

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 5

Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

August, 2021

www.smokesignalnews.com

It's BACK-to-SCHOOL time!

Watch for buses, bikes, and pedestrians on our neighborhood streets.



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National Night Out in Tucker

By Matt Holmes, Director of Communications and Administrative Services

The City of Tucker is excited to announce its fifth annual National Night Out celebration will be held on August 3 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Midvale Elementary School. Neighbors from across Tucker are invited to join with DeKalb County School District leaders, DeKalb County Police and Fire officials and elected representatives from the City of Tucker for this free community picnic.

“National Night Out’s mission is simple: to connect our community with the men and women who so selflessly serve it,” said Tucker’s City Manager Tami Hanlin. “With that goal in mind, we are grateful for the opportunity to bring everyone together for one last summertime party, and even more grateful to our partners at Midvale Elementary for hosting us.”

“Nothing makes us happier as police officers than to get to know the communities we serve in positive circumstances. If we can talk with people and it’s not while investigating a crime or a complaint, it gives us a chance to build relationships. That is why National Night Out is so special to us,” said Tucker’s Police Liaison, Lt. D.G. Schoepner.

This year’s National Night Out will have a little something for everyone. Free food will be provided by popular food truck The Patty Wagon. Ice cream will be available for purchase from Ice Cream Carousel. There will be a handful of giveaways for children who attend, as well.

National Night Out is the third and final event in the TKR Summer of Fun, a series of events put on by the City of Tucker designed to encourage neighbors to get out and bond over community activities. In June, several hundred people enjoyed a Movie on Main. In July, several thousand more participated in the Celebration of Independence and Fireworks Spectacular. The TKR Summer of Fun is sponsored this year by Discover DeKalb and Jacobs.

For more information on National Night Out and its origins, visit www.natw.org.



By Frank Luton

If you are looking for something to do and perhaps are interested in old cars or trucks, the Tucker Cruise In may be just the answer. I ventured out on Saturday, July 10, and was thoroughly entertained to take a gander at the wide variety of vehicles, ranging from antiques to street rods, motorcycles, imports, and trucks.

The Cruise-Ins are held on the second Saturday of every month, April through September from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Tucker’s Main Street. While I was there, I ran into a friend and Smoke Rise neighbor, Mac Willett, showing off his 1966 Chevrolet truck.

Plus, while there, I ate the most scrumptious apple cake/cobbler that I believe I have ever eaten.

So, give it a trial this month or next! Find out more online at <http://www.tucker-cruise-in.com/>

There is a New Principal in Town!

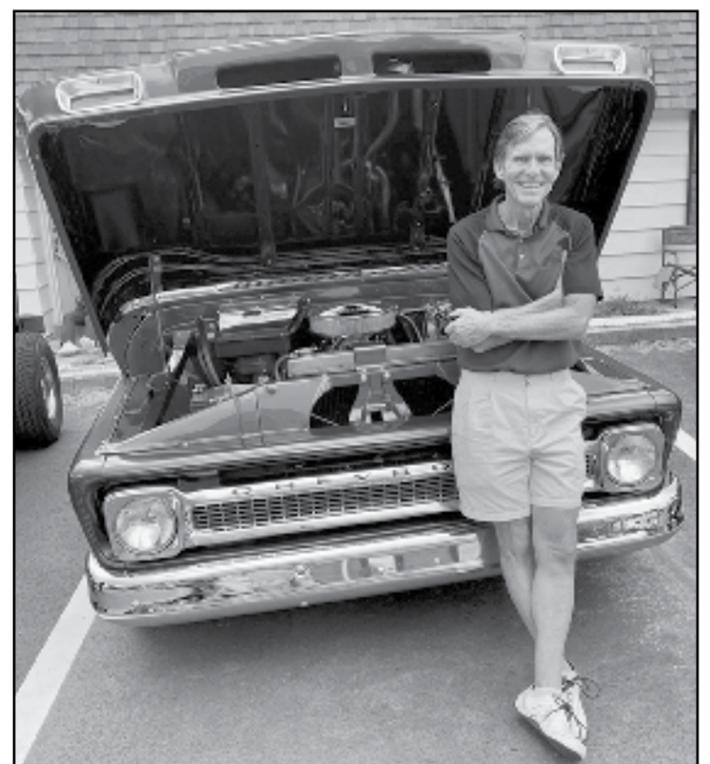
By Tascha Bevins, SRP Assistant Director

Local private school, Smoke Rise Prep is pleased to announce its new Principal, Shaina Neal! Shaina Neal is a lifelong learner and educator with 14 years in education. Originally hailing from the Bronx, she obtained a full scholarship to Berea College where she majored in Psychology. After graduation, Shaina joined the nonprofit organization, Teach For America, and found that education was truly her passion. She went on to obtain a Master’s Degree in education from Arizona State University. Over the years, Shaina’s passion for learning led her to teaching in South Korea, England, and Spain before returning home. In 2018, Shaina joined the Indianapolis Principal’s Fellowship and was awarded a full scholarship to Columbia University where she obtained her degree in Culturally Responsive School Leadership.



Shaina has served as an AVID coordinator, academic instructor, assistant principal and now she is happy to serve as your principal of Smoke Rise Academy! She currently lives with her husband Robert, 19-month old son Langston, and her three dogs Mac, Mugsy, and Gina. She is obsessed with Harry Potter and Marvel movies. Everyone at SRP is SO excited to have her join our amazing community, and we are looking forward to sharing all of our fun from this coming school year with the Smoke Signal readers!

