

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 2

Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

May, 2020

www.smokesignalnews.com

The CoronaVirus Brings Smoke Rise Together

home

Smoke Rise is a Good Place to Shelter in Place!

Pantry Grocery Games *By Marcia Lewis*

I watch a lot of food network shows. My favorite one is Guy's Grocery Games (Triple G). I have a group of ladies who celebrate each other's birthdays during the year with shopping and dinner and sometimes out of town trips. As I was sheltering in place on a Wednesday, I sent my "Birthday Babes" a group text and said "why don't we play a food game on Friday night?" They all agreed and the Birthday Babes took out their aprons and we played our own version of Triple G, calling it "Pantry Grocery Games."



Marcia playing pantry games

Our rules were as follows: we had to use at least 75% of our ingredients from our current pantry items, and no more than 25% from our current freezer or refrigerator. We had to take 2 pictures: The first was of the pantry items to make sure the item count was within the rules. The second was a picture of the finished, plated dish-which was of course paired with a glass of wine. Finally, we had to make a video describing our ingredients, showing our dish with our husbands tasting, commenting and rating our dish. The husbands were to judge the dish (for a total of 4 points) by 1) correct use of ingredients, 2) plating/presentation, 3) taste. Unbelievably all dishes received a 4. What husband would not give his wife a 4?

Each Babe looked in their pantry and came up with their own recipe. We talked and texted back and forth over a day or two, laughing about what we could

make with the items we had at hand. We spent way more time talking about the meal than actually cooking, but it turned out to be a great diversion from the current world situation. Jane made spaghetti sauce and pasta with homemade Italian breadsticks and peanut butter cookies. Kathy made a chicken and dumpling casserole, English peas and deviled eggs with jalapeno. Mary Lou made a tuna potato casserole with Alan's green beans, accompanied by a very risqué plated salad. I made Chicken Piccata with capers over angel hair pasta and homemade bread. We then spent the evening "together" eating dinner and sharing our pictures and videos.



The Four Grocery Games 'Babes' love to cook. Here they are last summer 'putting up soup'! They played the Pantry Games from their own kitchens due to the Coronavirus restrictions. L-R: Kathy, MaryLou, Jane and Marcia.

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In this time of social distancing, where we cannot see our families and friends, we got to be temporarily distracted and share something these Birthday Babes all love to do, COOK. And, silly as it seems, we all got to be "together" on that Friday night having a fun time from four different homes. Thanks to my "Birthday Babes" and their husbands, Jane and Brian Dewey, Kathy and Bill Rhinehart and MaryLou and Eddie Still. (Marcia and Hillman Lewis)



Tucker's Spring Fling is all about fun and community! It is not too late to join if you missed the first event. Tucker's Spring Fling began on April 20 with the 'send a card' challenge. If you did not do this then, it is not too late! Send a card, text, note or email to a family member, neighbor or senior in our community. Getting mail is never out of style!

April 29 - May 1 will be the Tucker Takeout Picnic Challenge. Support your community and order take-out from your favorite Tucker restaurant. Grab your order and have a picnic on your deck or in your own backyard.

May 9, the City will hold a virtual prom for Tucker HS Seniors who missed their senior prom. A Concert by The Riot Band will be aired on the City's social media channels. Send your photos to #tkrspringfling to take part in the fun.

Source: www.tuckerga.gov

Caught in the Act!

In this day and age it seems so much more difficult to connect to our neighbors. Our houses are further apart and the streets curve and are hilly. This little note caught my attention while I was scrolling on Nextdoor- Smoke Rise. It is used with permission:



"Thank you to a wonderful neighbor! Today, a neighbor I've seen while walking with my grandson dropped off a bunch of toys for him. He was elated! He is five, has autism, and is very confused about the changes [in his world]. I don't know your name- but thank you so much!!"

— Linda Williams of Smoke Rise

If you know a Smoke Rise resident who volunteers or gives to others in need and would like to feature them in CAUGHT IN THE ACT, contact staff@smokesignalnews.com.



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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May Calendar of Events

- 1 Tucker Take Out Picnic Challenge
- 9 Virtual Prom (see details on tuckerga.gov.)
- 9 FODAC VIRTUAL Run, Walk and Roll
go to fodac.org/run for information
- 9 Tucker Day postponed to September 26, 2020
- 10 Mother's Day
- 17 Raising of the Green cancelled (see ART Station website)

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.

Preferred Formats for Smoke Signal Submissions

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

Smoke Signal Deadlines

MAY 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 MAY 10

SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

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

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



Mother's Day Memories

By Betsy Allen

Recognizing that not everyone is a mother and yet everyone has a mother, I would like to share a few thought on Mother's Day. Our mothers gave us Life and many of them were dedicated to nurturing and guiding us through each day of our growth and development while upholding high ideals. As I look back, it seems my mother and my dad survived on "pennies from heaven." Due to the many difficulties of the Great Depression, only the minister and his wife attended their marriage commitment ceremony. My mother's father- Dr. John K. Farris- was a physician who did not lose a single patient in the Cholera epidemic of 1866. My grandfather was not an astute businessman and was sometimes paid for his service with only a chicken or a pot of beans. In his later years he had no special retirement fund with financial investments, and there was no such thing as social security.

Anyway, Mother and Daddy, without a penny of welfare, somehow by working day and night in multiple jobs, were able to stretch each dollar in astonishing ways. They did this until their children finished their education. My parents' 50th anniversary took place in their lovely, paid for, modest home. The anniversary napkins proclaimed Proverbs 3:5-6 -giving God the glory for their successful marriage.

