

SMOKE SIGNAL



VOLUME 49, ISSUE 1

Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968

April, 2016

www.smokesignalnews.com

Spring has Sprung!



The Smoke Signal staff hopes you enjoy all the lovely sights, sounds and smells of the season in our beautiful neighborhood!



Launching the City of Tucker By Pat Soltys

On March 1, the City of Tucker elected its first mayor and four of the six council seats. At the time, two were still contested (to be decided in a run-off election March 29). The swearing in ceremony, held on March 8 at Tucker High School, was a beautiful merging of the past and present. Mathew Lee, Tucker Historical Association President served as the Master of Ceremonies, artfully tying Tucker's past and present together.

Sonja Szubski, wrote and read a moving invocation, which especially focused on four worthy guiding principles: grace, wisdom, gratitude, and community. Here is an excerpt:

"Finally, every day, I breathed Gratitude. Gratitude for living in the great country of the United States of America where we can fight for our community voice legally and without fear. Gratitude to those who offered to lead and support our cause. Gratitude to our families and friends who patiently allowed us to work toward this day. Gratitude to the thousands of people inside and outside of this community who took the time to email our legislators, educate their neighbors, and share themselves in countless ways. Gratitude for the kind words of encouragement. Gratitude for those that had the courage to stand up and want to represent us as our inaugural Mayor and Council. And most of all, Gratitude for choosing Tucker as our home."

"I have learned so much in the past few years, but what I cherish most is the lesson that without Grace, Wisdom, and Gratitude there is no Community. Tucker has been blessed with all four."

You can hear the invocation in its entirety on the YouTube video of the swearing in ceremony at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HplsnBKMAGE>.

Presenting to a near full auditorium, the sense of community was strong from the very beginning of the invocation to the final moments of the entire event. The presentation of the colors was conducted by the Tucker High School Air Force Junior ROTC, with the Boy Scouts of Troop 129 leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Remarks by Lee May, Interim CEO for DeKalb County were laced with humor, perspective and honor of the new city. He told the newly elected, "Tonight you will be sworn in and tomorrow you will be sworn at."

Frank Auman, Mayor, Honey Van De Kreke, Council District One, Post One; William Rosenfeld, Council District One, Post Two; Michelle Penkava, District Three, Post One and Anne Lerner, Council District Three, Post Two were sworn in by the Honorable Ronald B. Ramsey Sr., State Court DeKalb County.

Following the swearing in, all candidates signed the oath of office on a desk that had been owned by the first postmaster of Tucker, Alpheus Chewning (1892). This was a great symbolism of Tucker's past and future.

Frank Auman, delivered his first speech as the first Mayor of Tucker, referencing the past three years of work to become a city, the opportunities that lie ahead and the work that needs to be done. He asked that everyone who helped Tucker become a city remain involved and work

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Sonja Szubski delivers the invocation



The Smoke Signal staff was invited for the ribbon cutting ceremony at the newly renovated Stone Mountain Manor on Main Street, Stone Mountain. Barbara Luton (center) represented the staff at the reception. Adam Holcomb purchased the property five months ago and will be accepting reservations for the boutique hotel in 3-4 weeks. Pictured is Adam Holcomb, owner, cutting the ribbon, along with other city officials.

Stone Mountain Manor Opens Boutique Hotel in Stone Mountain Village

The City of Stone Mountain Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Stone Mountain Business Association held a ribbon cutting ceremony for Stone Mountain Manor March 3 at 1037 Main Street. The new owner is Adam Holcomb, originally of Chatsworth, Georgia.

Stone Mountain Manor is a boutique hotel with nine guest rooms, fully appointed common areas and gardens. Holcomb has spent the past several months redecorating and filling the Manor with his interpretation of Southern hospitality.

"I want guests to feel comfortable and at home. I was raised on good food and good manners with lots of charm. The Manor embodies that Southern charm and honors the past, while looking forward with modern style and amenities," says Holcomb.

Holcomb grew up in Georgia and then spent 10 years in San Francisco, six of those in the hospitality industry. He has a degree in hotel management from San Francisco City College.

"I fell in love with the industry, people and experiences, however kept yearning to start my own business. I began to look for an opportunity to buy a hotel and move back to GA to be closer to my family," says Holcomb, "After several attempts and business plans, all the pieces fell in place for Stone Mountain. I'm looking forward to being a part of the regrowth in this city."

The Manor has already hosted several events and is available now for reservations. For more information, visit www.StoneMountainManor.com.



New Tucker Officials



Smoke Signal

P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085

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

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Views and/or opinions expressed in articles, stories or letters published in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the Smoke Signal or its staff. The information contained in it is believed to be accurate, but not warranted in any way. It is the policy of the Smoke Signal to publish signed letters to the Editor. We will not publish unsigned letters, but will withhold the writer's name upon request. All content may be edited.

April Calendar of Events

- 3 Music for Missions, Dr. Elena Dorozhkina performs, 7 p.m.
Lawrenceville Road United Methodist Church
- 4 Smoke Rise Garden Club meeting at home of Paula Adeoba, 7 p.m.
- 6 *Smoke Signal* meeting at home of Renee Hopt, 9:30 a.m.
- 11 Mountain Shadow Garden Club, 7:30 p.m.
Walter Reeves, the Georgia Gardener
Eastminster Presbyterian Church
- 13 Mountain Mums meeting at home of Gaye Auman, 10 a.m.
- 16 Tucker Plant Swap & Share, Tucker First Baptist Church
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- 17 Music for Missions, Smoke Rise Bluegrass Band performs,
Lawrenceville Road United Methodist Church, 7 p.m.
- 23 SRGC Plant Sale, Smoke Rise Baptist Church, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- 23 Mountain Shadow Garden Club Plant Sale
Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- 30 Free Household Hazardous Waste Disposal, 3720 Leroy Scott Drive,
Decatur, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Smoke Signal Deadlines

APRIL 13

Please e-mail articles to:

smoke-signal@earthlink.net

(Word documents or text file attachments preferred)

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND CLASSIFIED ADS
TO THIS E-MAIL ADDRESS**

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

Deadline for classified ads is APRIL 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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with your smart phone!



Tucker...

continued from page 1

with the city, as the help of a lot of people will be needed.

Anne Lewis, a Tucker resident gave the ending benediction. And the MainStreet Tucker Alliance provided refreshments. Many people stayed around greeting those they knew and meeting others. No one seemed to be ready to end the evening, and many gathered in Tucker restaurants afterward with the friendliness and spirit of the new community being celebrated.

New Date for Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Event

Keep DeKalb Beautiful (KDB), the community outreach unit of the DeKalb County Sanitation Division, announces the Semiannual Household Hazardous Waste event, originally planned for March 19, has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 30 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the DeKalb County Sanitation Division's Central Transfer Station, 3720 Leroy Scott Drive, Decatur, GA 30032.

DeKalb County encourages residents to take advantage of this free opportunity to clear their homes of unneeded or unused HHW and to help keep county landfills and the environment safe for everyone.

