

SMOKE SIGNAL



VOLUME 53, ISSUE 1

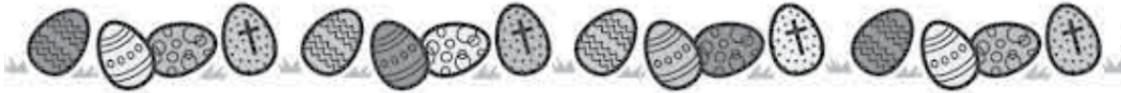
Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

April, 2020

www.smokesignalnews.com

Happy Easter

from the staff of the Smoke Signal!



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New Development Approved by Tucker City Council

by Frank Luton

On March 9th the Tucker City Council unanimously passed an ordinance to allow a 99,000 sq. ft. commercial development at Hugh Howell Road and Mountain Industrial Boulevard. The Developer, Branch Properties, promises the project, which includes active trails, an art installation and green space, will be "state of the art".



Conditions by the city of Tucker staff included outdoor furniture design, signage and traffic improvements in the area.

After the ordinance passed, Smoke Rise resident, Mayor Frank Auman said, "We got as good a project as we possibly could have. We are looking forward to having you push dirt around over there." The spokesman for Branch said, "In regards to timing, we estimate starting construction in June of this year and would put the grand opening around September of 2021. We now move into the full design phase of the project and look forward to breaking ground this summer."

Sheltering at Home has its Benefits

Joel Gilbert

There is nothing like a good home cooked meal and the fact that many of you will be working from home or even attending school from home brings with it some truly heartwarming meal opportunities.

It is time to break out that crock pot and make a nice stew or slow cooked satisfying soup. This not only warms the heart but also saves money by eating healthy fresh vegetables and unprocessed meats but saves money compared to putting that same meal on the stove.

It is also time to find that spot in the sun you can enjoy when the sun hits your house early or late in the day. You will find the best spots by watching your pets because it is where they go when you are not home. Join them and soak in the rays to brighten your day. Cabin fever is lessened when you do this.

On nice days, sit outside with your good book or PC and take in fresh air. Taking breaks to be outside makes the time inside much less confining.

What you are likely to learn with all this focus on social distancing and staying out of large groups is that it is enriching and uplifting to reconnect to simpler lifestyles.

Last but not least, stay connected to family, friends and loved ones using the feature on your phone you may have almost forgotten how employ: talk to people. Pay special attention to those who have fragile health. Tell them you love them and just wanted to hear their voice.

Mountain Shadow Garden Club Plant Sale

Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) will present its popular annual plant sale on Saturday, April 18, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain.

The wide selection of top-quality plants will include perennials, annuals, shrubs, and other plants and garden materials that are well adapted to the local area.

Club members with many years of gardening experience will be on-hand to help customers make selections and learn about caring for new purchases. Proceeds from the sale help to fund a scholarship each year for a student at Gwinnett Tech.

For more information or directions, call Scott Uthlaut at 770-923-9762 or Jeff Raines at 404-641-8633.

Free SRCA Document Shredding

The annual, no-fee SRCA document shredding event will be held at Smoke Rise Elementary School on Saturday April 18, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and extending until 1:00 p.m. or when the truck fills. We are pleased to partner with Shred-It again this year and look forward to providing this popular service to our members.

Note: Paper can be brought in plastic bags or boxes. No plastic binders or metal spines. No large binder clips. Staples are okay.

GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club Celebration - 90 Years

Each month there is news from the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club in the Smoke Signal. Many people may not know what a woman's club is all about. Here is a little background on the club and also the statistics that were reported to the national organization for 2019.

The Stone Mountain Club is part of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs which is an international group of clubs. Members serve in positions at the club, district, state and international levels. Each of these organizations is divided into programs that support art, the environment, education and libraries, health and wellness and civic engagement. In Georgia the women's clubs have a special interest in Tallulah Falls School in Tallulah Falls, GA. Members were instrumental in starting the school for mountain children and have continued to sustain the school as it has become an award-winning school for boarding and commuter students.

The Stone Mountain Club will celebrate its 90th year as a federated club this year. It began as a group of 11 ladies who were determined to clean up the "unsightly mess" that the daily freight trains made as they delivered coal and cotton in the area. Club projects have included getting the Sue Kellogg library to Stone Mountain and bringing a health center to the Village. Members



Past Presidents-GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club--Present at 90th Birthday Celebration

...continued on page 9



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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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.

April Calendar of Events

- 1 APRIL FOOLS' DAY!
- 6 Smoke Rise Garden Club Meeting at 7 p.m.
Alice Norton for info at (770) 939-3564
- 8 Mountain Mums Garden Club Meeting
Hall's Florist on Memorial Drive
- 10 Good Friday
- 11 GA Iris Society Meeting
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 2:00 p.m.
- 12 EASTER
- 18 Mountain Shadow Garden Club Plant Sale, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Eastminster Presbyterian Church Parking Lot
- 18 SRCA Shredding Event, Smoke Rise Elementary School
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- 20 GA Iris Society Show and Sale, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church
- 25 State Women's Clubs Day of Service and Open House at the
Stone Mountain Firehouse, 10:00 am. - 2:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar:
 May 9 – Tucker Day

Smoke Signal Deadlines

APRIL 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 APRIL 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.

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 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:

On behalf of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club I would like to congratulate the *Smoke Signal* on 50 years of publication. We appreciate this forum that allows us to share our Club news and events and that connects us with the community.

We wish you many more years of successful journalism.

Sincerely, Becky Sanders,
 GFWC Stone Mountain
 Woman's Club President



Looking for a way to give back to your community? The SMOKE SIGNAL is looking for a few more writers or people with a passion for storytelling. SEND YOUR INQUIRY TO: staff@smokesignalnews.com

BRING A BOOK TAKE A BOOK



Don't forget to check out the Little Libraries near the swim clubs.



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.)

Preferred Formats for Smoke Signal Submissions

Articles and photos for the *Smoke Signal*, should be sent in .doc or .docx format. Articles sent in .pdf format cannot be edited. Ideally, photos and graphics should be submitted in .jpg or .pdf format.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Dr. Chris George: Senior Pastor
 Bart McNeil: Associate Pastor
 Becky Caswell-Speight:

Minister of Families, Faith Formation and Connection
 Jeremy Colliver: Minister of Youth, Mission and Communication
 Danny Vancil: Minister of Music and Worship
 Amanda Coe Burton: Ministry Director for Children and Families
 Harrison Litzell: Co-Director of the Weekday School
 Stacey McNeil: Co-Director of the Weekday School
 Telephone: (770) 469-5856
SmokeRiseBaptist.org

Sundays:

9:00 a.m. Worship in the Chapel
 9:45 a.m. Sunday school
 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Communion: Second Sunday of each month

Wednesdays:

5:00-5:45 Fellowship Dinner
 6:00-7:00 Programs for children, youth and adults
 7:00-8:30 Sanctuary choir
 Nursery provided

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 ~ Anthony Rimore
 Ministerial Intern ~ Anne Gallaher

