

50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 7

Serving the Smoke Rise Community for Fifty Years - 1968-2018

October, 2018

www.smokesignalnews.com

Stone Mountain Park Events

Pumpkin Festival: Play by Day, Glow by Night

September 22–October 28

By day 10:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

By night: dusk -9:00 p.m.

A Tour of Southern Ghosts

Thursdays, October 11, 18, 25 – 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Fridays, October 12, 19, 26 – 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Saturdays, October 13, 20, 27 – 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Eggtoberfest:

Famous Big Green Egg cookoff/recipes/food

October 13

46th Scottish Highland Games

October 20-21

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Country Living Fare

October 26-28, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Native American Festival and Pow Wow

November 1-4

See www.stonemountainpark.com/Events for tickets and more information.



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"Who Am I?"

This essay is a tribute to one of many American military heroes who selflessly came to rescue all who were injured in the bombing of the Marine base in Beirut 35 years ago on October 23, 1983

by Regina Ann Schuler Studwell, Ed.D.,
Smoke Rise Resident

This is the story of an American family. A blended family, that is, father with three children, mother with three children, and one child of their own. We met and married in Tucker, GA. Al was a Family Practice Physician; taking out tonsils, delivering babies, making hospital and house calls and working long, long hours. Regina was a Registered Nurse. Back in the day, (I love that phrase, it places us squarely in a time frame) my husband Al and I were both home at the same time. He then announced we'd be making a change in our lives. "We're going in the Air Force," he said. "You'll love military families. They are the salt of the earth." Al had been in the US Army after college to secure the GI Bill for his medical college costs. He knew military life.

The USAF recruiters interviewed us and told us the Air Force needed doctors as the Vietnam era docs were getting out of the service for private practice. They assured us they could station us almost anywhere we wanted to go. We agonized over this decision but came up with California, Hawaii, Spain or Japan. We would be packed out by Christmas.

As we drove into Plattsburgh AFB in upstate NY, a Strategic Air Command (SAC) base, we were in the midst of the first snowfall; 40 inches that January. Plattsburgh, NY is just miles from the Canadian border and just 60 miles from Montreal.

I threw myself into fitting in with the other wives. I joined the Officers' Wives Club, was elected Secretary of the organization, took the kids sledding, skiing, and ice skating. All this was far from the Atlanta, GA home we came from. I went back to school. It occurred to me working as an RN wouldn't happen. The towns near military bases hired hometown girls to work. They all knew our time on station was only about three years. We settled into what became a fulfilling and satisfying life.

After three years we moved overseas. We spent three years in Okinawa, Japan and two years at Incirlik AFB in Turkey. My husband received several promotions. He was now Colonel Studwell, a certified Flight Surgeon and a Hospital Commander. The USAF base located in the Middle East gave us the opportunity for travel. Our best visits were to the Holy Land, Egypt and brief visits to France, Germany and England.

...continued on page 6

HELP THE CITY OF TUCKER IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS

Take a one-minute survey on the Strategic Transportation Master Plan at www.tuckertomorrowplan.com



MAIN STREET
TUCKER, GA
OCTOBER 6
1:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M.
RAIN OR SHINE

Visit Local No.7, Growler Time Tapas and Taps, Bruster's, Chik-fil-A, Brockett Pub House and Grill, Matthews Cafeteria, Primo Ceramic Grills, Edible Arrangements, All American Hudson Grills, Sprig Restaurant, The Corner Cup Coffee, City Barbeque, Jimmy Johns, Village Burger, Freakin Incan, Tucker Meat Market, Kobe House, Uncle Maddio's Pizza, Stars and Strikes, Wing Stop, Trinity Community Ministries, Grecian Gyro, Just Bakery of Atlanta, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Shorty's Wood-fired Grill, Magnolia Room Cafeteria, 1910 Public House Lilburn

AND LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT
ON THE
TASTE OF TUCKER STAGE:

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Biggy and The Smalls
3:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Moontower

THE SMOKE SIGNAL... In Review

Some Things Never Change...



October, 1988 Smoke Signal front page



Smoke Signal

P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085
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Views and/or opinions expressed in articles, stories or letters published in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the Smoke Signal or its staff. The information contained in it is believed to be accurate, but not warranted in any way. It is the policy of the Smoke Signal to publish signed letters to the Editor. We will not publish unsigned letters, but will withhold the writer's name upon request. All content may be edited.

October Calendar of Events

- 8 Mountain Shadow Garden Club:
Fall Flower arranging program; 7:30 p.m.
Eastminster Presbyterian Church
- 11-24 Tour of Southern Ghosts
Stone Mountain Park
- 13 Escapade: The T. E. A. Caper
Main Street Theater
- 20 Escapade: The T. E. A. Caper
Main Street Theater
- 20 Smoke Rise Garden Club Garage Sale.
Watch for signs!
- 28 Bluegrass SUPERJAM, 7:00 p.m. LRUMC

Smoke Signal Deadlines

OCTOBER 13

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

(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
The Smoke Rise Community Garden on Hugh Howell Rd.

Deadline for classified ads is OCTOBER 10

SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

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

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 Link to the digital version of the *Smoke Signal*
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Volunteer of the Month Atlanta History Center

The Atlanta History Center has started a new tradition in their Volunteer Newsletter. They highlight a volunteer each month, and Smoke Rise resident Frank Luton, was selected for the latest issue.

Frank began volunteering with the Veteran's History Project as an interviewer. He has worked in the Keenan Research Center, the research library, and as a host for special events. Frank has been volunteering since March, 2016, and has accrued a total of 170 service hours. "The friendliness and willingness of the Atlanta History Center staff to help and guide me was the most wonderful surprise upon becoming a volunteer," says Frank of his experience.

The Atlanta History is located at 130 West Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA 30305.

BRING A BOOK TAKE A BOOK

Don't forget to check out the Little Libraries that have popped up near the swim clubs.



PAPER GET WET?

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

Look for the wooden box labeled *Smoke Signal*. They are longer available on Smoke Rise Drive

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

Sundays:
 9:00 a.m. Worship in the Chapel
 9:45 a.m. Sunday school
 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
 Communion: Second Sunday of each month
 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
 Pastor of Senior Adult Ministries: Rev. Jeanne Simpson
 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 Respite Care Program: Helen Wilborn
 Director of Communications: Joy Summerville-Johnson
 Telephone (770) 469-4881
www.eastminster.us

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

Sundays:
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary - nursery provided
 5:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship
 Communion: First Sunday of each month
 Wednesdays:
 5:45 p.m. Join us for dinner! - \$5 per adult
 6:30 p.m. Program
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

MC3 Church

(formerly Mount Carmel Christian Church)

Senior Minister: Art Stansberry
 Worship Minister: Leslie Riley
 Student Minister: Will Tyler
 Coordinator of Kids Ministry - Jim Barber
 Telephone (770) 279-8437
 6015 Old Stone Mountain Rd., Stone Mountain, GA 30087
www.mc3.life

MC3 Church launched on Easter Sunday. Hours are:

Sundays: 8:30 a.m. Coffee/ Doughnuts/ Fellowship
 9:30 a.m. Life Group Classes - Adults & Children
 10:30 a.m. Worship

First Wednesday 5:30 p.m. Family meal and worship service
 All other Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. -- Life Groups on campus

First Moravian Church

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

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

Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

Mountain West Church

Pastor: Michael Shreve
 Worship Arts Pastor: Gary Robinson
 Telephone (770) 491-0228
www.mwchurch.com
 4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain

Service Times
 9:30 a.m. | 11:15 a.m. | 1:00 p.m.

