

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 5

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

August, 2018

www.smokesignalnews.com

The Smoke Signal wishes all of our students, teachers, and school staff an excellent 2018-2019 school year!



Look inside for...

- Smoke Signal is going to the dogs (and cats) see articles on pages 6, 7, and 10
- Who to Call About a Lost Pet?.....pg 2
- Smoke Rise Real Estate Update.....pg 5
- Prescription Pain Meds: Opiods..... pg 10

THE SMOKE SIGNAL... In Review

The Way It Was

by Jane Brown

Reprinted from the March 1976 Smoke Signal

The day that Bill and Anne Pritchett first drove way out to Stone Mountain from their Brookhaven apartment to see "Houses for Sale with TREES, TREES, TREES!", they were sold! Despite Anne's parents' reservations that their daughter would find living in such an isolated spot lonely (with three children and a husband who frequently traveled), the Pritchetts moved into their home on Hugh Howell Road in April 1957. Four other newly constructed homes stood unoccupied and their only neighbors were Tom Harris and his family, who lived on a 90 acre farm nearby, and two other farm families. And they loved the woods and streams and room for their family to grow from the very first day.

Life was very different in Mountain Shadow 19 years ago. Two sheds and the newly constructed DuPont plant were all that stood between here and Tucker. Phone calls to Atlanta were "long distance." The children attended school in Tucker and Anne spoke of the closer alliance residents felt with the town at that time. Since the area was popularly used for fox hunting, the sounds of barking dogs in packs could be regularly heard in the distance. Children played around woods and streams and when one of the Moon's family children from Rosser Road got lost, a search party was organized to find him in the thick woods.



Stone Mountain Acres was a new development on the outskirts of Atlanta in DeKalb County that advertised house lots of at least an acre in size for \$2,000 and homes that were a minimum of 1400 sq. ft. in size. The property, owned by Hugh Howell, for whom the road was named, was first developed by Wheat Williams. Only one other development in the county was zoned for acre-size lots.

In two years, the houses built on Stone Mountain Acres were sold to families who were attracted to a life free of the congestion and problems of city living and to the unusually large properties. John and Lettie Hudson vow that even then they could see the day when Atlanta

...continued on page 5

Back to School

by Joel Gilbert, P.E.

It's been a long time since I was in school, but this time of the year brings back a flood of memories of summer ending and a school year beginning. I clearly remember being anxious about the new start, new classmates, new teachers, new subjects, classrooms, etc. There were lots of new things too: some new school clothes, shoes, pencils and crayons, and the notebooks or three-ring binders.

We wrote our term papers in small saddle-stitch bound notebooks. And, we first learned to print as if it was an art form. Then we learned cursive handwriting and it was graded as if it were artwork. I remember one teacher who became so incensed that our handwriting was not living up to her standard that she decided we all had to relearn the skill. It was drilled into me so forcefully that I became very good at it ... so much so that my wife has kept all the letters I wrote to her as we first dated.



As you probably know, handwriting has gone out of style. Printing still persists. But, keyboarding has replaced both, and text-messaging is now so widespread that it is now a language of its own. The graphic above is a good summary of how frustrating it can be to interact with today's youth. I have to admit that texting is just not my thing. Don't get me wrong, there are some really good uses for it, but I still like using the phone the way it was originally intended ... for speaking with people.

It has made me a bit crazy to watch my daughters texting each other at the dinner table ... probably making fun of me ... holding the phone under the table, texting with just one hand as they ate with the other.

I don't tweet either. And, while you are busy classifying me as a luddite, I have never used Snapchat nor Instagram, and tried but no longer use Pinterest. I do Facebook and LinkedIn just to keep tabs on my friends and colleagues, but it is hard to keep up with so many communication methods.

If you want to see a funny description of how much things have changed, go on YouTube and type in "Millennial Job Interview." How many new things do I have to learn this year to stay even a bit up to date?

SRCA Board Report

by Michael Huerkamp

The summer months, and the effect of vacation season, have imposed a bit of a slow down for the SRCA board which actually gives us a chance to catch-up on a few matters. Although there was no July board meeting, we look forward to finishing out the calendar year strong beginning in August. In support of our community and association members, the SRCA board is at the preliminary stage of partnering again with TCA and TBA to put on a candidate forum in the fall and we are using our contacts at the Tucker precinct to explore the possibility of scheduling a public safety and burglar-proofing charette. Again, while early, the board is researching how we can better leverage technology, most prominently as it influences our web presence, to better and more specifically support our dues-paying members. On a faster track, the board seeks to exploit our mutual interest with the D1 city council members, Pat Soltys and Bill Rosenfeld, to meet regularly on a periodic basis. We also look forward to providing our support as the new elementary school is built. Although admittedly we don't say it enough, we are always grateful for all of our dues-paying supporters and their investment in our community.





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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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.

August Calendar of Events

- 7 DeKalb County schools start
- 7 National Night Out
- 8 Mountain Mums Garden Club meeting at the home of Mary Jacobson, 10:00 a.m.
- 16 Tucker Arts Guild, First Baptist Church of Tucker, Building B, Church Street entrance, 7:00 p.m.
- 26 National Dog Day – Buy your pooch a treat!

Preferred Formats for Smoke Signal Submissions

When sending articles and photos to the *Smoke Signal*, it is helpful if articles could be sent in .doc or .docx format. Articles sent in .pdf format cannot be edited or changed in any way. Photos and graphics submitted in .jpg or .pdf format can be opened and formatted to fit our layout, so that is also a preferred method. Thanks for helping us make your neighborhood paper the best it can be!

Smoke Signal Deadlines

AUGUST 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 AUGUST 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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Fine-Free Summer for Kids and Teens Courtesy of Dekalb Public Library

Let your children check out all the books and materials they want this summer without worrying about fines. The Library Board of Trustees has approved a Fine-Free Summer for materials in the children's and teen's collections through August 31. Library Director Alison Weissinger wants parents and caregivers to encourage their children to read and enjoy library resources all summer. “We know children lose ground in academics over the summer break. We want to take away any barrier to children and teens having books to read and enjoy over the summer.” She adds, “We just ask that items are returned to the library in a timely manner, so others may enjoy them.”

The Fine-Free Summer only applies to materials in the children's and teen's collections. Fees will still be assessed on lost or damaged items.

“The primary purpose of the library is to get books in the hands of children,” Weissinger says. “We want to provide easy access to our materials at a time when children and teens need them the most. We know families are busy in the summer and this is one way we can help kids read while school is out.”



PAPER GET WET?

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

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



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Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Dr. Chris George, Senior Pastor
 Bart McNeil, 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 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: 8:30 a.m. | 10:15 a.m. | 12:00 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.

