

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 2

Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968

May, 2015

www.smokesignalnews.com

*Happy Mother's Day
from the staff of the Smoke Signal!*



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The 61st Annual TUCKER DAY celebration kicks off at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 9, on Main Street in Tucker. Like the 60 times before it, this year has a comfortable mix of new and familiar with a return

to the Human Powered Parade down Main Street at 10:00 a.m. and a cornucopia of booths, vendors, wares and services on display throughout the day.

Tucker Day marks the beginning of spring in DeKalb County and each year the planners find some NEW slant on having fun and building community. In addition to the return of the parade, there is a new "Play-Along, Sing-Along" event in which musically inclined visitors are encouraged to bring their instruments (guitars, fiddles, banjos, bagpipes, brass, reeds, percussion, harmonicas and voices) and participate in a huge outdoor 'jam' at NOON in which all in attendance can play and sing a song TOGETHER. There is a small entry fee of \$5.00 that will go to the Wounded Warrior Program. Participants are encouraged to raise their entry fee from pledges from their neighbors and friends, much like the Walk-A-Thon fundraisers.

Tucker Day continues its tradition of showcasing veteran and up-and-coming musical talent on three stages throughout the day. The event also caters to children with a huge children's play area. As usual, food and drink will be in abundant supply in a variety of flavors and culinary styles.

For more information, schedule of events, entry forms for the parade and the Play-Along, Sing-Along, and vendor participation please visit www.TuckerDay.com.

Tucker Day is presented by MainStreet Tucker Alliance (MTA). MTA is a 501c3 organization staffed by volunteers and is dedicated to improving the core downtown area of Tucker in addition to promoting community. For more information, please contact Honey Van De Kreke, 770-938-7108.

SRCA Annual Membership Meeting Recap

SRCA President Mike Huerkamp called the annual membership meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on March 31, 2015, in the Fellowship Hall of Smoke Rise Baptist Church. Featured speaker for the evening, Principal Pamela McCloud of Smoke Rise Elementary Charter School, provided a lively update of the "uproar" being created at the school, informed attendees of the establishment or reinvigoration of a number of important community partnerships, and took questions. Also in attendance, both providing remarks and answering questions, were Representative Billy Mitchell, School Board Representative Jim McMahan, Frank Aumon of Tucker2015, Commissioner Nancy Jester, and Susan Gilbert representing the *Smoke Signal*.

With respect to SRCA business, President Huerkamp reported that income for 2014 from memberships and community garden rentals totaled \$36,810 and expenses summed to \$28,689. The SRCA ended calendar year 2014 with a balance of \$39,991 in the black. Reserves were up substantially from a low of \$11,071 in 2011 and were accumulated defensively since then under the specter of the possibility of cell tower erection at the school, the need to secure legal advice had that gained momentum, and also due to deposits lurking in PayPal that, until recently, were not retrievable by the association. The budget for 2015 was not yet established, but President Huerkamp indicated the intent to propose a deficit budget to spend down the reserves into the \$25-\$30K range - the amount of operating expenses for a typical year. Sixty percent (60%) of a 2014 dues payment was expended on landscaping and greenspace maintenance or initiatives, roughly 20% went into reserves, and the remaining 20% covered the liability insurance premium, operations, and events.

Major projects completed in 2014 were the refurbishment of all of the medallions, phase II landscaping on Hugh Howell Road, adoption of 10 chimneys for beautification, replacement of all entry point signs, erection of a trail sign and posting of 0.1 mile distance markers, and document shredding and electronics recycling events. Already underway for 2015 was a partnership with the residents of Mountain Creek to illuminate both their sign and our sign, phase III landscaping on Hugh Howell Road, construction and deployment of Little Libraries, providing the police service for the Walk to Remember, electronics recycling, secure document shredding, and enhanced landscaping at the Rosser Road triangle.

Other business reported was that the community garden was now essentially running at break-even status,

...Continued on page 7

74th Annual Masonic BBQ on May 9th

From 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. the Stone Mountain Masonic Lodge will serve the best barbecue and Brunswick stew around. The stew is cooked in giant black pots and the meat is open-fire cooked all night by Master Masons. \$9 for eat-in or take-out. Cole slaw completes the meal. Brunswick stew (\$9/quart) and BBQ pork (\$18/quart) are available for take-out.

The Masonic Lodge is located across the street from the old VFW Post on VFW Drive in the Village of Stone Mountain. Eastern Star Chapter #205 will have homemade desserts for a small additional charge. If you would like to pre-order a whole cake, call Doris at 678-412-4799. You can pick the cake up either on May 2 at the Masonic Lodge monthly breakfast or at the barbecue on May 9.



Lawrenceville Road UMC "Bar B Q" on May 30

Chef and Pastor Luis Ortiz and his "chef's committee," led by Chairman Lamar Phillips, are poised to present Bar B Q on Saturday, May 30, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (unless the food runs out sooner). Come early - the response was so great last fall we had to turn folks away.

Donations are \$10.00. The event is a fund raiser for church programs. Meals include chopped pork, choice of Brunswick stew or beans, coleslaw, bread, chips and BBQ sauce. A 16-ounce drink is provided when dining in. Drinks are not provided with carry-out meals. The United Methodist Women will also be selling delicious baked goods.

Lawrenceville Road United Methodist Church is located in Tucker at 3142 Lawrenceville Highway just 6/10ths of a mile outside I-285.

For more info call the church at 770-939-3717.



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.

May Calendar of Events

- 2 Bike Rodeo, Tucker 1st UMC, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
- 2 Moravian Church Yard Sale, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- 6 *Smoke Signal* staff meeting at the home of Barb Hess, 9:30 a.m.
- 9 Stone Mountain Masonic Lodge BBQ – 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- 9 Tucker Day, Main Street, starts at 9:00 a.m.
- 9 SR Garden Cub meeting, field trip and lunch at Swann Coach house
- 10 MOTHER'S DAY
- 11 Mtn. Shadow Garden Club, Eastminster Presbyterian, 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Mountain Mums Garden Club meeting at Lisa Armisted's, 9:45 a.m.
- 13 Spirit Night, Bruster's Ice Cream, Hugh Howell Road, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 16 ARMED FORCES DAY
- 16 Tucker Historical Society Garden Tour - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- 16 Gwinnett County Garden Tour, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- 21 Tucker Arts Guild, Custom Frame Shop, 7:00 p.m.
- 25 MEMORIAL DAY
- 29 Tucker Art Festival, Tucker Recreation Center, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- 30 Tucker Art Festival, Tucker Recreation Center, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- 30 Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Open House Pool Party, starts at noon
- 30 Lawrenceville Road Methodist Church Bar B Q, 11 00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Smoke Signal Deadlines

MAY 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 MAY 10

SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

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

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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!



Letter to the Editor:

Bees and Other Pollinators are Dying!

You have probably heard this terrible news since it has been well-publicized recently. Loss of habitat and the use of pesticides have been the most significant causes of this decline. However, did you know that some of the most prevalent pesticide use is found in things we buy every spring and fall? Plants and flowers! Most of the plants and seeds at our big box/home improvement stores have been treated with neonicotinoids, also known as neonics. These are systemic poisons that make all parts of a plant toxic. Cleverly, as a marketing ploy and to calm scientists and environmentalists who have urged stopping the use of these poisons altogether, they have put tags on their plants that tout neonics as killers of all sorts of "bad" insects. The implication is that neonics are good for the plants. Unfortunately, they not only kill all "bad" insects, but also our "good" insects, our pollinators, and other animals as well. What do they do to us?

