

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 7

Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

October, 2020

www.smokesignalnews.com



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TUCKER COMMUNITY & HEALTH EXPO

Saturday, October 10, 2020
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Tucker United Methodist Activity Center
4315 Church Street, Tucker, GA 30084

Join Omega Support Services Center for a day of health& wellness, free medical checks, COVID information and testing, arts & crafts, and other great vendors. The event is held OUTSIDE and CDC guidelines are observed.

The event is free and open to the public. Register at bit.ly/tuckerhealth.

Introducing

Patrons of the Smoke Signal

Perhaps you are already a patron of other worthy charitable organizations. Many support symphony orchestras, their alma mater, or some artistic community. The term patron is defined as "a person who supports with money, gifts, efforts, or endorsement an artist, writer, museum, cause, charity, institution, special event, or the like". As in "a patron of the arts."

In the interest of keeping our advertising rates as low as possible and continuing the 52 year legacy of our local paper, the all-volunteer staff who create the *Smoke Signal* each month would like to recognize those in our community who want to join us by supporting the paper as patrons making financial contributions. We applaud and recognize the hard work of the dedicated 15-person staff who make this special hometown newspaper come to life. They are listed at the top of page 2 of each paper.

Word of our donor **Patrons of the Paper** got out in advance of this introductory article, and we already have 10 committed Founding Patrons! In future papers, their names will be prominently displayed on the back cover of each paper in appreciation of their backing. For now, we will list them here with a big THANK YOU for helping us to get our Patrons program started.

Founding Patrons

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| • Frank and Gaye Auman | • Andrea and Jim Noland |
| • Robert and Barbara Bruschi | • Rob and Pam Pierce |
| • Joel and Susan Gilbert | • Michael and Cheri Schneider |
| • Bruce and Tammy Lucia | • Pat and Mark Soltys: SmokeRise Agents |
| • Frank and Barbara Luton | • Ronnie and Jean Weathers |

Unlike some charities, we can't offer a tax credit for donations. However, we can promise you we will continue producing our content-rich local paper and keeping the percentage of ad space to less than 1/3 of the paper while holding down our advertising rates. Become a Patron by making your check out to the *Smoke Signal*, putting Patron in the memo line and on the outside of the envelope, and mail it to The Smoke Signal P.O. Box 763 Tucker, GA 30085.

We'll add your name to the **Patrons of the Paper** listing the month following receipt of your check. Patron levels are shown here.

- Gold \$1k and higher
- Silver \$500 and up
- Bronze \$100 and up
- And Patron \$ any amount > \$50

We hope you will consider supporting our good cause to keep our local news flowing and our local businesses advertising costs low.

Best metro Atlanta suburb 2020



TUCKER NAMED BEST ATLANTA METRO SUBURB!

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution ran a contest in August asking readers which is metro Atlanta's best suburb. The new City of Tucker was not on the list, but through write-ins, it WON the competition by a landslide.

With more than 5,000 votes cast, Tucker took 38% of the votes! Next highest and a distant second was Decatur followed by Alpharetta. Go Tucker! We mobilize when there is a chance to share our love of our City and our appreciation for all who work so hard to make it a fabulous place to live.

Smoke Rise Civic Association Checks in

By Michael Huerkamp, President

It has been some time since we checked in, but Smoke Rise Civic Association (formerly known as Smoke Rice Community Association) continues to weather the challenges of the continued statewide public health emergency. The board continues to meet monthly using mostly Zoom, but also with a few in-person conferences in small groups, availing full health and safety precautions. We have recently focused on landscaping, neighborhood issues, and a gift of appreciation to long-time and now former board member Pam Heisler.

While our Zoom meetings tend to be a bit less structured, and shorter than those of the type pre-pandemic, here are a few issues we have addressed:

- Dues monies continue to be invested, foremost on landscaping and mowing. We are changing landscaping providers as this submission goes to press.
- While it has been difficult, we've attempted to provide support to neighbors on the northern fringes of Smoke Rise who are contending with noise from the industrial park at South Royal Atlanta Drive.
- The community garden is characterized by a mix of spent and robust beds with some talented small plot gardeners leaning into autumn crops. The one constant is thriving beehives!
- Lastly, we are working to make our new internet home page interface with our dues-paying members better as we communicate with and inform them more directly of events and opportunities.
- A reminder that SRCA dues are now tax deductible in the full amount—retroactive to October 26, 2018!!



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.

Preferred Formats for Smoke Signal Submissions

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

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

Smoke Signal Deadlines

OCTOBER 13

Please e-mail articles to:

staff@smokesignalnews.com

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

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

Deadline for classified ads is OCTOBER 10

SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

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

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



Boy Scout Troop 876 has a new Eagle Scout!

Daniel Robinson of the Summit in Smoke Rise attained the rank of Eagle Scout on July 26, 2020. He joined Troop 876 in 2013, and over the past seven years completed 27 merit badges. For his Eagle Project he supervised a team to build towers and shelves for the cats at Atlanta Animal Rescue Friends (AARF) in Stone Mountain. Daniel enjoyed the fellowship of his troop on camping adventures, summer camp and service projects. The pinnacle was attending the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base program in 2017 with his Dad and a group from Troop 876. He became an Order of the Arrow brother in May 2017 and completed his National Youth Leadership training in June 2018. Daniel and his parents, Joanne and Ted Robinson, would like to thank all current and past leaders and members of Troop 876 for their guidance and support along Daniel's scouting journey. Scouting has been a remarkable part of Daniel's life and we highly recommend it to others in the community!