DeKalb Master Gardeners Dig It!

by Quill Duncan

DeKalb Master Gardening makes a big impact on our county through thousands of hours of volunteer service to the community. Within our area of DeKalb, we have six project sites: Henderson Park, Tucker Butterfly Garden, Trees of Tucker, Peach Pit at Cofer Park, Stone Mountain Community Garden and Wells Brown House in Historic Stone Mountain Village.



Volunteer Master Gardeners work many hours maintaining these sites by restoring or adding additional plantings, watering, weeding, pruning and assisting residents with vegetable plantings. Classes are held on basic gardening techniques and there are plenty of hands-on activities for all volunteers of any age.

Are you interested in joining this active group of volunteers? Now is the time to begin the process to apply to the program. Master Gardening is a part of The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. UGA Cooperative Extension is a collaboration between GA county governments, USDA and UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences and Family and Consumer Sciences. The mission is to extend lifelong learning to the people of Georgia. To learn more about the program, your first step is to contact Sarah Brodd, Master Gardener Coordinator at 404 298-4094 by the end of August. You will need to provide her with your name, address and email. She will contact you in early September and offer you a chance to attend an informational session on the program which is held at the Memorial Drive location by the tag office. You will receive an application at that time. The applications are due back early to mid-October. If you are accepted, you will be notified by early November.

Master Gardener classes begin in January and are every Wednesday for thirteen weeks at the Memorial Drive location. The sessions are taught by UGA professors and extension agents and cover a broad range of topics from understanding the soil, to pruning, propagation, conservation, plant physiology and entomology. Upon graduation, you are expected to volunteer 50 hours in your first year and 25 hours thereafter to remain active. In 2016 there were 285 active volunteers in the county. This is a wonderful way to meet other interested gardeners, learn key elements of gardening and apply what you learn at local project sites.

As a Lifetime DeKalb Master Gardener with over a dozen years of playing in the dirt, I have treasured my experiences and encourage you to join the fun! Check out the website: www.ugaextension.com/dekalb

GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club Summertime News

Members of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club have been busy this summer with activities in Tucker and Stone Mountain. Members worked sorting, organizing and selling books for the Sue Kellogg/Stone Mountain Library Used Book Sale. Friends gathered on Friday nights for the Tunes by the Tracks in the village to listen to the music and to work at the concession stand. Members helped with reading at the Nanette Todd Summer Camp at the Methodist Church in Stone Mountain and making lunches for children at First Methodist Church in Tucker. Glenda Willett and members' husbands joined the chorus at the July 4th celebration in Tucker the night of the fireworks. The club prepared food and served at an art



Book Sale: Smoke Rise Residents, Sitting-Marty Bryan, Standing-Linda Smith



reception for ART Station.

Vacation does not mean a stop from volunteering for this group!

Tunes by Tracks: Left to Right--Kathy Gallo (Smoke Rise resident), Brenda Price, George Ann Hoffman, Linda Smith (Smoke Rise resident), Sharon Matheny

FODAC and Goodwill of North Georgia Partner to Help People with Disabilities Get Necessary Medical Equipment

Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) and Goodwill of North Georgia (GNG) have partnered to provide more home medical equipment (HME) for those with disabilities. The effort is being funded by a 2018 Collaborative Innovation Grant by The Home Depot Foundation. The program gives FODAC access to certain GNG thrift stores, where it can collect unsold HME, clean and repair it, and add it to FODAC's inventory available to the disabled community.

Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) and Goodwill of North Georgia (Goodwill) are joining forces to further amplify their impact in the metro Atlanta area. Made possible by a 2018 Collaborative Innovation Grant by The Home Depot Foundation, the nonprofits are working together to collect, repair and redistribute home medical equipment (HME) and assistive technology to empower people with disabilities. The organizations have established ten new locations for collecting HME at Goodwill facilities. These items will be transported to FODAC, where they will be processed and repaired as needed, and then provided to those who could not otherwise obtain HME with private funding or benefits.

"The physical and emotional benefit of our services for those with disabilities cannot be overstated," said Chris Brand, president and CEO of FODAC. "Something as simple as a wheelchair or a shower bench can totally change a person's life by unlocking their independent spirit, allowing them to engage more fully in work, community and life. Partnering with Goodwill will enable us to collect more equipment and help more people in need."

"The partnership is really a win-win," said Summer Dunham, director of public relations for Goodwill. "Before this collaboration, Goodwill didn't have a great way to connect highly-specialized medical equipment or assistive technology to people who can actually benefit from those items. We also don't have the infrastructure in place to repair medical equipment – that's where FODAC's expertise comes into play."

With different approaches, both organizations offer people with disabilities resources for living and active engagement in their communities. "At Goodwill of North Georgia our mission is to put people to work," said Jenny Taylor, vice president of career services for GNG. "One of the ways we connect thousands of job seekers to employment each year

is by offering training programs and hands-on support to people with barriers to work, including people with disabilities."

Funding for the collaboration will extend through a 12-month period, allowing for increased access to services and programs. For a full list of FODAC's DME collection sites, visit fodac.org/dropoff; for services provided by Goodwill, visit goodwillng.org.

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Toni Hannah from Georgia Power Company presents a check to ART Station for sponsorship of the upcoming ART Station storytelling festival now in its 33rd season at Stone Mountain Park. The festival is called "A Tour of Southern Ghosts" and runs October 11-27. Pictured are David Thomas, President and Artistic Director of ART Station; Pat Wheeler, Mayor of Stone Mountain; Tonni Hannah of GA Power; and Michael Hidalgo, Producer of ART Station. Visit www.artstation.org for more information.



2018-2019 Theatre Season Announced

A CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER

A Broadway Christmas Carol - America's Funniest Holiday Show
Written by Kathy Feininger
December 6 - 21, 2018

Spit Like a Big Girl by Clarinda Ross
February 15 - 24, 2019

Love & Money by A.R. Gurney
May 2 - 19, 2019

Burlesque Revolution
June 6 - 9, 2019

Tenderly - The Rosemary Clooney Musical
by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman
June 11 - July 28

For tickets, please stop by the theatre (Tuesday - Friday, 11-5, Saturday, 10-5) or call the box office at 770-469-1105.



Kanawha Court neighbors recently met at the home of Debbie Torbush to renew friendships and establish new ones with our three new families. The gathering was an opportunity for everyone to connect and exchange contact information. We even had two couples who had moved away join us. Unfortunately, this photo includes only half of our group. Such FUN!!!



Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts Presents ANNIE GET YOUR GUN in August - Public invited to attend free performances -

The Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts (SRAA) drama department will present in August the classic musical ANNIE GET YOUR GUN. Staged by the teen class, the production will be performed Friday, August 24, 2018 through Sunday, August 26, 2018 in the Fellowship Hall of Smoke Rise Baptist Church. Members of the Smoke Rise and surrounding community are invited to attend this free performance.

ANNIE GET YOUR GUN is a musical with lyrics and music by Irving Berlin and a book by Dorothy Fields and her brother Herbert Fields. The story is a fictionalized version of the life of Annie Oakley, a sharpshooter who starred in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, and her romance with fellow sharpshooter Frank E. Butler. The 1946 Broadway production was a hit, and the musical had long runs in both New York (1,147 performances) and London, spawning revivals, a 1950 film version and television versions. Songs that became hits include "There's No Business Like Show Business," "They Say It's Wonderful," and "Anything You Can Do."



ANNIE GET YOUR GUN is a fun family show suitable for all ages. Show times are 7:00 p.m. on Friday, 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. Each show will have live pre-show entertainment, and concessions are available for purchase during intermissions. Attendance is free with no tickets required.

Fall classes for Smoke Rise Academy of Arts begin August 13, offering classes in dance, drama, art and music. The Academy offers Family Musikgarten classes for the very young child, pre-school classes in dance and violin, elementary and high school classes in art, dance, drama, and piano, and dance and oil painting classes for adults. In addition to group classes, individual music lessons are offered for all ages for piano, violin, flute, guitar, drums and voice.

SRAA drama will also present free performances of DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID JR. September 14-16.

For more details on performances, classes and private lessons, visit smokerisebaptist.org/arts or call 678-533-0562.

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Belinda Belvin, REALTOR®

As a Smoke Rise native and a Realtor in the area, my knowledge of the area and of the market are unparalleled.

My mission is to market your home to get the maximum price current real estate markets will allow, through a multifaceted marketing campaign that renders broad exposure for your home. Call today to see how I can assist you in selling your current home or buying your next dream home!



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Smoke Rise Real Estate Update

Usually the month of July is the slowest month in real estate. Not July 2018. It has been very busy! Inventory has remained low, now averaging around 30 listings on the market. The average listing price has increased significantly over the averages in 2017. Current average list price is \$137.60 – over \$20.00 per square foot higher than the end of December 2017. It must be remembered that these are asking prices. Currently there is only one property under \$300,000 with the average price at \$468,353.



Pending sales are currently averaging \$119.04 per square foot and the average list price is \$434,933. Some of these will have a significant difference between listings and sales prices.

Closed sales are a bit ahead of last year. Of the 55 homes sold year to date, the average sold price is \$371,766 and the average \$/sq. ft. is \$115.51. Difference between final list price and sold price averaged 96.9% of list price. Average closing costs paid by the seller were \$4,174.

We have started to see a few more relocations. Companies are more confident and moving people again and expanding their workforce.

Age does make a difference, as well as updates. Homes built 2000 and after averaged \$130.71 per square foot.

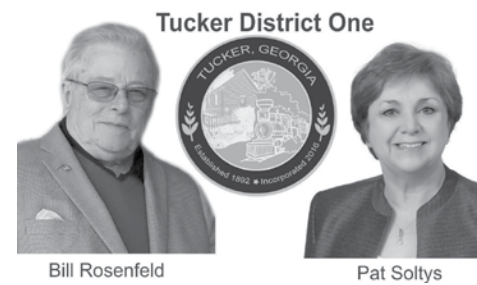
Homes built in the 1980's and 1990's average \$117.37.

Homes built in the 1970's average \$112.44.

Homes built before 1970 average \$111.36.

District One Update

Bill Rosenfeld & Pat Soltys



Tucker is one happening city! If you missed our first Fireworks event, you certainly will not want to miss the next. Main Street was closed down and literally thousands of people came out to watch and enjoy each other's company as well as a great show. We have a lot of events that are held on Main Street including Cruise-Ins, Chili Cook Off, Tucker Days, Taste of Tucker and many holiday events that will include Halloween Treating and fun and the annual Christmas Tree Lighting.

One of our big projects right now is to complete a number of studies required not only for planning but also grants and revenue sharing from county, state and Federal monies. We have commissioned six studies and will engage citizens working on the committees. 1. Transportation Master Plan, 2. Parks and Rec Master Plan, 3. Sign Ordinance, 4. Downtown Master Plan, 5. Trails and Paths Plan and 6. Documentation of Historic resources. As our city grows and matures we always want our citizens involved. Make sure to let us know if you are interested.

We had a bit of an uptick in burglaries, primarily forced entry. A lot of these were broad daylight. Kudos to our police force for quick response and help to the affected homeowners. The crimes have a high solve and apprehension rate.

Bill and I are always interested in hearing from you. We will have our next Town Hall in mid- September and will have many updates.

The Way it Was...continued from page 1

would grow out this far – their friends were not so sure and warned them of loneliness and isolation. Martha Stewart bought her home in time to select interior décor to her own taste, and moved from Briarcliff Road in 1957. She especially enjoyed the privacy afforded by the large property, and said that in the early years you never passed another car driving into Tucker. The Jenkins and Andrews families soon occupied the other houses, and all but the Andrews still live there now.

In 1959, Kent and Doris Creuser purchased 2 ½ acres from Hugh Howell on which they built a rustic-type home; a 100-year-old fence bought in North Carolina was later added to their property. Kent said that each year they picked quarts of blackberries abundant near Greencastle Road and could even safely enjoy target practice with bottles 'out back' in these days. When the Creusers were transferred to Chicago in 1965, they rented their home to the Smoke Rise Corporation to be used as a realty office, a place where many of us negotiated the purchase of our homes in Smoke Rise. The Maddoxes were another family to build their own home and occupied it just a year later in 1960.

Stone Mountain Acres was taken over by the Smoke Rise Corporation, represented by Bill Probst, in about 1960, and it was then that the major development of the property, as we know it today, began. By the time the Waltons built their home on Hugh Howell Road in 1961, there were 45 families living in the area. Leatherstocking and Greencastle Road, where Bill Probst built his own home, had been cut through.

Twenty-two women organized the Stone Mountain Acres Woman's Club in the early 60's and held a Christmas party for the first meeting. Anne Pritchett served as president that first year, and it was a highly-successful social organization from the start. Monthly meetings were held in different homes until 1965 when they were able to use the Smoke Rise Realty office.

The Smoke Rise Men's Club grew out of informal meetings held by many men in the area interested in keeping Smoke Rise as it is today. Kent Creuser remembers the many hours he and Jim Maddox spent getting petitions signed by neighbors 'door to door', and then attending hearings in a successful effort to keep house lots at least an acre size in Smoke Rise. As other developers bought up land around Smoke Rise, the effort was continued, successfully for the most part. Later residents fought the encroachment of industry on both ends of Hugh Howell Road and the threat of condominiums near the Gwinnett County line.

