

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 5

Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968

August, 2015

www.smokesignalnews.com



School is in session: Keep a cautious eye out for the little people!

What's So Special About Smoke Rise?

What attracts people to Smoke Rise when they are looking for a home to buy? We asked a number of recent buyers this question and received a number of answers and most are probably pretty similar to the reasons why established residents have been here for a long time.

Several of the newest residents are empty nesters and in most cases had moved from out of state to be closer to their children and grandchildren. The large lots, nicely maintained community and ease of access to medical, work and shopping were also important.

There are a number of residents and newer buyers who have achieved fame especially in the entertainment and sports industries who like the fact that they can "hide in plain sight." People treat them as regular neighbors, there is not the need for the security details that would be necessary in other areas. The relatively low crime rate was also a consideration.

Diversification is also important. There are many ethnicities and life style preferences represented in the community with a wide acceptance.

Value is definitely a consideration as Smoke Rise is considered to be a community where you get a lot for your money. The large lots and minimal threat of commercial or multi-family housing as well as the stability of the community were factors considered.

Easy Access – to work, medical and shopping without it being in your backyard. This will be even a larger consideration with the growth rate projected for Atlanta. It will not be long before Smoke Rise is considered to be a close-in community. It is also a favorite community for entrepreneurs working from home.

Sense of community becomes a factor that confirms the choice once people have chosen Smoke Rise and begin discovering neighbors, community attributes and start to participate in community activities and organizations.

The reasons people leave Smoke Rise are often related to changing lifestyle requirements where it is difficult to maintain the property or children are no longer in the area. Other reasons are change in job location even though it is not always relocation to another state or city. The commute is a deciding factor, especially for those where their jobs now require an hour to two on commuting.

Rarely is the factor cost of living, community or safety the reason why people move away. Smoke Rise is a special community that we treasure and is indeed sought after for all the reasons mentioned.

Yellow Daisy Festival Bake Sale

Members of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club will again be selling their home baked cakes, pies, cookies and brownies at their Bake Sale Tent at the Yellow Daisy Festival in Stone Mountain Park.

So mark your calendar now for the Yellow Daisy Festival at Stone Mountain Park September 10 – 13, 2015. While you enjoy the Festival, be sure to stop by the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club Bake Sale for a sweet treat or two. You might even decide to take a few pieces of pie or cake home for dessert, or pick up some extra cookies to go with your cup of coffee. In the past, desserts have included numerous cookies, coconut pie, fig preserve cake, banana cake, pineapple upside down cake, apple cake, carrot cake, key lime cake, Dr. Pepper cake and better than sex cake among the more traditional pound cakes, chocolate and coconut cakes.

Under the leadership of co-chairs Barb Hess and Glenda Willett, this annual fundraiser helps the Stone Mountain Woman's Club provide support for a number of projects and charities. We look forward to seeing you there.



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School Bus Safety

With school starting at the beginning of August, it is good to review some common sense practices for all of us to follow as the school buses get back on the roads. The following is not a total set of practices, but will give you a start in thinking about personal safety.



Millions of children in the United States ride safely to and from school on school buses each day.

Although school buses are the safest way to get them to school, an average of 33 school-age children die in school bus-related traffic accidents each year.

What is the most dangerous part of the school bus ride? The bus stop! Children are at greatest risk when they are getting on or off the school bus. Most of the children killed in bus-related accidents are pedestrians, five to seven years old, who are getting on or off the bus. They are hit by the school bus or by motorists illegally passing a stopped bus.

School Bus Practices for Children Getting on the bus:

BE EARLY. Arrive at the bus stop five minutes before the bus is due. When the bus approaches, take five giant steps back away from the edge of the road.

Line up and WAIT until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver say it is OK to get on.

Getting off the bus:

Check your clothing, backpack and anything with straps before you get off. Make sure nothing gets caught in the handrail or door.

Before you cross the street in front of the bus, take five giant steps up the sidewalk or side of the road. Make sure the bus driver can see you before you cross. NEVER walk behind the bus.

Walk at least five giant steps away from the side of the bus anytime you are walking beside the bus.

If you drop something near or under the bus, WAIT! Don't pick it up. Tell the bus driver.

School Bus Practices for Adults

Drive slowly. Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood.

...Continued on page 2

Summer Safety:

Remember that during these warm months we are often less diligent about locking doors while we swim, grill or garden. Be alert and if you have an incident to report, please send information to the smoke signal email. Your experiences are some of the best tools we have for learning how to be safe and aware!



Smoke Signal

P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085
A non-profit service organization devoted to furthering neighborhood cooperation with the aid of good neighborhood communication.

Editorial Committee... Jan Mahoney(770) 621-0155
Cheri Schneider(770) 717-9914
AvivA Hoffmann helloaviva@hotmail.com
* This Issue’s Editor-in-Chief
Recording SecretarySusan Gilbertsgilbert@apogee.net
Corresponding Secretary ..Barbara Bruschi.....(770) 934-4644
Treasurer.....Harry Strack(770) 365-9381
Classified Ads.....Barb Hess.....(404) 229-0742
Display Ads.....Barb Hess..... barbhess48@gmail.com
Church News.....Susan Gilbertsgilbert@apogee.net
Features:.....Barbara Bruschi.....(770) 934-4644
Jan Mahoney(770) 621-0155
Cheri Schneider, M.D.(770) 717-9914
Ren   Hopf(770) 921-5540
Flyer InsertsBarbara Luton(770) 491-6711
Hodge PodgeJenny Hall-Busch*(678) 406-0555
Pet Lost & FoundKay McKenzie..... (770) 491-6784
Social MediaPat Soltys(770) 573-9715
News You Can Use.....AvivA Hoffmann helloaviva@hotmail.com
Staff Writers.....Jenny Hall-Busch.....(678) 406-0555
Susan Gilbert.....(678) 684-6802
Frank Luton.....(770) 491-6711
Joyce Ray(770) 491-9015
Kimberly Sizemore.....(770) 530-5939
Pat Soltys(770) 573-9715
DistributionChris Schneider.....(770) 717-9914
DeliveryChris Taylor and Gillen Heisler

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August Calendar of Events

- 4 National Night Out
- 5 Smoke Signal Meeting at Jenny Hall-Busch’s, 9:30 a.m.
- 8 Backyard Barbecue, Historic Society – Wells Brown House, 6:00 p.m.
- 10 DeKalb County Schools Start!!
- 10 Mountain Shadow Garden Club Eastminster, 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Mountain Mums at Debra Adams’, 10:00 a.m.
- 20 Tucker Arts Guild Custom Frame Shop, Tucker, 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Meet Nancy Jester at Panera Bread, Henderson Mill, Tucker, 7:00 p.m.
- 24-27 Living Till We Die program – Eastminster, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m
- 25 Shutter Bugs Photography Club Meeting at SRBC, 7:00 p.m.

September

- 10-12 Yellow Daisy Festival & Stone Mountain Woman’s Club Bake Sale
- 11 Life is Sweet Fundraiser at Caf   Jaya, 7:00 p.m.

Smoke Signal Deadlines

AUGUST 13

Please e-mail articles to:
smoke-signal@earthlink.net

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

Extra copies may be picked up at box at
5365 Smoke Rise Drive

Deadline for classified ads is AUGUST 10

SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

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

“Like” us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews
or visit our website at www.smokesignalnews.com
Link to the digital version of the Smoke Signal
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with your smart phone!



