

# SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 12

*Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968*

April, 2026

www.smokesignalnews.com

## Happy Easter

from the Staff of the Smoke Signal!



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### Work of Local Artist Beth Henson and Daughter Rachel Grant Selected for Display at Georgia State Capitol

Works are Featured in Capitol Building Executive Offices, Governor's Mansion

Beth Henson and daughter Rachel Grant join a select group of artists in the latest installment of the "Art of Georgia" display, a curated grouping of paintings and photographs presented by the Office of the Governor and Georgia Council for the Arts.

Beth and Rachel are among 40 contemporary Georgia visual artists who have been selected to have their landscape artwork placed in the executive offices of the State Capitol and the Ballroom of the Governor's Mansion. Rather than a public exhibit, "Art of Georgia" is placed in official state spaces to inspire policymakers, visitors, and dignitaries. Guests of the Governor's Office experience the state's diverse natural beauty through the eyes of talented Georgia artists whose work reflects the pride and character of the communities they call home.



"The selected artwork reflects a deep sense of community pride and a shared admiration for Georgia's landscapes," said Georgia Council for the Arts Executive Director Tina Lilly. "From rural vistas in South Georgia to metropolitan skylines, this display celebrates the talent and traditions of the people who call this state home. We are grateful to Governor Brian P. Kemp, First Lady Marty Kemp, and the Georgia General Assembly for their continued support of Georgia artists."

"Having my artwork alongside my daughter's displayed at the State Capitol has been one of my greatest honors and privileges. I am so proud to be a part of this exhibition highlighting our beautiful state!"

Since 2012, the "Art of Georgia" series has provided a meaningful platform for Georgia artists to share their talents and bring inspiring landscapes to the heart of state leadership. A total of 51 pieces from artists representing 23 counties collectively highlight the breathtaking landscapes of Georgia.

### Whataburger Eyes Tucker Location on Hugh Howell Road

Whataburger has been pushing to expand across Georgia, with a goal of 50 new locations by 2030. The Texas-based burger chain plans to take over the vacant Wendy's spot at 4453 Hugh Howell Road, with indoor seating and a drive-thru. Local franchisee Made to Order Holdings is seeking a Special Land Use Permit from the city to make it happen.

Tucker has tightened its rules on drive-thrus along Hugh Howell Road, so the permit isn't a sure thing yet. See the link below for more information and a graphic of the site plan. A community meeting was held Feb. 24 at the Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library for residents to weigh in.

<https://www.tuckerga.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Whataburger-Letter-and-Site-Plan.pdf>  
[Read more from the source: Decaturish]



*New Whataburger considered for Tucker's vacant Wendy's Hugh Howell site.*



*SRCA Treasurer, Lori Jones, and President, Mike Huerkamp, displaying miniatures of medallion replacement prototypes.*

### Smoke Rise Civic Association Update

*Submitted by SRCA President Mike Huerkamp and Staff Writer Susan Gilbert.*


For our readers not familiar with SRCA, it is the organization that cares for the common areas and markers that make Smoke Rise unified and special. This includes the street-name-sign-toppers on most street corners, landscaping for areas that would otherwise be untended, and the signature SR logo medallions that beautify and signify Smoke Rise. Serving roughly 2,300 homes in the Smoke Rise community, SRCA is a 501 (c) (3), and the \$40 annual dues are tax-deductible. You can pay them with Zelle or PayPal on the website (<https://smokerise.org/>) or by mailing a check to P.O. Box 870793, Smoke Rise, GA 30087.

**SRCA  
ANNUAL MEETING**  
Thursday, APRIL 23  
7:30 PM  
at Smoke Rise  
Baptist Church

Recap of their February Board meeting. The SRCA Board of Directors held its second meeting of 2026 on February 23, 2026. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$28,260.68, but with \$10,500 earmarked for medallion upgrades per directed donations. This leaves the association with a balance of less than \$18,000 heading into the annual spring membership drive and less than the equivalent of a year's operating expenses.

The most significant item of business was continued progress on medallion replacement. The two large medallions at Mountain Creek and the iconic stack at Hugh Howell and Rosser Road will be replaced with high-density urethane medallions at a cost of \$4,044 total for the three, plus installation. The remainder of the available budget will then be directed toward replacing as many of the 40+ medallions, 16" and 27" in diameter, as possible with 3D metal ones.

*...Continued on page 10*



**Smoke Signal**  
 P.O. Box 1038, Tucker, GA 30085  
 A non-profit service organization devoted to furthering neighborhood cooperation with the aid of good neighborhood communication.

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**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*.



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

**Smoke Rise Baptist Church**  
 5901 Hugh Howell Road  
 Senior Pastor: Dr. Chris George, cgeorge@smokerisebaptist.org  
 Phone: 770-469-5856 SmokeRiseBaptist.org

SUNDAY  
 9:45 a.m. - Attend Sunday School through Zoom or In-Person  
 11:00 a.m. - Attend Worship via Live Stream or In-Person

WEDNESDAY  
 5:00 p.m. - Attend our Wednesday Dinner  
 6:00 p.m. - Followed by activities and Bible Study for all ages

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**Eastminster Presbyterian Church**  
 5801 Hugh Howell Road  
 Rev. Jeanine Fulton, Pastor  
 Phone: 770-469-4881 Website: Eastminster.us

SUNDAY  
 9:15 a.m. Adult & Children's Sunday School  
 10:30 a.m. In-Person and Live streaming of Worship service

---

**First Moravian Church**  
 Pastor: Reverend Elroy Christopher  
 (770) 491-7250  
 Website: Gamoravian.org

SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. Sunday School-Adults & Children  
 11:00 a.m. Worship  
 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time

---

**Mountain West Church**  
 4818 Hugh Howell Road  
 Pastor: Mo Huggins  
 770-491-0228 Mwchurch.com

SUNDAY 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 12:00 p.m. Worship  
 MONDAY 7:00 p.m.

Easter Weekend Gatherings:  
 Saturday - 5:00pm, with Egg Hunt following  
 Sunday - 9:00am/10:30am/12:00pm/5:00pm  
 Monday - 7:00pm

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

**ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:**



The *Smoke Signal* has reached its ad-space limit and we are now keeping a waiting list for future advertisements. Please send your ad requests to staff@smokesignalnews.com and you will be contacted as space becomes available, in the order requests are received. Classified ads and flyers are still available!

**ATTENTION GRADUATES, NEWLYWEDS, and HONOREES:**

Please send in your picture and a brief article for publication in the *Smoke Signal*.  
 Email submissions to staff@smokesignalnews.com

**OUR FLYER POLICY HAS CHANGED:**

Reservations Required:  
 Email Noelle Joy at Staff@smokesignalnews.com by 15th of the month

Cost \$150 by check to the Smoke Signal:  
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ALL PRINTING is now done by Greater Georgia Printers, Inc.  
 Send Flyer Ready Artwork (8 1/2 x 11 size) to Staff@SmokeSignalNews.com and bobby@georgiaprinters.com will contact you directly.