Hazardous materials, such as aerosols, batteries, adhesives, flammables, lawn care products, fluorescent light bulbs, photo chemicals, artist supplies, household cleaning supplies, paint and paint-related products will be accepted. Agricultural waste, ammunition, pharmaceuticals, radioactive materials and biohazardous and biomedical waste will not be accepted. Participants will be limited to 10 gallons of paint per vehicle. No commercial vehicles will be allowed.

Participation is free and only open to DeKalb County residents. Proper identification to prove DeKalb County residency may be requested.

For more information on this event, contact KDB at (404) 371-2654.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

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

Communion: Second Sunday of each month
 1st Tuesdays: 11:30 a.m. Prime Time
 Wednesdays:
 5:00-5:45 Fellowship Dinner
 6:00-7:00 Programs for children, youth and adults
 7:00-8:30 Sanctuary choir
 Nursery provided

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

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

Mount Carmel Christian Church

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

Sundays:
 8:30 a.m. Coffee/ Doughnuts/ Fellowship
 9:30 a.m. Bible School Classes – Adults & Children
 10:30 a.m. Worship

First Moravian Church

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

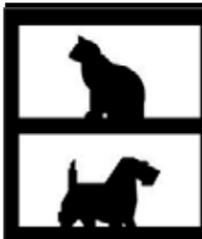
Sundays:
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School-Adults & Children
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time
 Thursdays:
 7:00 p.m. Adult Study Group

Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

Mountain West Church

Pastor: Michael Shreve
 Telephone (770) 491-0228
 www.mountainwestchurch.com
 4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain
 Service Times 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.



FREE NEIGHBORHOOD PET LOST AND FOUND

Please call Kay McKenzie
 at (770) 491-6784 if you
 have lost or found a pet.

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.

Future Tennis Stars Can be Found at Smoke Rise Country Club!

By Susan Gilbert

Over the past few years, under the direction of Suzy Ihnat and Jim Richards (pictured), the youth tennis program at Smoke Rise Country Club has grown substantially. Not only has the program grown in number of participants, but also in the skill level of the young children in the program.

In Spring 2015, the Club introduced a USTA team for our youngest children, ages eight and under. The first season was an excellent time for them to learn the basic rules of the game and enjoy match play against teams from nearby clubs.

The 8U team grew in number and skill during their winter season, when they tied Atlanta Athletic Club in points for the season, but came in a close second due to number of games won. In just a short year, the 8U players went from learning the basic rules of tennis to nearly winning their season!

The 2016 spring season has just begun, and Smoke Rise now has two 8U teams with six players participating on each team roster. Clinics for this age group are currently available Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m., while team practices occur after school until summer.

Tennis is a great activity to get the young ones out of the house and enjoying the great weather. Starting the children out young increases their socialization while allowing them to learn about team competition and good sportsmanship in a fun and relaxed environment.

For more information about how to get involved in the youth tennis program at Smoke Rise Country Club, please contact Suzy Ihnat by calling (770) 908-2582 ext. 5.



Smoke Rise Country Club Proudly Welcomes New Membership Director

An interview with Mary Anne Thomas, by Susan Gilbert

About this time last year, Smoke Rise Country Club (SRCC) began a search for an experienced membership director. Our postings were seen by Mary Anne Thomas, who is from the Smoke Rise area but was living in Jacksonville, Florida, at the time. She applied, visited with us several times during 2015, and we were able to convince her this is the place to spend the rest of her career. Share in a conversation with Mary Anne.

What's been your experience with membership building?

I have been in the membership field for over 20 years. As the Membership Director at the Atlanta Athletic Club, we built the partial-membership to a full status with a waiting list. For the past 15 years, I have been with the YMCA of Florida's First Coast where we built the membership from 1,000 to 2,500 membership units. I enjoy membership, because it offers such a wonderful opportunity to get to know people. By getting to know them, we can help them get connected with the things that they are interested in at the Club. By doing this, we are able to help increase their club involvement and help provide an exceptional membership experience.



Living in Jacksonville, FL, when we posted the position, what attracted you to Smoke Rise?

I have family in the Atlanta area and really wanted to get back into the country club arena. When I heard that Jim Story was coming to Smoke Rise Country club and with my wonderful meetings with Susan Gilbert, the SRCC Board Member responsible for membership, I knew that this was an opportunity that I wanted very much. I am extremely excited about the growth potential of this great facility, and the members here are so friendly and really love their club.

What is Jim's and your vision for the Club?

Our vision is to help enhance the club market in Atlanta by offering a great private country club at an affordable price. We want to become "Tucker's Own Club." By focusing on our five values: Adaptable, Quality, Consistency, Accountability, Excitement, we will strive to provide "Wow's!" to our members. Our number one objective is to provide a quality experience for all of our members, every time they visit.

Is there anything in particular you want to say to our Smoke Rise community through this interview for the Smoke Signal?

Yes, we will be hosting many exciting opportunities to visit Smoke Rise Country Club in the future, and I would love to talk with anyone who may have an interest in joining the Club. With the anticipated membership growth, now is the time to consider joining. We have adjusted our membership categories and applied caps. Some of our membership categories are already on a waiting list. Please give me a call if you would like to visit. My number is (770) 908-2582 ext. 4.



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Stone Mountain Rotary Club

By L. A. Dison, Rotary Club of Stone Mountain, Vice President, Media and Analyst Relations

March Events Included Basketball and a Play to Raise Funds to End Polio

In March, the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain hosted two fundraisers to support local and international initiatives. The club partnered with Stone Mountain's ART Station for a special 30th anniversary presentation of *From My Grandmother's Grandmother Unto Me*, a one-woman play written and presented by Clarinda Ross. This play was premiered 30 years ago as the inaugural production at ART Station. The Stone Mountain club and guests were treated to a private viewing of the dress rehearsal, preceded by a reception with drinks and hors d'oeuvres prepared by club members. A Silent Auction added extra excitement to the evening, as well as additional funds to support community programs.



The Rotary Club of Stone Mountain recognized Tyrone Smith from Stone Mountain Elementary as its Teacher of the Year for 2016. Pictured left to right: Stone Mountain Rotary President Donna Jensen; Stone Mountain Elementary Principal Corey Davidson; Rotary District 6900 Governor Bob Hagan; Smith; and Stone Mountain Rotarian Bill Rosenfeld, president, DeKalb Rotary Council.

Rotary District 6900, including The Stone Mountain club, sponsored an exhibition basketball game with the Harlem Ambassadors. The comedy sports team played the Roaring Rotarians, made up of players from some of the District 6900 clubs. The night was a family fun event, filled with high-flying slam dunks, hilarious hijinks and lots of uproarious audience participation. Proceeds from the evening went towards Rotary International's "End Polio Now" campaign. Rotary International has set 2016 as the year that polio will be eradicated forever; the disease at this point is endemic in only two remaining countries.



Members of the Roaring Rotarians line up to take on the Harlem Ambassadors in a charity game to benefit Rotary's End Polio Now campaign.

