

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 7

Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968

October, 2015

www.smokesignalnews.com



The staff of the Smoke Signal wishes all of our neighbors a safe and spooktacular Halloween!

A Tour of Southern Ghosts

Atlanta's favorite, family, storytelling event will again cast its spell of family fun for the 30th year. Presented by ART Station at Georgia's Stone Mountain Park, "A Tour of Southern Ghosts" showcases the best ghost stories from the south.

For 11 nights this fall, some 15,000 visitors will be guided on a lantern-lit tour of yesteryear, vividly brought to life through the grand tradition of Southern storytelling. 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, those who don't, and for those who just want to have a good time. During the tour, participants will meet six professional storytellers as they spin tales of Southern ghosts along the lantern-lit paths of the South's most authentic and spookiest plantation.



Photo Courtesy of ART Station

The tour takes place at Stone Mountain Park's Antebellum Plantation, October 9 - 25. (October 9-11, 15-18, and 22-25) Thursdays & Sundays 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Fridays & Saturdays 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. First tour begins at 7:00 p.m. with additional tours every 10 minutes.

Tickets may be purchased nightly at the box office of the Antebellum Plantation, beginning at 6:45 p.m.

Advance Tickets are available at ART Station, beginning October 1. To purchase advance tickets, call the ART Station Box office at (770) 469-1105. * Ticket prices are: Adults \$16.00, Children 12 and under \$8.00. Advance Adult tickets are \$12.00. "A Tour of Southern Ghosts" is produced by ART Station, Inc.,

a not-for-profit, contemporary arts center. The center features a

professional theatre company, visual arts galleries and an arts education program. More than 50,000 patrons participate in ART Stations programs yearly.

"Taste of Tucker" Promises to be Scrumptious

The sixth annual Taste of Tucker will be held Saturday, Oct. 24, on the community's Main Street, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. While live bands provide a full afternoon of great music, some two dozen local restaurants will offer delicious food ranging from American barbecue to Latin and Asian cuisine.

Special attractions include a children's play area, a bazaar of local produce organized by the Tucker Farmers Market, and drink venues coordinated by Keller Williams Realty Atlanta Partners. Restaurant Equipment Services is the major sponsor coordinating food booths.

The musical menu over the years has been particularly savory, offering bands that play classic rock, R&B and funk. This year, live music will feature a set by local favorite Moontower, a six-member band from Decatur that blends classic, Southern and experimental Rock'n'Roll with funk, disco and blues.

Sandra Robbins, general manager of Marlow's, whose shrimp and grits won the "Best Entrée" award in 2014, explained that "Taste of Tucker lets us reach more people from the neighborhoods we serve. And, we love the bragging rights that came with winning last year."



"Taste of Tucker is truly a community celebration, drawing people of all ages and backgrounds," said event coordinator Art Wood. "More than 4,000 people attended last year, and we expect that number to grow again this year."

The growth of this festival can be measured in part by the participation of local sponsors. This year Grecian Gyro will become the first restaurant to reach the Platinum Sponsor level, while Georgia United Credit Union will be the official Stage Sponsor.

Admission is free. Attendees purchase \$1.00 tickets to exchange for food samples, with most entrees costing between three

and seven tickets. Proceeds from the event benefit NETWorks Cooperative Ministry, Old Town Tucker Merchants Association and other local causes.

For more information on Taste of Tucker, including application forms for restaurant owners interested in participating, go to tasteoftucker.com.

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HALLOWEEN A GHOSTLY NIGHT LIKE NO OTHER

by Barbara Bruschi

By the thin veil of the moonlight, spooky creatures and flying witches spread fright throughout the night. This night is also called All Hallow's Eve "a Christianized feast initially influenced by Celtic harvest festivals."

Halloween dates back about 2,000 years to a festival held around Nov.1 called Samhain (summer's end) in Gaelic. Samhain used to prepare the world for the coming winter. The ancient pagans believed that October 31 was a time of transference when the dead came back to life and caused havoc, such as illness and damage of crops. Bonfires were lit and sacrifices brought to appease the dark forces of the underworld. Mask and costumes were worn to mimic the evil spirits and to mollify them.

Historically speaking, Halloween has evolved in the United States since World War II. "Trick or Treat" was preceded by "Thanksgiving begging." Children would disguise themselves in costumes and go door-to-door asking for food or money. By the 1800s, pranks were common. Today, this practice has mostly vanished. The holiday is a day for fun and creative costuming as well as a time to celebrate communities and the spirit of giving.

Autumn also brings many other festivals to town.

- 1) October 9-25; "Tour of Southern Ghosts" at Stone Mountain Park. stonemountainpark.com
- 2) October 17-18; Stone Mountain Highland Games at Stone Mountain Park. See page 5 for details. stonemountainpark.com
- 3) October 29-November 1; Indian Festival and Pow-Wow. This is the largest Native American gathering in Georgia. The energy and color of this festival is electrifying. stonemountainpark.com
- 4) October 2, 3, 28, 29, 30 and 31; The ART Station's "Village Ghost Tours" starting 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Reservations are required, price \$25.00 for adults. This tour takes you by tram to the Stone Mountain Cemetery where Master Storyteller, David Hirt, will tell inspiring tales. artstation.org
- 5) October 17; 15th Annual Little Five Points Halloween Festival and Parade. The Little 5 Points Business Association hosts what is arguably the best Halloween Parade and Festival in the Southeast. From noon until 11:00 p.m., guests will be treated to a daylong festival of food, fun and frightful frivolity. It's captivating and chilling as any you will ever see. atlanta.net/events
- 6) October 31; Halloween Hijinks with the Atlanta Symphony. This concert features a costume contest and musical family favorites. atlantasymphony.org

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Smoke Signal

P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085
A non-profit service organization devoted to furthering neighborhood cooperation with the aid of good neighborhood communication.

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October Calendar of Events

- 3 15th Annual DeKalb County Fire Safety Festival
2997 Lawrenceville Hwy. Tucker, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- 5 Smoke Rise Garden Club meeting at home of Margarita Fajardo
7:00 p.m.
- 7 Smoke Signal meeting at home of Barbara Luton, 9:30 a.m.
- 14 Mountain Mums meeting at home of Jody Currie, 9:45 a.m.
- 15 Tucker Arts Guild meeting, The Custom Frame Shop, 7:00 p.m.
- 16-18 Stone Mountain Highlands Games
The Meadow at Stone Mountain Park
- 24 Taste of Tucker, Main Street, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- 25 Music for Missions Presents “Johnny Roquemore and Friends”
Lawrenceville Road UMC in Tucker, 7:00 p.m.
- 31 Happy Halloween!

Smoke Signal Deadlines

OCTOBER 13

Please e-mail articles to:

smoke-signal@earthlink.net

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

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

Deadline for classified ads is 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.

“Like” us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews
or visit our website at www.smokesignalnews.com
Link to the digital version of the Smoke Signal
at <http://eepurl.com/pjn4v>
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with your smart phone!



