

SMOKE SIGNAL



Look inside for...

Day Trips.....	pg. 4
Lock in Your Natural Gas Rate.....	pg. 7
Too Sick to go to School?	pg. 8
General Election Reminders.....	pg. 10

A Tour of Southern Ghosts

By Barbara Luton, GFWC Stone Mountain Women’s Club Member

The ART Station of Stone Mountain is sponsoring “A Tour of Southern Ghosts” at Stone Mountain Park. The event takes place Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights - October 11,12,13; October 18,19, 20; October 25,26,27, in the Historic Square where the houses are located. Tickets are required for the event, and you’ll also need a pass to enter Stone Mountain Park.

Walk the paths and listen to the ghost stories. End at the historic schoolhouse where many unique Halloween and fall items are for sale. Members of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club have been assembling “Boo Boxes” under the guidance of Smoke Rise resident, Nelda Lunsford, with help from Andrea Redmond. You will want to pick up one of the ghosts in a box, which comes with a year’s supply of food enclosed for the ghost.



All of the profits from ticket sales and sales in the school-house go to support the Art Station, the local art theater and art museum in Stone Mountain Village.

For more information call (770) 469-1105 or go online to: <https://artstation.org/tosg>.



(Front row, L-R) Joy Abrams, Bonnie Pennington, Quill Duncan, Glenndolyn Hallman, Victoria Crosby, Denise Finley, Collette Riefkohl, Jean Weathers, Rigby Duncan, Kimberly Fair, Susan Turner & Ann Purr. (Back row, L-R) Members of the Color Guard included Battalion Chief Alex Lane, Captain Kevin James and Driver Operator Danny Menard.

Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Never Forget 09/11/2001

By Susan Turner, Chairman

It was a beautiful, albeit solemn day, as members of The DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. gathered to take part in the Remember 9/11 Ceremony held annually at the DeKalb County Public Safety Complex in Tucker. The Federation again provided a lovely wreath for placement during the ceremony. The First Responders unit continues in their appreciation for our kind participation and support, as we acknowledge the 23rd year of this heart-breaking National tragedy.

Many members and friends were in attendance and that makes it all the more special.



The wreath presented by The DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Victoria Crosby and Denise Finley, both of Smoke Rise Garden Club, were escorted by Senior Firefighter D’ante Pickett of the DeKalb Co. Fire Department, who carried the wreath. Major Nicole Rutland, DeKalb County Police Department sang our National Anthem

beautifully. Captain Douglas Harms played Amazing Grace and other songs on the bagpipe.

It was again requested that a special reading by Victoria R. Crosby, president of Smoke Rise Garden Club, be a part

...Continued on page 10

Autumn

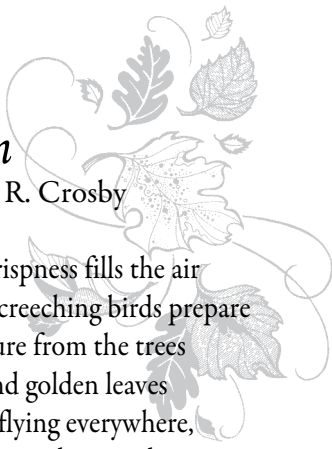
by Victoria R. Crosby


Autumnal crispness fills the air as flocks of screeching birds prepare their departure from the trees whose red and golden leaves are floating, flying everywhere, or hanging on in despair, dying.

And there you are like a red and golden leaf hanging on in desperation, when you could be floating, flying.

Learn to let go, and let life’s wind blow you to adventures and places unknown. Don’t waste precious time alone and crying.

© Copyright 1998 Victoria R. Crosby All Rights Reserved



City of
Tucker

October Events Calendar

1

Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:00 p.m.

1

National Night Out, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
4316 Church Street

7

Downtown Development Authority
6:30 p.m.

14

City Buildings Closed in Observance
of Columbus & Indigenous People’s Day

15

University of Government Affairs
6:00 p.m.

15

City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

17

Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.

25

Haunted Trail at Henderson Park
4:00 p.m.

28

City Council Work Session, 7:00 p.m.



Smoke Signal

P.O. Box 1038, Tucker, GA 30085

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

Editorial Committee: Cheri Schneiderstaff@smokesignalnews.com
*AvivA Hoffmann.staff@smokesignalnews.com
Gia Anderson.....staff@smokesignalnews.com
* This Issue’s Editor of the Month

Church News.....Susan Gilbert
Health NotesCheri Schneider MD, Pat Baumann MD
Recipes and Home.....Joyce Ray
Social and Digital Media.Pat Soltys, Amber Voss
News You Can Use.....AvivA Hoffmann
Tech TalkSusan Gilbert
Out the WindowBeth Henson
Other Staff Writers:.....Victoria Crosby
Joel Gilbert
Linda Karr
Pat Soltys
Barbara Luton
Frank Luton
Amber Voss

Distribution & Delivery Karen Berry.....770-634-9435
Flyer Inserts Barbara Luton770-491-6711
Advertisements Amber Voss.....staff@smokesignalnews.com
Classifieds Amber Voss.....staff@smokesignalnews.com
You may contact all staff writers at staff@smokesignalnews.com.

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. Technical and Medical information is not to be construed as professional advice. 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.

DID YOUR PAPER GET WET?

**EXTRA COPIES
OF THE SMOKE SIGNAL
ARE NOW AVAILABLE
AT THE COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Look for the wooden box labeled **Smoke Signal**.



ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:

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



Smoke Signal Deadlines

OCTOBER 13

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


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

Deadline for classified ads is OCTOBER 10

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

“Like” us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews

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



TUCKER FARMERS MARKET

April through November
THURSDAYS 4-7 p.m.

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


ATTENTION GRADUATES, NEWLYWEDS, and HONOREES:

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

**Email submissions to
staff@
smokesignalnews.com**

BRING A BOOK — TAKE A BOOK

Don’t forget to check out the Little Libraries near the swim clubs.



Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

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

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

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

5801 Hugh Howell Road
Rev. Jeanine Fulton, Pastor, 678-481-4052
Phone: 770-469-4881
Website: Eastminster.us

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

First Moravian Church

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

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

Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

SUNDAY 8:45 a.m. Worship

Mountain West Church

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

SUNDAY 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. Worship
THURSDAY 10:00 a.m. Neighborhood Bible Study
In-person and streaming online on Facebook and mwchurch.com

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


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



For over three decades, **Blankenship Family Dentistry** has been treating the Smoke Rise Community with a personal touch.

You will feel comfortable with our father-daughter team that offers an abundance of dental talent, in a judgement-free environment.

Call to make your appointment today.
770.879.0732



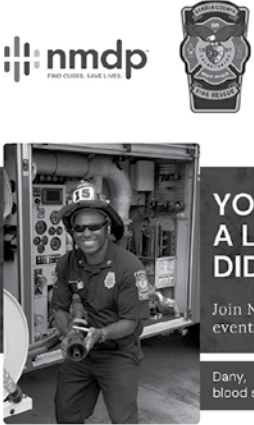
Celebrate Octoberfest at Smoke Rise Baptist Church!

October 30
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church is hosting a free community event called Oktoberfest.

This community event has an array of activities for everyone to enjoy, including face painting, crafts, trunk or treat, inflatables, and exciting door prizes.

A delicious BBQ dinner will also be available at the event. Dinner tickets sales are available in person and online: smokerisebaptist.org/octoberfest.



YOU CAN CHANGE A LIFE, LIKE DANY DID.

Join NMDPSM at our registry recruitment event to find out more

Dany,
blood stem cell donor


With NMDP, good goes a long way. Turn your innate goodness into a limitless, life-saving gift by becoming a member of our donor registry. Together, we can create a world where blood cancer and disorders are a thing of the past.

Dany is a firefighter/paramedic for Dekalb County Fire Rescue in Georgia that saves lives on the daily. In June 2024, he saved a life in a different way, by donating his blood stem cells to a patient in need! You can be a hero to someone too- no EMS training necessary.

Join the NMDP RegistrySM at our upcoming registry recruitment event.

