

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 5

Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

September, 2026

www.smokesignalnews.com

Happy Labor Day to all of our hard-working neighbors!



Back to School?

By Joel Gilber, staff writer

There seems to be an increasingly common situation in my life: aches and pains, new ideas and threats to my comfortable point of views, and harassment by digital media for my attention. My friends keep telling me these are all character-building opportunities, and I keep telling them I already have enough character ... thank you!

My wife Susan was decluttering the basement last year and found two sketches I did of my oldest daughters 52 years ago and suggested that I should draw my other two daughters and our son. I had not touched a pencil or charcoal since then, but being a dutiful husband thought I would rather comply than to hear additional nagging over time, so we went to a hobby store, and I bought some paper and pencils.

Well, I may have had some ability 52 years ago, but it seemed to have lessened like every other physical ability I had, but I persevered. I went online to see what I was doing wrong and I found, unlike riding a bicycle, the skill was just not coming back.

I thought of signing up for an in-person art course for adults, but that seemed like overkill. Fortunately, Beth Henson, a friend of ours and an artist many of you know, looked at my feeble attempts and made some suggestions. With her encouragement and some practice, the process of relearning a skill gradually yielded acceptable results, and I even started to have some fun doing it once again.

Many of you have also encouraged me, and that is where I personally believe the key idea for this season rests. Our kids and grandkids are back in school, and we all know our interest in what they are learning and doing is so important to their success. We attend their plays and concerts, show up for meetings, and even pretend we can help them with their homework.

Learning new skills means accepting criticism and making mistakes are essential parts of that process. Our brains can't learn if all we hear is how wonderful we are, and while we need encouragement, we need thoughtful and loving suggestions for improvement.

Over this past year, I have met several professional artists including one who is world renowned, and they asked to see my work. I sheepishly showed them my sketches and they graciously offered supportive ideas. But one comment stood out. He said that art is personal and should mostly be about the joy it brings me in producing sketches of people I love in my life. He emphasized that nobody receiving a drawing that took 16-20 hours to produce would ever see it as imperfect nor as the work of an amateur. It was an act of love and therefore precious in its own right.

Perhaps that is why we are less eager to go back to school as we get older. We hold ourselves up to a higher standard than necessary as we learn new things. It is okay to just enjoy the process of giving something to our loved ones things they will cherish that may have taken so much of our time to produce.

Please consider joining your family of friends and relatives who are going back to school this fall. You could learn something you have always wanted to learn, or could return to those things you once cherished when you were young but didn't have the time to truly enjoy.



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A Warm Welcome to Ms. Peggy Davis

We are proud to welcome Ms. Peggy Davis as interim principal at Smoke Rise Elementary School. With 30 years of dedicated service in the DeKalb County School District, she brings extraordinary experience, proven leadership, and a deep commitment to students, families, and educators.



Throughout her career, Ms. Davis has served in a wide range of roles, including classroom teacher, EIP teacher, literacy coach, SFA facilitator, assistant principal, and principal. Her broad experience has given her a strong understanding of what students and schools need to thrive. Most recently, her leadership at Kelley Lake Elementary helped drive significant academic growth and earned notable recognition, including the 2025 Platinum Award for Greatest Gains from the Georgia Governor's Office of Student Achievement.

Ms. Davis is known for being warm, approachable, encouraging, and genuinely invested in the success and well-being of those around her. Her presence brings confidence, positivity, and kindness -- qualities that strengthen any school community.

Ms. Davis believes all students can learn, and that schools are strongest when educators and families work together in partnership. Those values are evident in both her leadership and the meaningful relationships she builds.

Smoke Rise Elementary is fortunate to have Ms. Peggy Davis at its helm, and the community looks forward to the continued impact of her leadership.

LABOR DAY VOLUNTEER DAY

Give back to the community during this special Labor Day volunteer cleanup and beautification event. Help remove litter, improve park spaces, and support efforts to keep natural areas clean, safe, and enjoyable for all.

Monday, September 7th, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Kelley Cofer Park

The *Smoke Signal* is enhancing some of our issues with **COLOR!**

Find out how to become a Patron or Sponsor a color edition at Staff@smokesignalnews.com

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



Smoke Signal

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

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

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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 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

SEPTEMBER 13

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

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

Deadline for classified ads is SEPTEMBER 10

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

Look for the wooden box labeled *Smoke Signal*.



Looking for a way to give back to your community? The SMOKE SIGNAL is looking for a few more writers or people with a passion for storytelling. SEND YOUR INQUIRY TO: staff@smokesignalnews.com

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

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

WEDNESDAY
5:00 p.m. - Attend our Wednesday Dinner
6:00 p.m. - Followed by activities and Bible Study for all ages

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

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

First Moravian Church

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

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

Mountain West Church

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

SUNDAY 8:45 a.m., 10:15 a.m., 11:45 a.m. Worship
MONDAY 7:00 p.m.

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

OUR FLYER POLICY HAS CHANGED:

Reservations Required:
Email Noelle Joy at Staff@smokesignalnews.com by 15th of the month

Cost \$150 by check to the Smoke Signal:
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Tucker, GA 30084

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Eastminster Church Welcomes Fall with a Season of Celebration and Community

As autumn paints the season with vibrant colors, Eastminster Church is hosting a series of meaningful and festive events designed to bring the congregation and community together.

A Joyful Noise: Join the Eastminster Community Children's Choir

Rolling registration is now open for the Fall 2026 season of the Eastminster Community Children's Choir (ECCC)! Rehearsals are held on Thursday afternoon. All children and youth ages 3 through 12th grade are invited to be part of this vibrant musical ministry. Whether your child is a seasoned performer or simply loves to sing in the car, ECCC is a welcoming space for every voice. No prior experience, or even church membership is required. Learn more or register at eastminster.us/childrenschoir.

After School with Heart: ESAP Registration Now Open

Need after-school care that nurtures more than just homework help? Look no further than Eastminster School Age Program (ESAP). Serving children ages 3 through 5th grade, ESAP is a trusted ministry of Eastminster Presbyterian Church offering safe, engaging, and faith-filled care for the 2026–2027 school year. Tours and enrollment are now available. Call 770-469-9489, email csears@eastminster.us, or visit eastminster.us/afterschool to learn more.

Join us for Parking Lot Prayers, Thursday, September 17, 4:30 PM – 6 PM.

