

SMOKE SIGNAL



VOLUME 54, ISSUE 6

Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

September, 2021

www.smokesignalnews.com

It's almost fall y'all!
As the season approaches, there is much to do, see and experience around Tucker. Stay safe and have fun as you venture out and engage.
--The Smoke Signal Staff

Look inside for...

Local Service Opportunities	pg 3
Stone Mountain Library Reopens.....	pg 4
rek Gallery Opens in Tucker.....	pg 5
Your Home on the Big Screen?	pg 6
The Birds of Smoke Rise: Part One	pg 10

Tunes by the Tracks, the popular outdoor indie music concert series, returns September 3rd to Main Street, Stone Mountain. Concerts take place every Friday night in September and October.

Back on the rails of its five-year pre-pandemic success, Tunes by the Tracks delivers an outstanding musical offering of talented local artists and a good time together as neighbors and friends.

"I'm delighted to confirm Tunes by the Tracks is back for fall 2021," says Thom DeLoach, Main Street, Inc. President and Downtown Development Authority Board Member. "Folks love the series! Each Friday night, our Main Street glows with splendid music and cheerful neighbors enjoying life together."



The concerts are free. The music goes on each Friday, rain or shine, and runs from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the municipal parking lot, near the gazebo on Main Street, in Stone Mountain Village. Well-known artists Larry Griffith, Heather Luttrell, Diane Durrett, Eddie 9V, Rae and the Royal Peacocks, and more are all on tap for fall.

Beer, wine, and soft drinks are available to purchase. Proceeds go directly to keeping Tunes by the Tracks free to enjoy and bringing exceptionally talented local indie artists onstage, trackside in SMV.

DeLoach adds, "On the heels of an exceedingly tough 18 months of COVID impact, the 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."

Make a stop on the tracks and don't forget your lawn chair! You'll be delighted you did – guaranteed.

Electronics Recycling Day – September 25

Bring your old electronics to Tucker First UMC on Saturday, September 25, between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Volunteers will be on hand to help unload your electronics. Please bring all recycled items to the Wesley Center loading dock located at 2397 Church Street (old Tucker Post Office). This recycling event is part of the church's Great Day of Service event.

Accepted items for recycling include computers, laptops, tablets, fax machines, keyboards, copiers, mainframes, disk drives, LED lights and bulbs, cables, telephones, cell phones, VCRs, radios, cassette players, CD and DVD players, satellite dishes, and telecommunication systems, as well as iron, steel, and aluminum.

Items that are not accepted include hazardous materials (any infectious or pathological wastes), material that could pose an environmental or health problem, any equipment containing radioactive components, equipment containing asbestos or mercury, broken CRTs, large household appliances (refrigerators, ovens, stoves, dishwashers, or washers and dryers), lamps, light bulbs, and all alkaline batteries.

Volunteers are needed to help unload cars and sort electronics. You can find more information at www.tuckerfirst.org.

Free Soil at Tucker First UMC

Tucker First United Methodist Church is giving away free soil! The church had a large amount of soil leftover from a recent garden installation. The mound of dirt is located on Church Street behind the main church. You are welcomed to bring your buckets or truck to gather as much soil as you like.

Tucker First UMC is located at 5095 LaVista Road. The topsoil is in the back parking lot of the Wesley Center which is located at 2397 Church Street (Old Tucker Post Office).



Atlanta's Cherished Fall Festivals 2021: bringing excitement and joy once again!

by Barbara Bruschi

Fall presents its own kind of magical transformation, filling the world with splendid colors. When the cool breezes rustle through the golden leaves, a new glorious spectacle reveals itself. Red and gold leaves sparkle like precious jewels and our minds turn to honoring and participating in harvest festivals.

Since ancient times, festivals have brought communities together to celebrate either religious or secular events. The first confirmed noun "Festifall" was recorded in 1589. Festivals entwine cultural and religious significance and traditional activities. They are designed to further social cohesiveness and a sense of belonging to a community. They provide entertainment and pass on folklore, food, music, dance, games, and old venerated traditions pertaining to a country's culture. Seasonal festivals have their foundation in the solar and the lunar calendars by the cycle of the season.

Some of Atlanta's favorites are returning this fall after a year-long hiatus due to COVID. In light of ever-changing CDC guidelines, it is prudent to inquire about the status of a certain event before you make your plans to avoid any disappointments. Following is the starting lineup of nearby, fun-filled activities and events...

Lasershow Spectacular in Mountainvision
9:30 p.m. nightly at Stone Mountain Park
It is truly an awe-inspiring visual production!

Tucker Day, September 4
1:00-9:00 p.m. on Main Street, Tucker
A "fall fantasy" tradition for more than 60 years! This glorious day, sponsored by local merchants, is for neighbors to meet and greet and for the community to share fun, food, music, and a parade. Children will enjoy activities as well.

Yellow Daisy Festival, September 9-12
at Stone Mountain Park
This is a marvelous, inspiring festival with the largest arts and crafts representation in Georgia. Talented artists design and fashion their own merchandise. Music and delicious gourmet treats are featured as well. Our community has a long-standing volunteer commitment to the festival-- the Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club, Mountain Mums and Smoke Rise Garden Club play a significant role in sponsoring the Flower Show. The Redbud District has also been a valuable contributor to the festival for 49 years.

...Continued on page 7



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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Preferred Formats for Smoke Signal Submissions

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

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

Smoke Signal Deadlines

SEPTEMBER 13

Please e-mail articles to:

staff@smokesignalnews.com

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

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

Deadline for classified ads is SEPTEMBER 10

SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

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

"Like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews or visit our website at www.smokesignalnews.com Link to the digital version of the *Smoke Signal* at <http://eepurl.com/pjn4v> or scan this QR Code with your smart phone!



