

# SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 7

Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

October, 2023

www.smokesignalnews.com

THE STAFF OF THE SMOKE SIGNAL WISHES OUR NEIGHBORS A



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## Tucker Honors Volunteers *By Barbara Luton, Staff Writer*

Tucker showed appreciation for its volunteers at a dinner in August with Mayor Frank Auman giving the State of Tucker address during the program. Volunteers represented many organizations that are a vital part of the community.

Content from the Mayor's speech follows:



*Mayor Frank Auman*

Tucker is 7½ years old. It has been built on innovation and energy with care and patience with a purpose for the long term. This foundation was built with the work and sacrifice of volunteers. Volunteers can do things that employees cannot. Mayor Auman emphasized Tucker as a place to Live, Work, Play and Pray—elements necessary for a high quality of life.

New neighborhoods include Idlewood Station, The Enclave on LaVista and Trinity Park. The city will be analyzing the types of housing needed to have the biggest impact on improving the quality of life in Tucker. The city wants people to be able to work here in Tucker. Businesses like Cofer Bros., Pepsico (adding a \$300 million addition to its plant here) and banking are contributing to the work force. There are more than 1200 businesses with 10-15 employees. The Tucker Summit Community Improvement

District has become one of the most important industrial areas in DeKalb County. Smoke Rise was developed by Bill Probst to provide housing for the people coming to work locally.

Emory Health Care has close to 1600 employees in the multi-use conversion of Northlake Mall. The Tucker Northlake Community Improvement District extends from Northlake to downtown Tucker. That area has one of the highest office occupancy rates in the region.

On becoming incorporated, the city acquired about 260 acres in 13 parks.

Renovations at all of the parks have been underway as well as renovation of the Tucker Recreation Center. The Fitzgerald sports fields are being improved. The Church Street Greenspace and a new downtown park will bring activities to the downtown area.

Tucker is blessed to have multiple denominational churches and non-denominational churches holding services in many languages. The faith community includes Muslim, Buddhist and

Jewish congregations. These are vital to the community for spiritual health and for services such as feeding the hungry and caring for the homeless.

Tucker now has an Economic Development Strategic Plan to take it into the future. The plan is to look at the strengths and weaknesses of the city and act on both to make the area even more attractive to the desired types of development.



*Smoke Rise Residents attending the dinner. (L to R) Dave and Jessica Kranich, Martha Ashby, Bonnie and Bob Espy*

## In Loving Memory of Harry Strack

Harry Strack, a beloved member of our *Smoke Signal* community, passed away in September, after a long illness. He dedicated nearly a decade of his life to serving as our Treasurer. He was not just a financial expert but also a passionate supporter of Auburn University. In fact, he named his CPA practice "Tiger Tax," for his beloved Alma Mater. Harry's unwavering love for Auburn extended to his active involvement in his fraternity, demonstrating his deep commitment to his university.

Beyond his ties to Auburn, Harry worked with the Smoke Rise Country Club and the Tucker Business Association and was a valuable member of various other community and professional organizations. As a long-time resident of Smoke Rise, his presence in our community was both enduring and impactful.

For those who had the privilege of knowing Harry, they might recall a somewhat gruff initial impression. However, beneath that exterior lay a person who would readily lend a helping hand to any individual or group in need. Harry's willingness to assist and support others endeared him to many.

As we remember Harry, we express our profound appreciation for his dedicated service and extend our heartfelt condolences to his grieving family. Our thoughts are with Kristen, Brian, Susan, and his cherished grandchildren during this difficult time. Harry's legacy as a dedicated community member and friend will live on in our hearts.



## A Small But Mighty Fleet

*By Nancy McKenzie, Mountain Creek Swim Club*

The Inaugural Mountain Creek Swim Club Cardboard Boat Regatta left a wake of excitement and momentum on Saturday, September 9. The weather tried to sink our event, but these stalwart sailors would not be swayed. It was a smooth launch as the five boats and their teams paddled it out on the high seas. "The Pirates of the Deep End" triumphantly navigated their sea-worthy ship to victory. The "Tiki-Tanic" and "Paul" made valiant efforts in their crossing, but alas their vessels succumb to the tides. "Deep Sea Ninja," "Delivery to the Deep End" and "Pizza Ship" cap-sized immediately upon launch. All sailors made it safely to dry land.

Don't miss the boat and stay tuned for next year's race information. We look forward to another nautical sail-ebriation!



*"Pirates of the Deep End" boat by Stephen & Elena Sherman*





# Smoke Signal

P.O. Box 1038, Tucker, GA 30085

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Staff Writers: .....Victoria Crosby .....poeticvic@aol.com  
Joel Gilbert.....jgilbert@apogee.net  
Linda Karr.....  
Susan Gilbert.....susan@waterfallhouse.net  
Pat Soltys.....pat@smokeriseagents.com  
Joyce Ray .....joyceray126@gmail.com  
Pat Baumann.....pbauman@emory.edu  
Cheri Schneider.....Mikecheri@aol.com  
Barbara Bruschi.....(770) 934-4644  
Barbara Luton.....(770) 491-6711

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

Advertisements & Classifieds.....sgilbert@apogee.net

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

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## ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:

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

Classified ads and flyers are still available!



## Smoke Signal Deadlines

### OCTOBER 13

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

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

**Deadline for classified ads is OCTOBER 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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Link to the digital version of the Smoke Signal at:  
Archives (smokesignalnews.com)

## Preferred Formats for Smoke Signal Submissions

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

## BRING A BOOK – TAKE A BOOK

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



## ATTENTION GRADUATES, NEWLYWEDS, AND HONOREES

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



## DID YOUR PAPER GET WET?

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

## Smoke Signal Political Policy

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

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

## Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

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

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

## Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III: [cclarke@eastminster.us](mailto:cclarke@eastminster.us)  
Executive Director of Ministries ~ Jeanine Fulton: [jfulton@eastminster.us](mailto:jfulton@eastminster.us)  
Director of Family and Outreach Ministries ~ Mark Sauls: [msauls@eastminster.us](mailto:msauls@eastminster.us)  
Music Coordinator & Organist ~ Carole Mitchell: [cmitchell@eastminster.us](mailto:cmitchell@eastminster.us)  
Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zabarac: [jzabarac@eastminster.us](mailto:jzabarac@eastminster.us)  
Director of Weekday Ministries ~ Celeste Sears: [csears@eastminster.us](mailto:csears@eastminster.us)  
Office Coordinator ~ Christina Wetzel-Sizemore: [csizemore@eastminster.us](mailto:csizemore@eastminster.us)  
Music Intern ~ Jose Azurdia: [jazurdia@eastminster.us](mailto:jazurdia@eastminster.us)  
Music Intern ~ Alessandra Roberson: [aroberson@eastminster.us](mailto:aroberson@eastminster.us)

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

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

## MC3 Church

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

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

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

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

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

## First Moravian Church

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

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

## Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

## Mountain West Church

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

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

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

The Smoke Signal has a New Post Office Box!

