

SMOKE SIGNAL



VOLUME 49, ISSUE 4

Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968

July, 2016

www.smokesignalnews.com



The Smoke Signal Staff Wishes Our Neighbors a Safe and Spectacular Fourth of July!



Planning and Zoning for the Sears Complex

by Pat Soltys

A few months ago, information began to surface that there was a buyer and developer for the nearly 90 acres of the Sears Complex at the intersection of Hugh Howell and Mountain Industrial. A community meeting was held at Mountain West Church on April 26, 2016 where the first design proposals were unveiled.

Monday, June 20, 2016, The DeKalb County Community Council Meeting for District 1 met at the Chamblee Library. The developer and lead architect presented the proposed project with the name of "Township Tucker." There were some changes from the April presentation and statements that other changes would be likely. Once the presentation was complete with some questions answered, the chairman Bruce Penn, called for groups to speak for and against the project. No group spoke against the project.

A concern was raised about the proposed name of Township Tucker being confusing as we have a city of Tucker and a township is often a form of governance. The developer stated that they are open to name suggestions and many were offered via Facebook posts the next couple of days. Tucker Town Center seems to be offered often in those posts as there are several successful projects with town center in the name.

Some concerns were raised by individuals, most related to traffic. Clarification was given that traffic is a state or county issue dependent on the type of road and that any zoning hearing or issue does not include traffic issues. The traffic consultant hired by the Stone Mountain CID stated that there are already in place requirements for handling traffic that will be required of the developer, county and state.

There was some concern regarding property values. Examples were given of areas where similar projects have been built with very positive impact to values. This raised the question as to what would happen if this development did not take place. The buildings, now vacant for 11 years, would likely continue to deteriorate with Sears doing minimal upkeep to the property. The selling price is far too high for most uses such as parks, industrial, use of the existing buildings and anything that does not have the ability to develop value and a return on investment for any potential investor. That means that it must be multi use and at least partially multi story. Projects that would fit these requirements are likely to be similar.

In this project, there is a plan for greenspace, off street and on interior street parking, retail, office, senior living, apartments, townhomes, a movie studio and post production studio as well as an amphitheater, and a limited services hotel. All retail has an interested party. There will be a grocery on the size scale of a Trader Joe's.

The commission voted unanimously to recommend approval by planning and zoning. There will be more steps in the process and more meetings/hearings.

Jack Sartain, Smoke Rise resident and member of the Commission stated "This is a worthy and

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DeKalb Neighborhood Summit Set for July 9

Summit focuses on public safety, code enforcement

Zika virus prevention, potholes and water bills are some of the topics that will be discussed during an upcoming summit that will give DeKalb residents the opportunity to dialogue with various government representatives and learn about services that can improve their neighborhoods and quality of life.

Focusing on public safety and code enforcement, the theme of DeKalb County's seventh annual neighborhood summit is "Working Together for a Cleaner and Safer DeKalb." The summit will be held Saturday, July 9, 9:00 a.m. to noon, at Greater Travelers Rest Church—House of Hope, 4650 Flat Shoals Parkway, Decatur, GA 30034.

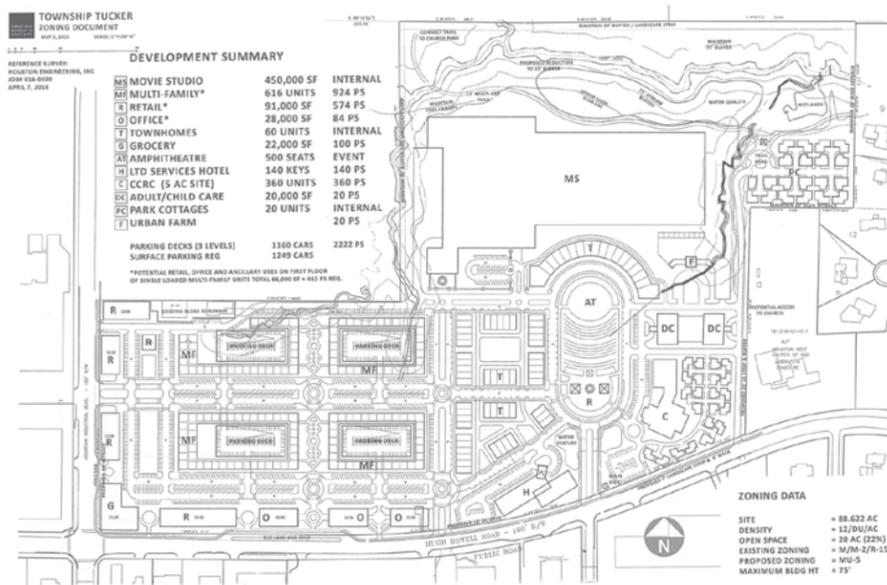
The summit aims to provide opportunities for DeKalb residents to connect with their government and better understand resources, tips and tools to make their neighborhoods safer. The summit is for constituents and homeowner associations interested in obtaining details on DeKalb County operations and projects, as well as obtaining direct contacts for various county agencies, departments and resources.

Attendees will have the opportunity to attend workshops, visit exhibitor stations, meet with community leaders, exchange ideas and learn how to partner with county departments to better their neighborhoods.

New this year, the summit will feature a kids' corner with a bounce house, face painting, giveaways, and popcorn. Additionally, various law enforcement vehicles will be on display for youth.

Interim CEO May will participate in a panel discussion and question-and-answer session on the summit's theme along with DeKalb County Police Chief James Conroy, Fire Chief Darnell Fullum and code enforcement director Marcus Kellum.

Exhibitors will include representatives from various county departments, divisions and offices such as community development, clerk of Superior Court, fire and police departments, animal control, sanitation, Board of Commissioners, parks and recreation, Keep DeKalb Beautiful, planning and sustainability, traffic engineering, district attorney's office, solicitor-general's





Smoke Signal

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July Calendar of Events

- 4 Happy 4th of July Holiday!
- 4 Neighborhood Fireworks Display at SRBRC
2046 Glacier Drive, Stone Mountain, Dusk
- 7 Planning & Zoning Meeting, Sears Development Project
Maloof Auditorium, 1300 Commerce Drive, Decatur, 6:30 p.m.
- 7 (Thursdays – through Dec. 15) Tuckers Farmers Market
2333 Main St., Tucker, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- 9 DeKalb Neighborhood Summit, Greater Travelers Rest Church-
House of Hope, 4650 Flat Shoals Pkwy., Decatur
9:00 a.m. - Noon
- 19 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
Sears Development Project Maloof Auditorium
1300 Commerce Drive, Decatur, 6:30 p.m.
- 19 Lunch & Learn with Dr. Tom Keating, Historic DeKalb
Courthouse, 101 E. Court Square, Decatur, Noon – 1:00 p.m.
- 21 (3rd Thursdays – through November) Tucker Arts Guild Meeting
The Custom Frame Shop, 4195 Fellowship Road, Tucker

Smoke Signal Deadlines

JULY 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 JULY 10

SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

Cost: \$150 by check to *Smoke Signal*

Deadline to Receive: 6:00 p.m. on 19th of month

Flyer inserts should be 8 1/2" x 11" (flat, not folded)

Please provide 2,300 copies

Reservation Required:

Contact Barbara Luton, (770) 491-6711 by 15th of month.