Tucker City Council Highlights

Mobility Improvements

Last month, the Council approved three contracts pertaining to mobility in the City: Lowe Engineers for engineering services for sidewalk and trail design along Cooledge Road and Hugh Howell Road; Atlas Consulting to negotiate right-of-way acquisition for the sidewalk project along Old Norcross Road; and Kimley-Horn for traffic calming design along Brockett Road.

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?

EXTRA COPIES OF THE SMOKE SIGNAL ARE NOW AVAILBLE AT THE COMMUNITY GARDEN Look for the wooden box labeled *Smoke Signal*. (They are no longer available on Smoke Rise Drive.)



ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:

The *Smoke Signal* has reached its ad-space limit and we are now keeping a waiting list for future advertisements.

Please send your ad-size requests to Frank Luton, luton@mindspring.com, and your ads will be included as space becomes available, in the order requests are received.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Connecting in New Ways During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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

SUNDAY
 9:45 a.m. Attend Sunday School Online
 Schedule Available at SmokeRiseBaptist.org
 11:00 a.m. Attend Worship via Live Streaming
 Live Stream Available at SmokeRiseBaptist.org
 5:00 p.m. Outdoor Children and Youth Activities
 (Activities are outside with social distancing and masks)
 MONDAY
 5:00 p.m. Weekly Devotional Video Link at SmokeRiseBaptist.org
 WEDNESDAY
 6:00 p.m. Journeys Spiritual Formation and Bible Study
 Opportunities Online and In-Person
 Schedule Available at SmokeRiseBaptist.org
 (In-person events are outside with social distancing and masks)

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

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

Sundays:
 9:10 a.m. Adult Sunday School via Zoom and In-Person
 10:30 a.m. In-Person and Live streaming of Worship service
 No reservations necessary for worship and masks are required for non-vaccinated participants.
 Our Sunday service information can be found on our website at <https://www.eastminster.us/sundays>.

MC3 Church

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

Sunday Worship at Parkview High School Auditorium
 9:30 a.m. Coffee and donuts; adult and student c-groups; nursery and Sunday school for infants to 5th graders.
 10:30 am. Worship service
 C-groups throughout the week at various homes -- check out our website for more times and addresses

Business Address and Hours:
 1316 Rockbridge Rd, Suite M
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087
 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Mailing Address: 1227 Rockbridge Rd., SW, STE 208-251
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087

First Moravian Church

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

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

Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

Mountain West Church

Pastor: Michael Shreve
 Telephone (770) 491-0228
www.mwchurch.com
 4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain
 Sunday Services:
 9:00 a.m. masks required
 11:00 a.m. masks optional
 In-person and streaming online on Facebook and mwchurch.com

Smoke Rise Country Club's New General Manager

We are very excited to announce the addition of Paul Carey to your team at Smoke Rise. Paul has officially started as the General Manager and will be working to get up to speed on all things Smoke Rise Country Club.

Paul began his career in the golf industry while in his home state of New Jersey before moving to Georgia in 1996. Paul's previous work experience includes time as Head Golf Professional, Club Manager, and General Manager at several clubs around the greater Atlanta area.

When Paul is not at the club, he enjoys spending time with his wife and 3 daughters, playing golf, and attending sporting events and live concerts.

Join us in welcoming Paul to the club and Smoke Rise-Tucker community!



Charity Event at Smoke Rise Country Club for Developmental Disabilities Ministries

Local non-profit DDM is celebrating its 40th Anniversary with a fundraising event at Smoke Rise Country Club Thursday, September 30th -- The DDM Day of Hope. DDM provides residential homes for adults with developmental disabilities. The waiting list is long, and these funds will help open two new homes!

The day begins with a morning golf tournament, followed by an hors d'oeuvres reception and program. Play in the tournament, attend the reception, or both! By participating, you will double your impact! A DDM supporter is matching every dollar raised up to \$150,000. See our flyer insert for more information or visit our website: ddmga.org.

Dudes on Food

are taking a break this month, but be sure to catch them in October when they'll have another fine review to dish out!

Great Day of Service

Sponsored by Tucker First United Methodist Church
Saturday, September 25, 2021

Tucker First United Methodist Church (Tucker First) will be sponsoring a community Great Day of Service on Saturday, September 25, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On this day, multiple teams will tackle projects in our community to meet the needs of our friends and neighbors.



A team breakfast will be included starting at 8:00 a.m. Teams of 6-25 people will work on each mission project. Some of the organizations that will benefit include Wellroot Family Services, Tucker Parks and Recreation, local nursing homes, and DeKalb County Fire and Rescue.

Come out for one great day to help our community! No matter your age, activity level, and experience, we have a project for you. Bring your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to contribute their time and talent too.

Tucker First UMC is located at 5095 LaVista Road, Tucker, GA 30084. Free childcare will be provided for children eight years old and younger. Registration information will be posted on www.tuckerfirst.org. Questions? Contact Ellen Griffith, ellen.griffith@yahoo.com, or Becky Burnett, rsb1950@gmail.com

Smoke Rise-Tucker Community Pools

Mountain Creek

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

Rosenfeld Park (FNA Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet)

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

Smoke Rise Country Club

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

Summit Swim and Tennis Club

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

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Smoke Rise Prep

Local independent school, Smoke Rise Prep, continues to defy the odds during these uncertain times.

This local gem has remained open for business and learning in all forms since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Following the layered approach set out by the CDC, Smoke Rise Prep can boast a 0% rate of transmission within the school since March



of 2020. Students returned to in-person learning on August 9th with safety, kindness, academic rigor, and mental health in mind.

