

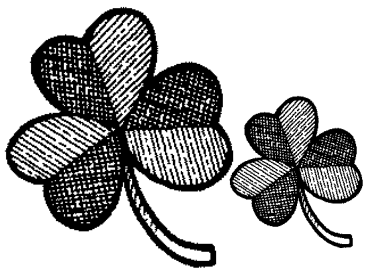
# SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 12

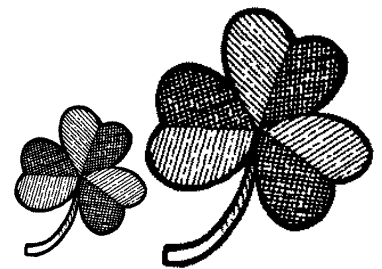
*Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968*

March, 2015

[www.smokesignalnews.com](http://www.smokesignalnews.com)



The Staff of the Smoke Signal  
wishes all our neighbors  
a Happy St. Patrick's Day!



## Raising of the Green

Attend ART Station's 19th Annual "Raising of the Green" - one of Atlanta's Best St. Patrick's Day Celebrations! The event is from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. March 17 at The ART Station at The Restored Trolley Barn, 5384 Manor Drive in the Historic Village of Stone Mountain.

Sample the best from many of the Fine Restaurants in and around Stone Mountain Village. Also, a silent auction and complimentary green beer! This is a fundraiser for children's summer camp, scholarships and more.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

Call (770) 469-1105 for more information.



## Look inside for...

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The *Smoke Signal* is posted to [www.smokesignalnews.com](http://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](mailto:pat@smokeriseagents.com).

## Irish for a Day

by **Barbara Bruschi**

Don a bit o'green and slip into the spirit of Saint Patrick's day, whether you are Irish or not.

Saint Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland and March 17th is a day of commemoration for his role in largely converting Ireland from Paganism to Christianity around the 5th century AD.

His birthplace was either Scotland or Roman England. He was kidnapped, sold into slavery and spent six years in an Irish prison. During this time, he received his calling for serving the church in his dreams. He escaped and studied in a French monastery for 12 years under bishop of Auxerre. With the Pope's blessing, he went back to Ireland and became the Voice of the Irish faithful by spreading Christianity throughout the country. It is said that he used the Irish Shamrock to explain the concept of the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Many legends follow Saint Patrick. He proclaimed that God's curse drove all the poisonous snakes into the sea where they drowned. The legend of the Leprechauns is about Irish wee people which are said to have a pot of gold hidden deep in the woods. To protect their gold, the Irish fairies gave them mystical powers. The goddess Brighid (Healer) is another well-known Irish legend. To this day, many of Brighid's Holy Water Wells still exist. Her waters were aid to heal all manner of disease. Saint Patrick's Day was mainly a religious holiday which later in history turned into having many secular activities as well.

There are various activities planned for Saint Patrick's Day, and if you chose to be Irish for the day, join the fun.

Decatur has several pubs that offer a great time. The Marlay House, Mac McGee and a host of others. Contact: <http://www.yelp.com>

Atlanta Bar Tours: <http://abt.xorbia.com>

Atlanta Saint Patrick's Day Parade. March 14, Noon - 1:30 p.m. Peachtree Street in Midtown. [Http://atlantastpats.com](http://atlantastpats.com). Dating back to 1856, this is one of the oldest parades in the country. Various Irish groups are an integral part of the parade. This event draws attention to the significant contributions the Irish made to Atlanta.

The Irish Pub Fado's throws a huge Outdoor Party. It is the 19th annual feast and takes place in the heart of Buckhead. March 14 - 17. <http://www.fadoirishpub.com>

For those that want to participate in the famous St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, Georgia, there are bus tours available. The tours offer non-stop entertainment in Savannah for everyone. Contact: <http://www.evenbrite.com>.

Celebrating all things Irish will bring you joy and the blessings of Saint Patrick. "May your thoughts be as glad as the shamrocks. May your heart be as light as a song. May each day bring you bright, happy hours that stay with you all year long."

## Smoke Rise Community Association Updates

The first 2015 meeting of the SRCA board was held on January 12. Key items of business before the board were co-sponsorship obligations toward the Walk to Remember, final arrangements for the meeting to establish relations with regional school superintendent Trenton Arnold and the new Smoke Rise Elementary Charter School principal Pamela McCloud, organization of the February 21 electronics recycling event, and the launch of the 2015 membership dues campaign.



The board also began preparations for confidential document shredding - which is targeted for April (ideally after Tax Day), and to set the budget and goals for 2015. A recap of the 2014 membership activity showed 723 households electing membership with 13% using PayPal and with 16% electing to support SRCA with donations above the dues amount. Improvements continue at the community garden which at this point has become essentially financially self-sustaining. The all-volunteer SRCA board is grateful for the support and confidence of dues-paying residents and looks forward to an eventful 2015.

The SRCA annual membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 31, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of Smoke Rise Baptist Church. Along with reports and updates from the SRCA board of directors, the featured guest will be new elementary school principal, Pamela McCloud.

**SRCA Dues:** Please watch your mailbox over the next month for the annual Smoke Rise Community Association (SRCA) dues appeal. Dues remain at \$35 per household. One hundred percent of dues are used by the all-volunteer SRCA board to promote Smoke Rise and the quality of life in our community. Your family's \$35 helps the community have a say in issues like: potential adult entertainment establishments, cell towers in our neighborhoods, annexations filed, and more. Dues also help fund common grounds maintenance and mowing, sign toppers, movies on the green, and more! Send check to: SRCA, P.O. Box 870793, Stone Mountain, GA 30087 or go to the SRCA website at: <http://www.smokerise.org/>.

## Tucker High School will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year!

What an important part this school has played in our community. We are planning an exciting celebration on Saturday, April 18. There will be a fun run, a parade down Main Street, and the Tucker Optimist Club will host a barbecue for lunch. The beautiful new school will be open to tour. In the evening we will enjoy music and dancing with the Air Tight Band in the gym.

No tickets are necessary but contributions will gladly be accepted at the door for the Tucker High School Foundation. Watch for more details in next month's *Smoke Signal*!



## Smoke Signal

P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085

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

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

### March Calendar of Events

- 4 Smoke Signal Meeting at home of Joyce Ray 9:30 a.m.
- 7 4th Annual Jawbones vs. Sawbones, Decatur H. S., Opens at 6:00 p.m.
- 7 Smoke Rise Country Club "Open House Kids Day" 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
- 8 Music for Missions, Hinds College Choir and Jubilee Singers  
Lawrenceville Road United Methodist Church, 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Mountain Shadow Garden Club Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Founders Hall, Eastminster Presbyterian Church
- 10 Friends of Tucker Parks Meeting, Tucker Rec Center 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- 11 Mountain Mums Meeting at home of Jeanne George 10:00 a.m.
- 14 Rummage Sale, Family Life Center, Main Street, Tucker, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- 14 Tucker Chili Cook-off on Main Street Tucker 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- 15 Music for Missions, pianist/organist Andrew Fazackerley  
Lawrenceville Road United Methodist Church, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- 17 Raising of the Green, ART Station, 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- 19 Tucker Arts Guild Meeting, Custom Frame Shop on Fellowship Rd., 7:00 p.m.
- 21 GOCA's 5th Annual Shaken, Not Stirred Gala 7:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.  
Delta Flight Museum, 1060 Delta Blvd., B914 Atlanta, GA, 30354
- 27, 28 Shrek Jr., the Musical Smoke Rise Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 7:00 p.m.
- 28 Easter Egg Hunt Wells Brown House ground
- 31 SRCA Annual Public Membership Meeting, SR Baptist Church, 7:00 p.m.

