

SMOKE SIGNAL



Tucker Day – Grand Marshal, Matt Robbins

Tucker celebrates Tucker Day to honor its long history as a community. The theme this year is ‘You Be The “U” in TUCKER!’ celebrating the people and businesses that have created our city, the diverse organizations from arts to parks and wood crafting, and our past. In that light, we are happy to have chosen Matt Robbins as Grand Marshal of our Parade.

After his retirement at 43 years with the US Environmental Protection Agency, Matt searched for more opportunities for public service - that came with the formal incorporation of Tucker as a city. Matt was elected to represent District 2 for two terms, being termed out due to the mandated limits.

Matt is being recognized for his involvement in “Things Tucker.” He, with his signature Gold Jacket, continues to be seen attending civic meetings and city-sponsored events, listening to music in the parks, reading to the blind on the radio, playing pickle ball, having coffee with our police officers and walking through our city.



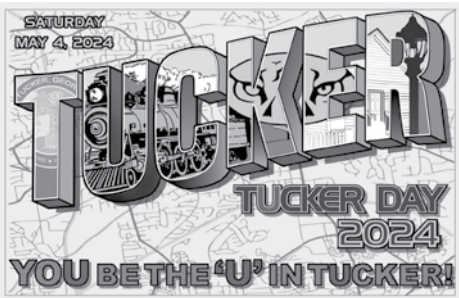
Matt serves as Ambassador for Smoke Rise Agents and is on city, county, metro/regional boards encouraging more participation by city residents. In the early

years of our city, a Tucker resident wrote a tribute: “How Many Matt Robbins Are There? That Man Is Everywhere!”

Are “U” aware of the many opportunities in Tucker for “U” to join?: Peter and Paul’s Place, Tucker Optimist Club, Tucker Civic Association, Friends of Tucker Parks, Tucker Running Club, Friends of Cofer Library, Main Street Theatre, Tucker Walks, Tucker Community Network, Tucker Business Association, Tucker Running Club, Senior University of Greater Atlanta, NETWorks, Tucker Rotary, Tucker Art Guild, Omega Support Center, Friends of Disabled Adults and Children, and many more opportunities to serve.

Two unique facts Matt is very proud of: he was hired two weeks after EPA was created in 1970, and in 2016 he was elected to the first-ever Tucker City Council. He was given the opportunity to be on the ground floor of the growth of two major organizations focused on public service.

Matt and his wife have lived in Tucker since 1980, raising their 3 children: Meghan, Kevin and Kiera.



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Flower Children
By Cheri Schneider, Staff Writer

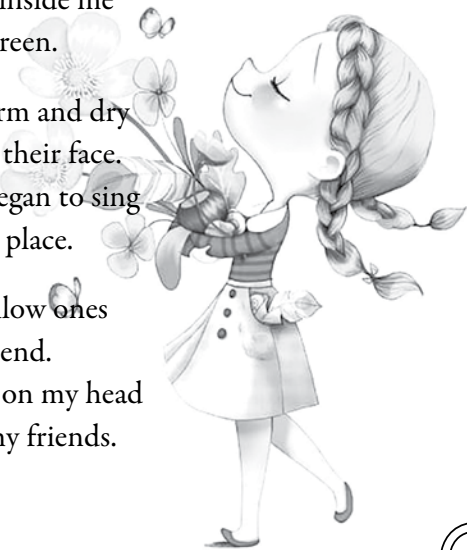
I woke up when the sun came out
and saw their little heads.
They stretched and stretched their faces up
in orange, pinks and reds.

I somehow knew they smiled at me
as I walked along their path.
I knew they yearned to dance and sing
after misty morning baths.

I cried the day I saw them
for the joy flower children bring.
A space opened wide inside me
for purple, gold and green.

Their cheeks now warm and dry
as the breeze caressed their face.
Their simple hearts began to sing
for earth and sun and place.

I picked a chain of yellow ones
and tied them end to end.
And placed the circle on my head
and laughed among my friends.



Compliments of the SRCA:
DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT

May 18, 2024
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Mar Thoma Church Atlanta
6015 Old Stone Mountain Road

With tax-day in our collective rear-view mirrors, gather up your private documents and head over to our partner Mar Thoma Church of Atlanta for secure document shredding. Directional signs on the church property will guide you to the truck. The SRCA asks for a donation of \$5 per vehicle to help defray the \$1000 cost of the event. The truck should be able to accommodate 350-400 banker box equivalents of documents. We look forward to seeing you, and bidding permanent farewell to your secrets, on Saturday May 18.

SMOKE RISE CIVIC ASSOCIATION (SRCA)
ANNOUNCES THE ANNUAL MEETING
May 14, 2024 at 7:00 PM
SMOKE RISE BAPTIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL

Come meet your neighbors and see what
YOUR SRCA can do in the community!



Smoke Signal

P.O. Box 1038, Tucker, GA 30085

A non-profit service organization devoted to furthering neighborhood cooperation with the aid of good neighborhood communication.

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ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:

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

Classified ads and flyers are still available!



Letter to the Editor:

This is an answer to “S” who wrote a letter to the editor in our February newsletter.

Birds and animals in our yards are exactly why many people many have bought homes in Smoke Rise. They need no people to feed them. Deer are happy to eat grass, ivy, flowers, that you or your neighbors plant. They eat acorns, as do squirrels. Coyotes eat rats, chipmunks, your cats and small dogs.

Birds don’t rely on bird seed, which your neighbors put out for entertainment. Birds eat wild seed, pieces of acorns, bugs. All plants and trees make seeds after blooming. These fall to the ground for all animals to enjoy. Hummingbirds drink nectar and all birds eat insects.

As for the swarms of birds in her yard, it is an annual occurrence. Some of the black birds are red wing black birds that have red epaulettes on their shoulders. Very pretty. The other birds that swarm together are robins. Soon they quit that activity and look for mates. All animals also reproduce. Hence the eggs and the fawns you see. If every single resident quit feeding birds or deer, you would still see plenty of both.