Please note our new mailing address:

P.O. Box 1038  
Tucker, GA 30085



Fun-Filled Fundraiser to Benefit Tucker High School

Mark your calendar! The non-profit Tucker High School Foundation invites you to the upcoming Casino Night Fundraiser, benefiting our beloved Tucker High School, on Saturday, November 18 from 6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. at the Tucker Recreation Center, 4898 Lavista Rd, Tucker, GA.

The evening will be filled with fun, excitement, and an opportunity to make a positive impact on our local high school. It offers a fantastic time and an opportunity to contribute to enhancing the educational experience for Tucker HS students. Here’s what you can expect:

- A thrilling night of casino games including blackjack, poker, roulette, and more.
- Exciting baskets in the silent auction and a 50/50 raffle.
- Delicious refreshments and snacks to keep you energized.
- The chance to socialize with neighbors and meet new friends in our wonderful community.

Your attendance and support can truly make a difference in this fundraising effort. All proceeds from this event will go directly to THS teachers, staff and students, ensuring that our kids have access to the best resources and opportunities for their education.

If you’re interested in attending, you can buy tickets online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tucker-high-school-foundation-casino-night-tickets-712189426747?aff=oddtcreator>.

At the THSF Casino Night Fundraiser, you can roll the dice for a great cause!  
Ticket Price: \$50 per person (Includes 2 drink tickets, \$2000 in Tiger Bucks for gaming, and Food!)



City of Tucker Updates

**Fitzgerald Field:**  
This park is undergoing a major renovation. The park will be ready for spring play with turf fields, LED state-of-the-art lights, new restrooms, concessions, driveways, parking, and a playground.

**Lord Park:**  
To learn more about Lord Park, at Smoke Rise Drive, and to join the volunteer group, “The Friends of Lord Park,” visit [tuckerparks.org/lord-park](http://tuckerparks.org/lord-park). The FOLP works together with our city government to create a safe, functional, family-friendly park for the enjoyment and education of the community. This park is currently in the engineering phase. The next phase will be the bidding process, then construction is expected in 2024. This will be a passive park with walking trails, Disc Golf, and a playground.

**Local 7 Park:**  
Construction is set to begin in the first quarter of next year, with completion expected by the end of 2024. Plans include extra parking on Railroad and connections with the walking trails downtown. The city is working with Tucker Baptist Church, Tucker High School, and the business community to find parking solutions around Main Street.

**Tucker Police:**  
This summer, 27 arrests were made in connection with car and business break-ins (mostly around the Industrial Corridor area). Also, arrests have been made, and more are expected, related to intersection takeovers. Police urge you not to leave valuables in your vehicle, and if you must, do not leave them visible. Always call police if you are a victim.

**Public Works:**  
This division is busy replacing signs, potholes, traffic signals and everything to do with runoff (ditches, culverts, creeks, etc.).

*Want to keep up to date with more City of Tucker News?*  
Send your address to: [info@Tuckerga.gov](mailto:info@Tuckerga.gov) and you will receive the InTucker magazine in your mailbox each month.

-- *Mark your Calendars!* --  
**TASTE OF TUCKER**  
October 7, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The last **TUCKER CRUISE-IN** of 2023  
October 14, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



After a Few Years’ Hiatus, “Tour” is Back!

ART Station in Stone Mountain is pleased to present the 38th Annual A Tour of Southern Ghosts, a favorite family Halloween event, at the Historic Square in Georgia’s Stone Mountain Park.

This storytelling festival showcases the best ghost stories from the South. For six nights this fall, some 10,000 visitors will be guided on a lantern-lit tour of yesteryear vividly brought to life through the grand tradition of Southern storytelling.

The guided tours take place 7:00 p.m. through 9:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays for the last three weekends in October. Tours start approximately

every 10 minutes, and each tour is approximately 45 minutes. The tour features fun and spooky ghost stories from the Antebellum South; great fun for young, old, and of course, a perfect family outing. It’s for those who believe and for those who don’t and for those who just want to have a good time. On the “tour,” you’ll meet six professional storytellers as they spin tales of Southern ghosts along the lantern lit paths of the South’s most authentic and spookiest location.

This year’s tour is sponsored by Discover DeKalb, Stone Mountain Park, the Stone Mountain Woman’s Club as well as premiere sponsor, Publix Supermarkets and Charities.

Tickets are required for the Tour and a parking permit is also required to enter Stone Mountain Park. For additional information, visit the ART Station web site at [www.artstation.org](http://www.artstation.org), or [www.atourofsouthernghosts.com](http://www.atourofsouthernghosts.com). You can also call for more information at: (770) 469-1105.



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**Leaves are Falling**

Please keep leaves out of the storm drains in the streets in our neighborhoods. Flooding happens on the streets, when the water cannot drain away because of clogged leaves.

Rake up fallen leaves and put in paper yard bags along the curb in the front of your house. Tell your lawn service not to blow leaves into the drains on the streets. We can all make a difference!

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Tucker-Summit Community Improvement District Project News  
(Information from the TSCID Website)

The Tucker Summit CID continuously works to reduce traffic congestion and improve traffic flow throughout its corridors. With the current budget unanimously approved by the board, the CID was able to leverage \$2 million of membership revenue into \$7 million of projects, thanks to TSCID’s incredible relationship with the City of Tucker, DeKalb County and the Georgia Department of Transportation.

There are several projects in the works. Including: Improvements at Mountain Industrial Blvd and the US Hwy 78 interchange, Rock Mountain Blvd at East Ponce de Leon operational improvements, Mountain Industrial Blvd at Tuckerstone Parkway operational improvements, Hugh Howell Road at Mountain Industrial Blvd intersection improvements, Mountain Industrial Blvd at South and North Royal Atlanta Intersection Improvements, Various sidewalk and ADA ramp improvements on MIB, and District-Wide Street Lighting.

The Tucker Summit Community Improvement District exists to deliver the planning and leadership needed to reach new levels of success for its commercial property owners. The primary objectives of the CID are to grow property values and enhance the district’s prominence as the first choice for business growth and development.

Find out more about active projects as well as completed projects online at: <https://tuckersummitcid.com/>.

Tucker-Northlake CID Adds More Security Cameras Near I-285  
(Reprinted from the Tucker-Northlake CID Newsletter)

Security cameras across metro Atlanta are making a difference in locating suspects and gathering evidence for convictions. This summer, the Tucker-Northlake Community Improvement District (CID) increased the number of cameras in the CID, and more are on the way.

“We’ve had cameras in place for several years,” says Tucker-Northlake CID Executive Director Matthew Lee. “They’ve assisted law enforcement in apprehending suspects. It’s made enough of an impact that we’ve funded more cameras to close the gaps at major intersections along I-285.”

“Our message remains the same. If you are a criminal, Tucker is not worth your time.”

The DeKalb County Police are not the only law enforcement agency with eyes on Tucker. The Tucker-Northlake CID grants access to its cameras to law enforcement agencies across the region, including the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Since doing so, the number of daily searches using the CID’s cameras have increased by more than 1300%.

