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Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

April, 2025

www.smokesignalnews.com



In Appreciation of April

Susan Gilbert, staff writer

Many in Smoke Rise say April is their favorite month, and for good reason. The delicate crocuses have come and gone. The once-dancing daffodils are fading. But replacing them is an intense burst of color unmatched by any other month. It is Mother Nature at her finest. The first and most vibrant blossoms to appear are the Yoshino cherry trees that seem dotted

with large pink or white cotton balls. You only know they are there when blooming in March and April. After their performance, they quietly blend into the understory bowing to act two... the dogwoods.

The dogwoods' lovely white or pink flowers are not as showy as those of the cherry trees, but they light up the landscape from their hiding places under surrounding shade trees. Next up comes the main attraction, the explosion of azaleas. They make it worth taking a drive down Ponce de Leon and through Morningside to see mature hedges of them in their full glory. As we approach May, the purple, red, and white rhododendrons appear, some boasting round blossoms as wide as your extended hand.

While you are enjoying the wonder of April in Atlanta, here are a few dates and events to watch for.

April 1 is April Fool's Day. Known as a day for pranks and lighthearted jokes, one explanation for the tradition traces

it back to 1582 when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. Those who continued celebrating the New Year in late March or early April (as in the old calendar) were mocked as "April fools."

April 11 through 13th is the Dogwood Festival. Held in Piedmont Park beginning at noon Friday, the Atlanta Dogwood Festival is rated one of the top festivals in the nation, attracting more than 200,000 for the free three-day event. It is alive with colorful trees, art exhibits, people, music, kids' activities, and more.

Saturday, April 12 to Sunday, April 20th is Passover, a major Jewish holiday celebrating the Exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

Sunday, April 20th is Easter, a Christian holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Many churches and businesses conduct egg hunts for the kids and special brunches to get out and enjoy.

April 22nd is Earth Day, a global event promoting environmental protection. Named in 1970 by Madison Avenue advertising guru, Julien Koenig, who was trying to help the environmental organizers better promote their activities. He suggested using the name Earth Day and the April 22 date because that happened to be his birthday, and "birthday" rhymes with "Earth Day."

Anytime in April. Make a day of taking in our flowering showcase. It's a short drive to the Atlanta Botanical Garden where the gardens are at their finest this time of year. Or make it a little longer drive to Callaway Gardens, about an hour south of the airport, which will be rewarded with an abundant display of spring flowers.

Yes, April is a favorite month for many. It's known as a month for renewal and growth, and with longer daylight hours and warmer temperatures, it's a great month to get outside and enjoy the paradise that is our home.

Look inside for...

Norovirus: The One You Don't Wantpg. 8
Neighborhood Shipbuilderpge. 9
Invasive Plantspg. 10
Smoke Rise Sharkspg. 11

SRCA Annual Membership Meeting

The annual SRCA membership meeting will be April 3, 2025 beginning at 7:00 and held in the Fellowship Hall of Smoke Rise Baptist Church. We'll be reporting on finances, activities, the emerging cost of maintenance of over 50 medallions, the Tucker policing assessment initiative, and brief reports from elected officials.



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From the strum of live guitars to the splash of watercolors, from food truck flavors to hands-on creativity – this is where Tucker's heart beats strongest. The best part? This community celebration is completely free.

Be part of the story

ARTucker

Saturday, April 19th, 10AM-4PM

Church Street Green Space

Free admission





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: Gia Anderson......staff@smokesignalnews.com AvivA Hoffmann...staff@smokesignalnews.com Maureen Kofkee.....staff@smokesignalnews.com *Cheri Schneider....staff@smokesignalnews.com * This Issue's Editor of the Month

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Pat Soltys Barbara Luton Frank Luton

You may contact all staff writers at staff@smokesignalnews.com.

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Smoke Signal Deadlines

APRIL 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.

Deadline for classified ads is APRIL 10

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Lament for Azaleas

Where are our azaleas? Cried out in disbelief one of my neighbors who lived in Smoke Rise for almost fifty years. She did not have to explain what she meant. Many of us have said the same thing when we realized that all azaleas in front of old Smoke Rise Elementary school have been removed. Gone. My neighbor recalled when these azaleas were planted and how she fertilized them over the years. They asked for little and even when neglected, they performed by rewarding passersby with breathtaking white and pink flowers. Easy to maintain, reliable bloomers, quintessentially Southern, these traditional beauties have been a part of the Smoke Rise community landscape. Until one day in February when all of them were dug out. They were loved by residents who considered them part of their shared landscape. What took decades to establish, took but one morning and a maintenance crew to destroy. They spared not one bush, even topping off whole clumps of budding daffodils that were in the way of their lawn mowers.

Many of us who daily walk by the old school have watched with sadness neglect taking over this property. A year after Dekalb County School System repurposed the building garbage, debris, and fallen branches accumulated alongside the mounds of pine straw, split rail fence literally fell apart, pine

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

WEDNESDAY

5:00 p.m. - Attend our Wednesday Dinner

6:00 p.m. - Followed by activities and Bible Study for all ages

EASTER WORSHIP 11:00 a.m.

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

SUNDAY

9:15 a.m. Adult & Children's Sunday School

10:30 a.m. In-Person and Live streaming of Worship service

First Moravian Church

Pastor: Reverend Elroy Christopher (770) 491-7250 Website: Gamoravian.org

SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. Sunday School–Adults & Children

11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time

Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

4950 Hugh Howell Road pastor@incword.org Phone: 404-936-0628 Website: Incword.org/

SUNDAY 8:45 a.m. Worship

Mountain West Church

4818 Hugh Howell Road Pastor: Mo Huggins 770-491-0228 Mwchurch.com

SUNDAY 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 11:55 a.m. Worship

MONDAY 7:00 p.m.