I am also asthmatic. Can’t be near dogs, cats, horses, sheep, goats and probably coyotes. But if I don’t get near these animals, I do not get asthmatic attacks. I can watch sheep and goats clear a resident’s over-grown yard but I don’t pet them. If you get asthmatic symptoms as easily as you say, then your option is stay in the house or wear a mask like I do when I visit the home of a cat!

Thanks, Ann

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

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

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

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

5801 Hugh Howell Road
Interim Pastor: Dr. Jim Simpson, jims@eastminster.us
Phone: 770-469-4881
Website: Eastminster.us

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

First Moravian Church

Pastor: Reverend Elroy Christopher
(770) 491-7250
Website: Gamoravian.org

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

Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

4950 Hugh Howell Road
pastor@incword.org
Phone: 404-936-0628
Website: Incword.org/

SUNDAY 8:45 a.m. Worship

Mountain West Church

4818 Hugh Howell Road
Pastor: Mo Huggins
770-491-0228
Mwchurch.com

SUNDAY 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. Worship

THURSDAY 10:00 a.m. Neighborhood Bible Study

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

Digital copies of the *Smoke Signal* are posted to the archives at www.smokesignalnews.com.

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

Smoke Signal Deadlines

MAY 13

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

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

Deadline for classified ads is 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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www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews

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



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Smoke Rise Country Club Summer Sports Camps

May 28 - 31 / 4-day camp
\$260 members / \$300 nonmembers
June 3 - 7 / June 10 - 14 / June 17 - 21
June 24 - 28 / July 15 - 19



9:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m. (Early drop off available for \$5 a day)

9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Tennis Development
10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Snack
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Game-based Learning
12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch
12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Arts & Crafts / Chess
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Tennis, Soccer, Flag Football, Pickleball

Swim Lessons \$100/week. Private \$50
3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Free Swim

SUMMER TENNIS AND GOLF CAMPS

July 8 - 12, July 22 - 26

9:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m. (Early drop off available for \$5 a day)

9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. 10 & under campers = Golf
18 & under campers = Tennis
10:45am - 12:00pm 18 & under campers = Tennis
10 & under campers = Golf
12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Lunch
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Arts & Crafts / Chess
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Tennis, Soccer, Flag Football, Pickleball

FOR MORE INFO: (SMOKERISECC.COM)
4900 Chedworth Dr., STONE MOUNTAIN, GA 30087
770-908-2582 x. 5

TUCKER RECREATIONAL CENTER SUMMER CAMP

- 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Free before and after care: 7-9 a.m. & 4-6 p.m.)
- Ages: 5-12 years
- Lunch is provided
Campers may pack 2 snacks (no peanut products allowed)
- Summer Camp is offered in two four-week sessions
NOTE: Camp is closed July 1-5
- Price: \$500 per session, per child

SESSION 1

- June 3–7
- June 10–14
- June 17–21 (NO camp on June 19)
- June 24–28

SESSION 2

- July 8–12
- July 15–19
- July 22–26
- July 29-August 2



May 3 - 7 p.m.
First Friday Concert
The Troubadour Project

May 18 & 19
City Pools
Sneak Peek Weekend

May 23 - 7 p.m.
Movie on the Green
“Elemental”

May 25
Tucker Rec. Center Closed

May 27
City offices closed for
Memorial Day
City Pools Open 12-8 p.m.



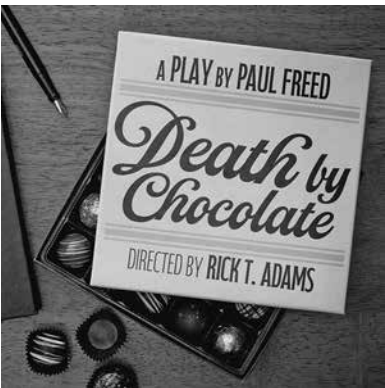
TUCKER FARMERS MARKET

April through November
THURSDAYS 4-7 p.m.

Over 30 vendors each week
Buy local fruits, veggies,
baked goods, and more
Enjoy music, children’s area
and many dinner options

The Resort Re-Opens April 19 VISIT AT YOUR OWN RISK

Welcome to the grand re-opening of the newly renovated Meadowbrook Health Resort where we are dying to see less of you! Unfortunately, members of the center are dropping like flies, including famed chef Edith Chiles! This is definitely not the best advertisement. Will John Stone, our manager, find the murderer in time?



Showtimes:
Fri, April 26 at 7:30 pm
Sat, April 27 at 7:30 pm
Sun, April 28 at 2:30 pm
Fri, May 3 at 7:30 pm
Sat, May 4 at 7:30 pm

Tucker Recreation Center
4898 Lavista Road, Tucker, GA 30084



I Do I Do!
May 2 - 11
Thursday & Friday at 8:00pm
Saturday & Sunday at 3:00pm
Wednesday at 10:30am

Tickets \$21-30
Box Office Hours:
10 a.m- 5 p.m Tues-Fri
1 p.m-5 p.m.Sat
(770) 469-1105

Purchase Tickets:
Book and Lyrics by Tom Jones,
Music by Harvey Schmidt

With seven Tony-Award nominations, I Do I Do! is an intimate, nostalgic & touching love story of Michael and Agnes. Follow them through 5 decades of their lives – from wedding night jitters, raising a family and negotiating mid-life crises – to eventually, passing their journey’s legacy to future generations.



Sully Brown (MICHAEL) is thrilled to be making his ARTStation debut! His Atlanta credits include: *A Christmas Carol* at Alliance Theatre, *Wait Until Dark* and *Bright Star* at Georgia Ensemble Theatre, *The Little Prince* at Synchronicity Theatre, *Peter and the Starcatcher* at Stage Door Theatre, and *Spring Awakening* at Jennie T. Anderson Theatre.

Sully will be making his feature film debut in *Gothic Slayers*, coming to a streaming service near you this fall. He is a graduate of Kennesaw State University with a BA in Theatre & Performance Studies.

