

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 49, ISSUE 8

Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968

November, 2016

www.smokesignalnews.com

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*Happy Thanksgiving
from the Smoke Signal staff!*



New City of Tucker leaders spell out progress (TUCKER) in front of the brand new City Hall. Left to right: John McHenry, Community and Economic Development Director; Jennifer Davis, Accounting Manager/City Clerk; Courtney Lankford, Deputy Community Development Director; Mayor Frank Auman; Steve Holder, Building Official; Brian Anderson, City Attorney Karen Bottoms, Permit Technician

Your Vote Counts!
General Election
November 8, 2016
Polls will be open 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Homes for the Holidays, the annual Christmas Home Tour of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club, will be held Saturday, December 10, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The \$25.00 tour ticket includes lunch served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center of the Stone Mountain First United Methodist Church, located at 5312 West Mountain Street. Three of the homes on the tour are in the Smoke Rise area.

Tickets can be purchased from any member of the Stone Mountain Woman's Club, the ART Station, 5384 Manor Drive, or the Stone Mountain Antique Emporium, 5379 E. Mountain Street. The day of the tour, tickets will also be available in the Family Life Center of the church or any home on the tour.

You may visit the homes on the tour in any order you choose. For your shopping pleasure, vendors with jewelry and accessories and other products suitable for holiday gift giving, will be available for purchase during the day of the tour in the Church's Family Life Center.

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club, a 501(c)3 organization, sponsors this annual Christmas Home Tour to help raise funds for a number of charities supported by the Woman's Club. For additional information, contact Elizabeth Wells at dandewells@bellsouth.net, (770) 822-9947 or (c) (404) 630-9925.



Smoke Rise Community Association Update

Admittedly, it has been some time since the SRCA board has provided an update to the community with respect to the organization's activities. SRCA hopes this is forgivable, in light of the havoc that monitoring the Sears property developments and a special land use permit have conflicted with traditional board meeting times, inflicted inconsistency, and imposed delays in completing business.

With respect to the former, SRCA continues to observe and participate as necessary to represent the community's interests. Significant developments since the last report are the exchange of old and worn sign toppers with revitalized replacements and that the independent financial audit assured at the annual meeting is well underway. Currently, the SRCA endeavors to meet with Tucker

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The World Rejoices in the Spirit of the Holidays

By Barbara Bruschi

It's the time of the year to wish everyone good cheer. When the golden rays of the sun illuminate the autumn leaves, our thoughts are filled with anticipation of the holidays. This is a time to give thanks for all the plentiful bounty the earth gives us daily and to be grateful for our families and friends that enrich our lives.

Thanksgiving commemorates the three-day festival between the Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag Indians who shared the harvest in friendship and peace. The colonists left Europe in search of freedom and to escape religious prosecution.

In 1863, during the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln declared an official Thanksgiving Day, each November. It is the great American holiday celebrated all over "America the Beautiful."

Turkey and all its trimmings are king for a day, as everybody gathers around the table and shares the blessings received. It is a day to bring light and hope to those less fortunate. We remember the hurricane victims, the homeless and our soldiers that are serving in far-away places to keep us free. Parades, football games, picnics and other activities dominate the festivities of Thanksgiving.

It also marks the beginning of the Christmas season. Believers throughout the world prepare for the season. Christians remember the birth of Jesus Christ who brought light into the world.

Glorious decorations adorn homes, and Christmas trees shining brightly, inspiring us to participate in the spirit of the season.

Various area events allow us to take in the splendor of the holidays:

Stone Mountain Christmas

November 12, 2016 - January 4, 2017

This is a wonderland of Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer, live performances of The Littlest Christmas Tree, Forever Christmas, Holly Jolly Cabaret and A Christmas Carol.

A dazzling display of lights will pave the way to the "Snow Angel Palace" and a "Singalong Train" will awaken the magic of Christmas in your heart.

Snow Mountain

November 19, 2016 - February 26, 2017

A variety of fun-filled activities for the entire family. stonemountainpark.com/events

...Continued on page 7



Smoke Signal

P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085
 A non-profit service organization devoted to furthering neighborhood cooperation with the aid of good neighborhood communication.

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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.

November Calendar of Events

- 2 *Smoke Signal* meeting at home of Jan Mahoney, 9:30 a.m.
- 5 Electronics Recycling Day, Rotary Clubs of Tucker and Stone Mountain, First Christian Church of Atlanta, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- 5 Fourth Bi-Annual Art Festival, ARTucker Tucker Recreation Center, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- 7 Smoke Rise Garden Club Meeting at home of Deb Christensen, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 General Election, Polls open 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- 11 14th Annual DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Leading Lights Luncheon and Fashion Show Mount Carmel Christian Church, 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- 14 Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC), Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road, 7:30 p.m.
- 15 City of Tucker Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting Discover DeKalb, 1957 Northlake Parkway, Suite 510, 7:00 p.m.
- 24 Happy Thanksgiving!

Smoke Signal Deadlines

NOVEMBER 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 NOVEMBER 10

SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

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

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 Link to the digital version of the *Smoke Signal*
 at <http://eepurl.com/pjn4v>
 or scan this QR Code
 with your smart phone!



Burmese Refugees Celebrate New Church Location in Smoke Rise Community

The Matupi Christian Baptist Church, a congregation composed of Burmese Refugees, joined Smoke Rise Baptist Church for worship on World Communion Sunday, and the Burmese congregation is now using the Chapel at Smoke Rise Baptist for its regular worship services on Sunday afternoons. The Pastor of the Burmese congregation, Reverend Born Thang, read from the Burmese Bible during Morning Worship, as Smoke Rise Baptist welcomed the new partnership with our Burmese neighbors.

SRCA... continued from page 1

city code enforcement, planning representatives and with Major Padrick of DeKalb's Tucker police precinct to address matters of mutual interest between all parties. The SRCA board bids farewell to Doug Reynics, who founded the community garden in 2012 and served on the SRCA board from that time. Doug elected to separate from the board in September. In Doug's place, the board welcomes Jenna Greene who was elected by the board on September 28 to complete Doug's term. The board also congratulates neighbors Frank Luton and James Vaughters on their selection to represent Smoke Rise on the Tucker Community Council. All members on the SRCA board wish each and all of our neighbors the happiest and most meaningful of Thanksgiving celebrations and, inspired by those who sacrificed the full measure of devotion to our country. The SRCA urges each and every eligible voter to exercise their constitutional right on November 8, 2016.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Dr. Chris George, Senior Pastor
 Bart McNeil, 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
 Valerie Coe Lowder, Director of the Weekday School
 Telephone: (770) 469-5856
SmokeRiseBaptist.org

Sundays:
 9:00 a.m. Worship in the Chapel
 9:45 a.m. Sunday school
 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
 Communion: Second Sunday of each month
 1st Tuesdays: 11:30 a.m. Prime Time
 Wednesdays:
 5:00-5:45 Fellowship Dinner
 6:00-7:00 Programs for children, youth and adults
 7:00-8:30 Sanctuary choir
 Nursery provided

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

Respite Care Center Hours: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tues.-Thurs.