Two Stone Mountain Rotarians were recognized with special honors during the Annual DeKalb Rotary Council Breakfast, held in March at Capitol City Golf Club in Brookhaven. Anresa Davis was given the Show Rotary Cares Award, and Past District Governor, Bob Grant, received the Key Award. The club also announced its Teacher of the Year: Tyrone Smith, who teaches health and physical education at Stone Mountain Elementary. The school received a check for \$1,000.00 to help buy school supplies and support teacher programs within the school.

The Stone Mountain club meets every Tuesday for noon lunch at Smoke Rise Country Club; visitors and those interested in learning more about Rotary are welcome to attend. To learn more about the club and its upcoming programs, go to www.stonemountainrotary.org.

GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club Elects New Officers

Barbara Luton, who has served as President of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club for two years, turned over the gavel to newly elected and installed President, Kimberly Cumbie. Kim's grandmother, Edith Collins, has been a long time member of the Stone Mountain Woman's Club, and Kim's mother, Nancy, is also a member of the Club. Kim was honored to have her father, Roy Collins, join her and her mother for the election and installation, led by Katherine Wright, a Past President of the Club. Serving with Kim for a two-year term are Vice President Brenda Price, Secretary, Sheila Hortman, Treasurer, Martha Decker, and Parliamentary Advisors, George Ann Hoffman and Shari Carter.

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the GFWC Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs. For more information about the Club, check out the website at www.stonemountainwoman'sclub.org.

For questions or more information on the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club, contact Pat Sartain, Publicity Chairman at patsartain@aol.com or (770) 815-0615.



Newly installed leaders of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club. Pictured left to right, Sheila Hortman, Secretary, Kimberly Cumbie, President, Barbara Luton, Immediate Past President, Martha Decker, Treasurer, Brenda Price, Vice President, and Parliamentary Advisors, Shari Carter and George Ann Hoffman.

Smoke Rise Preferred Contractor's List

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





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SRCA Dues

If you haven't already, please send your dues to the Smoke Rise Community Association (SRCA). This is your neighborhood association! SRCA helps monitor and protect our community. Your family's \$35 helps us have a say in issues like: potential adult entertainment establishments, cell towers on public school property, annexations filed, and more. Dues also help fund common grounds maintenance and mowing, sign toppers, movies on the green, and more! Send check to: SRCA, P.O. Box 870793, Stone Mountain, GA 30087 or go to the SRCA website at: <http://www.smokerise.org/>.

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Free Workshop for Those Who Care for Mentally Ill Relatives

The grassroots organization, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI DeKalb), is again hosting the NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program specifically designed for family caregivers of individuals diagnosed with serious mental health conditions. The course is taught by trained family members and focuses on several disorders, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, and major depression. The FREE 12-week course is from April 12 through June 21, 6:15 p.m. - 8:45 p.m., in Decatur GA.

The course will also cover information about coping skills such as handling crisis and relapse; basic information about medications; listening and communication techniques; problem-solving skills; recovery and rehabilitation; and self-care around worry and stress. The curriculum has been created by an experienced mental health professional and the course will be taught by Cynthia Moorer, NAMI DeKalb Co-President, family member volunteer who has taken intensive training as course instructor.

The course is designed specifically for parents, siblings, spouses, teen-age and adult children and significant others of persons with severe and persistent mental illness. The course is not appropriate for individuals who themselves suffer from one of the major mental illnesses.

The NAMI Family-to-Family Education Course is free. For more information or to register, contact Dianne Hiltman at (678) 468-9430 or email her at hiltmans@gmail.com. You can also learn more online at: www.namidekalb.com.

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AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

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Civil War Walking Tours

Have you ever wanted to know more about the effects of the war on the citizens of this area? Experience the war through the eyes of the people who lived through the battle, the siege of Atlanta, and the surrender and occupation. This one-hour tour includes an exhibit at the DeKalb History Center and a walk in downtown Decatur. All tours begin in the lobby at the Historic DeKalb Courthouse at 101 E. Court Square, Decatur GA 30030.

Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$6 for children ages 6-18, and free for under 6.
 Fridays; April 8, April 29 or May 30 at 3:00 p.m.

Mountain Shadow Garden Club Plant Sale, April 23

Mountain Shadow Garden Club will present its popular, annual plant sale, on Saturday, April 23 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain.

The event begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 2:00 p.m. It will be in the same parking lot area where the event has been staged in recent years. The sale offers a wide range of perennials, annuals, shrubs, and other plants and garden materials that are well adapted to the local area. Among the unique plants offered will be various types of milkweed that are needed by monarch butterflies.

Club members with many years of experience in gardening around this area will be on-hand to help customers make selections and learn about caring for new purchases. For further information or directions, call Scott Uthlaut at (770) 923-9762 or Jeff Raines at (404) 641-8633.

Boy Scout Troop 876 News
 By Charlie Smith, First Class Scout

In February, Troop 876 enjoyed a fun weekend of climbing and rappelling at Lawhorn Scout Base near Woodbury, Ga. We spent all day Saturday rappelling off a 60 foot tower and climbing a 55 foot tower. We camped along the Flint River, and since there was no moon that night, we held a little astronomy lesson.

Come check us out Monday nights at 7:30 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, and join in on the fun!



Library News

On Monday, April 11, Cecil Murphey, author or co-author of more than 130 books, including Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story and 90 Minutes in Heaven, will discuss his decades-long career as a professional writer. 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library, 5234 LaVista Road, Tucker 30084. (770) 270- 8234

Plaza Security Officer Commended

A member of the Plaza Security team patrolling the Stone Mountain CID provided some valuable assistance to local law enforcement during a recent suspected case of arson.

In late January, Officer Mohammad Maiwand observed a suspicious vehicle while making his rounds along Hugh Howell Road. He immediately called 911 and noted the vehicle's information while waiting for police. Maiwand observed two individuals returning to the vehicle. He announced himself as security, asking the individuals if they needed assistance. But the two left the scene at a high rate of speed. It was shortly after this interaction responders arriving on the scene confirmed that a fire had been detected in the area.

DeKalb County Police collected incident details and other information provided by Officer Maiwand. His skilled and professional response during this situation earned him special commendation from the managers of Plaza Security and the appreciation of CID leaders and the community.

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Congratulations in Order for SRES Students

February was a winning month for Smoke Rise Elementary. Bayden Patel (5th grade) won 2nd place at the DeKalb County Regional Science and Engineering Fair on Saturday, February 20. Timothy Lam (3rd grade) won 3rd place in the engineering division. Elementary-aged students are considered novice scientists, so their competition does not move beyond the regional division. However, congratulations are in order for these two young scientists that worked so hard to compete with all the other schools in DeKalb County. They have made Smoke Rise very proud.



SRES Celebrates Reading

Smoke Rise Elementary celebrated Read Across America and Dr. Seuss Week on February 29 - March 4. The students and staff celebrated and highlighted Dr. Seuss books by dressing up as Dr. Seuss characters throughout the week. Classrooms also participated in a school-wide reading bingo game. The reading celebration culminated with reading activity stations in the media center, including a reading tent where students were able to enjoy their books. SRES

wants to thank Stone Mountain Women's Club, parents, and community partners who read to students. It was a fun-filled event, and SRES looks forward to next year's celebration!