Date	October 2-3	October 4
Time	11 a.m.-4 p.m.	2-6p.m.
Location	Dekalb Fire Rescue Headquarters 1950 W Exchange Place Tucker, GA 30084	

Can't attend the event?
Scan the QR code to join the NMDP Registry today!



To learn more, contact
Nina Rollins at NRollins@nmdp.org.

National Marrow Donor Program. All Rights Reserved.

TCP FALL CLASSIC

9AM REGISTRATION
10AM SHOTGUN START

INDIVIDUAL \$200 FOURSOME \$700	SPONSORSHIPS HOLE \$1,500 SCHOLARSHIP \$2,500 SWAG \$3,000 TITLE \$5,000
------------------------------------	--

PRIZES FOR
HOLE-IN-ONE
PUTTING CONTEST
LONG DRIVE
AND MORE!



28 OCT | SMOKE RISE COUNTRY CLUB
STONE MOUNTAIN

REGISTER, SPONSOR, AND DONATE AT:
TCPGOLF24.GIVESMART.COM

Charitable Golf Tournament – Get in the Game!

By Susan Gilbert, Staff Writer

Come join the tournament for a challenging morning of competition, comradery, and charitable giving for a wonderful cause. Threshold Community Program (TCP) is a Decatur-based non-profit school supporting the social, emotional, and educational growth of individuals with disabilities (e.g., autism, ADHD, and dyslexia) and their families in a therapeutic learning environment.

Charlie, son of Smoke Rise residents Brenda and Andy Alexander, has been attending the school for 14 years and absolutely loves it. They report that the school has been a big part of Charlie’s growth and development.

For more than a decade, the Alexanders have conducted this TCP Fall Classic fundraiser at the Smoke Rise Country Club. The money raised helps the school bridge the gap between tuition and what is required to run the program.

Please reserve the date on your calendar for Monday October 28. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. with a shotgun start at 10:00 a.m. We hope you’ll join the fun and help make this year a record turnout as we raise funds for this very deserving school.

To register, sponsor, or donate, go to tcpgolf24.givesmart.com. Please contact Andy or Brenda Alexander (404) 314-9648, if you have any questions or want to participate in any way.



Fall is almost here, looks like not only leaves will fall, but interest rates too!



770-573-9715
www.SmokeRiseAgents.com
Pat@SmokeRiseAgents.com



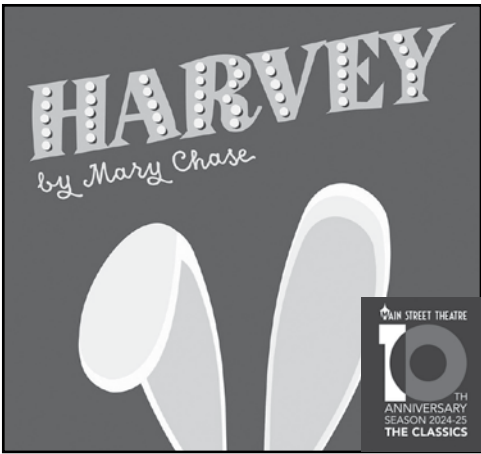
Pat Soltys
#1 Agent & Team
678.717.7903

Main Street Theatre Celebrates its 10th Anniversary with “Harvey”

By Gary Goettling

A six-foot-tall invisible rabbit takes center stage once again when Main Street Theatre presents “Harvey” Oct. 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27, and Nov. 1 and 2 in the Bill Hines Auditorium at the Tucker Recreation Center, 4898 LaVista Rd., Tucker.

“Harvey” was the community theatre group’s first main stage production, back in 2015, drawing capacity audiences. Main Street Theatre is reprising the classic story to commemorate its 10th anniversary.



“Harvey” was chosen as a recognizable, wholesome play,” says Sabrina Chambers, founder and president who played nurse Ruth Kelly in the production. “We chose ‘Harvey’ this time to honor our beginnings and all of the people who came together to bring theatre to Tucker.”

The Pulitzer Prize-winning play, written by Mary Chase, concerns Elwood P. Dowd, a good-natured, middle-age man whose best friend is an invisible six-foot-tall white rabbit named Harvey.

Elwood’s delusional behavior confounds his sister, Veta, whose forbearance is finally exhausted when Elwood shows up at a luncheon she is hosting and introduces Harvey to everyone in attendance. To save the family further embarrassment, Veta decides to have Elwood committed to a sanitarium. As a comedy of errors ensues, the characters discover the value of kindness and acceptance.

“Harvey” is Merle Halliday Westbrook’s third main-stage directing role for Main Street Theatre. She has also directed skits and a murder mystery for the group, and performed as Veta in their first “Harvey” production.

Cast members include Jason Oldham (Elwood P. Dowd), Candace Lambert (Veta Louise Simmons), Carly Sharec (Myrtle Mae Simmons), Sarah Mason (Mrs. Ethel Chauvenet), Isabelle Prevot (Miss Johnson), Bryson Prince (Dr. Lyman Sanderson), Kiya Hauser (Ruth Kelley), Ryan Stroud (Duane Wilson), Jonn McDaniel (Dr. William R. Chumley), Barbara Macko (Mrs. Chumley) and David Andignac (Judge Omar Gaffney). Wayne Kelley, who played Lyman Sanderson in the first “Harvey,” returns as E.J. Lofgren.

“I love this cast!!!” Merle exclaims. “I love building a safe, creative space where everyone can share their experiences and contribute equally to the work of bringing the playwright’s words to life!”

Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. for Friday and Saturday performances, and Sunday shows begin at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are required. During the performances, masks are optional, subject to CDC guidelines. Concessions will be available.

For tickets and more information, please visit www.mainstreettheatre.org.



The cast of Main Street Theatre’s “Harvey”

Day Trips *By Linda Karr, Staff Writer*

Last month, I wrote about fun and exciting things to do in and around Atlanta. This time, let's look at some day trips that will take you a little further from home but will provide fun and excitement!

- **Gibbs Gardens** - There are sixteen various style gardens over 220 acres. 1987 Gibbs Drive, Ball Ground, GA; About an hour and 30-minute drive
- **Atlanta Botanical Garden in Gainesville** - It is home to the largest conservation nursery in the Southeast. 1911 Sweetbay Drive, Gainesville; About an hour and 30-minute drive
- **State Botanical Garden of Georgia** - 313-acre preserve with nature trails, themed gardens, art installations, tropical conservatory, and designated as an important birding area. 2450 S Milledge Ave, Athens; About an hour and 30-minute drive
- **Brasstown Bald** - Located within the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, the Visitor Information Center is the highest point in Georgia, rising 4,784 feet above sea level. It is a short drive from Blairsville, Hiawassee, and Helen. There are picnic areas, a general store, a mountaintop natural science & history museum and observation deck that offers a 360° view of the spectacular surrounding area, including four states (GA, TN, NC, & SC) and occasionally, the skyline of Atlanta! About a one hour and 50-minute drive
- **Washington, Ga** – Founded in 1774, this town was named for George Washington. You will find many historical places to visit such as the Callaway Plantation, the Washington Historical Museum, Robert Toombs house, Kettle Creek Battlefield, Resthaven Cemetery founded in 1857, and the historic downtown area. There are also lakes for fishing, boating, and more. About a one hour and 50-minute drive
- **Milledgeville** – This former capital of Georgia has an active allied arts organization in the historic district offering a “broad range of experiences in the performing, visual, literary, heritage, and educational arts,” Andalusia (home of Flannery O'Connor), Old Capital Museum at the Depot, historic trolley ride, nationally accredited Lockerly Arboretum and Rose Hill, and the Old Governor's Mansion. About an hour and 40-minute drive
- **Columbus** - Originally inhabited by the Creek Indians, it was settled in 1828 and named for Christopher Columbus. It is home to Fort Moore and the longest urban whitewater course in the world. The Chattahoochee Riverwalk is a long promenade for walking or biking along the Chattahoochee River. Overlooking the river, the National Civil War Naval Museum displays the remains of 19th-century warships. The Coca-Cola Space Science Center is home to an immersive theater and an observatory, and the Columbus Museum shows American artwork and regional history exhibits. Around a two-hour drive
- **Macon** – Ocmulgee National Monument has large Native American earthen mounds from around 1000 A.D., and its museum displays artifacts spanning thousands of years. The Tubman Museum's exhibits on African American art, history. The Allman Brothers Band Museum at the Big House shows memorabilia in the rock band's former home. Take a Rock Candy Tour to learn about Macon's legendary music history from the offices and crash pads of Southern music's famous artists, like Otis Redding and Little Richard. About a two-hour drive

Left out your favorites?? Let me know, and we'll share with others.



