

SMOKE SIGNAL



Gratitude By Michael Schneider

I have a friend who is very grateful. Through our friendship I have discovered that I am not very grateful. I seem to focus more on the problems that I have. And I thought gratitude only applied to something really big. Big enough to eclipse all my problems.

I have discovered this difference because most every day Robert will text me his “gratitude list”. I am always amazed (and sometimes shocked) by the things he includes on his list. Not huge earth-shattering things, but commonplace, everyday run-of-the-mill things that he takes time to appreciate. Like an exceptionally good cup of coffee one morning. Or as he described- wonderful “fall-off-the-bone” hot wings, or “chicken maple sausage”.

His gratitude list is not all food related though. A few days ago, he was astounded by the fact that he saw a SMILE when he looked in the mirror! Wow! That hit me. I’m usually too focused on trying not to nick my face while I hurriedly shave that I never actually look at my face!

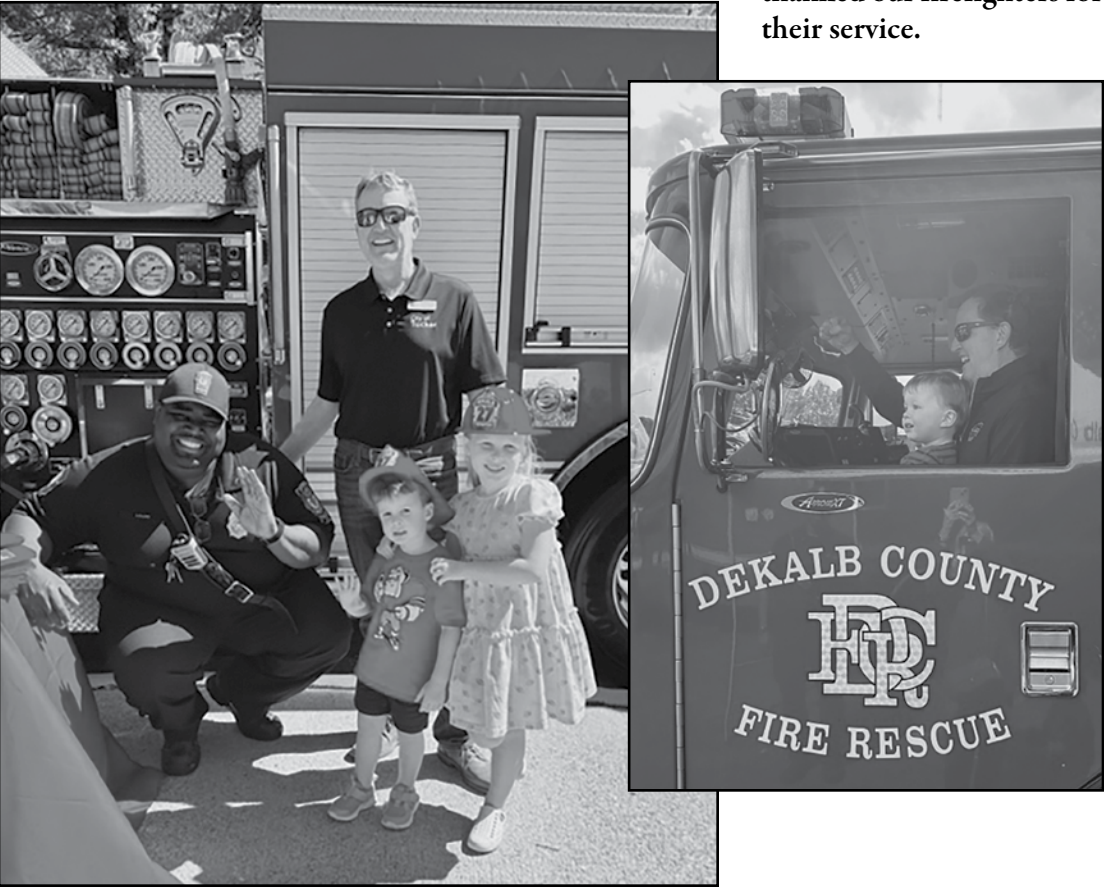
I’ve been impressed and challenged by my friend’s daily gratitude lists.

I’ve struggled to try to respond with my own gratitude list, but somehow, I just can’t come up with anything. Yes- I drink coffee. A lot of coffee! But I usually drink it to get a jumpstart in the morning, not to savor the flavor. I usually avoid sausage (too much saturated fat) and somehow the protein shake I drink for breakfast while fighting traffic on I-285 doesn’t really seem to inspire much in the way of gastronomic delight.

I decided to start a little smaller. Instead of a daily gratitude list, perhaps I could come up with a list just once a week? I instantly thought of things like “Taco Tuesday” and “Fish on Friday”. I could not, for the life of me, come up with a day of the week that has an alliteration with “grateful” so I came up with my own “Thankful Thursday”. I really think that something like this could change my life -or at least my outlook on life. “Thankful Thursday” ... I like it!

Come to think of it, Thanksgiving falls on a Thursday this year! Perfect!

DeKalb County Firefighters and Safety personnel held a festival at Northlake Mall to promote fire safety. Mayor Frank Auman enjoyed time with his grandchildren as they thanked our firefighters for their service.



Look inside for...

- SRCC Welcome New General Manager..... pg 3
- Meet the Neighbors ..... pg 5
- Celebrating Jimmy Buffett..... pg 6
- Southern Pine Beetles Threaten Trees ..... pg 9



REMEMBER TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 7!

FALL

By Bradley Couch

Leaves fall  
Sun sets  
Cool air  
Changes

Seasons come  
So, they go  
New beginnings  
With what the future holds

Grateful still  
For every meal  
For a home to dwell  
And a story to tell

With friends and family  
And pleasant memories  
Love stays constant  
Through every month

**SPLOST AGAIN?? SPLOST II**  
[From TSCID Newsletter]

Election season is nearly upon us, and the Tucker City Council voted to add a one percent special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST) to the November 7 ballot. DeKalb County voters first approved SPLOST in 2017, and since 2018 more than \$19 million in SPLOST funds have been allocated to Tucker for resurfacing more than 90 miles of surface streets, improving intersections and creating five miles of sidewalks and trails.

If voted for approval, the next SPLOST will go into effect April 2024 and continue for the next six years. Learn more about the SPLOST proposal at [www.dekalbcountyga.gov/splost](http://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/splost).





# Smoke Signal

P.O. Box 1038, Tucker, GA 30085

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

Editorial Committee:   \*Cheri Schneider.....staff@smokesignalnews.com  
AvivA Hoffmann...staff@smokesignalnews.com  
Gia Anderson.....staff@smokesignalnews.com  
\* This Issue's Editor-in-Chief

Staff Secretary.....Barbara Luton .....

Church News.....Susan Gilbert.....susan@waterfallhouse.net

Health News.....Cheri Schneider, MD, Pat Baumann, MD

Recipes and Home.....Joyce Ray .....joyceray126@gmail.com

Social Media/E paper .....Pat Soltys.....pat@smokeriseagents.com  
Rachel Caines .....rachelcaines@gmail.com

News You Can Use.....AvivA Hoffmann ..staff@smokesignalnews.com

Tech Talk.....Susan Gilbert.....susan@waterfallhouse.net

Out the Window.....Beth Henson .....bevans426a@gmail.com

Staff Writers: .....Victoria Crosby .....poeticvic@aol.com  
Joel Gilbert.....joel@waterfallhouse.net  
Linda Karr.....lskarr50@gmail.com  
Susan Gilbert.....susan@waterfallhouse.net  
Pat Soltys.....pat@smokeriseagents.com  
Joyce Ray .....joyceray126@gmail.com  
Pat Baumann.....pbauman@emory.edu  
Cheri Schneider.....Mikecheri@aol.com  
Barbara Bruschi.....  
Barbara Luton.....(770) 491-6711

Distribution & Delivery.....Laura Smith.....(770) 934-7595

Advertisements & Classifieds: Amber Voss.....staff@smokesignalnews.com

Flyer Inserts.....Barbara Luton.....(770) 491-6711

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

## ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:

-----

The *Smoke Signal* has reached its ad-space limit and we are now keeping a waiting list for future advertisements. Please send your ad requests to [staff@smokesignalnews.com](mailto:staff@smokesignalnews.com) and you will be contacted as space becomes available, in the order requests are received.

Classified ads and flyers are still available!



## Smoke Signal Deadlines

### NOVEMBER 13

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

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

**Deadline for classified ads is 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.


“Like” us on Facebook at  
**www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews**  
or visit our website at **www.smokesignalnews.com**  
Link to the digital version of the Smoke Signal at:  
Archives (smokesignalnews.com)

## Preferred Formats for Smoke Signal Submissions

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

## BRING A BOOK – TAKE A BOOK

Don't forget to check out the Little Libraries near the swim clubs.