## Smoke Signal Deadlines

### MARCH 13

Please e-mail articles to:

**smoke-signal@earthlink.net**

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

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

**Deadline for classified ads is MARCH 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 2,400 copies  
Reservation Required:  
Contact Barbara Luton, (770) 491-6711 by 15th of month.

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or visit our website at [www.smokesignalnews.com](http://www.smokesignalnews.com)  
Link to the digital version of the *Smoke Signal*  
at <http://eepurl.com/pjn4v>  
or scan this QR Code  
with your smart phone!



## Library Events

Saturday, March 14  
Yoga and Meditation Class.  
Instructor Althea Lawton-Thomas will provide free yoga and meditation instruction. Open to the first 30 participants. 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 18 & 25  
Microsoft Word 2010 Basics I & II. Learn how to create, edit and save simple documents, cut and paste, and use other Word features. Design a flyer using a sample file. Sign up for both sessions of this two-part class. Registration begins March 9. Mouse and typing skills, as well as some experience with Windows required. Open to the first 12 participants. Please call or visit branch to register. 10:15 a.m. to Noon.

Monday, March 30  
The Incredible Downloadable eBook. Do you want to know more about eBooks? Library staff will show you what's available and how to access eBooks with your DeKalb County Public Library card. Open to the first 25 participants. Please call or visit branch to register. 6:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library  
5234 LaVista Road  
Tucker, GA 30084  
(770) 270-8234  
[dekalblibrary.org](http://dekalblibrary.org)

## Gently Used Books Needed

The Friends of Sue Kellogg/Stone Mountain Library needs all types of gently used books for the book sale on Friday and Saturday, June 19 and 20. The nonprofit organization pays for the children's, teens and adult programs that are presented at the library.

The Friends also presents a \$1,000 scholarship to a student for continuing education in library science.

All types of books are needed—fiction, history, cookbooks, and children's books. CD's and videos are also needed. Please deliver your books and media to the library at 952 Leon St. The building is directly behind the granite depot on Main Street in Stone Mountain village (770) 413-2020. You can get a tax receipt from the main desk in the library. If you need more information, please call Barbara Luton at (770) 491-6711.

The Friends of Sue Kellogg meets quarterly with programs from authors, artists and persons of local interest. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. with refreshments and fellowship afterwards. The membership fee is \$5.00.

## Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Rev. Chris George, Senior Pastor  
Ernie Forrester, Associate Pastor  
Tim Adcox, Minister of Missions  
Kathy Dobbins, Minister of Spiritual Formation  
Danny Vancil, Minister of Music & Worship  
Becky Caswell-Speight, Minister to Families with Children  
Jeremy Colliver, Minister to Families with Youth  
Amanda Coe Burton, Director of Nursery Ministries  
Paula Reeves, Weekday School Director  
Telephone: (770) 469-5856  
[SmokeRiseBaptist.org](http://SmokeRiseBaptist.org)

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

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

## Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

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

## Mount Carmel Christian Church

Senior Minister: Art Stansberry  
Worship Leader: Leslie Riley  
Kids Ministry Director: Vicki Tyler  
Telephone (770) 279-8437  
[www.mountcarmelcc.org](http://www.mountcarmelcc.org)

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

Wednesdays	
5:30 p.m.	Dinner
6:30 p.m.	Activities/Studies for all ages
6:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal

## First Moravian Church

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

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

## Mountain West Church

Pastor: Michael Shreve  
Telephone (770) 491-0228  
[www.mountainwestchurch.com](http://www.mountainwestchurch.com)  
4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain

Sundays:	
10:00 a.m.	Worship
12:00 p.m.	Worship

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March “Music for Missions”  
Performers Announced

By Jack Sartain, Producer/United Methodist Men

Music for Missions, in its 19th season as a project of United Methodist Men at Lawrenceville Road United Methodist Church in Tucker, is pleased to announce two great performances scheduled in March. The concerts are free, but donations are welcome to support church outreach and other programs. The church is located at 3142 Lawrenceville Highway in Tucker, Ga.

On Sunday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m., the 60 voice Hinds College Choir and Jubilee Singers from Utica, Mississippi, will perform a mixture of classics, popular and their inimitable signature gospel collection. The choir is under the direction of Dr. Bobby Cooper.

On March 15 at 7:00 p.m., Music for Missions will present pianist/organist Andrew Fazackerley in concert as a part of the briefly themed “Kings and Queens of the Keyboards.” Originally from Bolton, England, Andrew has been on the Atlanta music scene for the past 20 years regularly performing at hotels, nightclubs, conventions, weddings, and theatre shows. He has played and/or recorded with Aretha Franklin, Ben Vereen, Lionel Hampton, Martha Reeves - ‘Martha and the Vandellas’, Jerry Vale, Jerry Lewis, Bobby Vinton, the Atlanta Pops Orchestra, The Atlanta City Ballet, the Georgia Philharmonic Orchestra, Tommie Macon and The Gentle Men Of Jazz, Still Swinging Big Band and many other local and national artists.

Andrew continues to perform, compose, arrange, and record jazz, classical, and pop music throughout the city. He accompanies choirs playing everything from Bach and Mozart to Kirk Franklin and plays with professional ensembles of all sizes and styles from solo piano and jazz trio to big band and symphony orchestra.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church Relay For Life

The SRBC “Relay For Life” team is raising money to support the American Cancer Society. All are invited to attend the annual breakfast and silent auction on Sunday, April 19 from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at the church. You can also purchase a luminary to honor a loved one for \$10. Breakfast will be served beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the church’s fellowship hall, and bidding will stop at 10:00 a.m.

You can also be a part of honoring survivors at the RFL at Gwinnett Fairgrounds on Friday evening, May 8. Enjoy food, fun, entertainment, and a time to celebrate more than 100 years of breakthroughs and millions of lives saved. The walk for survivors and the lighting of the luminaries lined around the fairgrounds are truly inspirational. Gwinnett Relay is the largest Relay event in the world.

Please contact team captain, Amy Allison, at (770) 309-5641 or Atlanta.allison@gmail.com or Lois Jernigan at (770) 934-3005 to join the team or to donate a basket or items for the auction and country store on April 19.

### Belinda Belvin, REALTOR®

As a Smoke Rise native and a Realtor in the area, my knowledge of the area and of the market are unparalleled.

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Smoke Rise Baptist Church  
Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 29

9:00 a.m. - Worship in the Chapel

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Worship in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 1 • Regular Wednesday Schedule

Maundy-Thursday, April 2

7:00 p.m. - Maundy-Thursday Service of Holy Communion with a Tenebrae Service of Darkness (Sanctuary) Featuring the Sanctuary Choir and Chamber Orchestra

Good Friday, April 3

12:00 p.m. - Community Good Friday Worship Service, Eastminster Presbyterian Church.

Easter Sunday, April 5

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Worship in the Sanctuary

Worship in the Chapel will not be held on this day, but will resume on Sunday, April 12.



www.smokerisebaptist.org/arts  
artsacademy@smokerisebaptist.org  
(678) 533-0562

Presents



March 27 & 28 7:00 p.m. – ADMISSION FREE  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church Fellowship Hall  
Personal SHREK ears \$5

St. Andrews  
Presbyterian  
Church Welcomes  
New Pastor

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Tucker has a new pastor, Camille LaBron Powell, previously Associate Pastor at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. Raised in Dallas, Texas, she earned her B.A. at Austin College in Sherman, Texas, where she served as director of youth ministries at Covenant Presbyterian Church. She earned a M.A. in Christian Education and M.Div. from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, and was ordained in 2003. At Second Presbyterian in Little Rock, she led young adult ministry; created a new, contemporary worship service; worked on the presbytery’s Committee on Ministry and General Council; and served as a commissioner to the Presbyterian Church USA general assembly in 2014. She and her husband, Johnathan, are parents of a 7-year-old daughter and a 4-year-old son.