Bus Safety... continued from page 1

Yellow flashing lights mean the bus is preparing to stop and load or unload children. Motorists need to slow down and prepare to stop.

Red flashing lights and extended stop arm means the bus has stopped and children are boarding or exiting the bus. Motorists on both sides of the road must come to a complete stop a safe distance from the bus and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the arm is retracted, and the bus begins moving before they start driving again. Put simply, if a bus is on the street with its red lights flashing and stop arm extended - DO NOT PASS IT!

The only exception to the law is if the bus is operating on a four-lane highway with a median - such as a grass strip or concrete barrier - which provides a physical divide. Drivers traveling in the opposite direction of the bus are not required to stop on such a road. Drivers following a bus are always required to stop when the stoplights on the bus are activated.

Improper passing of a school bus carries a hefty penalty. Fines run into the hundreds of dollars. Drivers under 21 found guilty of unlawfully passing a school bus will have their license suspended. In addition, conviction of unlawful passing of a school bus will likely result in a hefty increase in your insurance rates.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, CHILDREN EXPECT VEHICLES TO STOP FOR THEM AT THE SCHOOL BUS STOP.

The above practices should be useful to you in getting into the safe practices mode, and do not represent any official school policy in any way.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

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

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

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

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

Mount Carmel Christian Church

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

Sundays:
8:30 a.m. Coffee/ Doughnuts/ Fellowship
9:30 a.m. Bible School Classes – Adults & Children
10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesdays
5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:30 p.m. Activities/Studies for all ages
6:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

First Moravian Church

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

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

Mountain West Church

Pastor: Michael Shreve
Telephone (770) 491-0228
www.mountainwestchurch.com
4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain
New Sunday Worship Times, Beginning August 9:
9:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.



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with information if you have lost or found a pet.

Smoke Rise Preferred Contractor’s List

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





The Smoke Rise Academy of Arts is excited to announce our 23rd season this fall. Housed in Smoke Rise Baptist Church on Hugh Howell Road, the Academy of Arts is a community ministry of the church offering superb instruction in the fine arts. Our curriculum is open to students of all ages throughout the community who wish to pursue music, art, drama and dance.

Dates to remember for free performances:
Disney's *The Aristocats Kids* • August 7-8, 7:00 p.m.
Disney's *High School Musical Jr.* • September 11-12, 7:00 p.m.

With the recent expansion of our dance program, the Academy of Arts is now offering tap, ballet, jazz and liturgical dance classes for older students, elementary age and up. This is in addition to our very popular preschool dance class for ages 3-5. For the younger is our existing Musik Garten program for toddlers and ages 2-3 and we are excited to bring you our new Music at Home in the World and Around the World music classes for children ages 4 and 5. New also to the Academy will be Music Makers at the Keyboard. This is a Musik Garten curriculum piano class for children ages 6-9 which will prepare them for entry to private piano lessons.

For our younger music students starting at age 4, we will continue to offer our Twinkler Violin and Keyboard Kids Piano classes. We will also continue to offer our creative Drama program for school age students with several fullscale productions each season. Preschool students can get their acting chops wet in our adorable Act One drama class. For our more mature students, we are currently offering weekly classes in Oil Painting for Adults. Whether you are a novice or a seasoned artist, everyone is invited!

For class information and registration visit www.smokerisebaptist.org/arts. For questions, call 678-533-0562 or email artsacademy@smokerisebaptist.org.

Music Classes at Tucker First UMC

The Tucker First United Methodist Church Music and Arts Ministry is pleased to offer courses in Class Piano and Guitar on Wednesday nights beginning on August 19. The classes are provided **free of charge**. You can sign up for classes at www.tuckerfirst.org. Contact Tom Moore at tom_moore@tfumc.org for more information for either of these classes.

- 5:00 – 5:45 p.m.**
- Class Piano I: Beginning – grades 3-5
 - Beginning Guitar 1: Grades 3-5 (little or no guitar instruction)
 - Beginning Guitar 2: Youth and adults (little or no guitar instruction)

- 5:45 – 6:30 p.m.**
- Class Piano Level 1: Youth and adults
 - Class Piano Level 2: Youth and adults
 - Intermediate Guitar: Grade 6 - adult (at least 1-2 year's experience)

Come join the fun and join the choir! Tucker First United Methodist Church is registering children Pre-k through 5th grade for classes in choir, Orff instruments, and handbells. You may register your child/children ahead of time by going to www.tuckerfirst.org or you may wait until the first day of rehearsals, August 19 to register. For more information, contact Lynn Urda at lynn@graphicworksatlanta.com or 770-414-5633.

Our Children's Choir program begins Wednesday, August 19. We offer the following music classes:

- Cherub Choir: Pre-K and Kindergarten (5:45-6:30 p.m.)
- Carol Choir: Grades 1 and 2 (5:45-6:30 p.m.)
- Wesley Orffans: Grade 3, Orff instrument class (5:45-6:30 p.m.)
- Melody Bells: Grades 4 and 5 – Handbells* (5:45-6:30 p.m.)
*You must be enrolled in Wesley Singers to participate in Melody Bells.
- Wesley Singers: Grades 3, 4 and 5 - Music Center (6:30-7:15 p.m.)

Tucker First United Methodist Church is located at 5095 LaVista Road, Tucker. For more information you can visit our website at www.tuckerfirst.org.

Music For Missions
Lawrenceville Road
United Methodist Church
3142 Lawrenceville
Highway, Tucker

to Feature
Russian Piano Duo

On August 16 at 7:00 p.m. we will present an extra special program of musical magic.

United Methodist Men at LRUMC, in a stroke of luck, were able to schedule Russian pianists and vocalists Elena Dorozhkina and Julia Brynenn. Their concert is an energetic and entertaining four-hand piano and vocal concert. Their program will include piano pieces in four hands such as *Hungarian Dances* by J. Brahms and *Tango* by A. Piazzolla. The artists will perform vocal selections by Gershwin and others and some Russian romances as well.

Don't miss this unforgettable performance!



Calling All
Shutter Bugs!

The Smoke Rise Camera Club invites anyone interested in photography to come join our group. We meet on the fourth Tuesday at Smoke Rise Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. in room 223. Our 15 regular members range in expertise from beginners to serious amateurs. Meetings consist of a prepared educational program followed by sharing of each person's recent work. Last month, our Club made a field trip to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens where we photographed spectacular plants and flowers. We hope you will join us for our next meeting on August 25.



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Living Till We Die:

A journey of faith practice

August 24-27 • 10:00 a.m. –12:30 p.m.
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5801 Hugh Howell Road
(770) 469-4881 • www.eastminster.us

You are invited to a free program for adults!
“Living Till We Die” will be an engaging four mornings of speakers, activities, singing, fellowship and lunch based on the excellent book
Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People
by Dorothy Butler Bass

Please register by August 21
(to make sure we can plan for lunch)
by calling Mardee Rightmyer at (770) 469-4881 ext. 228

We truly hope you will come and bring a friend!

Belinda Belvin, REALTOR®

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

My mission is to market your home to get the maximum price current real estate markets will allow, through a multifaceted marketing campaign that renders broad exposure for your home. Call today to see how I can assist you in selling your current home or buying your next dream home!



Belinda Belvin, REALTOR®
404-844-8811
bbelvin02@att.net

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Tucker GA 30084



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6780 James B. Rivers Drive
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770 469 8551
www.Stmichael.cc/

Everyone is welcome!

