

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 49, ISSUE 3

Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968

June, 2016

www.smokesignalnews.com

Papa Grandpa Papaw Daddy POP
Happy Father's Day from the staff of the Smoke Signal!
 Father DAD Padre

The Future of Smoke Rise Elementary

by Kimberly Sizemore

On May 11, 2016, local officials of the DeKalb School Board met with the Smoke Rise community to discuss the future of Smoke Rise Elementary (SRE). Plans to tear down and rebuild a new 600-seat school on its current site have been tabled in light of information pertaining mainly to the septic system.

Mr. Alan Armstrong, chairperson for the Global Committee, communicated clearly that they would not be able to rebuild on the current site due to unforeseen issues. "We are committed to having it in this community, but unfortunately we will not be on this site where we have been for the last 50 years. Unfortunately the soil and the rebuild just will not support that," he said.

The school has run into some cost-prohibitive issues, which does not make a rebuild on that site currently feasible. Steve Green, DeKalb Superintendent and Smoke Rise neighbor, was very apologetic that they did not realize until late in the process that the septic issue would pose such a significant problem. In order to put a new sewer infrastructure in place, it would take nine years and 2.5 million dollars. They are constitutionally restricted from using school funds for this. Even more important than the money, is that a new septic system would take up valuable property and would hinder the future school from having desired playing fields and other potential use in that space.

The only alternative is to rebuild on a different site. Currently prospective sites are being considered in three target areas – Smoke Rise, in the Smoke Rise district and attendance area, and outside of the current attendance area, but within the City of Tucker. The problem with rebuilding inside of Smoke Rise is that no property is currently served by sewer, which will require 5-10 acres more than is otherwise needed. If the county finds property that is already connected to septic, they will only need 10-15 total acres.

Multiple members of the board reiterated that the initial goal is to keep the school within Smoke Rise or in its current attendance area. If the school moves outside of the area, but still within the City of Tucker, the county could be looking at redistricting all local schools.

This project could realistically take as long as 22 months to determine a site, using specific criteria, and as long as 24 months to complete after that, putting the projected completion date at as late as March, 2020. In the meantime, students will stay at Smoke Rise Elementary and they will use their budget to complete necessary maintenance items to make the school a viable option until the new completion. Certain maintenance items, which had been previously put off with the expectation of a tear down and rebuild, will now be taken care of as students continue to use that facility for a possible four more years.

Concerned community members asked a multitude of questions, including what happens to the current school building. A host of possibilities were presented, included selling the property (although septic problems will be an issue for anyone using the facility), tearing it down or possibly talking to the City of Tucker for using it as park/green space. All of these were just hypothetical possibilities, but the school board assured the community it would not be left as an uninhabitable space.

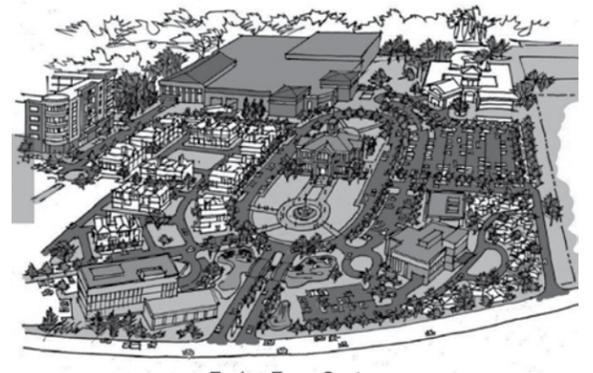
Steve Green made sure to voice his commitment to the project. "I am committed to Smoke Rise Elementary, even if we cannot proceed as planned. Nothing will happen to those dollars until a rebuild happens, somewhere in Tucker, hopefully in this community. I am committed to this project and we will take this journey together," he said.

The community was encouraged to get involved and provide feedback and dialogue. A series of meetings will continue over the course of this year, with September and December 2016 meetings already scheduled. At each meeting, they will provide status updates on the site selection, as well as the deferred maintenance items at the current school site.

The presentation was promised to be made available to the public, through SRE Principal, Pamela McCloud. If you would like more information, contact SRE at 678.874.5602 or contact Mrs. McCloud directly at pamela_a_mccloud@dekalbschools.org.

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Answer Your Door from Anywhere	pg 10



Tucker Town Center

Courtesy of the Atlanta Business Chronical

SRCA NEWS – Sears Development

On April 26th, representatives from Macauley Development and Jerry Silvio & Associates unveiled a redevelopment plan for the 90 +/- acre Sears property at the corner of Hugh Howell Road and Mountain Industrial Boulevard. This is very much a preliminary plan with a lot of moving parts. SRCA is pleased to pass on what we know to date...

Components of the Plan:

Anchoring the current plan is a large post-production film and television studio with screening rooms. Yes, there is a current proliferation of sound stages in the metro Atlanta area, but none of these are devoted to the lucrative post production market. This would be the first of its kind on the east coast.

There is housing for all age groups from millennial rentals to active adult patio homes, child & adult day care with all-age playgrounds, amphitheater, office space, retail & restaurants, grocery, green space with walking trails with possible connection into Smoke Rise proper, urban garden, and townhouses reminiscent of the Royal Crescent in Bath, England. Parking will be situated in the center of the building squares and therefore hidden from view.

Keep in mind that this is the conceptual phase and the project has undergone changes based on input from neighbors and community leaders and will most likely continue to be modified.

SRCA will continue to update our members on the latest news. We are, of course, interested in the impact, both positive and negative, this will cause for our community. We are monitoring any proposed changes, traffic patterns/increased usage, proposed retail/restaurant tenants, and the latest news to keep Smoke Rise up to date and in the loop. Updates are also posted on our Smoke Rise, Georgia 30087 Facebook page. You can email SmokeRiseENews@gmail.com to be included on our Facebook page or to be added to the distribution list for this newsletter.

...Continued on page 2



Smoke Signal

P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085

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

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Views and/or opinions expressed in articles, stories or letters published in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the Smoke Signal or its staff. The information contained in it is believed to be accurate, but not warranted in any way. It is the policy of the Smoke Signal to publish signed letters to the Editor. We will not publish unsigned letters, but will withhold the writer's name upon request. All content may be edited.

June Calendar of Events

- 1 Smoke Signal staff meeting at Susan Gilbert's, 9:30 a.m.
- 4 2016 Smoke Rise Baptist Car Show
5901 Hugh Howell Road, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 4 Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club (SRBRC) Open House BBQ and Music Festival, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., 2046 Glacier Drive
- 4 Songs on Smoke Rise at SRBRC, Sam Lewis Concert 6-9 p.m.
- 4 Hug Your Cat Day
- 6 D-DAY – The end World War II in Europe 72 years ago.
- 13 Mountain Shadow Garden Club, Founders Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road
- 14 Flag Day – Fly your flag!!
- 16 Tucker Arts Guild, The Custom Frame Shop, 7 p.m.
- 19 FATHER'S DAY
- 24 Take Your Dog to Work Day
- 25 2nd Annual Smoke Rise BBQ Cook-Off, hosted by SRBRC
12 noon till 9 p.m.

Smoke Signal Deadlines

JUNE 13

Please e-mail articles to:

smoke-signal@earthlink.net

(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 box at
5365 Smoke Rise Drive

Deadline for classified ads is JUNE 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!



SRCA...

continued from page 1

Help keep Smoke Rise thriving - become a member today or be sure to renew your 2016 membership. Just \$35 per household per year. Mail your check, along with your name, email & street address, and phone to SRCA, Box 870793, Smoke Rise, GA 30087. Our association is led by an all-volunteer Board and your modest dues payment goes 100% to promoting and representing our community at large.