Letter to the Editor:

I sure would like to know whatever happened to code violations. What is it? Where is it? We bought our house on Oxbow Circle in 1996. I heard there was such a thing as “Code Violations” but never ever received any paperwork about it or what the heck is it?

Our lovely Smoke Rise is getting pretty sloppy; cars parked in the streets, grass and lawns overgrown and uncut, cars parked all over the driveways, trash all over the place, people trying to make our residential area a place of business, and I could go on. One person’s neglect of their property detracts from the whole neighborhood.

Regina Studwell, Ed.D.
Smoke Rise Resident

Response:

Code Compliance

The DeKalb County Code Compliance department (FKA Code Enforcement) strives to provide consistent, fair, and accurate enforcement services via the following:

- Enforcement of the Property Maintenance Code
- Sign and Zoning Ordinances for communities and businesses throughout DeKalb County

You can contact Code Compliance regarding complaints and code compliance via the contact information located below.

(404) 687-3700 telephone

(404) 687-3844 Fax

CodeEnforce@dekalbcountyga.gov

You can look up a specific ordinance or section online at www.municode.com, then Georgia, then DeKalb County.



Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

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

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

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

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

Sundays:
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
Wednesdays:
5:45 p.m. Fellowship Dinner
6:30 p.m. Adult and Children’s Program
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Mount Carmel Christian Church

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

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

Wednesdays
5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:30 p.m. Activities/Studies for all ages
6:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

First Moravian Church

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

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

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

Mountain West Church

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



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Please call Kay McKenzie
at (770) 491-6784

with information if you have lost or found a pet.

Smoke Rise Preferred Contractor’s List

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



“Music for Missions”

By Jack Sartain, Producer, Music for Missions

“Johnny Roquemore and Friends” are set to entertain the community at the Music for Missions concert October 25 at 7:00 p.m. The concert is the 214th concert sponsored by the United Methodist Men at Lawrenceville Road United Methodist Church, 3142 Lawrenceville Highway, in Tucker, just outside I-285. The concerts are free, but donations are accepted.

Johnny Roquemore is an award-winning guitarist, songwriter and vocalist. He is the lead performer in the “Apostles of Bluegrass,” a popular and much-in-demand band. Johnny appears at many prestigious venues throughout the United States. He has been honored with the title “Best Local Singer/Songwriter” by Atlanta’s Creative Loafing. He is the 2013 Georgia State Champion harmonica player. Johnny won on the original, national TV program, the “Gong Show.” His awards also include the Georgia Music Industry Association’s “Best Country” award. His music can be heard in many movie and TV sound tracks. Johnny has many “hot selling” cd’s which have introduced him to many and diverse audiences throughout the United States.

Johnny’s musical creations are touted to contain good music and intelligent lyrics – to which he replies – “It therefore may not be suitable for some of today’s listeners!”.... a quip typical of Johnny’s quick and good humored wit – demonstrated throughout his performances.

For a fun hour of good music, delivered by one of the area’s best (as proven by his multiple music industry awards), be sure to hear the one-and-only Johnny Roquemore and some of his musical friends. Johnny and a couple of his “friends” can be seen and heard at the recent Stone Mountain Bluegrass, Old Time and Dance Festival at Stone Mountain Village produced in partnership with the Southeast Bluegrass Association by Dr. John Kelley and me, Jack Sartain.

Here are three YouTube links for a preview of Johnny’s music.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=utPiGP9J6Xw
www.youtube.com/user/JohnnyRoq765
www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4i0umxNpXI

For further information, call the church at (770) 939-3717.

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St. Andrews School Hosts Arts & Crafts Festival

Those of you who love jewelry, pottery and other hand-made objects will have a wonderful shopping opportunity at an arts and crafts festival on Saturday, October 24, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 4882 Lavista Road in Tucker.

Vendors of all types are welcome, whether selling wood crafts, decorative arts or holiday gifts. Booths are available for \$25.00 to \$30.00. Booths will be located inside the church’s fellowship hall. Each vendor is asked to donate one item for a raffle that will be held at the event.

Money raised from booth fees and raffle tickets go to benefit St. Andrews School, which offers kindergarten, preschool, extended care and after-school programs open to all families in the community.

For more information, visit online at standrewspresbyterian.org/st-andrews-school.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church Events

Octoberfest at Smoke Rise Baptist Church
Wednesday, October 28 - 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
on the SRBC ballfield

Join SRBC for a night of outdoor fun for all ages! Activities are free, and all are welcome. Costumes are also welcome for all ages!

Adult meal tickets are \$5.00 and children’s meal tickets are \$3.00 with a \$15.00 family maximum.

Dinner menu: BBQ, hot dogs, baked beans, coleslaw, chips, salad and dessert

Journeys – Session 3
October 7-21
6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m., SRBC Fellowship Hall

Hunger in YOUR Community
October 7 in the Fellowship Hall
Since the Great Recession, food insecurity among Americans has significantly increased and continues to remain high, with one in six people in North Georgia struggling to make ends meet. It is hard to solve this challenge without understanding who is hungry, where they live and why they are hungry. Join Alexis Weaver of the Atlanta Community Food Bank in a discussion about opportunities to better understand and serve our neighbors living with hunger.

The Nature of the Jewish Scriptures
Rabbi Ronald Bluming will share an overview of the Jewish perspective on the Hebrew prophets and the books that are known as the “writings.” Do Jews believe the prophets predicted the future? What’s up with those crazy symbols in Ezekiel and the weird behavior of some of the prophets? Is Song of Solomon a love story or a metaphor? How did the Jews use the Psalms? The Rabbi will explore these questions and more in two sessions in Fellowship Hall.
October 14 – The Prophets
October 21 – The Writings

Parenting: Sharing Our Stories, in The Library
Three sets of seasoned parents who have raised a family will spend an evening sharing with young parents who are in the midst of this important life journey.
Oct. 7 – Chris and Amy Allison
Oct. 14 – Ernie Forrester
Oct. 21 – Brian and Donna Weatherby

Lawrenceville Road United Methodist Church in Tucker Announces its Semi-Annual Bar-B-Q

Saturday, November 7
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Each plate will feature a generous portion of smoked pork bar-b-q, coleslaw, Brunswick stew or baked beans, and white loaf bread. Cost is \$10.00. Should anyone wish to purchase a whole boneless Boston butt, the price is \$28.00. Boston butts MUST be ordered by November 1 and prepaid by calling the church at (770) 939-3717. An authentic Phillips original recipe for Brunswick stew (world’s finest!) will be available for sale for \$5.50 per pint or \$9.00 per quart (a \$2.00 savings).


In addition, the United Methodist Women will have a bake sale to top off the tasty Bar-B-Q.

Tickets may be purchased from any church member or at the office. The church is located at 3142 Lawrenceville Highway in Tucker just outside I-285. The church email is LRUMC@bellsouth.net. NOTE – the church office is closed on Fridays and Saturdays – BUT you may leave a voice mail message via phone.