Galen Crawley (Agnes) is so excited to be back at ART Station! You may remember her from 2011’s *Married Alive*. Since then, she has become a familiar face around town, especially at Aurora Theatre, where she hosts the annual *Christmas Canteen*, played *Mary Poppins* (twice), and was a wicked stepsister in *Cinderella*. She won the 2014 Suzi Bass Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her work in *Mary Poppins*. Galen also has many regional performances to her credit. She holds a BFA in musical theatre from the Sargent Conservatory at Webster University and coaches dialects for the stage.



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Meet More Remarkable Neighbors
Susan Gilbert, Staff Writer

If you drive through Kanawha early in the morning, you may already know Dr. “Cully” Clark as an early morning walker. He starts each day with a brisk walk. He and the three ladies from Gauley River that he calls the “Gauley Gabbers” cross paths when the ladies walk their dogs together. He teases them about how “senior” he is, and they tease him back about being a brilliant historian. Having heard about him from so many in our community and having Googled him to learn more of his professional career, I asked him for an interview, and he accommodated my request.

For an hour, Cully and his wife Mary shared their journey from meeting as undergraduates at Emory in 1961 to now being retired with two grown sons, 6 grandchildren, and residing in the beautiful Kanawha neighborhood they call home.

Following graduation, Cully and Mary married. Mary went on to complete her master’s degree and then to work as a librarian and instructor at Andrew College in Cuthbert Ga. where Cully taught history. Cully too, finished his master’s degree at Emory and then earned his Ph.D. in history at the University of North Carolina. His pursuit of history largely grew out of his childhood experience of seeing the schools in his hometown of Cairo, Georgia, segregated into separate schools for whites and blacks. This forced segregation formed the



roots of his passion for knowing more and doing what he could to end the unjust practice. And that is what he did! Cully joined the University of Alabama in 1971 as an assistant professor of speech communication, and later became the dean of the department of speech communication before becoming executive assistant to the president in 1990. He was Dean of the College of Communication and Information Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham from 1979 to 1986.

The author of numerous books, his first was about a journalist, South Carolina’s Francis Warrington Dawson. Reconstruction and Civil Rights in the South have been Cully’s focus. His best-known book is, “The Schoolhouse Door: Segregation’s Last Stand at the University of Alabama.” which was a “New York Times Notable Book of the year” in 1993. His latest book after retirement published in 2021 is “The Birth of the New South: Sherman, Grady, and the Making of Atlanta”.

Cully and Mary chose Smoke Rise as their retirement home in 2006 to be closer to family. In the process of moving and easing into retirement, Cully became dean of Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, at University of Georgia. Cully proudly grew up in Grady County, and coincidentally ended his career serving at another Grady. He mentioned, in case readers don’t know, Grady County is the home of Pure Georgia Cane Syrup, NOT your typical corn syrup.

He is the recipient of awards and recognitions too numerous to list, but a few include The University of Alabama’s E. Roger Sayers Distinguished Service Award (2001), the Southern Christian Leadership Conference’s Community Service Award (1992), and the Southern States Communication Association Outreach Award (1995). In 2020 he was inducted into the University of Alabama Communication Hall of Fame. Mary and Cully sing the praises of our all-volunteer Smoke Signal newspaper, its writers, editors, and staff acknowledging all it means to our community. “Newspapers and journalism are my life and are so important to keeping neighborhoods together.” He especially loves the cooking column written by Joyce Ray, (who is Co-Grandmother to four of their grandchildren) and the travel tales told by his next-door neighbor, Debbie Torbush.

Give him a wave if you see him out early walking Kanawha Court, Kanawha Drive, and Gauley River on his morning ritual.

GRADUATES

JULIA WHITE

Alan and Ellen White of Smoke Rise announce with great pride the graduation of their daughter, Julia Carol White, from Georgia Southern University. Julia received a BBA in Finance and graduated magna cum laude. Julia was also a graduate of the honors college and presented her senior thesis on “The Financial and Environmental Returns of Green Banking”.



While attending GSU, Julia was a member of the Zeta Upsilon chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. She enjoyed playing intramural volleyball and flag football. She also spent a lot of time playing tennis and pickleball and volunteering at the ReTails Thrift Shop, benefitting the Humane Society of Statesboro and Bulloch County.

Following commencement, Julia plans to work as a Financial Analyst at USAA, where she interned during the summer of 2023, in Charlotte, NC.



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Ganderman Filming at SRCC

By Victoria Crosby, Staff Writer

A crew was filming recently at the Smoke Rise Country Club and an email request was sent to members for people to volunteer as extras in the film. Several women responded, including myself, Brenda Alexander, Kathy Rhinehart, Connie Henry, Marylou Still and Pat Baumann. It was a new experience for all of us, and despite the waiting time between the three scenes we were in, it was a great deal of fun. Some of us were in all three scenes, some just one. We were joined for one scene by an unknown young man (pictured).

The independent film Ganderman was written and directed by Tom van Dohlen and



produced by Mike Lindenmayer. It will be s screened at some point at the Smoke Rise Country Club, and we'll be able to see if we made the cut or ended up on the cutting room floor!



Left to right--George Ann Hoffman, Jackie Cornett, Marty Bryan, Jane Brown, Shari Carter, Mary Eubanks

Club Elects New Officers

The Stone Mountain Woman’s Club, a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, installed news officers for the 2024-2026 term. Two of the officers are residents of Smoke Rise. Marty Bryan will serve as Co-President. Jackie Cornett will serve as Vice President. The president presides over the general meetings. The vice president presides over the board meetings and leads the program (committee) chairmen. Also installed were Jane Brown, Co-President; Brenda Price,

Secretary; Mary Eubanks, Treasurer; and Shari Carter and George Ann Hoffman, Co-Parliamentary Advisors.

Club work for this term starts in April. Many projects will help the cities of Tucker and Stone Mountain. Other work will benefit the Atlanta area and the state. The General Federation supports St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Operation Smile, Heifer International, Canine Companions, United Nations Shot@Life, and Unicef.

If you are looking for volunteer opportunities and would like to have fun along with them, please contact StoneMountainWomansclub.org or any club member.