If you would like to meet the new principal and come check out this local educational treasure check online at www.smokeriseprep.org.



City of Tucker

The next meeting of the Mayor and City Council is scheduled for

Monday August 9 at 7:00 p.m.

at City Hall (1975 Lakeside Parkway, Suite 350B).



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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Preferred Formats for Smoke Signal Submissions

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

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

Smoke Signal Deadlines

AUGUST 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 AUGUST 10

SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

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

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



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<https://www.stone-mountainwomansclub.org>

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



DID YOUR PAPER GET WET?

EXTRA COPIES OF THE SMOKE SIGNAL ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE COMMUNITY GARDEN Look for the wooden box labeled *Smoke Signal*.

(They are no longer available on Smoke Rise Drive.)

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

SUNDAY

9:45 a.m. Attend Sunday School Online
 Schedule Available at SmokeRiseBaptist.org
 11:00 a.m. Attend Worship via Live Streaming
 Live Stream Available at SmokeRiseBaptist.org
 5:00 p.m. Outdoor Children and Youth Activities
 (Activities are outside with social distancing and masks)

MONDAY

5:00 p.m. Weekly Devotional Video Link at SmokeRiseBaptist.org

WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m. Journeys Spiritual Formation and Bible Study
 Opportunities Online and In-Person
 Schedule Available at SmokeRiseBaptist.org
 (In-person events are outside with social distancing and masks)

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 Director of Spiritual Formation ~ Jeanine Fulton
 Director of Family & Outreach ~ Mark Sauls
 Interim Director of Music ~ Ben Holcomb
 Organist ~ Carole Mitchell
 Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zabarac
 Director of Weekday Ministries ~ Celeste Sears
 Office Coordinator ~ Christina Wetzel-Sizemore

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

Sundays:

9:10 a.m. Adult Sunday School via Zoom and In-Person
 10:30 a.m. In-Person and Live streaming of Worship service

No reservations necessary for worship and masks are required for non-vaccinated participants.

Our Sunday service information can be found on our website at <https://www.eastminster.us/sundays>.

MC3 Church

Senior Minister: Art Stansberry
 Worship Minister: Leslie Riley
 Student Minister: Will Tyler
 Children's Minister: Rae Tyler Caggiula
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www.mc3.life

Sunday Worship at Parkview High School Auditorium

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10:30 am. Worship service

C-groups throughout the week at various homes -- check out our website for more times and addresses

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 Stone Mountain, GA 30087

First Moravian Church

Pastor: Rev. Elroy Christopher
 Congregational Acolyte: Bill Hitz
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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
 Telephone (770) 491-0228
www.mwchurch.com

4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain

Sunday Services:

9:00 a.m. masks required
 11:00 a.m. masks optional

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

Day of Hope Golf Event at Smoke Rise Country Club

Susan Gilbert, DDM Trustee

In 1981, a visionary group of parents came together over a shared concern for their children with developmental disabilities. They found themselves all asking the same question: "What is going to happen to my child when I am no longer able to care for them?" Developmental Disabilities Ministries (DDM) has been answering this question for the last 40 years. DDM currently owns and/or operates 18 homes throughout the state of Georgia, providing residential services for adults with developmental disabilities. Each home is staffed to support the two to four residents living in the home, so they may achieve their highest level of social, physical, emotional, and spiritual maturity.



The men of the DDM Tucker Home, celebrating they day they got to move into their new home.

DDM recently opened a new home in Tucker, GA and is in the process of completing two additional homes to serve more men and women through its ministry.

To celebrate 40 years of "answering the question," DDM is holding a fundraising event, the DDM Day of Hope, at the Smoke Rise Country Club on September 30. The event will start with a morning golf tournament, followed by an evening hors d'oeuvres reception and program. All money raised through the DDM Day of Hope will go towards the new Tucker Home and the two homes it is in the process of completing. Thanks to a generous donor, every dollar raised through this event will be matched!

To take part in the golf tournament, attend the evening reception, or inquire about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Lisa Kirksey at (706) 248-1028 or lkirksey@ddmga.org. Join DDM and be part of the Day of Hope so that they may continue to "answer the question" for another 40 years and beyond!

SRCC School Supply Drive

By Susan Gilbert

Smoke Rise Country Club is hosting a School Supplies Drive between now and August 20th to help kids get back to school with what they need. Managed by our personable Membership Director, Rylee Palmer, neighbors can drop donations at the main Club House or down at the Tennis Center beside the pool complex. We are collecting about anything a child could need going back to school. Pencils, pencil boxes, colored pencils, crayons, markers, glue sticks, safety scissors, pens, three ring binders and paper, pocket folders, note cards, rulers, and back packs. Please look around your home or office and drop what you can spare in either of the bin or with Rylee. And if you have a few minutes, she will also give you a quick tour of the amazing property! Call to arrange a time (770) 908-2582 ext. 4.



Smoke Rise-Tucker Community Pools

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<https://www.mountaincreekswimclub.com/>

Rosenfeld Park (FNA Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet)

2088 Glacier Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30087
www.tuckerga.gov/parks

Smoke Rise Country Club

4900 Chedworth Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30087
<https://www.smokerisecc.com/>

Summit Swim and Tennis Club

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Meet the Smoke Signal Staff!