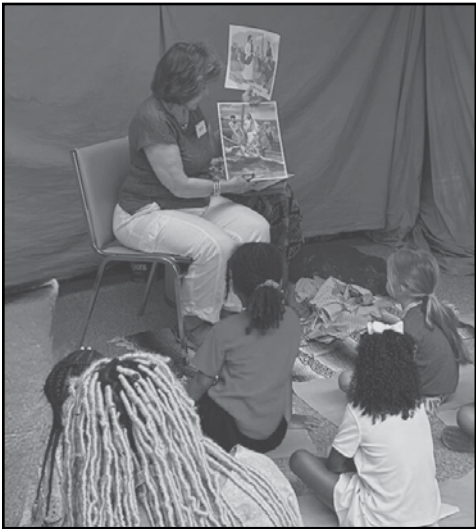
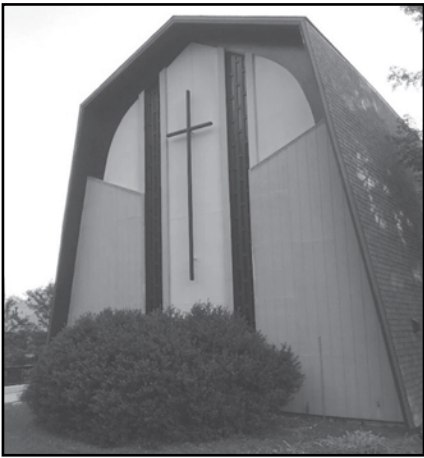
Happenings for the Community

By Susan Gilbert, Staff Writer

Eastminster Presbyterian Church is abuzz with activity this fall. Whether you're looking to deepen your faith, enjoy a festive family activity, or find solace and healing, it has something for everyone. Here's a look at some upcoming events that promise to make a meaningful impact.

On Wednesday, October 9, the church will kick off its Youth Faith Forum from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The forum will address pressing questions about faith, ethics, and life choices, encouraging teenagers to build a strong Christian faith foundation.

The activities continue Saturday, October 26, with a Trunk or Treat event from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This family-friendly celebration offers a safe and festive environment for children to enjoy activities while connecting with our church community. Participants will be delighted by creatively decorated car trunks and an assortment of treats.



Looking ahead, on Sunday, October 27, the church will hold its Kirking of the Tartans service at 10:30 a.m. This special service celebrates Scottish heritage with a special presentation and dedication of the tartans, traditional music, and reception.

Finally, Rev. Dr. Trisha Senterfitt will host a Grief Retreat on November 1-3, providing a compassionate space for those navigating loss. The retreat will offer support, reflection, and healing through guided sessions.

All events will take place at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, located at 5801 Hugh Howell Rd. in Stone Mountain. For more details or to register for the youth & teen faith forum or grief retreat, visit the church's website www.eastminster.us or contact the church office (770) 469.4881. Everyone is welcome to join in these meaningful and festive activities.

What Does America Mean to You?

In 2026, the United States will celebrate its Semiquincentennial - the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. America's Field Trip is a contest that invites students in grades 3-12 across the country to share their perspectives on what America means to them. Winners will have the chance to experience an unforgettable field trip to some of the nation's most iconic historic and cultural landmarks.

Students from Georgia and across the U.S. in grades 3-12 are invited to submit artwork or written pieces by Wednesday, April 16, 2025, reflecting on what America means to them. Awardees, along with a chaperone, will embark on their field trip during summer 2025. You can learn more at: <https://america250.org/fieldtrip/>



4633 Hugh Howell Road – Tucker, Georgia 30084

770-496-0890

25+ Years Strong! Proudly Serving Smoke Rise & Greater Atlanta!

Specialized In

- Routine Maintenance & Service
- Brakes, Tires, Alignment
- Major Engine & Transmission Repair
- Emissions Related Repairs & Readiness
- Coolant, Power-steering, Transmission, Brake Flush
- Check Engine Light & Warning Indicator Diagnostics



YOUR SMOKE RISE EUROPEAN SERVICE AND REPAIR FACILITY

BUY A BOO!

Boo!

Friends

Children

Purchase today!

A holiday tradition created right here in the neighborhoods of metro Atlanta, Boo-ing is an exciting way to connect with our community while raising money for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Purchase your Boo sign in **Tucker/Smoke Rise** today!

choa.org/buyaboo

Benefiting

Children's

Healthcare of Atlanta

Are you ready for Boo-ing?

Boo-ing is a fun activity to do with your coworkers, friends, family, and especially your kids. Stick a Boo sign in your business or a friend's yard and leave a treat bag with your Boo tag at their door. Ring the doorbell, run away, and watch as your friends come outside to find their surprise! For each Boo sign purchased, a patient at CHOA will receive a Boo on the door of their hospital room.

Visit choa.org/buyaboo through October 31st to purchase your Boo signs!

Jackson Walters as Prince Eric, Leslie Winters as Sebastien, Alexa Sprague as Ariel

Crank Up Your Creativity

The Smoke Rise Academy of Arts recently brought the beloved story of The Little Mermaid, Jr. to life with great success. The production was a delightful showcase of young talent, captivating audiences with vibrant performances and stunning choreography. The non-profit institution is proud of the hard work and dedication of its cast, crew, and directors who made this show such a memorable experience for the community.

Looking ahead, the Smoke Rise Academy of Arts is excited to announce its next production, The Lion King, Kids, scheduled for November 8-9. This show promises to be a thrilling adventure, as young performers bring the unforgettable characters and heartwarming story to the stage.

Sophie Pace as Scuttle

In addition to theatrical productions, Smoke Rise Baptist Church offers a wide range of classes for all ages. Including Dance, Music, Creative Writing, and Children's Arts.

These classes are designed to celebrate and nurture creativity and artistic expression in a supportive environment. For more information on the programs, upcoming shows, or to register for classes, please visit smokerisebaptist.org/arts, or call Denise Burcham at (678) 533-0562.

Editor's note: One Smoke Rise resident shared their "review" with the Smoke Signal; "It is unbelievable what the Academy of Arts does for our kids and our community! You can see it in the faces of these precious kids!! I know my son loved being in the productions when he was in high school."

Smoke Rise Elementary School Welcomes New Parent Liaison

By Tonna Jones, SRES Teacher & Gifted Liaison

The faculty and staff of Smoke Rise Elementary School are excited to extend a warm welcome to Mrs. Garcia Tellez, our new Parent Liaison! We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have Mrs. Tellez in this role, helping to bridge any gaps between parents and the school administration. Mrs. Tellez is dedicated to fostering a supportive environment where parents feel empowered to actively participate in their children's education. Her commitment will play a key role in contributing to a positive and inclusive educational experience for all students.

We are thrilled to have her as part of our team!

After School and Holiday Childcare at Eastminster Presbyterian Church

By Celeste Sears, Dir. of Weekday Ministries, Eastminster Presbyterian Church

The Eastminster School Age Program (ESAP) is an Outreach Ministry of Eastminster Presbyterian Church, providing after school childcare when children are in school and full day childcare on the days when schools are closed. We service children in pre-K3 through 5th grade. We offer pickup from the local elementary schools. (Smoke Rise Elementary, Mountain Park Elementary, Arcado Elementary, Camp Creek Elementary, Smoke Rise Baptist Preschool, Mountain Park Baptist Preschool, and Philmore Academy.) Our goal is to provide an outstanding childcare program emphasizing the individual child's developmental needs. We strive to help the child in his or her mental, emotional, social, physical and spiritual development, and to provide peace of mind to parents with the knowledge that their children are well supervised and lovingly cared for while they are away. We provide afternoon snack, homework help, arts and crafts, weekly Chapel, music, gym time and so much more.