## ATTENTION GRADUATES, NEWLYWEDS, AND HONOREES

Please send in your picture and a brief article for publication in the *Smoke Signal*.  
Email submissions to [staff@smokesignalnews.com](mailto:staff@smokesignalnews.com)



## DID YOUR PAPER GET WET?

EXTRA COPIES OF THE SMOKE SIGNAL ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE COMMUNITY GARDEN  
Look for the wooden box labeled *Smoke Signal*.

## Smoke Signal Political Policy

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

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

## Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

**SUNDAY**  
9:45 a.m. - Attend Sunday School through Zoom or In-Person  
Schedule Available at [smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/](http://smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/)  
11:00 a.m. - Attend Worship via Live Stream or In-Person  
Live Stream Available at [smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/](http://smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/)

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

## Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III: [cclarke@eastminster.us](mailto:cclarke@eastminster.us)  
Executive Director of Ministries ~ Jeanine Fulton: [jfulton@eastminster.us](mailto:jfulton@eastminster.us)  
Director of Family and Outreach Ministries ~ Mark Sauls: [msauls@eastminster.us](mailto:msauls@eastminster.us)

Music Coordinator & Organist ~ Carole Mitchell: [cmitchell@eastminster.us](mailto:cmitchell@eastminster.us)  
Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zabarac: [jzabarac@eastminster.us](mailto:jzabarac@eastminster.us)  
Director of Weekday Ministries ~ Celeste Sears: [csears@eastminster.us](mailto:csears@eastminster.us)  
Office Coordinator ~ Christina Wetzel-Sizemore: [csizemore@eastminster.us](mailto:csizemore@eastminster.us)  
Music Intern ~ Jose Azurdia: [jazurdia@eastminster.us](mailto:jazurdia@eastminster.us)  
Music Intern ~ Alessandra Roberson: [aroberson@eastminster.us](mailto:aroberson@eastminster.us)

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

Sundays:  
9:15 a.m. Adult & Children's Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. In-Person and Live streaming of Worship service

## MC3 Church

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

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

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

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

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

## First Moravian Church

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

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

## Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

## Mountain West Church

Pastor: Mo Huggins  
(770) 491-0228 ~ [www.mwchurch.com](http://www.mwchurch.com)  
4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain

Sunday Services: 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.  
Thursday Neighborhood Bible Study with Pastor Mo: 10:00 a.m.  
*All Welcome!*

In-person and streaming online on Facebook and [mwchurch.com](http://mwchurch.com)

The Smoke Signal has a New Post Office Box!

Please note our new mailing address:

P.O. Box 1038  
Tucker, GA 30085



National Day of Service

The General Federation of Women’s Clubs participated in The National Day of Service. The aim of this national project was “Fighting Food Insecurity and Hunger”. The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club had several local projects devoted to fighting hunger in our area. 125 food items were given to the St Vincent de Paul food pantry, and money was donated to the Stone Mountain Food Coop to purchase food from the Atlanta Food Bank. Members joined the Central East District, Stone Mountain’s home state district, in collecting nonperishable items for an area food pantry.

Another project to fight hunger was a drive-by food distribution at the Stone Mountain Food Coop sponsored by the Stone Mountain village police and local churches. The Woman’s Club helped bag and distribute 4000 pounds of food items to help with the local “Faith and Blue Weekend”. National Faith and Blue Weekend works for safer and stronger communities by bringing law enforcement officers and local residents together with respect and understanding to help neighbor- hoods and communities thrive.



*Do you want to learn to drive?*

**WALK TO REMEMBER**

**Driver’s Education Scholarships are now available!**

To apply, go to the Tucker Walk to Remember Facebook page and click on the link. The scholarship includes 30 hours of driver’s education classes and 6 hours of driving with an instructor.

The Mountain Mums want YOU to be a safe driver!

770-573-9715

Smoke Rise Agents is making some **BOLD** moves to upgrade our tools, marketing and services to our sellers and buyers.

[www.SmokeRiseAgents.com](http://www.SmokeRiseAgents.com)  
[Pat@SmokeRiseAgents.com](mailto:Pat@SmokeRiseAgents.com)

Pat Soltys  
#1 Agent & Team  
678.717.7903

Late Breaking News  
from Smoke Rise Country Club (SRCC)

By Susan Gilbert, Smoke Signal Staff Writer & Secretary, SRCC Board of Directors

After almost a full year of delays from insurance issues and supply chain, we are inching toward a grand reopening of the Smoke Rise Country Club! The Board of Directors is excited to share the news that after an exhaustive 6-month search



Jeff Wilson, SRCC GM

for an experienced General Manager to take over, we have found just the right person for the job. Jeff Wilson came on board mid-September and has already made significant progress toward our reopening.

This is no easy task given the Club is basically eight businesses in one. It takes a special person to know the ins and outs of operating one. The Club has golf, tennis, pool,

café, dining, special outside events, exercise facilities, and socials. Jeff brings that broad range of operating knowledge to the Club. He is implementing formalized Strategic Planning, Board Training, Staff Training, and a host of other improvements, and he has only been on the job 3 weeks!

Jeff will have the additional advantage of an advisor, Jim Story, who managed our Club for a year prior to SRCC bringing on a management company. Jim recently retired from running a major club in Pensacola Florida. He brings over 40 years of experience as a GM/COO there and elsewhere. He is moving back to assist in a business plan to bring the Club back to its original high quality golfing status, dining excellence, and its tennis preeminence. More on that as we build out the plan and know the timing.

Jeff is also big on communication. Here are some excerpts from his latest GM Update reminding us of the significance of having an 18-hole golf and country club in our midst.

“Have you ever wondered what positive effect a golf course has on a surrounding community in increasing the home values of that community? For golf lovers, living in a golf community is a no-brainer. For them, owning a property near a golf course means waking up and hitting the links. Even those who aren’t fans of the game of golf prefer to live in a golf community, which boasts manicured landscapes and resort-style amenities.

Research as far back as the 1990s has suggested that the presence of a golf course increased nearby home values by about 7%. A study done by the National Recreation and Parks Association found that properties that view a golf course, even if they are not a part of that golf community, have 15-30% higher property value. Based on these findings, we can comfortably assume that the presence of a golf course in a residential community increases property value and adds to the luxury of a home or neighborhood.”

Adding local validation to this thought, notice how many of our realtors make the notation on Kanawha homes that they are in a “18-hole golf and country club community.”

We hope you will all come see the Club when we reopen and will consider joining your friends and neighbors who support it with dues and participation in all it has to offer Smoke Rise. If you are interested in a tour or meeting Jeff, email him at [jwilson@smokerisecc.com](mailto:jwilson@smokerisecc.com).

Call or text today and let us help you with a pest solution.

Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
(770) 931-4397

\*\*\*\*\*



## Celebrating 250 Years of Amazing Grace at Smoke Rise Baptist Church

*By Joel Gilbert, Contributing Writer*

Smoke Rise Baptist Church offered a free concert to area residents called “How Sweet the Sound” on Sunday evening October 1st with almost 100 choir members and a 50-person orchestra. This 90-minute event offered a wide array of classic spiritual music and featured several renditions of the famous hymn.

“Amazing Grace” is a Christian hymn published in 1779 with words written in 1772 by English Anglican clergyman and poet John Newton (1725–1807). It is an immensely popular hymn, particularly in the United States, where it is used for both religious and secular purposes.

As Wikipedia notes, Newton wrote the words from personal experience; and even though he grew up without any particular religious conviction, his life's path forged quite a testimony. He was pressed into service with the Royal Navy, and after leaving that became involved





in the Atlantic slave trade. In 1748, a violent storm battered his vessel off the coast of County Donegal, Ireland, so severely that he called out to God for mercy. While this moment marked his spiritual conversion, he continued slave trading until 1754 or 1755, when he ended his seafaring altogether.

Newton began studying Christian theology and later became an abolition-

ist. Newton was ordained in the Church of England and began to write hymns with poet William Cowper. “Amazing Grace” was written to illustrate a sermon on New Year’s Day of 1773. It became a popular song used by Baptist and Methodist preachers as part of their evangelizing, especially in the American South, during the Second Great Awakening of the early 19th century. With the message that forgiveness and redemption are possible regardless of sins committed and that the soul can be delivered from despair through the mercy of God, “Amazing Grace” is one of the most recognizable songs in the English-speaking world.

American historian Gilbert Chase writes that it is “without a doubt the most famous of all the folk hymns” and Jonathan Aitken, a Newton biographer, estimates that the song is performed about 10 million times annually. It has had particular influence in folk music, and has become an emblematic black spiritual. Its universal message has been a significant factor in its crossover into secular music. “Amazing Grace” became newly popular during the 1960s revival of American folk music, and it has been recorded thousands of times during and since the 20th century.

