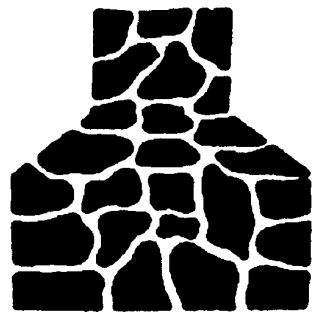


SMOKE SIGNAL



VOLUME 57, ISSUE 3

Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

June, 2024

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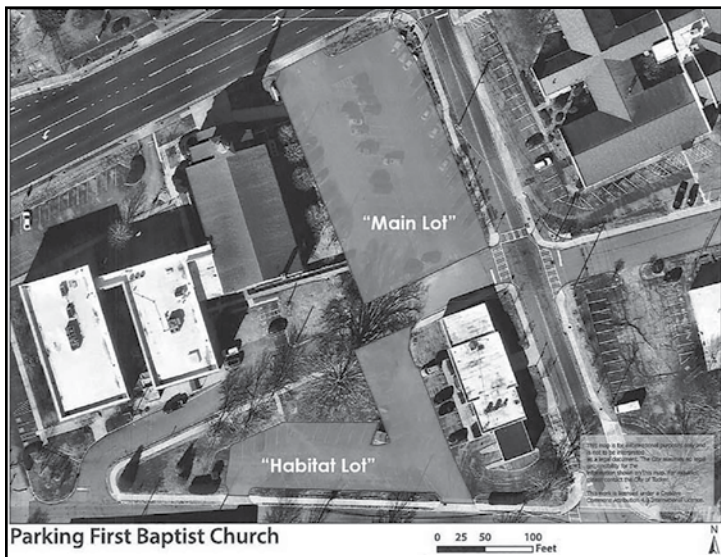
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Tucker Approves Innovative Solution to Downtown Parking Challenges

(Courtesy: Tucker City Council)

Parking has been a major topic of discussion in Tucker, particularly with the ongoing growth on Main Street and the increasing number of events. Recently, the City's Mayor and Council took a significant step towards addressing this issue by approving a novel plan.

The plan focuses on expanding public parking options through an inter-governmental agreement (IGA) with the Public Facilities Board (PFA). This agreement allows the PFA to enter into a contract with Tucker First Baptist Church. The contract grants the City access to 101 shared parking spaces for a 5 ½ year term, with limited hours on 290 days of the year.



"Our staff has been diligently working for months to create this innovative solution to our parking challenges," shared City Mayor Frank Auman. "We're excited to implement this plan and explore further opportunities to expand parking options in the future."

The City will take responsibility for paving, pothole repair, restriping, signage, and creating a dedicated webpage featuring an interactive map of the designated shared parking spots. These spots will be clearly marked with green striping to differentiate them from regular parking. Additionally, the City's Public Works Department will handle ongoing maintenance of the lots.

The shared parking will be available Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.. Sundays will be reserved for church use only. Tucker First Baptist Church will also retain the ability to close the lots for special events, with these dates being clearly communicated on the City's webpage.

This innovative approach demonstrates the City's commitment to finding creative solutions for the growing needs of the community. By collaborating with local organizations like Tucker First Baptist Church, the City is working to ensure a vibrant and accessible downtown for residents, visitors, and businesses alike.

Smoke Rise Country Club News: Spring Racquet Rally

By Marsha Kelley



Racquet Rally, or "racket rally" is an annual event that begun many years ago and held at the tennis center of the Smoke Rise Country Club. It is still, as a student referred to it long ago, "the best day of the year". Racquet Rally is fun for all from the moment the Tucker High School buses roll in until departure. After arrival at the tennis courts, the twenty high school special needs students got in party mode with dancing, jumping, and exercising to music. "Happy" by Pharrell Williams remains the favorite warm-up song. Led by Elaine Taylor, the students showed their stamina, as we the volunteers tried to keep up.



Racquet Rally volunteers

Following this warm-up, tennis instruction began but sadly dark clouds rolled in, and tennis drills were cut short. Just as well because lunch was ready in the tennis café. Grilled hamburgers with all the "fixin's," hot dogs, chips, cookies, and drinks

...Continued on page 12

Smoke Rise Community Association Updates

By Michael Huerkamp, President

The Smoke Rise Community Association (SRCA) held the first public membership meeting since 2019 on May 14 at the Smoke Rise Baptist Church with around 40 attendees. SRCA President Mike Huerkamp reviewed the 4 years of negative fiscal close-outs and made an appeal to the community to respond to the early May membership campaign mailing. With only 25% of residents supporting SRCA, if you paid your dues odds are that your neighbors on each side and directly across the street from you have not and might benefit from a reminder. Space constraints prohibit extolling the value and accomplishments of the SRCA in this piece, but these were presented in the membership appeal and are available upon request. Lyle Collins provided a backgrounder on the plague of southern pine beetles infesting the area and Eileen Stone gave a pitch for the community garden. Tucker City Council members Virginia Rece and Roger Orlando gave updates including the conversion of the former elementary school to administrative offices as well as the law enforcement measures taken against dangerous car intersection takeovers. Additionally, they answered questions from the attendees. The shredding event provided on May 20 was lightly used, but those who attended appreciated the service and donated \$265 toward the \$1000 invoice from Shred-It.

SATURDAY JUNE 15
Church Street Greenspace | 5 - 9 p.m.

3rd ANNUAL
JUNETEENTH JUBILEE
Tucker Georgia

WHAT: Tucker Juneteenth Jubilee

- Parade down Main Street to Church Street Greenspace
- Music, guest speakers, food trucks, art vendors & kids area

WHEN: June 15, 2024
5 - 9 p.m.

WHERE: Church Street Greenspace
Downtown Tucker

ROAD CLOSURE INFO

MAIN STREET
(Railroad to Lynburn)
& **CHURCH STREET**
CLOSED FOR
PARADE
5 - 5:30 p.m.



Smoke Signal
 P.O. Box 1038, Tucker, GA 30085
 A non-profit service organization devoted to furthering neighborhood cooperation with the aid of good neighborhood communication.

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Smoke Signal Deadlines

JUNE 13
 Please e-mail articles to:
staff@smokesignalnews.com

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

Deadline for classified ads is JUNE 10

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

"Like" us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews
 You can also visit our Facebook page to view postings of newsletter pictures and stories throughout the month.

Fun Water Facts!

