

SMOKE SIGNAL



VOLUME 54, ISSUE 4

Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

July, 2021

www.smokesignalnews.com

CITY OF TUCKER – FIREWORKS ON MAIN STREET July 3, 6:00 p.m.

Join us on Main Street for a night you'll never forget! Live music starting at 6:00 p.m. and running late into the night. Food trucks and vendors. Fireworks after sundown. Let's come celebrate the pinnacle of this TKR Summer of Fun!

Flag Etiquette

The flag of the United States is much more than just red, white, and blue cloth. As a symbol of America, it stands for the past, present, and future of our country. It represents our people, our land, and our many ways of life.

Honoring the flag offers all of us a time to think about what it means to be American and to pledge ourselves to making our country the best it can be.

Flying an American flag is a great way to honor and show your love for our country. Congress established the U.S. Flag Code in 1942 to give us guidelines on how to do this properly.



- You can fly the flag everyday, usually from sunrise to sunset. If properly lit, it can be flown at night, too. It can even be displayed on rainy days if the flag is made of all-weather material.
- The flag should especially fly on all national and state holidays, but note that Memorial Day has its own flag etiquette and should be flown at half-staff from sunrise until noon, and then raised to full staff for the rest of the holiday. Flags are also hung at half-staff when the nation or a state is in mourning or for remembrance. Half-mast refers to flags flown on ships, with half-staff used for flags flying on land.
- If you are hanging a flag flat against a wall, the blue field should be at the top and on the observers left. If hung vertically with other flags, it should be on the left.
- The flag should never be flown backwards and only upside down as a distress signal to call for help.
- When the American flag is displayed with other types of flags (such as state, city or an organizations flag), it should be flown above others and hoisted first and lowered last.
- Only fly flags in good condition. When a flag becomes worn beyond repair, it should be completely burned to ashes in a fire in a respectful, ceremonial manner. Local American Legion posts and Scout troops often offer flag disposal ceremonies.
- The flag should be properly folded into a triangle, with the blue section visible before storing it.
- The flag should not touch anything below it or rest on the ground.

Following these guidelines, we can enjoy showing our national pride without unintentionally being disrespectful when flying Old Glory.

William "Bill" Rosenfeld Park Dedication

On Friday, May 28, the city of Tucker Parks and Recreation Department dedicated the former Smoke Rise Bath and Racquet Club as William "Bill" Rosenfeld Park in memory of former Tucker city council member, Bill Rosenfeld. Pictured above are (from left to right) Pat Soltys, current District 1 city council member, Mayor Frank Auman, and Bill's son, Corey Rosenfeld. Bill represented Tucker's District 1 for more than 4 years

Mayor Auman in his remarks stated that Bill was a model for public service, referencing his time as a first responder in DeKalb County and the numerous clubs, boards and initiatives on which Bill served. Council member Soltys went on to say that "community is what Bill was all about." His son, Corey, said that "Bill was an awesome dad, a loving husband, a humble family man, a great friend to all he came in contact with."



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FREEDOM SHAPES OUR DESTINY

By Barbara Bruschi

Let the bells ring out loud and echo freedom throughout the world. Freedom to pursue life, liberty and happiness is certainly one of the most precious gifts a society can have.

Every 4th of July in the US we commemorate the 1776 adoption of the "Declaration of Independence" from England giving us the right to exercise free speech among



Artist's rendering of Barbara's family home.

many other rights critical to our democracy. Of course, it was not just about a document. These freedoms are only possible because of the sacrifices made by so many over the centuries.

Sadly, many countries still deprive their citizens of the even most basic freedoms. It was not that long ago that the USSR held a tight rein and restricted many basic freedoms including free speech in East Germany. Dissidents and peaceful protesters would be imprisoned without a trial, some never to be heard from again.

I grew up in Germany where what we take for granted here simply didn't exist. I lived in the Eastern Bloc, controlled by communist Russia, a Marxist regime. A class war mentality was being forced on the population and created a division between the established families and the emerging labor class. Even though I was a good student and gymnast, I was denied a higher education and my destiny was to work in a factory.

I was fortunate to have been able to relocate to West Berlin where I lived in a home for girls who were denied an education and was able to attend high school. My town, Stendal (a Russian Garrison) was only an 80-minute train ride from my home. On weekends, before they built the wall and shut down the subway, I would return home without books to avoid being caught getting educated. One day, six members of the Stasi (Ministry for State Security in East Germany) boarded the train and threatened to arrest me if I ever came back.



Barbara and her mother returned to the house years later.

The communist regime finally collapsed because of

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Smoke Signal

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

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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!

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

Smoke Signal Deadlines

JULY 13

Please e-mail articles to:

staff@smokesignalnews.com

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

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

Deadline for classified ads is JULY 10

SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

Cost: \$150 by check to *Smoke Signal*

Deadline to Receive: 6:00 p.m. on 19th of month
 Flyer inserts should be 8 1/2" x 11" (flat, not folded)

Please provide 2,300 copies
 Reservation Required:

Contact Barbara Luton, (770) 491-6711 by 15th of month.

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Link to the digital version of the *Smoke Signal*

at <http://eepurl.com/pjn4v>

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<https://www.stone-mountainwomansclub.org>

ATTENTION GRADUATES & BRIDES

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

Email submissions to staff@smokesignalnews.com



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*.

