

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 3

Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

June, 2020

www.smokesignalnews.com

Happy Father's Day to all of our Smoke Rise Dads!
Stay Safe and Happy!
Father's Day is June 21

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Our Fathers, Our Heroes *By Barbara Bruschi*

Whether a world away or in the next room, fathers play a most important role in our families. Particularly in these uncertain times where a dangerous viral enemy lurks everywhere and has altered our lives. On a positive note, there are many fathers who are now participating in the daily family dynamics and have a chance to bond closer with their children and spouses.

From birth throughout life, a father guides and takes pride in sharing the lives of their children. Their love and support are invaluable in the development of their children. Grandfathers are cherished in many ways too. In today's society, they play a most important part in helping to shape the future of children.

Single fathers deserve a lot of credit for fulfilling the responsibilities of both parents daily. Father's Day was initiated in 1910 by Mrs. John Bruce Dodd whose mother died in childbirth. As she matured, she realized that her father, a veteran, had sacrificed his life to raise his five children. We salute all the fathers in the Armed Forces who sacrifice for their country and all the members in health care who are so bravely attending to the sick and putting their personal lives at risk. They are truly our Heroes.

In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed a Presidential Proclamation, declaring the 3rd Sunday in June as Father's Day. Having lost my father at a young age, I totally understand the sorrow one feels growing up without sharing life's trials and tribulations, joys and success with the father that was to be a guiding light in a complicated world.

Technology enables us today to be able to record and video tape fathers throughout their lives, so they can have a place forever, not only in our hearts, but as a visual connection. Of course, nothing can replace a sweet embrace and a little voice whispering: "Daddy, I love you, and you mean the world to me."

Enjoy all the time you can spend with your father, honoring him for all the guidance, care, friendship, understanding and sacrifices he has gladly given to you. I salute all the fathers, all over the world, who are devoted to their children so they may grow up as happy, successful, adults who make the world a better place!

The Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club is Now a Tucker City Park

The Smoke Rise Bath and Racquet Club located on Glacier Drive has a new owner, the City of Tucker. The facility has been a private club since its inception in 1967.

According to Rip Robertson, the City of Tucker Parks and Recreation Director, the acquisition will add a quality park in an area that was identified in the city's Parks and Recreation Master Plan. In addition to the pool, this property will provide a new playground, picnic pavilion and other park amenities. This new facility will allow the city to expand its aquatic programming with



possible designated adult swim, water aerobics, swim lessons and even swim meets. The tennis courts will allow the city to host additional league play, possible tournaments and team activities. The city is in the process of exploring converting two of the existing tennis courts to four to six pickleball courts.

The city has already begun improvements, with cleaning the area of underbrush and old equipment and working on the pool, fencing, pavilions and restroom facilities. The city also plans to add a playground and parking area in the near future.

A "Friends of the Park" group is being organized to gain community input. One of the key aspects of the effort is to begin developing the Lord's property green space, which is located close by. The Friends group will be a volunteer group, and you'll want to begin looking for opportunities to join.

An official name for the new facility has not been designated as of yet, but will probably be announced this summer.



State of the City Address

On May 8, Mayor Frank Auman delivered a virtual State of the City address. The address, normally held in a packed City Hall, the day prior to Tucker Day, the largest festival of the year on Main Street, was presented on Facebook live, due to Coronavirus social distancing guidelines. In Mayor Auman's words, "these are unusual times, and we must press on..." In preparation for his speech, Auman watched all three of his previous addresses, "mostly as a check on himself, and a way to hold himself accountable: staying true to the city's founding principles." Auman said in spite of our current public health challenges, the state of the city is "strong, vibrant, serving its citizens well and progressing in maturity as an organization and prepared for the future. Crime is down, property values are up and opportunities are limitless." In the address, Auman talks about the council's core responsibilities and how they're being addressed. He also talks about the future and what's next for the city in achieving its goals and "fulfilling the promise that is Tucker."

Some highlights included: The Downtown Sidewalk project, with expected completion early next year. The Downtown Master Plan was completed, providing a framework for development. Sidewalks along Idlewood were completed, safely connecting the middle school with downtown Tucker. The first leg of a 32-mile trail system has begun. Transportation Connections are in the works for I-285, impacting Tucker at Lawrenceville Highway, Lavista Rd. and Northlake Parkway. Fitzgerald Field was acquired in a cooperative agreement with the Tucker Football League. The park has been completely overhauled and deferred

...continued on page 2

Have some exciting summer news to share with Smoke Rise?
 Do you have a recent graduate or wedding announcement in your family? Share your good news with us for publication, so all of Smoke Rise will know.
 Send in a picture and a short description or photo caption to: staff@smokesignalnews.com



Smoke Signal

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State of the City continued from page 1

maintenance brought up to speed. A four-acre park in Smoke Rise has been added to the city's inventory, with a swimming pool, lighted tennis courts and a playground. Tucker Recreation Center Gym has undergone a complete renovation with indoor pickle ball courts and indoor basketball courts. Parking lots are being added to Smoke Rise Park and Johns Homestead Park. Two restrooms are being constructed at Henderson Park, one near the community garden and a second at the tennis courts.

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, Tucker was averaging 25-30 new businesses every month. New businesses recently opened or under construction include: two new breweries behind Main Street, two new restaurants on Main Street, Sugar Bowl Bakery on Montreal (bringing 400 new jobs to the city), and Georgia Furniture Mart's brand new logistics center. Northlake Mall is being redeveloped for Emory Healthcare offices and retail use. Permits are already being processed for new restaurants and businesses there. The 99,000 square foot shopping center with restaurants, shops, groceries and other amenities has been approved next to the new Smoke Rise Elementary School. Eighty streets and 19 miles of roads are being paved. Seven signalized pedestrian crossings and seven more school zone flashing signals have been installed, making our streets safer for our most vulnerable citizens. A new interim City Hall has been leased off Northlake Parkway, increasing efficiency and bringing all city offices, except Parks, under one roof. Public meetings will still be held at the annex on First Avenue. Crime: property crime is down 25% and violent crime is down 16% compared to last year. Auman says, "Our current state is strong, vibrant, and prepared for our future together." To hear this speech, go to tuckerga.gov/mayor or to City of Tucker-government on Facebook. You can also find an update on the Coronavirus on those pages.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