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

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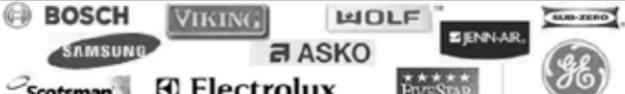
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SRCA News

By Michael, Huerkamp, President

The SRCA board met on August 20. They are scheduled to close-out the calendar year with meetings on September 17, October 15 and November 12. The SRCA responded to a need expressed by Smoke Rise Elementary Principal Pamela McCloud and is funding “the Jaguar Den” - a special break area for achieving students. They are also sponsoring fall plantings in the community garden.

The SRCA had representation at the September 12 Community Council meeting where a first review of the proposal for a new congregation and school at the Mt. Carmel site on Old Stone Mountain Rd occurred. The SRCA also offered assistance to Pat Soltys and Bill Rosenfeld for the District 1 Town Hall meeting on September 18, including using our contacts to facilitate the engagement of the officers from the Tucker Precinct to address safety and burglar-proofing subjects.

The Tucker Steering Committee has introduced to Tucker the prospect of THE PATH--a network of walking and biking paths along and connecting greenways in Atlanta. Several Smoke Rise residents are appointed to that committee including SRCA board member Kim Nesbitt. Many in Smoke Rise do not recall the debate over a PATH proposal in Smoke Rise by the PATH Foundation years ago. Because of this debate, the foundation has seemingly been reluctant to consider trails through Smoke Rise that might connect to Tucker city center, service the new school, connect to Stone Mountain Park and head in the direction of the existing trail on Ponce, or connect to Lilburn trails. To monitor changes and participate in discussion about the PATH, keep an eye on our local social media sites. You are being represented by SRCA!

SRCA has a bit of a black eye for a stall in planned landscaping at key smokestacks in Smoke Rise. We are continuing to work with the contractor to complete the work that was promised at the annual meeting.



DEKALB COUNTY IN THE NEWS!

The Atlanta Regional Commission reports Dekalb County is in the top three counties in Metro Population Growth, following Forsyth and Gwinnett Counties. The County added 10,600 people in 2017, the largest growth in nearly two decades. Dekalb county’s current population is 744,530.

Kanawha’s Kickin’ it Up!

Susan Gilbert, Staff Writer

Smoke Rise says thanks to the behind-the-scenes heroes, volunteers, who work so hard making our community great, one neighborhood at a time! Pictured are the Kanawha Community Association (KCA) officers who met in September to plan the October 16th KCA Annual meeting being held at 7:00 p.m. at the Smoke Rise Country Club. There will be light appetizers, a cash bar, and the community is welcome to attend. It’s a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and get up to speed with the challenges and opportunities before us. It’s a GREAT time to live in Smoke Rise!

Other neighborhoods in Smoke Rise interested in some of our major concerns are welcome to send representatives. We will have someone from the City of Tucker addressing what the explosive growth in new business licenses and rising home values means for us, someone from the Tucker police precinct is coming to discuss establishing Neighborhood Watch and address our traffic concerns. And the Front Gate, Welcome Committee and many other neighborhood-betterment topics will be covered. Mark your calendars and join us at the Club! Please RSVP to jdean@smokerisec.com or 770-908-2582 ext. 3.

And if your neighborhood is looking for a venue for your meetings or socials, contact the Club because they have fabulous facilities and the ability to meet almost any catering or entertainment requirement.

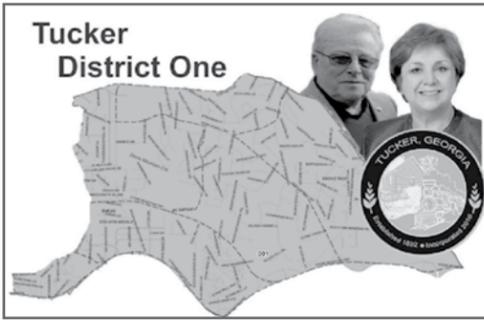
If you haven’t seen it, there is a new Smoke Rise Country Club overview video on YouTube that gives amazing insight including member testimonials, Board Member interviews, and drone footage really showing off the 175-acres of velvety greenspace that graces and enhances our community. Check it out by going to YouTube using search phrase “Tucker’s Best Kept Secret.”



Pictured above are (left to right) KCA officers Jeffrey Hagy, Secretary; Sandy Deangelo, Treasurer; Graham Felton, President; Jeffrey Kelly, Vice President, and Vernon Buckmon, Board Member/Front Gate Committee Chair. Not pictured is the photographer, Susan Gilbert, also a KCA Board Member.

District One Update
Bill Rosenfeld & Pat Soltys

September 18, Bill Rosenfeld and Pat Soltys hosted the third District One Town Hall this year. Over 125 attended. It was an action packed agenda with presentations on the District, Crime and Safety and safety/security products. First of all, The *Smoke Signal* was recognized as the Citizen of the Month for the contributions that the paper and its staff make to the community.



In the police update, we learned that all four of the people involved in our recent crime spree of burglaries are in custody. This cleared 20 burglaries in Smoke Rise. There were great statistics given about crime in our area and questions were asked and answered. A Fox 5 video was shown https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nr97Yvj_HMo showing results of a 20 question survey given to 99 criminals in prison for robbery. Their answers will make you safer! Three companies showed safety and security products to give ideas of options homeowners may have.

- Under Code Enforcement we addressed some of our more frequent complaints regarding trees, B & B's and blight.
- In the Parks and Rec segment, we announced the acquisition of a parcel of land adjacent to Smoke Rise Park on Hugh Howell Rd that will be used for parking.
- Regarding the street repaving schedule of the 14 streets Tucker will pave this year—eight are in District One.
- Michael Huerkamp spoke of behalf of the Smoke Rise Community Association (SRCA)

Mike Holcomb, owner of The Fountain Restaurant (<http://tuckerfountain.weebly.com/>) set up a table display at the back of the room to profile his business. We hope to profile community business in a similar fashion in the future.