Come, cast your cares upon God, because God cares. All are welcome to stop by for prayer.

Enjoy a Smooth Jazz Concert, Sunday September 20, at 3 PM at Eastminster Presbyterian Church.



We welcome you to worship with us and partake in the Lord's Supper on World Communion Sunday, October 4 at 10:30 AM. This special service highlights the diversity of the international church as congregations from many countries and cultures come together in spirit to share in the sacrament.

On October 25 at 10:30 AM, Eastminster will celebrate the annual Kirking of the Tartans during our Reformation Sunday service. This special worship service honors the church's Scottish heritage with the presentation and dedication of tartans, traditional music with bagpipes, and a reception following the service featuring shortbread cookies. It is a time to remember the church's roots, celebrate the Reformation, and enjoy the beauty of longstanding traditions.

Families are invited to join the fun at Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday, October 31, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. This festive morning features creatively decorated trunks overflowing with candy, fun games and crafts, a bouncy house, and the warm hospitality of Eastminster's volunteers. Participants are encouraged to decorate their own vehicles and hand out treats, creating a safe, joyful, and spirited celebration for all. Costumes are welcome, making this an event that children and adults alike can enjoy.



Whether you're looking for a place where children can learn, sing, and thrive or simply hoping to build new friendships, Eastminster offers opportunities for all ages.



Meet Dietre Ffrench

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As a resident of the Smoke Rise community, I'm deeply connected to the people and businesses that make this neighborhood unique. With over 20 years of experience, I help my clients realize the full potential of their homes. Thinking of selling? Let's connect and turn your real estate dreams into reality, together.

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Tucker Recreation Events in September

Go to Tuckerga.gov/parksandrecreation for more sports, crafts, kids activities, senior citizens activities

NATIONAL FOOD BANK DAY

Support those in need by participating in National Food Bank Day. Drop off non-perishable food items to help stock local food banks and make a difference in the community.

Saturday, September 5, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tucker Recreation Center

Donations: Non-perishable food items encouraged!

Contact: Stacey Harris sharris@tuckerga.gov



FREE! UGA TAILGATE

Cheer on the Georgia Bulldogs at this UGA Alumni-sponsored tailgate event! Enjoy food vendors, family-friendly activities, and plenty of team spirit leading up to kickoff. Bring your friends, wear your red and black, and get ready for an exciting game day atmosphere.

Saturday, September 26, Time TBD

Tucker Town Green

Age(s): All Ages

HOME HYDROPONICS WORKSHOP

Learn how to grow plants without soil in this introductory Home Hydroponics Workshop. Participants will explore simple hydroponic systems, plant care, and set up techniques to start growing herbs or small vegetables at home as well as create their own to take home. This is a great hands-on program for beginners interested in sustainable gardening.

Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Tucker Recreation Center

Age(s): 16+, Fee applies

PARKS IN THE DARK: FLYING INSECTS

Step into the role of an entomologist during this nighttime exploration of flying insects. In partnership with UGA, participants will learn how scientists study insects in the field. This FREE evening will include a guided outdoor experience using a blacklight setup to observe and identify nighttime insect activity. We will wrap it up with a campfire and s'mores!

Friday, September 18, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Henderson Park East

Age(s): All Ages

PAINT LIKE BOB ROSS WORKSHOP

Create a beautiful Bob Ross-style fall landscape painting in just one class, even if you've never painted before! Bob Ross Certified Instructor Jeremy Rogers will guide you step-by-step as you create a vibrant autumn scene using official Bob Ross techniques and supplies. All supplies are included.

Saturday, September 19, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Tucker Recreation Center

Age(s): 16+, Fee applies

FALL FAMILY NATURE CRAFT WORKSHOP

Celebrate the first day of fall with a fun, hands-on Family Nature Craft Workshop. Create simple crafts using seasonal, nature-inspired materials while enjoying time together outdoors.

Tuesday, September 22, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Tucker Recreation Center

Age(s): All Ages, Fee applies

NATURE CANDLE MAKING WORKSHOP

Create your own autumn-inspired candle with Ellis Candle Company, inspired by the cozy sights and scents of Tucker's parks: think crisp air, fallen leaves, and warm spices. You'll be guided step-by-step as you craft a candle that reflects your favorite fall moments. All supplies included.

Saturday, September 26, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Tucker Recreation Center

Age(s): 16+, Fee applies

Contact: Charlie Chavez, Outdoor Recreation Coordinator
cchavez@tuckerga.gov

Smoke Rise Baptist Academy of Arts
is Back in Session!

By Dennise Burcham,
Activities Director

The Fall semester began August 10 for our Music and Arts Academy. Music and Dance are offered Fall and Spring semesters. Young Drama (ages 6 -9) will begin in September for the Fall only and Junior and Teen Drama will begin in the Spring.

MUSIC - We offer music lessons in piano, violin, viola, voice, guitar, ukulele, and drums. You may opt for 30-, 45- or 60- minute weekly lessons. There are 32 lessons from August 10 - May 17.

DANCE - Gladys Winter will teach our elementary HipHop dance class on Thursdays at 5:30-6:30. Gladys has been a long-time dance student with us and we are thrilled to have her work with our elementary dancers. Ms. Greyson will offer her Dance Fusion classes on Tuesdays 5:30-7:00 / 7:00 - 8:30.

YOUNG DRAMA - is for ages 6 - 10. The class will begin in late September and present 2 shows on November 6 & 7. The shows are written for the younger actors and allow our youngest stars their time in the spot light! Rehearsals will be Mondays 6:00-7:15 with added Friday / Saturday time closer to show week. A full schedule will be made available by the first rehearsal.

Spring Semester

JR DRAMA is for ages 9 - 13. The class will begin in late January and present 4 shows. Show dates are still being considered for approval and information will be sent ASAP.

TEEN DRAMA is for ages 13 - 17. The class will begin early spring and present 4 full length musicals. Show dates are still being considered for approval and information will be sent ASAP. You may register at www.SmokeRiseBaptist.org/Arts. New students need to fill out the full registration online. Cost of lessons can be found online.