Community Group Sponsors Writing Contest

The annual General Foundation of Women's Club (GFWC) Writing Contest is an opportunity for GFWC members and youth in their community to express themselves through experiential writing.

Smoke Rise Elementary School students participated in a rigorous writing contest in the genres of short story and poetry. They were ceremoniously victorious! In fact, two students received 1st place. Congratulations to Shreya Sehgal (2nd grade) and Bayden Patel (5th grade). Both were recognized at the GFWC convention in April. They received a monetary award, certificate, and an entry into the upcoming GFWC publication! Another noteworthy accomplishment of Shreya Sehgal is that she won 1st place for the 4th District overall.

We would like to recognize all SRES participants. All participants will be given a certificate on Honors Day by our community partners, Miriam Boone & Nelda Lunsford, Co-chairmen Art Committee SMWC.

The other students who submitted literary works are: Amanda Philpot, Kayla Armstrong, Arjun Sehgal, Steven Pritchett

SRES thanks everyone who participated in this academically enriching program. Contact Mrs. Ali with any questions regarding the program at 678-874-3602.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

Sundays:
 9:00 a.m. Worship in the Chapel
 9:45 a.m. Sunday school
 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

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

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

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

Mount Carmel Christian Church

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

Sundays:
 8:30 a.m. Coffee/ Doughnuts/ Fellowship
 9:30 a.m. Bible School Classes – Adults & Children
 10:30 a.m. Worship

First Moravian Church

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

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

Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

Mountain West Church

Pastor: Michael Shreve
 Telephone (770) 491-0228
www.mountainwestchurch.com
 4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain
 Service Times 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.



FREE NEIGHBORHOOD PET LOST AND FOUND

Please call Kay McKenzie at (770) 491-6784 if you have lost or found a pet.

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.



Youth Performance Companies and Arts Camps

ART Station is proud to present its award winning summer arts camp and performance company programs running June 6 through July 29.

The performance program for youth runs from June 6 -17. This professional two-week program for ages 7-13 introduces campers to the theatre production and performance process. Daily drama classes and rehearsals utilize improvisation, theatre games, singing, dancing, poetry and visual arts. The session culminates with an original show, created and performed by the campers on Friday, June 17.

The weekly sessions of Arts Camp run June 20 – July 22 (no camp week of July 4th). The mission of ART Station Summer Arts Camp is to involve the campers age 5-13 in a variety of artistic activities in the performing, literary, and visual arts, allowing the students to explore their creativity in a fun, safe, and nurturing environment.

Again this year is the Teen Performance Company running July 25 – 29.

For brochures about ART Station summer arts programs call 770-469-1105, or visit the ART Station web site at www.artstation.org to download application and registration forms.

Get in the spirit of the 2016 XXXI Summer OLYMPIC GAMES

Mountain Creek Swim Club's summer calendar is packed with fun-filled activities:

- Light up your Friday evenings by enjoying family time after a busy week. The pool is open until 10 p.m. on Fridays
- Sunday afternoon FUN AND GAMES continue this year. Every Sunday at 3 p.m. there is a kid-friendly activity.
- Roast marshmallows and enjoy the starry night at a family campout.
- Wacky Olympic Games!
- Tasty treats from our young entrepreneurs!
- Food Trucks – need we say more?
- Water Aerobics 3 times a week: Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays - 11 a.m. Starting Saturday, June 18th - FREE to members – Guests welcome for \$5 per session.



Mountain Creek Swim Club is a hidden gem in the Smoke Rise Community where we have certified lifeguards every day from opening to closing, competition grade diving board, and a filtered baby pool.

Enjoy membership in Mountain Creek Swim Club! The pool is the jewel of Smoke Rise . . . hidden away in a beautiful setting with a large adjacent parking lot.

For your convenience, we offer payment via credit card. Please send an email to joekowalew@comcast.net. We send you an electronic invoice for secure processing of your credit card information.

Please make checks payable to: Mountain Creek Association
Mail to: 2092 Mountain Creek Court, Stone Mountain, GA 30087

For additional membership information: mountaincreekswimclub@gmail.com
Please call Marsha Ashby at (770) 908-9272 to join the fun!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 5—JUNE 10 * 6:00 PM—8:45 PM
MOUNT CARMEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
STONE MOUNTAIN, GA
AGES 3 YEARS THRU 5TH GRADE
FREE!
 Register online at www.mountcarmelcc.org or at MCCC
 VBS t shirts \$12. Deadline to order is May 1st
 *Online Registration does not allow for t shirt ordering
 Have questions? Call 770-279-8437

6015 Old Stone Mountain Rd. Stone Mtn, GA 30087

REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY!
 SEE BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION
 OR STOP BY THE OFFICE
 OR CALL 770.469.5856

Smoke Rise Baptist Church Presents: Cave Quest - Vacation Bible School
 July 11th - 14th
 9:30 am - 11:30 am
 5901 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30078
 All children ages 3 (must be potty trained) through 5th grade are invited to join us
 for this fun and exciting week of Vacation Bible School.
 Register online at smokerisebaptist.org/ministries/children/vbs/

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 Stone Mountain, GA 30083
 770 469 8551
www.stmichael.cc/

Everyone is welcome!

Join us on Sundays at 8 am
 or 10:30 am

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There are some questions the internet just can't answer!

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www.smokeriseagents.com



**2ND ANNUAL SMOKE RISE
BBQ COOK OFF** JUN 25
HOSTED BY THE
SMOKE RISE BATH & RACQUET CLUB

Don't miss the 2nd annual Smoke Rise BBQ Cook Off. Hosted by the SRBRC

Watch Smoke Rise neighborhood Pit Masters compete for bragging rights. Judge their skill and expertise and vote for your favorite. Inaugurate the 2016 Smoke Rise BBQ King!

- Saturday June 25, 2016, event starts at noon. Judging begins at 2 p.m.
- Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club, 2046 Glacier Drive
- Pool open to members and non-members at no charge
- Tickets to sample and judge competitors are \$5
- Live musical entertainment

Want to compete? Go to SRBRC.org for complete rules and entry information. Or call 770-493-9073.

The event is open to everyone - members and non-members. Enjoy a free pool party or buy a ticket to judge the neighborhood pit-masters' skill and talents, and crown the Smoke Rise BBQ king of 2016.



Saturday, June 4
(Rain Date June 11)

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

5901 Hugh Howell Rd.
Stone Mountain, GA

No Entry
or Spectator Fees

For information, call
Joel Price at
770-845-7609



www.smokerisebaptist.org/arts
artsacademy@smokerisebaptist.org
678-533-0562

SUMMER 2016

DANCE: June 1 – July 28 (8 classes) no class July 4-8

Pre-Tap/Ballet: ages 3-5 • Thurs. 10:30-11:15

Fun Jazz: ages 8 -11 • Thurs. 3:00-3:45

Young Jazz: ages 5-7 • Thurs. 4:00-4:30

Fun Jazz 2: ages 12 + • Thurs. 5:30 -6:15

Young Tap / Ballet: ages 5-7 • Thurs. 4:30-5:30

Adult stretch/ Jazz / Lyrical • Wed. 9:00-10:00

DRAMA

ACT ONE Pre-school drama class ages 4-5

Intro to stage acting through re-creation of fun childhood stories

Tuesdays and Fridays 3:30-4:30pm

June 3-28 (8 classes)

SUMMER DRAMA for school age – weekly classes start May 2 with productions in August and September

