

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 9

Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968

December, 2015

www.smokesignalnews.com

The staff of the Smoke Signal wishes all of our neighbors a very Merry Christmas!



Congratulations City of Tucker!

by Ann Lerner

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, voters approved the incorporation of Tucker with nearly 74% of the vote! Thank you all again for your unending support and dedication to our community, our home. You've worked hard but the referendum is just the first step in establishing the City of Tucker. You will be called upon to lend your voice and your insights during the critical early days of our new municipality. The passion Tucker has shown must continue to ensure we elect a mayor and council with integrity, and that represents the character that makes Tucker so special. Stay engaged and informed - let's continue to ride the wave of active citizen engagement. Look for information soon about next steps.

It's been a long three-year process getting to cityhood, so we ask for your continued patience as we move into the city set-up phase of this journey. There will be many exciting days to come, along with plenty of hard work, as the City of Tucker is set up with your insight and involvement. Until then, rest up, continue to volunteer with all of our wonderful Tucker organizations, and enjoy the holidays with family and friends. We have a lot to celebrate and be thankful for!

Tucker's First Elections

Elections for the mayor and city council will coincide with the presidential primary on March 1, 2016. All city elections are nonpartisan. The qualifying dates will soon be set by the DeKalb County Elections Board.

The City of Tucker City Council will consist of six members, plus the mayor. Each of the three council districts in the City of Tucker map was drawn by the State Appropriations Committee and consists of roughly 11,000 people. Smoke Rise is located in District 1.

Two council members will be elected from each of the three council districts by the residents of that district and would hold Council District 1, Post 1; Council District 1, Post 2; Council District 2, Post 1; Council District 2, Post 2; Council District 3, Post 1; and Council District 3, Post 2.

In order to assure staggered elections of the council members, all Post 1 seats will be up for re-election November 2017 and all Post 2 seats will be up for re-election November 2019. The first elected mayor's seat will also be up for re-election November 2017. After this, council members will serve for four years and are limited to two successive terms and the mayor will serve for four years and be limited to three successive terms.

...Continued on page 2

SRCA's Last Update for 2015

by Michael Huerkamp, President, SRCA

This article represents the final report of the SRCA for 2015. The last official board meeting of the calendar year was held on November 16, 2015. Seasonal plantings have been renewed at the 15 smoke stacks now managed by SRCA, the community garden closed out the year in fine vigor, the new smoke stack at Hugh Howell and Rosser Place has been completed, and the conclusion of 2015 also saw the board strengthen connections with the SMCID, Tucker police precinct leadership, and with Smoke Rise Elementary School. Readers are reminded that the new year will bring with it the Walk to Remember with the Mountain Mums and the annual membership drive. Right now the prospects for electronics recycling and confidential document shredding in 2016 remain in doubt. More certain is that we have an exciting and unprecedented year ahead as we traverse the path into cityhood. We congratulate the Tucker 2015 team for the pay-off of their hard work, dedication and leadership. With great enthusiasm, the SRCA Board looks forward to representing our community, as needed and appropriate, in support of our inclusion into the City of Tucker.

As 2015 is closed out, the SRCA Board wishes all readers a happy holiday season and prosperous New Year. Through the wonderful support of many of our residents, the SRCA is in strong financial health and poised for the big year ahead. With Thanksgiving just completed, a special thanks goes to the selfless and tireless dedication and responsible stewardship of SRCA board members Pam Heisler, Lisa Khemani, Anna Ogletree, Virginia Rece, Eileen Stone, Lyle Collins, Victor Economy, Jon Gravitt, and Doug Reynolds.

Look inside for...

CELEBRATE!!	pg 3
Homes for the Holidays.....	pg 4
From "Swiping" to "Dipping"	pg 7
Networking Extravaganza!.....	pg 8
Starve a Fever, Feed a Cold?.....	pg 9

Christmas Around the Mountain

Breakfast with Santa to Benefit Stone Mountain Co-op

Come experience the joy of the holiday season at the annual Breakfast with Santa event on December 5, 2015, from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of St. Timothy's Methodist Church, 5365 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain. The event includes a country breakfast, photo op with Santa (bring your own camera), a silent auction, and a Santa Secret Shop for young shoppers to buy gifts for their family for \$1.00 or less. All sales benefit the Stone Mountain Cooperative Ecumenical Ministry, a non-profit group that year round helps the less fortunate in the community with food, utilities and some medical assistance. Tickets are \$6.00, and children three and under eat free.



You can help the co-op year-round by donating food and toiletries (toilet tissue, soap, toothpaste, etc.) The need is always there! They are open Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and are located in the village at 5324 West Mountain Street behind the Methodist church. Please go to <https://sites.google.com/site/stonemountaincooperative/home> for more information.

Downtown Tucker's "Christmas on Main Street" Saturday, December 5th 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Tucker's Christmas on Main Street is a family fun, annual holiday street festival and is organized by the Old Town Tucker Merchants Association in conjunction with the Tucker Farmer's Market.

Downtown Tucker will sparkle and shine with the shops and restaurants open for business spreading holiday spirit! Be a part of the crowd to greet Santa Claus when he arrives at 6:00 P.M. He will light the Tucker Christmas Tree (provided by the Tucker Cruisers) and afterwards children are invited to visit with Santa and his elves at Los Colinas Mexican Grill.

There will be activities at Free Mason Square, food trucks and vendors with coffee and hot cider, and the Masons will have hot chocolate, s'mores and funnel cakes. Be sure to



...Continued on page 7



Smoke Signal

P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085

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

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

December Calendar of Events

- 2 *Smoke Signal* Staff Christmas Luncheon
Smoke Rise Country Club
- 3 Morning Glories Meeting at Wells-Brown House to decorate
- 4 The Messiah, Lawrenceville Rd. UMC - 7:00 - 8:30-ish p.m.
- 5 Smoke Rise Garden Club meeting & luncheon
1910 Public House Restaurant
- 5 Christmas on Main, Main Street in Tucker
5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- 5 Breakfast with Santas - see front page and page 7
- 7 Pearl Harbor Day
- 9 Mountain Mums holiday luncheon at Smoke Rise Country Club
- 11 PRISM Police/Fireman Luncheon
- 12 Stone Mountain Woman's Club Tour of Homes, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 19 Stories with Santa, ART Station, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- 22 First Day of Winter
- 25 Christmas Day
- 31 New Year's Eve

Smoke Signal Deadlines

DECEMBER 13

Please e-mail articles to:

smoke-signal@earthlink.net

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

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

Deadline for classified ads is DECEMBER 10

SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

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

"Like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews

or visit our website at www.smokesignalnews.com

Link to the digital version of the *Smoke Signal*

at <http://eepurl.com/pjn4v>

or scan this QR Code

with your smart phone!



Tucker Election... continued from pg. 1

Each candidate must:

- Be qualified and registered to vote in municipal elections of the City of Tucker
- Be a resident of the area in the map of the City of Tucker for a continuous period of at least 12 months prior to the election date
- Reside in the district which he or she seeks to represent

The mayor will earn \$20,000 while each council member will earn \$14,000 annually.

All of this information and more can be found in the City of Tucker Charter at www.Tucker2015.com.