Summer Fun

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club held their summer picnic at the home of Pat and Michael Sabatelle on the lake in Conyers, GA. Member teams played corn hole, kick the soccer ball and dice throw to earn points. Prizes were awarded to the top three scoring teams. Lunch was a potluck cookout with hotdogs and hamburgers. Smoke Rise residents, Marty Bryan, Kathy Gallo, Jolene Davis and Barbara Luton, participated in the games and enjoyed the picnic. Regular meetings will begin the second Thursday in September.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR:
The Future of a Smoke Rise Landmark

I believe that compromise is the only solution that will promote both, a needed road improvement and a preservation of a community landmark. A Smoke Rise Chimney Stack considered for demolition has been an iconic landmark since the early days of this community. I suspect that commuters taking a short cut through Smoke Rise are not emotionally attached to it. But for us, Smoke Rise residents, this monument ought not to be disposable.

Since being strategically installed at the crossroads of Hugh Howell Road and Rosser Road some fifty years ago, this chimney stack symbolized a sense of place and arrival home for generations of residents. It evokes heath and home. For a residential community that did not organically develop around a city green or a town square this monument and this intersection hold a central position. Removal of a landmark will violate a memory and a history.

As someone who grew up in an old European town, I lived surrounded by old monuments that preserved a sense of community and belonging though wars, occupations, and economic misfortunes. It was the residents that protected and preserved them for the future generations. I wish that our community does the same with our monument.

Driving on a narrow road several decades ago on a small Croatian island of Cres my husband and I encountered a different kind of landmark that would have been destroyed had it not been for the community that cherished it so much that they stood up in defense of it. A several hundred years old mulberry tree was to be cut down to make place for a new road to pass through the center of a village. With old homes lining up the street there was indeed no other place for the road to go. But the villagers stood up in defense of a tree and the compromise was found. A two-lane road splits around the tree, narrows, and merges again. Like most travelers who drive through this village we stopped the car faced with a tree in the middle of the road. Then we parked and walked to honor the tree and the people who made such a choice. In the cavity of the old trunk stood a makeshift altar to Mother Mary complete with candles, flowers, and a handwritten sign pointing to ice-cream and fresh figs in three languages. We smiled and followed the sign to buy ice cream and take picture of a tree. Most cars were slowing down and stopping. My husband said in awe: This place is an example of how the sacred and the secular can coexist. And he was not referring to the altar.

Spomenka Newman
Smoke Rise Resident

Parents Night Out and
Fall Break Activities



SEPTEMBER –
APPLE THEME!

Celebrate the season with our apple-themed Parents Night Out! Inspired by Johnny Appleseed Day, kids will enjoy caramel apples, play Apples to Apples, and take part in a variety of fun apple-themed activities. It's a great night for games, laughter, and building friendships in a safe and welcoming environment.

Registration opens
Monday, August 17.
Friday, September 25
5:30-8:30 p.m.
Tucker Recreation Center

FALL BREAK FUN!

When school is out, let your kids spend their days enjoying the outdoors, making friends, and having fun with Tucker Parks & Recreation's Out of School Time program.

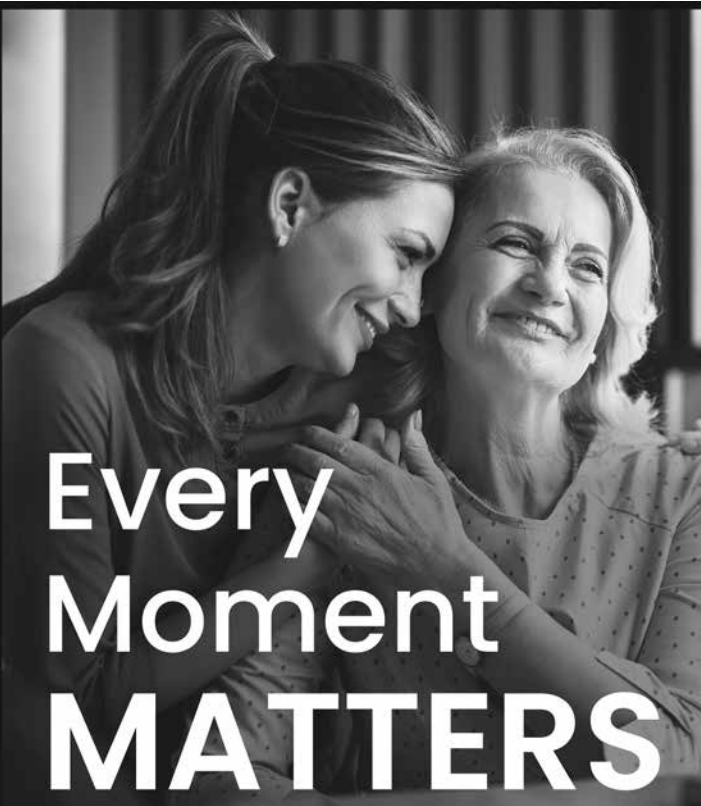
Each day is packed with safe, engaging activities designed to keep campers active and entertained. Registration opens Friday, September 4 at 10:00 a.m. Spots are limited. Register early so you don't miss out!
October 6-9
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Tucker Recreation Center
Age(s): 5-12, Fee applies

Check out La Vista Lions Club

WHO WE ARE:
Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization with more than 1.4 million members in approximately 46,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas around the world.
The Tucker La Vista Lions Club is comprised of ordinary men and women eighteen years old and older, who have come together to serve others. The La Vista Lions Club received its International charter on November 24, 1953. We changed our name to the Tucker La Vista Lions Club in 2018 to reflect our commitment to the city of Tucker, GA.
The Club is one of 56 clubs in Georgia Lions District 18-I (one of four districts in the state)

WHAT WE DO:
The Tucker La Vista Lions Club's primary purpose is to serve the communities in our area and provide fellowship among like-minded individuals. Please visit our Facebook page to learn more about the causes we support and the work we are doing to serve our community.
<https://www.facebook.com/LaVistaLionsClub/>

WHEN AND WHERE WE MEET:
Dinner meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month and begin at 6:30 p.m. at Tucker Christian Church, 4291 Lynburn Drive, Tucker, GA 30084.
If you would like to attend one of our meetings, please contact one of our members below. Visiting Lions from other clubs are always welcome.
Ray Baskette, 770-939-4340
Reg Curlee, 770-498-0509
Helen Troha, 770-498-0280





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Creeping cucumber vine – an annual headache!

This year has we’ve had an unwelcome native vine invade our garden in multiple areas. The creeping cucumber vine can grow up to twenty-five feet in one season and is very invasive and difficult to eradicate. It’s easy to pull up but you can’t seem to get rid of it! The best tactic is to get it out before it goes to seed.