The performance at Smoke Rise Baptist Church drew tears, applause, and a standing ovation from about the 600 attendees. I spoke to so many afterwards who all attested to it being the best performance anyone had ever seen or heard. Thanks once again to Smoke Rise Baptist Church for offering it for our community!

<p><b>PALMERHOUSE</b> <b>PROPERTIES</b> </p>	<p><b>HOME SMART</b></p>
	<p><i>Residents and top selling Realtors serving the Smoke Rise community full time since 1994 with over 460 sales in Smoke Rise alone.</i></p> <p><i>Whether you're buying or selling, we're here to serve all your residential real estate needs - call us today!</i></p> <p><b>John Porter</b> Licensed in Georgia since 1986 404-376-7069 atlrealtor21@aol.com</p> <p><b>Jim Shoults</b> Licensed in Georgia since 1994 678-592-1043 jimshoults@gmail.com</p> <p><i>National Association of Realtors Georgia Association of Realtors DeKalb Association of Realtors</i></p>

# American Legion Post #207

[www.AmericanLegionPost207.org](http://www.AmericanLegionPost207.org)

The seal of the American Legion, featuring a central five-pointed star with "US" inside, surrounded by a wreath of olive and oak branches, and the words "AMERICAN" and "LEGION" at the top and bottom respectively.

## VETERANS DAY

A small American flag icon.

Honoring All Those Who Served

A small American flag icon.

## 5K Run/Walk

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11<sup>th</sup> @ 8am

A QR code located in the bottom left corner of the flyer.

Register on [Active.com](https://www.active.com)

A small American flag icon.

A small American flag icon.

A small American flag icon.

A QR code located in the bottom right corner of the flyer.

**Kodachrome**

a play by Adam Szymkowicz  
directed by Carrie Harris

## Final showing! Nov. 3 & 4

Join us in Colchester, a small town where everybody knows each other, and the pace of life allows the pursuit of love to take up as much space as it needs. Our tour guide is Suzanne, the town photographer, who helps us peek into her neighbors' lives to catch glimpses of romance in all its stages of development. Kodachrome is a play about love, nostalgia, the seasons and how we learn to say goodbye.

Tickets on sale now!

<http://www.tuckertheatre.com>

# Art Wood

#YourMortgageGuyForLife

## MY COMMUNITY IS MY HOME

Born and raised in Tucker  
Located on Main Street  
17 years of experience  
Founder of Taste of Tucker  
Community leader

*"I am proud to have helped  
thousands of our neighbors  
with their home mortgages...  
whether purchasing or  
refinancing, and look forward  
to serving you."*

**ART WOOD  
MORTGAGE TEAM**  
Goldwater Bank, N.A. | NMLS# 452955

*Serving Your Mortgage into a Work of Art*

**Art Wood, Area Manager**  
NMLS #118234  
[www.ArtWoodMortgageTeam.com](http://www.ArtWoodMortgageTeam.com)  
2341 Main Street | Tucker, GA 30084  
e: 404.888.2567 | o: 878.524.5834 | f: 878.524.5836  
[art.wood@goldwaterbank.com](mailto:art.wood@goldwaterbank.com)





A Whole Lot of Christmas is located at 1833 Smokerise Summit.

A Whole Lot of Christmas

Fall is in the air in our Smoke Rise Community, and the Christmas season is right around the corner. The neighborhood elves are busy helping with preparations for this year’s Christmas lights display, including a few surprise additions! Santa Claus has marked his calendar and will return to take photos with visitors in his sleigh on Friday and Saturday evenings. Also, as in years past, donations will be collected for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Since 2012, a total of \$74,665.73 has been collected for charity. This year we are hoping to surpass last year’s total of \$13,380.75 and fund another wish for a local child. Please be sure to come by and enjoy the lights this year with your family and friends! The lights will come on in mid-November, so be sure to stop by to kick-off the Christmas season and to see if you can spot the new additions (hint - be sure to turn right on Trotter’s Lane)!



Tour of Southern Ghosts

Members of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club sold Halloween items, cider, and books at the old school house to raise funds for ART Station in Stone Mountain. Smoke Rise residents worked each night.



ESTD 1962

BOB BAILEY’S  
APPLIANCE CO

5100 Highway 78 East Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
Phone 770.979.1077 Fax 770.979.1844  
Website: [www.bobbaileys.com](http://www.bobbaileys.com)

- ❖ Family Owned & Operated
- ❖ Quality Brands & Great Pricing
- ❖ Professional Delivery and Installation
- ❖ Serving Smoke Rise over 50 years

Miele

JENNAIR

BOSCH  
Invented for life

KitchenAid

WOLF

Thermador

SUB-ZERO

WOMEN OF EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP

The General Federation of Women’s Clubs’ Stone Mountain Woman’s Club will be awarding a \$1000 scholarship this fall. It will go to a deserving woman who is currently enrolled in a college, technical school or training program to complete her education. If you are interested in applying or if you know of someone who would be interested, please request an application from the club at [info@stonemountainwoman-sclub.org](mailto:info@stonemountainwoman-sclub.org). The application deadline is Friday, December 1, 2023.

Meet the Neighbors!

By Linda Karr, Staff Writer

Michael Eurey and Stanley Harper

It’s 1974 and Michael Eurey from Los Angeles had just finished a two-year camper tour of the United States ending in New York. At the same time, Stanley Harper had just moved back to New York after 3 years in Paris studying culinary arts. Stanley was born in Newnan and in 1964 at the age of 21 he ‘ran away’ to embrace the counterculture of the Harvard/Cambridge area where his interest in all things culinary forged a future career path. He earned his keep in a commune by cooking, got good at it, and then worked restaurant jobs in New York during those years before moving to Paris.



Michael Eurey and Stanley Harper

In 1978 Stanley was just getting started as a chef. Michael was driving a taxi to make enough money so they could open a small restaurant, Kitchen Witch, in Greenwich Village. It had an open kitchen with seating for 16 in the basement of a 19th century townhouse. They expanded the restaurant later. It was “discovered” by an anonymous critic who featured the restaurant in the September 1980 *Vogue* magazine. Soon after it was in *Esquire*, *GQ*, *Marie-Claire* (Paris), a photo spread in *Travel and Leisure*, and several international inflight magazines. Their clients included Julie Andrews, Patti Labelle, Leontyne Price, Diahanne Carroll, Paloma Picasso, Tennessee Williams, Truman Capote, and all the *Vogue* team, socialites, and models. In 1983 consultants hired Stanley away from the restaurant to become the Executive Chef at Bear Stearns, an American Investment Bank. He remained there for over 15 years. Michael worked in administration. By 1996 they were commuting between New York City, Sun Valley, Idaho, and Martha’s Vineyard as chef and estate manager for Bear Stearns principal and family.

In 2001 Michael and Stanley decided a change was in order and they relocated to rural upstate New York on the Delaware River in Narrowsburg using grants for town gentrification. They renovated a commercial building and opened a restaurant, wineshop. and gallery space. They lived above the shop. By 2013 they had succeeded in their endeavors and felt like it was time to move on; they were exhausted, and the winters were hard.

Stanley’s Mom, who was 97, was in hospice here in Georgia and his sisters had been looking after her. Stanley and Michael wanted to help. They came and looked at many areas of Atlanta before a realtor brought them to Smoke Rise. They closed on their house on a Friday and moved Stanley’s Mom in the next Tuesday. They took care of her in their home until she passed away.

After she passed, they considered moving. Adjusting to Atlanta had not been easy, but there were also problems relocating later in life. They realized they were now home.

In their retirement they both stay very busy. Michael works full-time at Pikes Toco Hills and just got promoted to head of sales for all the departments; Pike’s is a big part of their life. Stanley has a successful catering business and is a gardener.

Family brought them to Smoke Rise. When they came, they found everything they needed – great, caring friends and neighbors; a great, gentrified lifestyle; and a church of their dreams (Holy Trinity Parish). After living ten years in Smoke Rise they wouldn’t want to be anywhere else. Through all their travels and adventures, moving here was the best thing that they’ve ever done.

KASPAR & WHITE  
— A PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION —

Kaspar and White is a full-service CPA firm offering personal and small business tax and accounting services. Give us a call at (770) 491-7510 or visit us at [www.kasparandwhite.com](http://www.kasparandwhite.com).

LAW OFFICE OF  
PEATSA C. WALLACE LLC

Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney  
Health Directives, Probate & Administration  
Business Formations/Contracts, Tax Law,  
Domestic Partnership Agreements & Dissolutions

SENIOR DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE



“Have briefcase, will travel”  
– She will come to you!

Over 36 years experience  
Tucker Resident

Office: 2345 Main Street, Tucker  
770.938.3919 or 678.570.8543  
[peatsawallace@bellsouth.net](mailto:peatsawallace@bellsouth.net)





Smoke Rise Residents enjoy the celebration.