The District and Police Presentations are available by emailing:
 Pat (psoltys@tuckerga.gov) or
 Bill (brosenfeld@tuckerga.gov)



Escapade: The T.E.A. Caper
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Two Saturdays Only!
October 13th and 20th
 12:00, 1:30, 3:00 and 4:30

A Bluegrass Bonanza - A SUPERJAM! Live and Pickin'

Sponsored by SEBA
Sunday, October 28, 7:00 p.m.
 Lawrenceville Rd UMC
 3142 Lawrenceville Hwy, Tucker, Ga.

This event is a fundraiser for the scholarship fund at Pick and Bow School in Dahlonga

Students will play!
Seabluegrass.org

OCTOBER
Tucker-Reid H. Cofer
LIBRARY NEWS

5234 LaVista Road, Tucker, GA 30084

- Children and Families:
 Building Blocks (Ages 0 to 24 months):
 Tuesdays, 9:00 to 10 a.m., (Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30)
 Tales for 2s (for 2 year olds):
 Wednesdays, 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. (Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31)
 Read to a Pet Partner (for ages 5 to 12):
 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., (Oct. 11).
 Pre-register to practice reading to a canine listener.
 Eager Readers Book Club (ages 5 to 6):
 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., (Oct. 15). Pre-register.
 Homeschool Family Get-Togethers (age 6 and up):
 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., (Oct. 17)
Teens and older:
 YouTube for YOU (Ages 13 to 17): 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
 Watch your favorite videos on the big screen (Oct. 2).
 They Lost their Heads (Teens up): 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
 A disturbing informative virtual chat about medical history with author Carlyn Beccia, (Oct. 23)
 Pre-register at 770.270.8234, ext. 2312

Mark your Calendar

GFWC
Stone Mountain
Woman's Club
Christmas Tour of Homes
Saturday, December 8, 2018

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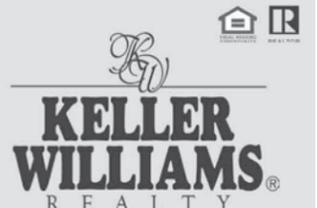
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Take a Veteran to School Day

Veterans Day is coming on November 10, 2018. The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club will be hosting the "Take a Vet to School Day" at Smoke Rise Elementary School on Friday, November 9. If you are a veteran and would be willing to come to the school that morning and speak to the students about your experience in the military, please contact Barbara Luton (770-491-6711, barluton@aol.com). This is a wonderful time for the students and the veterans. It usually lasts from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. with the veterans visiting 2-3 classes. We can work around your schedule. You do not have to have had combat experience. The students need to learn about all of the opportunities in the military and all of the different jobs that veterans have done.



Smoke Rise Elementary School is Already "Leaving Its Mark"

As Smoke Rise Elementary School opened its doors on August 6, 2018, students entered with great anticipation of a successful school year. Teachers and students gallantly discussed classroom expectations, while Smoke Rise Elementary School's principal, Pamela McCloud, addressed the schoolwide mission statement.

Smoke Rise Elementary School's Mission Statement

"Smoke Rise will actively encourage the development of a personal best for all students by providing a school environment which will enable them to meet the challenge of living and working in an increasingly complex society."

Smoke Rise Elementary School's first event of the year was Donuts with Dad. A sea of Dads from pre-K to 5th grades filled the cafeteria as they received rave reviews about their presence, and how they can continue to support their children.

The next event was Smoke Rise Elementary School's 2018 - 2019 National Junior Beta Club induction. Inductees received their alcaldes, while the Smoke Rise Elementary School's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) planned the Back to School Dance in their honor. It was a great success. 2018-2019 Smoke Rise Elementary School National Junior Beta Club Inductees are: L. Bitew, K. Mitchell, J. Jackson, H. Nur, T. Jacobs, D. Patel, M. Lawson, B. Patkovic, K. McCollum, X. Ragland, N. Carter-McCorvey, E. Ramirez, S. Mejia Ortega, Z. Sang, C. Miles, F. Smith

Students are also finding other ways to "Leave their Mark". Although it's still considered the beginning of the school year, students have already exhibited great behaviors with improved academic scores and simply going above and beyond the call of duty. As a reward, students receive weekly access to the Jaguar Den. The Jaguar Den is a classroom that has been transformed into a mini game room consisting of choices like Wii, X-Box, basketball shooting, air hockey, Avatar games, and more. Thanks to the Smoke Rise Community Association and Tucker's Game Stop partnership, we could not have done it without you.

As you can see, Smoke Rise Elementary School has a head start in "Leaving It's Mark" on the 2018 - 2019 school year.



Scouting: It's fun... with a purpose

The Smoke Rise Boy Scout troop - Troop 876 - will host a day of outdoor activities on Saturday, November 17, which is open to the public. Activities will include: Orienteering, learning Boy Scout 10 Essentials, preparing and cooking a meal, and hiking. Youth in 5th grade and up or 11 years and older (and parents) are invited.

Troop 876 is a boy-led troop which meets on Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. at Eastminster Presbyterian Church at 5801 Hugh Howell Road. We are an active outdoor troop, with monthly trips that include camping, backpacking, fishing, and lots more. We also participate in service projects in and around Tucker, Stone Mountain, and Lilburn.

It's going to be a fun time, so grab a parent or grandparent and come on out!

For more information and directions to the location, contact Tom Gibbs at 770-351-6517 or tom.gibbs@comcast.net

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**Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts Adds to Faculty
– Fall Classes for Art, Drama Begin in October –**

The Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts (SRAA) announces two additions to its already formidable teaching staff. GREYSON CHADWICK joins as an assistant teacher for the drama department of the academy, and CARRIE SAINT MARTIN will teach classes for young artists. The SRAA Fall Drama classes begin October 1, and two art classes for young artists begin October 9.

“Both Greyson and Carrie are valued additions to our teaching staff,” said Denise Burcham, SRAA executive director. “Each has real-world experience in the subjects they will be teaching, which I believe will engage their students more fully.”



Greyson Chadwick

Chadwick is excited to be back in Atlanta after many years working as an actor/producer in Los Angeles. She began her journey in the arts at a young age at SRAA, studying under her mother, Janet Chadwick, who heads up the drama department at the academy. She has appeared in movies and television, including roles in Tyler Perry’s *Daddy’s Little Girls* and *Why Did I Get Married*. Her lead role in the Lionsgate indie *Dance of the Dead* took her to Los Angeles to further pursue her career. Chadwick currently teaches musical theatre, dance, and on-camera acting at several schools and studios around Atlanta, and will assist with the drama students at SRAA.

Saint Martin holds a BFA degree in visual art from Auburn University. She has been employed as a graphic artist, photographer and illustrator for children’s literature. She most recently held a teaching position at Greater Atlanta Christian School in Norcross. Saint Martin will be teaching two weekly, hour-long youth classes in art during the fall semester; elementary and middle school ages are welcome in both classes.