Do you wonder why I am writing about my father as well as my dear mother at this time to honor her? It is because Mama and Papa Burger were a unit—as God says of marriage, the two shall become one. And a generation later, Lee and I are pleased to have our oneness multiplied into four— I am very blessed to be the Mother of two fine sons and two delightful daughters.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

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

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III
 Pastor of Senior Adult Ministries ~ Rev. Jeanne Simpson
 Director of Mission & Youth ~ Mark Sauls
 Office Coordinator ~ Christina Wetzel-Sizemore
 Director of Weekday Ministries ~ Celeste Sears
 Director of Respite Care Center ~ Helen Wilborn
 Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zhabarac
 Organist ~ Carole Mitchell
 Choir Director ~ Anthony Rimore
 Ministerial Intern ~ Anne Gallaher

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

Respite Care Center Hours: Loving care for your Senior Adult
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Sundays:
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary – nursery is provided
 Communion: First Sunday of the month
 Wednesdays:
 5:45 p.m. Join us for dinner and fellowship
 \$8 per adult & \$20 for families
 (reservation are required by Monday of each week)
 6:30 p.m. Program
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

MC3 Church

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

Sunday Worship at Parkview High School Auditorium
 9:30 a.m. Coffee and donuts; adult and student c-groups; nursery and Sunday school for infants to 5th graders.
 10:30 am. Worship service
 C-groups throughout the week at various homes -- check out our website for more times and addresses

Business Address and Hours:
 1316 Rockbridge Rd, Suite M
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087
 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Mailing Address: 1227 Rockbridge Rd., SW, STE 208-251
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087

First Moravian Church

Pastor: Rev. Elroy Christopher
 Congregational Acolyte: Bill Hitz
 Telephone (770) 491-7250, (770) 755-8289
www.gamoravian.org

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

Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

Mountain West Church

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

Creativity and Joy Abound in Smoke Rise

By Susan Gilbert

What do you do when your son turns 23 and you can't throw a party? According to Kanawha neighbor Brenda Alexander, you "Card My Yard!" That's her with her granddaughter, husband, mom and birthday boy, Charlie. She found the Card My Yard company online and ordered up a party.



Intrigued by the idea, I did some investigating and found the company was founded six years ago by two stay-at-home moms in Austin, Texas. They met at a Bible Study, became friends, and founded the company with the goal of spreading joy and making a positive impact on the community as small business owners.

While there is plenty of bad stemming from the Corona virus, it seems to be doing some good, certainly for this company. They already have more than 75 franchise locations in 20 states across the country, and the uptick in business from people like the Alexanders, wanting to celebrate a milestone without a gathering, will be good business for them.

On their website is a statement reflecting the hearts of these creative and caring entrepreneurs: "We are honored to share in celebrating milestone moments in others' lives and hearing stories of great joy and accomplishment." What an honorable business motivation!

Tucker Kicks Off 2020 SPLOST Campaign

The City of Tucker kicked off their 2020 SPLOST resurfacing efforts in late March, with crews getting to work on the first of what will be nearly 80 streets to be repaved over the next few months.



"We're happy that Tucker is at work," said Tucker Mayor Frank Auman at a ribbon cutting celebration on Thursday morning. "We want to keep operations going in the City and we want to keep operations of every business that can do so safely going in the City."

The Mayor and City Council voted last month to approve a \$4.4 million contract with Gwinnett County-based contractor E.R. Snell to perform the work. Their crews will resurface 79 roads covering 19.2 miles of roadway throughout the remainder of the year.

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

On the web at: www.tuckerga.gov/SPLOST

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER
 THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS AND THE SMOKE RISE COMMUNITY FOR YOUR
 SUPPORT AND SAFE PRACTICES

BECOME A MEMBER FOR A DAY TO EXPERIENCE MEMBERSHIP

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



It's been a while since we have communicated to you about ART Station. We know that you have had very important details to deal with during this current crisis. So, we have been quiet, but very busy preparing things for the future and improving our theatre. The next time you visit us, you will see that we have built a brand new stage and have installed a new turntable thanks to the guys at The Patillo Construction Company, and a special grant from the Fox Theatre Institute.

Our Gallery Manager, Bill, has completely reorganized the production office, the costume shop and our properties storage. Michael has spent his time reorganizing our scene shop and backstage as well as taking care of all of the emergency administrative duties of the company. David is spending his time writing grants, planning, and working on ways to stay in touch with our audience.

Our exciting new production of MURDER FOR TWO has been postponed. The show was supposed to open on April 23. We are now planning to open MURDER FOR TWO on July 16 running through August 2. These dates are, of course tentative. All tickets will be valid for the new dates.

LOOPED which was scheduled for the summer will be rescheduled for next January because all of our fall and pre-holiday dates are already fully programmed. We will handle the rescheduling of your tickets at a later time, Please be patient.

Also, our annual fundraiser, RAISING OF THE GREEN, was rescheduled for May 17, 2020. We all know now that is not smart, nor feasible. So, regrettably, RAISING OF THE GREEN has been officially cancelled for this year. If you already have tickets, they will be honored for the event next March. Also, if you donated a date-specific item - i.e. gift card - to the event, we will move your donations to next year as long as you agree to extend the dates. We will be calling those individuals to make arrangements.

COLIN'S BIRTHDAY



Some things should not be missed!! This was seen on Musket Lane during the Corona Virus 'Shelter in Place' order. Do you think Colin got the message?

fodac 20th annual
 friends of disabled adults and children

Virtual!

Run, Walk 'n' Roll
 Saturday, May 9

The Forest Donates Masks

At the direction and leadership of Christine Staskiewicz, members of The Forest neighborhood and friends have rallied together to make and donate face mask to protect our local medical providers in the midst of COVID-19. We recently reached a significant milestone -- 600 masks have been made -- on the way to our goal of making 1500. Thus far, \$1,165 has been raised toward our goal of \$2,000 for materials and supplies for the mask. Those interested in personal protection can receive a mask for each \$10 donated to the fundraiser to make more mask to donate.

During a time where we're all working to stay healthy apart, this project has been a way to have a community impact by protecting our local medical providers without endangering lives. We'll be sure to keep the community updated on our progress and final numbers! #StayHealthyApart



Dekalb County healthcare workers at local testing site pictured with donated masks

GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club At Work In Social Distancing

The members of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club have not been able to gather for meetings, but this does not mean that they are not continuing their work for the projects and charities that they support.



The Night Guild filled Easter bags for gifts for the girls and ladies at Wellspring Living where they are recovering from human trafficking. Infant hospital gowns and blankets are being made for Operation Smile. Members continue to make Little Dresses to be sent to Africa. Several members have been keeping the sewing machines busy as they have made over 600 fabric masks. Masks have been given to Emory at Decatur Hospital, Physicians Care Clinic, Clarkston Clinic, Winship Cancer Center, Hope Atlanta, Berman Commons Assisted Living, miscellaneous physicians and medical students as well as friends and family.