### St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church


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Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club

Year after year, the Smoke Rise Bath and Racquet Club (SRBRC) delivers fun-filled days at the pool and on the tennis courts to its members and guests. Even during the winter months, the volunteer board has been hard at work preparing the facilities for an exciting 2015.

SRBRC increased membership in 2014 by about 20%. The additional funds raised have been put to good use repairing waterlines at the tennis club and the pool. Some leak repairs to the pool basin were made, and the kiddie pool has been restored and will reopen this spring. You may also have noticed ongoing improvements to the club grounds and the new roof on the pool house, made possible with the help of volunteers and sponsors.

This year’s projects include a new pool pump, new furniture and umbrellas, improved lighting and music at the pool.

The club partners with the THS tennis team. You may see these aspiring young players practice and play some of their home matches on the SRBRC courts. Let’s wish them a great season.

The club also has a more active social program planned for 2015. Watch for details on the club’s website, [www.SRBRC.org](http://www.SRBRC.org).

The club has some great deals available that make membership the most affordable yet. New members even get 50% off. Find more details on the website.

If you would like to play a more active role in shaping the future of this club, you may inquire about joining the board. Contact any of the current board members through the website.

Summit Pool & Tennis Club

Join the Summit Pool & Tennis Club on Silver Hill Road for a full season of activities. Information and registration is now available at [www.thesummitatasmokerise.com](http://www.thesummitatasmokerise.com) including convenient, optional online payment. The pool is open from May 23 to mid-September, from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (10:00 p.m. on Fridays). That’s a lot of pool fun and exercise for about \$3 a day for your entire family!

The Summit tennis courts were completely renovated last spring, so consider making this an even better value with a pool & tennis membership for the whole family, for just a little more.

- Many member families return year after year to enjoy:
- uncrowded, quiet family oriented facilities
  - year-round tennis play on renovated, lighted, tennis courts
  - secure, electronic key fob access to pool and tennis facilities
  - saline pool filtration system is softer on skin, hair & swimsuits
  - friendly, certified lifeguards on duty from noon to closing
  - covered pavilion, picnic tables, bathrooms and fenced play area
  - separate diving area with diving board
  - swimming under the stars on Friday nights till 10:00 p.m.
  - plenty of lounge chairs, tables and umbrellas
  - off-street parking and handicap access
  - active social calendar
  - extended morning hours for lap swims

Registration fees for family memberships paid by April 30 are \$365 Pool only, \$410 Pool & Tennis, and \$275 Tennis only, Single Adult Morning Swim Membership is \$175.

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Doctors and Lawyers Compete in Basketball Tourney to Benefit People with Traumatic Brain Injury

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club again joins the GFWC Lilburn Woman’s Club to host the Jawbones vs Sawbones Fundraiser to benefit Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse in Stone Mountain. Proceeds will fund scholarships for members and prospective members who need financial assistance to participate in the programs offered by the Side by Side Clubhouse.

The 4th annual Jawbones vs Sawbones basketball benefit will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 6:00 p.m. at the Decatur High School gym. The family-fun evening also includes an incredible silent auction, live music and food. Presented by Long and Holder, LLP and Cash, Krugler and Fredericks, LLC, the tournament will see the Sawbones team of physicians attempt to even the 2:1 score against the Jawbones team of attorneys. Join hundreds of Side by Side supporters, community leaders, and brain injury professionals for an exciting evening that includes the opportunity to meet members of Side by Side and hear their stories of tragedy and triumph. Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse is Georgia’s only nonprofit that provides lifelong support to people with Traumatic Brain Injuries.

In 2014, this basketball benefit raised \$50,000 and drew a crowd of more than 500. The presenting firms, Long and Holder, LLP, and Cash, Krugler and Fredericks, LLC were generous supporters and led the 70+ sponsors who helped Side by Side double the funds raised by the inaugural benefit. Community groups, such as the Georgia Federation of Women’s Clubs of Stone Mountain and Lilburn, have supported with sponsorships and cheers from the stands since the event began. Make your plans now to join the many friends of Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse to raise funds for scholarships to benefit brain injured adults as they learn to thrive in their “new normal.” For more information, contact Side by Side Development Director, Marian Dickson, at (770) 469-9355 or visit [www.sidebysideclubhouse.org](http://www.sidebysideclubhouse.org).



This year, the not-for-profit organization will honor its long-time participant, Deputy Cynthia Hall (left) for the great progress she has made since she acquired a TBI in the line of duty during the Fulton County Courthouse shootings of 2005. Side by Side has provided extensive social and cognitive support to Deputy Hall since she joined the organization six months after she was injured. Its leadership is proud to work with her, side-by-side, so she can thrive once again as a contributing community member.

2015 Tucker Chili Cook-Off

The Old Town Tucker Merchants Association (OTTMA) and The Local No. 7 host the fourth annual Tucker Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, March 14. The event runs from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (rain or shine), with all of the festivities taking place on Main Street.

This is a great opportunity for people of all ages to celebrate the newly renovated downtown area and check out some of the new businesses, as well as raise money for Day League. Day League (formerly the DeKalb Rape Crisis Center) provides direct services, prevention education, and advocacy for youth and adult survivors of sexual assault, their families and the community as a whole.

Your \$5 entry gets you access to taste all the chili prepared by event contestants and gives you one vote to help award the coveted People’s Choice prize. Soft drinks and water will be available for purchase from OTTMA, while adult beverages will be on offer, courtesy of The Local 7.

There will also be a vendor area featuring local artists, unique goods and much more. For more information, or to find out how you can take part in the event, go online to [www.tuckerchilicookoff.com](http://www.tuckerchilicookoff.com), send an e-mail to [info@tuckerchilicookoff.com](mailto:info@tuckerchilicookoff.com), or call Jamey at (404) 556-7666.



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**Inaugural Student Council at Smoke Rise Prep Cooperative School**

*By Dharma Woodman, 8th Grader & Student Council President*

A student council is a great opportunity to allow students to have a voice in their school. Smoke Rise Prep (SRP) has recently elected its very first student council members into office.

In the spring of the last school year, the middle school students brainstormed ideas for future clubs, activities, and other fun projects. In the midst of all the ideas floating around the room, the idea of student council arose. A majority of students agreed, so the idea was passed.

Naturally, most of the students forgot about it over the summer, but as soon as it was brought up this school year, the students were very excited about it. Everyone began to plan what position they would run for. Since SRP is still a fairly small school, many positions ran unopposed. However, the enthusiasm was not lacking, and soon the new student council called to order its first meeting.

The council has discussed many ways to help the school as well as others who are in need. Currently, the council is gathering toiletries and organizing food fundraisers for the homeless. Council members also plan to volunteer at shelters, and organize “Share A Smile” in SRP, where students can put a smile on another’s face with a good deed or a homemade trinket. The student council’s projects are all meant to make a positive change in Smoke Rise Prep Cooperative School and in the community.

Jayla Cochran, who serves as one of the Spirit Chairs, stated she enjoys serving on student council because she, “can be a leader and be someone that younger students can look up to, give guidance, and be a friendly face that always acknowledges that they are important.” She went on to say, “I love trying to make this school a better place. When people see me running around the school, you may think I’m tired, but I love it.” Mrs. Rebecca Rose, faculty adviser to student council, stated, “how inspirational it is to watch these students ages 8 to 14 work together to build up our school. I become a better teacher and person watching them lead meetings where they work cooperatively on issues such as partnering with Refugee Coffee Co. and the United Nation settlement community in Clarkston, GA to serve them and recognize them as our neighbors.”