**Smoke Signal Deadlines**

**APRIL 13**

Please e-mail articles to: staff@smokesignalnews.com

Articles and photos should be sent in .doc or .docx format. Articles sent in .pdf format cannot be edited. Photos and graphics should be submitted in .jpg or .pdf format.

Deadline for classified ads is APRIL 10

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You can also visit our Facebook page to view postings of newsletter pictures and stories throughout the month.



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**Easter Egg Hunt  
at Mountain West Tucker**

Mountain West Tucker invites you to attend on Saturday April 4th at 5:00 p.m. and stay for our annual Easter Egg Hunt!



**Save the Date!  
Annual Art of Garden Tour**

Mark your calendars and save the date, Saturday, May 16, 2026, for the annual "Art of Garden" Garden Tour sponsored by the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the Stone Mountain Woman's Club. A total of five gardens will be open for visitation, with four personal gardens located in Smoke Rise. At the historic Wells Brown house in Stone Mountain Village, visitors can tour gardens lovingly cared for by Master Gardeners as well as enjoy a tour of the house.

Join us to see local gardens that would not normally be open to the public. Donations support the work and charities of the Woman's Club in Tucker/Stone Mountain, DeKalb County, Georgia and nationally. This includes help for the homeless, first responders, veterans, local schools, community gardens, the Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse in Stone Mountain, animal rescue and victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.

Come join garden owners and club members for a fun day! The tour runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine. Donations to take the tour are \$30. Purchase tickets online at [StoneMountainWomansClub.org](http://StoneMountainWomansClub.org) or in person at Wine & Whimseys, 2344 Main St., Tucker. Whimseys is open Monday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All club members have tickets for sale.



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**A Season of Renewal at Eastminster**

As the season of Lent leads us toward the joy and renewal of Easter, Eastminster Presbyterian Church invites neighbors and friends to gather in faith, fellowship, and community. In the weeks ahead, Eastminster will host Holy Week services, a spring concert, and programs for children and families, as the church welcomes the Easter season and the arrival of spring. Whether you are looking for a place to worship, a moment to pause and reflect, or simply a welcoming community to spend time with, Eastminster invites you to join us in the weeks ahead.

**Holy Week Schedule:**

- Maundy Thursday | April 2nd – Evening Service with Communion at 6:30 PM
- Good Friday | April 3rd – Prayer & Reflection Space in the Sanctuary from 9AM to 12 PM
- Easter Sunday | April 5th – Fellowship at 9:15 AM | Worship at 10:30 AM

**Upcoming Special Event:**

Join us for an afternoon of captivating music at our Spring Concert, Songs from Around the World, on Saturday, April 18th at 3 PM. This special performance will feature mezzo-soprano Gabrielle Beteag, accompanied by pianist Clinton Young, presenting a diverse program of songs from different cultures and traditions. Experience an inspiring journey through music that celebrates the richness and variety of voices from around the globe.

**Registration is open for Camp and VBS:**

Eastminster School Age Program is offering a fun and faith filled Summer Camp, May 26th – July 31st, 2026. Children ages 3 to 12 years old are welcome. Visit [www.eastminster.us/esap](http://www.eastminster.us/esap) for more information. Registration is also open for After School care for the 2026/2027 school year.

Children ages 3 to 12 are invited to attend Vacation Bible School, June 22 to June 25, and embark on an exciting adventure at Rainforest Falls: "Exploring the Nature of God," a free program running from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM, Monday - Thursday. This event is packed with engaging Bible lessons, music, team-building games, hands-on science experiments, and immersive storytelling. Teens aged 13 to 18 can get involved as Teen Crew Leaders, offering them a thoughtful way to contribute, while building leadership skills. For more details and to register, visit: [www.eastminster.us/vbs](http://www.eastminster.us/vbs).

As spring unfolds and summer programs begin, Eastminster continues to offer opportunities for worship, music, learning, and fellowship for people of all ages. The community is invited to join in, bring a friend, and be part of the season ahead!

**Smoke Rise Country Club Announces Kids' Summer Camps**

*by Sydney Hurst, SRCC Membership Director*

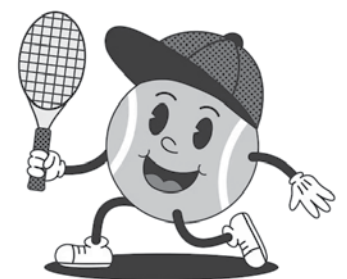
Time to shelve the video games and get active! If you are looking for outdoor summer camps for the kids, Smoke Rise Country Club is offering seven fun-filled weeks to consider. Daily activities begin with an overview of the day, and some get-acquainted games. Breaks for a snack and lunch are provided, then we do Pickleball instruction and Matchplay.

From there, it's on to the golf range where instruction is again provided. Then it's back to the tennis courts for Tennis and Pickleball Matchplay, wrapping up the day with swimming at the junior Olympic swimming pool, the slide pool, or the kiddie wading splash pool. United Tennis Academy (UTA) pros will lead our tennis/pickleball sessions and oversee pool activities. Our own Smoke Rise staff will provide golf instruction.

Besides getting exercise outdoors and experiencing four different sports, these summer camps allow kids to meet children from other schools and make new friends. Additionally, non-member parents can experience the country club through their children's time in the camps. Parents are also invited to request a tour of the Club with our Membership Director.

**Summer Camp Dates (from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.):**

- June 1-5: Tennis & Pool ONLY
- June 8-12: Sports Camp (Tennis, Golf, Pool)
- June 15-19: Sports Camp (Tennis, Golf, Pool)
- June 22-26: Sports Camp (Tennis, Golf, Pool)
- July 6-10: Sports Camp (Tennis, Golf, Pool)
- July 13-17: Sports Camp (Tennis, Golf, Pool)
- July 20-24: Sports Camp (Tennis, Golf, Pool)



All campers must bring proper swimming attire, water, snacks, and lunch as no food or drinks are sold on site, and camps will continue Monday through Friday, rain or shine.

To register your child for summer camp, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/4t85734z>

You can also email [smokerisesummercamp@utatennis.com](mailto:smokerisesummercamp@utatennis.com) or call (404) 497-0680, and choose option 4.



**Jim n' Nicks Bar-B-Q  
opening at  
4860 Briarcliff Road  
in Tucker**



**Join us on Tucker’s Main Street  
May 2nd  
for Tucker Day 2026!**

This iconic one-day, 65+ year old celebration includes a parade, live music, crafts & goods vendors, food & beverages, a kid’s play zone, a scavenger hunt, and a whole lot of family fun!

Tucker Day opens on Tucker’s Main Street at 9:00 a.m. with the parade kicking things off at 10am. Live Music, Food & Beverages, Kid’s Zone, Beer & Wine Garden, and Craft & Good Vendors will continue throughout the day until 4 p.m.