Barbara Luton, President of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club, participated in the NEA Read Across America Day, along with several other members of the Stone Mountain Woman's Club. President Luton read to students at the Smoke Rise Elementary School in Stone Mountain on March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss.



Smoke Rise Wins at Georgia Educational Technology Fair

As mentioned in last month's issue of the Smoke Signal, Ikram Mohamed and Maya Prince placed 1st in the regional DeKalb County Tech Fair. They then went on to win 3rd place in the Georgia Educational Technology Fair in Macon, Georgia for Audio Production (5th - 6th grades). They wrote and produced a song using GarageBand, an app that allows you to create, record, and share music using a library of software instruments, guitar, voice, and drums.

For more information regarding the Tech Fair, see the website <http://gatechfair.org/>.

Tucker High School Robotics Teams

By Cory Booth, Engineering and Technology Education, VEX Robotics Advisor

In February, four of five Tucker High School VEX Robotics teams competed at the Georgia VEX State Championships for one (or more) of the 19 coveted spots to attend the World Championships this month. The teams competed well but had a difficult day overall in the competition. The C team finished the day in 6th place. Team A finished in 13th place, and the all-girls team and freshman team finished further back in the pack of 60 teams. Despite the performance, the teams scored very high in the individual skills competitions and were able to take the last three remaining spots for World Championships with their driver and programming skills scores. This means that 1320A, 1320C, and 1320D are qualified for Worlds!



THS has had multiple teams earn a spot at Worlds three years in a row. This year will mark the first time the teams will be the only ones representing DeKalb. The team members have worked extremely hard to get to this point, and their efforts have paid off with a trip to Worlds in Louisville, Kentucky to face the 500 best teams in the world.

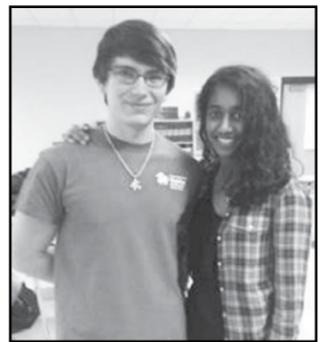
Tucker High School District Science Fair Winners

DeKalb County science students participate in several academic competitions throughout the school year. The primary competition is the annual DeKalb Regional Science and Engineering Fair. The students who excel in this competition then compete at the Georgia State Science and Engineering Fair. Through these competitions, the students have the ability to earn scholarships as well as other prizes.

Quentin Venable and Anila Yoganathan, both graduates of Midvale Elementary School and Tucker Middle School, placed first in the Science Fair at the county level and will be representing the county at the state level.

Quentin's project focused on, "How accurate are the expiration dates of food? Analysis through calorimetry." He examined the accuracy of expiration dates on food products through the use of calorimetry. Foods were frozen and dehydrated using a vacuum-freeze dryer, and then compressed into pellets using a hydraulic press so they could be placed in a bomb calorimeter.

Bomb calorimetry burns the sample all at once, giving the most accurate caloric values. By measuring the heat released by burning the food, the caloric values of the samples can be found. Quentin collected data before, at, and after the expiration dates of the food to chart the changes in caloric values over time, and then compare the changes observed to the printed expiration date printed on the food. If the dates were accurate, some form of indicator could be expected around the expiration date listed on the product.



He hypothesized the spoiling point (marked by a sharp decrease in caloric value) would be approximately one week after the given expiration dates. After conducting the experiment, Quentin concluded the samples spoiled approximately two weeks after the printed expiration dates, but were visibly declining in quality as early as three weeks before the expiration date.

Anila's project focused on, "Which acid, sulfuric or nitric, is most representative of acid rain, and at what concentrations?" She studied the effects of acid precipitation, and what acids were most representative of it. Acid rain has many causes, including burning of fossil fuels, factory emissions, agricultural fertilizers that sprayed via aerosol, and vapors from feedlots, to name a few.

These causes release emissions and vapors of nitrous and sulfurous oxides into the air, SOx and NOx. Anila studied which is most abundant and representative of acid rain. Her experiment tested radish plants. Eight plants were grown for ten days. For nine of those days, they were watered twice a day, once with three different concentrations of nitric acid, and three different concentrations of sulfuric acid, and once with regular water. These concentrations helped determine how much of the acid was mixed with water.

In addition to watering the plants with acid and regular water, Anila observed the effects of the acid rain, and compared the observations to the other plants. She was able to determine the Nitric acid was more harmful to the plants in smaller concentrations while the Sulfuric acid was more harmful in higher concentrations.

Congratulations to Quentin and Anila and good luck at the state competition!

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Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Team Wins 2016 Tucker Chili Cook-Off

On Saturday March 12, the Old Town Tucker Merchants Association and The Local No. 7 hosted the fifth annual Tucker Chili Cook-Off on Main Street. Thirty-two individual teams and nine restaurants competed, offering a taste of their mouthwatering chili recipes. Some savory, some sweet, some with beans, some without and some so hot, they made your eyes water.

It was a great opportunity for people of all ages to celebrate Tucker’s newly renovated downtown area and check out some of the new businesses, as well as raise money for Day League.

The winners of the 2016 Tucker Chili Cook-Off are,

- Individual Teams:
 1st place Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet
 2nd place Southern Ho Down
 3rd place American Legion

- Restaurant Teams:
 1st place Comeback bar
 2nd place M572



(L-R) Gay Auman and Mayor Frank Auman & SRBRC board members Aviva Hoffmann, David Stone, Oliver Hoffmann

Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club

Day light saving time is here. The afternoons and evenings are getting longer, and the thermometer is climbing. It’s time to start thinking about summer entertainment.

This should come easy if you live in the Smoke Rise area. Because, as many of our neighbors already know, the Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club has quickly become the number one, family summer fun, destination.



It’s more than just a pool and tennis courts. It has become a social club.

Last summer, SRBRC hosted 10 live bands and musical acts, an inaugural Smoke Rise BBQ Cook-Off, a Two-Day Pig Roast, Low Country Shrimp Boil, Screens on the Green, 4th of July Bash, Campouts, Kids Parties, Gentleman’s Night and a host of other fun events.

Come relax, be entertained and have a fun summer packed with activities, events and concerts. If you’re not a member yet, give SRBRC a try. There is NO swim and tennis community in the neighborhood offering more summer fun for the whole family.

You’ll find certified life guards (seven-days-a-week), diving board, toddler pool, roped-off swim lane, party gazebo, two grills and a pig pit, four tournament-ready tennis courts (with lights), basketball area, music, WiFi, and more.

The membership fees are among the most affordable around, with a Family Swim and Tennis membership for \$375.

To first time members, the club is offering a half price, one year membership at \$188 for the whole family. What a way to get your feet wet!

Now that your summer planning has just become much easier, go to SRBRC.org and get your membership. For membership information, call (770) 493-9073. You can also check out SRBRC on FB at: facebook.com/srbrc-community.