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

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

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



Lilburn Woman’s Club

Domestic Violence Program:

Seminar on Suicide

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. for all ages; homicide is 16th. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for males 15 to 24 years old. The first is accidental death. Suicide is the 4th leading cause of death for people 18 to 65.

The Lilburn Woman’s Club is sponsoring a seminar to help increase awareness, decrease misinformation and provide resources for support for those impacted by suicide. The event will take place on Saturday, August 29 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Harmony Grove United Methodist Church, 50 Harmony Grove Road, Lilburn. This event is free but registration is required. Register by emailing each name and phone number to: tellingthetruthaboutsucide@gmail.com (space is limited).

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Tonight: Mark Twain!	January 13–17, 2016
Performed by Bill Oberst, Jr. "...a brilliant portrayal..." –Grand Strand Magazine	
From My Grandmother's Grandmother Unto Me	March 2–6, 2016
by Charlotte and Clarinda Ross • Developed and Directed by David Thomas ...a 30th Anniversary Production featuring Clarinda Ross "Ross is a master storyteller..." –L.A. Weekly (Critic's Choice Award)	
Me and Jezebel	April 28–May 15, 2016
by Elizabeth L. Fuller "The story is delightful, the writing is entertaining, and what comes out of Bette's mouth is priceless." –New York Post	
GRITS: The Musical	July 14–31, 2016
Girls Raised in the South: Based on the book <i>Friends are Forever</i> by Deborah Ford "A chance for all Girls Raised in the South to revel in our wonderfulness..." –Jill Connor Browne, author of <i>The Sweet Potato Queens' Book of Love</i> All shows and dates are subject to change.	

SEASON TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE.

Choose a 4-, 5-, or 6-show package.

(Performances of Bill Oberst's *Jesus of Nazareth/The Book of Genesis*, running March 31-April 3, 2016, are not included in subscription packages. This special event can be purchased separately.)

770-469-1105 • www.artstation.org

SRBRC Summer Events

The Smoke Rise Bath and Racquet Club is truly becoming the number one family fun Swim and Tennis community in the Smoke Rise/ Tucker/Stone Mountain area, hosting a number of well-attended summer events.

SRBRC opened the pool season with a successful Open House pool party. Folks enjoyed games, raffles and some of the greatest BBQ there is, while being entertained with music by the Smoke Rise Bluegrass Band and an evening concert by Nashville recording artist, Sam Lewis.

The guys of the club had a fun night out during the “Cigars and Bourbon” event, talking shop, shooting the bull and bragging a little, while sipping their favorite adult beverage. It is being rumored that some Cuban cigars traded hands as well.

The “Inaugural Smoke Rise BBQ Cook-Off” was also a huge success. About a dozen competitive neighborhood pit masters dazzled the crowd with delicious BBQ. Some of the teams camped out on the grounds in tents, cots and hammocks while tending to their smoked pork butts all night. David Stone of Smoke Rise was crowned the Pork-Butt King of 2015, while Oliver Hoffmann of Smoke Rise took the crown for the best ribs. Congratulations to all competitors for all their enthusiasm and spirit. The whole event was framed by musical entertainment from “The Young and the Elder,” the “Erin Hill Band,” Ralph Rodenberry and Diesel Calhoun. We are looking forward to this event growing into an annual neighborhood festival with more and more competitors, culinary BBQ highlights and family fun.

The latest event at SRBRC was the 4th of July celebration at the pool. Visitors enjoyed free hot dogs, sides and drinks in the afternoon. Guests grilled out that evening while waiting on the pyrotechnics and got to witness a dazzling fireworks display rivaling other big 4th of July venues in the area.

There are two more events scheduled for this season. SRBRC is organizing a Low Country Shrimp Boil with musical guests for members and friends. Also planned is a father/son camp-out on club grounds, with night swim, campfire and s’mores (moms and daughters are welcome, too).

There is still time for you to get in on the fun. The pool will close on September 27. The SRBRC has extended a prorated membership for the remainder of the season. For \$125.00, you can purchase a Swim and Tennis membership, good ‘til the end of the year. For information, call (770) 493-9073. Also go online at: SRBRC.org.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT -- August 4

This is a community/police awareness-raising event in the United States which is annually held on the first Tuesday in August. National Night Out was created to increase awareness about police programs in our communities.

Events around the country can be as simple as backyard barbecues, a community walk, ice cream socials and street parties to full-blown festivals. So, lock your doors, turn on your porch lights and go outside and get to know your neighbors and law enforcement and give criminals a warning that you are organized and ready to fight back.

Register online at <https://natw.org/registration> and NOTIFY YOUR North Central Precinct Public Education Specialist at alfowler@dekalbcountyga.gov if you want to plan an event for NNO.

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Tucker Arts Guild August Meeting

The Tucker Arts Guild will meet on Thursday, August 20, at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you – and please bring a chair. The Guild meets January through November on the 3rd Thursday each month at The Custom Frame Shop, 4195 Fellowship Road, Tucker. Please call 770-491-3305 for more information.



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AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Check out the daily news for Tucker/Stone Mountain at www.patch.com

Farmer’s Market

Every Tuesday from 4:00 to 7:00 there will be a Farmer’s Market in the Village of Stone Mountain. It is set up in the main parking lot in town center and is a wonderful way to include locally grown fresh vegetables and fruits in your pantry.

Historic Society Backyard Barbecue

A fantastic backyard barbecue is right around the corner, hosted by the Stone Mountain Historic Society. Come join us on August 8, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. for the best barbecue prepared by the Sneads, fabulous banana pudding made by Ann Hamby and amazing baked beans simmered to perfection by Pat Miller. Tickets are 20.00 payable at the door of the Wells Brown House. Enjoy meeting and eating with friends on the new grounds right next door – and there is always ample parking available at the Methodist Church, so come join us for a wonderful evening!

AED’s SAVE LIVES

Make September 11 Your Day to Save a Life

Most of us never expect to save a life, unless it’s our job, but 60% of cardiac arrest occurs in front of people. If you saw someone collapse, would you be able to respond? If you knew CPR you would greatly increase that person’s chances of survival. That’s what we all want, a chance! It’s what Lynn Dundon got when she collapsed from cardiac arrest – the chance to survive because someone knew CPR and kept her vital until paramedics could take over. It’s because of this experience that she co-founded the non-profit organization, *Life Is Sweet*.

On September 11, *Life is Sweet* will be hosting their 2nd Annual Survivor Celebration at Café Jaya in Stone Mountain Village from 7:00-10:00 p.m. This will be an evening of fun, fellowship and celebration, all while raising money to provide an automated exterior defibrillator (AED) device to the community’s newest meeting place, Café Jaya. A non-profit, community focused coffee house and drinkery in Stone Mountain Village, Café Jaya focuses on brewing the perfect cup of joe while giving a portion of all of their proceeds to other non-profits in the community.

In a recent interview, co-founder of *Life is Sweet*, Lynne Dundon, commented that Café Jaya is the right organization for donation on this special day because of their altruistic efforts in the Village. “The effort by the owners of Café Jaya to bring a spirit of giving to the community of Stone Mountain Village offers a model for other businesses.”

Join us as we hear the story of a survivor of cardiac arrest, listen to life saving advice from a local medical professional and enjoy live entertainment. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at Café Jaya. We strongly encourage you to purchase your ticket in advance as space is limited.

Your \$40 ticket includes entry into the event, sparkling wine, hors d’oeuvres and one entry into our raffle (with more than \$1000 worth of prizes!). If you cannot attend, but would like to make a donation, please visit our website at lifeissweet.org or visit Café Jaya to purchase a raffle ticket for \$20 to win the grand prize of a two-day stay at Sea Palms Resort in St. Simons Island, Georgia.