5801 Hugh Howell Road ~ Stone Mountain, GA 30087
 770-469-4881 ~ www.eastminster.us

Respite Care Center Hours: Loving care for your Senior Adult
 10 a.m. - 3p.m. Wednesday

Sundays:

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary – nursery is provided
 Communion: First Sunday of the month

Wednesdays:

5:45 p.m. Join us for dinner and fellowship
 \$8 per adult & \$20 for families
 (reservation are required by Monday of each week)

6:30 p.m. Program

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

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

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
 Worship Arts Pastor: Gary Robinson
 Telephone (770) 491-0228
www.mwchurch.com
 4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain
 Service Times: Sundays: 9:00am / 11:00am / 1:00pm

Smoke Rise Sharks

Smoke Rise is a member of the Atlanta Swim Association Summer League and competes against teams of similar size in the DeKalb division. The league emphasizes good sportsmanship and the team emphasizes improved swimming skills while having fun. Dual Meets occur on Tuesday evenings and ribbons for 1st through 6th place are awarded. Personal Best Ribbons are also given as skills develop and times get faster. They are the hallmark of the Sharks' philosophy.

Swimmers aged 3-18 are welcome regardless of swimming ability. Our 6 & under age group has been the mainstay of the team and they enjoy their own special Mini-Shark meets on Friday mornings. As our mini-sharks improve, many of them move on to swim in the dual meets by the end of the season.

Our after school practices begin in May at The Summit Pool. We offer both morning and evening practice sessions. Morning sessions are held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at Mountain Creek Pool and on Tuesday and Thursday at the Smoke Rise Country Club. All evening practices are held at Mountain Creek Pool. Practices are split up by skill levels and swimmers can move up throughout the season. For more information, email SmokeRiseSharks@gmail.com.

Neighborhood Swimming Pools:

The Summit – 2051 Silver Hill Road

Pre-season practice (practice from May 6 – May 24) will be held at the Summit Pool (see practice schedule for times). If you are interested in membership, please visit: www.thesummitatsmokerise.com

Mountain Creek – 2092 Mountain Creek Court

Practices are held at Mountain Creek Pool on the following days (see schedule for times): Mornings: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Evenings: Monday and Thursday - If you are interested in membership, please visit: www.mountaincreekswimclub.com

Smoke Rise Country Club – 4900 Chedworth Drive

Practices are held at Smoke Rise Country Club on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Meets hosted by Smoke Rise are also held at Smoke Rise Country Club. If you are interested in membership, please visit: www.smokerisecc.com

Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet – 2046 Glacier Drive

Practice is not held at this location but this is one of our neighborhood pools. If you are interested in membership, please visit: www.srbrc.org

Join The Summit Swim & Tennis Club

It is going to be another exciting year at the Summit Swim & Tennis Club on Silver Hill Road! Our social committee is gearing up to schedule more great, family events for our members. Membership details and online registration are available at thesummitatsmokerise.com including convenient, online payment. The Summit pool season runs May 22 through September 13. Hours are 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily, and until 9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Our member families return year after year to enjoy:

- uncrowded, quiet family-oriented facilities
- a saline pool filtration system is softer on skin, hair, and swimsuits
- friendly, certified lifeguards on duty from 1 p.m. to closing
- covered pool pavilion with picnic tables
- a separate diving area with diving board
- year-round tennis play on lighted, dual tennis courts

Early bird registration fees for family memberships paid by May 15 are \$375 for Pool only (normally \$410), and \$420 Pool & Tennis (normally \$450). Other membership options are Tennis only for \$285 or Single Adult Morning Swim 6 a.m.- Noon for \$185.

Don't miss out on the savings, prices go up on May 16. Membership details and online registration can be found at thesummitatsmokerise.com





THE 2020 GOLF SEASON IS HERE
 BECOME A "MEMBER FOR DAY" TO EXPERIENCE MEMBERSHIP AND LEARN MORE

BE ONE OF THE 20 NEW GOLF MEMBERS TO KICK OFF THE SEASON WITH SPECIAL PRICING

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

Smoke Rise Country Club is Excited to Begin the 2020 Pool Season!

Members of Smoke Rise enjoy the many benefits the club has to offer from golf to dining and social events, as well as the use of eight lighted tennis courts. The pool? We offer... so much more!

With five separate bodies of water, members enjoy our Junior Olympic swimming pool, special slide pool, kiddie pool and water features, private adult area featuring a hot tub and wade pool complete with a cascading rock wall offering beautiful white noise...the perfect sun-soaked therapy!

Smoke Rise Aqua Fitness offers members Water Fitness Aerobics beginning in May of 2020. The pool season begins in May and extends through September. Each season ends with the first Sunday in October with our Annual Dog Open where people and their furry dog friends enjoy this precious pool closing event.

First thing first! Kick off the pool season with a party as members and their guests honor and celebrate Memorial Day with our annual buffet. The parties continue across the season with luau and poolside events, dive-in movies, Shark Swim Team and so much more!

Come learn more about pool membership and all we have to offer! With full-menu pool side food and drink service, cabanas to enjoy the shade...what an experience you will enjoy among your family, friends and fellow members! Being a part of the Smoke Rise Country Club community offers a ton of fun in the sun and the shade!

For more information contact Membership at Smoke Rise at 770-908-2582 option 4.



Summer at Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club

By Chas Sydney, SRBRC Board Member and Smoke Rise Resident

Over the past few years, a new word has popped up in our vocabulary, "STAYCATION." It was created to demonstrate the opportunity to have a great vacation while remaining at home and saving money.

The Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club is the epitome of a recreational "STAYCATION." The large pool, four tennis courts and ultralow membership fees give your family the opportunity to enjoy a STAYCATION year-round. It's a resort right here in the middle of our community!

The tennis facilities are open year-round. Four tournament courts are available. Two of them are lighted, for fun matches after sunset. Additionally, the recently refurbished pool is one of the largest in the area, and the diving board will be waiting for you to show off cool flips and cannon balls in just a few, short months.

Two wood-fired grills, a smoking pit and two gas grills are available for your family picnics. A party gazebo, kids' playground, Hi-Fi sound and free Wi-Fi access are also part of the pool amenities.

The best part of the SRBRC is the friendly neighbors waiting to greet you with a warm smile. In today's hectic lifestyle, we unfortunately don't have that many opportunities to meet our neighbors. Many great long-lasting friendships have been developed at SRBRC, and we intend to continue this great tradition.

There is no neighborhood swim and tennis community offering more fun for the whole family at such a great, affordable, membership. Also, unlike many other clubs, there are no initiation fees.

Be sure to check out what SRBRC has to offer. It's an opportunity to see your family's smiling faces all year long. For more information or to join, please visit the website www.SRBRC.org or send an email to SRBRCmembership@gmail.com or chassysydney@yahoo.com. You may also call (770) 491-0155.

**Georgia Iris Society
Annual Iris Show and Sale**

"Iris Forecast" will be the theme of the Georgia Iris Society's Iris Show on Saturday, April 25 • 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church 1790 Lavista Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329

200+ potted iris will be for sale - individually priced. Admission is free.