Sundays:
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary - nursery provided
 Wednesdays:
 5:45 p.m. Join us for dinner! - \$5 per adult
 6:30 p.m. Program

Mount Carmel Christian Church

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

Sundays:
 8:30 a.m. Coffee/ Doughnuts/ Fellowship
 9:30 a.m. Bible School Classes – Adults & Children
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 Wednesdays beginning August 10:
 5:30 p.m. Dinner
 6:30 p.m. Bible Studies/Electives for All Ages

First Moravian Church

Pastor: Dr. Stephen Weisz
 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 Monrovia Church
 4950 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain, GA 30087

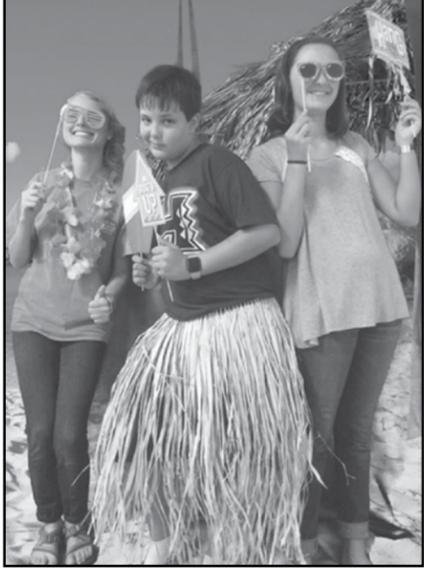
Mountain West Church

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

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.

Fun at the 5th Quarter

Smoke Rise youth enjoyed fun at 5th Quarters on Friday Nights at Smoke Rise Baptist Church. 5th Quarters will return next football season as a safe place for community youth to enjoy post-game fun.



Area youth enjoy Hawaiian Themed Night at 5th Quarter at Smoke Rise Baptist.



**MOUNTAIN CREEK:
The Club for All Seasons**

October's Family Movie Night and Campout was fun for all! Participants enjoyed a movie under the stars, hot cocoa, and warmth provided by a fire pit. The campers played in the GaGa pit, tetherball, and "on deck" fun.

After a good night's sleep, everyone awoke to the aroma of pancakes and enjoyed them with more hot chocolate to take the nip out of the cool morning. Because of all the fun and requests to repeat this event, the club is planning a spring date for another campout!



The fun continues in November with a Games Night on Saturday, November 12th at 5:00 p.m. The club will have a Pasta Potluck with games that include Bingo, Backgammon (Chinese checkers) and more.

Everyone is welcome!
Please RSVP to MountainCreekSwimClub@Gmail.com by November 10th.



Mountain Creek is making plans to continue special events throughout the year. Stay informed on what's happening by visiting online at Facebook or at MountainCreekSwimClub.com

Mountain Creek Swim Club
2092 Mountain Creek Court
Stone Mountain GA 30087

2016 Georgia Pecans for the Holidays

The Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) is pleased to announce its 2016 "Georgia Pecans for the Holidays" sale, an annual fall fund raising event. "The newly harvested pecans from our supplier in south Georgia are scheduled to arrive by mid-November, in time for the holidays," said MSGC president, Jeff Raines.

Demand continues to increase for Georgia pecans. Prices are the same as last year:
Fancy Natural Pecan Halves in 16 oz. (one pound) packages are \$11.00.
Chocolate Covered or Roasted & Salted Pecan Halves in 12 oz. packages are \$8.00.

MSGC expects high quality pecans again this year and would be delighted to add you to the customer list. Long-standing customers know, "You Can Taste the Difference!" in freshly harvested pecans. It's a local tradition.



However, to assure your request is filled, the club recommends orders be placed in advance with a member of MSGC. Please e-mail msgcpecans@gmail.com or call one of these numbers: (404) 296-7317, (770) 923-9762, (770) 469-5376, (770) 879-6116, or (404) 915-7132.

After mid-November, MSGC pecans that were pre-ordered may be picked up at the following locations. (Pecans will also be available for purchase until supplies run out.)
• The Garden Enthusiast, 2316D Main Street, Tucker. (404) 474-7072
• Hall's Flower Shop, 5706 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain. (404) 292-8446

Smoke Rise is Getting Younger

We welcome each of our new neighbors to the Smoke Rise area. Many established residents may have noticed lots of new families are moving into Smoke Rise and... they have small children. That means we can expect more young children playing in the neighborhood streets or racing down driveways into the street.



Three-year-old Smoke Rise resident, Kathryn "Kate" Sizemore enjoys playing in her yard.

Please be very careful to keep your speed down when driving through the streets of our family-friendly neighborhoods.

SLOW DOWN AND WATCH!

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

6780 James B. Rivers Drive
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
770 469 8551
www.Stmichael.cc/

Everyone is welcome!

Join us on Sundays at 8 am or 10:30 am

Just 3 miles from Smoke Rise near the West Gate Entrance to Stone Mountain Park

There are some questions the internet just can't answer!



**Fall for Smoke Rise Open Houses
November 6, 2016 • 1 - 5 pm
Call us for Maps & Information**



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770.573.9715

www.smokeriseagents.com



Friends of Disabled Adults and Children Annual "Breakfast with Santa"

Join WSB Chief Meteorologist Glenn Burns, and the big man himself, for a festive holiday breakfast on Saturday, December 10 from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the Evergreen Marriott Conference Resort in Stone Mountain Park! The event will include a gourmet breakfast buffet; free park admission with an all-attractions pass for each person (\$25 value); carol sing-along; a toy for each child; and an opportunity to meet and take pictures with Santa and his favorite elves.

Additional special guest host is FODAC spokesperson and board member, Aimee Copeland, the young Georgia woman who contracted necrotizing fasciitis, a rare flesh-eating bacteria, that almost took her life following an accident during a nature outing with friends in May 2012.

Professional photographer on site at the event will take photos, which will be available via free online download.