Smoke Rise Sharks Summer Swim Team News

Calling all swimmers!!! Smoke Rise Sharks needs YOU! Online registration for the 2016 summer season opens April 1.

For more information and to register, go to www.smokerishsharks.com.

- Afternoon practices will start May 18
- Meets are scheduled: May 31, June 7, June 14, June 21, June 27
- County meet prelims: June 29
- Finals: July 2
- Mini meets will be held every Friday, starting June 3
- Questions? Contact Robin Philpot at rphilpot03@yahoo.com or Anna Kohler at Annagram7@aol.com.

Bring A Plant – Take A Plant!

The 15th Annual Tucker Plant Swap & Share, sponsored by Tucker Historical Society, will be held on Saturday, April 16, from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. (Rain or shine). The event takes place in the parking lot of Tucker First Baptist Church located at the corner of LaVista Rd. and Fourth St.

This is a Tucker community event where local gardeners share plants from their gardens with each other. Participants can bring (tagged and identified) perennials, annuals, houseplants, flower and vegetable seeds, shrubs, native plants, gently used garden tools, gardening books, and cool yard art.

Plants are not for sale, but donations are welcome at the information table.



Inspect Your Smoke Alarms with One Additional Step

by Barbara Conard

In light of all the recent townhouse, apartment, and house fires, it is time to inspect your SMOKE ALARMS. National studies show that working smoke alarms decrease your chances of dying in a fire by 50%.



Fire spreads quickly and can become life threatening in just minutes. Heat and smoke from a fire can be more dangerous than the flames. Asphyxiation is the leading cause of fire deaths, exceeding burns by a three-to-one ratio. But, a working smoke alarm can save lives.

You should check more than just the batteries in your smoke alarm. Pushing the red button and hearing a loud sound only determines that the battery is charged enough to emit a warning. The unit itself must be functional. My research tells me the radioactive materials that make up the smoke detection device are only functional for about 10 YEARS. When our smoke alarm no longer sounded off when we burned the toast, we replaced it. It did however still emit a loud noise when we pushed the red button. Yes, the battery was still charged but the detection ability of the unit was no longer functional.

You can check the battery on your smoke alarm by pressing the red battery button and hearing the alarm go off. Next, light a candle near the alarm. Blow out the flame and allow the smoke to drift toward the alarm. If it is working properly, the alarm should sound off.

Remember to follow manufacturer's instructions for maintenance and cleaning to keep smoke alarms working well. Instructions for your specific smoke alarm should be included in the original packaging or can be found on the Internet.

Of Note to the Community...

(formerly Alerts & Watches)

by Cedric Ross

The weather is warming up and that means some of you are planning vacations or trips away from home. Don't forget to consider your personal safety away from home.

- Don't shop or conduct bank business on the 1st or 15th of the month (that's when government checks and many paychecks are issued). Talk with your bank about setting up a direct deposit system for social security checks, and check with your employer about direct deposit for paychecks.
- Avoid carrying large sums of money, jewelry or valuables while you're out.
- Leave your important papers at home. Documents such as birth certificates and medical records are difficult for you to replace, if you are the victim of a street crime.
- Walk confidently. Behave in an alert and self-assured fashion. People who appear to know exactly where they are going and are aware of their surroundings are less vulnerable than those who appear timid and confused.
- Be cautious when approached by strangers.
- Keep one arm free when you are waiting for a public bus. A number of sex assault victims have been abducted from bus stops. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes in case you must flee, and pay close attention to what is going on around you. Also, put a whistle on your keychain and have it handy for emergency use.
- Avoid getting into an elevator alone with a stranger. If you must get into the elevator alone, stand near the control panel. If you become suspicious or feel threatened, push all the buttons so that the elevator will stop at the next floor and exit the elevator immediately. Ring the bell in an emergency.
- When traveling, use credit cards instead of cash. Always travel with a companion.
- Keep your distance from drivers who stop you to ask for directions. Stay out of the person's reach by remaining a few feet from the vehicle.

Crime Reports

- 2/27/2016 Burglary 4500 Block Russwood Ave.
- 2/27/2016 Larceny 1900 Block Gladeview Parkway
- 2/24/2016 Burglary 6000 Block Antebellum Dr.

We make an effort to list local crimes. If we miss something, please forgive our human failings. Email address for submissions; smoke-signal@earthlink.net



Smoke Rise Tennis Teams Advance to the ALTA Playoffs and City Finals

Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club (SRBRC) is home to highly competitive tennis, exemplified by two teams earning births in the ALTA Winter league playoffs. The SRBRC B-5 Senior mixed team advanced to the City Finals in early March, after placing first in their division. It was a very competitive seven-week season with some exciting matches down the stretch. The team made it to the City Championship, and performed well, bringing home the City Finalist plate (second place).

SRBRC congratulated Covington Ridge, the first-place team in the City Final, and even drank champagne with the team. In fact, several players from other teams drove to Woodstock to cheer on SRBRC. This demonstrates the great camaraderie among the different teams and the support given to one another. Talk about sportsmanship!

SRBRC's competitive spirit was rewarded with recognition for the Best Table Presentation based on the "Luck of the Irish" theme. The C-1 Senior Mixed team also earned a spot in the ALTA playoffs, after a strong regular season.

SRBRC is active in the tennis community through ALTA, T2 and Ultimate Tennis leagues. The club has four tennis courts with two courts lit for evening play. Private coaching is available, as well as open drills, for youth and adults. Contact Renee Christiansen at annema19@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the Ladies C level ALTA team. Contact Rob Chambers at r2c3@bellsouth.net if you want to join the Mens C level ALTA team.

Stay tuned for another great tennis season at SRBRC!

Music for Missions announces April Concerts

Lawrenceville Road United Methodist Church in Tucker will present two "Music for Missions" concerts in April. The church is located at 3142 Lawrenceville Highway in Tucker.

At 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 3, Dr. Elena Dorozhkina, Russian born pianist, will perform selections which may include Brahms, Liszt, Chopin and other notable composers. Stay tuned for the publication of her program.

On Sunday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m., the ever popular "Smoke Rise," a premier Bluegrass Band, will perform toe-tapping numbers as well as gospel settings. "Smoke Rise" band members are Walter Stark, Reuben and Kim Fair, Jim Coleman and Mike Hughes.

Concerts are FREE, but donations are welcomed to help missions, charities and worthy causes. For further information, call (770) 939-3717 or jbs5951@aol.com.

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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

Heartburn That Won't Go Away

More than 60 million Americans complain of symptoms of gastro-esophageal reflux disease (GERD) on a weekly basis. This once uncommon disease seems to have come to the forefront over the last two decades, although no one really knows why. What scientists do know is that the likelihood of experiencing GERD increases as you get older, if you are overweight, a woman or if you have a hiatal hernia. If you are wondering what I am talking about, you might want to pay attention to the next few paragraphs.