Carrie Saint Martin

Thursdays 6 p.m. Painting Class for Beginners
Tuesdays 6 p.m. Drawing Class for Beginners

For more details on classes and private lessons, visit www.smokerise-baptist.org/arts or call 678-533-0562. The Smoke Rise Academy of Arts is housed in Smoke Rise Baptist Church at 5901 Hugh Howell Road in Stone Mountain. Classes are offered all year in music, dance, drama and art.

Boo Box Workshops Benefit ART Station

GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club volunteers are working on Monday mornings at the ART Station in Stone Mountain village putting together ‘Boo Boxes’. These are souvenirs that contain a “ghost” and “ghost food” in a decorated box. These sell for \$5.00 at the schoolhouse at the end of the tour at the Tour of Southern Ghosts. Nelda Lunsford, a Smoke Rise resident, and Miriam Boone, a club member, are in charge of the morning work sessions. Stone Mountain Woman’s Club volunteers are also making ‘Witches Hands’ filled with popcorn along with Halloween decorated Hershey candy bar covers, cupcakes and other holiday themed craft items to sell. The ART Station will also be selling books, CD’s and other Tour related items.



Standing left to right--Lawanna Goodman, Miriam Boone, Nelda Lunsford. Seated left to right--Betty Pompey, Sheila Hortman

Glenda Willett, a Smoke Rise resident, and club member Sheila Hortman, will head the volunteers at the schoolhouse for the Tour of Southern Ghosts.

Who Am I?...continued from page 1

Sunday morning, October 23, 1983, we were getting ready for Chapel when Al received a phone call from the Wing Commander, Col. Gordon Clauser. His message was, “Al, there’s trouble in Beirut, go down and get those guys.” This was the terrorist attack on the US Marine Corps barracks by the airport in Beirut. The terrorists killed 241 that day, 220 Marines, 18 Sailors, and 3 Soldiers. The terrorists managed to decimate the entire first floor of the barracks that housed the Medics. This meant the wounded had no one to care for them.

Al changed into his flight suit, grabbed his medical bag, and without a word started down the hall. I broke out of my trance, started to follow him, and the thought entered my mind – I might never see this man again. I took off my bedroom slipper and threw it at his receding back. I yelled, “Don’t you dare do something stupid and get killed.” I then burst into tears. He came back, gave me a quick, hard hug, and a kiss. Then he turned and left.

I didn’t see him for another week or more. Later we found that after landing at the Beirut airport, Al was the first physician in attendance that day. He evacuated 24 critically wounded soldiers on his aircraft to Rammstein AFB, Germany. One Marine died in flight.

We finished Al’s 20-year USAF commitment and retired back home in Atlanta. During Al’s career, he lost an eye on active duty, suffered bone and arthritis problems, and had more than 20 major surgeries. The VA considers him 90% disabled, but you’d never know it. He manages to pretty much have a good life.

Twenty-five years after the Beirut bombing, I saw a write up in the Atlanta Journal Constitution saying there would be a local meeting of Beirut Marines. I called the number listed and received a great welcome and an invitation to come to Camp LeJeune, NC for a get together of the survivors. We went.

It was a remarkable evening. We met up with the pilot of Al’s aircraft, Capt. Joe Bunker. He had to siphon gasoline from the planes parked on the Beirut tarmac to get back home with the wounded. The USMC Commander, Col. Tim Geraghty met Al that evening. He had a message for Al. The mother of the young Marine who died on Al’s aircraft asked the Colonel if he ever met the doctor on the aircraft who brought her son home. If so, please thank him. Even though her son died, she knew where he was. Well, that did it for Al. He started to sob. He’d been carrying his grief over losing that Marine for twenty-five years.

The Marines found out that Al was missed when they gave the flight crew stationed in Germany medals for bravery and heroism in Beirut. Al, being stationed in Turkey, fell through the cracks. They did something about it. The pilot had a friend in his home state of Wisconsin, Congressman Paul Ryan. A lot of activity went on and 28 years after the fact, Al received his Medal during a great ceremony at Dobbins AFB in Marietta, GA on June 5, 2011, with family and friends present.

I quote from the Meritorious Achievement Medal: “Col. Studwell demonstrated stellar clinical skills as he led the team that saved the lives of the 23 remaining Marines which contributed immeasurably to this hazardous and historic mission.” The pilot, then Cpt. Joe Bunker, concluded “today we honor a fellow military member with an award that is 27 years overdue. More importantly, we are here to remember the 241 service members who lost their lives.”

Many of the Marines injured in Beirut came to show their gratitude. Col. Tim Tarchick, Wing Commander of the 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins AFB, Marietta, GA said, “this Award is a big deal authorized by the President of the United States. I am pleased to be standing before a silent Warrior – one who paved the way for people in uniform, particularly in the medical field.”

Who am I? I am a military wife.

Now, Al and I sit and watch NASCAR on television to see the beginning ceremony: the prayer, the fireworks, the singing of the National Anthem, and best of all, the Fly-Over and presentation of the Colors. We fly our Flag at home.

Again, I know who I am. I am an American Patriot.

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Strippin' a Boat

By Joel Gilbert, P.E.

My wife, Susan, and I are tackling a major woodworking project this fall. Having built an Adirondack Guide Boat a few years ago, I wanted to build a 10-foot, strip-built tender. "Tender" is the fancy word for dingy – a small boat that resides on a larger one for shore excursions. This small tender we are building seats 3 adults, is really stable, and easy to row. Best of all, it weighs a mere 75 pounds, making it easy to lift and move around. The reason it is so light is that it is built entirely from thin, lightweight wood strips. Each strip is ¼ inch thick and is one inch wide with a bow at the top and a groove at the bottom, making it easy to nest and glue strips together following the shape of a boat. There are no nails, staples or metal on the boat.

You can get plans and kits for kayaks, canoes, and rowboats online. Many plans are free and can be used to cut out the "forms" that are placed at one-foot intervals on a wooden frame, called a "strongback". The strongback is the skeleton upon which the boat is formed, keeping the strips aligned. Putting duct tape over the edges of the form keeps glue from sticking as you strip-build the boat over the forms.



Because the boat we are building has no nails or staples, each strip has to be securely glued to the one next to it and clamped to the forms to get it to follow the hull shape. The process can't be rushed, but it gets really exciting when the hull begins taking shape and starts looking like a boat. We apply one or two strips each day on each side of the boat, so it takes about a month to complete this phase of the project.

Of course, as you woodworkers know, the real work begins once you have all of the stripping and gluing done, because now you have to sand it smooth, fill in the gaps between strips, and patch the errors that occurred during gluing and clamping. We spend about 30 minutes each night on this, and it is great therapy working together. Plus, Susan is detail-oriented and loves that she can now mix just the right color and putty over all the cracks and mistakes.