For more information contact Celeste Sears at (770) 469-9489 or check us out at www.eastminster.us/esap.

Angie's list

Angie's List

Super Service Award Winner

EPIE'S ELECTRICAL SERVICES

FINANCING AVAILABLE THROUGH

Hearth

EPIE'S ELECTRICAL SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

We Service, Replace and Repair Electrical Systems on Commercial, Industrial and Residential Properties.

Our award-winning, professional team is licensed and fully insured.

Free Estimates! Call Today!

770.939.8808

www.epies-electrical.com

Dan Doster, Owner

TrueWay Renovations

Don Trueblood

404-386-9291 | dontrueblood@gmail.com

www.truewayrenovations.com

Call now! FREE estimates

Kitchens, Basements, Decks, Additions, Baths, Screened Porches, Window and Door Replacement, All Phases of Construction, General Improvements & Repairs

Light Commercial Work Welcomed

Handyman Services also Available.

ATLANTA CUSTOM CONSTRUCTION

Keith Tindle

atlcustomconstruction.com

Office: 770-452-1925

Cell: 404-432-0535

Serving the Atlanta area since 1980

References Available

Licensed & Insured

~ 5 ~



Open for Business

Welcome to Tucker! The new Books & Brew is open for business. Visit the establishment in the strip center between Starbucks and Walgreens.

Owners Quinelle, Irene, and Nate conceived of a home away from home - someplace where people could work, socialize, and find comfort throughout the day and into the evening.

“May you always find love, family, and comfort at Books & Brew.”

4316 Lawrenceville Highway Suite 110
Tucker, GA 30084
<https://booksandbrew.net/>

LAW OFFICE OF
PEATSA C. WALLACE LLC

Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney
Health Directives, Probate & Administration
Business Formations/Contracts, Tax Law,
Domestic Partnership Agreements & Dissolutions

SENIOR DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE



“Have briefcase, will travel”
– She will come to you!

Over 36 years experience
Tucker Resident

Office: 2345 Main Street, Tucker
770.938.3919 or 678.570.8543
peatsawallace@bellsouth.net

salon j. christian

Serving our community for 24 years.

Seasoned stylists can help you easily
achieve your style, classic or sassy.

770-879-1071 APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED



PROVIDING PERSONALIZED
SERVICE FOR OVER
10 YEARS

Call for a bundle quote today!



Insure carefully. dream fearlessly.

Thele Moore, Agent
thelemooreagency@amfam.com
(678) 537-8430
1685 E Park Place Blvd Ste 107
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

Get a Quote



HOME | AUTO | LIFE | BUSINESS | FARM & RANCH

American Family Mutual Insurance Company S.I. & its Operating Companies. Life Insurance underwritten by American Family Life Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783 ©2022 21178 – 8/22 – 20752798

Le Sorrell- “The Sisters” Italian Restaurant

By Cheri Schneider, Staff Writer

Michael and I visited Le Sorrell, a new Italian restaurant in Lilburn after reading Doug Reynics’ mention of it on Nextdoor. The restaurant was opened by the family who owns Los Hermanos and is in the location of the original Los Hermanos restaurant at the corner of Highway 28 and Indian Trail. The original Los Hermanos moved in the same strip mall, into the old Boston Market.

Le Sorrell has been transformed into a very modern, bistro vibe with a full bar with new seating and décor. The feel is modern, warm and very conducive to a small family gathering or get together with friends. We dressed business casual, but noted many people came in shorts and casual attire.

The menu was extensive and offered several fish entrees, including the grouper special I ordered, Salmon, Branzino and the Shrimp special Michael ordered. The shrimp were giant and succulent (head and tail intact) and came with a side of sauteed spinach! The menu also offers: pasta dishes, ravioli and gnocchi, pizza, paninis, steak and chicken and of course, lasagna! Our entrees from the specials list came with a good portion of vegetables. If ordering pastas, order an appetizer salad or a side too.

The owner recommended a wonderful Italian red wine from the wine and cocktail menu to accompany the meal. We do not usually eat a dessert after a meal out, but we wanted to try the limoncello cake. It was fantastic! Right then and there, I decided we would return for dessert and cappuccino or coffee for date night. They also have Tiramisu, vanilla gelato, chocolate lava cake, crème brulee, cheesecake and cannoli that is made on the premises.

I talked to one of the brothers after our meal, and he said the restaurant is named after his sister’s- in- law. Their website mentions the brothers “worked in various very well-known Italian restaurants throughout California, learning under master Italian chefs and thus creating a style of their own.” I

Michael Schneider trying the Limoncello cake at Le Sorell.

I thought the food was excellent and it felt authentically Italian. This restaurant may be my new favorite “more healthy” Italian restaurant (so many fish and chicken choices). Lilburn, like Tucker—is growing, and we love having more great restaurants within a 10 minute drive.

SCOTT'S
Pressure Wash

Professional pressure washing—all surfaces
Decks, Stained and Sealed
678-469-1599
scottspressurewash.net • scottpressurewash@gmail.com

PALMERHOUSE
PROPERTIES





smokerisehomes.com

HOMESMART

Residents and top selling Realtors serving the
Smoke Rise community full time since 1994
with over 460 sales in Smoke Rise alone.

Whether you're buying or selling, we're here to serve all
your residential real estate needs - call us today!

John Porter
Licensed in Georgia since 1986
404-376-7069
atlrealtor21@aol.com

Jim Shoults
Licensed in Georgia since 1994
678-592-1043
jimshoults@gmail.com

National Association of Realtors
Georgia Association of Realtors
DeKalb Association of Realtors

~ 6 ~

Your Septic System Will Not Be Ignored

By Frank Luton, Staff Writer

A while back, I was down in my basement and noticed that a pipe in the ceiling was dripping. Since I knew that something was probably wrong, but had no clue as to what it was, I called a plumber friend. Much to my chagrin and \$8,000+ later, I educated myself as to what it meant to have a septic system and not be connected to a sewer system. All 2,000+ homes in Smoke Rise are on a septic system. My plumber friend told me I needed to call a septic system company, which I did. Not only did I have a problem with my septic system, but I had no clue as to where the septic tank was located, which they would have to have access. Several years earlier, I had my patio redone, and also much to my chagrin, I had my patio put right over where the septic tank was.



Here are some costly things I learned:

- Make sure you know where your septic tank is located and is easy to access.
- Hire a septic company to pump the tank out at intervals based on use (usually every three years or so). This should cost somewhere around \$650, but will vary based on where the septic tank is located and how easy it is to access the tank.
- If the tank needs to be replaced, which includes filling in the old tank, expect a cost that could run between \$5,000 and \$10,000, or perhaps even more if the leaching field needs to be replaced.
- Be careful as to what goes in your septic tank (toilets and disposals), and make sure it is biodegradable material.

Oh, by the way, when I replaced my system, I made sure that I knew where the tank was and how to access it.

Belco Electric

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED
SINCE 1972

Fast, Dependable 24-hr. Service by
Professional, Uniformed Electricians

770-455-4556

Check out our website: BelcoInc.com
and follow us on   



Olivia J. BUCKMON
REALTOR



Why Choose Olivia...

- Over 18 years serving Dekalb and Metro Atlanta
- Top Selling Realtor and Life Member Atlanta Board of Realtors
- Concierge service to buyers and sellers
- Free Home consultation and evaluation
- Your Smoke Rise / Kanawha neighbor



SCAN TO
CONNECT

Turning Dreams into Addresses
678.923.3232
oliviajbuckmon.com

techtalk

By Susan Gilbert

Reminder: It’s that Time Again

October is the best month to lock in a fixed rate for your home’s natural gas service. That’s when many of the gas marketers are contracting to buy the natural gas they will be providing over the coming months, and typically they offer the lowest fixed rates at this time. Fixed rates have the advantage of not exposing you to price fluctuations should there be a market disruption where variable rates can skyrocket.