Tickets are \$30.00 for adults and \$20.00 for children ages 5-11; children 4 and younger are free when accompanied by an adult. All proceeds benefit FODAC. For registration and info, visit fodac.org/breakfast.



FREE NEIGHBORHOOD PET LOST AND FOUND

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



ART Station in historic Stone Mountain Village Announces *Becoming Dr. Ruth: An unexpected journey*
The triumphant story of Karola Siegel, the girl who became Dr. Ruth.
November 3-20, 2016

Everyone knows Dr. Ruth Westheimer - from her career as a pioneering radio and television sex therapist. Few, however, know the incredible journey that preceded it. From fleeing the Nazis in the Kindertransport to Switzerland to joining the Haganah in Jerusalem as a sniper, to her struggle to succeed as a single mother newly-arrived in America,



Judy Leavell as Dr. Ruth

playwright Mark St. Germain deftly illuminates this remarkable woman's untold story. *Becoming Dr. Ruth* is filled with the humor, honesty, and life-affirming spirit of Karola Ruth Siegel, the girl who became "Dr. Ruth," America's most famous sex therapist. The show stars Atlanta favorite, Judy Leavell, as Dr. Ruth.

Performances are Thursdays – Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., & Sundays at 3:00 p.m. A reduced price (\$15) 10:30 a.m. matinee is scheduled for November 16. Ticket prices: \$19.00 Student/Military, \$24.00 Senior (60+), \$28.00 Adult. To purchase tickets, call the Box Office at (770) 469-1105 or www.artstation.org. Visit the ART Station web site, www.artstation.org.

All performances are in the ART Station Theatre located at 5384 Manor Drive in Historic Stone Mountain Village.

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Website: www.bobbaileys.com



A Whole Lot of Christmas is located at 1833 Smokerise Summit



Fall is in the air in our Smoke Rise Community, and the holiday season is right around the corner. The neighborhood elves are busy helping with preparations for this year's Christmas display, and as usual, the display will come to life on Thanksgiving night at 6:15 p.m.

Santa Claus has even called and confirmed that he will stop by on weekends in December to sit in his sleigh for pictures. As in years past, donations will be collected for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Since 2012, a total of \$12,605.72 has been collected for charity. This year, organizers hope to surpass last year's total of \$4004.70, and raise \$5,000.00.

Please be sure to come by and enjoy the lights this year with your family and friends.



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Tucker Art Festival Brings Community and Local Artists Together

by Kimberly Sizemore

Like the diverse, creative and vibrant community it represents, Tucker's Art Festival will display a variety of colorful art mediums again this fall. The Fourth Bi-Annual Art Festival, ARTucker, will be held on Saturday, November 5 from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. at the Tucker Recreation Center. The marketplace is open to the public, free of charge, and the community is invited to view and purchase works from local artists.



Just in time for the holiday season, 50 local artists will feature their creations, including jewelry, paintings, photography, pottery and more. Live music and a food truck, "Buena Gente Cuban Food" will add to the entertaining atmosphere.

Kelley McManaman is a local artist who will be featured. She is manager of the Tucker Recreation Pottery Studio and will be displaying and selling work by students and instructors, including Tucker items, coffee mugs, vases, ornaments and more. "I would definitely encourage the entire community to attend the show! It is a great way to meet other folks from the community and to snag some really cool art! You might be surprised at the variety of artwork at the show."

While McManaman feels that this is a great, interactive cultural experience for the Tucker community as a whole, she also emphasizes that the connectivity for artists is also important. "By bringing artists from the Tucker community together under one roof, it showcases all the different kinds of handmade art that is happening in the area. It's an opportunity to meet other local artists and share our art with one another and the community. Hopefully this will continue and help make Tucker an arts destination!"

Mixed media artist Kenna Smith agrees. "People really do love supporting artists and businesses in their own neighborhood. It's a venue that brings people together to support each other. That's what a great community is about."

The event will be held Saturday, November 5 from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. and is free for the community. For more information, contact artuckergera@yahoo.com.

Local Community Chorus Presents a Holiday Concert

Mark your calendars. The Tucker-Northlake, community chorus, CHORALE II, will introduce the spirit of the season on December 4. The group's 11th annual Holiday Concert will be presented at 4:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Tucker. With 'Tis the Season. . . as the theme of the concert, the group will include selections which emphasize Advent, Christmas, Hanukkah and the secular season.



The concert will be conducted by the group's Musical Director, Dr. James T. McRaney, and Associate Conductor Peggy Ray. Accompanists include Don Akin, Ruthann Lacey, Kathy Ray and Larry Saggus. Concert selections include "Gloria" by Donizetti, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" by Cousins, Mark Hayes' "Sing We Now of Christmas," "Light the Candles" by Gallina, Mel Torme's "The Christmas Song," and a medley from Irving Berlin's "White Christmas."

The concert also includes a special appearance by the Briarlake Baptist Church Flute Ensemble. The program is free and open to the public; donations will be taken.

Registration Now Open for "Santa at Rhodes Hall"

Make your child's personal appointment with Santa

This year, consider skipping the malls, avoiding the long lines and instead, have a memorable Santa experience for the entire family at "Santa at Rhodes Hall" in Atlanta. Families can relax and delight in a winter wonderland at the gorgeous "Castle on Peachtree," enjoying holiday music, delicious refreshments and exciting art activities, while the little ones whisper their wish lists to Santa during personal appointments.



A \$40.00 family admission covers entertainment, holiday treats from area caterers and a 5x7 photo with Santa. You may also bring your own camera or video recorder for an additional \$20.00. Proceeds benefit The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.

To reserve your child's personal appointment with Santa, visit www.GeorgiaTrust.org or call (404) 885-7812. Spaces are limited and usually sell out. Reservations are required.

Santa at Rhodes Hall takes place weekends from December 3 – 18, 2016 at Rhodes Hall, 1516 Peachtree St., N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30309.

About The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation

Founded in 1973, this state-wide, nonprofit organization works for the preservation and revitalization of Georgia's diverse historic resources and advocates their appreciation, protection and use.



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Smoke Rise Elementary School News

September and October were truly productive months, thanks to the wonderful opportunities that Smoke Rise Elementary has taken to build healthy effective relationships between home, school, and the community.

September 15th through October 15th was deemed as Smoke Rise Elementary School's Hispanic Heritage Month. Daily presentations on Smoke Rise Live, the school's live television broadcast, honored Hispanic leaders that have made notable contributions to the world. Parents also joined their children at the festive Hispanic Heritage Luncheon. Faces, filled with laughter, crowded the cafeteria as families enjoyed a fulfilling lunch.

