

SMOKE SIGNAL



VOLUME 54, ISSUE 2

Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

May, 2021

www.smokesignalnews.com



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Tucker Summit CID News

by Emory Morsberger, President, Tucker Summit Community Improvement District

Last month, the official groundbreaking for the new Smoke Rise Elementary School kicked off the much-anticipated intersection improvements at Flintstone Drive and Hugh Howell Road. The focus is safe passage for school buses, parents and teachers, as they travel to and from the new Smoke Rise Elementary School in Tucker. The intersection improvements, along with a new traffic signal at Flintstone Drive at Hugh Howell Road, will create well-marked turn lanes and clear pedestrian crossings that will serve the community for years to come.



photo credit: Frank Luton

Tucker Mayor Frank Auman and the Tucker Summit Community Improvement District (TSCID) have been diligently working with the DeKalb County School District, DeKalb County and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) on the permitting, planning and designing of a safe and efficient intersection for residential, business and school commuters alike. The almost \$1 million intersection improvement project will



have a return of more than \$50 million in increased property value and will spur new development along the gateway corridor connecting DeKalb and Gwinnett counties.

The Flintstone Drive and Hugh Howell Road intersection construction is slated for completion by the beginning of the 2021 fall school year.

More info at:
www.tuckersumitcid.com



The Spirit of Mother's Day

by Joel Gilbert

In some ways, nothing really changes over time. Any good and noble idea suggested in a political setting can be criticized for the strangest reasons. According to Wikipedia, in 1908, Congress ejected Anna Jarvis' proposal to make Mother's Day an official holiday, joking that they would also have to proclaim a "Mother-in-law's Day." However, owing to her efforts, by 1911, all U.S. states observed the holiday. In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day a national holiday, held on the second Sunday in May.

Jarvis became resentful of the commercialization of the holiday. By the early 1920s, Hallmark Cards and other companies had started selling Mother's Day cards. Jarvis believed that the companies had misinterpreted and exploited the idea of Mother's Day and that the emphasis of the holiday should be on sentiment, not profit.



As a result, she organized boycotts of Mother's Day, and threatened to issue lawsuits against the companies involved. Jarvis argued that people should appreciate and honor their mothers through handwritten letters expressing their love and gratitude, instead of buying gifts and pre-made cards.

So, while flowers and chocolates are still a good idea, perhaps this is the right time to write a nice letter to the person who is a mother in your life. OK, so some can no longer write in cursive, so how about printing it. But, please...just refrain from just texting her.

And, how about calling and truly listening to what your mother figure has going on in her life. You do remember that device you carry around with you that can be used for that purpose? I grew up when long distance calling was so expensive you had to wait till late in the evening to get the better rates to call your parents. Today, you have no excuse, no matter where Mom lives.

It is interesting how important mothers are in society to raise children, and the amazing balancing act they perform when they choose to be both a mother and a breadwinner. Choices like this can so easily result in burnout, especially when they are also caring for their mothers at the same time. So, let's honor that spirit of giving and selfless love we have in our lives. These are tough choices, and it is so easy to feel inadequate and a failure without the support and appreciation of others.

So, even if you have no mothers left in your life, take Mother's Day to express your appreciation for those you know who do perform this role for you or others. Saying thanks never goes out of style. We all need to feel appreciated.



Smoke Signal

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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

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

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

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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*.

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

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Connecting in New Ways During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Chris George: Senior Pastor
 Bart McNeil: Associate Pastor of Administration, Ministry Support and Congregational Care
 Becky Caswell-Speight: Minister of Families, Faith Formation and Connection
 Jeremy Colliver: 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
 Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zabarac
 Director of Music ~ Joy Chittick
 Director of Weekday Ministries ~ Celeste Sears
 Office Coordinator ~ Christina Wetzel-Sizemore
 Music Intern ~ Ben Holcomb
 Organist ~ Carole Mitchell

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

Sundays:

9:10 a.m. Adult Sunday School via Zoom
 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School via Zoom
 10:30 a.m. Live streaming of Worship service

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

Contact the office for Zoom information at office@eastminster.us.

Special Community Event:

Eastminster Presbyterian hosting LifeSouth Blood Drive Sunday, May 16 from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm in the bloodmobile. Picture ID and facial masks required. Social distancing to be observed.

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

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 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
 Worship Arts Pastor: Gary Robinson
 Telephone (770) 491-0228
www.mwchurch.com

4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain

Sunday Services: 9am and 11am
 In-person and streaming online on Facebook and mwchurch.com

Tucker First Worship Services Return to In-Person Worship

by Katherine Griffith, Tucker First UMC Communications Volunteer

Tucker First United Methodist Church is happy to announce a returned to in-person worship for both the Sunday 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. worship services. Every Sunday, you are invited to attend the 11:00 a.m. traditional worship service in our Sanctuary or our 7:00 p.m. modern worship service, "Sunday Night with The Table@tuckerfirstUMC" in the Chapel. Both services offer wonderful preaching, amazing testimonies, and outstanding music. If you are looking for a different kind of worship experience, our 7:00 p.m. service is a new worship experience that centers around modern music, sacred ritual, and real relationships.