As a beekeeper and environmentalist, I feel strongly that we, as consumers, must put a stop to the practice of using these poisons. The only way we can do this is to buy our plants and seeds from reputable shops that can guarantee that their plants have not been treated. There is one source near us, Hall's Garden Center on Memorial Drive, and you can research online to find the nearest organic or natural garden center.

Our food supply depends on us!

Laurie Crooks
Mountain Creek Drive

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

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

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

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

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

Mount Carmel Christian Church

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

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

Wednesdays
5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:30 p.m. Activities/Studies for all ages
6:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

First Moravian Church

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

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

Thursdays:
7:00 p.m. Adult Study Group

Mountain West Church

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

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



FREE NEIGHBORHOOD PET LOST AND FOUND

Please call Kay McKenzie
at 770-491-6784

with information if you have lost or found a pet.

Smoke Rise Preferred Contractor's List

If you are looking for reliable people to build desks, 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 wish 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.



Spring Yard Sale

1st Moravian Church

Saturday, May 2

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

4950 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain

ACADEMY OF
ARTS

SMOKERISE BAPTIST CHURCH, STONE MOUNTAIN, GA

www.smokerisebaptist.org/arts

678-533-0562

SUMMER FUN

SUMMER DRAMA (school ages)

Mondays 6 – 8:30

May 4 – Sept. 12

Productions Sept. 11-12

MUSIKGARTEN

“All Together Now” age 1-5

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:45-10:30

June 2 - 25 (8 classes)

TWINKLER VIOLIN

Ages 4-5 (6 classes)

Wednesdays 1:15 – 2:00

June 24 – July 29

SUMMER TAP / BALLET (ages 3-5)

“Fairy Tale Princess”

Thursdays 10:30 – 11:15 (7 classes)

June 11 – July 30

Mini-camp Aug. 17-21 9:30-12:30

ACT ONE DRAMA (ages 4-5)

Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00-5:00

July 7 – 30 (8 classes)

KEYBOARD KIDS

Ages 4-5

TBA

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Adults- Wednesdays 10 – 2

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Smoke Rise Baptist Church

5901 HUGH HOWELL RD. STONE MOUNTAIN, GA 30087 TEL: 770.469.5856 [FACEBOOK.COM/SMOKERISE](https://www.facebook.com/smokerise)

Belinda Belvin, REALTOR®

As a Smoke Rise native and a Realtor in the area, my knowledge of the area and of the market are unparalleled.

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CHORALE II SPRING CONCERT

The 65-member community chorus, CHORALE II, will present its Ninth Annual Spring Concert on Sunday, May 3, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. There is no admission charge and donations are welcome. The program will be at the First Baptist Church of Tucker. Conductor of the chorale is retired educator and long-time resident of DeKalb County, Dr. James T. McRaney. The associate conductor is Ms. Peggy Ray, and the accompanist is Ms. Kathy Ray.

The concert theme is “Spotlighting American Poets and Georgia Composers.” Musical settings of texts by several poets will be featured, including Robert Frost, John Greenleaf Whittier, Walt Whitman, Edgar Allen Poe, Mark Twain, and Georgia’s Sidney Lanier. Georgian composers and arrangers to be included are Edwin Gerschefski, former head of the Department of Music at the University of Georgia, Johnny Mercer, Peggy Ray, and Avondale resident Nina Gross.

A special aspect of the program will be the presentation of “God’s Trombones,” featuring text by poet James Weldon Johnson. This collection of spirituals and religious readings features two dynamic narrative roles filled by premier area solo artists Arietha Lockhart and Dan Doster, both of DeKalb County.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church CSA

Riverview Farms offers locally grown, organic food! Located in north Georgia, Riverview Farms is a medium-sized farm that grows delicious vegetables and fruits as well as heritage breed pigs and cattle AND sells directly to the end customer. Through the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church CSA, Community Supported Agriculture, that end customer can be you!

Riverview Farms practices Full Circle Farming...the land supports their livestock, and the livestock supports their land - building soil fertility for growing all of their animals’ feed and produce. It’s a balancing act. Riverview doesn’t overreach the capacity of its pastures, fields, and forests, and never uses artificial or toxic means to force the land or animals to yield more. Their farming techniques exceed organic standards and harkens back to a time when farming did not depend on outside, artificial support. Taste and you’ll know: their good-for-you-and-the-world practice is not only sustainable, it’s delicious too!

Each year, Riverview Farms grow over thirty varieties of certified organic flavorful vegetables and some fruit! From May to December they provide families in our community with boxes of varied produce and fruits through the CSA. Those who participate enjoy fresh, picked-yesterday, sun ripened vegetables and fruits grown locally and delivered to St. Andrews Presbyterian.

Ready to try a different way of eating? Join the St. Andrews CSA. Sign up by contacting Mary Evans, tmevans@bellsouth.net, 770-493-9489 and paying in advance for boxes of produce for a 10 week period. The first session is May 13 – July 15. Each box costs \$27.50. Think this might be more food than your family can use? Share a box with friend or family! This food is too good to pass up!

Music for Missions

Two concerts are on tap for May and will feature the Decatur Civic chorus, and, later in the month twin sister piano/organist virtuosas Becky Ramsey and Alice Walker.

In a continuing program to bring the best in music and musicians, Lawrenceville Road United Methodist Church’s “Music for Missions” program will present the Decatur Civic Chorus on May 3rd at 7 p.m. A perennial favorite with Music for Missions audiences, the DCC presents its “prelude” to its annual spring concert at Music for Missions

In its 19th season, Music for Missions has added an “occasional” feature called “Kings and Queens of the Keyboards” as a method to help pay the rebuilding bill for the 48-year-old Baldwin piano – so central to “Music for Missions,” church services, special musical events, funerals, weddings and other occasions. Twin-sister virtuosas pianists and organists Becky Ramsey and Alice Walker will provide keyboard magic in the second of the series on May 24th at 7 p.m.

Music for Missions is a program of United Methodist Men. There are three reasons the series started in 1996. First, the wonderful acoustical structure of the sanctuary at Lawrenceville Road United Methodist Church accommodates every genre of music from big band to solo artists. Secondly, musicians are always looking for places to perform. Third, and probably the best feature, the concerts were conceived as a fund raiser for missions and charities. In the beginning it was decided that there would be no ticket sales or admission charge and that donations would be accepted. Thus far our generous audiences have donated more than \$200,000 or about \$1,000 per concert on average.

To be placed on the mailing list for upcoming concerts, send your name and email address to musicformissions@bellsouth.net. We do not share our patron list.

Thanks for a great run---we look forward to the next 19 seasons with your help and support.

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

6780 James B. Rivers Drive

Stone Mountain, GA 30083

770 469 8551

www.Stmichael.cc/

Everyone is welcome!

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

Just 3 miles from Smoke Rise near the West Gate Entrance to Stone Mountain Park

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

~ 3 ~

Gwinnett County Master Gardener Association Garden Tour Saturday, May 16 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Rain or Shine

Get inspired and learn more about gardening on the GCMGA garden tour. Tour seven beautiful residential gardens created and maintained by Gwinnett Master Gardeners. Visitors can also experience three unique public spaces which received volunteer hours and/or grant money from the GCMGA. A wide variety of garden styles including a Charleston inspired garden, a mountain retreat, a native plant lover's paradise, a pollinator garden and edible and cutting gardens will be featured. Also on tour are a secret garden, a community vegetable garden and a Japanese-influenced space. Each garden focuses on an educational component with Master Gardeners on hand to answer questions and provide handouts from the extension service. Gardens are located between Routes 29 & 78 in Lilburn, Lawrenceville, Snellville, Grayson & Loganville. The purchase of your Garden Tour ticket provides you with the locations and additional information about each garden.

