

# SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 49, ISSUE 9

Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968

December, 2016

www.smokesignalnews.com



The Staff of the Smoke Signal  
Wishes You All a  
Joy-filled Christmas Season!



## Volunteer and Spread the Cheer!

The Holidays are upon us and school will soon be out. If you are looking for some fun family oriented activities to do, several have been listed below. This year a short list of volunteer opportunities for those who want to 'give back' to the community or teach their children what it means to serve have been included.

### Volunteer:

**Nicholas House:** Help the homeless achieve self sufficiency. Cook a meal or bring a meal (404-622-0793; ext. 106) or contribute to nicholashouse.org.

### **Atlanta Union Mission:**

Sponsor a meal (cook there, cater bring to 4 locations), donate, work thrift store; Atlantaunionmission.org. or 404-588-4000.

### **Project Linus:**

Crochet, knit, fleece tied or sewn- any home-made blanket from a smoke free environment to donate to seriously ill or traumatized children. Teach your kids to hand tie a fleece blanket! Contact Marleen M at 770-917-1771 or projectlinus.org.

### **Local Co-ops:**

**Lilburn Co-op:** Donate clothes, food, school supplies, Walmart gift cards, gift cards for teens, money for emergency funds. Volunteer in the thrift shop sorting clothes and organizing food pantry. Lilburncoop.org (770) 931-8333

### **Networks Co-op (Tucker):**

Help in the Christmas Shop--Provide refreshments, snacks, child-care while shoppers shop. Donate food, Walmart gift cards. Amazon wishlists, WalMart Wishlists, Amazon Smile. (networkscoop.org) (770) 939-6454.

### Holiday Events:

**Holiday in Smoke Rise:** December 3, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., holiday crafts and gifts.

**Stone Mountain Christmas:** Now through January 1, 2017. Lights, Sing-a-long Christmas train, Nightly Christmas Parade, Christmas shows, live performances, 4-D theater, craft tent.

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**WE HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!!**  
**staff@smokesignalnews.com**  
Please send all questions, columns and contributions to this new address.

**Save the Date!**  
**WALK TO REMEMBER**  
**January 21, 2017**

## Walk to Remember

Smoke Rise High School Students Madelyn Hicks and Ava Smith were awarded Walk to Remember Scholarships to Taggart's Driving School in Tucker. Each recipient was awarded a certificate for 30 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of driving time at Taggart's.

Each year the Walk to Remember reminds the community that safe teen drivers save lives! The 2017 Walk to Remember will be held on January 21. Watch the January *Smoke Signal* for details!



L to R Madelyn and Ava

## Tucker Update

by Pat Soltys

A lot is happening in Tucker as our city continues to develop the infrastructure that will frame future growth and development.

November 17 was the "Tucker Tomorrow" kick-off meeting to begin the process of developing a comprehensive plan for the city. Over 150 people attended the meeting to hear and share ideas for Tucker's comprehensive plan with the appointed steering committee, staff, Mayor and council members. This is only the first of many meetings and events to be held as the plan is developed. All Tucker citizens are encouraged to get involved, attend the meetings and share ideas.

There is high interest in the community and the newly developing city of Tucker over the Sears property plans. The transformation from vacated warehouses to development aligned with the needs of the community and desired growth of the city affect us all. The proposed development project at the intersection of Hugh Howell and Mountain Industrial, known as the "Sears Project" has changed significantly since first presented. Stephen McCauley, McCauley Investments LLC, developer has presented a revised plan in which the movie studio is no longer a component and the number of housing units has been increased.

Recommendations by staff and the Community Council were to deny zoning variance requests by the developer for the project. On November 14, the City council held the first reading of the zoning variances requested by the developer. A vote will

be taken after they have fully considered the request. The zoning requested by the developer is MU5-- high density and multi-use. Current zoning is light industrial with one parcel listed as multiple zoning. Zoning change requests are carefully considered, as the impact is significant and difficult to change in the future. Although a vote has not been officially taken, it appears that a change in zoning is unlikely to be approved.

The developer has also requested significant tax abatements for the non-residential properties with a 75% abatement for 25 years. While abatements are not unusual in development projects, this amount if granted, would set a precedent that would be difficult to replicate in future development projects

The Zoning Board of Appeals was sworn in on November 15. The new board heard a request for a sign variance for the new Tucker Meridian project at Lavista Rd. and Northlake Parkway. The applicant requested a deferral to the December 20th meeting.

