

SMOKE SIGNAL

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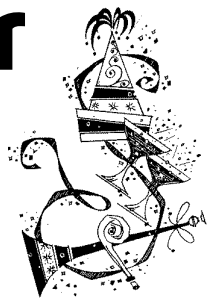
Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968

January, 2015

www.smokesignalnews.com



Happy New Year from the staff of the Smoke Signal!



FOURTH ANNUAL

Walk to Remember

January 17, 2015

By Penny Stovall

I love living in the South. We are lucky to have four distinct seasons. Spring is so beautiful with color blooming everywhere. Summer brings fun trips and times with friends. And when the trees start to turn vibrant colors in the fall some of the colors are just unreal! Then winter comes. Nineteen years ago in February, my son Brandon Stovall and his good friend Brandon Hubbard were killed in a car accident on the Stone Mountain Freeway. It had been just two years earlier when I remembered him waking me up in the middle of the night to tell me about Mandi Smith's fatal accident... and now he was gone too. So many of our wonderful young people have lost their lives in tragic accidents.

In 2007 these young people who lost their lives were remembered with a tree planted in their memory by the Mountains Mums Garden Club at the 78 Highway triangle. I pass by there often and think of not only my Brandon, but also so many other wonderful kids who were robbed of their lives. And I think of the wonderful friends who remember them and their zest for life.

On Saturday, January 17th at 9:30 a.m., the Mountain Mums Garden Club will hold their 4th Annual Walk To Remember to bring awareness to the dangers of texting and cell phone use while driving. SRCA, Kroger, Smoke Rise Agents, Pincents, Promotional Advertising, Donate Life, Tucker House and The Garden Enthusiast are co-sponsors of the event. The three-mile walk will begin in the upper parking lot of Smoke Rise Baptist Church and continue up Hugh Howell to Silver Hill Road. We will be planting red tulips under the Smoke Rise Elementary Sign before continuing past the Elementary School. Turning right on Lilburn-Stone Mountain Road we will finish our walk by going through the new greenspace trail and cross Hugh Howell to return to the church. Please bundle up and join us that Saturday morning to help show support to the Mountain Mums as they send this important message to our community and our young drivers. The cost to register is \$10 and will go towards a new teen-driving project. You can pre-register at the Tucker House on Lawrenceville Highway or the Garden Enthusiast on Main Street, Tucker or register the day of the walk. I hope to see you there!! Bring a friend!!

Look inside for...

Help Wanted	pg 2
Tennis and Robotics Champs	pg 5
On the Road Again	pg 6
Who's Calling?	pg 7
Traffic Calming in Smoke Rise	pg 10

Smoke Rise Charter School Appoints New Principal

Smoke Rise Charter Elementary School (SRCES) announced the appointment of a new principal, Mrs. Pamela McCloud, who began the second week of December. Mrs. McCloud was formerly the assistant principal at Evansdale Elementary and is excited to now be a part of the Smoke Rise team.

Mrs. McCloud began her career as an elementary school teacher and has 25 years experience, ten of those at the administration level. "I love working with kids," she said. "Even when I was a child, it was always teaching for me.

I knew that's what I wanted to do." I just love seeing kids learn. My goal is for every student at SRCES to be on or above grade level. I have high expectations for our students and I am excited to find ways to take us from good to great."



Mrs. McCloud is excited to share her vision as a new principal. She realizes the surrounding community has had some divisive issues with the school in the past, but she says, "I am a new principal, with a new direction and a new vision. I want to start where we are now and I want to look forward to the positive." Along with her leadership team, Mrs. McCloud has been reviewing the charter and says that it is important to evaluate and use the curriculum that best fits the students' needs and initiatives that work best for this community.

And speaking of community, Mrs. McCloud is excited to be a part of the Smoke Rise family. "I believe God puts you in a place that a good fit for you and Smoke Rise is a good fit. I immediately got such a warm welcome and a good feeling of knowing others are willing to support and work with you." She spoke about community involvement and hopes that the Smoke Rise residents will want to get involved and actively participate in the school's future. Mrs. McCloud is currently compiling a list of needs that community members can fill, for instance, reading to children. Anyone who wants to get involved should call the school. "Come and see what great things are happening here!" said Mrs. McCloud.

With a new "Principal Blog" coming soon and updated Facebook page, the new principal hopes to reach out to the community like never before. There will be a Smoke Rise community meeting on Thursday, January 22 at 6 p.m. All are invited, so come for your opportunity to meet the new principal and see what exciting things are ahead for SRCES!

LEAVING THE THINGS OF 2014 IN 2014

As we leave the old year behind and begin to think ahead into the New Year, I offer a few humble reflections of my own. Every year holds its own joys, sorrows, pains and gains. The year of 2014 was no exception. We laughed, we rejoiced and we grew. We lost something or someone, we failed, and we sorrowed over these losses. Many people take the emotions of their life events with them as they move forward in life. And they do this year after year!

Bringing life's emotions forward can be a good thing...especially if the emotions are a confident peace, the excitement and joy of living, a sense of being loved and wanted, and a confidence in our ability love others. Bringing life's emotions forward can also be a bad thing. Especially if the emotions we are bringing forward are hurt, anger, rage, unresolved sorrow, unforgiveness, shame or guilt. These often come with regret and internal messages like "I should have...", "If only I had..."

I want to challenge you this year to leave behind in the year 2014 the things that belong to 2014. Begin 2015 by embracing the things that belong to 2015. This does not mean we should suppress our past and the emotions that go with it. This means we purposefully move forward — seeking to resolve the emotions that hurt us and others. We move forward to redeem the things that happened that we could not control. We move forward to take responsibility for the things that happened that we could control. We seek to restore all that can be restored. We no longer remain stuck in the year 2014, because the sad and unpleasant things are now our foundation for a new building.