Competition wise, Smoke Rise Elementary students are tackling Reflex Math. Reflex Math is a web based program that helps students learn math facts by playing web based games. Students are challenged daily to practice skills that have led them to become number one in the DeKalb County School District. According to the school-wide coordinator, Ms.

Tadasai Johnson, thus far, the Smoke Rise Jaguars have answered more than 792,000 facts. Stamina, being focused, and resilience are just a few traits that will once again lead SRES to victory.

Artfully talented, budding artist, Mike'via Lowery is in Principal McCloud's words, a true representative of this school year's motto, "Causing an Uproar."



Mike'via is very passionate about art and music. According to her art teacher, Mrs. Melissa Johns, when Mike'via is not singing in chorus, she is singing while in art class. Mrs. Johns noticed Mike'via's creativity and nominated her for the DeKalb County School District's Art Star Award. Mike'via's two-dimensional art technique is called "resist." She drew a jaguar with glue. When it dried, the chalk pastel adhered to the paper and not the glue, which caused a brilliant effect. As a result of her hard work, Mike'via's artwork will be displayed

at the District's Art Star Hall of Fame corridor throughout the year.

There is no wondering why Smoke Rise Elementary met the State's College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI), the State's report card. "CCRPI measures how well its schools, districts, and the state are preparing students for the next educational level. It provides a roadmap to help educators, parents, and community members promote and improve, college and career readiness for all students" (www.gadoe.org). The Smoke Rise Elementary School's CCRPI scores increased by 3.2% from the 2014 to 2015 school year, dawning a passing State score. Faculty and staff are anxiously awaiting scores for the 2015-2016 school year. Smoke Rise Elementary will continue to develop each student's personal best through data driven instruction and finding out their areas of interest. Is the school there yet? According to the State index, yes, but as a competitive school, every day, staff members are analyzing, collaborating, and instilling Smoke Rise students with what it takes to be the best in a complex, competitive society.



Smoke Rise Prep Happenings

Each month, Smoke Rise Prep will showcase young journalism students writing about school events. This month is written by Mikaaailali W. (5th grade) and Austin E. (2nd grade). Enjoy!



Boy Scout News
by Will Stephens,
Troop Historian

Recently, members of BSA Troop 876 participated in the Scouting for Food service project. Troop members went around neighborhoods and passed out bags so community members could fill them with food. The scouts returned a week later to pick up the filled bags. In all, they collected 738 lbs. of food. They donated it to NETWorks Cooperative Ministry in Tucker. Thank you to the citizens that provided food for the hungry.

Have You Seen Kids Running on Your Street?

Well, if you have, those kids are from Smoke Rise Prep and in Running Club. The SRP club runs every Monday afternoon under the guidance of running coach, and 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Amy Keown. Members run one to five miles every Monday. The club also had a guest, Joshua Deaton, come to Smoke Rise Prep to visit a few weeks ago. Mr. Deaton is the head of both Kilometer Kids and Atlanta Track Club. He gave members advice on how to not get tired when running for a long time. During his visit, he also brought prizes for the runners sent by Kilometer Kids!



Mr. Joshua Deaton with SRP's Run Club

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Spirit of the Holidays...continued from page 1

**Holiday in Smoke Rise, Smoke Rise Elementary School
December 3, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

A traditional arts and craft show, to please old and young. Admission is free.

**Lighting of Macy's Great Tree at Lenox Square
November 20, 2016, 7:00 p.m.**

Take a ride on Macy's traditional Pink pig and shop to your heart's desire. Normally includes live music at 6:00 p.m., and fireworks after the rooftop tree lighting.

Christmas at Callanwolde is a splendid affair.

The décor is exquisite and the display of Christmas gifts simply wonderful. Make your plans by visiting www.callanwolde.org.

**The Alliance Theater presents: A Christmas Carol
Nov. 25, 2016 – Dec. 18, 2016**

A favorite of all ages.

**Garden Light, Holiday nights at Atlanta Botanical Garden
Dec.1 - 31, 2016**

One million colorful lights and costumed characters.

**Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Ballet
Dec. 9 - 24, 2016, Fox Theater**

Clara and the Nutcracker Prince dance through a magical wintry kingdom to a land of candy.

**Children's Christmas Parade
December 3, 2016**

Peachtree Street is filled with floats, giant balloons and marching bands. The parade goes from 16th street to 5th Street in Midtown.

**Cirque Dreams Holidayze
November 23 -25, 2016**

Broadway musical with 300 costumes and performers from 12 countries. At the Fox Theater.

**Atlanta Symphony presents "A Very Merry Holiday Pops"
December 16, 2016**

Delightful program with full orchestra, guest vocalists and Santa making the scene.

Events12.com/atlanta/december will guide you to a full range of activities for November and December.

At Christmas, the inner child emerges in us, and we feel the joy of sharing the holidays in thought and deed. While the world is facing many challenges, this festive time is one of hope and peace, sharing and caring. Different cultures and religions honor holidays in different ways, yet the message is one of joy to the world. It is the celebration of the Christ child that we remember and that fills our hearts with thankfulness and gratitude. Let the inner light of Christmas light up your world.



Stone Mountain Rotary Club

By L. A. Dison

Members Golf for the Disabled

Stone Mountain Rotary Club members joined Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) at the non-profit's annual golf tournament on October 12, both as volunteers and as players. This was the second year Stone Mountain Rotary participated in the golf tournament; last year the club helped raise more than \$25,000 to support FODAC's mission of providing durable medical equipment (DME) to the disabled community.



Stone Mountain Rotarian Don Sampler (right) presents a special Rotary Veteran commemorative pin to the oldest veteran in the club, John Christopher.

In October, Stone Mountain member, John Christopher, received a special commemorative Rotary pin designed exclusively for military veterans. The pin was a gift from fellow Rotarian Don Sampler, who received it from Rotary District Governor Raymond Ray on his visit to the club in September. Sampler was honored to be recognized for his military service with the Marines by DG Ray, but felt that as the club's oldest veteran; Christopher should have received the pin. At the October meeting, Sampler surprised his fellow veteran by gifting him with the pin. Christopher served in the Navy Combat Demolition Unit (NCDU, which eventually evolved into the Navy Seals.)

The club continued its programming emphasis on the sciences in October with a presentation on solar energy in Georgia from Kenneth Hughes, senior sales director for Suniva, a metro-Atlanta manufacturer of solar cells and modules. Club members also had the chance in October for a Q&A with leading political analyst and commentator Bill Crane, who offered commentary on the race to the White House, while touching on other issues of state and local political significance. The club sponsors a speaker at each week's member lunch; the speakers are chosen from all walks of life to provide the membership with the most meaningful topics and the most relevant information available.