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church
6780 James B. Rivers Drive
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
770 469 8551
www.Stmichael.cc/

Everyone is welcome!
Join us on Sundays at 8 am or 10:30 am
Just 3 miles from Smoke Rise near the West Gate Entrance to Stone Mountain Park

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



October is National Fire Safety Month

DeKalb County Fire Rescue Department will host its 15th Annual Fire Safety Festival Saturday, October 3, from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Rehoboth Baptist Church at 2997 Lawrenceville Hwy Tucker, GA 30084. This annual event is free and open to the public.

The Fire Safety Festival is a great event to introduce a new learning experience on safety and fire prevention. DeKalb County Residents can gather, meet firefighters and fire safety educators, enjoy some food, check out the fire apparatus, and participate in fun safety learning activities. Fire Safety partners LEGOLAND City and Lowes will have learning stations available. There will also be train rides, fire safety bingo, inflatable gyms, a friendly firefighter, vehicle extrication, fire trucks, and more.

While the campaign lasts the entire month, most fire departments designate the second week of October as Fire Prevention Week, during which demonstrations and expos are held in different U.S. cities. Sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Fire Prevention Month has roots that date back to The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 that killed more than 250 people and left more than 100,000 homeless.

For more information, go online to: dekalbfiresafetyfestival.com.



Georgia Pecans for the Holidays

The Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) is pleased to announce its “2015 Georgia Pecans for the Holidays” sale, an annual fall fund raising event. The newly harvested pecans from a supplier in South Georgia are scheduled to arrive by mid-November, in time for the holidays.

Demand continues to increase for Georgia pecans. Fancy Natural Pecan Halves in 16 oz. (one pound) packages are \$11.00. Chocolate Covered and Roasted & Salted Pecan Halves in 12 oz. packages are \$8.00. The MSGC expects high quality pecans again this year and would be delighted to add you to the customer list. Long-standing customers know “You Can Taste the Difference!” in freshly harvested pecans. It’s a local tradition.

However, to assure your request is filled, it’s recommend orders be placed in advance with a member of MSGC. Please e-mail msgcpecans@gmail.com or call one of these numbers: (404) 296-7317, (770) 923-9762, (770) 469-5376, (770) 879-6116, or (404) 915-7132.

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



HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The annual Christmas Home Tour of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club, known as Homes for the Holidays, will be held Saturday, December 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The \$25.00 tour ticket includes lunch served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Stone Mountain First United Methodist Church Family Life Center, located at 5312 West Mountain Street.

Tickets can be purchased from any member of the Stone Mountain Woman’s Club, at the ART Station, or the Old Post Office Emporium in Stone Mountain. The day of the tour, tickets will also be available in the church’s Family Life Center or any home on the tour.

You may visit the homes on the tour in any order you choose. For your shopping pleasure, vendors with jewelry and accessories, specialty food items and other products suitable for holiday gift giving, will be available during the tour in the Church’s Family Life Center.

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club, a 501(c)3 organization, sponsors this annual Christmas Home Tour to help raise funds for a number of charities supported by the Woman’s Club. For additional information about the tour, contact Elizabeth Wells at dandewells@bellsouth.net, (770) 822-9947 or (c) (404) 630-9925.

Women interested in learning about membership in the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club may contact 1st Vice President and Membership Chairman, Kim Cumbie at kcumbie@comcast.net.

Tucker Arts Guild Meeting

The next Tucker Arts Guild meeting will be at 7:00 p.m., October 15. The Guild meets January through November on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at The Custom Frame Shop, 4195 Fellowship Road in Tucker.

The Tucker Arts Guild is an organization of artists interested in highlighting and promoting the artistic aspects of the community. To “create an environment which is conducive to the growth and development of individual artists in the Tucker area through interaction, inspiration and education.” The Tucker Arts Guild embraces all aspects of art.

Anyone interested in learning more should visit online at tuckerartsguild.com.

Steve Lipson Charity Pro-Am a Huge Success

By Carol Wales

Smoke Rise Country Club (SRCC) hosted a Charity Pro-Am in memory of Dr. Stephen Lipson and for the benefit of the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation, Atlanta Chapter, on August 28-30. Dr. Lipson founded Lipson Dental Group on Five Forks Trickum Road and was an avid golf and tennis player at SRCC up until his passing three years ago. The Pro-Am event was the brain child of Suzy Ihnat, SRCC Director of Tennis, whose motto echoes a famous quote by Winston Churchill, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” The three-day charity event consisted of a kickoff dinner dance for 175 guests on Friday night, complete with silent and live auctions, a tennis pro-am on Saturday, and a golf event which included the Emory golf team, on Sunday. Many volunteers and sponsors came together to make this happen and with their help, the Pro-Am raised more than \$25,000.00 for the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation. SRCC would like to especially thank Steve’s wife, Linda Lipson, for all of her help and support, title sponsor Lipson Dental, and corporate sponsors, Rockwell Automotive and Atlanta Dental. Also thanks to the generous food sponsors, Kroger at Mountain Park, Chick-fil-A in Tucker, Roly Poly in Tucker, and the Smoke Rise Bottle Shoppe in Stone Mountain. Steve Lipson was a man who believed in giving back to his community and for this event, his SRCC community came together to give back in memory of him. For information on joining SRCC and becoming a part of next year’s pro-am event, call (770) 908-2582.



Linda Lipson with her boys Eric and Ryan at Steve Lipson Pro-Am Charity Event

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Stone Mountain Highland Games and Scottish Festival

The Stone Mountain Highlands Games & Scottish Festival celebrates its 43rd year. The Scottish fun takes place at the meadow at Stone Mountain Park October 16-18. The event offers Scottish Clan activities, musical entertainment, and traditional Highland game activities including athletics, pipe bands, Highland dance and Scottish vendors. The children’s games are a great way for young guests to enjoy the games. Also, there will be before and after events at the host hotel (The Hilton, Northeast), including Scottish Genealogy/Scottish Tartan lectures (free), Friday afternoon musical recital and Saturday evening Cabaret, starting on Friday the 16th. Everyone is invited to join in the “Friendly Games,” whether you are Scottish or not.

For more information, go to SMHG.org. You can also look up the event on Facebook.



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Thank You to the Smoke Rise Community

Organizers of Tunes by the Tracks, the Village’s indie music concert series, say thank you. Tunes By the Tracks, Stone Mountain Village’s indie music free concert series, is underway for the fall and going well. This is true in large part because of the support of Smoke Rise. The participation and back up from the community is much appreciated.

In September, Smoke Rise folks helped with refreshment sales and promoted the event. They also brought friends along for dinner or a picnic in town, and enjoyed an evening of music and conversation with neighbors and friends.

“Musicians do bring a groove to the evening that is unique and delightful. Yet, Tunes By the Tracks is as much about people enjoying the gatherings as it is about songwriters and songs. The audience doing life together and engaging the artists makes the series exceptional,” said Thom DeLoach, Downtown Development Authority Board Member and Tunes By the Tracks Volunteer.