If we do not do this, we will not be able to give hope to our children and grandchildren in this time in which we are living. They will be left without the building blocks they need to persevere in difficult times and without the ability to walk with integrity and strength through failures.

...Continued on page 2



Smoke Signal

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January Calendar of Events

- 5 Smoke Rise Garden Club meeting
- 7 Mountain Mums Garden Club meeting, 10 a.m.
- 9 SRECS Spirit Night at All American Skating Center, 6-8 p.m.
- 12 Mountain Shadow Garden Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 15-18 Lewis Grizzard: In His Own Words at ART Station
- 17 Walk to Remember, upper parking lot Smoke Rise Baptist Church. 9:30 a.m.
- 2 Smoke Rise Charter Elementary School community meeting 6 p.m. at the school
- 22-25 Jesus of Nazareth and the Book of Genesis at ART Station

THE SMOKE SIGNAL
WELCOMES YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

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Smoke Signal Deadlines
JANUARY 13

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JANUARY 10

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See Our Online
Version of the
Smoke Signal
for Cityhood
Information!

As the January issue goes to print, we are anxiously awaiting word from the Legislature on whether they will put Tucker and/or the City of LaVista Hills on the ballot for a vote. This depends on whether they can work out a compromise on the boundary lines between both cities. Currently (at print), the Legislators themselves are working on the boundary lines because representatives from both initiatives were unable to work the boundary issue out by themselves. www.tucker2015.com will also be keeping their website updated on the latest information about cityhood.

THIS JUST IN!!!
Legislators have approved new boundary lines for the proposed city of Tucker and the proposed city of LaVista Hills. Go to www.Tucker2015.com for an easy to read map!

2014
...continued from pg. 1

As we make our resolutions this year, let's resolve to leave the things of 2014 in that year. Let's resolve to step forward, using the experiences of 2014, both good and bad, as stepping-stones to success and joy. In doing so, you and I will experience the joy of living again and will have a sense of accomplishment because we did the work! Let's leave a legacy to our families this year and every year!

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Rev. Chris George, Senior Pastor
Ernie Forrester, Associate Pastor
Tim Adcox, Minister of Missions
Kathy Dobbins, Minister of Spiritual Formation
Danny Vancil, Minister of Music & Worship
Becky Caswell-Speight, Minister to Families with Children
Jeremy Colliver, Minister to Families with Youth
Amanda Coe Burton, Director of Nursery Ministries
Paula Reeves, Weekday School Director
Telephone: (770) 469-5856
SmokeRiseBaptist.org

Sundays:	
9:00 a.m.	Worship in the Chapel
9:45 a.m.	Sunday school
11:00 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary
Communion:	Second Sunday of each month
1st Tuesdays:	6:00 p.m. Prime Time
Wednesdays:	
5:00-5:45	Fellowship Dinner
6:00-6:45	Programs for children, youth and adults
7:00-8:30	Sanctuary choir
	Nursery provided

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

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

Mount Carmel Christian Church

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

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

First Moravian Church

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

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

Mountain West Church

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

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

Smoke Rise Preferred Contractor's List: Help Needed

Dear Neighbors, we have made a decision to downsize and move closer to our cabin in North Georgia. We now need someone to take over the Preferred Contractors' List. It cannot be a contractor or the spouse of a contractor. If you would like to perform this service for your community, please call Janis Martinez at: janismartinez@comcast.net, or call me at 770-498-0006 and we will copy and mail you the information. The job requires around 15 minutes a month.

Ads do not necessarily indicate a good contractor. Our contractor list is very reliable. We only place people on our list who keep appointments, or communicate with you if the appointment needs to be changed. We remove contractors from our list that are chronic problems or do not make return calls to the client. All contractors can potentially make a mistake. We list contractors who fix errors they make or work with the client to make the job right. Remember, this is a free service. Call Janis Martinez at 770-498-0006 for contractor recommendations.





Wells-Brown House
Dressed in Holiday Finery

The historic Wells-Brown House on Ridge Avenue in Stone Mountain Village was built in 1870. Now the home of the Stone Mountain Historic Society, it is the site for many community events and teas especially in the holiday season.

For the last five years, Smoke Rise Morning Glories have gathered to decorate the home in period decor using as many native plants as possible. Betty Curlee led this year’s December 9th decorating event. Betty and Glenn dolyn Hallman, as co-chairs of the Wells-Brown garden club committee, recruited Joy Zaidan and Quill Duncan to assist in a pre-decor workshop to create the outdoor wreaths and accents. Reg and Betty Curlee hung garlands and all the outdoor wreaths prior to the big day and also transported lots of fresh greenery to the house ready to be used by the eager team of elves.

On the 9th, Head Elf Betty, directed the volunteers to various areas of the house to work on decorating mantles, trimming the tree, swagging the staircase with garland and red bows and accenting the fine bone china in the double parlor with Pyracantha berries. The overall effect was lovely. This year, two elves studded fresh oranges with cloves for a spicy and colorful natural touch for mantles and vases. Many members donated holly with berries, dried Hydrangea, Cryptomeria, pinecones, Magnolia, Juniper and all types of greenery to complement each design.

Many thanks to the following members and special friends who worked so hard to make it all so magical!

Betty Curlee and special Elf Reg Curlee, Judy Abrams, MaryAnne Anderson, Gloria Cooke, Judi Crutchfield, Quill Duncan, Marian Fetzek, Glenn dolyn Hallman, Ruth Ann Hill, Nancy Hudgins, Pat Madden-Hudson, Brenda Jones, Vivian Nickelsen, Bonnie Pennington, Marsha Pittard, Joyce Ray, Lassie Shipman and special Elf Mike Shipman, Carolyn Woodson, and Joy Zaidan.