“After coming from a high school where masks were so hard to enforce, I was blown away by the dedication our parents, students and staff had to keeping us all safe as a family,” says Shaina Neal, new principal of Smoke Rise Prep.

Neal and Smoke Rise Prep have taken a page directly from the American Academy of Pediatrics; AAP strongly recommends in-person learning. Schools and school-supported programs are fundamental to child and adolescent development and well-being. Smoke Rise Prep believes that in-person learning provides our children and adolescents with academic instruction, social and emotional skills, safety, opportunities for physical activity, and many other benefits. Research has shown that opening schools generally does not significantly increase community transmission with masking and other safety measures in place.

Sonja O’Leary, MD, FAAP, and Chair of the AAP Council on School Health says, “the pandemic has taken a heartbreaking toll on children, and it’s not just their education that has suffered but their mental, emotional and physical health.” The staff at Smoke Rise Prep could not agree more. They jokingly refer to the safety planning as “COVIDizing” the curriculum and activities to make it engaging, fun and safe for everyone involved.



This year the students have already been on walking field trips, had popsicles with the principal, and enjoyed a family movie night and a schoolwide day to celebrate the author Peter H. Reynolds. September will bring the bookfair, a fun run, and trunk-or-treat!

Smoke Rise Prep is ready to welcome new and returning families for the 2021-2022 school year. Come check out the amazing things and people that Smoke Rise prep has to offer at www.smokeriseprep.org.



Stone Mountain-Sue Kellogg Library Reopens
by Barbara Luton

The DeKalb County library system recently held the grand reopening of the Stone Mountain-Sue Kellogg Library. Several county dignitaries were present, including DeKalb CEO and Smoke Rise resident, Michael Thurman; Steve Bradshaw, DeKalb County Commissioner from District 4; and Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, Super District 7 Commissioner.



CEO Thurmond, an author and scholar in his own right, has supported libraries since he has been in office. He thanked those attending the ceremony for supporting the libraries for the citizens and children of DeKalb.

Commissioner Bradshaw reminded everyone this had been in the works since 2019. He thanked the contractors and local librarian and staff for the modern renovation of the building.

Other notables present were Chakira Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Stone Mountain; Julie Walker, State Librarian; and Chelsea Rathburn, 2019 Poet Laureate of Georgia. Closing remarks were delivered by Alison Weissinger, DeKalb County Public Library Director. Ms. Weissinger noted that after many delays and the pandemic the system is happy to be reopening a library that is important to the village and the surrounding communities.

The building itself is now a large open area full of light and new furniture with multiple connections for computers. Computers have been added for patrons’ convenience. The library opened for regular hours on Friday, August 6. Stop by the branch at 952 Leon Street, which is right behind the old train depot on Main Street, and see how our tax money has been put to excellent use!

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rek Gallery Opens in Tucker

(Adapted from rek Gallery press release)

At a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has brought many small art galleries to their premature end, a new commercial gallery of contemporary southern art has opened in Tucker, Georgia. It is there that the rek Gallery is facing, head-on, a changing world of art patronage and retail uncertainty.

rek Gallery curator and owner Rick Baldwin secured the 2,000 square foot space in February of this year and has spent most of the year putting together an art collection consisting of eclectic and edgy works by southern-influenced artists.

“I reached out to several regional and local artists I knew personally or had discovered through social media,” Baldwin says. “I knew what type of art I wanted to show but I had to convince several artists to take a chance on a new gallery. After a while, artists began telling other artists and soon I was being contacted by and discovering some amazing artists. We’ve been able to build an initial collection I’m very proud of. I’m looking forward to bringing it to the public.”

Baldwin admits he has patiently waited for the perfect opportunity to resurrect the rek Gallery which saw its origins in a small corner building in Chattanooga 10 years ago. At that time, Baldwin recognized a need for a gallery spotlighting art from southern artists working in styles ranging from graffiti and street art to tattoo inspired designs, pop art, cartoons and comic art, abstract, outsider art, lowbrow and other experimental forms that might not fit into more traditional galleries. He eventually closed that Chattanooga gallery but saw a promising opportunity to revive it this year in Tucker, converting a former wireless phone store into the new, larger rek Gallery.

In addition to challenges from the ongoing pandemic, the rek Gallery finds itself in an area east of Atlanta that doesn’t often experience the large crowds of galleries like those in Midtown, Buckhead or even Decatur.

“We’re currently the lonely art gallery in the middle of a long line of Lawrenceville Highway auto repair and furniture shops,” Baldwin says. “It’s a great location but one where people may not be expecting to find an art gallery. I’d love to see us inspire a movement of new galleries into the Tucker area. It will be nice to join forces with existing studios and art groups here to help make Tucker more of a creative destination in the Atlanta area.”

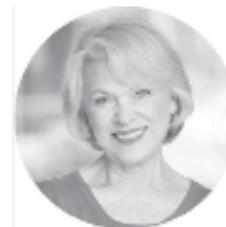
While the rek Gallery shows the works of a regular group of artists, including some from Baldwin himself, every month or two the gallery will spotlight a new featured artist. The first artist to fill that spot at the rek Gallery is Atlanta neo-expressionist artist, Vando Davis. Davis’ large works on canvas and 3-D works are currently on display through the end of August in an exhibit titled Kindness Workz.

Currently, the rek Gallery carries the work of 20 artists. Works ranging from paintings, drawings, textile art, photography, sculpture and jewelry.

For more information, contact the rek Gallery at (678) 404-5597 or rekgallery@gmail.com. Visit the gallery’s website at www.rek.gallery.