“With so many cities and counties in Georgia, it made sense to proactively give others access. If another law enforcement agency in the state wants to find you, you can’t hide in Tucker. Dozens of agencies use our cameras 24 hours a day.”

In addition to cameras funded by the Tucker-Northlake CID, the City of Tucker requires high resolution color cameras at all convenience stores. One at each register, check-out stand, entrance to the building, gas pump, and parking lot. DeKalb County adopted a similar requirement in June, as did the City of Atlanta in August.

The Tucker-Northlake CID encourages all businesses and residents in Tucker to register their security cameras with the DeKalb County Police through [connectdekalbcounty.org](http://connectdekalbcounty.org). Where appropriate, property owners should consider integrating their cameras with the county system.

The Tucker-Northlake CID represents hundreds of commercial property owners across Downtown Tucker, Northlake, and the Lawrenceville Highway Corridor. The Tucker-Northlake CID partners with federal, state, and local government on strategies to improve the right of way, attract community-oriented businesses, and keep the area thriving today and tomorrow. To learn more, visit [tuckernorthlakecid.com/](http://tuckernorthlakecid.com/).



Steve Henson Honored  
By Frank Luton, Smoke Signal Contributor  
and Smoke Rise Resident

Recently the interchange at US-78 and Mountain Industrial Blvd. has been named “Senator Steven B. Henson Interchange.” Steve and his wife Beth live in the Smoke Rise Community.

Steve was a graduate of Henderson High School and received a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics from the University of Georgia. After college, Steve was employed by the Laborers’ Southeast Training Fund, an environmental, construction and safety training business. From 1991 to 1999 and again from 2003 to 2021, Steve served in the Georgia State Senate. While in the Senate, Steve had many leadership positions including Chair of the DeKalb Senate delegation, Senate Democratic Whip, and Senate Minority Leader for more than nine years.

Steve has always been very active in community organizations and boards, and an advocate for protecting the environment, improving education, and promoting programs that assisted those with disabilities.

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Searching for Home

By Pat Soltys, Staff Writer

A few weeks ago, a big male husky showed up on the back steps of a Kanawha home about 5:30 a.m. He was lucky, he found dog lovers. He looked a little rough and was definitely very sad. Mark and Kim took him in, trying to feed him, but he would not eat and moaned pitifully. A few days later, I took him, as they already have four dogs.

This is a really sweet dog. We do not know where he came from, but we suspect that he was dumped. He may have been a stud male. His joints show that he probably lived on concrete a lot of his life. No collar, no chip. I decided to name him Zeus, as he is old enough to be Athena’s father. We tried to find the owner with postings, shares and reached a lot of people with one that thought he might be hers but different eyes.

First trip to the vet revealed he was heart worm positive, stage 2A with several other problems and would need a lot of medical care and attention. If taken to a shelter with his age

and health, it would be a death sentence. I decided to keep him and take care of him. Athena was not sure she wanted to share her person and did some acting out. For the most part, they get along. He is doing well with the treatments. His eyes are lively and shiny again, and he carries his tail high and proud again. He has also gained a couple of pounds. While he seems to have accepted this as home, he is a Velcro dog, sticking very close. I know that

he will return love in abundance and is certainly a dog worth saving. With all of the shelters so full, I hope others will open their hearts and homes to an animal in need, even as a foster. Zeus will be a good story as he gets well and acclimates. I am sure he will pick up some of Athena’s antics over time.



Kanawha Keeps Connecting!

By Susan Gilbert, Staff Writer

Since re-establishing the Kanawha Community Association in 2017, good things are happening here that we want to share with our Smoke Rise neighbors. Some neighborhoods are well ahead of us, and we love learning from what we see them doing. Some are where we were a few years ago and may benefit, as we share our story of connecting, communicating, and building community among our residents.

The first step for Kanawha was forming a strong, active, six-person Board of Directors, electing officers, writing bylaws, building a website (kanawhacommunityassociation.org), starting a KCA Newsletter, and asking people to serve on Committees and as Block Captains. We currently have 18 Block Captains, and that has really made a difference in our ~230 home development. Block Captains are responsible for keeping up with their neighbors’ contact information, introducing them to the website where they can register themselves to receive all our news and announcements, and putting out Member or Donor signs at the mailboxes of the residents who contribute each year to keeping KCA funded.

One of the most impactful activities the Block Captains undertake is organizing Block Parties for their neighbors to come together and get to know one another. Patty Geltz, Mary Warshaw, Pat Leipold, and Karina Akers are the “Gauley River Group” and deserve an award for being some of our most active Block Captains. They have volunteered on many of our initiatives and held several ice cream socials over the past few years. Here is a report on the most recent one provided by Patty Geltz:

Sunday afternoon, September 10 - also National Grandparents Day - the neighbors on Gauley River, Chastleton, and Fairgreen met in Sondra Dangelo’s driveway on Gauley River for a good old fashioned Ice Cream Social. Sandy graciously put up a tent with tables and chairs and provided fans to keep everyone cool. We were able to socialize, meet some new neighbors, and enjoy Blizzards and Dilly Bars from our local Tucker Dairy Queen. A big thanks goes to Manager Ali at Dairy Queen who was most accommodating and easy to work with. We plan to make this an annual event, as a good time was had by everyone who participated. These kinds of activities are helping us get to know our neighbors and strengthen our neighborhood.



Patty Geltz, Mary Warshaw, Karina Akers and Pat Leipold

Cultivating Young Minds: Join the Reading Revolution in DeKalb County


The DeKalb County Human Services Department is actively seeking volunteers for a tutoring initiative dedicated to enhancing the reading skills of students from kindergarten through third grade. The AARP Foundation Experience Corps has set its sights on tutoring 100 students this year, and the organization needs 100 dedicated volunteers to make this vision a reality. The program kicked off in September and is centered on assisting students who are currently reading below their grade level at five DeKalb County schools: E.L. Miller, Murphey Candler, Pine Ridge, Redan and Stoneview elementary schools.

These schools were carefully chosen based on an index developed by the United Way of Greater Atlanta, which evaluates 14 different indicators encompassing health, education, and family income within the community. Impressively, last year’s program saw 70% of the participating students from these same five schools elevate their reading proficiency by a full grade level. Unfortunately, the most recent state exam results reveal that a significant portion of elementary and middle school students in DeKalb are not reading at their grade level.

This valuable program is designed for adults aged 50 and older who hold a GED or high


school diploma. Volunteers will dedicate their time to assisting students through the academic year, concluding in May 2024. If you’re eager to make a difference and contribute to the reading revolution in DeKalb County, complete an online application at the following online link: AARP Volunteer Application - United Way of Greater Atlanta (unitedwayatlanta.org). This initiative stands as a collaborative effort between the county, the school district, the United Way of Greater Atlanta, and the AARP Foundation.


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In the Fall Garden *By Linda Karr, Staff Writer*

I love fall! It will soon be snuggle weather. The trees are beginning to turn colors, and the air is crisp and cool. Fall flowers are in bloom. It's peak migration for the fall songbirds, and our winter birds are arriving, too!