MUSIC

MUSIKGARTEN • Family Music: Pre-School child/Parent

Tues. / Thurs. 9:30-10:15 June 7-30 (8 classes)

INTRO TO MUSIC MAKERS AT THE KEYBOARD

ages 5-6 • Thurs. June 2-30 (5 classes)

MusikGarten curriculum

IMPROV and INTRO to the BLUES (piano):

Inter. Level 3 method books

Wed. June 1 – 29 (5 classes)

TWINKLER VIOLIN class for ages 4-5

Wed. July 6-27 (4 classes)

MUSIC LESSONS • piano, voice, violin, flute, drums, guitar and trumpet for all ages/professional instructors/ year round

ART

OIL PAINTING for adults

Wednesdays 9:30-2:00 / new 6 week session starts June 1

VISUAL ART for school ages –TBA

students learn techniques of artistry

Class information and registration:

www.smokerisebaptist.org/arts

Summer Fun at Stone Mountain Park

Reptiles and Amphibians of GA: Live Animal Talks

3 p.m., Fridays in June and July

Meet at Confederate Hall

Join the SMMA education staff on Fridays in June and July at 3 p.m. for a glimpse into the world of reptiles and amphibians in Georgia. Live animals include salamanders, frogs, turtles, and snakes!

Free program and registration is not needed. All ages are welcome. A supervising adult must accompany children at all times. Meet in the Confederate Hall lobby. You must pay the Park entrance fee or have a yearly parking sticker.

Summer Hiking Challenge

Now that you've conquered the Walk-Up Trail and the Cherokee Trail, find out what other trails the Park has to offer. Scout out King's Trail or Muscogee Trail. Find out what you can learn in the Songbird Habitat or on the Nature Garden Trail. Win fun souvenirs for your efforts. Visit Confederate Hall for more details!

Songs on Smoke Rise & SRBRC welcomes back

Sam Lewis

Saturday June 4 | 6:30 PM | SRBRC 2046 Glacier DR.



Bring a chair and your favorite beverage and enjoy the summer evening with Sam Lewis's soulful mix of Americana and country themes that will be the perfect end to a great day. **FREE FOR EVERYONE!**

Check him out at samlewis.com



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Smoke Rise Country Club Summer Camp

MULTI SPORTS CAMPS

<p>Camp Dates June 7-10 June 28-July 1 July 26-29</p>	<p>Daily Camp Schedule Tennis 9:00 am—10:30 am Golf 10:30 am—12:00 pm Lunch 12:00 pm—1:00 pm Arts and Crafts 1:00 pm—2:00 pm Games 2:00 pm—3:00 pm Swim 3:00 pm—4:00 pm</p>	 
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Half Day camps also available from 9 am-1 pm																	
<table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="2">Fees:</th></tr> <tr><td>Full Day:</td><td>Member \$245 Non-Member \$285</td></tr> <tr><td>Half Day:</td><td>Member \$140 Non-Member \$160</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Drop in Rates available</td></tr> </table>	Fees:		Full Day:	Member \$245 Non-Member \$285	Half Day:	Member \$140 Non-Member \$160	Drop in Rates available		<table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="2">Fees:</th></tr> <tr><td>Full Day:</td><td>Member \$245 Non-Member \$285</td></tr> <tr><td>Half Day:</td><td>Member \$140 Non-Member \$160</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Drop in Rates available</td></tr> </table>	Fees:		Full Day:	Member \$245 Non-Member \$285	Half Day:	Member \$140 Non-Member \$160	Drop in Rates available	
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TENNIS ■ GOLF ■ SWIM ■ ARTS & CRAFTS ■

<p>JUNIOR TENNIS CAMPS Daily Camp Schedule 9:30 am-11:30 am Tennis Training 11:30 am—12:00 pm Free Swim Contact Jim at jrichards@smokerisecc.com</p> <p>Camp Dates June 14-17 July 12-15 August 2-5</p>  <table border="1" style="margin-top: 5px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">Fees Tennis:</th></tr> <tr><td>Member</td><td>Non-Member</td></tr> <tr><td>Half Day: \$100</td><td>\$120</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Drop in rates available</td></tr> </table>	Fees Tennis:		Member	Non-Member	Half Day: \$100	\$120	Drop in rates available		<p>JUNIOR GOLF CAMPS Daily Camp Schedule 9:30 am-11:30 am Golf Training 11:30 am—12:00 pm Free Swim Contact Ben at BDeese@smokerisecc.com</p> <p>Camp Dates May 31-June 3 June 21-24 July 19-22</p>  <table border="1" style="margin-top: 5px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">Fees Golf:</th></tr> <tr><td>Member</td><td>Non-Member</td></tr> <tr><td>Half Day: \$100</td><td>\$120</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Drop in rates available</td></tr> </table>	Fees Golf:		Member	Non-Member	Half Day: \$100	\$120	Drop in rates available	
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TUCKER HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL CAMP

The Tucker High School Volleyball Camp is held to provide girls and boys the opportunity to work with and to learn from the coaches and players from our Volleyball Program. We will provide a day-camp atmosphere designed to provide a positive educational experience. Our primary goal will be to teach basic fundamental volleyball skills. Other daily activities will include small sided games and skill contests. For more information call 678-874-3774 or 678-520-9511.

CAMP SESSION: June 27th-July 1st
 CAMP HOURS: 9:00am-12:00pm
 (Camp will held at Tucker High School)
 CAMP COST: \$50.00 (camp t-shirt)
 CAMPER AGE: Students entering 4th – 9th grades.

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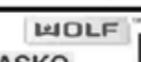
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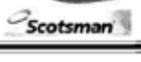
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Kitchen Appliances • Serving Smoke Rise For Over 40 Years • Free Estimates • Fast, Professional Delivery and Installation • Factory Authorized Service • Great selection Of Energy Efficient, Innovative Products
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 Phone (770) 979-1077 Fax (770) 979-1844
 Website: www.bobbaileys.com












Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club

The wait is over. The Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club's Pool is back for the 2016 Season. Enjoy a summer packed with activities.

The fun will start with a huge open house BBQ and Music Festival on June 4th. Come meet your friends and neighbors, listen to live Blue Grass Music throughout the afternoon, have a plate of awesome BBQ, cool off in the pool and take home some great raffle prizes.

End the day listening to a special concert by Nashville recording artist Sam Lewis, and enjoy his soulful mix of Americana and Country themes.

On June 25, SRBRC will host the 2nd annual Smoke Rise BBQ Cook Off. Come have fun at the pool party or buy a ticket to judge the neighborhood pit-masters' skill and talents, and crown the Smoke Rise BBQ king of 2016. This event is also open to everyone, members and nonmembers.

If you are interested in competing, go to the website SRBRC.org or call 770 493 9073.

Look forward to many other fun events this season; including the Low Country Shrimp Boil, thrilling Dive-In Movies, fun Kids Campouts, sweet Ice Cream Socials, entertaining Evening Mixers, Open Grills, Brazil Night, Round Robins, The 2-day Pig Roast Extravaganza and more.

If you're not a member yet, give the SRBRC a try. There is NO swim and tennis community in the neighborhood that offers more summer fun for the whole family. You'll find certified life guards seven days a week, diving board, toddler pool, roped-off swim lane, party gazebo, four tournament-ready tennis courts (with lights), basketball area, music, Wi-Fi, concessions and more.

Additionally, this year, the SRBRC is a mosquito-free environment. The club is partnering with Crocodile Dave's Pest Control all season long.