Smoke Signal Political Policy

It is the policy of the *Smoke Signal* to print one article on political candidates prior to each primary and/or general election. The candidate must submit the article to the paper by deadline, in order for it to appear in the following month's issue. No staff member will be responsible for any political articles on candidates, nor will the *Smoke Signal* solicit articles from candidates. Articles are to be submitted on a voluntary basis.

Political flyers – See page 2 for information. No political ads will be run in the classifieds.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Connecting in New Ways During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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

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

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

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

MC3 Church

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

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

First Moravian Church

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

Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

Mountain West Church

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

SRP: Moving Right Along! *By Grier Kellett*

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



Smoke Rise Prep is back in school! We have begun implementing a phased-in hybrid model. Our elementary students had an option to begin in person or virtually on August 19. Our middle school students were able to re-enter school in person on September 21. Our school continues to rigorously follow all CDC-recommended safety precautions. All students, faculty, and staff must wear masks (with daily mask breaks), social distance, wash hands frequently, and receive daily temperature checks. Our number #1 priority is providing a quality education as safely as possible while providing flexible options according to our families' comfort levels.

Smoke Rise Prep operates on a 4-day academic week with Friday being Enrichment Day from home. Some fun and engaging Enrichment activities range from art classes, to Minecraft groups, to Disney karaoke challenges. Our teachers have been busy incorporating engaging, project-based lessons that challenge our students both in person and virtually. Our small class sizes create the optimal learning environment for our students.

We had many fun events in September including a socially distanced Saturday night family movie on-the-green and a picnic lunch for our elementary students and staff members.

In October, we'll have the Scholastic Book Fair, Red Ribbon Week, and much more!

To hear more about specific grade levels and to learn about additional offerings, contact info@smokeriseprep.org. Spaces are limited!

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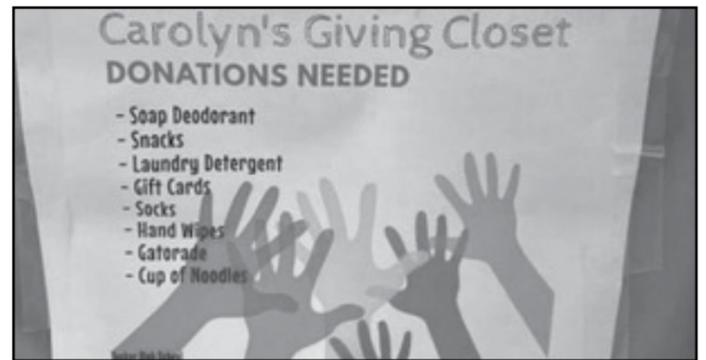
**from Tucker High School:
Mrs Collins HAS NOT STOPPED!
But the donations have...**

The Tucker community of food and housing insecure students and their families still need us. This quarantine due to the pandemic has made things 10x worse for these families! No work. No school support. No bailouts.

Help our famous Carolyn's Giving Closet continue to provide to those students in need. She quietly and graciously began this many years ago and it has grown as the very need for it has grown, sadly. While the local news and Steve Harvey Show did stories on her - they soon got forgotten. BUT! My friend Mrs Collins has NOT forgotten these children.

Please, please help our own! Private message Meg Thomas, Carolyn Collins, or Sanah Kapadia for any specifics. Go to the Tucker Volunteer Facebook Page.

Privacy of the students as well as donors is held with utmost importance, no names or addresses will be shared.



From the THS Art Department

Annie Yena, a recent graduate of Tucker High School, class of 2020, is the ART STAR Award Winner for Region 2. This award is based on a submission that includes art skills, classroom acumen, passion for the craft and community service along with the art submissions. Miss Yena is also a recipient of the DeKalb County Fine Arts Diploma Seal for Visual Arts. THS would like to congratulate Ms. Yena on her achievements!





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

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

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

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



Want to be part of our upcoming socially-distanced experiences?

Do you have aspirations of acting with MST, but just can't find the time or conjure up the nerve to get on stage? Here's your chance to have it all. We will have more Socially-Distanced Murder Mysteries while we wait out the pandemic. If you would like to be involved, there is a form on the website for you to fill out. They will then email you with each opportunity.

info@tuckertheatre.com

or Facebook page Main Street Theater Tucker

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

We'd Enjoy Connecting With Our Smoke Rise Neighbors.

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

Tucker to Host Socially Distant National Night Out

A Tucker tradition will carry on in a safe and socially distant way this fall. The City's National Night Out celebration is slated to take place on Tuesday October 6 at Henderson Park. This year's event will feature free dinner and a showing of the 1987 cult classic film The Princess Bride.

"We are mindful of the ongoing pandemic, as well as the need for community connection and interaction," said Tucker Communications Manager Sonja Szubski. "We will be pulling out all the stops to make this as safe an event as you have ever seen."