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

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Connecting in New Ways During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Chris George: Senior Pastor
 Bart McNeil: Associate Pastor of Administration, Ministry Support and Congregational Care
 Becky Caswell-Speight: Minister of Families, Faith Formation and Connection
 Jeremy Collier: Minister of Youth, Mission and Communication
 Jim Smith: Pastoral Care Associate
 Amanda Coe Burton: Ministry Director for Children and Families
 Harrison Litzell: Co-Director of Weekday School
 Stacey McNeil: Co-Director of Weekday School
 Telephone: (770) 469-5856 • SmokeRiseBaptist.org

SUNDAY

9:45 a.m. Attend Sunday School Online
 Schedule Available at SmokeRiseBaptist.org
 11:00 a.m. Attend Worship via Live Streaming
 Live Stream Available at SmokeRiseBaptist.org
 5:00 p.m. Outdoor Children and Youth Activities
 (Activities are outside with social distancing and masks)

MONDAY

5:00 p.m. Weekly Devotional Video Link at SmokeRiseBaptist.org

WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m. Journeys Spiritual Formation and Bible Study
 Opportunities Online and In-Person

Schedule Available at SmokeRiseBaptist.org

(In-person events are outside with social distancing and masks)

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III
 Director of Spiritual Formation ~ Jeanine Fulton
 Director of Family & Outreach ~ Mark Sauls
 Interim Director of Music ~ Ben Holcomb
 Organist ~ Carole Mitchell
 Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zabarac
 Director of Weekday Ministries ~ Celeste Sears
 Office Coordinator ~ Christina Wetzel-Sizemore

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

Sundays:

9:10 a.m. Adult Sunday School via Zoom and In-Person
 10:30 a.m. In-Person and Live streaming of Worship service

No reservations necessary for worship and masks are required for non-vaccinated participants.

Our Sunday service information can be found on our website at <https://www.eastminster.us/sundays>.

MC3 Church

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

Sunday Worship at Parkview High School Auditorium

9:30 a.m. Coffee and donuts; adult and student c-groups; nursery and Sunday school for infants to 5th graders.

10:30 am. Worship service

C-groups throughout the week at various homes -- check out our website for more times and addresses

Business Address and Hours:

1316 Rockbridge Rd, Suite M
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087
 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Mailing Address: 1227 Rockbridge Rd., SW, STE 208-251
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087

First Moravian Church

Pastor: Rev. Elroy Christopher
 Congregational Acolyte: Bill Hitz
 Telephone (770) 491-7250, (770) 755-8289
www.gamoravian.org

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

Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

Mountain West Church

Pastor: Michael Shreve
 Telephone (770) 491-0228
www.mwchurch.com

4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain

Sunday Services:

9:00 a.m. masks required
 11:00 a.m. masks optional

In-person and streaming online on Facebook and mwchurch.com

Inaugural Radio Tucker Music Festival Coming to Tucker Brewing Company on July 17 Lineup includes The Bitteroots, Art Linton, DJ Fernando F

from Staff Reports

In July 2020, a new radio station went on-air in the city of Tucker, heavily emphasizing the music of artists with Georgia roots as well as independent bands from across metro Atlanta. To help its fans celebrate the one-year anniversary of Radio Tucker, the station is throwing a live-music festival with performances by some of those same local artists.



Headlined by the groove-rock band The Bitteroots, which has been playing venues and festivals across the Southeast for the past 13 years, the inaugural Radio Tucker Music Festival will be held from 4 to 10 p.m. July 17. The free event will take place at Tucker Brewing Company, 2003 South Bibb Drive, Tucker, Ga.

The festival opens with a set by local singer-songwriter Art Linton, who's been described as "a bit like Elvis Costello" while delivering a mix of folk, funk, country blues, soul and classic rock. The event will also feature live DJ sets by DJ Fernando F.

"We've been huge supporters of Radio Tucker since they got going, and they've been huge supporters of us as well as local bands and musicians in general," said Bitteroots bassist Bill Taylor. "We jumped at the chance to help them celebrate their first anniversary and we wish them continued success. What they're doing for local music is phenomenal."

An internet radio station, Radio Tucker went "on-air" in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, when music venues like bars, clubs and festivals were all shut down. Founder Jason Becknell said he wanted Radio Tucker to be a way for local bands to share with the world the music they were continuing to make.

The station immediately became a go-to source for local music, with its "Georgia Homegrown" show dedicated to Georgia artists and independent acts featuring heavily in its regular rotation.

The Bitteroots' latest full-length album, "Try Me Again," was premiered in April on "Georgia Homegrown," as was their 2020 single, "Time To Spare." Songs by The Bitteroots and countless other Atlanta-area bands can be heard Saturdays at 6 p.m. on Radio Tucker's "Local Time" show.

"I think it's really cool to turn on Radio Tucker and hear a song from your friends, co-workers or neighbors," Becknell said. "When you have several people listening to the same song, at the same time, there's a connection that you don't get from just listening to your personal playlists. That shared experience is what makes live concerts so great, and while live music was taking a pause for the pandemic, I was excited to provide an online venue for a shared musical experience. "I'm just thrilled to have live, local music back," Becknell said.

In addition to an afternoon of live music, guests of the Radio Tucker Music Festival can win free prizes from Radio Tucker and enjoy food and beer from Tucker Brewing Company.



Celebrate the Fourth in Atlanta! FANTASTIC FOURTH CELEBRATION at Stone Mountain Park July 1-5, 2021

Voted the "Best Place to see Fireworks in Atlanta" by Atlanta Journal-Constitution readers, a "Must-See Fireworks Show" by USA Today and one of Reader's Digest's picks for "America's Most Spectacular Fourth of July Fireworks."

Enjoy a day full of adventure with great family attractions and live entertainment, then stay into the evening to experience the Lasershow Spectacular followed by the exact same patriotic fireworks finale each night of the celebration!

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. \$10 with attractions passes, \$20 without. Each reservation gives a square on the lawn that accommodates 4 people and their gear.

Smoke Rise-Tucker Community Pools

Mountain Creek

2092 Mountain Creek Court, Stone Mountain, GA 30087
<https://www.mountaincreekswimclub.com/>

Rosenfeld Park (FNA Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet)

2088 Glacier Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30087
www.tuckerga.gov/parks

Smoke Rise Country Club

4900 Chedworth Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30087
<https://www.smokerisec.com/>

Summit Swim and Tennis Club

2051 Silver Hill Road, Smoke Rise, GA 30087
<https://www.thesummitat-smokerise.com/>

Check these websites for July Fourth Events!