SRP celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with great success. Students in all grades wrote their thoughts about the civil rights movement on a mural in the school, and the council organized and hosted a parade on January 16.



**Smoke Rise Basketball Champions**

Smoke Rise residences and Arbor Montessori Students helped lead their team to become the MAAC Div 3 Middle School basketball champions. Arbor handily defeated McGinnis Woods in the semifinals 24-15 then faced Heritage Prep in the final and played a hard fought game, winning 28-24 to claim the division championship title. Smoke Rise residents are Katie Beard (8th grade), Kallan Sorenson (7th grade), Bryn Beard (5th grade), and Coach Pam Beard.

**Smoke Rise Prep Cooperative School Seeking to Attract High Academic Achievers for Fall 2015 Enrollment**

Smoke Rise Prep Cooperative School is currently accepting applications for the fall 2015 semester, specifically seeking to fill open positions for high academic achievers in multiple grades. This open application period began with the school’s Open House event in January and will extend until March 12, when submitted applications will be reviewed and considered by the selection committee.

Smoke Rise Prep is a 1st-8th grade cooperative school that was founded by parents and teachers in 2011 as an alternative to traditional public and private school options. The school’s primary objective is to prepare students both socially and academically for higher education and for life.

Smoke Rise Prep seeks to enroll new students who are self-directed, high-academic achievers to fill openings in several grades this year and in the fall and welcomes families who are specifically interested in innovative education models. The school is located in the lower level of Smoke Rise Baptist Church, near the DeKalb and Gwinnett county line, just north of Tucker.

Parents of rising 1st through 8th graders in the Metro Atlanta area who are interested in learning more about the school are encouraged to visit the school’s website at [www.smokeriseprep.org](http://www.smokeriseprep.org), where all application forms are available to download. Interested families are also welcome to call the school at (678) 585-4210 or email the school at [info@smokeriseprep.org](mailto:info@smokeriseprep.org) and schedule a private tour.



**Art Month at Smoke Rise Elementary Charter School**

March is Youth Art Month and Smoke Rise Elementary Charter School (SRECS) is celebrating by featuring Student Artists, Kayla Armstrong and Makayla Jefferson. The second graders mastered the art of chalk pastels to create lovely jaguar paintings.

Smoke Rise Elementary Charter School is hosting a fundraiser **Art Night on May 12** to showcase student art. The school is looking for artists in the Smoke Rise community to present their work. It would be an opportunity to share talent and for the students to learn about different career paths in art. If you have any questions or would like to sign up for a booth in the career fair/artist’s alley, please contact: Melissa Johns, [melissa\\_johns@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us](mailto:melissa_johns@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us), by April 3 for approval. Attach images of your work and links to your professional website. Please present content that is appropriate for young children.


Join Smoke Rise Elementary Charter School for its monthly **Spirit Night**. This month’s Spirit Night will be held at **Uncle Maddio’s Pizza Joint – Northlake on Wednesday, March 18 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** Uncle Maddio’s Pizza Joint donates a generous portion of the proceeds to SRECS when you purchase food/drink. Don’t forget to say you’re with SRECS!



**Boy Scout Troop 876**

Troop 876 attended Eastminster Presbyterian Church recently to celebrate Scout Sunday and to present the Church with the 2015 Charter. Eastminster Presbyterian Church has sponsored the troop since 1985. The troop represents Eastminster in many service projects and community activities. The troop wants to thank Eastminster for 30 years of support. For more information, visit the website [bsatrop876.com](http://bsatrop876.com).





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Planning, Land Use and Zoning Updates

The LaVista Office Park, located behind the IHOP, Po Folks, and Checkers at LaVista Road and Northlake Parkway, will demolish all of the existing offices and redevelop with 200,000 s.f. of retail and restaurants. This development will include a moderate-sized big box anchor and smaller, street front retail stores, including more high-end shops and restaurants.

The two story United Car Sales facility at the intersection of Hugh Howell Road and Lawrenceville Highway (across from Chick-Fil-A) is proposed to redevelop to a 7,000 square foot retail facility with two national sit down dining restaurants (no drive through service) plus an additional retail space. The proposed plan is of a Main Street type design, with the building along the road and large sidewalks and landscaping along Hugh Howell Road.

In other development news, a permit has been issued for the demolition of the former Willie B's restaurant located at 1949 Mountain Industrial Blvd. A McDonald's restaurant will be built on the site. A bakery called CocoCakes by Coco will also be opening in the former Mighty Joe's Espresso location in the Ingle's Shopping Center on Hugh Howell Rd.

Get more information at the Tucker Civic Association website at <http://tuckercivic.org>.

City of Stone Mountain DDA Hosts 2015 Kick-Off Event

The City of Stone Mountain Downtown Development Authority hosted its annual Kick-Off Event in February to review its 2014 accomplishments and announce plans for 2015. More than 70 people attended.

"2014 was a year of many changes. We completed the merger of the DDA, Main Street Stone Mountain and the Stone Mountain Visitors Center. We welcomed our new Executive Director, Mechel McKinley. We celebrated our 175th Anniversary and opened five new businesses in the Village. It was a big year!" said Mary Beth Reed, Chair of the DDA.

During the evening, 2014 Volunteers of the Year, Pam DeLoach and Beth Snead, were announced. They were each presented with certificates and gift baskets.

A major initiative for 2015 is a campaign entitled #VillageStrong. The idea was conceived by Chakira Johnson, DDA Board Member, after the tragic fire at the Westgate Shopping Plaza in the Village in October. "The community was hurt by the destruction that closed six businesses in one swoop. We need a rallying cry. And we needed to focus on the good stuff," said Johnson.

"This is a great place to live and work. We have a beautiful natural resource in our backyard. We have the ability to enjoy the resources of living near a major metropolitan area but still have a hometown feel that you can't get in other places in Atlanta. Stone Mountain Village is a gem and we need to focus on the positive things we gain by living in this community," encouraged McKinley, during the presentation.

2015 will also feature a new Granite Grasshopper Festival, the return of the weekly Farmers Market in the spring, a community-based business grant program, a new City Cemetery tour in partnership with the Stone Mountain Historical Society and the continuation of the Faade Grant program.

"2015 is going to be exciting! We have new initiatives, ongoing initiatives and a lot of enthusiasm for moving Stone Mountain Village forward," said Reed.

The mission of the DDA is to foster an environment that sustains current businesses and encourages future growth and development while enhancing the historic character of the city of Stone Mountain using the Main Street approach.

CID Addressing Road Issues Impacting Local Employers  
Stone Mountain CID focusing on infrastructure corrections to benefit existing and incoming commercial property owners and their clientele

The Stone Mountain Community Improvement District (CID) is at the forefront of addressing infrastructure needs confronting some of the area's largest employers.

The CID is working on multiple fronts to ease commercial vehicle travel throughout the corridor by increasing access to the large number of businesses that specialize in freight.

One effort taking shape this year will be improvements to permit safer tractor-trailer turns at narrow intersections. At the moment, these large turning vehicles can damage curbs, drainage basins and pedestrian lights. Valuable cargo and expensive trucks can also be compromised by the tight spaces.

"Moving freight into and out of the commercial corridor is critical to our economic vitality," said CID President Emory Morsberger. "We are making great strides to effectively tackle these concerns by working closely with our federal, state and county government partners to complete the improvements more quickly."

Additionally, the CID has commissioned a detailed traffic flow study to evaluate new methods for decreasing travel time within the corridor. Currently more than 35,000 vehicles travel on Mountain Industrial Boulevard daily, and one of every seven trips through the CID is completed by a commercial vehicle such as a freight truck.