Later this month we will be applying fiberglass and adding the finishing hardware that completes it as a boat. We will share our progress in pictures as it progresses.

From conversations about this boat with neighbors, I have concluded, we have many really talented woodworkers here in our community. It would be great for more of our neighbors to share their woodworking projects. Maybe this could even inspire a new column for our Smoke Signal with tips and ideas for using these creative talents. If you are interested, or have ideas or projects to share, please submit them along with pictures to the Smoke Signal Box for future papers (staff@smokesignalnews.com). Maybe if we have enough interest, we can get a craft or woodworker group started here in Smoke Rise. It is not only great therapy, but you can make some pretty useful items with all the hard work. We plan to end up with a boat! Stay tuned.

Smoke Rise Preferred Contractor's List is Now ONLINE Only!



If you are looking for reliable people to build decks, paint, do electrical, plumbing, interior design and many other services, then request a copy of this list. We maintain a free listing of contractors and other service providers that your neighbors have used successfully.

For a copy of this list, go to: <http://www.smokesignalnews.com/vendor-list.html>

You may also submit a new recommendation, comment on a service you used or brag on a contractor.

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Rotary Club of Stone Mountain Marks Stellar Year with Gold Citation Award

The Rotary Club of Stone Mountain was awarded in August with a Gold Citation banner for its outstanding work in the Rotary year 2017-2018. The Rotary Citation recognizes clubs that support each of the organization's strategic priorities by meeting certain goals. The Stone Mountain Club received the Rotary Citation with Presidential Distinction (Gold) because they exceeded the goals of the Rotary Citation, including those for increasing the number of female members, overall member retention, public image awareness, and growth in Rotary Foundation giving.

In September, the club hosted District Governor Court Dowis at a reception at Husker's Café in Stone Mountain, owned by RSCM member (and president-elect for the 2019-2020 Rotary year) Carl Smith. About 40 members and their guests attended the reception, enjoying a tasty spread of barbeque, sliders, fruit and cheese spreads and other side dishes. District Governor Dowis, a member of the Rotary Club of Harris County, is a race car fan, and in his honor, the restaurant was decorated in a race car theme for the party.

As always, the Stone Mountain club hosted a diverse and engaging list of speakers in August and September, including Sylvia Kametches Padrick, who recalled her time as a Japanese-American child incarcerated in a WWII internment camp; Eagle Scout Gibbs Robinson, who talked about his design and installation of "green latrines" on Ossabaw Island; and Stone Mountain Mayor Pat Wheeler, who updated the members on the city's accomplishments over the past year and plans for the next year.



Rotary Club Stone Mountain leadership team celebrates the visit of District Governor Court Dowis at a reception at Huskers Café. (Front) Assistant Governor Lou Alvarado, (back left to right) Carol and Past President and Past District Governor Al Lipphardt, Smoke Rise residents, Past President and Past District Governor, Margie Kersey, District Governor Dowis, Past President and Past District Governor, Casey Farmer, Current President Scott and wife Paula McEvoy, Smoke Rise residents (photo by E.D. Brantley/Shiny Inc.)

The Rotary Club of Stone Mountain meets every Tuesday for noon lunch at Stone Mountain First United Methodist Church, 5312 West Mountain Street, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083. Guests are always welcome. To learn more about the club and its programs, go to stonemountainrotary.org or follow the club on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Smoke Rise Community Garden

It has been a hot but productive summer at the Smoke Rise Community Garden. The bountiful harvests of plot renters have produced tomatoes, peppers, beans, peas, okra, cucumbers, eggplant and various herbs-just to name a few! With cooler temperatures coming our way in the near future, it is time to start the removal of wilting crops and make room for the new ones that will tolerate the milder temps. It also means time to get back to work on several construction projects at the garden. We will be working on the construction of a main gate and the remaining food pantry beds.

If you are interested in volunteering with construction projects-or to rent a garden bed for the fall-contact Eileen Stone 404-583-3091 or garden@smokerise.org.




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Rotary of Stone Mountain President Scott McEvoy: Piloting through Tragedy

By L.A. Dison

This past summer, Smoke Rise resident Scott McEvoy was sworn in as the president of the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain. Like many Rotary officers, Scott had served in a variety of volunteer and leadership roles since he joined the club in 2007, always ready to lend a hand or make a donation to help when he saw a need in the community. He worked hard as a member of the club, but his journey to become the top club officer was more of a struggle than many realize.

Scott was born in St. Louis, Missouri, the youngest of three children born to Alvin and Virginia. His father worked for General Motors, and the family enjoyed a typical suburban life in a suburb outside of Detroit. After earning a bachelor's degree in business from the College of William and Mary, and a master's in finance in from Stetson University, Scott was drafted into the Army.

A large cat scratch incurred the night before induction waylaid Scott's plans for an Army career, since the wound caused a cancellation of his entry into the Army. The injury proved a fortuitous accident; while waiting for his hand to heal, he enlisted with the Florida Air National Guard, who sent him to Officer Candidate School and then flight school. During his time as a pilot, Scott flew the T-38 Talon, a supersonic jet trainer, interceptor jets F-102 and F-106, and the well-known supersonic interceptor jet F-16. Scott's career with the Florida Air National Guard lasted over thirty years, with both reserve and active duty. He retired in 2002 with the rank of colonel and as the Vice Commander of the Southeast Air Defense Sector, First Air Force at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida.

After the military, Scott flew commercially for several airlines, including National, Pan American and United, working his way up to a captain's spot on the Boeing 757/767 out of New York City. His airline career abruptly ended in January 2008 in a violent home invasion in Ormond Beach, Florida. An armed intruder broke into Scott's house, tied him up and beat him into unconsciousness, robbing him and leaving him for dead. Scott managed to escape the house and covered in blood, found his way up to the highway and flagged down a passing car. The driver stayed with Scott until the police and ambulance arrived. A week later, the robber shot and killed a security guard at a CVS in South Beach, then shot and killed himself after being surrounded by police.

Scott spent two months in the hospital recovering from the attack, primarily at Peninsula Rehab Center at Florida Hospital Oceanside. His traumatic head injury left him with severe cognitive deficits, including poor attention span and concentration, and damage to executive functioning. His vision deficits resulted in right sided neglect and poor depth perception, and he had limited reading and writing abilities.

Once discharged from the rehab center in Florida, Scott needed an outpatient facility to continue the ongoing intensive occupational, speech and recreational therapy. He was accepted into the Shepherd Pathways program in Atlanta (the outpatient facility of Shepherd Hospital), where for six months he worked in therapy sessions three days a week. He required a caregiver at home to help him with daily living tasks and to work with him on his physical therapy. As part of his therapy, he also joined Side-By-Side Brain Injury Clubhouse in Stone Mountain Village, an organization that helps survivors of traumatic brain injury readjust to life, learn how to manage day-to-day tasks and regain a sense of independence and self.