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The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club donated 100 children's books to the library at the Smoke Rise Elementary School. Pictured left to right-Barbara Luton, Robbie Cole (Co-chairmen for the Education and Libraries Community Service Program), Amy Yang (Teacher and Librarian at Smoke Rise)

Want to Sing? Join Our Choir!

By Danny Vancil

As the Director of Music and Worship at Smoke Rise Baptist Church, I would like to cordially invite you, if you do not have a church home, to come explore the many options we have to offer. More specifically, if you are a musician and currently do not have a place to express your talents and abilities, we may have just what you are looking for in one of these groups:

Sanctuary Choir: The anchor choir of the church's music program includes all ages above high school. An interview audition is required and the ability to read music and match pitch is a necessity. Fall rehearsals begin August 4th and are held each Wednesday evening from 7:00-8:30 PM in the church's choral suite.

Youth Choir: Grades 6-12 meet each Sunday evening from 5:45-6:30 PM in the church's choral suite. This choir sings sacred literature from spirituals to classical and sings regularly in the Sunday morning worship service. In addition to leading in worship, the youth choir tours annually. In 2022, rising 9th thru 12th grade choir students will travel to Romania.

Graded Choirs: Smoke Rise has a complete children's choir program for 3-year-olds thru 5th grade. Choir for 3's, 4's, and 5's meets on Wednesday in the pre-school area at 6:15-6:45 PM. Grades 1-5 meet Sundays at 5:00 PM in the children's suite. Grades 1-5 combine to form the Children Choristers who quarterly sing for morning worship and special events.

Singing Seniors is a group of older adults who meet each Monday morning at 10:30 in our chapel to sing hymns and old favorites. At the close of every gathering, the group telephones and sings to homebound members and friends.

In addition to the above choral ensembles there are also opportunities to participate in instrumental ensembles and handbell ringing. Auditions required.

If you are interested in these or the many other opportunities at Smoke Rise Baptist Church, please call our music department at 770-469-5856.

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We'd Enjoy Connecting With Our Smoke Rise Neighbors.

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Smoke Rise Prep: School Starts Soon!

Are you looking for a safe, friendly, and inclusive school for your children? Smoke Rise Prep, an independent K-8 school, still has spots available for the 2021-2022 school year. Our school prides itself on its small student-teacher ratio, our challenging curriculum, and our mission to create a nurturing educational environment where children are free



to be themselves. Our qualified and dedicated teachers are committed to reaching our students where they are and creating learning opportunities for academic and social-emotional growth.

SRP has been preparing students for “real life” since 2011. Not only do we prepare students for high school success, but we also encourage our students to think about who they are in relation to our small school community, the Smoke Rise community, and the world itself. Through authentic, purposeful projects, we work with our students on realizing their responsibilities to themselves and others. At SRP, we hold each other accountable and lift each other up.

Please email info@smokeriseprep.org for more information about Smoke Rise’s hidden gem.



Mourning Our Main Moon Tragedy

By Susan Gilbert

Most Smoke Rise residents know of or frequent the Main Moon Chinese Restaurant located by Publix on Hugh Howell Rd. Today, it is closed, and a memorial of flowers reminds passersby of the tragedy that took place there on Tuesday afternoon, May 11th.

Fire officials said the restaurant’s owner, Mei Ying Chen, was critically injured when a tall gas oven-cooker used to prepare meat exploded. She died from the injuries shortly afterward. Investigators said the explosion appeared to be an accident.

Hearing of the tragedy, one of our amazing neighbors, Doug Reynics, sprang into action creating a GoFundMe webpage requesting donations for the family. In no time, he had more 500 donations totaling more than \$36,000 in support of her family. Doug delivered the checks to Min Lin, and she expressed her sincerest thanks to everyone for not just the money but the love and support. Her family is most grateful.

Now the more difficult part. We so greatly exceeded the fundraising goals, Min felt like enough has been done and requested we turn off the GoFundMe page. Doug felt torn by the request because many still wanted to contribute, but he did as requested. They will have sufficient funds to handle the funeral and enough to help until they can get the restaurant reopened.

This is Tucker. This is who we are as a community. We have done a beautiful thing for a beautiful family. Thank you all so much. Doug reports it was humbling to be a small part of this process on behalf of their family. And when it re-opens, which we hope it will soon, anyone who wanted to donate but was unable can donate there in person.

Here is the way one regular diner describes his experience at Main Moon:

Flavorful, colorful, and just great food coupled with excellent customer service says it all. We love all the fried rice and chop suey dishes along with the complementary spring rolls that come with a large order. We like too that the To Go containers are fabulous to keep and reuse. They are better than store-bought ones because they stack perfectly, seal well, and are a just the right portion size to re-use for packing a lunch or saving a dinner leftover. And about Mei Ying Chen, she never forgot her customers and was a wonderfully happy person. She knew our favorite order the second time I stopped by, and each visit thereafter, she just asked if we wanted “the usual.” She will be missed.

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Out the Window

by Beth Henson

Gazing out my living room window, I chuckled at the kaleidoscopic circus of color adorning my brick patio. Somehow, I had managed to get every bright hue of the rainbow (complimentary or not) into various planters and hanging baskets. The soft muted lavender blooms were definitely not in harmony with the cascading hot fuchsia wave petunias, and what was I thinking when I had added the lipstick red Shasta daisy? A garden buddy had earlier given me some of her volunteer primroses. Who would have guessed that they would bloom an eye-catching “yield sign” yellow? An explosion of bright pink knock-out roses was definitely not a “knock-out” as far as blending with the other blooms! I had also decided to sprinkle in some electric blue delphinium and it was not helping.

