

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 4

Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

August, 2026

www.smokesignalnews.com

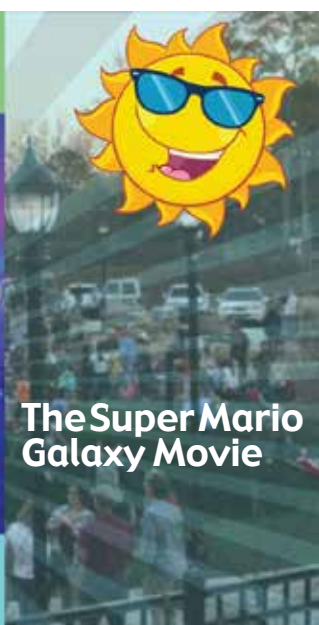
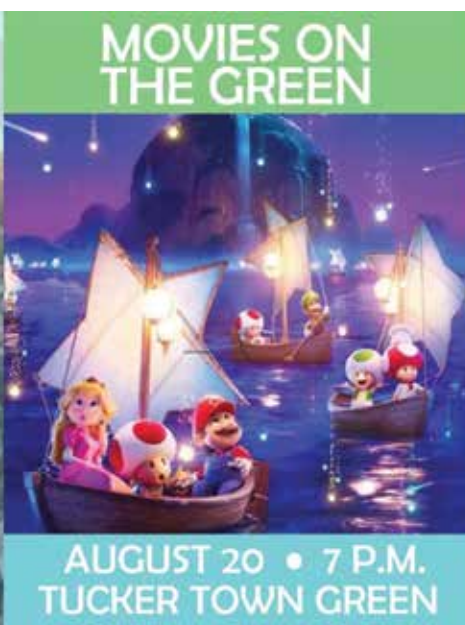
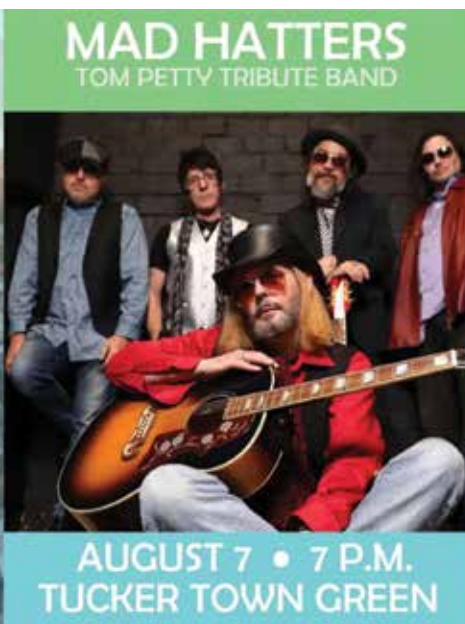


Wishing all of our Smoke Rise neighborhood students, staff, and faculty a safe and rewarding 2026-27 school year!

Please drive carefully around bus stops, schools, and walking routes!

Look inside for...

Stone Mountain Library Book Sale	pg. 3
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Thank You to Our 2026 PATRONS OF THE PAPER

Susan Gilbert, Staff Writer & Patrons of the Paper

The Smoke Signal is much more than ink on paper—it is the voice of our community, a place where neighbors share news, celebrate accomplishments, recognize volunteers, and stay connected to the events that make Smoke Rise special. Knowing the important role the paper plays, our Board of Directors led the all-volunteer staff in a Strategic Planning Session to consider how we can further improve it.

One idea everyone agreed on was to add color to some of the pages. When we did that, many readers commented on how much they enjoyed the enhanced appearance of these special editions, so we decided to try doing a few issues with all pages in color. Adding color did increase our costs, and, not wanting to raise our advertising rates, we asked the community to help by becoming donors, or Patrons of the Paper.

Ten families responded and made a tax-deductible donation. Because of these donations, we were able to publish several editions with color and the July paper was in full color rather than our traditional black-and-white format. The colorful photographs, community events, gardens, local businesses, and feature stories came to life in ways that simply aren't possible in black and white.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our Patrons. In December, we will include a flyer with a complete list of all 2026 Patrons. If you would like to be added to that listing, you can donate by sending a check to The Smoke Signal, 4500 Hugh Howell Rd, Suite 490, Tucker, GA, 30084.

We are truly grateful for your support and look forward to bringing you many more informative and colorful editions in the months ahead.

Proposed Changes to Rosser Intersection Raise Questions About Landmark Preservation

Tucker is considering changes to Rosser Rd and Hugh Howell, including a new 4-way intersection aligned with Stoneleigh Dr.

A possible roadwidening could require removing the iconic, landmark Smoke Rise chimney. Community input is needed. More information provided by the SRCA board can be found at <https://www.smokerise.org/posts/rosser-stack-at-risk>.

Share your views with our elected city council members, Virginia Rece (vrece@tuckerga.gov) and Roger Orlando (rorlando@tuckerga.gov).



The *Smoke Signal* is enhancing some of our issues with COLOR!
Find out how to become a Patron or Sponsor a color edition at Staff@smokesignalnews.com

.....
Special Thanks to Susan and Joel Gilbert for sponsoring four pages of color in the August issue!



2026 PATRONS OF THE PAPER (so far...)

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Smoke Signal

4500 Hugh Howell Rd., Suite 490, Tucker, GA 30084

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

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Health NotesCheri Schneider MD, Pat Baumann MD

Recipes and Home.....Joyce Ray

Social and Digital Media.Pat Soltys

News You Can Use.....AvivA Hoffmann

Tech TalkSusan Gilbert

Out the WindowBeth Henson

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You may contact all Smoke Signal Staff @staff@smokesignalnews.com

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Classified ads and flyers are still available!



Smoke Signal Deadlines

AUGUST 13

Please e-mail articles to:
staff@smokesignalnews.com

Articles and photos should be sent in .doc or .docx format. Articles sent in .pdf format cannot be edited. Photos and graphics should be submitted in .jpg or .pdf format.