Symptoms of GERD are primarily heartburn and a regurgitation of sour stomach contents (acid) into your throat or mouth. Occasionally, people get these symptoms while they sleep. They may have a chronic nighttime cough or a hoarse voice. Red Flag symptoms include: trouble swallowing, blood in your stools, anemia or unexplained weight loss.

Seventy percent of GERD patients can be diagnosed by symptom history alone. If you do not have red flag symptoms, your provider may try you on a medication called a Proton Pump Inhibitor (PPI) for four to eight weeks to see if the symptoms go away. If the symptoms disappear, they will recommend that you look for dietary triggers and implement any lifestyle changes needed. If symptoms persist or return, they may recommend a trial of medication. The majority of chronic GERD patients will have a lessening of their symptoms over time (years), even though acid may still be washing up into the esophagus. Some patients will continue to have symptoms and will require long-term treatment.

Any person with Red Flag symptoms should have a specialist perform an endoscopy (a scope that looks into their esophagus and stomach). Sometimes, although rarely, GERD can lead to something called Barrett's Esophagus, scarring and stricture of the esophagus, or worse, Esophageal Cancer. An endoscopy can detect these conditions.

Suggested lifestyle changes that may help stop the symptoms of GERD:

- Stop smoking
- Avoid food triggers: tomatoes, onions and garlic, citrus fruits and drinks, fatty, greasy foods, spicy foods, chocolate and peppermint. Not all people are triggered by the same foods. Keep a food diary and eliminate the ones that affect you.
- Do not eat a large meal within three hours of bedtime
- Lose weight, if you are overweight
- Elevate the head of your bed six inches or about 30 degrees
- Avoid alcohol, caffeine and carbonated beverages
- Avoid anti-inflammatory drugs like ibuprofen and naproxen or aspirin
- Eat frequent small meals instead of large meals

If lifestyle changes do not help, over-the-counter medications are next. Most of the medications that work for GERD are non-prescription. If higher doses of these medications are needed, these require a prescription and should be used under the care of a health provider.

- Antacids, especially those with alginic acid give the most immediate relief (seconds to minutes). They can be used for occasional symptoms or break through symptoms, but must be taken as often as every two hours.
- H2 Blockers like: (Tagamet, Pepcid, Axid and Zantac and their generic equivalents). These need to be taken in the morning and at night. If these do not work,
- PPIs (Prevacid, Protonix and Nexium and their equivalent generics). These usually are once-a-day doses.
- Some GERD patients may need surgery to correct the problem. This is rare.

Finally, people with persistent or increasing symptoms should be followed by a physician. Patients on long-term medication (more than five years) may need to have endoscopy follow-ups and be checked for Vitamin B12 deficiency and thinning of the bones. Be aware of Red Flag Symptoms, and do not ignore heartburn. It may mean more than you think!

NEWS YOU CAN USE

By AvivA Hoffmann



Nothing is Sure but Death, Taxes...and Tax Scams!

That headline is a quote from Houston CPA, Joe Mastriano. I think he's on to something, because with tax return deadlines approaching, the schemes and scams tend to increase.

It is important to have a sense of skepticism, especially this time of the year. If someone calls saying he's an IRS agent and demands you send money immediately, hang up. By altering their caller ID number to make it look like they're calling from an IRS office, these scammers often intimidate the person on the other end of the line. A definite red flag; they often demand payments be made by prepaid debit card. Don't fall for it.

Once they make their threats, the scammers have been known to call back and again disguise their caller ID so it appears they are calling from the police department or the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Or sometimes when they call, they may say you have a refund due and ask you to provide personal information so you can claim it.

The real IRS will usually contact you first by regular mail, if it needs to contact you at all. And the agency never demands immediate payment by phone or asks for credit card or debit numbers on the phone. If you get a suspicious phone call, report the incident to the authorities.

The Internet is ripe with scams waiting to trap you too. Bogus email notices, that were created years ago, are still circulating with claims the recipient is eligible for a tax refund or stimulus payment. RUN – don't walk – away from these kinds of gimmicks.

Another type of scam operates through texts and e-mails, which demand confidential information claimed to be missing from your tax return. These tactics are aimed at getting important information so the crook can steal your identity. If they are successful, they can also claim your tax refund, using a fraudulent tax return. The IRS does not ask for personal information by e-mail or text, so these too are red flags.

All of these particular scams tend to cast a wide net, because communication believed to originate from the federal government usually grab people's attention. Also, most people have had some kind of dealings with the IRS, such as past tax filings, etc., and are more likely to respond than they would if they think a business they have never patronized is contacting them. Finally, because the tax filing process can be complicated, it is understandable a person could believe they have unclaimed refunds, payments or other types of disputes that remain unsettled.

If you wish to go to the IRS on the Internet, be sure to go there directly (www.irs.gov), rather than following any links sent inside an email.

You can forward suspicious email communication to: phishing@irs.gov or lodge a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center online at: <http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>. This center works in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National White Collar Crime Center.

Also, if you are hiring a tax preparer, don't fall for too-good-to-be-true refunds or penalty deductions. Look for preparers who will sign the return themselves, as well as provide a preparer's tax ID number.

Happy tax preparation to everyone!

DeKalb SPLOST Citizen Advisory Committee April Meetings

The DeKalb SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) Citizen Advisory Committee continues its scheduled, public meetings in April.

During the 2015 legislative session, the Georgia General Assembly approved House Bill 215, which allows DeKalb County residents to decide through a referendum to adopt SPLOST that will fund capital projects, and to reform the existing Homestead Option Sales Tax (HOST) to create an Equalized HOST (E-HOST) that would provide additional property tax relief to taxpayers.

The committee, comprised of representatives from each commission district, is tasked with providing feedback on recommended capital projects including road projects and other infrastructure needs important to the citizens of DeKalb County. The 1-cent SPLOST to fund these projects is one of the two questions on a referendum planned for the ballot in the November General Elections for DeKalb County residents. The second question is whether to approve an Equalized HOST that applies 100% of HOST proceeds to property tax relief for general fund, unincorporated, and city taxes. In order to be enacted, both SPLOST and Equalized HOST must be approved by voters.

April meeting dates and locations are as follows:

- Saturday, April 16, 9-11 a.m.
Library Administrative Building
3560 Kensington Road, Decatur
- Wednesday, April 20, 6-8 p.m.
Maloof Auditorium
1300 Commerce Drive, Decatur
- Wednesday, April 27, 3-5 p.m.
Maloof Auditorium
1300 Commerce Drive, Decatur

The public can submit comments to the DeKalb SPLOST Citizen Advisory Committee at: splostcomments@dekalbcountyga.gov

You can learn more about SPLOST at: <http://dekalbcountyga.gov/SPLOST/>

DeKalb's 103rd & 104th Police Academy Graduates

DeKalb County's police academy, known for having the most intense training in Georgia, announces 14 of its newest officers. DeKalb officials, Police Department, family and friends all joined together with words of encouragement and appreciation for the most recent graduating class. Congratulations!



