

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 8

Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

November, 2021

www.smokesignalnews.com

*Happy Thanksgiving
from the staff of the Smoke Signal!*

Election Day is NOVEMBER 2, 2021 - Vote!

If you are a registered voter who hasn't taken advantage of the various advanced voting opportunities for this election, then your last chance to vote is on election day! For polling information, you can go online to the GA Secretary of State's "My Voter Page" at: <https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov>. Here are the local elections that affect us in Smoke Rise/Tucker:

City of Tucker Mayor

Frank Auman (Incumbent) – www.tuckerga.gov
Robin "Rob" Biro – www.robinfortucker.com

City of Tucker Council Member, Dist. 1, Post 1

Roger W. Orlando – www.OrlandoforTucker.com
Karen Peters-Rivers – www.karen4tucker.com

Special Election City of Tucker/ Council Member, Dist. 1, Post 2

Christine Bloodworth – www.voteforbloodworth.com
Virginia Rece – www.virginiarece.com
Shawn Woods – www.shawnwoodsfortucker.com

There is also a Special Election
for DeKalb County
regarding DeKalb County
ESPLOST. Yes or No

Smoke Rise Civic Association Update

By Michael J. Huerkamp, SRCA President

The Smoke Rise Civic Association (SRCA) represents all Smoke Rise neighborhoods. While the SRCA board continues to be stymied socially by the COVID-19 Delta variant, staving off public meetings and our intent for a document shredding event, we remain active in the community. We've recently invested in the clean-up and mulching of the hill on Hugh Howell abutting the old school property, cleaned-up and mulched at the old school sign, and engaged in weed control and removal at the Allan Diamonti commemorative paved triangle at the Silver Hill and Hugh Howell intersection. Under the leadership and intervention of Lyle Collins, we likewise were active in the clean-up of discarded debris on Old Stone Mountain Road and with the fall flowers planted at the iconic Rosser Road chimney. While complicated and arduous in the offing, we are moving at a deliberate pace in support of neighbors troubled from noise emanating from the South Royal Atlanta Drive of the industrial park. Most importantly, we remained committed to supporting the elementary school, as a great school enables great neighborhoods, and to that effect donated \$5,000.00 for investment in outdoor furniture and equipment at the new site, as the school board makes no accommodation for these necessities. Kalpana Patel gave an update on our activities at the Tucker District 1 town hall on October 19. Under our recently revised arrangement with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization, thanks to the great dedication of Lisa Khemani, 100% of dues/donations to SRCA have been fully tax deductible. If you approve of what we are doing, please consider a donation to the SRCA in your year-end charitable giving plan. At this time, the easiest way to support SRCA is to send checks, endorsed to SRCA, to P. O. Box 870793, Smoke Rise, GA 30087. Your all volunteer, completely uncompensated board, is most grateful for your support.



Tucker City Council Unanimously Approves Inclusion Resolution, Pledges to Set Up Working Group

By Matt Holmes, Director of Communications and Admin. Services

Tucker's City Council voted unanimously on October 12 to adopt a resolution providing for an "Inclusive, Fair and Welcoming City," mirroring resolutions passed in nearby cities like Pine Lake and Stone Mountain. The resolution was introduced by Mayor Frank Auman and will be distributed to all licensed businesses within the City of Tucker.

"I have long wanted to pass a resolution confirming that we, as a city, embrace our diversity and seek to protect all people from discrimination," Auman told the crowd gathered at Tuesday's City Council meeting. "We have always said, well before cityhood even, that it is our people that make Tucker a welcoming place and, when we say people, we mean all people."

In addition to the resolution, the Mayor asked Councilmembers Anne Lerner, Matt Robbins and Pat Soltys to establish the framework for a working group of residents to study a legally defensible non-discrimination ordinance for the City of Tucker.

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A Grateful Nation Gives Thanks for its Blessings

By Barbara Bruschi

When you walk through a storm, you feel like the darkness will never lift, yet at the end, there is always hope for a brighter tomorrow.

America, the land of the free and the home of the brave, one nation under God will honor its heritage of freedom and courage on November 25, 2021, the day of Thanksgiving. This tradition of honoring bountiful harvests in America dates back to the year 1621. Harvest festivals span countries and cultures throughout the centuries. The Egyptians, Romans Greeks and Jewish people (Sukkot) feasted to offer their sublime gratitude to their god(s) for the crops that sustained their livelihood. Native Americans have a rich culture in celebrating harvest festivals.

The Pilgrims that left England to avoid religious prosecution and an authoritarian government landed in Plymouth Rock on December 11, 1660. These English Separatist overcame tremendous perils to brave the New World. The Indians helped the Pilgrims to cultivate the land, identify poisonous fruit and trees and to grow corn, which ultimately was the key to the survival of the Colonists. Wampanoag Indians shared a three-day feast with the Pilgrims in harmony. The tables were laden with fowl, venison, wild turkey, fish, fruits and nuts. United and peaceful, the Pilgrims and Indians celebrated in honor of nature and the sustenance it provides for us on a daily basis. They did not serve pies, because the Mayflower was running out of sugar.

This year, Thanksgiving will have a very special meaning after the world lost millions of people to a virus coming from far away. We owe an immense gratitude to all the people that provided us with our daily needs: The health-care community, the first responders, the scientific teams that worked tirelessly to save lives, and the innovators that created a vaccine to give us protection from the savage toll COVID-19 has taken. Once again, a generous nation has survived in times of turmoil and endless sadness. We mourn for those that have lost loved ones. Their pain will never end, and only time will bring some closure. This is a day, when the nation commits itself to patriotism, truth, honesty, responsibility and compromise. Peace, not violence must reign supremely to guide us to a happy, free and glorious future where everybody that desires to succeed in life, can flourish.

Traditionally, families and friends gather on Thanksgiving to reaffirm their roots and to feast together. Turkey remains the show piece for the day. Parades, games and delicious food mark the day of fun and sharing. It is also a time where many organizations volunteer to bring joy to those, less fortunate. We remember the United States military services, keeping watch in faraway places, separated from their beloved families. They deserve our deepest respect and gratitude.