Check out the flyer in this edition of the Smoke Signal, and get in on the summer fun. Or, go to SRBRC.org and sign up right on the website, download a membership form and mail it in.

If you're in a hurry to jump in, bring your form and payment to the pool. Look for an SRBRC board member to collect them.

"Like" SRBRC on Facebook, and connect with fun summer events for the whole family.



Upcoming Events at the Tucker Library

5234 LaVista Road
770.270.8234

Tuesday, June 7 Job Search Techniques.

Learn how to conduct an effective job search. Presented by Jewish Family and Career Services. Registration is required and begins June 1. Open to first 15 participants. 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 14 Resume Development.

Learn how to create a resume that can be tailored to fit any job for which you apply. Presented by Jewish Family and Career Services. Registration is required and begins June 1. Open to first 15 participants. 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Monday, June 27 The Fruitification of Tucker.

Mike Fillon, Master Gardener and founder of the Friends of Tucker Parks' Orchard Guild, plans to plant at least 1,000 fruit trees in the city of Tucker. He'll discuss that plan, and what fruit trees grow best in Georgia. 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 28 Interviewing Skills.

Learn techniques to prepare you to ace your job interview. Presented by Jewish Family and Career Services. Registration is required and begins June 1. Open to first 15 participants. 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Please call or visit branch to register for these events.



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Kingfisher Academy Field Trip

Kingfisher is a small private nonprofit elementary school located in Tucker, Georgia, with a diverse student body. We serve the Tucker area by providing a place-based, project-oriented curriculum, targeting gifted students from ages 5 to 12 years of age. One of our beliefs is using an environmental lens to view all subject matter. We love our community and believe that it provides our school with rich learning opportunities nearby.

A great feature about Kingfisher Academy is that our students participate in environmentally focused field trips. One of our most recent field trips was at the Wylde Center. The Wylde Center is located at the corner of Oakview Road in Decatur. Our students have been studying sustainability and Earth's Energy of Life. During this field trip, we focused on composting. Some of the big questions we had before arriving at the Wylde Center included: What is compost? How can humans mimic the earth's composting? What are the five essential ingredients for composting? What are the differences between physical and chemical components of composting? Why do we compost? How does it help the earth?

We also toured the gardens. One of the gardeners, who had a community plot, allowed us to taste the chocolate mint. It was yummy! Later, we walked all around the plots, trying to identify the tasty things growing there.



By crossing Oak Creek, we visited a giant hollow tree and joined other student artists. We then wove plant material into a giant living tapestry.

We saw and heard hundreds of birds, including the various chickens in the large chicken coop. Our students previously studied the Food Chain/Web, so we discussed the predators for domestic chickens. We noticed that the wire cage completely enclosed the chickens, above and on the sides. We then concluded our trip by touring the path leading to the Cobb House structure before heading out to plant a tree in nearby Decatur.

Our students and teachers had a great time learning about gardening, composting, and the wild life that surrounds us all. If you have any questions about our field trip or about Kingfisher Academy, please visit our website at www.kingfisheracademy.org.

GRADUATES

CHELSEA RENEE FEAGLE

Jim and Karen Feagle of Mountain Creek are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter, Chelsea Renee Feagle, from the University of Georgia. On May 13th, Chelsea graduated magna cum laude with a double major in English and Classical Culture.



During her undergraduate career, Chelsea earned several departmental honors, including the prestigious David L. Thompson Scholarship for Studies Abroad in Classics. As a senior, Chelsea was also nominated President of the Classics Honor Society and was inducted into both the Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies as well.

Following graduation, Chelsea plans to take a gap year to write, work, travel and volunteer before attending law school in the fall of 2017.



Top Honors Awarded to SRES

Congratulations to Ms. Drescher, Ms. Garnett, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Lalana, Mrs. Marrow, and Mrs. Watts for making Smoke Rise Elementary School the Reflex Math School of the Year in DeKalb County School District!!! These teachers were honored in a ceremony on Tuesday, May 3, 2016. We are so proud of you for making SRES the top elementary school in the district!

Smoke Rise Elementary Summer Registration for New Students Only will be held June 7 - July 21 on Tuesdays and Thursdays only from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Please call the school at 678-874-3602 prior to your registration visit.



Tucker High School band and orchestra seniors were awarded over \$2,660,000 in scholarships. The school band and orchestra students are pictured above with Director, Nina Pryor.



GRIFFIN BOVEN

Griffin Pieter Boven, son of Pete and René Boven of Millstone, graduated cum laude from Beacon College in Leesburg, Florida on Saturday, May 7, 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management and Hospitality.

At Beacon, Griffin was active in clubs and community service. He was

the Sophomore Class Representative for the Student Government Association, and then served as Secretary his junior year and Vice President his senior year. He also served as Secretary for his fraternity, Lambda Epsilon Omega.

He was inducted into the Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society during his junior year, and then, served as Vice President his senior year. Griffin participated with Gamma in The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life the past two years. He was the third largest fund raiser for Leesburg's RFL this past April. Griffin also participated in The American Cancer Society's Breast Cancer Awareness Walk in Ocala last year.

During the summers of his freshmen and sophomore years, he completed cultural studies abroad in programs with Beacon. He traveled to Italy, Croatia and Slovenia in 2013, and to London, England in 2014. He enjoyed both trips immensely, and they reinforced his love for travel and cultural enrichment.

Griffin has been preparing for a career in Hospitality Management, completing internships with SeaWorld and The Hampton Inn. Upon graduating, he will again be interning with SeaWorld in Orlando. Griffin aspires to a hospitality career in theme parks or resorts.

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GRADUATES

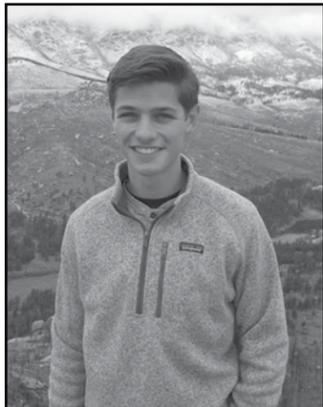
CHARIS SCHNEIDER

Charis Schneider graduated on April 30, 2016 from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa Oklahoma with a B.A. degree in Studio Art. Charis graduated from the ORU Quest Whole Person Scholarship Program and from the Honor's Program, Summa Cum Laude. She was named Outstanding Studio Art Student of the Year and Who's Who of American Colleges and Universities. She will continue her studies at the Sam Fox School of Art and Design, Washington University, St. Louis, in August, where she will pursue a Masters degree of Fine Arts.



CHRISTOPHER SCHNEIDER

Christopher Schneider will graduate with honors from Providence Christian Academy on May 28, 2016. He was the first student to complete three years of Providence's new nationally certified Project Lead the Way STEM program. He is a member of the National



Beta Club and the Thespian Society. During high school, Chris was on the Varsity Soccer team, and was in the play *Little Mermaids*. In August, Chris will be attending the Raymond B. Jones College of Engineering at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Jackson Gibbs, Eagle Scout

On May 8, 2016, Jackson Gibbs of Boy Scout Troop 876 in Smoke Rise earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Troop 876 is sponsored by Eastminster Presbyterian Church on Hugh Howell Road.

In addition to the other requirements of the Eagle rank, Jackson completed a community service project for the Smoke Rise Community Garden. He designed, obtained funding for, and provided leadership in the construction of an information kiosk in front of the garden and a ramp for the garden shed.