Tucker will soon have access to a municipal court through an agreement with the City of Clarkston until a court is established in Tucker. City Hall is bustling and bursting at the seams. Early in 2017, a City Hall annex will open on First Street and will be the site for all meetings. The website [www.tuckerga.gov/](http://www.tuckerga.gov/) is a "citizen friendly" site robust in information, calendars

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## Smoke Signal

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

Editorial Committee... Jan Mahoney .....(770) 621-0155  
 \*Cheri Schneider.....(770) 717-9914  
 AvivA Hoffmann ..... helloaviva@hotmail.com  
 \* This Issue's Editor-in-Chief  
 Recording Secretary .....Susan Gilbert .....sgilbert@apogee.net  
 Corresponding Secretary ..Barbara Bruschi.....(770) 934-4644  
 Treasurer.....Harry Strack .....(770) 365-9381  
 Classified Ads.....Barb Hess.....(404) 229-0742  
 Display Ads.....Barb Hess..... barbhess48@gmail.com  
 Church News.....Susan Gilbert .....sgilbert@apogee.net  
 Features:.....Barbara Bruschi.....(770) 934-4644  
 Cedric Ross.....(770) 621-0155  
 Cheri Schneider, M.D. ....(770) 717-9914  
 Reneé Hopf .....(770) 921-5540  
 Flyer Inserts .....Barbara Luton.....(770) 491-6711  
 Hodge Podge .....Jenny Hall.....(404) 200-4227  
 Pet Lost & Found.....Kay McKenzie ..... (770) 491-6784  
 Social Media .....Pat Soltys .....(770) 573-9715  
 News You Can Use.....AvivA Hoffmann ..... helloaviva@hotmail.com  
 Staff Writers.....Susan Gilbert .....(404) 312-8328  
 Joyce Ray.....(770) 491-9015  
 Kimberly Sizemore.....(770) 530-5939  
 Pat Soltys .....(770) 573-9715  
 Guest Writer .....Jenny Hall.....(404) 200-4227  
 Distribution .....Connie Schneider.....cheri5942@comcast.net  
 Delivery .....Chris Taylor and Jack Smith

*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.*

### December Calendar of Events

- 2 LRUMC Community Messiah Sing Along  
7:00-8:30 p.m., LRUMC
- 3 Holiday in Smoke Rise Craft Fair: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
SR Elementary School
- 3 Breakfast with Santa 8:00-11:00 a.m.  
St. Timothy's Methodist Church
- 3 Lilburn Christmas Parade, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Main Street Lilburn
- 3 Christmas on Main, 5:00-9:00 p.m., Main Street Tucker
- 4 "Tis the Season: Chorale II, 4:00 p.m.  
First Baptist Church Tucker
- 8-23 *Plaid Tidings* at ART Station
- 10-11 *The Christmas Shoes*, Saturday, 6:00 p.m., Sunday 3:00 p.m.,  
Mount Carmel Christian Church
- 10 Stone Mountain Women's Club  
"Homes For the Holiday Tour", 10:00 a.m.-4:00 pm.
- 17 Mountain Creek Swim Club Christmas bonfire  
Gathering at Dusk, 2200 Mountain Lane

## Smoke Signal Deadlines

### DECEMBER 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 box at  
**5365 Smoke Rise Drive**

Deadline for classified ads is **DECEMBER 10**

#### SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

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

"Like" us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews](http://www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews)  
 or visit our website at [www.smokesignalnews.com](http://www.smokesignalnews.com)  
 Link to the digital version of the *Smoke Signal*  
 at <http://eepurl.com/pjn4v>  
 or scan this QR Code  
 with your smart phone!



## NETworks Cooperative Ministries

### Good Neighbor Christmas Gift Shop

December 9-11

Friday 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
 Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
 Sunday 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Gym on Main Street  
 2367 Main Street, Tucker

NETworks benefits the  
 needy of Northlake,  
 Embury Hills and Tucker



### UPS And Smoke Rise Country Club Make Deliveries in Kanawha Easy This Holiday

In December, UPS will be placing a 'POD' in the parking lot of the Smoke Rise Country Club. This innovative delivery solution has been used in several other areas of the Metro Atlanta Region during peak delivery season. The POD is used as a home delivery base for the community, utilizing a golf cart(s) with a pull behind trailer. All the delivery packages for the day will be brought out by a UPS delivery truck in the A.M. and off-loaded into the UNIT. A uniformed UPS employee would then begin delivering the neighborhood with the golf cart until all deliveries are complete. The POD will store the golf cart and trailer at night. The POD will be used until mid January.