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EXTRA COPIES OF THE SMOKE SIGNAL ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Look for the wooden box labeled *Smoke Signal*.



Looking for a way to give back to your community? The SMOKE SIGNAL is looking for a few more writers or people with a passion for storytelling.

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5901 Hugh Howell Road
Senior Pastor: Dr. Chris George, cgeorge@smokerisebaptist.org
Phone: 770-469-5856 SmokeRiseBaptist.org

SUNDAY
9:45 a.m. - Attend Sunday School through Zoom or In-Person
11:00 a.m. - Attend Worship via Live Stream or In-Person

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5:00 p.m. - Attend our Wednesday Dinner
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Eastminster Presbyterian Church

5801 Hugh Howell Road
Rev. Jeanine Fulton, Pastor
Phone: 770-469-4881 Website: Eastminster.us

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4818 Hugh Howell Road
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Join us in giving back to the community during this volunteer cleanup and beautification event! Participants will help remove litter, improve park spaces, and support ongoing efforts to keep our natural areas clean, safe, and enjoyable for everyone.



Date: Saturday, August 22nd
Time: 9:00 AM -12:00 PM
Location: Henderson Park West
(Community Garden side)

Sign up to help: email Charlie Chavez at cchavez@tuckerga.gov or call (470) 591-4772.



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Smoke Rise Sharks
Swim into Another Season

Another sensational swim season was had by the Smoke Rise Sharks. The Smoke Rise Sharks is the summer swim team consisting of swimmers ages 3-18 years old from the neighborhood. It brings kids together to improve their swimming and have fun. The team completed in the regular dual swim meets with Atlanta Swimming Association (ASA) and received second place overall within their division.

The team also attended the ASA Championships at Georgia Tech where Coach Kelly Griendling received the ASA Coach of the Year! The Sharks practiced at the Summit and Smoke Rise Country Club pools. Congratulations to all the swimmers for all their improvements and to Coach Kelly. Special thanks to all the coaches, board, sponsors, parents, pools, and volunteers for making this an amazing season.



What's New in Tucker?
By Linda Karr, Staff Writer

Wow – lots to check out this month! Here are the most recent Tucker newcomers, or some you may not know about:



- Black Dog Books**
2323 Main Street
- Costco** will open this month at Hwy 78 and East Park Place
- I Love NY Pizza Bar** (authentic Italian pizza)
4880 Lawrenceville Highway near Home Depot
- Infinite Horizons Arcade** (arcade games and ice cream)
2316 Main Street Suite E
- Munster Cravings** (gourmet cookies)
2323 Main Street in Main Street School of Art
- Party City at Staples** (balloons, birthday party supplies, seasonal decorations, costumes and more)
4351 Hugh Howell Road
- Pelican's SnoBalls & Ice Cream** (over 100 flavors!)
4059 Lawrenceville Highway
- Taichi Bubble Tea/ Bobo Tea Shop** (teas, ramen, poke, sushi, and other appetizers)
4020 Lavista Road next to Michaels
- Coming this fall:**
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September 18-20, 2026

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Facts About the Stone Mountain Woman's Club

By Barbara Luton, Staff Writer

The Stone Mountain Woman's Club was organized in 1929 by 11 ladies who wanted to clean up the "unsightly mess" that the daily freight trains made as they delivered coal and cotton in the city. They wanted to clean up the city park, plant flowers, add playground equipment and tidy up the cemetery. Minutes of this first meeting are still archived. The club joined the Georgia Federation in 1930 with 26 members and dues were 50 cents, which could be paid in installments.

In the 1930's and 40's members worked for the Red Cross and made plans for a library and a health center in the village. These plans were accomplished in 1958 and in 1961. In the 1950's members started searching for property in the city to build a clubhouse. Lucille McCurdy was head of this project and got a piece of property donated and building began in 1956. The first meeting in the new clubhouse was in November 1958, and a "mortgage burning party" was held in 1961.

Many projects to benefit the community are a result of the Woman's Club--trees down Mountain Street, Friends of the Library group, house numbers for every home in the city, establishing the Art Station Art Center, organizing the first 4th of July Parade. Fund raisers have included a horse show that ran from 1956-1986. It started out behind the high school and moved to Stone Mountain Park. In 1988 the Dessert Booth at the Yellow Daisy began and ran until Covid hit in 2020. A Christmas Home tour was held for many years, and now a garden tour happens every May.



The club is still volunteering throughout the community and area supporting The Side by Side Clubhouse, the Ronald McDonald House, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, the Back to School supply drives, helping the police, firemen and first responders, collecting items for the homeless, AARF animal rescue, veterans, and Tallulah Falls School (which was started by an Athens, GA, Woman's Club member) and numerous other charities throughout the county, state and nation. A signature project of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the Stone Mountain Club has been preventing domestic violence and human trafficking. St. Mt. has supported Wellspring Living, a shelter for those rescued from trafficking, and local groups that work to help those suffering from domestic violence both human and pets.

Here are the statistics for the club's work as reported for 2025--60 Members; Community Projects 139; Volunteer Hours 11,723; Dollars Raised, Donated or Spent \$49,462; In Kind Donations \$23,996. The club received its 501C3 non-profit status in 2018 which allows it to direct more of any income to the community service projects.

GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club is a member of the largest women's volunteer group in the world. If you would like to be a part of this group to make friends, have fun, help others, and get more information, please visit stonemountainwc.org.



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SRGC Sip and Stroll Raises Money for Charity

By Victoria Crosby

A very successful Sip and Stroll fundraiser was held at the home of Smoke Rise Garden Club members Liam O'Marah and Tim Miller. Admission was free and donations were voluntary. Guests enjoyed strolling the beautiful gardens which cover over two acres of property, as they listened to the music played on flute and bassoon by David and Andy George. Among other selections, the two brothers played "In an English Country Garden as a special request from SRGC president Victoria Crosby for Liam O'Marah who, like she, is also originally from England.