October is Bat Appreciation Month in sync with Halloween. Did you know there are more than 900 species, and they really are beneficial. They eat thousands of mosquitoes and insects in a single night. They also are pollinators. And guano, bat poop, is one of the best fertilizers around. So, welcome your bats all year round!

Fall is the best time for planting trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, perennials, and cool-season annuals. Plants established in the fall require less water and are less likely to suffer from drought-related stress next summer. Perennials planted in the fall will have a healthier root system making for larger plants and blossoms come next spring. Don't miss the opportunity to plant now. Your new plantings will appreciate it next spring and so will you!

Bulb planting time! Plant spring flowering bulbs (daffodils, iris, hyacinths, tulips) now (before the ground freezes). Apply fertilizer such as Espoma Bulb-tone. Plant bulbs in chicken wire "cages" to prevent squirrels and chipmunks from getting to them. Water well after planting. If you need to clean out your bed first, you can divide older bulbs and give some away or plant in another area. Continue to divide your hosta, coneflowers, daisies, and day-lilies.

Although most flowers fade as summer ends, chrysanthemums, aka "mums," are the classic autumn flower. Mums are available just about everywhere, and they come in a wide variety of colors - orange, yellow, pink, lavender, purple, red, copper, burgundy, and white. There are several species of mums with the perennial type generally being called a hardy mum that grows in hardiness zones 4-9 (*Chrysanthemum x morifolium*). These produce underground shoots that contain stolons (runners) that give the plant what it needs to survive the cold winter months.

Some people use them as a one-time display for fall decorating, but you can plant them and treat them like other perennials. Florist mums, or those sold in garden centers or grocery stores, typically are treated as annuals and are generally not as hardy because they don't produce stolons. However, with more attention, they can become perennials. Make sure to buy mums with lots of buds versus one in full bloom. It will provide a beautiful display for longer.

The best time to plant mums is in the spring, to give them a chance to become established. It gives them plenty of time to put down roots and get the sun they need to put on their fall display.

- Plant 18-36" apart according to their size/planting directions.
- Plant at the same depth as they were in the pot.
- Full sun (optimally 6-8 hours of direct sun)
- Rich, well-drained soil - add compost.
- Water evenly, don't let them dry out during the summer months.
- Apply 10-10-10 monthly, until flower buds appear.
- Pinching plants back from early spring to early August will give you a bushier plant with more and larger blooms.
- Mulch
- Do not cut back the foliage; wait until spring when you see new growth.
- Divide every few two to three years in the spring.

Growing Mums in Pots

- Keep them moist; if they are in wrapped containers, add drainage holes.
- If you're going to keep your potted mums for more than one season, it's better to repot them as soon as you get them using a well-draining potting mix and a larger pot.

Grocery store mums may do better to be left in the pot until spring and then planted in the ground (after the last frost). Remove all the blooms remaining. Bring them in before the first frost. Place in a cool location with little light.



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Greetings! My name is Virginia Rece and I'm your Tucker City Councilmember for District 1 Post 2.

There are lots of very cool things happening in Tucker, and I wanted to take a moment to fill you in.

With our city being just a little older than seven years, the council and staff are working hard every day to improve the quality of life of all our citizens and fulfill the priorities that you have asked us to address by reviewing our Master Trail Plan and deciding on the best opportunities for the next buildout. We've updated our Comprehensive Master Plan and are planning our new Town Green off of Main Street behind Local 7. We will be adding about 46 parking spots, play areas, places to picnic, a stage for special events and so much more! It will be a beautiful space. You can drive by and see the lot already in progress. We hope that by next fall, we'll be able to enjoy a completed Tucker Town Green.

We also approved our very first Economic Development Strategic Plan. We have so much in the works to improve the quality of life for every single Tucker citizen.

We completed our five-year Comprehensive Plan Update. It was an honor to serve on the Core Team with fellow Councilmember Cara Schroeder. Special thanks to Ryan Davidson and Stanley Harper for representing District 1 and serving on the core team!

During the summer, fellow Councilmember Roger Orlando (District 1 Post 1) joined me for a pop-up meeting to show the remaining options for the Rosenfeld Park tennis court improvements. After having multiple discussions with the neighbors who live directly around the park, I decided to host one more input meeting to give the community another opportunity to look at the design options and discuss the best one for the community. The neighbors that live directly around the park have seen a great increase in parking along the surrounding streets. This is a great thing! The park is very popular. We wanted to make sure we nailed down any remaining questions/concerns about the repairs and rebuild of the tennis courts and discussed the impact of increased parking around the park. I appreciated those who attended and gave their input. This rebuild will address the aging infrastructure and poor drainage as well as beautify the space. We'll have new, state-of-the-art lighting. Construction should start this fall, if all goes as planned. Very soon we'll have a dog park near the pavilion. This was a big request from the community, when we went through our Comprehensive Plan engagement period back in 2018.

There's so much more happening, but for now, if you'd like to join my newsletter, please visit my website at: [virginia-rece.com](http://virginia-rece.com). You can fill out your name and email, and we'll get started asap! And, as always, call me anytime! (678) 787-9605

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\$2 Million Endowed Scholarship for Mental Health Counseling

Asbury Theological Seminary announces a grant of \$2 million from the Bobbie Bailey Foundation of Tucker, Georgia, to establish an endowed scholarship for the Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling. The grant was announced August 24, 2023, by Audrey Morgan, Chairman and CEO of the Foundation and Bobbie Bailey’s sister and business partner.

Bailey was an entrepreneur of many interests, having run a successful manufacturing business, launched record labels, championed music education and women’s sports, and even participated in a Greenland expedition. She showed a knack for mechanics even as a child, working during World War II at a company that refabricated refrigeration compressors, eventually opening her own business, Our-Way, Inc., located in Tucker, Georgia, which specialized in remanufacturing commercial refrigeration and air conditioning compressors. She also started businesses in mail-order distribution, residential construction and real estate.

Bailey became a well-loved philanthropist, endowing programs in athletics, the arts and health care at several Georgia colleges and universities. The Bobbie Bailey Foundation was established in 1993. She died in 2015 at the age of 87.

Audrey Morgan was executive vice president and chief operating officer of Our-Way, Inc., from its founding in 1960 until the company was sold to Carrier Corp. in 2001. The sisters continued with their real estate holding company, building and renovating homes until 2015. She said of her sister, Bobbie Bailey, “This was back before women were involved in these types of businesses. She loved the manufacturing and the construction parts of the businesses, and I handled the corporate end of the business.” Morgan is a philanthropist in her own right.

Asbury Theological Seminary’s counseling program has offered degrees since 1975. For many years, it was a department within the Seminary, but with sustained growth in the program, the Seminary launched its new School of Counseling in 2022. Asbury Seminary offers master’s degrees in marriage and family, pastoral, and mental health counseling. The Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling recently achieved accreditation by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). A degree’s accreditation by this professional organization is achieved only after rigorous examination of its program.