### FREE NEIGHBORHOOD PET LOST AND FOUND

Please call  
 Kay McKenzie  
 at 770-491-6784  
 with information  
 if you have lost or  
 found a pet.

## 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](http://SmokeRiseBaptist.org)

Sundays:  
 9:00 a.m. Worship in the Chapel  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday school  
 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
 Communion: Second Sunday of each month  
 1st Tuesdays: 11:30 a.m. Prime Time  
 Wednesdays:  
 5:00-5:45 Fellowship Dinner  
 6:00-7:00 Programs for children, youth and adults  
 7:00-8:30 Sanctuary choir  
 Nursery provided

## Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

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

Sundays:  
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages  
 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary - nursery provided  
 Wednesdays:  
 5:45 p.m. Join us for dinner! - \$5 per adult  
 6:30 p.m. Program

## Mount Carmel Christian Church

Senior Minister: Art Stansberry  
 Worship Leader: Leslie Riley  
 Director Kids Ministries: Vicki Tyler  
 Director of Student Ministries: Will Tyler  
 Telephone (770) 279-8437  
[www.mountcarmelcc.org](http://www.mountcarmelcc.org)

Sundays:  
 8:30 a.m. Coffee/ Doughnuts/ Fellowship  
 9:30 a.m. Bible School Classes - Adults & Children  
 10:30 a.m. Worship  
 Wednesdays beginning August 10:  
 5:30 p.m. Dinner  
 6:30 p.m. Bible Studies/Electives for All Ages

## First Moravian Church

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

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

## Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

Please join us for worship on Sundays at 8:45 a.m.  
 at the First 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](http://www.mwchurch.com)  
 4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain  
 Service Times 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.  
 Christmas Eve Services - 3:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

The *Smoke Signal* is posted to  
[www.smokesignalnews.com](http://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](mailto:pat@smokeriseagents.com).

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

# Christmas Eve

at  
**mountainwest**  
CHURCH

DECEMBER 24TH  
AT 3:00 PM, 4:30 PM & 6:00 PM

**First Baptist Church of Tucker: Chorale II Holiday Concert**

The Tucker-Northlake community chorus, CHORALE II, will introduce the spirit of the season with their 11th annual Holiday Concert on Sunday, December 4 at 4:00 pm at First Baptist Church of Tucker, 5073 Lavista Road. With 'TIS THE SEASON as the theme of the concert, the group will include selections which emphasize Advent, Christmas, Hanukah and other holiday favorites.

Dr. James T. McRaney, a retired DeKalb County schools choral director and Georgia Teacher of the Year winner, is the conductor and will be assisted by Associate Conductor Peggy Ray. Accompanists include Don Akin, Ruthann Lacey, Kathy Ray and Larry Saggus. Concert selections include Gloria by Donizetti, Gloria in Excelsis Deo by Cousins, Sing We Now of Christmas by Mark Hayes, Light the Candles by Gallina, Mel Torme's The Christmas Song, and a medley from Irving Berlin's White Christmas.

The concert also includes a special appearance by the 25-member Atlanta Flute Ensemble. The program is free and open to the public, and donations are welcome. Information: James T. McRaney, Musical Director 770- 939-1394.



Lawrenceville Road United Methodist Church  
Presents Its Second Annual  
**"Community Messiah Sing Along"**  
Friday, December 2  
7:00-8:30 P.M.  
3142 Lawrenceville Highway in Tucker

Host Jack Sartain invites you to bring friends and neighbors to "sing along" with them. We especially urge tenor and bass singers to attend. Please bring any form of the G. SCHIRMER edition of The Messiah that you have, and extra copies if you have them, especially the Christmas section. There will be NO rehearsal – if unanticipated "glitches" occur, singers have the freedom to back up and start over. Three outstanding guest conductors will direct the choruses, soloists and instrumental ensemble. Daniel Solberg, our guest organist, will also perform.