Recreation Center Receives Grant

The Friends of Tucker Recreation Center was awarded a Small Change Grant by Park Pride to install Tucker's first community mural on the front of the Rec Center. It was a collaborative effort with CAT (Community Art in Tucker) and was installed with the help of community volunteers. The design, created by local artist and CAT founding member Valarie Nichols, celebrates the diversity of both the patrons and activities at the Rec Center. Besides the community volunteers and Park Pride, the Tucker Arts Guild, Tucker Civic Association, Tucker Butterfly Garden and Tucker High School all added their help and support.

Please join our Facebook page, Friends of Tucker Rec Center, to find out about all the latest details, workdays, and meetings.

SAVE THE DATE:

**WALK
 TO REMEMBER
 JANUARY 23, 2016**



Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Dr. Chris George, Senior Pastor
 Tim Adcox, Minister of Missions
 Kathy Dobbins, Minister of Spiritual Formation
 Danny Vancil, Minister of Music & Worship
 Becky Caswell-Speight, Minister to Families with Children
 Jeremy Colliver, Minister to Families with Youth
 Amanda Coe Burton, Director of Nursery Ministries
 Telephone: (770) 469-5856
SmokeRiseBaptist.org

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

Communion: Second Sunday of each month
 1st Tuesdays: 11:30 a.m. Prime Time

Wednesdays:
 5:00-5:45 Fellowship Dinner
 6:00-7:00 Programs for children, youth and adults
 7:00-8:30 Sanctuary choir
 Nursery provided

Christmas Eve Services:
 5:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Family Focus
 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

Sundays:
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship

Wednesdays:
 5:45 p.m. Fellowship Dinner
 6:30 p.m. Adult and Children's Program
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Mount Carmel Christian Church

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

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

First Moravian Church

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

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

Thursdays:
 7:00 p.m. Adult Study Group

Mountain West Church

Pastor: Michael Shreve
 Telephone (770) 491-0228
www.mountainwestchurch.com
 4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain
 New Sunday Worship Times, Beginning August 9:
 9:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
 Christmas Eve Services: 3:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m., and 6:00 p.m.



FREE NEIGHBORHOOD PET LOST AND FOUND

Please call Kay McKenzie
 at (770) 491-6784

with information if you have lost or found a pet.

Smoke Rise Preferred Contractor's List

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



Chorale II's Holiday Concert

Chorale II, a community choral group, will present a holiday concert, "A Few of Our Favorite Things," on Sunday, December 6, at 4:00 P.M. at Tucker First Baptist Church. Admission is free, and donations are welcome. Dr. James McRaney, a retired DeKalb County Schools choral director, leads the group. For more information, please visit www.choraleii.org



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

NEW CLASSES AND SESSION BEGIN JANUARY

- Adult Oil Painting
- Adult Stretch and Jazz Dance
- Children & Young Adult Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Liturgical Dance classes
- Children's Piano classes
- Pre-School children's ballet, tap classes
- Pre-School children's Musikgarten classes
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**Mount Carmel Christian Church to present
 "The Christmas Shoes"**

An inspirational musical drama about love, forgiveness, and redemption

Mount Carmel Christian Church will present a dramatic and uplifting musical based on the well-known and beloved classic, "The Christmas Shoes," on Saturday, December 12, at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 13, at 3:00 p.m.

The drama takes you through the lives of two families. One family (the Laytons) has all the resources and wealth they need, but still find something missing in their lives; the second family (the Andrews) do not have much to give at Christmas, but they have each other and a house full of love. Come see how the innocent love of a child buying Christmas shoes changes the heart of a "Grinch" and restores what is truly important – life, love, and commitment to family.

"The Christmas Shoes" musical production is filled with the classic carols, "Deck the Halls", "Jingle Bells", "Joy to the World", and the fun and hilarious, "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch". Of course, the contemporary hits "Sing Noel" and "The Christmas Shoes" are not to be missed.

Please also join us for our Christmas Eve Service on Thursday, December 24, at 6:00 p.m.

Mount Carmel Christian Church is located at 6015 Old Stone Mountain Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. Website: www.mountcarmelcc.org.

**"A One-Man
 Christmas Carol"**

Featuring Bill Oberst, Jr.
 with musicians Patrick
 Hutchison and Lisa Paige

December 16–20

ART Station Theatre

Bill Oberst, Jr.'s passionate performance of "A Christmas Carol" is as true to Dickens as can be...for a version done in one hour and with only one actor in the cast! The show is a faithful, frantic, and frequently funny telling of the 1843 novella in what Oberst jokingly refers to as "slightly abridged." What is not abridged is the language. Even while jumping madly about and assuming different identities, Oberst speaks Dickens' original and eloquent text, which is dense, rich, and immensely satisfying, "like chocolate mousse to the ear," he says. For information, please call 770-469-1105.

**Lawrenceville Road UMC in Tucker
 to Host Community
 "The Messiah" Sing Along**

United Methodist Men at Lawrenceville Road United Methodist Church in Tucker invites all communities, choirs, and congregations far and near to participate in the First Annual "Sing Along Messiah" as a community-wide celebration of Advent and Christmas. The event will be held on Friday, December 4, from 7:00 p.m. until about 8:30 p.m. Prospective "Sing Alongers" are urged to bring friends and neighbors to "sing along" with them. Jack Sartain, host of the event for the church, especially urges tenor and bass singers to attend. All singers should bring any G. SCHIRMER edition of "The Messiah." Either the "long form" – full vocal score, the choruses only, or "part one," known as the Christmas Section, will do. There is NO rehearsal – if there are any unanticipated "glitches," singers have the freedom to back up and start over. Three outstanding guest conductors will direct the choruses and instruments.



If one has access to extra copies of "The Messiah" they should bring them – not everyone owns a copy. The church is also working on having an instrumental ensemble to add interest, energy and excitement to this first annual event. We will accept donations to help defray some of the expenses.

Singers and guests are invited to enjoy a meet and greet reception afterwards in the Fellowship Hall. Readers are asked to PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!

The church is located at 3142 Lawrenceville Highway in Tucker – just outside 285 – easily accessible from anywhere! Further information – email Jack Sartain at jbs5951@aol.com or call 770-939-3717.

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<http://tigertax.is-an-accountant.com>
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 Episcopal
 Church**

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

*Everyone is
 welcome!*

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

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

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



"Homes for the Holidays" - Saturday, December 12



This lovely contemporary home on Trotters Lane is one of six homes featured on the "Homes for the Holidays" Christmas Tour of Homes sponsored by the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club. The tour, scheduled for Saturday, December 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. will include lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Family Life Center of the Stone Mountain First United Methodist Church.

Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased from any member of the club or at ART Station or the Old Post Office Emporium. The day of the tour, tickets will also be available at the Family Life Center of the church or at any home on the tour. The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club, a 501©3organization, uses monies raised from the tour to help fund charities supported by the woman's club. For further information about the tour, contact Elizabeth Wells at dandewells@bellsouth.net, 770-822-9947 or 404-630-9925.

Tucker Welcomes the Scarborough Art Gallery
by Joyce Ray

The Scarborough Art Gallery had their grand opening in Tucker on October 17. Formerly the owner of the Clothesline Gallery in Stone Mountain Village, Les Scarborough moved his gallery from that location to the Publix shopping center in Tucker in order to help artists show their work to the surrounding community. Les became interested in opening a gallery shortly after he and his wife moved to Park Springs in Stone Mountain. There he met many local retirees who enjoyed painting but had no venue for showing their work. A photographer himself, Les's collection of professional photographs was beginning to take up lots of space and he met other artists who, like him, had their work stored under beds, in closets and on every possible bit of wall space.

