

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 3

Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968

June, 2015

www.smokesignalnews.com



Happy Father's Day from the staff of the Smoke Signal!

Tucker Day Another Big Hit

The 61st Annual Tucker Day celebration on May 9 on Main Street in Tucker was a success. Like the 60 times before it, this year's annual event will be remembered fondly by many.

Tucker Day also continued its tradition of showcasing musical talent on three separate stages throughout the day. And, many children enjoyed the play area. As usual, food and drink were in abundant supply too in a variety of flavors and culinary styles.

Tucker Day is presented by MainStreet Tucker Alliance (MTA). MTA is a 501c3 organization staffed by volunteers and is dedicated to improving the core downtown area of Tucker in addition to promoting community.



L to R: Marsha Ashby, Honey Van De Kreke, Charlton Allen, Bob Smith, Officer J.A. Ridling. Back row: Harriett Gess

Calling All Authors

Have you written a book or published articles? Our September issue will feature the authors of Smoke Rise.

To be included in our profile, if you are an author who has been paid for your published works, please send a short bio and general information about your publications including genre, your readership and what drives you to write.

This will not be a review of the publications but an overview that focuses on the people who are authors in the Smoke Rise community. We will need your name, phone number and email to call you and be able to ask questions or conduct a brief interview. Please send your information to smoke-signal@earthlink.net attention Pat Soltys.

ART Station Summer Arts Camp

The mission of our Summer Arts Camp for Youth (ages 5 thru 13) is to involve campers in a variety of artistic activities in the performing, literary, and visual arts, allowing them to explore their creativity with their peers in a fun, safe, and nurturing environment.

Week 3 (June 15 - 19) • Week 4 (June 22 - 26)
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Ages 5-8 \$150 Members/\$165 Non-Members
Ages 9-13 \$160 Members/\$175 Non-Members

Activities vary weekly and include painting, drawing, cartooning, puppet making, architecture, collage and pottery.

Before and after care is available.

Two week intensive Performance Company for Youth ages 7-12
Call for more information (770) 469-1105

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Sat, June 13, 5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Main Street, Tucker

The Tucker Cruise-in is an old fashioned town meet-and-greet of the car community on Main Street in Tucker Georgia. Vehicles range from antiques to street rods, motorcycles and imports. Each Cruise-in takes place the second Saturday of every month from April to September. The events run from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For a \$5 registration fee, you'll have the perfect event to show off what you've got!

For more information, call (770) 527-1521.



15th Annual Smoke Rise Car Show

Come on out on June 20 to check out beautifully restored classic automobiles as well as some of the coolest late model cars. Over the years, the show has included classic Model Ts, custom hot rods, unique motorcycles, and a good number of the All-American classic Chevrolet Corvette. Trophies will be handed out for several different categories, including best antique, best late model, and overall best in show. This event is FREE to both entrants and spectators, so bring the whole family! Smoke Rise Baptist Church 5901 Hugh Howell Rd Stone Mountain, GA 30087

Registration: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Public Viewing: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Awards: 2 p.m.



Monument Honoring K-9 "Officers" Unveiled

There's now a special tribute in Tucker for our hard-working, four-legged, K-9 "officers."

Local officials joined the DeKalb County Police Department's K-9 Unit and DeKalb Animal Services to officially unveil the K-9 memorial statue in front of DeKalb Police Headquarters in Tucker on May 15, as part of the observance of the 100th year of DeKalb County Police Services.

The completed memorial is the only permanent monument in the state of Georgia to honor K-9 service dogs. The dog statue, named "Hero" is mounted upon a marble block and located on the hill overlooking the police and firefighter monuments. It is purposefully located behind the other monuments... as dogs always have their officer's back. A walkway of engraved pavers with each K-9's name and service years leads citizens to the monument.

During the unveiling ceremony, several working K-9 dogs and their handlers were presented with memorial brick pavers engraved with the officers and K-9's names as well as the "End of Watch" date for each dog.

Plans for the memorial began after a discussion between DeKalb K-9 officer Mark Taylor and Xan Rawls, DeKalb's Animal Services Director after the passing of the officer's K-9 companion.

Officers and representatives from Stone Mountain and Conyers Police Departments, as well as the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office attended the ceremony and have bricks recognizing each agency's K-9 dog.

The K-9 monument is located at DeKalb's Public Safety Headquarters at 1950 West Exchange Place, Decatur, 30084.

Used Book Sale

Friends of Sue Kellogg/Stone Mountain Library

Friday, June 19 - Saturday, June 20
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sue Kellogg/Stone Mountain Library
952 Leon St., Stone Mountain Village
(Behind the Depot Building)

Cash and Checks Only



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.

June Calendar of Events

- 1 Smoke Rise Garden Club, meeting at home of Jane Culberson, 7 p.m.
- 3 *Smoke Signal* meeting at home of Jan Mahoney 9:30 a.m.
- 8 Mtn. Shadow Garden Club, Succulents, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Tucker Cruise-In, Main Street, Tucker, 5:00 - 8:30 p.m.
- 14 FLAG DAY, Fly your flag!
- 20 15th Annual Smoke Rise Car Show, Smoke Rise Baptist Church 11 a.m.
- 19-20 Used Book Sale, Sue Kellogg/Stone Mountain Library, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 21 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
- 27 SRBRC BBQ Cook Off, 2046 Glacier Dr., Starts at noon

Smoke Signal Deadlines

JUNE 13

Please e-mail articles to:

smoke-signal@earthlink.net

(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 box at
5365 Smoke Rise Drive

Deadline for classified ads is JUNE 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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Link to the digital version of the *Smoke Signal*
at <http://eepurl.com/pjn4v>
or scan this QR Code
with your smart phone!



"You, Too, Can Sing... Oh, Yes, You Can!"

By Jack Sartain

Anyone want to take a "YES, I CAN SING" class with me over the summer? FREE. July 13 through 16 from 7:00 -8:30 p.m. All you need to do is email jbs5951@aol.com that you want to do this and then show up.

Any age - I like a challenge - bring your own bucket and I will prove something to you. The classes are four sessions at 1-1/2 hour each and will get you on your way to heightened self-esteem and personal pride in a significant accomplishment. The lessons will be held at Lawrenceville Road United Methodist Church in Tucker.

NO - these classes will not prepare you for the Met, but you will be thrilled to know YOU CAN DO IT! The classes include lessons on how to read (most) music - easy to do; how to properly breathe - you breathe all the time; if you can speak you can sing!

I am testimony to that claim. In the past, I have taught folks who were like logs, rocks, concrete blocks and sunken boats to sing -- most folks have only a PSYCHOLOGICAL barrier to singing. With four lessons, that barrier will be erased and you can improve your social standing by saying "Yeah - I can sing that." Look how much richer your church service experience will be. You can sing lustily, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" and the "National Anthem" - and not irritate your fellow fans by standing there like a silent lout!

There is NO ONE who cannot sing - but - yes - some are better than others!