You are probably receiving postcards and seeing TV ads offering the lowest per therm gas rates, which are filed and reported on the PSC’s website. You can see the complete chart by Googling GA PSC Natural Gas Prices. The chart is a bit overwhelming to review, but here is a simple summary of some key criteria. Per therm prices range from \$.48 to \$.70, but the cost of the gas is not the only factor to consider. There are monthly customer service charges that range from \$3.45 to \$9.99 and early termination penalties of \$50 to more than \$200 to consider. The PSC Pricing Chart notes that senior citizens receive a monthly discount of either \$14.00 or the total amount of the AGLC base charges, whichever is less. That adds up to another \$168 annually, but you do have to request it, and eligibility is 65 years of age or older and total annual combined gross income is under \$29,160.



On the Fixed Rate September Pricing Chart, two useful numbers to watch are the Total Annual Bill for a Typical Customer and the Annual Apples-to-Apples Price per Therm Comparison. The Apples-to-Apples comparison factors in each provider’s monthly customer service charges and the AGL base charges. Shown here are some of the providers’ numbers. The difference between the highest and lowest annual bill is about \$60.

Two gas retailers in Georgia, True Natural Gas and Walton EMC Natural Gas are owned by local not-for-profit Electric Membership Cooperatives. Their business structures allow them to keep their overhead low resulting in them often having the most competitive pricing. True offers a Loyalty Program that reduces the monthly customer service fee by \$.50/year, so after five years, you are saving \$30 annually.

Check your recent gas bill to see what rate you are paying now and compare. If you are up for a renewal or on a variable rate, think about locking into a fixed rate plan. True is offering a special rate of \$0.52 per therm for 12 months to all Smoke Rise residents until November 5. Contact Janay Mosley for this special offer at (678) 423-5423 or jmosley@truenaturalgas.com.

Natural Gas Retailer	Total Annual Bill for Typical Customer	Annual Apples-to-Apples Comparison
Georgia Natural Gas	\$983	\$1.60
Walton EMC Natural Gas	\$981	\$1.60
Gas South	\$971	\$1.58
SCANA	\$959	\$1.56
True Natural Gas	\$914	\$1.49

Source: September 2024 Price Chart from GA PSC website



YOUR SMOKE RISE CORVETTE FULL SERVICE REPAIR FACILITY

Call for Seasonal Specials!

10% Off Smoke Rise Special!

- Military Active Duty & Veterans
- First Responders & Educators
- Seniors

*See Advisor for details

770-496-0890

4633 Hugh Howell Road – Tucker, Georgia 30084

HEALTH NOTES:

Is Your Child Too Sick to Go to School?

By Cheri Schneider, M.D.

Our generation is filled with families where both parents work. What happens when the inevitable happens and your child is sick? Sometimes this is a very difficult call. Is there a protocol to determine when to stay home and when it is ok to send your child to school? And-- when should you stay home yourself?

Most school systems have information on their website about keeping your children home for illness. Here is the list for DeKalb County with a few additions of my own. Keep your child home if they have:

--Fever over 100.4. Note: a temperature of 99 degrees in the a.m., may become a real fever as the day goes on. If you child feels sick or has body aches and a low-grade temp of 99, you may want to keep them home and monitor them.

--Cough- especially new onset cough that accompanies feeling sick. It is ok to send a child to school if it is a "residual cough," from a respiratory illness they are getting over. Keep in mind: cough often accompanies an asthma episode.

--Sore Throat, especially with fever. Most sore throats are viral. However, strep throat is very contagious and can cause severe illness in those susceptible. It is most common in five to 15 year-olds and uncommon in those younger than the age of three. A child with strep throat can return to school after 24 hours of treatment, if they are fever free.

--Diarrhea or vomiting more than twice in 24 hours. Stomach "flu" is usually a virus and not true influenza. It commonly lasts 24-72 hours. Oral rehydration: frequent small sips of any liquid, popsicles and bland foods for a day or two will help. Using Pepto-bismol and other anti-diarrheal meds will help the symptoms but may prolong the illness. If your child cannot keep anything down or has copious diarrhea, they should be checked to make sure they do not have critical dehydration. If you have traveled overseas or diarrhea lasts over 10 days, a doctor may need to see your child.

--Rough night and need more sleep? Not getting enough sleep is a valid reason to keep your child home--on occasion. It may be an early signal they are sick. If you find this is happening frequently, it is wise to investigate further: is your child having trouble at school with classmates? Difficulty keeping up with the subject matter? Interpersonal problems in the family? Do you have an appropriate sleep schedule in place? Are you limiting screen time on school nights? You may need to remove phones, iPads, computers and TVs from bedrooms. Addiction to screens is a SIGNIFICANT and concerning reason for daytime fatigue and underperformance. It is appropriate and part of a parent's job to monitor what is occurring on your kids' devices. It is not overly intrusive to confiscate devices.

Rash or skin sores: Many skin lesions are not contagious. If a new rash accompanies fever, it should be evaluated. Sores with crusting can be contagious impetigo (staph or strep).

Strep throat that has been treated less than 24 hours. See above: If your child's sore throat is from a strep infection, they should remain home until they have been on antibiotics 24 hours and are fever free without using a fever reducing medication.

Cold, flu and COVID-19: All people should stay home at least 24 hours, if they are sick enough to not feel like participating in regular activities or if they have fever. Most viruses (colds, influenza and covid are all viruses) are most contagious in the first three days. NOTE: If you think you may have influenza or think your child may have it, antiviral treatment must begin within 72 hours to be effective. After fever resolves and your child is feeling better, they can return to school. They do not have to be completely free of sniffles or cough. Do not let them return if they have excessive fatigue, body aches and still feel sick.

--Pink Eye. The "rules" on pink eye have changed somewhat. A person with pink eye can return to work or school after treatment has been started. NOTE: most pink eye infections require drops every two hours the first day. Careful hand washing and not rubbing eyes will prevent spread. If the child is too young to comply, this may be a reason to keep the child home.

--Lice: many school districts do not send children home but let them finish the day in school. They must show they have been treated before they can return. There is no reason to wait until the child is completely nit free.

Go to your school's website for more information on when to keep your child home.



Kanawha Entrance Landscaping Update

By Susan Gilbert, Staff Writer

We have come a long way since our humble beginnings in 2017 when Kanawha neighbors noticed the entrance wall was on the verge of collapsing and little was being done with the landscaping there.

When alerted to the situation, committed neighbors came together to raise \$50k to structurally shore-up and refinish the two enormous stucco walls and are now maintaining it and improving the landscaping.

It took a year of fundraising, but our residents responded when asked for donations above the regular dues, and here we are today with the wall reinforced and the landscaping refreshed. In addition, we see an increasingly bright future with a strong Board of Directors now in place, a stable financial picture, and big plans for further enhancements to our front door on Hough Howell Road.

Many thanks to the original volunteers who helped get us to this point, and to the current Board Members who are keeping the project and Kanawha moving forward. We now have a beautifully landscaped entrance that creates a welcoming impression of a well-maintained community. Seeing the before and after pictures shown here reminds us of our achievements.

If your neighborhood has a Homeowner's Association (HOA), you may not encounter this challenge. HOAs can mandate and enforce community-wide fees, but neighborhoods like Kanawha and a few others in Smoke Rise, with no HOA, do not have that ability and have to rely on volunteers and good communication of where the dollars are going, where they are needed, along with reminders to pay. Another non-HOA that relates to all of Smoke Rise is the Smoke Rise Civic Association (SRCA). Like Kanawha, SRCA cannot mandate residents to pay the \$40 annual dues used primarily to maintain and landscape the emblematic chimneys scattered around our neighborhoods. SRCA has the advantage of being a registered 501c3, therefore any contribution made to them is tax deductible. You can pay those dues and donate directly on the SRCA website.