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

Rotary Clubs of Tucker and Stone Mountain Schedule Electronics Recycling Day

The Rotary Clubs of Tucker and Stone Mountain will host an Electronics Recycling Day on Saturday, November 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to benefit Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC). The event will take place at the First Christian Church of Atlanta at 4532 LaVista Road in Tucker. (770) 939-4358.

Working and non-working electronics (with the exception of CRT monitors) will be accepted for recycling at no charge, but participants are encouraged to make a donation to FODAC. This year, the clubs will also accept durable medical equipment (DME), such as wheelchairs, power chairs, walkers, crutches and bedside commodes, which FODAC will clean and recycle to help those with mobility impairments. Refurbishing DME is one of FODAC's main programs where it supplies these items to the mobility impaired and their caregivers, at little or no cost to the recipients.



About Rotary International

Rotary's main objective is service — in the community, in the workplace, and around the globe. The 1.2 million Rotarians who hail from Rotary clubs in nearly every country in the world share a dedication to the ideal of "Service above Self." Rotary clubs are open to people of all cultures and ethnicities and are not affiliated with any political or religious organizations. Learn more at www.rotary.org.

About FODAC

Friends of Disabled Adults and Children helps people with injuries and disabilities of all ages regain their mobility, independence and quality of life. The non-profit organization provides more than \$10 million annually in refurbished home medical equipment (HME) and home modifications in Georgia and across the United States, all at little or no cost to the recipients. A pioneer in re-use, FODAC keeps 300 tons of materials out of landfills each year by refurbishing and reissuing more than 400 HME items every month, and is recognized nationally for best practices.

For more information on FODAC and a full list of recyclable electronics, visit www.fodac.org.

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Senior Connections Receives \$20,000 from The Imlay Foundation

Senior Connections announced last month that The Imlay Foundation has awarded the organization with a \$20,000 general operating grant. The grant will help defray the costs of senior meals and other critical services provided to hundreds of low-income Georgia seniors.

“The Imlay Foundation has been a long-time supporter of ours,” said Debra Furtado, CEO of Senior Connections. “With the number of low-income seniors increasing, and the demand for our programs and services on the rise, this award will be of great help to us. We will be able to keep more seniors independent, healthy, and in their own homes. It is truly an honor to partner with The Imlay Foundation to improve a community’s overall quality of life.”

The Imlay Foundation’s motto, “People are the Key,” exemplifies the importance of strong neighborhoods. The Foundation believes that it starts with people, their passion and willingness to create a better world for everyone.

Senior Connections has also recently received a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta to be used for civic engagement of seniors in metro Atlanta.

Senior Connections was founded in 1973 when it started as a small non-profit agency delivering meals in Decatur. Forty years later, Senior Connections is one of the largest home and community-based service providers in Georgia. Skilled employees and volunteers help thousands of seniors in metro Atlanta and middle Georgia by providing services such as home delivered meals, in-home care and home repairs.

The Imlay Foundation is a private foundation formed by John Imlay in 1989 to support charitable organizations within Atlanta and Scotland. It is the product of a deep family commitment to helping communities thrive economically, ecologically, educationally and culturally.

Of Note to the Community: Safety Alerts & Watches

by Cedric Ross

Courtesy of the Smoke Rise Agents Team with the Realty Associates of Atlanta

Devastating house fires can happen in an instant, and many begin due to human error. The U.S. Fire Administration reports that cooking tops the list of residential building fire causes (50%), followed by heating equipment (12.5%) and electrical malfunction (6.3%).

Make your fall and winter seasons merry, bright and fire-free with these essential fire safety tips:

Schedule a chimney inspection at least once a year.

Creosote, or condensed smoke, builds up on the flue and can catch fire. An annual cleaning and inspection can help prevent chimney fires.

Keep flammable items at least three feet from heat sources.

According to the National Fire Prevention Association, 56% of fatal home heating fires ignite from items being placed too close to heating equipment. Make sure everything is a safe distance from heat sources, including the furnace, space heaters, fireplaces and wood stoves.

Check smoke detectors frequently.

Approximately 60% of house fire deaths happen in structures with no working smoke alarms. Test your home’s smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries each year.

Have a family escape plan and practice it regularly.

All household members need to know all exit strategies in case a fire breaks out, as well as where to meet once they’re safely outside. Have a semiannual drill and practice at different times of the day.

Cook safely.

Never leave the room when boiling, frying or baking, keep pot holders and dish towels away from the flame, and immediately turn off appliances when not in use.

Be mindful of holiday decorations.

If you choose to decorate with strings of lights, always check their condition first. Throw out those with exposed electrical wiring, and be sure to read over the manufacturer’s instructions.



Crime Reports

- 10/8/2016 Burglary 5500 Block Hugh Howell Rd. around 5:00 p.m.

We make an effort to list local crimes. If we miss something, please let us know! Email address for submissions - smoke-signal@earthlink.net

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Smoke Rise Preferred Contractor’s List

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





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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

E-Cigarettes and Vaping – Is it Safe?

Rates of cigarette smoking have declined in the last decade to about 20% in adults older than 25 years, and 17% in those less than 25 years of age. Simultaneously, the tobacco industry has begun to heavily market e-cigarettes as a means of stopping tobacco smoking. The main target seems to be our youth! From glamorizing e-cigarettes in movies and advertising, to introducing kid-friendly flavors like bubble gum and gummy bear flavors... “vaping” is all the rage! These products are currently easily available for on-line purchase for anyone who knows how to use a credit card, and are available in dozens of local shops that have cropped up in our communities. Are e-cigarettes dangerous, or are they a better alternative to tobacco smoking?

Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and vaping are almost interchangeable terms for “smoking” nicotine from small cigarette-like devices. These devices have a mouthpiece, and a refillable cartridge, which contains nicotine, water and flavorings (there are more than 3,000) in a chemical base. A battery operated heating element heats the liquid in the cartridge to help aerosolize it to “smoke.”

Can e-cigarettes help you quit smoking? Well... possibly. E-cigarette users who are trying to stop smoking regular cigarettes were able to cut down, and some quit. But they were also more likely to become “dual users.” This means they continued smoking, while using e-cigarettes. While cutting down helps, it does not eliminate the smoking risk. Cutting down from one pack of cigarettes to half a pack per day doesn’t cut your health risk in half.