Club members provided delicious cookies and the hosts provided pink lemonade and cucumber water which was served by their grandson Tatum. Victoria Crosby read several of her garden-related poems

Among the visitors SRGC was honored have Tucker City Councilwomen, Virginia Reese and Cara Schroeder in attendance.

SRGC is a member of the Redbud District of DeKalb Garden Clubs. The funds raised will help to support local and statewide charities.

For more about membership, contact Maris Fernandez at marisa.fernandez0212@gmail.com

Decades of Gathering at Kanawha Court

By Debbie Torbush, Kanawha Resident

It is hard to believe that we moved onto Kanawha Court 3-plus decades ago when Katherine was 6 and Ryan 12. My new neighbors immediately took me to brunch so we could get acquainted and that was the beginning of a wonderfully long friendship – thank you, Katie and Joy! Three decades later, many of us are still here on our then 9-, now 10-home cul de sac (we had a new home built a couple of years ago!). Even though during that time we have lost neighbors, spouses and children due to various reasons, we have added new neighbors and remained connected! I recently hosted another Kanawha Court Gathering of neighbors at my home (3rd decade of get togethers), and although we often wave to each other or stop and talk as we are driving or walking by, it was so nice to once again be together as a family!



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Mountain Mums Attend Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedication
A Tribute to Gold Star Families

By Maureen Fraser, Publicity Chair and Newsletter Co-Editor

Several members of the Mountain Mums Garden Club joined fellow garden club members from across Georgia for the dedication of a Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta. The ceremony was sponsored by The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., along with The Carter Presidential Center.

The moving ceremony honored the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces and paid tribute to the families who have sacrificed so much in service to our nation. The DeKalb County Fire Rescue Honor Guard presented the Colors, setting a patriotic tone for the program.

Attendees were especially inspired by keynote speaker Josh Carter, grandson of President Jimmy Carter, who spoke about the importance of honoring veterans and preserving their legacy for future generations. The ceremony concluded with a stirring rendition of the “Armed Forces Medley,” recognizing each branch of the U.S. military.

The Blue Star Memorial Program began in New Jersey in 1944 as a living memorial honoring veterans of World War II. In 1945, the program was adopted by National Garden Clubs, Inc., which established the Blue Star Highway System that now spans thousands of miles across the continental United States, Alaska, and Hawaii. Blue Star



Mountain Mums Garden Club members attended the Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedication at The Carter Presidential Center, celebrating a lasting tribute to the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

Memorial Markers have since been placed along highways, at veterans’ facilities, parks, cemeteries, and other meaningful locations to honor all who have served in the Armed Forces.

In 2015, the Gold Star Families Memorial Marker was introduced as “A Tribute to Gold Star Families Who Have Lost a Loved One Defending the United States of America.” With the dedication of the marker at the Carter Presidential Center,

Georgia now has 187 Blue Star Memorial Markers and 20 Gold Star Families Memorial Markers. Nationwide, nearly 4,000 Blue Star Memorial Markers stand as enduring symbols of gratitude and remembrance.

For the Mountain Mums who attended, the dedication was a meaningful reminder of the important role garden clubs play in preserving these living memorials and honoring the courage, sacrifice, and service of America’s military members and their families.

Visit to Atria Park Senior Living Home

Members also recently visited Atria Park of Tucker senior living home and worked with residents to create a festive patriotic door hanger to celebrate America’s 250th Birthday. Using a variety of colorful materials, including thin cardboard, poster board, several types of papers, glue, and glittery stick-on stars, they designed unique decorations in red, white, and blue. The project encouraged creativity, fine motor skills, and conversation while giving residents a chance to express their patriotic spirit. The finished door hangers added a cheerful touch to their living spaces and helped build excitement for the historic national milestone.

Coming Up: Regular Mountain Mums Garden Club meetings resume on Wednesday, August 12, at the home of Mary Jacobson. This meeting is a Meet & Greet for prospective members. Interested in learning more about the club? Contact mjacob1010@gmail.com for details.



Mountain Mums Garden Club members and Atria Park of Tucker residents proudly display patriotic door hangers created in celebration of America’s 250th Birthday.



Redbud District members attend the Blue Star dedication

Morning Glories Celebrate Our 250th Anniversary

By Quill Duncan, Recording Secretary

The Smoke Rise Morning Glories enjoyed a busy week of celebrations beginning on June 30th at 10AM at the Carter Presidential Library. The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and the Seven Districts, partnered with the Carter Center to install and dedicate a Blue Star Marker in a formal ceremony at the center. The event was attended by 200 and was held in honor of our armed forces men and women who have served and are currently serving around the world and who will serve in years to come. The Color Guard from DeKalb County’s Police and Fire Departments was part of the ceremony led by Battalion Chief Doug Harms, who played bagpipes for the service. The photo features members of the Redbud District of GCG who attended the event.

Many Smoke Rise garden club members were present along with The National Garden Club President, The Deep South President and The Garden Club of Georgia President. Additionally, Josh Carter, grandson of President Jimmy Carter, accepted the honor on behalf of the Carter Presidential Center. Many current and former officers in GCG were in attendance.

The Blue Star marker has a very storied history beginning in 1944 with the planting of 8000 dogwoods as a living memorial to veterans in New Jersey. The National Garden Clubs adopted the program and began the Blue Star Highway system, placing Blue Star Memorial Markers along the US highway system. Today there are over 4000 markers across our nation’s roads, byways, parks and other public places. There is a Blue Star Marker on Silver Hill in front of the former site of Smoke Rise Elementary School, which was donated by the three Smoke Rise Garden Clubs: Smoke Rise, Smoke Rise Morning Glories and the Mountain Mums.

