

# SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 2

*Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968*

May, 2023

www.smokesignalnews.com



## The Joys of Being a Mother: Joy Streater

Joy Tasker Streater was born in Lakeland, Florida as an only child to Mary Shaw Tasker and Frederick Martin Tasker. When she was a small girl, she moved to Atlanta for her father's job with Gulf Oil. She was always smart in her classes and talented in art. Our family remembers stories of her life in a small apartment off Ponce, near what is now Mary Mac's Tea Room. We also heard tales of mom riding the streetcar to elementary school and how after many days of motion sickness, the family moved to Buckhead off West Paces Ferry into a home that her parents built. At last, she was able to start attending school closer to home. She attended Napsonian, also known at North Atlanta Presbyterian School-now Westminster School. After graduating in 1950, she was accepted to Wesleyan College in Macon, an all-girls college. You see, her father wanted her to focus on her studies and not be distracted by boys. She attended there for one year then decided that the University of Georgia (8,000 students then) was more her speed. She headed to Athens and rushed Kappa Delta Sorority and finally graduated in 1954 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts.

After college mom moved back home to help with her mother, who had a stroke in her 40s. Much to her father's surprise, she landed a position utilizing her art degree. She was a trailblazer in her career and was the only female in a male dominated graphic design agency. She was introduced by mutual friends to Ken Streater, a boy from Decatur. They spoke on the phone for two weeks before meeting in person. Their first dates were playing bridge and going to church. She knew he was the one for her when he showed up at her door to pick her up holding her precious cat, Saffy.

Joy married Ken in 1960, bought a small house in Decatur with a VA loan and started a family. In 1966, they were one of the first families to build a house in Smoke Rise and moved their family of five (Gay, Burton, and Mary Lynn) to the house she still lives in! The family grew to six in 1976 (Jan arrived as a surprise 11 years after Mary Lynn). Even with a full house, Joy spent many years putting her graphic design skills to work in Kappa Delta publications, both locally and nationally. She was one of the earliest *Smoke Signal* Staff members and for many years painstakingly did print layout of the *Smoke Signal* --by hand --on a light table. Two years ago, Joy lost the love of her life, Ken, after over 60 years of a happy, God-centered marriage.

Joy was the model stay at home mom, loved by her children and always available to listen,

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## Thoughts on Being a Grandmother

*By Kathy Rhinehart*

Being a grandmother is a beautiful gift from God! It is quite a tender moment when you first see a precious baby that your child gave birth to. I took more pictures of my first grandchild than I did of my first child. Memories of seeing Kennedy (almost five) and Marshall (18 months) for the first time keep flooding back as they grow. They live near us, so we see them daily. My grandma name is KD (Kathryn Dean), a name my mother called me when I was growing up. It's funny how things always come full circle. I asked some Smoke Rise friends to share their thoughts on being a grandmother.

"MaeMae, where are you?" After debating for months what my Grandma name would be, my very verbal grand baby came to visit, and I wasn't home yet. My daughter captured Finley on her phone, toddling through the house saying, "MaeMae, where are you?" Now I am MaeMae to four precious littles: ages 4, 3, 2, & 1, and another baby girl due in June! Two of our grands live close by, so I see them several times a week. Two of them live in NC, so we spend long weekends together when possible, holidays and vacation together yearly. I never imagined I'd be "MaeMae," but it's the sweetest sound ever!

-Gaye Auman

Johnny and I have five grandchildren, Greta (9), Jack (7), Hank (7), Archie (5), and Olive (1). When we first learned that Greta was coming, I asked Johnny what he wanted to be called. I had already decided to be called Grandmama in honor of Johnny's mother. I assumed he would pick Granddaddy, but instead he said, "Mr. Bankhead." He goes by Granddaddy, of course. All of our grandchildren live close by and bring us much joy.

-Tracey Bankhead

I have two grandchildren, Savannah Rose and Christian. When he was a toddler, he would say, "MeMe" to get my attention, so I have been MeMe to them ever since. Precious memories of flying to California warm my heart every day. Christian graduates from UVA Law School in May. Savannah Rose was a division one volleyball player and has a degree in Marketing from LMU in California. Nothing compares to the love I have for my grandchildren.

-Diane Christian

Tomorrow, the boys will come to spend the night. They are eight and ten. It will be rainy, so we will spend most of the day playing board games, video racing and hopefully get in a walk, if the weather lets up. In the evening, I will read them a tale from my over-sized story book. As I tuck them in, they will both look at me with "eyes of love" and say, goodnight Nini. I feel loved. Earlier in the week, I visited the two girls. They are only two and six weeks. We spend most of the morning playing hide and seek. The two-year-old keeps

...Continued on page 9

### THE SHREDDING EVENT Is Baaack!!

**May 20, 2023, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Mar Thoma Church Atlanta (Formerly Mt. Carmel Christian Church)  
6015 Old Stone Mountain Road**

Partnering with Shred-It and the Mar Thoma Church Atlanta, the SRCA offers secure document shredding on May 20 beginning at 10:00 a.m. and ending at 1:00 p.m. It has been 5 years since the last SRCA-sponsored shredding event. The SRCA will have two trucks, not one, with the capacity to take on 600-700 banker box equivalents of documents. We estimate that the typical vehicle driver receives a \$25 benefit. As SRCA shredding costs have increased 250% since 2018, this year we ask for a minimum \$5 donation per vehicle to help defray costs. Directional signs on the church property will guide you to the trucks. Please do not go to the old or new elementary school sites. We'll see you and all your dirty little secrets on May 20!



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

## ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:

Some sizes of ads  
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contact Staff@smokesignalnews.com for information.



Digital copies of the *Smoke Signal* are posted to the archives at [www.smokesignalnews.com](http://www.smokesignalnews.com).  
You can also visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews](http://www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews) to view postings of newsletter pictures and stories throughout the month.

## Smoke Signal Deadlines

**MAY 13**

Please e-mail articles to:  
**staff@smokesignalnews.com**  
(Word documents or text file attachments preferred)

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

**Deadline for classified ads is MAY 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  
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or visit our website at [www.smokesignalnews.com](http://www.smokesignalnews.com)  
Link to the digital version of the Smoke Signal at:  
Archives (smokesignalnews.com)

## Preferred Formats for Smoke Signal Submissions

When sending articles and photos to the *Smoke Signal*, articles should be sent in .doc or .docx format. Articles sent in .pdf format cannot be edited or changed in any way. Ideally, photos and graphics should be submitted in .jpg or .pdf format. Thanks for helping us make your neighborhood paper the best it can be!