CID efforts supporting improved travel times will help minimize overall traffic delays while reducing congestion for all area drivers. Morsberger added that the Stone Mountain CID is working with the Gwinnett Village and Lilburn CIDs to support reduced trip times along the full length of the Jimmy Carter Boulevard-Mountain Industrial Boulevard corridor.

"We want our existing and potential commercial property owners as well as other stakeholders to know that they have a strong advocate committed to facilitating these transportation enhancements," Morsberger said. "This year will bring many upgrades to create a more efficient travel experience for our community."

For more information on Stone Mountain CID initiatives, visit [StoneMountainCID.com](http://StoneMountainCID.com).





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 <p>5496 Silver Ridge Drive \$365,000</p>	 <p>5841 Silver Ridge Drive \$369,500</p>	 <p>5604 Bahia Mar Circle \$385,000</p>	 <p>5496 Silver Ridge Drive \$499,000</p>



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Check out the daily news for Tucker/Stone Mountain at [www.patch.com](http://www.patch.com)

Friends of Tucker Parks

The next meeting of Friends of Tucker Parks will be held on Tuesday, March 10 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Tucker Recreation Center at 4898 Lavista Road in Tucker.

Tucker Nature Preserve

Attention Geo-cachers! The Tucker Nature Preserve is a geo-caching location, so log onto Geocaching.com - grab your hiking gear - and come on out to the Preserve. There is a new parking lot area and picnic spot on site for your convenience. The Preserve is located at 4408 Lawrenceville Hwy, Tucker. For more information, check out the Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTuckerNaturePreserve>.

Monadnock Madness: Exploring Atlanta’s Mountains

By Naomi Thompson - Education Supervisor, Stone Mountain Memorial Association

Metro Atlanta has three incredible mountains (aka monadnocks) all located east of Atlanta. During the month of March, you are invited to explore all of these granite peaks. Come experience some of the best views in the state and earn a souvenir you can wear as a badge of honor! Special hikes, guided tours, and even a photography class are planned at Arabia, Panola, and Stone Mountains. Find hiking schedules, directions, and full event details at [monadnockmadness.com](http://monadnockmadness.com).

The hiking adventure is sponsored by the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance in partnership with the Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve, Panola Mountain State Park, and Stone Mountain Memorial Association.

Granite Grasshopper Festival Coming in April

The City of Stone Mountain DDA is thrilled to announce the Granite Grasshopper Festival on Saturday, April 18. You are invited to participate in the 5K which will take place at 8:30 a.m. in Stone Mountain Village.

Race day registration and packet pickup is at 7:00 a.m. The 5K/Fun Run starts on Second Street at 8:30 a.m. Awards go to the top male/female overall and male/female winners of each age group. The Awards Ceremony will begin immediately following the 5K on the Race Stage.

Granite Grasshopper Festival activities begin at 11:00 a.m. and will include live music, arts and crafts, food vendors and a Backyard BBQ competition.

Online registration is available now through “Active” and is \$20 (5K) and \$10 (Fun Run) until April 1. Search “Granite Grasshopper 5K 2015” or go to <http://www.active.com/stone-mountain-ga/running/distance-running-races/granite-grasshopper-5k-2015>.

Get Your Kids into Tennis this Spring!!!

Smoke Rise Country Club is offering an “Open House Kids Day” in March. It is for beginners and intermediate players looking to get on a team and play with other kids. It will be on Saturday, March 7, from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Participants will get huge discounts on junior tennis classes, if they sign up on the day of Open House.

For further information on this event and other programs at the Club, call (770) 908-1843 or email: [jrichards@smokerisec.com](mailto:jrichards@smokerisec.com).

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## Alerts & Watches

by Jan Mahoney

*FYI: It is the policy of the Smoke Signal that all reports of crime published in this column are based on information received directly from residents who are the victims of the crime, or who have witnessed suspicious activity, and never to include names and addresses.*

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Remember these three important "stranger" guidelines from our Tucker precinct:

- Call 911 when the crime or a suspicious person sighting is in progress and say that the incident is "in progress." CALL NOW - not later.
- Be very suspicious - call 911 for ALL suspicious behavior.
- NEVER open doors to strangers.

You are the eyes and the ears of the Police Department. Call them and let them handle the situation - do not ever attempt to handle a situation yourself.

The following reports were received from the CrimeMapping.com website:

01/24/2015 – VANDALISM/DAMAGE TO PROPERTY  
1500 BLOCK LILBURN STONE MOUNTAIN ROAD

01/26/2015 – THEFT/LARCENY - 2300 BLOCK SPENCERS WAY

01/31/2015 – VEHICLE BREAK-IN/THEFT - 4100 BLOCK ANTEBELLUM DRIVE

The Internet link to subscribe to CrimeMapping is as follows:  
<http://www.crimemapping.com:80/subscriptions/subscribe.aspx>

The following is the link to an iPhone app for the crime mapping service: <http://www.crimemapping.com:80/mobile/app.aspx>

### THIEVES ARE NOT STUPID! Here is another example of that:

#### Long-Term Parking Scam:



Here's a story about some people who left their car in a long-term parking lot at the airport. While they were away, someone broke into the car. Using the information on the car's registration in the glove compartment, they went to the people's home and robbed it. So, if you are going to leave the car in long-term parking, you should NOT leave the registration/insurance cards in it, nor your remote garage door opener. This gives us something to think about with all our new electronic technology.

If you are a victim of a crime, please call Jan Mahoney at (770) 621-0155 or email details to [smoke-signal@earthlink.net](mailto:smoke-signal@earthlink.net) so we can let the neighborhood know what's going on by publishing it in the *Smoke Signal*.

*Remember, if you don't inform the police, the police don't know what's happening in your neighborhood.*



### Smoke Rise Preferred Contractor's List

If you are looking for reliable people to build decks, paint, do electrical, plumbing, interior design etc., we maintain a preferred contractors list which consists of contractors your neighbors have used with success. It is free of charge. If you wish a copy of this list, please email: [jimfarmer812@earthlink.net](mailto:jimfarmer812@earthlink.net) or call (678) 662-6122. We are looking for your feedback. Let us know if you have used someone good or bad, so we can keep a list which reflects the quality we need to maintain our homes.



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### HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

## Are Immunizations Really Necessary? Vaccine Myths

In February and March of 1986, I had a two-part article published in the Journal of Continuing Education for the Family Physician about the controversies of childhood vaccination. At that time, the big controversy was: Did immunizations cause Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); and did the Whooping Cough vaccine cause neurologic damage and seizures. These controversies and others were causing a decline in the rate of vaccination of children in the United States. Between 1989 -1991, a measles outbreak struck 55,622 Americans, killing 123.

Today we live in a similar time. The recent new outbreak of measles has resurrected old fears, beliefs and myths about immunizations. Now it is not SIDS – which was clearly disproven – but Autism that is being blamed on immunizations. And, the argument for this is clearly emotional and based on well-publicized propaganda that continues to be circulated in the press and on the Internet by special interest groups. Sadly, the author of the “study” on Autism (it was actually a preliminary study) A.J. Wakefield, falsified information about all 12 subjects in his study. He was charged with professional misconduct and a financial conflict of interest, later losing his license to practice medicine. (It was also reported that he received more than \$600,000 from the lawyers who sued vaccine manufacturers). He continues to speak about autism and vaccinations. After his “findings” were retracted by the journal Lancet, and others, at least three excellent, well-controlled studies have shown that immunizations and their preservatives do NOT cause autism.