(Sourced from the World Wide Web)

- Covers Most of Earth:** About 71% of the Earth's surface is covered in water.
- Human Composition:** The human body is about 60% water.
- Daily Needs:** The average person in the United States uses about 80-100 gallons of water per day for various activities.
- Old Water:** The water you drink might contain molecules that dinosaurs drank, as water continually cycles through the environment.
- Water is Essential:** A person can live about a month without food, but only about a week without water.
- Ice's Unique Property:** Unlike most substances, water expands when it freezes. This is why ice floats on water.
- Watch for Leaks:** A leaky faucet can waste 100 gallons of water per day.
- Boiling Point Variation:** Water boils at a lower temperature at higher altitudes because of decreased atmospheric pressure.
- Global Usage:** Agriculture accounts for about 70% of global, freshwater withdrawals.
- Cloud Weight:** A single cloud can weigh more than a million pounds due to the water droplets it contains.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

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

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

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

5801 Hugh Howell Road
 Interim Pastor: Dr. Jim Simpson, jims@eastminster.us
 Phone: 770-469-4881
 Website: Eastminster.us

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

First Moravian Church

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

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

Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

SUNDAY 8:45 a.m. Worship

Mountain West Church

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

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

Digital copies of the *Smoke Signal* are posted to the archives at www.smokesignalnews.com.
 Extra copies may be picked up at The Smoke Rise Community Garden on Hugh Howell Rd.



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Dates:

- June 10-13 - Camp Firelight Vacation Bible School
- June 17-20 - Inventors Workshop
- June 24-27 - Barnyard Palooza
- July 8-11 - Under the Sea
- July 15-18 - Summer Safari
- July 22-25 - Olympics Around the World



For more information, contact SRBWS at (678) 533-0558
srbweekday@smokerisebaptist.org



ART Station's 1st Annual Curated Gift Shop Submission Event

This is a once-a-year opportunity for new professional and amateur artists' artwork to be featured in the Gallery Gift Shop at ART Station. The artwork will be available for public sale during Theatre performances, gallery hours and special receptions. The selected artists will gain exposure to thousands in our community and additionally sell their marketed artwork. The submission event is open immediately to all artists that are above 16 years of age and are current ART Station members or any artist who becomes an ART Station member. All artists are encouraged to create original designs in two or three dimensions and upload images of their saleable products to Bill Leavell/Gallery Director at bleavell@artstation.org (770) 469-1105. The winning art will be proudly advertised and displayed at the Gallery Gift Shop so artists should present a bio or artists statement for promotional opportunities and select special events.

- Submissions must be original paintings, drawings, sculptures, or handmade products that are not computer generated.
- Artwork should be general themed and should appeal to everyone regardless of faith and ethnicity.
- Two-dimensional work can be presented in a horizontal or vertical format and should be at least 8" X 10" or no larger than 24" X 36".

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Atlanta, GA 30329

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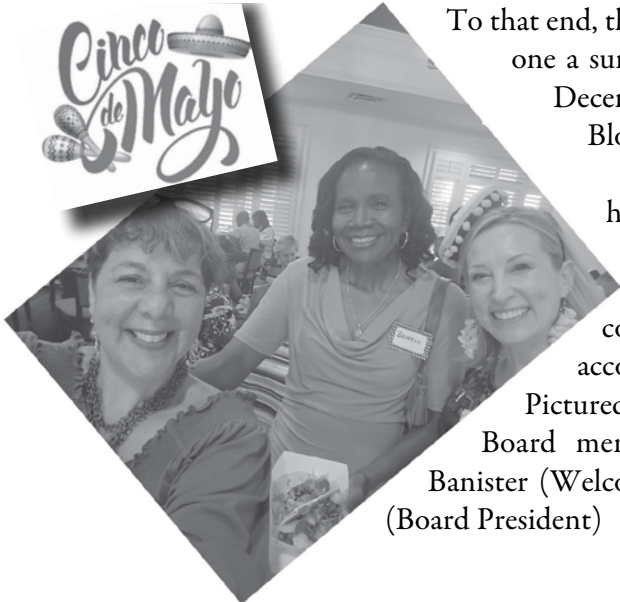
Kanawha Celebrates Connectedness & Cinco de Mayo at SRCC

On Sunday afternoon, May 5th, the Kanawha Community Association (KCA) held a Cinco de Mayo party at the Smoke Rise Country Club (SRCC). The KCA Board of Directors worked with SRCC staff to make it a shared party with the community and the Club's members. The collaboration was a great success with more than 60 participants.

KCA is dedicated to maintaining the integrity of the neighborhood with upkeep of the entrance being the principal focus, but keeping neighbors connected is a large priority too.

To that end, the Board organizes two socials each year, one a summer party and one a holiday event in December. In addition, some of the 15 KCA Block Captains also organize Block Parties for the residents on their streets. These have included ice cream socials, cookouts, and food trucks. Kanawha residents keep raising the bar on what a connected community looks like and can accomplish together.

Pictured here are the event organizers, KCA Board members Claire Jason (Social), Beverly Banister (Welcome Committee) and Morriah McPhie (Board President)



GRADUATES

On May 2, 2024, **Margaret Scott**, daughter of David and Tracie Scott, graduated from Georgia State University's Byrdine F. Lewis College of Nursing with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She will have a short break before she begins her dream job at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta as a nurse in the Inpatient Hematology/Oncology Unit.



Margaret is a graduate of Tucker High School where she was a member of the Swim Team and Volleyball Team. She also swam for the Smoke Rise Sharks swim team. Margaret has been babysitting for several Smoke Rise families over the past 10 years and looks forward to taking care of children in her new career.



ARTucker: A Neighbor's Perspective

By Laurel Jacobs

I am 'new' to Smoke Rise - only 9 years. And newer still to ARTucker. ARTucker is a free daylong festival held annually in downtown Tucker and aimed at showcasing local artists and artisans. I had visited a few times in previous years

and have beloved reminders of those visits in my home. One tiny planter, sculpted as a face & head, holds aloe in my kitchen and reminds me not to burn myself cooking. I still forget sometimes. That pot was made by a Tucker Rec student. It is wonky and I love it.

When a spot opened up, after a few attempts, in the Tucker Rec Arts program, I joined in. I found an artistic and social home there. Welcoming and joyful. In a year I made terrific friends and learned so much about my newfound passion for wheel throwing pottery. So naturally, as the pots piled up, I thought about giving back some of that joy at Art Tucker. It took just a nudge to get five other amateur potters and classmates to join me, sending our work into the world. For those who supported us - either by taking our pots home, or stopping by and admiring what we made, we are grateful. You are what makes living in Tucker and Smoke Rise have the warmth of a small town without giving up any of the conveniences of the city.



The Anderson family of Mountain Shadow Lane are proud to announce the graduation of their son, **Sterling Anderson**, from the Smoke Rise Baptist Church Weekday School where he attended preschool.



Sterling's teachers describe him as responsible and a hard worker, as demonstrated in his schoolwork. Sterling's favorite part of preschool was math and playball. "When I grow up I want to be both a soldier and a lawyer!" says Sterling, who is currently 5 years old. Sterling is moving on up to kindergarten at the Greater Atlanta Christian School.