## Smoke Signal Political Policy

It is the policy of the *Smoke Signal* to print one article on political candidates prior to each primary and/or general election. The candidate must submit the article to the paper by deadline, in order for it to appear in the following month's issue. No staff member will be responsible for any political articles on candidates, nor will the Smoke Signal solicit articles from candidates. Articles are to be submitted on a voluntary basis.

Political flyers – See below left for information. No political ads will be run in the classifieds.

## ATTENTION GRADUATES, NEWLYWEDS, AND HONOREES

Please send in your picture and a brief article for publication in the *Smoke Signal*.  
Email submissions to  
staff@smokesignalnews.com



## DID YOUR PAPER GET WET?

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Look for the wooden box  
labeled *Smoke Signal*.

## BRING A BOOK – TAKE A BOOK



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forget to  
check out  
the Little  
Libraries  
near the  
swim  
clubs.

## Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Dr. Chris George: Senior Pastor  
Bart McNiel: Associate Pastor of Administration,  
Ministry Support and Congregational Care  
Becky Caswell-Speight: Minister of Families,  
Faith Formation and Connection  
Jim Smith: Pastoral Care Associate  
Danny Vancil, Minister of Music & Worship  
Hannah Vassar: Minister of Youth and Congregational Connection  
Rashette Walker: Director of Weekday School  
Denise Burcham, Director of Academy of Arts  
Telephone: (770) 469-5856  
SmokeRiseBaptist.org

### SUNDAY

9:45 a.m. - Attend Sunday School through Zoom or In-Person  
Schedule Available at [smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/](http://smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/)

11:00 a.m. - Attend Worship via Live Stream or In-Person  
Live Stream Available at [smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/](http://smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/)

### WEDNESDAY

5:00 p.m. - Attend our Wednesday Dinner  
6:00 p.m. - Followed by activities and Bible Study for all ages  
Live Stream at [smokerisebaptist.org/wednesday-evening-activities/](http://smokerisebaptist.org/wednesday-evening-activities/)

## Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

5801 Hugh Howell Road ~ Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
770-469-4881 ~ [www.eastminster.us](http://www.eastminster.us)

## MC3 Church

Senior Minister: Art Stansberry  
Outreach and Family Life Minister: Gerardo Mancilla  
(770) 783-1035 ~ [www.mc3.life](http://www.mc3.life)  
4415 Stone Mountain Hwy., Lilburn, GA 30047

### Sunday Schedule:

10:00 a.m. Coffee and donuts  
10:30 a.m. Worship service (in person and online)

Life groups throughout the week  
check out our website for times and addresses.

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

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

## First Moravian Church

Pastor: Rev. Elroy Christopher  
Congregational Acolyte: Bill Hitz  
(770) 491-7250, (770) 755-8289  
[www.gamoravian.org](http://www.gamoravian.org)  
Sundays: 10:00 a.m. Sunday School–Adults & Children  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time

## Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

## Mountain West Church

Pastor: Mo Huggins  
(770) 491-0228 ~ [www.mwchurch.com](http://www.mwchurch.com)  
4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain  
Sunday Services: 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.  
Thursday Neighborhood Bible Study with Pastor Mo: 10:00 a.m.  
*All Welcome!*  
In-person and streaming online on Facebook and [mwchurch.com](http://mwchurch.com)

The Smoke Signal has  
a New Post Office Box!  
Please note our new mailing address:  
P.O. Box 1038  
Tucker, GA 30085



Saturday, May 6th, 2023, is the annual Tucker Day hosted by the Main Street Tucker Alliance. Tucker Day starts at 9am and will end at 4pm.

The Presentation of Colors and the National Anthem will start the day off at the Main Stage. Our Parade starts at 10am this year. Classic/Muscle/Vintage cars will be back in the parade.

Along with the parade we will have over 100 Merchant, Information, and Food Vendors. With it being close to Mother's Day weekend this year, Tucker Day will be a great place to purchase gifts for the special Mother in your life.

There will be three stages with live entertainment continuous throughout the day. The stages are located at Main & LaVista, Main & Railroad, and First Avenue. Come out and hear performers with a variety of music and talent.

By popular demand the Kids Zone is back with booths set for children to have fun. The Scavenger Hunt was such a success last year that it is already booked and set for this year.

If you do not plan to have a booth, we certainly hope to see you enjoying the day; mixing and mingling with your fellow Tucker Citizens as well as enjoying some family time.

In order to accommodate the event, Main Street, parts of First Avenue and Lynburn will closed off on May 5th starting at 5:30pm. Signs will be placed out the week prior to Tucker Day. Please plan on this area being closed from 5:30pm Friday till 7pm on Saturday.

We appreciate your continued support for this annual event that has been a central part of Tucker since 1957. You can visit us at [www.TuckerDay.com](http://www.TuckerDay.com)

We Need YOU!

Smoke Rise - this is YOUR paper! The Smoke Signal began more than 50 years ago and remains, to this day, a community newspaper created, written and produced by volunteer, Smoke Rise neighbors for the entire neighborhood.

PLEASE consider becoming a contributor, editor or joining our staff. It's a rewarding way to give back to your Smoke Rise community! Contact us today. [staff@smokesignalnews.com](mailto:staff@smokesignalnews.com)

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Eleanor Patrick, Realtor

News and Activities of the  
Stone Mountain Historic Society

The Stone Mountain Historical Society is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Wells Brown House their headquarters building in Stone Mountain village this year. The well-preserved two-story home was built by George Reilly Wells for his family in the early 1870s at 1036 Ridge Avenue, then expanded as the family kept growing. The Wells Family first lived in Brownings Station which is now Tucker, then moved to Stone Mountain where George excelled as a merchant. His children, Doctor James Wells and Mary Wells, remained in the building until the 1960s. Dr. Wells was one of the village's first doctors and was the first to have a car. Many original details remain intact in the house. It was donated to the Society in 2006.

The Wells Brown House is an imposing home with Greek Revival details and a wonderful two-story porch that is used for Porch Parties in the spring and fall. The Society welcomes visitors once a month for tours that are free and open to the public. Come ring the original doorbell and walk through the house and garden with a tour guide. We have a great story to tell. Open House dates are May 13, June 10, and August 5, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The Wells Brown House is located at 1036 Ridge Ave., Stone Mountain 30083.

If you want to enjoy our unique Stone Mountain hospitality, we also invite the public to our Friday Porch Parties that are scheduled for May 26th and June 23, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Refreshments are served, and great conversations are had. Finally, our Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast (9-11 a.m.) and our end-of summer BBQ on Saturday, August 19, from 6-8 p.m. are iconic Stone Mountain events. Both are festive and filled with community spirit. Come join us! Please check our Facebook or our website for updates: <https://stonemountainhistoricsociety.org>.