In-person and streaming online on Facebook and mwchurch.com

seedlings proliferate along the Silver Hill Road, and old traffic signs left after school moved are covered in lichen in front of an unnamed public building. Lights in the old school being left on day and night for months, glaring outdoor reflectors unsuited for residential neighborhood being installed, and rumors circulating that there are plans under way to install an electronic sign on Silver Hill Road are only some of the issues that pain the residents.

Azaleas were a rare thing of beauty in this neglected landscape and this will be the first April without them. When we realized what has happened many of us said, enough! We ask those who are responsible for their removal to replant them! To paraphrase an old saying, The best time to plant an azalea was twenty years ago. The second-best time is now.

- Smoke Rise Neighbors



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April, 2025 let's go!

Experience Holy Week at Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Step into the heart of Holy Week with Eastminster Presbyterian Church as we journey together through Christ's passion, sacrifice, and triumphant resurrection. This sacred season invites us to pause, reflect, and rejoice in the ultimate expression of God's love. Through worship, prayer, and community, we prepare our hearts for the miracle of Easter.

We welcome all to join us in this deeply meaningful time of renewal and celebration. Whether you've walked this path before or are seeking a fresh encounter with faith, you'll find a place here.

Holy Week Schedule

- Palm Sunday | April 13 Sunday School at 9:15 AM | Worship at 10:30 AM
- Maundy Thursday | April 17 Evening Service with Communion at 6:30 PM
- Easter Sunday | April 20 Fellowship at 9:15 AM | Worship at 10:30 AM

Upcoming Community Events

- Spring Break Camp | April 7-11, 8:30 a.m. 6:30 a.m. (Ages 3-12)
 Register now at www.eastminster.us/esap
- Summer Camp | May 27 August 1, 8:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. (Ages 3-12) Register now at www.eastminster.us/summer
- Eastminster's Birthday Celebration | Sunday, May 4 Worship at 10:30 a.m. featuring the Eastminster Children's Choir, followed by a potluck lunch.
- Vacation Bible School | June 23-26, 9:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. TRUE NORTH: Trusting Jesus in the Wild World.

Visit www.eastminster.us/vbs for details and registration.

Join us for worship, fellowship, and community as we embrace the hope of Easter together!

Decatur Architecture Walking Tour

DeKalb History Center's brand-new walking tour is focused on the history and homes of Sycamore Street. This significant Decatur street features many beautiful and unique houses that showcase a variety of architectural styles from the 19th and 20th centuries. Learn about the history of the homes and some of the residents on this tour.

The tour is outdoors with a total walking distance of about one mile and lasts about an hour and a half. Tours will happen with mild rain, although in heavy or severe weather the tour may be rescheduled - you will be notified if that is the case. Tickets are required; no walkups allowed.

Tour Dates April 17, 6:00 pm

May 13, 7:00 pm June 10, 7:00 pm July 15, 7:00 pm

DHC Member tickets are \$5 / Non-member tickets are \$12.50 Meeting Location: Sycamore Park 700 block of Sycamore St, Decatur, GA 30030 Ticket Link: https://dekalbhistory.charityproud.org/EventRegistration/Index/22497

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You can also visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews

to view postings of newsletter pictures and stories throughout the month.

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Garden

Garden Tour Coming

Please mark Saturday, May 17, on your calendar. The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club will have its annual "Art of Nature" garden tour. Five gardens will be featured. The tour will

run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine. Donations to take the tour are \$30. Tickets can be purchased online at StoneMountainWomansClub.org or in person at Wine and Whimseys, 2344 Main St., Tucker. Whimseys is open Monday through Saturday, 11:00-7:00. All club members also have tickets for sale. Please join us to see local gardens that would not normally be open to the public.

Mountain West Church of God Easter Gatherings:

Friday, April 18 – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 19 – 3:00 p.m. & 5:30 p.m. (Egg Hunt following each)

Sunday, April 20 – 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. Monday, April 21 - 7:00 pm.



Honor and the River

Book By: Anton Dudley

Eliot Waterson has had a deep-seeded fear of water ever since his father tragically drowned. But now his mother insists that he join the high school crew team. And when Honor Roberts, one of the most popular boys

in school, presents Eliot with the challenge to bring a gift to

a girl across the river, he is suddenly forced to face his darkest fear. Can Eliot and Honor form an unlikely bond and help each other find the courage to choose their own paths? Find out in this heart-warming, coming-of-age story.

Content Notes: Adult Language Location:

ART Station Theatre

5384 Manor Drive in the historic village of Stone Mountain. 770-469-1105 / artstation.org

Performances: April 10-19 Thursday & Friday 8:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 3:00 p.m. Wed April 16 only – Matinee 10:30 a.m.

Lunchtime Series: *Excerpts from Honor and the River* Monday 4/14 –12:00-1:00 p.m.





Dive into Summer: 2025 Swim Season at Smoke Rise Country Club

Amy Lamitina, Director, Member Engagement and Events

As the days get longer and temperatures rise, it's time to gear up for another exciting swim season at Smoke Rise Country Club (SRCC)! Open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, the Club's pool is a favorite destination for families looking to relax, stay active, make new friends, and create lasting memories.

A Pool for Everyone. The SRCC swimming complex offers something for all ages and interests. Our five-pool swim complex includes a Junior Olympic pool with swim lanes for lap swimmers, a wading & splash pool for toddlers, a hot tub, a cool pool chilled by a waterfall, and the kids' favorite, a slide pool. There's no shortage of ways to make a splash. The ladies' and men's locker rooms provide private showers and changing areas for added convenience.

Fun Activities for the Whole Family. Whether you're looking for a quiet retreat, a playday with family and friends, or a cocktail with friends after work, there's something for everyone at the Smoke Rise pool.

- Bring the kids after work Unwind poolside while enjoying delicious food and drinks with our poolside service.
- Dive-In Movies Experience the fun of watching a movie while floating under the stars! A unique and entertaining way to spend summer evenings.
- Summer Camp for Kids Keep the little ones entertained and engaged with exciting summer camp programs filled with water activities.