If you are not comfortable meeting in person, all services are live-streamed and can be viewed on the church website at www.tuckerfirst.org or the Tucker First UMC YouTube channel at <https://tinyurl.com/TuckerFirstYouTube>.

Due to COVID restrictions, an RSVP is required for anyone to attend the services. Masks must be worn and CDC protocols are followed, once you enter the building. You can RSVP for any service, by going to www.tuckerfirst.org.

Tucker First United Methodist Church: 5095 LaVista Road, Tucker, GA 30084.

City of Tucker to Host Adult Field Day Event

by Matt Holmes, Director of Communications and Administrative Services

Adults in and around the Tucker area are going to be hit with a wave of nostalgia next month. The city is sponsoring Adult Field Day, an evening of food, drink, music, games, and inflatable competitions at Tucker Recreation Center on May 8. The event, which this year will be 80s themed, is a fundraiser to Tucker's Summer Camp scholarship fund.

"We are so excited to be bringing back this fun event to Tucker Rec," said Recreation Leader Joe Stewart. "The response we got to Adult Field Day the first time around (in 2019) was phenomenal and now that we can do this in a safe and socially distant way, we're all in for a great night!"

Tickets are on sale at the city's Parks and Recreation website and include dinner and beverages courtesy of Tucker Brewing Company. All attendees must be 21 or older to participate. Free childcare will also be included in the cost of admission.

All proceeds from the evening go toward scholarships for Tucker's Summer Camp. The Camp, which starts June 1, is hosted at Tucker Recreation Center. Campers can expect to hike, swim, create arts and crafts, and design STEM activities all while forging new friendships. Registration is open now at tuckerga.gov/SummerCamp.

Tucker Recreation Center is located at 4898 Lavista Road.

For more information on this or other Parks and Recreation events, visit tuckerga.gov/parks or email parks@tuckerga.gov.

Congratulations to One of Our Own!

Once again, the City of Tucker has recognized a Smoke Rise resident as Citizen of the Month. Susan Gilbert was the April City of Tucker Citizen of the Month.

Susan is unique, as she is both a business leader as well as a community volunteer and leader.

Susan is the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of

Apogee Interactive, Inc., which is known across the energy utility industry as the leading provider of energy saving software. She is also extremely active in the Smoke Rise community. She writes for and is secretary of the *Smoke Signal*.



Susan is a member of the Board of Directors of the Smoke Rise Country Club and has been instrumental in keeping it alive and thriving during the pandemic. She is a leader in the Kanawha Community Association and is responsible for organizing neighborhood team captains throughout that community.

Susan is a member of Smoke Rise Baptist Church and serves as a deacon and member of the financial committee. But, what she has done with a Sunday school class at the church is amazing. The Discovery Class before the pandemic, when we went to church in person, had on a regular Sunday about 30 members. Now with Susan leading the Discovery Zoom Class, there are upwards of 60 class members each week. Many come from all over, including class attendees from Alabama, New York City, North and South Carolina and Tennessee – all due to Susan's leadership. Now the issue is going to be "how do we keep this going, when we start going back to church in person?" – another dilemma that the pandemic has created, although a "good dilemma."

Susan is also a trustee of Georgia's Developmental Disabilities Ministries (DDM), a nonprofit charitable corporation serving adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

Congratulations, Susan!

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Smoke Rise Elementary School Commemorative Brick Campaign

by Caroline Croom

It's not too late to celebrate the new Smoke Rise Elementary School by purchasing a commemorative brick. Bricks will be placed at the entrance of the new school and displayed proudly for years to come!

Brick engravings may include the name of a student, family, staff member, business, organization/club. You may choose to honor someone or a loved one's memory. Don't miss out on this special opportunity! Your brick will be a permanent part of the new Smoke Rise Elementary School!

There are several options available. Contact SRE for more information at (678)874-3602 or go online to see pricing and access the online order form: <https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/smokerise>

(Smoke Rise Elementary School's PTO and school administration reserve the right to refuse engraved text based on inscription content.)

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SRP: In the Home Stretch!

by Grier Kellett, Middle School Lead ELA Teacher

The Smoke Rise Prep faculty and administration could not be prouder of the hard work and perseverance our (K-8) students have shown during this pandemic school year. While strictly following CDC guidelines, our students and teachers have managed to make this year a successful one. Our students are engaged in multiple hands-on projects, demonstrations, and real-life applications. Our fabulous 4th graders rotated and revolved around the sun as our solar system's planets. Our middle schoolers have created plays, poetry, architectural plans for their dream houses, and Black history biographies. The kindergarteners weekly work on force and motion with marble track manipulatives and read 114 books in March alone. Everywhere you turn, our students are working collaboratively and with excitement. Our small class sizes and enthusiastic teachers make meaningful learning experiences possible.