The Scarborough Art Gallery is an ever-changing display of artwork from artists who range in talents from sculpture and painting to doll makers and musicians and, of course, Les's own photography. Tracie Lee Hawkins is the gallery curator and is in her own right a very talented artist specializing in "fiber art", quilt making and oil painting. The twenty years she spent in corporate America provides a wealth of the business of art.

The Scarborough Art Gallery offers classes in photography and painting. On display now through the end of the year, the gallery is featuring dolls created by Angela Ferguson, Cassandra Harrison, Avis Fox, Cookie Patterson and shadow-box creations by Stephen Webber, all local artists.

You can purchase Les's own originals and also original artwork including paintings, sculpture and photographs from local artists of all ages. Over 500 images of available art can be seen on their website at www.scarboroughart.com. Drop in for a stroll and prepare to be delighted and intrigued by art forms you might not have seen before.



Les Scarborough is shown with some of the custom created dolls featured in the current gallery exhibit.



Members of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club cheered the Susan G. Komen 3-Day Cancer Walk participants as they exited Stone Mountain Park and began their three day journey which took them through the Village of Stone Mountain to their final destination.

Woman's Club Members offered water, coffee and chap sticks to the walkers who exited the park on the walkway near the Stone Mountain Visitors Center. Club members displayed signs they had made to encourage the men and women in the walk on the brisk fall morning of October 16th.

Greeting the walkers has become an annual event of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club. Each year members rise early to participate in this part of the three-day walk in support of breast cancer research.



Pride Rings In Stone Mountain

PRISM Hosts Police/Firefighters Luncheon

The 17th Annual Police Appreciation Luncheon will be held on Friday, December 11th at Georgia Perimeter College. The event, sponsored by Pride Rings in Stone Mountain (PRISM), will honor the police and support staff from Center/North Precinct, Tucker Precinct, Clarkston, Pine Lake, Stone Mountain and Security Department at GPC. Catered food, home cooked foods, including desserts by the Stone Mountain Woman's Club, are always enjoyed by the guests. Gift cards for restaurants, gas and supermarkets are given.

Firefighters at seven (7) fire stations also receive food and gift cards. The luncheon and firefighter's gifts are made possible by donations from citizens, organizations, churches and businesses who want to help say "thank you" to these firefighters and law enforcement personnel.

Donations are needed. Please contact Tony Nastro at 404-333-8669 or tonynastro@gmail.com. Donor names will be included in the program given to every guest and firefighter if donations are received by December 8.

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Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation Announces its 2016 List of State's 10 'Places in Peril'

On November 11, 2015, the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation released its 11th list of 10 *Places in Peril* in the state.

Sites on the list include: Teardowns in Atlanta's historic neighborhoods; Bobby Jones Golf Course in Atlanta (Fulton County); Children of Israel Synagogue and Court of Ordinary in Augusta (Richmond County); Claflin School in Columbus (Muscogee County); Gene Theater in McRae-Helena (Telfair County); Hawkes Children's Library in Jackson (Butts County); Hudson-Nash House and Cemetery in Lilburn (Gwinnett County); Johns Homestead in Tucker (DeKalb County); Norcross Woman's Club Old Library (Gwinnett County); and Riverside Cemetery in Macon (Bibb County). For additional background material and more information on each site, including downloadable high-resolution images, please go to www.georgiatrust.org/news/2016pip.php.

Places in Peril is designed to raise awareness about Georgia's significant historic, archaeological and cultural resources, including buildings, structures, districts, archaeological sites and cultural landscapes that are threatened by demolition, neglect, lack of maintenance, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy.

Through *Places in Peril*, the Trust will encourage owners and individuals, organizations and communities to employ proven preservation tools, financial resources and partnerships in order to reclaim, restore and revitalize historic properties that are in peril.

Tucker's Johns Homestead is on the list this year. See next month's *Smoke Signal* for more information about this historic site.

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Check out the daily news for Tucker/Stone Mountain at www.patch.com

Advance Directives Program, Friday, December 4

Do you have an Advance Directive for Healthcare? Is it more than seven years old? Having a current AD is one of the most loving things you can do for your family. Georgia's AD laws are among the best in the country. You'll find out why and get the form needed at this program presented by DeKalb County Public Library and Compassion & Choices - Georgia Chapter.

2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.

Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library, 5234 LaVista Road, Tucker 30084.

(770) 270-8234

Ghosts and Goblins in the Forest!

It was a great Halloween in the Forest! A backyard full of pre-adventure fun with witches flying, skeletons swinging and Grim Reapers playing tag, plus munchies and drinks provided by the Moseleys. Before they were let loose to trick or treat, they posed for a group shot thanks to Kim Frantz.



Friends of Tucker Parks

Toyota Motor Sales, USA and the National Environmental Education Foundation, also known as NEEF, has announced a \$4,990 grant award to Friends of Tucker Parks. These funds will be used to build a set of websites for the umbrella group, Friends of Tucker Parks, and five Friends Groups that fall under that umbrella. Funds will also be used to put together an information booth to appear at local festivals and events. Thank you to Toyota and NEEF for your support of our parks!

Used Coats Needed

The DeKalb Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Affairs is currently accepting new or gently used coats for its coat drive, now until Friday, December 11, 2015.

As the temperature begins to drop, the department is working to provide some comfort to those who are resistant to living in a shelter or those forced to live in overflow shelters. Citizens are encouraged to donate by dropping off coats at one of the county's recreational facilities during normal operating hours. Once all items are gathered, they will be distributed to people in need, regardless of race, religion or class.

To donate, citizens are asked to drop off coats at any of the locations listed below:

- Main Office/Maloolf Bldg., 1300 Commerce Drive, Decatur, GA 30030
- Browns Mill Recreation Center, 5101 Browns Mill Road, Lithonia, GA 30038
- Exchange Recreation Center, 2771 Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA 30034
- Gresham Recreation Center, 3113 Gresham Road, Atlanta, GA 30316
- Hamilton Recreation Center, 3263 Chapel Street, Scottdale, GA 30079
- Lucious Sanders Recreation Center, 2484 Bruce Street, Lithonia, GA 30058
- Mason Mill Recreation Center, 1340-B McConnell Drive, Decatur, GA 30033
- Midway Recreation Center, 3181 Midway Road, Decatur, GA 30032
- N.H. Scott Recreation Center, 2230 Tilson Road, Decatur, GA 30032
- Porter Sanford III Performing Arts & Community Center, 3181 Rainbow Drive, Decatur, GA 30034
- Redan Recreation Center, 1839 Phillips Road, Lithonia, GA 30058
- Tobie Grant Recreation Center, 644 Parkdale Drive, Scottdale, GA 30079
- Tucker Recreation Center, 4898 LaVista Road, Tucker, GA 30084

*Main Office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Recreation centers and the Porter Sanford III Performing Arts & Community Center will be open from 1-5 p.m. For more information, call LaShanda Davis, Public Education Specialist, at (404) 371-3643.