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

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

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

Respite Care Center Hours: Loving care for your Senior Adult
 10 a.m. - 3p.m. Wednesday

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

MC3 Church

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

Sunday Worship at Parkview High School Auditorium
 9:30 a.m. Coffee and donuts; adult and student c-groups; nursery and Sunday school for infants to 5th graders.
 10:30 am. Worship service
 C-groups throughout the week at various homes -- check out our website for more times and addresses
 Business Address and Hours:
 1316 Rockbridge Rd, Suite M
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087
 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Mailing Address: 1227 Rockbridge Rd., SW, STE 208-251
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087

First Moravian Church

Pastor: Rev. Elroy Christopher
 Congregational Acolyte: Bill Hitz
 Telephone (770) 491-7250, (770) 755-8289
www.gamoravian.org
 Sundays:
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School-Adults & Children
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time

Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

Mountain West Church

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

BRING A BOOK TAKE A BOOK

Don't forget to check out the Little Libraries that have popped up near the swim clubs.



DID YOUR PAPER GET WET?

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

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

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

Smoke Signal Deadlines

JUNE 13

Please e-mail articles to:

staff@smokesignalnews.com

(Word documents or text file attachments preferred)
 PLEASE DO NOT SEND CLASSIFIED ADS TO THIS E-MAIL ADDRESS

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

Deadline for classified ads is 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.

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



GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club Installs New Officers

New officers for the 2020-2022 administration have been installed by the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club. Several Smoke Rise residents will have leadership roles in the club for the next two years.

The newly installed officers are Becky Sanders, President, Kathy Gallo (Smoke Rise resident) Vice President, Martha Decker, Treasurer, Linda Smith (Smoke Rise resident), Secretary. Shari Carter and George Ann Hoffman will share Parliamentary Advisor duties. Kim Sekulow (Smoke Rise resident) will be installed as First Vice President for the state organization, GFWC Georgia.

The following Smoke Rise residents will have leadership responsibilities in the club: Lizzie Terrone and Priscilla McDowell will lead the Night Guild for members who are working during the daytime. Joanne Patterson will be in charge of membership. Nelda Lunsford will handle credentials. Marty Bryan keeps the club aware of domestic violence issues. Glenda Willett and Kim Sekulow both work with fundraising. Barbara Luton takes care of the club house property and the 1929 Society which funds the upkeep of the building.

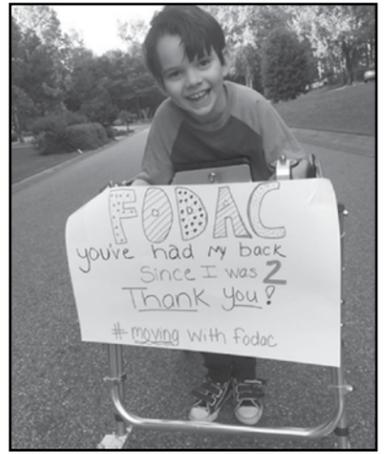
The General Club meets on the second Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m., except June, July and August. The Night Guild meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. For more information about membership in the club, please visit info@stonemountainwomensclub.org.



Left to right: Martha Decker, Linda Smith, Becky Sanders, Kathy Gallo, Shari Carter

FODAC Holds Successful Virtual Fundraising Event

The Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC), headquartered in Stone Mountain, held a virtual fundraising event on May 9 raising more than \$45,000 for mobility support. Now in its 20th year, the annual Run Walk 'n' Roll (RWnR) is one of the organization's main fundraisers. This year, the family-friendly event was re-imagined as a "virtual" event due to the Coronavirus pandemic. There were 175 participants, across 13 states, who "got moving" through a variety of activities – running or walking on a treadmill, rolling through their neighborhood, hiking a trail, or riding bikes, just to name a few. Many participants posted photos and videos of themselves during the event across social media with the hashtag #MovingwithFODAC.



Eight-year-old Bogart resident, Sam Wells, was one of many FODAC supporters who turned out to raise funds for the organization's HME Program.

"We were overwhelmed by the response from our supporters who enthusiastically embraced the reformatted event," said Chris Brand, president and CEO of FODAC. "Many non-profits have had to postpone or cancel major fund-raising events because of COVID-19 and the resulting social restrictions, but FODAC friends took up the challenge in diverse and inventive ways to raise a record amount of funds to support our mission."

Funds from this event support FODAC's mission to provide home medical equipment such as wheelchairs, shower benches, and walkers at little to no cost for mobility-challenged recipients and their caregivers. Last year, FODAC provided more than 8,500 items to the disabled. You can learn more about FODAC at fodac.org.



GFWC
Stone Mountain Woman's Club



Congratulations to the Smoke Signal on 50 years of continuous publication, and thank you for your coverage of the activities of the Stone Mountain Woman's Club.

Our members are dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. We accept members that live outside the boundaries of Stone Mountain, GA. Come volunteer with us!

Website: stonemountainwomensclub.org Email: info@stonemountainwomensclub.org

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

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

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





Street Repaving in Smoke Rise

There's a great deal of street repaving activity going on in Smoke Rise. The repaving is being done under the auspices of the City of Tucker and funded by the recent SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax). In all, there are 25 projects either completed or soon to be completed in the Smoke Rise community. Here's a complete list:

1. Mountain Shadow (fm Kanawha Drive to loop end)
2. Mountain Shadow Trail (fm Mountain Shadow to loop end)
3. Mountain Shadow Lane (fm Mountain Shadow to cul-de-sac)
4. Mountain Shadow Court (fm Mountain Shadow to cul-de-sac)
5. Mountclaire Court (fm Hugh Howell Road to cul-de-sac)
6. Mountclaire Road (fm Mountclaire Court to McCurdy Road)
7. Deer Ridge Drive (fm Hugh Howell Road to Antebellum Drive)
8. Stratmor Court (fm Stratmor Drive to cul-de-sac)
9. Highgate Court (fm Stratmor Drive to cul-de-sac)
10. Antebellum Drive (fm Marthasville Court to cul-de-sac)
11. Marthasville Court (fm Hugh Howell Road to cul-de-sac)
12. Scarlett Walk (fm Antebellum Drive to cul-de-sac)
13. Barrington View (fm Lilburn-Stone Mountain Road to cul-de-sac)
14. Patriot Way (fm McCurdy Road to Patriot Drive)
15. Patriot Drive (fm Patriot Way to Deer Ridge Drive)
16. Deer Ridge Drive (fm Hugh Howell Road to cul-de-sac)
17. Chastleton Drive (fm Stoneleigh Drive to cul-de-sac)
18. Gauley River Drive (fm Stoneleigh Drive to Kanawha Drive)
19. Carrington Court (fm Chastleton to cul-de-sac)
20. Chastleton Court (fm Chastleton Drive to cul-de-sac)
21. Stoneleigh Drive (fm Gauley River Drive to Hugh Howell Road)
22. Fairgreen Drive (fm Stoneleigh Drive to Gauley River Drive)
23. Greencastle Way (fm Fairgreen Drive to Hugh Howell Road)
24. Stone Creek (fm Hugh Howell Road to cul-de-sac)
25. Spencers Way (fm Rosser Road to Loop Road)





WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS AND THE SMOKE RISE COMMUNITY FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND SAFE PRACTICES

BECOME A MEMBER FOR A DAY TO EXPERIENCE MEMBERSHIP

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

Smoke Rise Country Club Offers Dinners "To Go"

Now is a great time to try dinner from Smoke Rise Country Club – Members and Non-Members Welcome!

With so many people more comfortable dining at home, the Club's creative chefs are ramping up a take-out family dinner program, which is available to the community, members and non-members, on Wednesday and Friday evenings thru the end of June. Menus are available on the website or by contacting Layna at the Club.

Email Layna Denault (mdenault@smokerisecc.com) by 6:00 p.m. with your order and the time you want to pick it up, then drive by the left-side front door at the Clubhouse to pick up your dinner. Enjoy!

New Web App Highlights Tucker Restaurants



The City of Tucker unveiled a new web application Wednesday that will help residents sort through the various levels of service being offered by restaurants during the coronavirus pandemic. "Tucker Open for Business" features an interactive map that will allow users to see whether restaurants are open for delivery, takeout, dine-in, or all three.

"This app will give users access to information about every one of the 123 restaurants within Tucker's city limits," said app designer David Zeh, who serves as Tucker's GIS Analyst. "We've found that restaurants are in all stages of re-opening right now, so we hope that this will help make it easier for people to patronize our great Tucker businesses."

"It's no secret that Tucker has some of the best and most eclectic restaurant options around from down home cooking to international flavors from all over the world," added Economic Development Director John McHenry. "We developed this tool to help our Tucker foodies to more easily navigate all the amazing choices out there and assist our local restaurants in this challenging time."

The app features a list of all restaurants grouped by their level of service, as well as an interactive map, where users can zoom in and select businesses in a certain area. Each entry provides links to the specific restaurant's website.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e369de25056e49f396ee42f08527264e>

Reflections on Today's Environment

By Anonymous

- ♥ I want you to know that I am educated enough to know that I could be asymptomatic and still give you the virus.
- ♥ No, I don't "live in fear" of the virus; I just want to be part of the solution, not the problem.
- ♥ I don't feel like the "government is controlling me;" I feel like I'm being a contributing adult to society and I want to teach others the same.
- ♥ The world doesn't revolve around me. It's not all about me and my comfort.
- ♥ If we all could live with other people's consideration in mind, this whole world would be a much better place.
- ♥ Wearing a mask doesn't make me weak, scared, stupid, or even "controlled." It makes me considerate.
- ♥ When you think about how you look, how uncomfortable it is, or what others think of you, just imagine someone close to you - a child, a father, a mother, grandparent, aunt, or uncle - choking on a respirator, alone without you or any family member allowed at bedside.
- ♥ Ask yourself if you could have sucked it up a little for them.

City of Tucker Announces Modified Summer Program

By Matt Holmes, City of Tucker Dir. of Communications and Administrative Services

As it continues to adapt to the coronavirus pandemic, the City of Tucker's Parks and Recreation Department has decided to offer a modified summer program schedule for children this summer. These programs and activities, which will take place in parks throughout the city, will give children an opportunity to get some exercise and rekindle friendships, all while maintaining good public health protocol.

"The more we studied this, the more we realized that, balancing the health interests of our staff and our campers, we could not offer a full-day camp this summer," said Parks and Recreation Director Rip Robertson. "We hope that this modified option will provide some measure of childcare relief for parents. We know it's going to be a great outlet for our youngsters."

Registration and pricing is available on the city's website at <https://www.tuckerga.gov/>. Anyone who had previously registered for the city's full-day summer camp can email parks@tuckerga.gov for a refund of their deposit or use these funds towards programming options in the parks.

The Parks Department has also announced plans to re-open the tennis courts at Henderson Park. The courts, which were closed in April at the recommendation of the United States Tennis Association, have re-opened for limited play.

"The USTA changed their guidance, which allows us a level of comfort in re-opening the courts," Robertson said. "It will be different: there will be no doubles tennis, each player must use their own marked tennis balls and we will be spacing players out by only allowing play on two of our four courts and on one court only at our newest facility in the Smoke Rise community. It's a small step, but we hope to get our tennis community back out on the courts."

The courts will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. daily. Parks employees will be on hand to serve as court monitors, to ensure that good social distancing is being observed.

The City of Tucker assumed responsibility for its Parks and Recreation services from DeKalb County in 2018. Annually, it hosts dozens of organized activities for kids and adults in the parks, as well as at the popular Tucker Recreation Center.



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"One for All, and All for One!"

Joel Gilbert, P.E.

I grew up with this quote from The Three Musketeers. Perhaps you remember the rest of it: "For united we stand and divided we fall!" I remember that as an inspiration for our country. Now, for the first time, I am beginning to doubt the truth of that saying.

Are we one nation? I don't think so. We are the most divided I can remember. I felt we came together on 9-11. You might have thought we would come together for COVID-19. Nope, the tensions are running high these days, despite the appearance that we may be gaining on the virus. Seems that most all of what you hear in news soundbites is crafted to discredit the other political party.