City staff will be taking the following precautions to ensure that all attendees are kept safe:

- Food will be handled by staff in personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, face shields)
- All attendees will have their temperatures checked upon entry
- All attendees will be strongly encouraged to wear masks when not eating or drinking
- Masks will be provided to attendees who do not have one
- Markings will be placed on the field at distances to keep attendees safely apart
- Viewership for the film will be limited to a select number of groups based on social distancing

National Night Out is a nationwide effort to connect communities with the police officers who serve them. It is typically held on the first Tuesday in August but was postponed to October this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Additionally, the City of Tucker has always held the celebration at a Tucker Cluster elementary school. Due to the pandemic, this year's event had to be moved off school property.

"Our Parks and Recreation staff is excited to host this popular event at Henderson Park," said Tucker Parks and Recreation Director Rip Robertson.

As it has been the previous three years, Tucker's National Night Out will be sponsored by Jacobs. Jacobs is a global engineering and solutions company that provides much of the staff at Tucker's City Hall.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign to promote police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. (straight from the NNO facebook page!)

WHAT: Tucker National Night Out

WHEN: Tuesday October 6, 6 p.m.-end of movie

WHERE: Henderson Park Field #6 (Livsey side near the tennis courts)

Free dinner (hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and drinks), movie starts at 7:15 p.m.

On the Web: https://www.tuckerga.gov/news_detail_T14_R469.php

We Need YOU!

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

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

Art Wood
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Zillow
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AROUND ATLANTA IN OCTOBER

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Through Nov. 1, 2020 • Friday - Sunday

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FESTIVAL HOURS

- Friday, 10/2: 4p.m - Midnight
- Saturday, 10/3: 10a.m - Midnight
- Sunday, 10/4: Noon - 10p.m
- Monday, 10/5: 4p.m - 10p.m
- Tuesday, 10/6: 4p.m - 10p.m
- Wednesday, 10/7: 4p.m - 10p.m
- Thursday, 10/8: 4p.m - 10p.m
- Friday, 10/9: 4p.m - Midnight
- Saturday, 10/10: 10a.m - Midnight
- Sunday, 11/6: Noon - 10pm

GLOW BY NIGHT EXPERIENCE: Dusk - 9:00 PM



We recommend guests purchasing Attractions Passes do so in advance as daily capacity will be limited. Mountain Membership reservations are required. Individual attraction hours may vary. Check Map & Schedule for details.

**ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDENS
SCARECROWS IN THE GARDEN: October 1 to November 1**
(Atlanta location) 1345 Piedmont Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30309
(Gainesville location) 1911 Sweetbay Drive, Gainesville, GA 30501

Scarecrows in the Garden brings to the Garden dozens of creations by local artists, crafters, youth groups and more. Entrants and visitors will delight in discovering their own personal favorites.

Fest-of-Ale: (Atlanta location)
October 6, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Scarecrows in the Garden during a favorite annual beer fest featuring a variety of specialty ales from cash bars.

Goblins in the Garden: (Gainesville location)
October 25, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Show off the kids' Halloween costumes while strolling through fall color.

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Dining at the Club feels a lot like the TV show "Cheers....Where everyone knows your name, and they are always glad you came." Plenty of room for social distancing and outdoor socializing. Covid has brought a huge surge in membership. It's worth taking some time to check it out. What an asset to our quality of life here in Smoke Rise! Arrange a tour with Heath McDaniel (hmcDaniel@smokerisecc.com) or call 770-908-2582 ext. 4.

Celebrating Life in Smoke Rise
By Susan Gilbert

For more than two decades, Smoke Rise Country Club has served as a scenic retreat in the heart of Smoke Rise. While some know it for the impressive 5-pool swim complex or renowned tennis program, others know it for its well-equipped fitness center or for dining and social events. To Stone Mountain Rotary and other civic groups, the Club is a venue for hosting community, social, and philanthropic events, business meetings, weddings, golf and tennis tournaments, and offers a wide range of health and fitness and children's programs. Its principal offering is the finely manicured, 175-acre, 18-hole golf course.

Sadly, our area lost another golf course this year with the closing of Heritage, a 27-hole public course in Tucker that straddles DeKalb and Gwinnett counties. It is slated for development of hundreds of single-family homes and townhomes as a two-part development by Lennar Corporation. The mega-builder is proposing 226 single-family homes surrounding Burns Lake in Tucker. The plan shows small and medium lots, zoned R-60 and R-75. A rendering is posted on TuckerGA.gov, but Lennar said the plan is still in flux. The property is under contract, subject to rezoning approval.

The good news for our Smoke Rise community is that our Club is standing strong. The pandemic brought record numbers of golfers to the course when other courses closed due to the pandemic, which was made possible by our ability to provide single-occupant cart play. It is also bolstered by a surge in membership as so many wanted a place to get outside, relax at a nice pool, and enjoy the summer. Such a membership surge that initiation fees, waived during times of membership-building, are being reinstated.

Much of this year at the Club is best described as adapting, adjusting, and being creative. Members and guests have enjoyed the ability to get together socially inside and outside spreading out in the vast 25,000 sq. feet of meeting space plus the spacious outside Veranda. A major 6-month long project of dredging the lake was completed, enhancing the view as you enter the Club property and assuring we have sufficient water to irrigate the course.

To end the summer with a big splash, the Club hosted a family-friendly Luau complete with games for the kids, leis for the ladies, and a magnificent cookout complete with rotisserie pig that was slow-roasted all night for the festivities. Pictured here are Smoke Rise residents Bob and Barbara Bruschi joined fellow Smoke Signal staff writer, Susan Gilbert, for a photo opportunity appreciating the fine work of the two master chefs who worked through the night making that happen, Executive Chef Casharell McGlown, and Chef Kwame McDowell.