Looking for something fun to do with the kids? Visit PDKairshow.org for all the details about this event at DeKalb Peachtree Airport, 2000 Airport Road, Atlanta

What’s New in Tucker?

by Linda Karr, Staff Writer

Here are the most recent newcomer businesses (or ones you may not know about) in Tucker:

Bliss Gould Child Development (offers several childcare options throughout the whole year) located in the lower level of First Atlanta Christian Church at 4532 Lavista Rd.

El Taco Naco 2
Family-owned Mexican taqueria located at 1861 Mountain Industrial Blvd, Ste 104. (picture to the right)



Fifth Third Bank is open at 3925 Lavista Rd.

Pelican’s SnoBalls opened at 4059 Lawrenceville Hwy on August 12. Owner Tracy Lawrence had family, friends, and a host of council members and the DKPD join in the festivities. (Owner Tracy pictured, left)



Olivia Hayes Memorial Playground is an ADA compliant playground at Fitzgerald Park and Sports Complex. (picture of ribbon-cutting to the right)

And...**LL Bean** is coming to Lulah Hills (formerly North DeKalb Mall)



Somewhere Over the Rose

Written and performed by Kathy Halenda

PLAYING September 11 & 12

ART Station Theatre

5384 Manor Drive in Historic Stone Mountain Village.

www.artstation.org

reservations call Box Office: (770) 469-1105

Remember ART Station’s raucous production of Sophie Tucker: *Last of the Red-Hot Mamma’s* starring Kathy Halenda? Well, she’s back. Welcome to *Somewhere Over the Rose*, a celebration of the songs, styles and stories of two incredible yet completely different

American icons: Judy Garland and Bette Midler. One is long gone and one is still kickin’. One was a vulnerable, elegant train wreck. The other is a tough, trashy ... train. What could these two stars possibly have in common? Well, this show celebrates their songs, stories and similarities... as well as a few freaky coincidences. So, join Kathy on a sophisticated and sassy adventure...Bon Voyage!

Kathy Halenda is so pleased to be back in lovely Stone Mountain, at the ART Station theatre! Audiences here may remember her other one-woman shows, Sophie Tucker: *Last of the Red-Hot Mamas* and *The Brassy Broads of Broadway*. She also played the crusty bingo broad, Vern, in *Bingo* here at ART Station.

A professional actor and singer for over thirty years, Ms. Halenda has performed in over 200 productions, including twenty national Broadway tours, where her roles included Mama Rose in *Gypsy*, Mae West in *Ziegfeld*, Rafaela in *Grand Hotel*, Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Nancy in *Oliver* and Maggie Jones in *42nd St*.

Kathy is a huge fan of ART Station. David Thomas and Michael Hidalgo took her and her Sophie Tucker cabaret on a road trip to perform at the acclaimed Piccolo Spoleto Festival, where they had a marvelous time representing ART Station and performing for Charleston audiences. She is delighted to be back among her Stone Mountain “family!” Please come hear her incredible voice in *Somewhere Over the Rose*.



techtalk By Susan Gilbert, Staff Writer

Decorating Made Easy

In the July paper, I shared some of my recent adventures with ChatGPT, which I now call Chat because we are on a first-name basis. Having moved to the \$20/month version called ChatGPT Plus, I have not hit the limit on how many images I can create each day, and I create dozens. My current focus is on upgrading our curb appeal and decorating a few walls.



Curb Appeal. Beginning by uploading a picture of the façade to Chat with the question, “How can we make our entrance more interesting?” produced three suggestions: Classic Southern, Modern, and French Country. We preferred Country French shown here and will begin moving in that direction.



Decorating Walls. The fear of putting nails in walls kept me from hanging pictures because I was never sure I would like the final product and had trouble envisioning how it might look. Chat has resolved that, and all I must do now is find the pictures and accessories for the wall.

Getting Started. So, if you are thinking about improving your home’s curb appeal, redecorating a tired room, or simply wondering what your house would look like with a few changes, give Chat a try. And if you are enjoying it but finding the limited number of pictures you can do each day frustrating, try the Plus version.

Experiment. Keep in mind that you can experiment with each image provided by Chat. You can ask to have a piece of furniture moved or replace with something else, or for different wall colors or patterned draperies. Add a rug, move artwork. Keep experimenting until you find an idea you love.

You will also appreciate that once you find the image you like, you can print it and use it as a guide for making the changes yourself or give it to a contractor to make the changes for you.

Decorating made fun and easy!



Afternoon Tea

You are Cordially Invited

Afternoon Tea and Poetry
September 10th at 3pm.

SRCC Member and British Poet Victoria Crosby
will read from her latest poetry book, *BritCentric*,
a collection of British themed poetry
as you enjoy a delicious British style afternoon tea & prosecco.
Wear a hat or fascinator, and bring your favorite teacup if you wish!

Call Kourtney Nealy at SRCC for reservations.
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Together, A Community Celebration of Our Shared History
Saturday, September 26, 2026
DeKalb History Center, Lobby, 101 E Court Square, Decatur, GA 30030

Museum Hours:
Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Free Admission

Our new exhibit, *Together*, will highlight DeKalb County citizens through photographs, oral histories, an all-ages interactive activity, and artifacts from our collection and local residents.

Together
A Community Celebration of Our Shared History

ANNUAL TKR
SUMMER
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FREE FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT SERIES
Kick off your weekend with our final 2026 First Friday Tucker Summer Concert! Join us at Tucker Town Green for a free live concert, with the FOOZERS (Foo fighters/Weezer Band) Enjoy activities to keep the kids smiling, free Summer of Fun Concert Series T-shirts (while supplies last), and tasty food vendors! Park opens at 5:30 p.m. • Music starts at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY SHOWCASE
Join us for an afternoon of great tunes, fresh air, and community vibes with STRANGER COMPANY band. Sunday, September 13 at 12 noon on the Tucker Town Green. Bring a picnic and chairs and let the kids run around.

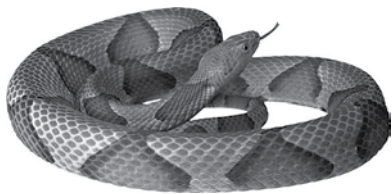
Forgiveness is Healing
Victoria R. Crosby

Forgive us we ask God, as we forgive them,
those who hurt and abuse us,
then we say Amen.
But do we believe the words that we say
when we ask for forgiveness
from God when we pray?
Or do we really mean forgive me
but not them,
as they may very well hurt me again.