In addition to academics, we had a very successful virtual Casino Night Auction during March. We raised more than \$10,000.00! Thanks to our generous parents and sponsors such as Hot Betty's, Clinebell Orthodontics, and Steve Ashby at Georgia Will and Probate Lawyers, LLC, we raised enough funds to maintain and update our academic and enrichment activities (i.e., classroom manipulatives for experiential learning), ensuring students have access to the latest technology like new Smart Board speakers and software. We were also able to help supplement our operating expenditures thanks to the big-hearted community.

Our Admissions Season is wrapping up, and we are excited about our future. We have some great things in store, and we invite you to attend one of our virtual open houses below to experience what makes Smoke Rise Prep unique: May 13 @ 10:00 am

In lieu of personal tours, we are offering Teacher Talks where you can speak with the teacher directly about their class activities, expectations, and more. You must attend an Open House presentation first, so go to our website for more information and registration details: <https://www.smokeriseprep.org/openhousetours>

To hear more about specific grade levels and to learn about additional offerings, contact info@smokeriseprep.org. Spaces are limited!

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Tucker Mission Garden Benefits NETWorks Cooperative with Fresh Vegetables

by Katherine Griffith, Tucker First UMC Communications Volunteer

Tucker First United Methodist Church is thrilled to have created a new mission-oriented community container garden in Tucker, and it is aptly named, "The Tucker Mission Garden." The church held a short consecration service for the garden April 25. The Tucker Mission Garden is located on Fourth Street in Tucker, behind the main church building.



The Tucker Mission Garden has three main objectives: to provide fresh produce for hungry neighbors in our community, to educate on sustainability and supporting our local ecosystem, and to strengthen community relationships by connecting community members and organizations. Additionally, a part of the garden is set aside as a pollinator garden (native Georgia plants), and another garden container is designated mobility friendly.

All the vegetables grown in the garden will be donated to NETWorks Cooperative Ministries, a local Tucker food bank. NETWorks Executive Director, David Fisher, commented, "We are very excited about the community garden! Fresh vegetables are always a big hit with our pantry visitors. The harvest from this garden will provide great, nutritious options for our neighbors. Thank you for all the hard work that has been done and will be done in this garden."



The project has already taken off with a group of excited volunteers from the church, and we are eager to welcome more community members to participate in the project. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Rev. Anne Cumings, Associate Pastor at Tucker First UMC, at anne.cumings@ngumc.net. If you would like to make a monetary donation towards the garden for the purchase of plants and supplies, you can donate online by going to <http://www.tuckerfirst.org/giving.html>.



Tucker First United Methodist Church is located at 5095 LaVista Road, Tucker, GA 30084. The church website is www.tuckerfirst.org.



Tucker Launches Live Chat Assistance

City of Tucker officials introduced a live chat feature on the tuckerga.gov website last month.

The new feature enables customers to avoid calling or visiting Tucker City Hall to have a question answered. City officials say it will speed up the customer experience and alleviate call volume to city hall.

The chat is staffed during city hall's regular business hours. Tucker City Hall's hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Customers who are not ready to use the chat feature—or those who have questions after business hours—may call City Hall staff at (678) 597-9040 or email questions to info@tuckerga.gov.

Smoke Rise Country Club Welcomes New Membership Director

Last November, Smoke Rise Country Club welcomed Rylee Palmer as the new Membership Director. Rylee is originally from Americus, GA and moved to Atlanta to work as a Delta Air Lines flight attendant. In that job, she traveled and interacted with people around the world. From there she joined the Bobby Jones Links (BJL) team and has worked with BJJ in several previous roles. Rylee also went through the Bobby Jones Links General Manager in Training Program in August with hopes to continue her career in the golf industry. She is excited to be a part of the Smoke Rise team and help bring new members into the Smoke Rise family.



Rylee is looking forward to meeting more of our Smoke Rise residents and their families and learning more about the place we call home. "I love that this beautiful club is set inside a fantastic community. I'm most excited for the opportunity to create a club environment that embodies the characteristics of both," described Rylee. She is excited to work with this club team in its goals to provide a first-class club experience with events for all to enjoy.

Outside of the club, Rylee is an avid golfer, learning to play as a young girl with her father who to this day is her favorite person to "grab 18 with." Rylee is a self-proclaimed "Ultimate" FSU fan, and loves spending time with her two dogs, Kobe and Semmi (Noles). If you haven't had a chance to meet her yet or have ideas on how the club and community can grow their relationship to support one another, please stop by and say hello or give her a call. (770) 908-2582 ext. 4.