Morning Glories attended another Blue Star Byway Marker dedication in Dunwoody’s Brook Run Park Memorial Plaza on July 2. This marker was donated by the Dunwoody Garden Club in honor of our service men and women. With the heat index at 100 degrees, this was a shorter ceremony but equally moving, with many Dunwoody and DeKalb County dignitaries present to pay their respects. Both events featured the “Armed Forces Medley” and other patriotic songs in tribute to our military. Happy 250th Anniversary, USA! Let Freedom Ring!

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Smoke Rise Baptist Church
Wednesday Evening Activities

Beginning August 12, we will kick off our Wednesday Evening Activities. Join us for a delicious home-cooked meal served from 5:00–6:00 PM before an evening of fellowship, learning, and community. Meal prices are \$8 for adults, \$3 for children (10 and under), \$7 for a vegetable plate, and \$8.50 for takeout, with an immediate family maximum of \$25.

Activities for all ages begin at 6:00 PM, with opportunities for children, students, and adults. Adults are invited to a Bible study led by Senior Pastor Chris George, who will guide us through a study of the Lord’s Prayer. Whether you’re a longtime member or joining us for the first time, Wednesday nights are a wonderful way to connect, grow, and be encouraged throughout the week.

Youth Ministry at SRBC

Service is a core part of our youth ministry at Smoke Rise Baptist Church, and that was on full display on July 8th! We spent the day serving with one of our church’s missions partners, NETWorks Co-op in Tucker! Our group sorted food, moved pallets of milk, helped stock the food pantry, and had a chance to learn more about the incredible ways in which NETWorks

serves neighbors in our local community. NETWorks mission is to respond with the hospitality of Christ to the food and financial needs of neighbors and to partner with them to find long-term solutions to poverty. One unique way they do this is through their hydroponic garden that provides fresh produce for families. We are so blessed to have such an amazing organization right here in our community.



Meet your Neighbor, Artist Jane Shaw Dewey

By Victoria R. Crosby

I first met Jane Shaw Dewey at yoga class in Smoke Rise. I learned that she is an artist while attending a fundraising event where two of her prints were included in the silent auction. One was a floral and the other was a print of her oil painting of the monks walking for peace down Hugh Howell Street in Smoke Rise.

Jane and her husband Brian have lived in Smoke Rise for over forty years. They first settled in Mountain Creek and after several years built a home in Spencer’s Mountain. Brian and Jane have four adult children who grew up in Smoke Rise, and they now have an extended family of spouses and four grandchildren. Three of their grandchildren live in Texas and one in Fayetteville, Georgia.

For forty years Jane worked as a pediatric occupational therapist at DeKalb Medical, now Emory DeKalb, and at several private practices in the Atlanta area.

In her sixties Jane realized that she could no longer keep up with the energy levels of her young clients and chose to retire. After retiring she worked for seven years in real estate with Smoke Rise Agents in marketing and began pursuing her dream of the visual arts. During the COVID lockdown she spent many of her days researching and taking online classes in oil painting. Eventually she began to study with nationally known American contemporary impressionist painters Laura Lanford, James Richards, Lori Putnam and Ann Blair Brown. Jane has also taken courses with renowned artists through the Booth Museum and Art Academy in Cartersville Georgia.

Jane’s work has been displayed in several juried art shows in and around Atlanta. In May of this year, Jane won the silver award for her painting entitled “Passage” at the recent Homeland 2 Decatur Arts Alliance juried Show. Her painting, taken from a photo during her trip with her husband to Koper, Slovenia, depicts a passageway once inhabited by Jewish families who had been ousted during World War II and during the Communist takeover of Yugoslavia. It’s a painting of memories recalled through walls and hope for the future.

Jane paints from her studio located at the Urban Arts Collective in Chamblee. “I am fortunate enough to have a community of thirty-five other artists in the studio to share ideas and embrace creativity.” Jane told me.

Visit Jane’s website at www.janeshawdewyart.com



Jane Shaw Dewey poses with “Passage” at Homeland2 Decatur Arts Alliance.



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Also available for sale are Historic DeKalb Courthouse Ornaments. DHC Members will receive an additional discount.

The book sale will take place in the lobby of the Historic DeKalb Courthouse and proceeds from the book sale will benefit *Together* – Opening September 25th.



Explore the Friends of Disabled Adults and Children Thrift Store

The FODAC Community Thrift Store is a destination for shoppers due to its ample supply of furniture and housewares. The store also offers other items, such as clothing and crafting materials.

Donations are accepted at 4900 Lewis Road, Tucker, Georgia 30083, during regular operating hours, excluding holidays. The store hours are listed below. Click here for a list of donated items we do and do not accept.

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New Year's Day: Closed

techtalk

By Susan Gilbert, Staff Writer

Time to Reconsider Robot Lawn Mowers

Robotic lawn mowers sounded like science fiction just a few years ago. Early models required buried perimeter wires, struggled with obstacles, and often wandered aimlessly. Today's models have overcome most of those limitations, raising an interesting question: Is it time to retire the traditional mower or cancel your lawn service?

Our large lots require considerable maintenance, especially during the summer. A friend visiting from California was surprised by the number of lawn service trucks in our neighborhoods. She concluded that, because living costs here are generally lower, many homeowners can afford to hire someone else to mow. But recent advances in robotic power have me wondering whether they're now a practical alternative.

The biggest improvement is navigation. Many premium models no longer require a boundary wire. Instead, they use GPS, satellite positioning, cameras, radar, and advanced sensors to map your yard and mow in organized patterns. The result is a more even, attractive cut.

Safety has also improved dramatically. My early concern was that a mower might flip over with its blades still spinning, posing danger to children or pets. Fortunately, modern robotic mowers are equipped with multiple safety features. If lifted or tipped, the blades stop almost instantly. Most can detect obstacles such as trees, flower beds, lawn furniture, and even pets, steering around them automatically. While children should always be supervised around power equipment, today's robotic mowers are significantly safer than traditional gasoline-powered models.