Group photo – back row: Susan Gilbert, Frank Luton, Joel Gilbert, Pat Baumann
 third row: Barbara Bruschi, Linda Karr, Harry Strack,
 second row: Barbara Luton, Cheri Schneider
 front row: AvivA Hoffmann, Gia Anderson

Surrounding photos, counter-clockwise from top left: Gaye Auman, Joyce Ray, Pat Soltys, Rachel Caines, and Rosalyn Merrick

GFWC Sticks by Our Schools!

The chairmen of the Education and Libraries Program of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club presented 125 glue sticks to Principal Dr. Char-Shenda Covington at the Stone Mountain Elementary School. This is an ongoing celebration of the 125 years of service of the GFWC Georgia Federation of Women’s Clubs.



Barbara Luton, Principal Covington, Robbie Cole

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Smoke Rise Country Club Annual Meeting Highlights

By Susan Gilbert

How many communities have a 175-acre country club in their midst with an 18-hole golf course, eight-lighted tennis courts with a mix of clay and hard surfaces, a swim center with five-fabulous pools and spas, and an impressive clubhouse able to host events for a handful or for hundreds? Well, Smoke Rise does!

Management by the company Bobby Jones Links and leadership by 11 of your neighbors who serve as the Board of Directors has taken this sometimes-frail asset and has it functioning remarkably well and on an impressive trajectory of growth.

While we watch so many other clubs in our area, and across the country, fail and close, sold off for the value of the land for development to put in condos or townhouses, Smoke Rise can rest assured that this enormous swath of green space that is home to all sorts of wildlife is safe under the watchful eyes and caring hands of some pretty remarkable people, many of whom attended the Member Meeting.

This year's Annual Member Meeting confirmed the continued prog-

ress with the largest turnout in years. More than 60 owners and members packed the ballroom for an engaging presentation by the Board and the management company giving updates on everything from inspiring new member counts to exciting member successes. Here are some highlights:

GREAT NEWS

- Art Wood, who many know from his Tucker Main Street mortgage business and other philanthropic initiatives, will be taking over as our Chairman of the Board after a 2022 transition year where current Chairman, Geoff Weirich, who has served in this capacity for the past 12 years, will assist and support.
- Perhaps the best news of the day is the membership numbers topping 415 member families! The growth has been phenomenal and is key to the club's financial success. Dues are as low as \$99/month now for social members and in the \$300s for golf.
- Initiation fees are low now but will go up as the membership numbers support. It's a great time to

have Rylee Palmer, the Membership Director, give you a tour and show you all the reasons now is a terrific time to join. And if you prefer a video tour, check out the club's website where you'll find a movie created by members to share the wonders of the club.

- Tennis is exploding with the teams winning ALTA city titles, kids' programs being maxed out and new players coming on board with the Tennis 101 program.
- A movie, whose name can't yet be released, filmed scenes at the clubhouse and on the grounds. The movie will be released around the holidays. Stay tuned, and when we can announce its name, we will publish that so everyone can see our community featured in this way!
- A new executive chef is coming on board, which is always exciting to see what that will do to our menus and social events.
- After the COVID-inspired dry spell of weddings and events, they are back with a vengeance and our club events calendar is rapidly filling. Four weddings are scheduled over the next few months, and the busy holiday season is booking



up fast. Members and non-members can book events at the club, so don't be shy about scheduling your family reunion, graduation, wedding, birthday, anniversary, retirement, or other celebration at the club. It's close by, convenient, and you can't find a more accommodating and flexible facility to work with.

Closing the meeting on a high note, longtime member Rita Maloof gave a shout-out to our City of Tucker Mayor, Frank Auman, who has led us during the past five years from founding a new city to getting Tucker up and running and now settled in new headquarters in Lakeside Center. The City's progress in such a short period of

time is the envy of other communities. And, Frank's leadership in allowing some Tucker businesses, including the Country Club to remain in limited operation during the pandemic, kept the club and many other area businesses alive.

Great Job, Mayor Frank Auman, and the rest of the Tucker City Council! We owe you a huge debt of gratitude for your leadership during those tough times. Rita's announcement drew a huge round of applause that resonated around the ballroom and throughout the Clubhouse. We are in a good place, the lucky residents of the greatest place to live, Smoke Rise!

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Out the Window

by Beth Henson

The sultry, humid summer afternoon had kept me mostly indoors. Walking past my bedroom window, I paused to enjoy the abundance of Black-eyed Susans lolling along the toasty red brick walkway. A few purple cone flowers gave relief to the sea of yellow-gold. Peering through the panes, I couldn't help but hear the cadenced CHI-CHA, CHI CHA at a leisurely andante tempo. The much-anticipated Brood X cicadas had finally made their debut. For months, local newscasters had been in a frenzy predicting the 17-year, much anticipated event.

Cicadas are no strangers to us southerners. The three to five year variety are a regular occurrence. Their afternoon songs are part of the summer landscape and could reach an ear-piercing 90 decibels (the same as a lawn mower three feet away!) I had spent many a childhood summer, collecting their crispy shells expertly attached to the ratty pine trunks. On the other hand, the Class of 2021, Brood X, had somehow reached rock star status! Their long-awaited surfacing from the ground had been driven by their bodies reaching size and maturity. Unfortunately, when the time was right, they would quickly emerge, mate and three weeks later be gone. A quick demise. I had sadly noticed one of these beauties with his dark body, gossamer wings, and orbed red-orange eyes on my driveway a few days earlier, legs up.