FREE and ANY AGE! Only requirement is that the attendees must be able to read.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Rev. Chris George, Senior Pastor
Ernie Forrester, Associate Pastor
Tim Adcox, Minister of Missions
Kathy Dobbins, Minister of Spiritual Formation
Danny Vancil, Minister of Music & Worship
Becky Caswell-Speight, Minister to Families with Children
Jeremy Colliver, Minister to Families with Youth
Amanda Coe Burton, Director of Nursery Ministries
Paula Reeves, Weekday School Director
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
1st Tuesdays:	6:00 p.m. Prime Time
Wednesdays:	
5:00-5:45	Fellowship Dinner
6:00-6:45	Programs for children, youth and adults
7:00-8:30	Sanctuary choir
	Nursery provided

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor: Rev. J.Caleb Clarke III
Director of Mission & Youth: Mark Sauls
Director of Music Ministries: Andrew Meade
Director of Preschool: Stacey Moura
Director of School Age Program: Celeste Sears
Director of Christian Education: Mardee Rightmyer
Telephone (770) 469-4881
www.eastminster.us

Sundays:	
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Worship
Wednesdays:	
5:45 p.m.	Fellowship Dinner
6:30 p.m.	Adult and Children's Program
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Mount Carmel Christian Church

Senior Minister: Art Stansberry
Worship Leader: Leslie Riley
Kids Ministry Director: Vicki Tyler
Telephone (770) 279-8437
www.mountcarmelcc.org

Sundays:	
8:30 a.m.	Coffee/ Doughnuts/ Fellowship
9:30 a.m.	Bible School Classes – Adults & Children
10:30 a.m.	Worship
Wednesdays	
5:30 p.m.	Dinner
6:30 p.m.	Activities/Studies for all ages
6:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal

First Moravian Church

Interim Pastor: Stephen Weisz
Congregational Acolyte: Bill Hitz
Telephone (770) 491-7250
www.gamoravian.org

Sundays:	
10:00 a.m.	Sunday School–Adults & Children
11:00 a.m.	Worship
12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Time
Thursdays:	
7:00 p.m.	Adult Study Group

Mountain West Church

Pastor: Michael Shreve
Telephone (770) 491-0228
www.mountainwestchurch.com
4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain

Sundays:	
10:00 a.m.	Worship
12:00 p.m.	Worship



FREE NEIGHBORHOOD PET LOST AND FOUND

Please call Kay McKenzie
at (770) 491-6784

with information if you have lost or found a pet.

Smoke Rise Preferred Contractor's List

If you are looking for reliable people to build desks, paint, do electrical, plumbing, interior design and many other services, then request a copy of this list as a potential starting point. We maintain a free listing of contractors and other service providers that your neighbors have used successfully. If you want a copy of this list, please email Jim Farmer at: jimfarmer812@earthlink.net or call him at (770) 939-8949. We also ask for your feedback. Tell us about a contractor or service provider that you have used with opinions about their work. This information will be useful for future revisions of the list.



Tucker First United Methodist Welcomes New Senior Pastor

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is happy to announce that Dr. James B. Higgins has been appointed as the new Senior Pastor to Tucker First UMC. Pastor Higgins is coming from Aldersgate UMC in Augusta, GA. He and his wife Pam have three adult children.

Pastor Higgins has military experience as Chaplain (Major) of the U.S. Army Reserve. After earning his rank of Major, he began a 17-month deployment in March 2007 ministering to American troops, first at Ft. Hood, Texas, then in Balad, Iraq. While in Iraq, Pastor Higgins earned the Bronze Star. He was also recognized as Chaplain of the Year by the Reserve Officers Association and Chaplain of the Day by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2009.

Tucker First is looking forward to Pastor Higgins becoming a part of the church family, and the District Superintendent has expressed much enthusiasm in his appointment.

The church will hold a combined 11 a.m. worship service on June 28. An installment service will be a part of the service. There will be a reception following the service to welcome Pastor Higgins and his wife Pam to Tucker First.

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Tucker GA 30084

Make Some Music

Make some music this summer at Eastminster Presbyterian Church! On the third and fourth Sundays of each month, community members are invited to participate in the summer choir or orchestra. If you can carry a tune in a bucket, come sing with the choir. If you have a working instrument and basic music reading skills, come play in the orchestra. These will be fun, low-pressure occasions and the church would love to have YOU join! Rehearsals will be at 8:45 a.m. with the performance during the 10 a.m. worship service. For more information, or to reserve a spot, please email the director of music, Andrew Meade, at eastminstermusic@gmail.com. Please make contact at least one week prior to the date you would like to participate.

COMMUNITY CHOIR: June 21, July 19, August 16
COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA: June 28, July 26, August 23

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
5801 Hugh Howell Road
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
www.eastminster.us

Smoke Rise Baptist Church Summer Activities

Children’s Summer Activities
Wonderful Wednesdays: Water Night at SRBC
June 10, 6 p.m.

Wonderful Wednesdays: Night of Service at SRBC
June 17, 6 p.m.

Wonderful Wednesdays: Kids’ Cooking Class at SRBC
June 24, 6 p.m.

Wonderful Wednesdays:
Picnic and Laser Show at Stone Mountain Park
July 1, 7 p.m.

Wonderful Wednesdays: Cook Out, Bikes & Trikes at SRBC
July 8, 6 p.m.

Wonderful Wednesdays: Night of Service at SRBC
July 15, 6 p.m.

Youth Summer Activities
Braves Game
June 5, meet at the church at 5 p.m.

Scrunch (Scripture + Lunch) at SRBC
June 10, 1 p.m.

Munch (Movie + Lunch) at SRBC
June 24, 12 p.m.

Munch (Movie + Lunch) at SRBC
July 15, 12 p.m.

Gwinnett Braves Game
July 29, meet at the church at 5 p.m.

Six Flags
August 5, meet at the church in the morning, call for details

First Wednesday Night of the School Year Kick-Off Party
August 19, at 6 p.m.

Eastminster Presbyterian Church Senior Ministry

Eastminster Presbyterian Church is beginning an important and much-needed ministry to senior adults. Rev. Jeanne Simpson has been called to serve as Pastor to this ministry. The Senior Adult Ministry seeks to provide senior adults in the congregation and surrounding community opportunities to remain involved as vitally important members of the body of Christ and to recognize their value in terms of wisdom, experience, knowledge, talents, and other God given abilities and gifts. At the same time, the Ministry seeks to provide pastoral care and related support for those adults who are facing health and welfare issues, as well as caregiver and end-of-life concerns. Ministry with senior adults includes spiritual enrichment, learning opportunities, socialization, service opportunities, and needed services for well-being. It is Eastminster’s hope that the ministry will grow into a community-wide effort. Of particular concern is the reality of the aging population in the Smoke Rise community. We are aware of a number of seniors living alone with little to no interaction with neighbors or family. As part of this ministry, the church hopes to reach out to those seniors who are isolated, as well as encourage the seniors in the congregation and community to remain active and involved.

If you are interested in finding out more, or in participating in this ministry, please call Eastminster at (770) 469-4881.

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

6780 James B. Rivers Drive
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
770 469 8551
www.Stmichael.cc/

Everyone is welcome!

Join us on Sundays at 8 am or 10:30 am

Just 3 miles from Smoke Rise near the West Gate Entrance to Stone Mountain Park

There are some questions the internet just can’t answer!

Enjoy a Safe, Fun Summer at the Summit

At the Summit Swim & Tennis club, parents get an extra set of eyes and ears to make sure their kids are safe in the pool. Bucking recent trends, the Summit once again has experienced life guards – including Sam, everyone’s favorite! - onsite from 1 p.m. until closing every day – not just on weekends. Parents and grandparents can enjoy extra peace of mind and a family-friendly venue.

From Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, the Summit Swim & Tennis Club located on Silver Hill Road offers a safe and fun season of activities close to home.

Cannonballs anyone? Kids enjoy a diving board in a separate, roped-off area under the supervision of the life guard. The pool’s saline filtration system is safer and less irritating, so kids can swim longer. Friday “Night Light” swims under the stars are back by popular demand. An active social calendar includes the recent Open House, Memorial Day cook-out, dessert nights, back-to-school pizza party, Labor Day picnic... and more. And, the covered pavilion with bath-rooms and fenced play area is great for evening picnics.