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techtalk When FREE Isn't...
by Susan Gilbert

We've all heard the timeless adage, "there's no such thing as a free lunch." It's as true today as when it was first espoused back in the 1930s to attract customers to come in and enjoy a "free meal" with their drink. The cost of the drink of course fully compensated the owner for the alleged free meal. New day, new method of deception, and this one could be costing you more than you think.

I am referring to the free applications you are welcomed to download to your smart phone. One of the most popular is a flashlight application that turns your phone into a pretty powerful and convenient light. These free downloads have been exposed as often being malware you are putting on your phone that can be doing anything from sending your private information and contact lists to criminals to sharing your current location with retailers and advertisers.

According to Snopes.com, the website devoted to debunking or confirming widely spread urban legends:

It is indeed the case that a number of flashlight apps can and do request access to permissions and data on users' cell phones that seemingly have nothing to do with the ordinary functioning of the app, and that such permissions could theoretically enable criminals to obtain sensitive personal information from cell phone users.

- Having a flashlight app on your cell phone does not necessarily mean someone is stealing your personal data. (Realistically, any kind of app could be exploited for this purpose.)
- Just because an app requests permissions, it may not mean the app is being used for nefarious purposes. (Many, many apps request more permissions than they seemingly need.)
- Nothing about a flashlight app makes it inherently more susceptible to criminal exploitation. (Flashlight apps just happen to be one of the most common cell phone apps.)



My research shows that flashlight app developer, Goldenshores Technologies, makers of the "Brightest Flashlight" app for Android, settled a complaint with the FTC in 2014 over its collection of location data and unique device IDs from users' devices and sharing that data with advertisers. So when it comes to apps — especially "free ones" — caveat emptor.

Some good news, the flashlight and other apps that come native to your devices are not the concern, it's the others you are offered for free download. And some bad news, if you have downloaded free apps, getting them off your phone is not as easy as uninstalling them. I was told that when you uninstall them, they might not be visible any longer, but they may not have gone away, and you have to go to your phone or communication service provider to get them completely removed.

Remember, when you are offered something for free, look beyond the good deal to find the reason it is free. There must be a business model that supports it, or people wouldn't be taking their time to build and offer it to the public.

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Mountain Mums Go Ikebana

By Cheri Schneider

The March 9 Mountain Mums garden club meeting was an interesting way to begin the spring season. Debra Adams hosted the meeting with a luncheon following. Elaine Jo, an accomplished Ikebana designer spoke about "The art of Japanese Flower Design."

Personally, I have never connected with Japanese flower design and have seen it as cold and impersonal. I much preferred the colorful floral arrangements seen in the lobbies of beautiful hotels. When Elaine began to speak about her life and personal experiences in Japan, I began to relax and enjoy what she was saying. Elaine explained how Ikebana is not just a quick flower arranging technique, but is a discipline that takes important cultural elements of the Japanese people in to the design. Ikebana masters can spend as long as 12 years learning the technique. As she demonstrated with fresh flowers and branches, the elements and principals of design: shape, direction, size, texture, color, value, became visible. She also talked about space, negative space and the importance of the vase or pot in the arrangement, commenting that it would not be unusual to see a pot used that was worth \$800. The beauty of the arrangements and the thoughtfulness with which each stem was placed was remarkable. The Mountain Mums and I came away from the presentation with a new understanding and appreciation of Japanese floral design and the true meaning of Ikebana -- "giving life to the plant or flower."



Jeanne George; Elaine Jo, Speaker; Debra Adams; Cheri Schneider; Mary Jacobson

During the meeting, the Mountain Mums also elected new officers for the 2016-2017 garden club year. Gaye Auman and Helen Homrich will share the position of President. Lynne Malone will be Vice President and plan Programs. Cheri Schneider will be the new Parliamentarian. Ann Purr, Carol Wales and Heather McLendon will continue in their posts as recording secretary, corresponding secretary and treasurer, respectively. Next month's meeting will take place on April 13 at the home of Gaye Auman at 10:00 a.m. Please join us, if you can, and meet this remarkable group of young women. Call Gaye Auman for more information at (770) 934-3603.

Walter Reeves, The Georgia Gardener, at Mountain Shadow Garden Club April 11

The meeting of Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) on Monday evening, April 11, will feature a program by popular garden expert, writer, radio and television host Walter Reeves. The author or co-author of nine books on gardening, Walter has hosted the "Lawn and Garden Show" Saturday mornings on WSB radio for more than 20 years. It continues to be one of the most listened-to programs among the 30 or so Atlanta radio stations in that time slot.



"When we have invited Walter as the speaker in past years, his programs have always been well received and many guests and visitors have attended," said MSGC President Jeff Raines. "We want everyone to know that the program is free, and the public is invited on April 11."

The program title will be "When Bad Things Happen to Good Gardeners." Does your landscape have "The Mizzries?" Vague vagaries, "Up and died disease," and garden cooties will be explained with science and humor. Walter will also discuss "How to Rid Your Garden of Haints." Bring your hardest questions for him to ponder.

Walter writes a weekly column for the Thursday *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and distributes a bi-weekly e-mail garden newsletter. A native of Fayette County, he grew up on a small farm where his family raised chickens, cows, a large vegetable garden, and various other plants. Walter graduated from the University of Georgia and worked for the Georgia Cooperative Extension Service. A strong supporter of 4-H, he was a camp counselor, served as a 4-H adult leader, and is now a Master 4-H'er.

MSGC is open to men and women of all ages who enjoy learning about a diverse range of topics related to home landscapes, plants, and gardens. The meeting and program begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. in Founders Hall, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain. Free. Refreshments and socializing follow.

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

Smoke Rise Garden Club

Ace is the Place... The Smoke Rise Garden Club's March meeting was held at the home of Deborah Christensen. Eleven members and two guests, Leah Debbie's granddaughter and Kathryn Banks' mother, Maryann were present. Kathryn introduced John Robinson, Garden Manager and Julio, Sales Associate from Intown Ace Hardware, a popular neighborhood hardware located in historic Virginia Highland. Kathryn, Leah, Debbie Haralson's granddaughter along with John and Rubio created a beautiful terrarium. What an inspiration and good project for all ages.



John Robinson and Debbie's granddaughter, Leah

Club members have begun to collect and set aside plants from their gardens for the club's plant sale which will be at the Smoke Rise Baptist Church on Hugh Howell Road, Saturday, April 23, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be a good selection and prices. Tell your friends and neighbors.

Morning Glories Crown a New Queen Bee

The Morning Glories celebrated in March with a luncheon at the Smoke Rise Country Club honoring the outgoing President, Quill Duncan, and outgoing Inspiration Leader, Joy Streater. The club presented Quill with a lovely solar lit glass birdbath with a stand to thank her for her three years of service to the club as President. Joy Streater was thanked also for her many years of providing excellent inspirations and humorous tales of nature observations here in Smoke Rise and in North Georgia.

Treasurer Joy Zaidan conducted the installation of Glenndolyn Hallman as the club's new President. Joy used the theme of Bees and Pollinators to welcome Glenndolyn to her new role. She encouraged the club to support her as bees support the queen in the hive. Glenndolyn was crowned with a special set of antennae and a set of gossamer wings, much to the amusement of the members. MaryAnne Anderson was also installed as our new Inspiration leader.