Private Parties & Relaxation. For those looking for a more exclusive experience, the club offers ample shaded and sunny areas along with private cabanas available for rent. Whether celebrating a birthday or hosting a summer get-together, the private cabanas provide the perfect setting.

Health & Fitness Offerings. For those looking to stay active, the club offers swim lessons for all skill levels and aqua boot camp classes, which are a fun, low-impact way of staying fit while enjoying the water.

Exclusive Member Access. Access to the pool is available exclusively to members and their guests. Casual dining is available by the pool making it easy to enjoy a meal while soaking up the sun.

For more information about social, sport, and other membership categories, contact 770-908-2582 or email membership@smokerisecc.com.

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Guarantee a great summer by joining the Summit Swim & Tennis Club!

Conveniently located on Silver Hill Road in the beautiful Summit subdivision of leafy Smoke Rise, GA, we offer attractive membership options for swim, tennis, or combined membership.

The saltwater pool has a spacious area for swimming laps or relaxing with friends providing a separate diving well and diving board, and covered pavilion. We also offer two tennis courts with full lighting in the winter months and a stand area to watch all the action. Ample parking is provided to park up and get right into the activities quickly!

Learn more about our Membership levels and how to become a member today.

The Summit Community Association is proud to boast some of the newest tennis courts in the Tucker area resurfaced and in time for summer membership! Learn more from our Tennis page.

Contact Us: Pool Address (not for mail): 2051 Silver Hill Road Smoke Rise, GA 30087

Email: info@smokerisesummit.com







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April, 2025 Community



Local Club Wins Awards

Members of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club attended the Club's District Meeting at Oxford College in Oxford, Ga. The club won best overall club in Public Issues, Health and Wellness, Art, and Education and Libraries. The club placed first in the Conservation Category.

This year the club reported 14,489 volunteer hours, donated \$14,278 and made In kind donations worth \$10,697. Members contributed \$2500 toward club work personally.

If you would like to be a part of an organization that does volunteer work as well as having fun socializing, please contact stonemountainwomansclub@gmail.com.



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RESTAURANT WEEK 2025

By Gaye Auman, First Lady of Tucker

Tucker Restaurant Week 2025 is in the books. Thirty restaurants participated in the 6-day culinary event. Frank and I tried to visit as many as possible during the week. That's A Lot of food! TRW is a

wonderful opportunity to stay in our City and sup-

our City and support locally owned businesses, which we genuinely enjoy doing. Tucker has a great variety of foods,



coffee shops, and dessert places. If you missed restaurant week, you can still visit our local eateries anytime. Find the list of restaurants at Tuckerrestaurantweek.com and give them a try. You'll be glad you did!



Main Street Theatre to Perform the Musical 'Oliver!' at Tucker Rec Center April 18-May 4

An orphaned boy turned pickpocket in Victorian England takes center stage when Main Street Theatre presents "Oliver!" the weekends of April 18-19, April 25-27, and May 2-4 in the Bill Hines Auditorium at the Tucker Recreation Center, 4898 LaVista Rd., Tucker.

The musical, Main Street Theatre's first, was adapted by Lionel Bart from Charles Dickens's classic novel, "Oliver Twist." It follows Oliver's exploits when he escapes the brutal conditions at a workhouse orphanage and finds his way to



London. There he joins a group of young pickpockets and learns about life on the street. In the end, he gets his life straightened out thanks to perseverance, the kindness of strangers and long-forgotten family ties.

Can does I ambout directs the play "Directing a musical is your different from directing a

Candace Lambert directs the play. "Directing a musical is very different from directing a drama," she notes. "In fact, I feel that the title 'director' is exaggerated. In a drama, the director is in complete control. Everything on stage is the director's choice. In a musical, that is far from the truth. In this production, I feel that only a third of what happens on stage is under my control. Two-thirds of the musical rely on the choreographer and the music director, so this endeavor is a collaboration. Both Kathy Ray and Maria Karres-Williams are wonderful, and I can't wait to see what we can create together."

A retired teacher at the DeKalb School of the Arts, Candace taught acting and directed main-stage and competition shows at the school for 16 years. She has also acted professionally around Atlanta and performed in two Main Street Theatre dinner theatre productions. Most recently, she played the role of Veta Louise Simmons in Main Street Theatre's 10th anniversary production of "Harvey."

The "Oliver!" cast is composed of Ricky Grimes (Oliver Twist), David Gregory (Fagin), Michael Bernard (Artful Dodger), Will Hiltman (Bill Sikes), Harlie Sawtelle (Nancy), Coco Perkins (Bet), Charles Bohanan (Mr. Bumble), Sarah Mason (Mrs. Corney), David Andignac (Mr. Brownlow), Jacob Arkin (Mr. Sowerberry), Nicole Nappo (Mrs. Sowerberry), Morgan Chislett (Charlotte), Evan Brandonisio (Noah), Wayne Kelley (Dr. Grimwig), Parks Dickey (Mrs. Bedwin) and Milli Waters (Charley Bates), Cast members in ensemble roles are Sadie Brown, LiliaRose



Cast members, accompanied by James Roberts on the keyboard, rehearse their songs for Main Street Theatre's upcoming presentation of the musical, "Oliver!" From left to right: Charles Bohanan, Kathy Ray, Roberts, Morgan Chislett and Nicole Nappo.

Johnson, Sid Swaminathan and Maddie Westbrook.

The curtain rises for "Oliver!" at 7:30 p.m. for Fu

The curtain rises for "Oliver!" at 7:30 p.m. for Friday and Saturday performances, and Sunday shows begin at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and students, and \$10 for children.

Masks are optional, subject to CDC guidelines. Concessions will be available. For tickets and more information, please visit www.mainstreettheatre.org.