Highlights of the day will include the Seed & Feed Marching Abominable Band “play-off” with the Tucker High School Tiger Band at the end of the parade, live music throughout the day by Atlanta Vice, Neon Queen, many others, and a dedicated area for non-profits highlighting ways to give back to your community.

All are welcome!

Main Street Tucker Alliance is the non-profit hosting Tucker Day. Proceeds from the event go toward improvements to Main Street and the down-town Tucker area.

More information may be found at [www.tuckerday.com](http://www.tuckerday.com)  
or call Bob Espy at 404-643-8470, or Marsha Ashby at 770-596-4989.

**Smoke Rise Elementary Shines  
at Georgia Student Technology Competition**

Students from Smoke Rise Elementary School travelled to McDonough, Georgia to compete against elementary, middle, and high schools across DeKalb County School District and earned top placements in multiple technology categories in March.

Projects were judged on documentation, functionality, creativity, understanding, and intended purpose. Smoke Rise Elementary is incredibly proud of these students for their dedication, creativity, and excellence in technology.

**3-D Modeling**

2nd Place — Nyla Coffy

**Animation**

2nd Place — Soleil Lloyd

3rd Place — Yohanna Nordos

**Audio Production**

2nd Place — Caroline Williams

**Digital Game Design**

2nd Place — Nigel Williams & Jose Garcia

**Video Production (Grades 3–4)**

1st Place — Zev Kweskin & McCarthy Bowman

**Video Production**

1st Place — Jack Woodruff

2nd Place — Liana Smith & Debra Tumebo

3rd Place — Nia Durden & Naomi Tadele

**Novice Division**

Smoke Rise Elementary 5th grader Jack Woodruff won 2nd place in the Novice Division for the DeKalb County Schools Science and Engineering Fair.



**What’s New in Tucker?**

By Linda Karr, Staff Writer



Tucker continues to bring in new businesses. If you’re like me, you don’t always hear about them until they have been open for a while. Well, we’re going to try to keep you informed and up to date with help from the City of Tucker.

**Recent openings include:**

Brio Theater – Performing Arts Hub at 4445 Hugh Howell Road

Concentra Health – Occupational Health and Urgent Care Services at 4434 Hugh Howell Road

Jim ‘n Nick’s – Bar-B-Q Restaurant at 4860 Briarcliff Road NE (Northlake Mall)

Le Nouveau Maquis – West African Cuisine at 4073 Lavista Rd Suite 369 (Northlake Festival)

Londzell Performing Arts – Live Music and Event Venue at 3993 Lavista Road (Northlake Festival)

Metal Arts Guild – Nonprofit organization supporting metal smiths and metal artists through education, community, and shared resources at 4204 Railroad Avenue

Mama Debbie’s Art Emporium – Art Hub at 4290 Railroad Avenue

Tucker Dance Studio – Dance Studio for Children at 4195 Fellowship Road

*Check them out!*

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### Patrons of the Paper Update & Invitation

By Susan Gilbert

In 2020, when the Smoke Signal was struggling financially, the idea of asking donors to help us print the December paper surfaced. The all-volunteer staff asked the community for help, and 30 families came to our rescue, each donating from \$25 to over one thousand. In appreciation, we published the names of our donors in one paper and inserted a flyer in the fall 2021 paper listing donors, who we have recognized as Patrons of the Paper.

As our staff and the quality of the paper have grown, so too have our ambitions to further improve it. You probably noticed that this year we added color to 4 of the 12 pages in the paper. We aspire to produce a full-color paper each month, so more of the pictures pop, making the paper more fun to read. Knowing that some of our decisions are hard to reverse if money gets tight, we are expanding our Patrons Program as a safety net.

Starting in 1968, and now in our 58th year of continuous operation, we are proud of our accomplishments. This year we are expanding our Patrons Program to include new levels of recognition. Originally, with Gold (\$1,000 and up), Silver (\$500 - \$999), Bronze (\$100 - \$499), and Contributors (up to \$99), we are adding the asterisked Sustaining Patrons\* designation for those who give annually. The Smoke Signal is a 501(c)3 registered as Smoke Rise Community News, LLC, so donations are tax-deductible.

In addition to the same level of recognition in the paper and with a flyer, Patron Appreciation Events will be held throughout the year so Patrons can meet one another and some of the Board members, Editors, and Staff Writers. Patrons will also receive digital copies of the paper a few days before they are delivered.

If you would like to join our 2026 Patrons Program, please let me know by April 30th at what level you would like to join, and if you would like to be a 2026 Patron or a Sustaining Patron\* we can count on in the years ahead. My email is susan@waterfallhouse.net, and my phone is 404-312-8328.

Please mail checks to 4500 Hugh Howell Rd #490, Tucker, GA 30084 and use the For line to specify that you would like to become a "2026 Patron of the Paper."

### What About Those Roundabouts?

By Ann Fulmer

On February 10, 2026, the Tucker City Council approved the installation of two traffic circles, or roundabouts, at Idlewood Road and Fellowship Road, and at Idlewood Road and Sarr Parkway. Based on the driving behaviors I've observed at the roundabout on Lilburn-Stone Mountain Road at Old Tucker, I thought it would be helpful to offer a brief primer on the advantages of these installations and how to navigate them safely.

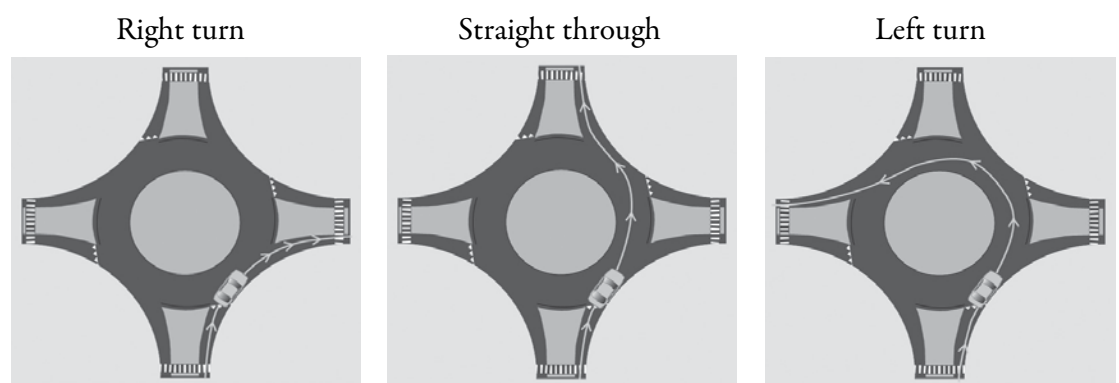
Traffic circles do a lot of work. Their design—using concrete islands at the entrances to direct vehicles into a right-hand turn—naturally slows traffic. Because there is no crossing traffic and vehicles move at lower speeds, roundabouts significantly reduce crashes. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, injury crashes are reduced by 72–80 percent, and total crashes are reduced by 35–47 percent.