And that's the way it was 19 years ago on Hugh Howell Road.

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5459 Lichenhearth	2173 Spencers Way	1992 Gunstock Dr.	5505 Bahia Mar

Dog Days of Summer

by Joel Gilbert, P.E.

I always thought the phrase “Dog days of summer” described days so hot that dogs would lie around panting. I don’t hear the phrase used very often any more ... maybe because air conditioning is so prevalent that we and our dogs just don’t sit around on our porches panting when it gets this hot.



It seems we all now take air conditioning for granted. I certainly don’t. As a child in New York City, I would sit in front of a window on the shady side of the house desperately waiting for a wisp of fresh albeit hot air. Over time, we bought a fan to help. But, it was so hot that you would sweat just sitting in front of it. We had a dog back then and it would pant during this weather. I also vividly remember our dog sticking his head out the window of our car trying to get cool. Like homes, cars back then did not have air conditioning.

We have gotten quite spoiled. Most of us simply will not put up with that these days. But, back then, the only buildings that had air conditioning were movie theatres. They would advertise “Ice Cold Air” because that was the way they cooled the building ... loading blocks of ice in the air handlers. It produced a rather moist form of cold air, but anything was better than being in that stifling heat.

As a history lesson, you might like to know that the term we use to size air conditioners comes from that early design. The size of the cooling unit was expressed in the number of tons of ice it would melt in a 24-hour period. A one-ton unit would melt 2,000 pounds of ice (one ton) a day. Most of you have 2 to 4 ton air conditioning units for your home or apartment. That is a lot of equivalent ice-melting going on!

Not surprising, the reason so many people live in the South now is due to air conditioning. It was first commercialized by Willis Carrier and introduced into the residential market in the 1920s. Back then only the extremely wealthy could afford the equipment cost as well as the price of electricity to power it. It was only in the 1950s that both costs came way down ... which is why southern populations increased sharply then and continue growing today.

So, as time moves on, we tend to forget the meaning of phrases. I have brought you up to date on the term “tons of air conditioning,” so let’s go back to the phrase “Dog Days of Summer.” Unlike the ice fact, its origin has nothing to do with dogs, or even with the lazy days of summer. Instead, it turns out, the “dog days” refer to the dog star, Sirius, and its position in the heavens. To the Greeks and Romans, the “dog days” occurred around the day when Sirius appeared to rise just before the sun, in late July.

Most of us now live quite comfortably in our apartments or houses and just “put up with” the discomfort of hot weather as we leave, get into our air conditioned cars, visit air conditioned restaurants or shops, and work in our air conditioned offices.

I hope you now have a renewed appreciation for just how well we live here in the US. Many areas of the world are even hotter than here in the South and have not even the concept of air conditioning.

Rosenfeld Receives Training Certificate

Tucker Councilmember Bill Rosenfeld received the Certificate of Recognition from the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute during the Georgia Municipal Association’s (GMA) Annual Convention in Savannah on Sunday, June 24.



The Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute, a cooperative effort of GMA and the University of Georgia’s Carl Vinson Institute of Government, provides a nationally recognized series of training opportunities for city officials. To receive a Certificate of Recognition, a city official must complete a minimum of 42 units of credit, including at least 18 hours from a list of required classes. The training program consists of a series of more than 60 courses.

“This is an outstanding achievement,” said GMA Executive Director Larry Hanson. “We commend Councilmember Rosenfeld for this accomplishment and for the dedication he’s shown in using this valuable resource to become a more effective city official.”

Based in Atlanta, GMA is a voluntary, non-profit organization that provides legislative advocacy, research, training, employee benefit and technical consulting services to its 521 member cities.

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New Pet Food Bank in Stone Mountain

Homeless dogs and cats often make the news. Amazing stories of survival and rescue grab people's hearts, and often, wallets. But homeless pets aren't the only pets that need help. Pets in low-income families often suffer from the same issues that plague human family members, including lack of medical care and food security. And when families can't afford to provide veterinary care and food for their pets, they are often forced to make the tough decision to surrender their pet to a shelter or even worse, to simply abandon their pets on the streets.

Atlanta Animal Rescue Friends is trying to change the lives of pets in their community. AARF has worked as a rescue group since 2002 and just celebrated seven years at their current location in Stone Mountain Village. AARF Pet Central is on James B Rivers and operates a pet supply store that supports the rescue group, a cat adoption center, and an education/outreach center for community programs. AARF also coordinates a trap-neuter-return program for the feral cats in Stone Mountain Village.

AARF Director Susan Leisure recognizes that pets in poor families often need as much or more help than pets in rescue groups. Says Leisure, "We know the poverty rate in Stone Mountain is over 25%, which means 1 in 4 pets is also living in a poorer household. While there is help for humans, many pets just go without." In 2016, AARF launched the Stone Mountain Healthy Pets Program, a grant program to help low-income pet owners with the cost of vaccines. On August 1, AARF is expanding their Healthy Pets Program to include a food bank. Leisure says the food bank will start by helping residents in the three Stone Mountain zip codes (30083, 30087, 30088) and as donations and sponsorships increase, they hope to expand to more areas in DeKalb County.

The Stone Mountain Healthy Pets Program food bank will begin accepting applications for assistance on August 1. Participants can qualify for the food bank with a variety of documentation, including pay stubs, unemployment or disability letters or EBT assistance. Active non-commissioned military members and veterans are also eligible for food. Applications are available online at www.aarfatlanta.org or in person at AARF Pet Central, 6570 James B Rivers Dr, Stone Mountain, GA 30083.

Donations to the food bank are accepted any time during open hours. Medium size bags of dry dog food and cat food are especially needed, but all unopened, unexpired pet food will be accepted. Individuals can also donate gently used, clean collars and leashes and unopened, unexpired dog and cat treats. Businesses interested in making a larger donation or sponsoring a month of the food bank can contact Director Susan Leisure at 678-534-3483 or susan@aarfatlanta.org.



Libraries Rock!!!

Open Mic
Tuesday, August 14
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library
All ages!

Come sing, dance, rap, play an instrument, slam poetry, or just hang out! For performers who would like accompaniment there will be drums and percussion available for anyone and everyone to play along! Sign up in advance to perform or on the day, although space is limited. Open to first 20 participants. Call (770-270-8234) or visit branch to register.