How many times do we have to forgive?
Seven times seven, or as long as we live?
How many times have we said we'd forget?
We promise forgiveness to others and yet
deep inside us we hold onto the ache,
and cannot relinquish another's mistake.

Snakes & Ticks & Bugs, Oh My!

Keep your eyes out for copperheads, ticks and mosquitos this time of year. Snakes can be hard to see due to their natural camouflage. One was killed in a neighbors yard after coming back to rest in the driveway several times. I encountered one in the shade on a walk at NIGHT. A friend and I saw another one on a walk in the neighborhood and dispatched it. Ticks and mosquitos can spread disease so check your body after walks in the wood and use insect repellent. Empty all standing water around your house. I was surprised to find more standing water pools around my house than I thought were there. Also, pay attention while mowing your lawn. I have heard several incidents of disrupting ground nests of yellow jackets.



BACK to SCHOOL: WAITING for the SCHOOL BUS

By Cheri Schneider, Staff Writer

As I drive the Park to walk in the early mornings of my days off, I notice things. Mostly, my head turns for flowers and landscaping. But now that school is back in session, I notice the traffic. Traffic is much heavier and some people are in a hurry, scooting through lights well after the yellow light has flashed. And I notice kids waiting at the ends of driveways for the school bus. And I notice the school buses themselves. Their drivers have learned to navigate traffic circles, deal with road construction and be patient in heavy traffic at stop lights. And they stop on main roads to pick up school children, extending the bus arm and flashing their lights red.

Several years back I got a ticket for not stopping for a school bus on a four- lane road with a center turn lane. It did not have a concrete or grassy road divider. I was unsure if I was supposed to stop, and it seemed several other drivers were also confused, so I continued on. When the ticket arrived in the mail I was surprised. Since then, I have reviewed the bus stop rules. You might want to do so too.

According to Georgia Code Title 40, chapter 6, Article 2, Section 40-6-163, drivers MUST come to a complete stop in both directions and remain stopped until the school bus lights have stopped flashing and it has started moving again. A hefty fine and points will be the result if you do not comply. Criminal charges may apply if an accident occurs. This law applies to all roads including multi-lane highways UNLESS there is a grass median or concrete median separating the lanes. Another exception is a four-or-more lane road with only one lane of traffic traveling in the opposite direction of the bus. In this case only vehicles traveling in the direction of the bus must stop as there will be at least 3 lanes of traffic stopped in the direction of the bus.

ON a three-lane road (one lane is a center turn lane), all cars must stop. They must remain stopped until the bus has loaded or unloaded students and has started moving again.

Please pay attention! It is ALWAYS better to err on the side of caution. If a school bus is stopping and the red lights and arm are not yet extended, slow down and stop. Watch for children as you pass driveways where they may be waiting for a bus. Do not start moving again until a bus loads or unloads.

Also, be careful at railroad crossings. Buses are required to stop at all active and passive crossings even if they have no passengers. They must stop no closer than 15 feet from the crossing and open the doors to listen and look for trains before proceeding.

Pay attention and slow down! Our children's lives depend on adult drivers doing their job... driving safely and obeying traffic rules.

Do You Know Where Your Water Shutoff Is?

By Alex Helton, fellow homeowner

Quick question: Could you find your home's water shutoff valve in an emergency? I don't mean the shutoff at the curb but rather the one you can access quickly to control things.

Knowing where it is is vital. A broken ice maker line, dishwasher connection, or pipe can release a surprising amount of water quickly—and every minute you spend searching for the shutoff can add to the damage.

I hate to admit it, but for a long time I didn't know where mine was. I had a vague idea it was in a storage room in our basement, but 'somewhere in that room' wouldn't cut it while water was running up a repair tab.

It doesn't matter if one person in your household has the intel. Everyone needs to know since each extra moment it takes to track down the person with the information comes at a cost.

Here's the challenge: Find out right now where it is. While you're there, make sure you know how it operates and that it actually turns. For a traditional round valve, remember: lefty loosey, righty tighty. I suggest you label it with a ridiculously obvious sign so it's visible, even with sweat in one's eyes. (Hey, it's Georgia. I have sweat in my eyes about 200 days out of the year.) Final step: share this intel with every household member and quiz them on it a week later. When you are done, take the rest of the day off or at least enjoy a quiet moment of satisfaction.



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NEWS YOU CAN USE
BY AVIVA HOFFMANN, STAFF WRITER

Got Election Mail? Verify Before You Respond

As preparations continue for the Nov. 3, 2026, General Election, DeKalb County Voter Registration and Elections (DeKalb VRE) is encouraging residents to verify their voter registration information through official election sources before responding to voter registration applications or election-related mail received from third-party organizations.

In the months leading up to every major election, you may receive registration forms and election-related mailings from civic organizations and advocacy groups. While some of these mailings may include official State of Georgia voter registration applications, the mailings themselves are often created and distributed independently and are not affiliated with DeKalb VRE or the Georgia Secretary of State's Office.

Recently, the Georgia Secretary of State's Office reported receiving some complaints about voter registration mailers being sent to deceased Georgians. Officials also reported that applications have been mailed to voters who are already registered at their current address. These situations have raised questions among residents about whether they need to complete and return the applications they receive.

To help reduce confusion, you should verify your registration directly with DeKalb VRE, before completing or submitting a voter registration application received in the mail. If you're already properly registered, you may not need to take any action. DeKalb VRE is your official source for voter registration information, election deadlines, polling locations, and voting resources.

You can also expect to see a new public awareness campaign from DeKalb VRE. The campaign is designed to help residents distinguish between official election communications and third-party outreach. Throughout the election season, the department will share timely updates and voting resources through its website, social media platforms, digital newsletters, and community outreach efforts.

To further help you prepare for the election, DeKalb VRE is hosting its Registered and Ready Block Party on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 4380 Memorial Drive, Suite 300, Decatur. The free, family-friendly event will feature live entertainment, food trucks, games, community resources, and on-site election services, including voter registration, registration verification, voter identification card issuance, and other important election information. Whether you're registering to vote for the first time, updating your registration, or simply confirming your current status, the event offers a convenient opportunity to get election-ready before the Nov. 3 General Election.