Another benefit is efficiency: because vehicles keep moving rather than stopping at a light, fuel consumption and vehicle emissions are reduced.

Based on my observations, many drivers are still unsure how to navigate a roundabout. Here are the basic rules:

1. Slow down before entering.
2. Look to your left and yield to oncoming traffic already in the circle. You can enter as soon as there is space. You don't have to wait for a completely clear circle before proceeding!
3. If there is no traffic in the circle, you may enter without stopping.
4. Once you are in the circle, don't stop for entering vehicles—you have the right of way.
5. Use your turn signal as you approach your exit so waiting drivers know it is safe to enter.

Roundabouts take a little getting used to, but once you're familiar with them, the benefits are clear. Traffic moves more smoothly, you waste less fuel idling at lights, and—by staying alert—you're far less likely to be involved in a serious accident.



[Images courtesy of IJIS.org.]

#### Did You Know? These foods should not be refrigerated:

- Tomatoes:** Cold air stops ripening and breaks down cell walls, resulting in a mealy texture.
- Potatoes and sweet potatoes:** Refrigeration converts starch into sugar, making them sweet and gritty.
- Onions and Garlic:** Moisture in the fridge makes onions soft and moldy. Garlic can become rubbery.
- Avocados (unripe):** Cold halts the ripening process. Leave them out and move them to the fridge when they are fully ripe and if you plan to use them soon.
- Cucumber:** They are sensitive to cold and can develop watery soft spots. Leave them on the counter if you plan to use them soon. To "Chill" a cucumber, wrap it in a paper towel and store in a plastic zip bag or container. If you cut it, wrap cut end before refrigerating. Use within 1-2 days
- Bread:** Cold makes bread dry out faster.
- Honey:** Cold temps cause honey to crystalize
- Hot Sauce and Vinegar:** Their high acidity makes them shelf-stable for long periods. Keep them in the pantry.
- Chocolate:** Chilling causes white spots "sugar bloom" and changes texture and flavor.



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The fantastic view from Stone Mountain's Stonehenge, facing Atlanta's skyline.

## Stone Mountain Stonehenge

By Michael Schneider

We all know that the sun rises in the East and sets in the West. At least on sunny days. If you live in Georgia and are actually able to see the sun rise above the horizon without any pine trees obstructing your view; you will notice that the sun doesn't rise (or set) at the exact same spot every day. That spot seems to consistently move each day in one direction, and then after several months that "movement" seems to stop and reverse direction. Only twice every year does the sun actually rise "due" east and set in the "true" west, and that day is on the Equinox.

Over the years various structures have been built that align with this east-west path of the sun on the equinox. The Egyptians built the great pyramid of Giza so that one side is angled precisely toward the equinox sunset, and if you stand directly in front of the Sphinx on the equinox, the setting sun will appear to land directly on its right shoulder! Machu Picchu in Peru has a large stone perfectly positioned so that each corner sits at the four cardinal points (north, south, east, west) and the stone is tilted so that on the two equinoxes its shadow totally disappears at high noon.

Stonehenge in England is perhaps best known for its breathtaking view of the rising sun perfectly centered between megaliths on the summer and winter solstice. The striking symmetry of the sun on the horizon framed by monolithic stones is iconic. The astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson coined the term "Manhattanhenge" to refer to the similar symmetric setting of the sun framed between the tall iconic buildings of Manhattan when viewed along the city's east-west streets. Since Manhattan's street grid is slightly rotated from geographic north, the east-west axis of its streets doesn't exactly line up with the path the sun takes on the equinox, but fortunately the streets do line up with the sun's path around May 28 and July 12. It's really a "Kodak Moment" when the weather conditions line up with the sun's path and the axis of the streets.

Other cities have their "henge" views as well. Chicago's streets line up almost perfectly with cardinal east and west, so "Chicagohenge" lines up with the celestial equinoxes. Baltimore, Montreal, Philadelphia, San Francisco, San Diego, and Toronto all have their own famous "henges."

So what about Stone Mountain's henge? Well, from the top of Stone Mountain you can get a fantastic view of the sun setting behind the Atlanta Skyline (if it's not too cloudy). Exactly which building the sun sets behind (or between) depends on the celestial calendar, and you should get the exact same view twice a year. Celestial mechanics is the science that specializes in calculating the movements of heavenly bodies (such as the sun, moon, and planets), so with a little bit of knowledge and a lot of math you can know when that special shot of the sun setting behind your favorite building will occur. However, if you are not an astrophysicist or a shade tree celestial mechanic, there are apps for that! "The Photographer's Ephemeris" is a web-based app that helps photographers visualize the positions of the sun and moon, and natural light conditions. The Photographer's Ephemeris also has an iOS version available. Alternatively, "PhotoPills" is another phone app that has both iOS and Android versions.

As a local, I can personally attest that the sunset "henge" view from the top of Stone Mountain is breathtaking (as is the effort required to lug your camera and tripod up and down the mountain). Does Stone "Mountainhenge" rival "Manhattanhenge"? Like most of photography, it depends on your point of view.

## Smoke Rise Country Club Pool

By Kourtney Nealy, Sales Director

Pool season is nearly here, and we're gearing up for an unforgettable summer! At Smoke Rise Country Club, summer comes alive at our stunning junior Olympic saltwater pool, the centerpiece of warm-weather fun and the heart of our social scene. Designed for relaxation, recreation, and unforgettable family moments, the pool area offers something special for every member. While the large pool is perfect for swimming laps or floating, it is accompanied by 4 other pools: a splash area for toddlers, a slide pool for kids, and, for adults, a hot tub and a cooling waterfall pool.



Picture yourself lounging poolside as the afternoon sun glimmers across the water. A refreshing cocktail rests in your hand, and the soothing sound of our cascading poolside waterfall sets the tone for pure tranquility.

Whether you're unwinding with friends or stealing a moment of quiet retreat, our attentive staff are always nearby, ready to ensure you're comfortable, refreshed, and completely cared for.

For the younger crowd, adventure awaits. Kids can enjoy endless fun on our water slide, splashing their way through the day, while the kiddie pool offers a safe and engaging space for our littlest swimmers to play and explore. Families can spend hours together in this welcoming environment, creating memories that last long after summer fades.

When your appetite calls, the Tennis Café is just steps away, offering a delicious poolside dining experience. From light bites to family favorites, our menu is crafted to complement your day in the sun. Enjoy your lunch under an umbrella, grab a drink between dips, or treat the kids to an afternoon snack—every option is convenient, flavorful, and perfect for a day at the pool.

Whether you're seeking peaceful relaxation, family fun, or a lively social atmosphere, our pool area is built to deliver it all. Members gather here not just to swim, but to connect, unwind, and make the most of every sun-filled day. It's the place where friendships grow, celebrations happen, and summer traditions are born.