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or visit our website at www.smokesignalnews.com

Link to the digital version of the *Smoke Signal*

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

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with your smart phone!



CORRECTION:

In the June edition of the *Smoke Signal*, two books by author Karen Gregory, on page 9 in "The Smoke Rise Readers" article, were listed with incorrect titles. The correct book titles are *After Hyannis* and *The Russian Wife*. The *Smoke Signal* regrets this error.

Summit...

continued from page 1 office, economic development, workforce development, code enforcement, watershed, sheriff's office and the medical examiner's office.

For updates and to register for the 2016 DeKalb Neighborhood Summit, visit www.dekalbsummit2016.com.



The Smoke Rise Country Club member/guest tournament was held in June. It was a very exciting event, with the winners finishing in a 5 hole playoff to take the trophy. Pictured are winners, Board President, Geoff Weirich, and Jim Armstrong.

SRCA Dues

If you haven't already, please send your dues to the Smoke Rise Community Association (SRCA). This is your neighborhood association! SRCA helps monitor and protect our community. Your family's \$35 helps us have a say in issues like: potential adult entertainment establishments, cell towers on public school property, annexations filed, and more. Dues also help fund common grounds maintenance and mowing, sign toppers, movies on the green, and more! Send check to: SRCA, P.O. Box 870793, Stone Mountain, GA 30087 or go to the SRCA website at: <http://www.smokerise.org/>.

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
Valerie Coe Lowder, Director of the Weekday School
Telephone: (770) 469-5856
SmokeRiseBaptist.org

Sundays:

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

Communion:

Second Sunday of each month

1st Tuesdays:

11:30 a.m. Prime Time

Wednesdays:

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

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

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

Summer Schedule

Sundays:

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship

Wednesdays:

6:30 p.m. Vespers - 2nd and 4th
Dining Around the World - 1st and 3rd

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

Pastor: Dr. Stephen Weisz
Congregational Acolyte: Bill Hitz
Telephone (770) 491-7250, (770) 755-8289
www.gamoravian.org

Sundays:

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

Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

Mountain West Church

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



FREE NEIGHBORHOOD PET LOST AND FOUND

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

The *Smoke Signal* is posted to www.smokesignalnews.com the first of each month. Go to the "Smoke Signal Digital" link. You'll also find the link posted to the *Smoke Signal* News Facebook page each month with posting of pictures and stories throughout the month. For questions, contact Pat Soltys at pat@smokeriseagents.com.

Sherrie Adams Named Teacher of the Year at Smoke Rise Elementary

Sherrie Adams is a passionate English Language Arts teacher at Smoke Rise Elementary School. When you meet her, you know the effervescence of her personality ignites learning in her classroom. This is not the first time she has won this award, but the 4th time.

Sherrie began teaching in 1988 in Mississippi and was awarded "Rookie Teacher of the Year." Her other Teacher of the Year awards were given in Fulton County Schools, Sarah Smith Elementary and Sandtown Middle School.

When the opportunity arose to teach at Smoke Rise, she decided to make a difference in her own community by teaching here. She works to know every child she touches. There are challenges in the classroom, especially around non-teaching parts of the job such as paperwork and testing. Her dream would be to be able to spend more time teaching. She really appreciates the help and time from volunteers in the classroom, as they enrich the experiences of the children.

There are many things that the community can offer in terms of supplies and other types of help and those are certainly appreciated, but top of the list is always the investment of time, extra hands and talent. She hopes that neighbors in Smoke Rise will choose to adopt a class or child to help in school. It really means a lot.

Her greatest reward is when a student comes back and tells her that she has been important in their lives or asks her to participate in an important event. Sherrie looks forward to the continued impact she can make in Smoke Rise as a teacher and a neighbor. Congratulations Sherrie!



GRADUATES

Katherine "Kat" Harris

Kat Harris, daughter of Keith and Debbie Harris of Silver Ridge, graduated on Saturday, May 7, 2016 from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor of science degree in public relations with a minor in international studies.



During the summer after her sophomore year, Kat studied abroad in Berlin, Germany and traveled to a different location every weekend.

She also got to join thousands of Germans as they watched the German soccer team win the World Cup on a large screen in the Berlin Union stadium.

Katherine joined The National Society of Leadership and Success (Sigma Alpha Pi) and the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) at Georgia Southern University during her junior year.

Following graduation, Kat moved to New York City to complete a PR internship and plans to continue working in NYC after completing the internship.



Local Student Receives Georgia Power Scholarship *Sarah Harris to receive \$2,500 scholarship to help pursue chemistry career*

Sarah Harris has been selected to receive a \$2,500 scholarship from Georgia Power. Harris is one of 21 deserving students statewide who were selected from nearly 170 applicants for a scholarship based on academic achievement, leadership, character, integrity and school and community activities.

Harris currently attends the Georgia Institute of Technology where she majors in chemical engineering. Upon graduation, she plans to pursue her Ph.D.

"I enjoy the problem solving, team work and critical analysis necessary in chemistry," said Harris. "My desire is to work in a research lab after graduation and continue my education."

The Georgia Power Scholarship Program was created by former Georgia Power and Southern Company President and CEO, Bill Dahlberg, and has provided scholarships for more than 25 years. Scholarships are available to dependents of all permanent, full-time Georgia Power employees and retirees. Georgia Power has awarded more than \$1,162,500 in scholarships since its inception.

For more information about how the company is playing a role in the advancement of education and building the highly skilled workforce of tomorrow, visit georgiapower.com/community.

Smoke Rise Elementary Summer Registration for New Students Only continues through July 21 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Please call the school at (678) 874-3602 prior to your registration visit.