Members receive their own secure electronic access device to the pool and tennis courts so they can swim whenever it suits them, from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. (until 10 on Friday nights), seven-days-a-week. Dual lighted tennis courts were recently renovated and are open year-round.

Don’t hear, “I’m bored” this summer! It’s not too late to sign up for the 2015 season. Get info and join online at www.thesummitat-smokerise.com or contact Jena Gress, Membership Chair, at info@smokerisesummit.com. And, if you are already a member, tell your friends and receive a \$30 referral fee! The Summit looks forward to seeing our Smoke Rise neighbors at the pool!

Club Welcomes New Members and Announces New Activities!

Smoke Rise Country Club is brimming with activities for this summer! Drop by to see the five beautiful pools (Olympic saltwater, wading, water slide, hot spa and cold waterfall pool), the fabulous tennis courts (clay and hard surface), and of course, the highly rated golf course.

The club offers many places to get involved, meet new friends and neighbors, and learn new things. For the kids, there are week-long summer camps consisting of golf, tennis and swimming instruction. For ladies, there is Thursday Therapy, Bunko, Ladies Who Lunch, and much more. For families, the club offers Wednesday Family Night Buffets with Kids Club movies and entertainment, and a wide variety of events. Men enjoy the Saturday morning golf game followed by cards and cigars in the men’s lounge. And then there are dozens of other seasonal events like croquet, Easter Party, Sunday with Santa, Dive In Movies, FUSE Business Networking, Bridge Parties, Book Club, etc. Check out the club’s Facebook Page or website (www.smokerisecc.com) for the Club Calendar. You’ll be amazed at all that is happening right here in Smoke Rise! Call the club for more information at (770) 908-2582.

Summer Activities at Stone Mountain Park

Native Plant Garden Tour
3 p.m., Tuesdays in June and July
Meet at Harold Cox Nature Garden

Join the garden steward for an informal tour of the garden. See what Georgia native plants you’d like to incorporate at your home. Bring your nature study journal to do a plant study; or come empty-handed but ready to learn.

Free program and registration not needed. A supervising adult must accompany children at all times. Meet at the Harold Cox Nature Garden. You must pay the Park entrance fee or have a yearly parking sticker.

Family Storytime and Walk
3 p.m., Wednesdays in June and July
Meet at Playground

Join a member of the SMMA education staff to explore. Story time and an insect puppet show will be offered. A walk will observe nature in a meadow, forest, and wetland. Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet and dirty.

Free program and registration not needed. A supervising adult must accompany children at all times. Meet at the playground. You must pay the Park entrance fee or have a yearly parking sticker.

Reptiles and Amphibians of GA: Live Animal Talks
3 p.m., Fridays in June and July
Meet at Confederate Hall

Join the SMMA education staff on Fridays in June and July for a glimpse into the world of reptiles and amphibians in Georgia. Live animals include salamanders, frogs, turtles, and snakes! Free program and registration not needed. All ages are welcome. A supervising adult must accompany children at all times. Meet in the Confederate Hall lobby. You must pay the Park entrance fee or have a yearly parking sticker.



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We still have space in these summer book clubs:
Eager Readers (ages 5-6) June 2 & July 7
Teen Book Club (ages 13+) June 23 & July 28

Monday Movies - Ages 6+
6:00-7:30 p.m. - June 1, 8, 15 and July 6, 13

Family Night Performers, Mondays, 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

Superhero Craft & Game Hour
Ages 5-9 - Saturday, June 27 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Toy Sleepover - Ages 4-8 - Fri./Sat. - July 10, 11

Pizza and a Movie for Teens - Thurs., June 18 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Video Production Workshop for Tween/Teens
Ages 11-17 - Thursday, June 25, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Anime Club - Ages 13-17 - June 10 & June 8

Chess Club - June 24 & June 22 - Ages 8+ 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club Kicks Off a Summer of Family Fun

The Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club’s Pool is back for the 2015 Season. The club opened the gates Saturday, May 16 to a big crowd.

Come relax, and be entertained. Have a fun summer season, packed with activities. If you’re not a member yet, give the SRBRC a try. There is NO swim and tennis community in the neighborhood that offers you more summer fun for the whole family. You’ll find certified life guards (7-days-a-week), diving board, toddler pool, roped-off swim lane, party gazebo, four tournament-ready tennis courts (with lights), basketball area, music, WiFi, and more.

There are many new friendships to be made. The club has added a number of new families to the SRBRC community. Welcome to all of you.



Don’t miss the Inaugural Smoke Rise BBQ Cook Off, complete with live Bluegrass entertainment, on Saturday June 27. Hosted by the SRBRC, it’s open to everyone, members and nonmembers. Enjoy a free pool party or buy a ticket to judge the neighborhood pit-masters’ skill and talents, and crown the Smoke Rise BBQ king of 2015.

Look for other fun events this season; including dive-in movies, ice cream socials, evening mixers, pizza parties, open grills, round robins and more. See you all there!

If you don’t have a membership yet, no worries, you can still get in on the summer fun. Go to SRBRC.org and sign up right on the website, or download a membership form and mail it in. If you’re in a hurry to jump in, bring your form and payment to the pool. Look for an SRBRC board member to collect them.

“Like” SRBRC on Facebook, and connect with fun summer events for the whole family.

<https://www.facebook.com/srbrccommunity>

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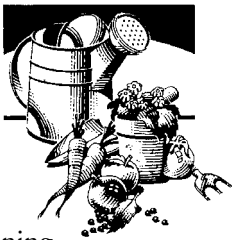
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www.smokerisehomesforsale.com
404-721-2904

Attention Gardeners!

A master gardener is on duty at the Stone Mountain Community Garden (SMCG) each Saturday morning through October. Additionally, the following community workdays, with 20-minute garden talks by master gardeners, are being offered:

- June 6, 8-11 a.m.
8:15 - Talk by Columbus Brown on Food Safety for Gardeners
- July 11, 8-11 a.m.
8:15 - Talk by Dee Hudson on Herbs
- August 8, 8-11 a.m.
8:15 - Talk TBA
- September 12, 8-11 a.m.
8:15 - Talk by Columbus Brown on Pruning
- October 17, 8-11 a.m.
8:15 - Talk TBA



The SMCG has demonstration areas where gardeners can learn how to grow herbs and fruits. A demonstration compost bin system is on the property and is used by the gardeners. There is a 3,000 square foot pantry garden where everyone pitches in with the chores, and the food is donated to the local food pantry in Stone Mountain.

The Stone Mountain Community Garden is a beautiful space located on an old ball field at 880 Gordon Street, Stone Mountain, GA 30083. It exists through a partnership between the city of Stone Mountain and UGA Extension Master Gardeners. For more information, please email: stonemtnngarden@bellsouth.net

Summer Camps at the DeKalb History Center

The DeKalb History Center hosts various Children's Programs. This summer, the center is presenting two programs.

IMPROV WORKSHOP: COMEDY AND HISTORY
July 6 - 10, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
ages 8 - 14 years



Campers spend a week at the historic courthouse playing improvisation games, role playing historic figures, and learning the basics of improv and stagecraft. Campers learn about character development, voice and diction, storytelling, public speaking and performance. Campers will create flash performances of some of their favorite characters and will recreate historical events with a twist. Creativity, fun and learning are at the forefront in this unique camp experience.