How do we set national policy, when there are such strong divisions within our societal fabric? I hope you would agree that we must be sensitive to those who have little to no voice and can so easily be swept under the carpet with cavalier phrases like, "let them eat cake."

But, it seems silly that we still try to solve problems on a national or even statewide basis when there are huge disparities within these states, like New York with its densely populated New York City and a much more rural upstate area. And, here in Georgia where we have Atlanta and everywhere else. With these huge regional differences, it seems senseless to apply the same restriction on the entire state.

Denial is also alive and well, and by the way, it is not a river in Egypt. While the cost of shutting down the economy is far from fully appreciated, the idea that herd immunity will protect a nation has now come into clear focus.

I am intrigued by the experiment playing out between Sweden and Norway, two neighboring northern European countries. Sweden did not shut down their economy and is counting on "herd immunity," where eventually everyone gets the disease, and over time, and the population is immune. Norway, on the other hand, shut down its country like China, Italy, France, the US, and most of the rest of the world. While it is half the size of Sweden, where the death toll is more than 3,600, Norway has ~400 deaths, far less than half as many from the disease. Notice on the graph that Sweden's deaths from COVID-19 continues in an unrelenting trend upward. So, while Sweden's economy may have not suffered as much by being shut down, at what cost of life?

City of Tucker Gives Away Surgical Grade Masks

By Matt Holmes, City of Tucker Dir. of Communications and Administrative Services

Mayor Frank Auman announced just before his virtual State of the City Address on May 8 that the city plans to give away more than 6,400 surgical grade masks to those who need them most in the City of Tucker. The masks are being distributed first to assisted living facilities.



"We will distribute [the masks] to three groups: long-term care facilities in Tucker that are dealing with positive cases, local businesses that need to have masks on hand for their employees and customers, and members of the general public of Tucker who would like to have a mask of the highest protective type to wear when they need to go out of the house and into the community," Auman explained.

The cost of the masks is being covered by line items in the Tucker budget that were impacted due to the pandemic.

Tucker is currently under a state of emergency, in accordance with the latest executive order by Governor Brian Kemp. Mayor Auman issued his own order in April for an extension on occupational taxes in the City through the end of May.

A Global Pandemic's Effect on a University Campaign

By Constance Schneider, Student Body President, Liberty University

The coronavirus pandemic has led to many universities moving towards online education for the remainder of the spring semester. Most aspects of campus life have been shut down- including on-campus dining, housing, and activities. However, there is one part of student life that hasn't been cancelled because of the outbreak of COVID-19: Student Government elections.



At Liberty University, student government elections are the trademark of new beginnings and excitement for the coming year. In years past, hundreds of students buzz around campus encouraging others to attend parties, events, and interest meetings for their candidate. I planned on running for Student Body President in October and immediately started preparing for the spring semester campaign. Our plan was to break the school record this year and run the largest campaign the school had ever seen. Starting from the ground up, our team was projected to have around 250 volunteers by the time elections came around on April 15th. I never could have imagined that I would spend Election Day pacing back and forth in my room calling my campaign team every few minutes while I waited for the results. We had planned for an on-campus campaign, which is vastly different than what we ended up with. The day we received word that Liberty would move to online class, we slowly started to transition our focus to a completely online format. Our campaign events were cancelled- including a community-focused campaign gala event and many other campaign parties. Our order of 350 t-shirts quickly turned into 50 that were mailed to our strongest supporters and team members. We made the decision to focus our energy towards reaching every single Liberty student that had an Instagram or Facebook account. At 5:00 p.m. on April 15th, in a virtual online meeting, I learned that the student body campaign I ran from my bedroom in Smoke Rise, GA successfully acquired 2,077 votes from other Liberty students. I was now the first elected female student body president of Liberty University. This historical achievement occurred in the midst of uncertainty and confusion, allowing the opportunity for me to encourage my fellow students and create a buzz of excitement for next year. Coronavirus may have permanently altered many things, but it will never get in the way of college students striving for a better tomorrow- starting within their own university.

Organizing...Connecting...Working Together

By Susan Gilbert

To keep us all better connected, Kanawha Community Association is compiling a communication contact directory of all our Smoke Rise neighborhoods. So far, we have contact information for the Board of Directors in Kanawha and for all the officers in Howell Highlands.

If your neighborhood has a communication contact or list of officers you'd like to share with us, please send to Susan Gilbert (sgilbert@apogee.net). We will make it available on our Kanawha website and on NextDoor.

If you are not registered on NextDoor, I strongly encourage you to go do that. It's easy. Go to Nextdoor.com and all you need to know is your street address. It can only be accessed by people who live in our area. You will see lost dogs and suspicious vehicles posted and stay informed of what is going on in Smoke Rise and the surrounding areas. Plus, get recommendations on where to eat and where to get various kinds of help. Check it out!

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Mr and Mrs Dennis Sanders are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter **Victoria Sanders** from Tucker High School. Victoria will attend Tuskegee University in the Fall. The Sanders family reside in The Forest neighborhood.

The Maclin Family of Brentwood Subdivision is proud to announce the graduation of **Christopher Maclin** from Tucker High School in May 2020. Christopher finished in the top 10% of his class and was a student in the Engineering STEM program. He will attend Georgia State University in the fall.



Isabelle Graf will graduate from Providence Christian Academy this July. During her



time at Providence, Isabelle participated in cheer, track and field, tennis, and volleyball. She played several years on club volleyball teams and volunteered in the children's ministry at Rehoboth Baptist Church throughout high school. Isabelle will attend the University of North Georgia in the fall, where she plans to study psychology.

2020 Graduates – You Made It! Congratulations!

The Smoke Signal wishes the new Tucker grads (and all of our graduates throughout our community), good luck on all your future endeavors. You put in a lot of hard work into this past year, especially these past few months. Congratulations! Tucker High School recognized 190 of its 361 graduates during a virtual awards night this year. Thirty-five students graduated from Tucker H.S in the top 10% with a 3.5 GPA or higher.