As a DeKalb resident, you can also verify voter registration status, find election deadlines, locate your polling place, and access other official voting information by visiting www.dekalbvotes.com or calling DeKalb Voter Registration and Elections at (404) 298-4020.

Oh, Deer!

Deer have been voracious this year. In the past my husband sprayed once a month or so with Liquid Fence and we had few problems. This year he has been spraying about once a week and alternating with I Must Garden deer spray. They have eaten all our hosta leaves, many hydrangea flowers, daylilies and more. Anybody having luck with something else this year?





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HEALTH NOTES:

By Cheri Schneider, M.D., Staff Writer

Should you use CHAT GPT to look at your Test Results? My OPINION

I seem to be spending a lot of my time replying to questions patients are asking about ‘abnormal’ test results. Many times, they have already used ChatGPT on these results and are using quasi-medical terms they mined from the Chat sites to formulate their questions. Should you be using these AI tools to understand your results? This is my take on the issue... it depends!

One of the many things that has changed about modern medicine is the idea that patients are the ‘owner’ of their medical information. This has morphed into the idea that patients need to know immediately about every single detail of their health care. This includes labs and images done and notes written in the chart. The Laboratory we use most often changed their procedure on publishing labs several years ago. They now immediately send results to patients via their medical portal. This means the patient often sees the results before the doctor or provider has seen them.

I also noticed that one of the many electronic medical record portals posts results of images such as CT scans, and MRI scans—with the radiologist report. This is published many times before the ordering doctor is aware it has been posted. This immediate access to results has pushed many patients into panic mode, because the ‘abnormal’ results are in red or highlighted and an abnormal is, well, abnormal, right? Well, again, it depends!

The Doctor-Patient relationship in my opinion is more than just a consumer- business relationship. It involves, nuance, judgement and a knowledge of the overall picture. It involves an understanding and knowledge of the patient, in the context of their family and their culture. The provider is a guide, encourager, helpful reference and odds maker. That is what medicine sometimes is... the odds are that the neighing you hear comes from a horse, not a zebra. If you are in Africa on the Savannah, it may be a zebra, not a horse. This type of nuance is why you go to your doctor. You are asking their opinion. And ChatGPT doesn’t know this.

While it is somewhat comforting that you can have all your results in one place from all or most of your doctors, it can also create confusion and much anxiety as you struggle to know what these results mean. One patient recently was having trouble sleeping and was very anxious after googling and ‘researching’ his results. He was talking about stem cell transplants, chemo and survival rates even before his diagnosis was clear. ChatGPT told him it was cancer. And it may be. But more steps needed to be taken to find out.

Is it best to go down the road without someone guiding you stepwise down the path? Or is it better to have someone putting results in perspective, telling you what it is not, or what it may be and guiding you along the way? If further testing or follow up are needed, you can take the steps together.

Here are a few helpful tips, I tell patients:

- Some ‘abnormal’ lab results are what I call ‘one-offs’. The likelihood that a panel of 20 tests will have one or two ‘one-offs’ is statistically possible. These are not always a true abnormal and often do not mean anything by themselves. A pattern or a trend may put it in perspective.
- Some ‘abnormals’ are lab errors, handling errors, sitting in the box waiting for pick up or calibration errors. Quality issues occasionally happen. Rechecking the lab value may settle the issue.

Some lab results are ‘abnormal’ because certain medications, time of day or fasting versus not fasting can affect results.

Many ‘abnormal’ images include changes of aging or incidental findings on MRI, Xray and CT scan and may not correlate with your clinical findings. More testing or imaging may be required. Sometimes these are variants of normal. Hearing your doctor’s opinion on this is better than asking ChatGPT.

Lastly, Don’t assume a test result is normal just because you haven’t heard anything from your doctor. Occasionally images and labs are misplaced, lost or not seen by the provider. Ask if you do not get a result in a reasonable timeframe. One or two weeks is a good guideline.

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

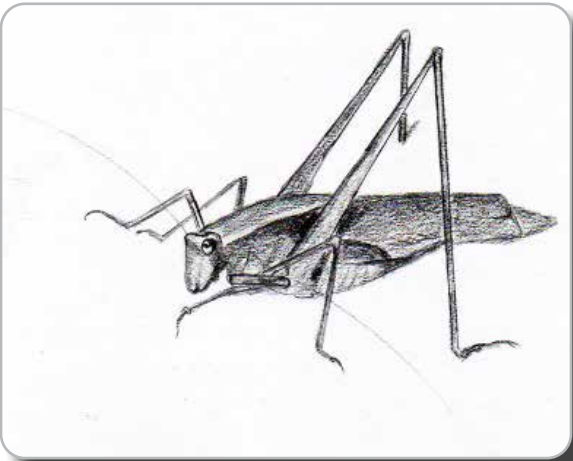
Katydid

As evening settled in, I gazed out the dining room window at the recently darkened yard, lit only by a small Japanese lantern on the hillside. Even through the glass, I could hear the nighttime serenade of the various creatures that lived among our gardens, grasses, and trees.

Stepping outside for a better listen, I was surprised by the sheer volume of the evening inhabitants. Mr. Tree Frog was busily crooning his throaty call, hoping to attract a nearby mate. The variety of crickets was deafening. The shrill tree crickets trilled their tune while the ground crickets kept the cadence with their chirp, chirp, chirp. Cicadas gladly joined in, buzzing and whirring to the strange but calming melody.

Loudest of all were the katydids. Living high in the tree canopy above the yard, they were rarely seen but definitely heard at night. Their bright green color and leaf-like appearance made them practically undetectable during the day. Although they resembled grasshoppers, they were an entirely different insect, with antennae nearly three times the length of their bodies. Of all the nighttime contributors, they were undoubtedly the loudest.

And so, beside the little Japanese lantern, I lingered a while, enjoying a concert I hadn’t known was playing right outside my door.



Call for free consultation

An advertisement for Georgia Will & Probate Lawyers, LLC. It features a photograph of two people, a woman and a man, standing in front of a brick building with a large American flag. The woman is wearing a light-colored suit, and the man is wearing a dark suit. The text 'Call for free consultation' is at the top left. The firm's name 'GEORGIA Will & Probate Lawyers, LLC' is prominently displayed in the center, with a logo featuring a stylized 'G' and stars. To the right, the names 'Latawsha Little-Hill' and 'Steven R. Ashby' are listed, followed by the address '4500 Hugh Howell Road Suite 600 Heritage Place Tucker, GA 30084', the phone number '770.493.4924', and the website 'www.gwaplaw.com'.