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Out the Window

by Beth Henson

Gazing out the living room windows, I couldn't help but admire the lush, emerald green grass freshly watered by last evening's thunderstorm. The haze of smoky yellow pollen had graciously dissipated and the spring air was once again crystal clear. As I focused hard to admire the fragile yellow jasmine buds on the fence, I noticed languid movements and some rather strange noises coming from the neighbor's yard. To my surprise, a beautiful pastoral scene was unfolding right before my eyes. A flock of snowy white sheep were nimbly munching on an expanse of ropey English ivy. The ewes and rams were joined by a rather distinguished but elderly sheep dog that could have been mistaken for one of the small herd. Just then, two tiny lambs (one creamy and the other the color of a chocolate shake) popped out from behind a large poplar tree. They seemed to be playing a rollicking game of tag, hopping and skipping behind each other (a large contrast to their serene and plodding parents). Stepping outside for a better look, the group startled and slowly moved away up the hill to greener pastures.

Thank you for your beautiful arcadian depiction, even if you're only meant to be the clean-up crew!



Lamb by Beth Henson

NEWS YOU CAN USE

by Aviva Hoffmann

DIY Vax Cards?!

There's something related to the pandemic that's not an actual virus – but it's spreading nonetheless. Fake COVID-19 vaccination cards are now an actual thing - especially online!



As of mid-April, about two million Georgians (out of 70+ million Americans) have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. With that shot, they also got a small paper card to document the date and manufacturer of the vaccination dose. Currently, those cards are the only proof that exists for the COVID-19 vaccine. However, many companies and non-profits are working on apps that document vaccine proof.

These apps are being called "vaccine passports." Governor, Brian Kemp has said he will not support "vaccine passports" in Georgia. But, in the future, you may have to verify your vaccination status before boarding a plane, entering another country, or attending a special event, etc. During our everchanging new "normal," it's not clear exactly how regulations of "vaccine passports" would work and what kind of legal, ethical, and logistical challenges would follow. For now, the federal government's public focus is mainly on boosting vaccine supplies and vaccinations.

Still, scammers out there smell an opportunity. An underground market in fake vaccination record cards is growing. Fraudsters have been hawking counterfeit cards online at sites including eBay, Etsy and Shopify. They're also popping up on social media sites. And, there are several online "Do it Yourself" guides for printing fake vaccination cards at home. Just note that it is a federal crime to falsifying a vaccine document and to fraudulently reproduce the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention logo which is printed on every card's upper right-hand corner.

Bottom line: do not buy fake vaccine cards, do not make your own vaccine cards, and do not fill-in vaccination cards with any false information. Also, The FBI advises people against posting images of their vaccination cards online, to prevent counterfeiters from stealing personal information. Stay safe and healthy!

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Alien Invaders are Coming!

by Joel & Susan Gilbert

Perhaps you have heard this is the year for the cicadas to return. Don't worry, these are not the locusts of the bible...Our annual cicadas that serenade us on summer nights are loud and prolific, but they are essentially harmless except to our ears. These two-inch green, black and brown insects make loud buzzing calls that are one of the most familiar sounds of summer.



But this year is different! Prepare for "periodical cicadas," known as Brood X, or Great Eastern Brood cicadas that emerge from the ground in large numbers every 17 years, making a big impression when they do. They look much different from their annual counterparts being smaller with bright red eyes, black head and bodies, and transparent wings fringed with orange.

Experts tell us you can expect them in May give or take a few weeks. They emerge from the ground at night, once the soil temperature reaches roughly 64° F. Once they emerge, they seek out a tree, building, shrub, or even a garden tool propped against a fence. Once they find just the right place, they stop climbing and begin shedding their outer skin, or exoskeleton, for the last time.

They appear in mind-boggling numbers, typically 10,000 to 100,000 cicadas per acre! You'll know when they emerge. The sound of them trying to find a mate is deafening. It is made only by males using tiny drum-like structures on the sides of their bodies.

After mating, the females lay their rice-shaped eggs in slits cut in the very tips of branches. In some cases, this causes the leaves nearby to die. However, this is rarely detrimental to the tree. Once the eggs hatch, the cicada nymphs topple to the ground where they burrow into the soil for the next decade or more.

Cicadas have also been eaten by people of many cultures around the world. Some like them fried while others burn off the insects wings and legs and then sprinkled them with salt before frying. They are said to taste like crackerjacks, popcorn or peanuts. Yummy ... but no thanks.

Fortunately, cicadas neither bite nor harm plants. The next batch won't appear until 2028.

Many of the details of this article were extracted from the excellent online article by Terry Johnson with the Wildlife Resources Division.

techtalk

by Susan Gilbert

Clever Dispensers

Okay, I admit it, inefficiency really bugs me. I don't like taking extra time to do something that shouldn't need to be done. Take for instance one that has bothered me my entire life: getting toothpaste on a toothbrush. First, you must find the tube in a cabinet or drawer, get it out, twist off the cap, load your toothbrush, and then reverse the sequence putting the tube away. Why?