Window Cleaning



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NEWS FROM SMOKE RISE CHARTER SCHOOL

Smoke Rise Elementary Celebrates Creativity

The annual PTA Reflections Contest was again a huge success at Smoke Rise Elementary School! "Let Your Imagination Fly" was the theme this year. The contest allows students to unleash their creative talents in the categories of film, dance choreography, visual arts, literature, music composition, and photography. There were over 70 student submissions. Among these, 44 entries qualified for the DeKalb County PTA Reflections Contest! All students were acknowledged in a special awards ceremony on November 4. Smoke Rise Elementary School would like to thank all of our community partners for the numerous, generous donations that helped make our contest a sensational event. Thank you to Kroger (Memorial Drive & Rockbridge), Publix (corporate), Panera Bread at Northlake, Monkey Joes, All American Skate, Bruster's (Hugh Howell), Stars & Strikes (Mountain Industrial), Cakes by Coco, NCG Cinema, AMC Theater, and the Smoke Rise Elementary School PTA for your support!



Excellence Acknowledged

At a district level meeting on November 12, Smoke Rise Elementary School was acknowledged by DeKalb County School District for being the number one school in the district for Reflex Math usage! The number one teacher for percentage of student usage is also a member of the Smoke Rise staff, Tadasaii Johnson, a 5th grade teacher. Reflex Math is a computer program that helps students build their basic fact fluency in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

Science Fair Returns

The Science Fair Study Night on November 5, 2015 was a huge success! There were over 100 attendees enjoying the delicious flavors of our local community sponsor, Subway at 1861 Mountain Industrial in Tucker. Subway provided FREE subway sandwiches to each student in attendance! Stop by and support this awesome location and say hello to their friendly staff. Students enjoyed eating their sandwiches while they were informed about their STEM Science Fair project requirements from science teacher, Ms. Cummings. She discussed the upcoming Science & Engineering Fair program guide, specifically how each 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade student is expected to use the Scientific Method to present a model or experiment. This process must be used to qualify students' projects to participate in the upcoming Engineering Fair on December 1st and 2nd. The projects will be judged with the possibility of qualification for the DeKalb County Science and Engineering Fair.



Smoke Rise Prep Seeks to Attract High Academic Achievers for 2016

Smoke Rise Prep Cooperative School is currently accepting applications for the fall 2016 semester, specifically seeking to fill open positions for high academic achievers in multiple grades. This open application period begins with the school's Open House event on December 3, 2015, and will extend until March 12, 2016, when submitted applications will be reviewed and considered by the selection committee.

Smoke Rise Prep is a 1st-8th grade cooperative school that was founded by parents and teachers in 2011 as an alternative to traditional public and private school options. The school's primary objective is to prepare students both socially and academically for higher education and for life. As the school expands the number of students it serves, it continues to maintain its small class size, focus on individual responsibility, and student-engaged learning style. The cooperative model is in place to provide an open, transparent dialogue with parents, who actively participate and contribute to the school's success.

Smoke Rise Prep's curriculum is advanced and fast-paced. Ideal students are self-directed, high-academic achievers who enjoy being engaged in academics. SRP seeks to fill openings in several grades this year and in the fall and welcomes families who are specifically interested in innovative education models. The school is located in the lower level of Smoke Rise Baptist Church, near the DeKalb and Gwinnett county line, just north of Tucker.

Parents of rising 1st through 8th graders in the Metro Atlanta area who are interested in learning more about the school are encouraged to visit the school's website at www.smokeriseprep.org, where all application forms are available to download. Interested families are also welcome to call the school at 678.585.4210 or email the school at info@smokeriseprep.org and schedule a private tour.



"Take a Vet to School"

Smoke Rise Veterans, Harry Strack, Dave Hess, and Frank Luton, along with other veterans, joined the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club members (member Marty Bryan pictured) at Smoke Rise Charter School for "Take a Vet to School" on Veteran's Day. The veterans visited the third, fourth and fifth grade classes and told of their experiences in the armed services. The children always have interesting and unexpected questions for their guests. This is an invaluable learning time for the students. If you are a veteran and would like to participate next year, please contact Frank Luton at luton@mindspring.com.

Providence Academy Beta Club

Smoke Rise area students were inducted into the National Beta Club at Providence Christian Academy. The Beta Club recognizes high school students that maintain an A average, as well as demonstrate character, service and leadership.



Pictured front row: Connie Schneider, Olivia Wilson, Grace Auman, Kelsey Hoskins. Back row: Christopher Schneider, Jack Smith.

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Keeping Our Pets Safe and Happy for the Holidays

By Mary Grace Mauney



The holidays are fun for everyone, including our pets. There are lots of ways our four-legged family members can join in on the merriment, such as taking them for walks to look at decorations, having photos for cards taken together, making pet-safe holiday snacks, and playing in the snow (if we're lucky enough to get it). But be cautious-not every part of the season is safe for pets.

Many of the plants associated with Christmastime (holly, mistletoe, and poinsettia) are poisonous for dogs and cats. The Christmas tree can pose a danger as well, not from poison but from potentially falling over and hurting an animal. Make sure that all decorations are firmly secured, and also that the water in the tree base isn't available to pets, who could become sick from drinking it. This goes double for any egg nog, hot toddies, punch or other delicious holiday drinks that might be left unattended, especially those containing alcohol. Don't leave any leftovers out where a pet can get them either; pets should never be given human food, not even the bones. Yes, the holiday feast may be just once a year, but that makes it even worse for a pet, whose digestive system can be easily upset by any change in its normal diet, or eating food it's not used to. If you want to give a pet a holiday treat, buy it something meant for its species, whether a dog, cat, guinea pig, hamster, snake – whatever the pet may be, pet stores will be stocking a variety of holiday treats designed especially for it.

Be careful of the holiday decorations around pets as well. Potpourri, tinsel, toys, ribbons, batteries, and anything electronic are all bad news for our four-footed friends, providing opportunities for internal injuries and poisoning if chewed or swallowed. Don't leave out any lit candles where a critter could knock them over and create danger for it and its family.

In addition to the food and decorations, also be aware of how a pet may be feeling. A house filled with strangers or even familiar guests, and the chaos that creates, can make a pet nervous or agitated. Pets see their house filled with strange people, strange sounds and strange smells, and don't understand why. Always give pets a safe place to get away from it all; include familiar toys, a shirt or pillowcase that smells like its human, and a fan or some soft music to help drown out the background noise. Keep pet food bowls and beds away from areas where there will be lots of people; even if a pet is well-socialized, having too many people touching it whenever it comes out can be very overwhelming. Keep a pet's routine in place as well; maintaining consistency in feeding and walking times will offer some comfort at this otherwise confusing time. Have a hardy play session with a pet before guests arrive or before you leave for a party; a tired pet won't get bored while you socialize, and will be less likely to engage in anxious or destructive behavior.

techtalk From "Swiping" to "Dipping"

by Susan Gilbert

The US Credit Card System Upgrade is Underway

If you haven't experienced it yet, you will soon. The familiar "swipe" of the magnetic strip is being replaced by the "dip," the new term for inserting your credit card for an electronic chip to be read. The change is called a shift to EMV, which stands for Europay, MasterCard and Visa. It's a new global standard for cards carrying computer chips and the technology used to authenticate chip-card transactions.

Why the change? With so many major data breaches, like the widely publicized one at Target last year, and the rise of credit card fraud, U.S. card companies are implementing this new technology to protect cardholders and reduce fraud. Experts say EMV will not prevent data breaches or fraud from occurring, but it will make it more difficult for criminals to profit from what they do steal. And the electronic chip embedded in the card makes it more difficult to counterfeit the cards.