Invitation to Visit: Our neighbors are welcome to join us for a Smoke Rise Community Reception on Thursday evening, October 22nd, to discover why so many of your neighbors and friends are enjoying membership at Smoke Rise! RSVP Required contact membership at 770-908-2582 option 4.

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to take a Virtual Tour
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Are We Hot or Not?

THE CURRENT REAL ESTATE MARKET IN SMOKE RISE

By Pat Soltys

This has been an amazing year! While we are all concerned and careful with Covid, we cannot wait until Covid is over and we can get back to our new normal. Covid has fueled the real estate market in ways we could not have predicted. Smoke Rise has certainly been discovered! As one set of buyers stated, "Since we are not going back to work in our office again, commute time is no longer the control factor of where we live. We want a comfortable place to have our home office, a place where we can walk out in the back yard, see the stars and not be bombarded by city noises."

They want space, peace and a place where they do not feel confined when at home. They are surprised to find the strength in our sense of community, pride of ownership that shows in our properties and diversity in population, housing styles and options. Very low interest rates have created more buying power in each dollar. While we do not know how long this will last, it looks like it will probably last through the end of the year at least. It certainly shows in the numbers and velocity of the business. It does not mean it is easy. Because many of the businesses necessary in the transaction have people working from home and Covid requirements are in place, it is not unusual to have delays in processing and closing of home sales. The result has been a demand market driving prices higher than they have been since before the crash of 2008.

Current stats – This year we are on track to close perhaps a few more homes than last year which was a good year. I anticipate 12% over the average of the last five years.

On Market - \$/sq ft average price for homes on the market is \$149.09. There is a wide differential between updated homes and those in need of updating or repair. The market seems to have a short supply of people wanting to put work, time and money into a home but they are willing to pay for it being done when they purchase. Hence the range of prices is from \$109.89 to 237.79 per square foot. The market is still low in inventory with 20 homes on the market.

Pending - \$/sq ft average price is \$137 with a high and low of \$98.56 – \$219.62. There are 20 sales pending closing now through 10/16/20.

Sold – 2020 sold year to date average \$/sq ft is \$125.58. This is a 9.5% increase over the average in 2019. Included are several very low sales under \$100 per Sq Ft. With the range being \$65.45 to \$180.42. YTD 72 home sales have been closed.

GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club Helps Local Police

The Civic Engagement and Outreach Committee of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club collected "grab and go" snacks, water and Gatorade for the nineteen members of the city of Stone Mountain police. Under the direction of Joanne Cannarella and Brenda Price, twenty members donated over \$500 to help out the police during some trying summer weekends.



Earlier in the summer, snacks were taken to the Tucker precinct of the DeKalb County police.

If you would be interested in serving your community, please visit info@stonemountainwomensclub.org.



Left to Right Joanne Cannarella, Brenda Price, Kim Cumbie, Mary Eubanks
Barbara Luton, Brenda Price, Mary Eubanks, Joanne Cannarella with members of the police force.

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The Rest of the Story – Lilburn Co-Op Helps Needy Neighbors (Part 2 of a 2 Part Series)

By Lois and Bob Jernigan

Needs in our community didn't go away just because a pandemic hit. If anything, they increased. In August with school starting back, bookbags filled with supplies listed by our local schools were provided to clients' students, thanks to community donations.

With unemployment running so high, the request for financial help has grown. Sixty-eight families were helped financially over the summer months of May, June, and July in an amount totaling \$32,777. Normally clients receive a one-time annual amount, but because some did not get unemployment or federal payroll protection money, the amounts received were higher. We receive some grants to help, but many individual

families in our community donate funds and our forty churches who make up the Lilburn Co-Op also provide financial support. We greatly appreciate funds from anyone who is fortunate enough to be able to help. Please consider a gift to the Co-op as your way to help people in our community. We make sure your dollars are used wisely!

Here are a few stories that tell how important the Lilburn Co-op has been in the lives of our neighbors. In May, a single mother of four requested rent assistance because she was facing eviction from the trailer she and her kids had called home for six months. Prior to that, they had been homeless for more than a year. One month's rent

was provided and helped her make it until she got a new job.

A single man with diabetic illness needed help with a place to live when his Lyft driving job stopped. Three weeks rent was paid for an extended stay facility while he found other employment.

In July, a retired 67-year-old woman lost her part-time job and needed help with her rent. She was directed to HUD-sponsored senior housing outside Gwinnett, rather than being on a waiting list in Gwinnett. There are many stories about clients who are facing eviction because they are more than two months behind on rent! All of these are helped with food, and as possible, with funds.



Lilburn Co-op Article: Rose, Patty, Elaine, and Bob Jernigan

Our personal story: My husband Bob Jernigan and I live here in Smoke Rise on Marthasville Court. We began volunteering at Lilburn Co-op after retiring more than 15 years ago. We feel that our efforts are helpful to people who have needs. Many of the Co-op's regular volunteers have been staying home during the pandemic, so we need help most every day. Bob unloads donations, helps in the pantry, and takes cardboard to Snellville Recycling. I price items for the store, help in the pantry, and pack the bookbags for students. Clothing is carefully checked for rips and stains. Shoes, household goods, toys, children's clothing, some furniture, and other items are sold to help provide workers' salary, building expenses, and financial help. If you would like to donate, donations should be in good repair and should be something another person would enjoy having.