CREATIVE WRITING ADVENTURE

Session 1: June 8 - 12, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., ages 9 - 14 years
Session 2: June 29 - July 3, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., ages 9 - 14 years

A great alternative for children's fun, these enriching camps will teach children how to write creatively and to view writing as a fun process. Led by award winning children's book author, Mary Ann Rodman, children will learn to tell their stories clearly while engaging their audience through the use of guided exercises and creative thinking. Campers will use the exhibits at the DeKalb History Center and the Decatur square area as inspiration.

All camps \$275/week (\$250 for members at Patron Level and above)
After care available until 5 p.m./\$10 per day. Must register in advance.

For questions or registration, contact Jenny Goldemund via email at: goldemund@dekalbhistory.org or call (404) 373-1088, extension 20.

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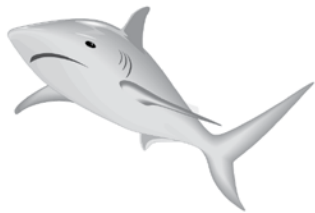


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**Smoke Rise
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This Summer**

Calling swimmers of all ages and abilities (6 and under, as well as high schoolers)! Smoke Rise Sharks needs YOU! You can still register online for the 2015 summer season at www.smokerise-sharks.com. All "registered" swimmers will receive email notification detailing practice dates/times/location.

June meets are scheduled for:
2nd, 9th, 16th, and 22nd

Divisionals will be
June 24, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

The Championship meet is
Sunday, June 28

Team Party will be held
Tuesday, June 30

Contact Cindy Ferrante
at caferrante@netzero.com or
Anna Kohler at Annagram7@aol.com with any questions.

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Love Our Oceans
By Mary Grace Mauney

June is National Zoo and Aquarium Month, and World Ocean’s Day is on June 8, so it’s a perfect month to teach children about the importance of the sea and the creatures that live in it. Education is the first step to respecting the environment, and being motivated to preserve it.

The ocean generates half of the oxygen we breathe. If we pollute the ocean, we hurt its ability to do this, and therefore we hurt our own air supply.

The ocean also regulates our climate and influences the weather. It stores solar radiation, and distributes heat across the globe via currents. Ocean currents also drive weather patterns, and the majority of rainfall comes from the evaporation of ocean water. Even places that are thousands of miles from the ocean are still affected by it. This means the ocean is a crucial part of ecosystems everywhere, so if something happens to the ocean, the consequences could be worldwide.

While people and animals cannot drink water straight from the ocean, due to the salt content, it is a major part of the water cycle. Via the water cycle, ocean water is cleaned of salt and winds up in rain, rivers, etc., so any water you drink was indeed part of the ocean at one time, and will be again. If you want to keep your drinking water clean, keep the oceans clean too!

Everyone knows fish come from the ocean, but there are also many other foods that do as well. For instance, peanut butter and frozen foods use ocean ingredients such as kelp. Fish from the ocean are also ground up into oil and meal to feed farm animals like chicken and pigs. Even if you don’t eat fish, the ocean is still probably a part of your daily diet.

The ocean isn’t just in your kitchen either. Ingredients from sea life are used in toiletries such as shampoo and makeup as well. More importantly, they’re used in medicines that help fight cancer, arthritis, Alzheimer’s, heart disease, and more. We need the ocean in order to keep making these medicines, and to discover new ones.

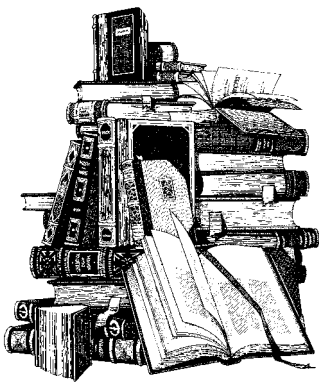
Much like the rainforest, there is an immense diversity of life in the ocean, much of which is still unexplored, and that means that there are potentially billions of new sources there for medicine we haven’t found yet. There might be a protein secreted by the kidneys of a deep-sea shrimp that helps with migraines. There might be a hormone in the eggs of a deep sea tube worm that can enhance the human immune system. There might be a chemical compound in a jellyfish’s sting that cures cancer. But if we destroy the environment of these wondrous creatures, we’ll never know. So keep the ocean clean---not just for the animals that live there, but for yourself, your family, and future generations!



Smoke Rise residents Barb Hess, Nelda Lunsford, Barbara Luton and Linda Smith, along with other members of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club, recently attended the Decorators’ Show House and Gardens.
Proceeds from this show benefit the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

The Power and Pleasure of Books
by Barbara Bruschi

Imagine a world without books! We would be shrouded in darkness about the past. The desire of humans to create records has enabled us to progress to our present state of sophistication in all endeavors. Books empower and delight, and they give pause to ponder and instill learning about the universe and all its incredible wonders. Literacy is the key to higher education and the fulfillment of our dreams.



At first men wrote symbols on stone. As the centuries progressed, clay tablets, shells, wood, silk, wax tables and parchment served as mediums to preserve important findings and events. The Chinese invented paper in the 1st century AD.

Today the computer sends knowledge to the four corners of the world to enlighten and teach all mankind. Reading is one of life’s pleasures and privileges. It is thought-provoking and intellectually challenging. It gives us a better understanding about the world we share with many different cultures.

It is my pleasure to share some of the books I read this year with our esteemed readers. They gave me pleasure, and I hope they will do the same for you.

1) *All The Light We Cannot See*: Anthony Doerr.
A blind French Girl, belonging to the resistance movement and a German orphan, a member of Hitler’s Youth meet in an unusual way. Despite their differences, they find a way to illuminate their souls and find goodness against all odds.

2) *The Invention of Wings*: Sue Monk Kidd.
The setting is 19th century Charleston. Sarah has been given a slave at her 11th birthday to serve as her handmaid. These two women seeking different destinies share a complex thirty-five-year relationship. One yearns to be free and the other, an early abolitionist faces adversity and hardships.

3) *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*: Mary Ann Schaffer and Annie Barrows.
The year is 1946. An author is looking for a new subject to write another book. She is contacted by a complete stranger from the British Island of Guernsey. After a vivid exchange of letters, she visits him and learns how the society survived the German occupation during the war. Her destiny is changed forever.

4) *The Shadow Of The Wind*: Carlos Ruiz Zafron.
The dark secrets and mysteries of postwar Barcelona are revealed to a young boy whose father let him choose a book from the antique “Cemetery of Forgotten Books.” Easy and enjoyable summer reads:

5) *Madame Picasso*: Anne Girard.
Eva Gouel moves to Paris to seek stardom. Eventually she finds a job as a costumer for the Moulin Rouge. She catches the eye of the eccentric artist, Pablo Picasso. “What starts as a torrid affair, soon will become the first great love of the painter Picasso.”

6) *The Paris Winter*: Imogen Robertson.
An English girl comes to Paris to study art. “While her fellow students enjoy the decadence of the Belle Époque, she slips into poverty. A chance to become a part of the society, she dreamed of, leads her into the devastating situation of betrayal, revenge and heart ache.”

7) *The Residence*: Kate Anderson Brower. “Inside The Private World Of The White House.”
Only the staff of the White House which runs the daily operations becomes intimately acquainted with the Presidents and their family. While they keep many secrets, some delicious little morsels of gossip are being revealed.

8) *The Bat*: Joe Nesbo.
Inspector Harry Hole of the Oslo Crime Squad is being dispatched to Australia to assist in solving a murder of a Norwegian girl. Working with an Aboriginal he learns a lot about their culture and folklore. At one point, he has to confront his past and fight his addiction. The pursuit of a serial killer who is trying to avenge the plight of the Aboriginals creates high drama.