What will the change mean? For stores and banks, the move to EMV requires installation of new point-of-sale hardware to read the embedded chips and complying with some new liability requirements. For card holders, the change means replacing old cards with new ones with embedded chips and learning how to use the new payment processes.

As with traditional magnetic-strip cards, using the chip-embedded EMV cards requires two steps: card reading and transaction verification. When an EMV card is "dipped," data flows between the card chip and the issuing financial institution to verify the card's legitimacy and create unique transaction data. This process isn't as fast as a magnetic-stripe card swipe. While it might take a few more seconds, with patience comes some protection.

How quickly will this change-out happen? The idea was originally to have EMV technology in place by October 1, 2015, but that deadline has come and gone. Experts acknowledge it's going to take longer to adapt and implement. One survey found that while 90 percent of banks have begun issuing EMV debit cards or will do so by year end, only 25 percent of U.S. debit cards (about 71 million cards) will be chip-equipped by the end of this year. The percentage of EMV debit cards in consumer's hands is expected to reach 73 percent by the end of 2016 and 96 percent by the end of 2017. More than 120 million EMV credit cards have been distributed to date and that number is expected to reach 600 million by the end of this year.

So, be on the lookout for new chip-embedded cards, and be prepared to do more dipping than swiping in the months and years ahead.



Christmas Around the Mountain...continued from pg. 1

take time to enjoy the choirs, live bands and the Main Street Theatre performances. The Tucker Farmer's Market will be open during the celebration.

An annual favorite is the Tucker Historical Society's Christmas Arts & Crafts, where children may decorate their own wood ornament to take home. This free activity will be located in the back hall classroom of The Garden Enthusiast Backyard Nature Station. This year there will be added children's activities!

It's a night to remember, so bring the family out for our hometown holiday festival and enjoy Tucker's Christmas on Main Street!



A CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER

"Stories With Santa" • December 19

Santa Claus tells us he loves Stone Mountain Village. Besides his home at the North Pole, Stone Mountain is his next favorite. So Santa has decided to hold a very special event at one of his favorite places in town, ART Station. All boys and girls, parents, grandparents and friends are invited to attend "Stories with Santa" from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 19. Santa and his Elves invite you to come to ART Station (5384 Manor Drive) for lunch, and a performance in the Theatre by the "Jolly Ole Elf" himself. After the performance, Santa has arranged for good boys and girls to "whisper their Christmas wishes" into his ear.

Ticket prices are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children (12 and under). Tickets are available at ART Station, the Antique Emporium or reserved by calling ART Station at (770) 469-1105.

ART Station is located at 5384 Manor Drive in Historic Stone Mountain Village. Founded in 1986, ART Station is a non-profit contemporary arts center that provides cultural and educational opportunities to the entire community, focusing its programming on quality works of southern arts and artists. ART Station is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. For additional information call (770) 469-1105 or visit www.artstation.org.

WSB-TV Reporter Tony Thomas to Host FODAC's Annual "Breakfast with Santa" Fundraiser

Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC)

Saturday, December 5 from 9.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.
Evergreen Marriott Conference Resort, Stone Mountain Park

Join WSB-TV reporter and Gwinnett Bureau Chief Tony Thomas and the big man himself for a festive holiday breakfast! The event will include a gourmet breakfast buffet; free park admission with an all-attractions pass for each person (\$25 value); a toy for each child; and an opportunity to meet and take pictures with Santa and his favorite elves.

Additional special guest host is FODAC spokesperson and board member Aimee Copeland. Professional photographer on site at the event will take photos, which will be available via free online download.

Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children ages 5-11; children 4 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. All proceeds benefit FODAC.

For registration and info, visit fodac.org/breakfast.



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We're planning a Christmas Networking Extravaganza and you're invited! So, save the date for our BIGGEST event of the year! Join us on December 9th at Smoke Rise Country Club as we celebrate the Christmas season with great networkers and good cheer. Enjoy tasty food, drink specials and, music...PLUS a special appearance by Santa himself!

To make this Networking Extravaganza even more exciting and meaningful, we've partnered again this year with The Salvation Army. We want to be a part of the community of giving, so what better organization to partner with to help bring joy into lives of families who need a little extra help this year. You can also help us accomplish our goals by donating at least two toys to this great cause. Simply, bring two toy donations, in lieu of the \$10 fee, on the day of the event and, your admission is free!

Last, but not least, SPONSORSHIP is still available!!! If you're interested and would like to help sponsor this wonderful event, please email Art Wood ASAP at art@artwoodonline.com.

About Fuse Networking... THOUSANDS of people have come through the doors of Fuse Networking over the past few years and, many have shared their personal networking success stories and just how important a single connection has impacted their company's bottom line. So yes, we're having a PARTY and yes it will be FUN, but CONNECTING is and always will be the center of why we meet. So, don't forget to bring your business cards, your 30 seconds elevator pitch!

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After writing this column for 20+ years, it's time to hand it over to someone else. This month, our Smoke Rise neighbor, Cedric Ross, will start writing the Alerts and Watches. I'm sure he'll bring some new thoughts and ideas about fighting crime in our neighborhood. For more information about Cedric, please go to smokesignalnews.com. Thank you for reporting your crimes to me over the years, and please keep Cedric posted about incidents that might have happened to you.

- Jan Mahoney

**Of Note to the Community.....
(formerly "Alerts & Watches")**

by Cedric Ross

Each month local topics, crimes and/or areas of concern are discussed. As an informed community we are better armed to reduce crime and enjoy life. Your neighbor is part of the social fabric that keeps all of us SAFE as we pursue the fruits of life. The only thing that should be kept to ourselves is a bad habit - okay, that was a joke ☺

- Use outside lights where no light is present (motion detection, solar and/or porch lights.....)
- Christmas trees inside your home should have ample water, check for loose needles which may be a sign of a tree that is past its prime.

If you have comments or helpful hints, please e-mail me at smoke-signal@earthlink.net
Reports:

Theft/Larceny, 5000 Block of KANAWHA BLUFF, 11/3/2015, 4:00 PM

4800 Block of Forestglade Circle

Comments: We were taken advantage of by four men selling pine straw for \$4 including laying. I indicated 60 bales for the front only. My error was not keeping a close eye on their work. I left them and went to the back yard. At the end they indicated 186 bales were laid. In my 18 years here we have never used more than 70 bales. There were four men in a gold Chevy pickup truck, license BQE6047. A police report has filed.

Royal Atlanta Business Park

Comments: We have experienced several huge tire dumping incidents over the past month. Usually these have arrived via (stolen) Penske trucks. Please call 911 if you note any suspicious box trucks cruising the parking lots - usually over the weekend, during the day. Also watch for cars with dealer tags (possibly stolen) slipping into office building parking lots and stealing valuables from vehicles.

Both of these crews are operating in the North DeKalb, Rockdale and Gwinnett areas. For more information regarding this go to Stone Mountain Community Improvement District - www.StoneMountainCID.com



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Healthy Goal Setting for a Better You

Lewis Carroll said, "Any road will get you there, if you don't know where you are going." How important are goals and how can we make them most effective?

There was a fascinating study conducted on the 1979 Harvard MBA graduate students where they were asked, "Have you set clear, written goals for your future and made plans to accomplish them?" The result: only 3% had written goals, 13% had goals, but they weren't in writing, and 84% had no goals at all. Ten years later, the same group was interviewed and the results were astounding: The 13% of the class who had goals, but didn't write them down, were earning twice the amount of the 84% who had no goals. The 3% who had written goals were earning ten times as much as the other 97% of the class combined!