Celebrating Jimmy Buffett at SRCC

When it comes to bringing a slice of paradise to life, there’s no one who does it quite like Jimmy Buffett. Known for his laid-back tunes, love for the ocean, and the creation of Margaritaville, Buffett captured the hearts of Parrotheads around the world. Recently, Smoke Rise Country Club decided to honor the man behind the music with a fun-filled member event.

One of the highlights of the event was the mouth-watering tropical buffet. Members enjoyed a feast fit for a Parrothead, complete with cheeseburgers in paradise, tropical grilled chicken, shrimp skewers, and of course, margaritas! It was a culinary journey that perfectly complimented the laid-back island vibe of the day.

To pay tribute to Jimmy Buffett’s iconic music, local musician Michael Duffee performed a mix of classic Buffett songs that had everyone singing along. From “Margaritaville” to “Cheeseburger in Paradise”, the music truly captured the essence of the Margaritaville lifestyle.

The Margaritaville event at Smoke Rise Country Club honoring Jimmy Buffett was a resounding success. It brought together Parrotheads from all walks of life. It



Andy Alexander and his son, Charlie Alexander

was a testament to the enduring appeal of Jimmy Buffett’s music and the joy it brings to his fans.

In the end, it was clear that SRCC had succeeded in creating a little slice of Margaritaville right in their backyard, and the memories made that day will surely keep everyone in a tropical state of mind until the next event comes around.



Elaine Taylor, John Fetzek, Mary Lou Still

A Note from Karen Berry, Candidate for Council District 1 Post 2

Hi, Smoke Rise Neighbors! I’m Karen Berry. The election is almost here! November 7 is the day to make sure you get to the polls. Early voting has already started. Voter turnout tends to dip in years when there are no federal elections, so your vote will carry greater weight this year!

I will be a GREAT Councilwoman for District 1 Post 2. I call Smoke Rise home and I plan on staying put. I want my town to be the best it can possibly be, and I want to help make that happen. Tucker’s current and first Mayor and the Council guided Tucker from its infancy to establish a solid foundation and working plan. I would like to be a part of the team to continue that legacy.

I will bring years of management and government experience to the office. As a previous state government employee (I worked Juvenile Probation for 14 and a half years) I learned all about listening and compromise. Bringing together families, courts, schools and teenagers can be a challenge! Bringing solutions to problems and helping people is fulfilling. And, I am good at it. I want to build relationships with fellow council members, you the community, city employees and leadership in DeKalb County. To prepare to assume the office, I am studying existing city plans, attending meetings and studying many online resources. By the way, there is a University of Tucker City class available to the public that is very informative; I recommend it to anyone that is interested in our great City’s affairs. I am studying the SPLOST program in-depth to see how it impacts us in Smokerise and in Tucker.

My experience, my tenacity to get to solutions and my care for other people is a combination that you can rely on. One of my priorities will be strengthening ties with DeKalb County’s Tucker Precinct. After meeting some of our men in Blue, I am confident they are working hard on our behalf to safeguard our streets and intersections. They take their job to protect and to serve very personally. That I am thankful for!

My most ambitious goal is to ensure Smoke Rise has continuous utility service. While not exactly a city-wide issue, it definitely is a Smoke Rise issue. You know what I’m talking about. Our frequent power outages are frustrating. Other communities do not have this problem. There is a solution! While working on our power issue, I promise to work hard and do my very best to ensure that our community continues to grow and prosper—that we honor our hometown feel.

Our most important asset is each other. Our neighbors are what make Tucker such a special place to call home. I want to stay in regular communication with you, not only during this campaign time, but into my tenure on the council. I have created a Facebook group, KBerryForTucker. My cell number is 770-634-9435. I’m publishing my contact information so that you can send me your ideas, your questions, and your feedback on our city government and issues.

Please make your voice heard, vote, and if you want to support me, please tell your neighbors about my candidacy and my Facebook group. Thank you for allowing me this chance to serve.



For over three decades, **Blankenship Family Dentistry** has been treating the Smoke Rise Community with a personal touch.

You will feel comfortable with our father-daughter team that offers an abundance of dental talent, in a judgement-free environment.

Call to make your appointment today.  
**770.879.0732**



NEWS YOU CAN USE

By AvivA Hoffmann

Pawsitive Pet Practices in Smoke Rise

As we enter the Thanksgiving season, if my article from September motivated you to bring a new furry friend into your home, it’s a decision that can bring gratitude both to you and your new pet. Additionally, to ensure a peaceful holiday atmosphere throughout our community, it’s advantageous for both pet owners and non-pet owners to get familiar with the local regulations. However, it’s important to remember that resolving issues through a friendly chat can often be the best approach before involving authorities.

When it comes to animals, Tucker falls under the regulations set by DeKalb County. You can find DeKalb County’s Code of Ordinances online (keep reading for the web address). Pertinent information is outlined in “Chapter 5 – ANIMALS” and “Chapter 16 - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS AND OFFENSES,” which addresses key aspects of responsible pet ownership and safeguarding community tranquility.

Among these rules, Section 5-5 underscores the importance of exercising common sense and keeping your pets from roaming the neighborhood freely. Alternatively, designated off-leash areas at local parks can provide opportunities for supervised play and exercise. And, whether you’re near home, or at the park, prompt removal of any excrement left by your pet is mandatory (and good etiquette).

It’s also good to revisit the issue of noise disturbances. Pet owners must ensure their pets’ vocalizations adhere to permissible limits. In essence, this means continuous barking for more than 15 minutes, or intermittent barking for more than 30 minutes, is not allowed. Exceptions are granted for vocalizations serving as warnings in the presence of an intruder, as outlined in Section 16-304.

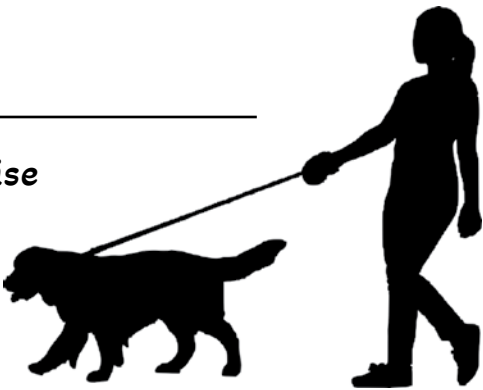
For questions regarding DeKalb County’s Animal Services & Enforcement Department, contact (404) 294-2996. Further information is available online: <http://www.dekalbanimal-services.com/>

To access the DeKalb County Code of Ordinances online, visit the county’s homepage at: <http://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/> and navigate to the “Government” tab followed by the “County Ordinances” drop-down menu.

You can directly access the ordinances at: [https://www.municode.com/library/ga/dekalb\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=ORAC](https://www.municode.com/library/ga/dekalb_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=ORAC).

Finally, Code Enforcement information is also available online at our City of Tucker website: <https://www.tuckerga.gov>.

Being mindful of the rules and fostering a friendly environment contributes to a pleasant atmosphere for everyone in Smoke Rise. Happy Thanksgiving.



techtalk by Susan Gilbert

Time-Saving Life Hack

This topic is not technical as the column title, TechTalk, implies. When I suggested it to my husband, fellow staff writer Joel Gilbert, he agreed it was non-technical but worth sharing in this column, calling it a Life Hack. I had to look that one up:

A life hack is any trick, shortcut, skill, or novelty method that increases productivity and efficiency, in all walks of life. Wikipedia

I admit I love efficiency and productivity. It makes me crazy to do something in a way that takes more time or energy than it should. That’s why when toothpaste pump dispensers were introduced in the early 80s, I was quick to purchase one. It cost a little more, but the convenience of a push-button container standing beside the sink was appealing. The alternative was opening a drawer, picking up a tube, unscrewing the cap, squeezing out toothpaste, replacing the cap, and returning it to the drawer. But I guess few agreed with me because within a year, the pushbutton containers disappeared from store shelves. Another innovation that didn’t gain market acceptance.

But I never gave up my appreciation for that efficiency two times each day, 365 days a year. Looking at the math, that is 730 tooth brushings each year. If each one saves 10 seconds, that is 7,300 seconds saved, equating to over two hours a year that can be devoted to more productive and meaningful endeavors.

So, I soldiered on in search of the perfect pump. One I tried was the automatic dispenser where you simply wave your hand or toothbrush in front of the nozzle and soap, lotion, or toothpaste appears. That didn’t work with toothpaste because of its viscosity. It was too thick to come out. Watering it down didn’t work either because by the time there was enough water thinning it down to work, the gel became too watery to stay on the brush and instead dripped through the bristles, splattering all over the counter.