...Continued on page 7



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.

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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

NOVEMBER 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 NOVEMBER 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
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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!



Smoke Rise Baptist Thanksgiving Basket Project

SRBC invites you to participate in the annual Thanksgiving Basket Project. Members began collecting Thanksgiving food donations on October 18. Then, November 21 they gather for a Thanksgiving dinner followed by a time to prepare Thanksgiving baskets for the church's mission partners NETWorks in Tucker, and the Lilburn Cooperative Ministry.

The following items are needed to fill a basket:
 1 large can sweet potatoes
 3 cans green beans
 2 cans corn
 1 can fruit
 1 can cranberry jelly
 2 packets gravy (NO JARS)
 1 box stuffing
 2 boxes mac and cheese
 1 package cookies
 2 packets potatoes (NO BOXES)
 1 package Thanksgiving luncheon napkins
 \$15 Gift Card for meat (Please bring cards to the church office and deposit in the Thanksgiving box.)



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.)



ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:

The *Smoke Signal* has reached its ad-space limit and we are now keeping a waiting list for future advertisements.

Please send your ad-size requests to Frank Luton, luton@mindspring.com, and your ads will be included as space becomes available, in the order requests are received.

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

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 through Zoom or In-Person

Schedule Available at smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/

11:00 a.m. Attend Worship via Live Stream or In-Person

Live Stream Available at smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/

5:00 p.m. Children and Youth Activities In-Person

MONDAY

7:00 p.m. Journeys Racial Justice Study Group

Zoom or In-Person

Schedule Available at smokerisebaptist.org/journeys/

WEDNESDAY

5:00 p.m. Dinner

6:00 p.m. In-Person Programing for all ages, join the Adult Bible Study via Live Stream

Live Stream at smokerisebaptist.org/wednesday-evening-activities/

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III

Director of Spiritual Formation ~ Jeanine Fulton

Director of Family & Outreach ~ Mark Sauls

Interim Director of Music ~ Ben Holcomb

Organist ~ Carole Mitchell

Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zabarac

Director of Weekday Ministries ~ Celeste Sears

Office Coordinator ~ Christina Wetzel-Sizemore

5801 Hugh Howell Road ~ Stone Mountain, GA 30087

770-469-4881 ~ www.eastminster.us

Sundays:

9:10 a.m. Adult Sunday School via Zoom and In-Person

10:30 a.m. In-Person and Live streaming of Worship service

No reservations necessary for worship and masks are required for non-vaccinated participants.

Our Sunday service information can be found on our website at <https://www.eastminster.us/sundays>.

MC3 Church

Senior Minister: Art Stansberry

Worship Minister: Leslie Riley

Student Minister: Will Tyler

Children's Minister: Rae Tyler Caggiula

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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

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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

Incarnate 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

Telephone (770) 491-0228

www.mwchurch.com

4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain

Sunday Services:

9:00 a.m. masks required

11:00 a.m. masks optional

In-person and streaming online on Facebook and mwchurch.com



A Whole Lot of Christmas – Joyful Tradition Continues

Fall is in the air in our Summit Community, and the Christmas season is right around the corner. The neighborhood elves are busy helping with preparations for this year's Christmas display, and as usual, the display will come to life on Thanksgiving night at 6:15 p.m. As in years past, donations will be collected for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Since 2012, a total of \$48,160.13 has been collected for charity. This year, Victor Economy and family members, are hoping to surpass last year's total of \$11,459.90. You are invited to come by and enjoy the lights this year with your family and friends and see if you can spot the new additions!

A Whole Lot of Christmas is located at 1833 Smokerise Summit.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church Grief Support Group

On November 28, the church will have its monthly grief support gathering led by Adam Arnold and Jim Smith. The meeting is from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in Room 223.

For more information, call Pastoral Care Associate, Dr. Jim Smith, at (770) 469-5856.



Georgia Festival of Trees

November 30-December 4, 2021
Georgia World Congress Center

More than 300 small and large Christmas trees will be on display - plus shopping, live music and entertainment, and a silent auction. Organizations and businesses have been asked to donate custom Christmas trees, wreaths, centerpieces, ornaments and other holiday items. The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club has prepared wreaths, ornaments, and other handmade items for the shoppers. Members will also be volunteering in various capacities during the festival.

The event's beneficiary is Wellspring Living, a local nonprofit organization that is working to change and improve the lives of sex trafficking victims. Wellspring offers residential and community-based programs. For more information about Wellspring, visit wellspringliving.org. Tickets are available at gafestivaloftrees.org.

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Women of Empowerment Scholarship

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club will be awarding a \$1,000.00 scholarship this fall. It will go to a deserving woman who is currently enrolled in a college, technical school or training program to complete her education. If you are interested in applying, or if you know of someone who would be interested, please request an application from the club at info@stonemountainwomanclub.org.

The deadline for applying is Saturday, November 20, 2021.

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THS Softball Team Is Back!

By Johnathan Farley

The Tucker Softball Team is excited to return to Kelley Cofer Park this season to compete in Class 6AAAAAA Region 4 against Morrow, Lakeside, Langston Hughes, Westlake, Lovejoy, and North Atlanta High Schools.

The team this season is led by six seniors, Aryss McDuffie, Na’Riya Hardy-Briscoe, Xya Hicks, Andreyia Hunter, Kaitlin Skates, and Flora Vogel. The coaching staff includes Head Coach Johnathan Farley and assistant coaches Roger Vogel and Angel Walker. Tucker has a long-standing tradition of excellence, and the team hopes to continue that legacy both on and off the field of play.

The team is fortunate to have several of its players being chosen for academic accolades such as the National Honor Society and the Dekalb County Youth Commission Board. Everyone is extremely proud of what our student athletes have achieved and is excited for what the future holds.

The Tucker Softball team is hoping to secure a spot in this year’s GHSA State playoff! Go Tigers!

techtalk

Supply Chain Affects Tech... and a Whole Lot More

by Susan Gilbert

These past two years have taught us (or should have taught us) that we are all interconnected in a web of mutual dependence. When one part of modern society falls into the ditches of life, it can take the rest of it down too. Just look at what has happened with the auto industry... small electronics parts can hold up the entire production through the delivery process.