All candidates for the November 2, 2021 Special Election and the Municipal Election for the City of Tucker, who meet the qualifications of the Charter and Code of the City of Tucker, as well as applicable State Laws, may submit an article (up to 400 words) and a photo for possible publication in the Smoke Signal.

Please submit articles before September 13, 2021.



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Out the Window

by Beth Henson

Glancing out my dining room window, I could not help but admire the early fall landscape. The sky had gradually turned from a hazy light cerulean blue to the darker azure of autumn. A few rusty red leaves were beginning to appear on the dogwoods, and the birds and squirrels would soon be enjoying the bright scarlet berries. The expanse of grass was slowly recovering from the summer heat and showing signs of turning an emerald green with the cooler night temperatures. Mr. & Mrs. Cardinal were cautiously finishing up their evening meal on the feeder as the quiet of the evening slowly approached.



Goose by Beth Henson

Suddenly, a distant faint honking caught my attention, gradually growing louder and louder by the moment. I quickly stepped outside to look up and see a majestic V of Canadian geese headed for their evening resting place, most likely on the nearby lake. The raucous herald came closer, rivaling the most congested rush hour in the city. I knew each goose was purposefully flying slightly above the bird in front of them, creating a reduction of wind resistance that conserved their energy. This beautiful formation aided in their skillful migration from Canada to warmer regions in the US this time of year. Some would decide to stay here permanently, while others would return to Canada in the spring to make their nest and raise sweet goslings.

Safe travels my lovely feathered friends. Be sure to stop by next spring!



Listing Your Smoke Rise Home for Production

Earlier this year our neighborhood was buzzing with the news that a reboot of The Wonder Years was filming on Rosser Place (the show, narrated by Don Cheadle, is set to debut September 22nd on ABC). With the days-long setup and breakdown, we had a sneak peek of what it's like to have production on your street and in your home. If you are curious about listing your home for production, read on!

The safest and most recommended way to list your home is to contact your state and local government film and television office; for most of us, that will be the DeKalb Entertainment Commission. Their website (dekalbentertainment.com), specifically the "Film Locations" page, is the best place to start.

Georgia.org is also a great online resource for all-things filming in Georgia. This site has a comprehensive "List Your Property as a Film Location" section worthy of a browse. A few other online resources to explore are:

- Locationshub
- Reel to Reel Locations
- Set Scouter
- Giggster.com
- Peerspace

Location scouts can help too but take extra care to ensure they are legit, especially if you are approached without listing your home. If you receive a location request for your home from an outside source or someone you are unsure about, you can call the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) offices at (404) 962-5052 to verify their credibility.

There should always be a location contract to set expectations and ensure the security of your property. It will outline details such as painting, drilling, noise, etc. If the production team accidentally puts a hole in the wall, this contract will outline their responsibility to resolve the damage. On the other hand, you might find that your home ends up cleaner than when you left it!

If you get to this step, be sure you are working with someone higher up the ranks of the location department or production team and not just a Scout. A Scout may not be completely aware of all production needs or activities and ultimately you will want to be sure you know the person with all the details.

Don't forget to set realistic expectations! Your things will be moved into storage and then returned, so if you do not like people touching your things or being in your home, this might not be the best idea. Consider the impact on your family and your neighbors. Lastly, if your property becomes famous, get ready for tourists! I can think of a few film locations I have driven by, some right here in Tucker.

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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

BACK TO SCHOOL SKIN TIPS: ACNE

Most teenagers know what they want to wear to school on the first day of class. New clothes, a modern haircut and healthy looking, clear skin! Unfortunately, most teens miss on one of these areas... especially when it comes to skin! Acne is definitely NOT on their list, but it often shows up anyway.

Unfortunately, acne is one of the most common skin diseases. Eighty-five percent of all people will have acne sometime in their life. Most of the time it shows up in the teenage years and early twenties. However, acne has been seen in almost every decade of life... even in people who are in their 50's and 60's.

Several things cause acne. Excess sebum (skin oil) sets the scene by clogging skin pores. This stage is the whitehead or blackhead stage or mild acne. Because oil production is increased with the onset of puberty, most acne begins at this age. Women may also have a worsening of acne with their monthly fluctuation in hormones or during menopause. Normal skin bacteria (called P. acnes) thrive in the dense oil. As the bacteria multiply, the pores become inflamed and begin to look red and swollen. This is the 'pimple' stage of acne or moderate acne. Sometimes, this stage becomes severe, reaching the deeper portions of the skin. This stage of acne is considered severe and is called cystic acne. Most of the time, cysts will result in scarring.

If you have acne, there are several simple things you can do to take care of your skin. First, try to leave your face alone. Do not pick or squeeze the spots. This only makes them more irritated and may cause them to become inflamed. Also, do not rub or touch your face a lot for the same reason. Be careful what hair products and makeup you use. Avoid greasy, oily hair products. Look for the words 'non-comedogenic' on makeup and moisturizers. Do not scrub your skin or use drying agents. Lastly, diet does not affect acne so don't be worried about chocolate or sweets causing acne.

Over-the Counter products are the first step towards treating acne unless you already have moderate to severe acne. Start with a salicylic acid or benzoyl peroxide wash once a day and follow directions. Follow this with an oil free or 'non-comedogenic' moisturizer. Use an over-the-counter benzoyl peroxide cream at night to all areas affected by the acne, starting with a 2.5% to 5% cream first. Most people have a little irritation with this product, so use a moisturizer along with it. Don't give up! Oftentimes, acne will worsen

during the first two weeks of treatment and may take 6-8 weeks to clear. If it doesn't clear, move to a stronger benzoyl peroxide cream (it comes in 2.5%, 5% and 10%). It is important to know that benzoyl peroxide can 'bleach' your pillow-case or clothes. Switching to white pillowcases will eliminate the problem.