The concert series organizers note that the Smoke Rise and Stone Mountain Village ties are long standing. It’s a kinship that shows itself well in events such as Tunes By the Tracks. The series wouldn’t be the same without you.

Thank you to Smoke Rise neighbors who have attended the concert series in The Village thus far this fall. A warm welcome, too, to those who will find their way to Stone Mountain this October.

Tunes By the Tracks continues each Friday in the municipal parking lot on Main Street, Stone Mountain from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Organizers hope you’ll join them and enjoy.



Volunteers Dave and Barb Hess

Late Breaking News from Smoke Rise Country Club

The Smoke Rise Country Club has successfully recruited the former GM and COO of the Druid Hills Golf Club. After leading Druid Hills for almost six years, Jim Story took the reins at Smoke Rise mid-September. Watch for an interview with Jim in the November *Smoke Signal* where you will learn his reason for coming to our community and his vision for the Club.

Library Launches Major Library Card Sign-up Campaign

If you don’t already have a library card, DeKalb County Public Library (DCPL) has launched a major campaign to encourage you to get one.

First of all, DCPL has unveiled a bright, new library card design that is very different from what you’ve seen before. Not only will this special, limited-edition card help you be a Know-It-All, it’ll attract attention and tell others you’re a Know-It-All, too!

“We purposely came up with a colorful, whimsical design to attract attention to our message, which is very important,” says Library Director Alison Weissinger. “That message is that the library plays a crucial role in our diverse county by providing free access to information and assistance in developing literate, engaged citizens - citizens that ‘Know-It-All.’ ”

Here are some of the facts the library wants DeKalb residents to know:

- The library circulated close to 1.5 million books, movies, music CDs and other materials during the first seven months of 2015.
- The library provides free access to the Internet at all of its 22 branches.
- With your library card, you can access more than 4,500 eBooks and more than 90 eMagazines for free, 24-hours-a-day.
- The library offers free computer classes, including classes aimed at helping job seekers find employment.
- The library conducted more than 2,700 free programs for children and adults during the first half of 2015 and more than 60,000 people attended them.

Although Library Card Sign up Month officially ended at the end of September, DCPL’s campaign will run through the end of the year. “We want to give people plenty of time to get one of these limited-edition cards and to find out more about what a valuable resource the library is to them and everyone in this community,” Weissinger said. Please contact your local library for information.



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The Smoke Rise Elementary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program is embarking on a new journey! The school is still diligently working toward certification, but its STEM studies are going in a whole new direction. Students this year are going to study green engineering and sustainability.

What does this mean? Students are going to act as environmental engineers by studying environmental issues and developing creative, and innovative solutions to these problems. SRE has already started off the year by creating two robotics teams for the First Lego League Competition. The project challenge for these students is to identify a waste management problem in our community and then develop a solution to the problem. The other projects involve students designing energy efficient homes that use insulation materials that are safe for the environment. Students are also studying solar energy by making solar ovens and solar powered vehicles.

SRE can boast about having not one garden, but two! The first garden sits in the front of the school and is used to teach students about the pollination process. The second garden is in the school's courtyard. It is in the middle of a massive cleanup. Once it is finished, the school will have an awesome food garden with composting bins and rain barrels to use in irrigation. These projects are hallmark examples of sustainability.

Smoke Rise is grateful to its community partners that are supporting children in the educational process. Georgia Power, Sedexo, and The Steel Magnolias are just three of the eight partners that are providing outreach lessons and other resources to the school. The STEM coordinator at Smoke Rise is currently in negotiations to obtain a STEM partnership with the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. The Heritage Center provides students lessons in green architecture and engineering - just to name a few.

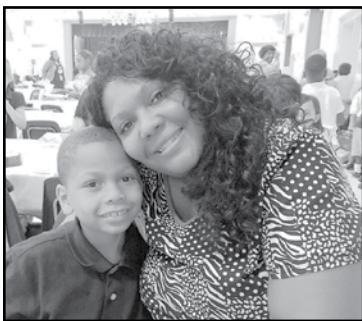
SRE is receiving excellent parental support. The parent of a 3rd grader is a computer engineer and has donated three miniature computers called Raspberry Pi. The students will be able to create computer games using a program called “Scratch.” Even though SRE has increased support, it is still looking for community commitment. The school needs assistance with its recycling program and gardening project. In addition, please feel free to visit the school during the science fair and science exhibition held in November. SRE is seeking judges and an audience for the students to demonstrate their hard work.

Call the school for more information: (678) 874-3602

A large part of a school's success is due to parent involvement. Smoke Rise Elementary School's School/Parent Compact includes a number of hours each family agrees to serve the school. The school considers itself extremely fortunate to have a new Parent Liaison, Brenda Harper Ali, who is committed to facilitating parental engagement. The school has had an increasingly high number of parents and community volunteers to assist in various events and tasks, such as reading with students, assisting in school events, and helping teachers. Smoke Rise Elementary School welcomes community volunteers! Please contact the family liaison if you would like to support the school in any way!

brenda_s_harper@dekalbschoolsga.org
(678) 874-3602

The Smoke Rise Family would like to acknowledge and thank all of the grandparents that vis-



Agustin Hilliard

and organized luncheon, grandparents, family members and community are always welcomed to come and visit/volunteer at the school. SRE looks forward to the community's continued support and participation!

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Women of Empowerment Scholarship

More than a dozen years ago, the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club determined there was a need for financial assistance for women who wanted to return to college to further their education. Some may have dropped out of college before completing an undergraduate degree, or others may have desired a graduate degree to help advance in a career. Seen as a way to empower deserving women by furthering their education, the Stone Mountain Woman’s Club established a \$750.00 scholarship with the name, “Women of Empowerment Scholarship.”

Some of the scholarship recipients have been single mothers who dropped out of school to care for their children. As the sole provider for the family, some single mothers often could not afford to finish college. Others have desired a graduate degree to help them advance in a career. The scholarship is not limited to single women, and any woman who demonstrates the need for financial assistance to return to college is eligible. The scholarship can be used to complete a degree in nursing, art, music, library science, business or any other undergraduate degree or return to graduate school for an advanced degree.

An application is required to be submitted before the deadline of October 31, and a panel of judges from the Education Community Service Program of the Stone Mountain Woman’s Club will review the applicants and choose the one they deem to be most deserving.

To request an application or to receive additional information, please contact Kathy Gallo, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, at katherine.gallo@gpc.edu or (770) 496-0481. Completed applications must be received by October 31 at the address shown on the application.