Remember when they came out with the tall, cylindrical toothpaste dispensers that stood by your bathroom sink so all you had to do was push the button on top to get toothpaste? What happened to that little miracle of convenience? I assume the packaging made it too expensive to survive.



So, imagine my delight when I found a dispenser that automatically puts the perfect amount of toothpaste on your brush when you simply wave it under the spout. No more finding the tube and no more twisting off and on caps.

But it gets better. The dispenser is designed for hand soap or lotion and it works great for both of those too. Making it work with toothpaste requires that you add just a little water to dilute it. I bought several dispensers for different purposes around the house. First of course, for toothpaste. Then one for hand cream and another for hand soap. Who needs a bar of soap in a soap dish that has to be cleaned and looks messy when you can have one of these little soldiers standing by your sink?

If you shop for them, you will see they range in price from \$12 to \$56. The good news is that with all devices like this, prices tend to drop over time. I tried one from Bed, Bath, & Beyond by Simple Human that is wonderful. It comes in white, chrome, brass, and brushed nickel exterior with a charger that attaches magnetically near the on-off switch at the back. It looks sleek and elegant beside the sink or on a counter. I encourage you to check them out and see what a convenience it is not having to search, twist, or pump when the dispenser will do all of that for you.

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Dudes on Food

Episode 5 - Brockett Pub

Burgers were on the brain this month, and we knew that Brockett Pub has one of the best around. A quick pre-amble before we head into the food. We didn't need anyone to tell us that Brockett Pub is one of the most underrated restaurants in Atlanta.

In full disclosure, this was not our first time visiting his local hidden gem. Tucked back in an unassuming corner of East Ponce and Brockett Rd. (easy to remember) Brockett Pub opened in 2009 in what used to be George K's Tavern. For those of you that remember George K's, that's a story for another day.

Thinking back to the first visit to Brockett Pub, it was clear that they are here to stay, with a genuine approach and local vibe. Nothing super fancy, but it's a perfect place to watch your game of choice, TVs at just about every angle. During many visits over more than a decade, there has not been a single disappointment with food or service.

OK let's get to the food. Burger are a must, and we decided to just pile on from there. In no particular order... Bleu Cheese Bacon Burger, Crispy Brussel Sprouts, Shrimp Tacos, Rueben, and Summer Spaghetti. OK we had a little help this time with the food, but the dudes were all in.

The Bleu Cheese Bacon Burger is a juicy combo of some of the most awesome flavors on the planet on top of mid-rare goodness. While they'll ask you in many restaurants how you'd like your burger cooked, the result is seldom on the spot. Not so at Brockett Pub. It's always done to perfection, with no exception. As always, the fries are fresh and hot. While we skipped them this go around, the Onion Rings are fantastic. The perfect O's of hand battered crispy delight.

Next up, the Ruben. The signature house braised corn beef comes fully assembled with sauerkraut, swiss and thousand island, all tucked in a nicely toasted traditional marble rye. This would make your favorite deli jealous. A great sandwich done right.

If you are ready for some premium shrimp tacos, these are it. Served with jalapenos, feta, spicy peanut ginger slaw and tarter, they are an amazing mix of flavors and texture. At first glance somewhat small, the two tacos are plenty.

The Summer Spaghetti were next. A common noodle done different. The sweet and savory basil against the tartness of the balsamic reduction squares nicely with the garlic butter sauce.

Saving one of the best for last. Instead of dessert, we had another appetizer. The Crispy Brussel Sprouts. This amazing tiny cabbage is cooked perfectly to bring the right amount of crisp, a dash of salt with a little sweet/savory from rosemary, apple and apple cider reduction. Worth the price of admission.

There is also a great selection of your local beer favorites as well as the old standbys.

Be sure to check out the full menu at brockettpub.com and follow the place on Facebook to keep up with daily specials and events. Bummed we missed the pimento cheese sandwich for the Masters.

Lastly, let us know your thoughts. Have an idea or a suggestion for the dudes, we would love to hear from you. Send comments to staff@smokesignalnews.com and be sure to put "Dudes on Food" in the subject. Thanks for tuning in. -The Food Dudes

DeKalb Offers Free Bulky Item Collection for Residents

The DeKalb County Sanitation Division will offer free residential bulky item curbside collection May 7 through May 29. Residents within the Sanitation Division's service area can place bulky items, including furniture and appliances, curbside for collection. Servicing will occur once per household. Items should be placed at the curb no later than 7:00 a.m. the day of your bulky item curbside collection.

Collection schedules are based on residents' designated sanitation service day as follows:

For customers whose regularly scheduled collection day is Monday, servicing will begin on Friday, May 7, and end on Saturday, May 8. For customers with a regular Tuesday collection day, bulky item servicing will begin on Friday, May 14 and end on Saturday, May 15.

Regular Wednesday customers will receive bulky item curbside collection service beginning on Friday, May 21, and ending on Saturday, May 22. Thursday regular collection customers will have bulky item collection beginning on Friday, May 28, and ending on Saturday, May 29.