And special thanks to the Stone Mountain Historic Society!

Millstone East’s Classical
Christmas Guest

The Millstone East Subdivision had a surprise appearance at their annual Christmas Party by twelve-year-old neighbor Maxwell Dodge-who treated the group to a beautiful program of Christmas Carols on his classical guitar. Maxwell, son of Spencer and Esther Dodge, and the oldest of their seven children, delighted the group by playing favorites from Jingle Bells to Opus 35 no. 8. The group enjoyed hearing a short history of each carol and then sang along to several they knew. Afterwards, they enjoyed appetizers and conversation in the beautifully-lit home of Dennis and Rene Hopf.



Spencer’s Mountain Holiday Party

The ladies of Spencer’s Mountain gathered for the annual party and gift exchange at the Cote-Leggett home hosted by Anne Cote and Patti Kisling. Each year the neighborhood ladies bring a gift and a dish to share. Neighbors draw a number and either take a gift from under the tree or “steal” a gift already opened from another guest. Lots of “oohs” and “ahhs” occur as gifts are opened and admired. Some gifts are stolen several times until frozen with the third steal. Stealing is the fun part of the game, and usually indicates a great gift. At the end of the night, everyone takes home a gift from under the tree. The greatest gift being able to see and catch up with neighbors.

This year, 18 ladies attended the party including one of the alumni neighbors. Hostesses for the next two years volunteered so the tradition will continue.

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Belinda Belvin, REALTOR®

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**Silver Ridge-Silver Hill-
Chartwell Ornament Swap**

Well, folks we did it again. We had a lovely group of ladies who each brought an ornament to swap with one another. The grabbing and tearing of clothes was pathetic. We know that a lot of these ladies go to YOUR church! Connie Duis of Silver Ridge hosted the event this year. Her house was amazingly decorated-- every nook and cranny with lovely figurines, beautiful bows and wonderful ornaments. Connie's dining room Christmas tree was a crystal tree. She also had a Charlie Brown Christmas Tree and a traditional Christmas tree. Beverly Echols of Silver Hill will be our host next year.







Connie Duis (L) and Beverly Echols (R)

Stone Mountain Woman's Club

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club had a busy, fun filled December. Members provided 169 Christmas Child boxes and four of the members worked at the Operation Christmas Child Warehouse, checking boxes to be sure none contained inappropriate items. They also sorted items which they were able to donate to the Battered Women's Shelter, patients at the VA Hospital in Atlanta, the Co-op in Stone Mountain, Networks in Tucker, the USO and several other charities supported by the Club.

The highlight of the year was the Club's annual Homes for the Holidays Christmas Home Tour, held December 13. The Annual Tour is one of two major fund raisers the Woman's Club holds each year.



Jenny-Hall Busch, a member of the Woman's Club, stands ready to welcome guests at a home on the Christmas Home Tour.

At their Annual Christmas Luncheon, Club Members honored their Family of the Year and the Clubwoman of the year. Pictured left to right are Jon and Dayna Moonehan, the Family of the Year, Barbara Luton, President of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club, Gloria Moss, Clubwoman of the Year and Elaine Chandler, GFWC Georgia President. Donna Knowlton, (not pictured) President of the 4th District of GFWC Georgia also attended the Club's Christmas Luncheon.



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On the Road Again...With a Different Perspective

By: Renée Hopf

Highway 17, the winding road over the mountains from Helen, Georgia to Hiawassee is always beautiful.... a feast for the eyes and the senses. In the spring and summer months it is enveloped in a green lushness. From early September to early November it moves through a kaleidoscope of colors-- oranges and yellows to reds and browns. But today, a cold day in early winter, my cat, Sercy, and I have traveled from Atlanta to Helen through a solid curtain of rain - sometimes, nearly blinding. As we left the small German village of Helen to begin our climb up the mountain, everything looked bleak. The only color to catch our attention was Gray!

As we traveled we were listening to Charles Kuralt's CD *On The Road*. For those of you who remember, Charles Kuralt was the host of CBS News Sunday Morning for 30 years, and had traveled so many bi-ways of our world. As he talked about the simple wonders and the beauties of our country, the rain began to diminish slightly, making driving easier and giving me a chance to look at these gray surroundings with more appreciative eyes. The first visual to catch my attention, of course, was just how expansive this winter view was compared to spring and autumn vistas. The deciduous trees were stripped bare, highlighting the landscape's structure, the skeleton of the forest that Highway 17 ambles through. Instead of one veil of green or autumn colors, the woods were translucent. You could see branches; trunks of all shapes and sizes of a multitude of various trees twisting in all directions...most of them alive but dormant...some dead and strewn where they fell. Their trunks were covered with blues, aquas, grays and dark greens of moss and lichen. Colors not noticed in the warm months. Pines and Cypress trees, with their year round green needles now stood out from the rest. The flowing creek, usually blending in and less noticed in other months, was now clearly visible and sparkling through what was left of a rainy mist.

As we topped the mountain, the Appalachian Trail sign, often hidden from sight by low hanging branches, was in clear view. It brought to mind all those adventurers who have taken advantage of that renowned path through our Georgia Mountains.

On the descent from the summit to the valley, we seemed to often be in the clouds, as the deep mist surrounded us. Then the clouds would disperse again and the scenery would become wide open for miles ahead. Small cabins and cottages were nestled on the hillsides among the trees, the way we like to think of mountain dwellings...as a part of the landscape. In the warmer months, they too, are mostly hidden from travelers.

As the steep mountainside slopes began to gradually level out, the trees thinned and fields and farms became visible below. Fields with winter grasses of gold and red began to very subtly paint this gray winter landscape. These were muted golds and reds... colors missing from even the largest box of Crayola crayons.