Glancing at a patriotic pot of velvety red, white and blue petunias, I noticed two buttery swallowtails floating from flower to flower, while below, three pale blue skippers were performing a festive, swirling butterfly dance. I’m glad you don’t mind my gaudy razz-ma-tazz garden my beautiful friends. I’ll try to tone it down a bit this fall!



Butterflies and Flowers by Beth Henson

How Long Will the Hot Housing Market Last?

By Pat Soltys

One of the most frequent questions heard right now is “How long will the hot real estate market last?” While no one has an accurate crystal ball, it is certainly one of the longest sustained hot markets we have had in a long time—largely due to low inventory, good interest rates, and high demand over the past year.



The news is full of pictures of people waiting in line to see houses, stories of multiple offers, offers without seller concessions, buyers waiving protective options, and bidding wars. That is not universal. Smoke Rise still tends to be an area that has to be discovered. While some homes do receive multiple offers- (We’ve seen some with 3-5 offers), the offers are not always competitive, with bidding wars, and many sales come with concessions.

Why? While we have numerous real estate agents who live in Smoke Rise and sell in SR, they are still a very small percentage of the overall Greater Atlanta market which boasts about 33,000 agents. These are the agents that need to ‘discover Smoke Rise’ too.

At the end of May, there were six homes on the market in Smoke Rise with an average list price of over \$150 per above grade square foot. The pending sales average is under \$140/ sq foot. Average sales prices in 2021 year to date (YTD) are \$147 per square foot. This is a significant increase over past years – In 2020 our average ‘sold price’ was \$131 and in 2019 was \$114 per square foot. Year to date in 2021, list to close days average 81 days. In 2020, it was 99 days.

“Does this mean we are in a bubble?” The likelihood that there is a real estate bubble- ready to burst --in our micro-market of Smoke Rise is low. While we have had nice gains, our market has only recently gotten back to the prices we saw before the real estate crash in 2007. It has been a slow but steady recovery. We do not have the crazy lending practices that caused the last crash, and there is no artificial stimulus to the market.

“Then why are we not as hot as other markets?” I think there are several reasons.

- Popular factors such as proximity to dining, shopping, and public transportation are available- if you are willing to drive 20 – 30 minutes.
- Many homes in Smoke Rise need gentrification. Smoke Rise homes are solid homes, but we do not have a significant number of these older homes available with current renovations.
- Low turnover – we average 4% per year. When there is higher turnover, it tends to fuel increased values. It is not unusual for our homeowners to stay in their homes over 20 years.
- Large lots and septic tanks. While we value the large lots, trees, privacy, and quietness of Smoke Rise, in many cases, it is beyond the comfort zone and understanding of those moving from the city and especially agents used to selling city properties. Our homes and yards often require more maintenance than a smaller home without a yard.
- Few new construction homes. People are often drawn to new construction. We have had a few new homes over the years, but our last new subdivision started in 2002 – nearly 20 years ago.

“How long will this market last?” The market is fueled in large part by the fact that Greater Atlanta has done a very good job of recruiting and growing the business base. When you consider that most of the Fortune 500 companies have a significant presence in Atlanta- companies who support and supply them are a factor. Two major groups of business make up the highest percentage of recent buyers in Smoke Rise – The medical and the film Industry. These groups are likely to be a solid and growing part of our market for a long time. Affordability in terms of price and cost of money are also in our favor and likely to last through the end of 2021 unless there is a world catastrophe like a war.

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HEALTH NOTES:

By Patricia Baumann, MD

Knee Injections

Knee pain can be caused by a variety of mechanisms. One of the most common causes is osteoarthritis. Osteoarthritis is knee pain caused by wear-and-tear of the knee joint. Joint damage can be caused by trauma from athletic injury, or by the joint simply wearing out by having to support the body for a number of years. Most of us will deal with this if we live long enough!



Treatment of osteoarthritis knee pain can be accomplished by measures outlined in last issue's Basic Pain Management. If these measures are not effective, then other measures are needed, which may require a prescription from a physician.

Prescription anti-inflammatory medication is available. Many former prescription anti-inflammatory meds are now over the counter. Some still require a prescription. The best one obviously is the one that works for you, and that may require a trial of a prescription anti-inflammatory.

Physical therapy is another therapy requiring a prescription from a physician. Physical therapy can be used to strengthen the muscles surrounding a painful joint, improving function, and relieving pain.

If physical therapy is not sufficient, joint injections may be considered. The reality of insurance coverage is that noninvasive methods must be tried, documented, failed, and submitted to the insurance company before other more invasive (and expensive) treatment will be covered.

Steroid (cortisone) injection is an effective method of dealing with the pain of osteoarthritis. This therapy involves injection of a potent steroid (cortisone) anti-inflammatory medication directly into the joint where the pain and inflammation is located. This works better than taking an anti-inflammatory medication by mouth, which goes all over the body before it gets to the joint where it's needed. The injection of a potent drug such as steroid (cortisone) into the joint can be very effective in relieving pain. The limitation of steroid injections is that excess steroid can cause adverse effects. These include elevated blood sugar, decreased immune function, and osteoporosis. To avoid these adverse effects, the number of injections is carefully controlled. However, steroid knee injections can be a very effective way to control the pain of a worn-out knee. It doesn't repair the damaged joint but can provide pain relief and improve function for an extended period. It is helpful to remember that steroid injections take a few days to do their work. Duration of pain relief can vary from person-to-person, but the injections should not be given more than once every three months.