The Lilburn Co-op continues because many volunteers are there to keep the food moving and the doors open to those in need. We are thankful for the leadership of Sharon Foster and our forty sup-

porting churches. We always need people willing to drive for food donations, folks to help sort the donations for the store, and people to pack up food boxes. And of course, we need your donations! For more information on how you can help, call 770-931-8333.

In addition to volunteering at the Lilburn Co-op, Bob works with men from Smoke Rise Baptist to help repair homes in Kentucky at God's Appalachian Project. He also works in the kitchen at Smoke Rise Baptist and with the Joseph's Project group helping with simple repairs for our senior church members. He can also be found painting inside, planting bushes on the church property, and even driving our small bus.

I have been teaching our Children's Sunday School for many years and always taking on extra jobs around the church. We have been members of Smoke Rise Baptist for over 50 years and consider it our family of God. Helping people is our joy! I hope some of our Smoke Rise neighbors will join us and share the joy that comes from giving back.

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HEALTH NOTES: by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

Plantar Warts

Plantar warts are skin colored growths on the skin of the bottom of the foot—the Plantar surface. These growths are caused when a break or small opening in the skin allows the Human Papilloma Virus to enter. The virus takes up residence in the thicker outer layer of skin infecting the skin cells there. Over the course of several weeks, the virus replicates and a warty mass forms. Because plantar warts are on the bottom of the feet, walking on the wart causes the wart to grow deeper into the skin and a callous like surface to form. The wart is often painful. Plantar warts are frequently found on the heel, and balls of the foot and other weight bearing areas. Occasionally they can be seen under the toenail. The wart interrupts the skin lines—meaning the lines go around the wart. It frequently has black pinpoint spots in the center which are blood vessels that feed the wart, not ‘seeds.’ The interruption of the skin lines is a big clue that you have a plantar wart. It is especially helpful when you are trying to tell if a wart is gone. Wart free skin has skin lines going all the way through the base of the area treated. By contrast, a callous or corn on the foot retain skin markings/fingerprint. A subtype of plantar wart is called a Mosaic wart. This is a small ‘congregation’ of warts who like each other.

Several factors play into who will get Plantar Warts. Warts are more common in teens and children and in those who have an immune deficiency, HIV or other immune weaknesses. The Plantar wart virus likes moist environments, so it hangs around locker rooms, pool decks and gym showers. Those who go barefooted in locker rooms, communal showers or moist places that host the virus may find out that they now ‘host’ the virus. The wart itself is only mildly contagious. Once in the skin, it can spread by skin to skin contact or by auto-inoculation—that is, spread by scratching, shaving and picking the wart.

Most plantar warts go away on their own within a year or two, regardless of the treatment used.

Treatment of Plantar Warts should start in the Pharmacy aisle. Salicylic acid products work by successively killing the layers of skin. The products need to be applied daily and allowed to dry. And then the dead layer should be peeled off before putting more on the skin. Occluding the wart with a bandaid or tape is most effective.

Liquid nitrogen products (like Freezone) are now found over the counter, but they are not nearly as strong as you will find in the doctor or dermatologists office. Using the liquid nitrogen sticks on the wart until it turns completely white for at least 30 seconds is best. Combining this with salicylic acid treatments is even better.

Sometimes a plantar wart will be very resistant and will not go away. In office treatment with liquid nitrogen or TCA (Trichloroacetic Acid) may be necessary. Rarely, surgical curettage or laser is used, as it can be complicated by scarring that may stay after the wart is gone. Other treatments include: Immune therapy (Tagamet 400 mg bid for adults); injecting candida antigen into the wart can stimulate a response that make the injected wart disappear and all other warts disappear simultaneously; certain topical agents (Imiquidone) and Chemotherapy (Bleomycin is one), the HPV vaccine (used to prevent cervical cancer from some varieties of HPV) may help.

Believe it or not, duct tape has some scientific evidence. In a 61-patient trial, duct tape the size of the wart was applied to the wart for 6 days and removed. The wart was filed down after the foot was soaked in water and dried overnight. Duct tape was re-applied in similar fashion every 6 days for up to 2 months. Amazingly, distant warts also disappeared. This led to the hypothesis that the technique causes inflammation and an immune response to the inflammation.

If you have tried one or more of the above wart treatments without resolution of the wart, go to your physician or dermatologist for the ‘big guns’. Remember, though that some times these methods can cause scarring, so ask questions.



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FODAC Golf Tournament Fundraiser October 5 at Stone Mountain Golf Club

By L.A. Dison

The Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser is returning on October 5 to Stone Mountain Golf Club, located on the grounds of popular attraction Stone Mountain Park. Breakfast and onsite registration start at 8:00 a.m.; shotgun start is at 9:30 a.m. Funds raised from the event will help support FODAC's mission to supply home medical equipment (HME) to people with disabilities and their caregivers.

Registration is open now, with prices ranging from \$175 for an individual player to \$600 for a foursome.