GEORGIA IRIS SOCIETY MEETING

The Georgia Iris Society will meet on Saturday, April 11, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 1790 Lavista Road, NE. Ken Duke, GIS member, Master Judge, Landscape Designer and owner of ProTerra Landscaping will present "How to Prepare and Present Your Iris for the Spring." Our meetings are free to the public and all are welcome. Join us for beautification, education and recreation. Door prizes and refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Kathy Blackwell (678) 471-2604.

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ART Station Presents Murder for Two

The ART Station Theatre in Stone Mountain Village will produce a new musical murder mystery entitled *Murder for Two* in the ART Station Theatre running April 23 through May 9, 2020.

Murder for Two stars Sam Krivda and John Burke with music by Joe Kinosian and Kellen Blair. The show is directed by ART Station Artistic Director David Thomas with choreography by Jacob Lavoie with setting, lighting and sound design by Michael Hidalgo.

Everyone is suspect in *Murder for Two*, a hilarious musical murder mystery with a twist. One actor investigates the crime, the other plays all of the suspects, while both classically play the piano! A zany blend of classic musical comedy and madcap mystery, this 90-minute whodunit is a highly theatrical duet loaded with "killer" laughs. This show is the perfect blend of music, mayhem and murder!

Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 3:00 p.m. There is one Wednesday morning matinee on May 6 at 10:30 a.m. Date night specials run on Saturday evenings and child-care is available by appointment.

Tickets are available by calling (770) 469-1105 or visit www.arstation.org.

**Main Street Theatre to Present
'Smoke on the Mountain
Homecoming'**

The popular musical comedy is the third in the *Smoke on the Mountain* trilogy and takes place on Saturday night, October 6, 1945, when the traveling gospel-vocal group, the Sanders Family Singers, returns to their roots to lead a rousing musical send-off for the Rev. Mervin Oglethorpe. Written by Connie Ray and Alan Bailey, the show includes 25 gospel songs performed by local bluegrass musicians.

For information about the play dates, times and tickets, visit: www.mainstreettheatre.org.



**Smoke Rise
Community Garden**

Our renewal season is underway with many returning members and a few new renters. Late winter/early spring crops such as carrots, sweet peas, lettuces, and radishes have been planted. Bed numbers have been installed to help us stay better organized. Feel free to stop by on the third Saturday of every month, 9 a.m.-12 pm., for our garden workdays. We'd be happy to chat with you about what's growing and going on up at the garden.

If you are interested in joining us, contact Eileen Stone at esstone@bellsouth.net or call/text 404-583-3091. Garden plot prices are \$60 for a 4x8 bed, \$90 for a 4x12.



**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: stonemountainwomansclub.org Email: info@stonemountainwomansclub.org



We Care! Our community is super important to us. During the Challenges that we all face in limiting the spread of Covid 19, we are implementing changes to protect our sellers, our buyers and our agents. You will see creative marketing including virtual open houses, sanitization procedures before and after property showings plus much more. We are also working to identify and help people in our community who need help with food, errands and other services in addition to great real estate service with results.

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www.smokeriseagents.com



PalmerHouse Properties

Sign up now for FODAC's Annual Run Walk 'n' Roll at Stone Mountain Park *by L.A. Dison*

Online registration is now open for Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) 20th Annual Run Walk 'n' Roll (RWnR) at Stone Mountain Park on Saturday, May 9. The family-friendly event is one of FODAC's main fundraisers. Participants can run the 5K route, or walk or roll through the one-mile course; wheelchairs, strollers and walkers are all welcome. The 5K portion is a USA Track and Field (USATF) sanctioned event, and is a qualifying race for the AJC Peachtree Road Race.



The RWnR begins with registration and light refreshments at Stone Mountain's Event Meadow at 7.30 a.m.; the 5K race starts from there at 8.30 a.m. and the walk and roll starts at 9:00 a.m. There will be door prizes, face-painting and music during the event, with a hot-dog cookout after.

Registration costs are \$25 for participants six and up (children five and under are free but must be combined with adult registration). Paid registration includes t-shirt; registrations before Sunday, April 28, are also eligible for free Stone Mountain Park entry. A Stone Mountain Adventure Pass is available for an additional \$25.00 (\$29.95 regular price).

Medals and prizes will be awarded to the top three male and top three female finishers in the 5K run. There are also prizes for the top individual fundraisers and the top fundraising teams. Team leaders with four or more team members get a free Stone Mountain Adventure Pass; \$50 in fundraising gets a free Stone Mountain Adventure Pass; \$100 gets two free Passes. Visit fodac.org/walk to register teams and fundraisers.

Immediately following the one-mile walk/roll is the annual raffle. Prizes have been donated by local merchants and include gift baskets, event tickets and gift certificates.

Confirmed sponsors for RWnR include Stone Mountain Park, Combined Services, Kids 'r' Kids, DeKalb County GA, Emory Alliance Credit Union, and Fulton County GA. Sponsorships are still available; please contact Stephen Barwick at 770-491-9014 or stephenbarwick@fodac.org.

Registration and other details for Run Walk 'n' Roll can be found at fodac.org/walk. FODAC is a nonprofit organization that provides wheelchairs, power chairs, walkers, patient lifts and hospital beds at little or no cost to people with disabilities and their families, seeking to enhance the quality of life for people of all ages who have any type of mobility impairment, either temporary or permanent. More than 88% of FODAC clients are from Metro Atlanta.

Dunwoody Preservation Trust: The Donaldson-Bannister Farm
Tuesday, April 21 • Noon – 1:00 p.m.

The DeKalb History Center's April Lunch & Learn will be presented by Dr. Lynn C. Tinley. The Donaldson-Bannister house and farm were built in 1870 on property that was



originally acquired by descendants of the family as part of the 1821 Land Lottery. What remains of the tenant farm created

by the Donaldson family is situated in the middle of the bustling suburban community of Dunwoody. Lynn Tinley will be presenting on the link between the settlement and development of the area through the history of the Donaldson-Bannister Farm.

Dr. Lynn C. Tinley is an independent scholar. Her primary research focuses on early American material culture with an emphasis on textiles and embroidery. She received her PhD in American Studies from Emory University. An important goal of her work is to contextualize material culture in terms of regional variations and social, cultural, gendered, and religious influences. She is on the board of Dunwoody Preservation Trust and managed the Donaldson-Bannister Farm as it was rehabilitated and opened as a special events and historical property that is open to the public.

Free! Bring your lunch.
404-373-1088 Ext. 24
selem@dekalbhistory.org, <http://www.dekalbhistory.org/>
Historic DeKalb Courthouse, 101 E. Court Square, Decatur GA 30030, Second Floor

Historic Decatur Architectural Walking Tours

Looking around today's Downtown Decatur, it's easy to notice the vast changes, architecturally and otherwise, that have varied the landscape of the city over the years. When you venture into Decatur's surrounding neighborhoods, you step back in time. Homes and buildings which span from the early nineteenth century to modern day can be seen, showcasing vastly different architectural styles, house styles, and floor plans. This tour is designed to show and appreciate examples of particular designs and styles, unique and common, found here in Decatur.