As our road was coming to an end, I silently thanked Charles Kuralt for reminding me once again, to notice that beauty comes in many forms. As winter is coming to an end, and I am looking forward to the coming warmth and fragrance of spring, I have been reminded, with gratitude that "There is a Time for Every Season."

Three Simple Tips to Decluttering Paper in 2015:

1. If you can go online to get the information, toss the papers. This applies to recipes, menus from restaurants, catalogues, school information, maps, etc.
2. If the information is personal or has personal identifying information like social security numbers, health information, insurance numbers, etc., SHRED the papers; do not just throw them in the trash.
3. Throw out expired warranties, manuals of appliances you no longer own, utility bills, cancelled checks, bank statements, and credit card statements that are over one year old and are non tax-related.

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WEDDINGS



Auman ~ Morris

Anna Glenn Auman, daughter of Frank and Gaye Auman of Smoke Rise, Georgia was married to John-David Patrick Morris, son of Kay Bain of Gastonia, North Carolina on December 6, 2014. Anna is a 2007 graduate of Providence Christian Academy, has a Bachelor of Science in Textiles, Merchandising, and Interiors from the University of Georgia (2011) and a Masters in Textiles, Merchandising, and Interiors and also Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Georgia (2013). John-David is a 2006 graduate of the Woodberry Forest School and has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (2010). The wedding ceremony was held at Peachtree Corners ARP Church in Norcross, Georgia and the reception was held at Smoke Rise Country Club in Stone Mountain, Georgia. John-David is currently a Project Manager for Suminoe Textiles of America in Gaffney, South Carolina. Anna is an Interior Designer for Acquisitions in Charlotte, North Carolina. John-David and Anna currently reside in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Auman ~ Veal

Emma Leigh Auman, daughter of Frank and Gaye Auman of Smoke Rise, Georgia married Jason William Veal, son of Sheila McIntosh of Lilburn, Georgia and Howard Veal of Fayetteville, North Carolina on May 3, 2014. Emma is a 2009 graduate of Providence Christian Academy, has a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Science from the University of Georgia (2013) and is currently working on her Masters in Early Childhood Education from the University of Georgia (2015). Jason is a 2008 graduate of Parkview High School and has a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in Banking and Finance from the University of Georgia (2012). The wedding ceremony was held at Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain, Georgia and the reception was held at Berkeley Hills Country Club in Norcross, Georgia. Jason is currently the Project Manager of Acquisitions for Benevis in Marietta, Georgia. Jason and Emma currently reside in the Vinings area of Atlanta.



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~ 6 ~



Who’s Calling?????????
by Jenny Hall Busch

I do not answer the phone if it shows on the screen that it is an “unknown caller” or “private number” or any other nonsense like that. If I recognize your number, well, maybe I’ll answer, but you have to remember that I am getting on up in the old age category, so most of the phone numbers I remember are from my childhood...354-4500 (Nashville, Tennessee in 1962). Or 770-4069 from ten years ago when I lived in Tucker. I can barely remember my own phone number (land line) and never remember my cell phone number. Never. I remember my bank account number and even the social security number of my ex-husband, so the likelihood that I would recognize your present-day cell phone number is very, very remote. I will answer if your name comes up on the little screen, but only if I am interested or have the time to actually talk. Sometimes I’m just not in the mood. I know this is cowardly. Well, not exactly cowardly; it is self-preserving on the order of my sanity rules. I have a lot of sanity rules. Too much information, huh?

I don’t answer these calls because usually the call is from a credit card company based in Taibucktoo or, worse yet, a call from a local politician. That type of recorded message makes me more than certain not to vote for the particular candidate. Worse than that is the political phone call with the children of said politician speaking in glowing terms about their daddy/mommy and how they will make the absolute best dog catcher in the history of mankind because they are kind and good and able to reproduce.

If I do let curiosity get the better of me, if I do let down my guard and answer one of the “mobile/private/secret” numbers, it’s usually because I really want to believe that the number is familiar...ends in 4876...that sounds so familiar...wait! That’s not local, it’s 4876 from Wisconsin area code! Dooooon’t answer! Too late I have clicked on the talk button. Rats. What I am met with, however, is that dreaded four seconds of silence before that health insurance salesman starts to talk. Or I hear background noises before the person says, “Hello, is this unsuspecting gullible old person who I can scam, intimidate or stress out?”

So I hang up, but probably should stay on the line and give them a piece of my mind, or what is left of it. I am on the no-call list but they just sneak these calls in somehow, and I can only opt out by listening to an endless drone of recorded drivel to the very end where I have the option to OPT OUT. I never last that long...Never. I have tried but I just can’t listen to the jibbery pre-recorded talk about how I really, really need a new sunroom. What I really, really need is for everyone I know to set their phone account to show their names. What are you hiding from? Really, you don’t need to be all private and hidden and I might actually answer the phone once in a while. If you are still talking to me, that is.



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Alerts & Watches

by Jan Mahoney

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

- 11/15/2014 – VANDALISM/DAMAGE TO PROPERTY - 1700 BLOCK MOUNTAIN SHADOW
- 11/24/2014 – VEHICLE BREAK-IN/THEFT - 1800 BLOCK BANNEKER COURT
- 11/30/2014 – VEHICLE BREAK-IN/THEFT - 4900 BLOCK ANTEBELLUM DRIVE
- 12/08/2014 – THEFT/LARCENY - 2200 BLOCK SPENCERS WAY
- 12/08/2014 – THEFT/LARCENY - 2000 BLOCK SILVER HILL ROAD
- 12/15/2014 – VANDALISM/ DAMAGE TO PROPERTY - 5200 BLOCK HUGH HOWELL ROAD

The Internet link to subscribe to CrimeMapping is as follows:

<http://www.crimemapping.com:80/subscriptions/subscribe.aspx>

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

Vehicle Break-ins

Lately so many of the reports of crime in our area are car break-ins, so here are some tips to help you prevent your car being broken into:

Don’t make it easy

Keep windows and sunroofs closed and doors locked. Almost one-fourth of thefts from vehicles are from unlocked cars. Some thieves go from car to car trying doors. Chances are they will simply move on to the next car if it is locked.

