Service by Professional, Uniformed Electricians

770-455-4556

Check out our website: BelcoInc.com
and follow us on   

Chiropractic Works
The Proof is in our Patients!

Schwartz Chiropractic and Wellness



Dr. Schwartz has been treating your neighbors in Tucker and Smoke Rise for over 12 years. Visit our website to read more about our office.

New Patient Offer: Initial Consultation, Exam Xray's and 1st Adjustment \$99.

most insurance plans accepted (includes Medicare)

4985 Lavista Road | Tucker, GA 30084
770-508-4456 | www.karlschwartzchiro.com

HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

Do You Figure It's a Chigger?

Chiggers are teeny, tiny red mites. They are in the arachnid, or spider and tick family and are not technically insects. They are usually too small to be seen without magnification. By comparison, a pin head is 2 mm and a chigger is less than 0.03 mm (1/150th of an inch or thereabouts). This means you can't see them to swat them.

The adult mites are not the culprits that make a meal of you, it is their babies... the larvae. They are a worldwide pest that are often found in fields and forests around creeks, streams and moist areas. I remember them from my growing up years in Oklahoma. My husband first encountered them in Austria. And of course, he always brings a crop home when we visit family in Oklahoma. Once the larvae hatch, they cling to wet/dew-soaked leaves and grass and lay waiting until an animal or a human comes by. Their main feeding season starts in the late spring and lasts into fall. They die when the ground temperature is below 50°F.

The difference between chigger and mosquito bites is the location of the bites. While mosquito bites rarely are found on non-exposed skin, chigger bites frequently are. In fact, they seem to love waist bands, panty lines, the groin folds—and parts there-about, bra-lines and the axilla. All the areas polite people do not like to scratch. When white crew socks were popular, we would find them at the sock line too.

The little buggars always seem to be hungry! They begin by taking a chomp of your skin with their tiny jaws and inject their saliva into it. They do not really burrow into your skin as most people think. Saliva, as you know, helps digest food. And you and your skin are their food! The little guys are very persistent, and leisurely in their meal and may feed on you for several days. And in this scenario, feeding equals itching. Some people itch a lot, and for days! Remember, they are leisurely. Other people have a bigger reaction and form blisters or hives. You can develop a skin infection if you scratch too much.

Prevention:

- Stay away from tall seedy grass and damp foliage.
- Spray or rub insecticides containing DEET on your skin, especially on areas where chiggers may enter: waistband, sock band, neck line.
- If you will be in the wilderness... pre-treat your clothes with Permethrin. It lasts a long time-- through several washings. The military routinely does this!
- "Natural" oils, and sprays may help too (Skintastic, Citronella, etc). Just make sure to spray the entrance points!!
- Tuck your pants into your socks and wear long sleeves. Good luck in the summer.

Treatment: Wash with hot, soapy, water as soon as you can! The mites have a distance to climb, to get to their favorite parts. Use hot soapy water to wash clothes and anything you were sitting or lying on, if you were on a picnic or camping in the woods.

You can use antihistamines (oral is best) to stop the itch. Remember- topical Benadryl cream causes 20% of individuals to develop an allergy to Benadryl. Hydrocortisone creams may help too. It may be an old wives' tale, but bring along some clear nail polish if you can't get that hot soapy shower quick enough. It stops the itch! Or so says my chigger magnet husband.

Nurse Kay...continued from page 7

Elementary School, including being president of the PTA. When the kids got more independent, she went back to nursing, as the Director of Critical Care at DeKalb Medical, now Emory Decatur. Later, she returned to Grady as a Vice President of Nursing. Her passion for nursing led her to enroll in a Doctorate program at Massachusetts General in Boston. She obtained a Doctorate of Nursing Practice after an arduous three years of evening and weekend studies, with frequent flights to Boston. She has since served as a Chief Nursing Operator of an Atlanta hospital.

Throughout her career, she has always exemplified leadership by example. She is currently developing, with two like-minded colleagues, a nurse leadership model curriculum. Although the seeds for this business were sown more than a year ago, the current Coronavirus pandemic has brought with it a heightened need for a culture of support and encouragement for nurses. Nurse Kay and her team are currently providing online resources for nurse leaders across the country to help maintain the health, well-being, and resilience of their staff.