Angie's list
Angie's List
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Letter to the Smoke Signal staff:

Thank you for delivering the paper to my home on Antelope Lane. I look forward to the paper throughout the year and read it carefully, including the additional flyers. We are lucky to have a free and independent newspaper, something that no other DeKalb community has that I'm aware of. I cannot understand why some neighbors leave their copy at the curb.

I especially enjoyed the feature on former council member Matt Robbins. When my wife and I bought our home on Antelope Lane in 2016, and I attended a few Tucker information sessions, Mr. Robbins was the first member of the council I found intriguing. Maybe it was my fondness for an old song about El Paso or Mr. Robbins down to earth/common man style, I liked him immediately. We may have exchanged no more than fifty words at those meetings, but he made a lasting impression on me as a true citizen representative. He served his district and city and then, moved on.

Unlike many politicians today, who seem to use public service as a steppingstone to higher office or a way to promote their business, Mr. Robbins did his duty in a way that would make our founders proud. I know others will feel the same way after reading the feature. Thanks again, and God Bless America.

Chris Billingsley

City of Tucker District 1 Town Hall Meeting

Susan Gilbert, Staff Writer

Believing good communication improves the community, Roger Orlando and Virginia Rece, our District 1 representatives, held a meeting April 18th at the Smoke Rise Country Club to give residents an update on the City's activities and accomplishments. About 50 residents attended to hear presentations by mayor Frank Auman, the City's key department heads and Dekalb County personnel involved with City projects like our schools and police.

The first update was on the Hugh Howell Trail Plan that will eventually connect downtown Tucker with Stone Mountain Park, with an 8' to 10' wide sidewalk. Section one of the plan is complete, and construction will begin soon on the second section.

Crime remains an issue in the section of Tucker referred to as Juliette Road, but measures are being made to address it. Cameras are going up that read license plates to help officers identify which cars are coming and going when crimes occur. Street lighting is being increased, sidewalks added, and patrols have increased.

Mayor Frank Auman welcomed and thanked everyone for coming out, especially to the Dekalb County police officers who came on their own time because they care about Tucker.

Following the Mayor, Lt. Joseph Ridling, the Tucker police liaison to Dekalb County Police shared the good news that crime in District 1, the City, and County-wide is down. Robberies are down 11%, crimes against people (e.g., robberies, murders, rapes) are down 13%, break-ins down 10%. Smoke Rise has not had a single crime in the last 60 days!

Since 2021, street racing is increasingly a problem, most recently, the incident at Lilburn-Stone Mt Rd and Hugh Howell where police arrived within 15 minutes of being notified. They are hard to stop because by the time police arrive, the racers have disappeared to another location. They also schedule concurrent events in the area so the police have trouble getting to both at once. Promoters who organize them are the ones they are focusing on to shut it down. If observers get pictures of the racer's license plates, they can be sent to the police for their use, but being near one of these events is dangerous because they drive with no regard for safety or abiding by the law.

Erick Hofstetter (Dept of Facilities & Operation) with Dekalb School District reported on use of the old Stone Mt Elementary School, now named the Silver Hill Administrative Center. The plan for it is to house back-office functions of the district like nutrition, pro-



fessional learning, planning, meetings, and administration. The building has been renovated, the interior updated, office furniture moved in, and it is ready to be occupied by employees. Many in the community are aware of the limited septic field that was not able to handle use by 400 students. While it still needs to be pumped regularly, it can handle the ~100 full-time employees who will be working there now.

If parking becomes an issue, they have room to add a parking lot at the rear of the building. There is no plan to park buses at the site. A resident asked for more transparency and better communication about what is going on with the building and plans for its use. Our local paper, the Smoke Signal was suggested as a good way to communicate with us.

Responsibility for Public Works was assumed by the City from Dekalb County on July 1st of 2023. Headed by Ishri Sankar, he shared that they now take care of downed trees, holding utilities' feet to the fire to clean up properly after their work, and will be actively repairing potholes with the goal of having them fixed within 45 days of being reported, which would be down from the previous 91 days. They have ~650 work orders on the books and have completed over 950 projects in their first 10 months. Traffic calming is something the City is focused on and are trying a number of methods to slow drivers down on our streets.

Jackie Moffo joined the City of Tucker three years ago to lead our Economic Development. Her job is attracting businesses to locate here. Downtown parking is an issue her team is working on, and there is a Façade Grant Program described on the City website (www.tuckerga.gov) that helps businesses and residents improve the attractiveness of their facilities and facades.

In other news, the City of Tucker transitioned fire marshal services from the DeKalb County Fire Department as of January 1, 2024 and we now have a full-time Fire Marshal, Gregory Campbell. An exciting step for the City as this makes it possible to provide direct assistance for permitting, plan review, and inspections related to life safety requirements. This will result in a more streamlined permitting process and faster plan reviews and inspections.

The well-run 90-minute meeting was closed by Virginia and Roger thanking everyone for coming and being such an active, involved audience.

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Big Day for Tiny Graduates at SRBWS *By Rashette Walker*



What an eventful year at **Smoke Rise Baptist Weekday School!** We began the year celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Weekday School. Former directors, teachers, and alums gathered in September to share memories, fellowship, and look to the future of this wonderful institution in our community.

We also celebrated the diverse community of our school through International Night. It was a beautiful, well-received, and well-attended occasion filled with fellowship and food celebrating what makes each of us unique. Adults and kids alike enjoyed experiencing the food and customs of their classmates.

Through the vision of our Assistant Director, Rebekah Edmonds, the students put on 2 big theatrical productions: *Everyone is Invited to Christmas*, in December, and *God's Song*, our spring musical, in April. This all led up to the grand finale of preschool graduation.

On Wednesday, May 15, the school celebrated the graduating class of 2024. Family and friends gathered to cheer and celebrate the 15 graduates. As the Director of the Weekday School, my heart was filled with pride watching the pre-K class perform songs, recite scripture, and receive their diplomas. Whether I have known them since they were 2 or just met them when they were 4, at that moment, they were all 'my babies,' looking like big kids in their cap and gown, ready for kindergarten. It was the bittersweet ending to another successful and eventful year at Smoke Rise Baptist Weekday School.



In honor of Earth Day, **Smoke Rise Elementary's** botanists and agricultural scientists planted pollinator gardens across the campus. Pre-Kindergarten students spearheaded this hands-on service project by delving into gardening and enriching their understanding of plants. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our STEM teacher, Ms. Cummings, and our parent volunteers for their generous assistance and for providing plants and supplies. This collaborative effort across grade levels reflects our commitment to giving back to our school and community.



It's Never Too Late

by Victoria R. Crosby

It's never too late and you're never too old to reach for the stars and go for the gold. Think of all the things you want to try at least one time before you die. Whatever it is you want to do the only thing holding you back is you.