Caring for each other is a big part of Woman's Club life. The members continue to check on each other and especially the older members in our group as well as other people in the community. Stay safe and healthy is our wish for everyone.

TUCKER is a GREAT CITY!

TUCKER CARES: Thread Beauty Spa on Hugh Howell had to shut its doors as a 'non-essential' business. In spite of this, they decided to use the time and their physical space to fill an essential service. Sanah Sayana, owner, enlisted her mother, brother and volunteers from Tucker Makes Masks Facebook Group to turn the spa into a sewing studio/ Mask Delivery service. She has sent over 2,000 cloth facemasks to area wide community members, and now that the story was picked up by WSB TV, she has orders for over 3,000 more.

Watch the video link called 'Tucker Cares' on Tuckerga.gov.

Note: Cloth masks will not prevent the wearer from getting the virus, but may decrease environmental spread if the wearer coughs, sneezes or breathes heavily. Be neighborly and wear masks when you are exercising or shopping for groceries.

TUCKER DOES EASTER EGG HUNT RIGHT

Tucker Parks and Recreation got creative this year for their Easter! Egg Hunt! Usually, Kelly Cofer Park hosts the Easter Bunny and hundreds of filled eggs for their annual egg hunt. This year, the Easter Bunny was on hand to pass out pre-packaged eggs. Families who drove up were handed the packaged eggs so they could take them home and have their own EASTER EGG HUNT- family style!



TUCKER'S CITY COUNCIL HOLDS ONLINE MEETING

Tucker's Mayor and City Council held a work session and meeting on Monday night, April 13-- their first gathering using Zoom technology. This technology allowed citizens who are sheltering in place to observe the meeting by viewing it online.

Items on the agenda were:

- The first reading of an amendment to the City's alcohol ordinance that would allow the City to revoke an alcohol license in businesses who do not comply with city audits or pay their alcohol excise tax.
- Discussion of possibly acquisition of Smoke Rise Bath and Racquet Club. The vote was deferred due to outstanding questions.
- Approval of a bid for build out of the new city hall, which will be at Lakeside Center off Northlake Parkway.
- The draft of the Fiscal Year 2021 budget (preliminary) was presented and is available online to be viewed by the public.

The April 27 meeting will have happened by this edition of the *Smoke Signal*. A recap is posted on Tuckerga.gov.

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OUT OF THE PARK HOMERUN

By Kathryn Turner

The Tucker High School (THS) Baseball Team started its year off as usual. In September, several young men began their journey of eagerly and tirelessly working out to earn a spot on the Tucker Tigers Baseball team. By the end of January, the Varsity and JV squads were selected and it was time to prepare for the season. In addition to the team's readiness, the field was manicured, and the concessions were fully

stocked. Hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken fingers, fries, chips, drinks, candy, gum & sunflower seeds were the key items. It was time to play ball!

By early spring, the baseball teams had begun playing and THS was leading in their region. This would come to a screeching halt with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. But the Tucker Tigers were still able to hit an amazing out of the park homerun!



Carolyn Collins inside Tucker High School in her designated closet called "Carolyn's Giving Closet."

How could they hit a home-run, you ask, if the season was cancelled? The answer is Carolyn's Giving Closet. With school out, many students and their families still need assistance with food. The Tucker Tigers Baseball Team made the decision to donate all of its concessions to a charity

organization called Carolyn's Giving Closet. Carolyn Collins, affectionately known as "Auntie" or "Grandma" by many of the Tucker High students, has been running her 'feeding hungry kids and families' program' at Tucker High School since September 24, 2014. Her mission started

when she bought items for two THS kids that were living out of their mother's car. This blossomed into the development of a 'giving closet', using a THS cafeteria storage closet as her shop. From this closet, she now helps needy THS students by giving donations of food, supplies, and other necessities. Carolyn's Giving Closet has not only received attention from the THS community – but from the Mayor of Tucker, Frank Auman, the local news, and was nationally featured on the Steve Harvey Show.



Ayden Jones (THS JV Baseball Team), Carolyn Collins, and Assistant Coach Turner donating food to Carolyn's Giving Closet on April 3, 2020.

Since inception, at least 15 homeless kids have graduated from THS and found jobs around Tucker, at businesses including KFC and Dairy Queen.

It was an easy decision for the THS' baseball team to give its unused stadium food to a good cause-right in their own school. Carolyn was extremely thankful for the food and was able to distribute it to several needy families living in hotels around Tucker. She said that the kids were happy to receive the food, especially the candy, gum and chips! With all of the curve balls being thrown at the world, including shut downs, lockdowns

and safety concerns from the coronavirus, Tucker High's Baseball Team and Carolyn's Giving Closet were still able to hit an out of the park HOMERUN by lending a helping hand to those in need!

If you would like to donate to Carolyn's Giving Closet to help provide food and/or essentials to needy kids and families in the Tucker area, please feel free to make checks out to Carolyn's Giving Closet or send goods to:

Tucker High School
5036 Lavista Road
Tucker, GA 30084
(Attn: Carolyn's Giving Closet). Stay safe and be encouraged!



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**POSTPONED?
CANCELLED?
VIRTUAL?
RESCHEDULED?
Check Tucker and Smoke Rise Events Below:**

April 2 to Fall 2020:
Tucker Farmer's Market 4 p.m.- 8 p.m.
POSTPONED/ONLINE ORDERS
Details available at www.Tuckerfarmersmarket.com

April 11- Annual Tucker Great American Cleanup
9 a.m.- Noon POSTPONED
for more info: info@tuckernaturepreserve.org.

April 17-19, 24-26, May 1-2
Main Street Theater's "Smoke on the Mountain Homecoming" - POSTPONED

April 18 - Tucker Plant Swap and Share - CANCELLED

April 18 - Mountain Shadow Garden Club Plant Sale
8 a.m. - 3 p.m. - CANCELLED

April 11th Georgia Iris Society Meeting 2 p.m.
CANCELLED

April 25th Iris Show and Sale - CANCELLED

April 18 - Shredding Event at Smoke Rise Elementary School - CANCELLED

May 9 - FODAC Run Walk 'n' Roll - GOING VIRTUAL.
Go to www.fodac.org/run for more information.