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

6780 James B. Rivers Drive
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www.Stmichael.cc/

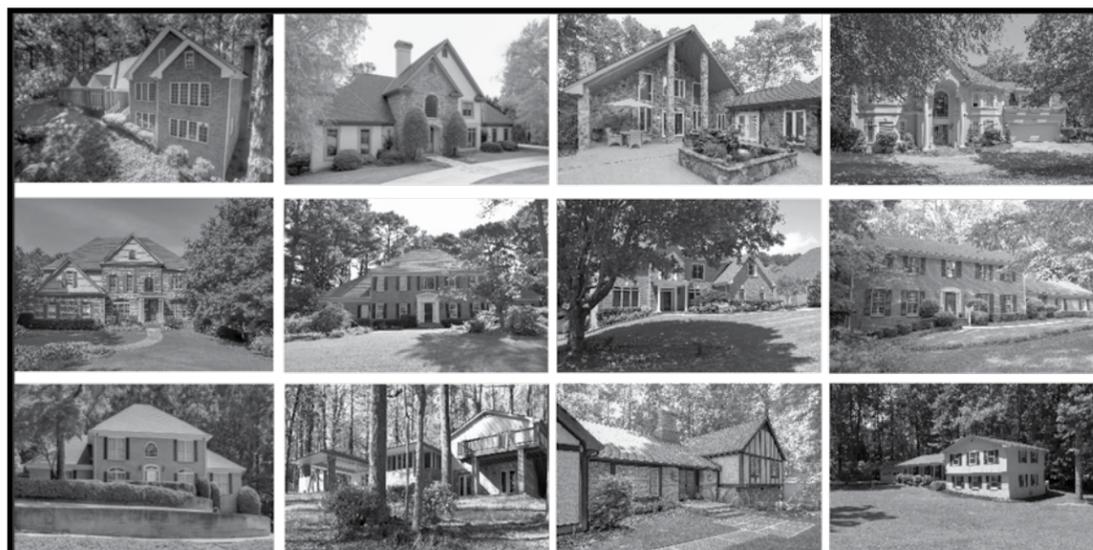
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There are some questions the internet just can't answer!





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Summer in Mountain Creek officially began on Memorial Day with the club's own Olympics Opening Ceremonies! Pool games included basketball and volleyball. The grills were busy with hot



dogs and hamburgers. The potluck offerings were fantastic, many featuring red, white, and blue!

Activities are ongoing for all members including wacky Olympic games throughout the summer!

Now open: The new "Ga-Ga Ball pit." Ga-Ga ball is a fast paced game that combines dodging, striking, running, and jumping, with the goal of being the last person standing. Players hit the ball at each other with their hands, and are eliminated if the ball strikes them on or below the knee. FUN FOR ALL!

- Water Aerobics has begun! Sessions are held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. through Labor Day - FREE to Mountain Creek Pool members - \$5 per session for Associate Members and/or guests. Enjoy fun and exercise while meeting your neighbors.



- July 4th Parade - Continuing a tradition in Mountain Creek, neighbors, strollers, dogs, and bicycles will be dressed and decorated in red, white, and blue. The parade will start about 10:15 a.m. in the Mountain Creek Court cul-de-sac and be led by our DeKalb County Firefighters driving the big red truck! Lemonade to follow. COME JOIN US!

There is still time to become a member of Mountain Creek Swim Club. Call Marsha Ashby: (770) 908-9272

Local Fundraiser Has Good Taste

Smoke Risers! Rise and shine and get your 4th of July holiday off to a rousing start with "Breakfast with Master Chef Rusty."

Just take a short journey over to Stone Mountain Village to 1036 Ridge Avenue and enjoy "Breakfast with Rusty" – pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit and more. While you're there, you'll want to enjoy the 1870's-era Wells Brown House, while energizing your 4th and helping to maintain this 150-year-old Greek revival mansion. There's plenty of parking next door. Hot cakes will be "hot" from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.



"Breakfast with Rusty" is a fundraiser for the Stone Mountain Historical Society. The Wells Brown House and Gardens are home to the 501c-3 non-profit organization.

July Tucker Arts Guild Meeting

The Tucker Arts Guild (TAG) field trip on July 13 will be held at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens/Chihuly in the Garden beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Garden is open until 10:00 p.m.

TAG has arranged for a special Docent-led tour by Tucker resident Sharon Sanford. Here's the Tucker Arts Guild deal...Chihuly Nights admission is \$15.95 for Atlanta Botanical Garden members; \$21.95 for non-members. TAG will reimburse the admission cost for TAG Members, on the July 13 tour.

It's not too late to join TAG for 2016. (\$10 per individual for the year) TAG needs a firm head count. If you are going, please email John Gronwall at jbgonwall@yahoo.com or call (678) 230-6195 to reserve your spot.

Are you showing your work in a local gallery or show? Send an email to John Gronwall with the dates, times, and location for publication in the Tucker Arts Guild newsletter.

The Tucker Arts Guild meets January through November on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at

The Custom Frame Shop, 4195 Fellowship Road, Tucker, GA 30084.

The DeKalb History Center Hosts Lunch and Learn

The next Lunch and Learn at the DeKalb History Center will be presented by Dr. Tom Keating, educator and author of Saturday School: How One Town Kept Out "The Jewish" 1902-32. For 30 years, Decatur's school system held classes Tuesday through Saturday. Keating wrote that book in 1998 to delve into the reasons and history behind this practice.

Keating focuses his 45-year career as a teacher, administrator, instructor, lobbyist, and school board member, on the unique Decatur practice of holding the weekly holiday on Mondays – even though the majority of parents and half the board of education opposed "Saturday School."

This peculiar history of Decatur – warts and all – will include new research on six public school officials and how this divided policy decision still affects our students, families, and school system.

Free! Bring your lunch.
Tuesday, July 19, Noon – 1:00 p.m.
Historic DeKalb Courthouse, 101 E. Court Square
Second Floor, Superior Courtroom
Decatur GA 30030

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Come See One Epic Neighborhood Fireworks Display!

Still looking for a place to see some great fireworks and celebrate the 4th of July? Not looking forward to dealing with downtown traffic or battling the crowds at Stone Mountain? Search no more. Just like last year, the Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club will dazzle its members with an impressive pyrotechnics display.

Guests are invited to watch the show, too. Swing by the club at the corner of Glacier and Smoke Rise Drive at dusk, and join your friends and neighbors for a great evening celebrating our country's independence.



SRBRC is the place for Summer Fun in the Smoke Rise Community

Summer is here and the summer fun season is well underway. With a bunch of parties, concerts and events, the Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club has quickly become the most vibrant and exciting swim and tennis community all around and a great destination for summer family fun.

The club has welcomed more than 50 new families to its membership, and the additional funds are being put to good use to maintain a clean and well-kept environment. All four tennis courts have been resurfaced, just in time for the summer ALTA season, the baby pool has reopened, a concession stand is now open and the landscaping around the front gate is being redesigned and installed by the awesome folks from Blade by Blade Lawn Care.



The crowd enjoyed the Smoke Rise BBQ & Music festival, savoring more than 120lbs of BBQ and hotdogs while listening to the sound of four back-to-back live musical acts. And, as this article is being written, the next big event at the club is already taking place. The annual Smoke Rise BBQ Cook-Off, featuring fantastic food by talented neighborhood pit-masters to the tunes of a number of entertaining live bands.

Many more happenings are also on the calendar, like the 4th of July Bash, Low Country Shrimp Boil, Kids Campout, Screen on the Green, Brazil Olympic Party, Root Beer Float Fest and the traditional two-day Labor Day weekend Pig Roast and Camp Out. For a detailed schedule, visit SRBRC.org.

So, if you are not a member yet, and if you are looking for more than just a place to swim and play tennis, it's not too late for you to jump in. First-time members don't miss out, \$188.00 will buy you a full family swim and tennis membership for the whole year.