The tour is outdoors with a total walking distance of about one mile, lasts about an hour and a half, and will start at the Historic DeKalb Courthouse.

- Tour dates and times:
April 8, 12:00 – 1:30 pm
April 15, 5:30 – 7:00 pm
April 22, 12:00 – 1:30 pm
April 29, 12:00 – 1:30 pm
May 6, 12:00 – 1:30 pm
May 13, 12:00 – 1:30 pm
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If you pay real estate ad valorem taxes, you should be aware of HB 1038

HB 1038 - a Georgia House of Representatives bill introduced in February 2020 - is strictly an anti-taxpayer bill from the beginning to end. I am shocked that any Representative would introduce and sponsor this bill against the taxpayers of this State. How does this bill effect all taxpayers who pay real estate ad valorem taxes?

1. When you file an appeal on your real estate tax assessment, the current law gives you a temporary discount off of the assessment being appealed equal to 15%. It is temporary pending the final outcome of your appeal, AND if the assessment being appealed is greater than your last year's assessment by 15% or more, you get a temporary assessment equal to your last year's assessment. Both discounts are gone with this bill.
2. If you file an appeal at the administrative level and do not get the result you wanted, you can take your appeal to the Superior Court. It is not as scary as you might think. In the current law, you can hire a lawyer to take your appeal and if you are successful in getting a 15% reduction from the value set at the administrative level, all of your attorney fees and costs are paid by the county - this is most important. Without this provision, most taxpayers could not afford to "challenge" the government. This provision for the taxpayer is essentially GONE. This is terrible for the taxpayer. It practically eliminates anyone (especially an individual) from challenging big brother. This is a blatant example of the government taking an existing statute that favors the taxpayer and absolutely shredding it - with no remorse in doing so.
3. You are affected indirectly by this bill targeting commercial properties. This bill makes it much harder and more costly for commercial properties, as defined in the bill, to challenge their tax assessments, making it where such cost will simply be passed on to the consumer.
4. HB 1038 puts in yet another exception to the "freeze" statute that is harmful to the taxpayer. The freeze statute is the taxpayer's best friend. It is designed to help all taxpayers who pay real estate ad valorem taxes - a really big help to homeowners - and commercial owners as well. Protecting the freeze statute is of paramount importance. The freeze statute lets you dollar average your real estate ad valorem taxes, saving you greatly on your real estate taxes.

I have written many of the laws on real property tax appeals that are currently in effect for all real estate ad valorem taxpayers (residential and commercial) throughout the State of Georgia. All of the laws that I have written, as directed by a number of state Senators, were designed to level the playing field for the taxpayer - something we have to fight for every year to maintain. HB 1038 is yet the latest we have to contest. With HB 1038, the government has thrown out the concept of having a "level playing field." The bill is a win/win for the government and a lose/lose for all residents paying real estate ad valorem taxes.

Walter H. Hotz, Attorney at Law, appeals@boetaxappeals.com, www.boetaxappeals.com

Smoke Rise Park Parking -- What's Going on Here?

By Frank Luton

You may have been driving recently on Hugh Howell Road and noticed some construction going on near the east entrance to Smoke Rise Park. This area will be parking (around 8 parking spaces) for the park, and it is expected to be completed by June, weather permitting.



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Another Successful Silent Auction

The Garden Enthusiast - Backyard Nature Station's annual silent auction benefitted the new "Bee Educated" Project at the Tucker Nature Preserve on Lawrenceville Highway. The 2020 auction ended on February 22nd. The auction raised \$6772 (\$2772 over goal) which will pay for supplies needed such as the hives, safety fencing, signage, and shrubbery. Hot items included a Jellyfish Paperweight, a Jack Daniel's basket, a beautiful ginkgo platter, a garden consultation, and so much more! This auction was a collaboration between the Friends of Tucker Parks, the City of Tucker and The Garden Enthusiast.

This was The Garden Enthusiast's 9th silent auction. The auctions have raised almost \$40,000 for our local Tucker Parks.



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State Women's Clubs Day of Service

GFWC Georgia's 2nd annual Day of Service is on April 25th. It is a statewide project in conjunction with GFWC Volunteers in Action week. The purpose of the Day of Service is to be a visible, unified force in our state through work done in the local communities.

GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club has selected Stone Mountain's Fire Department to serve on that day. Our club will plant flowers and clean up around the grounds. As a club we will donate many items to stock their pantry. There will be a Firefighters Box at the Welcome Center on Main Street for residents to stop by and drop off items to help the firefighters. They need "grab and go" items such as granola bars, cheese or peanut butter crackers, bottled water and Gatorade.

The firefighters have offered to host an Open House on that day. From 10-2:00 on Saturday, April 25th, bring your children, a pantry item and tour the fire station.

Stone Mountain Fire Station is the 4th busiest station in the county. They usually go on 18 to 20 calls during a 24-hour shift. Let's all pull together to support this local fire station.





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The Talk of Tucker Rec *By Crystal Dawson*

Here at Tucker Rec, we have some exciting events and opportunities for our Tucker citizens planned in April. We will be hosting our first ever Spring Break mini-camp out of the center, full of fun and field trips. Registration will remain open until all spots are filled. Not going on vacation? Try our stay-cation events:

Monday, April 6th

A scavenger hunt located out of Tucker Nature Preserve. The list of items, rules, and prizes will be released THAT morning so make sure you follow us on facebook @tuckerparksrec.

Wednesday, April 8th

Hike the trail at Smoke Rise Park. Stop along the way to gather ingredients to make your very own trail mix! Trail opens at 10 a.m. and the last hike, that will be attended by staff, begins at 6 p.m.

Friday, April 10th

Join us for our first ever slumber party! Don't worry, we won't make you stay overnight, but we will be offering a free showing of "Toy Story 4" on our big screen in the gym. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the movie begins at 8 p.m.- popcorn and juice will be supplied. Please bring your own sleeping bag, pillows, or blankets!

Saturday, April 11th

Our Easter Egg Hunt will begin promptly at 11 a.m. in the ballfields at Kelley Cofer Park. Make sure you arrive a little early so your child can find their correct age group, snap a pic with Mr. Bunny, and play some of the games throughout the grounds!

Right around the corner is summer camp! Registration is open now. Camp runs June 1- July 24, Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.- 6 p.m. at only \$95/week. Mini camps are being offered May 26-29 and July 27-31 8 a.m.- 2 p.m. for only \$75. Not a camper but love camp?! Contact us about potential job openings!