Many of you have probably experienced this with repairs and replacements to things in your home. Appliances can be backordered for six months or more. Lumber prices went through the roof. Some shelves in the supermarkets are still barren. All of it are results of the dynamics of supply and demand as we recover from the pandemic. Factories are still not up to 100%, but demand for their output is.

Necessity is the mother of invention however, and what businesses are doing now to cope with this mess deserves notice. Appliance dealers are “loaning” the appliances nobody wanted in the past to give their customers something to get by while they wait the months to get what they want. Customers are also looking creatively at what they really need to get by and are cooking in devices they would have never thought to use in the past and washing dishes in sinks and bathtubs!

It is times like these that we truly begin to appreciate what we used to have as options. I remember the old joke about life in Russia where the homeowner goes to the car dealership to order a new car and the salesman says it would be delivered next year on November 13. The customer asks whether it was in the morning or the afternoon? The dealer asks why that would matter, and the customer says the dishwasher repairman was coming that morning. Well, here we are.

Working our way out of these transitions brings with it lessons that will persist. I really wonder whether the model of office work will resume... people have become quite comfortable working from home and employers have often benefited from cost reductions and in many cases productivity increases. Of course, there are also those who now work two jobs from home and neither of their employers knows.

So, there are lots of challenges, but think about this. Many of you have or had parents who went through the Great Depression. That trained a full generation that nothing should be thrown away. My mother had things in her freezer from that period of time (only kidding). This pandemic will leave its mark on many areas of our lives and for quite a while.

The one thing I hope this challenging time has also taught us is how interdependent we are on each other. When we lose social contact, we suffer. When we fail to act as a community, when it comes to behaviors and care for each other, we suffer. We are all connected, despite our differences of opinion and personal choices for how we live our lives. We have a lot to learn from all this.

I hope we all pause and consider what we should each learn and live accordingly.

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Magnolia Room Cafeteria's Local Ties

With election season nearing an end, there is something I am sure we can all agree on: this neighborhood is surrounded by great food! One such local favorite is Magnolia Room Cafeteria, serving up delicious southern favorites in the Shops of Heritage Place on Hugh Howell Road. Longtime residents will remember the landmark S&S Cafeteria, which closed its doors in 2016, after 40 years in Embury Village. But what you may not know is that proud Smoke Rise resident, Mr. Louis Squires, then a faithful S&S regular, retained the original S&S staff and recipes, moved the business across Tucker, and started fresh with a new name. Mr. Louis wanted to serve up the same authentic cuisines that S&S was known and loved for, "cooking the same way and with the same people cooking."

I asked Mr. Louis, "Why Tucker?" and the answer was quite simple: He just really likes Tucker! Mr. Louis is "a big fan of Sherry's Produce in Tucker. There are so few farmer-driven vegetable and fruit stands left in Atlanta and she's one of the best... we had the community, we had a wonderful relationship with Sherry's, and it was my home, so it just seemed the right place... and we've now found out that was a very good decision!"

For Mr. Louis, who is originally from North Carolina, it runs deeper than the S&S family, or even Tucker. "My grandparents were farmers... this food is how my grandmother cooked... this food has an incredible memory for me of traditions and happy times growing up. That's why I just felt like we had to preserve it... We're going to keep the torch burning... This is part of our heritage!"

Reinventing a restaurant after more than 40 years in business has had its challenges. According to Mr. Louis, "We've had days where the entire dining room was flooded because of a broken pipe, we've had ovens down, refrigerators down, I mean we have been tested!" but that doesn't stop him from looking ahead with optimism. "I think we have been a story of perseverance and frankly faith that we were going to make it, things were going to be alright, that the customers were going to find us again, and we would thrive."

Magnolia Room has not been exempt from the struggles that all restaurants have faced in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, but they have adapted. There have been shortages of only a few food items (namely okra and trout), but luckily the restaurant hasn't faced any labor shortages thanks to "a very loyal staff" (shout-out to chefs Carl Lee and William Finley, ambassadors Gary and Shirelle, and Vilma!)

With the return to indoor dining, Mr. Louis and team took important measures to ensure the safety of all patrons. "We built barriers in between all of the seating areas to create sort of a cozy cove-type atmosphere and provide a level of safety and protection, and it's been very well received. I think it also makes for a much more pleasant dining experience, because you don't have the background noise and you feel like you're sort of in a little living room and you can sit and enjoy the conversation. We have people tell us still to this day that we're one of the few places that they feel comfortable dining in."

According to Mr. Louis, "What we're really grateful for and so happy to see is so many of our customers that we hadn't seen for over a year who are now vaccinated and who are coming back in. We see these wonderful people that we know and love able to come back out and actually go through the line and sit down in the dining room and enjoy a meal. These are good times."

With your family in mind, Magnolia Room is cooking for Thanksgiving! After a successful catering event last Thanksgiving, the team is bringing back their flexible carry-out model, as well as opening their doors on Thanksgiving Day. You can easily order online and get exactly what you want at the date and time you want it. Mr. Louis bragged on his team's commitment to accuracy in executing a great experience for all customers last Thanksgiving. The Magnolia Room is located at 4450 Hugh Howell Road, and its hours are Monday-Saturday, 11:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Mr. Louis looks forward to seeing you soon!

Hugh Howell Marketplace is Coming Along

By Frank Luton

The Hugh Howell Marketplace is coming along with the grand opening date still undecided. The Marketplace will be anchored by a Publix Supermarket. I spoke to the Publix manager, and he had hoped the store would be open for business around November 17. For now, it remains undecided. There are however two restaurants that have been announced, Antico Pizza Napoletana and First Watch.



Also, Jersey Mike's Subs and Buffalo Wild Wings "GO" are set to open.



In addition, the service and healthcare-oriented tenants announced include ATI Physical Therapy, The Joint Chiropractic, Scenthound Dog Grooming and Piedmont Urgent Care.