Nurse Kay is for me the ultimate nurse, one who puts the needs of others before her own, but she has also learned the importance of self-care so she can be there for those she serves. And, she has also been my own nurse this past year during my own recovery from surgery. Had I not fallen in love with her 35 years ago, I certainly would have now. I may be a Yankee by birth, but my heart and my love are here in the south, in Smoke Rise.

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED?

Your home is where your dreams live and grow. Keep it, and your dreams, safe with increased protection from American Family Insurance. You'll get the customized home coverage you need to dream fearlessly.

Let's find home insurance that fits you. Contact me today.



Thele Moore, Agent
1835 E Park Place Blvd Ste 111
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
Bus: (678) 537-8430
tmoore2@amfam.com
thelemooreinsurance.com

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

Review policy for coverages/exclusions.
American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & its Operating Companies
6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783 ©2020 017911 - 1/20 - 12498418



Are We Listening?

By Joel Gilbert, P.E.

Perhaps you have seen the intentionally provocative video circulating on the internet of a young woman complaining about an aching pain in her head. If you would like to watch for yourself, just Google “It’s NOT about the nail!” As the scene plays out, it is obvious she has a large nail in her forehead. Listening to her complain about her debilitating headaches and how her sweaters snag when she pulls them over her head conjures up images that make it painful to listen. Trying to help, her boyfriend offers, “I think I see the problem, there is a nail sticking out of your head.” She immediately jumps down his throat angrily shouting, “It’s NOT about the nail!”

While obviously contrived, it points out that people desperately want to and need to be heard and validated. It is so hard to listen to a person complain, when we know what they should do. Here in the South, I have come to learn we use the expression “well bless your heart” to affirm the person. I have grown to understand that the underlying thought, not spoken, is “you idiot!”

Let’s face it friends. It is so hard to sit quietly and listen to another person complain, when it is so clear to us what the problem is and how it should be solved. Sadly today, too often, dialogue is not accepted on important issues. Debate is no longer welcome.

As just one illustration, consider the reaction to a tweet from Harald Uhlig, a University of Chicago professor, indicating that the Black Lives Matter movement “torpedoed itself, with its full-fledged support of #defundthepolice.” Instead of defunding, Uhlig suggested, “train them better.”

Hundreds of people then signed a petition demanding that Uhlig resign. Even prominent economists like Janet Yellen and Paul Krugman joined the mob. Krugman called Uhlig, “another privileged white man who evidently cannot control his urge to belittle the concerns of those less fortunate.”

Today’s racial tensions are a lot like the “It’s not about the nail!” dramatization. It no longer matters that we care and try our best to help fix the problem. Correcting those complaining only heightens their anger. They want to be heard above all else. And, we have heard this so many times before that it is very hard to listen to it and not try to just confront and solve the issue.

So, how do we heal a polarized nation where kneeling during our National Anthem greatly offends some but not all, and protests against police turn somehow into justified burning and looting of innocent storeowners? We seem to be at war fueled by a militant insistence on self-worth. Dialogue is no longer acceptable: former president Obama’s term “woke” meaning we have a new awareness, has now devolved to “cancel culture.”

I know it’s hard, but maybe we need to restart with Stephen Covey’s Habit No. 5: Seek first to understand before we ask to be understood.” My wife Susan has taught me that the skill of listening is one of the most important life skills we can all learn, but it’s a hard skill to master. We tend to stop listening once we think we have the right answer to the problem. After all, we are superior to those we are listening too, right? Nope. That is the problem. The ability to hear is a gift. The willingness to listen is a choice...a very difficult choice.

Out the Window By Beth Henson



Nuthatch by Beth Henson

Glancing out the living room window, I admired the late afternoon cotton candy clouds floating in a deep azure almost fall sky. The weather had remained hot, coaxing the last of the cone flowers in my garden to offer their crunchy seed pods. A happy goldfinch family was hungrily enjoying their hard-ripened tasty flower meal. Farther up the fading grassy hill, it was dinner time at the weathered wooden feeder. The eager line of feathered diners reminded me of their anxious human counterparts outside the corner Chick-fil-A; making it to the drive-through window, one at a time.