May 9 - Tucker Day POSTPONED
Rescheduled to September 26th

DeKalb History Center events postponed until a later date.

Tucker Rec Center and all activities are CANCELLED until further notice.

ART Station: See notice on page 3 in this *Smoke Signal*.

Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts theater and auditions: POSTPONED (see notice on page 7)

Pool Opening Dates:

Check contact info and Facebook pages for opening dates.
SmokeRise Sharks: SmokeRiseSharks@gmail.com

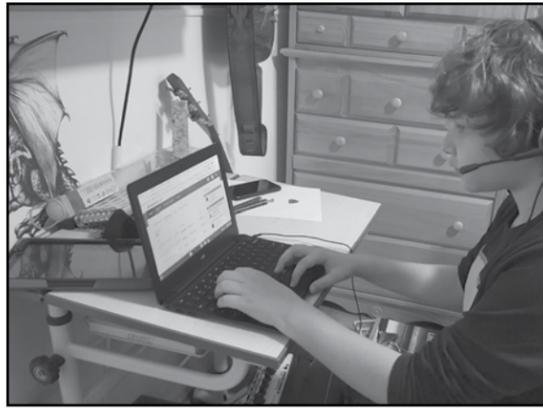
Mountain Creek Pool:
MountainCreekSwimClub@gmail.com

Summit Pool/Tennis: info@smokerisesummit.com

SmokeRise Bath and Racquet Pool/Tennis:
SRBRCmembership@gmail.com
or [Facebook.com/srbrccommunity](https://www.facebook.com/srbrccommunity)

SmokeRise Country Club Pool/Tennis/Golf:
hmcDaniel@smokerisecc.com

Smoke Rise is a Great Place to Shelter-in-Place!



**Stay in Place.
Maintain Your Space.
Cover Your Face.**

#TogetherEveryoneAchievesMore
tuckerga.gov/coronavirus

Smoke Rise Preferred Contractor's List is Now ONLINE Only!



If you are looking for reliable people to build decks, paint, do electrical, plumbing, interior design and many other services, then request a copy of this list. We maintain a free listing of contractors and other service providers that your neighbors have used successfully. For a copy of this list, go to: <http://www.smokesignalnews.com/vendor-list.html>

You may also submit a new recommendation, comment on a service you used or brag on a contractor.

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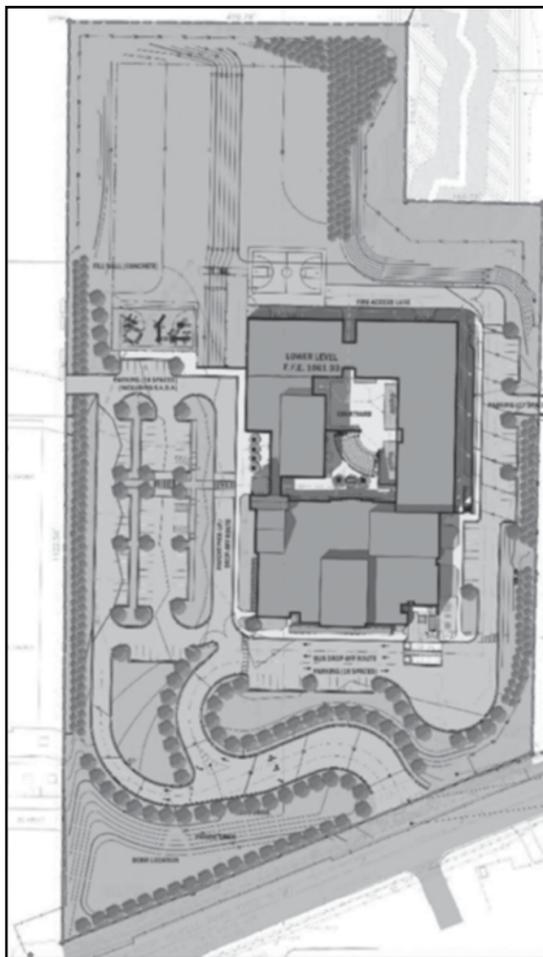
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New Smoke Rise Elementary Replacement School

As you've been driving on Hugh Howell Road lately going to and from Tucker, I'm sure you've noticed that the new replacement school for Smoke Rise Elementary School has come along quite nicely.

The total project budget, which includes all costs, excluding land cost is \$27,621,279. It is anticipated that the new school will be "open for business" in August of 2021.

Here's a drawing of what the school will look like when all is done:



FODAC Donates PPE

Chris Brand, FODAC president and CEO (pictured left), delivers PPE to Grady Healthcare Executive Director of Emergency and Trauma Services Laura Hochwalt and Dr. Omar Danner, chief of service at the Morehouse School of Medicine Department of Surgery at Grady.



Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts Revises Summer Program Schedule

Due to the restrictions around COVID-14, Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts (SRAA) has revised its 2020 Summer schedule. The summer session now will begin June 1.

The Academy will still host its 2020 Summer Arts Camp July 6-9, daily from 12.30 – 4:30 p.m. The camp is for children ages 5 to 12; cost is \$85 plus a \$10 registration fee. The Arts Camp is scheduled during the same week as the Smoke Rise Baptist Church Vacation Bible School; VBS will run weekday mornings daily from 9:30 a.m. to noon, and the Arts Camp will immediately follow in the afternoon. Children may register and attend both camps and bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the mid-day break. Arts Camp activities will include rhythm experience through drum circles and Orff instruments; explorations through Nature's Music; Hip-Hop dancing; art; stage acting; and more.

The Summer Drama Session for school age students begins May 4 and may meet via Zoom. Summer productions of ANNIE JR. will stage August 21-24 and August 28-30. Check smokerisebaptist.org/arts/ for details of class times.

Audition registration is now open for the Junior Theatre Festival (JTF) 2020 Drama Program at Smoke Rise Arts Academy. Students must be between the ages of 9 – 18, and not yet in college. Registration and audition details are at smokerisebaptist.org/arts.