Everyone in attendance is invited to enjoy a "meet and greet" reception afterwards in the Fellowship Hall. This event should be fun and inspirational.

**PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!**

For further information, e-mail Jack Sartain at jbs5951@aol.com or call 770-856-1377.

Mount Carmel Christian Church  
presents  
*The Christmas Shoes:*  
A Dramatic Musical for Christmas  
.....  
Saturday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m.  
and  
Sunday, December 11 at 3:00 p.m.  
.....  
6015 Old Stone Mountain Road  
www.mountcarmelcc.org  
770-279-8437  
.....  
Also join us for our  
Christmas Eve Family Service at 6:00 p.m.  
Christmas Sunday Family Service 10:30 a.m.

**WEDDING**



Connor Nelson and Amanda Willitts exchanged wedding vows on a beautiful afternoon on October 2, 2016 in Post Falls, Idaho. Amanda is from Coarsegold, CA and is the daughter of Phil Willitts. The barn wedding was officiated by Pastor David Hardy of Living Grace Lutheran Church in Tucker. The bride and groom are both employed by the 320 Guest Ranch in Gallatin Gateway, Montana. Connor is a wrangler and mechanic for the ranch while Amanda manages the housekeeping staff. Connor is the son of Cindy and Steve Nelson of the Forest.

**Holiday Opportunitites... continued from page 1**

Snow Mountain, Stone Mountain Park: Select dates and times through February 26. Snow tubing, toboggans, snow balls and activities, s'mores by the fire.

Macy's Pink Pig: 60-year tradition Christmas train and lights, Lenox Square Mall.

Lilburn Christmas Parade: December 3, 10:00-i:00 p.m. Main Street Lilburn.

Stone Mountain Village Christmas Parade: November 25, 4:00 p.m., Main Street SMV

Tucker: "Christmas on Main" December 3, 5:00-9:00 p.m.: Santa, Tree lighting, artists, crafts, food vendors and music of the season.

Duluth Tree Lighting: Dec 3, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

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Merry Christmas

We wish you and yours - wonderful holidays & all the best for the New Year.

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**New DeKalb Website**

*Added features include social media interaction, improved search capabilities*

For the first time in approximately seven years, DeKalb County has updated its nearly 2,400-page website to make it more user-friendly, customer-focused and easy to update. The new website is adaptable on mobile devices and easily translates into dozens of languages.

"We have been rebuilding our website to create greater access, transparency and responsiveness," said DeKalb Interim CEO Lee May. "The website is a tool most people use as the primary interface with government and government resources. It should change and grow with technology."

The new website features a number of improvements to enhance the user experience.

- Responsive to mobile devices
- Improved menu structure: Content is organized by subject to make the most popular requests easy to locate.
- Google Language Translator makes the website accessible to all of DeKalb's diverse cultures.
- Social media feeds
- Calendar and event management: With just a click, county events can auto-populate users' calendar and/or Google Map applications.
- ADA compliant for those with visual impairments.
- Searchable contact pages

Visit the new site at [www.dekalbcountyga.gov](http://www.dekalbcountyga.gov).

**Tucker Update... continued from page 1**

and contacts. You will find many of the forms you may need, information, calendars and "how to's." Matt Holmes has been hired as Communications Coordinator and will regularly be posting to the website, Facebook and many other venues.

Watch the website and Facebook for the most up to date information on what is new or changing in the City of Tucker.



**IN THE GALLERIES:  
ART Station Presents  
WINTER MEMBERS  
JURIED ART EXHIBITION  
December 3- January 23, 2017**

ART Station is proud to announce *Plaid Tidings, a Special Holiday Edition of Forever Plaid* by **Stuart Ross**.

Vocal and Musical arrangements by James Raitt, Brad Ellis, Raymond Berg & David Snyder. Featuring Ritchie Crownfield, Tony Hays, Robert Owenby & Googie Uterhardt, the legendary Plaids come back to earth to spread yuletide joy with the greatest Holiday hits of the ages. A holiday sequel to the original *Forever Plaid*, this seasonal treat has the four legendary Plaids returning to earth once again, with their fabulous four-part harmony, and lovable personalities. After a call from Rosemary Clooney, the famous foursome – Francis, Smudge, Sparky and Jinx – have a mission to put a little holiday harmony into a discordant world!