As more information and announcements are forthcoming, I will be updating the progress in next month's *Smoke Signal*. Stay tuned!

Holiday Happenings at the Club

By Susan Gilbert



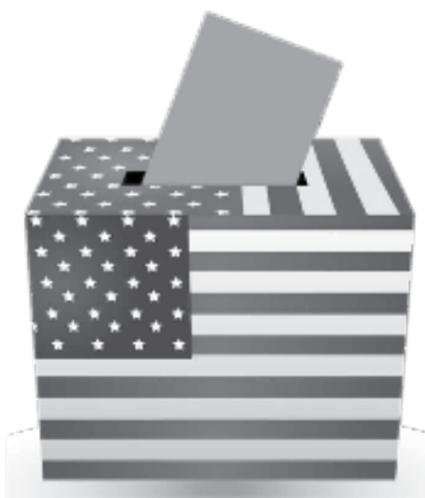
The Holiday Season is coming up and the Smoke Rise Country Club will be repeating the ever-popular Thanksgiving TO-GO this year. Smoke Rise residents, members and non-members alike, are welcome to enjoy a chef prepared Thanksgiving meal. So, skip the shopping, preparing, and cooking and enjoy more time with friends and family this holiday. For more information on Thanksgiving To GO, contact Rylee Palmer at rpalmer@smokerisecc.com or (770) 908-2582 ext.4.

Additionally, we will be collecting toys for the Salvation Army to be added to any collected at the 17th Annual Arthur Wood Memorial Salvation Army Golf Classic hosted by the Smoke Rise Country Club. You can drop them off with Suzy at the Tennis Department, or at the Club House with Rylee. And, if you are interested in playing in the charity tournament, Rylee can help get you to the right people to sign up.

Also, the holidays are a great time of year to celebrate, congratulate, and spend time with friends and family. The club would love to host your holiday event and has just the place to do it! To book your event, contact Michelle Broadwater at mbroadwater@smokerisecc.com.

If you have never visited the club, you are welcome to come check it out by contacting Rylee for a tour or to join us with a "Member for a Day" pass. Even the holidays are better on the Rise! We wish you a healthy and happy holiday season!

VOTE! November 2, 2021



There are seven candidates vying for your vote and the opportunity to serve our community.

The candidates chosen for the three seats of **Mayor** and **two Councilman** to lead Tucker and District One are your voice and represent your interests not just in our community but right down to things that affect our property values.

Smoke Rise Agents Team urges you to vote. Every vote counts.

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Lost and Found *By Joel Gilbert, P.E.*

Have you noticed how many times things seem to work out even when the odds are stacked against it? Kind of like “finding a needle in a haystack” as the old phrase goes. We had one of those miracles just the other day, and I thought the lesson it taught us was worth sharing.

It all began on a September evening when Susan and I went to our usual Friday social time with friends at the Smoke Rise Country Club. As usual, we headed outside to the rocking chair patio expecting to simply relax with neighbors after a long day and enjoy the crisp evening air. But when we arrived, we were surprised to find that one of our friends had a grey and white

cockatiel perched on her shoulder. It was not hers. She had heard it chirping on the patio, offered it her finger, and it marched right up to her shoulder and settled in like it was home. Clearly this bird had been part of a family and had become lost. If you Google this breed of parrot, you will see they are incredibly social and just love interacting with people.

We fed it some bread crusts and provided a cup of water, which were all happily accepted. But then came the sobering realization that now we had a different problem: Someone had to care for this lost bird. Since our friend had dogs at home and nobody else was anxious to take home a pet parrot, we

found a box and brought it to our home. Once there, we found a large clear plastic storage container that would work as its temporary home. While we found it to be hilarious to be around, our work and travel schedules are not optimal for having pets. So, my first priority was to see if I could locate its rightful home and report it found... without letting anyone know what it looked like, so we could avoid scams or someone who just wanted a pet or to try and sell the bird.

Noticing the bird had clipped wings and therefore does not fly well, we assumed it must belong to someone right here in Smoke Rise, so Susan posted the story on “NextDoor” Saturday morning. Meanwhile, I

went online to figure out how you post that you have found someone’s pet. Figuring that was a longshot, I also searched for how you could bring a bird to a shelter... and learned you can’t bring them

to a bird dealer because of the risks of the bird bringing in a disease. I posted the fact that we had found a bird on my “Facebook” page but without any pictures or descriptions other than it was a cockatiel. On the chance the bird was not lost locally, I also found a website for “lost and found” parrots designed specifically to reconnect these family members. Three days later, I got a picture of a bird that someone had lost, and it was clearly the bird we had. Go figure... but the story gets even more interesting.

They offered a phone number to connect, and I spoke to the mother of the young girl who had lost the bird. Denvy, as she called him, had escaped from their home when they were moving some boxes and had the door open. But the story gets more intriguing. They live in Marietta, some 35 miles away, so how does a bird that mostly walks end up in Smoke Rise? But, the most interesting fact was they lost the bird last November... almost one year ago. Oh, if the bird could talk! Perhaps someone in Marietta had found it and transported it? How many people had entered this bird’s life? After all, how could a bird with its wings clipped fly 35 miles and why to our country club? That is a story we probably will never know, “the rest of the story...” What we do know is the bird was lost and now has been found.



Illustration by Beth Henson

When they came to take Denvy home, the mom told me that her daughter was despondent and inconsolable after losing the bird. Her friends kept telling her not to lose faith... someone would find her bird and bring it back to her. When I told her I thought we had found her bird, I asked her for some more pictures and sure enough it was clearly her bird. Cockatiels are quite varied in their colors and this one was a very unusual grey and white with beautiful yellow and green color splotches.

What I found most endearing about this whole saga was the note back to me acknowledging the birds are very social and that if we had bonded with her, she understood and wanted us to know we could keep him. She was just elated to know her friend was safe and found. There is certainly more to this story we can never fully know, but what we can know is that this bird is a model for how community works successfully in this digital age. For all the bad things we know and read about, I do hope this story is uplifting and encouraging.