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

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

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



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NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

Essential Government Services Continue During Pandemic

As the COVID-19 pandemic lingers, we are very appreciative of our “front line” workers from the medical field, public safety, and so many more. The word “hero” certainly has taken on new meaning in the last few months. The virus has taken an extraordinary toll on loss of life and way of culture across the globe, the United States, the City of Tucker, and here in Smoke Rise. However, we are reading about and witnessing many occasions of neighbors and communities working together to help one another. The fact that our county and city continue to provide essential services is also a big comfort.

The City of Tucker provides our planning and zoning, code enforcement and parks and recreation services. While the city has adjusted operations and limited access to city facilities during the pandemic, it is still serving each of us. The city has been allowing residents to watch its meetings online via ZOOM. The public may also reach city departments by calling (678) 597-9040, or sending an email to the department directly:

- Building & Permitting: permits@tuckerga.gov
- Business Licenses: licenses@tuckerga.gov
- Code Enforcement: codecompliance@tuckerga.gov
- Court: court@tuckerga.gov
- Parks & Recreation: parcs@tuckerga.gov

DeKalb County shares its news, events, and meetings on television, online, and through the county’s various social media channels. The county also compliments city services with the seamless continuation of essential government operations – including public safety, public works, and sanitation. I’m sure you’ve noticed our garbage, yard waste and recycling are being picked up as usual! DeKalb County’s Watershed Management continues its vital functions to ensure our drinking water is still safe to consume. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking water, and conventional water treatment methods that use filtration and disinfection, like those in our drinking water systems, should remove or inactivate the virus that causes covid-19.

The county’s “Meals on Wheels” program continues (with some minor adjustments due to COVID-19) as well as the meal service provided to members of the county’s multi-purpose and senior centers. And, while the Tucker Recreation Center is temporarily closed, along with the county’s nine recreation centers, students can still pick up free afternoon snacks at each of the county’s recreation centers – Monday through Friday, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

As we all do our part to “flatten the COVID-19 curve,” please remember to wash your hands often, cover your sneezes and coughs – and stay home at all possible times. That will help you, and those you care about, remain safe. And, to protect our dedicated sanitation workers, please sanitize the outside of your roll carts and ensure all garbage is securely tied in bags.

Finally, times of crisis bring out the best in people, and the worst in scammers! Coronavirus topics are very much in the news right now. Watch out for fake websites selling face masks, virus cures, cleaning products, hand sanitizers, etc. Think twice before you buy from a site you don’t know or before you share personal information with someone who has initiated contact with you.

For additional coronavirus information from DeKalb County, visit www.dekalbcountyga.gov/coronavirus. For more information from the City of Tucker, visit www.tuckerga.gov.



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A New Church Plant in Tucker

By Pastor Erik Veerman

As new Smoke Rise residents this year, we've been blessed to meet many of you over these last few weeks! We've known some of you, as dear friends, for years, and hope to develop many new friendships in the years to come.

My wife, Amy, and I, along with our four children and a team of about 75 adults and children from the Tucker area, are planting a new church this spring, Tucker Presbyterian Church.



Our congregation, a member of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), desires to add to the worship, spiritual growth, and ministry in our community, focusing on living out and sharing the hope and good news of Jesus Christ, through the trials and joys of life. If you are looking for a church home, curious about Christianity, or seeking meaning and hope in the midst of some difficult burdens, please come visit and worship with us. We would love to meet you.

Our desire has been to start up later this month, however, we're being cautious in light of the coronavirus outbreak, not wanting to put anyone at risk. Once we do launch, our worship service will be at 10:30 am on Sunday mornings at 2101 Northlake Pkwy Tucker, GA 30084 (near the intersection of LaVista and I-285, across the street from the Target). Visit our website, www.tuckerpres.org, or Facebook page, www.facebook.com/tuckerpres, for more information and updates on our launch. We'll also send out flyers and publicize the details once we've settled on a launch date.

Thank you for warmly welcoming us to Smoke Rise and we look forward to many years as neighbors!



The board of SRBRC hopes everyone is doing well in the face of the COVID-19 health threat. We realize the summer pool season is fast approaching, and many of you are wondering about pool operations. Please note; we are following local, state, and federal guidelines, which may impact our 2020 summer season.

Since the situation changes frequently, please be sure to monitor our website and Facebook page for any updates. Also, you may reach out to us directly for any club-related questions. Thank you and stay safe.

Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club
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Out the Window By Beth Henson

Glancing out the dining room window, it seemed my patio was barely recognizable with the thick, dusty blanket of pollen covering the faded red bricks. Spring had arrived with a vengeance. The electric-green unfurling pines and hardwoods were joyously letting us know their presence. Slim Iris buds were pointing to the sky, promising a future show and the spiky creeping phlox was spilling over the stone wall in an array of bright magenta and lavender. I never grow tired of the riot of color and texture as spring unfolds.



Carpenter Bee by Beth Henson

Suddenly, something fast and buzzing whizzed past my window. With the flowering trees and profusion of pollen Mrs. Carpenter Bee had come to take up residence. She would soon be busily drilling holes in the bright white painted wood under the gutters. Last year I had craftily purchased a "bee trap" only to sympathetically release them when they became trapped and agitated in the catch jar. Turns out these cumbersome and less than dainty insects are actually expectant mothers and their perfectly drilled holes are for their eggs. Fortunately, they are not eating the wood (like termites) or building colonies or hives. These little ladies expertly bore their nest, shove in wads of pollen and then lay their eggs. Their male counterparts hover near the nest and often will approach nearby animals, but have no stinger so are harmless. The new baby bee larvae soon hatch and eat the pollen until later in the summer when they emerge into the garden. Like many other bees, carpenter bees are good pollinators and necessary to the balance and survival of our plants and world. Several flower species are solely pollinated by carpenter bees alone.

Glad to have ya girls, but maybe I'll try out a little vinyl siding next year!

THANK YOU, SMOKE RISE!

To all who listened to my plea on Nextdoor for N-95 masks for Emory Decatur anesthesia: I rounded up 170. They came from all over our community. One wonderful resident donated 2,000 more to main Emory Campus. Thank you, Nancy Lester, and the friends and family she mobilized to make a more fitted mask from Halyard material.