Playing Thursdays through Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. from December 8-23. Call the ART Station Box Office at 770-496-1105 or buy online at [www.artstation.org](http://www.artstation.org).

**Stone Mountain Community Improvement District**

Several items noted on the CID website [www.smokerisecid.com](http://www.smokerisecid.com) might interest Smoke Rise residents in the coming months.

The Georgia DOT plans a 'massive' road project on the interchange of I-285 and GA 400, creating new flyover ramps and new exit/ merge lanes to help alleviate traffic congestion in and out of Cumming, Alpharetta and Roswell. As the project launches and people seek alternate routes to these locations, traffic along the Mountain Industrial and Jimmy Carter Boulevards could increase by as much as 20%. A video detailing this project can be viewed at <http://www.stonemountaincid.com/massive-road-project-likely-to-impact-cid/>.

The Hugh Howell Road/Mountain Industrial Boulevard intersection has been a very congested and often dangerous intersection for some time now. Several years ago the Stone Mountain CID funded a \$20,000 traffic study/conceptual design study hoping that this type of forward thinking might help them secure federal funding. Recently, the CID was notified that the intersection qualified under one such funding program. The design phase of the study will begin in early 2017 with actual road construction following in 2018.

**Breakfast with Santa to Benefit Stone Mountain Co-op**

Come experience the joy of the holiday season at the annual Breakfast with Santa event on December 3, 2016, 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in the Christian Life Gymnasium of St. Timothy's Methodist Church, 5365 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain



The event includes a country breakfast, photo op with Santa (bring your own camera), a silent auction, and a Santa Secret Shop for young shoppers to buy gifts for their family for \$1.00 or less. All sales benefit the Stone Mountain Cooperative Ecumenical Ministry, a non-profit group that year round helps the less fortunate in the community with food, utilities and some medical assistance. Tickets are \$6.00; children three and under eat free.



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Ballet, Tap and Jazz Dance classes for ages 3-5 / 5-7 / 8 -10/ 11-14 / adult jazz

Twinkler Violin classes for ages 4-5

MUSIKGARTEN Family Music classes for babies – toddlers / 2-4 yr. / 4-5 yr.

Music Makers at the Keyboard (piano) classes for ages 6-9

Drama classes for ages 4-5 and Fall/Spring Drama for school ages

OIL PAINTING classes for adults

Spring Semester begins January 5  
Class details and registration

[www.smokerisebaptist.org/arts](http://www.smokerisebaptist.org/arts)  
[artsacademy@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:artsacademy@smokerisebaptist.org)  
678-533-0562

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Mountain Creek Swim Club  
2092 Mountain Creek Court  
Stone Mountain GA 30087

**MOUNTAIN CREEK - THE CLUB FOR ALL SEASONS**

Summer is over but the fun continued in November with a Games Night on November 12<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed delicious spaghetti dinner and games that included Bingo and Backgammon (Chinese checkers).



We will continue a December tradition in Mountain Creek ~ setting out luminaries in front of every house in the subdivision! This tradition originated in North America with luminaries made from bonfires of crisscrossed pinon boughs arranged in 3-foot high squares. Later luminaries were small paper lanterns, which were made when colored paper was brought to this continent from the Orient.

*Photos thanks to Michael Washington!*

Instead of hanging these delicate lanterns from trees or on wires, they were placed on the ground, on rooftops and along pathways. In recent years, the use of luminaries has expanded so that they're used throughout the year at parties, weddings, religious ceremonies, and charitable events.



Mountain Creek invites our Smoke Rise neighbors to join us for this beautiful holiday tradition! Votive candles, set out in bags of sand during the afternoon, will be lit at dusk. Then join us at 2200 Mountain Lane for a bonfire, Christmas songs, hot chocolate, and cookies!

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Saturday, December 17th!

*Mountain Creek continues special events throughout the year. Stay informed on what's happening by visiting our Facebook page, our website at MountainCreekSwimClub.com, or call 678-824-2108.*

**A Whole Lot of Christmas!**

It's beginning to look at lot like Christmas everywhere you go! That sentiment is definitely true at 1833 Smokerise Summit. The holiday season is in full swing, and Santa Claus is preparing for his weekend visits to take photos in his sleigh. As in years past, donations are being collected for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. We are hoping to exceed last year's total, and reach our new goal of \$5,000. Please stop by anytime after 6:00 p.m. to enjoy the lights, and spread a little Christmas cheer!