\$15 Advance purchase (cash or check only)
\$16 Credit card online (April 1 - May 11)
\$20 Day of Tour (cash or check only)

Visit the GCMGA website at <http://www.gwinnettmastergardeners.com> for more information and for online ticket sales. Like us on Facebook for highlights of each garden and last minute updates www.facebook.com/GCMGAgardentour Email: GCMGAtour2015@gmail.com

Come spend a beautiful spring day with fellow gardening enthusiasts. You'll take home wonderful ideas for your own garden and discover hidden gems you didn't know existed!



Smoke Rise Prep to Host Golf Tournament

Smoke Rise Prep Cooperative School is hosting its 1st Annual Golf Tournament at Smoke Rise Golf and Country Club on May 11th. All proceeds will benefit Smoke Rise Prep Cooperative School. Smoke Rise Prep is a 1st-8th grade blended learning facility that was founded by parents and teachers in 2011 as an alternative to traditional public and private school options.

Our event will feature a four-man scramble, various contests including a Hole-in-One, and team prizes for the top three teams. This is a perfect way to entertain clients and meet new friends in an exciting setting. Sponsorship packages are available to provide you with added recognition and business opportunities at the event. Register today and be sure to invite your friends and business associates to register as well.

If you have questions, email us at srpgolftournament@gmail.com or visit our event website, www.smokeriseprep-tournament.com.

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.



You're Invited!

It's finally happening!

In just two weeks the Smoke Rise Bath and Racquet Club will open the pool for the 2015 season on May 16. So go ahead, find your bathing suit and make sure it still fits.

Check your floaties for leaks and take a look at the expiration date on your sunscreen.

Mark your calendar and reserve May 30, for our 2015 Opening Party and Open House. Everybody is invited, members and non-members. Enjoy live entertainment, BBQ sandwiches, hotdogs and cold drinks. Participate with your kids in organized games and enter our raffle to win some great prizes. So go ahead, grab your friends and neighbors and bring them too! The event starts at noon and is open to everyone. Check out the flyer in this issue of the Smoke Signal for more information. If you have never been a member, the club offers \$188 memberships for newcomers. If you're a member and haven't renewed your membership yet, don't wait. SRBRC is still one of the greatest values in our community. If you're still undecided about which club to join, check out the Open House on May 30 and talk to other members to see what you've been missing.

If BBQ is your passion, reserve June 27 for the SRBRC first annual Smoke Rise BBQ Cook Off. Passionate neighborhood pit-masters will compete with smoking pork shoulders and BBQ ribs for all the BBQ enthusiasts among us.

Visit SRBRC.org and follow us on Facebook, so you'll always get the latest updates on what's going on at SRBRC.

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Tucker Art Festival Brings Community and Local Artists Together

Representing Tucker's most creative and artistic individuals, the First Annual Art Festival, ARTucker, will be held May 29-30 at the Tucker Recreation Center, which, for a couple of days will be transformed into a colorful gallery for the imagination. The marketplace is open to the public, free of charge, and the community is invited to view and purchase works from local artists.

More than two dozen local artists will feature their creations, including hand weavers, potters, wood turners, painters, photographers, glass blowers and more. Guests will also be able to observe pottery demonstrations.

Host of the event, Patty Young, says she has often desired for Tucker to have a marketplace for local artists. "This is a passion," she says, "and the goal is to celebrate local artists. The community building is really what this is about for me. It's linking us all together."

Local watercolor artist, Deborah Clowers, is excited to be joining the event with a booth. She says she is excited about "being a part of something artistic in the community. Beauty lifts us up out of the mundane." She emphasizes that "celebrating beauty and community together brings us to the best within ourselves."

Both artists believe this event meets a need in the Tucker area for an awareness and connectivity of local artists, as well as a place for the artists to display their works. It also provides an interactive cultural and learning experience for the community. "Who knows what this event will grow into?" says Patty. "The intention is that it becomes an annual event and, hopefully, an important part of Tucker's yearly calendar of events. I'm open and excited to see what will happen from here."

The event will be held Friday, May 29 from 5 – 9 p.m. and Saturday, May 30 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. For more information, contact artuckerga@yahoo.com.



Stone Mountain Animal Hospital
SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE & SURGERY
DENTISTRY • BOARDING • BATHING

Dr. Jeff Brown
Dr. Nicole Aponte

6053 Memorial Dr.
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
Phone: 770/469-6111

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Friday Night Concert Series in the Village

Tunes by the Tracks is a free concert series held each Friday night in May from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in Stone Mountain Village. Concerts will be held in the Municipal Parking lot and will feature a number of well-known artists. The series is sponsored by several private individuals and the Stone Mountain Downtown Development Authority.

“Members of the community have been talking about the idea and the DDA was able to put some organizational and financial support behind it. Private individuals stepped up to provide funding for the artists. We are working with Music Matters Entertainment, owned by Terry Reeves, who helped put the line-up together,” says Thom DeLoach, DDA Board Member.

Tunes by the Tracks Schedule:

May 1	Davin McCoy
May 8	Caroline Aiken
May 15	Diane Durrett and Melissa “Junebug” Massey
May 22	Jimmy Harris and Friends
May 29	Andrew Black

The concerts are free. Beer and wine will be available for sale. Lawn chairs are encouraged.

The mission of the Stone Mountain DDA is to foster an environment that sustains current businesses and encourages future growth and development while enhancing the historic character of our city using the Main Street approach.

Contact Information: Mechel McKinley, 770-498-8984 x137, 678-357-5202, mmckinley@stonemountaincity.org.

Last Spirit Night of the School Year

Join Smoke Rise Elementary Charter School for our last Spirit Night of the year at Bruster’s on Hugh Howell Road in Tucker on Wednesday, May 13th from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. A generous portion of the proceeds are donated back to the school when you buy and enjoy ice cream. Don’t forget to say Smoke Rise! We hope to see you there.

Mark your June Calendar!

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Tucker Historical Society Garden Tour

The Tucker Historical Society will have its 2015 Garden Tour on Saturday, May 16, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of the tour. Advance tickets are available in Tucker at The Garden Enthusiast (Main St.), Brockett Square Barber Shop (Lawrenceville Hwy.), Festival Unique Gifts & Fine Art (Main St.) and Tucker Flower Shop (Idlewood Rd.)

The Tucker Historical Society was created in February, 2001, as an ad hoc committee under the Tucker Civic Association and held its first meeting in May, 2001. Kathy Powell, the current treasurer, and Tim Timmons were part of the founding members. Many who attended that first meeting are still members today. In 2002, Tim Timmons had the idea for the first Plant Swap and the Garden Tour. In 2004, Tucker Historical became a stand-alone non-profit with 501C3 status.

Funds from the Plant Swap and the Tour are used for the preservation of the Browning Courthouse, circa 1860, located in front of the Tucker Recreation Center on LaVista Rd. The courthouse houses a small museum including a desk donated by the Chewning family that served as the first post office in Tucker in 1892 and also a church pew from a congregational church which was on Main Street, circa 1900.

The Smoke Rise garden of Denny and Renee Hopf at 5907 Millstone Lane will be one of the featured gardens on this year’s tour. Denny and Renee have been working on their gardens and yard since 1993. The Hopfs use all natural methods for preventing weeds and unwanted insects in their garden.

One unique feature of the yard is the “waddles” created from sticks, tree trunks, Christmas trees and any other debris from the garden. These “waddles” are similar to the hedgerows in England, but not as formal. They serve as linear compost and are used along the paths in the garden. A compost pile collects kitchen scraps and other debris to form new soil for the flowerbeds in the yard. Another feature that is impossible to miss is the 20-foot landscaped waterfall behind the house. A playhouse in the upper area of the yard is also a must see on the tour. Look for gnomes and fairies hidden among the plants.