9) *Gray Mountain*: John Grisham.
In 2008, the recession leads an upcoming young Wall Street lawyer to Virginia where she accepts a position as a legal aid. She

...Continued on page 8

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~ 7 ~

Books...continued from page 7

soon learns about the “murky and dangerous world of coal mining.” She finds a new passion in life and defends the suffering coal miners. She also takes the mining industry to task.

10) *The Girl on the Train*: Paula Hawkins.
“Like a train, the story blasts through the stagnation” of suburban London. Rachel takes a train daily and observes a couple, which in her mind, is perfect. One day she sees something shocking and reports it to the police. This is when matters become complicated, and she feels that she has done more harm than good.

In July, the earliest known work of the beloved Harper Lee, author of “To Kill a Mockingbird” is making its debut. You may pre-order “Go Set a Watchman” on Amazon.

While different books fit diverse personalities, one thing all readers have in common is the love for discovering something new and exciting. May those lazy summer days and nights inspire all of you to relax and wonder about the author’s intentions. Spread your wings and let your imagination enter the land of ever new revelations that stir the mind and challenge the intellect. May your summer be unforgettable in every way.

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Alerts & Watches

by Jan Mahoney

FYI: It is the policy of the Smoke Signal that all reports of crime published in this column are based on information received directly from residents who are the victims of the crime, or who have witnessed suspicious activity, and never to include names and addresses.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Remember these three important “stranger” guidelines from our Tucker precinct:

- Call 911 when the crime or a suspicious person sighting is in progress and say that the incident is “in progress.” CALL NOW - not later.
- Be very suspicious - call 911 for ALL suspicious behavior.
- NEVER open doors to strangers.

You are the eyes and the ears of the Police Department. Call them and let them handle the situation - do not ever attempt to handle a situation yourself.

The following reports were received from the CrimeMapping.com website:

- 4/20/2015 - DAMAGE TO PROPERTY - 5800 BLOCK MUSKET LANE
- 4/20/2015 - BURGLARY - FORCED ENTRY - 5200 BLOCK HUGH HOWELL ROAD
- 4/24/2015 - THEFT/LARCENY - 5000 BLOCK CHEDWORTH DRIVE
- 4/26/2015 - THEFT/LARCENY - 4800 BLOCK HUGH HOWELL ROAD
- 5/12/2015 - VANDALISM/DAMAGE TO PROPERTY- 4800 BLOCK MOUNTAIN WEST COURT
- 5/13/2015 - VANDALISM/DAMAGE TO PROPERTY – SILVER RIDGE DRIVE
- 5/17/2015 - BURGLARY - NO FORCED ENTRY - 1900 BLOCK BAHIA MAR DRIVE

The Internet link to subscribe to CrimeMapping is as follows:
<http://www.crimemapping.com:80/subscriptions/subscribe.aspx>

The following is the link to an iPhone app for the crime mapping service:
<http://www.crimemapping.com:80/mobile/app.aspx>

“Better Safe than Sorry” Tips to Help Keep your Home Safe While you are on Vacation:

- Lock all doors and windows (don’t forget the ones on the second story) and don’t hide a key outdoors – burglars know the best hiding places! Install a home security system or even just exterior lights that run on timers or motion detectors. Disconnecting your garage door is an effective way to keep thieves from opening it with a universal remote.
- Don’t leave a portable GPS in your car when you use long-term parking at the airport. It’ll alert thieves that you’re not home and give them a convenient map to your house.
- Show some caution when you talk about your trip. Your blog isn’t the best place to announce that you’ll be away from home for a while. Be aware of who’s around in restaurants, etc. when you discuss your trip. Make sure that your children are discreet too.
- If you plan on being away for an extended period of time, and you’re a diligent homeowner who mows your lawn every week, hire someone to take care of the landscaping chores in your absence.
- If you usually keep your blinds or drapes open, don’t close them when you leave on vacation. The more normal your home looks, the better. Put timers on lights to go on and off as they usually would. Don’t forget the kitchen (usually in the back of the house) even if you have to move a lamp in there to set up with a timer.
- When you’re leaving for more than a couple of days, call your local post office to stop mail delivery until you get back. They can hold mail from three to 30 days.
- Make sure you stop newspaper service when you leave on vacation. But what about those fliers that peddlers leave on your doorknob or in your driveway? Because you can’t plan for every contingency, have someone in the area check your house periodically to pick them up.

If you are a victim of a crime, please call Jan Mahoney at (770) 621-0155 or email details to smoke-signal@earthlink.net so we can let the neighborhood know what’s going on by publishing it in the *Smoke Signal*.

Remember, if you don’t inform the police, the police don’t know what’s happening in your neighborhood.



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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

How Much Sleep do YOU Need?

Have you ever wondered just how much sleep is enough? Most of us know at least one person who routinely survives on four or five hours of sleep. Are they really getting enough sleep? And -- do sleep needs change with age?


The human sleep-wake cycle is not only very interesting and beautifully complex, it has been well studied by sleep physiologists and scientists. A special area in the Hypothalamus of the brain called the Suprachiasmatic Nucleus (SCN) is responsible for sending signals to our body to go to sleep or to wake up. This area is activated when input from the back of the eye notices changes in light or dark. The SCN is part of the "body clock" that controls our circadian rhythms -- cyclical, reoccurring functions of the body related to the 24-hour day. Some of the rhythms that impact sleep are the cycling of body temperature and the release of hormones like Cortisol and Melatonin. Some of these rhythmic cycles gradually shift as you grow up. This is one of the reasons that teenagers stay up so late and older adults seem to wake up so much.

Newborns need the most sleep... about 14 to 17 hours each day! Their immature sleep cycles are "interrupted" with waking periods during the day that last from one to three hours. Babies usually demonstrate the ability to soothe themselves to sleep by three months of age and will learn to do this more quickly if they are put down in the drowsy state, not fully asleep state. Throughout the infant (under one year of age) to the toddler ages, children get 12-15 and 11-14 hours of sleep... some of it by napping during the day.

By preschool (three to five years of age), sleep needs decline to 10 to 13 hours. And children in the school age category (six to 13 years) have a healthy sleep cycle of nine to 11 hours a night. During the teenage years (14 to 17), a circadian rhythm shift occurs, and the sleep hormone Melatonin is secreted later in the evening. This means most teens aren't sleepy until near 11:00 p.m. Since school comes early the next morning, many of our teens are not getting the eight to 10 hours of sleep they need.

Finally, we come to the adult age groups. Surprisingly, younger adults (ages 18 to 25), adults age 26 to 64 and older adults (65 plus) have the same age requirements: seven to nine hours of sleep. Older adults sleeping habits get a bad rap, because many seniors have difficulty maintaining sleep due to a variety of medical issues.

While I only briefly addressed a small area of sleep science - there is a reason I brought up the topic. Not getting enough sleep is bad for your health! A 2007 study showed those who had five hours of sleep, or fewer a night, had a death rate that was double that of the rest of the population...especially death from cardiovascular disease. Other hazards of not getting enough sleep are impaired judgment, reaction time and work efficiency. Drowsy driving is just as dangerous as drunk driving and is responsible for more than 100,000 traffic accidents a year in the U.S. Weight gain and obesity -- caused by an increase in hormones that increase appetite, depression, forgetfulness, premature skin aging, decreased sex drive and many other health conditions can be traced back to chronic sleep deprivation. The National Sleep Foundation has many excellent resources, if you are interested in learning more about sleep disorders and sleep health. (sleepfoundation.org).