E-cigarettes are considered by some to be a “gateway” to smoking cigarettes. The Journal of American Medical Association reported that in teens who had never smoked, 30% of those who tried an e-cigarette went on to smoke cigarettes. In those who had never tried an e-cigarette, only 8% went on to smoke. While rates of smoking traditional cigarettes in youth have declined markedly in the last decade, vaping or e-cigarette use is up almost 20% among teens—and is being seen in younger and younger age groups. Current e-cigarette rates have surpassed tobacco-smoking rates in teens and young adults.

Are the chemicals and flavorings safe in e-cigarettes? Well, the jury is still out, because e-cig use is a relatively recent phenomenon. Most studies only extend 10 years and no long-term studies—lasting 30-40 years-- have been done. These studies are critical in determining how safe e-cigarettes are.

E-cigarettes have about a tenth of the carcinogens that regular cigarettes have. However, most of what is inhaled from e-cigarettes is inadequately studied. Devices that have a five-volt battery (or more) release agents that break down into formaldehyde. The heating element itself releases minute amounts of heavy metals, like aluminum. The base carrier in the cartridge is mostly propylene glycol. These substances are aerosolized and inhaled very deeply into the bronchial tree. No one knows what effect they will have in the long term. Most of the flavorings, while “food grade” have never been tested as inhaled substances. Food grade products are safe to eat, but not necessarily to inhale! Already some flavorings have been found in early testing to be toxic to lung cells in lab animals.

Are there known risks to e-cigarettes? Yes! One teaspoon of nicotine from a cartridge can be fatal to a three year old. Each refill container holds between two and six teaspoons of nicotine. Considering that kid-pleasing flavorings might attract an interested toddler, it is very important to safely store the cartridges and refill bottles. The FDA took on the oversight of e-cigarette products in August, and it just started requiring childproof caps. Companies have until 2018 to comply.

So, what is the bottom line? E-cigarettes and vaping devices are possibly safer than traditional cigarettes, but not yet considered safe. Long-term studies are critical in determining their effect on the lungs. There is no proof that they help people quit smoking, and they may be a gateway to regular cigarettes in youth. So... the jury is out.... What will the verdict be? For me, I would like to see more facts. Next month: Hookah Smoking.



Several years ago, in one of the first articles I wrote for the *Smoke Signal*, my message to neighbors was a reminder that they are in control of their holiday spending funds. We can all complain about jobs going overseas, but we can also do something about it. So this month, I am going to revisit that topic and plant some seeds of ideas for your holiday gift giving.

During the next two months, Americans are expected to spend more than \$830.00 each on gifts. That was the average spent in 2015. If that money were spent on US goods and services, it equates to an infusion of more than five billion dollars into our economy equivalent to 5.5 million jobs created.

Consider that every dollar spent on something made in another country goes to the workers’ salaries, overheads, and companies’ profits in that country, assuming it is based there. While that is a nice aspect of our abundance and generosity, we have people, families, and companies with employees right here in Georgia, Smoke Rise for that matter, struggling for their own survival and competing with the headwind of international and other competition.

What can you do? Let’s put our dollars in our neighbor’s wallets! How about using some of these ideas to invest in our community.

Clean My House. There are cleaning services based right here in Smoke Rise. The gift of a house cleaning typically runs \$100.00 to \$200.00, depending on the size and effort level required.

Make My Dinner. There are chefs and caterers here in Smoke Rise who will come to your home and create a fine meal for you AND clean up.

Do My Nails. These salons abound, and who wouldn’t like the excuse to be pampered a bit?

Handyman for a Day. Most of us could use some help around the house. How about a day with someone who knows how to fix that leaky gutter, change the hard-to-reach lights, or get that door that always sticks to work smoothly?

Play Golf or Tennis. Membership in one of our community clubs is something you might not have thought of giving as a gift, but why not? In addition to the well-known Smoke Rise Country Club, we have several other swim, tennis, and social clubs happy to have new memberships.

Arts and Crafts Show. December 3rd, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., there is a craft fair known as “Holiday in Smoke Rise” held at Smoke Rise Elementary School where you can purchase gifts, most created by local artists and crafters. Proceeds from the event benefit the school.



Stone Mountain Parking and Annual Passes. For a full-year of enjoyment, you can gift Park parking passes (\$40 each) or Mountain Memberships (~\$100/person).

Check out the *Smoke Signal* Classified ads and flyers for other ideas and connections to local service providers. Not all are from our neighbors, but many are, and it’s a good place to get ideas.

Americans' Christmas Spending Estimate in November of Each Year
Roughly how much money do you think you personally will spend on Christmas gifts this year?



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NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann



DeKalb County Issues Water Disconnection Moratorium

As we near an important American holiday where we reflect on what we're thankful for... I'd like to say I'm very thankful to live in the good 'ole USA – and the wonderful Smoke Rise community to boot. I'm also thankful we have government and county services that I often take for granted. For example, when I turn on my sink, I have clean, fresh water.

However, some residents in the county are noticing water bills higher than average or may suspect there is a problem with their water meter. The county has acknowledged several factors may be creating these discrepancies; including a misread meter, irrigation, double-cycle billing, a leak, a water meter malfunction, a billing error, a water rate increase and seasonal usage. Because of these factors, the county has issued an official water disconnection moratorium – meaning no water disconnections will be made through the end of the year – as long as the customer formally disputes the bill, and continues to pay the average bill (from the prior 12 months or six cycles of usage) until the dispute is resolved.

If you notice a higher-than-average bill or think you have a water meter issue, you may contact the Utility Customer Operations unit with DeKalb County government to dispute your water bill. Call (404) 371-3000, Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 7 p.m. Or, visit 774 Jordan Lane, Suite 200, Decatur, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may also send email to: dekalbwaterbillingfn@dekalbcountyga.gov.

That contact will start the dispute process and allow the Customer Assurance team to transfer the dispute to a technician to inspect the meter. (The cost for a field technician visit has been waived during the moratorium.) Following the technician's investigation, a report will be returned to Customer Assurance where the customer's bill may be adjusted as necessary to resolve the dispute. If the issue is not resolved, the dispute will be reviewed by a third party who will make a final decision.

The customer should disregard any disconnection notices received, as long as the dispute process has begun and an average bill is paid. While your account is under dispute, and you pay the average bill amount, your water will not be disconnected.

Some additional ways the county is helping people with a water bill dispute; adding more personnel to better manage disputed cases, empowering the finance director to use discretion in addressing unusually high bills due to billing or meter errors, suspending the installation of the new iPerl "smart" meter until a more thorough review of mechanical issues is complete, expanding access to water billing representatives in the community, and removing timeline restrictions on resolving disputes.