Millstone subdivision got its name because an actual gristmill used to be on the stream in the woods across the street from the Hopf’s house. Look for the millstones that have been found in the woods. One is at the entrance of Millstone Trail. One is at the corner of Millstone Trail and Millstone Lane at the corner of the Hopf’s property gracing the natural meadow and vegetable garden. This area is a recent addition to the yard with wild flowers and wild grasses for attracting birds, bees and butterflies.



Stone Mountain Woman’s Club Named Best Overall at 4th District Spring Meeting



Shown receiving the awards are (l to r) Nelda Lunsford and Miriam Boone, Art Co-Chairs, Elizabeth Wells and Kim Sekulow, Tallulah Falls School Co-Chairs, Barb Hess, International Outreach Chair, 2nd Vice President, Pam DeLoach, President, Barbara Luton, and Barb Curzon, Co-Chair of Home Life.

Congratulations to the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club for receiving the “Best Overall” award at the GFWC Georgia Federation’s 4th District Spring Meeting. The club won first place (silver) in Art, Home Life, International Outreach, Public Issues and Tallulah Falls School. The club took second place in Conservation and Education. The Mooneyhan family (Jon and Dayna) won the Family of the Year Award. Dayna is a member of the Evening Club and her mom, Barb Hess, chairs International Outreach in the Day Club. President Barbara Luton noted that it is nice to be recognized by your peers, but winning awards is not the reason for the many outstanding community service projects undertaken by the club. “Our main objective is to provide assistance to the many charities who need our help.” These include Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse, ART Station, USO, Heifer International, Operation Christmas Child, Ronald McDonald House, the Sue Kellogg Library and the Stone Mountain Community Garden.

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Our Little Piece of Heaven

by Dennise Ondina

On March 9, 2013, I received the call no parent ever wants to hear, "...your son was involved in an ATV accident. He is being airlifted to Bayfront Hospital." Our 19-year-old son had suffered a catastrophic injury when his all-terrain vehicle crashed into a tree in Tarpon Springs, Florida. This single event would forever change our lives.

Ian was airlifted with a faint pulse, a collapsed lung, and a severe traumatic brain injury with multiple skull and maxillofacial fractures. His broken arm was a non-issue as he was given a 1% chance for survival. Ian was in a coma for 22 days and endured 10 surgeries while spending four months at a trauma hospital. He was later transferred to Shepherd Pathways in Atlanta, Georgia, for an additional three months of intensive therapy. Ian had to relearn how to breathe, drink, eat, walk, regain balance, communicate, and think, among other milestones. Simple tasks such as holding a spoon or pointing at a picture seemed nearly impossible endeavors. Yet, the memories we hold dear were not Ian's challenges, but rather, his conquests - the day he squeezed his dad's hand for the first time, the morning he walked from his wheelchair, the first smile, the first thumb-fight with his brother. Ian's recovery is a testimony of faith and self-determination, the skilled work of health care professionals, and the outpouring of love and support of family and friends, some of which we have never met.

Today, two years post-accident, Ian drives with supervision and is completing two college courses online. In January 2015, Ian returned to Atlanta for another rehabilitation boost at Shepherd Pathways - known to Ian as "the place where I learned how to..." Through a serendipitous connection to the Soltys family who opened their home to us, we arrived in Smoke Rise. This generous family gave us more than food and a place to sleep at night; they gave us their love and compassion, connecting us with Dr. Edward Corkran when medical care was needed, and introduced us to welcoming friends and family, one of which connected us to West Mountain Church - a special place that became our church away from home. We also had the pleasure to meet local writer, Judy Polk. It was in this little piece of heaven called Smoke Rise that Ian and I fell in love with the affectionate house dog named Anna and saw falling snow for the first time, not to mention the breathtaking cherry blossoms, magnolias, and postcard-perfect tulips.

Over breakfast one morning, our host recommended we visit Side by Side. My first introduction to this place was through their website. Side by Side is a place where people living with the lifelong effects of traumatic brain injury (TBI) are respected and valued as contributing community members. The day we toured the clubhouse, I knew immediately this was a place where Ian could thrive and be accepted for the beautiful person he is today. Ian attended Side by Side twice per week and participated in their business program with the goal of developing skills for college and to return to work. Ian also enjoyed spending time with a like-minded community of members who quickly became his friends. His favorite event was the Jawbones vs. Sawbones basketball game - Side by Side's yearly fundraising event.

Every 23 seconds, one person in the U.S. sustains a brain injury. Traumatic Brain Injury is a silent yet serious epidemic currently leaving 5.3 million Americans with disabilities. Yet, there are only 19 traumatic brain injury clubhouses like Side by Side in the world. As a TBI group facilitator and caregiver, I recognize the critical need for transitional rehabilitation services in our state. After my experience at Side by Side, I am inspired and encouraged to develop a life skills rehabilitation program in the Tampa Bay area. I am thankful beyond words for the insight I received from members, staff, volunteers, and caregivers at Side by Side. Executive Director Cindi Johnson has done a masterful job in developing a thriving program and fostering a collaborative community - the world would be a better place if it was like Side by Side.

As we near our bittersweet departure, Ian and I leave with a sense of newfound hope and lifetime friends. In so many ways, we are taking a piece of this place with us. Thank you Stone Mountain, the Smoke Rise community, Side by Side and Shepherd Pathways!



Refuge Coffee Run


by George Graham – 6th Grader at SR Prep

March 7th was a big day for Clarkston, GA. Our neighbors held their first 5K race, the Refuge Coffee Co. 5K, and it was a huge success! Refuge Coffee Co. is a non-profit business located in Clarkston dedicated to serving the global community through coffee-related job creation and training. They created the 5K to raise money and awareness of the refugee community's needs. Smoke Rise Prep Cooperative School reached out to our Clarkston neighbors through Refuge Coffee Co. to help in any way they could to build a thriving community in Clarkston. The Smoke Rise Prep Student Council and Safety Patrol helped to recruit participants from the Smoke Rise community to help out. Two hundred and fifty people ran the 5K, with many others volunteering. Out of Smoke Rise Prep's attendance, 20 students, teachers, and caregivers came to run and cheer on our team. Four of our SRP team won their divisions! Seventh grader Brian Graham and 6th grader Jayla Cochran won their age divisions, along with 2nd grader Hayden Agne and SRP running coach Amy Keown. Brian said, "In the end, I felt tired but confident that I had won!" Jayla stated "I felt happy with myself." She also added, "I was just happy to help out!"

Along the race track, helpful volunteers and members of the Clarkston community baked fresh muffins and passed out water bottles to the racers. They got to know many of the refugees and community activists. Middle school teacher Rebecca Rose said, "The most inspirational thing was seeing so many students and families from Smoke Rise Prep show up to volunteer and run to build community. Many parents told me they had no idea Clarkston was a relocation zone for the United Nations and now wanted to volunteer more after connecting with organizations on race day. My students made me so proud in how they researched Clarkston, invited guest speakers from Refuge Coffee Co. to SRP to teach us how to partner with Clarkston, and got excited about building community with our amazing neighbors."

Culture was showcased with this 5K. How many races end with you getting to eat mandizi, naan, and falafel? So many different ethics came together to organize this fun activity. Sixth grader George Graham stated, "I was happy to run if the money was going to a good cause, but the best part was seeing the refugees cheering us on at the finish line. I'm glad the Refugee Coffee Co. is raising awareness for refugees everywhere." Sixth grader Chandler Keown agreed saying, "I'm glad I was able to help out refugees and people in need."