Sponsorships are available ranging from \$500 for a hole sponsor to \$10,000 for a platinum sponsorship which includes registration for four foursomes and prominent corporate signage. For registration, sponsorship and more details, visit fodac.org/golf or contact Stephen Barwick at stephenbarwick@fodac.org or 770.491.9014.

FODAC is based in Tucker but serves the Metro Atlanta community by providing recycled equipment such as wheelchairs, scooters, walkers and hospital beds for children and adults during or after a health crisis. Last year, FODAC donated over \$10 million in equipment at little or no cost to recipients. FODAC, as a member of National VOAD and a partner with FEMA, also provides support in the wake of disasters; the organization is currently working to distribute critical personal protective equipment (PPE) like masks, surgical gloves, and gowns to essential medical workers, and medical equipment like CPAPs and ventilators for patients.

The Tournament will be played on Stone Mountain Golf Club's Lakemont Course.



Out the Window *By Beth Henson*

Fall had finally arrived with its crisp, cooler nights and crystal-clear days. The invigorating lower temperatures always triggered my "change of season" cleaning instinct. Earlier in the week I had tackled the expansive floor to ceiling windows in our cozy den. Sitting back in my favorite comfy chair to admire my earlier handiwork, I noticed a rather large smudge in the bottom window corner. How had I missed that? On closer observation I was elated to see the delicate, gossamer creation of a handsome golden garden spider (fortunately outside the pane!). As I found the talented artist, I noticed it was a female by her large size (four times bigger than her male counterpart). Her body was a cubist painting of bright yellow geometric patterns framed in black. This lovely lady, an orb-weaver, had designed an elegant, circular web with a perfect Z pattern dissecting the middle. That is how she has also earned the title of writing or scribbling spider. She most often builds her web in bushes and shrubs but had uncharacteristically chosen my window as her canvas. I knew at the end of the day she would tear down her silk showpiece and start again tomorrow.

Thank you for sharing your dazzling masterpiece! Even if it is only a temporary exhibit!



Garden Spider by Beth Henson



GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club



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

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

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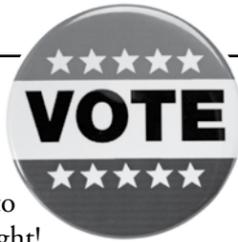
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NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann



VOTE!

Generations of Americans have struggled to secure the right to vote. Some people in other countries are still fighting for this right! When more people vote, it makes our democracy more representative. If you decide not to participate in our political process, consider this... you are forfeiting your power to those who do vote.

Many Smoke Rise residents are already registered to vote and are seasoned, long-time voters. However, for any citizen not yet signed up to vote, the last day to register – and be eligible to vote in the November 3 General Election and Special Election is October 5. This election is an important one. Well, they all are really. But, the 2020 General election will decide our next president, members of congress, Georgia’s two senate seats, members of the state house, state senate, and many county and city offices too.

All registered DeKalb County voters can take advantage of advanced, in-person voting (or “early voting”) beginning October 12 through October 30. Statewide Saturday voting will be held October 24. Another option for all registered DeKalb County voters is to vote by mail! I personally like this option – especially considering our current pandemic. In addition to casting your ballot from the comfort and safety of your home – or other comfortable spot – you can also research the candidates online. (Just make sure to consult a respected source.) You’ll find an application for an official absentee ballot online at <http://dekalbvotes.com>. You can also call DeKalb’s office of Voter Registration and Elections at (404) 298-4020. If you call, be patient. They’re a little busy these days.

If you decide to wait and vote on election day, which is November 3, you must go to your designated polling place from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. For polling information, you can go online to the GA Secretary of State’s “My Voter Page” at: <https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov>.

A non-partisan resource for “everything you need to know about being a voter in the State of Georgia” can be found online at: <https://www.georgiavoter.guide/>. That’s also where you’ll find information on how to check your voter registration status, track your absentee ballot, review a sample ballot, find an absentee ballot drop box, polling place, early voting location, and more.

Smoke Rise – make sure your vote is counted!

SMOKE SIGNAL NEWS SCAVENGER HUNT!

By Susan Gilbert

Let’s face it, this staying home is getting old. But it’s the right thing to do for now. Your *Smoke Signal* Staff thought we’d offer you some entertainment with a competitive, fun, Scavenger Hunt through the October and November papers.

To enter, just answer the following questions and forward them to the *Smoke Signal* Box (staff@smokesignalnews.com) by December 13th. The winners will be announced in the December paper. Three winners will be selected and \$10, \$25 and \$50 gift cards will be awarded. If you are looking for recent papers, digital copies are available on the *Smoke Signal* Archive. To get there, go to smokesignalnews.com, then select Archives.

1. Who was the Masked Man holding the Family sign on the front page of the August issue? _____
2. Who writes “Amen...Let’s Eat!” _____
3. What is the name of the one restaurant that advertises in the *Smoke Signal*? _____
4. Circle the service most frequently offered in the Classified Ad section?
 - a. Locksmith
 - b. Pet Services
 - c. Estate Sales
 - d. Piano Tuning
 - e. Window Cleaning
 - f. Pressure Washing
5. What is the deadline for submitting articles and pictures to the publication? _____
6. What is the cost of putting a Flyer in one of the papers? _____
7. Which *Smoke Signal* author writes *and* illustrates her articles? _____
8. What company has the largest amount of advertising space in the newspaper? _____
9. Who is the practicing Medical Doctor who edits and writes for the paper? _____
10. If your paper gets wet or is missing, where can you get additional copies? _____
11. Circle how many years the *Smoke Signal* been published?
 - a. < 5 years
 - b. Between 5 and 10 years
 - c. Between 10 and 25 years
 - d. Between 25 and 50 years
 - e. > 50 years

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techtalk *It's That Time Again!*

by Susan Gilbert

October is the best month to lock in your lowest 12-month rate for the winter heating season. My recommendation remains going with, or sticking with, True Natural Gas and locking in the Fixed 12-month rate of \$.49/therm. They generally have the lowest per therm cost, which you can check out for all the gas marketers on the Public Service Commission’s website.