With camp right around the corner, some of our regular programs can expect some changes to their schedule. Most include a simple room change, others more greatly affected. We would like

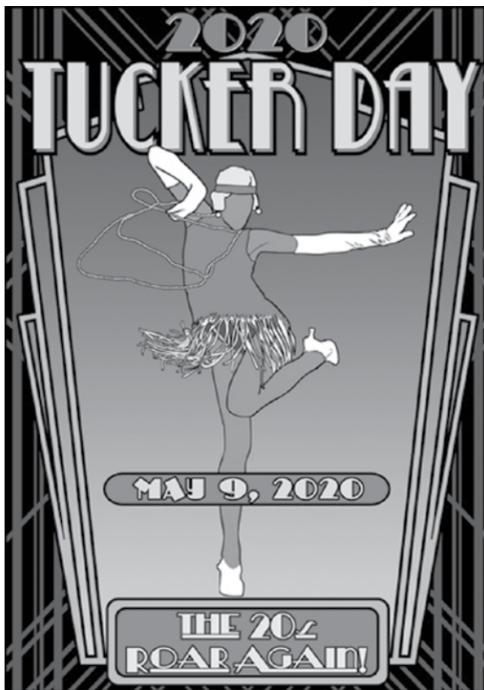
to point out a change in time to our popular pickle ball hours starting April 6th. Designated pickle ball hours will change to Monday 6 – 8 p.m., Thursday 1 - 3 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Consider signing up for our men's basketball league (please contact Joe Stewart for more information at jstewart@tuckerga.gov), or check out the newly constructed parking pads located at Smoke Rise Park and Johns Homestead. Both of these local parks offer hiking trails that any outdoor enthusiast would enjoy.

Our baseball fields are showing signs of activity as our partnership with DHYS is growing, along with the soccer fields and its long history with TYSA. As always, we take pride in our parks and work closely with our partners to provide a safe, community-centered place for all activities.

Our Activity Guide is out - look for it in your mailbox or come grab a copy from the Tucker Rec Center.

Questions or comments? Contact Tucker Rec Center (470)481-0205 or parks@tuckerga.gov



City Council Approves Solar Roof at Tucker Rec Center for Energy and Emergencies

by Matt Holmes, Director of Communications and Administrative Services

Tucker Recreation Center is going green; and it's a move that promises to save the taxpayers some green. The City's Mayor and City Council voted Monday night to authorize an agreement for the installation of 133 solar panels on the roof of Tucker Recreation Center. Over time, the panels are expected to generate 86 percent of the energy needed to power the building.

"We are glad to bring this kind of innovation to the City of Tucker," said Tucker Mayor Frank Auman. "When we saw the cost savings of this project, as well as the impact to the environment, it just made sense."

Speaking of cost savings, the project is expected to pay for itself in just over a decade's time. The price tag for the City is \$165,021, but that does not include a \$50,000 grant Tucker secured from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA). The project is being done in conjunction with German-based solar power battery manufacturer, sonnen, a subsidiary of Shell, which has its North American headquarters and manufacturing facility in Tucker.

"Parks and Recreation is a balance of trying to provide the best possible programming, while also watching our costs," said Tucker Parks and Recreation Director Rip Robertson. "With these innovations, we will take our \$3,100 per month utility bill and slash it to \$2,433 per month. That is an additional \$667 a month we can spend on recreation improvements for our citizens."

The project is the first solar energy endeavor the City has taken on since incorporating in 2016. It is projected to save taxpayers an estimated \$323,314 over the next 30 years. It will also have the benefit of giving Tucker an emergency operations center should there be widespread power outages, as well as potentially being a warming center on cold nights.

Tucker will serve as a case study for the use of solar and intelligent battery arrays for municipal operations, as companies like sonnen look to expand the use of renewable energy platforms into larger city/county operations like wastewater treatment, public safety, and operations.

Out the Window

By Beth Henson

The soft, streaming morning sun stretched across my misty yard and drew me to my bay window. As I glanced out, a Mona Lisa smile crept across my face even though I had yet to enjoy my morning coffee. Spring had arrived. The white popcorn buds at the top of the ornamental pear trees were dancing in the light breeze and the happy yellow daffodils swayed in time. Squeaky (my resident squirrel) was busy under the bird bath frantically digging up fall acorns and leaving tiny swirls in the mud on the ground. He was working at breakneck speed and had definitely already had his cup of joe. Finally relaxing on my cushy worn sofa (coffee in hand) I heard a tap, tap, tap at the front door. Who would be visiting this early? The sun was barely up! There it was again and even more insistent- tap, tap, tap, tap. I embarrassingly felt a tiny shiver of fear but I didn't want to waken the sleeping house. I would have to investigate this myself.

Carefully tiptoeing across the cool slate foyer I peeked out the window (nothing) and then gently cracked the squeaky front door. A flutter of black and rusty orange ascended into the air and disappeared across the garden wall followed by a loud CHEWINK, CHEWINK!!! The loud call was a familiar sound around my abode, reverberating and echoing clear (stronger than any of my other birdie residents). I often saw Mr. and Mrs. Towhee frolicking with their backward hop and scratch under the eaves, exposing many tasty morsels of bugs and an occasional slug. Being non-migratory birds in the sparrow family, they were close by all year long with their busy activities.

But why had Mr. Towhee come a-calling? I carefully tiptoed out the back door and quietly slipped around to peer past the front iron garden gate. The determined fowl was frantically pecking at the shiny brass footplate on the door. His imaginary competition (and reflection) supposedly pecking back and causing him to be more agitated. I knew Mrs. Towhee most likely was incubating her eggs in my nearby dense hedge, spurring her mate into his protective (but somewhat irrational) behavior. Their little family would soon arrive (less than two weeks) and then be out of the nest in twelve days. Until then my front door visitor would be with me. Tap, tap, tap. Uh, sorry... nobody home!



Mr. Towhee by Beth Henson

Tucker to Pave Nearly 80 Roads in 2020 SPLOST Program

by Matt Holmes

The ride around Tucker continues to get a whole lot smoother thanks to the special-purpose local-option sales tax (SPLOST). The Mayor and City Council voted Monday night to approve a \$4.44 million contract to resurface 79 roads around the City.

Gwinnett County-based E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc. submitted the low bid and will perform the work, which will cover 19.2 miles of roadway throughout the 2020 calendar year.

"E.R. Snell came in with a strong track record of quality work and a competitive bid," explained Tucker's City Engineer Ken Hildebrandt. "Initially, we had only expected to resurface 64 streets in 2020, but thanks to the competitive pricing and favorable market forces, we were able to add 15 streets to that list. This is the most ambitious resurfacing program to date for the City of Tucker."

The work is being funded mostly through Tucker's share of the DeKalb County SPLOST. The SPLOST passed a referendum in 2017 and will be in effect until 2024. In the first two years of its SPLOST-funded road resurfacing program, the City has managed to repave about 50 streets. The program, which has consistently stayed under budget, is managed by professionals from Jacobs Engineering.

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

Don't "Fool" Around with Misinformation

Of course, we should be cautious year-round, but many fraud attempts increase during tax time and during disease outbreaks and emergencies (think Covid-19). Thieves conduct a gamut of schemes: from promises of a faster or bigger tax refund to the lure of miracle products and cures. The government estimates scams cost us billions of dollars each year.

Coronavirus matters are very much in the news right now. Watch out for fake websites selling face masks, cleaning products, soap, etc. Think twice before you buy anything from a site you don't know. And, regarding information on how to protect yourself from the virus and how it spreads, get two – or even more – confirmations from dependable sources.