In the end, Smoke Rise Prep Cooperative School helped our Clarkston neighbors move from surviving to thriving. It made an impact on 5th grader Rachel Rose who stated, "I had a lot of fun running the race, and helping heroic citizens." That is the biggest reward we all took from our experience in the Refuge Coffee Co. 5K. We look forward to doing this again next year to benefit the residents of Clarkston, and to be a part of their amazing community on a more daily basis in outreach and partnership.



The DeKalb Student Art Exhibit was held at the ART Station in Stone Mountain. Helping with the refreshments provided by the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club were (left to right) Nelda Lunsford, Barbara Luton and Mirian Boone. Art entered by a Tucker High School student is pictured above the ladies. Three hundred students, parents and teachers attended the reception.

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~ 6 ~



**Boy Scout Troop 876
Thanks Smoke Rise**

On March 21, Boy Scout Troop 876 collected food from our community for the Scouting For Food program. Scouting for Food is a national campaign with local impact and one of the largest food drives in the country. The troop would like to thank everyone who contributed and helped us to do a good turn. Over 1,100 items were collected and donated to a local food bank. It is amazing how generous our Smoke Rise neighbors are. You really did make a difference.

Doug Torbush Honored

Smoke Rise resident, Dr. Douglas Torbush, left, received the 2015 Emory Dental Alumni John McNamara Meritorious Service Award on March 27. Dr. Ronnie Weathers (right), former Emory Dental School Dean and Smoke Rise resident, presented the award. While at Emory Dental School, Doug served as president of his class all four years. Following graduation, he completed a General Practice Residency while working at both Grady Hospital and the Veterans Administration Hospital. Doug has served on multiple local, state and national dental committees, holding many leadership positions. He is currently the President of the Georgia Dental Association, and recently rolled off the American Dental Association Council on Dental Practice. Doug is an active member of many dental organizations, serves on the Board of the Decatur Rotary Club, is Chair of the Smoke Rise Country Club Tennis Committee, and captains multiple tennis teams. The Emory Dental Alumni Award was well-deserved recognition for the many years Doug has served the dental profession.



Good Guy Award

Doug Reynics (R) of Mountain Creek is the 2015 winner of Smoke Rise Community Association’s Good Guy Award honoring his many contributions to the enhancement of our neighborhood. Among his numerous volunteer efforts, Doug is Chairman of the Smoke Rise Community Garden. Pam Heisler (L), Vice President of SRCA, presented the award at the association’s recent Annual Meeting.

SRCA Annual Meeting...continued from page 1

the membership campaign was running at a pace ahead of last year, and the board was grappling with the reality that the SRCA, until this year, had never filed with the IRS. With an unpaid, all-volunteer board, no employees on payroll, and no investment or other taxable income, the general belief was that correcting the situation with the IRS should be straightforward and relatively painless. Elections saw Victor Economy, Pam Heisler, and Lisa Khemani re-elected to the board with Anna Ogletree and Jon Gravitt newly-elected to two-year terms. They join Lyle Collins, Virginia Rece, Doug Reynics, Eileen Stone and Mike Huerkamp to form the SRCA board for 2015. Allan Diamonti, Melanie Johnson, Jody Lucy and David Scott retired from the board and were acknowledged and thanked for their service to Smoke Rise. Doug Reynics was recognized with a Good Guy Award for founding and leading the community garden and stepping in on an emergency, interim basis as both treasurer and membership drive chair. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. It was estimated that there were 110 attendees.

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What You Need to Know About the New Property Tax Laws

Sweeping changes made in the real property tax appeal statutes in this year’s legislative session – the changes will materially affect you.

I work closely with the Georgia Senate Finance Committee as an expert on property tax appeal laws – the Finance Committee is the committee in the Senate that originates bills dealing with property tax appeals and reviews any bills regarding property tax appeals that originate in the House. This year’s legislative session has just ended and it was an exciting time for all property owners in Georgia. This year the massive re-write originated out of the House - HB 202 - it re-wrote all of the important statutes dealing with property tax appeals. The changes will materially affect how you manage your property taxes and your property tax appeals.

The property tax laws and the property tax appeal laws were (in a lot of instances) outdated and needed revising - such “revising” was done this year. Some portions of the old law were totally discarded - and replaced with entirely new concepts - and many others were seriously overhauled.

When HB 202 first reached the Senate Finance Committee, it was 53 pages long and was in relatively small print. I was asked to prepare a review of the bill for the Senate Finance Committee advising them of the most significant provisions and comparing them to the existing law - along with my recommendations for amending certain provisions of HB 202 and my recommendation for adding several amendments on subjects that HB 202 did not address - my undertaking took approximately 60 hours of my time - to say it was involved and complex would be an understatement. HB 202 touched every aspect of property tax appeals.

The status of HB 202 at the time I am writing this article is that it has passed the Senate and the House and is now waiting for the Governor’s signature.

Bottom line: the changes made by HB 202 are sweeping in nature and will materially affect all property owners from homeowners to commercial enterprises. I am very anxious to write a series of articles on the changes made by HB 202 - the changes will have to be reported in multiple articles due to the number of material changes that I will address. I will advise you of the changes and how each change will affect you - viewed pragmatically and in real life terms.

I would start telling you now of the changes but I will wait until HB 202 is officially the law of the land - meaning after the Governor signs. Stay tuned - hopefully you will see articles from me on HB 202 in the next few weeks.

Walter Hotz
Attorney at Law, Real Property Tax Appeal Specialist



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Alerts & Watches

by Jan Mahoney

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

3/29/2015 - VANDALISM/ DAMAGE TO PROPERTY - 5500 BLOCK BAHIA MAR CIRCLE
4/14/2015 - THEFT/LARCENY - 5500 BLOCK SILVER RIDGE DRIVE
4/14/2015 - BURGLARY/FORCED ENTRY - 1700 BLOCK EAST GATE TRAIL

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

From the DeKalb Police Department: Volunteers in Patrol

The Volunteers In Patrol (VIP) program is a non-confrontational neighborhood patrol program that the DeKalb County Police Department is kicking off as part of the Department’s Interactive Community Policing strategy.

The program is designed to:

- Deter crime
- Impact crime by having citizens patrol their own neighborhoods
- Allow volunteers to report suspicious or criminal activity to Interactive Community Policing Officers (ICP) or 911 (if an emergency)
- Improve the quality of life and provide a safer environment for neighborhoods

Qualifications:

- Must be a DeKalb County resident at least 21 years of age
- Complete a successful background check
- Possess a valid Georgia Driver’s license
- No moving violations in the last two (2) years
- No prior felony convictions
- No misdemeanor convictions in the last five (5) years
- No DUI convictions in last 10 years
- Successfully complete all required training
- Proof of auto insurance

If you are interested in joining the VIP program you must fill out an application and waiver form. Applications and waiver forms are available at all five (5) precincts.

- North: 4453 Ashford Dunwoody Rd., Atl., GA 30506
- Center: 1960 West Exchange PL, Tucker, GA 30084
- Tucker: 4451 Lawrenceville Hwy., Tucker, GA 30084
- East: 2484 Bruce Street, Lithonia, GA 30058
- South: 1816 Candler Rd. Decatur, GA 30032

Mail or deliver the completed application and waiver forms to:
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Attention: ICP Administrative Office
1960 West Exchange Place , Tucker, GA 30084
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON VOLUNTEERS IN PATROL (VIP) CALL 770.724.7550

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

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



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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

Normal Changes of Aging Part II: It is What is on the Inside That Counts

Last month I promised to write a Part II article on the normal changes of aging. As I researched material for this article, I was interested to find that some of the changes that ‘normally’ happen when we age do not happen to all of us at the same rate. Why some maintain youth in their vital organs longer is not fully understood, although good genes and healthy living certainly play a part.