During his time in Scouting, Jackson has earned 38 merit badges. He has held a variety of leadership positions in his troop, including Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, and Quartermaster. He has participated in multiple BSA High Adventure trips. In 2014, Jackson was chosen by his fellow Scouts to serve as Wilderness Guide on a 12-day backpacking trip through the high desert backcountry of Phimont Scout Reservation in Cimarron, New Mexico. Jackson also attended the Florida Sea Base High Adventure Camp in the Florida Keys in 2013, as well as the 2013 Boy Scout National Jamboree at Summit Bechtel Reserve, West Virginia. Jackson is a member of the Egwa Tawa Dee Lodge of the Order of the Arrow. He will serve on staff at Woodruff Scout Reservation for the second time this summer.

Jackson is a junior at Chamblee Charter High School. Jackson is the son of Alison and Tom Gibbs of Musket Lane in Smoke Rise.



Troop 876 recently traveled to Whitesburg, GA, to enjoy a weekend of camping at one of the Scout's family farms. The Scouts practiced their cooking skills while working on the Cooking Merit Badge, worked on advancement requirements, hiked, enjoyed down time and watched a movie under the stars. However, the highlight of the weekend was shooting off model rockets. We had lots of fun and you can too! Come join us any Monday night at Eastminster Presbyterian Church at 7:30.



Number One in the State

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club was named as the Number One Woman's Club in the State of Georgia at the recent meeting of the GFWC Georgia State Convention. Federation Day, which is celebrated on April 24, was a great day for the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club. On that day, the club was named the Number One Woman's Club in the State and presented the GFWC Georgia Federation Cup in recognition of the outstanding work done by members of the club during 2015.



Recognition of the club's many community service programs was announced throughout the three-day meeting. The Art CSP won 1st place for clubs of 51 members and over and they were recognized as the best overall Art CSP program in the state. The Home Life CSP won 1st place for 51 and over, and were named the best overall in the state. Public Issues CSP won 1st place for 51 and over and also were named the best overall in the state. The Tallulah Falls School CSP was recognized with the General Achievement Gavel, the highest state award, and they also won the Georgia Goal Award. International Outreach won 1st place for 51 and over clubs as well as the Sharon Carter Operation Christmas Child Award.

The Conservation CSP won 2nd place for clubs of 51 and over. Numerous certificates and citations were also presented to the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club, and the Club's Communications and Public Relations Publicity Book won the Silver Award as the best in the state.

Immediate Past President, Barbara Luton, said the awards were a tribute to the outstanding work done by the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club. She thanked the members and noted that they are a good group of women who work well together for the betterment of their community, state, and nation.



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Stunning Turn-out for May 14th Tucker Days Celebration



Smoke Rise Country Club Membership Director, Mary Anne Thomas, and Smoke Rise resident, Susan Gilbert, who serves on the Club's Board of Directors, answered questions about the pool

opening, kid's summer camp, tennis, golf, and the many social offerings at the Club. Now under the leadership of Jim Story, recruited to Smoke Rise from Druid Hills Golf Club where he served as General Manager for 6 years, we are fortunate to have this remarkable staff and country club in our midst.

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Belinda Belvin, REALTOR®

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KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY

Of Note to the Community...

(formerly Alerts & Watches)

by Cedric Ross

Personal safety when at home or away

- Safety tips for the exterior of your home. Get motion activated flood lights in your yard. This will not only illuminate potential predators but will also light up the yard for late night family football games. Trim bushes and hedges so they are too small for someone to hide in or behind. Install dead bolts on all exterior doors and change the locks after first moving into your home.
- Seek out security software for your cell phone. Smart-phones have software available that makes tracking them down easy via GPS and built in GPRS frequencies. This will come in handy not only if you lose your phone but also if you are kidnapped or lost. Make sure that family members are familiar with how to use the software to locate your device
- Establish emergency procedures with your loved ones. In addition to standard fire escape routes and safe rooms for your home also consider the following. Decide on key rendezvous locations and assign each one a code name. Potential locations could include: relative/friend's home, zoo, shopping mall, etc. Also establish a code name for each family member and an emergency phrase that family members can use to signal that they are under duress.
- Keep emergency stashes of the most important essentials in key locations. Essentials may include: cash, firearm plus ammunition, photocopies of passports, birth certificates and insurance policies, a prepaid cell phone w/ charger, etc. Storage locations may include: safe deposit box, buried lock box in one of your key rendezvous locations, rented storage space, etc.

Crime Reports

- 4/26/2016 Theft/Larceny, 5300 Block Gauley River Drive

We make an effort to list local crimes. If we miss something, please let us know!
Email address for submission - smoke-signal@earthlink.net

Red Cross Hosting Women Warriors' Baby Shower

In conjunction with the VA, the Tiffany Circle of the Red Cross is hosting a baby shower for 70 women veterans on June 25th. The Tiffany Circle is a women's leadership group whose purpose is to raise funds for the local chapter, and often adopts service projects which benefit the community.

The Red Cross of Georgia serves just over one million military personnel, including active duty, National Guard and Reserve, as well as our veterans. Georgia has the fifth largest military population in the nation. In addition, Atlanta is the home to the largest veteran pregnancy population in the U.S. According to the Georgia Department of Veteran Services, many of these women veterans are well below the median income. There are currently 70 expectant veterans who are receiving health care through Women's Veteran Services in Decatur, Georgia – 90% of them are considered low- income.

To provide assistance to this vulnerable population of women who have bravely served our country, we are seeking support for items to be given at the "Women Warriors Baby Shower." This event will help provide critical support to 70 expecting veteran mothers by:

- alleviating the high costs of necessary baby items;
- allowing the women to connect to form a community and support system;
- ensuring that both mothers and newborns have a healthy start;
- showing gratitude for their service to our country.

To help us with this endeavor, please go to Target.com. Click on Registries – Click Find: Under First Name: Women Warriors, Last Name: Red Cross. Help us help these deserving women. At this website, the gifts will go directly to the Atlanta Headquarters, 1955 Monroe Drive, Atlanta, GA 30324. Thank you for your help.

Smoke Rise Preferred Contractor's List

If you are looking for reliable people to build decks, paint, do electrical, plumbing, interior design and many other services, then request a copy of this list as a potential starting point. We maintain a free listing of contractors and other service providers that your neighbors have used successfully. If you want a copy of this list, please email Jim Farmer at: jimfarmer812@earthlink.net or call him at (770) 939-8949. We also ask for your feedback. Tell us about a contractor or service provider that you have used with opinions about their work. This information will be useful for future revisions of the list.

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

Join the Beautification Unit and Make Our Community Shine

DeKalb County launched its newly established Keep DeKalb Beautiful Beautification Unit last month (May 12). This one-stop-shop for beautification places the headquarters for Code Enforcement, the Foreclosure/Vacant Property Registry, and Mowing and Herbicide all under one umbrella – and literally under one roof. This initiative helps strategically integrate complementary county services that promote community beautification throughout the county.

The new Beautification Unit is working on creative solutions to persuade, cajole, and encourage property owners to maintain their buildings and grounds consistent with the minimum standards of habitability and decency, or be subjected to strict enforcement actions. Code Enforcement is now ramped up to hit the streets and hold offenders accountable. Litter patrols are also canvassing the roads to remove unsightly litter, and mowing crews are maintaining several right of ways in the county. Additionally, many flowers are being planted and streetscape landscaping is also underway.



The DeKalb Office of Code Enforcement is a key component of DeKalb's revitalized Beautification Unit. (Flower planting, May 12, 2016)

This overall county effort is one that benefits us all. Communities with curb appeal attract businesses as well as residents. Communities that attract businesses and residents increase in value, and that adds to the tax base without raising taxes.