You're never too old and it's never too late for an opportunity to create. You want to paint, or earn a degree, write a novel or poetry, perhaps you've dreamed of learning to fly or parachuting out of the sky.

It's never too late and you're never too old for an adventure to unfold. Some skills take many years to learn, but things of value you have to earn. "There is no time," you always say, but you can find half an hour a day.

You're never too old and it's never too late. Begin today, don't hesitate. Start small, take baby steps, a masterpiece takes time. Not all art is abstract, all poetry does not rhyme. What you create is your soul's work, it's longing to express Your closeness to the source of life, which leads to happiness.

It's never too late and you're never too old, No matter how many times you've been told. For whatever age you may obtain there is one fact that will remain, you either used your talents and creativity, or just reminisced about what used to be.

You're never too old and it's never too late but that doesn't mean procrastinate, for when you reach the Pearly Gate that's the time to say, it's too late!

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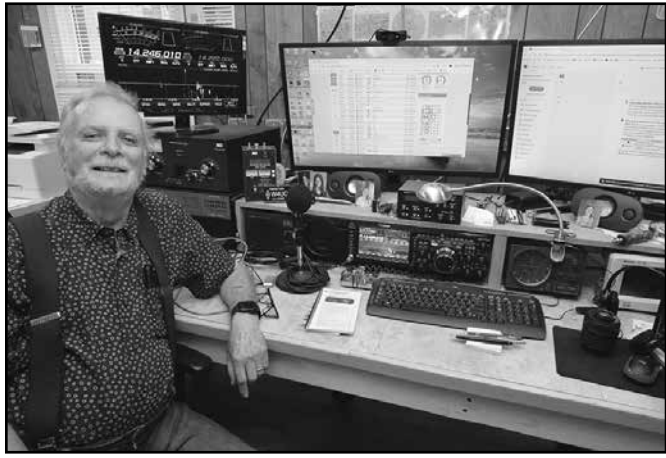
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Fabrice Collin, W4UQ
 5105 Antelope Lane
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087
 770 375 9337

Amateur radio, also known as Ham radio, is one of the hobbies and services that allow licensees to communicate with each other using a variety of radio frequencies. Unlike regular radio services, amateurs can build and modify their own equipment, construct

their own antennas, experiment with different modes of communication and even provide essential emergency communication services if necessary.

I obtained my first license 55 years ago, in September 1969, with the French call sign F5ZW. I'd like to thank Michel L. (F1US) who invited me to a demonstration of his amateur station. The virus immediately went into action. I was fascinated by the possibilities offered, including the technological contribution, the possibility of contacting other amateurs all over the world and being able to provide assistance to the nearby community in the event of the disappearance of the usual means of communication.

In the USA, amateur radio is an official service administered by the FCC (Federal Communications Commission). A total of 751813 duly licensed amateurs have been registered (04112024). This implies the obligation to study and pass one or more exams before being allowed to operate. The same applies to most countries where amateur radio is permitted. I passed these exams and obtained the American callsign W4UQ. My station is installed on my property in Smoke Rise.

My fixed station consists of a Yaesu transceiver (FT DX 101 MP) with 200 Watts of power and a wired multi-dipole covering the main frequencies authorized in HF (from 1.6 MHz to 29 MHz). A transceiver can be installed in a car for mobile operation, or used as a portable station on a high point, for example.

Single sideband or SSB is used for voice transmissions, as well as FM and AM on HF bands. Morse code (CW) is still favored by many enthusiasts. The contribution of digital technology has enabled the development of transmission modes such as PSK31 and FT8.

The most important activities involve participation in a local radio club (Stone Mountain, for example) or in various local, national or world championships, such as Field Days, QSO Parties or the CQ World Wide. In these contests, the aim is to contact as many stations as possible over a period of 12 to 48 hours. But let's not forget the Transmitter Hunting (fox hunt)!

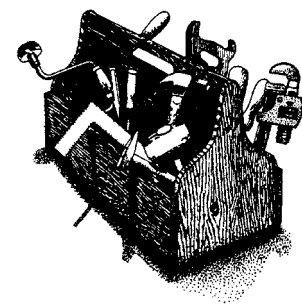
Amateur radio operators have the advantage of being able to be contacted quickly, thanks to the use of local VHF-UHF repeaters. They are deployed during planned events (a local cycling race, for example) or during serious accidents and natural disasters. The most typical example, in my view, was the terrorist attack of November 11, 2001. Numerous amateur radio operators immediately provided assistance to compensate for the destruction of official antennas. I'm part of the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team).

Amateur radio is therefore a very broad-spectrum hobby, in fact it's an excellent way to learn and experiment, as well as a means of contributing to a public service. It also offers a unique blend of technical knowledge, a community involvement and a substitution for official services where appropriate.

The motto "Ham radio when all else fails" seems to me to say it all. For more information on ham radio, visit the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) website at www.ARRL.org.

Contractors, Qualified Agents, and Handymen – What's the Difference?

By Amber Voss, Staff Writer



Raise your hand if you have ever hired a contractor or a handyman only to receive sub-par work. Or perhaps you find out that your general contractor isn't licensed at all. I'm emphatically raising both hands right now. If this is your story, I feel deeply for you. Our nightmare started at the end of last year.

Unfortunately, stories like this happen all the time, or so I have recently learned first-hand from other licensed professionals. Necessity dictated that I educate myself now and for the future.

A bit of backstory...my family's ordeal started with discovering black mold in our basement last November (more on that later). Navigating remediation first then discovering the repairs needed to prevent it, resulted in hiring a (supposedly) licensed general contractor. I like to believe in the goodness of folks and trust what I have been told. In our case, we learned that the person we hired lied about their qualifications. It happens to many of us, I'm afraid.

Let's explore the differences between licensed general contractors, qualified agents, specialty contractors, and handymen so you can become educated too.

Georgia has four licensing options for contractors: residential-basic contractor, residential-light commercial contractor, general contractor, and general contractor limited tier. For the purposes of this article, I am focusing on General Contractors (GC). Licensed GC's must meet a list of requirements and pass an exam in Georgia. A GC can perform work under their name or as a business name registered with the state. You can confirm their business online at the Secretary of State website with a simple search.

Qualified agents, on the other hand, perform work on behalf of the licensed general contractor and the GC's registered business name on file with the state. It is my understanding that a qualified agent cannot be such without operating under a license that must meet certain requirements as dictated by the state. In essence, they must also have a license in order to operate as a qualified agent.