Generally, as we age, we are less able to bounce back from diseases or stresses to our bodies. Declining blood flow to the internal organs, loss of muscle and nerve cells and decreased ‘stretch’ to the tissues contribute to loss of function in our organs. The following list is not a complete one, but gives an example of what happens to our bodies as we age. Hopefully, this list will not depress you, but will encourage you to do all you can to maintain a healthy and active life-style as you get older.

Heart: The hearts pumps less efficiently, with a slower heart rate and lower maximal heart rate when you exercise. Electrical conduction in the atrium of the heart may be slower.

The baroreflex, a reflex that keeps you from fainting when you stand up, is slower to react and you may feel dizzy or faint when you stand up quickly from a sitting position. Tip: Pause before moving away from your chair if you feel dizzy when you stand up.

Blood Vessels: The whole arterial system becomes stiffer and less elastic. This can cause the upper number of your blood pressure to be higher as you get older. It is also a factor in why the functions of other organs like the kidney and liver decline (less blood flow). Tip: Continue cardiovascular exercise with the approval of your doctor at least three times a week.

Kidneys: Because the arteries are stiffer, there is decreased blood flow to this organ as you age. Experts estimate there is a 10% decline in kidney function each decade after you turn 50. However! Thirty percent of older people experience NO decline in kidney function. Why this happens has not been well studied. Tip: If you have a decline in your kidney function be very aware of what medications you are taking. Many of them can damage the kidney. Also, keep well hydrated on hot days.

Liver: Changes to this organ are also a result of decreased blood flow. Since the liver filters out many toxins, decreased function of this organ can cause toxins or drugs to ‘hang around’ the body and damage the liver further. Tip: Be careful combining alcohol with any medications that are broken down by the liver. Never take more medication than is prescribed or written on the bottle unless you do so with your doctor’s approval.

Lungs: The lungs get stiffer as you age and have less capacity. Also, the muscles in the diaphragm, between your ribs and around the breathing tube are weaker. This can affect your ability to fully fill your lungs when you breathe. Tip: Never smoke! If you do smoke now, quit! Get the pneumonia shot and annual flu shot. Continue cardiovascular exercise on a regular basis.


Gastrointestinal: There are few changes during aging in the GI tract because the intestines are so long. Taste for food does decrease and this can lead to malnutrition and dehydration. Tip: Eat fruits and vegetables to maintain regularity and stay well hydrated.

Immune System: As aging occurs, fewer Hematopoietic stem cells are made. This means that fewer white blood cells are available on the front line when infection invades the body. Additionally, some of the immune cells like T cells, natural killer cells, Phagocytes and dendritic cells lose their ability to function as they did in youth. Tip: Stay up to date on immunizations and do not forget to get the pneumonia shot, shingles shot and yearly flu shot. Prevention may save your life!!

Now that you are depressed about getting older, here is some advice for older Americans by the American Geriatrics Society:
Exercise (150 min/week); Maintain normal body weight; Eat veggies and fruits; Don’t smoke
Remain socially engaged; Use your preventive health visits for vision, blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes screens... And immunizations.

And I would add: Get regular exposure to fresh air and sunshine, but do not overdo the sun exposure. It is the main reason we look old as we age...and it can cause vision loss, cataracts, skin cancers and those dratted wrinkles!

Remember, I am there with you, and we are all going at the same rate of speed!





On the evening of February 21st, friends and supporters of Life is Sweet (LIS) gathered at the ART Station to listen to the musical musings of talented vocalists and pianists while tasting wines from around the country and dining on delicacies provided by the Stone Mountain Women’s Club. The night was not all about fellowship and learning about wine tasting; the overarching goal was to raise awareness about the number one killer of women - cardiac arrest. The setting of the event was perfect, as guests could see the fruit of LIS’s mission hanging on the wall of the ART Station, the proud recipients of the first AED (Automated External Defibrillator) that LIS was able to purchase. The evening included a program where Ray Elliot, Captain of the Stone Mountain Park Police Department, spoke on the importance of AEDs and delivered the shocking fact that only 8-10% of people who experience cardiac arrest survive the event. LIS’s goal for the event was to raise money to purchase AEDs for the City of Stone Mountain’s Police Department. Their goal was met! Three AEDs have been purchased and were delivered to police headquarters. The supervisor of each shift will now travel with a lifesaving AED in their vehicle. All of the police officers in the city were recently trained on how to use the machines and are prepared to use it to deliver lifesaving treatment in case of a cardiac emergency. Life is Sweet plans to continue spreading the word about the necessity of AED units and raising money to help agencies and establishments purchase these lifesaving machines.

For more information about Life is Sweet, and the story behind their mission, please visit lifeissweetaed.org.

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Summer Safety for Dogs

by Mary Grace Mauney

May is National Pet Month, and it's also the start of the hot summer months where many people beat the heat at pools, lakes and beaches. Naturally, dog-lovers will be inclined to take their four-footed friends along with them, but depending on the breed of the pooch in question, this might not be such a good idea. While many people believe that all dogs are natural swimmers (it's called the 'doggy paddle' for a reason, isn't it?), there are some types of dog for which that isn't the case.



Pugs, dachshunds, bulldogs, Pekingese, Scottish terriers, Shih Tzus, Chow Chows, Staffordshire terriers, boxers, American bull terriers and Maltese all have various physical qualities that make it a bad idea for them to swim. There may be exceptions, but don't assume your dog is one - it's just not worth risking its life. If a dog is brachycephalic (flat-faced, like a pug or Shih Tzu), has a large head, is top-heavy and densely muscular, or has a long heavy coat, it is likely that it will have difficulty swimming safely. You should always keep an eye on ANY dog when it's in the water, but take extra care with these breeds and make sure they don't go beyond chest-deep. Keep them on a leash around water just to be sure.

Many of these same breeds—pugs, Pekingese, boxers, Shih Tzus—are particularly at risk for overheating, as are Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, French bulldogs, Boston terriers, black/dark dogs, St. Bernards, Huskies, and dogs with heavy coats. Dogs are already more sensitive to heat than humans, so keep an eye on yours regardless of breed, but be extra careful with these guys.

If your dog is panting, has a lolling or dark pink to red tongue, pale gums, excessive drooling, a dry mouth, keeps trying to lie down or is lifting its feet to avoid hot pavement, is slow or vomiting, get it out of the sun and sponge or pour cool water on its abdomen. Always check the weather before taking an at-risk dog outside in summer, and always be prepared with lots of water. Don't walk it on hot pavement, as this can hurt its feet and it may not show signs of pain until the damage is done. Don't feed it within an hour before exercising in the heat, as this will put it at risk for bloat. Don't ever leave a dog in a car on a hot day, not even with the window cracked!

Other things to be careful about in summer regarding your dog include parasites (fleas, ticks and other nasty little creatures thrive in this season), allergies (pollen, mold and flowers can bother its sensitive nose as much as yours), and fireworks (make sure it doesn't run off from fear or pick one up in its mouth because it looks like a stick).

Have fun in the sun, and make sure you - and your pet - stay safe!



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NEWS YOU CAN USE

By AvivA Hoffmann

Give Potential Identity Thieves the Cold Shoulder!

I wrote about “scam season” (tax season) in the April Smoke Signal, and now, I'd like to add a follow up of sorts. Have you heard about freezing your credit? Credit freezes are one of the most effective tolls against identity theft. A “frozen” credit status allows you to add an additional layer of protection on your personal credit. Also known as a security freeze, this tool lets you restrict access to your credit report, which in turn makes it more difficult for crooks to open new accounts in your name. That's because most creditors need to see your credit report before they approve a new account. If they can't see your file, they are less likely to extend the credit.