Things are “Growing Well” in the Smoke Rise Community Garden by Doug Reynics

The gardens look incredible! The right level of rain, heat and volunteers watering the nineteen food pantry beds is paying off. To date we have donated 55 pounds of produce. In 2014 we donated over 850 pounds! We have two new ways we donate the food. The first is a Tucker based organization called NETworks. Holly Duncan is the coordinator. In 2012, NETworks provided more than 28,000 pounds to those in need. For more information on NETworks please call (770) 939-5654.

The second way we donate is through an individual named Teresa Hamilton (Lady-T) who runs the homeless Ministry to the community garden. She was overcome with joy to be able to pick fresh vegetables for the food she provides to homeless women and children. When I showed her our one free scholarship plot for someone in need, she almost cried with the thought of having a place to grow vegetables. I enriched her food-plot and we went to the nursery to pick out some plants for her. She is the second recipient of our food pantry bed produce to have her own bed to plant and harvest!

We currently have 58 plots, nineteen of which are grown for food pantry needs. The rest are rented by individuals. We currently have one available plot coming up in October, 2015. For information on the community garden or to learn more about the food pantry program please visit www.smokerisecommunitygarden.com.

Lastly, we are trying to obtain a level two electric car charger. It would be the first of its kind on Smoke Rise. It will be located at top of driveway to the right before you enter the garden. You are free to donate via check to: SRCA - 4426 Hugh Howell Road - Suite B506 - Tucker, Georgia – 30084. Happy planting!



Smoke Rise Elementary Jaguars... Roaring Into a New School Year!

As the Summer is nearing an end, exciting new changes will occur in the new school year at Smoke Rise Elementary Charter School. In preparation for the August 10 start date,



many changes are in the making. One exciting change is that students will return in the official school uniform (uniform policy is posted on the school's website). Other exciting changes to look forward to are the many facelift changes that have been made throughout the building.

Students will also meet new friends as well as new teachers! Enjoy the remainder of your Summer vacation as you and your students prepare to roar in a new and exciting school year!

Reflections of a Roaring School

Year 2014-2015

In reflection of the school year 2014-2015, there are a few mentionable highlights that deserve a Jaguar roar from Smoke Rise Elementary Charter School! A big ROAR! to Smoke Rise Baptist Church for providing transportation for our MALDEF program. It is this type of active community involvement that greatly contributes to the success of the school and students. Additionally, a gracious ROAR! is extended to Mr. Jim Wilson from

Cofer Brothers for his participation in our 5th grade Honor's Day Celebration. Mr. Wilson presented a beautiful plaque to our highest performing 5th grade student, sponsored the Cofer Cup Award and shook the hands of the boys and girls as they crossed the stage to receive their Honor's Day awards. The year ended on a positive note with many other notable community involvements that were and will continue to be instrumental in bridging the gap between community and school and contributing to the success of our most important clientele...our students.

Smoke Rise Sharks News

Kathy Carr

The Smoke Rise Sharks began the 2015 season in the middle of May and ended with a party on June 29. There were five Tuesday night meets, five Friday mini-meets and a two-part Championship held at Georgia Tech. The results of the evening meets were one tie and four incredibly close outcomes.

For six weeks, beginners were introduced to the freestyle and backstroke; many learned to dive head-first. Veteran swimmers worked diligently to improve. Everyone on the team swam hard and laughed harder. One senior/assistant coach, Hannah Robinson said goodbye. At the end-of-season party, volunteers were acknowledged and each swimmer was recognized for their contribution to the team.

Coach Anna took forty-one swimmers to the Divisional meet and four swimmers qualified to return for the Championship: Ellie Rose McClaren (age 8), Austin Kohler (age 12), Erin Obarowski (age 13) and James Ferrante (age 15).



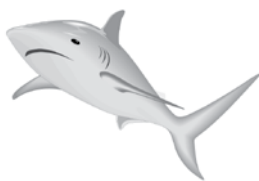
*Smoke Rise Sharks won 2nd Place Overall in
the Silver Division*

Thank you Sharks for another great summer season and we look forward to next year.

Second Annual
Stone Mountain
Plein Air Paint Out

Saturday, September 26

ART Station Contemporary Arts Center, Stone Mountain Park and Stone Mountain Memorial Association announce the second annual Stone Mountain *Plein Air* Paint Out on Saturday, September 26. Organizers expect about 100 painters from throughout the region to be painting around the Park and in the historic Village of Stone Mountain in the same way as the Impressionists did: on location, or *en plein air*. This approach allows them to capture exquisite color and light and to reproduce the particular, fleeting atmosphere of a place, in a single moment of time. Working on location presents the artists with many challenges they wouldn't have in a studio setting. The results are worth the extra effort, though. *Plein air* paintings have a quality of authenticity that can't be achieved any other way. Paintings will be displayed at ART Station that evening from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. for competition to win cash and purchase awards.



Ani Uri, Soren Johnson, Trace Wood and Aubrey Cooper show off the 6 & Under 2nd Place trophy in the Silver Division.

GRADUATES



Mitch Jaugstetter

Mitchem (Mitch) John Jaugstetter graduated from Providence Christian Academy on May 28, 2015. He will attend Mercer University to study Journalism/Pre-Law. He is the grandson of Ruby and Albert Mitchem of Stratmor Hills and Laura and Jack Jaugstetter of Savannah, Georgia. He is the son of John and Kandy Jaugstetter of The Forest.

Sarah Harris

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Harris are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter, Sarah, from Providence Christian Academy (PCA) on May 23, 2015. Sarah was the Valedictorian for the Class of 2015 along with her friend, Andrew Randazza. (They tied to the 1000th decimal point.)

Sarah played volleyball at PCA all four years of high school and was President of the National Honor Society, a Beta Club member and was Student Council VP for the Senior Class. Sarah received the Georgia Certificate of Merit from the State of Georgia and The University of Georgia her junior year.

Sarah plans to attend Georgia Tech in the fall and major in Chemical Engineering.



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5778 Trotters Court \$373,900



2283 Stratmor Drive \$219,900



1490 Kings Crossing \$349,500



5818 Silver Ridge Drive \$434,000



5532 Leather Stocking Lane \$234,900



5496 Silver Ridge Drive \$349,500



1959 East Gate Drive \$499,000

2015 Georgia Mission of Mercy Project
by Debbie Torbush

The Georgia Dental Association and the Georgia Dental Association Foundation for Oral Health recently held its third Georgia Mission of Mercy (GMOM) Project on June 19 and 20 at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry. The intent was to relieve pain and provide dental care at no cost to those in attendance. Patients were treated on a first come, first served basis with doors opening at 5:00 a.m. Initial figures indicate that approximately 2,200 patients received free dental services valued at over \$1.5 million.

Approximately 1500 volunteers participated by helping to set up and take down the facility on the Thursday before and the Saturday evening following the event, and then during the two full days of providing treatment. Volunteers included dentists, hygienists, dental assistants, dental office staff, dental students and community volunteers. As you can see, many volunteers were needed! Each patient was registered, received education about the importance of obtaining and maintaining optimal oral health, participated in a brief medical screening, obtained x-rays, met with a dentist in Dental Triage to determine the most pressing need, and then was routed to the proper area of service. Throughout this process, each patient was escorted by a warm and caring volunteer. Additional volunteers were needed to register workers, serve meals and snacks to the volunteers, and provide waste management services as well as many other services! Even current and past patients felt the need to give back by volunteering during the event.