Read Across America

Smoke Rise Elementary School launched its annual Read Across America celebration on Monday, March 1, 2025. The event, organized by the school's Teacher- Librarian, Mrs. Amy Yang, was made even more memorable thanks to the support of the school's Librarian Media assistant, Ms. Carmecia Askew, several dedicated parent volunteers, and members of the Stone Mountain Woman's Club, who generously shared their time reading with the students. Principal Dr. Krystye



Tatum, along with the entire Smoke Rise Elementary School community, extends their sincere



gratitude to Mrs. Yang, the parent volunteers, and the Stone Mountain Woman's Club for their invaluable contributions in making this event a tremendous success.





Scout Troop 876 prepared the soil for Mountain Mums Garden Club members to "Please Drive Safely." and walk participants to plant daffodil bulbs

Walk to Remember

A wave of community support swept through Smoke Rise community on March 8th, as hundreds gathered for the 24th Annual 'Tucker Walk to Remember.' Each daffodil bulb planted, each step taken, echoed a shared commitment to safe driving and the remembrance of young lives tragically lost.

The walk, organized by the Mountain Mums Garden Club, honors those remembered at the 'Triangle of Trees' memorial, located at Highway 78 - Exit 7. This garden stands as a tribute to Mandi Smith, Brandon Hubbard, Brandon Stovall, Matt Taylor, Charlie Wellman, Julian Carter, and Ben Lolies. The trees there serve as a constant reminder

To further their commitment to safety, the club along the Tucker Walk to Remember Walk also presents Taggart's Driving School scholarships

annually to area

students who have written a winning essay about why they want to attend the classes.

The Walk to Remember is more than just an event; it's a shared act of love and remembrance. Seeing the families who have experienced such profound loss, and witnessing the community embrace them, is a powerful reminder of community and why we gather each year. All support, whether through walking, volunteering, or donating, made a difference.

A special thank you to our scholarship winner, Dhyana Patel from Tucker High School, for her inspiring words. Her story and aspirations give us hope and purpose. We are thrilled to announce that we raised enough funds to support three additional driving scholarships next year, ensuring that "Triangle of Trees" Garden at more young drivers have the resources they need to stay safe. Highway 78 - Exit 7





2025 Walk to Remember participants and volunteers with Dhyana Patel, Scholarship Winner (center)

this CRAZY QUILT we call



TUCKER DAY **Zo**z

Join us on Tucker's Main Street on May 3!

This iconic one-day, 65+ year old celebration includes a parade, live music, crafts & goods vendors, food & beverages, a kid's play zone, a scavenger hunt, and a whole lot of family fun!

Tucker Day opens on Tucker's Main Street at 9:00 a.m. on May, with the parade kicking things off at 10:00 a.m. Live music, food & beverages, kid's zone and craft & good vendors will continue throughout the day until 4:00 p.m.

Tucker is an eclectic mix of historical roots and modern-day development with many unique characteristics and a vibrant community spirit. Tucker's charm lies in its ability to stitch all these things together into a cohesive, won-



derful, and welcoming community, and it's these qualities that make Tucker feel like a beautiful, intricate "crazy quilt!" where all are welcome.

Main Street Tucker Alliance is the non-profit hosting Tucker Day. Proceeds from the event go toward improvements to Main Street and the down-town Tucker area.

More information may be found at www.tuckerday.com or Bob Espy 404-643-8470, Marsha Ashby 770-596-4989.



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garden clubs



Smoke Rise Garden Club Inducts 2025-2027 Board Members

The March meeting of Smoke Rise Garden Club (SRGC) was held at the home of Adrienne and Lin Holcomb with Janice Gummersall and Pam Erdman as co-hosts. Manina Riggs, a member of the Ladybug Garden Club, spoke to the club about the gardens in Lilburn and opportunities for collaboration.

Ann Weisz conducted the Installation ceremony of new officers by first acknowledging the 2023-2025 Board members. For the 2025 – 2027 term, Victoria Crosby was re-elected as President, with Denise Finley as First Vice President, Dee Montgomery as Second Vice President, Fabrice Collin as Treasurer, Gina Dilley as Recording Secretary, Margo Collin as Corresponding Secretary, and Deb Halley as Parliamentarian. The ceremony was filled with laughter as each outgoing member and each newly elected member of the Board received an "appropriately thoughtful" gift in appreciation for their duties.

In appreciation for her years of service and varied duties, SRGC member Paula McEvoy was nominated by the club to be a DeKalb Federation Life Member and was honored with a luncheon at Callanwolde, where President Victoria Crosby read her biography. Eight members of SRGC and Paula's daughter Liz, attended the lovely ceremony.

Plans are underway for the Annual Spring Plant Sale! Watch for signs on Hugh Howell and announcements on Facebook.

The April meeting speaker's topic is "Carnivorous Plants" of all things. It should be interesting, informative and unusual.

Smoke Rise GC is a Member of the National Garden Clubs, the Garden Club of Georgia, Redbud District and DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs.

If you would like more information, to attend a meeting or are considering membership, please contact Membership Chair, Marisa Fernandez at marisa.fernandez0212@gmail.







Creative Expression with Dried Botanicals

By Quill Duncan

The Smoke Rise Morning Glories enjoyed an artful morning welcoming Spring at the March meeting held at Park Springs. Presenter Beth Gabbett is a florist and owner of Bouquet Y'all. Beth found her way into this business by growing flowers for her own enjoyment. Now using dried and pressed flowers, she specializes in providing floral-centered entertaining and educational experiences for groups, businesses and special events looking for a fresh and creative offering for staff, clients and organization mem-



bers. Beth provided the dried and pressed flowers, card stock and envelopes and instructions on assembling the beautiful note cards and bookmarks that are featured in the photograph. Club members enjoyed the chance to create the colorful cards and spent the time together doing something very uniquely original and delightful.