If a trial of steroid injection to the knee does not help, there are other types of injections you can try. The next step to consider is the joint lubricant hyaluronic acid. If you have failed steroid injections (and other therapies) your insurance will then likely pay for joint lubricant. This is like getting a lube job for your joints! Trade names for these joint lubricants include Synvisc, Hyalgan, Supartz, Euflexxa, and Orthovisc. The lubricants are a very viscous, gooey gel. They ease the pain by providing an artificial liquid pad between the surfaces of the worn-out knee. These gels are extracted from rooster combs, the flesh from the top of a rooster's head. Some gels require a single injection, others require a series of several injections to have their effect. This treatment can be given every six months. These gels are expensive and insurance companies will not pay for more frequent injections.

There are other injections that are considered experimental by insurance companies and are therefore not typically covered. These include platelet rich plasma (PRP) and stem cell therapy. PRP is prepared by blood, taken from your body and spun in a centrifuge. It is thought the platelets help regenerate damaged joints. Stem cell therapy is another form of regenerative type treatment used but has not been approved by the FDA for knee injections. This means, that unlike an FDA approved medication, there is no required standardization for the contents of the injection. Evidence is still being collected in promising studies of these therapies. Many patients do find them to be helpful in reducing knee pain.

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— Salute to Advertiser —
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By Linda Karr

Growing up in the Kirkwood neighborhood of Atlanta, Wayne Hall worked for a neighbor growing bedding plants to sell to local stores. Wayne and his father eventually purchased the greenhouses which grew into Hall's Flower Shop. They opened their first store on November 9, 1946. This year is Halls 75th Anniversary!



Ken Hall

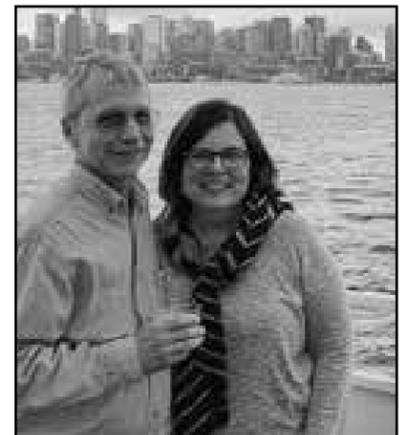
Once the business was in place in Kirkwood, Wayne married his sweetheart, Mildred, in February 1947. Fifteen years later they moved the flower shop to Memorial Drive's Belvedere neighborhood and in 1970 they opened the Stone Mountain location. Ken Hall, Wayne and Mildred's son, joined the family business full time in 1979 after graduating from UGA with a degree in Horticulture. Ken and Wayne added more greenhouses to the Stone Mountain location and began growing poinsettias, Easter lilies, annuals, and perennials. Betsy started working at Hall's in 1980 and married Ken in June 1981.

In 2000 Wayne and Mildred decided to retire. The Decatur location was sold, and all the operations were moved to the Stone Mountain location. Ken and Betsy purchased Hall's from Ken's parents in 2004. Ken and Betsy love to garden as a hobby so it is incredibly rewarding for the family business to be all about designing and growing beautiful flowers and plants and being a part of the special moments in people's lives.

Hall's is the ideal shop to provide all your gift needs. Flowers for all occasions, cards, balloons, JellyCat plush animals, gourmet chocolate truffles and other sweet treats, silk flowers, locally grown indoor and outdoor plants, vegetables, herbs, perennials, annuals, shrubs, trees, and gardening supplies. They have gifts for any and every occasion, and if you are having trouble deciding what's appropriate for the occasion, their floral experts are here to help.



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Freedom...continued from page 1

massive economic failure and its cruel treatment of the people. I was able to visit my house again after the Berlin Wall came down in 1989. Pictured here in an artist's rendition as I remember it as a child, it was a beautiful home that was in our family for many generations. I was born in the bedroom at the upper right. When the communists came to power, they took everything from our family, including my father, who was taken to a concentration camp. We never saw nor heard from him again. Our family had been honorable, law-abiding citizens in Stendal for generations. The East German regime destroyed it all and scattered us to the four winds. They converted our home into a children's home, and it had fallen into tragic disrepair when I was able to visit it.

What was interesting was that the ruling elite party had every imaginable comfort while the everyday people fought for daily survival. There were no luxuries for us. There was a 10+ years wait to buy a car. The government betrayed its citizens. Ordinary people did not stand a chance at reaching their full potential. The Stasi was a pervasive, brutal, and paranoid police force who promoted psychological warfare on the entire population.

It is chilling for me to remember that in East Germany the greatest network of spies was among the citizens. This became known after the unification of Germany when we gained access to the Stasi files and the world could see the machinery used to open and reseal our letters. They also removed any money being sent to help family members and they documented the letters' contents. Books were kept of family members forced to spy on one another, and when these documents were discovered, it was controversial what to do with them because the details in them could destroy families. It was heartbreaking to see brother turned against brother. We must all stand united to defend each other. Let no one or anything turn us on each other. It is stunning that even today despotic countries like North Korea, Iran, and China still use these techniques and recruit subjects to harm others.

I share my story because I lived this nightmare and experienced the trauma first-hand. Many in this country take our freedoms for granted because they have not lived through what my family and our neighbors did. We must protect and celebrate the rights that come along with our freedoms. Censorship has a subtle way of infiltrating any political system. It is most often a slow process of government, the media, and the educational systems gaining more and more power and control of communications.

Let us fly our flag high on this day of liberty for everyone. When the air is filled with patriotic songs and the sky is lit with magnificent fireworks, we should all be proud to be Americans. May freedom light our way to a more perfect Union.