Sami & Sean Michelson
Saturday, August 18
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library
Teen (12 years and over)

Sami and Sean are a sister/brother rock n' roll duo from Atlanta. Their recreations of hits spanning from the 60's to now, are intricate and unique, all the while remaining true to each song's original essence. As the core of the four piece band Alchemy, Sean's percussive instrumentation sets the groove, while Sami's sultry and powerful voice soars alongside the music. Jason Beyer will be the opening act, as well as an appearance by Mandi Strachota of the Wasted Potential Brass Band.

Funding provided by DeKalb Library Foundation.

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



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Stone Mountain Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Stone Mountain recently installed its new president and board for the 2018- 2019 Rotary year. The induction ceremony was held during the club's weekly membership lunch on Tuesday, June 26, in the fellowship hall of Stone Mountain First United Methodist Church.

Scott B. McEvoy, a retired airline pilot and resident of Smoke Rise, was installed as the club's new president for the Rotary year that began on July 1; departing president was Gillian Leggett, a retired sales associate from the Atlanta Journal Constitution, now a member of the Rotary Club of Milton. Also appointed to the board were:

- Carl Smith, president-elect (owner, Husker's Café)
- Carol Lipphardt, secretary (owner, Lipphardt & Associates) and a Smoke Rise resident
- Margie Kersey, treasurer (owner, The Kersey Team)
- Hiram "Hikie" Allen, club administrator (manager, support services, ISES Corporation)
- Lizbeth Dison, public image chair (senior vice president, Shiny Inc.)
- Al Lipphardt, membership and programming chair (member, National Council of Administration, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States) and Smoke Rise resident
- Suzanne Sykes, RCSM Annual Giving Fund chair (president, Combined Services, Inc.)
- Bill Witcher, RCSM Endowment Fund Chair (partner, Witcher Law Firm)
- Eric Watson, service projects chair (owner, Express Employment Professionals)



Smoke Rise residents Al and Carol Lipphardt (left) were honored with the "Service Above Self" award by newly installed President Scott McEvoy, also a Smoke Rise resident.

Three members were honored by Past President Leggett for their contributions to the club during the previous year. Director of Public Image Lizbeth Dison received the club's "Rotarian of the Year" designation for her work with the club's media relations, including improving readership of the club's weekly newsletter and establishing its social media presence.

Charter members Al and Carol Lipphardt received the "Service Above Self" award for "their years of constancy in the recruitment [and sponsorship] of new members."

Rotary International's theme for the year is "Be the Inspiration," said McEvoy. "Rotarians always strive to show the best of themselves, leading others by example. I hope to lead the Stone Mountain Club with my actions as well as my words, and am committed to establishing this club as true innovators who bring about positive change not just in the Stone Mountain community, but also the world around them. When you do more, you become more."

The Rotary Club of Stone Mountain meets every Tuesday for lunch at noon at Stone Mountain First United Methodist Church, 5312 West Mountain Street, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083. Guests are always welcome.



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Mountain Mums: Weeding Right Along With You...

The Mountain Mums have been sweating it out in their gardens with the rest of you this summer. Not only has it been hot, but the frequent rains have made it humid. One benefit of all the rain has been the lush gardens it has produced—along with flowers, flowers, flowers! And a few weeds....

The rain has also given us the backbreaking job of weeding. Weeds are undesirable plants that are growing in the wrong place, are taking water and nutrients away from desirable plants, or are overtaking garden and lawn spaces. Our gardens and lawns have been full of these undesirables. Keep the population down and your back in shape by pulling a few every time you go outside. If you have the tendency to procrastinate, don't! Once the weeds develop seed heads, your work will only multiply. Pull or dig weeds up before they seed.

Some of your garden flowers -- Black-eyed Susan, Blue ageratum, Cleome, Husker's Red Penstemon, Gooseneck loosestrife, Bee Balm and Chameleon plant may become weedy and begin to spread or pop up all over the garden. Some varieties of Elephant ear and Goldenrod will invade underground too. Pull and dig up invaders before they are too big. Black-eyed Susan, Husker's red Penstemon and Queen Anne's lace spread by seeds. Cut the seed heads off plants you don't want to spread. Creeping Charlie, Creeping Jenny, Bishops Weed and some Sedum should be pulled in order to be kept in check. Vinca can also be a problem. While it is a beautiful groundcover that blooms once a year, it tends to grow into lawns and even climb bushes. Some varieties of Bugleweed (ajuga) may need to be pulled to stay in bounds. Most of these are super easy to pull. The hardest part may be seeing a perfectly good plant go in the compost heap.

One easy remedy to plant migration around the garden is to check and see if they are on the 'invasive' list for Georgia. Many 'free' pass-a-long plants are ones that overgrow their borders so be careful what you accept and plant.

Another easy way to 'weed' is to apply a pre-emergent. Pre-emergent chemicals work on weeds before they emerge. Last fall Walter Reeves gave advice about applying a pre-emergent to the garden space. Unfortunately, not reading the label resulted in the destruction of a beautiful miniature Mondo grass 'river'. March and September are good months to apply pre-emergent. Read the label and do not procrastinate!

If you want to avoid toxic chemicals, lay weed blocking fabric or four layers of newspaper around perennial plants. Cover the paper or fabric with mulch. Weeds will not grow through this. It is sometimes difficult to keep the white newspaper covered by the mulch, though, so lay it on thick!

Come join the Mountain Mums first meet and greet of the garden club year at 10:00 a.m. on August 8 at the home of Mary Jacobson. Call Debra Jones for details at 678-260-7806. We would love to have you join us!

techtalk **Look Ma, No Hands!!**

by Susan Gilbert

The new Hands-Free Georgia Act taking effect July 1 caused a surge in sales of car-mounted phone holders. I thought this would be a good month to focus on what to look for in a phone mount and what this law means for drivers.

Phone mounts come in a wide variety of types so let's look at some of the options. One selection criteria to consider is how will it hold the phone. The options are using magnets on the back of the phone or side-clips that grasp it holding it in place. My preference is for the magnet fastener because it is cleaner-looking and there is no clipping or unclipping to do. You simply stick it on then lift it off at an angle to remove it.

The other consideration is how will the holder mount to the vehicle? Here are the options:

- Suction cup attached to the windshield with wand, which while secure and flexible, I don't like having any interference in my ability to see out the front window.
- Air-vent clips snap on to most any vehicle's air vents. Some people don't like these because they do block a small amount of airflow, and they do flip up and down if the vent has that flexibility. Besides that, they seem to work fine.
- Another approach is a suction cup that attaches to some part of the dashboard. My problem with these is there isn't a flat area on my dash that will accommodate the suction cup.
- Finally, there are mounts that affix to the dash with adhesive that are removable with some effort and don't leave a mark on the dash.