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*See Advisor for details

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Smoke Rise Civic Association Thoughts

By Michael, Huerkamp, President

As I made the circuit for the Walk to Remember on March 16, a Mountain Mum’s event memorializing young people lost from Smoke Rise in auto accidents and providing safe driver scholarships, I strolled by a number of improvements and services provided by SRCA. I passed the trail sign in Bill Probst Park, landscaping on the Hugh Howell slope across from that park and remembered that we blow the leaves off the sidewalk in front of the old school. I saw the little library at the Summit, medallions at various intersections, and the landscaped memorial triangle of trees in the distance at the Hugh Howell split at US 78. At the intersection of Hugh Howell with Lilburn-Stone Mountain Road, I encountered Mayor Frank Auman, who was valiantly attempting crossing guard services, and broached the subject of adding a pedestrian signal across Hugh Howell between the BP station and the boardwalk. We also discussed repairs to that boardwalk. These initiatives represent a sampling of what SRCA does to promote and sustain our community.

Please respond to our mailer and donate today to help us meet our commitments- including landscaping, and our aspirations- like buying a tent for the school’s field day this year. Help us turn around the trend of four consecutive years of operating at a loss. JOIN US FOR THE MAY 14th ANNUAL MEETING at the Smoke Rise Baptist Church Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

DUES \$45 and Donations can be sent by:
PayPal at smokerise.org
By Zelle to smokerise.org
Check to SRCA mailed to:
Smoke Rise Civic Association
P. O. Box 870793
Smoke Rise, GA 30087



The Smoke Rise Academy of Arts will begin summer lessons and classes May 28. Students of all ages are invited to register for music lessons in piano, violin, voice, drums, guitar, and ukulele.

Children in rising grades K-& are invited to attend the Academy's Summer Music and Arts Camp, June 10-13. Camp will meet 12:30-4:30 each day and campers will enjoy time in art, dance, music and drama each day. Space is limited so register today! Details and registration: www.SmokeRiseBaptist.org/Arts

Drama classes are offered for all school ages beginning June 3. Teens will meet Mondays-Wednesdays and stage a major work on July 19-21. Elementary-middle school students will meet regularly on Monday evenings with a JR production scheduled September 13-15. Details and registration: www.SmokeRiseBaptist.org/arts

Mrs. Victoria Crosby has joined the staff of the Academy, teaching beginner piano and offering her creative writing classes. If you are interested in joining her writing class during the summer, please call or email the Academy for information. 678.533.0562 / ArtsAcademy@SmokeRiseBaptist.org Or, to register, scan this QR Code:



The Smoke Rise Academy of Arts
will present Willy Wonka, Jr.
May 2 - 4

Four Shows: 7:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Saturday matinee
Ticket information at: www.SmokeRiseBaptist.org/Arts



Read Across America at Smoke Rise Elementary

Smoke Rise Elementary School celebrated Read Across America on Friday, March 1, 2024. The event was hosted by the school's media specialist, Mrs. Amy Yang. Several parent volunteers and the women from Stone Mountain Woman's Club contributed their time by reading to the students. Principal Pamela McCloud and the Smoke Rise Elementary School family would like to extend a huge thank you to Mrs. Amy Yang, the parent volunteers, and community partner, Stone Mountain Woman's Club, for making this event so remarkable.

Parents come to read to the students as Guest Readers.



Stone Mountain Woman's Club Reads to the Elementary students.



ATTENTION
GRADUATES,
NEWLYWEDS,
and
HONOREES:

Please send in
your picture
and a brief article
for publication
in the
Smoke Signal.

Email submissions to
staff@
smokesignalnews.com



Principal Pamela McCloud and Steele Magnolias retired teachers and administrators.

In March, the Steele Magnolias, a group of retired teachers and administrators, visited Smoke Rise Elementary School. Principal McCloud warmly welcomed them and led a guided tour of our wonderful school!

Art Wood
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Zillow
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Attitudes on Alcohol

By Joel Gilbert, Staff Writer

Some may remember when it was common to argue that Christians should not patronize restaurants that served alcohol. Classes or groups who wanted to hold a fellowship meal in a local eatery limited themselves to alcohol-free “family restaurants” to ensure participation from members who did not want to appear supportive of the alcohol industry.

Perhaps you have heard the story of the pastor who was furious that a bar opened across the street from his church. Knowing nothing else to do, he led the congregation in a prayer campaign to rid them of this blight on the community. They prayed that God would intervene to remove the bar.

A few days later, a thunderstorm swept through town and a bolt of lightning struck the bar burning it to the ground. Aware of the prayer campaign, the bar owner sued the church for destruction of property. The church defended itself claiming that the lightning strike was simply an accidental act of nature. The judge sat perplexed in front of the plaintiff and defendant saying, “It appears that I have a bar owner who believes in prayer and a church that doesn’t.”

Closer to home, when word got out that a bottle shop was opening in Smoke Rise a deacon at one of our churches protested

to his fellow deacons, “If that happens, I’m taking my business elsewhere!”

There is a funny true story about a politician who had to address his constituents about his stand on alcohol. In 1952, Armon Sweat, Jr., a member of the Texas House of Representatives, was asked about his position on whiskey. What follows is his answer (from the Political Archives of Texas):

“If when you say whiskey, you mean the devil’s brew, the poisonous scourge, the bloody monster that defiles innocence, dethrones reason, and takes bread from the mouths of little children. If you mean that evil drink that topples Christian men and women from the pinnacles of righteous and gracious living into the bottomless pit of degradation, shame, despair, helplessness, and hopelessness, then, my friend, I am opposed to it with every fiber of my being.

However, if when you say whiskey you mean that oil of conversation, that philosophic wine consumed when good fellows get together, that puts a song in their hearts and the warm glow of contentment in their eyes; if you mean the stimulating sip that puts a spring in the step of an elderly man on a frosty morning; if you mean that drink that enables man, to forget if for a moment life’s great tragedies, heartbreaks and sorrow; if you mean that nectar of the gods through the sale of which pours untold millions of dollars each year into our treasuries, that provides tender care for our crippled children, and infirmed, and builds the finest highways, hospitals, universities, and community colleges in this nation, then my friend, I am absolutely, unequivocally in favor of it.