Archaeology Day  
Coming to  
Stone Mountain Village  
May 6 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

This is a fun day for the entire family with excavations, history, storytelling, basket weaving, food and Drums and Dancers. This year's theme is African American Cultural Heritage. Join the Archaeology Bus at New south Associates at 6150 East Ponce De Leon. The bus is especially fun to see!

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Summer Fun at Smoke Rise Country Club

As the weather warms, planning is underway for all sorts of summer activities for adults, kids, and families at the Club. As many know, a pipe break at the end of December flooded the Clubhouse, and a major renovation is in the planning stages. While the Clubhouse renovations are underway, most activities for the near-term will be held at the Tennis Center where Wednesday evening socials have been held for the past several months.



Smoke Rise Country Club is fortunate to offer the finest pool facilities in the area. With 5 pools to choose from, there is something for everyone. Beginning with the shallow kiddie pool with fountains spurting up from below and showers raining down from above, babies and toddlers can safely enjoy splashing around in the water. Move from there to the exciting slide pool where older kids and adults can enjoy zipping down a slide into the water. Then there is the cool pool fed by a continuously flowing wall of water cascading down a rock wall. Next door to it is a fabulous hot tub for soaking tired muscles and just relaxing with a cold beverage from the Tiki Bar. Then, the main event! A junior Olympic saltwater pool with a couple of swim lanes roped off for serious swimmers, and the rest of the pool open for floating, playing, and fun.

We have a community swimming team, the Sharks, who practice here regularly, adding to the opportunities for the community to enjoy the facilities provided by SRCC. We are working on a schedule of summer camps for kids and will publish that when the dates are confirmed. Our ever-popular Water Aerobics program continues this summer and swim lessons are available for adults and kids.

It's a great time to check out the hidden gem at the back of Kanawha, Smoke Rise Country Club. Rates remain low as we are under renovation, but with the big investment in upgrading the Clubhouse and other facilities, that will change and members will be glad they joined when they did. For information on membership contact Canon at membership@smokerisecc.com.

NOW HIRING LIFEGUARDS

The Club is offering attractive packages for lifeguards, so if you know anyone looking for a summer job they can sign up on our website: smokerisecc.com.



Truvy's in-home beauty salon opens for business when Main Street Theatre presents "Steel Magnolias" May 5-6 at the Tucker Recreation Center, 4898 LaVista Road, Tucker. Set in a small Louisiana parish, the salon is a regular gathering place for a colorful cast of gossipy Southern women who share the events in their lives and support each other through bouts of love and loss. The two-act comedy-drama was written by Robert Harling and is based on a true story. For tickets and more information, please visit [www.mainstreettheatre.org](http://www.mainstreettheatre.org).

ARTucker Announces Outdoor Showcase Alongside artists' Market

Patricia Kurtz Young, ARTucker Founder

ARTucker will feature up to 50 artists in a friendly venue where the community can enjoy shopping, food trucks, children's activities, and the newly added live performances. The event is May 13, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at Church Street Green Space, 4316 Church Street, Tucker, GA, 30084.



This event will include local artists' handcrafted artwork for sale as well as live performers in the grassy area beside the artists' market during timed performances throughout the day. "By adding a live performance element to the already diverse and high-quality array of handcrafted art pieces, we're cultivating an atmosphere that shows the importance and potential of artists to collaborate at the local level and shape the culture of a growing city," says board member Jillian Mitchell.

ARTucker, a non-profit 501 c 3, was founded in 2015 and is dedicated to showcasing Georgia artists and makers while cultivating a vibrant arts community in Tucker, Georgia. The organization provides artists with opportunities to present their creations, including indoor and outdoor art shows, popups, and juried exhibitions, while local clientele supports the continued pursuit of their passions. Proceeds from events have benefited the Tucker Recreation Center, the Tucker Art Guild, Tucker High School's art program, and Scraplanta.

For more information, visit online at: <https://artucker.org/events.html>



Tunes by the Tracks, the popular outdoor indie music concert series, returns Friday, May 5th to Main Street Stone Mountain. Concerts take place over eight Friday nights in May and June and again in September and October.

Back on the rails for year number eight and riding the rails of a successful ongoing run, "Tunes By the Tracks" delivers an outstanding musical offering of talented local artists and a good time together as neighbors and friends.

The concerts are free. The music starts at 7:00 PM – and finishes at 9:00 PM in the municipal parking lot near the gazebo on Main Street, Stone Mountain Village.

Well-known artists: Larry Griffith, Heather Luttrell, Diane Durrett, Cody Matlock, Rae and the Royal Peacocks, Citizen Gold, Soulhound, and Tyler Neal are all on tap for spring.


Don't forget your lawn chair! Beer, wine, and soft drinks are available to purchase. Proceeds go directly to keeping "Tunes By the Tracks" free to enjoy and exceptionally talented local indie artists onstage trackside in the SMV.



"Folks love the series! "Each Friday night, our Main Street glows with splendid music and cheerful neighbors enjoying life together. Last year was the best ever. This year promises it will be even better. If the pandemic taught us anything, one message is clear: we're better together, isolation takes a toll, and Tunes By the Tracks matters as part of community life here in Stone Mountain Village.." –Thom DeLoach, Main Street, Inc. President and Downtown Development Authority, Board Member.

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INDEPENDENCE

THIRD THURSDAY  
MOVIE ON THE GREEN

[TUCKERGA.GOV/SUMMER](http://TUCKERGA.GOV/SUMMER) /tuckerparksrec /tuckerparksandrec

JOIN US FOR LIVE MUSIC UNDER THE STARS

**MAY 5, 2023**  
SUGAR LIME BLUE

CHURCH STREET  
GREENSPACE

GREENSPACE  
OPENS AT  
5:30 P.M.

MUSIC  
BEGINS AT  
7 P.M.

4316 CHURCH STREET

Join us as we kick-off  
our First Friday  
Concert series  
with the amazing talents  
of **Sugar Lime Blue**  
on **May 5** from  
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



Summer Season at Our Pools  
Opens May 20!

KELLEY COFER PARK  
4259 N. Park Dr., Tucker

Pool and Splash Pad Hours:  
Monday/Wednesday-Saturday - noon-8PM  
Sunday 1PM-7PM  
Tuesday - CLOSED

ROSENFELD PARK  
2088 Glacier Dr., Tucker

Pool Hours:  
Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday/Saturday - noon-8PM  
Sunday - 1PM-7PM  
Wednesday - CLOSED  
[tuckerga.gov/parks/events](http://tuckerga.gov/parks/events)



Summer Camp begins in June



The ART Station staff is working on preparing for this summer exciting arts camp. There are three one-week sessions available. Weekly activities will vary. So, your child may attend 1, 2, or all 3 weeks of camp. We look forward to seeing you and your child(ren) soon.