Fortunately, in Smoke Rise, we have very good stewards of our streets and open spaces. However, there may be areas that need a little beautifying. So, here's how you can get involved. The county encourages residents to join the initiative by organizing their own individual cleanup efforts in their communities.

To participate in DeKalb's ongoing beautification efforts, you can call 404-371-2552. To request clean-up supplies, call 404-294-2010.

You can report a code violation online at: <http://63.170.23.47/DP1/metroplex/DekalbCounty/customerservice/selectbyservno.asp>.

Here is also another way to get there online: go to <http://planningdekalb.net/>, go to the top right and drop down the "services" tab, scroll down to "code compliance" and then scroll over to "code compliance compliant system."

Smoke Rise Readers

The Smoke Rise Readers Book Club enjoyed a special treat at their April meeting in the home of Pat Bridges. Smoke Rise resident and author, Karen (K.L.) Gregory, came and discussed her first novel, *After Nyanni*. She was accompanied by her mother, Florence Donovan.

The book, based partly on characters Karen has known, takes place in the Cape Cod/Boston area and she told us how the book came into being. We all had questions about being an author and the writing process.



Smoke Rise Readers Book Club members are pictured with Smoke Rise resident and author Karen (K.L.) Gregory. Front row, left to right, Carol Christman, Liz Grizzard, Karen Gregory, Mary Ann Anderson and Elaine Marchbanks. Back row: Betty Curlee, Ruth Debow, Pat Bridges, Jacquelyn Frias, Vivian Nickelsen, Joy Streater, and Martha Lotz.

Before undertaking this novel, she wrote articles for fashion and travel publications.

Her second novel, *The Russian Bride*, is in the works and we look forward to reading it.

HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

Probiotics

Scientists have been studying the gastrointestinal tract for a long time. What they have found in the last ten to fifteen years is very interesting, and is changing the way they think about the GI tract's function. The upper intestine and stomach contain very few naturally occurring organisms...possibly because stomach acid and bile secretions keep the organisms from growing. The colon, or lower intestine, however, contains close to 500 different organisms...mostly bacteria and some yeast. These naturally occurring 'bugs' live on the surface of the intestinal tract and seem to perform important roles in maintaining health and immunity.

Since the introduction of antibiotics into the field of medicine in the 1940s, a renaissance of sorts has taken place in the treatment of infectious disease. Over the decades this has resulted in the overuse of antibiotics. In patients who have overused antibiotics, disruption of the balance of naturally occurring gut and skin microorganisms has occurred, leading to antibiotic resistance, serious intestinal diarrheal diseases, and perhaps even a disruption in the role gut microbes have in disease prevention.

So what are probiotics and where do they come in? *The American Family Physician* calls probiotics "microorganisms with potential health benefits." Simply stated, probiotics are live microorganisms - chiefly bacteria and healthy yeasts - that when taken, prevent disease or help treat it. Currently, there are only three or four circumstances in which probiotics have been scientifically shown to be of benefit. Many of the health claims about probiotics that are currently advertised are unsubstantiated or even false. There are many ongoing studies.

What are the uses for probiotics? Although there is much enthusiasm for probiotics and there are many claims made, there are really only three well-studied uses for them.

- Probiotics can reduce the incidence of antibiotic-related diarrhea by about 50-64% when given with the antibiotic series. The most commonly used probiotics for this cause are *Saccharomyces boulardii* and *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* GG. Dosages of more than 5 billion CFUs per day were most effective. Yogurt starter cultures with live *Lactobacillus bulgaricus* and *Saccharomyces thermophiles* can prevent antibiotic related diarrhea.

- The Cochrane Institute reviewed twenty-three studies that used various probiotics to treat acute infectious diarrhea. (traveler's diarrhea, viral diarrhea and other acutely infectious stomach bugs). They found that probiotics decreased the number of days sick and the amount of diarrhea when they were used along with rehydration therapy solutions. Probiotics, especially *S. boulardii*, may prevent traveler's diarrhea if begun the week before leaving on a trip.

There are mixed reviews on relief of symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome. Abdominal pain and bloating were the symptoms most relieved. One study showed a 20% reduction in symptoms.

Probiotics have been shown in some studies to prevent atopic dermatitis in susceptible children. Other allergic conditions, such as asthma, food allergies or allergic rhinitis, were not affected or decreased in these children. *Lactobacillus fermentum* VRI-033 was shown to decrease already established eczema in children with moderate to severe eczema.

Are they safe? There are no absolute reasons not to take probiotics. Mild flatulence or occasional abdominal discomfort and soft stools have been reported. Rarely, in severely immunocompromised or seriously ill patients, life threatening infection can occur. This has never been reported in healthy individuals.

Which ones do I use? Most common commercial brands contain a mixture of strains of probiotic including *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *L. rhamnosus*, *L. bulgaricus*, *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, *B. longum* and *Saccharomyces boulardii*. Many live culture yogurts and yogurt drinks contain *Lactobacillus* strains in varying amounts per serving. Common doses are 5-10 billion CFU/ day in children and from 10-20 billion CFU / day in adults.

The problem with probiotics: Probiotics are considered a health food or dietary supplement and not a medication, so they are not regulated by the FDA. This means you will see varying amounts of probiotic in different brand products, and even significant variation within the same brand. Because much more research is needed, there is no standardized 'recipe' for what works best with each condition.

More information can be found at www.usprobiotics.org and nccam.nih.gov/health/probiotics/. For professionals, the May 2015 *Gastroenterology* magazine devoted an entire edition to "Food, the Immune System, and the Gastrointestinal Tract."



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Answer Your Door from Anywhere

And I do mean anywhere. Last week from a business meeting in Miami, I answered my side door using my iPhone. With the soothing sound of a wind-chime, it alerted me that there was motion at the door. Seeing on my iPhone screen it was a contractor coming to work on the house, I was able to speak with him and give him instruction about how to enter the house. All from Miami. How cool is that? And convenient.

These new smart doorbells provide much more than convenience. The wide-angled high definition video with motion detector and cloud-recordings of activity serve as a home monitoring system. Depending on how you position it, your phone can alert you when someone steps onto your property or comes down the driveway.

Several popular versions are available at hardware stores or on the Internet, and the going price for them seems to hover around \$199. We picked up the “Ring” doorbell at Lowe’s. They come in four colors so you can match it to the color suiting your house. And there are remote add-ons that give additional monitoring and security functionality. For an additional \$30, you can add a chime module that plugs into any electric outlet in the house and chimes so you know when you have a visitor even when you don’t have your phone with you.

If you are handy with do-it-yourself projects, you can probably install the device yourself. It replaces the existing doorbell. Once it’s installed, you download the app from the iTunes store (or Google Play for Android), and you are in business.

Next month, I’ll elaborate on how my smart house enabled me to give access to my contractor remotely.



Book Clubs – a Window to Conversation and Contemplation
by Barbara Bruschi

Books are the silent diplomats of the world. They empower people of all nations to gain knowledge and enable individuals to expand their horizon and guide them to pursue the path of education and a better future.

Around the 17th century the French defined them as “fashionable assemblage(s).” The meetings to discuss ideas circulated in print took place in private homes, as it is often the case today. Perhaps the earliest community book discussion club was founded in 1877 “by the ladies in the small Corn-Belt town of Mattoon, Illinois”. It still meets today. Mary Elizabeth Waterhouse founded the Clover Club literary society in 1891. The object of these book clubs is to further reading and to enlighten people globally. With the help of the internet we can stir interest in great books world-wide. Book clubs bring people of all walks of life together to engage in thought processes and to enlighten the mind, to ponder upon the challenges of generations documented in libraries throughout the globe.