If you have questions, you can contact the Sanitation Division's Customer Care team at (404) 294-2900. You can also send email to sanitation@dekalbcountyga.gov; visit www.dekalbsanitation.com; or follow @DKalbSanitation on Twitter.

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Celebrating a 91st Birthday with Class!

by Frank Luton & Susan Gilbert

Many in Smoke Rise either know him or know of him: Dr. Truett Gannon, who in 1975, became the second pastor of Smoke Rise Baptist Church (SRBC). Before coming to Smoke Rise, Truett served as pastor of a church in New Orleans and before that at Avondale Estates First Baptist Church. He is a native of Cordele, and a graduate of both Mercer University and the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

During his tenure at Smoke Rise, Truett, his late wife Margaret, and their children, Kenny and Karen (Mrs. Mike Griffith), endeared themselves to the congregation. He is known for writing an anniversary note to each and every couple he married. He has also baptized more than 1,000 people during his first 18 years of his ministry at Smoke Rise and oversaw the ritual of dedicating babies at countless morning worship services. He received



thousands of new members at Smoke Rise. Under his leadership, the church completed three successful building programs including the magnificent sanctuary complex dedicated on September 7, 1986.

When Dr. Bob Browning took over as Senior Pastor, Truett was honoured as Pastor

Emeritus of Smoke Rise Baptist Church, a role he graciously embraced, as he continued to delivered sermons on special occasions and give words of eulogy and comfort at funerals. What I remember best are his stories at funerals. His dry humour and gift of storytelling is something to behold.

The SRBC congregation organized a Birthday Drive By at the Church to celebrate his 91st birthday, amid the pandemic where members and well-wishers could remain in their cars, drive up, and share a few words with the man who is a loved legend in so many hearts and minds.



50th Anniversary Surprise

by Susan Gilbert

Tanya Briggs and her husband Spurgeon of East Gate Court were disappointed their 50th anniversary on March 27 occurred during the COVID pandemic, making it hard to have a real celebration. They decided to postpone it and just have a quiet day at home with dinner out.

Their daughter Tally, and her husband Brad Johnson, had other plans. Sometime after midnight on their anniversary eve, Brad had a gigantic sign installed in the front yard proclaiming the 50th anniversary for all the world to see, or at least all the neighbors. It was as if little elves came silently in the night.

Tally and Brad offered to pick up lunch and come over that day. Having just been vaccinated, it was the first time in more than a year they were all able to dine together inside at the same table. Wow, that's a celebration and alone would have been sufficient. But wait...there's more! After lunch, they sat down together to watch something Tally and Brad had brought on their computer to share. A video started playing, and neither Tanya nor Spurgeon could believe their eyes. There on the screen was Tanya's sister and her husband waving and wishing them a happy anniversary. They were astonished, but it got better. After that short clip came another, this time Spurgeon's brother and his wife, but it wasn't done. What followed was almost an hour of close and extended family and long-time friends from all across the country sharing their well wishes almost as if they were there in person. One was from a nephew who works offshore on an oil rig, another from a former elementary school teacher. Many came from members of their Smoke Rise Baptist Church Discovery Sunday School Class who loved making their movies and being virtually part of their celebration.

The surprise of seeing it begin to play and each new person or group of people coming on was overwhelming. It brought tears, laughter, and overall enormous gratitude for Tally making it all happen. She knew how much her Mom wanted to be able to celebrate with family and friends. And while that was not possible in person, she came up with the idea of capturing it all on video. The video platform she used that enabled it all is called VidHug. Using it made it easy for everyone to make their own short movie and upload it into the complete video.

Then, the icing on the cake was seeing that HUGE yard sign. Tally and Brad made it an extraordinarily special anniversary. The fact they kept it a surprise was no small feat, with so many people involved. It was memorable, personal, and with a video that will forever be a keepsake.



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GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club

The Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs is celebrating 125 years of service to the state and its communities. To honor its years of service, the individual clubs are collecting 125 different items to give to local needs and charities each month during this year.

The Stone Mountain club collected socks and hats for the Women's Resource Center to stop domestic violence in January. In February, Valentines were created to give to the residents at the Mountain View Nursing Home. Members donated more than 125 individually wrapped snack items for the Ronald McDonald house for March. The April collection will be glue sticks for Smoke Rise Elementary and Stone Mountain Elementary schools.

GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club was established as a federated club with the national organization in 1929 and has celebrated its 90th birthday. Both GFWC Georgia and the local club are members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs based in Washington, DC.

For more info about the Stone Mountain Woman's Club, visit: <https://www.stonemountainwomansclub.org/>



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By Linda Karr

In 1978 - 43 years ago – Sam Odum opened The Tucker Frame Shop on Main Street. Much has changed since then! Kelly Holloway became the fifth owner of the shop on September 1, 2005. In 2009, Kelly and Jason Durham, the owner of Too Many Guitars on Main Street got together and began sharing the space of the frame shop as well becoming partners in the business and life.