Here are several common myths about vaccines:

- Vaccines are ‘drugs’ you inject into your baby.** (I heard this on an interview recently). Immunizations are actually an injection, of a tiny amount of the weakened or killed organism that causes the disease, into the muscle. This causes your body to mount an immune response against the disease. If you are exposed to the disease (say, measles) your body recognizes it as an enemy it has encountered before and will mount an immune response that keeps you from actually getting the disease. Vaccines are not drugs.
- You can ‘get’ the disease from the vaccine.** Live vaccines (flu-mist, measles, chicken pox and in the past, polio) can cause you to ‘shed’ small amounts of the virus. People with cancer, AIDS, immune diseases, or those who take chronic chemotherapy or steroids can get the disease from those who have just been vaccinated. Children who have received live vaccines should stay away from immuno-compromised people or the very frail elderly. Immuno-compromised individuals should only be vaccinated with live vaccines if approved by their doctor. No immunization is 100% effective. Most fall in the 85-95% range - with the exception of the flu shot, which varies depending on how accurately they predict which strains to include in the shot.
  - There are reports of mild cases of measles, mumps or rubella from the vaccine, but these resolve quickly and lead to no serious side effects.
  - The live polio vaccine is no longer given in the U.S., because of the rare instance of polio occurring from the vaccine (1 in 2.5 million doses).
  - The nasal flu-mist can cause sore throat, fever and nasal symptoms, but doesn’t cause the true ‘flu’ in the lower respiratory tract.
  - The ‘flu shot’ is a killed/inactivated virus and cannot give you the flu.
- Side effects from the vaccine are worse than the disease.** Redness, swelling and fever are not considered severe side effects. Serious reactions to certain vaccines CAN occur but are rare and almost always much rarer than that which would naturally occur during an epidemic of the disease. Your doctor will inform you of any potential serious reactions to watch for and report.
- The United States doesn’t have the diseases we vaccinate for, so we are safe and should stop vaccinating our children.** To some extent it is true that most of the diseases are not usually seen in the U.S. However, due to our mobile society, and the fact that so many people travel internationally, polio, measles and whooping cough and other diseases have entered the U.S. from other countries where there are epidemics. There is currently a whooping cough and measles epidemic in the U.S.
- My child doesn’t need to be vaccinated... they will be protected by those around them who are vaccinated.** This is partly true. This is called ‘herd’ immunity. Herd immunity means if the ‘herd’ is vaccinated, the disease cannot enter the community and affect you. This only works if 95% of the ‘herd’ is vaccinated. Current statistics in the U.S. vary depending on the immunization, from 89% to 93% (2013 statistics). Unfortunately, we have scattered pockets of unimmunized people! Again, many diseases such as measles, diphtheria (In Russia in 2009) and even polio are still present overseas.
- I am breastfeeding. My baby gets immunity from me.** It is true that the baby gets some immune globulin from you, but not the type that would protect your baby from any of the childhood diseases.
- We shouldn’t give so many shots at once, that’s why bad side effects occur.** This is a myth. Multiple immunizations can be given without increasing the side effect profile.
- The mercury or preservative Thimersol in vaccines causes brain damage and Autism.** This idea went “viral” due to an interview on the Oprah Winfrey Show. This “link” has been disproven. In fact, vaccine manufacturers voluntarily withdrew Thimersol from all but two vaccines.

I could go on, but there is not room. Wikipedia (which I am always careful to second check) has good information with excellent scientific sources on the Thimersol/Autism controversy. The CDC website has many pages of excellent information about vaccines in general. Read up on reputable websites like the CDC, NIH, and WebMD. Once informed, stay up-to-date on your shots, so you can stay healthy!

### Smoke Rise Moms

## Connect with Night Out

Many new, young families are moving to this area, and Smoke Rise moms have taken a new approach to connecting with one another. After bumping into one another at the pool or casually seeing others over social media, it became apparent that these moms all wanted to find a way to form real friendships. So, one mom decided it was time to take action and get together!

“Knowing that there are a lot of young families in the area, I created the Smoke Rise/Tucker Moms Facebook page in an attempt to connect the moms together,” says Jenny Gravitt, long-time Smoke Rise resident. “We have a lot of activity on the page, so I decided it was time for some of us to connect face-to-face. The first event went great, so we are excited to make it a monthly event.”

Kimberly Frantz attended the first event and emphasizes the importance of making friends with others in your neighborhood. “It’s a special thing that happens when you gather with other community moms to do life together,” she says. “None of us could survive young parenthood without friends who ‘get it,’ and it’s so much more enriching to have those friends in our own neighborhoods. I cannot wait to see what this next year holds for the New Smoke Rise Moms group! We all have things we can learn from each other!”

Jenny Gravitt says that, while the events are casual, monthly get-togethers for now, she hopes they will naturally turn into entire families getting to know one another better. The best thing that can happen is that moms have neighbors, friends, to call on, especially for those who are new to the area and don’t know anyone or have any family here. “It’s important for everyone to have friends and support in your neighborhood, especially when you’re a mom of young children,” says Gravitt. “I saw that there was a real need for some of our neighbors to have other people they can rely on and I think casual get-togethers are a great place to forge those relationships. The purpose for our monthly get-together is to get to know each other without our children, but strengthen our family relationships with each other as well. And, how do you plan a playdate with someone you don’t know?”

If you are interested in more information on the group, or the monthly “Moms Night Out,” search for the “Smoke Rise/Tucker Moms” Facebook group and request to join.

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MST is a 501(c)(3) organization, founded by members of the Tucker community, dedicated to bringing the theatre experience to Tucker and beyond. Please contact us for more information! mainstheatretucker@gmail.com

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### Meet Your Neighbors

#### Winslow and Judy Thomas

When the cold weather keeps everyone inside, sometimes it's harder to see your neighbors or meet new faces. Spring comes and everyone goes outside. We go for a walk and find ourselves stopping to chat. But the wintertime... that's when it's harder to meet our neighbors.

So, let the Smoke Signal start spring a little early and introduce you to a few. Let's go down for a walk down Hugh Howell to "The Forest" and meet Winslow and Judy Thomas. They moved to Smoke Rise in 1997, because they needed more space and, as Winslow says, "It is a lovely place to live."

When Winslow and Judy first met, they found they had a lot in common. They both have a love of the theater and have been actively involved in productions since they were children – church choirs, school plays, and professional theater. And, also, amazingly enough, both have a love of the Celtic culture. Winslow has a rich family history from Ireland and Scotland, and he remembers his grandmother telling him stories in Gaelic when he was but a "wee little boy-o." Judy first fell in love with Irish music, so it was no surprise that she also fell in love with an Irish actor. All he had to do was step behind the microphone, and it was love at first sight.

It makes sense that more than two decades after their first meeting that they would be two of the founders of Atlanta's only Celtic theater. "Other theaters in Atlanta have their niche, but the rich availability of material from the Celtic world was not being served," says Judy. So, along with other Atlanta actors and actresses, they founded Arís Theatre (pronounced "ah-REESH").

Arís! Arís! That's what you would be saying if you attended a theater production at Arís Theatre. Actually, the very name Arís means "encore" or "again!" in Irish (Gaelic). Last year, 2014, was the theater's inaugural season, and not only did they feature three stage productions, they were also a part of other events around Atlanta, such as The Celtic Christmas and Irish Fest Atlanta. Their main productions are held at Georgia Public Broadcasting, whose managers loved the idea as soon as they heard of the initial project.

Last year, Winslow played the part of Byron in the American premier of the one-man show "Trust Byron" (by Georgia Costigan). Winslow said it was an amazing role to play. He most enjoyed "the complete and absolute fearlessness of the outlook of a man who was centuries before his time." Winslow will be touring this one-man show this upcoming year, along with being involved in the 2015 projects.