Meanwhile, we can all be thankful the Department of Watershed Management (DWM) provides its customers with high quality, safe, drinking water that surpasses the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) requirements.

DeKalb County's water supply is located on the Chattahoochee River, which is north of DeKalb County. Water is treated at the Scott Candler Water Treatment Plant and then distributed to DeKalb County customers.

Every three years, the EPD runs the analysis of the county's water in a certified laboratory to assure an extra level of protection and compliance by its independent analysis. In 2015, the Georgia EPD Lab ran 50 water samples county-wide and DeKalb County was found to meet or exceed the Federal compliance lead levels.

Now, that's something to drink to!

Smoke Rise Resident Receives Prestigious Award at Auburn

Dick Ingwersen (pictured below holding trophy) recently received the Walter Gilbert Award at a presentation during an Auburn University football game. The Walter Gilbert Award is given annually to a former Auburn athlete who has distinguished himself through achievements after graduation. The award is given in memory of Auburn's three-time, All-American center, Walter Gilbert, who later became a vice president of Texaco Oil. Former winners include Bo Jackson, Pat Sullivan and Vince Dooley.



A defensive lineman and tight end, Ingwersen played for Coach Shug Jordan from 1966-1969. He was selected to the

All Southeastern Conference Academic team in 1968 and 1969.

After graduating with honors from Auburn in Business Administration, he earned a law degree from Emory Law School. An attorney, certified public accountant and personal financial specialist, he co-founded the accounting firm of Gifford, Hillegass and Ingwersen, which has recently merged with Warren Averett, a regional firm.

Dick met his wife, Terry, at Auburn. They have two sons, Wes and Lance, two daughters-in-law, Laura and Lauren, and two grandchildren.

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The Mountain Mums

The Mountain Mums Garden Club had a wonderful field trip to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens to view the famous Chihuly exhibit for the club's October 12 meeting. The glass sculptures so beautifully mimicked the plants in nature, and the day was sunny and cool. Lunch at Linton's in the garden was an added treat.

The following day, many of the Mountain Mums garden club members attended The Redbud District Meeting at the Smoke Rise Country Club. This district-wide meeting was hosted by the four garden clubs of Smoke Rise. The Mountain Mums provided Hypertufa centerpieces for the event. The keynote speaker was Walter Reeves.

In November, the Mountain Mums will have a very



left side: Lucy White, Mary Lou Still, Jeanne George, Kelly Samaras, Denise Elam,
Right side: Carol Wells, Rene' Boven (guest), Cheri Schneider, Gaye Auman

different style of meeting. The club plans to go on a 'garden tour' of sorts and visit all of the parks and green spaces of the new City of Tucker. A map will be provided for attendees, and the club will meet for a picnic meeting after the tour.

M e m b e r s h i p

chair, Carol

Wales, can

answer questions

for anyone who would like to attend. She can be reached at cawale@hotmail.com.

Smoke Rise Garden Club News

New member, Marilyn Oatway was the hostess for the October meeting. Co-hostess, Margarita Fajardo had dinner for the members! Cheese and meat ravioli from scratch, complimented by the co-hostesses' condiments and drinks. Thanks to the ladies for a wonderful meal.

Marilyn's sister, Margaret was the speaker. She told attendees of the heartwarming story of her childhood. As a young girl, she read the book the Secret Garden and was so charmed by it that she wanted to have her own garden of roses. Times were such that labor and land needed to be put to practical use. It wasn't until she had her own home that she was able to create the garden she had always dreamed of. She was now at a point in her life that she could design, with the help of a like-minded landscape architect, and have the garden of her dreams come true. Beautiful photos accompanied the talk.



Blue Ribbon Winner from 2016 Yellow Daisy flower show, Hudson B.

Ann Weisz has been active with elementary school kids and involved in many school projects. One of which is entering national poetry contests. Two state winners; a second and fourth grader both took 2nd place. Also in the Recycle Sculpture contest, two fourth graders won 1st and 2nd place, with first place winner going on to Region and placing 3rd in Deep South Region. There is a fifth grader who placed 1st in the State and 1st in the Region. He moved on to National. Braxton O., won a National Award in the Youth Sculpture Contest! Congratulations!!! (No photo of him available at press time). SRGC is so proud of Ann and her involvement in the youth programs. She says that the results of interest children have in the environment and nature when encouraged, is a good feeling.

Anyone interested in joining the club, contact Jane Culbertson at (770) 938-3060.

The Mountain Mums, the Mountain Shadow Garden Club, and the Smoke Rise Garden Club announce you are cordially invited to attend the 14th annual DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Leading Lights Luncheon and Fashion Show on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2016.

The event will feature fashions from Chico's, and there will be raffles and lovely items from local vendors. Attendees will also salute our Veterans. The event will be held at Mount Carmel Christian Church. This is a wonderful "fun"-raising event that benefits the DeKalb Federation. The entire community is invited. Please go to www.dekalbfederation.com for details.

Smoke Rise Morning Glories News

The Smoke Rise Morning Glories celebrated a wonderful occasion on October 13th at the Smoke Rise Country Club with more than 100 garden club members in the Redbud District of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. It was the 56th annual Redbud District meeting, and club member Janet McGinnis is the current chair of the Redbud District which consists of 43 clubs, the largest district in the state. Martha Price was guest of honor and is the current President of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.



Janet McGinnis, Director of the Redbud District of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Director Janet McGinnis lead the meeting, and she was well supported by many of the club members for the meeting, luncheon and presentations. Mr. Walter Reeves was the keynote speaker, and his topic "When Bad Things Happen to Good Gardeners" was well received. Renowned for his easy humor and commonsense approach to gardening, Walter charmed the audience and still managed to teach some valuable pruning lessons on how to maintain crape myrtles properly while avoiding the deadly "crape murder!"

The Morning Glories won several awards, including second place for the yearbook and first place for attendance at Redbud meetings. There were educational kiosks featuring many current issues with gardening, with a special emphasis on using native plants to attract pollinators in the environment, conserve our resources and appreciate natural beauty in our state. There were door prizes, raffles of one dozen huge holiday-themed gift baskets and a cruise for two to the Caribbean. What a day, and what a pleasure to share the day with friends.

Mountain Shadow Garden Club November 14 Features "Trees Atlanta and the Atlanta Beltline"

The meeting of Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) on Monday evening, November 14, will feature a program on the involvement of Trees Atlanta with the popular Atlanta Beltline development. A volunteer "TreeSpeaker" from Trees Atlanta will provide an overview of the organization and its mission, and will discuss educational programming and volunteer opportunities. The presentation will include an update on the Atlanta Beltline Arboretum and other work positively impacting the conservation and restoration of Atlanta's urban forest.