We admit, we do miss Denvy perching on our shoulders or nestling his head under our hands insisting we stroke his head. We miss his cheery “Good Morning” greetings and even his angry “where are you going?” chirps. A cockatiel may indeed be in our future. They are amazingly loving birds.

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Letter to the Editor:

They say that all politics is local, but I felt that the four candidates running for District 1 City Council sound mayoral and national, more than local. What I missed from the candidates are specific concerns that are unique to Smoke Rise community. It would be my wish that our new council members serve the first and foremost interests of our community. To me, that means improving the quality of life and protecting/preserving the unique character of Smoke Rise. Here is what matters to me and my neighbors:

- Working to find a solution for the old Smoke Rise Elementary school that will comply with the wishes of Smoke Rise residents and will establish regular maintenance of the old school grounds and buildings in the interim.
- Calming traffic and noise levels on Hugh Howell Road, Lilburn Stone Mountain Road, and Silver Hill Road, including future diversion of commuter traffic away from residential neighborhoods.
- Fixing potholes, paving neighborhood streets, and maintaining existing sidewalks, gutter, and public land free of weeds, overgrown grass, and kudzu.
- Expediting plans for building sidewalks and bike trails connecting Smoke Rise with Tucker and Stone Mountain Park and Village.
- Building sidewalks in all Smoke Rise neighborhoods.
- Developing parks and nature trails accessible to older and handicapped residents and young children.
- Developing at least one active park with outdoor exercise equipment for adults and fields for group sports.
- Building at least one children's playground.
- Designating a dog park and placing dog waste receptacles in neighborhoods.
- Installing benches, streetlights, and trashcans on frequently walked routes.
- Designating a place to serve as a community center.
- Improving the existing Tucker tree ordinance to better protect the tree canopy from irresponsible residents and businesses by enforcing existing rules and penalties for violators.
- Banning gas-powered blowers to curb noise levels and pollution.

Spomenka Newman, Ph.D.
The Summit Neighborhood

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**Grateful Nation
...continued from page 1**

This year, the 95th MACY'S THANKSGIVING PARADE, (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) the second oldest parade in the country held in New York City, will return in its original version, live and in person, with some safety protocols observed. In the beginning, 400 immigrants staged the parade.

Santa will ring in the beginning of the Christmas holiday, as he does in many other cities.

Let us remember all those pioneers that help shape these United States and sacrificed endlessly to make our world and lives better. May Thanksgiving be filled with patriotic songs that remind us how lucky we are to live in this great Democracy where free speech and the right to be who we are still rules the day. May the parade of being thankful for all we have and what this nation has become, continue till the end of time.

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NEWS YOU CAN USE by Aviva Hoffmann | Meet Your Neighbor... Rick Hooker

Each night before sleep – he meditates on the day – calculating and measuring if he’s done enough good deeds. That is Rick Hooker, Smoke Rise resident for a decade. Before retiring, Rick was in specialized construction. His wife, Victoria “Vicki” Greco was a boat builder, pool builder, and real estate agent. Rick and Vicki became an item in December 1979, and married in 2003. Rick says Vicki was the first and only woman Rick ever loved. And, he STILL loves her.

Having grandchildren inspired Vicki to change

her profession to be near her grandkids. When she told Rick, out of the blue, she was going to become a nurse, he had no doubt she would be good at it. The day she finished nursing school, they moved to Smoke Rise, with two dogs and an aquarium full of fish. Rick was drawn to dogs from his early teens. He likes the challenge of training and bonding with them. The first dog he and Vicki had together was a little Pit Bull, because the shelters were filled with them.

The Hookers’ storied life was shattered in 2020, when Vicki was diagnosed with COVID-19. She died from the virus two and a half weeks later. Within the following month, Rick lost both their dogs to canine diseases. Losing the love of his life AND his two companion dogs was almost more than

he could bear. Rick lost his inspiration for enjoying life. To break the spiral, he knew he needed dogs back in his life. He started to volunteer at a shelter and was introduced to a dog that was scheduled to be euthanized. Rick didn’t know much about “Mooch,” except he’d been in the shelter for 575 days and his time was up. This was a challenge Rick was ready to tackle. Mooch needed somebody that could put in a lot of time, and Rick needed a project. The first day, Mooch accidentally scratched up Rick’s arm and even gave him a black eye with a head butt. That just made Rick more determined to work with this dog. Mooch became Rick’s sole focus. It took time, but Rick didn’t have anything better to do.

In the fall of 2020, I was walking my dog Duke and spotted a guy with his Pit Bull. I was impressed with the man’s command over his dog. In fact, I was jealous! Walking my dog is like flying a kite in a storm... he likes to pull! So, I felt

compelled to acknowledge the man’s relationship with his dog. During a brief conversation, an offer was made to help train me and my dog, and I said, “Yes.” I had no idea that just months earlier, Rick had endured such great loss and grief.

Fast forward to a year later, after thousands of steps along our beautiful Smoke Rise streets, dog walking with Rick and Mooch is a pleasure. Mooch is pretty well-known on some of the streets of Smoke Rise. And Rick loves tagging along. Now, anytime Rick sees someone with a dog that needs a little training, Rick will offer his dog whispering services. Don’t hesitate to take him up on it! He is a master.

What’s next? Well, he



Rick Hooker and Mooch

has a new truck and loves to hit the road. And, you can bet, Mooch is going to be right there with him. No matter if a cute fuzzy creature is involved, don’t hesitate to get to know your neighbor. It could have a profound impact. Rick shared with me recently that Mooch, and the chance meeting with me and Duke, helped save his life.

During this month of Thanksgiving – I am grateful to know Mooch (oh, and yes, Rick Hooker too!)



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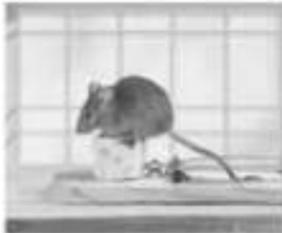
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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

Are Your Hungry or Not?

We are now entering holiday season and so many of us link this time with special dinners, desserts and special family recipes. For many, though, it triggers dread, defeat and a 'I'll just start over in January' cycle of thinking. I am hoping that by the time you finish reading this article, you will have a fresh, healthy mindset about food and your body.