In September 2008, Scott briefly returned to Jacksonville, Florida, where he attended Brooks Rehab before returning to Atlanta. While his main motivation during all his rehabilitation and therapy was a return to the skies, even just as a private pilot, unfortunately he was unable to attain that goal. But he is grateful for having recovered enough to again live

independently, drive a car and lead what he feels is a fulfilling life. He credits the wonderful family members, friends, therapists and caregivers who worked so hard and gave him the encouragement he needed to persevere. He is particularly grateful for long-time companion and best friend Paula Adeoba, whom he married in May 2017, forty years after they first met in Daytona during spring break.

Today Scott's life is busy with volunteer work, mostly with Side by Side and Shepherd Pathways, where he works to share his experience and

encouragement with others recovering from traumatic brain injury. He is active in his church, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Snellville, where he serves as the vestry chair for stewardship and sings in the choir. He continues to strengthen his body with gym workouts and swimming. In 2017, he and Paula spent two weeks in South Africa for their honeymoon. That year, he was also nominated by the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain as president-elect of the club, and took office this past July.

Scott McEvoy continues to inspire through his spirit for life and dedication to helping others. As he piloted planes during most of his adult life, now he hopes to guide his Rotary Club in service to the community and to the world.



techtalk
by Susan Gilbert

It's That
Time Again!

You can feel it in the air on those days when the temperature drops, cool breezes blows, and all of a sudden you realize --- fall is here and winter isn't far behind. This is a great time to investigate ways of lowering winter utility bills, a passion near-and-dear to my heart.

These are simple reminders, but ideas that could save you hundreds of dollars over the winter months while improving your comfort.

1. Conduct an online energy audit of your home. No scheduling or waiting for an auditor to come to your home. It takes only a couple of minutes to complete and you will learn a lot about your home's energy use and savings potential. Georgia Power offers this FREE service at their website www.georgiapower.com. Select Residential and then Save Money & Energy. Scroll down to locate Home Energy Check-Up. If you are a Georgia Power Customer, log-in to your online account get a detailed analysis of your home using your actual billing history. If you don't want to log-in or are not a Georgia Power customer, just use the Estimate version. It's quite good too.

The Check-up asks just 10 questions about your home, like its size and how many people live there. When you have answered them all, click Show Analysis to reveal "dollarized" recommendations for your home. That means each recommendation tells you how much you are likely to save by taking that suggestion. And if there are rebates or incentives that apply, you will see clickable links right there on the page to help save more money.

1. October is the best time to lock-in a gas rate for the coming winter. And I do recommend locking-in because that insures you against the vagaries of price swings that can happen due to weather and market fluctuations. The Georgia Public Service Commission website has a great price comparison tool that shows an "apples-to-apples" comparison of the real cost of a therm of natural gas.

There you will see home some companies lure you with a really low per-therm price to hide costs in high monthly customer service fees and other fees that make your bills higher than other providers offer. But it's hard to tell, so I have read the September PSC charts for you and report the range is from \$1.02 cents/therm to \$1.48/therm, and the monthly customer service fees range from \$3.45 to \$9.95. Again this year, True Natural Gas is low-cost on both numbers. Their per-therm number is \$1.02, the lowest, 45% less than the highest, and their customer service fee is what most offer, \$5.95, but that drops every year to a low of \$3.45 as part of their customer loyalty program, a \$30 annual savings.

1. When did you last change your HVAC system filters? Clogged filters stifle air flow, stress your heating unit, and cause comfort problems, plus make it more expensive to heat your home. If you can't change them yourself, get help from a friend or HVAC contractor.

2. Final note: the easiest way to cut heating bills is to lower your thermostat setting in the winter. The recommendation is holding 68 degrees F. Sure, you don't want to be uncomfortable, but by dressing warmly and adjusting the setting when you are away or asleep will save money and minimize the impact on your comfort.

Here's to keeping more money in your pocket this winter and reducing the wasteful use of our precious natural resources! The majority of our heating still comes from the non-renewable fuel natural gas, and every therm we don't use is potentially available to future generations, who may need it more than we do today.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann



DeKalb Entertainment Commission Marks One Year

DeKalb County is becoming the preferred location for many residents and businesses – and that includes the entertainment industry. That’s

where the DeKalb Entertainment Commission is making a big impact – marking one year of service this month. A division of Decide DeKalb, the Development Authority for DeKalb County, the Commission is charged with stimulating economic growth across three entertainment industry sectors (Film/TV, Music, and Digital Entertainment).

The Commission helps establish connections in the fast-growing entertainment industry and encourages companies to locate here, thereby increasing job opportunities, construction, development, and overall industry growth. The Commission helps showcase DeKalb County to statewide, regional and national audiences. Also, this Commission is a “one-stop-shop” for many aspects of entertainment production. This is the place for answers about permitting, filming locations, tax credits, work crews, and more.

Mark your calendars: the Commission will host its second Entertainment Expo on Saturday, November 3, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at ROAM Innovative Workplace at Perimeter Center, 1151 Hammond Drive Northeast, #240, Atlanta 30346. The event features panels, networking and other resources for DeKalb companies, professionals and residents seeking to build a presence in the entertainment industry. Find out more about tickets and registration at: <https://dekalbentertainment.com/expo>.

The Expo will go in-depth on the latest industry trends, provide opportunities to walk away with tangible items to enhance your portfolio, and provide guidance on how to get into the entertainment business in Georgia. Whether you are a seasoned professional, just starting out in the industry or looking to make a career change, all attendees will walk away with a wealth of knowledge.

You can learn a lot more about The DeKalb Entertainment Commission online at: www.DeKalbEntertainment.com.



Ladies in Stride, Inc. 6th Annual Cruise Retreat

Ladies from all across the United States came together for the 6th Annual L.I.S. Total Health & Wellness Cruise Retreat aboard the luxurious Liberty Carnival Cruise Ship June 7-10, 2018. On June 6, the day before boarding the ship, the ladies enjoyed a private lakefront leadership cook-out at a lovely mansion reserved for the members of Ladies in Stride, Inc in Titus, Florida.