Their greatest advantage is convenience. Instead of spending hours mowing every weekend, the robot quietly trims the lawn several times a week. Because it removes only a small amount of grass at a time, the lawn maintains a consistently manicured appearance. The fine clippings also return nutrients to the soil, reducing the need for bagging and disposal.

Cost remains the biggest consideration. Entry-level models start at around \$800, while premium wire-free units for larger properties typically range from \$2,500 to \$4,000 or more. Although the upfront investment is substantial, owners often save on lawn service, fuel, maintenance, and, perhaps most importantly, time.

For larger properties, the economics can be compelling. If you pay about \$125 per week to mow a one-acre lawn for 30 weeks each year, you spend roughly \$3,750 annually. A quality robotic mower capable of maintaining that same property can often pay for itself in one or two seasons. It won't eliminate all yard work—you'll still need occasional trimming and seasonal cleanup—but it can take over the most time-consuming weekly chore.

Robotic mowers are available through local lawn equipment dealers, many of whom offer installation and service, as well as major retailers such as Lowe's, Home Depot, Costco, Best Buy, Amazon, and others. Before buying, compare features and read customer reviews on Amazon to find the model best suited to your property.

Are robotic mowers right for everyone? Probably not. Very small yards may not justify the cost, and properties with steep slopes, heavy debris, or frequent leaf accumulation may still require conventional mowing. But for many homeowners, today's robotic mowers have become practical, dependable, and surprisingly effective. If you value convenience and want a consistently well-maintained lawn with minimal effort, they may be one of the most useful home innovations to come along in years.



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Out the Window

Article and illustration by Beth Henson, Staff Writer

Bumblebee

Looking out the living room window, I couldn't help but admire my whimsical midsummer garden. The angel wing begonias had never been so full and lovely. Each graceful stem was adorned with clusters of delicate, dangling pink blooms. The black-eyed Susans were finally turning their cheerful golden petals toward the sun, beautifully complemented by the deep indigo-blue salvia. Nestled beside the weathered brown birdbath, five milkweed blossoms proudly displayed their striking orange flowers, peeking through the dense foliage of the surrounding plants.

As I looked more closely, I noticed a fuzzy bumblebee perched on the clustered milkweed blooms, busily searching for nectar while quietly pollinating the flowers. It paused only briefly before moving on to the next blossom, carrying out a task that has sustained gardens for millions of years.

Because of their fuzzy bodies and powerful wing vibrations, bumblebees are among nature's most efficient pollinators. This remarkable technique, called buzz pollination, helps release pollen from flowers that many other insects cannot easily pollinate. They can also fly in cooler temperatures and stronger winds than honeybees, making them valuable pollinators from early spring through fall.

As I watched this industrious little bee make its way from bloom to bloom, I was reminded that every flower in my garden depends on countless small moments like these. A healthy garden isn't just a collection of beautiful plants, it's a thriving community where every busy bumblebee helps the next blossom shine. Sometimes the sweetest reward of gardening is simply taking a moment to stop, look a little closer, and enjoy the tiny miracles quietly buzzing all around us.



NEWS YOU CAN USE
BY AVIVA HOFFMANN, STAFF WRITER

High Above the Ground:
Specialized Tree Rescue Training Comes to Our Backyard

Most people think of firefighters rescuing people from burning buildings, vehicle crashes, or swift-moving water. But few realize another type of rescue requires an entirely different set of skills - saving someone trapped dozens of feet high in a tree.

Specialized training for this very situation took place just minutes from Smoke Rise in early June, as firefighters from DeKalb County joined crews from Cobb County, Gwinnett County, and the City of Atlanta at Stone Mountain Park for aerial tree rescue training. The three-day program brought together technical rescue teams and experienced tree care professionals to prepare first responders for one of the region’s least known (but most challenging) emergency situations.

Metro Atlanta’s expansive tree canopy makes this type of training especially important. Although tree rescue incidents are relatively uncommon, they are considered high-hazard events requiring specialized knowledge, equipment, and teamwork. Participants practiced realistic rescue scenarios involving experienced stand-ins portraying injured or stranded tree climbers suspended high above the ground. Working alongside professional arborists and rescue instructors, firefighters learned how to assess hazardous trees, identify dangers such as unstable limbs or nearby power lines, safely climb to victims, and lower them back to the ground.

Rusty Lee, owner of Georgia Rescue Solutions, helped lead the training. He says the need is greater than many people realize. “There is no requirement to be in our industry,” Lee explained. “We are the most dangerous profession in the country right now.”

Lee noted many people enter the tree service industry with little formal training, increasing the risk of serious accidents. That’s why his organization trains not only tree workers, but also firefighters who may be called to perform high-angle rescues. The program emphasizes a simple but critical principle: rescuers must never become victims themselves. Before climbing, firefighters learn to evaluate a tree’s condition, identify electrical hazards, determine what caused the emergency, and ensure the rescue can be performed safely.

For Battalion Chief Iosefa Leota of DeKalb County Fire Rescue, the training fills an important gap. “It’s a low-frequency but high-hazard occurrence,” Leota said. “If it happens and you’re not familiar with it at all, then you’re behind the eight ball.”

Instructors also challenge firefighters to rely on equipment already carried on their rescue trucks rather than specialized gear they may not have during an actual emergency. The goal is to build confidence and prepare crews to respond effectively when a call comes in.

Most Smoke Rise residents may never witness a tree rescue. But knowing this level of specialized training is taking place just minutes from home offers reassurance that local first responders are preparing for emergencies most people never even know exist - when a life may be hanging in the balance high above the ground.

If you’d like to see this unique training in action, check out my DCTV video report on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/galdFzJLSx4>. Recorded during the June 3 exercises at nearby Stone Mountain Park, the report offers a behind-the-scenes look at the specialized skills firefighters use to prepare for these rare but potentially life-saving rescues.