Check out SRBRC at facebook.com/srbrccommunity, on the web at SRBRC.org, or swing by and judge for yourself. If you have any questions call (770) 493-9073.

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A Picture of Beauty

This tranquil picture of a barn in Cades Cove is a sample of the fine work produced by members of the Smoke Rise Camera Club. The June field trip was to the William Harris Home in Monroe, Georgia. Lead by award-winning Atlanta photographer, Jack Martin, the group receives hands on, practical instruction in nature photography. The club has four field trips a year. There is no July meeting, so the next club meeting will be August 23, at Smoke Rise Baptist Church, room 223, at 7:00 p.m. Beginners to advanced photographers are invited to join, and visitors are always welcome. If you need more details about the club, call or email Dick Brannan at (770) 403-9872, 6daysaturdays@gmail.com.

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Just How Many Trees Can You Remove?

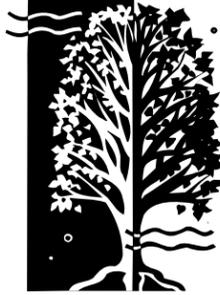
Beautiful trees make up a “forest” of beauty to create a picturesque wooded countryside in the Smoke Rise area. That’s no small feat, considering we are so close to the hustle and bustle of the rest of the concrete jungle that is Metropolitan Atlanta.

With all this praise about our area trees, it must be mentioned there are times when trees need to be removed. However, there are regulations regarding tree removal in DeKalb County neighborhoods. Dead, diseased or hazardous trees may be removed at any time. Additionally, homeowners may remove up to five (5) healthy trees on their property per calendar year – with some restrictions.

If you need to remove more than five (5) trees, you must have all trees assessed by a certified arborist and forward tree assessments in writing to the DeKalb County Arborist. You can find certified arborists in the yellow pages or by going to the International Society of Arboriculture website at www.isa-arbor.org.

DeKalb County’s arborist, Steve Strickland, may also be able to answer your questions. You can reach him at (404) 371-2685. Written notification should be submitted to the DeKalb County arborist, via fax at (404) 371-2725 or e-mail, before trees are removed from the property.

If you are trying to save your trees, the Georgia Urban Forest Council also has a wealth of information to help you keep your plants and trees thriving. That website is: www.GUFC.org.



The Dog Days of Summer

By Cheri Schneider

I’m feeling a bit lazy today as the temperature hits ninety degrees-- but not too lazy to have a thought or two swimming around in my head. It certainly could be the “dog days of summer” they always talk about. “They” must have a dog. Probably a big old lab or a golden retriever who is right now panting somewhere in the shade with his eyes closed... too lazy to get up and chase a rabbit nibbling by. Whew! The heat sure makes me feel tired— “dog tired” – too hot and tired to get up and cook dinner or run the vacuum to get all the pet hair up. A cool glass of lemonade and a book sounds awfully good right now. My dog looks like he found the prime spot... in the middle of the cool wood floor under the fan. Too hard on my hips, though, and I might not be able to get back up when my nap is over. So, I think I will “just let sleeping dogs lie” and sit right here on the couch for a few minutes and put my tired “old dogs” up and have a little rest....



Tucker Library News

Mark your calendars: Tuesdays are family nights at Tucker! Come to the library and watch an amazing performance.

Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

- July 5: Mr. Damon’s Shadow Puppet Theater
- July 12: Parrot Productions presents an incredible display of birds
- July 19: Storyteller Barry Stewart Mann presents Lazy Louie’s Lucky Day

Also, musician Glenn Phillips is performing. Saturday, July 16, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

This guitarist and composer will perform an intimate, early-evening set with guitarist Jeff Calder, of the Swimming Pool Q’s, and bassist Bill Rea. Phillips’ musical career began in 1967, when he co-founded the Hampton Grease Band; 18 albums and almost 50 years later, his playing continues to reach revelatory heights.

All Tucker library events are scheduled at the Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library, 5234 LaVista Road, Tucker 30084. Call (770) 270-8234 for more information.

Planning and Zoning...continued from page 1

timely project.” All residents are encouraged to get involved, become knowledgeable and attend the meetings/hearings. If the hearings greenlight the project for the zoning changes, the sale will close in December or early January. Demolition of the existing buildings would follow and then development and construction over the next two years.

Public Meetings on the Sears Development Project:

A Planning and Zoning meeting on July 7 will include several items for properties in DeKalb County, as well as rezoning, special land use permit and land use applications for the “old Sears property” on Hugh Howell Road. The meeting is open to the public, and comments will be allowed both for and against the items.

The property is located on the northwest corner of Hugh Howell Road and Mountain Industrial Boulevard, at 4650 and 4750 Hugh Howell Road, Tucker, Georgia. The property has approximately 2,578 feet of frontage along Hugh Howell Road and approximately 928 feet of frontage along Mountain Industrial Boulevard and contains 88.62 acres.

The Board of Commissioners will meet July 19 for their regular meeting – where the July 7 Planning and Zoning items are scheduled to appear on the agenda for a vote.

Both the July 7 and the July 19 public meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Manuel J. Maloof Auditorium at 1300 Commerce Drive, Decatur, GA, 30030.

The link below is public information posted about the project. <http://planningdekab.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/LP-16-20780-McCauley-Investments.pdf>



The Friends of Sue Kellogg/ Stone Mountain held its annual used book sale to benefit the library. GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club members Kathryn Wright and Barbara Luton organized the sale. Doris Hoenig, club education chairman, furnished the volunteers for the sale. Thank you to all who donated books.

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	2139 Rosser Place \$324,500		1759 Mountain Glen \$319,000

Local Resident Honored with Prestigious Award

Charles "Charlie" Lester, a 35-year resident of Smoke Rise, received the Charles Watkins Award from the Atlanta Bar Association in recognition of his distinctive and sustained service to the Atlanta Bar and for his leadership of the Minority & Diversity Clerkship program. This program places minority and diverse first-year law students from the five accredited law schools in Georgia with law firms, corporate legal departments and judges for a six or more week clerkship in the summer. The program has placed 122 students from 2011 to date. The award presentation was made May 24 at the Bar's Annual Luncheon. Congratulations Charlie!



The Smoke Rise Country Club member/guest tournament was held in June. It was a very exciting event, with the winners finishing in a 5 hole playoff to take the trophy. Pictured here are winners, Board President, Geoff Weirich, and Jim Armstrong.



Stone Mountain Rotary Club

By L. A. Dison

Club Honors Veterans for Memorial Day

In May, the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain hosted its Annual "Salute to Veterans" Luncheon at Park Springs Retirement Community, honoring those residents who had served their country in military service during wartime. The session opened with a color guard and an introduction by Club President, Donna Jensen. Special guest and speaker was retired Colonel Bob Spidel, whose distinguished Army career included 30 years and deployments to Operation Desert Storm in 1990-91 in Saudi Arabia and to Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 in Balad, Iraq. Spidel currently heads the Troop Support Ministry at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Tucker, serves as a USO volunteer at the Atlanta Airport every Monday and is the Senior Vice Commander of Bob Cofer VFW Post 4180 in Snellville.