Block Party? Easier Than You Think

One Friday evening in May from 4:00 until 7:00 p.m. the Mountain Shadow Block Captains hosted the first ever Mt. Shadow Block Party. Having a Food Truck come made it easy on everyone because there was no food or beverage planning needed. Just a call to schedule the truck. (The Taco Truck: Let's Taco About It- had great reviews and were easy to work with on scheduling). As more Block Parties are scheduled, here are some tips from what we learned on our first one:

1. Plan a rain date and mention it on the invitation so that everyone will know the plan B.
2. Designate someone to volunteer their phone number so people have a place to call if they have questions.
3. Use Evite to make your invitation so you have some idea how many are coming.
4. Make color coded nametags so neighbors can see who lives on their block, who are Block Captains, neighborhood association board members, or guests.
5. Have a sign-up sheet where people can share their e-mail addresses. (We still only have e-mail info for only about 60% of the neighborhood)
6. Have some people put out chairs and a few tables. Have water available, and a few large garbage bags to collect trash.
7. Having it in a cul-de-sac is a great location-- the kids can bring a ball to kick around!



Above: KCA President Graham Felton and our First Lady, Lynne, came to join the fun. That's Graham in the blue hat talking to Gia Anderson's energetic son, Sterling. Destiny Curkendall in the white hat, one of our Block Captains, was the organizer of this event for Mtn. Shadow. Hats off to you Destiny!

Bring on the Red, White, and Blue

Need some red-white and blue ideas for the July 4 Holiday? Flowers are a simple addition. Red/white and blue flowers can be cut from your garden or bought fresh from the grocery.

- Blue: hydrangeas, larkspur, globe thistle or blue pincushion
- Red: roses, geraniums, zinnia, gerbera daisies, red dahlia, or daylily
- White: oxeye daisies, white hydrangeas, gardenias, baby's breath, calla lily, white dahlia.

Show your patriotism by serving patriotic color for breakfast, lunch, or dinner?

- Breakfast Pizza with sweetened cream cheese spread over a baked rolled-out package of croissants. Top with strawberry preserves and blueberry jam stripes, top with blueberries, strawberries and bananas.
- For lunch or dinner make a salad of: Watermelon, blueberries, and feta (or goat cheese) with mint leaves.
- For dessert: Try a white sheet cake decorated with blueberries, strawberries and whipping cream stripes. My mother always made a frozen strawberry pie: check bunnyswarmoven.net for a similar recipe.

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Duke-bound Garrett Rigby Shares His Journey from Tucker High School to Harvard

By Gia Anderson

You may have seen a sign at the entrance of Kanawha Community with a Harvard University Class of 2021 congratulatory message on it. That was a tribute to Garrett Rigby, a Kanawha Bluff resident, on his May graduation from one of the most prestigious institutions in the world.

Garrett, who starts his graduate studies at the world-renown Duke University this July, began his academic journey at Tucker High School where he graduated in 2016. He participated in track and field as well as football. In fact, he played safety and quarterback positions and was Team Captain as well. He says it was at Tucker High School that he developed a special work ethic and level of discipline that prepared him for life at Harvard University.

He chose Sociology as his concentration because it allowed him to see the world through a new lens and he appreciated the personal development it facilitated in him. At Harvard, they use the term “concentration” instead of “major” because all Harvard students receive a liberal arts education that is intended to cultivate well-rounded citizen leaders.

Garrett played safety for the Harvard football team for three years before giving it up to pursue other extracurricular activities. He says balancing a typical Division-I football schedule and the academic rigor of Harvard was especially difficult.

“When it came time to make the decision to either play for one more year or step away from the team and get involved elsewhere, the opportunity cost of playing a fourth year of football was way too high”, says Garrett, who was later inducted to the exclusive Final Club where he has enjoyed daily lunches and dinners in the house and built lifelong bonds with all the other members. Asked what he loved about Harvard; Garrett says it’s the relationships he built which not only broadened his worldview but also helped him develop into the eclectic human being he is today.

At Duke University, Garrett will major in Finance. He will have the opportunity to spend time at Duke’s Kunshan University campus in Shanghai, China - a country where he balanced two brand management and marketing internships during the summer of 2018.

Garrett’s future goal as a talent agent representing athletes, artists, and entertainers, is bright. “My family has sacrificed so much for me to be in the position that I’m currently in and I want nothing more than to make them feel like their efforts were worth it,” says Garrett.

His advice for young people who are thinking about their future and might be anxious about everything? Remain true to yourself! Whatever it is that you can’t stop thinking about and voluntarily immerse yourself in daily will prove to be the area where you’ll do your best work and make the most meaningful impact. It’s okay to not know all the answers. Embrace the discomfort and welcome the growth that comes from it. Failure isn’t real. Don’t ever limit your dreams because you’re afraid you might fail. In life, you either succeed or you learn— at the end of the day, both are positive outcomes.



Garrett Rigby as a senior at THS

Water Conservation GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club

By Barbara Luton

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club is continuing to promote water conservation indoors and outdoors. We can all be mindful of protecting this vital resource and can make an impact by doing our part to promote water conservation. Here are more suggestions for water conservation in our community:

- Water only when necessary—more of our plants die from overwatering than under watering.
- Water lawns in the early morning when temperatures are the lowest.
- Weed your gardens and lawns regularly as weeds compete for water.
- Remember to keep our lakes, ponds, streams, and oceans trash-free.
- Help keep sewer and storm drains debris free.
- Identify leaks at home and make repairs.
- Use water efficient dishwashers and washing machines.
- Stop the use of drinking water in plastic bottles.

Water Conservation is a local and district project for the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club. Please help us in our efforts to educate and encourage people in water conservation in our community. This article is courtesy of Beverly McConnell, Chairman of the District Special Project in our club.

Patrons of the Smoke Signal

In the interest of keeping our advertising rates low and continuing the 52-year legacy of our neighborhood paper, the all-volunteer staff who create the Smoke Signal each month would like to recognize those in our community who join us in supporting the paper as Patrons making financial contributions.

These members of our community have donated to help us accomplish our mission. We hope you will consider supporting our good cause of keeping our local news flowing. Thank you!

If you would like to join your fellow neighbors as patrons, all you have to do is to send your contribution to the Smoke Signal, P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085. Your check should be made out to the Smoke Signal. The subject line should say, “Patron Contribution.”