Activate your vehicle’s alarm

Don’t have one? Factory-installed theft systems are best, but a professionally installed alarm can discourage a car break-in thief who likes to work in silence.

Hide your valuables

Many smash-and-grab thieves act on impulse. So keep your stuff out of sight – either with you or in a locked trunk. Don’t count on the glove box; thieves know to look there, and they’re easy to break into.

Almost any worthless personal item that’s visible from the outside - even an empty shopping bag - could be seen as a valuable or a carrier of valuables. If you have a wagon or SUV that leaves your cargo area on display, consider getting a cover. Most of these vehicles can be fitted with inexpensive retractable covers to help keep shopping bags or other belongings out of sight.

Conceal all the evidence

Don’t leave any bait out for thieves; stow your electronics and accessories well out of sight-or better yet, bring it with you (take it in the house). The evidence alone might be enough to pique the interest of thieves, so hide that too, including power plugs, telltale iPod adapters, or nav-system windshield suction-cup mounts, and even put the cigarette lighter back in place.

In other words, don’t tempt fate. Leaving valuables, or what may appear to be valuable, inside your car in plain view is asking for trouble.

Loose change in a cup holder is also inviting a thief to break into your car. Don’t do it. If you want to keep loose change handy, put it in the ash tray and close the ash tray before you get out of the car.

No neighborhood is immune from car-break-ins. It happens all over town. Most often, car break-ins occur during the early morning hours when the risk of discovery is low.

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

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

SRCA YEAR END REPORT

The final Smoke Rise Community Association (SRCA) Board meeting for 2014 was held on November 17. Early in 2015, we are planning a meeting on behalf of the community with the new elementary school principal and will be organizing the annual membership campaign, electronics-recycling event, and membership business meeting.

Since the last report from the board, pansies were planted at 10 prominent chimneys and replacement “Welcome to Smoke Rise, Georgia” signs were erected at key intersections. The board is poised to install walking trail markers to accompany the map at Smoke Rise Park.

In 2014, the SRCA Board had 9 official meetings. Your dues in 2014 paid for a cityhood informational meeting, the annual membership business meeting, electronics recycling and secure document shredding events, enhanced landscaping along Hugh Howell Road and at selected chimneys, security for the Walk to Remember, painting and sealing of all of the SR medallions, and co-sponsorship of a candidate forum. As this year closes, the Board of the Smoke Rise Community Association hopes you enjoy the glow of the Christmas tree at the community garden and wishes all of our neighbors a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year.

From the desk of Billy Mitchell...

State Representative, 88th Legislative District,
billy.mitchell@house.ga.gov • 770-465-8800

I am so grateful for the *Smoke Signal*, which helps to keep our community informed. Being informed creates an engaged community. An engaged and active community gets better outcomes from their government.

For our county, this is certainly a time for us to be engaged! Consider, the myriad of issues that must be addressed now: Should we have new cities? Should existing cities be allowed to expand their borders by annexation? Should the county form of government be changed? If so, what components? Should it include an internal auditor? Should it include a change in procurement procedures? What about ethics? How do we elect our county leaders? How are residents taxed? These and other issues are part of deliberations that are being considered now. If you have an opinion on these issues and you have not done so already, I suggest you contact your county commissioner or me, as soon as possible to make certain that your input is adequately considered in our deliberations.

I am also grateful to have been appointed to the county interim CEO's, Operations Task Force, which is tasked with developing recommendations for these very important issues. Respecting the principle of governmental transparency, the Task Force deliberations are open to the public and solicit public interaction at every meeting. The negotiation of such substantial, fundamental and diverse changes should not occur behind closed doors.

As we near the completion of the Task Force's work, the recommendations made will be sent to our county's delegation members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Georgia General Assembly. There, we will address additional issues such as whether police should be required to wear "body cameras;" if marijuana use for medicinal purposes should be allowed; if the State's portion of taxes on gasoline sales should be increased to provide for traffic and transportation and transportation-infrastructure improvement; and many others. Please take advantage of every opportunity to provide your input into these additional issues that will be addressed in the 2015/2016 legislative Session beginning in mid January.

As is always the case, please feel free to contact me if you wish to have an issue with the State of Georgia addressed, comment on proposed legislation or to even suggest legislative proposals yourself. I thank you for the opportunity to serve!

Smoke Rise Country Club Update

Susan Gilbert, Membership Chair

You may have heard the exciting news that Canongate, the company we contracted with 5 years ago to manage our Club, was recently purchased by Dallas-based Club Corp, one of the country's largest golf and country club owner/operators. That's exciting news for Smoke Rise members because it opens up the possibility of our members having reciprocal access to hundreds more country clubs in Georgia and around the country. I will provide more details in future articles as they become available.

Now is a great time to experience Smoke Rise membership with our "No Dues Preview Membership" offer detailed in the flyer inserted with this paper. So much has changed with the clubhouse and amenities at this remarkable facility over the past few years as we have renovated and added hundreds of new member families! Even if you were a member previously, I invite you to come and see the updated look of our clubhouse, play our celebrated golf course which greens people are raving about, try some of the best tennis courts in the state, meet your neighbors and experience our warm and friendly hospitality. With this special offer, your family can try membership with no dues until March 31st, so come soon to take maximum advantage of this generous program.

If you did not receive a flyer outlining the preview offer, or want to come hear more about the country club, please contact Stuart Pierce at the club at 770-908-2582, ext. 4.