This is my position, and as always, I refuse to compromise on matters of principle.”

Certain counties in Georgia are “dry counties,” meaning retail liquor sales are illegal in there. As of 2023, the dry counties in Georgia include Bleckley, Coweta, Dodge, Effingham, Franklin, Hart, Lumpkin, Murray, and Union counties. White County is also dry, but the city of Helen is wet.

As for me and my house ... we are good with it all ... in moderation. I enjoy a nice glass of wine for its health benefits. The other glasses are for my witty remarks and flawless dance moves.



Visit Smoke Rise Gardens May 18

The “Art of Nature” Garden Tour organized by the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club is coming Saturday, May 18. The hours for the self-guided tour are 10-4, rain or shine.

Four gardens in Smoke Rise are on the tour this year and one garden in Tucker’s Winding Woods neighborhood.

Tickets can be purchased on line at StoneMountainWoman’s.Club.org, at Wine and Whimsey’s on Main Street in Tucker and from members.

Visit our booth at Tucker Day on May 4 and see all of the club activities and charities that the tour supports.

Caring for Self While Caring for Others

Amber Voss, Smoke Signal Staff

Airlines instruct passengers that in the event of oxygen masks deploying, the first thing you must do is to put your own mask on before helping anyone else. It makes sense, right? When we care for ourselves first, we are more effective when caring for others. Unfortunately, as a caregiver, it is very easy to forget about your own needs. Many caregivers experience burnout because they forget to tend to self and put the other person’s needs before their own.

This is something that most everyone will experience at some point in time; whether with a child, spouse, family member, or friend. Caregiving can take a big toll on a person’s physical, mental, and emotional health.

How does one care for self while caring for another? For starters, it takes a lot of intentionality and carving out time. Having boundaries for your own self-care matters.

While this list is not exhaustive, here are several tools and ways that may help:

- Prioritize healthy food, water, and quality sleep.
- Move your body! Whether with a walk, yoga, swim, or a visit to the gym, choose an activity or exercise that brings you joy and is just for you.
- Consider a mindful-based practice, such as yoga, meditation, journaling, or prayer.
- If you find yourself becoming irritable, easily overwhelmed, or having sleep issues, make changes immediately to manage your own stressors and avoid burnout.
- Schedule regular breaks. Insure you have others who you can ask for help when you need a break. Remember, it’s okay to ask for help! You aren’t alone and there are many folks who are always willing to lend a hand.
- Join a local caregiver’s support group or check with your place of worship. Connecting with other caregivers may open up resources and support you weren’t aware of before.
- Stay connected to your faith community, neighbors, friends and family.
- Consider therapy or counseling so that you have an outlet outside of your immediate family and friends. These professionals can often give additional tools and support that will be beneficial.
- Make time for yourself by scheduling appointments that help you feel good, including self-care such as a hair, nail, facial, or a massage.
- Whatever fills your own cup, do just that. Reading, listening to music, watching the birds, loving on your pets are all great ways to reduce stress.
- Be kind to yourself! You are living your own life while managing yours and someone else’s. It’s a lot! Always be kind to yourself. Have grace when you have feelings and emotions you need to work through.

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HEALTH NOTES:

Understanding Low Back Pain

By Patricia Baumann, M.D.

The most common cause of low back pain is injury or strain involving muscles and ligaments. If your pain is in the low back, and if your pain is limited to the back only, then there is little likelihood that your pain is related to pathology such as a herniated disc. Disc pathology causes problems only when a disc bulge or a disc herniation presses on the centrally located spinal cord, or the nerves coming out of the spinal cord going to the leg. If the nerve is being compressed or irritated, you feel sharp, burning, shooting, electrical type pain going into your leg. The leg pain from an irritated or “pinched” nerve is often called sciatica. If you do not have leg pain, you do not have sciatica. If your pain is aching or cramping, located only in your back, it is most likely coming from the support muscles surrounding your back. This type of pain can best be treated with rest and over-the-counter remedies, and does not require a doctor visit. It is self-limiting and will go away on its own. This is especially true if you are under the age of sixty. Prescription muscle relaxers and prescribed physical therapy may be of benefit. Injections into the painful muscle, called trigger point injections, may help.

If you are over the age of sixty, your low back pain may be due to degenerative arthritis, specifically facet joint arthritis. Most people have never heard of facet joints, but these joints are a leading cause of back pain in older adults. The facet joints can also be injured from trauma and can cause low back pain in younger adults as well. The facet joints are small hinge joints on each side of the bones in your back, and they allow for movement of the spine. These small joints are like every other joint in your body, they contain cartilage and synovial fluid. Just like other joints, like hips or knees, facet joints develop osteoarthritis and can become a source of back pain. Back pain from facet joints is typically worse with prolonged standing or sitting and is typically relieved by lying down. Since the joints are located posteriorly, bending backwards will make the pain worse, since this puts more pressure on the joints. Bending forwards will typically provide relief of facet joint back pain, as this takes some weight off the joint. Facet joint pain can be treated with over-the-counter remedies. Back muscles attached to the facet joints may go into painful spasm. Prescriptions for physical therapy and muscle relaxers are helpful. If these measures are not successful, injections under x ray, targeting the facet joints, may be indicated.

Plain Xray films will show the bone changes of facet arthritis, and physical exam will also help identify which joints are involved. Epidural steroids targeted to these levels will deliver anti-inflammatory steroids to the inflamed joint and may help provide relief. If this does not provide relief for low back pain, facet joint injections may be considered. If injections numbing the facet joints provide temporary pain relief, then longer pain relief can be obtained by performing a rhizotomy, or nerve destruction, with a radiofrequency ablation.

Another source of low back pain is sacroiliac joint, or SI joint pain. Pain from these joints is felt in the low back and buttock area. It may mimic irritated nerve pain, sciatica. Physical examination can help identify which structure is involved, as these two structures present differently on physical exam.