If you see lower per therm rates, be sure to read the fine print and look at the monthly customer service charges that may end up costing you far more than the savings from the lower gas cost. If you see a really low per therm cost, like \$.435, that is probably an introductory offer made to select customers to get them on board. These super low rates will likely increase after the introductory period because other customers are subsidizing these low rates. And watch out...breaking the contract can cost an exit fee from \$100 to \$200. Again, read the fine print.

Another consideration is that if a new customer on the introductory rate is ever late on a payment, the marketer may then put them on a standard or default rate that could be 2x – 3x higher. Ouch!

About the monthly service charges: True Natural Gas offers a loyalty discount on the monthly charge that adds up over the years, lowering their charge from the standard \$5.95/month to \$3.45/month, which saves about \$30 per year.

I also like that True Gas is a Georgia company, a sister company of the not-for-profit Coweta-Fayette EMC, and they employ Georgians, keeping our dollars local. One last reason I believe True is your best choice is they don’t require a credit check or a deposit, saving another \$150. To sign up, contact Janay Mosley at 678-423-5423 or jmosley@truenaturalgas.com.



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Autumn Leaves *By Barbara Luton*

Georgia ranks Number five in the list of the best places for fall foliage: 1. Maine, 2. North Carolina, 3. New York, 4. Vermont, 5. Georgia.

Vermont and Connecticut boast the longest lasting fall season from September to late October. Asheville, NC, boasts the longest fall leaf season because of the diversity of the tree species and the range of elevation.

Leaves are green in the summer because of chlorophyll. Carotenoids present in the leaves cause the orange and yellow colors in the fall. They are present all year but masked by the chlorophyll. These are present in hickories, ash, maple, black cherry and sycamore. Anthocyanins are the pigments that give the reds and purples in leaves. They are produced at the end of the season. The sugars breaking down in the bright light and the cool nights cause this. These are present in the maples, oaks, sweet gums and dogwoods. The brown color is not because of a pigment but are the cell walls showing when there is no coloring pigment present.

Traditionally it was thought that trees lose their leaves because of the high cost of maintaining them in the low light and cold of winter. Recent studies think that insect predation, water loss and damage from wind and snow may also play a part.

Autumn color is not predictable. Weather, temperature and moisture all affect the amount and the brilliance of the colors.

For more information visit the U.S. Forest service and Wikipedia information sites. If you have children at home, go to SciShowKids for "Why Do Leaves Change Colors in the Fall?"

MUMS THE WORD – Tips About Garden Mums

Fall is the season when you see scarecrows, pumpkins, bales of straw and garden MUMS. Most of us use them in a display on our porch, or indoors on a dining table to celebrate fall and thanksgiving. But did you know that chrysanthemums are actually perennials that they can come back year after year? Here are a few tips to help you plan for incorporating them into your late summer and fall garden.

In our area, a few garden mums can be found at nurseries that are advertised as perennials. They will be labeled HARDY chrysanthemums. Several are especially prolific in this area. They were developed for Goodness Grows Nursery by the famed Ryan Gainey. The first was called Ryan's daisy and is white with a single row of blossoms, like... a daisy. Ryan's Pink and Ryan's Yellow are two more that have daisy like blooms with yellow centers. Ryan's yellow starts out peachy and turns pale yellow. They grow fairly tall-24-36 inches and can be floppy... not at all like florist mums. Ryan's mums will spread into a nice sized clump in only one or two seasons. They are easy to pull if you want to keep the clump tidy and can be moved around the garden to form another clump. Blooms are triggered by shortening days and will last until the first hard frost. After the frost you can clip them down to a few inches above the ground and move and divide them. They will be back next year. You can also snip a stem and put it in water and it will root.

If you are looking for mums with big multi layered blooms for your outdoor garden, dozens of stores and nurseries sell these florist mums. Even if they are not labeled 'Hardy', they may survive and come back year after year. One of my neighbors has mums like this and I admire them every year as I walk by her house. To get the best display, keep the mums watered while they are potted. After they quit blooming, snip off the blooms and plant them in a sunny location with soil that drains well. No need to use fertilizer now, as they will go to sleep over the winter. Next year, you will see their leaves in mid-summer and buds and flowers in September-October. If you get a 'dud', try again! Mums are cheap this time of year, and they can be great additions to your fall garden. Pair them with asters, grasses and other late blooming plants. Florist mums will not spread like the daisy-like 'perennials'. Not to worry! They are cheap now. And it is worth a try buying past bloom pots for pennies to try in your garden.

The Mountain Mums Garden Club has the Ryan's Pink Chrysanthemum as it's signature flower. Look for it on the signage at the Hugh Howell Triangle Memorial Garden. Contact Debra Jones if you want information about joining our Garden Club: debra-jones219@comcast.net.