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Journeys 2015

"Journeys" is a Wednesday night program at Smoke Rise Baptist Church for exploring our life journey through the lens of the Bible.

Session 1: January 7-February 11
Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Call Stories from the Bible

The Bible is full of stories of ordinary people who did extraordinary things when responding to God's call. In this series we will examine the call from God, the response of the one called and see what principles we can apply to our lives.

January

- 7 The Call of Abraham; Genesis 12:1-9
Dr. Rob Nash, Associate Dean for Doctor of Ministry Degree Program and Arnall-Mann-Thomasson Professor of Missions and World Religions, McAfee School of Theology
- 14 The Call of Moses; Exodus 3:1-21
Dr. Rob Nash
- 21 The Call of Jeremiah; Jeremiah 1:4-9
Led by Dr. David G. Garber, Associate Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, McAfee School of Theology
- 28 The Call of Jonah; Chapters 1-4
Led by Dr. David G. Garber

February

- 4 The Call of Paul; Acts 9:1-22
Dr. Brett Younger, Associate Professor of Preaching, McAfee School of Theology
- 11 The Call of the Disciples of Jesus
Dr. Brett Younger

Klesis: God's Call and the Journey of Faith

Klesis is a process designed to assist in the examination of your "calling." It costs \$10.00 for materials. Led by Dr. Colin Harris and Doris Nelms: January 7, 14, 21 & 28; Room 223

Communicating With Youth and Social Media

"Who am I?" It is the fundamental question that all teenagers are asking. Join Justin and Jeremy as we discuss various social media platforms and how to use these tools to help your teenager express who they truly are. Led by Rev. Jeremy Colliver and Justin Sizemore: January 7, 14, 21 & 28

Bread Making

We will take the mystery out of bread making with quick and easy recipes. Learn to make delicious loaves of bread and yummy cinnamon rolls. There will be recipes to take home. Led by Barbara Conard, February 4: Art Room inside the gym

Time for Romance!

Valentine's Day is approaching. In this session we will share some of the best "date nights" we have had with our spouses and other great ways that cultivate a close and loving relationship. Led by Justin & Abby Sizemore and Denny & Kathy Goodenow, February 11: Room 223



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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

Do No Harm: Part 2

January is a month in which many of us begin to think about ways to make our lives more healthy and safe. This month will be dedicated to the women in our community who read the Smoke Signal and is a continuation of the series I began in October highlighting new changes that medical doctors are making in the way they practice medicine. In short, doctors are beginning to ‘choose wisely’ by no longer ordering tests and treatments that either do not benefit or may actually harm the patients they serve. Over fifty medical specialties and groups, including the American Academy of Family Physicians (of which I am a member), have adopted ‘choosing wisely’ lists in an attempt to eliminate wasteful use of medical resources. You can read more about these lists if you Google: Choosing Wisely Campaign-Consumer Reports. Here are several items that specifically relate to women’s health:

1. During pregnancy: doctors should not artificially induce labor or do a Cesarean Section before 39 weeks of gestation unless there is a medical reason. It has been shown that babies born before this time have an increased risk of learning disabilities and other risks.
2. Likewise: induction of labor between 39 and 41 weeks of pregnancy should not occur unless the woman’s body is ‘ready’. It is always safest if labor begins on its own. More C-Section deliveries occur (along with the risks of surgery) when artificial induction of labor is attempted when the woman’s body is not ‘ready’. Convenience is not a good enough reason to try to get labor started.
3. Women over the age of 65 who have had normal cervical cancer screenings (pap test), no longer need to have this done. There is little benefit to the patient above this age. However, women over the age of 65 who have never been screened should have two normal tests before discontinuing screening.
4. Women between the ages of 30-65 only need cervical cancer screening every three years unless they have a history of abnormal screens. They should continue to have annual well woman visits to address other health care issues.
5. Women under the age of 21 do not need cervical screening, even if they are pregnant. They may need a gynecology exam for other reasons, however.
6. Women under the age of 30 are no longer checked for HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) during their gynecology exam. Studies have shown that the HPV often disappears on it’s own in this age group. Testing for the virus only leads to more invasive tests, and creates anxiety and distress.
7. Women who want ‘birth control pills’ no longer need a gynecology exam to obtain a prescription. The prescription can be safely written based on facts gathered from the medical history and a simple blood pressure reading.
8. Women who are not in a high-risk group should not be screened for ovarian cancer if they have no symptoms. The rate of ovarian cancer is very low in the general population and the harm of screening (interventions when there is a positive screen) outweighs the benefit of screening. Next I would like to add one more point that is not on a list (yet):

This year as you move forward into good health, remember to do the easy things that matter: stop smoking, eat your vegetables, move more, get your flu shot and talk to your doctor about preventative health care! Women: be aware of and open to the above new changes in your routine health care.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

Putting the Brakes on “Speed Demons” in Smoke Rise

Over the years, you may have noticed “speed bumps” in some areas of Smoke Rise. Perhaps you are wondering how it all gets started. To be eligible for DeKalb County’s Traffic Calming Program, a street must be classified as local residential on the “DeKalb County Thoroughfare Plan” and have a posted speed limit of 30 mph or less. To start the process, a committed resident must take a petition door-to-door to obtain signatures of residents on their street. This petition will help determine if 20% or more of the residents are interested in learning about traffic calming. If so, a traffic study is conducted to monitor the street and see if these measures are necessary.

If the traffic study does not indicate that a traffic problem exists, the process stops and cannot be restarted for at least one year. If the study does indicate that speeding or a cut-through problem exists, a ‘stakeholders group’ is formed to work with DeKalb County Government staff to develop a traffic-calming plan for the area. In order to allow citizen input, this can take up to one year to complete.