A sweet, cautious bluebird was just finishing up his morsels as an acrobatic nuthatch traveled down the tree for his upside-down meal. Meanwhile, a tiny gray titmouse waited in the thin higher branches, verbally letting everyone know he was hungry with his loud impatient chit, chit, chit. As the birds carefully took their turns, there seemed to be an obvious politeness and kumbaya taking place.

Actually, this couldn’t be further from the truth. Our beautiful feathered friends have a distinct pecking order with feeders, some having to patiently wait and others standing their ground. Size seems to matter, and the larger birds tend to be the first in line. Saucy blue jays are known to be the self-proclaimed bully of the feeder, daring other birds to approach. Also, surprisingly, the small downy woodpeckers are feared among many birds, most likely because of their long, sharp imposing bills. Chickadees flit in and out, trying to grab a bite between the larger and more aggressive diners.

The smarter, shy cardinals are nowhere to be found. They like to feed at dawn and dusk, and are usually the first and last to arrive, avoiding all the obvious aviary drama.

As the afternoon slowly turns to dusk, the feeding frenzy comes to an end. Mr. and Mrs. Cardinal finally arrive to see what might be remaining. Closing time, may I take your order? We’ll just have the sesame seeds, hold the bun!



GFWC
Stone Mountain Woman's Club



Congratulations to the Smoke Signal on 50 years of continuous publication, and thank you for your coverage of the activities of the Stone Mountain Woman’s Club.

Our members are dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. We accept members that live outside the boundaries of Stone Mountain, GA. Come volunteer with us!

Website: stonemountainwomensclub.org Email: info@stonemountainwomensclub.org



What Does Carefree Living Mean at Park Springs?

It Means Our Members Enjoy

- A gated, resort-style community
- Six dining venues with delivery
- A full-time Doctor and on-site Wellness Clinic
- Maintenance-free villas, cottages, and homes
- An amenity-rich, 61-acre campus that offers easy access to golf, fitness programs, over 50+ clubs, and more



Visit us at ParkSprings.com to take a Virtual Tour or call 678-684-3300 to find out more

Simplify life, multiply your fun with Park Springs

Independent Living | Assisted Living
Memory Care | Skilled Nursing

PARK SPRINGS
A Life Plan Community

678-684-3300 | STONE MOUNTAIN, GA | PARKSPRINGS.COM

HALL'S
Flower Shop & Garden Center

Serving Smoke Rise Families Since 1946!

Flowers & Gifts For All Occasions!
Green & Blooming Plants For Your Home & Garden

404-292-8446

www.HallsFlowerShop.com

5706 Memorial Dr, Stone Mtn, 30083

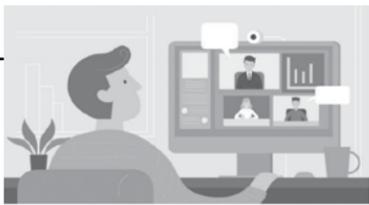
Daily Delivery To Metro Atlanta, DeKalb and Gwinnett!

NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

Together - Separately

A lot of things bring people together. Certainly, for our neighborhood, it's the beautiful trees, great neighbors, and small-town feel. Lately, it has been quite an adjustment to navigate the new "norms" during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are so many things to be grateful for, so it seems silly to lament the cancellations of vacations, community events and gatherings. Meeting online, admittedly, is just not the same as face-to-face encounters; However, it is nice to see familiar faces – even if it is via a computer screen – and it helps promote important communication and collaboration.



iStock by Getty Images

To make the most of your next online connection, here are a few suggestions:

If you're going to use your camera – then let's see you!

Before you even begin, survey your surroundings. Are you in a spot that has enough light? If not, consider turning on more lights, moving a lamp near you, or opening the blinds of a window or two in the room. Participants will be able to see you and your facial expressions best, if you have light shining on your face, or towards you. Sitting with a window, or lamp, directly behind you puts your face mostly in a shadow and is not ideal.