Specialty contractors, such as plumbers, HVAC, electricians, and utility contractors must have a Georgia license with the Board that regulates their trade. However, there are other specialty trades that do not require a license, such as masons, concrete, waterproofing companies, drywall installers, and more. You can find a detailed list on the Secretary of State: <https://sos.ga.gov/page/traditional-specialty-contractors-policy-statements>

A **handyman** isn't required to be licensed in Georgia. However, there is an exception to the rule. If a handyman accepts a job, it must be less than \$2,500 in value or else they will need a residential basic contractor license. <https://www.nextinsurance.com/blog/georgia-handyman-license-and-insurance-requirements/>

By no means am I an expert in this industry and field. Do your own research before you hire anyone to repair your home. I can't stress this enough! Stay tuned next month for a checklist on ways to help vet contractors and handymen so that you protect yourself, your family, and your home.



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HEALTH NOTES:

Shingles and Why You Should Get the Shingles Shot

By Patricia Baumann, M.D.

Sometimes people ask me whether to get the shingles shot. My immediate answer is yes, and the answer is always followed by an explanation.

The virus that causes shingles, the varicella-zoster virus, is a type of herpes virus. This virus is the same virus that causes the highly contagious, common childhood disease chickenpox. Chickenpox presents with a fever and an itchy blister-like rash. After a person recovers from chickenpox, the varicella-zoster virus travels to the dorsal root ganglia of the spinal cord, where it remains inactive. The virus can become active again as a person ages or develops impaired immunity.

Herpes zoster (shingles) happens when the virus becomes active again. The virus then travels from its hiding place in the spinal cord and spreads down the nerve. Several days before the rash appears, a person may experience headache, sensitivity to bright light, and just not feel well. A tingling, itching, or burning pain occurs along the nerve pathway where the outbreak will occur. Clusters of blisters form along the nerve and appear on the overlying skin 1 to 5 days later. The pain is sharp, shooting, burning, usually itchy, commonly on the trunk or face. The blisters are usually on one side of the body, corresponding to the path of the nerve. Most people are not aware that the shingles virus causes blisters not only on the skin, but also inside, along the nerve itself. There is no cure for shingles. Early treatment with prescription antiviral drugs may speed healing and lower your risk of complications. These drugs include acyclovir (Zovirax), famciclovir (Famvir), and valacyclovir (Valtrex).

Shingles blisters on the skin and nerve cause excruciating pain, and recovery can take a while. The pain is severe. On a scale of 1 to 10, most patients will say the pain ranges from 6 to 10. The pain is accompanied by hyperalgesia, which is a sensitivity to even light touch. Hyperalgesia is what happens with a sunburn. Light touch is not supposed to cause pain, but if you have hyperalgesia, even the touch of your clothing is painful. NSAIDs (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) and acetaminophen (Tylenol) may help. Lidocaine patches or gel may provide pain relief. The pain may require prescription antineuropathic pain medication such as Neurontin (gabapentin) or Lyrica (pregabalin). These medications change the way the nerves send messages to the brain. Older medications used to treat include those in the category of tricyclic antidepressants, Elavil (amitriptyline) or Pamelor (nortriptyline). Narcotic pain medicine can be used, but their side effects may lead physicians not to prescribe them. Pain control is best achieved by using more than one type of therapy. The pain can be difficult to control.

The shingles rash usually scabs over and heals in 2 to 4 weeks. As the blisters scab over, shingles pain usually starts to disappear. Pain that persists for 3 or more months after the outbreak is called postherpetic neuralgia. The recovery of the nerve lesions caused by the virus can be a lengthy process. This chronic postherpetic neuralgia is characterized by severe sharp, shooting, burning pain that is difficult to treat. The risk of postherpetic neuralgia rises with age. Unfortunately, the acute infection can cause permanent damage to the nerve, which leads to continued pain. If medications to treat the pain are not effective, technology such as a spinal cord stimulator may be effective.

So, it is best to get the shingles shot. Shingrix is FDA approved in adults 50 years and older. Adults 19 years and older who have or will have weakened immune system should also get two doses of Shingrix. It is given in two doses 2 to 6 months apart. Shingrix is over 90% effective in preventing shingles and postherpetic neuralgia. Data suggest the vaccine is effective at least 10 years following the two doses. Common side effects include headaches and pain, swelling, and itching where the shot was given. If you've never had chickenpox, which can be checked with a blood test, you should get the chickenpox vaccine instead.

Poetry at The Vibrary

British born poet Victoria Crosby, read from her humorous, inspirational, and British themed works at The Vibrary in Stone Mountain recently and signed copies of her various poetry books.

A Smoke Rise resident since 2021, Victoria's poetry has won prizes both in New York, where she lived for many years, and in Georgia.

The Vibrary Wine and Bookbar, owned by Candace Walker, serves wine by the bottle or glass, charcuterie boards, and nonalcoholic beverages and is a popular venue for musicians, authors, and poets.

Victoria Crosby was poet laureate of the City of Glen Cove, New York for more than twenty-five years. She writes for The North Shore Leader in New York, for the Smoke Signal and Our Town Gwinnett Magazine.

As a great Elvis fan, Victoria has written a novella and three short stories which all have an Elvis theme. Her poetry telling Elvis's life story interspersed with his music, was aired on her radio show in NY every year on the anniversary of his birth, January 8, and death, August 16.



Victoria Crosby and Candace Walker

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Out the Window *Article and illustration by Beth Henson, Staff Writer*

Musical Audience

As I heard the soft chiming of the den's mantel clock around the corner from my office, I knew 11 a.m. had quickly arrived. Time to switch over from my morning watercolor painting to the task of daily music practice. The rather cramped working space not only held my art table with lots of supplies, but also a sturdy music stand, strategically placed in front of the large floor-to-ceiling windows. This gave me the opportunity to not only practice my horn, but also enjoy the activity in my front yard that included a small bird feeder nestled between the thick hedges and my window.



Lately I had drawn a few visitors through the glass while loudly serenading myself. Last week a perky wren had come every day to enjoy the music. She seemed to like perching on the window seal, bouncing gaily to the beat. Occasionally she would jump back to the nearby feeder, lift her throat to the sky, and sing along in her most melodious melody.

This week a young squirrel was my captive audience. He expertly climbed the feeder to check out brunch, but quickly jumped to the window, pressing his tiny nose to the glass. He seemed to be fond of the choppy rhythms of some scales I was practicing and his tail was swiftly twitching to the beat.

Thank you for listening, my funny, music-loving friends. Performing for you has been both an honor and a pleasure, but I think I will forgo the bow.

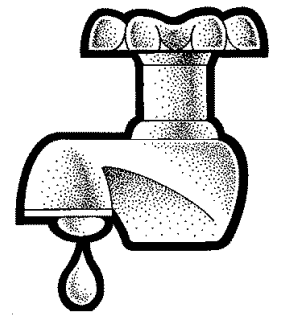
NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann, Staff Writer

DeKalb County's 2024 Water Quality Report is Crystal Clear!

The DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management (DWM) has published its 2024 Drinking Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). This annual report reaffirms that DWM consistently exceeds all federal and state drinking water quality standards, delivering safe and high-quality drinking water to its residents.

Serving a population of more than 760,000, (and that includes Smoke Rise!), DWM is responsible for the intricate processes of treating and distributing drinking water and managing wastewater throughout the entire county. DeKalb's water intake, or water source, is located on the Chattahoochee River, north of DeKalb County and upstream from the City of Atlanta. Water is treated at the Scott Candler Water Treatment Plant and then distributed to DeKalb County customers.



The department's rigorous water testing protocols are a testament to its commitment to ensuring residents have access to safe drinking water. By law, tap water undergoes comprehensive testing for various quality parameters to guarantee its safety for consumption. The CCR highlights the extensive water quality monitoring conducted by DeKalb County Watershed. The department collects and tests more than 250 samples each month from various locations within the water distribution system. In addition to these monthly samples, DWM performs 45 daily production control tests every single day. This meticulous approach ensures our water quality remains consistently high and meets all regulatory standards.

The 2024 CCR compiles detailed information based on the data collected from water quality tests conducted throughout 2023. Residents can review this report to gain insights into the specific measures and results of the water testing, reaffirming the safety and reliability of our drinking water.

The publication of the 2024 Drinking Water Quality Report underscores DWM's dedication to transparency and public health. By maintaining high standards and engaging in thorough and consistent water testing, DWM continues to provide DeKalb County residents with some of the safest drinking water available.

For more information or to view the complete report, visit the DWM website at www.dekalbcountyga.gov/DWM-CCR.



techtalk By Joel Gilbert, Staff Writer

Model Boat Building - The Final Chapter (Part 3 of 3)

Five months after unboxing the model boat hull I purchased at a garage sale some 50 years ago and moved house to house at least 14 times, I now declare it complete. I am not a woodworker, nor am I even much of a craftsman, but I did make a sincere attempt to honor what that woodworker had started almost 60 years ago when he carved this hull from a large block of maple.

I clearly remember stopping at a garage sale in Maine and falling in love with the raw beauty of its form; the lines were so graceful even though it was little more than a hull.

This was a daunting task given there was no "kit" or instructions to follow. I had to figure out what kind of ship's hull it was, research what the masts, rigging, and deck structures should look like, and then craft those pieces and parts from wood, print some 3D parts, buy some scale belaying pins, pulleys, deadeyes, and rope.



The two prior articles show my struggles to put down the deck following the patterns of actual ships of that period. Susan decided she didn't like the 3D lifeboats I printed, so she spent several weeks building scale wood-stripped replicas. They are secured upside down on the deckhouse roof lashed down with scale-appropriate rope to tiny cleats. Small details like this truly bring the vessel to life.

The last steps were to "rig" the upper part of the ship with what are called standing and working rigging reflecting whether they were simply to hold things in place, or the lines needed to move through pulleys. These lines were then secured by tiny belaying pins.

I have some 300 hours into this and while I am pleased with the outcome, now I only see the flaws. The casual viewer won't see them because you must know where to look. But with all I have learned, part of me wants to take it apart, start over, and make it perfect. Then again, I am savoring looking at it because, if you step back, the flaws disappear. It is so satisfying knowing my 50-year task is now complete.

So much time has passed since the original craftsman meticulously carved that hull. I wish he were still alive to see his work completed. Until now, I never thought of getting his contact information so that I could show his children, and by now grandchildren, the completed ship. Funny how we go through life assuming our encounters are not worth that step, and then it is too late.

Besides learning that, this undertaking taught me several other profound life lessons. We all know the countless mistakes made along the way and tend to focus on those flaws and let them define ourselves. Instead, if you step back and look at your life's work ... you see the bigger picture and the beauty resulting from your patience, labor, struggles, and relationships. It reminded me that our lives are works in progress, and we can all encourage others to finish out what they started and to share the larger picture of their lives.

Thanks to many of you who have encouraged me on my journey finishing this model boat. We love sharing it with anyone who wants to come see it. Pictures don't do it justice. If enough are interested, we will schedule an open house showing this summer. Our contact information is in the staff listing on page 2 of this paper.

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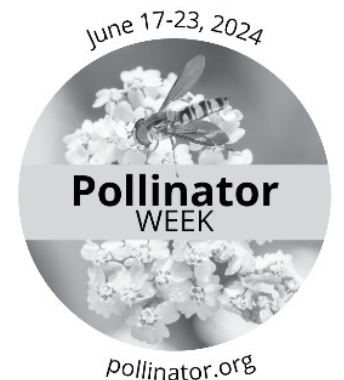
By Linda Karr, Staff Writer

June is National Pollinator Month and June 17th – 23rd is National Pollinator Week

If you haven't planted a pollinator garden – big or small – now is a wonderful time to embrace the idea. Bring the pollinators to your garden and reap the benefits.

Opportunities in the garden for June:

- Plant eggplant, melon, okra, onion, peas, pepper, potatoes, pumpkin, sweet potato, and watermelon.
- Many plants can still be planted now, but they will take more attention and care to survive. Make sure you provide them with adequate water. Use soaker hoses when you can to conserve water. Water before 10AM to avoid evaporation. One long soak is better than 2 or 3 short ones.
- Having slug problems? Have you tried putting out a hollowed out half cantaloupe shell or putting beer out in a container? Check them every day and put the collected slugs in a bucket of soapy water.
- Be sure to pick your vegetables on a regular basis. Leaving ripe fruit on the vine can stop blooming on the entire plant.
- Plant extra parsley and fennel just for the caterpillars. Those big green caterpillars will become Swallowtail butterflies. Wonderful pollinators!
- Deadhead your marigolds and geraniums to encourage more blooms.
- Pinch off the top inch or so of your mums, bee balm, Joe Pye weed, Russian sage, perennial sunflowers, and sedums. They will be sturdier and more compact and may give you more blooms.
- Use Neem Oil or Insecticidal Soap to help keep insects under control.
- Fertilize your houseplants regularly.
- Weed regularly. Weeds take moisture and nutrients away from your plants.
- Raise the mower blade up one notch and make sure the blade is sharp. Don't mow when the grass is wet.
- Enjoy your garden!