A credit freeze has no impact on your existing lines of credit. For example, you can continue to use your credit cards just as you would when your credit is not frozen. You must use a personal identification number (PIN) if you need to temporarily “thaw” your credit. That feature helps stop thieves from establishing new credit in your name – even if they have a lot of your personal information.

In Georgia, the fee for placing a security freeze with one of the three major credit companies is \$3. If you are a victim of identity theft and submit a copy of a valid investigative report or incident report, or complaint documenting identity theft filed with a law enforcement agency or the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the fee will be waived. If you are 65-years-of-age or older, the fee will be waived. The three major credit reporting companies are TransUnion, Equifax and Experian. If you decide a credit freeze is right for you, make sure to freeze your credit with all three bureaus.

A credit freeze remains on your credit file until you remove it permanently or choose to lift it temporarily when applying for credit or credit-dependent services. A credit reporting company must lift a freeze no later than three business days after getting your request. There is a \$3 fee to lift a credit freeze in Georgia, but removing the freeze is free in our state.

There are some instances where you would not want to freeze your credit. If your credit reports are accessed often for work or because you create new accounts with various financial institutions on a regular basis, you probably shouldn't freeze your accounts. The costs to continually “thaw” your reports would start to add up.

A credit freeze will not stop you from getting prescreened offers of credit. You must call 888-5OPTOUT (888-567-8688) or opt out online at: www.optoutprescreen.com. The phone number and website are operated by the nationwide credit reporting companies. You can opt out for five years or permanently. However, some companies send offers that are not based on pre-screening, and your federal opt-out right will not stop those kinds of solicitations.

Also, a credit freeze will not prevent a thief from making charges to your existing accounts. You still need to monitor all bank, credit card and insurance statements for fraudulent transactions. And, remember to continue to get your free annual credit report with each of the three credit bureaus. A credit freeze will not prevent you from receiving that - provided you send in the proper request.

If you are on the fence about taking measures to freeze your credit, there is also another option. A fraud alert allows creditors to get a copy of your credit report as long as they take steps to verify your identity. For example, if you provide a telephone number, the business must call you to verify whether you are the person making the credit request. To place a fraud alert on your credit reports, contact one of the nationwide credit reporting companies. A fraud alert is free. You must provide proof of your identity. The company you call must tell the other two credit reporting companies; they, in turn, will place an alert on their versions of your report.

Here are the numbers for the three bureaus:

- Equifax 1 800 525 6285
- Experian 1 888 397 3742
- TransUnion 1 800 680 7289

Consumer Advisor, Clark Howard has more on his website – including how to order your credit reports when your credit file is frozen. Search for the keyword “freeze” on his website: www.ClarkHoward.com for more information.



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Mountain Mums April Meeting

The Mountain Mums Garden Club held their April 15 meeting at the home of Debra Adams, club president. The Mountain Mums reviewed their community involvement and made plans for the next garden year. On March 23, eight members assisted residents at Brookdale Stone Mountain Assisted Living in making sun catchers. The club goes to this facility quarterly to do garden-themed activities with our friends there. The Mountain Mums also cleaned up and trimmed up the Hugh Howell Triangle at Highway 78. They will be replacing a dead memorial tree this year. Also, the red tulips planted by the Walk to Remember participants are blooming! Go by and see them at the corner of Hugh Howell and Silver Hill Road as it goes towards Smoke Rise Elementary Charter School.

Following the business meeting, Debra Adams, who is also an accomplished ceramic artist, taught the club members how to create ceramic flower garden stakes. Either by stamping or tracing a flower pattern on the clay and then creating high and low lights with tools, the members made each circle of clay into a unique flower. Most members then made bugs, butterflies and beetles out of clay remnants. The clay flowers and their insect friends will be fired and returned to the Mums in August for us to paint with acrylic outdoor paints.

If you would like to join a fun club like the Mountain Mums Garden Club, please call Ann Purr at 770-921-9070 for information on how to visit and/or join our club. With rare exceptions, we meet on the second Wednesday of every month at 9:45 a.m. Our next meeting will be May 13 at 9:45 at the home of Lisa Armisted. Tara Dillard, TV garden hostess and master gardener, will be presenting a program entitled "Creating an Outside Garden". The emphasis will be on Rock Gardens.



Linda Duckett, Debra Adams and Shannon Betsill

Smoke Rise Garden Club

The April meeting of Smoke Rise Garden Club was held in the home of Paula Adeoba. Denise Finley and Jane Culbertson were co-hostesses.

Rob Astrove, Park Ranger at Arabia Mountain State Park in DeKalb County, was back by popular demand. His enthusiasm for good health through the use of the hiking trails and bike paths at the mountain, as well as community gardens throughout the county, makes him an inspiration to encourage positive use of our metro area parks. He spoke about the plants that are in bloom at this time of the year. In particular the ground cover, diamorpha, a bright red succulent that is very showy but has a short life each year.

Garden clubs are a fun and social group of women. The clubs have a serious side as well - helping to create interests in gardening and community involvement. For men who are interested, there is a men's garden club in our area.

Smoke Rise Garden Club meets in the evening and provides members who work outside the home the opportunity to participate in the neighborhood beautification projects as well as the education and available resources for their own gardens. We meet the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining or learning more about garden clubs, please contact Jane Culbertson at 770-938-3060 or destovan@aol.com.



Rob Astrove

Spring Installation and Hydrangea Talk for Morning Glories

The March Morning Glories meeting was held at Smoke Rise Country Club. The group welcomed Deanna McFarlan, member of Shenandoah Rose Garden Club and a board member of The DeKalb Federation, Redbud District and The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Deanna was tapped to install the new officers for the 2015-2017 club years. Using the theme of planting morning glories in the garden, she introduced each officer and advised them in horticultural terms on various ways to perform their new duties. Her charming talk amused and delighted the members, setting a very positive tone for the new club year.

Our new officers are Ruth Ann Hill, Parliamentarian; Joy Zaidan, Treasurer; Mary Clark, Corresponding Secretary; Vivian Nickelsen, Recording Secretary; Glenndolyn Hallman, Second Vice President; and Joyce Ray, First Vice President. Quill Duncan will continue as President for the 2015/2016 year. Mary Clark was unable to attend the meeting and member Melodie Janin stood in for her during the ceremony.

The April meeting was held at Mountain Park United Methodist Church, and our speaker was Sara Henderson, hydrangea expert and currently the Director of Gardens for Historic Oakland Cemetery. Sara's talk focused on the five main varieties of hydrangea: macrophylla, serrata, arborescens, paniculata and quercifolia. She offered suggestions on placement, planting, pruning, light levels and fertilizing. With our late frost and freeze, many hydrangeas were "burned" on their leaves by the cold in our area. Sara advised that we wait a few more weeks to see if the damage was severe enough to limit bloom production this season. She did advise us to prune out all the dead wood now on all types of the shrubs. Older shrubs can be revitalized by severe pruning, but know that it will result in no blooms during this season.

In other club news, Carol Ann Culpepper was honored as a Lifetime Member of the DeKalb Federation at the March 26 meeting and luncheon at Callanwolde. The club now has 22 Lifetime members. The hostesses at the April meeting were Bonnie Pennington, Vivian Nickelsen, Glenndolyn Hallman and Beth Woodward, who provided a delightful luncheon.



Bonnie Pennington, Nancy Hudgins, Vivian Nickelsen and Julianne Goecke

Erika Marion Receives Scholarship from Mountain Shadow Garden Club

Each year the Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC), based in the Stone Mountain area, awards a scholarship in the amount of \$500 to a deserving student attending Gwinnett Technical College.