Twenty-four Tucker H.S. students graduated from the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. This is an advanced high school academic program recognized worldwide for its rigor and reflection on the nature of knowledge. Students complete a major research paper in an area of interest and do 150 hours of creativity, action and service in addition to taking advanced courses throughout their Junior and Senior Years.

Tucker H.S. also proudly boasts 45 graduates of its STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH) program. The 2020 grads are the third STEM program graduating class. An Honor stem student is required to complete the engineering pathway requirements, achieve a minimum of 3.2 GPA while taking a minimum of three AP and/dual enrollment STEM content courses. Congratulations STEM Graduates.

Congratulations also go out to the class of 2020 Valedictorian, Luma Younis, and Salutatorian, Bidhya Pradhan. The Valedictorian is presented to the student who's grade point average is the HIGHEST RANKED student in the senior class of 2020. The Salutatorian is presented to the student who's grade point average is the second highest ranked student in the senior class of 2020.

Two awards were voted on by Tucker H.S. faculty and staff. The JAMES R. HALLFORD AWARD is given to an outstanding senior who demonstrates leadership, academic success, school spirit and active involvement in student life. The award is given in honor of Dr. James R. Hallford, former Superintendent of the DeKalb County School System, English Teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal at Tucker High School. The winner of this award is Raven Cook.

The TUCKER HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY AWARD is given to an ideal student who contributes significantly to the betterment of Tucker High School and is highly regarded by the faculty for his or her consistent dedication to excellence in academics, extracurricular activities, and overall department. The winner is Andrew Todd.

The STAR student award is presented to the student from each school's senior class who scored highest on a single scholastic aptitude test or SAT on a single test date, and is in the top 10 percent of their class. This year's STAR Student is Joshua Perlmutter. The STAR Teacher is selected by the declared high school STAR Student for having made the most significant contribution to the STAR Student's scholastic development. Congratulations to Mr. Hemery Ouanzin.

The ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION AWARD goes to the best all-around senior student. This recipient is chosen by school faculty on the basis of scholarship, leadership and participation in school and community activities. The Cup is given to a student whose actions have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the success of the school program and who has proven to be an exemplary role model for his or her peers. This year's 2020 AJC award goes to Anna Fernandez.



The family of **Charles "Charlie" Philip Nelson III** proudly announce his graduation from Parkview High School - Class of 2020. Charlie's parents include: Jenny and Eric Rothman (Smoke Rise, Ga.) and Charles and Mary Nelson (Lilburn, Ga.). His grandparents include: Cornelia and Phil Nelson (Tucker, Ga.), Lynn and Charles Thompson (Columbus, Ga.), and Richard and Micheline Rothman (Rising Fawn, Ga.).

Charlie will attend Kennesaw State University Marietta Campus in the fall where he will study software engineering.

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Joanne and Ted Robinson of the Summit are proud to announce the graduation of their son, **Daniel Robinson**, from Chamblee Charter High School in May 2020. Daniel attended Smoke Rise Elementary before entering the Magnet program at Kittredge. He has been a Smoke Rise Shark since he was three-years-old. Daniel is a Life Scout with Boy Scout Troop 876 and aspires to obtain his Eagle rank in the next few months. For the past two years, he has participated in dual enrollment at Georgia State University. While at Chamblee, Daniel was admitted into the National Honor Society, and lettered in both cross country and swimming. As a member of the senior class of 2020, he has persevered through unforeseen challenges with grace and a smile! He will be attending the University of Georgia and plans to major in engineering.



SRP: Where Everyone is Family!

By Sherrie Waddell, Smoke Rise Prep Principal

Smoke Rise Prep, Stone Mountain's best kept secret, focuses on the core values of character, culture, curriculum, and communication. In order to shape well-rounded students, our teachers and parents create an atmosphere that aligns with those core values. One way that we accomplish this is to create a healthy balance between academic rigor and enriching activities.

Congratulations to the class of 2020! You were an amazing class, and we were determined to make your graduation special. We hosted a congratulatory parade for our 5th and 8th grade graduates and virtual graduation through Zoom. We were captivated by our keynote speaker, Mrs. Stacey Evans, a former member of the GA House of Representatives, who spoke on the importance of resilience and taking risks. More than 100 supporters attended our graduation from all over the United States, and we are thankful for their support! Best wishes as you leave Smoke Rise Prep and matriculate to your respective high schools.

Coronavirus threw our community and nation for a loop, and many schools had to pivot in a very short amount of time. Smoke Rise Prep found innovative and effective ways to continue educating our students while being away from them. We hosted Zoom classes and created a modified schedule for students in grades K-8, so they could interact with their teachers and students daily. Our teachers posted lesson plans and hosted open office hours, so that students could ask questions or just talk to their teacher. Most importantly, we worked with students and parents who were overwhelmed and provided support, strategies, and outlets to help them cope.

If you'd like to hear for yourself the amazing things going on at SRP, please email Principal Sherrie Waddell at sherrie@smokeriseprep.org to set up a time to attend a virtual info session. We are accepting new applicants and we look forward to adding some new members to our school family. Have a great summer, and please continue to stay safe and healthy!



Claire Amanda Sanders, the daughter of Dennis and Carolyn Sanders graduated from Queens University of Charlotte with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. Claire plans to attend law school.

Julia White will graduate from Providence Christian Academy on July 11, 2020. In the fall, she will attend Georgia Southern University in the Honors program. Julia is a member of Beta Club and National Honor Society. She played varsity tennis and varsity volleyball and was the editor-in-chief of the school newspaper. Julia is the daughter of Alan and Ellen White of Smoke Rise.





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Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hoyer are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter, **Elizabeth Hoyer**, from Providence Christian Academy. She is a member of the National Honor Society, and the National Beta Club as well a Zell Miller Scholarship recipient. Elizabeth plans to attend the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega this fall.



Hailey Miller graduated from St. Pius X and is heading off to Baylor University.



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NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

Buyer Beware!

A lot of things are different lately in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic. As someone who's grown up in America in modern times, it's been quite an adjustment to see some store shelves empty and people regularly wearing face coverings. Another sign of the times is the vast amount of varying health and safety information going around. And, you can bet, if there's a high demand for items, like facemasks and paper products, guess what scammers pretend to sell?