Aboard the ship, the retreat attendees received health screenings by Ladies in Stride medical team: Dr. Donald Hanchett, Dana Foster-Haire, L.P.N and Latoria Noland, C.N.A. Test results were discussed with the ladies and they were educated on the importance of total health and stress reduction by Dr. Hanchett. Ms. Stephanie Lampley, Regional Vice President with Primerica spoke with cruise attendees on finances, and deaconess Shelia Humphrey spoke on relationships and spiritual growth. Ladies in Stride, Inc. awards were presented by Founder Geonice Hanchett of Smoke Rise, GA and L.I.S. Vice President Panette Hanchett Griffin of Tampa, FL. The BMI (Body Mass Index) Award was presented in loving memory of Mr. Donald Hanchett, II by Kevin Hanchett and the Hanchett family to Mrs. Kaye Dixon of Smoke Rise, GA. The Young Ladies in Stride High School Senior Award was presented to Eliza Paknya of Tucker High School. The Team Captain Award was presented to Co-Captains LaKisa Cockrell and Kenya Cooper of the L.I.S. Tuscaloosa, AL team. Awards were presented to the youngest member to attend, Alexis Griffin and the most mature member to attend, Mrs. Sharon Prestegaard, both of Tampa, FL. Congratulations to all of the L.I.S. award recipients and to Mr. Paul Hanchett and his wife, Ashley on the birth of their beautiful new baby girl, Taylen.

After the awards, attendees enjoyed the Atlantis Beach Resort in the Bahamas. The ladies looked lovely during their All White Night at the Captain’s Dinner aboard the ship. The retreat ended with an awesome day at sea, relaxing and soaking up the sun and spending time with their fellow L.I.S. sisters. Thank you to all of our awesome 2018 sponsors for helping us to “Keep It Moving” toward a more healthy and balanced life! Our top sponsor this year was Kroger in Tucker, GA. Please stay tuned for our 2019 7th Annual Total Health & Wellness Retreat at the Lovely Loews Coronado Bay Resort in San Diego, CA, which will include a trip to Rosarita, Mexico! Membership for Ladies in Stride, Inc. is open to ALL ladies 13 years old and up. Feel free to read about Ladies in Stride, Inc. and please join if you are interested at www.ladiesinstride.com.



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Smoke Rise Garden Club

Smoke Rise Garden Club had a very active Summer! Members enjoyed a twilight alfresco dinner after hiking the trails with Master Gardeners at Suntreader Farm in Conyers. They went blueberry picking at 5 Sons Farm in Talking Rock and had a Christmas in July luncheon preparing Christmas boxes for Egleston Hospital. Our Charter member Edith Morton celebrated her 90th birthday in July!

In August, we started working with Smoke Rise Elementary 2nd and 3rd grade classes to prepare floral designs for the Youth division of the Yellow Daisy Flower Show. The theme of Yellow Daisy Flower Show was "Daisy's got Game". The children's division themes were: Minecraft and Slinky.



The youth prepared 35 designs and they submitted horticulture grown in the school garden. We are so happy to say the Cosmos flower specimen won a Best in Show ribbon! The children won 8 blue, 10 red, 9 yellow and 9 honorable mention ribbons. As a bonus, their designs were also used to decorate the tables at the Grandparents luncheon held the following Monday! Our next activity will be a recycled materials sculpture contest. We are renewing our volunteer activities at Smoke Rise Elementary and are looking forward to many more collaborations!

In the spirit of the DeKalb Federation's theme: "Hometown Heroes", for Labor Day, we prepared 20 mini-bedside floral arrangements for Grace Nursing Home in Tucker.

The Club met at the home of Usha Ramakrishnan September 10th with Denise Finley and Pat Mitchell serving as co-hostesses. Stanley Harper of Ferncliff Catering was our speaker. Stanley demonstrated three international roasted tomato sauces prepared using a confit technique: Moroccan sauce made with fennel, red pepper flakes, oregano and served with mozzarella balls, a Mexican salsa made with a confit of Padilla peppers, onion, garlic, cumin, chili powder, coriander seed and oregano and an "All-star" Thai sauce made with coconut milk, lemon grass, shallots, pineapple, ginger and brown sugar, served with peanut butter, Thai basil, mint and cellophane noodles. Stanley is an inspiration! He teaches us handy simple techniques for using fresh garden vegetables and herbs.

Our October 1st meeting topic will be "Honey Bees".

A Garage Sale fundraiser is scheduled for October 20th. Watch for the signs on Hugh Howell!

Smoke Rise Garden Club is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc, Garden Club of Georgia, Redbud District and DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs. We are celebrating our 50th Anniversary of gardening in the Smoke Rise Community.

Mountain Shadow Garden Club to Feature Fall Flower Arranging Program

The meeting of Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) on Monday evening, October 8, will feature a program by floral designer Marty Hillman on "Fall Flower Arranging". She will demonstrate how the abundance of seasonal blooms and other plant material in the Atlanta area can be brought inside and used in creative decorations for the fall holidays.

Ms. Hillman has extensive experience and operated her own floral and event business, called "In Bloom", for 14 years. Weddings and parties were her main focus. She also was a special contractor for Christmas installations in the Coca Cola complex, Druid Hills Country Club, Evergreen at Stone Mountain, and for local banks and private homes. Earlier, she had apprenticed for three years with a Master Floral Designer who studied in Paris and New York.



Marty Hillman

Her career has included experience in the corporate world with responsibility for marketing and events, but she has always continued to do floral work. She was associated with the State Botanical Garden of Georgia for many years.

MSGC is open to men and women of all ages who enjoy learning about a diverse range of topics on gardens, plants, and home landscaping. The Monday evening meeting and program activities begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments and socializing follow. The group meets in Founders Hall at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain. Free. For more information or directions, call club president Jeff Raines at 404-641-8633 or follow us at www.facebook.com/MtShadowGardenClub.

Mountain Mums are Gems in the Gardens and the Community

The Mountain Mums met on September 12 in the home of Cheri Schneider. Several Mums were recognized for their contributions and success at this year's Yellow Daisy Festival. Ann Purr won a blue ribbon for her creative floral design/table top entry, and Lucy White won a "Best in Show" ribbon for her horticulture entry. The Mums received at least 16 ribbons at YDF flower show!

The Mums enjoyed a program on their namesake, "Chrysanthemums: Gems of the Garden," presented by Dan Schadler, an accredited Chrysanthemum judge with credentials from the National Chrysanthemum Society, and currently First Vice President of NCS. His presentation featured the history of mums, growing information and the different classes of mums.



Some interesting facts about mums:

- Chrysanthemums are the most widely grown potted plant in the U.S.
- They are the longest lasting cut flower.
- Chrysanthemums are easy to grow and bloom on schedule.
- The Chrysanthemum is the official seal of Japan – not 'the rising sun'.

The Mountain Mums are part of the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs. On Tuesday, September 11, the Federation presented a lovely red, white and blue floral wreath during a 9/11 remembrance service held at the DeKalb County Public Safety Headquarters. Gaye Auman, Ann Purr and Beth Henson represented the Mums at the service which marked the 17th anniversary of 9/11.

The Mums new club year theme is "Plant Smiles, Grow Laughter, Harvest

Morning Glories Learn About Tucker Parks and Recreation

September's club meeting was all about discovering the City of Tucker's many parks. Jason Collins, the Director of Tucker Parks and Recreation, was our good natured speaker. He was game for our many questions on the current status of parks in our area and what the recreational future holds for our community.