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Alternative second design based upon public feedback since the March meeting

Second Option for Rosser Road and Hugh Howell Intersection

Greetings,

As we continue to receive input on the proposed Rosser Rd/ Hugh Howell Intersections Improvements, I'd like to give an update on the project with timeline, resources and where we currently are.

The city conducted a study called the Hugh Howell Corridor Safety Study in 2024-25. The study was tasked to address community concerns about safety, speeding, noise, and pollution due to traffic congestion.

The study placed the Intersection of HH (Hugh Howell) and RR (Rosser Rd) as a Tier 1 Priority. The study recommended installing a traffic signal and aligning RR with Stoneleigh to improve safety and traffic flow. Currently, the intersection operates at an "F", in the AM (F being the worst grade) for southbound RR, and a "D", in the PM.

Other Study Findings for HH/RR:

- Crash data shows that there were 34 total crashes in the intersection area over a 5-year period. This is a crash every 2 months. The city's goal with all intersection improvements is to strive for zero accidents and an intersection that will protect the safety of all, including cyclists and pedestrians.
- The study confirmed the current diminished sight line due to the angle of RR. This increases the chances of being rear-ended. Public comments affirmed this hazard as a concern.
- If a right turn lane isn't installed, (thereby preserving the smokestack), the level of service for traffic flow will only raise up in the AM from a "F" to a "D".

The safety study was published last year in late spring. Councilmember Orlando and I held a pop-up meeting immediately to get feedback on the HH/RR Intersection Improvement. The initial response was enthusiastic.

This past March, a formal public input meeting was held at Tucker City Hall. The engineers shared an "Alternative 1 Design", which worked around the smokestack but did not have a right turn lane and only raised the level of commuter service to a "D". The project was enthusiastically received except for requests for a right turn lane from a number of residents. Adding a right turn lane will not require more land, but the engineers have determined that to add the right turn lane, the smokestack will have to be removed.

Engineers follow strict rules from the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Therefore, simply adding a light and right turn lane at the current intersection would not be recommended.

Both designs include landscaping and beautification. Councilmember Orlando and I are working with staff on other potential enhancements. We continue to seek feedback and are working to engage the community as much as we can for the best possible outcome for the community:

vrece@tuckerga.gov
rorlando@tuckerga.gov
Thank you!
Virginia Rece, Tucker City Council D1 Post 2

HEALTH NOTES: By Cheri Schneider, M.D., Staff Writer

Medical Fads

Recently, I've been thinking about what I call medical fads. Highly advertised by 'influencers' today medical fads are big business and often cost more than you think, both to your wallet and sometimes to your health.

Medical fads are nothing new; they have been around for decades. In the 1930-40s smoking could be healthy. Doctors and dentists recommended their healthy brands. In the 1950-60s smoking could keep you thin. (As a skeleton, perhaps?)

In the 1960s jello and gelatin were advertised to build healthy hair and nails. Today we hear about hair vitamins and biotin and collagen supplements.

In 1965, the Nestle company introduced Carnation instant breakfast advertising it as a 'really good' breakfast that has the protein of 2 eggs, 2 bacon and the vitamin C of a glass of orange juice.

In 1976, The movie 'Rocky' showed the Italian Stallion cracking a raw egg into a glass of orange juice for his breakfast on the run. Every man wanted to be him. And now fast forward to today's protein-addled world where protein shakes and bars for breakfast, snacks and workouts have multiplied and morphed into using collagen peptide powder in your coffee (think hooves, hides and bones of animals). These collagen peptides once processed are just protein amino acids. And while these amino acids are important they are easily obtained naturally from foods.

In the 1970s aerobic exercise came into fashion and the school I went to built an 'Aerobics Center'. This is one 'fad' that had fact to back it up for prevention of coronary heart disease.

Also in the 1970s: Xray treatment was used for acne. Yes, it worked. And, later higher rates of skin cancer, skin ulcers and dermatitis were found in those treated. I was jealous of a friend who had these treatments and glad now that I did not have money to go to her dermatologist.

Also, in the 1970 and 1980s colonics, coffee enemas and detoxes were introduced to "help your body 'cleanse' itself from toxins." (Hello! That is already what your liver, kidney and bowel do). One of my first patients was a teenager whose mother had her use water enemas to be 'more healthy'. Instead, she ended up in the hospital with water intoxication-which can cause swelling of the brain and death, by the way.

Supplements also came vogue in the 1970s and we saw advertisements for Geritol (which had iron and B vitamins) for old folks like me. Vitamin B12 was for anyone who was tired. Both of these can help if you ARE low in iron or B12, but not otherwise.

We now believe in other supplements for renewing energy and making you forever young: we use oxygen 'shots', and IV 'bars' where people offer their veins to an unknown person to administer iv's of WHAT? And Why? And be very wary of the viral peptide injection craze that are 'stacked' and individualized. They are not FDA approved, are unregulated and may be very dangerous. What is in them, really?

Then there are Saunas to sweat off the toxins, reflective 'sweat suits' to do the same while you exercise.... Hot Yoga... Can you saw 'Hello, heat exhaustion! And "Goodbye" body fluids?

The miracle foods: bone broth, apple cider vinegar, coconut oil, Sourdough bread or the plethora of miracle pills is dizzying: Magnesium for everything, potassium, K2, gummy fruits and vegetables (do we chew our food anymore?)

A friend of mine came to a meeting advertising the benefits of ingesting colloidal silver. The body does not use silver and cannot eliminate it, so it is deposited into the skin, sclera and internal organs. I had her read up on the permanent blue skin discoloration you can get from build-up of this metal.

In the 1980s: checking for hypoglycemia was big with six meals a day the answer. Now we

...Continued on page 11

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Facing Home Maintenance Head On

By Alex Helton, Your formerly overwhelmed Smoke Rise neighbor

Most homeowners know the importance of routine home maintenance. We're told repeatedly that planned repairs are nearly always cheaper than emergency repairs.

Then life gets hectic. Prices go up and money is tight. You say you'll get to it and the next thing you know, the list of repairs is as long as your arm.