Adapalene is a retinoid medication that is now over the counter. It works very well in combination with benzoyl peroxide and is gentler on the skin than prescription retinoic acid. Remember, it is common to have a worsening of the acne for a few weeks when first starting the topical medications. This will soon resolve, so push on through.

If these medications don't clear up your skin, see a doctor for a prescription medication. There are so many more prescription options now!

In the modern world, virtually every stage of acne, at any age of life can be successfully treated. Most of the time, acne continues to be a problem because it is either ignored and left untreated, or because the treatment regimen is stopped before the acne fully clears. A visit to the doctor for stubborn or severe cases can result in clear, blemish free skin and prevent scarring. Clear skin can be one of the most beautiful things you wear back to school!

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Fall Festivals...continued from page 1

Pumpkin Festival, September 18 - October 31
at Stone Mountain Park

Thousands of massive, glowing carved pumpkin displays, along with a pie-eating contest, costume parade, dance party, and special "Meet and Greet with Spooky the Square Pumpkin." Also, listen to the stories of Mother Goose and gaze at the wonder of nature. Play by day, glow by night!

The Greek Festival, September 24-26
at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation

A traditional festival with tasty Greek food served via drive-thru! Since ancient times, Greeks have gathered in the marketplace to ply their goods and barter for the best price. This tradition has been carried on by immigrants all over the world. For more than four decades the Greek community has opened their doors in Atlanta to treat everybody to their culture, fabulous authentic food, music, dancing, shopping and activities for the children. This is a culturally enriching event, and the Greek hospitality will warm your heart.

Taste of Tucker, October 2, 1:00-6:00 p.m.
on Main Street, Tucker

A 12-year tradition for the historic City of Tucker! Support your local restaurants and eateries (33 entries this year) at this fun and filling event, sponsored by Tucker merchants and volunteers. Great food and entertainment is offered to all those that enjoy a grand neighborhood event. 100% of the proceeds benefit Camp Kudzu, Networks Cooperative Ministry, and Old Town Tucker.

The 49th Stone Mountain Highland Games and Scottish Festival, October 15-17

The meadows of Stone Mountain park will be transformed into a mix of impressive sight and sounds honoring Scottish culture. Don your tartans and be Scottish for a day! Parades, games, music and vendors will fill your day and spark new fun memories. All government requirements concerning the safety of spectators as well as the CDC-guidelines will be strictly followed to make this a healthy, exciting event.

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PATH has over 300 miles of trails throughout Georgia and beyond, and right here in the Tucker-Stone Mountain area. Visit www.pathfoundation.org/our-trails to learn more and plan a hike or adventure of your own making! Each trail page contains a description, an interactive map and a printable map that details the trail as well as the surrounding areas and points of interest.

Since 1991, the PATH Foundation has been transforming the landscape of the greater metropolitan Atlanta area. PATH has turned abandoned railroad corridors into beautiful linear greenspaces, linked neighborhoods to bustling commercial centers, and provided alternative modes of transportation for joggers, walkers, cyclists, and people of all ages.



Smoke Rise Resident Receives a National Distinguished Achievement Award

by Barbara Luton

Harry Strack recently received the Distinguished Service Award of Theta Chi Fraternity at the fraternity's national convention in Lexington, KY. Harry was a member of the fraternity at Auburn University, from 1961 to 1965, and has continued to serve the fraternity for the past 50 years. The award is given to one outstanding individual each year.

As a student, Harry was a leader in the chapter and on campus. As an upperclassman, he was tapped for Membership in Spades, an honor reserved for the ten most influential men on the Auburn campus each year. As an alumnus, he was instrumental in the construction of Chi Chapter's house and helped lead Auburn's resurgence as one of the strongest chapters in the country. He has shown unwavering patience and commitment to mentoring the young leaders in the Auburn chapter of Theta Chi. This Distinguished Achievement Award recognizes alumni members for exceptional professional accomplishments, career achievements, community or public service and commitment as an alumnus to the fraternity.



Harry is a Retired Navy Captain where he served as a supply officer. He is a Certified Public Accountant having served for 25 years at R.C. Hasler as chief operating officer and Base Manufacturing as vice president and chief financial officer. In 2009, he returned to public accounting and formed his own company, Tiger Tax Strack.

Harry has served tirelessly in his community, volunteering his service as treasurer to the Smoke Signal, Tucker Business Association, Stone Mountain Historical Society and the Stone Mountain Village Business Association. He has also served as a Rotarian in the Stone Mountain Rotary Club for 45 years. In addition, he coached soccer for 17 years in DeKalb County.

On a personal note, from the Smoke Signal staff, we could not operate without Harry's help managing the finances of the paper. He volunteers many hours to keep our paper going.

Harry and his former wife, Susan, have a son, a daughter, and six grandchildren who all live in the Atlanta area. Congratulations to our neighbor, Harry Strack, for this well-deserved national honor.

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Partisan Politics Do Not Belong in Local Politics

by Pat Soltys

We love our small and growing city of Tucker. When Tucker was being formed, the objectives were to bring government closer to the residents, to keep a focus on what was important to the residents, and to be able to make a difference in a hyper local government style. It was so important that it became a part of our charter that our elected officials would not run by party.