If you have nerve pain in your legs (sciatica), and especially if you develop muscle weakness in your legs, you will need advanced imaging, an MRI or CT scan, to properly evaluate the pain. Plain x rays are best for imaging bone, while MRI and CT are better for softs tissue such as spinal cord, discs, and nerves. Plain x rays are much less expensive, more easily scheduled, and are more readily approved by insurance companies than MRI or CT. MRI and CT give views of the spinal cord and spinal fluid, allowing diagnosis of spinal stenosis, a condition where lack of bone canal space puts pressure on the spinal cord or nerves. This is typically caused by degenerative bone changes which occur in aging, or by herniated disc. Herniated discs can heal with time, but if they are large, they may not.

Injections for back pain are performed by interventional pain specialists. These can be physicians known as physiatrists, who often work in practices of orthopedic surgeons, or by specially trained physician anesthesiologists.

Open back surgery is typically only indicated when structural changes compromise function of the spinal cord or spinal nerves. The surgery can be performed by an orthopedic surgeon or a spine neurosurgeon.



Tucker Appoints New City Manager

John McHenry was appointed as the City of Tucker’s second City Manager in January of 2024, replacing Tami Hanlin, who retired. Prior to McHenry’s appointment he served the city as Deputy City Manager, Assistant City Manager and Community and Economic Development Director. As one of the city’s first employees, he has played an integral role in the standing up of the city. McHenry has over 20 years of local governmental experience.



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Out the Window

Article and Illustration by Beth Henson, Staff Writer



Wren Nest

Looking out the dining room window, I couldn't help but admire the newly spruced up hill-side garden in my gently terraced, blooming backyard. Spring had definitely sprung with the warmer temperatures and so had every variety of weed lately.

As I stepped out into the blindingly, bright sunshine, I headed for the pine straw in the nearby wheel barrow, resting against the protected back brick wall. Perched nearly sideways on top of the straw was my trusty black bucket waiting for duty! It would be a handy helper when mulching my beds. Reaching to grab the bucket, I quickly stopped when I saw it had somehow been magically filled with pine straw, too. On closer inspection I noticed a perfectly round hole with 5 tiny eggs nestled in the bottom. Nearby, I spotted Mrs. Wren perched on the fence top, quizzically eyeing me, as she took a short break from incubating her eggs.

Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Wren! Your nest is safe with me. Mulching will have to wait for another day (or more likely a few weeks!).

NEWS YOU CAN USE

By AvivA Hoffmann, Staff Writer

Upcoming Primary: Key Races and Issues

The General Primary/Nonpartisan Election on May 21 is fast approaching, bringing with it a multitude of important races and ballot questions. Key offices to vote on, include Federal House of Representatives, State Senators and Representatives, State Judges, Board of Education Representatives, and many more.

In the County Commission District One, which encompasses the Smoke Rise area, the race features incumbent Robert Patrick and challenger Andy Yeoman. Also of note is the race for DeKalb County Chief Executive Officer (CEO), a unique role in Georgia's political landscape.

Three candidates are contending for this pivotal position. Larry Johnson and Lorraine Cochran Jonson resigned from the county's Board of Commissioners to pursue the CEO role, while Steve Bradshaw currently serves on the Board. Living in the incorporated City of Tucker, our community remains governed by DeKalb County ordinances, underscoring the significance of the CEO's influence on our daily lives, particularly in areas like Smoke Rise.

Additionally, voters will encounter various questions regarding state laws on the ballot, depending on their chosen party affiliation or nonpartisan status. These questions encompass a wide range of issues, including immigration, abortion, gun regulations, state income taxes, term limits for elected officials, school vouchers, zoning, minimum wage, affordable housing, sports betting, and more. Again, the questions you will have to vote on depend on the type of ballot you signed up for.

Voting stands as a fundamental pillar of democracy. It's crucial to participate in the electoral process. Know before you go. You can familiarize yourself with your personalized sample ballot online at <http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov>.

For those seeking more insight into the candidates running for DeKalb County CEO, the Metro South CID has organized Listening Sessions where candidates share their perspectives and plans. These sessions are available for viewing on YouTube at: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLINz8aY4KUJKoPLaTdR6OGWRjWccQVVPN&si=Nb9_NU6A2CNXuOHS and the Metro South CID website.

Key Dates

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May 10: Last Day to request an Absentee Ballot

May 17: Advance voting (which began April 29) ends for the General Primary/ Nonpartisan Election

May 21: Election Day

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

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

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techtalk by Joel Gilbert, Staff Writer

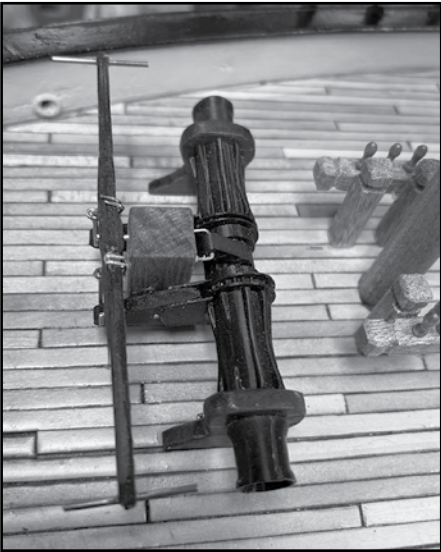
Model Boat Progress Report: 3D Printing to the Rescue! Part 2 of 3

I debated getting a 3D printer for years, thinking it was just one more fad and would gather dust in our basement. Prices kept coming down with decent machines now available for under \$200. The reviews were generally very good ... just slower than the more expensive models. The software to drive them was free, and the plastic filaments they use could mimic wood or metal! So, given my need for small parts for my wooden ship model ... I got one!

I found out that they are still not consumer-friendly products. There is a learning curve. But for the adventurous hobbyist, these devices are wonderful for prototyping pieces and parts for your projects. Plus, once you get going, you find you can make all kinds of parts for your home “Honey Do” lists. For instance, last January, seeing the cold temperatures predicted one evening, I printed an ice scraper for Susan knowing she’d need it for her drive to an early morning meeting.