Once you figure out your preferred mounting and attaching methods, you can get these devices at almost any technology store like Best Buy or the iPhone section of Walmart or office supply stores. They are also easy to purchase on line.

Prices range from \$3 up to \$25. Most are in the \$4 to \$10 range. One caution, before you mount your new device, be sure your charging cable will be able to connect because you will likely want to let the phone charge while it is mounted.

Once you have your phone mounting behind you, a related question is what can you do and what is illegal now? The law requires drivers to use hands-free technology when using cell phones and other electronic devices while driving; but "hands free" isn't as clear cut as it sounds. Here's what is and is not allowed.

Prohibited for Drivers

- Holding or supporting, with any part of the body, a wireless telecommunications device or stand-alone electronic device (for example, an iPod).
- Writing, sending or reading any text-based communication, including a text message, instant message, e-mail or internet data while holding your device.
- Watching a video or movie other than watching data related to the navigation of your vehicle (i.e., your mapping app or GPS screen).
- Recording a video.

Allowed While Driving

- Speaking or texting while using hands-free technology.
- Using a GPS system or mapping app.
- Wearing and using a smart watch.
- Using an earpiece to talk on the phone.
- Using radios, CB radios, CB radio hybrids, commercial two-way radios, subscription-based emergency communication devices, prescribed medical devices, amateur or ham radios and "in-vehicle security, navigation or remote diagnostics" systems.
- There are circumstances where you can handle an electronic device while driving: Reporting a traffic accident, medical emergency, fire, a crime or delinquent act or a hazardous road condition. You can also use your hands if you're lawfully parked (not at a stoplight – "lawfully" means off or beside the road in an area open to parking).
- Exempt from these hands-free requirements when they are performing official duties are police, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, ambulance drivers, other first responders and utility employees or contractors responding to a utility emergency.





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NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

DeKalb's New Animal Shelter

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." --Mahatma Gandhi

DeKalb County's Animal Services and Enforcement Department has two divisions: one enforces local and state laws regarding animals and the other manages the animal shelter and its associated services.

The Animal Services Division is managed by <http://lifelineanimal.org/> LifeLine Animal Project, a non-profit organization that promotes homeless pet adoption, provides low cost spay/neuter services, provides free pet supplies and veterinary services to underserved communities, increases public awareness, and advocates for lifesaving public policy. Since taking over management of DeKalb County Animal Services (DCAS) and Fulton County Animal Services in 2013, LifeLine has dramatically decreased euthanasia rates, increased adoptions and improved the health of its shelter animals.

DeKalb's Animal Services Division has expanded its services and animal care – thanks to a brand new, \$12 million animal shelter that replaced the aging, run-down facility. There were several years of political debate and advocacy leading up to the spring of 2016, when construction began on the new 33,440 square-foot building near DeKalb-Peachtree Airport. The official grand opening of the new shelter took place in July 2017. The new animal shelter is approximately 50% larger than the old facility. That additional space includes a dog grooming area, exercise yard and fields, 12 adoption rooms, a surgery room, multipurpose room and more.

The shelter currently houses approximately 400 dogs and 175 cats. More than 250 additional dogs and cats are in foster care. The new shelter takes in an average of 25 to 30 new animals daily. There are usually another 25 to 30 court case animals at any given time which are housed separately from the adoption area. There are also isolation areas in the clinic to house sick animals.

LifeLine has staff at DCAS every day of the week, and the shelter is also open to the public, every day of the week, during specified hours and offers innovative programs to help give dogs a break from the shelter and more exposure to potential adopters. One example is the "Dog for a Day" program where dogs can leave the shelter with a volunteer for a day of fun. Another program, "Weekend Warriors," offers dogs the opportunity to spend a weekend with their "warriors" exploring Atlanta, and also a jog club. And, those are just a sample of the various engaging programs offered at the shelter.

The shelter also features amazing promotions throughout the year to bring more adopters into the facility.

The new DeKalb County Animal Shelter is truly an inviting place and has many amazing design details that benefit the animals in unique ways. (You should visit the shelter in person to see for yourself!)

To find out more online about DeKalb's new animal shelter and its services, go to <http://www.dekalbanimalservices.com>.

If you are looking to adopt a dog, cat, puppy or kitten, be sure to visit the shelter to see many wonderful pets now available for adoption!

DeKalb County Animal Services

3280 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd Chamblee, GA 30341

Shelter Hours:

Monday - Friday: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., Saturday - Sunday: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Animal Shelter Customer Service (LifeLine Animal Project): (404) 294-2949

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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

PRESCRIPTION PAIN MEDICATIONS: OPIOIDS HOW TO USE THEM SAFELY

OPIOIDS are painkillers that can be highly addictive. This is why they are considered "controlled" prescription medications. Examples of opioids are: hydrocodone, oxycodone, morphine, codeine, fentanyl, methadone, buprenorphine, hydromorphone and oxymorphone. Tramadol is a synthetic opioid. If you or someone you know has been prescribed an opioid or similar medication, this information is for you. Always talk with your health care practitioner to see if there are alternative treatments that can lower or eliminate your need for these medications. Because of their addictive potential, take these medications exactly as prescribed, and avoid prolonged use. If you have been on an opioid longer than ten days, discuss a plan for reducing or discontinuing the medication if it is possible.

SO, HOW DO YOU USE OPIOIDS SAFELY?

Safe use of opioids means you and your doctor should work together. Because of their strongly addictive potential, opioids should be used in acute, rather than chronic medical situations. If an opioid is not needed, don't get started! Use an alternative treatment. With a few exceptions, opioids are NOT a good choice for chronic back pain, chronic headaches and chronic joint pains. Ask your doctor if there are other options like physical therapy, joint injections or other medications.

New state laws in Georgia limit how a doctor can prescribe controlled substances. No opioid can be prescribed electronically. You will have to pick up a written prescription from your provider. Many pharmacies limit the number of opioids dispensed to first-time recipients (usually 3-7 days of medications). Chronic users of opioids (using more than 90 days) are required to fill out a drug contract with their physician and will be drug tested and checked with the new Georgia Prescription Drug Data Base by their provider.

Opioids should never be taken while consuming alcohol or other recreational drugs, and may be dangerous in combination with muscle relaxers, benzodiazepines (ex. diazepam and lorazepam) or sleeping medications. Overdose and death can result.

Never 'save' your opioids 'in case you might need them' in the future. 90% of teens who abuse opioids got their drugs from a family member, friend or 'grandmas medicine cabinet'. Never share your medications with another person. Store controlled medications in a locked cabinet that is out of reach.

HOW TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF UNUSED OPIOIDS.