"For 2015, we are happy to announce that Erika Marion of Lilburn has been selected as the scholarship recipient," said MSGC President Jeff Raines. "The award is intended to recognize and encourage deserving students to further their studies and careers."



Erika Marion is studying Environmental Horticulture and is passionate about the environment and the importance of a sustainable lifestyle. She has been an officer of the Horticulture Club and very involved in the program at Gwinnett Tech. She plans to one day have her own greenhouse and a large garden that produces organically-grown fruits and vegetables for sale to the community.

Ms. Marion is a Georgia native who has lived in Gwinnett County for a number of years. She is a 2006 graduate of Collins Hill High School and spent several years as a stay-at-home mom before enrolling at Gwinnett Tech in 2014. She and her husband have two daughters who are also learning about horticulture and the environment.

Learn about Lost Oaks of Georgia with Mountain Shadow Garden Club

Did you know that oak trees host more than 500 native moth and butterfly species? And there are many common misconceptions about oaks. The Monday, May 11, meeting of Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) will feature a program titled "The Lost Oaks of Georgia", providing insight into the Quercus (oak) species. Jim Rodgers, owner and operator of Nearly Native Nursery in Fayetteville, Georgia, will discuss the topic and explain why we should plant more of this important plant.



For over 30 years, Jim Rodgers has been propagating native plants and has been involved in plant rescues and reclamation projects. His business specializes in native trees, shrubs, palms, and perennials that will attract native wildlife. He supplies plants to many botanical gardens throughout the country. He has a love for educating and speaks to many sectors of the public, including school groups, scouts, native plant enthusiasts, and garden clubs.

MSGC is open to men and women of all ages who enjoy learning about a diverse range of topics on gardens and plants. The program activities begin promptly at 7:30 pm. Refreshments and socializing follow. The group meets in Founders Hall at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain. Free. For more information or for directions, call club president Jeff Raines at 404-641-8633.

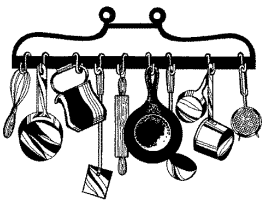
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HODGE PODGE



By Jenny Hall-Busch

As I write this column, it is April 7th and I just found out that today is National No Housework Day! This is wonderful news, worthy of putting on your calendar right now. Today is also National Beer Day, which is less exciting to me since I don't like beer, but I will substitute other delicious beverages of choice of the adult persuasion so that I feel better. And because I waxed poetic about Dr. Pepper® last month, I am giving equal time this month to other soft drinks. I just have to say that anything that has some type of fizzy product in it is bound to be good.

Coca Cola® Chicken

4 (4 ounce) skinless, boneless chicken breasts, pounded a bit so they are somewhat equal in thickness and seasoned with salt, pepper and garlic powder
2/3 cup ketchup
12 ounces of Coca Cola® (Diet is fine)
A dash each of Worcestershire sauce and hot sauce
One medium sliced onion, optional

Bring ketchup, Coke and seasonings to a boil in a deep skillet. Add chicken, reduce heat and simmer one hour, covered for the first 30 minutes and uncovered for the second 30 minutes to thicken the sauce. You can also thicken the sauce by stirring in some cornstarch in a little water and adding it to the cola mixture. I like mine a bit sweeter, so I added about ¼ cup brown sugar along with the ketchup.

A note about diet cola: many of the recipes I researched on line used regular Coca Cola® for this recipe and said that diet wouldn't work. But other recipes said to specifically use diet. The sugar content might be important to the final product but boiling down diet drinks will only result in concentrated chemical deliciousness...or toxic waste. But we're concerned about our toxic waists right now, aren't we???

This recipe came from Barbara's friend Diane. This is perfect for upcoming warm weather and will remind you to look for that ice cream freezer that you have stored away someplace. Easy and delicious, and you can certainly vary the flavor if you want to use another fruit flavored soda.

Diane's Orange/Pineapple Sherbet

2 (2 liter) bottles of orange soda (Fanta®/Nehi®, etc.)
1 can sweetened condensed milk
1 small can crushed pineapple

Mix ingredients and freeze according to directions you have lost for your ice cream freezer. There are loads of variations for this also on line, but all seem to use condensed milk as a necessary ingredient. Experiment with this super easy idea.

7-up® Pound Cake

When is the last time you made this? It has been around since the 50's and still is a favorite.

1 cup butter
½ cup shortening, like Crisco
3 cups sugar
5 eggs
2 Tablespoons lemon zest
1 teaspoon EACH vanilla and lemon extract
3 cups regular flour
1 cup 7-up®, room temperature

Preheat oven to 325° and thoroughly grease and flour a 10-inch tube pan or Bundt pan. Beat butter and shortening until creamy. Gradually add sugar, beating until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating just until blended. Add zest and extracts. Add the flour to the butter mixture alternately with the 7-Up®, beginning and ending with flour. Don't overbeat. Bake for 65 to 75 minutes or until it tests done in center using a long toothpick. If it is browning too fast, have a sheet of aluminum foil ready to cover the cake during the last 10-15 minutes of baking. Also watch and turn pan if your oven bakes unevenly. Cool about 10 minutes, run a sharp knife around edge to loosen and cool on wire rack. When cool, glaze with about 1½ cups powdered sugar mixed with 1 teaspoon lemon juice and heavy cream to create a nice pouring consistency.

If I have left out your favorite soft drink, I am deeply sorry, but it is probably because I really don't like it anyway. I'm not a root beer fan, but there are interesting recipes on line using root beer to make cupcakes and all sorts of cute food items which I would hate but you might just adore. May is a good month to experiment, and those of us who are mothers will probably eat whatever you create anyway...because we love you.

All classified ads are limited to twenty words, with the *Smoke Signal* reserving the right to edit any copy. Ads are \$15.00 per month, (\$75.00 per 6 months if prepaid). Please submit copy in writing with a check for the months the ad is to run. Deadline is the 10th of each month. ADS NEED TO BE PREPAID. When submitting classified ads, please include your full name, address, and phone number. This information is for our records only! For classified ads, contact Barb Hess at 404-229-0742 or barbhess48@gmail.com.

For information on display (box) advertisements or flyer inserts, see contact information on page 2.

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Stone Mountain Rotary Club

by L.A. Dison

The Rotary Club of Stone Mountain invited 26-year-old graduate student Aimee Copeland to speak to the club in April. Aimee miraculously survived a near fatal case of necrotizing fasciitis in 2012 after falling from a zip line. Against all odds and medical knowledge, Aimee lived through the infection, although she coded twice during the process, and lost her entire left leg, right foot, and both hands. Aimee spoke to members about her journey to recovery, the faith that still sustains her and her mission to inspire others.

Other speakers for the month included Lucie Johnson, president of DeKalb Council on Literacy; Brigadier General Curt Rauhut, vice president, Georgia Military College; Russ Hall, ActionCOACH business coach; and Frank Luton, motivational speaker (and Smoke Rise resident).

In March, the club hosted a team of student volunteers from Boston University, part of the school's ASB (Alternative Spring Break) program. These inspiring students funded this trip themselves. They drove down to Atlanta from Boston, spent the week sleeping in the gym at one of the local churches - all to spend a week volunteering at FODAC (Friends of Disabled Adults and Children). The club was honored to give the students a good meal and recognize their "Service Above Self."

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



Rotary Club of Stone Mountain President Chris Brand (center, behind mic) poses with the Alternative Spring Break team from Boston University after their lunch with the club.