Although they both have day jobs, this is where Winslow and Judy spend their time, and this is their passion. Winslow says he was first cast in a school play in the 1st grade. "I was a baby elephant," he laughs. "I remember walking around with five other little boys being an elephant. And I have wanted to do nothing else ever since." Judy says theater saved her as a young teen. "I was avoiding school because of a bully. Theater and music helped me to find my place and saved my schoolwork."

If you are interested in their performances, there is an upcoming spring production this month. As a new start-up theater group, they are using this production as a fundraiser. On March 21 - 22, they will be producing four Celtic shorts featuring works from Wales, Ireland, Scotland and England. You can find out more online at [aristheatre.org](http://aristheatre.org).

Stop by and have a chat with Winslow and Judy sometime. They will have stories to tell that will take you worlds and centuries away. Oh and did I mention they are both wedding officiants, as well? That's in their free time, of course. The Thomases have a long history of not just playing interesting parts, but being interesting people. And it looks like their future will be filled with just as much drama, as well.



Winslow Thomas portrays Lord Byron in the 2014 theater production of "Trust Byron."

### NEWS YOU CAN USE

By AvivA Hoffmann

### K-9 Memorial Planned in Tucker

Their loyalty has no limits. They serve without question. And, now, DeKalb County is teaming up with the Police Department and Animal Services to erect a proper memorial for our K-9 "officers." The monument, titled "Hero, Partner, Friend," will be located at DeKalb County Police Headquarters at 1960 West Exchange Place, Decatur, 30084.

Plans for the project began after a discussion between a DeKalb K-9 police officer and DeKalb's Animal Services Director, after the passing of the officer's K-9 companion. Officer Mark Taylor and his K-9 partner worked together for a decade. "D-J" died last August.

"After losing him, that's when I decided this memorial needed to come to the forefront of what we're doing here to remember the dogs. It's indescribable. Their importance level to the job that we do is immeasurable. They provide a service that, as humans, we just can't do," said Taylor.

Police officers typically form a strong bond with the K-9 officer. The dog lives with his or her handler 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They truly are a part of the family. They also are a very important part of the policing "family." K-9's are deployed on a daily basis for various tasks including, explosive and narcotic detection, criminal apprehension, and locating missing children and elderly persons. DeKalb's K-9 Memorial will recognize all dogs who have ever served our county.

DeKalb County officials held a press conference in November 2014 to launch a fundraiser to develop the memorial. A cost of \$10,000.00 is estimated for the project. The money will be used to raise a statue. A walkway of engraved pavers with the K-9's name and service years will lead citizens to the monument. Special donors will be identified on top of the granite slab that the dog statue will be mounted upon. Other donors will be recognized in a celebration program in May.

By the beginning of February, 2015, the contributions already reached the halfway mark.

"It really touched my heart how many people have supported this important project. These dogs go to work every day and put their lives on the line alongside their human partners. They deserve to be honored at the end of their watch, like any officer," said Xan Rawls, DeKalb County's Director of Animal Services and fundraising coordinator.

The K-9 monument will be located on the hill where the current police headquarters signage is - overlooking the projected police and firefighter monuments. It's purposefully located behind the other monuments... as dogs always have their officer's back.

If you'd like to contribute, The DeKalb County Police Alliance is accepting all donations through the organization's 501-C-3 account. You can send a check – payable to the DeKalb Police Alliance – to: The K-9 Memorial, PO Box 37, Avondale Estates, GA, 30002. Donations can also be made through the K-9 memorial "Go Fund Me" account at <http://www.gofundme.com/j04jvk>.

The statue and memorial will be dedicated May 15, 2015 as part of the observance of the 100th year of DeKalb County Police Services.



Rendering of the K-9 Memorial Statue by Lena Toritch, Young Fine Art Studio, Salt Lake City, Utah



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Updates from the Smoke Rise Morning Glories

The club focused on February as the perfect month to prune in Georgia, because it is easy to see the form of the tree or deciduous shrub while the leaves are off and the plant is still dormant. That means pruning will not force a flush of growth that could be burned by cold weather.

Barbara Dorfman, DeKalb resident, pruning expert and landscape designer offered many tips to the Morning Glories at the February meeting. She reminded the club that proper tools make the job easier and that pruning benefits the plant by removing dead wood and crossed

branches that can scar or rub adjacent branches. Barbara also mentioned that some shrubs, like mophead hydrangeas, can be pruned right after bloom in early July without harming next year's bloom season. Other hydrangeas can be pruned at any time. When in doubt, look it up!

In other club news, Corresponding Secretary Carol Ann Culpepper was selected to receive Lifetime Membership in the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs. The ceremony was held on February 26 at Callanwolde. Tally Sweat reminded the club about the February 18 Capital Conservation Day which focused on water issues in our state. Tally is the state chair for this Georgia Clubs of Georgia initiative.



February meeting hostesses: Left to right: Nancy Hudgens, Betty Curlee, Lindsay Horton, Marilyn Hug and MaryAnne Anderson

Quill Duncan will continue her service as club President for the 2015/2016 club year. Bonnie Pennington updated the club on the bluebird houses at the Smoke Rise Country Club golf course. Now is the time for the bluebirds to select their houses, and they have some new and freshly rehabbed boxes to choose from on the course thanks to Reg and Betty Curlee, Renee and Denny Hopf, and Bonnie. Caroline Woodson reminded everyone that flats of milkweed plants can be purchased to attract Monarch Butterflies to our area. The club will be participating in this program this spring and summer.

Hostess Marilyn Hug with her co-hostesses MaryAnne Anderson, Nancy Hudgens, Lindsay Horton and Betty Curlee provided a lovely luncheon for the members with a Valentine's Day theme. Marian Fetzek won the raffle of a charming glass birdcage.

Learn about Garden Ponds at Mountain Shadow Garden Club

Water features in the home landscape add a greater dimension of interest and enjoyment for most of us. But, proper planning and maintenance are key steps to success. The March 9 meeting of the Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) will feature the program topic "Ponds—The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," presented by Bill Dowden. He is Co-Owner/Vice President of Coastal Pond Supply in Tucker, Georgia. Since 1988, the company has been providing products, knowledge, and advice to enhance garden environments with water.



Bill Dowden

The program will include information useful to beginning or entry-level garden pond owners as well as the more advanced and experienced. A question and answer session will follow the talk. The program will include tips and guidelines for managing ponds containing Goldfish or Koi.

MSGC is open to men and women of all ages who enjoy learning about a diverse range topics on gardens and plants. The meeting and program activities begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments and socializing follow. The group meets in Founders Hall at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain. Free. For more information or for directions, call club president, Jeff Raines at (404) 641-8633.

Smoke Rise Garden Club

The February meeting was held in the home of Margarita Fajardo. Jane Culbertson and Denise Finley were co-hostesses. Margarita provided us with her delicious home-made chili, perfect for a cold winter's night.

Laura Hartt, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper outreach chairman was the speaker. She emphasized how important it is for all of us to recognize the importance of lobbying the legislature each year concerning how we can effectively show our support for good quality control of our water supply. Anyone interested in volunteering with the Riverkeepers and learning about the issues can do so through the website, www.chattahoochee.org.



Laura Hartt

Garden clubs are a fun and social group of ladies, however the clubs have a serious side as well - helping to create interests in gardening and community involvement. For men who are interested, there is a men's garden club in our area.

If you are interested in joining or learning more about garden clubs, please contact Jane Culbertson at (770) 938-3060 or destovan@aol.com.

Mountain Mums February Meeting

The Mountain Mums Garden Club met for a brunch meeting in the home of Gaye Auman on February 11. New club officers were elected for the 2015-2016 Garden Club Year: Debra Adams and Jody Currie were named as Co-Presidents. Jeanne George, Heather McLendon, and Ann Purr will continue in their current positions as Vice President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary. Carol Wales was elected Corresponding Secretary and Lynn Malone, Parliamentarian.