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NEWS YOU CAN USE by Aviva Hoffmann

Hollywood in Smoke Rise!

Have you heard that Georgia is referred to as the “Hollywood of the South?” Well, the entertainment industry is here – bringing major, blockbuster films and TV shows to our state – including right here in Smoke Rise.

Thanks to lucrative tax credits and expanding entertainment infrastructure, Georgia has become a top filming location. In 2019, nearly 400 productions filmed in our state included feature films, independent films, television series, commercials, and music videos! In 2018, film and TV productions spent an estimated \$2.7 billion in Georgia. DeKalb County established itself as one of the first “Camera Ready Communities” with the Georgia Film, Music, Digital and Television Entertainment office in 2010. And-- Smoke Rise is a part of that!



In April, a section of Rosser Place was transformed for the filming of a Disney pilot, a reboot of The Wonder Years! Don Cheadle and Dule’ Hill are among the cast of this version – which showcases American nostalgia in the late 1960s – this time from the perspective of a Black family in Montgomery, Alabama.

The original star of TWY, Fred Savage, is the director and executive producer of this pilot. Cayman Eby, the location manager for the TWY remake, shared more details during a break in a busy production schedule. Needing a 1960s setting, the crew chose to film in Smoke Rise. An interesting behind-the-scenes fact... the main house in the pilot is actually filmed in two homes, one representing the inside and the other the outside of the home!

The production worked with DeKalb County and the DeKalb Entertainment Commission to get all the permits and necessary considerations. Before filming, the crew introduced themselves to our neighbors – especially those directly impacted. The production was short lived, but they were “good neighbors!” Everyone involved in the project followed COVID-19 and other production safety protocols. Even outside, I spotted workers wearing masks and washing hands at portable “washing stations” specifically set up for this production.

Eby explained, they can’t risk any delays. These projects are a lifeline for all involved. They boost our local economy by putting people to work and “putting food on tables.” As a location manager, Eby works closely with the production’s Health & Safety Management team to ensure everyone is protected. No one benefits if production stops.

In addition to the economic benefits directly associated with the production, Eby organized a contribution to our Smoke Rise Community Association. “Every time we move into a community, we look for churches, the HOAs, and the community associations... not only do they want to make sure the local people are respected, but those are also the outlets that need the money,” said Eby. He added it’s a way to balance their needs while also helping some folks out. That’s part of the budget he really enjoys spending.

Eby, primarily a logistics guy, was pleasantly surprised how easy it was to film in Smoke Rise. As he mentioned several locals by name, Eby fondly recounted the positives – from the nearby church that lent its parking lot to his crew, to the neighbor who offered his driveway and carport for the crew’s food service area, to the friendly local security and all the neighbors who greeted his crew as they traveled in and out of the set parameters.

It’s not clear yet when the show will be released, but ABC picked it for one of its 2021-2022 new series! You’ll want to be sure to watch for it. You may even recognize a location or two!

If you want your home included in DeKalb’s film-friendly registry, you can go online to: <https://dekalbentertainment.com/film-locations/> and look for the “Film Locations Registry” to submit your property to the Location On-Line database for consideration! You’ll find lots more about the DeKalb Entertainment Commission at DeKalbEntertainment.com, or (404) 687-2748. Also, the Georgia Dept. of Economic Development has a section of its website devoted to the film industry. Go to Georgia.org/industries/film-entertainment to learn more.

That’s a wrap – for now!

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HOME SMART

Morning Glories and Smoke Rise Wildlife

The months of June, July and August are days off from regular Smoke Rise Morning Glories garden club meetings but we do have volunteer activities and workshops to attend throughout the summer.

Garden club members share photos of gardens bursting in bloom and special visitors to our gardens and to our neighbor's gardens.

This photo was taken on Skytop Drive a few weeks ago. The family had been away in North Carolina at their mountain retreat and returned home to discover that this copperhead snake was taking advantage of their absence. There are six poisonous snakes in Georgia: copperhead, canebrake rattlesnake, pygmy rattlesnake, timber rattlesnake, cottonmouth and coral snake. North Georgia's habitat features the copperhead and cottonmouth.



Skytop Copperhead

The bite of the copperhead is painful but rarely poses a threat to life. The cottonmouth is far more serious and can be fatal. The cottonmouth is a water snake and swims with its head out of the water. These poisonous snakes are not legally protected, but it is advised that you leave them unharmed as they serve as a top predator in their ecosystem.

Our neighbor dispatched this one and that is certainly understandable due to its size. Interestingly, the Southeast has 45 species of snakes, 40 of which are in Georgia. The vast majority of snakes you will encounter are non-venomous.

The other photo is of the non-venomous rat snake in a garden club member's yard. He or she was helping her prune azaleas! The rat snake is active during the day in spring and fall but is nocturnal in the summer. This snake consumes mice, other rodents, lizards, birds and eggs and can climb to ascend shrubs, trees or abandoned structures. Once, while pruning a shrub, I looked straight into the eyes of rat snake that was coiled to strike a bird. It was at my eye level almost 5' high. Let's just say that I immediately left the area! While working at the Master Gardener office a few years ago, the HR manager from a company on Mountain Industrial Blvd. brought a box into the office. It contained a live rat snake about 5' long. It seems the cleaning crew discovered it the night before making its way down an office corridor in the building. They trapped it and then had the HR guy deal with it. Easy to imagine that scene! We advised him that it was harmless and to let it go in some woods and walk away.



rat snake

To avoid a snake, make yourself known when in the woods or on your property. They don't want to see you anymore than you want to see them. Wear proper shoes in the woods and undergrowth and when you mow, prune or weed. Always look before lifting a log or stone.