Which is your good side?

Don't worry about which side is your best. Try to be aware of the overall framing of your shot. Placing the camera at an angle that looks down at you, or an angle that looks up at your chin or your nostrils is not the best. Set your camera at eye level, for the most flattering frame. You can prop your device on books, a foot stool, or anything that's stable and gives your camera a boost.

What kind of vibe are you sending?

Consider if you have anything interesting behind your shot (or perhaps something that shouldn't be shared)! Are you using a virtual background? While these are fun and can easily cover up a messy background, they are not as personal as "inviting" someone into your individual space.

Silence is golden.

One of the more popular virtual meeting applications is Zoom. This app typically features the person "speaking" on the big screen (with the other participants in smaller screens). When you're not speaking, the "mute" selection for your mic is usually the best. (Have you already experienced a deafening, large dog barking in the background? Or perhaps there's another random noise in your space which places your camera shot on the big screen instead of the actual person speaking.)

Say what?

Unfortunately, with the positives of this technology and the potential it brings, it also attracts trolls and other individuals with disruptive intent. And, with more of these folks being bored - we now have a new phenomenon called "Zoombombing."

Zoombombing is where people find teleconferences and video teleconferences that they can join and be disruptive. If you have a professional or personal Zoom account, you may want to use the feature that allows you to require a password. However, users that need to send public notification of their meetings need to be careful. Requiring a password doesn't prevent this, because anyone from the public that wants to attend needs to know the code!

Who are you looking at?

Keep in mind that a virtual meeting is still a group experience. It can be tempting to frequently look at yourself during the meeting. However, realize where your camera is on your device, and try to look directly into it the majority of the time. That way, it appears you are speaking directly to the people on the other end of this virtual connection and giving them your attention.

Are you ready for this?

Take advantage of some of the "expert" features. White board feature, screen share, virtual backgrounds, screen share and chat! There are plenty of blogs and videos online to demonstrate "how to" utilize these features.

Fellow neighbors, stay safe and connected... separately.

My Complaint Jar

By Pat Soltys



For years, I have had an imaginary complaint jar, a repository for all those minor and major irritations where they were given a place to reside and get out of my way at the moment. With luck, they simply evaporated to nothing in my jar. It was a fairly convenient way to vent, get rid of what was bothering me and not let it fester.

This works pretty well, when I am tempted to throw down a "stupid" card relative to someone else's actions or my own mistakes. The complaints in the jar, with time and a bit of effort, resolve most aches, pains and bad hair days. Complaints regarding time – mostly lack of time – resolve in prioritization, or they simply fall to the bottom of the pile.

Since in reality, it does little good to complain, the jar has been a perfect solution – move forward, no complaint baggage. Make the best of whatever is in my path.

I must say though that 2020 has challenged the jar for sure. It is simply not large enough to hold the complaints about COVID-19, politics, social limitations, inequity in addition to all of the normal complaints. Time to triage and pull out the complaints that are no longer valid, discarding those that I really cannot change – oops weight has to go back in.

Now that I have a fairly large pile of complaints removed, the jar looks much more manageable. What seemed like complaints are more so the feelings and challenges that COVID-19 - more than anything - has brought on. They must be dealt with differently.

There is sadness for those who have been affected by the disease and especially those who lost their lives. I did not know more than a few personally, but the media brings the faces home. There is an emptiness in not being able to be with others. Distanced sharing of love, compassion, caring and joy seem hollow and wanting. I miss the simple acts, gestures and greetings usually shared with family, friends, co-workers and others we would normally come into contact with.

Separating my complaints from my feelings helps with perspective. It looks like a long road ahead of us. I truly hope everyone does what they can to limit the impact and spread of COVID-19, from wearing masks to being careful in gatherings. We need to keep the burden of feelings separate from what we can do something about.