Pictured is our daughter Katherine, me and my husband Doug Torbush, DDS. Doug is the current President of the Georgia Dental Association and served as one of the eight GMOM chairs; he was the Dental Triage Co-Chair with responsibilities over many areas. Katherine and I worked areas such as Volunteer Registration, Sterilization, Patient Ambassador and scribe in the Dental Triage area. It was a full and very rewarding day!



Art From the Heart
by Renée Hopf

There are a lot of situations these days where a beautiful piece of art can have some true therapeutic value. A painting of a senior citizen's longtime residence will help them take some wonderful memories with them as they face the move to a retirement facility. It can also help people dealing with difficult illnesses or the loss of a family member or friend - or even the loss of their family pet. There are also joyous events that can be preserved through a painting...a favorite vacation spot, a first time home or a favorite college campus.



"Remembering Patsy"

My husband and Smoke Rise resident, Denny Hopf, has been drawing and painting since childhood. He has become an award-winning artist by studying acrylic painting techniques for years with some of Atlanta's best instructors. He is definitely happiest when seated in front of his easel, brush in hand and surrounded by his paints. It has been Denny's idea and goal to form an organization whose function would be the creation of lasting memories through art...*Art From The Heart!*

To acquire an *Art From The Heart* painting for a friend or loved one you can contact Denny at 770-921-5540. He'll ask you to provide a short explanation of the purpose of the painting and a good photograph of the subject. Denny does have the stipulation that he reserves the right to determine the size of the painting and the number of paintings that can be produced. There is NO CHARGE for the painting that will be done on a time-permitting basis. This generous offer is available until October 1, 2015. He only asks that you make a donation in the amount of your choice to a mutually agreed upon charity.

Smoke Rise, Georgia, Real Estate Statistics

The following is a summary report from the FMLS system specific to Smoke Rise, GA via mapped data. The \$/square foot is an average without consideration of price, terms, condition or location. These values should not be considered absolute in determining value. An analysis specific to an individual property will be required.

July 14, 2014 to July 13, 2015									
	Bdrms	Sq Ft	List Price	Lp/Sqft	Sales Price	SP/Sq Ft	SP/LP \$	SP\$/OLP\$	DOM
High	9	8,325	\$895,000	\$138.00	\$700,000	\$128.00	112%	112%	733
Low	3	1,979	\$150,000	\$35.00	\$150,000	\$35.00	85%	71%	0
Average	4	3,765	\$353,763	\$87.20	\$310,477	\$87.20	97%	93%	97
Median	4	3,428	\$312,500	\$85.50	\$287,500	\$87.60	97%	94%	60

Buyer activity has been strong in June and July. The hottest price range remains the \$250,000 - \$300,000 range with inventory still tight. Dollars per square foot over the year previous shows a little gain with less time on market. Buyers are looking for properties that are updated and will shop until they find what they want. We have seen more relocation buyers this year than the past few years. There are currently 39 homes available for sale.

Key

- Sq Ft = Square Footage. Usually the floors above grade.
- SP/Sq Ft - Sales Price average dollars per square foot.
- SP\$/OLP\$ = Sold Price as percentage of List Price.
- LP/Sqft = List Price average dollars per square foot.
- SP/LP \$ = Percentage of list price home was sold at.
- DOM = Days on market

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Commissioner Nancy Jester –
Newsletter online

DeKalb County Commissioner Nancy Jester has an informative newsletter that is easily accessible to everyone. She typically spotlights town hall meetings as well as just “meet and greet” opportunities where you can meet her and enjoy the location chosen for either the great food or the interesting atmosphere. She has held meetings at the Old Tucker Fountain and Chik-fil-A in Tucker and there will be an upcoming meeting on Saturday, August 22 at Panera Bread on Henderson Mill Road. The meeting will be from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to meet, greet and eat!

You can click on numerous links to find out about the No Bid Contracts for Ex DeKalb School Employees, the problems getting substitute teachers and the rewriting of the charter school policy in DeKalb County and various topics such as CID projects, tax symposiums and photos of people and places in DeKalb.

The email is nancy@nancyjester.com and you can also follow her on facebook. Her phone number listed in the newsletter is 678-360-1148.

Take a moment to read the newsletter or call with concerns, questions or comments.

Nancy Jester, Charles Green of Matthews Cafeteria and Jim Wilson of Cofer Brothers.



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Alerts & Watches

by Jan Mahoney

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

- 6/20/2015 – VANDALISM/ DAMAGE TO PROPERTY - 5400 BLOCK LEATHER STOCKING LANE
- 6/30/2015 – THEFT/LARCENY - 1800 BLOCK KANAWHA TRAIL
- 7/03/2015 – VANDALISM/DAMAGE TO PROPERTY - 1400 BLOCK LILBURN-STONE MOUNTAIN ROAD
- 7/03/2015 – VANDALISM/DAMAGE TO PROPERTY - 1700 BLOCK HERITAGE WAY

From a Hugh Howell Road resident:

Since the end of June, I have been receiving mail for someone who is trying and succeeding to open credit cards using my home address. I believe he is coming daily to my mailbox to look for “his” mail, as I have been able to catch over six letters with two credit cards addressed to him. I can also tell that he is tampering with my mailbox because on days that I collect my mail late in the day, it is all thrown around in the box, which is very unlike how it is delivered by the postman.

Possibly the following link might be useful:

<http://www.quora.com/Someone-appears-to-be-intentionally-using-my-address-for-fraudulent-purposes-How-can-I-stop-this>

Just wanted to put a heads up out there to the neighborhood in case anyone else is having the same issue or suspects any mail tampering. This is illegal and fraudulent and is a form of identity theft.

If anyone suspects any suspicious activity, do not open any of the mail and hold on to all that is received. Contact the USPS Postal Inspectors office at 1-877-876-2455 to file a claim as well as file a police report.

Ed note: If you can watch for the postal carrier, or if you know approximately when he comes, go and get your mail out of your box immediately after delivery. Also, think about getting a mailbox with a lock on it. Then no one but you can get the mail out of it. They come in a wide range of prices.

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

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

Preferred Formats for Smoke Signal Submissions

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



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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

Health Care Media Coverage: Fact or Media Hype?

Have you ever wondered as you listen to the evening news why it seems that medical recommendations are always changing? Could it be that doctors and scientists can't make up their minds? The answer to these two questions is complicated.

One part of the answer is that scientists can't know everything, and knowledge about diseases, their prevention and their treatment is constantly evolving. A good example of this is the use of hormonal replacement therapy in women. In the 1980's women were put on estrogen and progesterone hormones for hot flashes, the prevention of dementia, osteoporosis and heart disease. Suddenly, in the mid -1990's it seemed that doctors back-pedaled and announced that replacement hormones were dangerous and could cause stroke, heart disease, cancer and even death. Women in the millions were taken off of hormones and left to go through menopause naturally. Why did this happen? The short answer is that a better quality study- including many thousands of women of all ages- gave different information than older, less reliable hormonal studies gave.