The mission of Asbury Seminary’s School of Counseling is to equip students to serve diverse communities by facilitating healing and growth through reflectively integrating Christian values, principles and resources with professional counseling competencies and practices. In directing the Bobbie Bailey Foundation’s grant to Asbury Seminary, Morgan noted the explosive growth of the mental health crisis in America and her desire to see it addressed from a Christian perspective.

“Nearly one quarter of American adults suffers from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year, and the impact of COVID-19 has increased the need for counselors. We are only seeing the tip of the iceberg of mental health needs,” says Dr. Jacqueline Smith, Dean of the School of Counseling of Asbury Seminary. “Being able to produce competent counselors who the world can turn to during dark times is critical.”

Tammy Hogan, Vice President for Advancement, said, “This significant gift in the early phase of developing our School of Counseling program will help us attract quality students that are called to facilitate healing for our mental health crisis. We are blessed and strengthened by this gift and the partnership of the Bobbie Bailey Foundation with Asbury Seminary.”



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NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

Your Guide to the 2023 DeKalb County General Municipal Election

The General Municipal Election is November 7, 2023. Every registered voter in DeKalb County is eligible to vote in this election. As this significant date approaches, get prepared, and ensure your vote counts in shaping the future of our beloved community. Take the time to research the candidates running for office. These individuals will wield direct influence over critical aspects of our community, including our local parks, economic development, zoning, and the overall trajectory of the City of Tucker for the next four years. Your informed vote can be a catalyst for positive change!

Key Dates:

- October 10 = Last day to register to vote in this election.
- October 16 = Advance voting begins (at the Tucker Library)
- October 27 = Last day to submit a request for an absentee ballot application.
- November 3 = Advance voting ends.

November 7: Election Day

- If voting by mail, remember the completed absentee ballot must be turned in to DeKalb Voter Registration & Elections (VRE) by 7:00 p.m.
- If voting in-person on Election Day, you must vote at your assigned precinct.

City of Tucker Council Seats Up for Election:

- District 1, Post 2: Karen Berry, Virginia Reece (Incumbent)
- District 2, Post 2: Patrice Cosby, Vinh Nguyen, Derek West
- District 3, Post 2: Simone Pacely, Amy Trocchi

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST):

- Also on the ballot for DeKalb County residents, the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). Georgia Governor, Brian Kemp, signed HB 431 in May, approving a SPLOST II for DeKalb County and authorizing a Nov. 7, 2023, referendum. HB 431 received majority bipartisan support in both the Georgia House and Senate.

- If passed by DeKalb County voters, this one cent sales tax on items purchased in DeKalb County (excluding medicine and unprepared food) is projected to bring in \$41 million to the City of Tucker during six years. The money must be used for specific purposes, such as infrastructure projects like paving roads, building sidewalks and trails or capital improvements to parks, the recreation center, and tennis and pickle ball courts.

- On the November referendum for vote, along with SPLOST II, will be the Equalized Homestead Option Sales Tax (EHOST). EHOST provides property tax relief for DeKalb residents. It is a one-percent tax, and 100 percent of its revenue is used to reduce property taxes for qualified homeowners.

Stay Informed:

You can check the status of your application or your ballot at the Georgia “My Voter Page” online at: [www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do](http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do). If you have not received your ballot 10 days after it was issued, or if your ballot has not been accepted 10 days after you returned it, contact DeKalb’s VRE office at (404) 298-4020 or [voterreg@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:voterreg@dekalbcountyga.gov). To see sample ballots, key dates, and more information on voting in DeKalb County, visit [DeKalbVotes.com](http://DeKalbVotes.com) or call 1-866-DEK-VOTES.

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# Terror in the Daytona Cut: A Boating Adventure (Part 1 of 3)

By Kanawah Residents, Buddy & Marsha Pittard

Marsha and I had been cruising “The Ditch” as boaters call the Intercoastal Waterway (ICW) since dawn in our Carver 355 called “Soul Mates.” It was a beautiful summer day with a crisp blue sky and bright sunshine. We were aware there was a brisk wind on the ocean, but we were protected from it by the strip of land separating the ICW from the almighty Atlantic.

At the Conch Island Marina in St. Augustine, we rendezvoused with our friend, Robert Eiste, who was piloting his 45’ Chris Craft, the Lady Di. Because he was a more experienced captain, we planned on following him south in the protected waterway to Fort Lauderdale then head out the Daytona Cut for Grand Bahama.

The pace was slow because of all the no wake zones, the fishing boats we slowed for, the barges, and construction. Our boat kicks up quite a wake that can be disruptive for the smaller boats we were passing, and I was determined to make it a polite cruise all the way to Fort Lauderdale. Slowing for others also produces a rewarding “Thanks for the courteous pass,” message on the radio, which I enjoy hearing.

The VHS radio crackled with Robert’s Cajun voice asking, “Pace too slow, Buddy?” I replied, “Yeah, Robert, I’d like to get down south. What do you say we head out of the ICW and run outside at the Daytona Cut?” “Outside” means leaving the protection of the ICW and entering the Atlantic.

“I’m game,” I replied. We had run outside from Savannah to St. Augustine, and while it shook us up a little from the trailing wind and seas, it wasn’t total misery. Robert said, “You better ask Marsha.”

Marsha was a great first mate and not a complainer. She was still a boating rookie but loved cruising. “If we stick our nose out and it’s too rough, I’ll come back in,” I reassured her.

“Sure babe. You’re the captain,” she answered.

The winds had been from the north for several days at 20 to 30 mph, and they were not letting up today, but I was all fired up to get to Grand Bahama. “We’re game, Robert, let’s go for it.”

“Ok, it’ll be rough in the Cut but maybe not so bad once we get out.”

The Halifax River winds through Daytona under many new bridges. One is decorated with mosaics of dolphins and manatees and is the prettiest bridge piling I’ve ever seen.

South of Daytona, the Halifax passes a concrete jetty to port, which turns into rock just before being swallowed by the sea. (I always thought sea or ocean should always be capitalized like we do with the word God out of the respect due it.)

As we approached the Cut, I saw crashing surf hurtling into the air across the jetty. I nervously laughed and said to Marsha, “There’s still a blow out there. This is not going to be smooth.”

I was operating the boat from atop the flybridge that was totally enclosed in new canvas, so we were not really feeling the wind that had picked up. This was to be our first crossing of the big water and we had rehearsed many of our emergency drills. We knew exactly what we were going to do in an emergency. We had lashed the dingy on the forward deck and had a knife ready to release it without having to untie lines. Our life vests were out on the seat next to us, as we planned on wearing them on the crossing. We even had one for our miniature dachshund puppy, Zippy, who was now looking at me from between my legs with that, “Are you sure you know what you’re doing” look in his eyes.

Below decks everything was secure, and the boat was in perfect shape mechanically. But at this moment, danger never occurred to us, because we were “just going to stick our nose out” to see how rough it was.