In other club news, Bonnie Pennington reported on Mason Bees or ground bees and urged members to leave them alone when you see them near the ground at this time of year. They are solitary bees and are only active for a couple of weeks a year but are significant pollinators in our environment. She wrote a great article on the Bee Gap Project for the Redbud District and that article was sent to the members for reference. Tally Sweat reminded the club about upcoming legislation on SB383 and urged members to contact our local representatives. The club was also invited to attend a field trip to the home of Jim Pruckler on March 11 to see his outstanding collection of camellias. In late March, the club will attend a special showing at the Smoke Rise Charter School of a traveling exhibit of the Fox Theatre, provided by a firm where a member of the club works. Melodie Janin arranged for the school to have the exhibit for three days in late March and be introduced to a very special symbol of the arts in Atlanta. The club will attend the showing on March 29. Lucky Lassie Shipman won the raffle of a gorgeous pink hydrangea!

Plant Sale

The Gwinnett County Master Gardener Association is holding a Plant Sale Friday, April 29 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Justice and Administration Building, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30046.

You will find native plants, herbs, vegetables, perennials, annuals and a variety of original garden art. Rain or shine.

For more information, www.gwinnettmastergardeners.com

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HODGE PODGE



by Barbara Bruschi

Spring is an exhilarating time and everybody rejoices in the warmth of the sun and the splendid glory of nature. In Germany, Spargelzeit and Spargelfest (Asparagus time and festival) is part of the spring ritual. According to legend, asparagus was introduced to Germany in the year 2,000 by the Romans (who prized asparagus as a delicacy, an aphrodisiac and even as a contraceptive), Egyptians and Greeks. Louis XVI the French Sun King reserved asparagus for the tables of the royal court. Asparagus has medicinal values and acts as a diuretic.

Asparagus is grown entirely surrounded by earth, (preferable sandy soil) to avoid exposure to sunlight, which prevents it from turning green. The white asparagus is always peeled (downward) in contrast to the American one. It is steamed about 15 minutes and you can add butter, sugar etc. Spargelzeit is from April to June, because too much rain will damage the crops. Spargel is harvested by hand, making it backbreaking labor.

During Spargelzeit, the Germans are utterly devoted to this culinary vegetable and eat it once a day. Freshness is of great importance. "Picked in the morning, eaten at midday" is the German mantra. It is eaten with ham, new potatoes, schnitzel and there are special menus offered in restaurants.

The recipes that follow are contributed by the *Smoke Signal* Staff:

Roasted Asparagus with Thyme, Barbara Luton

- 2 lbs. asparagus
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme or 1 tablespoon fresh thyme.

Heat oven to 425 degrees. Wash asparagus; snap off and discard lower end of stalk. Place asparagus in a shallow baking dish that holds stalks in a single layer. Sprinkle with olive oil, salt and pepper and thyme. Toss to coat well. Roast in preheated oven for 15-20 minutes or until tender.

Asparagus canapés (yields 4 dozen), Barbara Bruschi

- 12-14 slices thin white bread
- 3-4 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 3/4 teaspoon horseradish
- 3/4 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 16 ounce can asparagus tips, drained
- 12-13 slices bacon, cut in forth

Cut bread into small rounds, about 4 per slice; toast. Mix mayonnaise with horseradish and mustard; spread on toasted bread. Partially cook bacon; cut asparagus tips into 1 1/2-inch length. Place one piece of asparagus on each round. Cover with one piece of bacon and broil until crisp—about 3 minutes. Serve immediately.

Cream of Asparagus Soup, Cheri Schneider

- 2 bunches of Asparagus
- Cut into 1-inch pieces (hard end discarded)
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 2 gloves of garlic, smashed
- 3 tablespoons butter and 3 tablespoons flour
- 6 cups of low sodium chicken broth
- salt and pepper to taste
- juice of one lemon (2 tablespoons)
- 2 cups of 1% milk
- Handful of herbs, like thyme, dill or basil chopped.

In Dutch Oven, sauté garlic onions in butter until all vegetables are soft. Puree in blender in batches, adding in flour as you do. Add all batches back to pot and stir in lemon juice. Slowly stir in milk and let soup bubble until thickened. Add salt and pepper and taste. Sprinkle herbs on top of soup. Williams-Sonoma has a delicious Strata with Asparagus, Sausage and Fontina. <http://www.williams-sonoma.com/recipe/strata-with-asparagus-sausage-and-fontina>. A great meal deserves a good wine. Piesporter Michelsberg (Mosel) and Santa Margherita, (Pinot Grigio) will please the discriminating palate. Guten Appetit!

All classified ads are limited to 20 words, with the Smoke Signal reserving the right to edit any copy. Ads are \$15.00 per month, (\$75.00 per six months if prepaid). Please submit copy in writing with a check for the months the ad is to run. Deadline is the 10th of each month. ADS NEED TO BE PREPAID. Checks should be made out to Smoke Signal and mailed to 1868 East Gate Drive, Smoke Rise, GA 30087-1911. When submitting classified ads, please include your full name, address, and phone number. This information is for our records only! For classified ads, contact Barb Hess at (404) 229-0742 or barbhess48@gmail.com.

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

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Mountain Creek Swim Club 2092 Mountain Creek Ct., Stone Mountain



Mountain Creek Swim Club looks forward to another wonderful summer of fun and exercise! In 2015, club members enjoyed potluck dinners, family parties, kids' activities, holiday parties, and were introduced to water aerobics! The pool is hidden away in a beautiful setting with a large adjacent parking lot.

The water aerobics was a great success, with sessions on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays - FREE to members! Guests are welcome for a fee of \$5.00 per session.

The 2016 theme will be the Olympics! The club will show the opening ceremonies and water-oriented events on the big screen and have Olympic style games on Memorial day and other days. The club will continue Sunday afternoon kids' activities which include making ice cream, making root beer, games and art activities.

2016 Membership Fees:

- Membership Fee and paid by check or cash and if paid by 04/03/16: \$325.00
- Membership Fee and paid by credit card and if paid by 04/03/16: \$334.00
- If paid after 04/03/2016 and before 05/01/16 and paid by check or cash: \$350.00
- If paid after 04/03/2016 and before 05/01/16 and paid by credit card: \$359.00
- If paid after 04/30/2016 and paid by check or cash: \$375.00
- If paid after 04/30/2016 and paid by credit card: \$384.00

In addition, Mountain Creek Swim Club offers a "Neighbor Membership Fee" of \$100 (paid by check or cash). This membership covers access to activities, but not use of the pool (except as a guest). Please make checks payable to: Mountain Creek Association, Mail to: 2092 Mountain Creek Court, Stone Mountain, GA 30087.

For your convenience, the club offers payment via credit card. Please send an email to joekowalew@comcast.net. You will receive an electronic invoice for secure processing of your credit card information. For additional membership information: joekowalew@comcast.net.