At Smoke Rise Country Club, our pool is more than an amenity—it's the heart of summer social life. Dive in, cool off, and discover why our members consider the pool their favorite warm-weather escape.

For more information, email or call Eckhardt at EVanderlinde@smokerisec.com or 770-908-2582, ext. 3.



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*Meet Your Neighbors!*

**The Bagbys**

*By Frank Luton, Staff Writer*

Hey those Braves, the “boys of summer” are back, supported by your Smoke Rise neighbor, Larry Bagby. Larry’s family defined baseball. Both his father and grandfather are in the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame.

Larry’s grandfather, Jim Bagby, Senior, pitched in the 1920 world series, and he is one of four pitchers in Major League Baseball history to win 30 games. He was the first pitcher to hit a home run in a World Series game. His grandfather lived on Blue Ridge Avenue in Virginia Highland. Larry’s dad, Jim Bagby, Junior, pitched with the Cleveland Indians, Pittsburgh Pirates, and Boston Red Sox.

Larry has lived in Smoke Rise for 53 years. He bought his house on Antebellum in 1972 for a little over \$49,000. He said that at the time, there were houses going for \$85,000 on Bahia Mar then. Larry also told me that Mountain Industrial Boulevard was a dead-end into a bank of dirt, just past the Sears warehouses, where the Publix shopping area now sits, and it did not go to I-85.



**Smoke Rise Academy Soars at Junior Theater Festival Atlanta**

A troupe of 53 students joined a massive gathering of 7,176 attendees and 141 theater groups from across the US and the globe for a weekend of performing at the Junior Theatre Festival in Atlanta. The highlight came when Smoke Rise was one of only five groups selected to perform in the prestigious New Works Showcase. The group earned the Excellence in Dance Award, highlighting the strength, creativity, and unity of the ensemble. Students William Bevins and Gracie Starling were named Junior Theater Festival All-Stars, placing them among the top performers of the weekend. [Photo used by permission.]



**Smoke Rise Academy Announces Registration for the Music & Arts Summer Camp**

Experience Creativity at the Music & Arts Summer Camp! Join us for an exciting adventure in music, theater, and visual arts at Smoke Rise Academy of Arts’ Music & Arts Summer Camp! From June 22-25, 12:30 – 4:30 PM, young artists (rising grades K-7) will explore their creativity through engaging classes, hands-on projects, and fun performances.



Our talented instructors will guide campers in singing, dancing, acting, and creating art, fostering confidence and imagination in a supportive environment. Whether your child loves to paint, perform, or play, this camp is the perfect place to grow their artistic skills while making new friends. Registration is due by June 1st. The camp fee is due at the time of registration. Spots are limited—register today and let the creativity begin!

Use this link to learn more and register for summer camp: <https://smokerisebaptist.org/shows/music-and-arts-camp/>

**GRADUATE**

Isabella “Izzy” Woodard, daughter of Amber and Chris Dean of Smoke Rise, graduated from Dean Academy, a private homeschool program, as a member of the Class of 2026. Known by friends and family for her adventurous spirit, Izzy has developed a strong love of travel and a fascination with high-performance cars. She plans to begin her career in the airline industry as a gate agent with Delta Air Lines, with the goal of becoming a flight attendant when she turns 21. Her family and community are proud to celebrate her accomplishments and look forward to seeing where her travels take her next.



**Keep the Date!**  
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NEWS YOU CAN USE

BY AVIVA HOFFMANN, STAFF WRITER

**NO JOKE: DON'T LET SCAMS RISE IN SMOKE RISE**

April 1st is known for pranks and harmless tricks, but scams are no joke. I still remember one April Fool's Day from more than four decades ago. My mother came rushing into the house after work, found me home from school, and excitedly exclaimed that my room was on fire and we needed to go look... right away! Never mind the questionable logic of running toward a fire, I was on my feet in seconds, thinking about everything I owned. Within moments, I realized it wasn't true - thank goodness. My mother, trying to hold back laughter, proudly declared, "April Fool's!"

This lighthearted moment serves as a timely reminder: not everyone trying to "fool" you has good intentions.

In recent weeks, I've experienced a sharp increase in junk and suspicious phone calls - on both my work desk line and cell phone. Many of these calls appear to come from local numbers, making them especially convincing. As someone who works in public service, not answering isn't really an option. Any call could be a resident needing assistance, which makes this type of potential scam activity both frustrating and concerning. In many cases, the caller doesn't even speak. I block each number as it comes in, but the calls keep coming. They may not fool me, but the constant interruptions are a frustrating and an ongoing waste of time.

These experiences reflect a broader trend. Scammers are becoming more sophisticated, using technology to "spoof" phone numbers so calls appear to come from trusted sources, including government offices, banks, or even neighbors.

A common tactic is urgency. You may be told there's a problem with your account, a missed delivery, or that immediate payment is required to avoid penalties. The goal is to get you to act quickly - before you have time to verify the information.

Here are a few simple ways to improve your odds:

- Pause before you act. If something feels off, take a moment. Scammers rely on panic and quick decisions.
- Verify independently. Instead of responding directly to a call, text, or email, contact the organization using an official number or website you trust.
- Protect your information. Never share personal or financial details in response to unsolicited communication.
- Be cautious with payment requests. Legitimate organizations will not ask for payment via gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency.

If you believe you have received a scam call or message, consider reporting it. You can contact the DeKalb County Police Department's non-emergency line at (404) 294-2911 or (678) 406-7929. You can also report fraud and learn more at the Federal Trade Commission's website: [reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://reportfraud.ftc.gov). Reporting helps authorities track patterns and warn others in the community.

April Fool's Day should be about lighthearted fun, not real-life consequences. Staying alert, asking questions, and taking a moment to verify can make all the difference.

Don't let a scammer make you the fool this April.

techtalk

By Susan Gilbert, Staff Writer

**Meeting Today's Essential Needs**

Last month, we covered how dependent we have become on battery life, so this month, let's talk about the other new cornerstone of Maslow's Hierarchy, the availability of Internet service.

During the 2020 pandemic, Joel and I ran our software company from our Kanawha home. The largest obstacle we dealt with was missing the office's rock-solid, high-speed T-1 Internet connection. At that time, we used an AT&T wireless modem with an amplifier because our home was in a "hole" where telephone service was weak. So we went to a Comcast (\$113/month) Internet service, which was fine, but not acceptable for operating a software company with employees and hundreds of utility clients across the US. One hiccup or service interruption during a review meeting with a major investor-owned utility would be a ding to our reputation that we could not risk.

Hearing that AT&T was bringing fiber to our neighborhood, we immediately signed up, and within a few months, we had Comcast as backup to our wired-in AT&T fiber service (~\$80/month).