We're glad to have you my deafening friend, just wish you could stay awhile.



by Beth Henson



Blowin' Smoke
By Rachel Caines

We've all seen the signs – bright yellow rectangle signs staked into the ground with abbreviations, short words, and sometimes even backwards short words. These little yellow signs are obvious and easy to read yet they rarely tell us drivers very much detail, and often fill our drives around town with curiosity and wonder – what's filming in Tucker? It turns out, LOTS of productions are getting to know the place we all love to call home! In this column, I look forward to helping curb your curiosity. I'll try to cover things like:

- What shows/movies/commercials are filming or have recently filmed nearby?
- Who is starring in them and producing them?
- Potential closures and traffic impacts.
- Economic impacts.

I'll work to uncover some of the production history of Tucker and Smoke Rise, such as Robin Williams' final movie, Burt Reynolds' "Home Base" and other little-known facts about our small town on the big screen.

Lastly, I'll explain how you can get in on the action: becoming an extra, the process of joining a production team, and how to register your vehicle or home for future filming opportunities.

Please send any questions, facts, leads, interview opportunities, or historical anecdotes to rachelgcaines@gmail.com with the subject "Blowin' Smoke."

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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

DRY EYE SYNDROME



I did not realize how important tears were to the health of my eyes until I developed dry eye syndrome. I always thought tears were just tears. Tears are responsible for washing foreign material off the surface of the eye and for lubricating and keeping the cornea healthy. They also aid with clear vision. Excess tears are drained from the eye surface through the tear ducts into the back of the nose. That is why you sniffle when you cry and can taste your tears. Blinking is an important function that spreads the tears across the eye surface. Tear quality is also important. Tears are composed of an oily layer, watery layer and mucous. A defect in any of the three layers will affect the surface of your eyes. Extreme dry eye can damage or scar the cornea.

Dry eye syndrome occurs when there are not enough tears produced, when the tears evaporate too quickly or when there is an imbalance in tear production and drainage. The quality of tears (balance between the oily and watery component) is important too. Dry eye is very common, especially in older adults. More than 70% of elderly adults have some degree of dry eye. Women are more likely than men to have dry eye due to hormonal changes of menopause, pregnancy and use of hormones.

Other reasons you are more likely to have dry eye:

- You wear contacts daily or you have had a Lasik eye procedure.
- You have one of these disease states: rheumatoid arthritis or other immune mediated arthritis, Sjogren’s syndrome, diabetes, or thyroid disease.
- You use one or more of the following medications: antihistamines or decongestants, blood pressure medicines and certain antidepressants.
- You live in an environment that is smoky (or you smoke), hot or dry, or have air blowing on your eye surface regularly.
- You stare without blinking: for instance spending long periods at computer screens without a break, or you have a neuromuscular disorder that prevents or slows blinking-like Parkinson’s Disease.
- Lastly, some people have inflammation of the surface of the eye/ lid or eyelashes that grow incorrectly and may curve towards the eye surface.

What can you do to help or prevent dry eye?

- Blink often or take “eye breaks” from your screen.
- Use a humidifier in your home or workspace.
- Check with your doctor to see if medications that may be drying your eye can be evaluated and adjusted.
- Use over-the-counter artificial tears or lubricant drops or ointment, preferably without preservatives.
- Wear wrap-around glasses or sunglasses to prevent wind from blowing around your glasses and into your eye.
- Avoid contacts and get your eye doctor’s advice prior to considering Lasik surgery.
- Avoid using a hair dryer.
- Avoid dry windy, smoky conditions and do not smoke.

What can an eye doctor do?

- They can tell you if you have an oil gland problem, eyelid or lash problem or drainage problem.
- They can recommend heat and massage treatments for your eyelids.
- They can place plugs in your tear ducts to maximize the time your tears are on the surface of your eyes.
- They can prescribe prescription drops to help your body make more tears.

If you think you have dry eye, start with the basics. Then see your eye doctor if your condition worsens.

Technology Can Backfire

By Joel Gilbert

Susan and I have learned the hard way that today’s technologies can get so smart that we no longer even know what they are doing. I remember when I flew sitting next to a pilot and I asked about how complex things were in the modern cockpits. He told me that he and his copilot often look at each other on long flights with autopilot asking each other: “What is it doing now? ...Why did it do that?” This of course reflects the interface to the weather forecasts to adjust the course for cross winds, etc.

Perhaps you have noticed that technology is creeping into everyday life. Traffic light cameras are almost everywhere that can automatically issue you a ticket for traffic violations. Self-driving cars and trucks (called autonomous vehicles) are no longer the realm of futurist predictions. I have one, but it freaks Susan out whenever I engage it to show how it works.

Online help is rapidly moving to “chat bot” models where the first round of questions you ask are managed using artificial intelligence, kind of like what happens when you talk to today’s smart speakers like Alexa. Most of us find these comfortable and acceptable, except that lately Alexa has been engaging me with follow up suggestions after I ask a question. This brings to mind some of the online spoofs where Alexa reminds the person they shouldn’t be buying that item, given their health status.