As the years went by Kelly knew she needed more room, and customers were having a difficult time finding a parking space. So, she and JD decided to pack up and move to Fellowship Road in June of 2014. The new space offered much more room for their framing supplies, more workroom space, and a private parking lot for their customers.

The shop has evolved over the years from offering basic framing services to more designed-based framing. Custom framing is an art form and craft that has been around for centuries. They offer a wide array of frames available from traditional, to colorful and whimsical and just about everything in between. They offer handmade frames, create three-dimensional works such as shadowboxes of various depths, and frame "hard-to-frame" items as well. They offer state-of-the-art archival conservation methods and materials and great attention to detail, with all work being done in house.

Kelly has been framing for 27 years. What is the gamut of requests that she has received for framing? She has done a lot of originals, historical and cultural pieces, heirlooms, posters, diplomas, art prints, and photography. And, there have been those unusual requests such as a sample of Abraham Lincoln's hair (it was DNA certified!), the first patented Velcro golf glove, JFK's handkerchief, a piece of the Berlin Wall, an antique Egyptian wedding veil, Civil war artifacts, a Sioux Indian breastplate, an original Houdini poster that he wrote on, Balinese puppets, a Bible page from original King James 1611, vintage rock and roll art & albums, and a letter from General Charles de Gaulle. She never knows what a customer may bring in next.

Fortunately, this was a business that was not negatively affected by the pandemic over the last year. People have been home working on projects, home improvements, cleaning out closets, and have had a desire to showcase some of the items they have put aside. The framing business has been busier than ever. However, they have had to struggle with supply chain and staffing issues. Kelly and JD made the decision to go more appointment based, so they can spend quality design time with each individual customer and provide an uninterrupted meeting of the minds and social distancing to assess each project.

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Gardening: What NOT to Plant!

by Quill Duncan, Master Gardener

Chinese Privet or Ligustrum sinense or European Privet Ligustrum vulgare are examples of semi-evergreen and evergreen shrubs that were frequently used by landscapers for many years. A third variety known as Japanese Privet or Ligustrum japonicum is also called Glossy Privet. You will see these plants all over Smoke Rise in gardens and in the woods. In the winter, it is usually the only green item in the hardwood forest.

Privet is commonly used as a screen planting in landscapes and the glossy variety can be pruned into tree form or a standard with a single trunk. The Chinese and European varieties are often multi-trunked with arching stems. The plants are drought-tolerant and deer do browse on the Chinese privet sprouts.



So what is the big deal? “The Non-Native Invasive Plants of Southern Forests Field Guide” by James H. Miller noted that these shrubs were widely planted and considered traditional southern ornamentals. Introduced from China and Europe in the early to mid-1800’s to our area, they were valued for their screening properties. All was well, but then they “escaped.” And that is the problem.

Every one of these privet types blooms profusely here in our area from April to June. The flowers are clusters of white with four petals and have a very strong fragrance. After flowering, green fruit is set in July and in summer, ripening to blue black in winter. They are considered aggressive and troublesome invasive plants, as they often form dense thickets particularly in bottom-land forests and along fencerows. They colonize by root sprouts and spread widely by birds and other animals who consume the fruit. With this dense growth, they crowd out native species in the woods and are difficult to remove. They sprout easily, grow and spread quickly if unchecked. The best method to control the plant involves several possible options. You can remove the fruit and dispose of it in the trash. Do not compost. That will cut down on unwanted sprouting of new plants.

Smaller shrubs can be dug out or pulled out by the roots. Larger plants can be cut at the base, and then the fresh cut can be coated with Roundup or glyphosate to kill the plant to the roots. It is possible to spray the leaves with several different types of herbicides but be careful with overspray that might damage other plants in the area. Once removed, consider selecting native or less aggressive screening plants to provide the privacy and color of the evergreens such as the native anise or the beautiful non-invasive Sasanquas Camellia or Camellia Japonica to add color in the landscape. Next month, we will tackle another common invasive plant: nadina.

Morning Glories Welcome Jan Streater Mayheu!

by Quill Duncan

April’s Zoom meeting featured our charter member’s daughter as speaker. Jan Mayheu is the daughter of Joy Streater, and we were honored to welcome her as the Director of Major Giving for the Helping Mamas organization. Helping Mamas was founded in 2014 to fill a service gap for mothers in need. In that first year, the organization served 200 people with diapers, baby wipes, period products, clothing and other essential items. In 2020, it served 65,000 people with those same services through a network of other support agencies.