November is a month of gratitude and December is a special time for family and friends. Here are a few thoughts that may help you stay on track without missing out on living life to the fullest:

1. We have a lot to be thankful for: food, warmth, clothes, and shoes that fit the season. And we have the freedom to enjoy this. Enjoy the food you eat. This will be a great strategy for your whole life. Plan to set a nice table, even if it is only for yourself. Listen to music. Light a great smelling candle. Eat with your eyes and ears as well as your mouth. Don't sit in front of your computer, work desk or television. Don't shovel your food in. Participate in table conversation without competition from electronic devices.

2. Are you really hungry? Could you be bored? Thirsty? Thinking of something that 'sounds good'? Have cold water handy in the fridge-embellished with berries, lemon, mint and/or cucumber. Or make some hot tea or coffee (Decaf after noon). Chew gum. Distract yourself with a small task in a room other than the kitchen. Put headphones on and listen to music, a podcast or go outside!

3. Plan your treats. I used to plan a small treat at 10:00 a.m. with my second cup of coffee. Eat something you love that will become a ritual, not a second breakfast or meal. Plan your desserts. Eat only what really tastes good. If you try a piece of something you don't like, eat a bite and leave the rest. You are in control of what you eat.

4. Are you eating too little? Many people eat too little when they are trying to lose weight. I once read a study showing that most people eat about the same volume of food daily. I hear people complain that they 'hardly eat anything and still can't lose weight'. Many are skipping meals or scrimping and later eat a medium portion of food that is 'dense' in calories. That fast food or meal out can cost you big time in calories and still leave you feeling hungry and deprived later. Try eating a bigger meal that costs less calorie-wise. You might be surprised how it fills your plate and your belly.

5. Are you in a hurry to eat? What is the rush? If you have a family or spouse, use the time at the table to talk, catch up, ask interesting questions. Or educate yourself about topics you both enjoy.

6. Is it true that you do not have time to cook? Many people drive through a fast-food restaurant or eat out thinking they do not have time to cook dinner. When it is all over, they could have cooked a meal with far fewer calories, less sodium, saturated fat and sugar in 30 minutes or less. Having your fridge and pantry stocked with items that are easy-to-make is a strategy that works. The internet is a great source of recipes for the 3-4 ingredients you do have in the fridge.

7. Plan or cook ahead. When my children were small, November was the ONCE a MONTH COOKING. A few friends and I did power cooking and chopping and made 30 days of dinners to freeze. We made soups, chilis, quiche, casseroles, stuffed pasta shells and more. When the holidays rolled around, we had more time and plenty of things to take out of the freezer. It was so much better than fast food! Another strategy is to try sheet pan meals, Saturday or Sunday cooking for the week or doubling of recipes, to stock the freezer.

You deserve to enjoy the season, no matter what your weight is. Life is not just about food and what we put in our bellies. Establish boundaries around your meals, eat when you are hungry. Stop when you are full. Add exercise to the mix as a family activity and you will be healthier...for life.

Reflections on Smoke Rise

By Vickie Carpenter, Smoke Signal Board of Directors

My husband Ken and I were married in our hometown of Lincolnton, North Carolina. We ended up in Atlanta because my new husband was in his second year of law school at Emory University, so I found a job teaching first grade at Mountain Park Elementary. We always planned on going back to North Carolina, once he completed his studies and passed the bar. But life didn't work out that way. Ken ended up joining a small law firm in Decatur, and we bought a home in a subdivision off North Hairston Road.

We had stumbled across Smoke Rise on a drive we took out Rt. 78. Exiting on Hugh Howell and driving up that long, steep hill, we were both struck by how much it felt like the North Carolina mountains we missed in our new home. I was in awe of how green and lush everything seemed. When we got to the Kanawha entrance, I excitedly told Ken to please turn in so we could look at these lovely homes. As we drove through the neighborhood, I felt myself falling in love with the whole area.

I turned to my young husband and informed him that this is where I wanted to live someday. We kept driving through Smoke Rise and the more I saw, the more in love with the whole neighborhood I became. Lovely well-kept homes and large acre lots were drawing me in, and I felt like this was as close to home as I could get in Georgia. I never forgot the beauty of Smoke Rise and informed my husband that every penny I earned was going into savings to buy a lot in Kanawha. It took me five years to buy our lot, but it was well worth it. Every time I drove through Smoke Rise, the beauty of the area would take my breath away. I was so close to the city, yet I felt like I was in a secluded protected bubble that very few people knew about. We excitedly watched our house being built and moving day was not a chore but a delight. We couldn't wait to start our new life in such a picture-perfect place.

My family and I have always felt lucky to find a neighborhood where my neighbors have been our neighbors for 40 years now. I have watched my neighbors' children grow up, get married, and have children of their own. Some of those children have chosen to make Smoke Rise their home too. We love going to our beautiful Smoke Rise Country Club to play tennis and then on weekends I see my friends and neighbors sitting in the rocking chairs on the club's veranda looking at that incredible view of the golf course and hilly countryside. My other friends all over Atlanta can't believe that our Smoke Rise neighborhood has stayed so stable with very few people moving away. I attribute that to all the caring, unselfish people who live in Smoke Rise. They are always ready to volunteer to help our neighborhood become the best place to live in Atlanta.

One aspect of Smoke Rise our family has loved is receiving the Smoke Signal every month. We look forward to seeing it appear on our driveway and can't wait to read the articles and keep up with what our neighbors are doing. We have appreciated it so much that when I was recently asked to serve on the paper's volunteer Board of Directors, I accepted without hesitation. This is one way I can give back to the community that I love so much, and I hope that my input will be valuable and help the paper be increasingly appreciated by our Smoke Rise neighbors.

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Ladies in Stride, Inc Celebrates 10 Years!!

By Mrs. Geonice Hanchett, Founder & CEO, Ladies in Stride, Inc.