Currently, there are ten parks in Tucker and that includes the parks in Smoke Rise. As of April 1st, the city officially took over control of the parks and recreation services from DeKalb County. Included in this division is the very popular multi-purpose Tucker Recreation Center. That building has very high usage all year long from summer camp, Main Street Theatre Productions, gymnastics, the Girl Scout store, ceramics, a food bank, yoga, tai chi and ballroom dancing and many more activities! And last January the word went out that the building interior needed to be painted. Over 150 people arrived and within three hours the interior was painted! Jason complimented Tucker residents for their very strong volunteer spirit that has sustained the parks over the years. The Friends of Cofer Park and The Friends of Henderson Park are two examples of how many initiatives are supported and nurtured in the parks. Jason hopes to continue that partnership and include other groups such as DeKalb Master Gardeners who are very active in five of the current Tucker parks. Jason also mentioned that the community will be surveyed this fall with a randomly mailed survey to households in Tucker asking them for input on what they should offer to the community through the Parks and Recreation department. If your household is selected, please respond promptly. He did tell us that the city has purchased a lot beside the Smoke Rise Park on Hugh Howell Road to create a parking area to access the park in a safer manner than what currently exists. Tree removal and construction on that property should begin late fall.



Our meeting was held at Park Springs with co-hostesses Tally Sweat, Geri Houpt Burns and Quill Duncan arranging for a lovely luncheon. Club members brought signed Christmas/holiday cards to be sent to our service men and women and also donated underwear to the Fig Leaf Project that benefits residents of the Georgia Mental Health facility. Many club members participated in the 2018 Yellow Daisy Standard Flower Show serving in many capacities to support the Redbud District of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Tally proudly brought her blue ribbon winning tropical Cone Lily or "Zingiber zerumbet", a native of India, to the meeting to much acclaim! Congratulations to all the winners and thanks for the hard work that lead to a very successful show!

Love!" The next meeting and opportunity to "Plant Smiles" will be held on Wednesday, October 10. On Wednesday, October 24, a field trip is scheduled to the Gainesville Garden (sister garden to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens). So, come 'Grow (some) Laughter' with us! Also, the Mums will be having another 'Harvest Love' activity at the Brookside Assisted Manor on Friday, October 26. If any of these activities interest you, please join us! Call Debbie Jones, Membership Director at 678-381-1648 for details or any Mum. We'd love to have you join us!!





HODGE PODGE

IT'S APPLE TIME!

By Barbara Luton

Fall is the time to visit the North Georgia Mountains to take advantage of the apples sold from orchards and stands by the roadside. Here are some different ideas for using those apples or just using those showing up on the grocery store shelves right now. Happy crunching!

Apple Dip

- 1 8-oz. package cream cheese softened
- ½ cup dark brown sugar
- 1-teaspoon vanilla
- Honey Roasted Peanuts

Mix the first three ingredients thoroughly. Chop peanuts and put on top. You can mix some of the peanuts into the dip. Slice apples and dip in a mixture of lemon juice and water or pineapple juice to keep them from turning dark. (I prefer the taste of the pineapple but use your preference.) Serve along side of the dip.

Sausage Apple Ring

- 2 lbs. bulk sausage
- 1 ½ cups cracker crumbs
- 2 eggs slightly beaten
- ½ cup milk
- ¼ cup minced onion
- 1 cup finely chopped peeled apple
- 8-10 eggs
- Grated cheese
- Parsley flakes
- Paprika

Combine the first 6 ingredients and mix with a fork. Press lightly into a greased ring mold and then turn onto a shallow pan. Bake at 350* for 1 hour. Fill center of the baked ring with eggs scrambled with cheese and parsley. Sprinkle eggs with paprika. Good for brunch or supper. (Meat may be partially baked for 30 minutes and then finished when ready to serve.)

Slow Cooker Apples

- 3 lbs. apples, peeled, cored and cut in wedges
- 1/3-cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup white sugar
- 1-teaspoon cinnamon
- 1-teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- ½ stick butter sliced

Put apples in a 6-quart slow cooker. Mix sugars and cinnamon. Sprinkle over apples. Put extract and lemon juice on top. Lay butter slices on top of apples. Cook on high for 4-5 hours. Stir occasionally. If you want a thicker sauce, stir 1-tablespoon of cornstarch into apples when you put in the cooker. You may want more sugar or try almond extract instead of vanilla.

Fresh Apple Walnut Cake

- 2 cups sugar
- 1-cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 3 cups all purpose flour
- 1-teaspoon baking powder
- 1-teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons apple pie or pumpkin pie spice
- 2 cups peeled and diced apples
- 1 1/2 cups walnuts, toasted and chopped (Toast at 350* for 5-8 minutes)

Combine first 4 ingredients in a large bowl. Beat one minute. Combine dry ingredients and gradually add to sugar mixture. Beat with mixer at low speed until blended. Fold apples and nuts into batter. Spoon batter into a greased 10-inch tube pan or 2 loaf pans lined with parchment paper. Bake at 325* for 1 hour and 30 minutes (less if using loaf pans) until toothpick comes out clean. Cool in pan 15 minutes. This will keep in the freezer for a long time.

Optional—Glaze:

In medium saucepan melt ½ cup brown sugar and 2 table-spoons brandy or 1 tablespoon vanilla. Bring to boil and cook 2 minutes.

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All classified ads are limited to 20 words, with the *Smoke Signal* reserving the right to edit any copy. Ads are \$15.00 per month, (\$75.00 per six months if prepaid). Please submit by email a copy of ad to tigertaxstrack@att.net. Deadline is the 10th of each month. ADS NEED TO BE PREPAID. Checks should be made out to *Smoke Signal* and mailed to P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085. When submitting classified ads, please include your full name, address, and phone number. This information is for our records only! For classified ads, contact Harry Strack tigertaxstrack@att.net.

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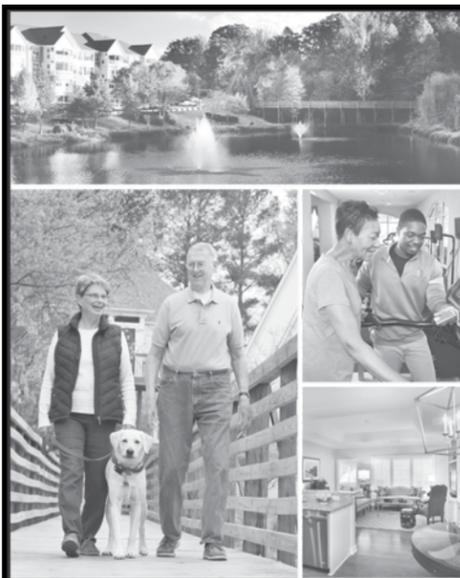
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