Thank you to my nextdoor neighbor Kathy Rhinehart who sent lunches to doctors offices, the hospital and other neighbors and elderly in need of food and encouragement. She's a great cook! You are only a FEW of the wonderful Smoke Rise Neighbors who stepped up and cared. -Cheri Schneider

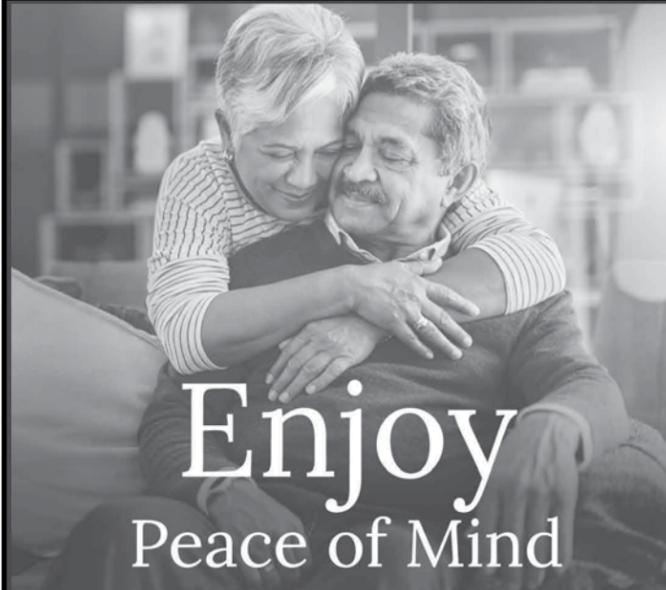


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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

All Movement Counts!

The phrase “All Movement Counts” is at the top of my list for the year of 2020. In our day and age, so many people believe they are not doing enough if they do not go to the gym or dedicate 30 minutes daily to exercise. We all know this--going to the gym, workout classes and home exercise machines are a relatively new thing. Today, during our time of social distancing, I thought I would give you some ideas you can use at home to keep active, burn calories, maintain or gain strength and stay healthy.

The first thing I would like to point out is that your baseline level of activity counts. This is what has changed most in America. We have so many conveniences! Everything is at the touch of our hand or just down the street. We no longer grow our own vegetables, gather eggs, milk the cow or walk long distances. For the most part, our jobs are no longer physically active. Some of us never go outside. Many of us do not maintain our own lawns or maintain the interior of our houses. Someone else does it for us. This ‘frees us up’ to do other important tasks-- tasks that are largely sedentary. An important study I read several years ago showed that ‘fit’ athletes who ran 60 minutes a day and then sat seven hours or more a day --in their jobs, commuting and in front of the TV or computer-- had higher death rates over an eight year period than those who ran 60 minutes a day and sat for only one hour a day. This points to the importance of baseline activities being incorporated into our lives again.

The second thing I would like to point out, is that it is not just the calories burned that counts. In fact, strength, muscle mass, flexibility and balance are very important to maintain as you age. This can keep you from becoming a frail elderly individual, and instead keep you vigorous and active.

Finally: My little list of alternatives to the gym to consider while sheltering in place:

1. YouTube videos of home exercise routines. MANY are free! Your gym or current exercise class may be posting classes to follow along with virtually. Some will have a small cost attached. Among them are dance routines, Pilates, Zumba, yoga, stretching, balance exercises, high rep, low weight strength exercises you can do with resistance bands, 1-5 lb weights or using canned goods as weights. Leslie Sansone has quite a few walking routines that can be done inside.
2. MapMyWalk/ MapMyRun/ MyFitnessPal all are apps for your smart-phone. They will help you calculate calories of food, find and track exercises or steps and often have challenges, some with prizes if you reach the goal.
3. Gardening, raking, and sacking weeds and leaves are all roughly equivalent to water aerobics in energy expended. Lawn mowing, and any outdoor work is real exercise.
4. Moving boxes around or moving furniture burns even more calories. You have time for this now!
5. Painting a house or rooms in a house.
6. Walk the dog. Go at least ½ mile each time.
7. Climb the stairs in your house. Make multiple trips up and down.
8. House work: vacuuming, dusting, sweeping, laundry—they burn more calories than you think.
9. Wall sits, planks, pushups (modified if needed), burpees. All these exercises have 30-day challenges associated with them on the internet.
10. Walk, jog or bike in the neighborhood. Take a hill for a challenge. Do a 60 second sprint or fast walk 2-3 times during your walk. Develop an after dinner walk routine with your family.

Move, move, move. All movement counts! Chores are activities that strengthen and stretch muscles and will keep you from losing what you already have.

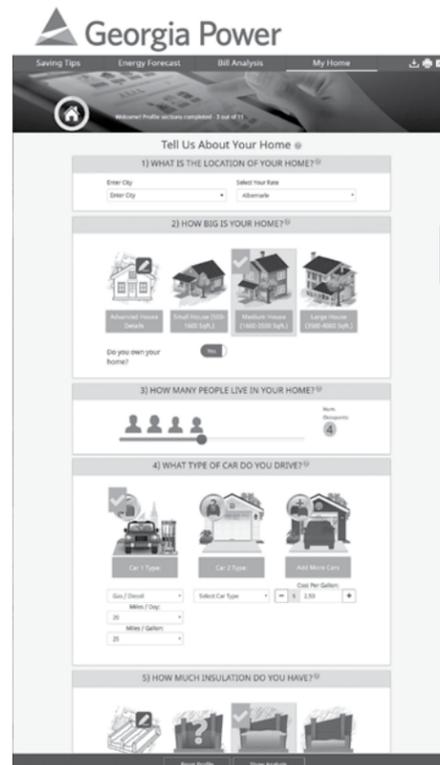
techtalk

Using Time Wisely

By Susan Gilbert

A friend shared with me his plan for getting through this unsettling time of sheltering at home. He was taking the advice of experts who say we should use this time to “finish up things we have started.” So he dove right in, first finishing off the Merlot, moving on to the Chardonnay, and ending with topping off the Scotch. Ok, so that isn’t what the experts were recommending, but here is something well worth doing while you are shuttered in.