Halloween...continued from page 1

- 7) October 15; HomeGrown presents the 4th Annual “Haints and Saints” Parade in Decatur, Ga. Starting at 4:00 p.m. parade.com
 - 8) October 31; Trick or Treat at the Georgia Aquarium. Children in costumes under 12 are free, when accompanied by paying adults. Crafts and scary stories are part of the spook fest.
 - 9) Now through November 1; Fright Fest at Six flags. See calendar for exact dates and times. During the day, it’s fun for all ages with not-so-scary thrills. But when the sun goes down, the ghouls come out and the terror begins. frightfest.sixflags.com
 - 10) October 23-25, and 29-31; Oakland Halloween tours are back for a 10th year. Ticketholders are invited to experience the cemetery after dark on guided walking tours, which bring a few residents “to life” through re-enactments. Tickets range from \$13.00 to \$25.00 (plus tax and fees), and are available in advance only at TicketAlternative.com. Always a sell-out event, Capturing the Spirit of Oakland is designed to enlighten, not frighten, and is a seasonal favorite for visitors from across the country. Historic Oakland Cemetery, founded in 1850, is the final resting place of Margaret Mitchell, Bobby Jones and other prominent citizens. oaklandcemetery.com
- On this mystical night, take flight into the world of your fantasies and be like one of the children full of wonder and excitement. Open your heart and home to the children by giving them nice treats, and maybe the friendly ghost will be your lucky charm!

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Ladies in Stride, Inc. Enjoys
Successful Retreat

Thank you to everyone that helped to make the 3rd annual L.I.S. Total Health & Wellness Retreat a success!

Ladies in Stride, Inc. held this year’s retreat June 11-14 on the lake in Las Vegas Nevada at the Hilton Lake Las Vegas Resort & Spa.

Medical screenings were performed during the retreat by L.I.S. medical team members, Dr. Donald Hanchett, I of Smoke Rise Ga., Dr. Josh Mason of Las Vegas Nevada and Ms. Shelley Williams, R.N. of Las Vegas. Medical screenings are a very important part of each L.I.S. Retreat. During this retreat, several ladies were made aware of medical issues that needed to be addressed by their personal physicians. This is one way that L.I.S. is helping to keep women healthy one lady at a time.

The distinguished guest speakers during the retreat were Dr. Donald Hanchett, Mrs. Jennifer Shydler CRPC, 1st V.P. of Merrill Lynch, First Lady Aleana Curney, Ms. Petra Pierrot, CPFT, Min. Celeste Sheppard and Psalmist LaVoria Reese.

Ms. Canesia Allen was presented by the Hanchett Family with the 1st Annual BMI Award in loving memory of L.I.S. medical team member, Mr. Donald Hanchett, II PCT, CNA. The 2nd Annual Young Lady in Stride (Y.L.I.S.) High School Scholarship/Award was presented to Ms. Shauna Wheeler of Tucker Ga., a 2015 graduate of Tucker High School. Congratulations to both recipients!

Ladies in Stride, Inc. would like to say “Thank You” to all retreat sponsors! L.I.S. 2015 Premier Sponsor was the Tucker Kroger Store. Other Sponsors were: U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services; Tucker Flower Shop; B & B Property Management Solutions, Mr. and Mrs. Clay Jones, Mrs. Sheila Humphrey, Min. LaVoria Reese, Attorney Avis Sanders, Mrs. Catherine Salazar, Mr. Andrew Snorton, Mrs. Marilyn Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Eiland, Geonice Unique Boutique and the G. W. Jackson Family Park.

Stress reduction and relaxation is a necessity for all, and is very important for total health and wellness. With that being said, all retreat participants received a wonderful spa treatment on Saturday night, before returning home on Sunday. Everyone had plenty of free time to enjoy themselves and bond as sisters of L.I.S. during their stay in Las Vegas. Ladies attended the retreat from five different states.

Ladies in Stride, Inc. is proud to announce that it now has members in all four corners of the United States. September 2011, Ladies in Stride, Inc. began promoting the importance of women taking better care of themselves, here in the Smoke Rise Community, by getting together to walk and meet once a month to discuss all areas of total health and by hosting fun events for members and their families. L.I.S. members are now taking better care of themselves and walking for their health all over the U.S. and abroad. One L.I.S. member is now in Sierra Leone West Africa!

L.I.S. will continue to promote healthy living, stress reduction/relaxation in the Smoke Rise Community and abroad. Please join L.I.S. for a walk, jog, run, or to host medical screenings and healthy cooking classes, Ladies Night Out, and family gatherings. Join in on the fun journey of “Making Time for Yourself,” because “Your Health Matters!” ladiesinstride.com.

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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

Adult Immunizations You Should Know About

October is the start of the “flu” season in the U.S. As many of you are going to your physician or a walk-in clinic to get your annual influenza shot, I thought I would remind you that there are several other immunizations that you, as an adult, should keep up with as well.

Most of us had the “usual” immunizations during childhood to prevent diseases like tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, measles, mumps, rubella and polio. If you did not get them, it is never too late to catch up... especially if you have to travel. Many countries still have active outbreaks of measles, mumps, rubella and whooping cough. So far in 2015, there have been 39 cases of wild virus polio worldwide... mainly in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Council of Foreign Relations has an interactive map of vaccine preventable outbreaks, if you are interested in locating where the outbreaks are occurring. It is very important to have completed these vaccination series. If you have not done so, go to your doctor and start the “catch up” process now.

In addition to the vaccines many of us adults received during childhood, several newer shots, which were not available then, are available now. They cover diseases like meningitis, chicken pox and hepatitis A and B. All children should receive these shots. Certain at-risk adults may need these shots as well. Check with your doctor.

So, what immunizations should you be keeping up with today?

- 1) Tetanus. It is important to continue to have a tetanus booster every 10 years. Tetanus is ubiquitous in the soil... and there is no cure for this horrible disease. Fortunately, if you get a cut or puncture wound that may be contaminated by the soil, you have 72 hours to get to a clinic for the booster shot.
- 2) Pertussis, or “whooping cough.” Unfortunately, there has been an outbreak of whooping cough in the United States for a little more than a decade, reaching a peak of 48,277 cases in 2012 (20 deaths). It is mainly a killer of infants and children. Adults should now get the Tdap (acellular pertussis vaccine combined with tetanus and diphtheria) as a one time dose during adulthood. You can then follow up with a regular Tetanus booster every 10 years. This will help protect all age groups!
- 3) Pneumococcal or pneumonia. There are two pneumonia shots: PCV13 and PPSV23. If you have not received either, starting at age 65, you should have the PCV13 shot first, followed in 8 weeks by the PPSV23. If you have already received the PPSV23 shot, wait a year to receive the PCV13 shot.
- 4) Shingles. The Shingles shot is a one-time shot to prevent Herpes Zoster, the same virus that causes Chicken Pox. It is recommended in all adults aged 60 and above. Shingles is a painful, blistering rash that follows a nerve root distribution... usually on your back or abdomen. It can also affect your face. The shot not only protects you from the disease but from post shingles pain syndrome. The protection from the vaccine lasts about five years. Currently, there is no recommendation for a booster.
- 5) Influenza. The flu shot is usually available in the US between mid-September and mid-March. Formulated yearly and based on the influenza viral strains present in the overseas outbreaks during their winter months, the shot takes two weeks to be fully effective. Because the vaccine is not 100% effective and relies on a “best guess” scenario during formulation, some mild cases of flu can occur even if you have been vaccinated.