Last week, seeing an empty hand soap pump in our bathroom inspired me to try again. After giving the bottle a good cleaning and loading it with my favorite toothpaste, to my amazement, it produced the perfect strip of toothpaste with just a slight tap on the pump.

This life hack may not work with every kind of toothpaste. I like cinnamon gel Close-up that must have fallen out of favor with the public, too, because it is no longer available in stores. I now must purchase it online. But give it a try with your favorite brand. It requires only an empty plastic soap dispenser and about a minute to fill it up. Then go figure out how to spend your extra two hours.



After 14 years with Keller Williams,  
we are proud to announce our affiliation with PalmerHouse!

**Eleanor Patrick Homes Group**  
**PalmerHouse Properties**

Over 15 Years Serving Buyers and Sellers in Smoke Rise and Metro Atlanta!  
For Excellent Personalized Customer Service  
Tailored to You – Buy & Sell with Elle!

- Positive Solutions Teamed with the Ease of Doing Business
- Protect Your Best Interest At All Times
- Excellent Client Reviews
- Over 20 Years as A Smoke Rise Resident

Contact us Today for a free home Consultation

**eleanorpatrickhomes@gmail.com**  
**404-721-2904** Direct/ Mobile/Text

Eleanor Patrick, Realtor

Call for free consultation

**GEORGIA**  
Will & Probate  
Lawyers, LLC

Latawsha Little-Hill  
Steven R Ashby  
4500 Hugh Howell Road  
Suite 600 Heritage Place  
Tucker, GA 30084  
770.493.4924  
[www.gwaplaw.com](http://www.gwaplaw.com)

A “TAKE SOME OF THE WORRY  
OUT OF LIFE” POLICY.

With rewards for safe behavior that protects what matters most,  
rather than penalties for what doesn't go quite right. And with  
the support you need, every step of the way. For your car.  
Your home. For your unique life.

Dream fearlessly with American Family Insurance. Contact me today.

Thele Moore, Agent  
1835 E Park Place Blvd Ste 111  
Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
Bus: (678) 537-8430  
[thelemooreinsurance.com](http://thelemooreinsurance.com)  
Certified Agency in  
Customer Excellence

**AMERICAN FAMILY**  
INSURANCE

American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & its Operating Companies,  
American Family Life Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783  
©2020 017720 – 1/20 – 13949389



HEALTH NOTES:

TIA: Is it a stroke?

By Cheri Schneider, M.D.

Someone recently asked me to write an article on TIAs. Many people have heard the term and vaguely understand the concept. The term TIA stands for “Transient Ischemic Attack”. Simply put, it is an episode of stroke-like symptoms lasting minutes to hours and going away completely within 24 hours. Most episodes last a few minutes and resolve within an hour. You can have more than one TIA in a lifetime. A TIA is thought to be caused by lack of oxygen going to a small part of the brain. A blockage in the artery can occur when a cholesterol lined artery has a small clot temporarily blocking the artery. Most of the time, this clot comes from the heart.

Experts think a TIA may be the precursor to a stroke in about a third of patients. Of those who eventually have a stroke, half occur within a year. Weakness, numbness, or paralysis on one side of the body, balance or coordination changes that are of sudden onset, slurred speech, vertigo and eye symptoms such as blindness in one eye or double vision are some of the symptoms. As you may know, these symptoms may be due to a real stroke or other problems, so it is important to have a medical professional check you out during an episode. This may mean an ER visit, especially if the episode lasts over an hour. Remember, in a real stroke, TIME IS BRAIN. So, it is never ‘wrong’ to go to the ER. If you do go, tell them you are ‘worried about a stroke’, so they can fast track you. Again, the more time that elapses means more brain loss.

Who gets a TIA? The most common risk factors for TIA are: high cholesterol, hypertension, diabetes, a family history of heart disease- especially at a young age, or certain heart arrhythmias. Other diseases such as sickle cell disease and other blood clotting disorders may precipitate TIA. Age over 55, male gender and obesity also increases risk. Clogged carotid arteries and vascular disease of legs, arms or abdominal arteries increase TIA risk. Covid infection can increase risk as well.

Is there anything you can do to prevent TIA? YES! Regular physical activity (at least 30 minutes, five days a week), following a low saturated fat diet, and maintaining a normal weight can help. Also, strict control of cholesterol, blood pressure and diabetes is mandatory. This may mean your doctor will tighten control of your cholesterol to an LDL of under 70 and your blood pressure under 135/85. If you have multiple risk factors, you may need a daily dose of baby aspirin. If the blockages in your carotid arteries are more than moderate, you may be put on a blood thinner or baby Aspirin. In rare cases, carotid artery surgery may be recommended.

If you have already had a TIA, talk to your doctor about ratcheting down your risk factors so you can prevent stroke.

Out the Window

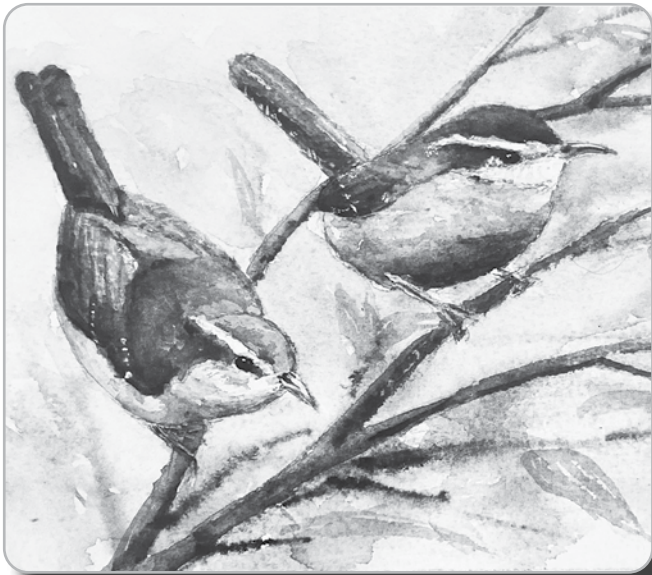
Wren Abundance

Article and Illustration  
by Beth Henson

Passing by the living room windows I couldn’t help but notice the raucous chorus of predawn bird song. Even though the weather had turned colder in the mornings, my dear, feathered friends were still bravely heralding the day. As I looked across the peaceful but darkened backyard, I saw the tiniest sliver of peach on the horizon. I was sorely tempted to tiptoe outdoors with my cell phone’s coveted “bird song app”, to see who was serenading the subtle sunrise.

I had recently become obsessed with discovering new birds in my yard, but had been disappointed to mostly register cheery cardinals, saucy woodpeckers, and LOTS of twittering Carolina wrens. The male wren, who was the principal singer, was always changing his 40+ different songs, constantly tricking me into thinking I had a new visitor. One spooky visitor, the Barred Owl, had popped up once on the app, but I have heard nothing since!

Thank you for the beautiful start to the day, my singing friends. I will appreciate the small but sweet choir I already have.





**TrueWay  
Renovations**  
Don Trueblood  
404-386-9291 | dontrueblood@gmail.com  
www.truewayrenovations.com  
Call now! FREE estimates



salon j. christian

Serving our community for 24 years.  
Seasoned stylists can help you easily  
achieve your style, classic or sassy.  
770-879-1071      APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED



**SOUTHERN CAFETERIA  
DINING**  
*...at it's finest*

4450 HughHowell Rd. Tucker, GA 30084  
www.MagnoliaRoomCafeteria.com | (770) 864-1845



**CARE TO HELP YOU  
FLOURISH**

Visit us at **ParkSprings.com** or call  
 **678-684-3800** to schedule a tour 

Active Adult | Assisted Living  
Memory Care | Skilled Nursing

**PARK SPRINGS®**  
A Life Plan Community

678-684-3800 | STONE MOUNTAIN, GA | PARKSPRINGS.COM

**Your loved one deserves the best care.** The kind that is full of expertise while feeling like it’s coming from family. Park Springs offers this balance thanks to our industry leading models of care, extensive staff training, and intentionally designed environment. Enjoy peace of mind knowing the one you care will thrive here.

**Park Springs Assisted Living and Memory Care Offers:**

- Leading Gerontologist and skilled nurses on-site
- Three assisted living households that address physical needs, mild cognitive impairment, and person directed assistance



# Scott's

## Pressure Wash

Professional pressure washing—all surfaces  
Decks, Stained and Sealed

678-469-1599

scottspressurewash.net • scottspressurewash@gmail.com

# Belco Electric

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED  
SINCE 1972

Fast, Dependable 24-hr. Service by  
Professional, Uniformed Electricians

770-455-4556

Check out our website: [BelcoInc.com](http://BelcoInc.com)  
and follow us on   



Joycemray@bellsouth.net  
joyceforhomes.com  
D: 770-491-9015  
M: 404-316-2299

# Joyce Ray

The best way home.