Once the traffic-calming plan is developed, it is then presented to the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners. If approved, a petition for the installation and establishment of a special tax district is circulated. At this stage, approval from a minimum of 65% of the affected property owners is required to install traffic calming devices. Once approved, construction is scheduled through the Roads and Drainage Division of Public Works. A \$25.00 maintenance fee is added to each parcel of land for as long as the traffic measures are installed.

If you are interested in getting speed bumps or other or improvements in your area, call (770) 492-5219 to receive a petition for your street or get more information online at: <http://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/publicwrks/transportation/index.html>.

If you want sidewalks installed, they can be constructed on residential streets with the approval of 51% of the property owners abutting those sidewalks. A sidewalk tax assessment is used to pay for the costs of installation. If a resident’s request is found to meet the requirements of this program, a cost estimate and petition is created for use in obtaining the necessary consent from the affected property owners. You must file an application for establishing a residential sidewalk district along public streets in unincorporated DeKalb County.

To start a sidewalk request, call (770) 492-5204. A staff member of the Transportation Division will conduct a site visit of the area, develop a cost estimate, and determine the priority of the request. Sidewalk requests that are near schools, transit and parks are given priority over other requests. Priority is also given to those roads that are classified as a major thoroughfare or ‘collector’. Funding sources are then sought for project construction.

Now, get out there and safely enjoy our neighborhood streets!





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Smoke Rise’s Blue Star Marker
By Joy Zaidan

Have you noticed the Blue Star Marker in front of Smoke Rise Elementary School and wondered about the significance and history of the marker? You might also ask what an article about the Blue Star Marker has to do with garden clubs. Everything! The Blue Star Marker along the roadside in front of the school was dedicated by three garden clubs in Smoke Rise-- the Smoke Rise Morning Glories, the Smoke Rise Garden Club and the Mountain Mums-- in 2007 as a tangible tribute to Smoke Rise residents serving in the military.

During WWII our country was very committed to showing appreciation to our troops. A means of honoring these service men and women became a priority for garden club ladies, who visualized a living memorial-- a marker surrounded with plantings of red, white and blue. Their vision became a reality in 1945 when National Garden Clubs, Inc. adopted the Blue Star Marker Program. The blue star, chosen because it symbolized the blue star on the WWII service flag that hung in many homes, became the centerpiece of this memorial sign. While the Blue Star Marker Program was originally initiated to honor WWII veterans, the program was later amended to include all men and women who had served, were serving or would serve in the armed forces. Georgia was among the first of 18 states to participate in the Blue Star Marker Program and ranks 4th in the nation for the most number of Blue Star Markers. Today there are 150 Blue Star Markers in the state of Georgia and 2,574 markers nationwide, all established by garden clubs.

When you pass by the school and see the marker, remember what it signifies—respect and admiration for our military personnel who have kept us free. And remember those who have given so much and those who have given all in serving this country. America is the Home of the Free because of these Brave.

A special thanks is extended to Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club for honoring the area’s military personnel by placing a patriotic wreath on Smoke Rise’s Blue Star Marker on Veteran’s Day and Memorial Day each of the past seven years.



Mountain Mums

The Mountain Mums Garden Club held their December meeting and annual Christmas luncheon at the beautifully decorated home of Mary Jacobson on December 10. The luncheon was followed by our ‘Dirty Santa’ gift exchange and annual Christmas picture where baby Bronwyn made her debut. We also collected gift cards to donate to the Lilburn Co-op.

The January 10th meeting will be held at the home of Cheri Schneider at 10:00 a.m. The Mums will be participating in the Valentines for Veterans program during the meeting. Our club has several field trips planned for 2015: In March or April we will be going to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens; in May, the Druid Hills Garden and Homes Tour; in June, the American Hydrangea Society Tour, and in July we hope to visit the University of Georgia Test Garden and Founders Memorial Garden in Athens. Call Ann Purr at 770-921-9070 for more information about the January meeting and field trips.



Mountain Mums: Back, L to R: Jody Currie, Lynne Malone, Mary Lou Still, Heather McLendon, Helen Homrich, Mary Jacobson, Jeanne George. Middle: Linda Duckett, Shannon Betsill, Ann Purr, Lisa Armisted, Sally Young, Gaye, Auman, Debra Adams Front: Carole Wales, Baby Betsill, Cheri Schneider and Lucy White.

We also hope you will join us for the WALK TO REMEMBER on January 17 in front of the Smoke Rise Baptist Church. The walk begins at 9:30 a.m. and is about 3 miles. Proceeds will benefit student drivers in the area. For more information see the Walk to Remember article by Penny Stovall on the front page of the *Smoke Signal*.

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Photography the Topic at Mountain
Shadow Garden Club January 12

If you need a break from the winter blahs, plan to attend the regular monthly meeting of Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) on Monday evening, January 12. The program features “Garden Photography”, presented by Smoke Rise area resident Lyle Collins, owner of Southern Trillium. A graduate of the University of Georgia, Mr. Collins has extensive experience in landscape design and installation. From capturing images of beloved plants and flowers to recording seasonal beauty, photography in the garden preserves the memories of the whole, while still presenting the finest details. Lyle’s presentation will include tips regarding camera equipment, lighting, storing images, and more.



MSGC is open to men and women of all ages who enjoy learning more about a range of garden topics. The meeting and program activities begin promptly at 7:30 pm. Refreshments and socializing follow. The event is at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain. It is free. For more information or for directions, call club president Jeff Raines at this number: 404-641-8633.

Smoke Rise Garden Club

Smoke Rise Garden Club’s Christmas party was celebrated at the Sweet Potato Cafe in Stone Mountain Village. Owner and Chef Karen prepared the dinners while we received excellent service from her son, Sean who remembered all twenty of our names. It made us feel pretty special. Raffle tickets were sold for the door prizes with Deborah Christensen winning the large basket of poinsettias and Paula Adeoba winning the big gardener’s basket with a rosemary bush that was large enough to be a small Christmas tree!