In addition to these five vaccines: Influenza, Shingles, Pneumoccal Pneumonia shot, Whooping cough and Tetanus, certain subsets of people may need other vaccines. If you are immunocompromised, have Sickle Cell Disease, or in a high-risk exposure group, check with your doctor about what shots you need.


My final word to you: Catch up if you are behind. Stay current if you are fully vaccinated. Have a discussion with your doctor about adult vaccinations, if you have questions. Be informed by websites that are based on quality scientific studies such as www.cdc.gov or webmd.com!



Smoke Rise Real Estate News

FREE MONEY - The DeKalb Department of Economic Development created a program to give home buyers in DeKalb a 3% or 5% non-repayable grant. This is not a need-based program and potentially applies to every home on the market in Smoke Rise and DeKalb County. Ask us for details.

Relocation - This year and next we should see a number of relocation buyers not only from existing businesses but also some of the major employers being recruited to move their companies to DeKalb. We have a list of named companies and they include manufacturing, medical, sports, a publisher, education, energy and retail. We look forward to bringing these buyers to Smoke Rise.

Smoke Rise Sales - Currently Smoke Rise inventory is a little less than average and the YTD closing rate on a monthly basis is trending 15.7% above 2014. If you are interested in more stats and information, email or call pat@smokeriseagents.com 770.573.9715.





Smoke Rise Agents Team
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techtalk

by Susan Gilbert

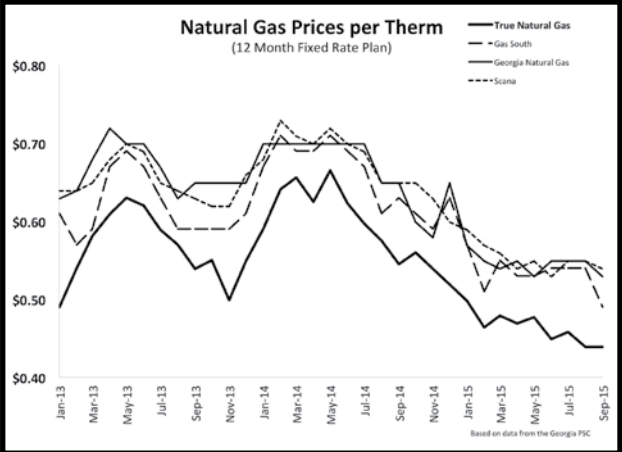
Time to Think Heat

As the temperatures cool, I am reminded it won't be long until we are turning on the heat to warm our homes. This is a good time to care for the technology that keeps our homes comfortable through the winter. These tips will help keep your home's systems in good shape while saving you some money:

1. Change your HVAC system filters. They clean the air passing through them by collecting dust in their fibers. As dust collects, it is harder for air to pass through the filters. That makes it harder for the system to deliver heat to your home. So it's a good idea to change them with the changing season as a reminder.
2. To see where your energy dollars are going, you can run a complete energy analysis of your home on the Georgia Power Website. If you are a customer, login with your account number and select “Bill Analyzer” on the left menu bar, and the analysis will use your actual bills. If you are not a customer, select “Save Money & Energy” on the “My Home” tab then select “Energy Check-up.” Both are surprisingly accurate, informative, and cover electric and gas costs and savings.
3. If you run this analysis for your home and have natural gas, you can see in the results how your fees change from month to month. Be aware that there are two components to your gas bills, a base charge from AGL, which agreed to be purchased by Southern Company, and a commodity charge to the gas retailer you have chosen for the terms of gas you use. The base charges are higher in the winter, when you are using more natural gas.
4. Choose your gas retailer and service plan carefully. If you use natural gas for heating and want to lock-in a gas rate for budget-predictably and possibly savings, October is the best month to do that. As you evaluate companies, look at the companies and the fine print in the offers.
 - a. Some companies that retail gas here in Georgia are in-state companies, some are out-of-state, some are investor-owned and work to return their shareholder investment, and others are not-for-profit cooperatives.
 - b. Some gas retailers show a low per-therm price to gain attention then obscure other fees in charges like a monthly service charge. You can see the price charts on the Public Service Commission Website that show Apples-to-Apples price per therm. And here is a chart that is helpful to see how some of the most popular retailers fared in providing low cost to consumers over the past few years. Also be aware, some marketers give low prices to attract new customers, causing customers to want to shop around each year. At least one I know of has Loyalty Pricing where long-term customers get the best pricing.


Natural Gas Prices per Therm

(12 Month Fixed Rate Plan)



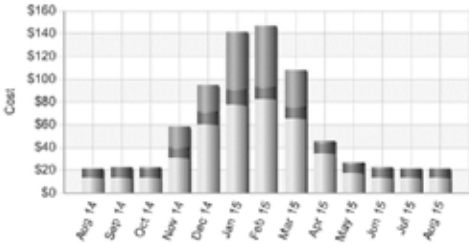
Based on data from the Georgia PSC

Estimated Annual by End Use



Heating: 61.3%
Water Heat: 38.7%

Estimated Monthly Fuel Cost



~ 9 ~

Your Vote Matters!
By Pat Soltys

The Tucker 2015 referendum vote will be on the general election ballot November 3. This vote is a yes or no vote for the City of Tucker. The boundaries are drawn and include all of Smoke Rise.



There are three governing districts in the City of Tucker charter. Smoke Rise will be District 1 and is the largest both in area and population. Elections for six council people – two from each of the three districts and a mayor will be elected in March 2016 in a non-partisan election. Each district will have a little more than 11,000 people.

Until the vote for the City of Tucker passes, there is no slate of candidates or even the opportunity to “put your hat in the ring.” All cityhood actions and candidacy are dependent on the referendum for cityhood passing.

A successful referendum will initiate all cityhood activities. Candidates will be sought shortly after the first of the year with elections on March 1, 2016. The first office holders will be elected to staggered terms and there are term limits in place for all offices. Once elected, the office holders can start work for the city and meet when there is a quorum. The mayor will earn \$20,000 annually and the council people will each earn \$14,000.

The official date cityhood would take effect is July 1, 2016. At that point, Tucker will be responsible for providing Planning and Zoning, Code Enforcement and Parks and Recreation services. Any additional services to be added will be guided by citizen input in accordance with the state mandates. The cost and delivery of these services are currently through DeKalb County and paid for through DeKalb County taxes. Those payments to the county will cease and be fully through the city, so it is not an added tax. DeKalb County will continue to provide all other services. Tucker would grow into other services as demand and feasibility dictate.

There is not a tax increase expected with cityhood. Homeowners should enjoy localized government at no additional cost. Schools, police, fire, sanitation and water services will not change. Zip codes also do not change.

To be eligible to vote, you must be a registered voter by October 5, 2015. If you wish, you may take advantage of the convenience of early voting beginning October 12, 2015. Your vote is your voice. Please make sure that your voice is heard.