An advertisement for Blankenship Family Dentistry. It features a photograph of a smiling father and daughter, both in dental attire. The father is wearing a white lab coat, and the daughter is wearing a dark top. The text 'Blankenship FAMILY DENTISTRY' is at the top right, with a logo featuring a stylized 'B' and a smile. Below the photo, the text reads: 'For over three decades, Blankenship Family Dentistry has been treating the Smoke Rise Community with a personal touch. You will feel comfortable with our father-daughter team that offers an abundance of dental talent, in a judgement-free environment. Call to make your appointment today. 770.879.0732'.

Smoke Rise Garden Club Summer of Fun and preparation for Fall activities

by Denise Finely, Garden Club Member

The Smoke Rise Garden Club membership continues to grow. In April, we added three new members! Our fund-raising has reached a new high thanks to the members of our Tucker community who generously contributed to our charities at our Garden Party in July.

The summer of 2026 started with our most successful Plant sale ever. There was a great variety from trees to vegetables and house plants at very reasonable prices. Thank you to Alice Norton for hosting and all the members who stocked the plants and volunteered to make it the success it was!

In May, Members spent a lovely morning together touring the Stone Mountain private gardens with the Stone Mountain Women’s Club. Our member Robin Biro’s garden of course was a favorite! You might remember the pool with the waterfall, beautiful cypresses, Japanese maples and native trees, and the pollinator garden. Robin added new hardscape features recently and even opened his home to guests for refreshments. It was spectacular! Afterwards, a Cherokee Rose Brunch was scrumptious!

In June, Gallons and gallons of fresh blueberries were hand-picked by members at 5 Sons Farms near Talking Rock, GA. We enjoyed a southern BBQ lunch at Bub Ba Que in Woodstock, afterwards.

As we move into Autumn our calendar of meetings start September 14th (moved to accommodate Labor Day holiday). Our first program is Scott Lange, Executive Director of AWARE Wildlife Rescue Center near Stonecrest. Scott will share with us information on the Center and anecdotal tales of some of the Wildlife Center’s most successful wildlife rehabilitations. The AWARE Wildlife Center rehabilitates injured and orphaned native Georgia wild animals and educates the public about peaceful coexistence with wildlife.

In October, our speaker will be Rob Rozar, an Arborist with over 15 years of experience in the Tree care industry. He will provide tips on what to do and look for to keep our trees healthy.

The Christmas season will complete our calendar for 2026 with a charity project, and a club Christmas party. How time flies!

Smoke Rise Garden Club is a member of the National Garden Club, Garden Club of GA, Redbud District and the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs. For information on SRGC contact Marisa Fernandez at marisa.fernandez0212@gmail or call 305 590-7186.



Gallons and gallons of blueberries were handpicked by Smoke Rise Garden Club members. Janice Gummarsall and her gallon of blueberries!

Morning Glories Welcome September’s Garden Events

By Quill Duncan, Recording Secretary

The Smoke Rise Morning Glories attended various events in August relating to the state organization. Every summer the seven districts of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. hold Summer Board meetings in their districts to plan for their fall activities.

Redbud’s meeting was held in the library of the historic town of Barnesville, GA in Lamar County. Barnesville was founded in 1826. In the years following the Civil War, Barnesville began to flourish thanks to various industries including cotton mills, shoe factories and transportation in the form of a horse drawn buggy. At the turn of the century, it was known as “The Buggy Capital of the South” until that industry’s product was eclipsed by the automobile. The modern library in Barnesville uses buggy wheels as architectural accents above the book stacks reflecting the town’s unique industry. It is always fun to discover Georgia’s colorful history as a part of our garden club experience.

The North Georgia Judges Council of the GCG sponsored the Flower Show School Course 1 August 16-19, 2026 at Bellmere in John’s Creek. Morning Glories member and National Garden Club Master Flower Judge Joy Zaidan chaired the school featuring two floral experts for the twenty attendees. The course focused on learning how to be a flower show judge as well as design and horticulture studies. After completing four Flower Show School courses with testing the student can qualify to be a Flower Show Judge. Several DeKalb County garden club members attended the course including Smoke Rise residents and Morning Glories members.

Our monthly meetings resume on September 8, 2026 at the Park Springs club house. The speaker will be Scott Lange who is the Executive Director of AWARE Wildlife Center located in Lithonia. He will share the center’s goal and mission and offer anecdotal tales of some of the wildlife center’s most colorful patients or residents. If you are interested in attending this lecture and luncheon, please contact President Kim Fair at 404 384-7851.



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Mountain Mums Kick Off a New Club Year

By Maureen Fraser, Publicity Chair and Newsletter Co-Editor

The Mountain Mums Garden Club kicked off its new year with plenty of friendship, fellowship, and a few new faces at the club’s annual “Meet & Greet” in August. Hosted by member Mary Jacobson at her home, the gathering welcomed three prospective members who had the opportunity to learn more about the club and meet its members.

The meeting also marked the first official meeting for Co-Presidents Lynn Malone and Cheri Schneider, who shared their plans and exciting activities for the year ahead. Outgoing President Sally Young passed the leadership torch, leaving the club in good hands for another year of gardening, service and fun.

The Mountain Mums recently put their green thumbs to work volunteering at NETworks GROWINGS. Eleven members—and one enthusiastic grandchild—joined together to harvest lettuce. Their hard work paid off with a record-breaking number of bags filled and labeled for distribution to those in need. And, of course, no successful garden club outing is complete without a little food and fellowship! Several members wrapped up the day with lunch at Fresca in Stone Mountain.

With new leadership, new members on the horizon and plenty of community service ahead, the Mountain Mums are growing in many ways!

Below are a few environmental and gardening tips that may be useful to you since Georgia’s fall is one of the best gardening seasons because summers are hot but fall brings cooler temperatures and favorable growing conditions for vegetables, herb, flowers, trees and shrubs.