For taxes, steer clear of any tax preparer that charges fees based on the size of your anticipated refund. Never let a preparer deposit your refund into his or her account. And, if a preparer asks you to sign a blank return that will be filled out later or promises you a refund that seems too good to be true, that's a red flag! If you have any concerns about a business, newfangled product, or service, you can look at the Better Business Bureau's site. You can also check the BBB to see a tax preparer's license status and any disciplinary actions. Bbb.org

One tax scam begins with a phone call. The "bad guy" claims to be from the IRS but is using a fake name and credentials. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling. Victims are told they owe money, and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting. Or, victims may be told they have a refund due to try to trick them into sharing private information. If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an "urgent" callback request.

Note that the IRS will never:

- 1) call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill
- 2) demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe
- 3) require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card
- 4) ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone
- 5) threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying

Be sure to check out irs.gov for more information. And note, the IRS will never make initial contact, out of the blue, by phone, text or email and ask for money or personal identifying information. If you get a call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, hang up and originate the call on your terms to verify its legitimacy. (Then contact the authorities to report the call, after you confirm it is a scam attempt.)



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**Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts
Announces Summer Program Schedule**

The Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts (SRAA) has announced its 2020 summer schedule which begins May 26, with a wide variety of classes and programs for all ages.

The Academy will host its 2020 Summer Arts Camp July 6-9, daily from 12:30-4:30 p.m. for children ages 5 to 12; cost is \$85 plus a \$10 registration fee. The Arts Camp is scheduled during the same week as the Smoke Rise Baptist Church Vacation Bible School; VBS will run weekday mornings daily from 9:30 a.m. to noon, and the Arts Camp will immediately follow in the afternoon. Children may register and attend both camps and bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the mid-day break.

Arts Camp activities will include rhythm experience through drum circles and Orff instruments; explorations through Nature's Music; Hip-Hop dancing; art; stage acting; and more. Groups will be divided by age, appropriate for the activity. All sessions will be led by SRAA teachers.

The Summer Drama Session for school age students begins May 4. Teen productions will stage August 21-24 and elementary productions will stage September 18-20. Check the website for details of class times.

Audition registration is now open for the Junior Theatre Festival (JTF) 2020 Drama Program at Smoke Rise Arts Academy. The group performed at JTF Atlanta for the first time this year, and won Outstanding Performance and was selected to perform on the Main Stage in front of the over 6,500 festival attendees and professionals. The program is now scheduling auditions for participation in the second JTF Atlanta Festival; students must be between the ages of 9-18, and not yet in college.

Registration and more details are at the SRAA website, smokerisebaptist.org/arts. Time slots are available.

Other arts classes on the summer schedule include dance for ages 2-adult; MusikGarten Family Music for ages 1-5 and parent; Music Makers at the Keyboard (beginner introductory session) for ages 6-9; Visual Arts for children ages 6-12; and oil painting for adults.

Individual music lessons will be offered weekly during the summer, with professional instruction in voice, piano, organ, violin, flute, guitar and drums.

For more information or registration, contact Denise Burcham at 678-533-0562 or artsacademy@smokerisebaptist.org. Those interested in registering for Smoke Rise Baptist Church VBS should contact Rev. Rebecca Caswell-Speight at (678) 533-0546.

Bird Magic on Musket Lane

by Barbara Luton

Ruth Sosin is my long-time neighbor on Musket Lane. She has a yard abounding with beautiful plants, and her backyard is a sanctuary full of bird feeders and birds. She sees lots of different species out of her back windows. The most unusual has been an Eastern Phoebe, a small olive-green bird that calls "phoe-be, phoe-be" to her. He has been here all winter. According to Audubon, Phoebes can be extraordinarily tame, and it was probably the first bird ever banded for identification around 1840.



Last fall Ruth's daughter, Cindy Farmer, was working in their backyard garden preparing it for the winter and for spring planting. As she was cultivating the earth and turning up worms, a small bird literally attacked her and flew through her hair not once but two times and swooped down for the worms being unearthed.

Ruth had been telling Cindy about this bird that had begun to eat out of her hand. Cindy was skeptical but thought it might be the same fellow. As time has passed, "Pecky" has become very "domesticated." Ruth calls him by his name, and he comes to eat from her hand. Dried mealworms are his favorite snack. He will now eat from Cindy's hand also.

He follows them to the kitchen window to see what they are doing. He comes to Ruth's window in the morning and pecks on the glass for her to rise to feed him. He has even gone so far as to walk to the mail box with them. He takes his chance to annoy Cindy's husband, Rick, when he is grilling by flying through his hair. Cindy calls it "scalping". What a curious bird!

Pecky is the proud owner of a birdhouse "mansion" that has been built for him. I wonder if he will continue to make his home on Musket Lane and eat his three meals a day from Ruth's hand.

I may be wrong, but I think I have seen him snacking at my feeders which are down the street from his regular home. He may just become the neighborhood mascot.

Woman's Club Celebrates 90th...continued from page 1

helped with voter registration and with instituting the seat belt laws. They support the Ronald McDonald houses, Operation Smile, education about prevention of domestic violence, reading and programs at Smoke Rise Elementary and Stone Mountain Elementary, plus many years of support for ART Station and its programs, and more recently, support for Side by Side Brain Injury Club House.

Here are the statistics for 2019 that the club reported to the state and national Associations for the year: Money donated to service programs--\$492,000.00; goods donated by members--\$29,293.00; volunteer hours—13,577; projects—273. We are 82 members strong. Members have two major fundraisers a year through a booth at the Yellow Daisy Festival and through a Christmas Home Tour to which many Smoke Rise residents have been generous contributors of their homes.

The Woman's Club is a service club primarily, but also a club that encourages women socially and educationally. The General Club meets on the second Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m., except for June, July and August. The Night Guild meets the third Tuesday of the month, except for the summer months, at 7:00 p.m. For more information about membership in the club, please visit info@stonemountainwomensclub.org

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- Debby Logan, family member

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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

Cat versus Dog... Bites, That is...

I know, I know, I am asking for trouble. This kind of cat and dog standoff can mean trouble because some of you love dogs and some of you love cats. Understanding the differences between the two types of bites though, may help you, so I am going to forge ahead.

The CDC estimates that there are 4 to 5 million people who are bitten by a dog each year. Approximately 20% of these people will need some type of medical attention. That adds up to...well...close to 1 million medical visits, either to the doctor or the emergency room. Of these, only a small percentage will need to be hospitalized.

Cat bites are a different story. Although cat bites represent only 10 percent of animal bites, a much larger percentage result in hospitalization and surgery. Why is this? Well, that is why I decided to write this article.

CAT BITE
 10% of animal bites.
 Extremities/hand
 Mostly in adult women
 50% become infected
 Deep puncture wound
 Antibiotics? Yes
 Tetanus? Yes, unless recent

DOG BITE
 90% of animal bites
 Head and Neck
 Mostly in children: (boy & girls)
 10-15% get infected
 Tear/crush or puncture/multiple
 Antibiotics? Maybe
 Tetanus? Yes, unless recent

What should you do if a cat or dog bites you?