For more information, and to see a map of the proposed city boundaries, go online to: tucker2015.com.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

By AvivA Hoffmann

Get Ready for Election 2015



Hopefully, each of you reading this column, who are United States citizens aged 18 and older, are already registered to vote in the upcoming 2015 General/Special Election (you must register at least 30 days before an election to vote in that election). Once you are registered, it is permanent. However, it is necessary that you update your registration if you change your residence or your name. So, all of you registered voters, make sure to exercise your American right to vote on Tuesday November 3, 2015 – or participate in one of the early voting dates.

Voting is extremely important because, no matter who you are or where you live, elections will in some way affect you and the things you believe in. Things like...your job, your neighborhood, your stores, your taxes, your child’s education, and your future. History has recorded numerous struggles of many who’ve fought to participate in this basic building block of democracy. So, make sure your vote counts!

Voter Checklist:

What You Need to Know

- Special Countywide election to change method of Ethics Board appointments
- General Municipal Elections for election of city officials
- Incorporation referendums for LaVista Hills and Tucker (Tucker 2015)
- Special election to fill vacancy in Senate District 43
- All DeKalb polling places will be open
- No need to re-register:
 - As long as you remain an active voter
 - As long as you do not change residences
- No party voting for municipal/special elections and no party registration in Georgia
- Registration Deadline – October 5, 2015
 - Last day to register and be eligible to vote
 - Last day to change name or address if already registered
 - Mailed applications must be postmarked
 - On-line registration must be submitted

What You Need to Do

- Determine your voting status, districts and polling place
 - On Line – <http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do> or “Ga Votes” App
 - Email – Voterreg@dekalbcountyga.gov
 - Telephone – (404) 298-4020
- Register or update your information, if needed
 - On-line submission, if you have a Georgia driver’s license or ID
 - In person at Voter Registration office or other locations
 - By mail – get form at www.dekalbvotes.com or <http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do>
- Decide how you will vote:
 - By mail
 - Applications can be submitted six months in advance
 - Ballots mailed starting October 12th
 - Ballot must be mailed to your residence or out of county address
 - Ballot must be returned by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day
 - Delivery by voter or relative, if voter is disabled

Early in-person voting

- 4380 Memorial Drive, Decatur, GA 30032 location only for early voting in this election
- Early Voting starts October 12, 2015
- Early Voting hours – 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Monday through Friday only (no weekend voting)
- Last day for Early Voting – Friday, October 30, 2015

Election day voting

- Must go to polling place - not early voting site
- Voting hours - 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

A special runoff for the general election – if needed – will be held December 1, 2015.

With an incredible amount of information all in one place, DeKalb County’s “Voter Registration & Elections” Website, DeKalbVotes.com, is also a great resource for us in DeKalb County - both before the election and after. This site is the only place you can get election information about your local representatives (such as DeKalb County’s Board of Commissioners and our Board of Education Representatives).

DeKalbVotes.com also includes notices of precinct changes, an election calendar, answers to Frequently Asked Questions, and sample ballots for an upcoming election. Additionally, it posts an “Election Summary Report” on the votes (which provides a recap of the races) and a

“Statement of Vote” document (which provides precinct reports and more details about the percentage of voter turnout in relation to the number of registered voters, etc.).

So, all of you Americans out there, make sure to exercise your right to vote!



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Morning Glories Garden Club

On September 15, the Smoke Rise Morning Glories had a very unusual program. The group was instructed to wear old clothing, bring rubber gloves and an apron and expect something fun to happen.

These instructions peaked the curiosity of the membership, and a large group gathered in eager anticipation. The speaker was Master Gardener and President of the Magnolia Garden Club, Vicki Jones who is a long-time friend of member, Joyce Ray.



Hostesses Carolyn Woodson, Betty Curlee, Judy Abrams and Ruth Ann Hill with workshop presenter Vicki Jones

Vicki led a workshop to create small garden vessels designed in the shape of participants' own hands. The process was fun and was as unique as each human hand.

Prior to the workshop, the club held a business meeting and announced plans for the fall season. Yearbooks were distributed, and Glennndolyn Hallman took a well-deserved bow for her hard work in crafting the new books. The 2015 Yellow Daisy Flower Show was reviewed, and members were recognized for their participation in volunteering and for prize winning show entries: Gloria Cooke, Judi Crutchfield, Betty Curlee, Quill Duncan, Julianne Goeke, Glennndolyn Hallman, Ruth Ann Hill, Janet McGinnis, Susan Morrison, Cookie Roland, Carolyn Woodson, Joy Zaidan, Diane Christian, Barbara Crank and Tally Sweat.

The club collected new underwear, socks and other clothing for the "Drop Your Drawers" Fig Leaf Project, sponsored by The Garden Clubs of Georgia, Inc., for the patients of Georgia Regional Hospital.

Mountain Mums September Meeting

By Carol Wales

Mountain Mums members met September 9 at the home of Lisa Armistead where they welcomed their newest member, Debbie Jones, and enjoyed guest speaker Marty Hillman's presentation on floral design. Using store bought flowers, chicken wire, floral foam, tape, straight wire and scissors, Marty crafted three beautiful arrangements in containers she purchased from Home Goods. Some of Marty's helpful advice:

- * If using flowers from your garden, cut them using sharp pruners, early in the morning or later in the evening when the temperature is cooler. If buying store bought flowers, get them on a Thursday when they are typically the freshest.
- * Immediately place the flowers in a bucket of lukewarm water.
- * Prior to using, soak the floral foam in a bucket or sink, using something to weigh it down. Leave it to soak for 15 minutes after the last bubble appears.
- * Place your container on a Lazy Susan, so you can turn the arrangement easily while designing. It is helpful to work off a high table or counter to save your back. Tape chicken wire over your floral foam. This makes it easier to hold the stems of the flowers in place.
- * Start by arranging the greenery. If you are placing flowers directly into a glass container, place a large canna leaf around the inside to hide the stems and give color to the base of the arrangement.
- * Think outside the box. Marty used artichokes and Elaeagnus (Russian Olive) branches in her arrangements, and the results were stunning!
- * Search the "Dutch Old Masters floral paintings" online for inspiration and then to quote Marty, "You don't have to be a pro to make arrangements that make you happy. Let your inner florist bloom." Marty can be reached at marhill411@gmail.com.



Speaker Marty Hillman, Jody Currie, Carol Wales, Becky Dennison



Members sell hypertufa and garden art at the Tucker Main Street Farmers Market.

Mountain Mums members continue to be busy, with many of them present at the Tucker Farmers Market on Thursday evenings where they have been selling their handmade ceramic garden art, birdhouses and Hypertufas. Plans for the fall include sprucing up the Memorial Triangle, presenting a horticultural workshop at Brookdale Senior Living, and a meeting on October 14 at 9:45 a.m. at the home of Jody Currie. The guest speaker will be Dawn Hines, with a program entitled, "Using Native Plants in the Landscape." If you would like to join the Mums, please contact Carol Wales at cawale@hotmail.com for more information.