Congratulations to Valerie Rucker

Valerie Mariel Rucker, a former student of Smoke Rise Elementary and a product of DeKalb County Schools magnet and gifted programs, has been accepted into the MGH Institute for Health Professions (Boston, MA) Doctor of Physical Therapy Class of 2018. Additionally, Valerie has been awarded the John Hilton Knowles Fellows Scholarship. The Knowles Scholarship is a merit-based full tuition scholarship.

She is a 2013 graduate of Vanderbilt University, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Human and Organizational Development with a Health and Human Services concentration. She is currently employed with Results Physiotherapy located in Brentwood, TN.

Valerie is excited for the opportunity to advance her career in the health care profession. She is the daughter of Dr. Minder and Mrs. Marie Rucker of Howell Highlands.



Technology and innovation fascinate me. For that reason, I am focusing my next contributions to the Smoke Signal on that. For the first in the series, I picked a fairly new concept that has in my experience been a life changer: health and fitness monitors. Worn like a wristwatch, these fairly inexpensive devices, typically \$35 to \$150, track criteria like your steps taken each day, workouts, diet, hydration, and sleep. I purchased the Jawbone UP 24 last year based on the consensus of online reviews that it had the best graphical user interface (GUI). That's what you see when you download the free application to your phone. The home page of the GUI shows your sleep relative to the goal you set, your steps relative to your goal, and a rating of your food intake for that day. Sleep and steps are monitored for you, and you have to input your workouts and what you eat and drink. From that, the analysis is all done for you and sent via Bluetooth to be displayed in an easy-to-understand format on your phone.

This month, we'll examine just the sleep monitoring capability, which I summarize with the phrase "going from anecdotal to analytical." Mornings at our house, we'd greet each other with, "How'd you sleep?" And, we'd hear some descriptive terms like, "Great," "Pretty well," or "Terrible." Today, we simply look on our phones to see our own sleep pattern and the patterns of those with whom we have chosen to share our information. So, it's no longer, "How'd you sleep?" but, "Wow, you got a great night's sleep!" It's no longer a personal interpretation describing sleep, it's moved to hard facts shown by real data and charted for easy viewing. Is it perfect? No, but it's helpful. It does show the time you go to sleep and the time you get up, because you push a button indicating those times. In between, it attempts to show time of deep sleep (dark bars), light sleep (lighter bars), and up time (yellow area) indicating you were up walking around.

How is this a life changer? Let's say you are pretty programmed to wake up at a certain time each morning. You quickly learn that to achieve more deep sleep, the variable most easily available to you is simply going to bed earlier. The monitor makes that come to life and rewards you each morning with flashing, spinning bars on your sleep-tracker bar graph. And if you have shared your information with friends or family members, you now have a support team cheering you on. My sister from another state sends me a congratulations when I exceed my sleep target. And I can remind my son that going to bed at midnight is too late. (You have to be careful with that Big Brother aspect of this new capability. Information can as easily be un-shared as it was shared in the first place.)

Taking sleep from anecdotal to analytical has other advantages. What time you eat dinner, how much exercise you get, how you spent your evening, your stress level, and so many other variables can affect how you sleep. Now each morning, you can see your sleep pattern and reflect back on what characteristics of the prior day impacted your sleep. By doing that, you begin to learn what to do more of, and what to avoid, if getting a great night's sleep is your goal.

If this has intrigued you sufficiently to try a fitness monitor, they are widely available in stores and online. Last November, the Jawbone UP 24 ranged in price from \$80 to \$129. Today, you can find them for \$40 to \$70, which means there is probably a new and improved version coming or available.

Next column, we'll take a closer look at some of the other remarkable and life-changing features of health and fitness monitors.

News from Smoke Rise Agents



Fun & Prizes - Open to the public 21+

Smoke Rise Agents

Hosts

Mark your calendars, the annual "Have A Drink on Us" event has been scheduled for June 26, 2015 Begins at 5:30 pm at Smoke Rise Country Club. We have expanded the event to include a nine hole fun golf tournament, a tennis round robin, open swim and dinner. This event is open to the public (21 & older). Contact any of the Smoke Rise Agents Team Members or call the club direct 770-908-2582 option 1.

We have great pricing from the club - Golf \$25 +T includes cart, Tennis \$5, swim is free and dinner buffet is \$15.95 +T. You can also just come for drinks on the veranda. Smoke Rise Agents Team buys two drinks for each participant. Register with the club and prepay, then tickets for the venues & drinks will be waiting for you on **June 26**. Always a fun event trivia games, scratch offs and more. Lots of prizes. Invite a friend.

Here We Grow Again!

Our team has grown again! Our newest agent is Patty Schwed. Taren Jensen also joined us as our transaction coordinator. Ask about why a team is important in buying and selling homes.



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Homes Are Selling!

This quarter has been wonderful for listings and sales! If you would like to have a copy of the stats for Smoke Rise, call us.

~ 9 ~

New NCG Movie Theater Offers Unique Viewing Experience

By Renée Hopf



It is really wonderfully convenient that we can now so easily sign on with various systems that allow us to rent or buy almost any type of movie you would like to see: a classic, the latest hit or one of your favorites from last year. That can be fun and entertaining.

Nevertheless, my most favorite date night is still a nice dinner out, followed by the latest Hollywood release, seated with “my fella” and a salty box of popcorn and a Coke in a darkened theater. No distractions, no interruptions, just a chance to be carried off by the magic world of cinema.

I met with a gentleman recently who agreed with me completely on this subject. His name is Tim Dilts, and he is one of the regional managers for a fairly new theater corporation called the Neighborhood Cinema Group, or simply NCG. Currently the theaters are located mainly in Michigan and a few cities in the Southeast.

If you haven’t already discovered this theater in our neighborhood, the address is 1825 Rockbridge Road...in the Hobby Lobby shopping center at Park Place and Highway 78. There are several specific reasons the NCG people wanted to form a new type of theater experience. Primarily, they want to keep movie outings within a reasonable price for couples and particularly for families. And, they want us to be as comfortable, or more comfortable, than in our homes.

They are trying to achieve these goals by having their seating in reclining chairs that are roomy, slide back to your comfort level, and are far enough apart that you don’t have to stand for theater-goers arriving after you. And, your view is not blocked by the heads of viewers in front of you.

A good many theaters in the Atlanta area have special rate prices on Tuesdays and NCG follows this practice: \$5.00 for all tickets and all other days and evenings NCG tickets for juniors, seniors and all students with ID pay \$6.00. After 6 p.m., all adults that are not seniors pay \$8.00. Plus, you can ask for a Club Card, and after 10 movies you get one FREE.

In addition to the comfortable seating and affordable pricing, the theater has a well-stocked, bright concession counter and all refills on popcorn and drinks are FREE!!

It actually might take you awhile to locate this theater, because it does not have a brightly lit marquee on the outside that lists the movies currently playing and it doesn’t advertise in the newspaper. This also helps to keep expenses down. You can call the Showline number (678-476-1020) or you can find out what’s showing and the times on the NCG App or website www.NCGmovies.com.

NOTE: On special days, the NCG Theater will have a Sensory Friendly Showing. There will be a movie shown without previews, the sound will not be as loud, the lights will not be turned down all the way, and talking will be permitted. For more information and a schedule, check the NCG website.



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SRCA Dues

If you haven’t already, please send your dues to the Smoke Rise Community Association (SRCA). This is your neighborhood association! SRCA helps monitor and protect our community. Your family’s \$35 helps us have a say in issues like: potential adult entertainment establishments, cell towers on Smoke Rise Charter Elementary School property, annexations filed, and more. Dues also help fund common grounds maintenance and mowing, sign toppers, movies on the green, and more! Send check to: SRCA, P.O. Box 870793, Stone Mountain, GA 30087 or go to the SRCA website at: <http://www.smok-erise.org/>.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

Did Your Favorite DeKalb County Eatery Make the Grade?