Jody Purser
owner

ATLAS ROOFING & GUTTERING

Georgia Licensed & Insured • Free Estimate

404-399-0321

AtlasRoofingandGuttering@gmail.com

Custom Made Guttering • Residential Roofing

Seamless Aluminum • Galvanized • Copper • Half Round

PALMERHOUSE PROPERTIES 



Top Selling Realtors in Smoke Rise with over 440 sales since 1994 and 9 in 2019!

John Porter
404-376-7069
atrealtor21@aol.com

Jim Shoults
678-592-1043

smokerisehomes.com

 SOLD		 SOLD	
1005 Havenview Lane	\$1,500,000	1700 Chartwell Trace	\$645,000
 Under Contract		 SOLD	
1980 Stoneleigh Drive	\$490,000	1671 Trotters Lane	\$425,000
 Under Contract		 Under Contract	
5790 Silver Ridge Drive	\$484,500	2032 Gunstock Drive	\$399,450

Morning Glories Encounter Smoke Rise Fauna!

By Quill Duncan

Yes, a 10-point buck was spotted on Oxbow Circle in early August, running with his fellow buck along the creekbed! In late July, a doe and her two fauns picked a perfect spot in our wooded front yard to bed down for the night. Interestingly, they spread out with one faun at least 16' away from the mother and the other faun at least 8' away in another direction. Strategic spacing was at work which was perhaps a native instinct to avoid potential danger. Many of our neighbors are seeing deer several times a week now, as our area offers the critical elements of fresh water, food and shelter to support their lifestyles. They are so beautiful to observe, but we wish they would not eat our flowers!

Frequently, we have raccoons drinking from the small ponds right by our house and of course, every squirrel and chipmunk in Smoke Rise enjoys our collective bounty of acorns, hickory nuts and pine nuts from our many hardwood and pine trees in the community.



This time of year is also when we see the fall Webworms at work. They attack more than 100 species of deciduous forest and shade trees. These tiger moth caterpillars are frequently spotted in the native cherry laurel trees forming a large

web. Usually, birds discover their webs and make a meal of these insects. There is no need to use insecticides... just let nature take over. And, the same goes for the Orange Striped oakworm caterpillars that frequently feed on our oaks. You can use insecticidal soap on the underside of the leaves, but usually our trees are so large that application would be impossible.

September is also the month for the poisonous spiny caterpillars and the saddleback caterpillars. They look furry with antennae front and back and usually a mark on their back. Beware! These can pack quite a sting and produce a painful welt. They frequently feed on the undersides of leaves like the dogwood, and you can brush against them suddenly without realizing it until you feel that zap!

Butterflies and bees are very active in September. Gardeners can assist these pollinators by planting host plants for their habitats and food sources. It is important to understand that large grouping or clusters of one type of perennial or annual is preferred rather than one or two of one flower or plant. That way, the butterfly or bee can concentrate in that one area for refueling or pollen gathering.

As for garden club news, we hope we will be able to have a Zoom gathering for our club this fall. We know we need to be careful, so all in-person meetings are on hold for now. Wishing good health and good cheer to our neighbors and Happy Gardening!

Wildlife: A Blessing and a Curse

By Barbara Luton

We are so lucky to live in a forest. Smoke Rise is full of deer, fox, squirrels, chipmunks and other wildlife. They are fun to watch, until they become a nuisance in our yards and gardens. A lot has been written in magazines and on the internet about ways to make gardens safe from wild animals.



Here are some ideas to try. Realize that nothing is completely successful and keeping squirrels from bird feeders is a life-long challenge!!!

A *Smoke Signal* staffer, Susan Gilbert, has had great luck with a product called Deer Repellent from IMustGarden. She has sprayed it on her hostas and has proof that it works. Liquid Fence that can be purchased at our own Garden Enthusiast in Tucker also helps. Hanging Irish Spring soaps at nose level of deer near your garden is an old remedy. One bar hung in a mesh bag covers about a 10 x10 foot area. You can mix liquid Irish Spring with water and spray.

Linda Karr, another staffer, uses Permatil for voles. It can be purchased at Ace Hardware and works best if it is mixed with soil when planting and goes down vertically near plants. Voles are vegetarian and eat plant roots and bases. Moles eat insects and grubs. A good way to get rid of moles is to get rid of grubs. Linda has used Milky Spore to eliminate Japanese Beetle grubs. This writer ordered a windmill device that was supposed to cause vibration and get rid of moles. They loved it and made tunnels all around it!