Many of us who are staying home and using appliances more will likely see higher than usual energy bills. But that doesn’t have to be the case. There are lots of easy ways to reduce bills, and a quick and easy way of finding those ideas is at your fingertips on the Georgia Power website www.georgiapower.com. When you get to the website, select Residential, then select Save Money & Energy. On that page, scroll down until you find the Home Energy Checkup. Or you can use the search box on the home page to locate it. When you click the Checkup link, you are given two options: One is for an Online Energy Checkup and the other is for an Estimated Energy Checkup. The Online one is best because it pulls in your billing history, meter-read dates, and coincident local weather and then runs a sophisticated energy analysis of potential savings in your home. You DO have to have registered on their website and have to log in to your account.



If you don’t want to log in to your account, or if you are not a Georgia Power customer, you can use the Estimated Checkup on the website. It’s remarkably accurate even without your billing information.

Either Checkup will ask you some questions about your home. They are simple questions that most customers can easily answer, like how many people live there, how large is your home, how insulated is it, and so on. Once you complete the home profile and click Submit and you will see six or more recommendations, each showing the dollars you are likely to save by taking that suggestion. Some of the recommendations have links to rebate programs you can access to save even more money. At the bottom of the Recommendation page, you can see your Annual Energy Use Breakdown showing where your energy dollars are going for Cooling, Heating, Refrigeration, Lighting and other Appliances. This is enlightening as many people think their lights and appliances are the energy hogs in their homes. This is rarely the case because in Georgia, the typical home annually uses 60 percent of its electricity for air conditioning! And it is well known that moving the thermostat a few degrees higher in the summer is one of the most impactful savings tips around.

Fortunately, the pandemic hit during a time where few are running their air conditioners, so bills should not be extremely high yet. If you do struggle with paying the bills now, the Georgia Power website has a whole section on Payment Options with many helpful links and advice.

So, while you may be pent-up at home, there are productive uses of time that can save you money in the months and years to come.

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Shelter in Place Means Our Gardens Will Prosper! Things You Can Do Right Now

Contributed by the Mountain Mums

The Shelter-in-Place order has had Smoke Rise residents spilling out into their backyards to get out of the house. This is going to make Smoke Rise a more beautiful community. Here are a few ideas in case you need some motivation.

- NOW is the time to weed and trim back bushes that have just bloomed. You can mulch, too. Just throw the mulch over the trimmed branches unless they had disease.
- Pull the ivy, but be on the look out for snakes. Wear heavy boots and stir the ivy with a stick before you reach.
- Cut the ivy at the base of trees. You can pull it down or wait for it to die before pulling, but that will take several weeks.
- Spray poison ivy with a heavy-duty weed killer.
- Pull blackberry brambles (with leather gloves on). Be sure to get the roots. Leaving a little root will allow it to grow back.
- Cut honeysuckle down from fences and paint the cut surface with Round-up or pull it out by the roots.
- The Garden Enthusiast will pick up plants from Grower's Outlet for you. You have to order and pay online (see below). Other stores like Pike will meet you at the curb with plants you have ordered and paid for.
- Freshen you borders with perennials like phlox and candytuft. Plant iris, daylily and other bulbs that will bloom later. Pull mulch away from the rhizomes of bulb plants, exposing them to the sun. They will bloom better.
- Plant groundcover in places under trees where the grass no longer grows.
- Prepare raised beds or try a small bed in a sunny spot—6 hours of sun is minimal. If you are like me, you have few spots like this, so you could use containers that can be moved around, or put containers in the driveway near the garage, on a deck or near the front door.
- Pressure wash your deck and driveway/sidewalk.
- Get out there and soak up some sun!!

The Mountain Mums will be adjourned for the summer. Our first fall meeting is the second Wednesday of August. Information will be posted in the Smoke Signal. Next month: A recap of our January program that includes recipes for summer drinks using herbs from the garden!

Now You Can Order Plants From Home

Expanding their efforts to keep our community safe at-home, especially those at risk, The Garden Enthusiast - Backyard Nature Station is providing shopping and order pick-up from Grower's Outlet in Loganville. As many folks in the gardening community are aware, Growers Outlet is a wholesale nursery that is also open to the public and offers some of the best variety and pricing in the Region. You can order online or find an updated list of their inventory at GrowersOutlet.com. Shopping, Pick-up and Delivery will all occur on Wednesdays of each week and there is a small fee associated with the service to cover expenses. More information can be found at BackyardNatureStation.com under the "Growers Outlet" category or by calling 404-474-7072. The deadline for submission is 9 p.m. Tuesdays.

Scott Scheivelhud
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The Daffodillies and the Morning Glories Greet Spring

In 2017, the Morning Glories voted to support a Youth Garden Club at St. John Neumann Regional Catholic School in Lilburn, GA. The Youth club voted to call themselves the Daffodillies and a new chapter was formed. Youth garden clubs offer hands-on gardening experiences and craft projects for students in Grades 1-5. The club meets monthly in a designated classroom at the school with assistance from four teachers and Bonnie Pennington, Gwinnett Master Gardener and Morning Glories member. Bonnie and the teachers develop a fun curriculum for the students depending on the season and the opportunity to garden inside or out!



Currently there are twenty youth in the club and they look forward to that monthly afternoon session where they can get their hands dirty and share some new experiences. Georgia's Arbor Day was February 21, 2020 and this year's event was a rain out! So instead of planting the tree that they had selected for the event, the Youth club completed a fun educational booklet created by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Georgia celebrates Arbor Day in February to take advantage of the ideal time to plant trees from November to mid-March. The National Arbor Day was observed on April 24, 2020.

The photo below shows the classroom and the children with their booklets and their leader, Bonnie Pennington at this year's Arbor Day celebration.

Over the past three years, the children have planted vegetable starts, seeds for all kinds of plants and studied butterflies and birds and other wildlife. The school has seven raised beds in which students have planted a mixture of flowers and vegetables. Cooking, crafts and recycling are all a part of their studies and they are encouraged to participate in the Smokey the Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contests with Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

With the CORVID-19 crisis, all garden club and school activities are "on-line" or curtailed in compliance with the Governor's directive to shelter at home until further notice. Morning Glories club members are contacting each other via phone and email and even snail mail! Many are sharing some very beautiful photos of their home gardens in their glorious Spring finery.