With summer arriving this month, there seems to be even more opportunities to dine out at one of the more than 2,000 permitted food service establishments in DeKalb County. That includes restaurants, school and hospital cafeterias, nursing homes, mobile units, correctional institutions, theaters, bars and lounges. But, do you know how to find out if the place is likely to leave a bad taste in your mouth – or keep you coming back for more?

DeKalb County inspectors are charged with the task of providing periodic, regulatory inspections that include educating the food service operator on the importance of food safety practices. Most facilities are inspected at least twice a year. And, the reports are available to the public.

The DeKalb County Board of Health offers free access, via the Internet, to health inspections and sanitation grades for all restaurants, hotels, pools and other food handling establishments in the county. Inspection scores range from 1 to 100. (The lower the number, the poorer the performance.) The discovery of a code violation during an inspection results in points being taken away from a perfect score of 100. Violations in red are considered CRITICAL – meaning there are potential risks if the condition is not corrected. Establishments are required to correct critical violations immediately.

To look up an inspection rating, go to www.dekalbhealth.net and look for the “Restaurant & Facility Inspection Scores” link on the left-hand side of the page. Or, you can search for “inspection scores” in the search window at the top right of the DeKalb County Board of Health homepage. Once you get to the Inspection Score section, you can search a business by name, address, city, or ZIP code.

A direct online link to the DeKalb County Board of Health “Environmental Health Inspection Scores” can be found at: <http://atlanta.digitalhealthdepartment.com/dekalb/recent.cfm>.

If you don’t find your favorite eatery, keep in mind new inspections are continually being added into the system. Also, all inspected establishments are required to prominently post their health inspection scores on site. So, be sure to look at the report before you place your order.

To register a complaint regarding health or safety concerns at a DeKalb County restaurant, you can call the DeKalb County Board of Health at (404) 294-3700.

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Mountain Mums Garden Club
May 2015 Meeting

The Mountain Mums Garden Club closed the year on May 13 with a meeting at the home of Lisa Armisted. During the brunch meeting, the club decided on several summertime activities, including a field trip to the State Botanical and Founder’s Gardens in Athens, Georgia. The club will also have a craft and painting day on June 10 to finish several garden-themed projects.

The May Program was a meandering talk by Tara Dillard about “The Garden View: Combining House and Garden.” Tara is a well-known author (five books), garden designer, blogger and owner of chickens! For 30 years, she has been designing and touring gardens around the world. Her popular blog: taradillard.com became an attractor of clients from nearby Stone Mountain, where she has lived for three decades, to far-away places like New Zealand.

Over the years, her design style has transitioned from plans that were based on plants that caught her fancy, to what she calls a “future proof” garden. This concept came about when she began to design gardens for mature women who were in their seventies and eighties. These women wanted a functional, easy to manage, beautiful garden with instant satisfaction! They did not want to wait 10 years to enjoy the garden; they wanted to enjoy it now! The necessities of this future proof garden are wide pathways that can accommodate a golf cart (to carry stone, dirt and plants back and forth), deer proof plantings - like cedar, holly, conifers and daffodils, and very simply maintained plantings that do not require skilled labor to manage.

Tara shared that “rules” liberate and help the homeowner reflect on their uniqueness and personality. Here are several of her “rules.” Design your garden beginning with the same styles and color schemes you use inside your house. You want to be able to look out of your windows into garden vignettes. You want to look from the garden inside to a finished “picture” as well. You don’t want to look in on wires and the back of bookcases. Outside garden rooms have the sky as the ceiling, hedges or a line of trees or fence as the walls, ground cover, lawn, or stone patio as the floor. Twin pots, rocks or conifer trees can act as a “frame” to the entrances to each room. Choose a triad of colors for your hardscape pieces and trims: green, brown and white work well. Choose a theme for your pots: terra cotta, galvanized metal, black. Don’t be afraid to use big pieces in the garden. Simple rules like: combining big-leaved plants with small-leaved ones; mixing hairy plants with waxy; and burgundy colors with chartreuse help make an interesting garden. Adding a potting shed or conservatory can truly add more living space and bring the outdoors in.

Please consider joining the Mountain Mums this next garden year. Call Ann Purr at (770) 921-9070 to get more information about upcoming events.



(L-R) Mary Jacobson, Lisa Armistead, Tara Dillard (speaker), Shannon Betsill and daughter, Bronwyn

Smoke Rise Morning Glories Celebrate Awards!
By Quill Duncan

April is the DeKalb Federation Annual Awards meeting at Callanwolde, and the Smoke Rise Morning Glories (SRMG) applied for five awards and won five awards. SRMG won First Place for the Yearbook, which also won First Place for State of Georgia and for Deep South and will be entered in the National Garden Club awards category for yearbook. SRMG also won First Place for the electronic scrapbook entry and won second in the state for this honor.

In addition, SRMG won First Place for Briarcliff Woods Garden Therapy and First Place for the Janet McGinnis Friend of the Birds award for the bluebird restoration project on the Smoke Rise Country Club grounds. The final award was the Dial Heights Club of the Year Award, for the second year in a row. This award encompasses all the activities of the club over the year and acknowledges all that the group has contributed to our community.

May’s meeting was hosted by Linda Karr at her shop, The Garden Enthusiast, on Main Street in Tucker. Linda entertained the club with a demonstration of all the latest gadgets, gizmos and labor savers in the garden and birding world. Many of her products focused on ways to reduce or eliminate pests in the garden, such as mosquitos. She had “Mosquito Bits” to add to small ponds or bird baths and a very striking lantern that is actually a mosquito coil that you burn to keep them out of your area. She had several new ways to discourage squirrels from feeders, including baffles and other means. Also, she noted that several types of feeders are caged so that small birds can enter to eat the suet but larger animals cannot reach the food. Linda also sells all types of tools for the gardener and she noted that the ratcheting pruner was a great way to save labor and use the power of the tool to do the work. Linda also charmed the group with some of her latest Fairy Garden accessories to create miniature worlds in the garden on a small scale. After her talk, there was a brief business meeting and then members shopped at The Garden Enthusiast and went to Tucker area restaurants for lunch. The next SRMG meeting will be on September 8, 2015. The club will participate in the Yellow Daisy Standard Flower Show at Stone Mountain Park September 11-13.



DeKalb Federation President, Sandy Suggs, presenting President Quill Duncan the Club of the Year Award in April.

Learn about Succulent Plants
with Mountain Shadow Garden Club

On Monday evening, June 8, Kurt Straudt will be the featured speaker for Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC), with a program on “Succulents.” As owner-operator of Southeast Succulents in Decatur, Mr. Straudt started the business in 2009 with a goal of merging his interests in gardening and art. He holds a degree in photography and art from Savannah College of Art and Design.

A succulent is any plant that has adapted to dry, arid climates by storing water in its leaves, stems, and/or roots. They are called “succulent” because the cells swollen with water are juicy. Well-known examples are aloe, cactus, and jade plant. Some succulents are cold-hardy and do better outdoors. Others are better as houseplants that prefer a sunny window and need to be inside during winter. Mr. Straudt’s work with succulents includes a wide range of dish gardens, hypertufa garden containers, and vertical garden designs which can be hung on a wall as living art. He will demonstrate preparation of a hanging air plant terrarium (glass globe), a dish garden in a decorative pot, and a hypertufa dish garden. Plants and products will be available.