Chapman Hall Premier Realtors  
1772B Century Boulevard, Atlanta Ga. 30345

Celebrating 30 years in Metro Atlanta Real Estate Sales

Kitchens, Basements, Decks, Additions, Baths,  
Screened Porches, Window and Door  
Replacement, All Phases of  
Construction, General  
Improvements & Repairs

Light Commercial  
Work Welcomed  
Handyman Services  
also Available.



ATLANTA CUSTOM  
CONSTRUCTION

Keith Tindle  
[atlcustomconstruction.com](http://atlcustomconstruction.com)  
Office: 770-452-1925  
Cell: 404-432-0535

Serving the Atlanta area since 1980  
References Available      Licensed & Insured

# SANCTUARY YOGA

Yoga for Everyone!

1218 Rockbridge Rd SW  
Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
Phone: 404.530.9166

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

A PLACE TO MOVE, BREATHE, & BE

Terror in the Daytona Cut: A Boating Adventure - Part 2 of 3

(a continuation of the Pittards’ memorable and terrifying experience on the Atlantic)

By Kanawah Residents, Buddy & Marsha Pittard

I tried not to show panic as my mind raced as to what to do. It was far too narrow to turn now, and I felt a push toward the jetty that I had no control over. There was no time to think. The next wave was under us slamming us up, over to port then a sharp downward lunge. Now I’m looking straight at the Jetty. I was spinning the wheel hard as I could to starboard and trying to keep from being catapulted into the top of my canopy. I hooked my feet under the console. Marsha dug her nails into the back of the seat and wedged herself in between the console and the seat with her left arm. Staying up right was a huge challenge for both of us.

The rudder seemed useless. Another wave jolted us hard left, and we were still headed straight at the sharp jetty rocks. Power! We needed more power! Standing and straining, I reversed the starboard engine and hit the throttles. It did the job. We jerked away from the jetty, and I quickly equalized the engines while keeping the power up. This seemed to give me enough control to stay vertical to the waves, but the roller coaster ride of our lives was just beginning.

I could now see Robert’s boat cresting the top of a wave that was breaking at the top. The white foam engulfed Lady Di as it pierced the curl. For a second, he seemed suspended at the top then the bow shifted down. I could see his propellers as he jolted forward and disappeared down the other side of the wave. I do not know how big these waves were, but I did know Roberts’s boat was 17 feet tall, and I could not see it on the other side of that wave. Thankfully that wave was not wide, and I avoided it to port with my newfound rudder control.

The waves were confused and compressed into the Cut and were coming at all angles and heights. I knew we would capsize, if hit from the side. Each time my bow went beneath the waves, I said a quick prayer for it to reappear while I hung on for dear life. I could not take time to look at Marsha. I did not know if she was being thrown around like me, but hearing her screams, I knew she was as terrified as I was.

It occurred to me that we might do something entirely stupid to try to save our puppy, Zippy, if we went over. I knew we had better concentrate on ourselves. I shouted, “See if you can get the life vest on Zippy!” She did not respond as a huge wave washed over the entire forward deck and it disappeared for a moment. Slammed again, I looked up for Robert. My increase on the throttles had brought us dangerously close together. I throttled back as another wave crested, tossing the boat into the water like a dart.

I realized there was no way we could get to the dingy. We could not even let go enough to put our life preservers on. We had totally underestimated the violence of the angry waves. I learned later that about that time, Robert’s large TV had come unlashed from the cabinet and was crashing about in his cabin, eating the interior like a Pac Man!

Stay tuned for the conclusion of this daunting adventure in next month’s *Smoke Signal!*

Southern Pine Beetles Threaten Georgia Trees

By Lyle Collins, Owner of Southern Trillium  
ISA Certified Arborist

Smoke Rise is a community full of beautiful trees. Many of us chose to live here because of the large lots full of trees. Unfortunately, there are pests that sometimes attack and kill our trees. This year, several Smoke Rise residents are experiencing the damage from a Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) attack. SPB is the most destructive forest insect in the southeastern United States. Pine trees are most susceptible when stressed. During years of high numbers even healthy stands of trees can be killed.

SPB are tiny insects, roughly the size of a gnat. The females initiate the attack on a host tree and release pheromones to attract more beetles. Attacking females bore into the tree through the bark, usually in the crevices of the large plates of bark. A characterization of an attacked tree are pitch tubes of resin on the bark of the tree as the tree tries to fight off the attack. Another sign is boring dust caused by beetles entering the tree. Once inside the tree, the females create galleries in the cambium layer beneath the bark where the life cycles begin. The beetles also introduce what is called blue stain fungus, which penetrates the sapwood. The galleries and blue stain fungi lead to rapid tree death.

The female beetles initially attack a tree above head height, often 8-30 feet above the ground. This makes noticing the pitch tubes difficult unless you are looking higher up the trunk. Once a tree is infested, future cycles will move up and down the trunk from the initial location. An arborist inspecting trees will look up and down a trunk for signs of attack, knowing that certain pests like SPB attack trees at different heights.

Once a tree is heavily infested, the crown, or top of the tree canopy, will begin fading and change color. The difficulty in managing SPB is that there is no treatment once a tree



...Continued on page 10



Commonality & Connections: On Being Human

By Amber Voss

In our increasingly polarized world, finding common ground with others has become a challenging endeavor. This divide affects relationships with neighbors, friends, and even family members. It appears that society is rife with disdain for those who are perceived as “different” or as the “other.” Rather than engaging in civil discourse and understanding diverse perspectives, many seem inclined to create labels that exclude individuals due to disagreements spanning a wide range of topics, such as politics, religion, sexual orientation, gender, race, ethnicity, ability, and more.

In times past, people could engage in respectful conversations despite differing viewpoints on various subjects. They could agree to disagree while still maintaining their connections with neighbors, family, and friends, regardless of their differences in opinion. Nowadays, it often feels like we either shut people out completely or embrace a culture of canceling those who express differing opinions or viewpoints. What was once considered shades of gray has now been reduced to a stark black-and-white dichotomy. Nuance and subtlety are no longer welcome at the table. It seems as though our society has lost sight of the shared humanity that unites us all.

Our world is in dire need of common ground and connections. We should recognize that we are all human beings sharing the same planet and breathing the same air. We also have similar desires, hopes, and dreams, such as the desire for respect, friendship, personal security, health, education, connections with others, and access to basic resources like shelter, water, food, safety, and clothing for ourselves, our families, and others. In truth, we are not so different from our neighbors across the street or even from those halfway around the world. Rather than seeing “other” everywhere we look, we should make an effort to perceive that the person in front of us is more like us than not. How can we shift the prevailing mindset in our immediate neighborhood, community, county, state, and country, and even extend this change beyond our borders to our global community? How can we cease to see “other” and instead embrace our neighbors, friends, and family members, despite societal pressures to see differences?

The answer may lie in regarding everyone we encounter as a reflection of ourselves. Our interactions should be guided by kindness as our first and foremost principle. We should choose love over hate and extend empathy, grace, and compassion to others, even when our perspectives differ. We must make a conscious choice to refrain from causing harm with our words and actions. We must treat others as we ourselves wish to be treated.

Finally, it is essential to recognize that we are all in this together and connected through our shared humanity. So, the next time you encounter someone who has a different world view than your own, take a deep breath, pause before speaking, look them in the eye and see their humanity.



4633 Hugh Howell Road – Tucker, Georgia 30084

770-496-0890

25+ Years Strong! Proudly Serving Smoke Rise & Greater Atlanta!

Specialized In

- Routine Maintenance & Service
- Brakes, Tires, Alignment
- Major Engine & Transmission Repair
- Emissions Related Repairs & Readiness
- Coolant, Power-steering, Transmission, Brake Flush
- Check Engine Light & Warning Indicator Diagnostics

MVP

GERMAN AUTO

YOUR SMOKE RISE EUROPEAN SERVICE AND REPAIR FACILITY

A Cruiser in Millstone?

By Bill Rhinehart

Our subdivision, Millstone East, is blessed with a variety of wildlife -- deer, squirrels, an array of birds, rabbits, raccoons, possums, and so forth. Recently, our next-door friends and neighbors, Michael and Cheri Schneider, Kathy and I ‘adopted’ a feral cat, although the cat does not know it has been adopted. It is a furry black and white cat that will let us see it quite often, but only briefly. We have a small table on our front porch where we keep two small China bowls with food and water. The food disappears on a regular basis, and we have seen it jump up on the little table and partake of the food. If we are seen, it takes off.

Michael and I threw some names around and Michael came up with the name “Cruiser”. This fits the cat perfectly! Since he is a black and white cat – he looks like a police cruiser, and he cruises our neighborhood. Clever!

So now the monotony of our day is broken up by the visits by our feral friend. We trade pictures and texts when he comes by and enjoy his visits. I thought you would also enjoy my thoughts on our new friend, Cruiser.