Color guard ushers in event at Park Springs honoring resident military veterans.

The club also welcomed another military veteran at its Memorial Day luncheon. Major General W. Montague "Q" Winfield (U.S. Army, Retired), currently serves as the FEMA Region IV Federal Preparedness Coordinator and Director of the National Preparedness Division, but before that, his 31-year military career included commands at every level and staff positions up through the Joint Staff. Winfield spoke to members about 9/11.



Visiting group of Rotarians from Dhule, India attend meeting.

Also in May, the club welcomed Rotarians and their families from Rotary International District 3060, Dhule, India, visiting Georgia as part of Rotary Friendship Exchange. Friendship Exchange provides participants the opportunity to experience other cultures by staying in the homes of Rotarians in other countries. The program aims to advance international understanding and peace through personal contact across borders while developing interclub relationships for fellowship and service projects. In addition to attending the weekly member luncheon, some of the Stone Mountain members treated the India group to a trip to Stone Mountain Park.

In June, the club awarded \$1,750 to Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC), to go towards its mission of supplying home medical equipment, such as wheelchairs and shower benches, at little or no cost to those with mobility impairments.

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 stonemountainrotary.org.



Club President, Donna Jensen, awards \$1,750 to Chris Brand with FODAC.



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After Hours, Holidays, and Weekends
(678) 406-7929



Left to right: Back row--Elizabeth Wells, Jolene Davis, Marty Bryan, Pat Sartain, Martha Decker, Jackie Cornett, Barb Curzon. Front Row--Kim Sekulow, George Ann Hoffman, Shari Carter, Barb Hess, Joanne Cannarella

Local Chapter of Community Service Organization Focuses on Domestic Violence

Members of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club gathered at the home of Marty Bryan to view the film, *The Hunting Ground*. The film is a documentary about sexual assaults on college and university campuses. Following the film and discussion, a salad luncheon was served to the members. The organization's Signature Project is the fight against domestic violence throughout our society.

For 85 years, GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club members have devoted their service to the community of Stone Mountain and the surrounding area.

Summer Fun Around Smoke Rise



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4th of July Holiday Schedule

There will be no collection services on Monday, July 4.
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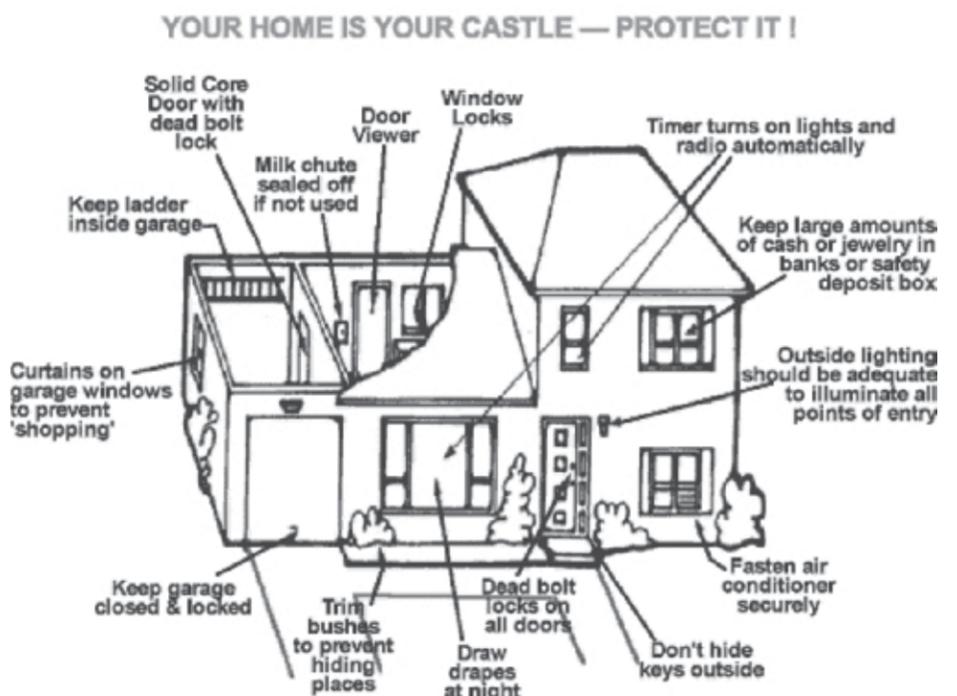
Of Note to the Community...

(formerly Alerts & Watches)

by Cedric Ross

Home Safety Review

A picture is worth a thousand words



Crime Reports

- 6/13/2016 BURGLARY - FORCED ENTRY – RESIDENCE
 1700 BLOCK SILVER HILL ROAD around 5:40 p.m.
- 6/12/2016 LARCENY - ARTICLES FROM VEHICLE
 4800 BLOCK FORESTGLADE COURT around 1:00 p.m.
- 6/11/2016 LARCENY - PARTS FROM VEHICLE
 5800 BLOCK MILLSTONE RUN around 2:00 a.m.

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



Cafe JAYA

Non-profit Coffeehouse Offers a Place of Community

Cafe JAYA (Just As You Are) was a creation of love by Jeff Carey and Rory Webb back in the summer of 2014. They wanted to create a real “third place” that would offer great coffee, craft beers and wine, but most importantly, it needed to be a place of community that would bring the village together while also benefiting local charities. The sleepy quaint village of Stone Mountain had several awesome bakeries yet no coffeehouse, so the idea for a non-profit community coffee house was born.

The guys found an old standalone building that once housed an Italian restaurant and had been closed for 10 years and dove into creating a “welcome home” environment. In just their first year, they were voted “Best Coffeehouse in Atlanta” by the Georgia Voice Magazine. The place has become a hub for community gatherings, networking, sharing ideas and building new relationships.

Working closely with the Downtown Development Authority, Cafe JAYA has decided to move to Main Street. The Village of Stone Mountain is only 1.7 square miles and its main street is only three blocks long. Most businesses along main street are closed and in disrepair. It is firmly believed that the five block move from Cafe JAYA’s current location to Main Street would be a great boost to future economic growth in this important business center as well as increase the profile of the cafe.

Carey and Webb aim to be open on Main Street by August. The community is encouraged to participate in the success of the cafe by sending donations to allow us the creation of an awesome environment, continue to increase awareness of the cafe’s three local charities and promote the ongoing mission of common-unity.

Contributions will help with electrical and plumbing expenses as well as the purchase of equipment.

Cafe JAYA is “making a difference one sip at a time.”

A “gofundme” site has been set up: <https://www.gofundme.com/2697xsmk>. Donations of \$100 or more will receive a pound of special dark roast coffee.

HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

Motion Sickness

It is now summertime... time for road trips, airplane flights, cruises and amusement parks. For some, it is also time to worry about motion sickness. You know-- the queasy feeling you get after winding around country roads in a car or bumping along the lake in a speedboat? I can vouch for the feeling first hand right now, as I’m writing this article from the front seat of a moving car!

For some reason, motion sickness does not seem to affect everyone. Scientists do not know whether it is caused by a dysfunction in the equilibrium system of the inner ear, is a “disconnect” between our brains, vision and inner ear, or if it is a dysfunction in the system our body uses to maintain posture and balance when we stand. Traditional theories (based on research done 30-50 years ago) suggest that there are three types of motion sickness.

The first situation occurs when you feel motion, but are not able to see movement with your eyes. An example would be traveling on a ship that is rocking up and down and not being able to look out a window or traveling at night, where you cannot see movement outside. Another example would be while traveling in a car or plane, with your eyes focused on a book, or on the interior of the car or airplane, instead of having them focused on objects moving past.

The second type of motion sickness is where motion is seen, but not felt. This can occur in on-line gaming, IMAX movies, panoramic movies which simulate flying or riding a roller coaster, or while riding on amusement park rides that simulate movement. In these cases, you see movement with your eyes, that is not actually there (it is a virtual or simulated movement and your body is not actually moving).

Finally, certain situations occur where motion is seen and felt, but there is an absence of communication between the body’s two systems that deal with motion. An example would be slowly bouncing along on a rough road. Movement seen outside the car is very slow and doesn’t correspond with the violence of movement felt by the body.

Symptoms of motion sickness include nausea and/or vomiting, headache and sweating. Vomiting does not relieve the nausea.

If you will be in a situation that normally causes motion sickness, you can try the following tips: Avoid alcohol, and do not eat or drink large quantities ahead of time. Chew gum or try eating a small sweet snack instead. Avoid strong odors and get fresh air. Lying down and keeping your head still helps some people. Closing your eyes and napping may help eliminate the mental part of motion sickness. If you are in a moving vehicle, looking towards the horizon or looking outside and slightly ahead may help. If taking these measures does not help, over the counter, anti-nausea medicines like Dramamine or Bonine, or an antihistamine like promethazine usually will work. Prescription medications like scopolamine patches or tablets are sometimes prescribed for those who cannot tolerate the sedative side effects of over the counter medications. Ginger root is a natural substance that is often used for nausea. Unfortunately, it does not seem to help motion sickness.

Newer studies are needed to explain what really causes motion sickness. For the person who has motion sickness, though, my recommendation is to do what works! Well, my head is hurting and I think I’d better quit typing. I probably should stop and get some fresh air-- I’m feeling kind of queasy!



NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

Have a Little Free Time? Want to Get Involved?

New DeKalb Online Platform Helps Residents Serve on Boards, Committees

DeKalb County government launched a new initiative to increase the level of transparency through civic engagement by creating a new boards and commissions online portal. The website allows any citizen in the county to find out what boards and commissions have vacancies and apply to serve on them.

The site is easy to browse and use, and it breaks down barriers to help people get civically engaged in their local government.

DeKalb County has nearly five dozen boards and commissions that citizens are able to serve on. They advise the county on many departments - everything from airport operations and alcoholic beverages to watershed capital improvements and the zoning board of appeals.

Previously, citizens have been selected by the appointing authority through recommendations and search committees. The new “Boards & Commissions” website allows all interested citizens to view and apply for any vacancy, which potentially increases diversity and subject matter experience on every board, commission or committee.

To learn more about the boards and commissions website, please visit: <http://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/BoardsCommissions.html>



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Smart Locks = Convenience

The television commercial I see regularly of a woman talking with friends about her home security company intrigues me. Standing in her kitchen, she tells two friends how much she now appreciates her home security company, because when her daughter came home earlier than expected without her key, they came to the rescue and automatically unlocked the door. Really? You need a home security company to do that? And monthly fees? I don't think so.



Keyless door locks are commonplace now, and they are an enormous convenience over keyed locks. They run in the \$100 to \$200 price range and do take some skilled installation. But if they save you monthly fees and other inconveniences, it might be worth checking out and ultimately a good investment. I have found the programming and use of them to be a breeze.

On ours, the convenience we like when leaving the house is that all you do is push the center button that displays the lock symbol. You then hear the buzz of a small motor as it turns the deadbolt into locked position. Upon returning, you simply enter the pre-programmed code you selected, the motor runs again, and you are in.

One advantage of these keyless locks is the ability to easily change the key-code. Make sure you get one that makes it simple to change the code so you can give others access then quickly and easily change that access as needed. For instance, if you have someone you want to access to your home on a certain day, you can program a special code for them, then disable it when they no longer need access.

Bottom line, these keyless locks are wonderfully convenient and something you might want to consider if their advantages work for you.

BERMUDA: A SHIMMERING JEWEL

By Barbara Bruschi

The glorious iridescent sparkling turquoise sea and unforgettable vistas will leave you yearning to return to the beautiful island of Bermuda.

Bermuda is an archipelago consisting of seven main islands. It was discovered in 1503 by Juan de Bermudez who made no attempt to land there because of the treacherous reefs. It was Admiral Sir George Somers who established an English claim to Bermuda (1609). He was shipwrecked on the reefs of Bermuda.



Bermuda is well known for "The Bermuda Triangle." This triangular area in the Atlantic, is said to be responsible for mysterious shipwrecks, disappearances and air crashes. The apexes of the triangle are Bermuda, Miami, Florida and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Bermuda is a British Overseas Dependent Territory with significant autonomy. The island became a British Colony in 1884. Bermuda has no freshwater lakes, consequently drinking water is collected on the roofs of all buildings and in a special catchment area, and stored in tanks underground for each home and property. Bermuda's sub-tropical climate gives the island the appearance of a well-attended cared for garden. Hibiscus, oleander (poisonous) bougainvillea, poinsettia, morning glories and other flowers adorn the entire island. Endemic trees include the Bermuda cedar, olivewood bark and the Bermuda palmetto which add to the lushness of the island. There is an abundance of marine life and divers experience an underwater paradise. Scuba diving and snorkeling are favorite activities by visitors. Coral reefs are enchanting, but caution is warranted. It's a great place for sailing, but you should have some experience due to the dangerous reefs.

Next year, the 35th America Cup is coming to Bermuda's shores. United States, Japan, France, UK, New Zealand and Sweden will compete for the oldest international sporting trophy in the world. I saw the Japanese boat already training a year ahead along with the American boat. It might be advisable to either book a cruise from New Jersey, or book a hotel and flight early because of the influx of visitors.

There are many fabulous beaches, some with amenities and others offering unparalleled beauty. In Bermuda, you can either rent a scooter, go by ferry, bus or taxi. Bermuda does not allow car rentals. The island is extremely clean and littering fees are high. Bermuda has



pink and white beaches. The water is crystal clear and heralds magnificent hues of greens and blues. The coral rock formations are beguiling and unforgettable. There are also crystal caves to explore and Bermuda is a golfer's dream.