President Amie Walsh announced to the club that we will have a workday in March at the Smoke Rise Elementary School to install the new raised beds in front of the school per the STEM program. DeKalb Federation provided a grant of \$250 to purchase materials and the Smoke Rise Morning Glories also provided \$250 as part of our annual budget for school gardening activities. Other organizations in Smoke Rise have also donated funds and materials to create the new beds which will be used by all the grades to grow vegetables and flowers year-round. Weeding, watering and planting and harvest are excellent skills to teach our children as part of the STEM curriculum.

In other garden club news, Geri Burns, Melanie Chastain and Faye Long were surprised by being honored with Life Memberships in DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs at the February meeting. Bonnie Pennington was also surprised with the announcement of Life Member of the Year for 2025. Congratulations to all these ladies and we are grateful for their dedication to garden club activities.

On March 27th DeKalb Federation installed the new slate of officers for the 2025-2027 term. Outgoing President Quill Duncan welcomed Former Garden Club of Georgia President Barbara Bourque who installed member Sandy Reed as President and member Glenndolyn Hallman as 2nd Vice President. Other officers representing eight clubs are the new leadership team. Congratulations to all!

Mountain Mums Garden Club

The Mountain Mums have been so busy this spring! The March 11 meeting was held in the home of Marian Fetzeg and featured Susan Myers with an interesting presentation about the migration of monarch butterflies. Susan has led groups to Mexico for over 10 years following the migration of the Monarch butterfly. You can help the migrating butterflies by planting milkweed in your gardens. Milkweed is the plant favored by the monarch female for laying eggs. On hatching, the monarch caterpillar eats the milkweed voraciously. Then it pupates and turns into



On March 18, the ladies visited their friends at the Atria to make Easter décor for their living spaces.



Hostesses: Angie Ballard, Maureen Fraser, Marian Fetzig, Carol Wales and Gaye Auman

a butterfly. The next generation of butterflies continues the migration on towards Mexico.

Susan shared with the club several amazing videos of the monarch's travel: to see a drone view of the monarch swarm go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWOySU_hAz0.

If you are interested in becoming a member, contact Mary Jacobson at 770-316-3225.



GARDEN OF THE MONTH: Ron and Wendy White have lived in Spencer's Mountain for 10 years. They do a lot of their own gardening

features _____ April, 2025

HEALTH NOTES:

Norovirus: The One You Don't Want to Get!

By Patricia Baumann, M.D.

You may have heard of the Norovirus, the extremely contagious GI bug that seems to be tormenting people more than usual this season. There's a new variant around, called GII-17, that appears to be increas

There's a new variant around, called GII-17, that appears to be increasing the numbers of cases—two new types of this strain have been found circulating. About 900 people in the US die of Norovirus every year (mostly patients over 65) and 109,000 are hospitalized with it.

What It Is: Norovirus is also known as the "stomach flu" and it causes inflammation of the stomach and intestines. It is notorious for incapacitating the crew and passengers of large cruise ships. It produces very uncomfortable GI symptoms, and "lays the patient low" for a day or two. It is very easily transmitted from human to human, and it is also the primary cause of food-borne illness outbreaks. It affects people of all ages.

Symptoms: The most prominent signs of the disease are sudden nausea and sudden, often explosive vomiting and diarrhea. Symptoms usually appear 12-48 hours after exposure. The symptoms ramp up quickly, and include vomiting, diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea, headache, body aches , and sometimes a low grade fever. Symptoms tend to go away within two days, but fatigue may persist much longer. Getting lots of rest is key to regaining your strength.

How It Spreads: The illness can spread by direct contact from person to person, by a person who handles a contaminated surface or food source, or by an infected person who handles food served to others. Norovirus can live outside of humans for weeks, making the spread not just by contact with a sick person but by contact from a contaminated source. The virus can be spread by touch, cough, sneeze, feces, and from contaminated surfaces. About half the cases are spread by contact with surfaces. Surfaces can include eating utensils, uncooked foods, computer keyboards, doorknobs, tabletops, and counters. Most common food sources include leafy greens, fresh fruits, and contaminated raw shellfish.

WARNING, Alcohol based hand cleansing does not kill the virus. Washing hands with soap and water for at least 30 seconds is essential, and surfaces need to be cleaned with bleach based products.

Contagiousness: You are most contagious when you start feeling sick and remain contagious until two days after symptoms stop. Some remain contagious up to two weeks or longer as Norovirus can continue to inhabit the gastrointestinal tract that long. You can avoid infecting others by following proper hygiene, including washing your hands frequently.

Prevention: The prevention is to avoid exposure, a difficult task. One must wash hands properly and regularly. Avoid finger foods, avoid sick people. Use disinfectants containing bleach, which will kill the Norovirus. Do not eat uncooked shellfish, and wash fruits and vegetables before eating them.

Diagnosis: This can be diagnosed by the typical symptoms of sudden onset of nausea and vomiting, usually followed by diarrhea. These symptoms occur with the absence of any respiratory symptoms. Confirmation by a lab test can be done.

Treatment: Most cases of Norovirus can be treated at home as long as you can replace the fluid lost in vomiting and diarrhea. It is important to stay hydrated. Non-dairy liquids such as water or Gatorade are the best. Dairy and solid foods are harder to digest. Over the counter anti nausea and anti diarrhea medication may be tried but usually symptoms resolve on their own. Introduce solid bland food as tolerated. The BRAT diet (bananas, rice, applesauce, and toast) may be helpful.

If you can't keep fluids down, and have severe dehydration symptoms such as dark urine, a trip to the emergency room may be advised. Norovirus can be more serious for babies, older people, or people with preexisting health problems.

The Road To Success By Victoria R. Crosby

The road to success is no secret you take it one step at a time. You have to take risks and dare to dream and remember the bottom line.

Nobody owes anybody a living. What you do or fail to do is not what someone else is giving but directly related to you.