It is my pleasure to share some thoughts with our readers about books I have read and enjoyed.

1) *Gertrude Bell Queen Of The Desert, Shaper Of Nations:* by Georgina Howell.

This is a richly compelling portrait of a woman (born in the year 1868) of extraordinary talents, courage and endless curiosity and intellect. She transcended restrictions of gender, and her vast knowledge of Arabia helped shape the fate of Iraq. She was an archaeologist, spy, Arabist linguist, poet mountaineer and fearless traveler.

2) *Mutant Message Down Under:* by Marlo Morgan.

An American doctor receives a prize to accompany a remote tribe of nomadic Aborigines to travel the rugged bush of Australia for a four-month-long journey. She faces tests of endurance and challenges and becomes a witness to a world based on ancient wisdom. (The book is not without controversy).

3) *The Nightingale:* by Kristin Hannah.

An epic drama of World War II. Two sisters embarking on their separate dangerous voyage of survival, love, passion and freedom in a war-torn France.

4) *The Book Thief:* by Markus Zusak.

This is a love affair with books and words. Liesel the protagonist of the story learns to read and ultimately steals books from bonfires and mansions which are destined to be burned by the Nazis. Liesel, an adopted child tries to preserve the innocence of her childhood in the midst of her destructive surroundings by ultimately writing her own story. The story involves the reign of the terror of the Hitler regime and deals with mortality, friendship and self-discovery.

5) *My Escape from North Korea, A Thousand Miles to Freedom:* by Eunsum Kit with Sebastien Falletti.

This is a dramatic escape story of a woman and her two children from North Korea to South Korea. North Korea being one of the most oppressed regimes on earth. Eunsum is sharing her story with the millions of North Koreans that are still living and suffering daily.

6) *Circling The Sun:* by Paula McLain.

This is the personal story of Beryl Markkam. Brought to Kenya from England at a young age. Abandoned by her mother, she becomes a bold woman living by her own rules amongst a decadent, bohemian community of Europeans expats. She also has a string of disastrous relationships.

7) *The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency:* by Alexander McCall Smith.

This is a delectable heart-warming story of a lady detective in Botswana, Africa. The female detective MMA RAMOTSWE sets out to be the first female detective. With her ambition to help and her intuitive thinking and ability to judge people she embarks upon many ventures. There is a series of books written to follow this one.

8) *Mademoiselle Chanel* by C.W. Gortner

Born into poverty, raised in a convent orphanage, this is the rise of legendary Coco Chanel. The discovery of her sewing talent propelled her into the world of luxury by ultimately finding favors with the love of her life. In 1920 Coco Chanel created the youthful image of the modern woman.

9) *Rogue Lawyer:* by John Grisham

This book has a series of vignettes about a lawyer who takes cases of rather despicable criminal defendants. Like all of Grisham’s books, it is entertaining and at times humorous.

10) *I am Pilgrim*, author Terry Hayes is riveting and thrilling and you don’t want to put it down.

11) *The Martian:* by Andy Weir

One Man’s struggle to survive on Mars. Left behind by his crew in a sandstorm, astronaut Mark Watney is being challenged to create a sustainable way of surviving as the sole inhabitant on Mars. Science fiction at its best.

No matter how individuals feel about a certain book, the idea of critically evaluating what we read is up to each of us. Without books our world would be deprived of history and all events taking shape in our universe. Silent diplomats can be a blessing in many ways. They provide us with restorative powers of heart and soul. A good book is like a melody that lingers on and gives pleasure and repose to its readers.

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Smoke Rise Garden Club

Denise Finley arranged for club members and guests to visit the Oak Grove Home and Gardens Tour that took place April 30th. Liz and George Tedder are the owners and stewards of the plantation since 1983. They have created the gardens from scratch which are admired by many serious gardeners from around the area. Liz has spent years restoring the home which was built by the Arnold family in 1835. One of our members who knows Liz says she is the local 'Martha Stewart' as she has the patience to pay attention to detail and has used her talent in the restoration of the home and gardens. Our members were very impressed and said it was all they expected. Lunch was served picnic style in one of the gazebos in the gardens.

Club member Ann Weisz has been active with elementary school kids involved in many projects, one of which is entering national poetry contests. Two state winners; a second and fourth grader, both took 2nd place. Also in the Recycle Sculpture contest, two fourth graders won 1st and 2nd place with first place winner going on to Region and placing 3rd in Deep South Region. There is a fifth grader who placed 1st in the State and 1st in the Region. He is now moving on to National. Recently retired, Ann continues her dedication to teaching and inspiring young people. Good work and well done. Thank you, Ann.

Smoke Rise residents, the Mortens, Edith and Dan, are celebrating their sixty-second wedding anniversary this May. Congratulations! Dan is retired and he and Edith maintain a vegetable garden as well as the acre and half around their Smoke Rise home. Edith is very active in the DeKalb Federation of



Pictured left to right are: Edith Morton, Peggy Clegg, guest, Marilyn Oatway, Ann Weisz, Jane Culbertson, owner Liz Tedder, Paula Adeoba, Deb Christensen and Denise Finley at Oak Grove home and gardens.

Garden Clubs and is presently the president of the Smoke Rise Garden Club. We wish them well and many more happy years together.

Morning Glories Met the "Komodo Dragon"

Well, it was not the famous huge lizard but a named hosta cultivar "Komodo Dragon"! Rick Lee, co-owner of PoPo's Garden in Stone Mountain was the guest speaker for the May meeting. Rick brought a wide variety of hostas for the club to admire and purchase for their own gardens. In his talk, he noted that hosta is considered the "Queen of the Shade Garden". There are over 8000 named cultivars of hostas from the original family of about 40 native hostas in Asia. The "Komodo Dragon" variety is quite large and can quickly grow to 36" tall and 30" wide. Hostas can be grown in the ground or in containers very successfully. The time to fertilize is fall and spring when they are just emerging from the ground. Rick uses Osmocote, the slow release fertilizer, in his nursery and also uses soil conditioner when planting the hostas. When the hosta leaves die back in the late fall, remove the leaves and throw them away. Do not compost the leaves as they might contain virus or disease.

Rick observed that the darker the leaves, the more they prefer shade. Lighter or white edged varieties can tolerate morning sun. There are many sizes and types of hostas now including the mini varieties. For more information on hostas, you can go to www.hostalibrary.org or the Georgia Hosta Society has a very active chapter in our area.

In our business meeting, President Glendolyn Hallman announced that the club won First Place for the yearbook at the Federation Awards luncheon and Second Place for the yearbook at the Garden Club of Georgia convention in Macon in April. We received numerous certificates of recognition at the awards luncheon and Honorable Mention for the Community Service Award. We have two field trips planned for May and June. Marsha Pittard hosted the meeting. Gwen Seeliger and Cookie Roland won the raffles of "Whee" and "Komodo Dragon" hostas. The next big event for the club is the Yellow Daisy Standard Flower Show September 9-11. Our next meeting will be September 13.