This study pertains to financial well-being; however, if we apply the same principle to our health, we can be more confident in our ability to enjoy all the fruits of our labors well into old age. Unfortunately, when it comes to the most critical part of our lives, our health, people rarely set goals, and if they do, they usually don't write them down.

Since most people don't have clear and measurable goals when it comes to health, goal-setting is part and parcel of the health care experience in my practice. Goals should be both short and long term. What do we want our lives to be like in the future, and what are the steps we need to get there? Health goals need to be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time Bound.

We all want good health, but this can only be accomplished by taking care of our physical bodies. We must also recognize that pain is one way our bodies communicate there is a problem. Pain is most often a symptom, but often confused for the health problem itself. Thus, we often will treat the symptom, and think that our health has been restored. This is usually not the case.

Make your health a priority by taking two action steps now for a healthy new year: 1) Don't put those recurring aches/pains/headaches on the back burner, hoping that they will resolve. Those symptoms are often warning signs that there is an underlying problem that needs addressing. 2) Recognize that health is the most important thing we can have, so we need to make it a priority and set SMART health goals now.

If you need help setting health goals, or finding (and fixing) the root cause of your current health concerns, call our office to schedule a free consultation. Get on a healthy track now for yourself, your family, and your community. Have a healthy new year, and a healthy new you!

By *Smoke Signal* advertiser, David A. Shapiro,
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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

Should You Feed a Cold and Starve a Fever? Good Advice for Treating a Cold

Last week a friend of mine came down with classic symptoms of the common cold: a headache, generalized body aches (even her skin 'hurt'), a sore throat and drainage. She took a long soak in Epsom salts, gargled salt water, had hot lemon-honey tea, ibuprofen, and even prayed! She hit it hard! The very next day she was up and on her feet again. This left us wondering what worked, and if there was anything she could do to prevent a reoccurrence.

There are over 200 viruses that can cause the 'common cold'. Rhinovirus, Coronavirus, Respiratory Syncytial and Para influenza viruses cause the majority of cases. Most cases of upper respiratory illness begin in the fall and steadily increase in number throughout the winter. By March or April, the numbers of cases begin to drop off again. Researchers chalk the winter prevalence up to school being in session and to people staying indoors during cold weather.

Age seems to matter when it comes to being infected with a cold virus. School age children are especially susceptible and can average six to ten colds a year! Again this is thought to be because they are in school or daycare all day. Some children can look like they are sick all winter, when they could be getting one cold after another - often acquired from different sources. Adults exposed to children, like parents and teachers, have the next most frequent number of colds - followed by adults in general - with an average of two to four colds per year. Senior citizens generally have one or less colds per year.

Is there something you can do to prevent being infected by a cold virus? Researchers have been studying claims made by vitamin and supplement salespeople about cold prevention for years. The Cochran Institute, a highly respected, unbiased organization that reviews medical studies and claims, found these things about cold prevention and treatment:

Zinc: The studies are back and forth on this subject. The latest Cochran review (2013) stating that zinc could shorten a cold by 24 hours was withdrawn to reevaluate the study's conclusions. Zinc nose spray (and possibly the throat spray) can cause permanent damage to your ability to smell. Large doses of zinc can have other serious side effects; so if you use zinc, follow directions carefully on the label.

Vitamin C: The Cochran Review of 29 trials showed no cold prevention ability unless you were an extreme athlete (marathon runner or skier, for example). In this population, it halved the risk of the common cold. One large trial showed that adults who took an 8-gram dose of Vitamin C at the ONSET of the cold could cut down the number of days they are sick. More study is needed, however. Vitamin C, unlike zinc, is not toxic, even in large doses.


Echinacea: A Cochran Review of 24 controlled studies showed no evidence that it helped treat a cold, and very weak evidence of prevention of the common cold.

Probiotics: Cochran pooled results from 12 randomized controlled studies and found that probiotics reduced the number of people getting a cold by 47% and decreased the duration of an episode by about two days. It is unclear which probiotics are best. More trials are needed to narrow down which probiotics work best.

If you are treating a child who is under the age of six for a cold, do NOT give over the counter cough or cold remedies. They are ineffective and oftentimes lead to serious overdose or toxicity. Instead, use other comfort methods like humidification, intranasal saline, throat gargles, honey and lemon tea, Tylenol and ibuprofen. While not proven to be effective, these methods are worth a try and certainly will not harm!


Finally, there are three things we often forget to do that are proven by their nature to prevent the spread of colds, flu and stomach bugs:

- Wash your hands frequently. Use hand sanitizer if you do not have access to soap and water. 48-59% of middle and high schoolers do not wash their hands after using the bathroom.
- Stay away from those who are sick. If you can't stay away, wipe down knobs, faucets, light switches, computer keyboards and phones and avoid sharing utensils or drinks.
- Boost your own immune defense by not smoking and by eating healthy and getting plenty of sleep and fluids!

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What does Single-Stream mean?

Everything goes into one container. In the past and in other communities, people who recycle separate paper, plastics and glass. However, we will accept all recyclable materials in a single bag or bin.

Please join other DeKalb County residents, commercial institutions and schools currently participating in our recycling program.

How do I get started?


You can get started in one of three ways:

1. Visit keepdekalbbeautiful.org and sign up today. We will deliver your bin and bags to your home.
2. Call our Sanitation Division at 404.294.2900 and request to join the recycling program. We will deliver your bin and bags to your home.
3. Sign up and pick up your materials in person by visiting us at 3720 Leroy Scott Drive, Decatur, GA 30032, Monday through Friday, between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.

The DeKalb County Sanitation Division strives to facilitate cost-effective, timely and sustainable recycling and solid waste collection and disposal services, aimed at ensuring an aesthetically pleasing community for residents and commercial entities to work, live and play.

Keep DeKalb Beautiful (KDB), a unit of the Sanitation Division, is DeKalb's leading resource for community improvement and environmental stewardship. KDB's focus on recycling has resulted in a significant increase in recycling program participants over the recent past.





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NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

Rolling Forward to One – DeKalb’s Sanitation Collection Service Change

“It’s a dirty job, but somebody’s gotta do it.” I’m trash talking now. And, DeKalb County Government does a very good job with our garbage collection (and our recycling and yard trimmings too). By now, all of you Smoke Risers should have your county-issued, 65-gallon, green roll cart for garbage. If you have not received a roll cart, please contact the Sanitation Division’s customer service team at (404) 294-2900. Also, many of you may not be aware of some updates and options now available under the new collection program.

For starters, we all have more time to comply with the new sanitation collection procedure. The new procedure requires using ONLY county-issued containers for garbage and recycling (yard trimmings are exempt). However, the DeKalb County Sanitation Division has extended the compliance deadline to December 31 – giving everyone more time to get used to the new procedure. That means, for the rest of the year, all garbage and recycling containers placed at the curb on collection day – including customer-provided containers – will still be serviced. But, starting January 1, 2016, only county-issued, garbage roll carts and recycling containers will be serviced. Residents not in compliance in the new year will be issued a notice advising of their use of an unauthorized container. Again, customer-provided containers for yard trimmings are exempt.