A new mixture to repel rabbits for me was cotton balls soaked in vinegar, put in a jar with holes in the top and placed around the garden. One neighbor boiled a red bell pepper, hot peppers, 1 ½ quarts of water and 2 tablespoons of minced garlic. She then strained and sprayed it on plants. Good fencing can help.

Slugs can be slowed by cups of beer, coffee grounds and an ammonia mix of 1-part household ammonia to 10 parts water poured around plants. Notice that I said "slowed."

I have had good luck in keeping most squirrels at bay at my "squirrel proof" (ha-ha) bird feeder with the Hot Pepper coated seed mixtures and the Hot Meats mix of seed that I buy at the Garden Enthusiast. I sometimes add more hot pepper just for insurance. I still have a squirrel or two who will stand on my "squirrel preventing baffle" and feast on the hot seed. The hot seed does not hurt the birds. The squirrels have stayed away from the suet that has hot pepper in it. Sometimes natural predators are the best—cats, dogs, hawks, owls, foxes and snakes. If all else fails, call Crocodile Dave. He is our neighbor. Enjoy the wildlife and good luck on saving your plants!

smoke rise dental
HASSAN ABDEL MOETI, D.M.D.

We take care of all your dental needs...

- > CT Scan 3D Imaging
- > Digital x-rays
- > Laser Treatment
- > Implants
- > Invisalign clear braces
- > Smile Makeovers
- > CEREC same day crowns

5500 A Lilburn-Stone Mountain Rd. Smoke Rise, GA 30087
www.smokerisedental.com

FREE DENTAL IMPLANTS CONSULTATION
FREE COSMETIC CONSULTATION

CALL FOR APPOINTMENT • 770-923-5500 GENERAL DENTISTRY • IMPLANT DENTISTRY • COSMETIC DENTISTRY

The Eleanor Patrick Real Estate Group

Keller Williams Realty
Atlanta Partners



- Regular Sales
- Short Sales
- Senior Sellers
- Relocation
- Over 12 Years in the Smoke Rise Community!

For All Your Real Estate Needs!

Contact the Eleanor Patrick Real Estate Group

Innovative Personalized Professional Service
Put Us To Work For You Today

eleanorpatricksell@gmail.com
www.smokerishomesforsale.com

404-721-2904

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: All inquiries regarding advertising should be directed to: Classified and display ads: Harry Strack, tigertaxstrack@att.net. Flyers: Barbara Luton at barluton@aol.com.

All classified ads are limited to 20 words, with the *Smoke Signal* reserving the right to edit any copy. Ads are \$15.00 per month, (\$75.00 per six months if prepaid). Please submit by email a copy of ad to tigertaxstrack@att.net. Deadline is the 10th of each month. ADS NEED TO BE PREPAID. Checks should be made out to *Smoke Signal* and mailed to P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085. When submitting classified ads, please include your full name, address, and phone number. This information is for our records only! For classified ads, contact Harry Strack tigertaxstrack@att.net.

For information on display (box) advertisements or flyer inserts, see contact information on page 2.

Classified Ads

Heating and Air Conditioning:
Water Heaters Installed; Gas Lines Installed; Commercial and Residential Professional Technicians:
James Maceco; 770-365-4258

CENTRAL VACUUM SERVICES

Installation Repair Maintenance
Licensed/Insured
Residential/Commercial
Over 20 years experience
Call Steve at 770-630-1620
www.CentralVacuumServices.com

A KICKIN' & PICKIN' ESTATE SALES
We stage, price and sell your treasures and offer liquidation and cleaning services. Contact Rick Kicklighter at 678-234-6956.

SMOKE RISE LANDSCAPES
Licensed/Insured. Design. Installation. Year-Round Maintenance. Weed Control/Fertilization. Drainage. Hardscaping. Irrigation Systems. Pinestraw. 404-556-2634

WINDOW CLEANING —

Year-round detailed window cleaning by owner. Fully licensed, owner operated company.
Call Paul at 678-516-7939 or visit AbsoluteWindowCleaning.net.