The Federal Trade Commission's Office of Consumer Information states that since the beginning of March, dozens of people, including healthcare workers, have told the FTC they paid online stores for facemasks and toilet paper - but didn't get anything. Most people said the scammers took their money and then "ghosted" them by cutting off all contact, refusing to answer questions, or shutting down their online store websites. As I write this article, I am waiting to see if an order I placed in mid-April will actually come through with four face masks I purchased. (I do have a safety net. See the third bullet point below.)

Before you order from an unfamiliar online store, consider these tips to help avoid a scam:

- Do a little research. Plug in the product or company's name in your favorite search engine with terms like "review," "complaint," or "scam." See what other people say about it. Read the seller's description of the product carefully. If name-brand goods are offered at steeply discounted prices, they might be fakes.
- Read the fine print! Calculate the total purchase price, including taxes, shipping, and handling. Find out when to expect your delivery. By law, sellers should ship your order within the time stated in its ads, or within 30 days if a time is not noted. Know the company's policies. If you have to return the item, can you get a refund? Who pays for return shipping? Is there a restocking fee? Etc.
- Pay by credit card. Federal law provides for some protections with credit card purchases. So, you don't have to pay for merchandise you ordered but didn't get. If a business charged your account too soon, and didn't deliver the merchandise on time, you can dispute the billing error and report it to your credit card company.

If you suspect a scam, share that with the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint. For more for more tips, blogs, and videos about avoiding Coronavirus-related scams, visit ftc.gov/coronavirus.



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A Prisoner and His Musings

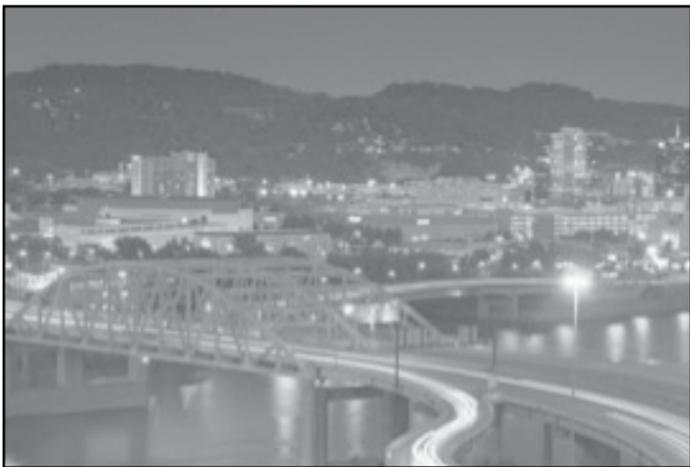
By Lake Brown

Hi, greetings. I'm just wondering if anyone knows how the Smoke Rise community happens to have two distinct West Virginia names among its many streets. (Now you know what happens when a 78 year old has become a prisoner in his own house. He has lots of time to create, search, seek and play hearts.)

Fifteen years ago or so I had the pleasure of being invited to play your challenging golf course. I was stopped in my tracks when I noticed Kanawha and Gauley used in your street's names.

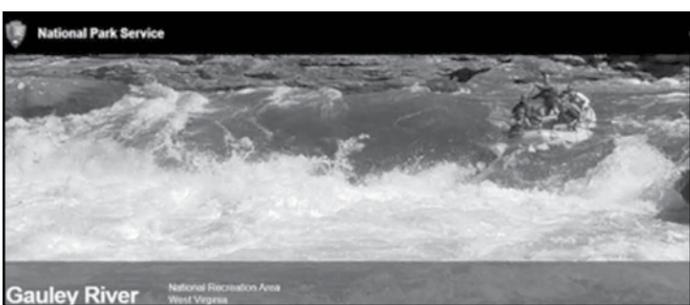


Below is a photo of the Kanawha River, which runs through Kanawha County in West Virginia.



KANAWHA (kuh-NAH-wuh). What is the Smoke Rise pronunciation of Kanawha? The internet site HowToPronounce.com tells you how to pronounce Kanawha. You pronounce it kuh-NAH-wuh... roughly. Run it together real fast—and it sounds like kuh-NAW.

Editor's addition from Wikipedia: The Gauley River is a 105-mile-long river in West Virginia. It merges with the New River to form the Kanawha River, a tributary of the Ohio River.



A bit of trivia concerning West Virginia and the Coronavirus. West Virginia was the last of the 50 states to report a positive case of the coronavirus (St. Paddy's Day, March 17).

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Out the Window By Beth Henson



Fawn by Beth Henson

The bright, streaming light was my helper this morning, as I busily tried to finish my most recent painting. I was fortunate to have the expansive floor to ceiling windows in my home art studio. I longingly peered outside to the panorama of lush green grass and leafy hardwoods. Tiny Mr. & Mrs. Titmouse caught my attention, as they chattered in the lower branches of the recently bloomed azaleas.

Just then a flicker of movement caught my eye. Berry had come to visit and bought her two new fawns! They were serenely grazing near the tiny birds, sending the couple into a fit of sassy complaints. The fawns were a painting themselves with their beautiful spotted backs, delicate legs and crisp white under their tails. Mother Berry's ears were up (ever alert) and her large, soft brown eyes were watchful to protect her fragile offspring.

I was fortunate to meet Berry late last summer, when she ventured into my yard to eat the juicy purple mulberries (her namesake) from the gnarled tree that overhung our upper patio. She had become my constant afternoon visitor and delight. Her tiny, graceful feet allowed her to enter and exit the yard in silence, and the four-foot fence was no hindrance, considering she can clear an astounding eight feet!

I was saddened one afternoon when a large buck with magnificent antlers appeared in the far corner of my yard, and she hastily left for the fall dating season.

Thank you for sharing your family with me, Berry. Be sure to drop by when the berries are ripe!

Smoke Signal Political Policy

It is the policy of the *Smoke Signal* to print one article on political candidates prior to each primary and/or general election. The candidate must submit the article to the paper by deadline, in order for it to appear in the following month's issue. No staff member will be responsible for any political articles on candidates, nor will the *Smoke Signal* solicit articles from candidates. Articles are to be submitted on a voluntary basis.