We can't choose our parents or childhood we can't change the place of our birth. But we can change our own direction and accomplish great things on this earth.

We each have our own set of problems and obstacles to overcome and endure. But the opportunity to change and rearrange is always an open door.

Each one if us is different, Like a snowflake every life is unique. Those who strive to meet life's challenges never accept defeat.

Those who make excuses can never achieve because their own minds won't let them believe. Time will pass no matter what you do So take control of your life, make your dreams come true

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April, 2025 features

NEWS YOU CAN USE

BY AVIVA HOFFMANN, STAFF WRITER

TRASH TALK: HOW DEKALB KEEPS IT CLEAN

DeKalb County's Sanitation Division provides fee-based solid waste services to residents in unincorporated DeKalb and several cities within the county – including the City of Tucker. The annual sanitation assessment fee covers weekly garbage, recycling, yard trimmings, and bulky item collection.

Garbage and Recycling Collection

Each household is provided with a standard, green, 95-gallon garbage roll cart and a blue, 45-gallon recycling roll cart. Participation in the residential, single-stream recycling program is optional and included in the annual sanitation assessment fee. Residents can upgrade their recycling roll cart to a 65-gallon container, for a one-time \$25.00 fee.

Only county-issued carts will be serviced. Once a new residential sanitation account is established, property owners can request an additional 95-gallon garbage roll cart AND additional blue recycling roll carts. This will result in an increase in annual sanitation assessment fees. You can find more details on fees and collection services online at www.dekalb-sanitation.com.

To reduce odors and litter, garbage must be secured in plastic bags before being placed in the roll cart. Carts should be placed curbside by 7:00 a.m. on collection day, positioned with the arrow pointing to the street and away from mailboxes, driveways, and utilities. Carts should be removed from the curb within 24 hours after servicing.

Yard Trimmings Collection

Yard trimmings include grass clippings, leaves, branches, shrubbery, and garden plants. These must be placed in approved receptacles not exceeding 40-gallons. Approved receptacles include durable metal or plastic containers or durable biodegradable paper bags with two handles. Paper bags should be folded at the top to prevent rain deterioration. Plastic bags are not accepted. Up to five approved yard trimmings containers or biodegradable bags are included in residents' weekly yard trimmings curbside collection, with additional pickups requiring a special collection fee.

Branches and limbs must be cut to a maximum of four feet, bundled, and tied. Trees must be cut into pieces less than 25 pounds each. Tree limbs cut by professional contractors must not be left at the curb.

Bulky Item and Special Collections

Bulky items, such as furniture, mattresses, and appliances (empty of items and doors removed), are included in the annual sanitation assessment fee. However, special collections, including large volumes of garbage, improperly prepared yard trimmings, construction materials, and oversized tree parts, require a prepaid collection fee. Tires are no longer collected curbside but can be recycled at the Seminole Road Landfill for a nominal fee.

Residents requesting bulky item or special collections must submit a request. Once processed, an assessment will be completed, and further instructions will be provided. Items must be placed neatly at the curb without blocking driveways, sidewalks, or drainage systems.

Service Requests and Compliance

If a collection is missed, residents should call (404) 294-2900 or email sanitation@dekalbcountyga.gov to create a service request. While missed collections are typically serviced by Friday of the same week, the Sanitation Division makes every effort to resolve issues promptly. Items to be serviced that do not comply with collection procedures may experience delays or be left uncollected.

DeKalb County's streamlined sanitation services ensure efficient waste management while keeping neighborhoods clean. Residents are encouraged to follow proper procedures to maintain smooth operations and timely collections.

DeKalb County Sanitation Division 3720 Leroy Scott Drive, Decatur, GA 30032 (404) 294-2900

Email: sanitation@dekalbcountyga.gov Website: www.dekalbsanitation.com Customer service hours of operation: In Person; 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Mon. – Fri. Call Center; 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Mon. – Fri.

States Finley, Neighborhood Shipbuilder *By Alex Helton*

Bet you know more about ancient ships than you think. At least I thought I did as I headed over to meet with States and Denise Finley. Later I realized I needed to fact check a bit more. "So is this one a Galleon, Clipper, or a Man-of-War?" I asked via email. The reply came back, "Most are Clippers, Brigantines, and Sloops." Ooops. Let me back up. I'm talking about ships



with States Finley: the man, the myth, the ship modeling legend. The clipper ship is about 2 feet long and 3 feet high. And it's surrounded by 20 more model ships in the lower level of the Finley's home in the Brentwood subdivision of Smoke Rise. The ships are mainly from the 18th and 19th centuries. The biggest are in shiny glass cases, while smaller Hull Sections (cross sectional dioramas) are displayed on the fireplace mantle. Peering into them transports a person hundreds of years into the past. I felt like I could smell gunpowder or the faint but distinct odor of wet rope. States is mainly focused on the building aspect, so the resulting ship is just a bonus. In fact, he gives away many of the models to friends. If he didn't, they'd need a much bigger house. Denise, his wife of 39 years, helps organize the remaining ships in their den and other appropriate spots in the house so that it feels unfussy yet elegant and warm. FRIGATE ABOUT IT States started by constructing small buildings



States and Denise Finley

for a friend's railroad layout in Nashville in the 70s. After marrying Denise and toward the start of his 30 year career in the DeKalb County governments, he cast off into shipmaking. With an undergraduate degree in Architecture and a masters in City & Regional Planning, he worked in transportation planning in the time immediately before MARTA was developed. In the evenings, he worked on the models.