Southern Pine Beetles

...continued from page 9

is infested. Preventative treatment is also not easily or safely done in an urban or semi-urban setting as the entire trunk must be sprayed with insecticides, from top to bottom, to the point of runoff.

What should you do if you believe your pines have been attacked by SPB? First, it needs to be verified that it is SPB as there are other beetles that attack stressed pines and the tree might survive those. Often, only SPB results in major loss of trees. Since trees attacked by SPB are unlikely to survive, removal of trees helps slow any spread. It would be difficult to know the extent of an outbreak or know that every infested tree is removed, so mass removal might be difficult to do in a community setting. One strategy would be to remove any infested trees that pose a risk to a target, such as a home, vehicles, or people. Tree removal is an expensive process, and if considering removing dozens of trees, the expense will climb greatly as well as the repair to the landscape and property after major removal.

If you are concerned about your trees, you can find an ISA Certified Arborist at <https://www.treesaregood.org/>.

THE SMOKE SIGNAL NEEDS A FEW VOLUNTEERS INTERESTED?

EMAIL: STAFF@SMOKESIGNALNEWS.COM

HALL'S

Flower Shop & Garden Center

Serving Smoke Rise Families Since 1946!

Flowers & Gifts For All Occasions!  
Green & Blooming Plants For Your Home & Garden

404-292-8446

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

5706 Memorial Dr, Stone Mtn, 30083

Daily Delivery To Metro Atlanta, DeKalb and Gwinnett!



Smoke Rise Garden Club

The Smoke Rise Garden Club, headed by member Ann Weisz, along with Peggy Clegg, Victoria Crosby, Gina Dilley, Deb Halley, Paula McEvoy and Dee Montgomery spent the morning of September 19 at Smoke Rise Elementary 2nd and 3rd grade STEM classes to help the students make flower arrangements to



be submitted for judging at the 50th Redbud District Flower Show “Decades of Daisy” held at Callanwolde on September 20 and 21. Second grader Max S. won the National Garden Club Youth Blue Ribbon for the best design in the Youth category (one of only three given)! Way to go, Max! Member Margo Collin won a National Garden Club Award of Merit Orange rosette of ribbons (one of only nine ribbons out of approximately 500 entries) for

her horticulture entry of an elephant ear. Denise Finley also competed with a Van Gogh inspired table design.

Our October meeting was held at the home of Victoria Crosby with co-hostesses Gina Dilley and Dee Montgomery providing the refreshments. Our speaker was Jeff Pitzing whose garden was on the Stone Mountain Women’s Club tour this past May. He told us about how he and his husband, James, had many truckloads of DeKalb County compost delivered to their property when they first moved in nine years ago and started building and planting their extensive gardens. They now have beautiful soil to work with after all the cubic yards of compost used to vastly improve our fabulous red clay! Jeff also harvests his flower seeds and brought to share with our members poppy, larkspur and cockscomb seeds, and explained where, when and how to plant each type. He left Victoria a beautiful bouquet of deep red and yellow cockscomb he’d cut from their garden that morning.

Our November meeting will be held at the home of Deb Halley, and we’ll be bringing and filling Christmas-paper wrapped shoe boxes with new toys members supply, which will then be delivered to Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Hospital on the Emory Campus later in the month. This is one of the Club’s annual projects.

Our club meets on the first Monday of the month September through May at 7:00 p.m. in a member’s home. If you are interested in joining us for a meeting, please contact Gina Dilley at ginadilley@gmail.com.

Morning Glories Buzzin’ Around Smoke Rise

October’s Morning Glories meeting was hosted by Amie Walsh and Sandy Hinton with help from Allison Reeves. The speaker for the program was their friend and neighbor, Amber Voss. Amber and her husband decided last fall to become beekeepers and Amber shared their story and the learning curve that is required to understand the complex community of bees. Observing and understanding their life cycles is a fascinating subject and as she shared sometimes painful! Though her experience with the two hives that they nurtured this year was not successful they intend to try again next year. Her enthusiastic recounting of how the bees reproduce, feed, work, and clean their hives was very insightful and we all wish her success with her new hives.



L to R: Amie Hinton and Amber Voss

Our club continues to meet in member homes until we can resume gathering at the country club next year. We have enjoyed the change of scenery and all the hostesses have been so gracious. November’s meeting will be at the home of Joyce Ray. At that meeting we will be bringing toys for the foster children of Wellroot. Wellroot is the organization that was formerly the United Methodist Children’s Home in Decatur. Today this organization assists foster children by providing housing, clothing and care to try to meet the needs of the over 10K children in foster care in Georgia. Our club adopted this group and members volunteer at various events throughout the year including the special December 9th event which will be held at the Wellroot Headquarters in Tucker.

Club members also donated new underwear and toiletries for the residents at Georgia Regional Hospital and holiday cards for members of the Armed Forces serving here and abroad. Our next big event will be the fundraising party for DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs. “Leading Lights” will be held on November 16th at 10:30AM at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center. This fun holiday themed gathering features a fashion show by Dillard’s with eight models wearing a total of 24 beautiful outfits, raffle baskets, vendors selling lovely items and a catered luncheon. The tickets are \$40 and for tickets and information on the event contact Quill Duncan at 770 414-4766 or quillduncan@msn.com. All are welcome to join the fun!

Mountain Mums Invite You to Try Pumpkin Floral Arrangements

By Maureen Fraser

The October meeting of the Mountain Mums Garden Club was hosted by Carol Wales. Lead hostess Kathy Rhineheart and Co-Hostesses Rita Maloof and Kelley Samaras provided a delicious brunch complete with Krispy Kreme doughnut holes from the recently reopened store on Ponce De Leon Avenue!

The Mums participated in the 50th Annual Redbud District Flower Show at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center Sept. 20-21. Many ribbons and honors were won by Mums. Notably, Lynn Malone, who served as Classification Co-Chairman for the show won the Award of Merit for her beautiful white Dendrobium hybrid “Aredung Green” orchid. Lucy White who served on the Placement Committee won 18 ribbons. Ann Purr, Clerks Chairman for the show, was awarded a red ribbon for her “Meet the Artist” design.

Victoria Davis, of Love Blossoms, the October speaker, demonstrated an interactive and easy tutorial making “No cut” Pumpkin Vases. Follow the steps below to create your unique design!

Start with a real or artificial pumpkin. You will not be cutting into it. Assemble fresh greenery and a bouquet of flowers and grasses. Make sure flowers are well hydrated.



Marian Fetzek, Jean Weathers, Becca Hales with their “no-cut” pumpkin bases taught by Victoria Davis of Love Blossoms in Atlanta

1. Pre-soak round, wet floral foam disc in water treated with flower food or Quick Dip. Note: dry foam can be used with artificial flowers and is similar in appearance.
  2. Press foam down gently onto top of pumpkin to secure your base. If your pumpkin does not have a stem, you may create one with a wooden stick (such as one used for shish-kabobs). To prevent the pumpkin from spoiling; coat the point of insertion with bleach, and seal with clear, acrylic craft spray or Vaseline.
  3. Cut your flowers the length of your palm. The general rule is to cut flowers 1 ½ x height and width of your container. You want the pumpkin to be visible.
  4. Start with leafy greens. Create a thin point of insertion by removing all joints or leaves. You do not need to push the stem very far into the foam for it to hold securely. Note: Kale is a good choice. Its stems need to be cut on an angle to make a point. Larger stems of greenery can be cut into multiple pieces.
  5. Organize flowers on your work surface. Use dark, heavier flowers on the bottom, and center of the arrangement, with light colors and airier textures at the top and outer edges.
  6. Create your arrangement’s structure with greenery by inserting at the foam’s base at low, medium and high intervals in the shape of a dome. Add flowers using the rule of 3rds (3, 6 or 9 of each flower ). Rotate your arrangement while working and replicate the pattern you create on one side onto the other, like a mirror.
  7. Use Glue Dots to stick curved long blades of greenery, such as bear grass to the pumpkin. This finishes the arrangements and helps hold flowers in place.
  8. Try adding fruit for a unique look! Use two wooden flower picks or shish-kabob sticks to secure fruit into your foam.
  9. Arrangements should last about a week. Remoisten floral foam with a spray bottle as necessary.
- Please consider joining the Mountain Mums Garden Club. We have fun! Contact Mary Jacobs@mjacob1010@gmail.com for information.


Angie's list  
Angie's List  
Super Service Award Winner



FINANCING AVAILABLE THROUGH  


**EPIE'S**  
**ELECTRICAL SERVICES**

**We Service, Replace and Repair Electrical Systems on Commercial, Industrial and Residential Properties.**



Our award-winning, professional team is licensed and fully insured.