Another part of the answer is that journalists are constantly searching for medical news that will reach their target audience. Often they troll through the table of contents of the latest medical journals like *British Medical Journal*, *The New England Journal of Medicine* and others searching for "breaking news." What they then report or publish often goes viral and is taken by their audience as fact. Some of these are editorials (opinion), pilot studies of only a few patients or ones that have a bias towards a certain subset of patients. Some are just observational studies -one of the least reliable types of studies. Or the journalist might generalize results from one study and apply it to another subset of people. For instance, results from studies in men do not always apply to populations of women and study results on young adults may not apply to the elderly. An example of this "breaking news approach" is the popular low-carb diet. Years ago, I sat in a lecture on obesity at Emory Medical Center given by the author of the low-carb diet pilot study. He published the preliminary information and then gave us his take on what he thought the "real" follow up study would show. To my amazement before the follow up study was done with a larger population of people, over a longer duration of time... the media went crazy. Over the next few years, fast food restaurants and grocery stores had low-carb everything. We now know, thanks to many excellent quality follow-up studies, that low-carb diets are loved by dieters, and show quicker weight loss initially (in the first two weeks especially) than other diets. However, at the two-year mark there is absolutely no difference in overall weight loss between low-carb and other diets. Although perhaps the public became more educated about what carbs are, a lot of others got rich on the hype.

What can you as a medical novice do to find out what is fact and what is fiction? Look and listen for certain "code" words like: pilot study, initial study, newly discovered treatment or drug. Is it the drug or device FDA approved or just in the testing phases? New drugs typically take up to a decade to be approved because they need thorough testing in humans. Most of them never make it to the market. Reports with these "code" words may indicate preliminary information, not fact. The words "evidence based medicine," "randomized" study, "review" study, or a study with large numbers of people in them may mean the results come from good quality studies. Finally, remember that medicine is constantly changing. Check new viral news reports out with your doctor. Don't be in a hurry to jump on the newest medical bandwagon.

techtalk

by Susan Gilbert

Introducing Alexa

Alexa came to live with us six months ago. She is short, dark, slender, and quiet until spoken to, at which time, she can become quite verbose, informative, and entertaining. Standing only a foot tall and happy to sit in a corner on the kitchen counter, she lights up when she hears her name spoken. While packing for a trip, I ask, "Alexa, what is the weather in Orlando tomorrow?" She responds, "The weather in Orlando tomorrow is partly cloudy, high of 95F, low of 76F and 20 percent chance of rain".

Alexa is what some have termed "Seri on Steroids" because she is a bit like the iPhone app but so much more. Alexa is the name for a cloud-based voice service accessible from an Amazon Echo device. They are now available on the Amazon site.

When cooking, we ask Alexa for a clam chowder recipe, which she provides and repeats as we cook. Our favorite feature is her ability to add items to our task or shopping list by voice command. "Alexa, add spinach to the shopping list." And she responds, "Spinach added to the shopping list." Then when we are at the grocery store, we look up our shopping list on our mobile phone, and what do you know, there is spinach! No more forgetting the shopping list. It is always with us on our phones and Alexa is always updating it as we report to her the items we need to pick up.

Alexa can also read the news, check sports scores, look up historical information, set timers or alarms, tell jokes, solve riddles, and more—instantly. All you have to do is ask. Echo begins working as soon as it detects the wake-word, "Alexa."

A feature that surprised us is the quality and convenience of her as a sound system. We ask, "Alexa, play Pachelbel's *Cannon*." And almost instantly beautiful music pours from her speaker and it fills our home with brilliant, immersive sound. How such a small device produces such an enormous sound is intriguing, but we don't question. We just ask and enjoy.

Since Alexa's arrival on our doorstep, we have come to love her, laugh with her, and to rely on her for assisting with so many aspects of our busy lives. She does require your home to have WIFI for her to retrieve the information she brings. So if you don't have WIFI, Alexa might just be the reason to get it.


So, where does this technology go from here? If you have read *The Everything Store* about Amazon founder Jeff Bezos' vision for the company, you can easily imagine a day when Alexa responds to your request to "add milk to the shopping list" by replying, "Would you like that delivered today?"

Less is More

by Will Johnson

A year and a half ago, I quit my corporate job to travel for three months to New Zealand working on vineyards and backpacking the South Island. There, I discovered a new way to live in a minimalist and experiential fashion. Returning to Atlanta, I picked up on the Tiny House Movement and have not looked back. I felt the need for advocacy and education about the tiny house movement and what it could do for the south and Atlanta. There is a monthly Meetup group that has grown to 475 people in 10 months and holds monthly educational and advocacy meetings. The tiny home idea has been presented to SCAD Atlanta, GSU, HOA's and other community groups on the premise of what the Tiny House Movement could mean for the area and why it appeals to so many people. Local involvement is growing and various groups have met in our community to research and explore this movement. Jack Sartain, community leaders and interested individuals from Stone Mountain Village and Smoke Rise have already started looking into this new trend. So what is the tiny home movement?

Look at your house. Now imagine living in half the space, now half that space again, and one more time. NOW you are looking at the tiny house movement. I know, don't go into shock! But think of all the freedom you would have living in a smaller space. More time, more money, less to worry about, more money, less cleaning, more money... you get the point. Are you catching on why people like this movement? Less space means less stuff to worry which means more time and money for you to live your



Will Johnson with supporters and friends in front of a tiny house.

...continued on page 11

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Energy Saving Tips

By Steve Renner

Now that hot weather is here, I'd like to share a few tips with everyone to help you save money and conserve energy.

Modern Hvac cooling systems do not like three things - excessive heat, excessive dirt, or excessive water. When an outdoor AC condenser coil is blocked with dirt or has grass or flowers growing up against it, the compressor runs hot and its efficiency drops significantly. This is because modern air conditioners use freon to transfer heat energy from the inside of your house to the outside and then give it up to the atmosphere. This works much the same way that your car's radiator system uses water and antifreeze to transfer the heat energy in your car engine to the atmosphere. It saves you money to keep the area around your unit clear. Please note that it helps to keep some sort of ground cover (rock, mulch, straw, etc.) on the soil around the unit. This prevents dirt from splashing into the coil during a hard rain. Please be aware that if you do not have working guttering around the house you can drown an air conditioner during a hard rain.

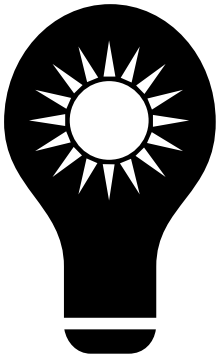
78 Degrees F saves you money. All the studies show that every degree below 78 will cost you an average of 5% more in energy costs. If you wish to have a cooler house at night then wait until the sun goes down and the sun's infrared energy is not bathing the house. A good programmable thermostat will do this for you and pay for itself in a year.

Clean filters are essential; they allow for more airflow through your home as well as keeping the indoor coil free of dirt, which eventually will clog the coil and its drainage system. This can create a water damage situation. If you do not have a filter on your furnace that is easy to change, then contact your Hvac company to help you find a solution.

Skylights and panoramic windows are a wonderful addition to any home but where there is sunlight there is the potential for infrared heat energy to be introduced into your home. This can significantly heat up a room on a sunny day. There are many excellent products that can tint those skylights and windows to help reduce the amount of heat energy being absorbed by your home. Please remember that this heat energy has to be eventually removed by your AC Systems.

Last but not least, if your AC Systems are struggling to keep up with the heat then please contact a qualified licensed and insured Hvac contractor. They are there to help you get through the summer.

Stephen Renner is President of Climate Technicians, Inc. and has been in the Hvac business for over 40 years. He is an advertiser with the Smoke Signal.



NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

DeKalb is Ready for an Emergency!