One of the first things I printed for my model boat was the ship’s wheel. I found the pattern for it free online and just had to scale it to ¼ inch = 1” as shown here. You can see that it would have been impossible for me to carve it from wood with such detail.



As described in last month’s paper, once I had the decking down on the hull, I needed to build the deck houses that had to have scale windows with bars on them to prevent them from breaking as deckhands and the waves tossed lines, buckets, and oars around. Making windows for deck houses was easy. I searched online for free 3D models and scaled them down to size. There are so many free resources, you almost never have to resort to drawing your own.

But then there was the arduous task of figuring out how to build the windlass or what you might know as a winch, a leveraging device located on the bow that lets crew lift the anchor, hoist the sails and the yardarms upon which they hung, and to bring aboard whales

when captured. These tasks were only possible by manpower with mechanical leverage.

However, finding a 3D model for the windlass on my model boat was challenging. Little did I realize how complex this was going to get. I researched how these mechanisms worked and tried dozens of ways to build it out only ultimately resorting to drawing each segment of the windlass in 3D modeling software (Fusion 360), scaling them to fit together and then printing each out. A big challenge was getting the gear teeth to mesh on multiple gears. The windlass shown here has 15 different 3D printed elements plus a hand carved lever that illustrates how it was driven by two crew lifting the lever arm up and down.

This modeling has been a trip back in time that has vastly increased my respect for the craftsmen who designed and constructed these vessels hundreds of years ago. Stay tuned for the June paper where I hope to share the finished model!



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As your next CEO, I will manage our resources with the clear understanding that I will be acting as your agent. I will set clear priorities. And I will hold every leader in my administration accountable to results. That includes me, too.

I am committed to you, DeKalb. And I promise to wake up every day to make DeKalb County safer, cleaner, business friendlier, and more inclusive. With your help, I know we can achieve that promise. I humbly ask for your support.

Sincerely, Steve



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Smoke Rise Garden Club News

By Denise Finely, Member and Smoke Rise resident

The Smoke Rise Garden Club donated 3 centerpiece floral arrangements to the DeKalb Federation Life Member Luncheon February 22nd. President Victoria Crosby, Denise Finley and Dee Montgomery were present. The funds raised from this event go the Garden Club of Georgia Scholarship fund. Students from across Georgia studying horticulture, agronomy and general plant sciences may apply.

The Smoke Rise Garden Club Calendar has been full! In February, members attended the Flower Show at the Atlanta Botanical Garden: Primavera and Orchid Daze. The Flower show was inspiring- with designs in forms of jewelry, purses, dresses as well as modern sculptural designs.

In April we attended the Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club Flower Show “It’s all about the Bees”, hosted our own Plant Sale, went on a field trip to Wild Roots Nursery and attended the Avondale Garden Club plant sales and the DeKalb Federation Awards luncheon.

In May we will go on the Stone Mountain Women’s Garden tour on May 18th.

Our annual blueberry and barbeque field trip is scheduled for June.

If you’d like to be part of our field trips or attend a meeting, please call Gina Dilley at 973-202-7724 or email at ginadilley@gmail.com. Smoke Rise GC is a member of the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs, Redbud District, the Garden Club of Georgia and the National Garden Club.



Friend, Melodie Janin and members Victoria Crosby, Dee Montgomery, Denise Finley, Janice Gummingsall in the ABG Conservatory during Orchid Daze



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Morning Glories Present a Small Standard Flower Show!

By Quill Duncan, Member and Smoke Rise Resident

“It’s All about the B’s” was the title of the Small Standard Flower show held on April 9th hosted by our President Amie Walsh. Club members Janet McGinnis and Joy Zaidan worked for months on the show creating the schedule, ordering ribbons, organizing and educating our members on the principles of design techniques, and preparing horticulture entries for the show. Two workshops were held for members to learn about creating petite and tabletop designs. On the afternoon before the show members brought horticulture to be classified and placed in the appropriate categories.

This show was judged by five GCG certified floral judges and two student judges. Each item was evaluated, and awards were determined based on criteria pertaining to the entry. There were 130 horticulture entries, 8 petite designs and 4 tabletop designs. In addition, there were two educational exhibits prepared by Melodie Janin and Amie Walsh. One featured an in-depth study of bats and the other focused on the pollination contributions of the honeybee. Amie’s honeybee exhibit won the NCG Educational Award, but both were outstanding presentations.

Congratulations to the following winners! Melanie Chastain won Best in Show for her Petite Design and the Smoke Rise Morning Glories Petite Design Award in honor of Charter Member Joy Streater. Joyce Ray won the People’s Choice Tabletop Design Award. Joy Zaidan won the Sweepstakes Award for the most blue-ribbon winning horticulture entries. Janet McGinnis won the Horticulture Excellence Award for her ‘Jesse’s Song’ iris entry. The following members won an Award of Merit for their horticulture entries: Joy Streater for her azalea, Bonnie Pennington for her Japanese maple, Joy Zaidan for her Hosta, and Quill Duncan for her lirioppe. Joy Zaidan won the Grower’s Choice for her Chinese evergreen container grown plant. More than 60 people attended the show and many entries won blue, red, yellow and white ribbons. Thanks to all the helping hands and hard-working volunteers who made it all possible! It was certainly a labor of love and a beautiful Spring celebration!



Melanie Chastain's Award-Winning Petite Design Entry

Mountain Mums Enjoy “A Shade Garden Shindig”

By Maureen Fraser, Member

Mountain Mums Garden Club began its April meeting at the home of Karen Werner to view her shade gardens - luscious backyard flower, herb and vegetable gardens - followed by a business meeting and lunch at the home of Gaye Auman.

What is a garden? It is when a plot of ground is laid out, cared for and developed partially or wholly to grow plants such as flowers, herbs and vegetables. As we strolled through Karen’s garden and listened to her talk about each area of her garden, it was clear that she is a gardener extraordinaire! Her personal motto is, “If you bloom, I welcome you!”