The Beltline is providing a network of public parks, multi-use trails, and transit by re-using 22 miles of historic railroad corridors circling downtown and connecting 45 neighborhoods directly to each other. It is a comprehensive revitalization effort and one of the most wide-ranging urban redevelopment and mobility projects in the country. The Atlanta Beltline Arboretum proposes to plant several thousand trees in coming years in horticultural collections. Wildflowers and areas of native grasses are also being planted.

The Atlanta metropolitan area is recognized by the National Forest Service as one of the most heavily forested urban areas in the country. However, in past years the Central Business District was severely lacking in trees compared to other major cities. Trees Atlanta, founded in 1985, met the challenge and has coordinated planting of hundreds of desirable trees. In recent times, it has expanded its focus, and its mission has continued to evolve. The non-profit group works to address Atlanta's tree loss, protect its forests, and create new green space.

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

For more information, contact MSGC president Jeff Raines at (404) 641-8633. www.facebook.com/MtShadowGardenClub.



ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: Starting immediately, all inquiries regarding advertising should be directed to the following: Classified and display ads: Barb Hess at barbhess48@gmail.com. Flyers: Barbara Luton at barluton@aol.com.

All classified ads are limited to 20 words, with the *Smoke Signal* reserving the right to edit any copy. Ads are \$15.00 per month, (\$75.00 per six months if prepaid). Please submit copy in writing with a check for the months the ad is to run. Deadline is the 10th of each month. ADS NEED TO BE PREPAID. Checks should be made out to *Smoke Signal* and mailed to 1868 East Gate Drive, Smoke Rise, GA 30087-1911. When submitting classified ads, please include your full name, address, and phone number. This information is for our records only! For classified ads, contact Barb Hess at (404) 229-0742 or barbhess48@gmail.com. For information on display (box) advertisements or flyer inserts, see contact information on page 2.

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HODGE PODGE

By Jenny Hall

I decided to make caramel last week. I love caramel for fall, and I picked the perfect dry, clear day. I used a perfect pan, perfect thermometer and even used real perfect expensive butter. I chose a recipe from a frou-frou ta-ta cooking magazine that I can't seem to unsubscribe to. They promised this was the perfect caramel recipe which would cut beautifully. I bought all this cream and stuff and decided to get started! What could possibly go wrong? Well, what could go wrong was that my stove top is one of those black, smooth top convection inventions from hades that cycle on and off. You need a degree in thermodynamics, metallurgy and the wisdom of an atomic clock. It reached the perfect temperature, and all I got was a lovely pan of caramel Polident®. And I had decided, in a fit of misguided neatness, to line my pan with buttered waxed paper so I could lift it out for easy cutting. What I got was a pan of thick caramel flavored Polident® roll-ups. I had to pull it off the paper in globs and roll the thick mass into about a thousand balls to freeze - so I could later on hand-dip them in chocolate for lovely holiday gifts. In your dreams. They will stay in the freezer until I forget what they are and toss them, thinking they are tiny meatballs or something. So I'm giving you EASY caramel recipes for fall that really work and won't destroy your kitchen or sanity. Well, at least your kitchen. I have no control over your sanity. Or mine apparently.

Lovely Caramel Frosting made with Kraft® caramels

Barbara made this for the Yellow Daisy Festival and got rave reviews! Perfect for your favorite 9x13 baked cake like spice, chocolate, etc. You'll need 28-32 unwrapped caramels. I used 30.

2 cups sugar, 2/3 cup milk and 1 stick butter.
Mix and cook over medium high heat to soft ball stage, stirring fairly often. Add the unwrapped caramels and stir like crazy until mixture is completely smooth. The longer you stir, the thicker it gets, so it's up to you. I stirred it for about 5 minutes and it became more opaque. Not thick enough to spread exactly, but thick enough to make a lovely coating on a nice chocolate cake.

And, this is probably going to create a stir, but pumpkin is not actually my favorite flavor. I'd rather have a sweet potato pie anytime, and this sweet potato pound cake is wonderful. I've added a glaze too and you can drizzle it over the cake or use it to drizzle over the cake and ice cream later on...I'd add toasted pecans for sure in that case!

Sweet Potato Pound Cake with Maple Glaze

2 cups of mashed, cold sweet potatoes (canned is fine, but drain well and beat it with a mixer before using, so you get out those "strings")

- 1 cup butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon maple flavoring
- 4 large eggs
- 3 cups plain flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon soda, 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon EACH of nutmeg, allspice and salt

Preheat oven to 325°. Cream the butter, sugar and sweet potatoes well. Add in the extracts. Mix the dry ingredients together. With a mixer, add eggs, one at a time, alternately with the dry flour mixture, beating well after each addition. Spread into well-greased 10" tube pan and bake at 325° for 1 hour. Cool 5 minutes, loosen sides and invert on wire rack to cool completely. If you want to cheat a bit, while the cake is still warm, spread about half a carton of canned caramel frosting on it, letting it drip down sides. Or make this:

Maple Glaze

1 cup heavy cream mixed with 3/4 cup real maple syrup. Bring to a boil in a sauce pan and continue to boil, stirring once in a while, until thickened a bit. This takes about 15 minutes. Drizzle over the cooled cake or ice cream and cake. Sprinkle with toasted pecans if desired.

This would be a fun treat the kids can make for Thanksgiving!

Caramel Turkey Drumsticks

20 braided honey pretzel sticks
40 unwrapped caramels
chocolate coating for dipping
Soften the caramels in the microwave or in your warm hands. Mold two in an oval shape and shape it around half of a stick to resemble a drumstick. Make 20 and then melt about 1 cup of milk chocolate candy coating in a heat proof cup. Dip the caramel end in and shake off excess. Place on waxed paper to set up.

The purpose of the Smoke Signal classifieds is to advertise goods and services to the community.

Woman's Club Attends Conservation Seminar

Dr. Todd Polley, Director of the Chemistry Department, and Mr. Matt Vinson, Senior Project Manager, National Systems Utilities, spoke to members of the Stone Mountain Woman's Club during a trip to Emory University on September 22, about Emory's conservation initiatives. The trip was sponsored by the Conservation Community Service Program of the Woman's Club. Emory recently won the prestigious 2016 U. S. Water Prize for its WaterHub reclamation facility, and ranks in the top 10 "greenest universities."



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