Learn about Flowers for the Winter Garden at Mountain Shadow Garden Club October 12

One of the great benefits of gardening in the Atlanta area is that we can plan for year-round color and interest...even when folks in other parts of the country are shoveling snow. At the meeting of the Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) on Monday evening, October 12, popular local garden expert, Sara Henderson, will present a program titled "Flowers for the Winter Garden." She is currently Director of Gardens at Historic Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta and has been a frequent lecturer at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Southeastern Flower Show, Spruill Center for the Arts, and numerous other venues.



Sara Henderson

As past President of the Georgia Perennial Plant Association and past President of the American Hydrangea Association, Sara also has extensive practical experience. Her personal garden has been featured on the "Georgia Gardener" program for PBS and on HGTV's "A Gardener's Diary" and has been a tour stop for the Georgia Perennial Plant Association and other groups.

"Winter is an often overlooked season in our gardens, but it can be one of the most enjoyable," Sara notes. "Atlanta is blessed with many beautiful winter days, and it is a special joy to come upon these early bloomers, sometimes even covered in snow! This presentation will cover the many flowers that can add beauty and fragrance to our gardens during the winter season."

MSGC is open to men and women of all ages who enjoy learning about a diverse range of topics related to home landscapes, plants, and gardens. The meeting and program begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. in Founders Hall, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain. Free. For more information or directions, contact club president, Jeff Raines, at (404) 641-8633.

News from the Smoke Rise Garden Club

The September meeting of the Smoke Rise Garden Club was held in the home of Peggy Clegg. Paula Adeoba was co-hostess. Ralph Smith, docent of Trees Atlanta spoke about the opening and history of East side of the Beltway. His enthusiasm and knowledge is inspiring, and anyone who would be interested in more information about the Beltway and tours of the trail can contact treesatlanta.org.

The Yellow Daisy Flower Show was held at Memorial Hall, Stone Mountain, September 11-13, at Stone Mountain Park. Three members of Smoke Rise Garden Club were on the Flower Show Committee; Denise Finley, Ann Weisz and Edith Morton. Club members were awarded many Blue Ribbons for the horticulture specimens entered in the show. A "TOP AWARD" in Horticulture was given to Edith Morton for her "Crowder Pea Specimens."

Club members who attended the Yellow Daisy Flower Show said it was one of the best, in large part due to Ann Weisz who helped to organize the youth division of the show. At least 50 students participated and won quite a few ribbons and were delighted to be part of the program.

The club extends a big thank you to the ladies for their hard work helping to putting together such a successful show.

Those interested in joining the Smoke Rise Garden Club may contact Jane Culbertson at (770) 938-3060.

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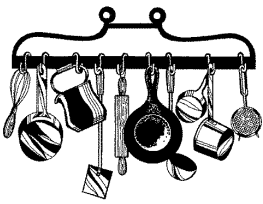
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HODGE PODGE



By Jenny Hall-Busch

You are probably wondering what disaster I have made for this month’s column. After last month’s chocolate goo, I thought I might just give up cooking altogether, but Yellow Daisy came along, and I found myself back to baking up a storm. In year’s past, I made a cake that some people really loved, and, because it was banana and peanut butter, I named it “Fat Elvis” cake. It was a breeze, because there was a great banana cake mix on the market that I could just embellish and create this marvel. Two years ago the mix disappeared and I felt doomed to never again make this particular cake – that is until I tried a semi homemade banana cake recipe and finally got back into business with this calorie bomb of a cake. I made an experimental one that was great, so I felt confident. Beware of overconfidence!

Somehow I managed to just zip through the first cake; threw it in the freezer and began the second. What could go wrong? Well, first I didn’t quite let the cake cool. And then I used too much filling. While icing it, I realized that the top two layers were sliding away from the bottom layer, I panicked and threw it in the freezer in hopes that it would firm up. Well, it continued to slide and managed to slide over on top of a pound of frozen bacon. So I had peanut butter icing firming up on the bacon package and a lopsided cake. Thinking fast, I wrapped the whole shebang in plastic wrap and just molded it together like a cheese ball and threw it back in the freezer. It looked like a patent leather version of Donald Trump’s hair. That was some ugly cake.

But when it got cool, even though it had handprints and smudges and gouges in it, it was lovely. If I hadn’t been so impatient it would have been fine for the bake sale. The slices were gorgeous...so I’m sharing the recipe. Please don’t be afraid. It will work. Just make sure the layers are very cool before you start putting it together. It’s a wonderful flavor combination for fall and the entire cake, icing and all, will freeze beautifully.

Infamous Fat Elvis Cake

Make the cake in three layers using 8 inch round pans. Grease and line with waxed paper. Lightly grease again. Preheat oven to 350°.

- 1 box of yellow cake mix – one that uses oil
- 1 cup of mashed banana (about 2 medium)
- ½ cup brown sugar, lightly packed
- 1 cup water less two tablespoons
- 2 tablespoons crème de banana liqueur
- ½ cup vegetable oil, like Wesson
- 3 large eggs

Cake mix sizes are all over the place. Normally, the ones I use are 15.25 ounces. Ok...combine the bananas with brown sugar. Add water, liqueur, oil and eggs. Blend a bit, and then add the dry cake mix. Use a hand mixer to blend together, and then continue to beat for two minutes until well mixed. Divide equally among the three pans, and bake about 22 minutes at 350°. Cool one minute in pan, and invert on wire racks to get cool. Peel off waxed paper while cakes are still warm.

Ok...you’ll need to have these ingredients handy so that you can fill and ice the cake:

- 2/3 cup chocolate frosting (canned is fine)
- 1 ½ medium bananas for slicing
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 stick room temperature butter
- 2 ½ cups powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 tablespoons heavy cream



When cake layers are cool, place one on cake plate. Gently spread about 1/3 cup chocolate frosting on this layer...thin layer...and leave the outer ½ inch edges of the cake plain so the chocolate doesn’t ooze out when you frost it. On top of this thin layer of frosting, place thin slices of banana, not overlapping. No need to fill all the gaps, but make the slices pretty thin or they will weep. Place second layer on top and repeat with chocolate frosting and another layer of thin banana slices. Place third layer on top and just stare at it. It should be plain. Take your impeccably clean hand and gently press layers to make sure they are going to stay there and not migrate. Glare at it to show it who’s boss and make frosting. You can put cake in the fridge, if you want to and it will firm it up, making frosting it easier. Or not.

Mix peanut butter and butter with mixer until blended. Add vanilla, powdered sugar and half the cream. Beat it and add remaining cream until it’s fluffy and gorgeous. Add more cream if you need it. Frost sides and top of cake thickly with peanut butter frosting and garnish this monument to yumminess with slices of dried banana and peanuts – or chocolate curls. You can freeze it right now, iced and all. Let it sit in the fridge a bit, so it gets settled down. I need to settle down, huh? Time for cake!