On September 24, 2011, I had a vision after participating in a Road Race at Tucker Middle School with my husband Dr. Donald Hanchett and son Donald Hanchett, II. Ladies in Stride, Inc launched in May 2012, on the track of Tucker High School where all of the Hanchett children, and now granddaughter graduated. Our lovely daughter, Panette Hanchett Griffin, graduated in 1997 and is now the Vice President of L.I.S. Our son, attorney Paul Hanchett, graduated in 2000 and sits on the Executive Board of L.I.S. Our son, Donald Hanchett, II, graduated in 2007 and served on the Medical Team of L.I.S. He is now our Guardian Angel in Heaven. Our son, Kevin Hanchett, graduated in 2012 and sits on the Executive Board of L.I.S. Paul and Kevin's lovely wives, Ashley Green Hanchett and Diamond Clarke Hanchett are both on the Adult Leadership Team for our National L.I.S. Youth Chapter. Our beautiful Granddaughter, Alexis Griffin, gradu-

ated from Tucker High School in May and is a Co-Captain for our Nat'l Youth Chapter of L.I.S. Ladies in Stride, Inc has always been a family and community organization reaching out to all ladies 13-years-old and older. L.I.S. is a very loving and diverse sisterhood, embracing all who enter her doors as we all vow to, "Take Better Care Of Ourselves." In 2013, Ladies in Stride, Inc hosted its 1st Total Health & Wellness Retreat in Lake Tahoe Nevada, with the help of many Sponsors from the Tucker and Smoke Rise area. All attendees received important medical advice, free medical screenings, sessions concerning their minds, bodies and souls, delicious meals, tours and lots of time to relax and enjoy. Since then, L.I.S. has rotated from the West Coast to the East Coast with Wonderful Health & Wellness Retreats: 2014 in Hilton Head, South Carolina, 2015 Hollywood, California, 2016 Palm Coast, Florida, 2017 Las Vegas, Nevada, 2018 Bahamas Cruise,

2019 San Diego, California and Mexico, 2020 and 2021, Virtual Retreats due to COVID-19.

Every month, our members are blessed with a National Conference Call focusing on the importance of stress reduction and other important areas of our health. Our Sisterhood offers a wonderful Nat'l Book Club, Self-Health Challenges, a Nat'l Youth Chapter (ages 13-20 yrs. old), Prayer Warriors, a Care Team for our sick and bereaved, an Annual Memorial BMI Scholarship in loving memory of Donald Hanchett, II, an Annual High School Senior Scholarship and much more. L.I.S. now has members across the United States, New York to California, and from

Washington State to Florida and many states in between, including our home state of Georgia. Many of our members participated in our Zoom 10th Anniversary/ Founder's Day Celebration in September. Many thanks to our Founder's Day Committee: Ms. Panette Hanchett Griffin, Ms. Alison Dealy & Ms. Khady Deborah Ellison. They did an amazing job! Thank you to the Governor of Georgia, Mr. Brian Kemp

and the Regional Health Administrator for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources, Dr. John Gilford, for their participation in our festivities via congratulatory letters. Thank you to our Executive Board Members, Team Captains and Committee Chairpersons across the United States and our advisors for both Ladies in Stride, Inc and Ladies in Stride Foundation, Inc: Last but certainly not least, a huge shout out to all of our L.I.S. members for making your health a priority!

Ladies in Stride, Inc. membership is free and open to all warm-hearted ladies ages 13 years and older. If you would like to be a part of a warm, loving, diverse sisterhood that will help you focus on taking better care of yourself, please sign up at www.ladiesinstride.com. We will help you "Keep It Moving" toward a healthier and more balanced lifestyle.



The 2021 Founder's Day/ 10th Anniversary Committee: Ms. Alison Dealy, Founder Mrs. Geonice Hanchett, Ms. Panette Griffin, (Mrs. Khady Deborah Ellison - Not Pictured)

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Growing Lettuce in Containers

By Kathy Rhinehart

Lettuce is one of my favorite garden greens, because it is far superior in both taste and vitamin A and can be grown in containers. We have lots of hungry deer and bunnies in Smoke Rise. Lettuce is a cool season crop that grows best in early spring and/or fall in our region. It grows quickly, produces for a long time, and isn't demanding, as long as you keep it sufficiently watered. Select a sunny spot for the best growth. The plants need four to six hours of sun per day. The soil (I use Miracle Grow) should be loose and drain well so that it's moist without staying soggy. Fertilize as often as every two weeks.

The best containers are plastic pots. They do not have to be too deep, but a wider surface allows you to grow more lettuce. Lettuce needs ample room for roots, but you can grow several varieties in the same six to 12 inch pots. Water your lettuce every other day, because lettuce roots are shallow, so frequent watering is more important than deep watering.

I've had success with green romaine, oak leaf lettuce, red romaine, leaf lettuce and red sails. Lettuce leaves will grow back after cutting, and early morning cuttings are best for crispier lettuce. Clean a pair of sharp scissors, then wipe the blades with a soft cloth or paper towel moistened with rubbing alcohol before and after cutting. This reduces contamination of the lettuce leaves. Cut the outer lettuce leaves about one inch above the crown, because this protects the crown so the lettuce can continue growing. When the leaves are between three to six inches, it's time to make a yummy salad.

Random Tips

- Peppermint essential oil mixed with water repels spiders, mosquitoes, flies, cockroaches, and beetles. Get a pressurized spray bottle, add water to the full line and add 100 drops of peppermint oil.
- It's so easy to grow tomatoes, bell peppers, okra, squash, and cucumbers in containers. By using bamboo stakes, tall cages, or light-weight plastic stakes, you can train squash and cucumbers to grow vertically by using twine or ties to secure the limbs. I've had success growing thyme, oregano, rosemary, chives, and parsley year-round. They do need protection from frost and freezing weather.
- To protect all of your plants and containers from frosts and freezing weather, you can use tall stakes or old golf clubs (THANKS, COLLETTE) in the containers and drape a bed sheet or an old comforter on the stakes. A fabric covering is best because it will allow moisture while still protecting from the frost and freeze. Don't use plastic, because if it touches your plants, it can often be worse than no protection at all.