The Walk to Remember raised enough money to fund three driver's education scholarships for teens. As soon as the teens are selected, they will be announced in the Smoke Signal.

The Mountain Mums next meeting will be held on March 11 at 10:00 a.m. in the home of Jeanne George. Jeanne will not only host the meeting, but will teach "Watercolor flowers: Part II."

She is a talented artist and teacher, and members are looking forward to seeing just how much creativity she can draw from the group. Anyone interested in joining can call membership chairwoman, Ann Purr at (770) 921-9070. The club meets the second Wednesday of each month, August through May. Dues are \$35.



Pictured from left to right: Debra Adams, Becky Dennison, Gaye Auman, Lynn Malone



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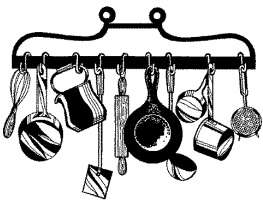
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# HODGE PODGE



By Jenny Hall-Busch

*I have little or no shame, so I am admitting that I eat way too much; for instance, there is no way in the world that a box of granola is going to get away with that lousy half cup serving portion. I usually eat half the box. Followed by four cups of coffee and a couple of extra cups around 10:00, because it really is hard to wake up. That’s because I can’t go to sleep until I have won at least one game of Vegas Solitaire or Pyramid. Often this takes me until 1:00 in the morning. Then, I have to read or do crosswords until the words actually cross. Then, I wake up again around 3:00 a.m. and read again, in case my body actually thinks it is getting rested. I only get things done around here, because I quit answering the phone and can cook dinner and eat while partially asleep. Then I go to sleep again while watching TV, only managing to stay awake to make sure I get the final Jeopardy question correct. In fact, I’m asleep right now!*

*Well, I’m tired. But not so much that I won’t share a few recipes that are just so comforting for the cold March weather we often have. March sounds like it’s going to be cool and spring-like, but normally I hibernate in March, so what do I know?*

*OK... this is from Ina Garten, and I adapted it a bit. It is absolutely wonderful, if you serve it with roasted carrots. And, it suits a meal of pork or roast beef perfectly.*

### Pureed Parsnips and Pears

- 1 pound of parsnips, peeled and cut into 1 inch chunks
- 2 firm pears, peeled and cut into 1 inch chunks
- 4 Tablespoons butter
- ½ cup sour cream
- 2 extra large eggs
- ¾ teaspoon grated orange zest
- ½ teaspoon salt and about ¼ teaspoon pepper

Place parsnips and pears in large saucepan and just cover with water. Bring to a boil, cover and simmer for 20 minutes or until they are tender. Place in fine mesh colander and let drain, undisturbed, until all liquid is gone. Place pears and parsnips in food processor and pulse until mixture is smooth. Add the butter, sour cream, eggs, zest and seasonings and process quickly to combine. Taste for seasonings and add more salt or pepper to taste. Pour into greased 9x12 oval casserole dish. Bake at 350 for 40-45 minutes until golden. You can roast the carrots at the same time if they are on the small side.

This is delicious, but do expect a little of a texture, because pears have a little “grain.” We like this with loads of pepper. It also reheats well, as do the carrots.

### Roasted Carrots

Cut carrots in half crosswise, and then cut in again lengthwise into smallish matchsticks. A pound is good for four people. Place in roasting pan and drizzle with 2-3 Tablespoons melted butter, 2 tablespoons honey and a good squirt of maple syrup. Lightly salt. Roast at 350-400 degrees until glazed and tender, stirring once or twice to make sure they are coated well. If you cut them into coins, it’s pretty durn cute to pretend they are coins for St. Pat’s Day.

Try this amazing lime pound cake for dessert. It is from an old *Southern Living*, so I guess I have to give them credit for this great recipe. It sure is delicious!

### Zesty Lime Pound Cake

- 1 cup butter
- ½ cup vegetable shortening
- 3 cups sugar
- 6 large eggs
- 3 cups plain flour mixed with 1/8 tsp salt & ½ tsp baking powder
- 1 cup whole milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ¼ cup lime juice
- 1 teaspoon grated lime zest

Grease and flour a 12-cup tube pan. Preheat oven to 325°. Tote that barge. Lift that bale. Ok, in a large bowl, cream the butter and shortening until fluffy. Gradually add sugar a little at a time (like ½ cup) and beat to blend. Add eggs, one at a time, beating just to combine. Don’t overbeat, or the cake will get all puffy and not resemble a pound cake at all. Mix the dry ingredients together and add to butter/egg mixture alternately with the milk, ending with flour mixture. Again, don’t over beat it or poofiness happens. Add vanilla, lime juice and zest by hand, and pour into prepared tube pan. Bake 75-80 minutes, until long skewer tests clean. Cool 10 minutes, and invert on wire rack to cool.

Make the glaze right now. I forgot to tell you. Mix 1 cup powdered sugar with 2 Tablespoons lime juice and ½ teaspoon vanilla. Brush over warm cake, letting it drip down the sides. Brush it on the sides as it melts down, and it will seal the cake and give it an overall tang. It keeps well and is wonderful with hot tea for St. Paddy’s Day, or any spring celebration.

All classified ads are limited to twenty words, with the *Smoke Signal* reserving the right to edit any copy. Ads are \$15.00 per month, (\$75.00 per 6 months if prepaid). Please submit copy in writing with a check for the months the ad is to run. Deadline is the 10th of each month. ADS NEED TO BE PREPAID. When submitting classified ads, please include your full name, address, and phone number. This information is for our records only! For classified ads, contact Barb Hess at 404-229-0742 or barbhess48@gmail.com.

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

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## Georgia Ovarian Cancer Alliance’s 5th Annual Shaken, Not Stirred Gala

In November of 2008, Smoke Rise residents Bruce and Tammy Lucia suffered the devastating loss of Bruce’s mother to ovarian cancer. In early 2009, they expanded their relationship with the Georgia Ovarian Cancer Alliance (GOCA) when Tammy joined the GOCA Board of Directors. Since that time, they have both worked diligently to expand GOCA’s statewide presence to raise awareness and educate people about the risks and symptoms of ovarian cancer.

Tammy was the co-chair of the inaugural GOCA Shaken, Not Stirred Gala, a James Bond themed black-tie event, in 2011 which has grown into one of this country’s premier ovarian cancer awareness functions. Almost 400 people attended that first gala, including 10 supportive Smoke Rise residents. The gala provides a grand evening of cocktails, dinner, dancing, casino games, tributes, and a silent auction.

This year, following the death of a beloved board member and co-chair, Tammy is the sole chair of the 5th Annual Shaken, Not Stirred Gala. Under Tammy’s guidance, the gala attendance has grown to more than 600 and the Smoke Rise participation has grown to more than 50! The Smoke Rise contingent not only attends this annual event, they actively support Tammy and GOCA throughout the year. Over the years, they have donated countless volunteer hours, auction items, and financial support.

This is a perfect example of a community taking care of one of its own. For more information about how you can support your fellow Smoke Rise neighbor and the Georgia Ovarian Cancer Alliance’s 5th Annual Shaken, Not Stirred Gala, being held Saturday, March 21, 7:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. at the Delta Flight Museum at 1060 Delta Blvd., B914 Atlanta, GA, 30354, please visit www.ShakenNotStirredGala.com or call the GOCA office at (404) 255-1337. For more information about GOCA, its programs, and ovarian cancer risks and symptoms, please visit www.GAOvarianCancer.org.



2013 GOCA Shaken, Not Stirred Gala (Photo by Sarah Dodge)