Robert was forward of us about a hundred yards, so I figured he would warn us of any dangerous condition. I was just cruising along, pretty much at ease. His boat was 10 feet longer, lower to the water, and heavier. Our boats handled quite differently. I knew steering would be rougher for me on the fly bridge, but I had no idea how rough or what was about to happen.

The large, rounded waves that we first encountered quickly changed. We were in the Cut and in huge turbulence in a matter of seconds. The first wave did not roll. It came up lifting us high on a sharp precipice and then crashing us down on the other side driving the bow beneath the water. I had to stand and wedge myself between the seat and the console with my legs and hold the wheel to keep from being flipped forward over the console.

Marsha knew we were in trouble. “No Buddy! I’m not doing this!”



# HEALTH NOTES:

By Patricia Baumann, MD

## Protecting Your Health: New Vaccines for RSV

Exciting news has come out for prevention of lung infections caused by the highly contagious respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). This virus can cause a bothersome infection in most, but can be deadly to some populations, namely babies, older adults, and those immunocompromised. The RSV virus causes an infection in the cells lining the lung airways. The virus attaches to airway cells, and basically spreads by making little tunnels from cell to cell, which can lead to damage or death of airway cells.

Here is what can happen with an RSV infection: The infection starts in the nose and throat lining and then spreads to airway tubes of the lung. If it reaches the lower respiratory tubes (lower respiratory tract), the virus replicates more efficiently. As the virus damages airway cells, there is sloughing of the dead cells into the airway. There is a lot of inflammation and coughing. The body tries to fight the virus with immune cells, and the ensuing battle causes inflammation in the air tubes. Inflammation leads to swelling and increase in mucus. As the mucus thickens and airway swelling continues, the airways become plugged. Breathing becomes more difficult, wheezing can be heard as the airways narrow. Oxygen levels in the blood go down, as ability to absorb oxygen is compromised. Respiratory failure and the need for intubation and ventilation can occur. The infection can be severe or fatal. Most infections remain confined to the larger upper airways (upper respiratory tract) and run a milder course. You may have coughing for a longer period, due to airway cell damage.

May, 2023, the FDA approved Arexvy (GlaxoSmithKline) for the prevention of RSV in individuals 60 years and older. The vaccine uses a tiny part of a deactivated virus to stimulate antibody production. The study showed the vaccine reduced the risk of RSV lower respiratory tract by 82.6% and reduced the risk of developing severe disease by 94.1%. The FDA also approved Abrysvo (Pfizer) in May for use in those 60 years and older. These vaccines are covered by Medicare Part D. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends adults 60 years of age and older may receive a single dose of RSV vaccine, using shared clinical decision-making. That means doctors and their patients should have a conversation as to whether to get the vaccine. You will need a doctor’s prescription for this vaccine. According to the CDC, RSV leads to 60,000-120,000 hospitalizations and 6,000 to 10,000 deaths among adults 65 and older.

July, 2023, the FDA approved an RSV immunization for babies, Beyfortus (AstraZeneca). This is an injection of synthetically produced antibodies. This gives babies protection almost immediately, and lasts about six months—long enough to lower the risk during their first fall RSV season, when the virus is most dangerous to them. It does not take a lot of swelling to close a baby’s tiny airways. The CDC states that Beyfortus has been shown to reduce risk of both hospitalizations and healthcare visits by 80%. Beyfortus is meant for babies up to eight months as they face their first fall RSV season, and for at-risk children up to 24 months, through their second RSV season.

On August, 2023, the FDA approved the vaccine Abrysvo (Pfizer) for pregnant women 32 to 36 weeks. This vaccine causes the mother to produce antibodies, which are passed on to the baby. This vaccine reduces the infant risk 81.8% within 90 days after birth, and 69.4% within 180 days after birth. The FDA is requiring warning and further study regarding possible increase in preterm birth.

So consider getting the RSV vaccine, and talk to your doctor about getting it.

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## Out the Window

### Tadpole to Frog

Article and Illustration  
by Beth Henson

Glancing out the dining room window, I surveyed my golden, fall-transitioning yard and rapidly fading patio garden. Winter would soon be here, and the delicate lily of the valley would fully recede into the ground, accompanied by the nearby frothy ferns.

Sadly, my usually tinkling accent fountain had been

deadly silent since early July. After returning from a summertime beach stay, I had been surprised to discover a school of tiny tadpoles in the murky, undisturbed water. Mr. tree frog had been happily singing in the early summer months and had obviously attracted a mate and started a family. I reluctantly decided to let them borrow my fountain for a make-shift nursery.

Being patient had been a challenge with the long 16-week metamorphosis cycle. I daily checked their slow progress until finally I observed some gangly legs. Hopefully, they would soon be full-grown froggies, ready to navigate the outside dry world.

I'm glad you enjoyed the stagnant fountain my little friends, but it is time to be merrily hopping on your way, so my fountain can once again sing.



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Vineyard Voyages: Exploring Napa & Sonoma’s Wine Delights

By Amber Voss, Smoke Rise Resident and Registered Yoga & Meditation Teacher

By now, it is well known that I love all things yoga and meditation as evidenced by the previous articles posted in the Smoke Signal. Besides my love of yoga, I have a few other favorite things in life – traveling and great wine to name two – that bring me great joy. I love curating travel for family and friends too. All of these things matter to me a great deal so for this article, I am shifting gears from yoga to share about a recent trip to wine country.

In August, I had the pleasure of returning to Napa & Sonoma with my husband, two of our siblings and both of their spouses. It was my husband’s first visit to San Francisco and wine country, so it was doubly special to be able to play tour guide for him. For anyone who is interested in touring wine country, here is the itinerary co-created by my family for our weekend getaway to Napa & Sonoma.

My husband and I arrived to SFO mid-morning on day one, along with my brother and sister-in-law who were on the same flight. We split up upon arrival, so that we could see San Francisco and they could get to Napa to celebrate my sister-in-law’s birthday. The marine layer was very heavy, and it was a crisp 57 degrees with no humidity. We loved it, given the intense heat and humidity back home. We grabbed our rental car and got checked into the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway in Knob Hill.

One of the best ways to see San Francisco is by foot, so that was our chosen method of seeing the city. Our first stop was The Stinking Rose, a wonderful restaurant that is known for its use of garlic in all dishes. It is one that I always visit when in San Francisco. The next stop was a famous bookstore where the beatnik movement started – City Lights Booksellers. Ah, the smell of old and new books intermingling and three levels of never-ending joy! Shockingly, we only left with one book each and continued our walk through the city.

Other landmarks we visited included a stroll through China Town and glimpses of the Golden Gate through the buildings of downtown. Given our early start out of Atlanta

and a seven-mile meandering walk through the city, we called it an early evening and ordered delivery for dinner. We had the BEST Chinese food we have ever eaten from The Dumpling House. I can still taste the food and how wonderful it was! My husband and I are well traveled from our previous careers and we have explored Asia many times over. I randomly picked the restaurant based on ratings only. We were instantly transported with authentic food! It was fantastic!