Political flyers – See page 2 for information. No political ads will be run in the classifieds.

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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

What is "Telemedicine?"

Telemedicine is a new term being thrown around by the media and in communications from doctor's offices. You may be wondering what Telemedicine is and if it is an acceptable substitute for a face-to-face doctors visit. During the Coronavirus pandemic, many patients have been afraid to go to the doctor, because they think they could be exposed to the virus in the waiting room or the office. While most offices have put excellent policies in place to keep both the patients and the healthcare workers safe, many people are opting to stay home anyway. There may be some merit to this concern, if you as a patient are in a high-risk category.

How can high-risk patients manage their chronic medical problems in a safe manner without getting into "trouble" physically? Enter the concept of Telemedicine. Telemedicine is a videoconference between the patient and his or her health care provider. The patient interacts with their provider about their concerns – and the physician - who has access to their medical records, has the ability to see the patient. Often these visits are enhanced when the patient provides a home blood pressure, blood sugar or temperature to the physician.

The state of Georgia approved the first law defining telemedicine in 2006, so this is not a new concept. At that time, the Composite Board of Medicine established minimum requirements to ensure that this type of video office visit would be secure and up to standard practice. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, some of the HIPPA requirements have been relaxed slightly. This allows the doctor to use Facetime, Viber, etc., if other more secure sites do not work. Most insurance companies, including Medicare and Medicaid have agreed to cover these visits.

Telemedicine encounters can be done by licensed Physicians, Physicians Assistants and advanced Nurse Practitioners. Mental health services area already frequently use Televisits. For all virtual visits, the provider should have the patient's medical history available and must document the encounter. They should also make sure the patient receives clear instructions regarding follow up and emergency care related to the encounter. The teleconference is not for new patients, only established patients.

Most teleconferences begin by a call from the nurse to "check the patient in." They ask the purpose of the visit and describe how the visit works. They review medications and allergies and obtain "vitals" (like weight, temperature and blood pressure) provided by the patient. Following the check in, the physician then invites the patient into a virtual encounter.

If the camera is of adequate quality, skin lesion, rashes and several parts of the physical exam can be done. While not meant to replace a person-to-person office visit entirely, it can aid the practitioner in their decision to direct the patient to make an in person office visit, or to go the emergency room or urgent care. During COVID-19, the teleconference can be used to determine if the patient is sick enough to have coronavirus testing, needs to be seen in the ER, or if they can quarantine at home with careful follow up.

The teleconference can be very helpful to ensure continuity of care during the quarantine. It can be used to follow or address allergies and asthma, urinary tract infections, hypertension, diabetes and many other chronic conditions, including anxiety and depression counseling. Medications can be refilled, adjusted and managed. Many preventive services, such as the Medicare Wellness Exam, are ideal for teleconference, because they do not typically involve a physical exam.

Telemedicine is not a substitute for all care. Providers are to make a "diligent effort" to have patients seen person-to-person by a licensed provider, at least once a year. If you use the video visit in place of a routine visit, it is important to schedule an in-office visit in the future. Your provider can advise you on when this should be scheduled.

Telemedicine is a great technique in this "stay-at-home" time. If you are concerned about an in-office visit, ask if your provider to set up a teleconference.

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Weed or What?

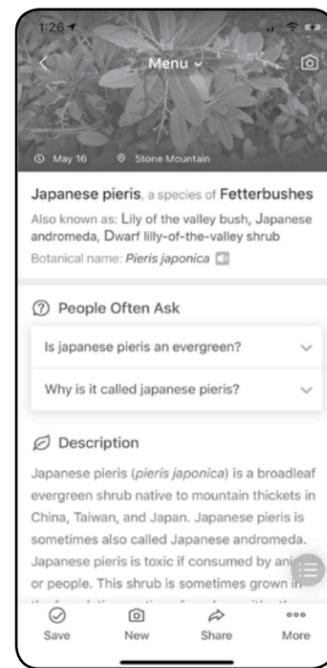
By Susan Gilbert



One of my greatest frustrations tending to the garden surrounding my home is not knowing a weed from a welcome new resident. I'd hate to pull or poison a newly sprouting Lenten Rose or Evening-primrose, but it's hard to tell when they first peek through the soil. Solution: A Plant Identification App!

The first one I downloaded to my phone was PictureThis®, which identifies 1,000,000+ plants, with 98% accuracy - better than most human experts. And it's such fun to use. You simply tap it, focus your subject in the viewer area, and snap a picture. It can identify the plant from a picture of a leaf, a flower, or bark of a tree. The app searches a database, and in seconds produces an identification that includes the common names, the botanical name, a description, commonly asked questions about it, and tips from garden coaches about its care. It also keeps track of all the plants, trees, and flowers you identify in your own personal collection stored in the app on your phone.

Another nice feature of this app is it also diagnoses diseases and pests, giving you recommendations for ridding your yard or garden of them. Like with the identification process, you simply frame the sick or damaged plant in the photo viewer and tap to take the picture. You are then provided pages of remedies. A feature of the app I have not tried is to get individualized advice by typing your question to an expert who apparently e-mails you a reply.



After using the app a few times, I was displeased to learn that to keep using it, I had to pay a \$30 annual subscription. I held out for six months, tried a few other free apps, then conceded to paying the fee through my iTunes account. Having used the app now for a few months, I consider it one of the best investments in my garden I have made. The fun of learning the names of all the plants, and the confidence it gives me to poison or pull weeds makes up for the expense.

There are free applications you might want to try before spending any money. One is PlantNet that comes highly recommended by my gardening neighbor, Linda Karr. As founder of the Garden Enthusiast store on main street in Tucker, she would know a good plant

app from a marginal one.

I hope that this inspires you to get out, shoot pictures of your plants and care for the flora surrounding your home and garden. While we are spending more time at home, this is a great educational diversion that can provide hours of entertainment. And once you know the vegetation on your property, take your phone on walks or nature hikes and expand your knowledge. You can also use it with friends, when you visit them to let them know what is growing at their homes and on their properties. Knowing your plants takes gardening to a new level and should keep you from pulling any precious plants you want to propagate.