Gardening is exercise and inspiration and for so many a wonderful form of therapy. Happy Gardening to all this Spring and best wishes to BE WELL.



The Walk to Remember Daffodils are Blooming!

In January, the walkers from Walk to Remember planted 100 daffodil bulbs at the entrance to SmokeRise Park. These beautiful flowers have blossomed! Over the years hundreds of tulips and daffodils have been planted during the Walk. Watch for the blooms in SmokeRise Park and at Smoke Rise Elementary School. The Mountain Mums Garden Club maintains the memorial garden at the bottom of Hugh Howell. Beautiful flowering trees were planted there to remember 7 lives lost too soon due to traffic accidents. Enjoy the flowers and remember to drive safely and not text and drive!

Smoke Rise Garden Club Green and Gold

The club started a new "Daffodils for Tucker Parks" project in the Fall of 2019. Bulbs were planted at Kelly Cofer Park in the road median, the entrance and three spots beside the building. They bloomed in March (see photo below). The project continues next year with an additional park. We are sharing our club colors -green and gold- with our Tucker community!

Our club has three members with sewing skills who have turned their activities to making facemasks for first responders, nursing home staff, hospital front-line staff, friends and family. As of mid- April about 100 masks have been made and donated. The ladies are in need of materials to make the masks. If you have a stash of sewing items that you are willing to donate to a worthy cause please include that information in a note to Deb Christensen. She can be reached at debhalley5880@yahoo.com. Items needed are 100% cotton fabric with over 180 thread count, lightweight interfacing material similar to Pellon, and ¼ inch elastic. Materials in new condition are preferred. Flannel and 100% cotton sheets are good alternative fabrics also. The patterns being used are CDC recommended.

Let us know if you have any materials for facemasks. Be Safe, Be Strong, Take Care, Happy Gardening.



Facemask model, Deb Christensen

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: All inquiries regarding advertising should be directed to: Classified and display ads: Harry Strack, tigertaxstrack@att.net. Flyers: Barbara Luton at barluton@aol.com.

All classified ads are limited to 20 words, with the *Smoke Signal* reserving the right to edit any copy. Ads are \$15.00 per month, (\$75.00 per six months if prepaid). Please submit by email a copy of ad to tigertaxstrack@att.net. Deadline is the 10th of each month. ADS NEED TO BE PREPAID. Checks should be made out to *Smoke Signal* and mailed to P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085. When submitting classified ads, please include your full name, address, and phone number. This information is for our records only! For classified ads, contact Harry Strack tigertaxstrack@att.net.
For information on display (box) advertisements or flyer inserts, see contact information on page 2.

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Amen, Let's Eat!



By Joyce Ray

On my first trip to buy groceries after "shelter in place" had been implemented, I was expecting to see empty shelves of some items—toilet paper, milk, bread and the other usual suspects that are the first to go in an ice storm. I was shocked to see that the shelves were completely empty of flour, sugar and other baking products. It makes sense, I suppose. Moms are killing two birds with one stone and letting kids make their own snacks. I am hoping that it also means that home baking is undergoing a revival. No mix will ever replace Aunt Molly's coconut cake or Mama Stella's homemade caramel cake. I decided that since this is the 50th anniversary of *The Smoke Signal* (1970), it would be nice to research some of the most popular cakes of that era. It was not an easy choice, but I chose Red Velvet Cake and German Chocolate. There were many other popular cakes, such as Hummingbird Cake, Italian Cream Cake, Mississippi Mud & Carrot Cake to name a few. All are worth the extra time and effort it takes to make a treat your family will forever associate with being housebound during the Covid epidemic!

Red Velvet Cake

- 3 eggs
- 2 ¼ cups sugar
- 1 ¼ cup cooking oil
- 1 ½ tsp. vinegar
- 3 ¾ cup plain flour
- 1 ½ tsp baking soda
- 1 ½ cup buttermilk
- 1 ½ tsp vanilla
- 1 bottle red food coloring
- 1 food coloring bottle of water

Beat eggs, add sugar, oil and vinegar. Sift flour and soda; add to egg mixture. Add buttermilk slowly. Add vanilla, red coloring and water. Bake in 3 layers (9" pans) for 30 min. at 350 degrees.

When cool, frost layers with cream cheese frosting:

- 1 (8oz) pkg. cream cheese at room temperature
- 1 box powdered sugar
- 1 stick butter or margarine- room temp.
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup chopped pecans.

Mix butter and cream cheese add vanilla. Add powdered sugar a little at a time, then add pecans. Spread on cooled layers.

German Sweet Chocolate Cake

- 1 (4 Oz.) pkg Bakers German Sweet Chocolate
- ½ cup boiling water
- 1 cup butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 egg yolks, unbeaten
- 1 tsp Vanilla
- 2 ½ cups Swan's Down cake flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 4 egg whites – stiffly beaten

Melt chocolate in boiling water. Cool. Cream butter and sugar until fluffy. Add egg yolks one at a time and beat well after each. Add melted chocolate and vanilla. Mix well. Sift together flour, salt and soda. Add alternately with buttermilk to chocolate mixture, beating after each addition until smooth. Fold in beaten egg whites. Pour into three 9" layer pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes.

Coconut Pecan Frosting

- 1 cup evaporated milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 egg yolks
- ½ cup butter
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 1/3 cup Bakers Angel Flake Sweet coconut
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Combine evaporated milk, sugar, egg yolks, butter and vanilla. Cook and stir over medium heat until thickened – about 12 minutes. Add coconut and pecans. Beat until thick enough to spread. Place one layer of cooled cake on plate. Add frosting on top and spread to edges. Repeat for all layers. Sides are not frosted but frosting will cascade down sides of cake for dramatic presentation!

The purpose of the *Smoke Signal* classifieds is to advertise goods and services to the community.

HELP WANTED:

Do you enjoy getting the *Smoke Signal*? Do you want the paper to continue? We need volunteers for writing articles and for keeping records of advertisers. The *Smoke Signal* is celebrating 50 years and wants to continue the tradition.

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