We are clearly moving into the realm of electronic assistants pervading our world. However, the cartoon above illustrates a key point: we really need to also educate people about what we are doing and what is going on.

A new supermarket opened near my house. It has an automatic water mister to keep the produce fresh. Just before it goes on, you hear the sound of distant thunder and the smell of fresh rain. When you approach the milk cases, you hear cows mooing and experience the scent of fresh hay. When you approach the egg case, you hear hens cluck and cackle, and the air is filled with the pleasing aroma of bacon and eggs frying. The veggie department features the smell of fresh buttered corn. I don't buy toilet paper there anymore.

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Items for USO – (l to r) Stone Mountain Woman's Club President Becky Sanders, Smoke Rise Residents: Jackie Cornett, Linda Smith, Nelda Lunsford

GHCC names Veronica Maldonado-Torres as New President and CEO
(Adapted from GHCC Press Release)

The Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GHCC) has named Atlanta business executive and Smoke Rise resident Veronica Maldonado-Torres as the new President and Chief Executive Officer of the 37-year-old organization.

Established in 1984, the GHCC is the largest Hispanic-serving chamber of commerce in the Southeast. As an advocate of the Hispanic business community for more than 37 years, the GHCC is the voice of Hispanic business across the state of Georgia, proudly serving a diverse membership of corporations and small businesses.

"I am grateful and humbled for the trust bestowed upon me to serve as the new President/CEO of the GHCC," said Maldonado-Torres. "I am excited about working with our board, professional staff, members, and partners to move the chamber to the next level. Together, we will reimagine the future of our Hispanic business community, ensuring long-term economic sustainability that drives opportunity, lifts the next generation of leaders, and builds a stronger, more resilient, prosperous, and inclusive Georgia."

Maldonado-Torres is a versatile and visionary Latina businesswoman, small business champion, supplier diversity advocate, business mentor, and community leader with more than 15 years of professional experience and success. She excels in building strategic alliances and fostering win-win relationships among diverse stakeholders. Maldonado-Torres is also a proud wife and mother; she and her family are long-time, active residents of the Smoke Rise and Tucker community.

Maldonado-Torres officially began her new role as President and CEO of GHCC in mid-June.

Congratulations and best of luck to our Smoke Rise neighbor and leader!



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Letter to DeKalb County Fire Chief from Smoke Rise resident, Frank Luton

I would like to share with you my positive experience that my wife and I had on Sunday night, June 14, 2021. Around 10:00 that evening, as my wife and I were heading upstairs to go to bed, she said that she was smelling a funny odor, like from something on fire. I told her to go on upstairs, and I would look around. Much to my chagrin, when I went out our back door and went around a screened-in back porch, I saw a “wall of fire” going up the house. We immediately got the garden hose and began spraying the fire. I realized almost immediately though that we were going to need help.

I called 911, and almost immediately, firemen from Station #5 in Tucker (on Lawrenceville Hwy.) were here and took over. I can’t express enough how absolutely fantastic they were. It was obvious that they were well-trained in firefighting, but they were also extremely calming and polite. Here we were, two seniors in our 70’s that had never experienced something of this before in our lives, and were “rattled” and “shook-up,” to say the least. While they went about their job, they handled the entire situation in a “gold-star” manner.

I wish I could recall their names, but that was not on my list of things to do. They stayed almost three hours and wouldn’t leave until they were absolutely sure it would not rekindle.

The fire was on the verge of coming into the interior of the house. If we had gone on to bed, there was certainly a good chance the house would have burned down and us with it.

Thanks again to those firefighters stationed at Station # 5!

Getting to the Root

By Smoke Rise Resident, Rachel Caines

When our 1960’s era Smoke Rise home found us in late Fall 2019, it wasn’t the spacious kitchen, the recently uncovered hardwoods, or the custom basement bar that reeled us in – it was the wild and heavily wooded lot that sealed the deal for us. Little did I know looking over the yard for the first time that I would soon be pulling endless ivy and uncovering little bits of my new home’s history.

Initially, I admit I was incredibly intimidated. I considered hiring a landscaping professional. I researched goats and sheep for clearing. But before I could take any action that first spring in Smoke Rise, I found myself working from home full time amidst a global pandemic. After one particularly stressful day of work, I went outside and simply started pulling. One strand at a time. First to create a walking path for our dogs. Then to relieve the trees closest to our house of the vines suffocating their stumps. Then to help our outdoor guests (the only guests we had in our first year in our new home!) avoid poison ivy. As I pulled at these tangled vines, unexpected things started to happen.



Katie Beagle, the Primm’s Granddaughter, in front of their handbuilt water fountain circa 1982.

First, I felt the weight of the pandemic lift from my shoulders and leave my back as I began replacing stress with strength. I soon realized, I was getting to the root of my problems with this simple but difficult activity. Though the progress was slow and unimpressive to others, it was obvious to me every time I stepped outside. Who knew ivy pulling could be so therapeutic!

As I continued pulling, I started to notice patterns with some of the beautiful rocks I discovered underneath the vines. These rocks formed meticulously stacked garden borders; they encircled trees, created walking paths, and even stamped out the property line. All hand-stacked with layer upon layer of natural rock!

In one of my first focused areas of pulling, I quickly started to see dormant bulbs spring back to life. I had uncovered actual flower beds! I learned that bulbs lay dormant under the ivy and my hard work was helping them see the sun again.