So how does States take 5,000 pieces and transform them into a highly detailed version of a famous ship but at 1:50th the size? It all comes together in States' new well-lit workroom (one key selling point of their new home). The kits he uses come with instructions (lengthy

instructions and multiple videos), however a lot of the tricks he's learned are from experience. He uses small woodworking and painting tools too, since "actual size" tools would be overkill (insert mental picture of circular saw ripping through a tiny plank of wood). Still, no tool can assemble and paint 102 cannons without human intervention. States says a ship's hull is the most time consuming part of building a ship since he needs to wet and curve the high quality wood pieces exactly right. Then there's staining and painting. After each step, drying time is required, offering the perfect opportunity for a short spell session with his favority video games (Assassin's Creed or Borderlands). Turns out watching paint dry is boring no matter how miniscule the surface. I couldn't help leaving a bit envious of the Finley's retired life. Nestled in our forested community, making plans to travel to more maritime museums (they have been to five), visit family, and continue with something that makes them both happy.

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Gardening, etc.

By Linda Karr, Staff Writer

Invasive Plants - Persistence Rules!

Some plants, although very pretty, may not be the ones you want in your garden unless you want to continuously have to keep them in check. Invasive plants are generally nonnative species that can have a negative impact on our economy, environment, and native ecosystems. They are



lacking in pollen, nectar, or fruit. They spread rapidly, can produce copious amounts of seeds, and deplete the resources (sun, water, nutrients) that our native plants need to survive.

The following is a partial list of invasive plants in Georgia – the ones we see the most often. They are ranked by the GA-EPPC as to the severity of the problem they create.

1) serious, extensive invasion

Chinese privet, Chinese wisteria, Common water hyacinth, Bradford pear, English Ivy, Japanese honeysuckle, Kudzu, Mimosa tree, Multiflora rose,

2) these plants are a moderate problem.

Autumn fern, Bahiagrass, Giant Timber bamboo/Golden bamboo/Heavenly bamboo, Nandina, Periwinkle (big & common)

- 3) minor problem in Georgia at this time, considered a problem in adjacent states. Carpet bugle, Leatherleaf mahonia, Mondo grass & Monkey grass, Rose of Sharon, Winter creeper
- 4) these plants have naturalized in Georgia but are potentially invasive. Chinese holly, Japanese holly, Japanese wisteria

Removal strategies include:

- 1. Manual removal use tools such as a CobraHead weeder or a hori-hori knife to dig deeply and remove all the plant. A pullerbear tool can be especially useful with shrubs like privet.
- 2. Targeted chemical treatments such as Roundup (use caution as they can kill your beneficial plants). Apply while they are actively growing.
- 3. Natural remedies and other alternatives:
 - Vinegar (20% acetic acid) sprayed directly on the foliage on a sunny day. Boiling water (can kill instantly)
 - Mulch apply a thick layer to prevent invasives from popping up.
- 4. Burning use a propane torch (useful in small areas); have water hose ready to douse fire as needed.
- 5. UV-resistant plastic solarizes the soil, prevents invasives from growing.
- 6. Grazing hire a herd of goats or sheep to clean up all the surface plants followed by digging and/or herbicide.

To prevent problems with invasives:

- 1. Plant natives
- 2. Do not compost invasive species.
- 3. Perform regular inspections of your garden. Pull them when they are small. Retreat, as necessary.

Download a mobile plant identification app or purchase a field guide to help you in identifying these annoying plants. Early detection can save you lots of trouble. Persistence may win the day!

Meet Dietre Ffrench

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Georgia Iris Society Meeting

"Preparing your iris for the upcoming Spring Iris Show" will be presented by GIS Member Mr. Ken Duke, Master Iris Judge and landscape designer.

Georgia Iris Society meetings are free to the public and all are welcome. Join us for education, beautification and recreation.

Saturday, April 5, at 2:00 p.m. St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church 1790 LaVista Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329

For more information, contact Quill Duncan (770) 414-4766.

PLANT SALE

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MOLF





April, 2025 Community

Out the Window Article and illustration by Beth Henson, Staff Writer

Robin Visitors

Passing by the den window, I couldn't help but notice the still-persistent light spring rain. The grass seeds planted last fall had sprung into a thick carpet of vibrant green, and the stretching row of azaleas was now showing tiny pink and white bloom tips. A small flock of robins were busily scurrying from place to place, stopping only to peck small holes in search of wet, surfacing earthworms. All of the bustling group looked the same because male and female robins have no outward physical differences. However,



only Mr. Robin is able to sing the familiar cheerily, cheerily song, heralding spring. These sunny friends often enjoy human companionship and will sometimes follow you around the yard. They have long been associated with happiness, joy, good luck, and even strong marriages!

I'm glad you came to visit...even in the rain, my sweet friends! Thank you for brightening an otherwise dreary, wet day!



Smoke Rise Sharks is a member of the Atlanta Swim Association Summer League and competes against teams of similar size in the DeKalb division. The league emphasizes good sportsmanship and the team emphasizes improved swimming skills while having fun. Duel Meets occur on Tuesday evenings and ribbons for 1st through 6th place are awarded. Personal Best Ribbons are also given as skills develop and

times get faster. They are the hallmark of the Sharks' philosophy.

Swimmers aged 3-18 are welcome regardless of swimming ability. Our 6 & under age group has been the mainstay of the team and they enjoy their own special Mini-Shark meets on Friday mornings. As our mini-sharks improve, many of them move on to swim in the duel meets by the end of the season.

Our after school practices begin in May at The Summit Pool. Starting Labor Day, we begin morning practice at Smoke Rise Country Club. Practices are split up by skill level and swimmers can move up throughout the season.

Location of Swimming Pools:

The Summit – 2051 Silver Hill Road, Tucker, GA

Smoke Rise Country Club - 4900 Chedworth Drive, Tucker, GA

REGISTER NOW on Smoke Rise Sharks FACEBOOK PAGE



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LaVista Lions Club

The Tucker La Vista Lions Club is comprised of ordinary men and women 18 years old and older, who have come together to serve others. The La Vista Lions Club received its international charter on November 24, 1953. We changed our name to the Tucker La Vista Lions Club in 2018 to reflect our commitment to the city of Tucker, GA.