2092 Mountain Creek Ct  
Tucker, GA  
[mountaincreekswimclub@gmail.com](mailto:mountaincreekswimclub@gmail.com)

Mountain Creek Swim Club is a members only pool that has been an integral part of Smoke Rise and the surrounding community for nearly 50 years. Filled with members from all walks of life, the history of our club is truly unique. We host numerous summer events for the whole family. Potlucks at the pool and board sponsored events for Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day. We also have dive-in movie nights, live music, adult-only events, and kid-friendly ice cream socials.

**2023 SWIM SEASON DATES**  
May 20–September 5  
8 a.m. – 8 p.m. daily\*

*We ask members to vacate the pool promptly at 8 p.m.*

\*During swim team season, the pool opens at 11 a.m. to membership on scheduled team practice days; Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

WE AREA “SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK” FACILITY. NO LIFEGUARDS PRESENT.



2051 Silver Hill Road  
Smoke Rise, Ga 30087  
Email: [info@smokerisesummit.com](mailto:info@smokerisesummit.com)  
Info: [thesummitatsmokerise.com](http://thesummitatsmokerise.com)

2023 Season  
Pool opens on May 30!

May 30 - Aug 3  
6 AM - 1PM\*  
1PM - 8/9 PM-Lifeguard on duty

Aug 3 - Sept 11  
Monday - Thursday  
6 AM - 8 PM\*  
Friday  
6 AM - 4 PM\*  
4 PM - 9 PM-Lifeguard on duty

Saturdays  
6 AM - 1 PM\*  
1 PM to 9 PM-Lifeguard on duty

Sundays  
1 PM - 8 PM-Lifeguard on duty

Sept 12 - Sept 18 \*  
\*No Lifeguard on Duty  
-- Swim At Your Own Risk --

Conveniently located on Silver Hill Road in the beautiful Summit subdivision of Smoke Rise, we offer attractive swim, tennis, or combined membership options.

The saltwater pool has a spacious area for swimming laps or relaxing with friends , including a separate diving well and diving board, and covered pavilion. We also offer two tennis courts with full lighting in the winter months with spectator stands. Ample parking is provided.

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~ 5 ~

Changing the Conversation Surrounding Autism – Giving a voice to those in need and speaking up for those who cannot

By Barbara Luton, Staff Writer

Reece Blankenship, son of Dr. Jeffrey Blankenship, a *Smoke Signal* Advertiser, is the idea man behind REClif, a fitness-based therapy center that caters to those on the autism spectrum. In Reece’s younger years as a non-speaker, he endured thousands of hours of therapy and treatment designed to “cure his autism”, to no avail. In 2017 after high school and finding almost nothing available to fill his days, his mom enrolled both of them in a workshop designed to help communication. Mastering the letterboard/typing process was an arduous process. But once he had the ability to effectively and successfully communicate, he began to outline his idea to help others as well. Services for non-speaking autistics over the age of 22 are severely limited. Reece wanted to change that.

Reece’s mom, Lou, and dad, Jeffrey, had run a successful dental business for many years. Now they would help Reece with his idea—planning, finding a location and applying for financial backing which proved difficult. He finally convinced his parents to let him start a Go Fund Me page. Through generous donations of friends and acquaintances and using his education savings account, they were able to get the business off the ground. ReClif finally opened in February of 2018 as a center “designed by an autistic for other autistics”. Services include Fitness, yoga, and spelling to communicate. In five years it has grown through mainly word of mouth and social media advertising. Six full time employees conduct over 150 individualized sessions each week.

They soon realized that there was a huge

need for social opportunities with this specific population. ReClif Community was formed to provide a chance for more typical life experiences for individuals living with autism and for those that care for them. Funding for Recif community has been via Aces FORE golf tournaments, and more recently through the Atlanta Braves Foundation’s Diamond Casino Night. Matt Olson, a Braves player, grew up locally and has been a coach and supporter of Reece. ReClif Community has funded age-appropriate sensory friendly movie afternoons, trivia nights, a corn hole tournament, bowling, rock climbing, and kayaking. 41 families attended a Braves game with no financial burden to them. This season they are hoping to send 65 families to a Braves game. Fitness scholarships for 20 individuals were awarded to promote healthier lifestyles.

The material for this article was from an essay written by Reece Blankenship and sent to me.  
Contact Information: Website: [www.reclif.com](http://www.reclif.com), [www.reclifcommunity.org](http://www.reclifcommunity.org)  
Facebook: ReClif and Instagram: [\\_reclif\\_](#), [reclif\\_community](#).



SRCA REPORT from Around Smoke Rise

The SRCA sponsored a hole at the 2023 Tucker HS Foundation Golf Tournament, several board members attended the March 29 public report on noise at and around the South Royal Atlanta Dr. Industrial Park and the Community Garden is springing to life.

We look ahead to Tucker Day on May 6 and on May 20, the first secure document shredding event in 5 years will be conducted at Mar Thoma Church (old Mount Carmel Christian Church).

SRCA’s financial assets were \$43,433 at the end of March, 2023 -- including a one-time \$5,000 donation from an anonymous benefactor. In addition to our base landscaping costs of about \$1,500/month, the board appropriated \$5,728 for clean-up, pre-emergent application, and mulch of the Hugh Howell hillside across from Bill Probst Park and the Silver Hill/Hugh Howell corner at the old school. New forsythias will also be planted on the Hugh Howell slope. The shredding event will cost the SRCA \$1,500.

Membership renewals via the flyer in the March *Smoke Signal*, rather than a higher cost mailing, netted us \$4,710. If you have not made your 2023 donation of \$40, it is fully deductible as a charitable donation under the rules of the IRS, so please help us out. Every dollar donated is invested in our community and can be paid by check, Zelle, or PayPal with instructions provided at [smokerise.org](http://smokerise.org).

**Library Book Clubs**

Summer is coming. You might be interested in joining a book club for summer reading. Our local libraries have book clubs open to the public. Here is a listing of the clubs at the Tucker and Stone Mountain Branches:

Tucker /Reid Cofer Public Library—  
Morning Book Group, meets the first Monday of the month. Evening Book Club, meets the first Wednesday of the month. These clubs are led by the participants. For more information call 770-270-8234. The branch manager is Ken McCullers.

Stone Mountain/ Sue Kellogg Library—  
Southland Book club, member led. The Genre Book Club, librarian led. The Drawn Together Book Club, a graphic novel club, librarian led. For times of these clubs please call the library at 770-413-2020. Sara Sellers is the branch manager.

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Mothers

by Victoria Crosby

Some of us were raised by biological mothers, adopted families nurtured others, or family members and women from the neighborhood gave you loving attention whenever they could.

It takes a village, the saying goes, to raise a child, and heaven knows it is the most difficult job you will ever undertake, and is impossible to do without mistake.