Morning Glories ZOOM!

As you can see in the photo, it is possible to have a garden club meeting virtually! Twenty-two club members were able to join the fun this September for a resumption of garden club activities.

President Joyce Ray called the meeting and it was hosted by member Glendolyn Hallman with technical assistance from her son, Greg.

This next club year the Morning Glories will do several Community Service Projects that will support Stone Mountain Ecumenical Cooperative Ministry, NetWorks in Tucker and Helping Mamas. Each group focuses on a very specific level of aid but all support members of our community.

Joyce Ray provided a beautiful Powerpoint presentation of photos from her garden, Gibbs Garden, and



also photos from fellow club members. All summer members have shared great photos of flora and fauna glimpsed in our own gardens. It has really been fun to see what is blooming or hopping!

The club hopes to be able to have speakers for the rest of the club year and hopefully meet in person provided we have the proper spacing to meet the guidelines for COVID prevention.

Several of the Morning Glories garden weekly at the Callanwolde estate on Briarcliff at the headquarters of the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs. Callanwolde is currently open for special events only but two gardening groups are continuing to work on the grounds of the 26 acre estate. Our group is working on a project to restore the grounds around the headquarters and introduce new lower maintenance plants to the landscape. It has been over a year and much has been accomplished. This October we will be tilling an area to create a new butterfly garden with planting to follow. For inspiration, the gardening volunteers met on September 11th at the Tucker Butterfly Garden and talked to Tucker resident, Dawn Hines, who created the garden in 2007. It has grown considerably over the years and is a lovely place to observe butterflies and pollinators in the spring, summer and fall months. Located at the Tucker Rec Center on LaVista, it is open to the public and offers some lovely natural beauty to our community. Stop by and enjoy the sights and sounds of a very active garden!

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Amen, Let's Eat!



by Joyce Ray

On a recent trip to the North Ga Mountains, we stopped at one of the popular apple houses to get our favorite fall fresh produce, peanuts, sweet potatoes, Cold Apple Cider, and, of course, the freshly harvested apples and fresh fried pies. In addition to enjoying a crisp fresh apple any time of day, there are many options for cooking with this food staple for both savory side dishes and sweet dessert treats. The apple house personnel will be happy to recommend the variety of apples for your needs. For pies, they usually recommend a mixture of varieties with some that stay firm when cooked and others that will be softer and sweeter. Granny Smith is a good choice for almost anything cooked.

How can you preserve the bushels of apples for future use? My favorite is a quick process of freezing. Peel 7 fresh apples (per pie) and slice as for apple pies. Add 1 tbsp fruit pectin or 1 tbsp lemon juice and mix well. Add to freezer container and freeze. I do this one bag at a time to keep apples from turning dark as I peel them. For containers, you can use plastic bags, or plastic containers. To use in cooked recipes, thaw just until you can easily separate apple pieces and add to your favorite recipes.

Fried apples are a great side dish to serve with vegetable all vegetable or meat menus. I do not know why they are called this because you don't fry them, but it works for Cracker Barrel. Use method above but do not peel the apples. (Cracker Barrel does)

In a skillet with a tight lid, mix 1/4 cup butter, 1/4 cup brown sugar and 1/4 cup corn syrup. Add 1/2 tsp cinnamon, 1/2 tsp nutmeg or apple pie spice. Blend over low heat until smooth. Add 4 cups of prepared apples and mix until coated. Cover and cook on low heat until apples are tender. Remove lid and continue to cook until liquid is reduced and thickened. Some varieties will have less juice than others so you can add some apple juice if it gets dry before apples are done.

Apple Cranberry Slaw

- Mixture of green and purple cabbage and matchstick carrots to equal 4 cups
- 1 cup finely chopped Gayla or other crisp sweet apples, peeled or unpeeled
- 2-3 chopped Green onions
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries
- Sliced almonds
- Dressing.
- 1/2 cup Greek yogurt
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon honey
- Salt and pepper

Mix and pour over cabbage. Make ahead for cranberries to soften and flavors to meld. Serve with barbecue pork or chicken.

This next recipe is a favorite that has been around a long time but judging the response, I could print every year. Its always a hit and many cooks comment on how good it is for the small amount of work it takes to make it. You can use your frozen apples (above) for this, but you will likely need about 3 slices per roll to equal the 1/4 apple in the recipe.

Apple Dumplings

- Ingredients:
- Preheat oven 350°
 - 1 stick butter
 - 2 cans Pillsbury Crescent Rolls (or Kroger)
 - 4 Granny Smith Apple
 - 12 ounces Sprite
 - 1 cup granulated sugar mixed with 1 tablespoon cinnamon for sprinkling

Peel, core and quarter the apples - you should have 16 quarters. Separate the dough into triangles as if you were baking the rolls. Melt butter in 9 x 13" pan. Dredge each triangle of dough through the butter on one side. Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar on the buttered side. On the wide end of the triangle place a piece of the apple and roll forward. Place in pan on butter, seam side down and repeat with all rolls.

Sprinkle sugar/cinnamon over all rolls and between them. Pour Sprite over all rolls. Bake for 35-45 minutes until apples get fork tender and dough is brown. Serve warm. You could serve with ice cream or whipped cream.

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