Opioids Cannot Be Thrown In The Trash. Even one dose of medicine scavenged from the trash could be fatal. Deaths have been reported in children who handled a used and discarded fentanyl patch. If you have unused narcotic painkillers or benzodiazepines:

- 1) Search stoprxabuseingorgia.org to find one of the 180 Georgia Prescription Drop Boxes.
- 2) Walmart is now dispensing a new product when you pick up your opioid called DisposeRx. Unused pills can be combined with warm water and this product. The opioid will turn into a jelly like substance that cannot be used to get 'high'.
- 3) Community 'Drug Take Back Days' may be sponsored by your local police. Call their nonemergency number to see if one is on the calendar.
- 4) Ask your pharmacy about any drug disposal program they have.
- 5) Certain meds can be 'flushed' as a last resort. Check with your pharmacist.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU (OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE) ARE ADDICTED TO OPIOIDS?

- You may be taking more than was prescribed....either more at a time, or more often.
- You may be taking your medicines to relax or to get some sleep, and not for pain.
- You can't skip a day, because you feel agitated or crave your medicine.
- You 'shop' doctors and pharmacies, going to multiple places to get the same drugs...often inventing injuries to get the drugs.
- You mix drugs together with marijuana and/or alcohol.
- Your behavior changes: you are more withdrawn, have mood swings or angry outbursts, are failing in school, missing work, sleeping more, experiencing appetite changes, or are neglecting responsibilities.

If you suspect someone has overdosed, call 911 and administer Narcan if you have it. Narcan (naloxone) reverses the effect of an opioid. Multiple doses may be required. Always call 911 and go to the hospital in suspected overdose! In Georgia, pharmacists can dispense Naloxone without a prescription. Georgia law also gives 'amnesty' to anyone who calls 911 and has small amounts of drugs or alcohol in possession or on board at the time they call for medical assistance.

Volunteers Paint Fire Hydrants in Tucker

The Georgia Student Finance Commission had their annual meeting the week of July 15. For their service project, they painted fire hydrants around Tucker, Georgia.

About 40 people participated and almost 200 hydrants were painted in about an hour. Thank you for your support.

**Courtesy of Nancy Jester's Newsletter*

Tucker Butterfly Garden and Environs Ribbon Cutting Event

Tucker Recreation Center's Newest Asset

Courtesy of Nancy Jester's Newsletter

In mid-June, I was honored to be a part of the unveiling of the Tucker Recreation Center's latest improvement, a newly constructed Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant (ADA) pathway through the recreation center's Butterfly Garden. Additionally, two informational kiosks were built to educate the public about the Butterfly Garden and the Trees of Tucker Garden.

Through a collaborative effort with the Friends of Tucker Recreation, the project's pathway and kiosk initiatives were led by DeKalb County Master Gardener Extension volunteers. Funding for the trail project was provided by a Park Pride Small Change Grant along with a District 1 park bond fund matching grant.

Citizens had frequently asked for improvements to the Butterfly Garden path to ensure that the garden is accessible for wheelchairs, strollers and canes, thereby enhancing the safety and enjoyment of visitors to the gardens. The fact that students are already using educational features contained in the Butterfly Garden and the Trees of Tucker for school projects reflected the need for these enhancements.

The mission of the collaboration of Friends of Tucker Recreation and the DeKalb County Master Gardener Extension volunteers is to partner with local government and community members to preserve, promote and enrich the Tucker Recreation Center and adjacent greenspace as a valued local resource for arts, sports, recreation and education.

Tucker Historical Society's 2018 Garden Tour – A Gardener's Delight!

by Rene` Boven

Whether you're an avid gardener or just someone that admires the beauty found in a garden, the recently held Tucker Historical Society's Annual Garden Tour had something for everyone. The tour took place on Saturday, May 19. The weather looked a bit iffy in the morning but fortune shone on tour participants and garden hosts, and the rain held off until later in the day.

Four residential gardens plus two other collaborative gardens were on this year's tour. The gardens offered style, beauty and inspiration along with educational information, garden talk and sensory delights. Each garden had its unique attributes ranging from shade gardens to vegetable gardens, and sun loving areas to fruit groves!

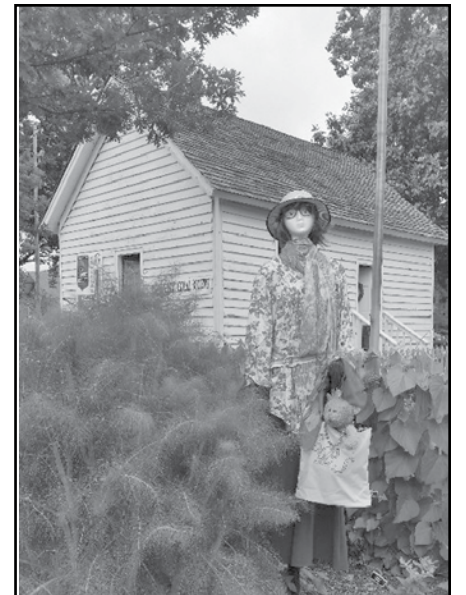
Christine Davis' garden features an extensive network of boardwalks and bridges, an extensive aquatic garden and shade garden. The garden has an array of large azaleas, rhododendrons, hydrangeas and camellias, and is nestled between Jackson Creek and Lake Nesbit. A highlight of this garden was the bubbling granite fountain surrounded by countless varieties of ferns, hosta and lovely statuary. Visitors could rest a spell on the Amish gliders in the cool of the shade.

The garden of Scarlett and Jeff Collins-Joyner offered treats not only for gardeners but also for golfers and feline lovers. In the back yard, there is a putting green and also the Cat House – a delightful abode for the family felines which temptingly faces a multi-stage water feature with a koi pond, trickling waterfall and a quiet miniature pool. The owners created a faux front porch with an enclosed ornamental fence, potted plants and a fountain with seating arrangements and outdoor lighting that invites one to linger.

Viva and Neil Araki's garden had it all: food, foundation and aesthetic beauty.

Beyond a roadside border of dwarf crape myrtles and winterberry hollies is an assortment of raised beds of strawberries, blackberries, cucumbers, beans and peas. A swift little border stream in the side yard supports large shade trees and a progression of hydrangeas, ferns and hosta. The wooded back yard, transected by walking paths, features native plants such as trout lilies, mayapples, phlox, bloodroot and Solomon's Seal, and also, Japanese maples, eighteen varieties of ferns, and six varieties of ginger. The backyard "rooms" offered a tranquil walk through the wooded, natural area.