The new compliance deadline also provides more time to complete garbage roll cart deliveries to all residential customers in the county, and it allows residents the opportunity to obtain larger recycling containers, additional garbage roll carts, or even different-sized roll carts. So, if you find the 65-gallon garbage cart is too big or too small, you can upgrade or even downsize. The same is true for the recycling containers.

If your residential household is producing more garbage than your county container can handle in one week, you should really start focusing more on the very convenient, curbside, single-stream recycling program offered by the county. The recycling service is free and easy! Single-stream means all recyclable materials can be placed in one container – without the need to separate items. Recyclable materials include paper, cardboard, aluminum, plastics 1-7, glass and tin. And, recycling benefits our communities in many ways. It creates green jobs, decreases landfill waste, controls rising sanitation costs, conserves natural resources and promotes environmental stewardship.

DeKalb’s subscription-based, single-stream recycling program processes more materials than any other recycling program in Georgia. So, if you’re not signed up for the curbside recycling collection service, join more than 60,000 DeKalb residents and businesses who have already subscribed to this program. Also, for a one-time fee of \$15, current recycling subscribers can trade in their 18-gallon blue recycling bin for a 65-gallon blue recycling roll cart. New recycling subscribers can obtain a 65-gallon blue recycling roll cart for a one-time fee of \$15.

Also, keep in mind, the blue bags are still available, but they are not required for use with the roll cart. New recycling customers can get the blue, 18-gallon recycling bin and box of 100 recycling bags free when they sign up for the first time. Any customer can purchase additional recycling bags (one box usually lasts about two years), by going to the Keep DeKalb Beautiful website (web.co.dekalb.ga.us/beautiful/index.html) to purchase more bags at \$15/box of 100. Customers can also visit the Sanitation Division’s administrative office at 3720 Leroy Scott Drive, Decatur, GA 30032, complete the form on-site and pay the \$15 fee for the box of 100 bags in person.

If your household still has too much (or too little) garbage for one roll cart, the county is offering more roll cart size choices for your garbage in 35, 45, 65 and 95 gallon sizes. Additional carts require an increase in annual sanitation assessment fees, participation in the recycling program, and a one-time fee of \$15 per roll cart. Upgrades to a 95-gallon roll cart require a one-time \$15 fee and participation in the recycling program. You should note, requests for new roll carts are being processed based on cart availability. Also, you’re still allowed to place excess garbage – in secure, durable, plastic bags – next to your county-provided roll cart on your designated collection day.

Requests regarding roll carts can be submitted online, or by printing the online form and mailing it in or dropping it off in person to the Sanitation Division’s administrative office.

If you have questions about DeKalb’s Sanitation Collection Services, you can learn more online at the website, rollingforwardtoone.com, or you can contact the division’s customer service team at (404) 294-2900. You can also send an email to: sanitation@dekalbcountyga.gov.



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Smoke Rise Garden Club

The November meeting of the Smoke Rise Garden Club was in the home of Deborah Christensen. Jane Culbertson and Peggy Clegg were the co-hostesses. Once again Deb turned her home into a Christmas workshop. Members wrapped boxes in cheerful paper and filled them with toys and items that would be useful and fun for kids in Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston at Christmastime. Also we painted Christmas stockings and filled them with candy. These will be given to the patients at Central State Hospital. This is possibly one of the more gratifying meetings of the year. The kids love receiving the boxes of fun while they are in the hospital during the holidays and the patients at Central State enjoy the goodies in the stockings and then using them as Christmas pins.

Tips: Bird feeders bring lots of colorful activity to a yard in cold weather. Most bird experts recommend black sunflower seed for general feeding. Thistle seed and suet cakes attract birds you might not have seen before. Keep holiday plants in the coolest spot possible to avoid premature loss of flowers and leaves.



Jane Culbertson, Deborah Christensen and Peggy Clegg

FYI: The DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs has no general meetings in November and December and the meetings will resume starting in January. The general meeting of the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs meets every 4th Thursday. Great programs and refreshments.

Anyone interested in joining the Smoke Rise Garden Club can contact Jane Culbertson at 770-938-3060.

We wish all our friends and neighbors good health and happiness now and throughout the New Year.

Georgia Pecans for the Holidays

While many area residents received their delivery from Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) in November, the group will continue to offer pecans during December until the supply is gone.

The newly harvested crop from south Georgia arrived a bit earlier than usual this year, noted Scott Uthlaut of MSGC. The 2015 pecans are high quality as usual and the price is the same as last year. Here are the selections and prices:

Fancy Natural Pecan Halves in 16 oz. (one pound) packages are \$11.00.

Chocolate Covered or Roasted & Salted Pecan Halves in 12 oz. packages are \$8.00.

The annual "Georgia Pecans for the Holidays" sale by MSGC has become a local tradition over the past several years. For orders, e-mail msgcpecans@gmail.com or call 770-923-9762, 404-296-7317, or 404-915-7132

Mountain Shadow Garden Club pecans will also be available for purchase at these locations:

The Garden Enthusiast, 2316D Main St., Tucker, GA 30084 Phone 404-474-7072

Hall's Flower Shop, 5706 Memorial Dr., Stone Mountain, GA 30083 Phone 404-292-8446

The proceeds from this effort enable MSGC to fund a scholarship at Gwinnett Tech each year and to help support a children's garden and other community programs.

Mountain Shadow Garden Club

Staci L. Catron (center) presented a fascinating program titled "Horticultural Heritage: Gems from the Cherokee Garden Library at the Atlanta History Center" for the November meeting of Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC). She is Director of the Cherokee Garden Library and has been involved with numerous exhibitions at the Atlanta History Center. The library holds over 30,000 objects dating from 1586 to the present, including rare books, seed and nursery catalogs, drawings, photographs, and more. Also at the meeting, Jeff Raines (left) was re-elected president and Vicki Proano (right) was re-elected vice president. The next meeting will be January 11 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church.



Smoke Rise Morning Glories and GOATS?

Maybe it was all the rain we have experienced this fall or maybe it was just a little bit of spontaneous fun but our November meeting had some very unexpected results. Everything started as usual with a wonderful tribute to our veterans read by Joy Streater. The story she read was written in 2006 by an Army Chaplain serving in Iraq. That same Chaplain is now the senior minister at Tucker United Methodist Church, Dr. Jim Higgins.

Ruth Ann Hill provided our conservation tip for the month and shared a list of things we can do in our own homes to save energy including using LED bulbs, installing low water use toilets, and recycling unused products. Other members gave their reports as we waited for a speaker who had car trouble and would not be able to make it to the meeting.

The unexpected time created a wonderful line of conversation about, of all things, GOATS! Goats are today's natural versions of lawn maintenance and a number of folks in Smoke Rise have hired goats to remove English ivy, privet and other unwanted invasive plants in their landscapes. Carol Ann Culpepper shared a story of someone using this method and then all the stories started. Gloria Cooke told of finding a lost goat in her garage a few years ago and the long saga of its rescue was hilarious. Marsha Pittard told us about her dad's goats and her husband's response to their unwelcome attention and Quill Duncan told about the goat team working at Trinity Presbyterian church in Buckhead and what happened when one of the goats gave birth during the work session. If you are interested in hiring goats or sheep to clear your property, there is a lot of good information on the web about it. The University of Georgia has done extensive research and employed this method on the campus in Athens. All these stories gave us some happy memories and certainly set the mood for the delightful return of the SUN by meeting's end.

Our next meeting will be at the historic Wells-Brown House and the club will decorate it for the Christmas season on December 3, 2015. Happy Holidays to all!