Left to right: Hostesses Gloria Cooke, Cookie Roland, Joy Zaidan and Marsha Pittard with speaker Ricky Cox

Mountain Mums Weather the Storm

The Mountain Mums held their May meeting at the home of Mary Jacobson. After touring Mary's beautiful gardens they listened to speaker, Diane Minick, owner of Stormwater Landscapes in Canton. She is also the Watershed Director of the Upper Etowah River Alliance. Diane discussed bog and rainwater gardens and also various problems that we face with water run-off and pooling in our yards. She focuses on natural methods to solve ugly problems by determining what



is right for each individual site. Solutions may include developing the site to include either a rain garden or an infiltration garden, the building of a swale, terracing the land or a combination of any of the above. One interesting fact the Diane shared is that English ivy is a haven for mosquitos and rather than using pesticides or removing the ivy altogether, a simple solution is to leaf blow the ivy once per week. It is the accumulation of water on the underside of the flat leaves that attracts and breeds the mosquitos and the leaf blowing dries up this water. A recurrent theme in her presentation was the importance of slowing the water down so it can seep into the soil as much as possible. Ideas included attaching flexible downspouts with holes punched along the sides so that the water could escape along the length of the tube, along with capping the tube at the end. She also demonstrated a variety of materials to slow the water down and use it to nourish different native plants. Her presentation was informative and enjoyable, and at the end it seemed that each Mum, either has or has had some problem with water run-off in their yards. Diane can be reached at dianeminick@msn.com. The Mums will meet again in August. If you are interested in joining please contact Carol Wales at cawale@hotmail.com.

Container Bog Garden Demonstration at Mountain Shadow Garden Club June 13

The meeting of Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) on June 13 will feature a program on container bog gardens by Robert Barr. He will demonstrate how native and adapted species such as pitcher plant can be used in unique bog-type conditions in home landscapes.

Mr. Barr taught Earth Science and Physical Science at Bowdon High School in Carroll County. Several years ago, Mr. Barr and his wife Patsy became interested in the carnivorous plants found in abundance in the coastal plains of Georgia, Alabama, and the Carolinas. The general public has become increasingly aware of the beauty, durability, and ease of culture to be found within this unique plant genus.

Robert's presentation will include tips on constructing container bogs of all sizes, their usefulness in a variety of outdoor settings around the home, and an overview of several varieties that endure the conditions presented by our temperate climate throughout the cycle of seasons. A small collection of plants that have proven suitable for the Georgia Piedmont will be available for purchase.

Mr. Barr is a member of the Georgia Native Plant Society—West Georgia Chapter and has an extensive resume of service with statewide environmental and conservation groups, including the Governor's Environmental Advisory Council and the Georgia Agricultural Land Trust.

MSGC is open to men and women of all ages who enjoy learning about a diverse range of topics related to home landscapes, plants, and gardens. The meeting and program begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. in Founders Hall, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain. Free. For more information, contact club president Jeff Raines at (404) 641-8633. www.facebook.com/MtShadowGardenClub.



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HODGE PODGE



By Jenny Hall

Some of you might have noticed that I have taken a little break. Most people take a break to recharge and re-energize, coming back full of new ideas and vigor and all kinds of positive attitudes. Yes, I took a break. Yes, I intended to recharge. No, it didn't work. Instead of being productive, I relaxed to a point where I now realize that I actually didn't cook for two months - well, nothing new anyway. What I did was make afternoon tea munchies and obsess over tiny little yummy things. I love making tiny, yummy things for a crowd because they almost always get compliments, some of which are sincere. Tiny things taste complicated but are, in reality, just big things cut into small shapes. Think about how much cuter a tiny cube of cheese is than a wedge...add a toothpick and you have a party. Put it on a doily and wait for the compliments to just roll in. So here goes with a couple of tiny, delicious things that made up part of my obsessive tea party.

First, let's deal with finger sandwiches. Finger sandwiches are just sandwiches cut small. Do not be intimidated. There are tricks to insure that people will think you are a master fiddler and chef extraordinaire. First, use crumbly old cheap white sandwich bread. You can use cheap wheat bread for a color contrast. Don't use nice thin lovely expensive bread. Just don't. The filling should be the star, not the bread.

Second, fill sandwiches first, then cut off crusts using a serrated knife...saw them off...If you push you'll mash the edges and that bread will seal itself into flat awfulness. You will lose a bit of filling that escaped to the edges, but you can eat those scraps or toss them.

Third, cut a sandwich into three rectangles, sawing away with your lovely sharp, serrated knife. You can layer them in a plastic container, but no more than three high or the sandwiches will smash themselves into a large blob of unrecognizable breadish adobe brick food. Over the first layer, place a sheet of waxed paper, then place a barely moist paper towel, then another sheet of waxed paper. Put another layer of sandwiches and repeat with waxed paper and paper towel. Your last layer can have just waxed paper. Seal and refrigerate overnight if you need to. They will be fresh and moist - no problem. I guess you want a recipe by now, huh?

Spring Veggie Sandwiches

Filling :

- 2 medium peeled carrots, cut into chunks
- 1 green pepper (or red if you want filling to be a bit pink)
- 2 stalks celery, cut into chunks
- 1 smallish green onion, white and pale green part only
- 1 lg. or 2 med. cucumbers (peeled, seeds removed and cut up)
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 hefty tablespoon mayonnaise
- 8 ounces good quality cream cheese
- ½ teaspoon salt

Put carrots, pepper, celery and onion in food processor and grind until tiny. Add cucumber and whirl around again to grind it. You should have about 3+ cups. Put in colander or fine mesh sieve over a bowl and drain forever. Really. Drain until it's pretty dry, should take about 45 minutes at least. Press on it some. The left-over juice is totally wonderful and healthy and is great with tomato juice and vodka to get you through this ordeal. Mix cream cheese, lemon juice and mayo until it's really smooth. Do this in processor if you want. Add back the really well-drained veggies and salt and mix. Spread on sandwiches and cut into thirds. Or however you want. These are the best cucumber sandwiches ever and taste fresh and summery.

Since that took so long, here's an easy finger dessert that everyone loved.

Walnut Cookie Bars

Base: 16.5 ounce pouch dry sugar cookie mix
1/2 cup real butter and 1 egg (Base)

Filling: 1 ½ cups brown sugar
¾ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon maple extract
3 eggs
3 cups chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 350°. Lightly spray a 9x13 pan. Mix base ingredients and pat into pan. Bake 15-20 minutes until just brown around edges. Mix sugar, baking powder, eggs, salt and extract. Add nuts, mix and pour over hot crust. Bake another 15-20 minutes. Cool and cut into squares, then cut those into triangles to impress everyone. These are not super sweet and are fabulous with tea. You can make them with pecans, but leave out the maple and add a touch of vanilla extract instead. They freeze beautifully as well. They taste more delicious because they are tiny!!



Stone Mountain Rotary Club

By L. A. Dison

Stone Mountain Rotarian Runs for Those Who Can't

The Rotary Club of Stone Mountain sponsored member Anresa Davis in the Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) Annual Run Walk 'n Roll on April 30. Anresa, who works as the director of sales and marketing at Park Springs Retirement Community, placed third in the women's division of the five-mile race part of the event. The money she raised went to benefit FODAC's mission of providing home medical equipment, like wheelchairs, shower benches and walkers, at little to no cost to mobility-impaired recipients.



Stone Mountain Rotarian Anresa Davis (with FODAC President Chris Brand) shows off her third-place medal in the women's division of FODAC's April Run Walk 'n Roll.

Many members attended the Rotary District 6900 Annual Conference in Hilton Head, South Carolina, April 21-24. In addition to enjoying sunny weather and some beach time, members also attended sessions to learn about special projects in the district and internationally.

The Stone Mountain club meets every Tuesday for noon lunch at Smoke Rise Country Club; visitors and those interested in learning more about Rotary are welcome to attend. To learn more about the club and its upcoming programs, go to www.stonemountainrotary.org.