WAGNON LANDSCAPE GROUP
Residential, commercial, design and installation. Year-round maintenance, light tree work and cleanups. Licensed/insured SR resident with SR references. 770-381-3697.

HANDYMAN INC. has over 225 clients in the SR community. Providing all your "homework" needs. Logan Carlisle, owner and Handyman@ 770-235-3684.

N.K. CONSTRUCTION

Stucco, Stones, Blocks, Brick, Tile, Driveways, Roof, Room Additions, Decks, Walls/Fences, Painting.
30 yrs. exp.
Nick 678-791-9546 (cell)
770-934-4148 (home)

Experienced, Affordable, Licensed. Metro Fireman: Quality Pressure Washing and Gutter Cleaning.
A job done right by someone you can trust. Call Phillip Carlisle 404-328-6595.

Floral Hills Memory Gardens
2 Spaces located in Garden of Last Supper, \$5,950.00 for both.
Roy @ 334-566-3482

CHILD AND ADULT CAREGIVER
RN 30 yrs. experience. Day or night.
BCLS, homeschooling
Babysitting to vents.
Holly 770-455-1342

AFFORDABLE LAWN CARE
Mowing, edging, pruning, trimming, etc. Reasonable, dependable, insured. Call Mark at 404-697-7426.

PETS, PAPERS, & POSIES. I'll take care of them while you're away. Smoke Rise resident 40+ years. Karen Bouchard. 404-472-7348. petspapersandposies@gmail.com

DOG BOARDING: Loving dog care. Small, selective, safe, fun. Your dog will be glad you went on vacation! Call 770-674-0680 or visit www.theshepherdsglen.com.

DOG GROOMING

Smoke Rise Resident
Call/Text Lisa 404-444-7763
Loving Care for your Under 40lb Furbabies
Professional Groomer since 2006

ON POINT ESTATE SALES
Let us take the burden of downsizing your home. Our professional and experienced staff will organize, stage and price your home items at a fair value resulting in a successful sale. Clean-out service is also available. Contact us at 770-881-5596 or email info@onpointestatesales.com

TRUMP 2020 Garden Flag

Double sided garden flags \$6.
Delivery available or pickup at Unique Treasures Antique Mall, 3635 Highway 78
[email TrumpGardenFlag@Outlook.com](mailto:emailTrumpGardenFlag@Outlook.com).

Need a professional pet sitter? Call Critter Sittin' Sisters at 404-409-3765. We make your pets smile!

Auto body shop local serving Tucker, Stone Mtn, Smoke Rise. Honest, reasonable, quality work. Providing home-to-shop transportation. Call Dave 770-609-8759.

Yoga Private Designed for You
Barbara Greenberg
Certified Kripalu Instructor
Yogagram.40@gmail.com
678-777-7817

(PLUMBER)

Plumbing-Electrical-H.V.A.C
Repairs-Replacement
New Installation
Family Owned and Operated
38 yrs Experience, Senior Discount
Call Troy-770-256-8940

AFFORDABLE CLEANING SERVICES Providing excellent cleaning services at a reasonable price. Reliable references available upon request. Call Halida at 404-610-9056

UPHOLSTERY AND TRIM
Recover replace and repair upholstery for auto, truck, motorcycle, boat, home, commercial and more. Call 770-465-0996 or visit www.freestyleupholstery.com.

HOUSEKEEPER -- Reliable, experienced housekeeper for several years in Smoke Rise area. Hours are flexible. References available. Contact Sabina @ 770-634-0463

LOCKSMITH SERVICES — Deadbolts installed, re-key, repair, reinforced strike plates & motion lights installed, door threshold & weatherstrip replacement. SR res/ SR ref, Rick 770-617-0466.

COMPUTER AND NETWORK SALES AND SERVICES

Trusted Company working with local community since 1995.
References available.