Protecting lives and saving property...that's the motto of DeKalb's Fire Rescue department. DeKalb's Police department enforces our laws, preserves the peace, reduces fear and provides for a safe environment. We all have a pretty good idea how these goals are accomplished during normal, day-to-day operations, but what about large-scale, natural or man-made emergency situations that threaten an entire neighborhood, county or region?

The DeKalb County Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) works year-round to coordinate the response of local agencies, local governments, volunteer organizations and the private sector to develop and teach disaster preparedness plans, mitigation activities and to provide training and exercise evaluations. This agency is also on permanent standby – ready to respond within minutes of a major event, like a natural disaster, a large-scale fire or even a terrorist attack.

DEMA acts as a liaison with local, state and federal authorities when major disasters threaten citizens and DeKalb County. DEMA ensures the most appropriate resources are dispatched to the impacted areas. During an active situation, DEMA operates out of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at DeKalb County's Public Safety Headquarters at 1960 West Exchange Place in Tucker. This state-of-the-art facility is filled with computers, TVs, electronic writing boards and emergency monitoring equipment. This center helps officials assess the emergency and form a response.

The Area Command Center is in the adjacent building (Fire Rescue Headquarters). It is also activated during an emergency situation, especially when fire officials need to manage their resources on a large incident. It can also be used as a Unified Command Center where other agencies converge to evaluate an emergency situation and communicate to DEMA and other officials about their operational needs. This is where, for example, fire, police and watershed would go to evaluate resources and make decisions. They can also deploy non-essential employees "out in the field" to gather first-hand accounts of the emergency ("wire down" and "tree down" calls are good examples). This helps divert and prioritize some of the overload of calls into the 911 system during a disaster.

Many of us "average citizens" are blissfully ignorant to the inner operations and what's actually needed during an emergency response. The needs cover the gamut, from coordinating evacuation transportation means and routes to providing medicine, food, water, shelter and bathroom facilities to those affected by the disaster and even to first-responders and investigators working at a site.

The most recent activation of the EOC and the Area Command Center occurred in January and February of this year, when severe cold weather threatened our area. DeKalb managed to dodge a major winter wipeout; however, emergency personnel kept busy with storm-related situations, including downed electric wires, traffic backlogs, impassible roads and fire and medical emergencies.

The Area Command Center was built using federal funding. DeKalb County employees also provided a good amount of "elbow grease". Staff painted, laid carpet and even hung projectors and TVs – among several other things. The EOC was awarded funding grants for much of its equipment.

So, DeKalb residents, rest easy! Our emergency officials have got you covered during disaster situations – and all year round.



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.

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Learn about Pets and Plant Safety at Mountain Shadow Garden Club

Gardeners love their plants, but most also have dogs, cats or other pets they hold dear as well. On Monday evening, August 10, Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) will feature a program by Dr. Paula Murray, DVM, discussing some guidelines and precautions for assuring a healthy environment and coexistence of pets and plants. Dr. Murray is the lead veterinarian at Snapfinger Creek Animal Hospital in Decatur.

A 1984 graduate of Tuskegee University, she has been practicing veterinary medicine in the Atlanta area since 1985 and has mentored young people in the Veterinary Explorer program for several years. Dr. Murray has her own mini-menagerie of dogs and cats at home and has become an avid gardener. She particularly enjoys her perennial garden and also plans to grow more vegetables. Her program will draw on some of her experiences with client education. Many common plants can cause mild gastric upset and some can be very harmful. Mulches, insecticides, fertilizers and baits can also be problematic without proper management. A question and answer session will allow time for further discussion with the audience.

Mountain Shadow Garden Club meets on the second Monday evening of most months in Founders Hall at Eastminster Presbyterian Church on Hugh Howell Road. The group is

open to men and women of all ages who enjoy learning about a diverse range of topics related to plants, gardening and home landscapes. The program is free and begins at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments and socializing follow.

For more information, contact club president Jeff Raines at 404-641-8633.





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Bewitching Yellow Daisy Flower Show

The 44th Yellow Daisy Flower Show, *Daisy Is Bewitched*, is just around the corner on September 11-13 during the Yellow Daisy Festival at Stone Mountain Park. Redbud District and Daisy invite you to submit horticulture or serve on the show committee. But, most of all, Daisy wants you to attend the show and help celebrate Redbud District's forty-four years of producing the show in partnership with Stone Mountain Park. The flower show will again be held in beautiful Memorial Hall in the Park (across from Stone Mountain Inn). There will be *Scare in the Air* if you *Dare to Enter*. This Halloween happening promises to be *Frightfully Fun*.

The show's 36 floral designs will get your creative juices flowing with a *Spooky Soiree* and a *Sinister Twist*. You won't want to miss the *Little Shop of Horrors*, where you might see *Skeletal Remains* and *Batty Bats*. *No Bones About It*—the Educational exhibits will be *Bone Chilling*, with bats the topic for one display!

The 600+ specimens of *Wickedly Wonderful* horticulture will be *Eerie-sistible* and will inspire you to expand your garden and teach you which plants that will do well in your garden. For more information on horticulture entries or to volunteer for horticulture classification, you can reach Emily Wilbert, Horticulture Classification Chairman, at themomemw@gmail.com or 770-502-8381.

And what could be more fun than seeing children delight in the horticulture they have entered or in the floral designs they have created using *Monster Masks* and *Bubbling Cauldrons*? All Smoke Rise youth are invited to enter the show. Youth Consultants Susan Turner (770-922-4411; glencree@bellsouth.net), Joanne Bennett (770-502-1695; joanneB5712@aol.com) and Ann Weisz (770-493-7346; annweisz@bellsouth.net) are anxiously awaiting your inquiries about youth entries. Please encourage your children, grandchildren, scout groups and neighborhood children to enter the show. Entries must be submitted on Thursday, September 10 from 1:00 – 6:30 p.m. or Friday, September 11 from 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. at Memorial Hall.

Smoke Rise residents serving on the flower show committee include Janet McGinnis (Staging and Signage Chairman, Schedule Committee), Joy Zaidan (Entries and Schedule Chairman, Design Consultant), Quill Duncan (Horticulture Placement Chairman), Edith Morton (Properties Chairman), Ann Purr (Clerks Chairman), Ann Weisz (Youth Consultant and Youth Entries) and Denise Finley (Shuttle Chairman).

The Show Committee looks forward to seeing you at this *Bewitching* flower show. Show hours are as follows: September 11 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.; September 12 from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; September 13 from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The flower show is open and free to the public, but a parking permit is required for each vehicle entering the Park.



Mountain Mums

The Mountain Mums Garden Club will hold their first meeting of the fall season at the home of Debra Adams on August 12 at 10:00 a.m. The Mums plan to finish painting ceramic garden art they started in the spring. The meeting is intended to be a social time and is a good time to come meet other young women who love to garden.

Watch for a Mountain Mums booth at the Tucker Farmer's Market in August and possibly September. The Mountain Mums will have hypertufa pots and garden art for sale as a fund-raiser for their club.

For more information about the club, call Ann Purr at 770-921-9070. Also, next month the *Smoke Signal* will list many of the programs that will be featured this year.



Less is More...continued from page 9

life and do what humans are good doing, experiencing life! Live small, experience big!