A new problem occurred on our boats, where we often live aboard in Sarasota, Florida; Mystic, Connecticut; and on Lake Lanier. Boats move around, so fiber is not an option, and marinas have notoriously bad internet service. While most boaters don't care, we were still working and required fast, dependable Internet. That led us to try Starlink (\$165/month), which we had avoided because of the higher monthly fees, but after using it for two years, we wish we had done it sooner. It is easy to set up, simple to move between boats, incredibly reliable, and super high speed (Equipment cost \$500). Download rates range from 200 to 300 megabits per second, so you can stream video from multiple devices while emailing and participating in video conferences.

If you are using Starlink for a second home, you can turn it off when you are not using it, which is a good savings. We can't do that because we are constantly moving the device between boats.

Another related cost-saving idea is dropping cable service from your Internet bill. In an age of streaming almost anything, do you really need cable? At \$120/month, we dropped it over 10 years ago and estimate our savings to be over \$13,000. For several years, we used a wired-in over-the-air antenna in our attic that fed multiple TVs. That, combined with a DVR box to record what we like to watch, was fine then, but today, we stream almost anything that we want on YouTube. Initially, we used the ad-laden free service but then decided to pay \$13/month for ad-free access.

We hope this is helpful in the elusive search for the foundation stones of Maslow's Hierarchy, the essentials of life today: Battery and Wi-Fi.




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**HEALTH NOTES:** *By Cheri Schneider, M.D., staff writer*

**Senior Abuse**

About one in ten seniors over the age of 60 who live at home will experience some type of abuse, neglect or exploitation. The numbers are even higher if the senior lives in a nursing home or care institution. One source stated that less than one in 24 cases of abuse are ever reported. This means that the numbers are much higher than suspected. We all need to be more vigilant in watching for and reporting this in our circles of influence.



The definition of senior abuse is the mistreatment of an individual who is over the age of 60. Abuse can be physical, emotional, psychological, sexual or financial exploitation. Neglect is considered abuse. Each state has its own definitions and laws regarding abuse of the elderly. Information about where to go to report abuse is provided at the end of the article.

**How to identify abuse**

Some signs of senior abuse may be very subtle. A change in behavior or observing new anxiety, depression or expressions of fear around a caregiver or family member may be clues. Evidence of neglect: You may notice there is no basic food in the house or refrigerator, and the senior has no way to go to the store. There could be a lack of heat or utilities such as lights and gas, or evidence that utilities were disconnected in the house despite ability to pay. Sometimes a poorly maintained house or lawn and overflowing mail can be a sign of neglect by the family.

Emotional or Psychological abuse: If you overhear verbal abuse, name calling, denigration, degradation or threats towards the senior, this is abuse.

Physical signs of abuse: bedsores, unkempt appearance or poor hygiene; stained, soiled or dirty clothing. You may be able to see evidence of being confined to bed by use of restraints or evidence they have not left their room or are unable to get up on their own to do so.

There may be more than usual bruising, especially in unreachable areas of the body (back), the presence of scars, burns, or ulcers.

Sexual abuse: It is very likely this will not be reported by the senior voluntarily. Fear of another person can be a valuable sign. Touching or any sexual activity that is non-consensual is sexual abuse.

The senior may have broken bones or frequent falls that cannot be explained. You may observe rough handling by a family member or caregiver such as jerking arm, pushing, swatting, spanking or hitting the senior. There can be misuse or diversion of medications- especially pain killers or medicines that can be sold on the streets. Purposeful withholding of medications is abuse!

Evidence that caregiver or family member is stealing or diverting funds from the senior's bank account or use of the senior's funds or assets without permission for their own benefit is financial abuse. Obtaining a senior's funds through manipulation or intimidation happens frequently. These include manipulating funds to 'help me out' or coercion of 'loans' of funds or assets such as car, and house.

Evidence of financial neglect: not paying owed bills, rent, mortgage, medical expenses, taxes. Letting bills stack up unaddressed or ignoring bills, making them late for payment

**What to do if you suspect Senior abuse or neglect**

First, try to talk to person alone to see what the real situation is. Go with the person to the bank or doctor's office to see if you can find out the truth of the situation.

- For abuse: Report all abuse to Adult Protective Services.
- For neglect: The family may be unaware of the senior's situation. Call a family member -even if they are not local- and notify them. The family needs to be informed.

Next, reach out to the senior yourself to help. One Smoke Rise resident I know took an elderly man and his elderly sister under their wings and provided dinner at least once a week. They checked on them frequently and gave rides to the grocery store and made sure they were safe. They informed the family of the situation and got them involved in the care of their own kin.

**Respite Care**

Respite care may be available for a spouse or family member who is a stressed-out caregiver. This care can be arranged for an afternoon or for several days or weeks. Planning with your family about 'what ifs' can help prevent stressed out carers and facilitate action by family members.

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Many seniors are isolated, lonely and less able to navigate daily activities. You can be a neighbor and friend who makes a difference. EVERY HUMAN MATTERS.

**RESOURCES**

Respite Care - ARCH National Respite Network - 703-256-2084  
<https://archrespite.org/>

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau - Office for Older Americans - 855-411-2372

Eldercare Locator - 800-677-1116

National Center on Elder Abuse - 855-500-3537

National Elder Fraud Hotline - 833-FRAUD-11 for 833-372-8311

National Adult Protective Services Association - 202-370-6292

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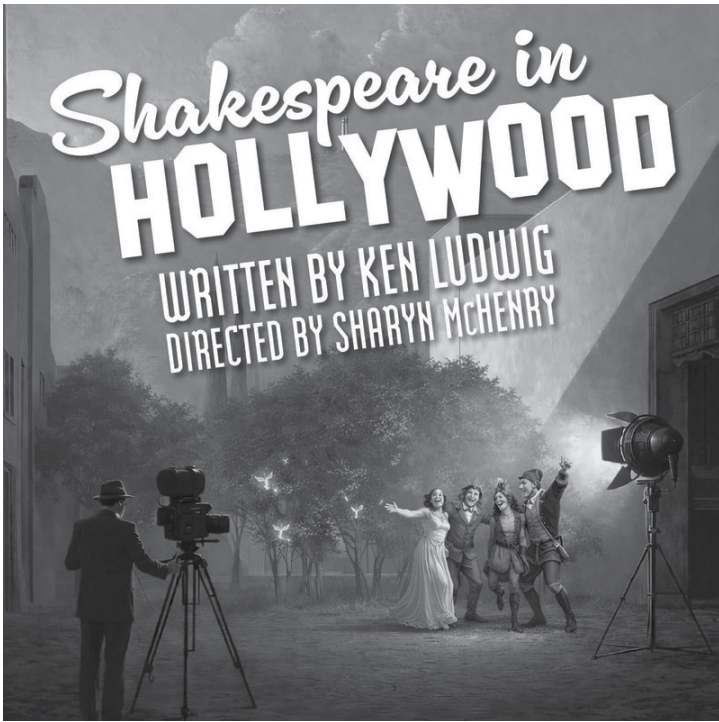
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**Fantasy Meets Hollywood  
in Main Street Theatre Production of  
'Shakespeare in Hollywood'**

*By Gary Goettling*

Shakespearean fantasy overlaps the highly fictionalized account of an actual film production when Main Street Theatre presents "Shakespeare in Hollywood" the weekends of April 24-26 and May 1-3 at the Tucker Rec Center, on 4898 LaVista Rd.