Our first stop along the stone path was at the herb garden full of Oregano, Lavender, Thyme, Basil, Chives and Rosemary with Peonies amidst it all, adding color when blooming. What a delight it would be to walk outside to gather fresh herbs for your meals each day! Miss Figgy was the star of the show – a fig tree that just keeps multiplying; and there is even a fig vine on a wall.

In the flower garden, the Clematis was eye-catching, as were the Asters, Shasta Daisies, Woodland Iris, Trillium and Milkweed. Ferns abounded in addition to Annabelle Hydrangeas, Spirea, Amsomnia and Columbine to add aroma and color galore. There is Okra all around the house with Zinnias to add color and a vegetable area with Tomatoes and Carrots with Queen Anne’s Lace abounding throughout.

Overall, her garden was full of vibrant greenery with a variety of plants, trees and shrubs creating a lush and inviting atmosphere. What made it extra-special were the many unique yard art pieces, a goldfinch bird feeder and bird houses that were placed strategically throughout the garden, as well as a bench made out of rocks.

The finale of the tour was a waterfall feature cascading down a wall with a North Georgia-like mountain slab backdrop. Even the birds, squirrels and frogs love it.

Jean Weathers shared a devotion celebrating Spring and aptly incorporating a vegetable (asparagus) into the inspiration. Highlights of the meeting included an announcement that Mountain Mums will again be visiting Atria Park of Tucker, an assisted living facility, to provide horticultural therapy to residents and a new slate of officers were elected who will be installed at the May meeting. Beth Henson was recognized for the Yard of the Month. She also shared an Environmental and Garden Tip reminding us that butterflies are pollinators, along with bees. We should grow flowers that attract them. Bird feeders, bird houses, bird baths, and nesting boxes also require spring cleaning. Most birds will not use a nesting box with an old nest in it.

Jean Weathers will host the next meeting, including breakfast followed by the business meeting and then a tour of the Tucker Butterfly Garden given by Kelley Samaras on May 8. Contact Mary Jacobson, Membership Chair, for more information on joining or visiting a meeting at mjacob1010@gmail.com.



As Karen Werner led Mountain Mums members through her shade gardens, her passion for gardening was evident and her interesting commentary on some of their origins was engaging to all!

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Food & Home Fixin'
by Joyce Ray, Staff Writer

A Cheesy Subject

What is best, pre-shredded or block cheese? Keeping pre-shredded cheese on hand is certainly tempting for use on salads or to top off your frozen pizza or favorite casserole. Why not? Consider these facts about the difference between pre-shredded or block cheese.

Cost: Pound for pound you are paying more for pre-shredded cheese due to the increased cost of labor and packaging.

Fresh: Cheese stays fresher in a block where no air gets to the inner core.

Whole food product: Fresh cheese has no other ingredients. When you shred or grate cheese it releases moisture that can cause it to stick together. Any cheese that is pre-shredded is coated with corn starch, potato starch and powdered cellulose to keep it from clumping up. That coating can affect how it behaves in certain recipes, especially casseroles that are topped with cheese. In order to break down those ingredients, you would need to cook your food at a higher temperature which could alter the texture of other ingredients in the recipe.

Pimento Cheese: what could be more welcome at a picnic, on a burger, grilled for a quick lunch, an appetizer or a lady's lunch than this freshly made delicacy? It can elicit controversy in a crowd if you get into a conversation about which mayonnaise you prefer, Blue Plate, Kraft, Hellman's or that all-popular southern cult-like favorite, DUKES! This recipe takes pimento cheese to another dimension with delightful added flavors that you might not have expected.

Home Made Pimento Cheese

- 4-5 ounces crumbled goat cheese
- 8 oz. cheddar cheese
- 1 (8oz.) jar chopped pimentos, drained
- 2 jalapeno peppers, chopped (membranes and seeds removed)
- ½ tsp. sugar
- ½ tsp. apple cider vinegar
- 2 heaping serving spoons light mayonnaise (any brand)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Crumble goat cheese into a mixing bowl. Grate cheddar and add to bowl. Drain pimentos and chop jalapenos to cheese mixture. Add salt and pepper, vinegar and sugar. Mix well. If serving immediately, leave the mixture out and let it come to room temperature. The goat cheese becomes creamier as it warms. If not serving immediately, take out of fridge about ½ hour before serving. Go ahead... grill this on two pieces of good bread for lunch and add this all-time seasonal favorite:

Tomato Basil Soup

- 4 cups crushed tomatoes, fresh or canned
- 4 cups tomato juice (or vegetable or chicken stock, if preferred)
- 12-14 fresh basil leaves
- 1 cup heavy cream
- ½ cup (2 stick) unsalted butter
- Kosher salt and black pepper to taste
- Basil leaves for garnish

Combine tomatoes, tomato juice (or stock) and basil leaves in a saucepan. Simmer for 30 minutes. Do not boil. Remove from heat and cool for a bit. Puree mixture in blender or with immersion blender. Return to saucepan and add cream and butter while stirring over low heat. Looking for a quick and easy garnish? These glazed pecans will fight for prominence on your favorite salad.

Glazed Pecans – Yield 3 cups

- 1 cup sugar
- ¼ tsp kosher salt
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 6 tablespoons milk
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 3 cups pecan halves


Combine sugar, salt, cinnamon and milk in large saucepan. Boil for 2 minutes. Remove from heat, add vanilla and stir. Add nuts and stir until coated. Spread evenly onto parchment paper. Allow it to cool and then break into pieces.

Silver Hill Administrative Center
By Frank Luton, Staff Writer

If you've been passing by the old Smoke Rise Elementary School on Silver Hill Road you've probably noticed all the trucks out front. It's in the process of being remodeled and will be renamed the Silver Hill Administrative Center. It will be outfitted to serve as an administrative support facility for internal DeKalb County School District services and professional development with limited public and student access. According to the school district, it is anticipated there will be up to 100 administrative employees working from the new facility. There will also be a small team of facilities staff members in the building to ensure the property is being maintained. The intent is for the facility to begin operation in early spring. Also, there are no plans to park or operate school buses on or from the property. All the old playground equipment has been removed from behind the old school.



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