The vote was strongly in favor of incorporation because we could not get things we were paying for in taxes to DeKalb County done, they would not listen to citizens individually, and our tax dollars were lost in the dollars to be spent throughout unincorporated DeKalb. Now in the time since we became a city, we are seeing a lot of things being done, like paving of roads, that had been back-burnered in DeKalb. We are no longer fully governed by the agenda of DeKalb County. We have a collective voice and the ability to influence and give input to prioritize and spend tax dollars under the governance of the city.

Could you imagine that if we had a partisan agenda trying to influence and direct our city leadership? Partisan agendas often try to bring federal and state agendas to the local level, often overtaking the local agenda. We have things we are mandated to do by our charter and limitations to what we can do by revenue, budget and local requirements. Partisan politics (no matter what the brand is) often recruit people to run and put money and staff behind them to make sure their candidate has a stronger chance over the local grassroots candidates who are running on funds raised through supportive neighbors and friends, as well as their personal funds. There is always payback and it comes often in terms of promoting the partisan agenda whether or not it aligns with the needs or wants of the community. With partisan politics, we go from being a hyper local, Tucker-focused agenda to one in which the issues are not necessarily what will help our community or even align with our priorities.

My Dad, who was the precinct committeeman in the very small area I grew up in, had gotten into local politics because of a passion to serve our community. In that area, even most local politics are partisan. I remember several times that he felt that the agenda he was asked to promote had nothing to do with the local area and he was taken away from priorities because of alignment and their financial backing. He always said "If you take from their pocket, there was no gifting of money, it always had a price tag."



techtalk

by Susan Gilbert

What is Pea Ice?

That name may not conjure up the most pleasant image of something you would want to put in your iced tea, but pea or nugget-ice is something I have come to truly appreciate. I have seen it everywhere at fine restaurants and enjoy it in my Chick-fil-A drinks, but never thought about it much.

My first encounter with the concept was at a Greater Atlanta Christian School Moms' function where several of the parents were working together on a project. As we worked, the conversation became focused on one of the families that was quite wealthy. The way one of the moms described their wealth was that they did not have ONE pea ice machine....they had TWO! I was intrigued. I thought, "What in the world is pea ice?"



When we did a home renovation a few years later, I asked around about this pea ice, and learned that indeed it was far superior to regular ice cubes in many ways.

For one, because the cubes are small nuggets, they have more surface area and melt faster than large cubes. Many prefer this feature in their soft drinks and cocktails.

Another characteristic I learned to appreciate is a cooler full of these nuggets easily accepts bottles, cans, and other containers you want to keep chilled. Just give them a push and they are buried in the ice. Unlike bags of purchased ice where, if you didn't have the items in the cooler first to then pour the ice over them, they were going to be sitting on top of the ice rather than being surrounded.

Another use of pea ice is for quick cooling hard boiled eggs or boiled shrimp. Most restaurants that serve oysters on the half shell use pea ice on the platter for the same reason.

For people who like to chew ice, the soft nuggets retain the flavor of your beverage and are easy to chew.

In further research about these pea ice makers, I learned the manufacturers were quite proud of them from looking at the prices. A leading maker, Scotsman, has units that run about \$2,000, but many of their under-counter models are in the \$4,000 to \$5,000 range.

However, I am pleased to report that other manufacturers have caught on to customers wanting pea ice, or what GE calls, "The Good Ice." We found a GE Profile countertop unit on Amazon for \$500 that makes 24 lbs. of ice per day and its bin holds 3 lbs. When the bin is full, we dump it into a bag and store it in the freezer for later use when we need 10 or 20 lbs. for a cooler or ice bucket. And it is easy to move the portable unit around. No water hookup is required; you just plug it in, fill the water reservoir, and in 20 minutes you will be enjoying soft, crunchy ice.

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NEWS YOU CAN USE by Aviva Hoffmann

The New Absentee Ballot Process

Last month, I covered the upcoming November 2, 2021 municipal election for the city of Tucker's mayor and four of its council members. This month, I am highlighting how registered DeKalb County voters can request an Absentee Ballot for the November 2, 2021 General Election. The last day to register to vote for this election is October 4, 2021.

No matter your reason, if you want to vote by absentee ballot, you can do that here in Georgia. No excuse is needed to vote before Election Day. However, since the passage of Georgia State Bill 202, the law on absentee ballots has changed. The new law allows you to return an absentee ballot request no earlier than 78 days and no later than 11 days prior to an election (August 16 – October 22 for this election). Also new this year, you must use the new, official application to request an absentee ballot. Be sure to read through it carefully. You are now required to provide either your Georgia Driver's License number, a Georgia ID Card number or a photocopy of another approved form of ID. If you do not have an acceptable ID, you can get one free of charge from DeKalb's Voter Registration and Elections (VRE) Office or the Department of Driver Services.

If you are a registered DeKalb County voter and wish to request an absentee ballot for the upcoming election, you can complete an absentee ballot application online at DeKalbVotes.com under the Absentee Information tab. Be sure to note that a voter signature is required on this application. You must use a pen. No electronic signatures are allowed.

Once filled out, absentee ballot applications can be returned in-person or by mail to DeKalb Voter Registration & Elections at 4380 Memorial Drive, Suite 300, Decatur, GA 30032, via fax at (404) 298-4038, or via email at absenteeballot@dekalbcountga.gov.

After you return your completed absentee ballot application, be sure to look out for your election ballot. DeKalb's VRE must receive your ballot by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. To meet that deadline, it's a good idea to mail your ballot back at least a week before Election Day. If you want to use a Drop Box to return your election ballot, the law on drop boxes has changed too. DeKalb's VRE will post a list of available drop boxes as soon as they are open. Note: Only roommates, immediate family members, or caregivers can return absentee ballots that do not belong to them.