Lucy White, Cheri Schneider, Kathy Rhinehart and Kelley Samaras hostesses for the October Meeting of the Mountain Mums at Kathy's home.

Morning Glories Delve into Local Historic Preservation

By Quill Duncan

October's meeting featured Teresa Ingalls who is an archaeologist and historic preservationist for New South Associates. You may have read about her work recently in the Up Close and Personal in Lilburn magazine. She works in what is known as cultural resource management which helps communities identify historic properties for potential restoration or reuse. Her personal passion is a video documentation of several historic properties in Lilburn, including the Wynne-Russell home. The link to this project is keepithistoric.org. Teresa noted that there is power in the community to build links to the past and incorporate this into future planning. She shared stories on the "Antiques in Old Town" building in Lilburn that was built in 1910 and the interesting history of the Salem Missionary Baptist Church from its antebellum beginnings to the current day. And the Wynne-Russell home is perhaps the oldest standing structure built in 1820 which is now maintained by the city of Lilburn and the Lilburn Community Partnership. Once nearly lost to neglect, it is now restored and available for events and community activities.

The club met at the Smoke Rise Country Club and President, Joyce Ray, thanked the club for the underwear donations for the GA Regional Hospital. We call this Garden Club of Georgia project "DROP YOUR DRAWERS." The November donations will be toys for the Well Root Project for the foster children under their care. The club also donated 370 Christmas cards which will be distributed with cards from DeKalb Federation and clubs from all over the US to the US troops serving around the world. An organization, "Hugs for Heroes," collects the cards and works with the US Military to see that troops are remembered at the holidays. The Morning Glories are now working with the STEM teacher at the new Smoke Rise Elementary School with a new outdoor classroom which will expand their scientific experiences. The club was very involved in supporting this group over the years, and we are honored to be asked to continue the partnership.

The raffle was won by Judi Crutchfield.

The November 9 meeting will be a workshop led by club member Janet McGinnis on flower arranging made easy. Janet is a National Garden Club Flower Show Judge and an award winning floral designer. Members are asked to bring a vase, clippers and a grocery store flower bouquet to the meeting at the Smoke Rise Country Club. If you are interested in joining the meeting, please contact President, Joyce Ray, at joycemray126@gmail.com. We are happy to have guests, and all are welcome.



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Amen, Let's Eat!

by Joyce Ray



As we enter the season with thankful hearts for family and friends and share celebrations that revolve around food, preparing special meals and treats for friends and family members who have dietary restrictions or food allergies can be a challenge. Recipes for desserts that are gluten free, low carb, or sugar free can be found online. Spending the time to research, taste test and prepare those options would be a true act of love for your family member. This month, I am sharing some gluten free recipes:

Pies are the easiest to convert to gluten free because just a few substitutions are all that is needed. Mixes for gluten free piecrust are readily available and some pre-made ones can be found in the freezer section. Any pre-made gluten free wafer cookie can be crushed and used like graham crackers to make the crust, but if you want to make your own this recipe is simple and makes a single crust.

Gluten Free Pie Crust

- 1 1/2 cup all-purpose gluten free flour
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) cold butter cut into small pieces
- 1 tbsp granulated sugar
- 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 2 T ice water or as necessary to form dough into a ball

Pulse dry ingredients in food processor or hand mix with pastry blender. Add butter and pulse or cut in with pastry blender until pea sized pieces form. Add sour cream. Add ice water 1 T at a time until dough holds together when pressed with your fingers. Turn onto lightly floured surface, form into a ball and flatten. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until very cold or overnight. Preheat oven to 425° degrees and lightly grease a 9" pie pan. Roll out dough into 12" circle and fit to pan. It can be baked and then filled for custard pies or add your filling and then bake as required fruit pies. For the following pumpkin cheesecake, press into bottom and sides of a 9" spring form pan.

Gluten Free Pumpkin Cheesecake

- Preheat oven to 350° degrees
 For Pumpkin Puree: Mix well and set aside
- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3/4 cup canned pumpkin | 3/4 cup granulated sugar |
| 3 egg yolks | 1 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon |
| 1/2 tsp ground ginger | 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg |
| 1/4 tsp salt | |
- Cream Cheese Mixture:
 3 (8 oz) pkgs cream cheese 1/2 cup granulated sugar
 1 large egg 1 egg yolk
 2 T heavy whipping cream 1 T. cornstarch
 1 tsp vanilla extract

Beat cream cheese with electric mixer until fluffy. Gradually add 1/3 cup sugar and mix well. Add the whole egg, remaining egg yolk and whipping cream, beating well. Add cornstarch and vanilla and beat until smooth. Add pumpkin puree and continue to mix until incorporated and smooth. Pour mixture into 9" crust lined spring form pan that has been placed on cookie sheet. Bake 50-55 minutes. Do not overbake but be sure center is firm. Open oven door and turn off oven for 1 hour before removing. Cool on counter. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. Decorate top with whipped cream before serving.

Gluten Free Turkey Dressing

(or "Stuffing," if you hail from north of the Mason-Dixon line)

- 5 cups bread cubes made from your favorite GF bread
- 3 cups crumbled GF cornbread (from mix)
- 2 cups turkey or chicken stock
- 3 large eggs
- 2 T Olive oil
- 1 T unsalted butter
- 2 ribs celery, diced
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 T poultry seasoning (or to taste)
- 1 tsp thyme
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

Combine breadcrumbs with seasonings in large bowl. Sauté onion and celery in butter until translucent and add to breadcrumbs. Beat eggs, add turkey stock, and mix into dry ingredients. Add olive oil. Cover bowl and allow to "rest" in refrigerator for 2 hours or overnight. Preheat oven to 375° degrees. Stir dressing mixture and add more turkey stock, if it seems dry. Grease 9x13 inch casserole dish and add cornbread mixture. Smooth out to edges and cover with aluminum foil. Bake 20 minutes. Remove foil and continue to bake until top is brown, and center is firm. Serve with gravy. Makes 8-10 servings. Happy Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving Blessing: Bless this family beside us, the love between us and the food before us.

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