Mothers warn their children of life’s problems before they arise, yet it is very hard to see the world through your mother’s eyes. A woman’s intuition can be very strong, a mother’s intuition is rarely wrong.

No one likes to hear the words ‘I told you so’ but there will be times you’ll realize that she was right, you know.

Once you are a mother you will understand that your mother did the best she could with the knowledge at hand. There are no degrees in motherhood, by trial and error most mothers learn. To raise an emotionally healthy child is the doctorate that you earn.

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HEALTH NOTES:

by Dr. John Kennedy

Getting Back on Track with Screening Mammography

This week I had a patient referred to my office who felt a lump in her breast a few months ago. Due to the backlog of mammograms since the “pandemic pause”, there was a delay in scheduling her. Ultimately, a biopsy confirmed the cancer, which is now a stage II. I have seen this story play out repeatedly in the past year, in part of the because of the pandemic.

If you haven’t had a screening mammogram in a few years, it’s time to get back on track. Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, and early detection is the key to successful treatment. If screening is not done regularly, breast cancer is more likely to be detected at a later stage, when it is more difficult to treat.

Most experts recommend that women at average risk start getting annual mammograms at age 40. Women at higher risk of breast cancer, such as those with a strong family history, may need to start screening earlier or have additional tests.

I suspect that there are many women who were getting annual reminders for mammography, who may have dropped off the reminder list, after having missed a mammogram or two. If you have missed one or more mammograms, don’t worry. It’s never too late to start screening again. Talk to your doctor about scheduling a mammogram. They can help you determine when you should start screening and how often you should have a mammogram.

It is important to remember that screening means that you have no breast symptoms. If you feel a lump, or have some nipple discharge, or other symptoms, you probably need a more focused study, called a diagnostic mammogram. There may be delays in getting either type of study, but if you do have a lump, and cannot get imaging scheduled promptly, you may want to call our office. Most lumps can be evaluated with ultrasound in the office, and if needed, a biopsy can be done on the same day. This will avoid any further delays in diagnosis of the lump.

Some women may be hesitant to get a mammogram because they are afraid of the results. Most mammograms are normal. And, if an abnormality is found, it doesn’t necessarily mean that you have breast cancer. Further testing, such as a biopsy, may be needed to determine if cancer is present.

In addition to mammography, there are other steps you can take to reduce your risk of breast cancer. These include maintaining a healthy weight, exercising regularly, limiting alcohol consumption, and not smoking. Breastfeeding may also reduce your risk of breast cancer.

Breast cancer screening is an important part of women’s health. If you haven’t had a mammogram in a few years, make an appointment with your healthcare provider today. Early detection is key to successful treatment, and regular screening can help ensure that any abnormalities are detected as early as possible. Don’t let fear or procrastination keep you from taking care of your health.

NEWS YOU CAN USE by AvivA Hoffmann

Don’t Let a Low Score Ruin Your Appetite!

As we head towards the lazy days of summer, many of us are excited to dine out again. Before visiting your favorite restaurant, make sure it’s maintaining high standards of cleanliness and safety.

There are more than 2,000 permitted food service establishments in DeKalb County, including restaurants, school and hospital cafeterias, nursing homes, and more. The Department of Restaurants & Hotels is responsible for ensuring food safety and protecting the public from foodborne illnesses. Most inspections are conducted at least twice a year.

As I have mentioned before, you can find free, online access to health inspection and sanitation grades for food-handling establishments in DeKalb County and throughout Georgia. To find a restaurant’s inspection score, visit <https://ga.healthinspections.us> and search for “Inspection Scores.” Scores range from 1 to 100, with lower scores indicating poorer performance. Violations discovered during an inspection result in points being deducted from a perfect score of 100, and critical violations in red indicate potential risks if not corrected immediately.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, restaurants are implementing new safety protocols to protect customers and employees. Additionally, the Health Department continues to add new inspections to the system, so it’s worth checking again - even if you didn’t find your favorite restaurant before.

Remember, a restaurant’s most recent inspection report must be displayed in a visible location on site at all times. If a food establishment has a drive-thru window, it must also display the current inspection report near the window for easy visibility. Before your next meal, take a few minutes to check your restaurant’s inspection score to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.





By Gregory Turney, Smoke Rise Resident

Why Raise Ducks?

Hi, I'm Greg. I am 13 years old, and I run GregsEggs.net, an egg-selling business here in Smoke Rise. I have been raising free-range Pekin ducks for almost three years. Today, I will be telling you all about the pros and cons of raising ducks and sharing some of the knowledge I have learned over the years.

Pros of Raising Ducks

Pro #1: Farm Fresh Eggs

Let's start with the most obvious and perhaps the greatest benefit of raising ducks. Duck eggs are not only 50% larger than chicken eggs, they also contain larger quantities of essential nutrients such as vitamin D, vitamin B12, fat, unique proteins, and lots of valuable trace minerals like selenium. The psychological factor of knowing that you are eating healthy eggs is also great for your state of mind.

Pro #2: Entertainment Value

Ducks not only provide practical benefits for your family, they are also fun to watch! Even though ducks are not usually kept as pets, they always provide a good laugh when you watch them. In fact, my family started raising them during the early days of the pandemic lockdowns, partly just for entertainment. For example, our hens sometimes climb on top of their nesting box and lay their eggs into a gap between the box and chicken wire fence, which looks very funny. There are too many examples of hilarious duck behaviors to list.

Pro #3: Bird Watching

I personally have learned a lot about bird behavior in general just from watching my ducks. Most birds share behavioral patterns with others. Therefore, if you are into bird watching or want to get into bird watching, I would definitely recommend raising ducks.

Cons of Raising Ducks

Now that we have discussed a few of the benefits, we need to review a couple of the cons to be aware of.

Con #1: Predators

In the first couple years of raising ducks, we have lost an estimate of 10-15 ducks to attacks from predatory hawks, owls, and bald eagles. However, we haven't experienced an attack in quite a while. The reason seems to be that we now have three to four strong drakes (males) defending the entire flock. This has been a great accidental remedy for us, along with other clever ways to avoid predators. But, it is definitely something to be aware of.

Con #2: Expenses

Let's face it, raising ducks isn't free. For one, you have to cover expenses for either buying or making habitat, feeders, and watering systems. Second, you have to cover monthly expenses such as food, fresh pine bedding, and occasional repairs. In fact, part of the reason my dad and I started the GregsEggs business was to help cover the cost of some of these various necessities.

Con #3: Illness

Another problem we faced in the first year or two was ducks becoming ill, limp, or injured. Ducks have very good immune systems—much better than chickens. But, they still have problems from time to time. When this happens, we bring them inside and let them heal in the bathtub for a night or two. We might give them some medicine, but they generally heal quickly on their own.