Helping Mamas has a warehouse in Norcross where it receives donated materials and distributes them to the Salvation Army, YMCA, NetWorks, Children’s Health Care of Atlanta, various co-ops. The organization has partnered with United Way and the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Like many organizations, it can purchase necessary items at, or below cost, to distribute to families in need. Your monetary donations go a long way towards filling those needs. As Jan noted, Helping Mamas has four paid staff members and relies on VISTA volunteers and volunteers from the community to sort donations and load trucks and make deliveries. Though based in Norcross, it serves the entire state of Georgia

and partners with more than 150 other service agencies. Funding comes from grants. The organization received \$75K from the United Way last year, as part of the COVID relief effort. With a recent purchase of a van, Helping Mamas began a mobile program with a drive-thru distribution. Earlier this year, the van went to Marietta and served 580 families in 90 minutes. With that success, Helping Mamas is now offering that service three times a week in various area communities. If you would like more information or wish to donate, please contact Jan at jan@helpingmamas.org.



“Iris Still Life” from member, Dolly Moy’s garden

In other club news, President Joyce Ray announced that our new club year has begun, and we will be evaluating our new projects. Member Gloria Cooke noted that the new Smoke Rise Elementary School will be opening this August. As a fundraiser, the new school is offering commemorative bricks for sale. An engraved clay brick is \$70, a marble engraved brick is \$80 and a new granite bench is \$750. The club plans to continue to support the school’s STEM program and offer other ways to encourage the study of the environment. Our next meeting will be May 11 via Zoom and feature DeKalb Extension agent, Yanni Chen on growing herbs. Please contact Joyce Ray at joyceray126@gmail.com, if you would like more information on the club or just want to hear the speaker. We would love to have you join us!

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Amen, Let's Eat!

by Joyce Ray



Mom's Special Day

For many years, phone companies report that Mother's Day is the busiest day for phone calls. Whether you call her Mother, Mom, Mommy, Mama, or any variation or in any other language, your mother will never forget the sound of your voice saying her special name. The most important thing to her is just to hear your voice on Mother's Day. For those of us who no longer have that option, we can remember her in other special ways, and for me, one is with the food she cooked and the recipes she passed down.

This month we honor our mothers with some favorites that we have collected that, incidentally, are easy to make and would be great served to her for breakfast or brunch (in bed, if that is how she likes it!).

The first recipe is being republished in honor of Lou Tankersley who cooked for Smoke Rise Baptist Church for many years and served this favorite that she credits to the Hippensteal Inn in Gatlinburg, TN.

Cheesy Egg Casserole

6 eggs	1/2 cup flour
1 teaspoon baking powder	1/8 teaspoon salt
1 cup milk	8 ounces cottage cheese
3 oz cream cheese	1 Tablespoon butter
1 lb Monterey Jack Cheese, Cubed	

Beat eggs in large bowl and add flour, baking powder, salt, and milk. Beat in cottage cheese and add cubed cream cheese and Monterey Jack Cheese. Pour into a well-greased and floured 2-quart baking dish and dot with butter. Bake at 340° for 45 minutes.

Pecan Pie Muffins

(Barbara Luton shared this treat.) These are too good to be so quick and easy, but they will be a hit! Do not expect leftovers!

Dry Ingredients: Mix together 1 cup brown sugar, 1/2 cup plain flour, 1 cup chopped pecans
Wet Ingredients: 2 beaten eggs, 2/3 cup softened butter, 1 tsp. vanilla

Mix wet ingredients into dry and blend with a spoon, not a mixer. Drop into greased muffin (or mini muffin) tins and bake at 350° for 20 minutes or until centers are set.

Fresh Strawberry Short Cake Pie

This has been a staple at my spring table for many years. It can be made in a regular pie pastry, but you would miss the magic of the strawberry sauce seeping into the delicious thick shortbread crust. It is best if made in a deep-dish pie pan.

Crust:	1 cup Bisquick
	3 tablespoons confectioners' sugar
	3 Tablespoons water
	3 Tablespoons softened butter

Mix to make a soft dough and press into greased pie pan. Bake at 340° for 8-10 minutes.

Filling:	1 cup sugar
	3 Tablespoons strawberry Jello powder
	3 Tablespoons corn starch
	1 cup water

Mix sugar with cornstarch and Jello. Add water and cook on medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture thickens. Arrange 1 quart slice strawberries in baked pie shell. Pour strawberry mixture over top. Refrigerate several hours or overnight until set. Serve with whipped cream.

Chicken Crunch Casserole

This was an economical favorite that I served for mission teams and large groups, and there are many variations of this dish. Add your own spices or include grated cheese in topping. Serve alone or on white rice.

	3 chicken breasts – cooked and diced
	1/2 cup sour cream
	1 can cream of chicken soup
	1 teaspoon crushed tarragon

Mix above ingredients and spread in 8x12 buttered baking dish.

Topping:	1/2 cup slivered almonds
	1/2 sleeve of crushed ritz crackers
	2 Tablespoons melted butter

Mix and add to top of chicken mixture. Bake for 20 minutes until sauce is bubbly and topping is brown. Serves six

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