Ken Ludwig's play brings together characters from "A Midsummer Night's Dream," but who hail from two widely disparate times — and realities. "As soon as I read the script, I was in!" says director Sharyn McHenry. "This play has it all — zany comedy, romance and just enough Shakespeare to keep it classy."

The play takes place in 1934, and Warner Brothers Studio is filming an adaptation of Shakespeare's comedy, "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Two characters from the play script, Oberon, king of the forest fairies, and Puck, his mischievous servant, appear on set supernaturally, interact with the production's famous stars, and end up being cast to play themselves in the film. By using a "love flower" from their magical forest on the real actors, studio executives and a hard-nosed censorship official, Oberon and Puck upend film production with romantic entanglements and chaos with unpredictable comedic results.

"This play has a really big cast and lots of action," Sharyn says. "It's challenging to choreograph scenes happening simultaneously on the stage! I'm having a lot of fun working with the cast to figure it out."

The cast is composed of Ben Stokes (Oberon); Karlee Edmonds (Puck); Sean Decker (Jack Warner); Drew Crecente (Max Reinhardt); Jim Dexter (Will Hays); Ross DeMocko (Daryl); Hannah Auerbach (Olivia Darnell); Katie Downey (Lydia Lansing); Christa Sfameni (Louella Parsons); Adam Bourna (Dick Powell); Tanner Parish (Jimmy Cagney); and Garrett Loudon (Joe E. Brown). The ensemble includes Kym Barrett, J.R. Langwell, Tiffany Ng, Turner Smith and Caitlin Syfrett.

For Salt Lake City native Sharyn McHenry, working with Main Street Theatre is always a treat. She notes that "I've directed a dinner theater murder mystery and helped run sound on a couple productions as well." A web designer and mother of four, Sharyn's previous involvement with Main Street Theatre also includes roles in "The Dining Room" and "Laughing Stock."

The curtain rises for "Shakespeare in Hollywood" at 7:30 p.m. for Friday and Saturday performances, and Sunday shows begin at 2:30 p.m.

Please note this play contains adult themes.

Masks are optional, subject to CDC guidelines. Concessions will be available.

For tickets and more information, please visit [www.mainstreettheatre.org](http://www.mainstreettheatre.org).

**Out the Window** *Article and illustration by Beth Henson, Staff Writer*

**Carolina Chickadee**

Taking a break from a morning of artistic endeavors, I gazed out the window and saw a tiny Carolina Chickadee land on my small bird feeder, strategically placed by the window for my viewing pleasure. To my delight, the chickadee began enjoying a hearty lunch of seeds and nuts with great gusto.

The chickadee gets its name from its familiar call, "chick-a-dee-dee-dee." Interestingly, the number of "dees" can signal the level of danger nearby; the more "dees" you hear, the more serious the warning.

Chickadees often mate for life, and Mr. Chickadee is the singer of the pair. Male chickadees have been known to sing up to 3,000 times in a single day! Their bright whistled song rings out through the trees like a cheerful announcement that all is well in the neighborhood.

This tiny visitor is one of the smallest members of our local bird community, weighing only 9 to 12 grams. Though small in size, chickadees are bold and brave. In groups they will sometimes harass much larger animals such as hawks or cats. They are also famously curious, inspecting many things in the yard including garden tools and the people using them.

Before long, my little guest grabbed one last seed, gave a quick, cheerful call, and darted back into the trees. The feeder suddenly seemed very quiet again, but I had a feeling he would return soon, perhaps with Mrs. Chickadee to brighten my morning.



**SRCA Update...continued from page 1**

Students from the Tucker High School Beta Club participated in the February 28th clean-up of our Community Garden along with several volunteers from the neighborhood. The contract with Ruppert Landscaping, LLC, renews this spring. Two-thirds of the SRCA budget is directed toward mowing, seasonal color, and utilities at the Rt 78 memorial triangle of trees and chimneys on the major thoroughfares.

Darrin Gambino recently joined the board and brings IT expertise focused on revitalizing the SRCA website.

Annual Meeting Invitation. Our 2026 public membership meeting is at 700 p.m. on Thursday evening, April 23rd, at Smoke Rise Baptist Church. We invite everyone to come, meet the Board, and learn more about the important projects we have underway.

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## Georgia Iris Society

“An Iris Fantasy” is the theme for the 2026 Georgia Iris Society Annual Iris Show and Sale on Saturday, April 25! The potted iris sale starts at 10 a.m. The show opens to the public at 11 a.m. 1790 Lavista Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329

## Do We Learn Anything from “The Birds?”

By Joel Gilbert, P.E., Staff Writer

As some of you know, Susan and I spend much of the winter living aboard our boat in Marina Jack, in Sarasota. This year, I noticed we are getting usually large swarms of crows at first light ... I mean sky-blackening swarms ... straight out of a horror film. What you are seeing in this photograph shows the crows on just two boats, but there are hundreds of boats in this marina, and any place a crow could perch is occupied by as many as will fit in the space. I shot a video of them swarming when they all decide to leave in unison, and the sky truly darkens.

The Birds was a 1963 American horror film produced and directed by Alfred Hitchcock, loosely based on the 1952 short story of the same name by Daphne du Maurier. It centers on a series of sudden, unexplained, violent bird attacks on the people of Bodega Bay, California, over several days. It is interesting that these swarms are called a murder of crows. The term “murder” derives from historical folklore and cultural superstitions rather than science. Our situation on the boats in the marina poses no risks, but it is really spooky to watch.

With their dark plumage and eerie caw, crows were often associated with omens, foreboding, dead bodies, battlefields, and graveyards. Crows are social animals and gather for a variety of reasons: it is more efficient foraging in a group, there is safety from predators in numbers, and to find prospective mates outside of the immediate family group. Perhaps most important, there is social learning and information transfer (Hey, there is good stuff at the KFC dumpster...).

As you probably know, crows are exceptionally intelligent, with cognitive abilities often compared to those of a 6-year-old human child. They possess remarkable problem-solving skills, use and create complex tools, recognize individual human faces, and can plan for the future. Their brains are densely packed with neurons, enabling advanced reasoning, self-control, and memory, allowing them to pass on information about opportunities and threats.

Well, then, perhaps they have something to teach us all in our modern societies. There is much to be gained from visiting with each other ... in person. Yes, the collective din of the conversation can be annoying, just like the squawking of the crows ... but it is good for each of us to gather in groups, share information, and learn from one another. It's good for our social fabric.