At one point last year, my husband and I faced this issue. I was constantly running through my mental list: Trees to be pruned, a water stain on the bathroom ceiling, and the Swiss cheese that had once been our soffits, thanks to carpenter bees.

So, we decided to get proactive. We knew we could handle quite a bit ourselves, so we donned our work gloves and jumped in. We also found contractors to help us phase things out. We consciously decided to take charge.

I realized that I had mistakenly thought that my lack of expertise meant I couldn't make a difference. I was surprised to learn that tackling small items lead to less stress and more confidence. Here are some things we try to do now:

- We walk around our property every month to examine the outside of the house, looking closely at the foundation and windows. We want to find spots where water or small animals could enter the house.
- We actively check under sinks and around toilets too. Water can be a home's biggest enemy. Catching a small leak under a sink or around a window can prevent thousands of dollars in damage later. For example, a few weeks ago, I thought a lower cupboard smelled a bit musty. I was filled with dread, but I emptied the cupboard, cleaned everything thoroughly and made sure there wasn't a leak.
- I recommend not using the areas under sinks for storage or keeping it to a minimum. You should also put down inexpensive under sink mats in case a leak does happen.
- Remember that a cosmetic fix might have to wait if it's not within your budget, but replacing filters, unclogging slow drains, and caulking tub surrounds are DIY and helpful.
- Check out YouTube videos to learn by watching multiple people tackle small projects. We had surrendered our back yard to the encroaching poison ivy, but after watching some others tackle their overgrown lots, I'm taking back ours, 25 square feet at a time. It feels empowering and I'm getting tons of exercise and fresh air.
- It also pays to think creatively. My husband and I have bartered for services that we otherwise could not afford at the time. Perhaps you have a skill or product you can offer in trade? Hey, it never hurts to ask friends and family to pitch in. I think of it like a good old-fashioned barn raising.
- Finally, we started a maintenance reserve fund. By setting aside around \$50 per month just for repairs we've gotten a new perspective on things. Like anything, it always is better to know what needs to be done and tackle what we can.

Onward, fellow homeowners!

Medical Fads...continued from page 10

do intermittent fasting. Then a decade ago: everyone had low vitamin D levels! While it is true in some, the huge craze to 'get your vitamin D' is gone now unless you are a menopausal woman.

Some fads are coming full circle: Coppertone Lotion: 'tan don't burn' followed by sunscreen fever and now something called Tanmaxxing- getting as tan as possible. (Wait until you look in the mirror at my age. And beware skin cancers!!)

And I haven't mentioned Probiotics, Prebiotics, postbiotics and more. Do your homework! Google NIH website for 'evidence based' studies on trends, fads and supplements and medical gimmicks. Don't accept everything you read on the internet.



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Beat the Atlanta Summer Heat

By Susan Gilbert, Staff Writer

August is traditionally one of the hottest months of the year in Atlanta. High temperatures combined with Georgia's humidity can make even simple outdoor activities challenging. Fortunately, with a little planning and common sense, you can still enjoy everything summer has to offer while protecting yourself and your family.

The first rule of summer safety is simple: stay hydrated. By the time you feel thirsty, your body is already beginning to lose the fluids it needs to stay cool. Carry a reusable water bottle wherever you go and drink water throughout the day, especially if you're working outdoors, gardening, golfing, walking, or attending community events. Limit alcohol and excessive caffeine on especially hot days, as both can contribute to dehydration.

Whenever possible, schedule outdoor activities during the cooler hours of the morning or after sunset. Between noon and 5 p.m., the sun is at its strongest, and heat indexes in Georgia can climb well above the actual air temperature. If you must be outside, take frequent breaks in the shade or in air conditioning.

Dress in lightweight, loose-fitting, light-colored clothing that reflects sunlight rather than dark colors that absorb it. A wide-brimmed hat and UV-protective sunglasses help shield your face and eyes, while sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher protects your skin from harmful ultraviolet rays. Remember, even on cloudy days, UV rays can cause painful sunburn.

Older adults, young children, pregnant women, and people with heart disease, diabetes, asthma, or other chronic medical conditions are especially vulnerable to heat-related illnesses. Check on elderly neighbors and relatives during prolonged hot spells to ensure they have working air conditioning and plenty of water. A quick phone call or visit could make a tremendous difference.

Don't forget our four-legged friends. They feel the heat, too. Provide plenty of fresh water and shade, avoid walking dogs on hot pavement that can burn their paws, and never leave a pet unattended in a parked vehicle.

Speaking of vehicles, one of the most dangerous mistakes during summer is leaving children or pets in a parked car—even for just a minute. Temperatures inside a vehicle can rise by 20 degrees or more in only 10 minutes, creating life-threatening conditions very quickly. Always check the back seat before locking your car.

Know the warning signs of heat-related illness. Heavy sweating, dizziness, muscle cramps, headache, nausea, weakness, or fainting may indicate heat exhaustion. Move the person to a cool place, loosen clothing, apply cool wet cloths, and encourage small sips of water. If someone becomes confused, loses consciousness, stops sweating despite the heat, or has a body temperature above 103°F, call 911 immediately. Heat stroke is a medical emergency that requires rapid treatment.

Summer in Georgia offers countless opportunities to enjoy neighborhood pools, parks, festivals, concerts, and family cookouts. With a little preparation, everyone can continue making wonderful memories while staying healthy and safe.



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Food & Home Fixin's

by Joyce Ray, Staff Writer

Corn on the Cob: The Best Taste of Summer

Fresh corn sometimes gets a negative review on the health charts because of the association with high-fructose corn syrup. While high-fructose corn syrup is essentially the sugars of corn with all the good stuff processed out, whole corn is chock-full of nutrients, as it is both a vegetable and a grain, and has some of the best characteristics of both. It is rich in dietary fiber, protein, vitamins and antioxidants.