SRGC Member Edith Morton and her little Christmas Angel at Sweet Potato Cafe

The party concluded with a wish for happy holidays and wonderful New Year for everyone.

Garden clubs can be a fun and social group for ladies that have a serious side as well - helping to create an interest in gardening and involvement in the community. For men who would like to be in a club, there is a men’s garden club in our area. Please contact Jane Culbertson at 770-938-3060 or destovan@aol.com if you are interested in joining or learning more about garden clubs that Smoke Rise offers.

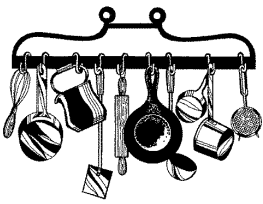
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HODGE PODGE



By Jenny Hall-Busch

I know this will come as no surprise to most of you, but I just now realized that it is mid December and I haven't written the column yet, nor have I managed to actually get anything done since Thanksgiving. Didn't we just have Thanksgiving the other day? Where did this month go? And who shrunk all my pants and left burnt potholders in the bottom drawer? I seem to remember something about eating green vegetables, but I haven't seen one in a very long time. The main foodstuff for six weeks has been all things white/beige/brown: potatoes, stuffing, sausage, fudge, cookies, fudge, cocktail wieners, fudge, and toothpicks with mystery things. And I still have so much left over. And it's beige. For the New Year, we need hearty and healthy, so that's why we are making this one pot dish that will surely bring us all luck and prosperity.

Slow Cooker Black-Eyed Peas and Greens

- 1 pound dried black-eyed peas, rinsed (I know, it's beige)
- 4-6 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 1 large onion
- 4 slices bacon, chopped
- 2 cans chicken broth
- 1 can Rotel® tomatoes
- 1 cup water
- ½ pound chopped ham
- 1 ½ teaspoons cumin
- 1 bag of frozen turnip greens

Place peas in large saucepan and cover with water by 3 inches. Bring to a boil and simmer for 2 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand for one hour, covered. This is a prep step so the beans will be tender.

Cook the carrots, onion and bacon in skillet until onions are crisp tender. Set aside. In large saucepan, bring broth, Rotel® and water to a boil. Drain the peas and place in slow cooker. Add cooked carrots and onion mixture, the tomato mixture and finally, the ham and cumin. Stir. Cover with lid and cook on low 5-6 hours, or high for about 3 hours. Stir in the turnip greens. Cook covered another 30 minutes. You can add a dash of cayenne to the slow cooker if you like a little bite to the greens. Serve with rice and cornbread. Serves about 12.

Sometimes I make this quick bread to go with greens and peas. It is also very good with tomato-based soups and is almost scone-like in texture. Good for sopping. This recipe came from the label of a Carnation® Evaporated Milk can. I always think that recipes on labels are the best.

Quick Cheese Bread Loaf

Grease a 9x5 loaf pan and preheat oven to 350°.

Mix: 1 egg and remaining ingredients.

- 1 cup evaporated milk
- ½ cup water
- Add: ¼ teaspoon salt
- 3 ¾ cups Bisquick® mix
- 1 ½ cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- ½ cup chopped pecans

Stir quickly but well and pour into prepared pan. Bake about 50 minutes until brown and hollow sounding. Cool on rack. Great re-heated under the broiler with tons of butter, since you probably didn't gain enough weight over the holidays anyway. Right.

And to ensure that we all have a really lucky and prosperous New Year, don't forget that grapes are good luck. This grape "salad" is really a cross between salad and dessert, and we all know that cream cheese should be at the top of the food pyramid anyway, so try this and enjoy the cool healthy grapes drowned in the luscious unhealthy cream cheese mixture.

Good Luck Grape Salad

8 ounces cream cheese creamed with 8 ounces sour cream... already sounding good, right? Blend in ¾ cup sugar and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Stir in about 6 cups seedless red or green grapes. Plop in a large bowl and cover with 1/3 cup brown sugar and 1 ½ cups chopped toasted pecans.

Cover and refrigerate overnight. Really delicious, but make sure your grapes are seedless. This dish is a dismal failure if there are seeds. I speak from experience! *Happy New Year!*

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Stone Mountain Rotary Club

by L.A. Dison

Rotary Club of Stone Mountain Celebrates the Holidays with Festive and Charitable Events

The Stone Mountain Rotary Club kicked off its holiday celebrations with the Stone Mountain Holiday Parade on Friday, November 28. Despite the winter chill in the air, about a dozen Rotarians and their friends and families marched down Main Street with banners and a festively decorated truck and float.

In December, the club supported the Salvation Army by volunteering one day to bell-ring at Northlake Mall in Tucker, and participating in the annual Angel Tree program. This year, Stone Mountain Rotary provided 40 children with toys and games, as well as necessities like school uniforms, shoes and warm coats, hats and gloves.

Long-time Smoke Rise residents Gillian Leggett and Anne Coté hosted the annual Stone Mountain Rotary Holiday Party. Around 50 club members, spouses and family enjoyed an evening of great food and good company in Gillian and Anne's home, which had been beautifully decorated for the season.

The club closed the last meeting of the year with a special music program presented by three of the members. Pianist Jenny Hall Busch accompanied Gillian Leggett and Ron Lunsford as they performed seasonal vocal favorites and led a group sing-along of everyone's favorite carols.

The Stone Mountain club meets every Tuesday for noon lunch at Smoke Rise Country Club. The club begins its 2015 weekly lunches on Tuesday, January 6. To learn more about the club and its upcoming programs, go to www.stonemountainrotary.org