If you request an absentee ballot, but change your mind and want to vote in person, you can do that! No problem. Bring your absentee ballot with you to your polling location on Election Day, and you may vote in person instead.

You can check the status of your application or your ballot at the Georgia "My Voter Page" online: www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do. If you have not received your ballot 10 days after it was issued, or if your ballot has not been accepted 10 days after you returned it, contact DeKalb's VRE office at (404) 298-4020 or voterreg@dekalbcountyga.gov.

For more information, you can also visit DeKalbVotes.com or call 1-866-DEK-VOTES.

The Birds of Smoke Rise: Part One

by Kathy Rhinehart

For the past twenty six years, Bill and I have been avid bird watchers. Relaxing on our second floor screened porch, we feel like we are sitting in a tree house deep in the forest, watching birds as a creek babbles at the back of our property.

Binoculars to zoom in? Check. Bird books to stay educated? Check. Bird bath to clean our feathered friends? Check. Water feature to attract them to our hanging feeders? Check. Let the parade of birds begin as we sit back to observe!

We have been pleased to "meet" several of the birds of Smoke Rise. Below, we provide a catalogue of our avian neighbors (the first of two parts) with descriptions of their physical features and songs for your enjoyment and knowledge as you observe them in your yard too!

House Finch males have orangish red heads and chests, brown streaks on their backs, tails and bellies; females are drab in comparison. The finches perch in clusters of six to eight on our feeders. Sometimes they perch for six or seven minutes as we listen to their soft recognizable tweets.

Eastern Towhees are striking, large sparrows with black heads, throats, and backs. The males have reddish sides, long tails, and a white bellies. The females are similar but with brown coloring instead of black. They live in the southeastern United States until migrating farther south for the winter. Eastern towhees spend their time rummaging in the undergrowth along the edges of thickets. If your yard has overgrown borders you can find them there, searching for a snack. They will also visit platform feeders for black oil sunflower seeds.

Northern Cardinal males are a stunning red with a black mask and throat. Females are pale orangish brown with red on their chests, wings and tails. Both have a crest on their heads and short thick bills, perfect for cracking seeds. Their song is a loud string of clear down-slurred or two-parted whistles, often speeding up and ending in a slow trill.

White-breasted Nuthatch is a small, stocky song bird that is universally known as the upside-down bird. It walks up and down tree trunks with the ability to grip the bark. You will hear a "peck, peck, peck" on the metal bird feeder as it is hanging upside down to eat. A frosty-white face and underpart look so pretty with the gray-blue on its back.

Tufted Titmouse is a grayish bird, small in size with white under parts, and a peach wash on the sides of the tufted crest on top of the head. It has a black forehead and large dark eyes that are always alert. Males and females look the same. Their song is fast and loud sounding like "peter, peter, peter" or "here, here, here, here."

The Red Bellied Woodpecker is one of our favorite birds to see at the feeders. Males have bright red plumage that extend from their beaks to the back of their necks. Females only have red on the back of their necks. Their bellies don't actually contain much red coloring other than an indistinct red wash.

Hairy Woodpeckers are the smallest woodpeckers in North America. They sport a striped head and an erect, straight back posture while on trees. Their bodies are black and white overall with a long, chiseled bill almost as long as their heads. Male birds can be identified by a red patch at the back of their heads, which females lack. A Hairy Woodpecker and a Downy Woodpecker are very similar. The Downy's bill is dainty and short. The Downy is a little over 6 inches tall, while the Hairy is almost 50% taller. The male Hairy's red patch is often split in two, while the male Downy's is just one patch.

Barred Owls are another of our favorites. They are large, magnificent creatures, as you can see in the photos here. Bill and I rarely see them, but we hear them. Pretty much every afternoon, evening and an occasional sleepless night we hear their hoots. Frequently, we will hear two or three calling to each other. Their song is something like "who cooks for you who COOKS for you."

As the fall season approaches and brings cooler weather, we hope you seize the opportunity to spend some time outside among these beautiful birds of Smoke Rise. And stay tuned for part two of our catalogue to learn about several more of our frequent flyers!



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Mountain Mums Garden Club

by *Connie Henry*

After taking more than a year off, brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mountain Mums Garden Club held their first in-person meeting of the club year on August 11 at the lovely home and gardens of Mary Jacobson. The Mums' first get-together was a meet and greet giving members an opportunity to catch up, collaborate, and swap ideas. This year's theme will be "Where Flowers Bloom, So Does Hope" by Lady Bird Johnson. The theme was especially appropriate as the inspiring devotional was entitled, "Bloom Where You Are Planted." The ladies enjoyed a delicious brunch served by hostess Jacobson and co-hostesses Kathy Rhinehart, Heather McLendon, and Debbie Jones.



Mountain Mums August hostesses (L-R): Mary Jacobson, Debbie Jones and Heather McLendon. Kathy Rhinehart not pictured.

The Mountain Mums meet the second Wednesday of every month, August through May, at individuals' homes or in the community. The next meeting will be at the Kanawha home of Susan and Joel Gilbert at 9:45 a.m. on September 8th. Guests are always welcome. To check out a meeting and learn more about the Mountain Mums and its upcoming programs, please contact Debbie Jones, Membership Director, at (678) 381-1648 or debrajones219@comcast.net. You will be glad you did!

Morning Glories Learn to Knit Plarn

So, what is Plarn? Plarn is a collection of plastic grocery bags knit into a mat that is used by the homeless for sleeping or resting. It takes 800 plastic grocery bags to create one mat that is strong, repels moisture, can be easily transported, and offers some comfort to those in need. In order to make the mats, plastic grocery bags are collected and trimmed to fit a uniform size which is then knit or woven to create the ultimate finished product.