There are two major cities, Hamilton and Saint George. Both have their own charm. They can be reached by ferry, bus or taxi. I recommend an island tour to see all the highlights. On your own, you can tour the museums, Botanical Gardens, Gibbs' Hill Lighthouse, Bermuda Art Center, the smallest drawbridge in the world, various forts, etc. Bermuda has 165 churches - a remarkable number considering the size of the island.

While you are in Hamilton, shopping is fun. Bermuda is a duty free zone. The old English Sports Shop, known for its Bermuda shorts is a must. Shorts, tie and jacket along with knee socks constitute formal ware in Bermuda. There are local art shops, perfumeries, liquor shops, Irish linen, jewelry and whatever your heart desires. The Royal Naval Dockyard features the Clocktower Mall.

There are culinary delights for your palate and night-life to finish an exhilarating day. Also, the Bermuda onion is famous. Bermuda is and always will be an island for the ages. It is culturally diverse with a rich heritage. It is a jewel in the world's islands. Like its way of life, it has a style all its own.

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Antonio Allen, left, accepts the scholarship award check from MSGC president, Jeff Raines.

Mountain Shadow Garden Club Awards Annual Scholarship

Each year, Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC), based in the Stone Mountain area, awards a scholarship in the amount of \$500 to a deserving student in the Horticulture Department at Gwinnett Technical College.

“For 2016, we are happy to announce that Antonio Allen of Snellville has been selected as the recipient,” said MSGC president, Jeff Raines. The award is intended to recognize and encourage deserving students to further their studies and careers. Allen spoke briefly to the gardening club, impressing members who are all cheering him on to continue his studies and business venture. Allen is the owner and operator of Prestige Lawn Care.

Mountain Shadow Garden Club meets the second Monday evening of most months at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain. The group is open to men and women of all ages who enjoy learning about a diverse range of topics related to plants, gardening, and home landscape environments. There is no meeting in July. The next meeting will be on Monday, August 8, with Rick Barnes discussing the fern gardens of Georgia Perimeter College.

For more information, contact club president, Jeff Raines at (404) 641-8633.

www.facebook.com/MtShadowGardenClub.

TUCKER NATURE PRESERVE

Tucker Nature Preserve’s beautiful half-mile trail is now home to a colony of non-aggressive miner bees. These insects are very good pollinators and are an important part of our ecosystem. If you see the bees along the trail, please do not disturb them! They are very mild-mannered and gentle. Thanks to Valarie Nichols of Community Art Tucker, there is a new info sign marking the colony and reminding people of the bee’s friendly nature. Look on Facebook to learn more about the Friends of Tucker Nature Preserve.



Morning Glories Explore a Local Hosta Garden

By Quill Duncan

A bright morning in June found the Morning Glories on a field trip to a local hosta growers’ garden in Stone Mountain. Popo’s Garden, located on Shepard Road, is a very unusual garden. It is part retreat, part family residence and a special nursery.

It is open only by appointment, but you can also learn about the garden via the website at www.pogosgarden.com. The phone number is (404) 323-4406.

The owners have a wide variety of hosta available for sale and are happy to provide information on best practices for growing hosta in our area. One of the owners also specializes in Fairy Gardens in containers that capture a charming miniature world with appropriately sized plants and accessories to create that magical aura. They have also added bonsai to their collection.

The surprise is the deeply shaded grounds surrounding their home and the wide variety of shade-loving plants that thrive under the tree canopy of the large lot. The streetscape is sunny and bright with colorful annuals and perennials filling all the beds along the porch, walkways and drive.

Every June they hold an open house and welcome guests to enjoy the grounds, lunch on BBQ and refreshing lemonade. The Morning Glories will be sure to remind everyone next year about the date and time for the June 2017 event.

The photo captures some of the fun of the garden with Morning Glories members. Happy Summer to all!



Millstone Meadow’s Enduring Charm: A Tribute

by Quill and Steve Duncan

Renee and Denny Hopf have lovingly crafted a sunny meadow over the last 15 years at their home in the Millstone neighborhood. From early spring to late fall, a visitor can truly appreciate the vibrant colors and lush varieties of sun-loving perennials and annuals. For those of us with shady gardens, the riot of color and texture is a sensory delight!

The design of the meadow was an evolving brainstorm with inspiration from NC travels and many other gardens over years of observation and enjoyment. The photo shows the more formal portion of the meadow with the entrance under a Confederate Jasmine-draped arbor. You can see that the beds are deeply edged and mounded with pine straw mulch. The paths are mowed grass, and each of the formal beds holds a wide variety of plants. The borders are rows of zinnias, raised from seed to make a kind of floral hedge or edging to define the space. Within the confines, they are growing red salvia, yellow marigolds, daylilies, blueberries, and grapes. There are also vegetables such as tomatoes, eggplant, and beans in this area that neighbor Kathy Rhinehart “share crops” since she does not have the sunny expanse that these vegetables need to produce and thrive.

The smiling “scarecrow” is Denny’s artistic tribute to his lovely garden mate, Renee. You can see the resemblance, right?

The meadow’s less formal side is filled with long swaths of red clover, vetch, Queen Anne’s lace, native grasses, and other self-seeding annuals and perennials that create a long progression of bloom from early spring to frost. On sunny days, the meadow is filled with busy butterflies, bees, and all types of insects and birds enjoying the bounty. Maypop, or Passion vine, climbs over the various plants and attracts the Gulf Fritillary butterfly, as it is that species’ main source of food.

One very special section of the meadow is a dedication to Renee’s mother’s garden in Pennsylvania. It features rocks from the family garden and old-fashioned plants such as Mock Orange, spirea, peonies, and buddleia, or Butterfly Bush.

And, they have considered all the necessary elements to keep this space thriving. Denny has created a complex watering system when there is not enough necessary rainfall. They do not spray or use any chemicals on the plants. They weed when needed and, in truth, they both love to work this garden.

The garden’s spirit reflects the sunny personalities of the Hopfs. Vivid colors, busy pollinators, bird song and laughter fill the air. What a wonderful and creative way to celebrate our natural world!



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

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offers individualized personal care. Experience caring for hospice, Alzheimer, Dementia, Dialysis, Diabetes patients. Non-Emergency transport available. Personal care designed just for you. Call Pat 404-543-6213/770-413-5637

GREENER PASTURES
LAWN MAINTENANCE
General lawn care, fertilization, pinestraw coverage, etc. Established 1985, licensed and insured. Call 404-697-7426.

DOG BOARDING: Loving dog care. Small, selective, safe, fun. Your dog will be glad you went on vacation! Call 770-674-0680 or visit www.theshepherdsglen.com.