A Lot to Learn

I have learned a lot about ducks and have grown to enjoy their many unique qualities. But, there is still so much to discover! I look forward to learning more about ducks, and I hope you can, too.

If you are interested in learning more about our ducks or would like to try a free sample of our delicious farm fresh eggs, please visit <https://www.gregseggs.net/>.

Joy Streater...continued from page 1

guide, share wisdom, and be chauffeur for the family's hectic schedule of activities. She had dinner on the table every night for the family and made sure they were fed a hot breakfast before school every day. Today, she is still their number one sounding board for decisions and is eager to hear what her children and her grandkids are up to. Especially endearing is her ability to accept, love and not judge others. Even tempered, she rarely complains and finds joy in watching her birds and caring for her flowers. She is an avid reader, solitaire player and jigsaw puzzler. She bowled for many years and loved her bowling team in Tucker.

Burton Streater remembers his mother as patient and encouraging to all of her children. "while she and dad were honored as Lifetime Achievers as PTA president for Smoke Rise Elementary School, she was determined that I was going to get a certificate for something to go along with the high achievement award certificates my sisters got. So I never missed a 'Perfect Attendance' award. Sick or not, I was going to be there!"



Mary Lynn Parker remembers "just out of college, mom got a job with an ad agency in spite of her father's doubts she would do it. She taught me perseverance in the face of obstacles and jumping at opportunities." Mary Lynn also remembers watching her work on print layouts for the *Smoke Signal* and delivering *Smoke Signals* with her!

Jan Streater Mayhu remembers hearing the story of when her mom was pregnant with her, at 43, and driving ballet carpool with several girls in the car from the neighborhood. She went into labor while driving, dropped the girls off and decided it was time to go to the hospital and let someone else pick up the ballet girls. The delivery was a success, of course.

Today, at almost 90, Joy Streater enjoys being a member of First United Methodist Church of Tucker, is in the Pioneers group and continues to participate in the bell choir. You may find her with the Red Hat Society, Kappa Delta alumni, Book Club, Morning Glories Garden Club or visiting with her four children and grandchildren. She often prepares devotional messages for these groups, so if you have an idea, let her know. She loves to chat and asks wonderful, thought-provoking questions. She has many friends and acquaintances that look to her for advice and a positive outlook. As she would say, "to get to know someone, and make a friend, just ask questions. People love talking about themselves."

We are all truly proud of her because she spent a lifetime serving others. She is a beautiful Lady and a wonderful Mom.

If anyone can find Diet Coke with Lime, her favorite beverage, please send it her way.

*Written by Jan Ruth Streater Mayheu, Lilburn, GA with the help of her siblings, Gay Streater Young, of Collierville, TN, Burton Streater of Lilburn/Stone Mountain and Mary Lynn Parker, Atlanta, GA. at the invitation of Joyce Ray, Staff Writer.*

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## Thoughts on Being a Grandmother...continued from page 1

hiding in the same place, but I act surprised to find her each time. She explodes in giggles and laughter. Her eyes are smiling at me adorably. Later, I get to rock the baby to sleep. She snuggles against my chest, and I soon hear tiny baby snores. I feel loved. This is what it is like to be a grandmother.

-Beth Henson

Being a grandmother, aka "Mimi," is the most precious time. You love your children with all your heart and think there couldn't be anything more precious than having grandchildren, and your heart swells even more. They are such a blessing. You find parts of your child in them and remember. Thank the Lord for your precious babies. Now you have more time to spend with them doing all those little things they want to do. The look of love on their faces and in their eyes... priceless.

-Marian Fetzek

Having become a grandmother (actually I'm a "MiMi") almost 19 years ago, I feel that I am quite an expert now. Although, I've discovered that each grandchild, besides precious, is unique in his or her own way, and I have a different relationship with each. With the oldest of the six having started college this past fall, and the youngest at only nine months and starting to walk, there are certainly all ages, interests, and personalities. Only the youngest is far away from us, so for that reason I'll have to travel more to know her. This "Mimi" is truly blessed with five granddaughters and one grandson.

-Marsha Kelley

All my friends were grandparents before me. Last November 1, I was blessed with my first grandson, Leo. I have never experienced so much joy in my life. To have a grandchild from your first-born child is amazing. He is the light of my life. I am so fortunate that I, along with his other grandmother, get to babysit him every week. He is four months old and he loves his "LuLu." His smile warms my heart! And the closeness I have gotten from my son and his wife is awesome!

-Marcia Lewis

Twenty-four years ago, our first grandchild, a girl, named me "Nena." Two grandsons followed, now 23 and 21. Our granddaughter works in Washington, D.C. and the grandsons are still in college, so we NEVER get to see them enough.

-Marsha Pittard

I have two grandchildren, ages, five (girl) and three (boy). They call me "Nonny." That is what my son, their dad, called my mom, and he wanted me to be Nonny too! Of course, I was honored to follow in her footsteps, hopefully, on how she was a grandma, but also in name. I am fortunate enough to get to spend time with the kids every week. I babysit two days, while their parents are at work. I've held many "jobs" in my life, but I have never had such a rewarding one as this! I am blessed that I get a chance to hopefully touch the future and leave a legacy of love.

-Barbara Stahura

Jimmy and I are blessed with two grandchildren; Trey is 16 in tenth grade, and Mia is 13 in eighth grade. They live in Alpharetta, with my son Jim and wife Candyce. Fortunately, we get together with them frequently, especially loving beach and lake visits. I chose "Lainey" as my grandmother name, and many close friends call me that now, as well! This name brings sweet memories of my Daddy calling me "Lainey Belle." Our grandchildren mean the world to us, and we love them with all of our hearts.

-Elaine Taylor

Being a grandmother is magic and is the purest form of love. It pleases me greatly to see my own children, their parents, in the faces and actions of their children, my grandchildren. The joy of seeing them light up when learning something new from me is one of the most rewarding feelings ever. The mere fact that I will be a part of them and their history forever makes my heart swell. I delight in them and the wondrous things they do and say. For example, while sitting with my youngest grandson when he was about five years old, as he was writing a letter to his Pop Pop (Ronnie), he

asked me, "Grandmommy, does the word Fart start with a Ph or an F"? Haha! From my very first grandson, to my last one, each is special in his own way. My role is to spoil them, love them unconditionally, and always be there for them. When they were old enough to get a cell phone, my number was entered into it. For they know they can call or text me anytime, day or night, for any reason... and they do! That is so very special to me.

-Jean Weathers

I have six grandchildren who call me "Nonnie." I love to watch their uniqueness, their faces when they see me, and to experience the joy I feel when I am with them. Nothing compares to the love I have for my grandchildren.