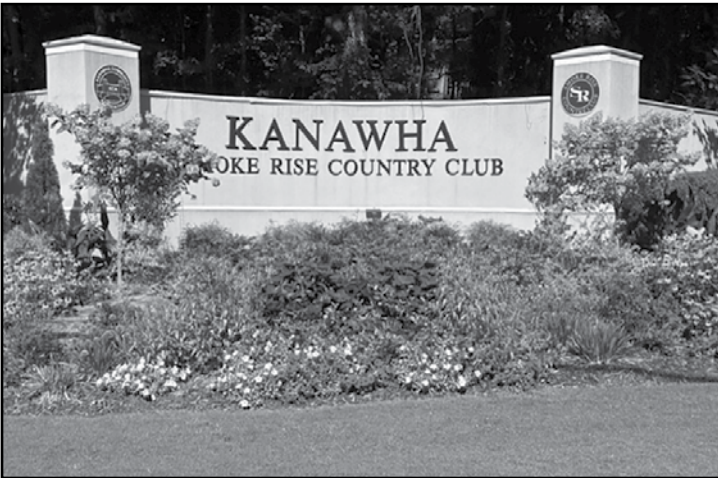
We encourage everyone to support SRCA and the local organizations and volunteers who make our community such a wonderful place to call home. None of this would be possible without neighbors stepping up, volunteering, and contributing to keep these initiatives alive.

We are happy to share our successful Kanawha experience. If any of our neighboring Smoke Rise subdivisions find themselves where we were seven years ago, we are happy to tell what it took to turn the tide. Let me know if you would like to arrange a conversation with what it took in Kanawha. Reach me at susan@waterfallhouse.net.

2017



2024





joyceray126@gmail.com
404-316-2299



Joyce Ray
The best way home.


Chapman Hall Premier Realtors
1772B Century Boulevard, Atlanta Ga. 30345

Since 1987 - Metro Atlanta & Smoke Rise



Call or text today and let us help you with a pest solution.
Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
(770) 931-4397








ESTD 1962




BOB BAILEY'S
APPLIANCE CO.

5100 Highway 78 East Stone Mountain, GA 30087
Phone 770.979.1077 Fax 770.979.1844
Website: www.bobbaileys.com

- ❖ Family Owned & Operated
- ❖ Quality Brands & Great Pricing
- ❖ Professional Delivery and Installation
- ❖ Serving Smoke Rise over 50 years



KitchenAid




Out the Window

Article and illustration by Beth Henson, Staff Writer

The Bushes

Glancing out the living room window, I gave a sigh as I scanned the now mangled, small boxwood bushes that were usually shaped in perfect orbs. Our new cinnamon fur baby, Cookie, had decided jumping into the evergreens was great fun, to the detriment of the usually well-shaped miniature hedge. The small metal fence had not been any deterrent, and it had definitely become one of her favorite places to play. Stepping outside to once again fluff the bent and somewhat broken branches, I heard the metal gate squeak open as the playful puppy and my other half came back from their long evening walk. Still full of energy, the pup took several speedy victory laps around the yard and easily jumped the rock wall with the same skill of any thoroughbred. Then racing onto the patio, she enthusiastically gave me and Mr. Cat several welcome licks (which Mr. Cat did not appreciate).

Thank you for bringing lots of joy into our lives, sweet Cookie, but maybe you can find a new place to play other than the hedge for your puppy entertainment.



“Will Trent” Filming at Smoke Rise Country Club!

By Susan Gilbert, Staff Writer

Did you notice the unusually heavy traffic going into and out of Smoke Rise Country Club in late August and early September? Well, that was because the hit ABC series “Will Trent” was filming scenes there for its upcoming season. The Club’s entrance and guard house, and portions of the course, were used as a backdrop for various scenes that are slated to appear in episodes of the show’s new season. Although we can’t tell you which episodes to watch, or what dates they will air, we can say that Smoke Rise Country Club locations are prominently featured. And other scenes were filmed elsewhere in the Kanawha neighborhood!

What exactly is happening in those scenes? We can’t tell you that either. You’ll have to watch the show when the new season debuts next year to find out!

You never know what’s going to be happening at the country club that is located right in your backyard!



DAVID S. WALKER, ATTORNEY AT LAW

Wills. Probates. Trusts. Family Law. Real Estate. Small Business.

Walker Law Firm. 770-972-3803



david.walker.law.firm@gmail.com

www.walker-law-firm.com/

Smoke Rise Resident Offices in Duluth and Snellville

DULUTH OFFICE- 6340 SUGARLOAF PARKWAY, SUITE 200, DULUTH GA 30097

SNELLVILLE OFFICE-2330 SCENIC HIGHWAY, SNELLVILLE GA 30078

Admitted In GA AND D.C. -UGA LAW
Certified Mediator -Georgia Bar No. 731725



20 Year Anniversary
PARK SPRINGS®
A Life Plan Community



Every Moment Matters

At Park Springs, we believe every life is a story and every moment matters. That’s why we created a revolutionary Spirit Culture of Care that revolves around your loved one’s needs.

Assisted Living • Memory Care • Active Adult

Visit Us at ParkSprings.com or Call 678-684-3800 Today to Schedule a Tour

An Isakson Living Community | Stone Mountain, GA

NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann, Staff Writer

Election Day is Almost Here!

Many Smoke Rise residents are already registered and experienced voters. In our household, we’re celebrating a brand-new U.S. Citizen who will participate in his first American election! After holding permanent residency for decades, he became a U.S. citizen this past August. Congratulations Oliver!

For U.S. citizens who have not yet registered, the deadline to sign up and be eligible to vote in the November 5 General Election is October 7. This election is particularly significant, as it will decide the next president, members of Congress, state representatives, judges, and other county offices.

Voting Options for DeKalb County Residents:

- Advance Voting: Early in-person voting is October 15 through November 1, including some weekend opportunities. Check with your local Registrar for specific dates and times.
- Vote by Mail: All registered voters can apply for an absentee ballot online at <http://dekalbvotes.com> or by calling DeKalb’s office of Voter Registration and Elections at (404) 298-4020.
- Election Day Voting: On November 5, you must vote at your designated polling place between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. For polling information, visit the GA Secretary of State’s “My Voter Page” at: <https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov>.

As we approach November 5, make sure you’re prepared. Research the candidates running for office; they will influence critical local and national issues for years to come. Your vote shapes the future of our community.

Key Dates to Remember:

- October 7: Last day to register to vote in this election
- October 15: Advance voting begins
(Tucker Library is near Smoke Rise)
- October 25: Last day to request an absentee ballot for the General Election
- November 1: Advance voting ends
- November 5: Election Day

Important Reminders:

- If voting by mail, ensure your completed absentee ballot is received by DeKalb Voter Registration & Elections (VRE) by 7:00 p.m. on November 5.
- If voting in person on Election Day, you must vote at your assigned precinct.



Never Forget 9/11/2001...continued from page 1

of this ceremony. Victoria read an original poem, entitled A Tribute to Heroes. This reading was so moving, memorable and certainly appreciated by all in attendance. Our sincere gratitude is extended to Victoria for sharing her poem with us all.

After the ceremony, Victoria was interviewed by DeKalb County Television, Channel 23, as well as Decaturish News, for her part in the ceremony. Victoria gave a wonderful presentation on behalf of Smoke Rise Garden Club, The DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. and The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

The wreath from Conyers Flower shop was lovely and with instructions provided for its care. We trust it was enjoyed for several days, if not longer. Plans were discussed to later move it inside to protect and enjoy its longevity.

We appreciate all who were able to attend this ceremony. I know you all came away with a deep sense of honor and humility for this occasion. It was heartwarming to see many new Recruits of the FD & PD in attendance. We are grateful to the men and women in uniform who serve and protect us each day.



Victoria Crosby reads her original poem “A Tribute to Heroes.”



Charlotte Booth, Henderson Estates Garden Club, who began our participation in this observance, along with Former DFGC President Wanda Moore.



A moving tribute was presented by the DeKalb County Fire Department.

Art Wood
#YourMortgageGuyForLife

Zillow
★★★★★

MY COMMUNITY IS MY HOME
Born and raised in Tucker
Located on Main Street
17 years of experience
Founder of Taste of Tucker
Community leader

"I am proud to have helped thousands of our neighbors with their home mortgages... whether purchasing or refinancing, and look forward to serving you."