**Free Estimates! Call Today!**  
**770.939.8808**  
**www.epies-electrical.com**



ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: All ad submissions and advertising inquiries should be directed to:  
Classified and Display ads: Staff@smokesignalnews.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 \$240 per year. Please submit a copy of ad to staff@smokesignalnews.com with your full name, address and phone number. Make checks out to Smoke Signal and mail to P.O. Box 1038, Tucker, GA 30085. We require full payment prior to ad placement.

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

Classified Ads

**BUYER LOOKING FOR SMOKE RISE HOME**  
Realtor representing couple looking for owner-financed home in Smoke Rise area with 50-75% cash down. Further details, contact Rick (828) 342-2979.

**OLIVER’S PAINTING**  
I am an Interior painting specialist. Free estimates, 30 years’ experience, Tucker resident.  
Call/Text Oliver Cunningham 770-598-7567

**Heating and Air Conditioning:**  
Water Heaters Installed; Gas Lines Installed; Commercial and Residential Professional Technicians: James Maceco; 770-365-4258

**CENTRAL VACUUM SERVICES**  
Installation Repair Maintenance Licensed/Insured  
Residential/Commercial  
Over 20 years experience  
Call Steve at 770-630-1620  
www.CentralVacuumServices.com

**A KICKIN’ & PICKIN’ ESTATE SALES** We stage, price and sell your treasures and offer liquidation and cleaning services. Contact Rick Kicklighter at 678-234-6956.

**NICK’S TOW & TRANSPORT**  
SR resident offering local & long-distance towing services in metro Atlanta. Flatbed truck, low car friendly.  
Nick 678-231-9547.

**DOG BOARDING:**  
Loving dog care. Small, selective, safe, fun. Your dog will be glad you went on vacation!  
Call 770-510-8641 or visit www.theshepherdsglen.com

**PLUMBER**  
Plumbing-Electrical-H.V.A.C  
Repairs-Replacement  
New Installation  
Family Owned and Operated  
38 yrs Experience, Senior Discount  
Call Troy-770-256-8940

**AFFORDABLE LAWN CARE**  
Mowing, edging, pruning, trimming, etc.  
Reasonable, dependable, insured.  
Call Mark at 404-697-7426.

**SELL ME YOUR UNWANTED VEHICLE.**  
CASH PAID FOR YOUR CAR OR TRUCK, running or not, free pick up. Call 404-786-1330

**Auto body shop** local serving Tucker, Stone Mtn, Smoke Rise. Honest, reasonable, quality work. Providing home-to-shop transportation. Call Dave 770-609-8759.

**COMPUTER AND NETWORK SALES AND SERVICES**  
Trusted Company working with local community since 1995.  
References available.  
770-979-1800  
www.thepclink.com

**HOUSEKEEPER** - Reliable, experienced housekeeper for several years in Smoke Rise area. Hours are flexible. References available. Contact Sabina @ 770-634-0463

**WAGON LANDSCAPE GROUP**  
Residential, commercial, design and installation. Year-round maintenance, light tree work and cleanups. Licensed/insured SR resident with SR references. 770-381-3697.

**PETS, PAPERS, & POSIES.**  
I’ll take care of them while you’re away.  
Smoke Rise resident 40+ years.  
Karen Bouchard. 404-472-7348.  
petspapersandposies@gmail.com

**DOG GROOMING**  
Smoke Rise Resident  
Call/Text Lisa 404-444-7763  
Loving Care for your Under 40lb Furbabies  
Professional Groomer since 2006

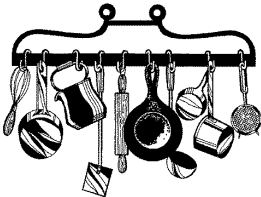
**Greg Buys Vintage T-Shirts:**  
I pay cash for clothes made before the year 2000. Call or text me at 470-879-4231

**Need a professional pet sitter?**  
Call Critter Sittin’ Sisters at 404-409-3765. We make your pets smile!

**PIANO TUNING AND REPAIRS** Over 40 years of professional experience. Contact Smoke Rise resident Steve Duncan at 770-414-4766 or lswd@att.net

**LOCKSMITH SERVICES**  
Deadbolts installed, re-key, repair, reinforced strike plates & motion lights installed, door threshold & weatherstrip replacement. SR res/SR ref, Rick 770-617-0466.

Amen, Let’s Eat!  
by Joyce Ray



The Thanksgiving season is almost upon us. It’s one of the most traveled times of the year and most of the people traveling are going home to be with loved ones. Many changes might need to be made to sleeping arrangements to accommodate additional people in the house. Cooking for a crowd also means cleaning up after a crowd, so in planning meals I try to think ahead, not only with the food preparation but also with an eye on clean-up. I also try to limit the number of pans in the oven and not be overwhelmed with the amount of time it takes to get everything ready at the same time. The traditional Thanksgiving meal of turkey and dressing and all the trimmings can dirty up every pan in your kitchen! Using some of those rarely used countertop appliances can be helpful for saving oven space and for keeping the food warm. Try cooking Macaroni and cheese in your electric skillet. I add a little extra milk and watch the temperature to keep it from getting too dry. See my recipe below for cooking sweet potato casserole in the crock pot. It’s a keeper!

May your heart and home be filled with the Joy of Thanksgiving and the gift of time to treasure your loved ones.

Overnight French Toast

½ cup butter (1 stick)  
12 slices of thin white sandwich bread  
1 cup brown sugar (reduce to 2/3 cup if desired)  
1 ½ tsp. cinnamon  
6 eggs  
1 ½ cup milk  
Warm Syrup

Melt butter and pour into 9x13 “non-stick baking pan. With six slices of bread, slice into halves or quarters and place in bottom of pan. Mix brown sugar and cinnamon together in a bowl. Sprinkle ½ of the brown sugar/cinnamon over the bread. Add another layer of 6 slices of bread. Whisk eggs with milk until well blended and pour over bread layers. Sprinkle with remaining sugar mixture. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Next Morning: Cover top with foil and bake 350 degrees for 30 minutes, then uncover and continue baking 15 minutes more or until set and browned. Serve with warm syrup on the side if desired.

Pecan Pie Bars

This doubles the size of a pecan pie and can be made ahead.

**Crust:**  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
½ cup sugar  
1/8 tsp salt  
¼ cup butter – (1/2 stick)

Combine flour, sugar and salt in a large bowl. Cut in ¼ cup butter thoroughly with a pastry blender until mixture resembles fine crumbs Press mixture evenly into a greased 13x9 inch pan, using a piece of plastic wrap to press crumbs firmly in pan Bake at 350° for 17-20 minutes or until lightly browned,

**Filling:**  
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar  
1 cup light corn syrup  
½ cup butter  
4 large eggs, beaten  
2 ½ cups finely chopped pecans  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Combine brown sugar, corn syrup and ½ cup butter in a saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring gently. Remove from heat. Stir one ladle of hot mixture into beaten eggs; add this slowly back to remaining hot mixture. Stir in pecans and vanilla. Pour filling over crust. Bake at 350° for 34-35 minutes or until set Cool completely in pan on wire rack. Cut into bars. Serve with whipped cream or a scoop of ice cream. Yield 16 large bars.

Crock Pot Sweet Potato Casserole

Peel 5 medium/large, sweet potatoes and cut in cubes. Cover with water and parboil until fork tender. Drain in colander and mash to smooth consistency. Beat 2 eggs with 1 tsp vanilla and pour over mashed potatoes. add 1 cup brown sugar (less if desired), 1 tbs. Ground cinnamon, 2 tsp ground nutmeg, 1/4 cup milk and ¼ stick butter. Stir until blended and butter is melted. Grease sides of crockpot and pour in potato mixture. Add Pecan topping. Cook as below:

**Pecan topping,**  
1 cup chopped pecans, 1/3 cup plain flour, 1 cup brown sugar. Blend well and add ½ stick melted butter. Mix well to crumbled consistency. Spread over top of mashed potatoes in crock pot. Set temp to high and cover. Allow to cook for 2 hours. Do not stir. Turn off and let set until ready to serve. The casserole will stay warm in a crockpot for about 1 hour.



Stone Mountain Village churches joined with the Stone Mountain Village Police Department to sponsor several activities in October. Volunteers worked at the SMV Community Garden to week mulch and gather vegetables. Meanwhile, next door, there was a bouncy house, popcorn, cotton candy and children’s activities, booths by the Red Cross, and a prayer booth by a local church. On October 9, food was distributed at Stone Mountain Methodist Church.

YOUR SMOKE RISE CORVETTE FULL SERVICE REPAIR FACILITY

Call for Seasonal Specials!

**10% off Smoke Rise Special!**

- Military Active Duty & Veterans
- First Responders & Educators
- Seniors

\*See Advisor for details

**770-496-0890**

**4633 Hugh Howell Road – Tucker, Georgia 30084**