Mountain Shadow Garden Club is open to men and women of all ages who enjoy learning about a range of garden topics. The meeting and program activities begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments and socializing follow. The location is Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain. Free. For more information or directions, contact MSGC president Jeff Raines at (404) 641-8633.



Kurt Straudt, Owner-Operator of Southeast Succulents in Decatur



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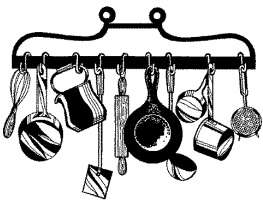
Usha Ramakrishnan, Penny Galpin, Peggy Clegg, Edith Morton and Kathryn Banks

Smoke Rise Garden Club

The Smoke Rise Garden Club’s May meeting was held in the home of Jane Culbertson. Jeff Potter, neighbor and first class gardener, was the speaker. He presented great advice on how to increase the health of existing plants and what plants to avoid in our area. His mantra is to lime, lime, lime. Also, he shared slides of his tour to Butchart Gardens in Victoria, BC. Past Club member, Sara Sigurdardottir visited with her children, Alexander and new baby girl, Julia. Everyone enjoyed seeing them.

The SRGC plant sale that was held in the parking lot at Smoke Rise Baptist Church was a big success. The club thanks all who participated and bought plants! Make sure to participate again next year. Anyone interested in joining SRGC, contact Jane Culbertson at (770) 938-3060. The mid-summer party will be held in mid-August. Check back in July for time, place and date. The next regular SRGC meeting will be September 7 at 7 p.m.

HODGE PODGE



By Jenny Hall-Busch

Sometimes I seem to keep cooking the same thing week after week. Then in a frenzy of industriousness and energy, I try to zip up an old favorite and end up with something odd and non-traditional so that everyone groans and says, “Why is this different? What did you do? Bleh!” So much for being creative, huh? So I resort to stealing recipes, which involves eating everyone else’s food and then forcing them to share the recipe because I can really whine. Cooking around here is a vicious cycle of inactivity and hyperactive experimentation. Sometimes I get a winner, and when this happens, I feel that I should share it because basically I’m just as surprised as you that it turned out. I also feel I should share some stolen recipes as well to create karmatic balance or what I like to call ping-pong shui. This entire column is just full of shui.

Made up Corn/Jalapeno Stuffing

- 1 box chicken stuffing mix (like Stovetop®),
- 1 ½ cups water
- 2 Tablespoons butter
- 1 cup drained, canned corn
- 1-2 Tablespoons chopped candied jalapenos*
- 2 beaten eggs
- ½ cup shredded sharp or pepper jack cheese

Boil water with butter and add dry stuffing mix. Remove from heat, stir quickly and add remaining ingredients, stirring to blend together. The heat from the stuffing will quickly cook the eggs. Cover and let sit about 3 minutes before serving with roast pork or chicken. *Candied jalapenos are simply made by draining the entire jar of sliced mild jalapenos of liquid, then adding sugar to fill the jar. Cover, shake it around a bit and let it sit in the refrigerator 5 days, turning jar once in a while. Sugar will melt and “candy” the peppers. Great on sandwiches too.

Scrambled Egg/ Spinach Brunch Casserole

- 2 Tablespoons butter
- 2 Tablespoons flour (or cornstarch for gluten-free)
- 1/8 teaspoon EACH salt, pepper and nutmeg
- 2 cups milk
- 1 pound of ground, mild sausage
- ½ cup chopped onion
- 12 eggs
- 3 Tablespoons half and half
- 10 oz. package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
- 6 ounces crumbled feta cheese

Melt butter in saucepan and add flour or cornstarch with spices. Gradually add milk, stirring; bring to a boil. Cook and stir for 2 minutes until thick. Cool completely. Cook sausage, onion, ½ teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper until meat is done. Drain and transfer to a greased 13x9 pan. Mix eggs with half and half, the drained spinach, feta and the cooled white sauce you forgot about. Pour over sausage in pan, cover and refrigerate overnight (or freeze at this point). Bake at 350 for 45-50 minutes until a knife inserted near center comes out clean. You can also add sautéed mushrooms for a great little extra flavor. If you freeze it, thaw in refrigerator overnight and cook as indicated. (Recipe from Taste of Home Magazine)

Incredible Walnut/Grand Marnier Chocolate Pie

- 1 unbaked 9-inch pie shell
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 ½ Tablespoons Grand Marnier
- ½ cup sugar
- 1/2 cup corn syrup
- 2 eggs
- ½ stick butter, melted
- ½ cup semisweet chocolate chips
- ½ teaspoon vanilla



Combine walnuts with Grand Marnier and toss to coat nuts. Set aside. Beat sugar, corn syrup and eggs until combined. Add melted butter, vanilla and chocolate chips. Add nuts with liquid and pour into pie shell. Bake 45 minutes, covering edges of crust if it is browning too quickly. Cool. Drizzle with additional melted chocolate if desired and top with Grand Marnier whipped cream: ½ cup heavy cream, 1-2 teaspoons powdered sugar and ½ teaspoon Grand Marnier. Whip cream to soft peaks, adding powdered sugar and liquor as you continue to beat to medium stiff peaks. There isn’t a real orange flavor evident, and you could use bourbon or coffee liquor if desired. The liquor really enhances the depth of the chocolate and this rich pie could easily serve 10. (Recipe from cooking blog www.Honesty Flambé – Adventures in Cooking and Home-making)

All classified ads are limited to twenty words, with the *Smoke Signal* reserving the right to edit any copy. Ads are \$15.00 per month, (\$75.00 per 6 months if prepaid). Please submit copy in writing with a check for the months the ad is to run. Deadline is the 10th of each month. ADS NEED TO BE PREPAID. Checks should be made out to *Smoke Signal* and mailed to 1868 East Gate Drive, Smoke Rise, GA 30087-1911. When submitting classified ads, please include your full name, address, and phone number. This information is for our records only! For classified ads, contact Barb Hess at 404-229-0742 or barbhess48@gmail.com.

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

Classified Ads

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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.

Stone Mountain Rotary Club

by L.A. Dison



The Rotary Club of Stone Mountain celebrated its 50th anniversary in May with a luncheon filled with memories of the past and plans for the next 50 years. The club was chartered on 12 May 1965 at a meeting held at the Plantation Restaurant on Memorial Drive in Stone Mountain. On that date, there were 29 members in the club. The club was originally known as the Rotary Club of East DeKalb and was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Decatur. The club name was changed to the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain in 1981.

Also in May, club members walked in the 15th Annual Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) Run Walk ‘Roll event. The RWNr is a five-mile competitive race (and two-mile fun run/walk) routing through Stone Mountain Park around the mountain. Participating members included Durl and Donna Jensen (with their two sons), Cynthia Edwards, and Gillian Leggett and Anne Coté (Smoke Rise residents). Funds raised for the non-profit organization supports its mission of donating home medical equipment, like wheelchairs and shower benches, to the disabled community at little or no cost to the recipients. The Stone Mountain club meets every Tuesday for noon lunch at Smoke Rise Country Club; visitors and those interested in learning more about Rotary are welcome to attend. To learn more about the club and its upcoming programs, go to www.stonemountainrotary.org.



Photo credit - L.A. Dison: Durl and Donna Jensen (in Rotary vests) strike out with Gillian Leggett (pink and black jacket) and Anne Coté (blue sailboat shirt) in the first leg of the FODAC Run Walk ‘n Roll 2 mile Fun Run.