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Smoke Rise Community Garden

By Eileen Stone, Community Garden President

We are happy to report that the Smoke Rise Community Garden is fully rented! We have 25 available beds built, of which three are designated for pollinators/flowers, two are designated for the Wow In-Sync non-profit program. In addition to those 25 beds, we have three 4x12 beds planted and designated for food pantry crops. The Stay-at-Home order has allowed us to have extra time for special projects at the garden. We have restarted our composting beds, installed a 500-gallon rain cistern (thank you Brechin family) and gutters, planted perennials in the road front garden bed, and spread a truck load of mulch.



Special thanks to Jim Sedlak for his selfless and tireless work at the garden, Catherine Smith for her composting knowledge and the SRCA that keeps this project going!

Feel free to stop by, take a look, but leave the harvesting to the garden plot renters.

The Smoke Rise Community Garden was formed by the SRCA in Smoke Rise, Georgia.

<http://www.smokerise.org/community-garden.html>

Morning Glories Support GA Regional Hospital Project

By Quill Duncan

Member Jackie Cox is a Work Therapy Coordinator at GA Regional Hospital in DeKalb County, and she is a very enthusiastic gardener. Jackie joined the Morning Glories in 2018 and shared her plans for a special therapeutic gardening project on the hospital's extensive grounds. She designed and installed a sensory garden in that year and devised plans for more gardens in 2019. The DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs donated funds for the garden therapy project in early 2019. In the summer of 2019, she received a grant from the Espoma Company for \$250 worth of planting/soil amendments and used them for a new vegetable garden. Patients and staff planted flowers and vegetables in the late spring and summer of 2019. Morning Glories members advised Jackie on where and what to plant for the gardens and provided enthusiastic support for her efforts.



And, the fun began with the joy of the harvest. They planted and harvested beans, squash, herbs, pumpkins, collards, tomatoes, okra and peppers. And cooked their harvest for the patient meals! Jackie updated the club weekly with photos of the harvest as it rolled in! And, as you may recall, a pumpkin grown in the garden won a blue ribbon at the Yellow Daisy Standard Flower Show in September, 2019.



Jackie's patients are full-time residents at the hospital and many have chronic mental health conditions. The process of planting, weeding and watering the gardens and watching the busy pollinators at work provides a worthwhile focus for the patients. And, the natural beauty of the gardens offers a soothing comfort. This late spring, she discovered ripening strawberries in the vegetable garden, ready for harvest and blueberries on the blueberry bushes and yellow blooming collards gone to seed.

In early 2020, Jackie learned that the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. wanted to help fund the garden therapy project and provided \$500 for plants and upkeep. A \$100 grant was donated by the Bellmere Garden Club in Johns Creek. An additional \$500 grant from GCG, Inc. is pending.

More gardens are planned, and Jackie has the full support of the hospital administration to continue her dream of creating beauty for those who live and work on the property. It is very encouraging and inspiring to be able to garden. A seed is a promise of a plant. And, the process of nurturing it to harvest can be very fulfilling no matter what your situation may be.

Gardening is a blessing and a gift. Though our clubs are not meeting now, we are continuing to garden and keep in touch with each other via phone calls, photos and emails. We hope to resume our activities in the fall, and we will keep everyone updated on our schedules.

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Amen, Let's Eat!



By Joyce Ray

As we react to news about the COVID-19 Virus and take into consideration what might be in shortage at the grocery stores, it's difficult to plan our meals, as the current casualty seems to be meat. Our news reports that meat is not in short supply at the farm level but that the virus is taking a toll on the workers in meat packing plants, causing shutdowns and under staffing. For now, we might need to rethink our dependence on ground beef for grilling, chicken, and some pork products. I am featuring a couple of my favorite meatless recipes, and each of them can have meat added when supplies are replenished.

Naturally when we think of meat, pasta meals come to mind and This "Taste of Home" Make Ahead Spinach Manicotti is a crowd pleaser. It MUST be made ahead to allow manicotti to soften as it absorbs liquid from the casserole. Overnight is best.

- 15 oz carton ricotta cheese
- 2 pkg (10 oz) frozen chopped spinach, (thawed and squeezed dry)
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese ... divided
- 1 cup fresh parmesan cheese, divided
- 1 egg
- 2 tsp. fresh chopped parsley
- 2 teaspoons onion powder
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 1/18 teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 jars (28 oz each) spaghetti sauce
- 1 ½ cups water
- 1 8oz pkg manicotti shells

In large bowl, combine ricotta, spinach, 1 cup mozzarella, 1/2 cup parmesan, egg, parsley, onion powder, pepper, and garlic powder.

Spread 1 cup spaghetti sauce in an ungreased 13x9 inch baking dish. Combine spaghetti sauce and water. Stuff uncooked manicotti with spinach mixture, arrange over sauce. Pour remaining sauce over manicotti. Sprinkle with remaining mozzarella and parmesan. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Remove from refrigerator 30 minutes before baking. Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 40-50 minutes, or until sauce is bubbly and casserole is heated through.

YIELD: 6-8 servings.

NOTE: 2 cups Cooked ground beef can be added if desired.

One of my all-time favorites that can be used any season of the year, is this timeless wild rice and cranberry salad. It is so versatile and can be used as a side dish or add some chopped chicken and serve as a cold salad with fruit and side vegetables.

Wild Rice and Cranberry Salad

- 1 6 oz. pkg long-grain and wild rice mix (Rice-A- Roni)
 - 1 cup sweetened dried cranberries
 - 1 cup fresh broccoli, chopped fine
 - 4 green onions, chopped (or one small red onion)
 - 3 celery ribs, chopped
 - 1 (2oz) jar of diced pimento, drained
 - ½ cup sweet and sour dressing (below)
 - 1 cup dry roasted peanuts.
- Prepare rice mix according to pkg. directions, cool
Combine rice, cranberries, and next 4 ingredients, add dressing. Stir gently. Cover and chill at least 2 hours or overnight. Optional: stir in peanuts (or toasted pecans) just before serving.
- Sweet/sour dressing:
½ cup veg. oil, 1/3 cup brown sugar, 3 tablespoons white vinegar, 1 tsp salt, ½ teaspoon dry mustard. Mix until sugar is dissolved. Serves 6-8



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