Our November hostesses were Joyce Ray, Lindsay Horton, MaryAnne Anderson and Joy Streater.

Mountain Mums November Meeting

The Mountain Mums met on Wednesday, November 11th, at the home of Lynn Malone. Co-hosts this month were Heather McLendon, Angie Ballard and Helen Homrich. The raffle was provided by Sally Young. In addition to their business meeting, the program this month was "Making a Boxwood Centerpiece" and was presented by our host and master gardener, Lynn Malone. Lynn received her undergraduate degree in Horticulture from the University of Connecticut and earned a Masters in Plant Pathology from UGA, Athens. After retiring from her job as a research specialist at Emory, Lynn has returned to her roots, volunteering at the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

Upon learning why boxwoods are good to use in centerpieces and after listening carefully to the instructions, the Mums enjoyed the first sunny day in November in Lynn's beautiful backyard to create their boxwood centerpieces. In addition to their creative endeavors, the Mums are busy collecting aluminum tabs for Ronald McDonald House, providing horticultural therapy for seniors in assisted living, and planning a field trip to Christmas at Callenwolde in December. Also on

December 9th, the Mums have planned a holiday luncheon at Smoke Rise Country Club. For information on joining the Mountain Mums, please contact Gaye Auman at 770-934-3603.



Sally Young, Heather McLendon, Helen Homrich, Lynn Malone and Angie Ballard

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

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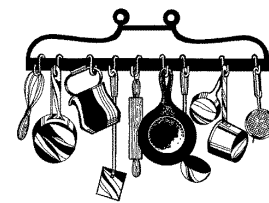
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HODGE PODGE

By Jenny Hall-Busch

I got my flu and pneumonia shot last week and promptly came down with flumonia. I have had this bug for over a week and I am living primarily on oatmeal and eggs. This does not bode well for a festive, food-filled column, does it? Would it make you feel more forgiving if I told you that one of last year's artificial Christmas trees is still on the back porch shrouded in a giant plastic bag because I never did get up enough energy to actually put it away? No? How about if I told you the evergreen wreath on the fireplace only needs a red bow to turn it into Christmas - because it actually IS last year's holiday wreath minus the ribbon?! I know you feel better now because it is obvious that you have a lot more on the ball than I do...so everything is easy in this column because that's as much as I can manage - but delicious and necessary to make the season as bright as my shiny red, runny nose!

Chocolate Peanut Candy

- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup peanut butter chips
- 2 Tablespoons oil
- 1 cup salted cocktail peanuts
- 24 small petit four paper liners (miniature muffin size)

Microwave the chips with oil in a glass bowl or cup for 1 minute. Stir and microwave 30 seconds longer. Add peanuts and divide among the 24 lined muffin tins. Refrigerate until set. Tastes like Mr. Goodbar®!!

I make these cookies every year and a dessert tray wouldn't be complete without these little snowballs. Make them small so that they are one bite. No one likes huge snowball cookies that drop powdered sugar down your shirt while you try not to die from inhaling sugar dust as you bite into a fist-sized cookie. Small is always better. For most things. I'm stopping now.

Snowballs

- 2 sticks butter
 - 2 cups plain flour
 - 2 cups chopped pecans
 - 2 teaspoons vanilla
 - 8 Tablespoons powdered sugar
- Also additional powdered sugar for coating

Dump butter and flour in food processor and whirl away until you get crumbs. Add pecans and whirl again until it's pretty ground up. Add vanilla and powdered sugar and whirl again. You'll have one big mass of cookie dough.

Pinch off bits and roll into a ball about the size of a small walnut. You should get at least 60 from this recipe. Place on slightly greased cookie sheet and bake at 325° for 20 minutes until just barely brown on the bottom. (You can fit them pretty closely because they don't spread.) Cool for a second or two and roll in sifted powdered sugar while cookies are still warm. Cool on rack. You can roll them again before serving so they will look pretty. They freeze perfectly, but you'll need to reroll any that don't look perfect because you are picky that way.

This is easy and terrific to serve with sausage biscuits or with grilled pork or chicken. Terrific as a gift - just put some in an inexpensive wine glass and cover with clear wrap and a ribbon. Much easier than trying to make "real" pepper jelly and it's great with cream cheese and crackers as well. December of 2012 Smoke Signal has the recipe for bacon jam...pair the two for a great gift basket with a loaf of homemade bread!

Texas Pete® Jelly

- 1 cup water
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 2 Tablespoons hot sauce, like Texas Pete®
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 5-6 drops red food coloring if desired
- 3 cups sugar
- 1 (3 ounce) packet of liquid pectin

Mix everything except pectin in large pot. Bring to a full rolling boil, stirring. Add the liquid pectin and bring back to a boil, stirring, and cook 1 minute. That's all. Skim foam. Ladle into 4 small, sterile canning jars or divide among wine glasses. Cover and let sit until it sets up. Refrigerate or freeze since this isn't processed.

And for those of you who want bacon but still want sweet, this is definitely a recipe for you! I saw it on Facebook so I apologize in advance for being a Christmas thief. This means that I am still technically in the "nice" category I hope.

Bacon Cracker Candy

- About 1 1/2 sleeves of saltine crackers
- 1 1/4 cups butter (use real - margarine has water so crackers won't crisp well)
- 1 1/4 cups brown sugar
- 1 1/2 pounds of bacon, cooked, crumbled and drained well

Preheat oven to 400° and line a greased, rimmed cookie sheet with foil to extend over all sides. On the foil, put a single layer of saltines, fitting snugly. In a saucepan, bring the butter and brown sugar to a boil, stirring. Once it comes to a boil, stir and continue to boil over medium heat for 3 minutes. Carefully pour hot syrup over the saltines. Bake for 5 minutes. Remove this molten mass from oven carefully and sprinkle the cooked crumbled bacon over it. Cool completely and break into pieces for ultimate sweet, salty, artery-clogging delicious Nirvana. Merry Christmas!

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



Stone Mountain Rotary Club

by L.A. Dison

Stone Mountain and Northlake Sponsor Recycling Day

In November, the Rotary clubs of Stone Mountain and Northlake partnered to sponsor their second annual Electronics Recycling Day, raising funds for Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC). Held at First Christian Church of Atlanta in Tucker, the event garnered eight pallets of used electronics, everything from old phones to CRT televisions to boom boxes, as well as cash donations totaling over \$300. FODAC will sell some of the working pieces in its thrift store, and the rest will be sold to aggregate recyclers specializing in safe disposal of electronics. The event helped keep several hundred pounds of old electronics out of landfills, and proceeds will support FODAC's main program which supplies home medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers and shower benches, to the mobility impaired and their caregivers, at little or no cost to the recipients.

The Stone Mountain club recognized member (and Smoke Rise resident) Harry Strack with a Paul Harris Fellow medal. This award acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.



Harry Strack (left) receives his second Paul Harris Fellow award from former Stone Mountain club president Durl Jensen.



Northlake Rotarian Rusty Warner (left) unloads a television with Stone Mountain club member (and FODAC President) Chris Brand. Carol McCannon (center) drove from Snellville to donate the TV.

This was Strack's second Paul Harris Fellow medal.

As part of its continuing community support, in October the club presented ART Station founder and president, Dave Thomas, with a \$500 check in support of the venue's programs, especially those geared for kids and teens.

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