770-979-1800, www.theplink.com

PRIVATE CHEF/CATERER offering seasonal meals with your schedule, health, and happiness in mind.
Taylor Mead, Chef & Owner
BetterOffFedATL@gmail.com

PIANO TUNING & REPAIRS — Over 40 years of professional experience. Contact Smoke Rise resident Steve Duncan at 770-414-4766 or iswd@att.net

Amen, Let's Eat!

by Joyce Ray



By the time you get this, we will be well into planning for fall. While there will not be any college or pro football games to look forward to, the changes we will begin to see in our weather will bring relief from the heat and some great fresh food selections in produce markets. Since you cannot know the quality of the fresh produce until you cut it open, here are some tips for making the freshest selections.

Honeydew melons: Like their cousins, the cantaloupe, these sweet juicy melons can add great taste and texture to your fruit bowl. However, melons that are too ripe or not ripe at all can be a big disappointment. My method, which I learned from a produce manager years ago, requires that you close your eyes and very lightly lay your hand on the melon and move it slightly over the skin of the melon. If it feels hard and slick, or looks shiny, it is not ripe. If it feels soft and velvety like skin, it is a good choice. The produce manager told me that it should feel like a bald man's head. I have never tried that experiment, but fellow shoppers will look at you with concern, so wear your face mask and try not to let anyone see you do this!

Cantaloupe: If it smells ripe and fruity and has no soft spots, it is usually a good choice. The peel should not be green but a soft peach color. Always check your produce at the stem end of every variety. It should appear recently picked and not shriveled or black. Check melons for imperfections or bruises.

Watermelon: The big yellow spot where the melon was laying in the field should be yellow, not white. The melon should be dull, not shiny on the outside and heavy for its size. Listen for a hollow sound when you thump it.

Avocados: Be sure the little wart is still at the stem end. Remove it. The color under it should be green. If it is dark, it is likely to be old. Firm avocados will take about two days to ripen on the counter, while soft ones should be used right away.

Pineapples: Should be a golden yellow with bright green leaves that will come out if you tug them. If they come out too easily, the pineapple is old. A ripe pineapple will feel soft and "give" slightly to pressure when you press it and have the distinct pineapple fragrance.

Bananas: Should be stored on a hook stand or the counter, as they will turn dark at the pressure points of where they are laying. Ethylene gas from other fruits in the bowl and from the stem end of the banana itself, will cause bananas to ripen more quickly. Wrap the stem end of the banana in plastic wrap. Store them away from other fruit to let them "social distance."

Mangos: While mangos, when ripe, have more yellow color than green or red, you cannot only depend on color to make the choice. Ripe mangos should show yellow around the stem end and give slightly when you press it. It should also pass the smell test and not have any wrinkles in the skin. To slice a mango, you should peel, then stand it upright and slice from the top down beside the seed and keep working your way around the pit until you have removed all the flesh.

The following recipe is a favorite that combines the flavors of two favorites, mango and coconut, to enhance the chicken curry. Enjoy!

Quick Chicken and Mango Curry — serves 4

- 4 (8 oz) boneless chicken breasts
- 1 small chopped onion
- 2 slices fresh ginger, shredded
- 3 Tbsp. Oil
- 2 tsp. Mild Curry Powder
- 2 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp salt
- ¾ cup water or chicken stock
- 2 TBSP compressed coconut cream
(or ½ cup canned or fresh coconut milk)
- 1 cup fresh mango
- 2 Tbsp toasted silvered almonds

Cut chicken breasts in cubes and sauté with the onion and ginger in oil until the chicken is done and the onions are soft. Sprinkle over the curry powder, flour, and salt. Mix well, add water and coconut cream. Reduce heat and simmer, stirring gently until the sauce thickens and the coconut cream has dissolved. Add nuts and mango. Serve on a bed of white rice.

The purpose of the *Smoke Signal* classifieds is to advertise goods and services to the community.



For over three decades, **Blankenship Family Dentistry** has been treating the Smoke Rise Community with a personal touch.

You will feel comfortable with our father-daughter team that offers an abundance of dental talent, in a judgement-free environment.

Call to make your appointment today.
770.879.0732