Perhaps we should pay more attention to what crows can teach us.



## Mountain Mums Learn How to Attract Pollinators

By Maureen Fraser, Publicity Chair and Newsletter Co-Editor

President Sally Young opened the recent meeting of the Mountain Mums Garden Club at the home of Lynn Malone. Kate Graham offered an inspiration and prayer centered on the theme of Springtime Joy. Sally also recognized Mary Jacobson and Kelley Samarus, who were recently inducted as Lifetime Members of the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs.

Members discussed upcoming projects, including helping clean up the Smoke Rise Community Garden during Georgia Garden Week, April 19–25. The club is also adding red, white, and blue plantings at the Tucker Police Precinct as part of the “Plant America Red, White & Blue” initiative celebrating America’s 250th birthday.

The program, “Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden,” was presented by Kelley Samarus and Melissa Shrager, both Master Gardeners and co-site leaders of the Tucker Butterfly Garden for the past 10 years. They encouraged gardeners to plant native species suited to Georgia’s Piedmont region, reduce pesticide use, remove invasive plants such as ivy and privet, shrink lawn space to create “soft landings” under trees using shade-loving plants like foam flowers and ferns, leave fallen leaves in the fall to provide habitat for pollinators, and support the natural food web in your garden.



Meeting host Lynn Malone (left), welcomed Mountain Mums Garden Club members, with co-hostesses Mary Jacobson (center), Gaye Auman (right) and Angie Ballard (not pictured) providing refreshments.



Kelley Samarus and Melissa Shrager, co-site leaders of the Tucker Butterfly Garden, presented a program on attracting pollinators at the recent Mountain Mums Garden Club meeting.

Our presenters concluded with the thought, “If you plant it, they will come,” and a quote from horticulturist Rebecca McMahon: “Beauty is the sneaky way to change the world.”

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 8. For membership information, contact Mary Jacobson at [mjacob1010@gmail.com](mailto:mjacob1010@gmail.com).

## Morning Glories Install New Officers for the 2026-2027 Club Year

By Quill Duncan, Recording Secretary

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. has an established order to the organization which will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2027. The focus of the organization is Beautification, Conservation and Education for citizens of our state. We hold an April convention for our members each year and this year it will be in Peachtree City and feature a wide variety of speakers and events for the attendees. This is the middle of the term for the current slate of state-wide officers and board members several of whom are Morning Glories members.

Our garden club’s officer rotation was out of sync with the state organization and as a result we made the decision to elect our officers for a one-year term beginning in March 2026 to serve until March 2027. A new two-year term of service for the officers will begin then.

The March installation ceremony was conducted by Ms. Rigby Duncan who is a Garden Club of Georgia Board Member, Redbud Treasurer, DeKalb Federation Board Member and Co-President of the Hunting Hill Garden Club. We were delighted to welcome her and enjoyed her very thoughtful installation ceremony as she described the duties of each officer. Our new slate of officers is headed by President Kim Fair, 1st Vice President Bonnie Pennington, 2nd Vice President Glendolyn Hallman, Recording Secretary Quill Duncan, Co-Corresponding Secretaries Melanie Chastian and Faye Long, Treasurer Joy Zaidan and Parliamentarian Amie Walsh.

One of the club’s community service projects is the Wellroot Family Services organization and for this meeting the club donated funds towards their Easter celebration event to be held later in March. The organization is headquartered in Tucker and serves families and children and young adults across North Georgia with a wide variety of services and support.

The club’s April meeting will be at Park Springs and the program will be a fun talk on



Carnivorous Plants led by Michele Spears of the Avon Garden Club. If you would like to attend the meeting, please contact President Kim Fair at 404 384-7851.



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*Dean and Mary Jacobson's backyard oasis, featuring vibrant perennials, handcrafted stone walkways, and a peaceful bird sanctuary, was named the Garden Club's April "Garden of the Month."*



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## Food & Home Fixin's

by Joyce Ray, Staff Writer

*The number of Chicken Casseroles in my recipe file continues to increase, along with the cans of "Cream of Everything" soup on hand in my pantry. For a delightful change I am sharing this delicious and festive stuffed chicken that your guests will enjoy. You will love the one-pot cleanup!*

### Chicken and Apricots Elegante

3 large boneless chicken breasts (skinned and halved lengthwise)  
2 (15 oz.) cans apricot halves (drained and chopped - save the nectar for the sauce)  
1 Tablespoon lemon juice  
2/3 cup Chablis or other dry white wine

#### Stuffing:

1/3 cup blanched toasted slivered almonds  
1/8 teaspoon each of ground nutmeg and cinnamon  
1/2 cup dry finely crushed breadcrumbs, 4 T. softened butter

Prepare stuffing by mixing breadcrumbs, spices, almonds and butter. Divide into six equal portions. Set Aside.

Place chicken breasts between 2 sheets of plastic wrap and pound with meat mallet until about 1/4 inch thick. Sprinkle each piece with salt and pepper as desired. Place 1 portion of stuffing on each piece of chicken, roll up and secure with a toothpick. Brown in butter. Add wine, lemon juice and nectar from the apricots and simmer for about 30 minutes. Add water, a little at a time if pan becomes dry. Add apricots and simmer until heated. Serve over rice. (Remove toothpicks before serving!).

### Wild Rice and Cranberry Salad

*This classic side salad from the Southern Living cookbook (1999) works well with any meal. Add roasted chicken or salmon and fresh fruit to make it a main dish for a spring lunch with friends.*

1 6oz pkg. long grain and wild rice mix  
1 cup sweetened dried cranberries  
1 cup fresh broccoli florets, chopped  
4 green onions, chopped  
3 celery ribs, thinly sliced  
1 (2 oz) jar diced pimento, drained  
1/2 cup sweet & Sour dressing  
1/2 cup dry roasted peanuts

Prepare rice mix according to package directions. Allow it to cool.

Combine rice, cranberries, broccoli, onions, celery and pimento. Add dressing. Stir gently. Cover and chill for at least 2 hours. Stir in peanuts just before serving.

### Lemon Squares

*My well-used, dog-eared recipe for Lemon Squares has always been a reliable choice—perfect for Easter and still tasty days later when kept in the fridge. I've long since lost track of how many potlucks, family gatherings, and church dinners I've brought them to.*

#### Step 1:

1 cup butter – 2 cups flour – 1/2 cup powdered sugar.  
Mix well and pat into the bottom of a lightly greased 9x13 pan. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes or until lightly brown.

#### Step 2:

4 eggs  
2 cups sugar  
1/4 tsp salt  
6 Tbsp lemon juice  
1 tsp baking powder  
4 T. flour

Beat eggs, Add remaining ingredients. Pour onto crust. Bake 25 minutes more at 350° until top is set. Sift powdered sugar on top while warm. Allow to cool before refrigerating. Cut into squares before serving.