Corn is nature's quick, easy side dish that pairs well with almost any baked or grilled meal. It is readily available from May to September and is most affordable mid-summer. No matter whether you buy or pick your own fresh corn, there are a few things to look for when choosing the freshest ears:

- Shucks should be firm, green and tight on the cob. Browning shucks or brown silks means that the corn was likely picked several days ago.
- Press around the point of the cob just a bit to be sure kernels are plump all the way to the end and there are no bugs or fungus.
- The freshest corn is heavier, and the kernels are tight on the cob. Once picked, the sugar starts to break into starch, and the kernels begin to dry out and separate.
- Store fresh corn in the husks loosely packed in plastic bags and use within a couple of days.

Corn on the Cob can be cooked by many different methods. Below are guidelines for how long it takes to cook based on the method you choose.

Boiled Corn: Remove husks and silks and place corn in boiling water for 3-5 minutes. Serve immediately with butter, salt and pepper. Although this is probably the most popular method due to the simplicity of the process, boiling corn can actually allow the nutrients to escape into the water which is then poured down the drain. A better option is to steam the corn.

Steamed Corn: Fill steam pan or large Dutch oven with water to an inch below the bottom of the steamer insert. When water actively boils add shucked corn to steamer insert and add lid. Steam for 10-15 minutes. Adjust time based on the amount you are cooking.

Microwave Corn: Presoak one ear of corn in water for approximately 20 minutes. Place it in microwave, cook on high for 3 minutes, and remove from microwave. With a knife, carefully cut around the husk at the base of the ear. Loosen shucks from the corn cob and slide husks toward the top of the ear of corn. The silks will easily slide off with the husks.

Baked with Husks: Presoak corn. Place un-husked corn on a baking sheet and bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes.

Grilled with Shucks: Pre-soak corn for 20 minutes. Place on grill with medium heat and turn frequently. When done, peel back shucks and use a vegetable brush to remove silks. Add seasoning. Use shuck as handle to hold corn while eating. Variation: Shuck corn and place each cob on a sheet of aluminum foil. Season with butter, salt and pepper, or add one of the spice selections below and wrap in foil. Grill for 10-15 minutes. If you want those nice grill marks, oil the grill with olive oil. Place shucked corn on the grill and cook for 8-10 minutes, with medium heat, turning frequently. Season and serve.

Corn On Cob Seasonings:

Butter and salt are a must for enhancing the sweet and savory flavor of corn. Flaky sea salt brings texture as well as taste. Garlic butter will kick it up a notch – just add fresh minced garlic to softened butter. Softened butter will be easier to spread on hot corn than melted butter, and it will melt into and between the golden kernels. As an alternative to butter, lightly drizzle corn with olive oil and sprinkle on grated Parmesan cheese with fresh basil, oregano and thyme.

Chili Powder, cayenne, and garlic powder will create a zesty, spicy flavor. For a Cajun spice taste explosion mix ¼ cup chili powder, 1/2 tsp. red pepper, ½ tsp salt and 1 tsp garlic powder. Brush corn with melted butter or olive oil and sprinkle on the spice combination.

Spice Idea: I have purchased several stainless-steel salt/pepper shakers to use for spice combinations. I can usually find them in the dollar stores. Just mix your spices, add to shaker and label them. Works great for cinnamon/sugar or pepper combinations. I keep one reserved for powdered sugar.

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: All ad submissions and advertising inquiries should be directed to: Classified and Display ads: Staff@smokesignalnews.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 4500 Hugh Howell Rd., Suite 490, Tucker, GA 30084. 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

SOUTHERN SOD SALES INC
Since 1988 - BBB Certified Residential, Commercial Sod Installation. Free estimates. 770-925-7790

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.

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.

TOTAL HOME CARE - Deep cleaning, decluttering, windows, auto detailing, house/pet sitting, pressure washing, light yardwork, errands. Call Dana @ 706-228-0593

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

SR Handyman - painting, household fixes, landscaping, stonework. Deliveries. No job too small. Also experienced with internet connection. Call Peter @ 770-595-0077

OUTDOOR LIGHTING & IRRIGATION Convenient one-stop outdoor lighting/irrigation. FREE assessment for first 10 callers mentioning *Smoke Signal*. 833-843-6957 or outdoorswellit@gmail.com.

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

PIANO TUNING AND REPAIRS Over 40 years of professional experience. Contact Smoke Rise resident Steve Duncan at 770-414-4766 or 1swd@att.net

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

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

SMOKE RISE RESIDENT & LICENSED REALTOR
Thinking of selling?
Explore your options first.
Direct purchase available. Call Chima Ikwezunma 678-523-2593

DAVE'S LANDSCAPING
Year-Round Lawn Maintenance. Licensed and insured.

For an estimate, please Call/Text 404-822-6319

PETS, PAPERS, & POSIES.
I'll take care of them while you're away.
Smoke Rise resident 40+ years.
Karen Bouchard

Please text or call 404-472-7348

Computer Service. Repairs, Upgrades, Setups and Training
Trusted company working with local community since 1995. References available. 770-309-4735 www.thepclink.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

HOME IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS
Wood Rot Repairs
Roof Leaks
Deck Restoration
Interior/Exterior Painting
Kitchen and Bath Remodels
Handyman Services
770-262-6272

The Smoke Signal currently has space available for more Classified Ads!
Contact staff@smokesignalnews.com to get your ad in next month's paper!

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

Genetically Engineered Words from Mensa's Annual Invitationals

The Washington Post's Mensa Annual Invitational asks readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing ONE letter, and supply a new definition.

From the long list of winners, here are a few that could apply to organic gardeners:



Decafalon (n): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.

Arachnoleptic fit (n): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.

Beelzebug (n): Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.

Caterpallor (n): The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.

But...

Q. What's worse than finding a worm in an apple?

A. Finding half a worm.

Find more at <https://www.washingtonpostsmensainvitational.com/> or <https://www.no-dig-vegetablegarden.com> .