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Mountain Mums Garden Club Enjoy “Butterflies and Bubbly”

By Maureen Fraser

In May, Jean Weathers hosted a breakfast meeting, which was followed by a field trip to the Butterfly Gardens at the Tucker Recreation Center. Jean also provided an inspiration and interesting butterfly “facts” in keeping with the “monarch butterfly” theme. Here are a few facts you may not know:

- The monarch butterfly is considered a sign of strength, endurance, spirituality, trust, transformation and evolution.
- It exhibits the most highly evolved migration pattern of any known species of butterfly or moth.
- Monarchs are easily recognized by their vertical stripes of black, white, and yellow-green.
- They pollinate many types of wildflowers.
- There are four stages of each generation – egg, larva, pupa and adult. Eggs are laid singly on any number of milkweed species and caterpillars feed exclusively on these plants. The milky juices make the larva distasteful to predators.
- A fully grown caterpillar usually leaves its milkweed plant to pupate elsewhere as a pale green, golden-spotted chrysalis. After 10-14 days, the chrysalis becomes transparent, and the metamorphosed butterfly’s dark body is visible. The adult emerges upside down and spends several hours drying its wings before being able to fly.
- Monarchs feed on a variety of nectar sources, and adults live only a few weeks—except those that migrate south and overwinter in Mexico; those live seven to nine months. Thus, about four generations of monarchs occur annually.

Kelley Samaras, member and host of the garden tour, shared the background and history of the Butterfly Gardens at Tucker Recreation Center, which was started in 2008 as a DeKalb UGA Cooperative Extension site. The Tucker Butterfly Master Gardeners created a pollinator garden to show the full life cycle (egg, larva, pupa, adult) of butterflies and attract pollinators. They planted perennials and specific host plants to attract many different butterflies of various colors and sizes. Last year, a rain garden was added to the site, demonstrating how gardeners can solve a drainage problem and create a beautiful garden for wet/dry areas. All of the plants are labeled making it easy for new gardeners to learn and create their own pollinator gardens at home!

Outgoing Co-Presidents, Gaye Auman and Rita Maloof, thanked all officers and committee chairs for their service over the past two years and installed the new 2024-25 officers: President – Sally Young, Vice President – Jean Weathers, Corresponding Secretary – Connie Henry, Recording Secretary – Ann Purr, Treasurer – Lisa Armistead, and Parliamentarian – Pat Baumann.

They also commended the many members who made it possible to receive the following awards at the recent Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. state convention in Peachtree City and The DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs’ meeting at Callanwolde:

- The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.
- Publications Award – 1st
- The DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
- Mary Jane Shearer Pull-A-Tab Award – 1st
- Kelley Samaras – Betty Pothier Horticulture Award – 1st
- Lynn Malone – Betty Pothier Horticulture Award – 3rd
- Briarcliff Woods Garden Therapy Award – 2nd
- Valley Hill Garden Club Calyx Chapter Attendance Award – 2nd
- Ann Purr, Garden Center Director – Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Service to the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs’ Garden Center
- Certificate for Standard of Achievement
- 100% Attendance Award

The environment and garden tip of the month, provided by Beth Henson, was a reminder to remember to re-fertilize your plants and flowers approximately one month after planting with a water-soluble solution such as Miracle Grow. Be sure to look for a product that is especially recommended as a Bloom Booster flower food versus an All Purpose plant food, depending on your garden needs. The “Yard of the Month” sign is proudly posted at the home of Karen Werner, who provided a tour of her shade garden last month, in Smoke Rise.

Mountain Mums members will be visiting the Atria Park of Tucker, an assisted living facility, to provide horticultural therapy later this month and then will take a break to enjoy the summer with family and friends. Mary Jacobson will host the next meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 14, which is a Meet and Greet for prospective members. Contact Mary Jacobson, Membership Chair, for more information on joining or visiting a meeting at mjacob1010@gmail.com.

Morning Glories are Bird Lovers! By Quill Duncan

Our May program was the last in the series on The B’s: bees, butterflies, and birds. Birds Georgia presenter, Melanie Furr, provided an educational and fascinating overview of our feathered friends.

Birds Georgia was formerly known as Georgia Audubon with a name change this past November to better educate the public as to their mission of conservation, education, and communication about birds in our state. The group offers Master Birder classes, webinars, free guided bird walks every weekend and many other activities.

There are over 400 species of birds in Georgia, and we are so fortunate to be able to enjoy their song and beauty and surprisingly many benefits to our environment. Birds do entertain us, but they are also pollinators, seed planters, insect eaters and even sanitation workers. Melanie recommended that if we do feed the birds to use suet feeders which do not attract rodents as much as seed feeders do and she suggested that we offer birds a water source, shelter, and a place for birds to raise their young. For bird watchers, she suggested we try the Merlin app on our phones to help us identify the birds by their calls, or plumage or flight pattern. It is free and easy to download and is sponsored by the Cornell University ornithology department. Her talk focused on selecting plants to attract and provide the four key elements that birds need to thrive. Melanie noted that the top tree to plant is an oak and the top berrying tree to plant is the mulberry. And she reminded the club to change the hummingbird water every day or every other day in summer to keep it fresh.

In club news, President Amie Walsh reviewed the Morning Glories many awards from Deep South, Garden Club of Georgia, and the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs award ceremonies this spring. A total of fourteen awards were announced reflecting the clubs’ involvement in our community and our dedication to our many goals and projects. Congratulations to all! Our club takes a break during the summer and returns on September 10th. If you want more information, contact Amie Walsh at 404 729-4871.



Melanie Furr with Birds Georgia



Mountain Mums Win Statewide Newsletter Award

By Beth Henson

The Mountain Mums Garden Club is proud to announce winning First Place for their outstanding newsletter, *Mum’s the Word*, from The Garden Club of Georgia! This statewide award was presented on April 16 at The Garden Club of Georgia Convention in Peachtree City.

The newsletter is published quarterly and includes past and upcoming activities for developing, maintaining and spreading the club’s purpose, while highlighting the 2023-24 theme “Where flowers bloom, so does hope,” a quote from Lady Bird Johnson. The newsletter chronicles activities around civic beautification efforts such as the Walk to Remember and more, offers environmental and gardening tips, shares horticultural therapy projects provided for local senior living facilities, highlights new members and even includes member’s recipes from monthly meetings and Yard of the Month winners. Currently the Mums are working on a project to beautify the Tucker Police Precinct. Maureen Fraser and Beth Henson are co-editors of the newsletter with many members contributing articles to make it a great success!



Smoke Rise Garden Club Wins Club of Year Award at the DeKalb Federation of Gardens

By Denise Finley

Some Highlights of the club’s activities and achievements:

Smoke Rise Garden Club grew in membership and was honored with several members winning awards and recognition for jobs well done.

In May of 2023, member Deb Halley did an outstanding upgrade to her garden and showcased her work as part of the larger Stone Mountain/Tucker community on the “Art in Nature” Garden Tour by the Stone Mountain Woman’s Club. This master gardener added more native plants and shrubs and paired it with a new landscape feature, a rock terrace seating area. Her garden has been the work of a lifetime and includes natural areas framed by perennials, a cottage garden, a water feature, and a home-made chicken coop. She expanded her order for dogwood trees to include the club and neighborhood by ordering 50 saplings. She also donates her time to the Kelley Cofer Pollinator Garden.