Naturally, I wondered about who stacked those rocks and planted those bulbs. I thought about how much time and love they must have put into making this property beautiful. I pondered what they planted and what else I might discover as I debated where to pull next.

Then the universe worked its magic as it does, and I was soon connected with the daughter of the original owners. She graduated from Tucker High School while living in this home in the 60’s and even hosted her wedding in this house. She cared for her parents here as they grew older. Her family maintained this property for more than 40 years before the ivy moved in.

This spring, I had the opportunity to walk the property with her. I learned about her father digging up the rocks himself to create the gardens, paths, and the water feature. I learned about the vegetable garden way out back (still to be uncovered). I learned that walking paths were intentionally



Harry Primm, the original owner, and his lawnmower in the back yard

designed to “feel as though you are walking through a park” and that the reason the daffodils are so randomly placed everywhere without rhyme or reason is because “that’s how Mom wanted them.” I had considered grouping them together in one place, but now I

know better. She shared stories of her own children growing up in the gardens, how her mom would swap out her perennials occasionally and replant the old stuff in a small section of the yard (the recently discovered bulb garden!), and she shared photos of the garden in its glory days.

While I wouldn’t exactly call this exercise of ivy pulling “instant gratification,” it is extremely satisfying to get to sit back and enjoy the progress. I have so much work to do, but I’m incredibly inspired by the images of what once was, and what could be. And yes, I’m still considering hiring those goats!



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NEWS YOU CAN USE by Aviva Hoffmann

The next General Election for the City of Tucker will be held November 2, 2021 for the purpose of electing the mayor and four members of our city council.

The Tucker City Council is comprised of a mayor and six council members elected by the people on a non-partisan ballot for four-year terms. Two council members are elected to represent each of Tucker's three districts, while the mayor is elected to represent the entire city. The mayor has a three consecutive term limit, while the council



has a two consecutive term limit each. Terms end at the beginning of January – usually before the first council meeting of the year begins.

The terms for council members from District 1 Post 1, District 2 Post 1 and District 3 Post 1, as well as for the mayor, are set to expire in January 2022, while terms for District 1 Post 2, District 2 Post 2 and District 3 Post 2 will expire in January 2024.

This year, a special election will be held, in conjunction with the city's general municipal election on November 2, 2021, to fill the vacancy in the office of City Council, District 1 Post 2, due to the death of William Rosenfeld. If you haven't already, check out the "Remembering Bill Rosenfeld" remarks from Mayor Frank Auman on the city's website at: https://www.tuckerga.gov/newsletter_page_T54_R567.php.

Candidates must file a notice of candidacy in the Office of City Clerk of Tucker August 16 - 19, 2021 between the hours 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., or Friday, August 20, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

To find out more about qualifying requirements, fees and other City of Tucker election information, visit the website, <https://www.tuckerga.gov/government/elections/index.php>.

Also, be sure to look for the Tucker Votes app! That's where you can enter your home address to find out which officials represent you. The information includes City Council, DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, State House and Senate, as well as the U.S. House of Representatives. Search for "Tucker Votes" in your favorite online search engine.

All candidates for the November 2, 2021 Special Election and the Municipal Election for the City of Tucker, who meet the qualifications of the Charter and Code of the City of Tucker, as well as applicable State Laws, may submit an article (up to 400 words) and a photo for possible publication in the Smoke Signal.

Please submit articles before August 13, 2021.

Dudes on Food

Episode 7 - Here and There

Right out of the gate, we have to say that this was not our typical Dudes on Food outing. This Friday evening, our quest to get a good bite to eat would lead all over town and take us into Saturday to finish up.

For a while now, we had been talking about hitting Blue Ribbon Grill. One of the dudes had never been, while the other remembers going there for Martini's, fried green beans, and Prime Rib. This eatery opened in 1985 and is under the new ownership of Jennifer and Eric Green since Feb 2021. The place just feels classic and local, and we were glad to see it so busy! Thinking it was their Prime Rib night we went. --- Well, it was Not..... The Prime Rib comes out to play on Saturday nights only. So, instead, we landed a spot at the bar and promptly ordered a couple of beers and the Blue Ribbon Chips. Homemade chips with melted blue cheese and crumbles. These are perfect in every way and a must-have.

Things not going according to plans, we opted to make the night a bit of a crawl, instead of staying for dinner (but we will be back for the Prime Rib soon). The new plot was to head into downtown Stone Mountain to the recently reopened "Weeyums Philly Style." There, we would snag a to go order, cross over to Outrun Brewing to enjoy a local brew, while digging into one of the best Philly Cheesesteaks in ATL. Or, so we thought. It would be an hour and half for a sandwich. Either these Sandwiches are so good that everyone in the Tucker/Stone Mountain area ordered at the same time, or they have some service-kinks to work out. Holding off on Weeyums, we discussed a new plan over a cold brew at the Outrun Brewing Company. The place is named after the popular 80's Sega Arcade game and is one of the area's latest additions to the local brewery scene. Tucked back in downtown Stone Mountain, this place, with its "choice" 80's vibe, brews a variety of small-batch creations with a personal spin on some classic brews. There is something for everyone, a sour, a hazy IPA, or pilsner. All to be enjoyed with plenty of outside seating, sometimes live music, and food trucks, making this a great local spot.