- Plant trees and shrubs: Consider native options like red maple, river birch, oak, serviceberry, or American beautyberry.
- Plant cool-season color: Pansies, violas, snapdragons, ornamental kale/cabbage, and dusty miller can give you color through winter.
- Overseed or establish fescue: Late September through October is the key window for cool-season fescue in North Georgia. Get seed down early enough for good root development.
- Mulch—but do not pile it up: Apply 2–3 inches of mulch around beds and trees, keeping it away from trunks and stems.
- Keep watering new plants: Do not assume fall rain is enough. Newly planted trees and shrubs need consistent moisture while establishing roots.
- Cut back selectively: Remove dead or diseased growth but avoid aggressively cutting back everything. Many plants provide winter habitat and structure.
- Clean up leaves strategically: Shred leaves and use them as mulch or compost rather than removing every leaf from the property.
- Fertilize carefully: Avoid heavy fertilization of trees and shrubs late in the season. For lawns, use a soil test to determine what nutrients are needed.
- Control weeds now: Fall is a good time to deal with many weeds before they become established going into winter.
- Plan spring bulbs and consider adding fall-blooming natives and other flowers such as asters, goldenrod, and salvias. They will provide valuable late-season food for bees and butterflies.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9th, featuring Felicity Davis, Landscape Architect Manager with the Georgia Department of Transportation – her topic will be Roadside Beautification and the Wildflower Program in Georgia. Anyone interested in attending a meeting to learn more about the Mountain Mums Garden Club may contact Mary Jacobson at mjacob1010@gmail.com. More information and photos of the club’s projects are on our Facebook page.



Mountain Mums Garden Club members and one enthusiastic grandchild pitch in at NETworks GROWINGS, harvesting and bagging a record-breaking amount of fresh lettuce for distribution to those in need.

Food & Home Fixin's

by Joyce Ray, Staff Writer

The Role of a Good Side Dish

It is often easier to plan the main dish than to decide what to serve alongside it. A good side dish completes the meal, adds variety, and helps balance the plate. It may be as simple as a baked potato or as detailed as a vegetable casserole.

When I serve a casserole as the main course, I prefer to pair it with something simpler. The side dish featured here has become one of my reliable choices when I want to make a big impression without adding too much extra work. I also wanted to feature it while Vidalia onions are still readily available. To round out the meal, add a salad or a steamed green vegetable such as asparagus or broccoli.

*This dish works especially well with:
Steak, Meat loaf, or Grilled salmon*

Vidalia Onion Rice Bake

- 1 1/8 Cup regular white rice
- 1/2 cup butter
- 3 1/2 lbs. Vidalia Onions, Chopped – about 6 large onions
- 1 1/2 cup shredded Swiss cheese
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 T minced parsley
- Salt and white pepper to taste
- Paprika



Cook rice in a large pot of boiling water for 5 minutes. Drain well. Melt butter in a heavy saucepan over medium heat. Add onions and cook until tender (approximately 20 minutes), stirring occasionally. Add cheese, cream, parsley, salt and pepper to rice. Add onions to rice and mix well. Place in generously buttered 13x9 inch casserole. Sprinkle with paprika. Bake at 325 @ for one hour. Serves 10-12. Can be prepared a day ahead and refrigerated. Bake when ready to serve.

Frozen Fruit Salad — A Crowd-Pleasing Classic Favorite

I credit our daughter, Dana Clark, for this recipe, which she always prepares and brings to our family Easter lunch. Because it is served frozen, it can be made well in advance. It may also spark nostalgic memories for you of Rich's Department Store. Their similar famous frozen fruit salad was once a signature menu item at the Magnolia Room on the mezzanine of the old North DeKalb Mall as well as the Downtown store and other locations.



Frozen Cherry Salad

This can be made with whole- berry cranberry sauce to replace the cherries to serve for the Christmas holidays.

- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 8 oz. softened cream cheese.
- Blend together and add 12 oz pkg Cool Whip.
- Fold in one 20 oz. can drained crushed pineapple and 1 can cherry pie filling.
- If desired, fold in 1 cup chopped walnuts.
- Pour into 9x13 inch dish and freeze.
- Cut into squares to serve.

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

Classified Ads

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

WAGON LANDSCAPE GROUP
Residential, commercial, design and installation. Year-round maintenance, light tree work and cleanups. Licensed/insured SR resident with SR references. 770-381-3697.

A KICKIN' & PICKIN' ESTATE SALES We stage, price and sell your treasures and offer liquidation and cleaning services. Contact Rick Kicklighter at 678-234-6956.

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

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

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

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

DOG BOARDING:
Loving dog care. Small, selective, safe, fun. Your dog will be glad you went on vacation! Call 770-510-8641 or visit www.theshepherdsglen.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

PETS, PAPERS, & POSIES.
I'll take care of them while you're away. Smoke Rise resident 40+ years. Karen Bouchard
Please text or call 404-472-7348

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

PLUMBER
Plumbing-Electrical-H.V.A.C
Repairs-Replacement
New Installation
Family Owned and Operated
38 yrs Experience,
Senior Discount
Call Troy-770-256-8940

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

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

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

Great Organizations in our Community

By Frank Luton, Staff Writer

There are two organizations right here close to Smoke Rise that play positive roles in our community – Rotary and FODAC.

FODAC (Friends of Disabled Adults and Children) has three locations in Georgia – (1) on Lewis Road in the Tucker Industrial Park, close to Smoke Rise; (2) Savannah; and (3) Griffin.



Chris Brand, FODAC CEO

FODAC supplies mobility devices to adults and children for a one-time fee of \$25. The mobility devices can be as simple as a cane, or as sophisticated as a motorized scooter. They also provide and deliver hospital beds. They only ask that when no longer needed the equipment be returned to be cleaned and sanitized, in order to be used again. The location here on Lewis Road has a thrift store in it. Recently FODAC has sent supplies to the Far East to help with earthquake recovery.

Rotary is a worldwide organization that helps people and organizations with many things. The Smoke Rise community has two Rotary clubs nearby – the Stone Mountain Rotary Club and the Tucker Rotary Club. Rotary supports FODAC with volunteering and fundraising. Each organization is a good way to get involved in your community, if you are interested.

The Stone Mountain Rotary Meets the first Tuesday each month in-person & via Zoom; and the third Tuesday via Zoom or as announced at 12:15 p.m. at The Virtual Office Group, 925 Main Street, Stone Mountain.



The Rotary Club of Tucker meets on the first Thursday of each month from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Magnolia Room Cafeteria, 4450 Hugh Howell Rd, Tucker.