Club member, Vivian Nickelsen, will lead the program for the September meeting on how to prepare the grocery bags for knitting. Each club member has been asked to collect clean plastic bags and bring them to the September 14th meeting which will be held at the Smoke Rise Country Club. Vivian and Ruth Ann Hill will provide the hands-on instruction for the workshop and show club members how something like this can be such a help to those who are in difficult circumstances.

The Morning Glories support this project and other service projects all year to help the community in a variety of ways. Donations are collected for the Stone Mountain Cooperative Ecumenical Ministry, WellRoot, and Helping Mamas.

The garden club year runs from September to May, and meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Smoke Rise Country Club, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with lunch. Each month features a meeting and a speaker on a wide variety of topics. Many of our programs feature horticulture and can also include presentations on birds, butterflies, and environmental causes. If you are interested in the club and would like more information on our organization, please contact President Joyce Ray at (770) 491-9015.

This beautiful photo is from a member, Dolly Moy, who enjoys capturing native plants in full bloom right here in Smoke Rise. The red azalea is of the plum leaf variety, which is the famous symbol for Callaway Gardens. The plum leaf blooms in late July and August and features striking deep red to orange blooms, beloved by hummingbirds. It can grow to 15 feet tall and has an open rangy habit. The golden rudbeckia plant in front of the azalea is another native and late summer bloomer. Also called a black eyed Susan or sunflower, they prefer open sunny sites and are loved by bees and other pollinators.

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Amen, Let's Eat Figs!

by Joyce Ray

Let Us Eat Lettuce!

Like me, you might remember your small-town school or church spaghetti supper fundraisers. They were simple and inexpensive to serve because you could stretch the number of servings by adding more noodles to the pot and serving a simple salad which was made up of a wedge of Iceberg lettuce and a plop on top of either Thousand Island or French dressing. Nothing "fancy" but good food and a great money maker!

Many varieties of lettuce have found their way to the markets over the last several decades, but the idea of a wedge salad is still appealing for its convenience and versatility. Begin by taking the core out of the lettuce. I still use the old-fashioned method of holding it with both hands, with the core pointed down, and whacking it on the counter to loosen the core, then pulling it out. One standard head of lettuce will produce 8-10 wedges and likely serve up to 12 people. I like to serve them in a short, rimmed bowl or platter and start with a bed of other favorite greens such as spinach or arugula, then add the wedges with the widest side out against the rim to make a "bowl" for your other favorite seasonal vegetables. Or, leave it plain and top with a homemade dressing, such as the following Blue Cheese Dressing, and garnish with bacon.

This month's recipes come from *A TIME TO COOK: Dishes from my Southern Sideboard* by James T. Farmer III. I highly recommend this book for anyone wanting to know more about southern cooking recipes and methods. Even if you are not in the mood to cook, you will enjoy reading this like a novel. With beautiful photos and delightful narratives, the author imparts his confidence and inspires readers to be creative. If you own an iron skillet and have a file of handed down recipes, this is the cookbook you will treasure! I have chosen 3 recipes from it to boost your appetite and make you want to own the book or give it as a gift.

Blue Cheese Dressing

This makes about 3 1/2 cups and can be stored for 2 weeks in the refrigerator. 1 cup heavy whipping cream – 1 cup buttermilk – 2/4 cup sour cream – 1 Tablespoon Worcestershire – 1 teaspoon garlic powder – 8 oz blue cheese, cut into chunks, reserve about 1 T for crumbles – 1/2 cup skim milk- salt – freshly ground black pepper. In a heavy saucepan, whisk together the first 5 ingredients. Bring mixture to simmer. Add blue cheese chunks, stirring to slightly dissolve cheese and incorporate it into the cream mixture. Add up to 1/2 cup of skim milk, a little at a time to a thin mixture. Dressing will thicken as it cools. Season to taste with salt/pepper.

Farmer's Pimento Cheese

1 cup each of finely shredded sharp cheddar and Vermont White Cheddar Cheese – 1/2 to 3/4 cup Mayonnaise – 1/3 cup pimento pieces with some juice – squirt of lemon juice. Combine all ingredients and season with a dash each of Lawry's Seasoned Salt, Morton Nature's Seasons, Pinch of cayenne pepper, freshly ground black pepper and fresh ground sea salt.

Sour Cream Apple Pie

1 pie crust – 1 egg – 1 1/4 cups sour cream – 3 Tablespoons plus 1/2 cup all-purpose flour, divided. – 1 cup sugar – 1/4 teaspoon vanilla – 3 apples, cored, peeled, and sliced – 1/2 cup packed brown sugar – 1/4 cup softened butter. Preheat the oven to 400°. Prepare pie crust and fit to a pie pan. Beat the egg and stir in the sour cream, 3 T of flour, sugar, salt, and vanilla. Add the apples and mix well. Pour mixture into pie shell and bake for 30 minutes. Remove from the oven. Mix brown sugar, butter and 1/3 cup flour until crumbly. Sprinkle over the top of the warm pie. Return the pie to the oven and bake for an additional 15 minutes. Let cool. Serve with vanilla ice cream.

Tips for buying and storing lettuce:

When choosing iceberg, make sure the head is tight and doesn't feel "spongy" when you gently press it. It should be bright green with no darkened ribs that indicate it is nearing the end of freshness. It should be stored without washing; however, if you do wash it, use a lettuce spinner to remove as much water as possible. Along with freshness papers, drawer liners and beeswax sheets, there are many methods for keeping your lettuce fresh, including storage in plastic lettuce keepers. You can also wrap leaf varieties in aluminum foil to help preserve it.

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