-Mary Lee Wooden

"Grandmothers hold our tiny hands for just a little while, but our hearts forever."

-Unknown

"If nothing is going right, call your grandmother."

-Italian Proverb

"Grandmothers and roses are much the same. Each is God's masterpiece with different names."

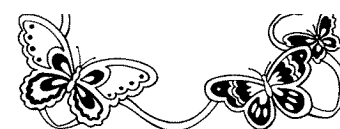
-Unknown

"When a child is born, so are grandmothers."

-Judith Levy

"You do not really understand something unless you can explain it to your grandmother."

-Albert Einstein



### Out the Window

by Beth Henson

#### Towhee and June Bug

The early spring had been a roller coaster of ups and downs. The warmer February temperatures had encouraged an early bloom only to give way to the chilling, gusty March winds and a rain-soaked April. Glancing out the living room window, I couldn't help but wonder, what would May bring?

The newly-sprouted shaggy grass was a sharp contrast to the smooth, red brick pavers. A few enthusiastic weeds popped through the ruler-straight cracks.

Suddenly, a jaunty, black and white plumed Towhee landed on the low moss-covered garden wall. Mr. Towhee had obviously spotted something of interest on the nearby ground and was devotedly following along. Stepping out the back door for a closer look, I spied an enormous, green, metallic June bug lumbering along the sidewalk.

I think your eyes are bigger than your stomach, my feathered friend. Are you sure you want that fellow for your next meal? And why are you here anyway, Mr. June bug? It's barely May!!



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- Doug, Member

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“Art of Garden”  
Garden Tour

Six gardens will be on tour in the Tucker and Smoke Rise areas on Saturday, May 20, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Two gardens are in Tucker, and three are in Smoke Rise. Also included in the tour is the Butterfly Garden at the Tucker Recreation Center. The Master Gardeners will be at that garden to answer questions on the pollinator garden and the water feature being developed. Volunteers from the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s club, the sponsor of the tour, will be at each of the other gardens. Tickets are \$25 and are available at Wine and Whimsey, 2344 Main St., Tucker, from Wednesday to Sunday, and from any club member. Tickets will be for sale at the homes on May 20.

The Georgia Hosta Society  
Annual Show and Plant Sale

Crowning Glories –  
Hostas for the Ages

Saturday, May 6

H. Regal Splendor  
(Photo credit : Mary LePore)



Tucker’s Annual Hosta Event is on Saturday, May 6th this year. There will be a huge Plant Sale in the parking lot of the Tucker First Baptist Church Fellowship Center on the same day as Tucker Day which will be taking place a short walk away. Lots of hostas, including many hard to find varieties, and other interesting plants will be for sale at tempting prices.

The Sale will be open from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

The Hosta Show is free and open to the public  
from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Competitive Show for Hosta cut leaves and containers  
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Grandmommy’s Garden of Thoughts -  
‘Only Three Stitches Later’

By Linda Karr

It is a beautiful February day to work in the garden and as always at this time of year, there is lots to do. I’ve been pruning for several days and making some good progress in what we call our pollinator garden. I’ve trimmed all the herbs, the clematis, and other vines. I’ve worked my way through the hydrangeas and most of the rest of the perennials. Today I was trying to finish pruning in the rose bed. I was disappointed because we lost some more roses - some to the freeze, I think, and some to Rose Rosette disease. I was using a combination of my hand pruners and these great cordless pruners that I had gotten last year. They are really great - sharp, easy to use, and can cut any size branches in that bed.

My back was hurting some and I thought - hmmm - maybe I should stop for the day. Well, I only had seven more plants to prune in that bed and told myself that I could finish that up before I stopped. My husband was out whipping a shrub into shape when he heard me cry out. “I’ve done it! I’ve proven how sharp these cordless pruners are and clipped right into my left index finger.” Luckily, I didn’t get too far. I had to toss that glove though!

A trip to the local urgent care center, a conversation with the PA about her sewing skills, and only three stitches later, we’re back home. I’m not sure I can get away without doing chores for very long but I might be able to use that excuse for a couple of days. It’s time to get back in the garden and finish up what I started!

Every day is an adventure – some better than others. Enjoy life!



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**Mountain Mums Garden Club**

The Mountain Mums members enjoyed a “Stroll Through Serenity” during the April meeting, hosted by Susan Gilbert at her beautiful home, where they viewed her lovely gardens and waterfall.

During the business meeting, Jean Weathers shared an inspiration about the “Legend of the Dogwood.” Gaye Auman and Rita Maloof were installed as co-presidents for a second year, and all other current officers and committee chairs are continuing to serve in the same positions.

Andrea Wahl, an ecologist with Atkins, an engineering consulting firm in Sandy Springs, was the featured speaker. Her topic was “Pollinators are Perfect.” She highlighted the importance of honey bees as pollinators of one-third of the plants in the human diet. She encouraged us to plant pollen-friendly plants, including fruits and vegetables because if you “build it they will come.”. Plants use pollen to produce a fruit or seed. Many plants cannot reproduce without pollen carried to them by pollinators. Sadly, over the last 15 years, ninety percent of the bee population has disappeared due to weather, pesticides, diseases and pests. Without pollination, we could lose all the plants that bees pollinate, as well as all of the animals that eat those plants and so on up the food chain. Our supermarkets would have half the fruit and vegetables we now enjoy. Andrea also shared how bees swarm, the importance of the “queen” bee and other pollinators such as ants, bats, hummingbirds, beetles, flies and wasps. You can also attract bees by making bee sugar water by mixing one gallon of water with one cup of sugar. This is similar to what you make for hummingbirds!

Members are planning a field trip to the Druid Hills Home & Garden Tour this month. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 10 when Mary Lee Wooden will share with us her knowledge of and techniques for “Floral Designs Outside Your Window” through a hands-on demonstration. For more information on joining or visiting the next meeting, contact Mary Jacobson, Membership Chair, at [mjacob1010@gmail.com](mailto:mjacob1010@gmail.com).



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**Morning Glories Say Yes to SHADE GARDENING!**

Most every lot in Smoke Rise has trees ...and that means shade. Learning to garden in the shade is a process of trial and error and even if you do find a great plant for shade, it might be short-lived. Our April speaker Master Gardener and Dunwoody Community Garden Volunteer, Cyndi McGill, gave an excellent summary of the various types of shade garden plants.

Sun is a key element in any garden. Horticulturists consider 6 hours to be full sun, four to six hours as part sun and less than four hours of sunlight shade. A deep shade garden has no sun or only dappled sunlight. Plant labels are very helpful in figuring out the sun designation required by the plant. The label does not mean a plant will not grow outside its ideal light conditions, but that the plant will be more likely to thrive there.