You should immediately wash the wound with soap and water. If you can, flush the wound out with water. Tap water is just as good as sterile saline.

If the wound is significant (torn flesh, significant bleeding or multiple wounds), wrap the wound in a clean towel and put pressure on any bleeding points. Go to the emergency room. Many times a doctor's office may not have the equipment or specialist needed to treat the wound. You can usually find out when you call.

Have someone (else?) check on the rabies shot status of the animal. If necessary, have someone (else - you are hurt, remember?) call animal control to catch the animal so it can be isolated or tested. If the animal's status is unknown, you will need to start a series of rabies shots.

Update your tetanus date if it is out of date.

If you have a cat bite, you should be seen the same day if possible by your primary care physician, or, go to a 24-hour walk-in clinic or emergency room, especially if it becomes swollen and red in the first few hours. Acting quickly may save you a day of iv antibiotics in the hospital, a surgical drainage procedure, or the function of your hand.

Cat bites are usually deep puncture wounds that happen to the hand or extremity. They can turn red and swell markedly within a matter of hours. Because there is very little 'meat' on the hand and fingers, infection often happens in bone, tendon and muscle, not just skin. This can be devastating! Not only can it be life threatening, but it can cause disability and even loss of part of the extremity.

For a single bite without torn or missing flesh, the cat bite is the one most likely to need antibiotics. (I usually prescribe them). If you have a dog bite, it may be ok to watch for signs of infection a day or two: redness that extends out or up in a streak, fever, heat to the skin or drainage.

Look at the table above and YOU DECIDE - Cat Vs Dog. Maybe neither have to win! Prevention is your best strategy.

- Do not provoke or tease a dog (or cat) even if you know the animal....especially if it is older or has chronic pain or illness.
- Neuter or spay animals. This can help alter territorial or hormonal behavior.... Think of it as anger management surgery for pets.
- Make sure you socialize your pets with humans. Start this early. Animals socialized with each other, their mother and littermates and humans before 12 weeks of age are gentler animals.
- Do not abuse or neglect an animal. 'Nuff said.
- Do not try to break up a dogfight or catfight. Throw a towel over the dog or cat to decrease the animal's sensory experience and to de-escalate the situation.

Blinding Flash of the Obvious

by Joel Gilbert, P.E.

I grew up watching these two in the late 1950s save the day in the wild wild west. The theme song for the series comes from the *William Tell Overture*. The relationship of the Lone Ranger and Tonto was always respectful and supportive, typically emphasizing the sensitivity of a Native American to signs and subtleties missed by others.

A cute story surfaced on my Facebook page that I thought was worth sharing to emphasize this difference.

The Lone Ranger and Tonto were camping in the wilderness. After they got their tent set up, both men fell sound asleep. Some hours later, Tonto wakes the Lone Ranger and says, "Kemo Sabe, look towards sky, what you see?"



The Lone Ranger replies, "I see millions of stars."
 "What that tell you?" asked Tonto.

The Lone Ranger ponders for a minute then says, "Astronomically speaking, it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Time-wise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three in the morning. Theologically, the Lord is all-powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you, Tonto?"

"You dumber than buffalo...It mean someone stole tent."

Tom Peters of "In Search of Excellence" fame calls these "blinding flashes of the obvious." I treasure them because they bring us back to basics that seem so easy to forget. It also points out why most of us who are married can point to our significant other as the key reason we succeed. We do get distracted at times.

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Smoke Rise Garden Club News

The February meeting of the club was held at Denise Finley's house with Peggy Clegg and Penny Galpin co-hostesses. Even in the dreary rain, the meeting attracted 12 members and two guests! Our speakers were Lori Conway of the GA Native Plant Society and Dan Mazur of A New Leaf Landcare. The wealth of the knowledge they shared with their presentation and handouts was terrific! Members kept the meeting going with lots of questions, so much so we had to postpone the business portion of the meeting. In the spirit of promoting social distance and technology, included are some of the great websites and resources for native plant information.

Ellen Honeycutt – GNPS State Chair blog at usinggeorgianativeplants.blogspot.com/

The GA Native Plant Society at GNPS.org, Eagle Eye Bookstore at 2076 N. Decatur Road, Decatur Barbara Dorfman at bpdorfman@aol.com, available for talks, workshops; State Botanical Garden at botgarden.uga.edu Also, McFarlane Nature Park at 280 Farm Road, Marietta will be the site of the GNPS spring Plant Sale on April 18th.

Smoke Rise Garden club has lost one of its devoted and longtime members in March, Mrs. Edith Morton passed away peacefully. Edith was one of five children of the Deaton family of Buford, GA. Her father was a farmer. Edith's duties on the farm included milking cows and harvesting corn and cotton. Later, she and her husband Dan tended a ¾ acre garden in their back yard which produced everything from corn and collards, to tomatoes and even eggplant until it got to be too much over the last few years. In the summer, they would share their harvest with neighbors, they entered vegetables in the Yellow Daisy Flower Show (often winning ribbons), and boasted that they had all homegrown five vegetable plates for dinner. Listening to her talk of her youth, you would think she was the heroine of the Anne River Siddons book "Peachtree Street". Edith was a Georgia-girl through and through.

Edith grew to be a real leader with her activities in the Smoke Rise Garden Club. She was the club's longest serving president (6 terms, 12 years). She was a member for near 50 years and went on to serve the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs as president (2001) and served on numerous district-wide committees including Parks, Roadside Beautification, Yellow Daisy and others. She was nominated as the Federation's Life Member of the Year in 2012 and joined the Legends Club in 2019. She served on the Redbud District Board and the Garden Club of Georgia Board. Edith was a beautiful, strong, dependable, active, cheerful, faithful, loyal lady and friend. Her legacy will continue and her memory will be treasured by so many.

Lastly, the new project with the City of Tucker Parks Department has had its first daffodil blooms at Kelly Cofer Park. We're off to a great start with spreading the gold and green in Tucker. Another park will be chosen for beautification in 2020.

Look out for our Plant Sale signs on Hugh Howell Road in April. The Smoke Rise Garden Club Plant Sale will happen on a date to be determined in the parking lot of the Baptist Church. Come early on Saturday, plants sell out quickly. Happy spring!



Our beloved Edith Morton

Morning Glories Celebrate 50 Fantastic Years!

On March 10th, 2020, the Smoke Rise Morning Glories hosted a celebratory tea to mark their 50th anniversary. Over seventy members and guests attended the afternoon event at the Smoke Rise Country Club. President Joyce Ray welcomed the group and introduced the many distinguished guests including the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. President Barbara Bourque. Mayor Frank Auman addressed the gathering and commented on how garden clubs have been such a positive and nurturing force for our city through a legacy of civic activities and education and are continuing to offer a beneficial spirit to Tucker.

Interestingly, the Morning Glories club was actually formed in March 1970 as an option to the Smoke Rise Garden Club which met at night. That club had a waiting list to join and the decision was made to offer a morning group so as many people as possible could join the two clubs. Years later the Mountain Mums were formed from the Morning Glories as a club for Morning Glories' daughters and their friends who also lived in the Smoke Rise area. Today all three clubs continue to thrive in our community and all are members of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., Redbud District and the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs.