ART WOOD MORTGAGE TEAM
Goldwater Bank, N.A. | NMLS #452995
Turning Your Mortgage into a Work of Art

Art Wood, Area Manager
NMLS #118234
www.ArtWoodMortgageTeam.com
2341 Main Street | Tucker, GA 30084
t: 404.909.3587 | c: 878.324.3834 | f: 878.324.3838
art.wood@goldwaterbank.com

After 14 years with Keller Williams,
we are proud to announce our affiliation with PalmerHouse!

Eleanor Patrick Homes Group
PalmerHouse Properties

Over 15 Years Serving Buyers and Sellers in Smoke Rise and Metro Atlanta!
For Excellent Personalized Customer Service
Tailored to You – Buy & Sell with Elle!

- Positive Solutions Teamed with the Ease of Doing Business
- Protect Your Best Interest At All Times
- Excellent Client Reviews
- Over 20 Years as A Smoke Rise Resident

Contact us Today for a free home Consultation

eleanorpatrickhomes@gmail.com
404-721-2904 Direct/ Mobile/Text

Eleanor Patrick, Realtor



Daisy’s Movie Mania was a Block Buster!

By Quill Duncan

The Redbud Standard Flower Show was held August 28 and 29 at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center in Atlanta. This year’s theme of “Daisy’s Movie Mania” was all about cinema which is very fitting as so many films and television shows use Callanwolde’s gracious mansion for their locations. Chairmen Gale Thomas and Joy Zaidan orchestrated a legion of garden club volunteers to create the beautiful displays of floral designs, horticulture and this year’s new Botanical Arts division. In addition, there were also educational exhibits that featured Callanwolde’s movie industry history and the Secret Gardens of Callanwolde. The entries came from 19 garden clubs all over the Redbud District of the Garden Club of Georgia which includes DeKalb and Rockdale Counties but extends to LaGrange, Griffin and Thomaston. There were 470 pieces of horticulture submitted this year and dozens of themed designs. The honorary host of the show this year was Ashley Frasca with WSB Radio, host of “Green and Growing.”

Smoke Rise club members from Mountain Mums, Smoke Rise and Smoke Rise Morning Glories volunteered in many different roles on the Daisy committee. We also recruited Smoke Rise residents and DeKalb County Master Gardeners to help with staging and placement. The setup for the show began on Monday, the entries arrived on Tuesday and the judging was conducted the morning of Wednesday August 28. The show continued August 29. Flower show judges come from all across the area and are assisted by clerks from Redbud Garden clubs. Many of the Smoke Rise club members had winning entries for their designs and horticulture. Congratulations to all who participated in this beautiful and unique floral showcase.

Many more photos of the show are available at www.redbuddistrict.com and www.dekalbfederation.com.

The Smoke Rise Morning Glories will meet on October 8 at Park Springs. If you are interested in joining us for the program “Growing Iris in Atlanta” and lunch, please contact President Amie Walsh at (404) 729-4871.

KASPAR & WHITE

A PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

Kaspar and White is a full-service CPA firm offering personal and small business tax and accounting services. Give us a call at (770) 491-7510 or visit us at www.kasparandwhite.com.

HALL'S

Flower Shop & Garden Center

Serving Smoke Rise Families Since 1946!

Flowers & Gifts For All Occasions!
Green & Blooming Plants For Your Home & Garden

404-292-8446

www.HallsFlowerShop.com

5706 Memorial Dr, Stone Mtn, 30083

Daily Delivery To Metro Atlanta, DeKalb and Gwinnett!

Bird Num Nums with the Mountain Mums

By Cheri Schneider, Mountain Mums Member

The Mountain Mums luncheon meeting at Pat Baumann’s house was very interesting. For a change, the bird watchers in our club experienced a “show and tell” about the rare Gouldian Finch by Laraine McGinnis of ladygouldian.com. Her interest in birds started in childhood when she owned a canary. Now, she is a blogger and Gouldian Finch Expert who married a very wonderful husband. I know this, even though I have never met him, because he built an aviary in her basement that at one time was home to 100 canaries. Now, for the past 25 years, she has bred and raised a similar number of Gouldian Finch and other more unusual finches like the Painted Finch and the Shaft Tail Finch. One of our club members toured her aviary years ago.



Laraine brought a few of her birds to our meeting and shared with us how she got interested in the little beauties. In the background of her talk, Pat’s cat meowed pitifully from behind a closed door, wanting to join us for a look too. A few interesting things I learned: Breeders choose the mates of their birds based on desired appearance of the babies. The mother determines the sex of the baby bird. In times of plenty when high protein foods are available, female birds are fertile. In times of lack they are less fertile. This means that fertility can be controlled somewhat by controlling protein feedings of the birds. Baby Gouldians have “glow in the dark” nodules on their beaks so that in the dark mothers can locate their little mouths to feed them. Some mother’s “pitch” their babies. Laraine told stories of hand feeding a few of these little critters. The finch mothers can have two to three clutches of babies a year. Birds molt once a year. When this happens, they lose every single feather, but not all their feathers at the same time.

If you are interested in finches or indoor birds, you may be interested in her blog: “A Year in the life of a Gouldian.” Or “Love at First Sight.”

Our Club is almost full. But if you are interested in joining us: we meet the second Wednesday of most months at 9:45 a.m. for a brunch or lunch meeting. Call Mary Jacobson (770) 316-3225, if you would like to visit our October 9 meeting.

Irises for Georgia

By Gina Dilley

On Monday September 16, the Smoke Rise Garden Club met for the first time after our summer hiatus. Our meeting was held at the lovely home of our members Margo and Fabrice Collins. A great number of members and three guests attended to enjoy delicious homemade hors d’oeuvres, desserts and to hear our first speaker of our new club season.

Our speaker was Diana Wright, Tucker resident, Iris enthusiast and member of the Georgia Iris Society. Diana did a detailed visual screen display of Irises for Georgia. Her presentation included descriptions and photographs of eight “beardless” Irises and six types of “bearded” Irises. She also went over a detailed slide to identify the parts of the Iris plant. She explained fall care for Irises in the garden, how to treat them, common pests, and also explained how to divide the plants and proper planting. Diana did include a beautiful picture of her Iris garden.

She ended her visual presentation by explaining The Iris Encyclopedia & American Iris Society. At the conclusion of her talk, she offered everyone at the meeting a rhizome, Iris plant to take home.

The garden clubs upcoming events include our October meeting and workshops for Christmas cards for Troops and Santa boxes for Eggleston Children’s hospital. If you are interested in coming to a meeting or considering membership, please contact Gina Dilley at ginadilley@gmail.com. The Smoke Rise Garden Club is a member of DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs, Redbud District, Garden Club of Georgia and the National Garden Club.



Hosts Fabrice and Margo Collin, Diana Wright speaker, and Victoria Crosby SRGC president

Mountain Mums “GARDENERS of the Month”

By Mary Lou Still

The Mountain Mums Garden Club made an exception this past month on “WHO” would receive the honor of “Garden of the Month!?” As a member of Smoke Rise Country Club, I had noticed several Smoke Rise residents working EVERY Monday at beautifying our neighborhood club. Out of their LOVE of gardening and caring for the community, Ralph Hughes and David Stahura have been pulling weeds, planting flowers/shrubs (some from their own yards) and sometimes carrying three-gallon buckets of water!

The beautiful Geranium bed they planted this past spring at the club entrance had no access to water- so to the pond (Hole #11) they go! They have also trimmed and limbed - so their plants would thrive. Ralph and David have had several helpers join in on occasion - mainly their wives and the sweet office manager Harriett Guess. There is always some dead-heading to be done and weeds to be pulled! With the club being closed on Mondays-- these two have been “Sneaking In” (Just Kidding!) for almost four years just to sow and enhance an important asset to our community. Way to GO Guys- JOB WELL DONE!!!

By the way- our Mountain Mums Garden of the Month committee includes Kathy Rhinehart (Chair), Beth Henson, Cheri Schneider, and myself-- AND WE TOO might be snooping around the neighborhood - Happy Gardening!