By now we had settled into a brewery state of mind, and the recently opened Blackbird Farms Brewery in Lilburn came up in conversation. So, we decided to head that way. It is situated directly off Lawrenceville Hwy in Lilburn. The second we walked in, we were thrilled. They have pinball machines!!! And great tasting beers with clever names like a hazy IPA called "Part Time Genius" and a Lager named "Kenny Lagers." We enjoyed talking to Matt, the Brewmeister, with a 20-year craft-beer career under his belt. Hearing a little bit of his story and passion made for a great first visit.

Now, we didn't forget about Weeyums. What we've heard about it often is a statement that goes something like this; "Weeyums. Oh! I've seen (or heard about) that place and always wanted to try." So, as dinnertime on Saturday rolled around, we were coming for Weeyums to get our Philly's on. We placed our orders plenty in advance and picked up the goods an hour later. When it comes to Cheesesteak, you're either a purist or you like it loaded. There's no sandwich judgment here. To each his\her own. The menu offers a wide variety of add-ons. The monster Philly they construct is well worth the wait. One could argue that one sandwich may be enough for two. The perfect hoagie roll, meat, sautéed onions, and cheese.... This Philly clearly sets the bar.

So, this was a little bit of a different installment for us. Thanks for hanging in there. If you have not tried any of these places, add them to your list. You will not be disappointed. Keep up with all of them on Facebook.

Blue Ribbon Grill- 4006 Lavista Rd Tucker, GA 30084
blueribbongrill.com

Outrun Brewing - 5368 E Mountain St, Stone Mountain, GA 30083
outrunbrewingco.com

Blackbird Farms Brewing - 4098 Lawrenceville Hwy. Lilburn, GA 30047
blackbirdfarmsbrewery.com

Weeyums Philly Style - 900 Main St | Stone Mountain, GA 30083
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Thanks for tuning in.
The Food Dudes

Have an idea or a suggestion for the dudes? We would love to hear from you. Send comments to staff@smokesignalnews.com.

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techtalk

by Susan Gilbert

Slugging it Out

I couldn't figure out what was eating holes in the leaves of many of my plants leaving them looking sickly. There were no visible pests crawling around on them that I could see. Fortunately, I have an app on my phone that will not only identify plants, it also diagnoses what's wrong with them. The app is called "Picture This," and I have written about it in previous columns. I feel it is well worth its \$30.00 annual fee just to tell the desirable plants from the weeds. (There are free versions, but they are not as user friendly or as fun to use.) But, this one has another value proposition beyond plant recognition: it figures out what pests or situations are plaguing your plants, what nutrients they might need, and if they are getting too much or too little sun or water. It took only a couple of photographs of the damaged leaves for Picture This to conclude slugs were making a meal of my plants. But it didn't stop there. It also recommended a simple remedy.



You just put a small container on the ground near where they are causing damage and fill it with a little beer. Think of it as suds for slugs. The brand of beer doesn't seem to matter, and old stale beer works just as well. Apparently slugs and snails love beer and will travel a good distance to get it. In just 30 minutes, when I checked on my trap, there were several slugs gleefully slithering down the walls of the container to their drunken death by drowning.



The next morning, the cup was full to the top with slimy dead slugs and snails. Move the container to various locations around your garden every few days to clear them out. I found after four days, the number of dead bodies dropped to just a few. So, there you have it. If you see holes appearing on the leaves of your garden plants, give this a try. Protecting our plant with Suds for Slugs!

Morning Glories Count the Pollinators!

By Quill Duncan

For the past several years, UGA has sponsored a state-wide two day census of Pollinators known as the "Great Pollinator Count." This year's count will be August 20 and 21. This citizen science project asks participants to count all the insects that land on a favorite pollinator plant for 15 minutes. Just do it on one of those two days, and report your count on the website. These are the insects that are typically seen during the count: carpenter bees, bumble bees, honey bees, small bees, wasps, flies, butterflies/moths and other insects.

The website <https://ggapc.org> has the form and all the information. Take the time to do it and bring a friend or a child to help you count. It is fun. Usually, you will have the most insect activity midday on a sunny day. Smoke Rise Morning Glories have participated since the inception of this count, and it is publicized with school STEM programs and Garden Club of GA and many other environmental groups across the state. Happy Counting!



And speaking of moths, have you ever heard of the Black Witch Moth?

Its scientific name is *Ascalapha Oderata*, and it is a nocturnal moth. In fact, it is the largest moth in the continental United States with a wingspan of six feet. It resembles the bat and has very striking coloration with two "eyes" on the lower wings. In Central America and the Caribbean, there is folklore that details that seeing one of these striking moths is associated with death or misfortune. Last month at midday, one flew into our carport and then to our covered entryway. It was a very dark stormy day, and it probably confused the moth who must have thought it was night. He did not stay long but certainly made an impression! And happily, the folklore did not come true.

Though we are not asked to count birds in this year's count, birds are pollinators. Hummingbirds contribute to the distribution of pollen from plant to plant just as bees do. Bats are pollinators. Wind is a pollinator and even rain distributes pollen. It is important to study and try to understand all the inter-related actions in our natural world.

And while you are counting, take the time to observe how the honey bee worker places the pollen into pollen sacs located near their back legs. If she has collected a lot of pollen, it is easy to see the bright yellow pollen sacs as she lands to harvest more golden pollen. It is almost like she is filling her pockets with gold! And by the way, the honey bee is not a native bee, as settlers brought the honey bee to North America in the 17th century to pollinate crops and produce honey.