Nineteen former Presidents with Barbara Bourque at Celebratory Tea
Members from those two clubs were present and many other DeKalb Federation club members also attended. Fun stories were shared and lots of happy hugs of recognition from long-time friends.

The event was chaired by Glendolyn Hallman and Joy Zaidan who found so many charming ways to include our "morning glories" into the invitations and name tags, specially created cookies with icing morning glories and tiny cupcakes with a morning glory flower atop each one. The colors of the flowers were reflected in the beautiful table designs that featured deep purple hydrangeas, green chrysanthemums, Bells of Ireland, Harry Lauder Walking Sticks, and purple Lenten rose blooms in assorted clear vases. The food was a classic tea with sweet and savory foods enjoyed by the attendees with a party favor of golden milk chocolate drops with "50 years" tagged on each one.

Happily, nineteen former presidents of the Morning Glories were in attendance and posed for a photo with President Barbara Bourque. As you can see from all the happy faces, this was indeed an event to remember and cherish. And as our mayor commented, we can look forward to the 100th anniversary.

Mountain Mums March Madness for Garden Tools

by Cheri Schneider

The Mountain Mums Garden Club met at member Pat Bauman's house for their March 11 meeting. Scott Scheivelhud, owner of the family business called the Garden Enthusiast Backyard Nature Station in Tucker, brought a show and tell program that caused us to start longing to work in our spring gardens.



L to R: Ann Purr, Lisa Armistead, Pat Bauman

Scott brought a variety of helpful garden tools by Ironwood that are sold in his shop on Main Street. Ironwood Tools, made in Lilburn, Ga. - off of Rockbridge Road, are very well made, have a great warranty and are made with all kinds of helpful mechanical tweaks that will help you do the heavy work. (My mind just said, "awesome", "game-changing garden tools" as I was typing this).

Scott showed us several small, double-toothed saws that came either with a leather holster or were foldable. We were sooo careful passing those puppies around the group! We saw anvil pruners, with a ratchet that really did increase the force of its action without the user having to squeeze so hard. We saw several varieties of extendible by-pass loppers. One had a transmission drive (sounds like a car?) that increases the power of the cut by seven times. I liked the 'lady' lopper because it was so light. I think he said it was made of aircraft grade aluminum. My favorite show and tell tool was the \$20 Adjusto-Rake. It was so cool! You could adjust its width, and it was extendible. It could be used behind, between and underneath bushes and plantings. It also could be a dog poop 'scooper'. Lastly, Scott passed around the nitrile gloves. These give full sensation when you are pulling weeds. Those of you real gardeners know you need this! We also saw some pretty helpful rose gauntlets made of leather and extending up to the elbows. Great for sticker weed pulling and choppin! I had other errands to do, but I am sure a whole crowd of Mountain Mums took a field trip to the Garden Enthusiast that very afternoon.

By the way, The Garden Enthusiast Auction just raised \$6,500 for the Tucker Recreation Bee Educated Program. That is a huge gift to our community.

The Mountain Mums have a full slate of new officers for next year: Lynn Malone will be President, Rita Maloof -Vice President, Lisa Armisted-Treasurer, Beth Henson- Parliamentarian, Connie Henry-Corresponding Secretary and Ann Purr, Recording Secretary. The Mums next meeting will be April 8 at Hall's Florist on Memorial Drive for a make and take with perennial plants. If you would like to join us, call Debra Jones at 678-260-7806.

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Amen, Let's Eat!



By Joyce Ray

The Great Baking Powder Revolution that Changed Baking Forever

Baking powder was discovered in 1856 and its discovery, once perfected for safe use in the kitchen, was the first "modern" ingredient that made quicker work of baking. Before its discovery, bakers slaved for hours trying to make their dough rise and their cakes puff up. For most of human history, the rising agent for breads has been yeast, coupled with back-breaking kneading of the dough for hours to incorporate air. The yeast, being a live organism, would grow and divide, breathe in oxygen and release carbon dioxide and create bubbles which caused the dough to rise, a process known as "leavening." Imagine, however, spending one labor-intensive 12-hour day preparing your bread for the week, only to find that your yeast had been "killed" by heat, cold, or contamination, and all you have to show for the day is a hard, flat brick of baked flour.

The other advantage to baking powder was the fact that this remarkable new powder could also reduce the number of eggs in a recipe. In a book I inherited from my grandmother published by Royal Baking Powder, it states that "the number of eggs can be reduced by using about one teaspoon of baking powder in place of each egg omitted." This magic ingredient that makes cakes, breads and muffins explode to new heights is an acid mixture of cream of tartar (derived from grapes) combined with salt (baking soda) and corn starch added to keep the powder dry. The ensuing Baking Powder Wars were fueled by the Royal Baking Powder Company's claim that all other brands were unsafe because they used the chemical aluminum phosphate (alum) instead of cream of tartar as the acid component. The wars continued into the 20th century and resulted in laws being passed, millions of dollars in bribes being paid and black-market sales of this now basic ingredient. What's the difference in baking powder and baking soda? Sometimes confusing, baking soda was invented 15 years before baking powder with soda being a salt that can react with an acid to create those much-desired bubbles. The acid used was often buttermilk or a small amount of vinegar, and the soda was dissolved in it before adding to the recipe. The ability to know the exact proportions of soda and acid was the problem that led to the greater discovery of baking powder. Prior to that discovery, the small amount of baking soda in the mixture was said to help the breads and cakes bake to a nice golden brown and did help with rising to some extent.

Because baking soda is a salt and tastes like salt, modern day bakers would be wise to use caution in using "a pinch of salt" in addition to the soda and baking powder. I never use all three even if the recipe calls for it. It produces a salty aftertaste, and cutting it is a way to eliminate more salt from your diet. As we move into spring and lighten up our desserts to include fresh seasonal fruit, berries and citrus flavorings, I am sharing my mother's pound cake recipe which was torn from the back of the Swan's Down Cake Flour box many years ago and was traditionally served with fresh strawberries or peaches with a generous spoonful of fresh whipped cream. Calumet (double acting) baking powder and Swans Down Cake Flour were staples in her pantry.

Swan's Down Pound Cake — *It's still on their website today!*

- 1 cup unsalted butter, room temp.
- 3 cups sifted, then measured, Swan's Down Cake Flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 tsp Calumet baking powder
- 4 large eggs
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp vanilla & ½ tsp almond extract
- ¾ cup milk

Butter and lightly flour a 10-inch tube or Bundt cake pan. Sift flour, then lightly spoon in measuring cup for 3 cups. Sift once more with baking powder and salt. Cream butter and gradually add sugar, creaming until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time to creamed mixture, blending after each addition. Add flour mixture alternately with milk and extracts, blending after each addition just until smooth. (Overmixing will result in a dry cake.) Pour into prepared pan and bake at 325° in middle of oven for approx. 1 hour and 20 minutes or until tester inserted into cake comes out clean. Cool in pan 15 minutes. Remove from pan and place on rack to completely cool.

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