David Stahura (Forest resident), Harriett Guess (Office Manager at SRCC), Ralph and Lori Hughes (Smoke Rise neighbors)

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: All ad submissions and advertising inquiries should be directed to:
Classified and Display ads: Staff@smokesignalnews.com
Flyers: Barbara Luton at barluton@aol.com.

All classified ads are limited to 20 words, with the Smoke Signal reserving the right to edit any copy. Ads are \$240 per year. Please submit a copy of ad to staff@smokesignalnews.com with your full name, address and phone number. Make checks out to Smoke Signal and mail to P.O. Box 1038, Tucker, GA 30085. We require full payment prior to ad placement.

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

Classified Ads

OLIVER’S PAINTING
I am an Interior painting specialist. Free estimates, 30 years’ experience, Tucker resident.
Call/Text Oliver Cunningham
770-598-7567

WAGON LANDSCAPE GROUP
Residential, commercial, design and installation. Year-round maintenance, light tree work and cleanups. Licensed/insured SR resident with SR references.
770-381-3697.

SEEKING GROUNDSKEEPER
for large privately-owned forested estate near Jasper, Ellijay and Dawsonville. Please email cannonsayers@gmail.com to learn job requirements and submit resume.

SQUEEGEE SQUAD - Your Neighborhood Window Cleaners
We provide residential window cleaning and other exterior cleaning services all year round! 404-383-5678

TOTAL HOME CARE - Deep cleaning, decluttering, windows, auto detailing, house/pet sitting, pressure washing, light yardwork, errands. Call Dana @ 706-228-0593

PLUMBER
Plumbing-Electrical-H.V.A.C
Repairs-Replacement
New Installation
Family Owned and Operated
38 yrs Experience, Senior Discount
Call Troy-770-256-8940

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

SR Handyman - painting, household fixes, landscaping , stonework. Deliveries. No job too small. Also experienced with internet connection. Call Peter @ 770-595-0077

OUTDOOR LIGHTING & IRRIGATION Convenient one-stop outdoor lighting/irrigation. FREE assessment for first 10 callers mentioning *Smoke Signal*. 833-843-6957 or outdoorswellit@gmail.com.

DOG BOARDING:
Loving dog care. Small, selective, safe, fun. Your dog will be glad you went on vacation!
Call 770-510-8641 or visit www.theshepherdsglen.com

Computer Service. Repairs, Upgrades, Setups and Training
Trusted company working with local community since 1995. References available. 770-309-4735 www.thepclink.com

PIANO TUNING AND REPAIRS Over 40 years of professional experience. Contact Smoke Rise resident Steve Duncan at 770-414-4766 or lswd@att.net

SENIOR CHECK-INS IN SMOKE RISE Drop in to check on seniors. Help with meals, Rx, light housekeeping. 706-228-0593

Greg Buys Vintage T-Shirts: I pay cash for clothes made before the year 2000. Call or text me at 470-879-4231

DOG GROOMING
Smoke Rise Resident
Call/Text Lisa 404-444-7763
Loving Care for your Under 40lb Furbabies
Professional Groomer since 2006

SOUTHEAST CRAWLSPACE CONSULTING
Your local experts for wet or moldy crawlspaces. Call or text 678.920.8128 for a free inspection.

Heating and Air Conditioning:
Water Heaters Installed; Gas Lines Installed; Commercial and Residential Professional Technicians: James Maceco; 770-365-4258

WINDOW CLEANING IN SMOKE RISE Let your windows sparkle. FREE quotes. Inside and Out. 706-228-0593

Auto body shop local serving Tucker, Stone Mtn, Smoke Rise. Honest, reasonable, quality work. Providing home-to-shop transportation. Call Dave 770-609-8759.

PETS, PAPERS, & POSIES.
I'll take care of them while you're away.
Smoke Rise resident 40+ years.
Karen Bouchard. 404-472-7348.
petspapersandposies@gmail.com

QUALITY CONCRETE, BRICK, TILE, STONE, DECKS, FENCING & WOOD FLOORING WORK.
Over 30 years of experience. Call 470-632-6067 or email allsouth365@gmail.com

A KICKIN’ & PICKIN’ ESTATE SALES We stage, price and sell your treasures and offer liquidation and cleaning services. Contact Rick Kicklighter at 678-234-6956.

Need a professional pet sitter?
Call Critter Sittin’ Sisters at 404-409-3765. We make your pets smile!

Food & Home Fixin’

By Joyce Ray, Staff Writer

Contest Winning Treats – Cowboy Cookies

These special confections have been around for a long time, and I wondered where the name came from. It appears that many western states claim the origin but, most likely, it was Texas in the 1930’s, shortly after chocolate chips became available for home cooks. The cookies were the first “Power Bars” that cowboys could pack in their saddles for the long trail rides. Cowboy Cookies had a resurgence in 1992, when Family Circle magazine created a bake-off during the election year between the candidates (or their wives) to see which cookie won the approval of the majority of their readers. Laura Bush won with her version of this cookie against the Ginger Snap cookie recipe submitted by Tipper Gore. Texas continues to claim “Cowboy Cookies” as its official state cookie. FYI: The official state cookie of Georgia is, of course, Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip.

Almost all cookies will freeze well for about five to six weeks. I like to wrap them in parchment paper and store about four in a zip lock sandwich bag – perfect for a snack for two people and especially nice to take on a trip. They will be thawed for afternoon coffee break. Note: our recipe is light on the Cinnamon. Laura Bush’s variation used 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon.*

Cowboy Cookies

- 2 cups old-fashioned oats
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon *
- 1 ½ sticks unsalted butter, softened
- 1 ¼ cup solid vegetable shortening
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- 2/3 cup white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract.
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- ¾ cup chopped walnuts or pecans

In mixing bowl combine oats, flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt and cinnamon. In a separate bowl, use an electric mixer to beat butter, shortening and sugars for 2 minutes. Beat in eggs one at a time, then add vanilla. Stir in dry mixture, about half at a time. Add chocolate chips and walnuts and stir to combine. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour or longer. If longer, allow it to sit at room temperature for 10-15 minutes before shaping.

Preheat oven to 350°. Lightly butter two large baking sheets or line with parchment paper. Using ¼ cup of dough per cookie, shape dough into balls and place on the baking sheet, leaving 2 ½ inches between. Flatten balls into 1/3-inch-thick disk with your fingers. Bake one sheet at a time on the center oven rack for 13-14 minutes, turning the baking sheet 180 degrees midway through the baking time. When done, cookies will have browned very lightly.

Variations of this cookie will suit the taste and preference of anyone who is a cookie fan.

Coconut Cowboy Cookies – 1 cup of flaked sweetened coconut can be added along with the chocolate chips.
Bandana Cowboy Cookies: Omit the chocolate chips and substitute 1 cup of white chocolate chips and 1 cup Craisins.
Peanut Butter Cowboy Cookies: Omit the chocolate chips and substitute 2 cups of peanut butter chips. Or use 1 cup each of Peanut Butter chips and chocolate chips.

When to Keep, When to Discard

The “latest model” home appliances always have at least one or two features that, once you see it, you just can’t stop thinking about how much better your life would be with it! Keep in mind the energy-efficiency savings of the newest model can take up to 10 years to recoup. Unless an appliance is very old, it’s probably smarter to make repairs than to spring for a shiny new one. However, an appliance is considered “functionally obsolete” when parts are no longer available to fix it.

Typically, most appliances don’t break until after the extended coverage period. When buying new, be sure to compare the possible cost of any future repairs with the cost of the extended warranty.

The purpose of the Smoke Signal classifieds is to advertise goods and services to the community.



The Smoke Signal is looking for dedicated delivery people to help us distribute our neighborhood paper!
By becoming a delivery person, you’ll play a key role in ensuring our valued paper reaches everyone in the Smoke Rise neighborhood.

Interested? Send an email to: staff@smokesignalnews.com with your contact information, and we’ll be in touch with more details!

Call for free consultation

GEORGIA
Will & Probate
Lawyers, LLC

Latawsha Little-Hill
Steven R Ashby
4500 Hugh Howell Road
Suite 600 Heritage Place
Tucker, GA 30084
770.493.4924
www.gwaplaw.com