The club’s youth activities were led by Ann Weisz and included two flower shows and three floral design classes. The entire club supported the effort where floral design was taught to kindergartners at Rehoboth Day School. The children entered 10 designs in the American Daffodil Society Flower Show, and all won ribbons.

At the Yellow Daisy Flower Show, members taught floral design to two classes of STEM students at Smoke Rise Elementary. Over 60 containers, small bottles, musical instruments, toys and sea shells and fish paraphernalia as well as flowers were donated by club members for the “Sounds of Music,” “Art Class” and “Ring the School Bell” divisions of the flower show. The best part is a 2nd grader won the National Flower Show Youth Design ribbon, first place for his design!

Our president Victoria Crosby was the honored poet, reading her “Tribute to Heroes” poem as part of the 9/11 wreath ceremony at DeKalb Public Safety Headquarters.

The club continues the beautification projects for the Tucker Fire Station #5 planter and decorating the smokestacks at intersections of Hugh Howell Rd with Christmas swags. The club will also be involved in renovating the Deer Ridge entrance at Hugh Howell Rd.

Smoke Rise is a mature club celebrating 55 years of serving our community and gardening. We are looking forward to more expansion in the year to come!

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: All ad submissions and advertising inquiries should be directed to:
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The purpose of the Smoke Signal classifieds is to advertise goods and services to the community.

Racquet Rally...continued from page 1

were served. As lunch ended and was enjoyed by all, the buses returned for pick-up and each student reluctantly headed back to Tucker High School to finish the school day. Each student received a goody bag filled with snacks, candy, and sunglasses. Each person also received an individual framed photo as a memory of the day, each wearing a bright red t-shirt with the Racquet Rally logo.

This is an event that volunteers from Smoke Rise tennis teams look forward to each spring. One new student stated to me after her first visit to Racquet Rally, "thank you for teaching us tennis, I've never played before, and it is so fun. I don't want to leave."

Many thanks to Mary Lou Still and Charlene Smith for planning the event this year and to our head pro, Coach Jim Richards, and our group of about twenty-five Smoke Rise members for volunteering their time and energy for this great event. Also, kudos to Amy Lamitina, our club event coordinator for her help in organizing and to chefs, Greg and Al, for preparing lunch. We also want to thank the Atlanta Lawn Tennis Association (ALTA) for a much-appreciated grant which was provided to help with needed funds for this event.

As always, the success of Racquet Rally is achieved through the effort of many. Lead teacher, Ginger Graff, and her group of Tucker High School teachers of special needs students are a rare group of caring people. "Special" brings a new meaning to these high school special needs students. Not only are they well-mannered, appreciative, and happy; they are truly "special."

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Food & Home Fixin'

By Joyce Ray, Staff Writer

On more than one occasion I have discovered a white ring on my dining table after serving a meal. This is caused by heat and moisture from plates, glasses, etc. The moisture is from a glass "sweating" and leaving a ring because the moisture gets under the top finish on the table. Heat from serving dishes can cause the pores of the wood to open and moisture can get in and become trapped. You can prevent this by making sure your table linens are thick enough to absorb moisture and protect the wood from heat. Table pads are recommended under a tablecloth or use heavy placements if you are not using a tablecloth. You can also invest in some inexpensive waterproof place mats to go under your festive ones.

I have had success with some of the following fixes, however, the sooner you can address the problem, the more successful you will be. The first method is to add more heat to open the pores of the wood and allow the moisture to escape. Use a hairdryer set on the lowest heat setting. Position it about 6 inches from the stain and move it slowly back and forth above the table until the stain disappears. If that doesn't happen, place a tea towel over the stain and use an iron on the lowest setting - without steam! Move iron back and forth and check it periodically to see if the stain has disappeared. The third method is mayonnaise. Oil in the mayo is able to penetrate the surface of the wood and free up the trapped moisture. Apply a few tablespoons of mayo on a clean cloth and rub over the stain. Allow it to set for several hours or overnight, then wipe off and buff.

Spring makes us want to spend late afternoon hours outdoors rather than in the kitchen cooking. This delicious Vidalia Onion Pie, the refreshing Arugula salad and the quick Lemon Cheese Delight are a perfect menu trio for a light, late supper.

Vidalia Onion Pie

- 2 cups crushed saltines
- ¼ cup unsalted butter, melted
- 2 T. Olive Oil
- 2 Medium Vidalia onions thinly sliced, and rings cut in half.
- 8 oz. sharp cheddar cheese, grated.
- ½ tsp salt, ¼ tsp black pepper (to taste)
- 4 large eggs, ¾ cup milk

Preheat oven to 350°. Combine saltines and butter and press in a 9-inch glass pie dish. Season onion slices with salt and pepper and sauté in olive oil until translucent. Arrange the crust. Top with grated cheddar cheese. In medium mixing bowl, whisk eggs and milk and season with salt and pepper. Pour over onions and cheese. Bake uncovered for 45 minutes or until pie has risen and crust is golden brown. Let stand a few minutes before cutting.

Arugula Salad with Cane Syrup Vinaigrette

- Cane Syrup Vinaigrette**
- 4 T. Cane Syrup (can substitute honey)
 - 2 T. Apple cider vinegar
 - 1 T. Creole mustard
 - 1 T. chopped shallots
 - 1 tsp. each black pepper and kosher salt
 - ¾ cup canola oil

Combine all vinaigrette ingredients. Mix well, set aside.

- Salad**
- 5 oz. arugula
 - 1 ½ cups sliced strawberries.
 - ½ cup chopped pecans
 - 4-5 oz. feta cheese, crumbled.
 - 4-5 oz. bacon, freshly cooked and crumbled.

Chop arugula and place in bowl. Layer all remaining ingredients. Top with vinaigrette.

Lemon Cheese Delight

This light, versatile dessert is quick to make and can be served as is with whipped cream or add your favorite fruit topping. It is especially good with strawberries or blueberries. Chill the can of evaporated milk for at least 4 hours or overnight.

- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- ½ stick butter, melted

Prepare crust by blending melted butter w/cracker crumbs. Press in 8x10 pan and bake at 350 degrees until brown. Cool.

- Filling**
- 3 oz pkg Lemon Jello
 - 1 C. Boiling Water
 - 3 T. lemon Juice
 - 8 oz cream cheese
 - 1 ¼ cup sugar
 - 1 T. Vanilla
 - 13 oz can evaporated milk, chilled

Add Jello to boiling water and add sugar, cream cheese and vanilla. Whip chilled milk until consistency of whipped cream. Fold in lemon mixture. Pour into cooled crust and chill until set. Serve w/ whipped cream and or fruit.