Next month, the Morning Glories will be back meeting in person, and we would like to invite you to attend our meeting. Contact President Joyce Ray at joycemray126@gmail.com for details.

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Amen, Let's Eat Figs!

by Joyce Ray

Within a few weeks of this paper hitting your front yard, all the fig trees across our state will be laden with fresh, ripe, yummy figs. Whether you like to eat them right off the tree or chilled for a few hours, the sweet, sticky goodness of figs and the profound beauty of the fruit is one of the best gifts of summer. Of course, fig preserves are a great way to make sure you can enjoy this luscious fruit year-round. Figs can be cooked many ways, including grilled or sliced and marinated for salads. You can stuff them with cheese (feta is nice) and wrap with bacon to brown in the oven, until bacon is crisp, and serve as an appetizer. Fresh figs can be frozen by laying them on parchment paper on a baking sheet then packing them in bags, once they are frozen hard. Thaw before using them in recipes.

The fig for thousands of years has been known as the symbol of abundance, fertility, and sweetness. One ancient scholar, Pliny The Elder, wrote in 25 AD: This fruit invigorates the young, improves the health of the aged and retards the formation of wrinkles. (I suspect old Pliny must have owned a fig orchard and this was his sales pitch!). Imagine if Eve had stuck with the figs and left that apple alone!

Now bring us some Figgy pudding! The word fig and the word plum in England were synonymous with dried fruit. Figgy Pudding could have been made with any other fruit that could be preserved by drying. We wish you a Merry Christmas would not be as festive if the second verse demanded, "Now bring us sultana pudding"! The pudding was like a small cake or cupcake baked with dried fruit and nuts.

I have located a Figgy Pudding recipe that I think fits nicely with what we would expect from that dessert on our southern tables like banana pudding or peach cobbler.

Figgy Pudding

1 stick softened butter, 2 eggs, 1/2 cup molasses or honey, 1/2 cup sugar, 3 cups fresh or frozen figs, chopped. Frozen figs should be thawed.

1 tsp orange zest, 3/4 cup buttermilk

2 cups all-purpose flour, 1/2 tsp baking soda, 2 tsps. baking powder, 1 tsp salt, 1 tsp ground cinnamon, 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg

1 cup fresh figs halved for garnish, 1/2 cup walnuts for garnish (optional).

Preheat oven to 325°. Finely chop fresh or frozen thawed figs. Grease and flour a 9x13 inch baking pan. In large bowl with electric mixer, beat the butter, eggs, molasses, and sugar until creamy. Add the chopped figs, orange zest and buttermilk. Mix thoroughly. In separate bowl, mix dry ingredients. Add dry ingredients to wet, mixing well until everything is incorporated. Pour batter into prepared dish and spread evenly. Press halved figs into batter, seed side up. Sprinkle with walnuts. Bake 50-60 minutes until golden brown and toothpick comes out clean. Spoon pudding onto plates and serve with whipped cream.

Fresh Fig Muffins with Lemon Glaze

1/2 cup cooking oil, 3 eggs, 1 1/2 cups sugar, 1 teaspoon. Vanilla, 1 cup buttermilk

2 cups all-purpose flour, 1 tsp. baking soda, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, 1 teasp. nutmeg, 1 cup chopped fresh figs, 1 cup chopped pecans.

Mix oil, eggs, sugar, figs, and vanilla and stir until well-blended. Combine dry ingredients with spices.

Add dry ingredients to fig mixture, alternating with buttermilk. Fold in pecans. Fill paper muffin cups with batter. Bake at 350° until muffins are firm to touch – approx. 20 minutes.

Glaze: Mix 1 Tablespoon melted butter and 3 Tablespoons lemon juice. Stir in powdered sugar until slightly thick but still pouring consistency. Brush or pour on hot muffins. Allow to sit for at least one hour for glaze to seep down into muffin.

Now, for the final act... Fig Preserves.

The all-time best fresh fig preserves are made the way your mama or grandmama made them. The recipes do not differ as much in the ingredients as in the process. Here is the way my mother made them, and mine always turn out great.

Fig Preserves

Wash and stem 9 cups unpeeled figs. You can slice in half or leave whole. 6 1/2 cups granulated sugar, 2 lemons, sliced thin, seeds removed. Put figs in large stainless steel or enamel pot, Pour sugar over figs and let sit overnight. Place pot over medium heat. Cook mixture until sugar is completely dissolved, stirring constantly. Reduce heat to low, add lemon slices, cover, and cook for 2-3 hours, stirring occasionally until figs are transparent, and syrup is thick. Candy thermometer should read 225°. Immediately pack hot preserves into canning jars and process in water bath. Note: Many people find this too sweet, so sugar can be cut to 4 cups, but syrup might be thinner. The lemon juice adds pectin, and the candied peel looks pretty in the jars. Make sure the jar lids have sealed. Any that have not sealed should be refrigerated and used first.

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.

Classified Ads

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HANDYMAN INC.

has over 225 clients in the SR community. Providing all your "homework" needs. Logan Carlisle, owner and Handyman@770-235-3684.

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Mowing, edging, pruning, trimming, etc. Reasonable, dependable, insured. Call Mark at 404-697-7426.

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