Cyndi noted that foliage colors and textures can enhance a shade garden as much as flowering plants can. Variety is the key to an attractive shady scene. Azaleas, Hydrangeas, and Hosta can tolerate part sun and part shade conditions. Encore azaleas prefer more sunshine- so read the label carefully when selecting azalea varieties. Lenten rose, Aucuba, Mountain Laurel and



Rhododendron are proven plants for shady conditions. Beauty berry is a good choice also with that lovely fall display of fruits. Dogwoods, Service Berry and Buckeyes add three season beauty to the shade garden.

Our club met in the banquet room of the Magnolia Café in Tucker and enjoyed the fellowship and delicious food. President Janet McGinnis reminded the club that our May 9th meeting will also be at the Magnolia Café.

Member Joy Abrams gave an overview of the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail based in Plains, Georgia, and surrounding areas. She urged members to plant a selection of nectar producing plants and host plants for butterflies. Plants attract certain butterflies-- like milkweed for Monarchs and Passion Vine for the Gulf Fritillary. They also provide a good habitat to encourage their lifecycles. The trail focuses on the Monarch butterfly, but all butterflies are welcome when you plant a variety of plant species that attract butterflies. You can register your garden as a Monarch waystation at. [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org). For more information on the trail and good practices for attracting pollinators to your garden, please go to [www.rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org](http://www.rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org).

**Smoke Rise Garden Club Creates Floral Design**

The April meeting of the Smoke Rise Garden Club was held at the home of Gina Dilley with co-hosts Peggy Clegg and Penny Galpin providing delicious refreshments. The speaker was Rachael Price of the Tucker Florist shop. She demonstrated how to create beautiful professional looking arrangements with flowers purchased from the supermarket.

Victoria Crosby presided over her first meeting as president. 1st VP Denise Finley reported that Smoke Rise Garden Club Youth Chairman, Ann Weisz, along with Master Gardener, Deb Christensen, coordinated the design of 10 floral arrangements by Rehoboth Classical Day School’s 4 and 5 year old class.



The arrangements were entered in the National Daffodil Flower Show at the Ravinia in February. The class of kindergartners used daffodils, azaleas, iris, shells, beach glass and ribbons for their artistic arrangements and won many ribbons. What a fun and rewarding activity for these future floral designers!

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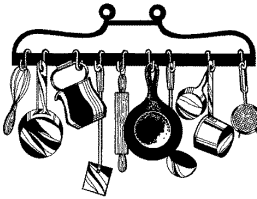
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Amen, Let's Eat!

by Joyce Ray

At our Easter table this year we revisited the conversation, as we do every year, of how much we miss Chick-Fil-A coleslaw. Even though the slaw we bought from another location was good, it just didn't hold a candle to that old time favorite, along with its menu buddy, Carrot and Raisin Salad. I searched high and low and found many that claimed to be authentic recipes. I can't vouch for it but these two seem to be a pretty close match. One thing to remember, for the slaw, you MUST have a good shredder or source to buy finely shredded cabbage.

Chick- Fil -A Authentic Coleslaw Claimer #1:

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 4 teaspoons white vinegar                                | ¼ cup sugar                  |
| ¼ teaspoon dry mustard                                   | 1/4 teaspoon salt            |
| 1 cup mayonnaise   | ¼ cup finely chopped carrots |
| 2 (10 oz) bags fine shredded cabbage chopped to 1/8 inch |                              |

Whisk vinegar, sugar, mustard and salt and mix until sugar is dissolved. Add mayonnaise and whisk to mix. Add cabbage and carrots, mix to combine. Refrigerate for 2 hours before serving.

Chick-Fil-A Carrot & Raisin Salad – Is it the real thing?

- 4 ½ cups shredded carrots  
1 (8oz) can or 2/3 cup crushed, unstrained pineapple.  
¾ cup raisins  
½ cup mayonnaise  
½ cup and 2 tablespoons sugar  
1 ¼ tablespoons unstrained lemon juice 9 (no seeds)

Simply mix and refrigerate until serving.

While researching restaurant recipes, I found this Amazing Spinach Artichoke Casserole that will equal any chef's favorite. It is great as a side dish or to use as an appetizer served with pita points or favorite crackers.

- 6 cloves garlic, unpeeled  
4 (10 oz) pkgs frozen chopped spinach, thawed, drained and squeezed dry  
1 (14 oz) can artichoke hearts, drained and chopped  
¼ cup butter  
1 (8 oz) package sliced fresh mushrooms  
3 green onions, chopped  
1 (8 oz) pkg cream cheese 1 cup sour cream  
1 (8 oz) can water chestnuts, drained and chopped  
¾ cup grated parmesan cheese  
¾ cup mayonnaise  
2 tsp garlic salt  
1 tbspc lemon juice  
1 cup French fried onion rings (in can)

Preheat oven to 350°. Place unpeeled garlic cloves in a small oven-safe dish and roast in the preheated oven until softened – about 20 minutes. Set aside to cool.

Place spinach in large mixing bowl and stir in the artichoke hearts. Melt butter in a skillet over medium heat and add chopped mushrooms. Sauté for about 10 minutes and add onions. Continue to cook until onions are soft. Transfer to bowl with spinach mixture.

Remove cream cheese from wrapping and place in microwave safe bowl. Microwave until warm and very soft – 1 ½ minutes. Stir cream cheese into spinach mixture. Add the sour cream, water chestnuts, Parmesan cheese, mayonnaise, garlic salt and lemon juice. Squeeze the roasted garlic out of the garlic skins. Mash with fork and thoroughly mix into spinach mixture. Spoon the mixture into a round 2-quart baking dish. Bake in preheated oven until the casserole is hot and bubbly, about 30 minutes. Spread French fried onion rings over the top. Return to the oven and bake 5-10 more minutes until onions are hot.

For the warmer days coming up here is a tried-and-true crowd pleaser that is quick to make and delicious:

Oreo Ice Cream Pie – a great Beach House treat!

- 1 large pkg Oreo cookies roughly crushed  
½ gallon vanilla ice cream (The store brand is the best option for this.)  
1 carton (2 cups) Cool Whip.

Crush Oreo cookies (icing included). Reserve 2 cups of crumbs. Place the remaining cookies in bottom of 8x10 pan. Soften ice cream and mix in cool whip and reserved cookies. Spread on top of Crushed cookies. Freeze. Cut into squares to serve. Garnish with chocolate syrup, crushed nuts or strawberries (or all three!)

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*Sincere Apologies:*

The Wild Rice and Cranberry Salad recipe from last month was missing its sweet/sour dressing recipe.

½ cup veg. oil  
1/3 cup brown sugar  
3 T white vinegar  
1 tsp salt  
½ tsp dry mustard

Mix until sugar is dissolved then pour over salad.

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