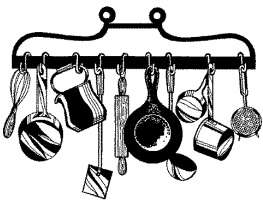
So let's understand the basics: a tiny house is usually between 100-500 square feet and can be on a trailer or a foundation. Usually people build their own tiny houses but there are companies that will build your little house of awesomeness for you. Some are modern, some are cabin-esque and some are down right original. I would recommend looking at tinyhouseswoon.com for some amazing architectural designs. Besides having an awesome exterior, the interior design is the fun part of the house. What one can design with a small space is simply fascinating and spaces are getting even more creative. They fit living, sleeping, eating and bathroom quarters all into a variety of sizes of houses for all types of people.

There are TV shows, organizations, professional builders and groups all dedicated to this movement and they will help you find if you fit in to this movement. I just wanted to point you in your direction and see how you align. It's not for everybody but, hey, having more money is a club I think we all want to belong to. Check out more information with these sites:

www.tinyhomebuilder.com, www.tinyhouseatlanta.com, thetinylife.com

For more information please reach out to Tiny House Atlanta at tinyhomesatlanta@gmail.com.

HODGE PODGE



By Jenny Hall-Busch

Today we discovered that the hose from the sink and dishwasher mysteriously came loose so that there is pure old dirty water dripping (or gushing) into the crawlspace. Also, just to put the icing on the cake, the people who installed our new hot water heater didn't realize (nor did we) that the newly designed turnoff valve juts out just enough so that we cannot reach or even get to the air conditioning filter any more. Our trusty AC guy, Steve, managed to get a filter in place somehow and repaired the dripping hose as well, adding to his vast reputation as Renaissance Repair Guy. During all this turmoil, my student came to the front door, ready for her piano lesson, only to discover that the door was locked. That is because I was busy in the basement surveying the carnage and wet disarray of yucky dishwashing effluvia. (Big word for gunk.) So I was a no-show in my own house and that is the way things are going while dinner is half prepared. You can easily imagine the state of mind I am in right now and count yourself lucky that I am not putting in recipes for nails, pressure cooker stew or liquid nitrogen. I need to calm down. Relax. Be one with the plumbing.

Impossible. I am as tense as a cat in a vacuum cleaner factory. What will calm me down? What? What? I'm stumped. So we're just going to go with pie. Pie is calming. Everyone likes pie, and in honor of my disastrous "plum-bing" I'm starting with seasonal Plum/Peach Pie. Here goes nothing.

- 5 large black plums, cut into 1/2 inch pieces – with or without peel
- 3 peaches, blanched; skins removed; cut into 1/2 inch pieces
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 4 Tablespoons corn starch
- 1 egg
- pinch of salt -- and that's it except for the pie crust.

The best crust is home made but I just use ones from the refrigerated section of the grocery. Roll one out into pie plate and put it in the fridge to get really cold.

Mix sugar and cornstarch. Mix fruit in a large bowl and then add sugar mixture, stirring to coat. Let sit for about 5 minutes. Dump into the cold crust and then top with the other crust, crimping sides and jabbing the top into little slits to work out your frustration. Chill the whole pie again for about 20 minutes. At this point you can preheat the oven to 425° and chill out yourself. After the pie has chilled for 20 minutes or until you are calmed down, beat the egg and salt; brush top of cold crust with egg wash and then sprinkle with a little sugar if you like. I feel the need for sugar right now.

Bake pie for 20 minutes at 425° and then reduce temp to 350° and bake another 30 minutes until bubbly. Place the pie on middle oven rack so that you can put a cookie sheet or foil on a lower rack so drips won't cause the smoke alarm to go off. Turn the pie occasionally so it will brown evenly in the oven.

FYI about plums: they are at their peak right about now. Buy plums that yield to gentle pressure and have a little whitish "bloom" on the skin. This means that they haven't been handled or beat up too badly. Don't buy super hard plums since they really don't ripen well but might improve if left on the counter a day or two. Or they might just be awful, but that's the chance you take.

Pit plums by cutting in half lengthwise and twisting the halves in opposite directions. You can take the stone out that way. You can skin the plums by immersing them in boiling water for about 20 seconds – just like fresh tomatoes – and the skin should come off, especially if you shock them by running in cold water right after the boiling water bath. I realize that all of this sounds like I'm angry at the fruit...skinning, boiling, shocking, etc. I'm still not over the water disaster in my basement.

Plums are delicious grilled, and it just takes about 5 minutes to get them nice and warm as an accompaniment to pork or chicken. And this delicious chutney is great with just about anything!

Plum Chutney

- 4 cups chopped plums, skinned and stoned (HA - that means take out the pits)
- 1 cup minced onion
- 3/4 cup raisins
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 1 1/2 cups apple cider vinegar
- zest from half an orange or lemon
- 1/2 teaspoon EACH of cinnamon, salt, dry mustard
- a pinch of red chili flakes

Combine all ingredients in large pot, like a Dutch oven. Bring to a boil and then reduce heat, letting it simmer until slightly thick. Stir pretty much constantly as it nears completion so it won't stick. Cook until it just slightly mounds on a spoon. Refrigerate and use within a week or so as a side to grilled meats.

All classified ads are limited to twenty words, with the *Smoke Signal* reserving the right to edit any copy. Ads are \$15.00 per month, (\$75.00 per 6 months if prepaid). Please submit copy in writing with a check for the months the ad is to run. Deadline is the 10th of each month. ADS NEED TO BE PREPAID. Checks should be made out to *Smoke Signal* and mailed to 1868 East Gate Drive, Smoke Rise, GA 30087-1911. When submitting classified ads, please include your full name, address, and phone number. This information is for our records only! For classified ads, contact Barb Hess at 404-229-0742 or barbhess48@gmail.com.

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

Classified Ads

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FOR SALE: Ethan Allen coffee table: \$200; Antique love seat: \$150; Antique table: \$300; Vintage Teak DR table, chairs & buffet. 770-939-0630

FOR SALE: Ludwig junior drum set: \$175; Antique rose back chairs: \$125; Corner chair: \$200. Call 770-939-0630

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

Stone Mountain Rotary Club

by L.A. Dison

Rotary Club of Stone Mountain Celebrates 50 Years; Elects New Board

The Rotary Club of Stone Mountain celebrated its 50th anniversary in June with a gala celebration at Smoke Rise Country Club. Over eighty Rotarians and guests enjoyed cocktails and dinner, followed by a ceremony emceed by Al Lipphardt, Past President of the club and a former Rotary District Governor. Bill Rosenfeld, previous director of membership, was awarded the club's "Rotarian of the Year" plaque for his hard work in surpassing club membership growth goals. Jerry Crane also received the Rotary International Avenues of Service Citation.

The club inducted a new board for the 2015-2016 term: Donna Jensen, President; Margie Kersey, President-Elect; BeBe Joiner, President Nominee and Service; Hiram "Hikie" Allen, Club Administrator; George Miranda, Secretary; Irvin "Bud" Schooler, Treasurer; William "Bill" Witcher, Sergeant-at-Arms; Al Lipphardt, Membership; Jerry Crane, Membership; Gillian Leggett, Public Relations; Durl Jensen, Service and Rotary Foundation; Chris Brand, Past President; and Casey Farmer, Presidential Advisor.

The Stone Mountain club meets every Tuesday for noon lunch at Smoke Rise Country Club; visitors and those interested in learning more about Rotary are welcome to attend. For more info on the club, visit www.stonemountainrotary.org.



Members of the 2015-2016 Rotary Club of Stone Mountain board (left to right): Gillian Leggett, Jerry Crane, Al Lipphardt, Hikie Allen, Durl Jensen, Chris Brand, Bud Schooler, BeBe Joiner, Donna Jensen, and Bob Hagen, Rotary District 6900 Governor.