WHAT WE DO:

The Tucker La Vista Lions Club's primary purpose is to serve the communities in our area and provide fellowship among like-minded individuals. We organize and sell pecans, coloring books, and brooms at the Tucker Farmer's Market, and donate money to Camp Kudzu, as well as an orphanage in the Philippines, Lions Lighthouse Foundation, Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind in Waycross, Omega Support Center, Cure Childhood Cancer Group, Leader Dogs for the Blind, Angel Flight Soars, as well as Lions Club International Foundation. Additionally, we collect used eyeglasses for those in need - if you have eyeglasses to donate, please drop them off to Omega Support Center at 2001 Montreal Road, Suite 100, between the hours of 9am to 5pm, or to one of our members. Last year we collected over 13,000 pairs of eyeglasses and redistributed them to those in need. In the colder months we collect food, toiletries, new socks, and blankets for the unhoused in Tucker and we physically go to where they are to make sure they get into the right hands. Lastly, we maintain three food pantries for the food insecure in Tucker. Our food pantries are located at 3142 Lawrenceville Highway, 4127 Pine Valley Road, and 2254 Henderson Mill Road, all here in Tucker. If you need food, please go to one of these locations and take what you need, and if you have food that you would like to donate to the food insecure please by all means drop it off at one of these locations.

WHEN AND WHERE WE MEET:

Dinner meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month and begin at 6:30 pm at Tucker Christian Church, 4291 Lynburn Drive, Tucker, GA 30084.

If you have interest in joining our organization your first dinner/meeting is always on us, just let one of us know when to expect you, contact information follows:

Contact Information:

Ray Baskette, President: 770-939-4340 commanderray@yahoo.com

Robin Biro, Vice President 803-315-3548 robin@robinbiro.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.

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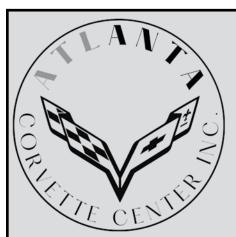
The purpose of the Smoke Signal classifieds is to advertise goods and services to the community.

Ribbon Cutting for New Ice Cream Shop in Tucker



Roll O Coaster Ice Cream Shop has opened at 1880 Mountain Industrial Blvd. (next to Donut City)

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Food & Home Fixin's

By Joyce Ray, Staff Writer

The Incredible Egg

Eggs are one of the most nutritional foods available to us. They are packed with a powerful amount of protein that will benefit every diet, are enclosed in their



own protective container, last a long time in the refrigerator, are economical and can be prepared quickly. Stories about eggs and egg prices have grabbed the headlines for the past year or more. Currently prices seem to be on the way down and hopefully there will be a good supply of them for Easter celebrations. Then we can get back to the age-old controversary over the best way to boil an egg for those deviled eggs that you will be serving for Easter lunch. I did some research:

Everyone "swears by" their own method of boiling an egg. Cook them too long and the yolks will be a lovely shade of grey green with the consistency of a pencil eraser. Not cooking long enough will result in gummy yolks. I asked three seasoned cooks what their methods are and got three different answers. Each one is right as long as the outcome is a good egg!

Method #1: Use room temperature eggs. Drop them into enough rapidly boiling water to cover them. Reduce to medium heat, cover the pot and allow them to boil for 8 minutes. Remove pot from heat, remove eggs and plunge them into ice water for a few minutes before peeling.

Method #2: With eggs in a pot big enough that they won't be stacked or crowded, add enough water to cover them. Allow them to come to a boil, turn heat down, add lid to pot and allow to cook for 5 minutes then turn off heat and let them stay in pot for 10 minutes.

Method #3: like #2 but add about 1 tablespoon baking soda and 2 tablespoons of white vinegar to water.

The 8-10 minutes seemed to be the consistent cooking time. The cold-water plunge is mentioned in many cookbooks as the best way to stop the cooking process and make them easier to peel. Older eggs are easier to peel due to the membrane that surrounds the egg which becomes denser with age. Begin peeling egg from the large end where the "pocket" of air resides.

Cooked boiled eggs will last up to one week in the refrigerator in the shell and a couple of days out of shell. My advice, if you are unsure of the cooking time, is to experiment with boiling a few eggs before you agree to provide all the deviled eggs for Easter lunch.

The basic recipe for six "deviled" eggs is: Cut peeled eggs lengthwise and remove yolk. To mashed yolks, add 1/3 cup mayonnaise, 1 tsp. mustard, ½ tsp. salt and pepper. Depending on the size of the eggs you might need to adjust the amount of mayonnaise for a creamy texture. Fill egg halves with a spoon or cut the corner from a plastic sandwich bag, spray the interior of the bag with cooking oil spray, fill with egg mixture and "pipe" into the shells. Ingredients to add to the egg mixture could include bacon, celery, sweet pickle relish, diced pimentos, goat cheese, smoked salmon or any other favorite ingredient. Decorate the top with sprigs of parsley or sprinkle on the paprika or dill weed.

Cracking the Carton Code: Notice all the numbers on the end of your egg carton. The "sell by" date is the date the store must remove them from the shelves. Eggs are consumable for at least 10 days after that date. If you are buying fresh eggs from a local farmer, be sure the dates on the cartons are correct. Speaking of cracking, NEVER use an egg that is cracked in the carton. Once the shell is cracked bacteria can get in the shell and have a field day multiplying. Always open the carton before buying the eggs to be sure they are all intact. If you accidentally crack an egg once you bring them home, you can take it out of the shell and store it in a plastic container for up to two days and then use it only for baking. Never store the broken shell with the egg. May you have an EGG-ceptionally blessed and Happy Easter with your loved ones.

For flowers that bloom about our feet, for tender grass, so fresh, so sweet, For song of bird, and hum of bee, for all things fair we hear or see, For blue of stream and blue of sky, for pleasant shade of branches high, For fragrant air and cooling breeze, for beauty of the blooming trees, Father in heaven, we thank Thee.