And also be aware that May/June is prime birthing season for white-tailed deer. Does often give birth to twins and for a week after birth will leave the fawns to acclimate to their surroundings while the does forage for food nearby. When you see an unaccompanied fawn, leave it alone. The doe will return at some point or nature will take its course. Unfortunately, two fawns died in one week on my street in early June. One died of natural causes and the other was killed by a fox. Smoke Rise has a large population of wildlife of all types from the snakes and deer to opossums, frogs and salamanders and birds. Respect their habitats and appreciate the wonder of our natural world.

Gardening: What NOT to Plant!

By Quill Duncan, Master Gardener

As with so many plant introductions, horticulturists can never really anticipate all the issues that might occur with a plant. Time will tell.

A perfect example is the Bradford Pear tree or *Pyrus Calleryana*. This was introduced to the nursery trade in the mid-1960's from China and Vietnam as a beautiful spring bloomer, covered in a cloud of white blossoms every March/April. It was supposed to be sterile and the size was ideal for suburban lots wanting a quick growing shade tree with spring bloom. Now we know that it has the unfortunate tendency to split with its many large crossing branches with no central trunk for stability. And it splits in storms and creates a real hazard for homeowners. And if you wondered about the sterility, just drive east on East Park Place beyond the Mountain Park post office and see the forest of Bradford pears in the open field there! Oh, oh!

And did I mention the thorns and the rotting fish smell when it blooms? Not sterile, a hazard and the best way to prune a Bradford pear is with a chain saw... to the ground!

Nandina domestica or Heavenly Bamboo is another plant from Eastern Asia and India that was introduced to the United States in the early 1800's. The plant has some very attractive features like airy clusters of green leaves; leaves that turn red in winter; and new growth that has a pinkish cast in spring. Widely planted as an ornamental, nandina shrubs now have escaped and are spreading around forest edges and under forest canopies. The older varieties with dark green leaves with the white May/June bloom and the red berries in winter are common in our area.

Nandina berries are considered toxic to cats but not to humans. Deer do not eat nandina. Excessive consumption of the berries by flocks of birds such as the cedar waxwings can cause death, though. The easiest way to avoid this is to clip off the berry stalks and throw them away. This keeps the nandina from spreading throughout your landscape and that of your neighbors too. Today there are at least fourteen varieties of nandina in the nursery trade, many of which are sterile. This eliminates the issues with berry propagation. *Nandina* flourishes in our climate and has good drought tolerance. It is commonly used in corporate plantings and along highway exits for its adaptability to difficult conditions. If you do want to plant nandina, consider a sterile version and do remove the berries after enjoying them in your Christmas arrangements.











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Amen, Let's Eat!

Guest Writer Kathy Rhinehart

Kathy's Kitchen is open! Cooking is such a blessing and has gotten me through this devastating pandemic. The kitchen is my favorite room in the house. I get in my own little world and stress just falls away!

It's time to call your children, brothers, sisters, cousins, neighbors and grandchildren. This year's July 4 party is one they won't want to miss. It doesn't matter if you're entertaining a few close friends or planning a block party, there is something really special about a barbecue with all the sides. Did you know that the word barbecue can be a noun, a verb, and an adjective? Think about it!

Kathy's Kole Slaw

- 1 pound shredded cabbage or one bag of Cole Slaw (uh, not!)
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 bell pepper, diced
- 1/2 cup sugar or stevia
- 1/2 cup white vinegar
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon celery seed
- 1 1/2 teaspoon mustard seed

Put the cabbage, onions, and peppers in a bowl. Combine the remaining ingredients in a pot and bring to a boil. Pour over cabbage mixture and stir. Refrigerate until cold. It's best to make the day before. (6 to 8 servings)

My Momma's Potato Salad (God rest her soul.)

- 5 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes
- 2 cups mayonnaise or more if needed
- 1 cup of my homemade sweet pickles, diced (or store-bought sweet relish)
- 2 or 3 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar (crucial)
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 12 hard-boiled eggs, peeled and chopped
- 5 celery stalks, diced
- 3/4 cup sweet onion, diced
- 1 tablespoon fresh chopped dill (optional)
- salt and pepper to taste
- prepare an ice bath in a large bowl

Cut the potatoes into quarters and place in a large stock pot. Fill the pot with COLD water. Did y'all know that vegetables grown underground always need COLD water. Set on high and bring to a boil. Once boiling, add 1 tablespoon of salt and boil the potatoes for about 13 minutes, until fork tender. Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, mix the mayo, sweet pickles, mustard, apple cider vinegar (crucial), 1 teaspoon of salt and pepper to taste. Stir until smooth. Chop the eggs, celery, onions, and dill. Once the potatoes are tender, drain them and then put them in an ice bath. This stops the cooking and keeps them firm. Drain those potatoes REALLY well and place in a large bowl. Gently mix in the dressing until it coats the potatoes well. Stir in the eggs, celery, onions. Taste, then salt and pepper to taste, garnish with fresh dill and paprika. Cover the potato salad and refrigerate for at least four hours. If you can, make it the day before because it's even better on day two. Keep refrigerated in an airtight container up to one week. THIS IS AN EASY DISH TO MAKE!

Mississippi Baked Beans

- 4 slices thick cut bacon roughly chopped
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 (15 oz.) cans any kind of beans that you like: pork & beans, dark kidney, light kidney, black, great Northern, or navy
- 1/3 cup ketchup
- 1/3 cup dark brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon apple cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire
- salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350°, cook the bacon in a large, cold, skillet over medium heat until the bacon is almost crisp. Add the diced onions and stir occasionally until softened, about five minutes. Add one of the cans of beans with their liquid. Drain and rinse the remaining beans, then add them to the skillet. Add the ketchup, sugar, mustard, vinegar, wochie, 1/2 teaspoon salt and pepper. Bring to a low simmer, then transfer to a small baking dish. Bake uncovered until thickened and bubbly, about 50 minutes, serve hot.

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