On Thursday, we grabbed the other couple from SFO to head to Napa. We booked a great AirBNB in Santa Rosa, which happened to be next door to Annadel State Park with a lake and walking trails. We spent the afternoon exploring downtown Santa Rosa. We discovered a great old book shop – Treehorn Books – and spent time perusing the shelves. Again, I limited myself to one book only. Next, we visited The Steinhouse, which had excellent Belgian chocolate imported by the owner. He gave us free samples of everything, and we walked out with a bag of delightful spreads for breakfast along with great chocolate bars. We ate a late lunch/early dinner next to The Steinhouse at a wonderful little Italian restaurant called L’oro Di Napoli, with delicious food, great Italian wines, and a charming owner. I highly recommend a visit if you make it to Santa Rosa.

I would be remiss if I don’t give a shout out to the yoga studio that I practiced at in Santa Rosa while there – Revolution Yoga. The studio was very welcoming and packed for sunrise yoga. It was so nice to be a student and to still get my practice in while traveling. Check them out if you visit.

Now on to the wine tours, which consisted of several great stops on days three and four. My brother and SIL planned the stops on Friday, as they are members of two of the vineyards that we visited – Trincherro and Ballantine. Trincherro was by far my favorite of the day with a private tasting by an engaging hostess. We had an opportunity to tour their wine cave (amazing!) and try a variety of aging samples as well. Our Ballantine

tasting experience left a lot to be desired, as we were seated outside of the tasting room near their wine processing equipment and the host wasn’t engaged with us. Despite all that, the wines were great and we had a fun time.

We visited Long Meadow Ranch, a vineyard and restaurant for lunch on Friday. It is a farm to table restaurant and the food was wonderful! I wish we had had more time to explore the little downtown area of St. Helena, but we didn’t due to our need to get to our second tasting at Ballantine.

Our final day of wine tasting was hands-down the winner for all six of us. Our Saturday consisted of two stops – Capo Creek Vineyards & Vizlay Vineyard. We were introduced to Capo Creek courtesy of a set of friends who are childhood friends of the owners. I have received numerous bottles of Capo Creek wines over the years and wanted to meet the amazing owner, Mary Roy. She is a former physician turned vineyard owner/wine-maker who also happens to be a classically trained chef. To say we were wowed is an understatement! It was a six-course food event with paired wines overlooking the vineyard. It was simply delightful! The food was divine, the wines were superb but Mary herself was the gift of it all. She served us for all six courses speaking to the locally sourced food and the

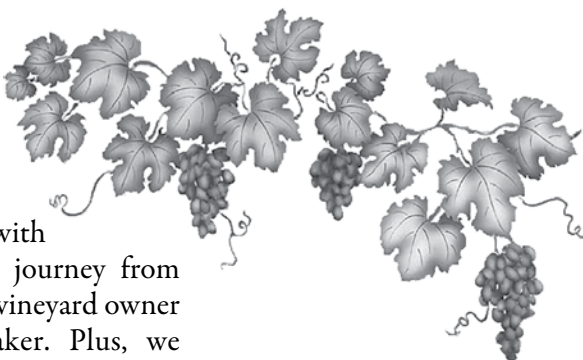
stories behind the wines along with her personal journey from physician to vineyard owner and winemaker. Plus, we were able to see her wine cave as well and learn more about the entire process. I was a big fan before visiting the vineyard and now even more so, after the beautifully curated and tasty three-hour chef’s experience. Capo is definitely deserving of more than five stars!

Our last vineyard was one I have visited years ago and was a member of for many years – Vizlay Vineyards. It was nice to return to see dad/daughter owners, John and Abby Vizlay. On my first visit to Vizlay, Abby was so engaging that she ended up going on other wine tastings with me and my friends. They have a small boutique vineyard with great wines that are reasonably priced. We learned so much from Abby as she guided us through the tasting and allowed us to ask questions. Naturally, I re-joined their wine club again, because it was simply too good to pass up. Definitely add these two vineyards to your wine country visit. You will taste great wines, but the owners of these last two tastings are what made the visits.

For anyone interested in planning a visit to Napa & Sonoma this year or in 2024, please know that prices have increased substantially for wine tastings, accommodations, car

rentals, and food as compared to when I last visited seven years ago. I had sticker shock a few times in all honesty. Another great tip is that you must book your wine tastings in advance as many vineyards no longer allow you to enter without an appointment. This isn’t true of all places but do be certain to book your top picks in advance. The same also applies to restaurants as many are fully booked two to three months in advance. Flights from Atlanta to SFO can be mitigated if you are a Delta SkyMiles member and keep a check on flight costs. You may also consider flying into Oakland as an alternative for cost savings. One more thing to mention, hiring a driver for your tastings is a must! There are many options available and they are pricey but do your research before booking. Uber and Lyft are there, but it’s not guaranteed you’ll make your appointments in time. Hiring a private car and driver ensures that no one is driving under the influence and that you return safely.

My hope in sharing this travel adventure is that it may inspire you to visit wine country and give you a few great recommendations to check out for yourself. Happy planning, y’all!



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Mountain Mums: Like Birds of a Feather, We Flock Together

On September 13, the Mountain Mums met at the home of Pat Baumann for a great meeting and lunch. Ann Fulmer, a past SRCA president, trained broadcast journalist, lawyer and bird lover, gave attendees a very interesting talk on the Migratory Patterns of Birds in Georgia.

Fulmer explained how Georgia is in the middle of the “Atlantic Flyway”-- one of eight migratory flyways in North America. These flyways are like superhighways in the skies that birds take to find new wintering grounds. Birds that take them use the same routes year after year and often make the same stops along the way. Most migrations of birds happen in the spring — February through March, and fall -- August through November. Migrating birds need food, shelter, and water along the way. Migrations are interrupted by habitat loss, pollution, lights, pesticides, predation, and plastic pollution.

On the day of the lecture, 300 million birds were on the move over Georgia. Most songbirds fly at night, so a good time to see them is from 30-45 minutes after sunset to around 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., their most active flying period. Hummingbirds fly 3,900 miles to their destination... and then come back to their breeding ground in the spring — another 3,900 miles! That calculates to millions of little wing flutters! Sparrows, crows, pigeons, and starlings do not migrate. Migrating birds, you might see over Georgia, are: Scarlet Tanager, Magnolia Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Green Heron, Eastern Wood Peewee and Yellow Billed Cuckoo. Also, American Redstart, Redwing Blackbird and Great Crested Flycatcher, Swifts and Swallow and Swainson’s Thrush and of course the Ruby Throated Hummingbird. So, get out your binoculars and bird book and watch the show!! Ebirds mobile is a good app to use to recognize bird songs/ sounds.

The Mountain Mums participated in the Decades of Daisies Flower Show at Callenwolde September 20 and 21 as clerks, hostesses and participants. This year, the free event celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Redbud Standard Flower show. The next Mountain Mums meeting will be at the home of Carol Wales. Mary Jacobson: membership chairman can be contacted for more details at (770) 316-3225.