A testament to how gardens can be a work-in progress was Cheryl Iverson's garden. The loss of a couple of large shade trees changed the entire composition of the backyard. Suddenly, there was sunlight where there had been only shade. This provided a new canvas with a whole new palette of possibilities. Cheryl planted an impressive collection of infant native azaleas, blooming perennials, and baby hydrangeas. She also brought in a herd of goats to clear out an area choked in English ivy. Instead of having a large tree stump ground up, she embraced it by using it as a decorative touch.



Also featured on the tour were Tucker's public gardens. The Tucker Butterfly Garden is maintained by a devoted group of trained Master Gardener Volunteers. This garden provides a habitat for the complete life cycle of Southeastern butterflies, and helps educate visitors about these beautiful creatures and the plants that support them. A walkway of crushed slate leads you through the native plants which include perennials such as salvia, coneflowers, yarrow, asters, and some summer annuals. A special greeter, a garden lady scarecrow, stands watch near the historic Browning Courthouse, circa 1860 where visitors can learn about local, county and state history.

Something new to many Tuckerites is the Pollinator Garden and the Peach Pit located in Kelley Cofer Park. This sprawling 17-acre park is remarkable for its beauty, diversity and deep history. The Pollinator Garden was

designed by bee-keeper, Valerie Nichols, as a productive support system for bees, butterflies and birds. The beds are planted with a variety of flowers and herbs. The garden is maintained by DeKalb Master Gardener members as well as volunteers from all over Tucker.

Down in the valley which had been the site of the Tucker Woman's Club, is now the home of over 30 fruit trees including peach, apricot and nectarine trees. It is called The Peach Pit, and was spearheaded by Mike Fillon and the Tucker Orchard Guild, along with the Friends of Tucker Parks and Tucker High students. It is truly a teaching gem.

The tour provided attendees with several wonderlands hidden away in Tucker neighborhoods but also the teaching, public gardens. All of these gardens contribute to Tucker's beauty and attraction, and presented viewers with a living textbook on design, proportion and contrast. The tour showed how a grassy yard to a hilly slope can become a garden with planning, imagination and the will to produce. The hosts were eager to share their gardens, their stories of transformations and/or successes, and their mutual love of gardening and the gifts of nature.

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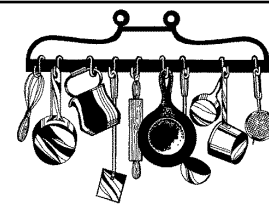
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HODGE PODGE



By Jenny Hall

Since August is such a bright, golden month (by that I mean hot and oppressive), I have decided to focus on a couple of my favorite golden honey recipes that seem to be the most requested and also pretty darn easy. It has always been my motto that food should be easy to prepare but taste like it's near to impossible to make. I also think it's important to give your dishes a fancy name so you further confuse and impress your guests. Let's face it, beef stew sounds boring, but Boeuf Bourguignon sounds incredibly delicious but it's just beef stew basically. And I often just lie and say I'm using fingerling potatoes or baby carrots but I just cut them up cute and small. Cooking is much more amusing if you lie. For instance, I call this favorite cake of mine "Fresh Walnut Fig Cake with Honey Infusion". Big woo. It is made with my fig preserves and they were fresh once, but now frozen solid. Infusion is fancy for "soak". Soak sounds like Epsom salts, so avoid that term. "Infusion" or "syrup" is way better, right?

Fresh Walnut Fig Cake

2 1/4 cups plain flour
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 teaspoon each of salt, baking soda and cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg and dash of cloves
3 eggs
1 cup each of vegetable oil, buttermilk and fig preserves
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 teaspoon orange zest
1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

(Note: My preserves have orange, raisins and bits of apple in them along with spices. So if you are using store-bought preserves you might want to add a bit more spice.)

Preheat oven to 325° and grease and flour a 13 x 9 pan. Mix, by hand, dry ingredients and then mix wet ingredients, starting with the eggs, and ending with vanilla. Pour wet into dry and mix well by hand. Add zest and nuts. Pour into pan and bake 45-50 minutes or until it springs back in middle when lightly pressed. Batter is fairly liquid, so don't be alarmed.

Make syrup right after cake is baked because you want to pour warm syrup over warm cake.

Honey Syrup

1 cup sugar
1 Tablespoon honey
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 stick butter
1/2 teaspoon baking soda

Melt butter in 2-quart sauce pan. Add rest of ingredients and stir to combine. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly because it will boil over otherwise. Once it comes to a real boil, stir and cook for 3 minutes.

Poke holes over the warm cake which by now you have taken from the oven, I hope. I use a toothpick or skewer because a fork seems to pull bits up. Pour and spread syrup over in three stages so each amount gets absorbed into the holes. Let cool completely and serve with this ice cream that I made up and is delicious and so full of calories that it can't actually be calibrated.

Browned Honey Ice Cream

(It's not really browned honey...I made that up cause it sounds delicious)

Prepare 1/2 of the recipe for the honey syrup above, or all...you can refrigerate the syrup for later use. Use the full tablespoon of honey even if you make half recipe. You can brown the butter a bit if you want to, but I really don't unless I just forget to watch it.

Have ready: 1/2 can condensed milk or, for more depth use dulce leche which is available now

12 ounce carton thawed whipped topping like Cool Whip®
1/2 gallon carton of good regular ice cream, softened, like Mayfield® - don't use natural ice cream or it will just liquefy. I use Pet® French Custard Vanilla often.

OK, to your cool honey syrup, add the 1/2 can of condensed milk. Already it's delicious. But it needs more calories. Fold in about half the topping and about half the ice cream. Try to blend but don't let it melt too much. Add the rest of the topping and ice cream, and don't worry if you have streaks of the honey syrup. That's just a delicious perk. Pour into half gallon container and freeze until it's set - about 6-8 hours. It is more custardy in texture and melts quickly, but it is heaven on that fig cake.

It is truly amazing that you can mix this amount of ingredients and still it's exactly 1/2 gallon but that's because the calories are close together and trying to stay warm.

You can really gild the lily here if you made the full recipe of syrup and drizzle a bit of that over the ice cream and cake. And here's an idea for those of you are totally obsessive like I am:

Make a small batch of that easy peanut butter candy that's just peanut butter, butter and confectioners' sugar. Form into ovals the size of a bee (you are getting the picture already, aren't you?) Put a mini chocolate chip for head, and two natural almond slices on the side for wings. Stripes are made by just pressing over the back with a toothpick dusted in cocoa powder.

Now you're ready for your close-up because that's worthy of a magazine spread for sure! Happy summer, happy fall, happy winter and happy life to you all!

Editors' note: Jenny Busch has been our recipe column writer for 25+ years. Her columns have always been on time and are almost always filled with humor. We are sad to say that this will be Jenny's last column. Thank you, Jenny, for your excellent work!!! We will miss you!

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