Swim Lessons: PE & Swim Teacher; beginner-competitive, my pool/yours; group/private/semi; toddlers-adults; flex times; June-Aug. 404-667-1190 cell/text; jsbatten@gmail.com

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

BERRETTA PAINTING – #1 in Smoke Rise customer satisfaction. Int/ext. painting, pressure washing, and repairs. Licensed/insured. Warranty. 770-923-0537.

Computer giving you a headache??
Trusted, on-site computer repair working within the Smoke Rise community. Call Terry at 678-827-6444

UPHOLSTERY AND TRIM
Recover replace and repair upholstery for auto, truck, motorcycle, boat, home, commercial and more. Call 770-465-0996 or visit www.freestyleupholstery.com.

WINDOW CLEANING – Year-round detailed window cleaning by owner. Fully licensed, owner operated company. Call Paul at 678-516-7939 or visit AbsoluteWindowCleaning.net.

Sharon's Housekeeping, cleaning for over 20 yrs. Detail cleaning at it's best. Reasonable rates. Referrals by request. Sharon Peoples 770-841-2149

N.K. CONSTRUCTION
Stucco, brick, tile, driveways, room additions, decks, walls/fences, painting. 30 yrs. exp.
Nick 678-791-9546 (cell)
770-934-4148 (home)

DAVE'S LANDSCAPING

Lawn maintenance, Landscaping & Weed control service. Licensed & Insured. For an estimate email daveslandscaping@comcast.net, or text 404-822-6319

AAA TREE EXPERTS.org – ISA Certified Arborist, Tree Removal, Pruning, Storm Damage. Workers Comp. & Liability Ins. 15 yrs. experience. Erik Miller 678-488-6942 cell

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

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

Showers of Bliss, Spring is Born.
Nuture your property, fix-it, paint, replace, improve. Call Kelley 770-652-0674. Mulligan and Philips Construction@gmail.com. Credit Accepted

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

MY HOUSEKEEPER - Quality Housekeeping - 10 years experience - excellent references - reasonable, reliable, honest and detailed. Call Wendy for more information. 770-500-7775.

CERTIFIED RADON TESTING
The surgeon general & E.P.A. urge all homes be tested. Schedule your 48 hour test today! 678-869-5515

AFFORDABLE LAWN CARE
Mowing, edging, pruning, trimming, etc. Reasonable, dependable, insured. Call Mark at 770-235-1231.

HODGE PODGE



By Jenny Hall

Sometimes I get a taste for something specific and that's the only thing that is going to do for dinner. Often the something specific I get a hankering for is not suitable for dinner – like a candy bar or Cheetos®. But sometimes it's actually real food. I got this taste for a Mexican casserole, and I knew I had all the ingredients and could just throw it together. This was a truly positive thing, since the car engine light had come on and I didn't want to drive to the store and risk possible explosion. Well, I was horrified to discover that the one ingredient I really needed did not exist in my cupboard - enchilada sauce. I always have this...not this time. After dismantling the pantry and still coming up empty, I made my own and felt all tv-show pretentious and la-de-dah. So I made this easy sauce and invented a casserole everyone loved!

Enchilada Sauce

¼ cup oil

¼ cup flour (you can use gluten-free flour, but not baking mix with leavening in it or it will explode and rise up in a mighty protest.)

3 Tablespoons chili powder

1 cup chicken stock (veggie stock is fine as well)

2 cans diced tomatoes, un-drained

1 teaspoon each: oregano, cumin, garlic powder, onion powder and black pepper

1 Tablespoon brown sugar

1/2 teaspoon salt

Add oil and flour to a medium saucepan over medium heat. Whisk to combine and cook a minute. Whisk in remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil, stirring. Use immersion blender to puree, or put in blender until smooth. You're gonna use this to make this delicious casserole now. It's a big casserole, so you can half it and make it in an 8x8 pan, halving all ingredients. The leftover enchilada sauce is great to doll up everything in your refrigerator that you decide needs spicing up or disguising so the kids will eat it.

Enchilada Casserole

1 batch homemade sauce, above

(I think canned sauce would be too salty and is a little too strong, so I don't recommend using it for this recipe.)

1 pound ground beef or fake beef crumbles

1-2 cans Mexi-corn, drained

1 medium onion

2 cloves garlic, minced

1 cup plus a bit more of sour cream

2 cups grated cheddar or Mexican blend cheese

6-8 soft corn tortillas

(taco shells work OK, just skip the frying direction)

Vegetable oil

Preheat oven to 350° and lightly grease 9x13 pan. Heat 1 Tablespoon oil in pan and lightly fry the corn tortillas just until a bit crisp. Don't over cook them – drain on paper towels and set aside. In same pan, add onion and cook until tender. Add garlic and cook one minute. Take this onion/garlic mixture out of the pan and set it aside. You don't want the garlic to get over cooked. To same pan, add beef and cook. Drain if necessary. (Fake beef doesn't need this step since it's already done, but you knew that.) Add onion/garlic mix back to pan and combine. Add 1-2 cans of drained corn.

Now to assemble the huge ol' yummy casserole:

Spoon ½ cup sauce in bottom of pan and spread evenly. Place 3 tortillas on top, and you can cut them in half to make them fit better. Play around with this. Put another ½ cup sauce over tortillas and spread. Put half beef mixture over this layer and dollop with half a cup of sour cream. Spread this the best you can with the back of a spoon. Sprinkle with half the cheese. Repeat layers, ending with cheese. Bake 20 minutes. Place under broiler a few minutes to brown if you want.

The perfect dessert is this **Fake-o Fried Ice Cream** adapted from Honesty Flambe'.

4 cups crushed frosted cornflakes

1 stick butter, ½ cup sugar and ½ teaspoon cinnamon

Half gallon of vanilla ice cream - make into 12 balls and return to freezer on a cookie sheet to firm up well.

Melt butter in skillet and add the crushed cornflakes and sugar. Stir until coated and cereal is golden brown, about 5 minutes. Transfer to large bowl and stir in cinnamon. Let cool completely. Put in shallow dish and roll ice cream balls in mixture. Plop them into cupcake liners and place in muffin tin. Return to freezer to firm up. Serve with a drizzle of honey. You could just make layered parfaits for super easy!! It's all about the easy.

CODE ENFORCEMENT CONTACTS

Want to report illegal dumping? A vacant property? Need to report something to Code Enforcement? Below are some contact recommendations.

It's important to remember these contacts will change for those inside the city boundaries as Tucker incorporates and sets up its own code enforcement department.

Illegal dumping?

Start with the DeKalb County Sanitation website or call (404) 294-2900.

Code violation?

You can report complaints to DeKalb County Code Enforcement by downloading an online form and mailing or dropping it off in person, or submit the form online. This will generate a case number you can use for tracking purposes.

When reporting concerns, it is always helpful to provide a specific address. If the location is a vacant lot or lacks an address, it can be helpful to use the tax assessor data to identify the owner of the land in question to provide at least a specific address to Code, as well as see if the owner is local, etc. It can also be helpful to include a photo with time stamps.

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.