Hostesses: Lucy White, Ann Fulmer(speaker), Barbara Luton, Pat Baumann, Colette Riefkohl & Sally Young

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Garden Clubs at the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony

Members of the Smoke Rise Garden Club and other local garden clubs attended the ceremony at DeKalb County Fire Rescue and Police Departments commemorating 9/11 at the DeKalb County Public Safety Complex.

Bagpiper Doug Harms began the ceremony at 8.46 a.m., the exact time of the first attack on the Twin Towers in New York on September 11, 2001. A prayer was said, and the National Anthem was sung by a female officer.

The beautiful wreath of red, white, and blue flowers was donated by the Garden Clubs of Georgia. Susan Turner, Scholarship Chairman and Representative of the Garden Clubs of Georgia, and poet Victoria Crosby, president of the Smoke Rise Garden Club, walked beside Alex Lane, Battalion Chief and Honor Guard Commander, as he placed the wreath in front of the memorial. Taps were played, then Victoria Crosby read her poem A Tribute to Heroes. A closing prayer ended the ceremony.

Smoke Rise Garden Club will hold a garage sale on Saturday October 21 at 9:00 a.m. on Antelope Lane.



Morning Glories News

By Quill Duncan, Morning Glories Member

After a hot summer, the Morning Glories were happy to meet again and look forward to a cool fall. The meeting was held at Park Springs and hosted by our member, Geri Burns. The club reviewed our plans for the upcoming months which included volunteering at the Redbud District Standard Flower Show at Callanwolde September 20 and 21 - celebrating the 50th anniversary of the show. Many members participated in various roles to create a beautiful experience for our guests, fellow garden club members and the public.

The speaker for the September meeting was Denise Wilson who is a Xerces Society Volunteer.

Denise joined the Xerces Society as a pollinator outreach ambassador in 2022, and she loves to share the joy of discovery, as people of all ages learn about these amazing little creatures. She is an environmental educator and Georgia Master Naturalist and has created and led adult education courses and student workshops across a variety of disciplines. Denise shared her enthusiasm for the many varieties of native bees. As she noted, native bees feed every day, regardless of the weather, whereas the non-native honeybees don’t like to get wet! She observed that we have hundreds of varieties of native bees that many of us have never noticed, but they are busy working to pollinate our crops and flowers and fruit trees.

In other club news, member Mary Cochran reported on the therapy gardens at GA Regional Hospital. Now there are gardens across the entire campus in treatment units and they include the large vegetable garden. The vegetables and fruits are planted, watered and harvested by resident patients and then enjoyed by the staff and patients. A garden volunteer resident is a chef, and he prepares stir fries and salads for his fellow residents at least once a week during the growing season. What a wonderful way to engage interest in the natural world!

Our next meeting will be October 10 at the home of Amie Walsh. The speaker will be Smoke Rise resident Amber Voss who will be sharing her experiences with bee keeping. If you would like to join us, please contact Janet McGinnis at (770) 939-8878.



Denise Wilson and Geri Burns

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Women of Empowerment Scholarship

The General Federation of Women’s Clubs’ Stone Mountain Woman’s Club will be awarding a \$1,000.00 scholarship this fall. It will go to a deserving woman who is currently enrolled in a college, technical school, or training program to complete her education. If you are interested in applying, or if you know of someone who would be interested, please request an application from the club at [info@stonemountainwomansclub.org](mailto:info@stonemountainwomansclub.org).  
The deadline for applying is Friday, December 1, 2023.



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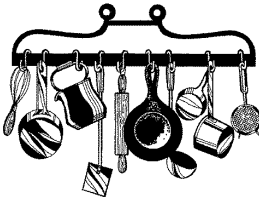
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Amen, Let’s Eat!  
by Joyce Ray



As the calendar changes from summer to fall, our kitchen fragrance changes to warm spices, like cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger. Those spices are abundant in this month’s delicious home baked breads that incorporate fresh apples, pecans and pumpkin. You won’t want to miss serving these to your guests or just indulging yourself for a few minutes with a cup of your favorite coffee or tea. Bread makes great gifts. They can be served warm, can be frozen or wrapped and stored in tins or Saran Wrap for up to a week. They keep well in refrigerator if tightly wrapped. \*I have found that one secret to making the perfect bread is to thoroughly grease and flour your pans. The grease should be solid shortening, like Crisco, not oil spray. Even the non-stick pans can sometimes disappoint you. Baking times are approximate, so plan to use an additional method to check for doneness. Bread loaves will always crack on the top, so make sure that happens. A wooden pick inserted in the center of the bread, when pulled out, should not have any wet batter on it. The bread should also feel firm and “bounce back” with no indentation when pressed.

Apple Strudel Bread

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease and flour one loaf pan.

Strudle mixture:  
½ cup brown sugar  
1 ½ teaspoons cinnamon.  
Mix well – set aside.

Batter:

2 large eggs	½ cup granulated sugar
½ cup melted butter	1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 ½ cups all purpose flour	1 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. baking soda	¼ tsp salt
½ cup chopped pecans (optional)	
2 cups chopped apples – I used Gala apples	

Whisk together eggs and granulated sugar in a large mixing bowl. Add cooled, melted, butter and vanilla and stir until well combined. Whisk dry ingredients and spices together and add to bowl. Mix just until combined. Mixture will be very thick. Add pecans and apples. Add half the batter to the prepared loaf pan. (\*See above) Sprinkle about ¾ of the strudel mixture on top, spreading evenly to edges of pan. Spoon the remaining batter on top of strudel and spread to edges of pan. Add remaining brown sugar/cinnamon to top and use knife to swirl to edges. Bake for 35-40 minutes or until lightly golden brown. Let bread cool before turning out on prepared plate before slicing.

Double Delight Pumpkin Bread with Caramel Glaze  
Makes two loaves!

1 (15 oz) can Pumpkin  
(Make sure it’s Puree and NOT Pumpkin Pie Mix. I use Libby’s brand.)  
1 cup vegetable oil (I prefer Canola)  
2 cups white sugar 2/3 cup water  
4 eggs 1 tsp. vanilla extract  
3 1/2 cups all- purpose flour 2 tsp. baking soda  
1 T. ground cinnamon 1 ½ tsp. salt  
1 tsp ground nutmeg ½ tsp ground ginger

In large bowl, mix together pumpkin, sugar, oil, water, eggs and vanilla extract until well blended. Sift together dry ingredients and spices. Slowly add flour mixture to pumpkin mixture and fold with spatula until just blended with no lumps in batter. Pour into prepared pans. (See above). Bake at 350°. When bread is done, remove from oven and cool for 10 minutes in pans, then turn out on racks that are placed on baking sheet – lined with parchment paper if desired.

Caramel Glaze:  
½ cup melted butter  
¼ cup granulated sugar  
¼ cup brown sugar  
1 small can (5 oz) evaporated milk or 2/3 cup Half&Half

Add all ingredients to saucepan and cook for approximately 5 minutes, stirring often. Remove from heat. Add ½ cup Powdered sugar and 1 T vanilla extract. Mix well until all lumps are dissolved. Allow it to cool to lukewarm, then drizzle over tops of breads.