**Ring in the New Year with the Best Party in Decatur!**

Saturday, December 31, 8:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.  
Advance reservations are available until December 29 at 5:00 p.m.  
Historic DeKalb Courthouse,  
101 E. Court Square, Decatur GA 30030, Second Floor



The DeKalb History Center's shindig features a professional DJ playing all your favorite dance hits. Admission includes delicious appetizers from Soiree Catering and Events, two drink tickets, sodas, a champagne toast at midnight, and holiday party favors. Guests purchase additional drink tickets for beer, wine or cocktails. Festive dress is encouraged. Reservations available online soon via PayPal.

**Stone Mountain Woman's Club**

New member orientation at the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman Club Tea on November 6 where all department heads and project leaders gave brief descriptions of their projects and programs.



*Left to right: George Ann Hoffman, Jenny Hall Busch, Kim Cumbie (Woman's Club President), and Gail Rushing*

**The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club Invites You to Their Annual Homes for the Holidays Christmas Tour**

Saturday, December 10  
10:00 am and 4:00 pm.



Tour tickets are available from any member of the Club or at the Stone Mountain Antique Emporium or ART Station in Stone Mountain. The \$25 Tour ticket includes lunch in the Family Life Center of the First United Methodist Church between the hours of 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. Gift items will be available in the Family Life

Center for your shopping pleasure, and the Church will be decorated and open for tours. The day of the Tour, tickets will be available for purchase in the Family Life Center or at any home on the tour. Proceeds from the Tour will help to fund a number of charities supported by the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club, a 501 (c) (3) not for profit organization. Gather your family and friends and join Club members for a day of fun and Christmas festivities as you tour four lovely homes decorated for the holidays!

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**SATURDAY DECEMBER 10, 2016**  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



**Veterans Visit Smoke Rise Elementary**



L-R: Al Lipphardt, Gerry Hutchinson, Bob Matheny, Warren Hoffman, Willie Maffett, Frank Luton, Bill Rosenfeld, Ray Ganga, Jack Dress

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club sponsored “Take a Veteran to School” Day at Smoke Rise Elementary School on Wednesday, November 10. Veterans visited classes in the second through fifth grades and told of their military experiences. Members of the school Beta Club served as hosts and hostesses to escort the men to the classrooms. Mrs. Brenda Ali, Parent Liaison, did the scheduling for the event. Mrs. Ames and Dr. Ronica Paul, Smoke Rise teachers, are also veterans. Mrs. Ames wore her uniform to school for the day! The students learned about history from those who have made it with their service to our country.

If you would like to be a part of this great day next year, please contact Barbara Luton. 770-491-6711, barluton@aol.com.

**Smoke Rise Elementary**

*A Poetic Note by Caroline Croom*

Smoke Rise Elementary, the school that strives to lead,  
 Grooming our students to be good citizens in the time of need.  
 Our boys and girls are making reading progress,  
 We all see their Accelerated Reader success;  
 They are handling their business to be the best.  
 Spotlighting S.T.E.M. education,  
 Apart of the road to graduation.  
 By highlighting our newly created logo and new robotics club,  
 Here in the south, we want to be looked at as a brand-new hub.  
 Competing in the First Lego League competition in December,  
 We want it to be an event that all of our students remember.  
 We want to create experiences for our students to understand compliance,  
 Being judged on team cooperation, the robotics mission, and problem solving alliance.  
 We’re also planting mental and physical seeds and sprouts for the Smoke Rise garden,  
 Growing kale, collards, carrots, and character, hoping their hearts never harden.  
 P.E. and art classes are making S.T.E.M. collaborations too,  
 Their outside experiments showed the effects of ultraviolet light that turned blue.  
 And without further ado, a special thank you to the Stone Mountain Woman’s Club  
 for always being there,  
 Your countless hours of volunteering, reading, and tutoring,  
 turns a daily routine into an appreciated AFFAIR!

On October 15, 2016 several members of BSA Troop 876 participated in the Rivers Alive Cleanup service project. Rivers Alive is a yearly cleanup project that uses volunteers to cleanup waterways throughout the state. This year we worked at a site away from the river. The scouts worked to pick up trash, tires, boxes, and other items that have the potential to pollute the river. These items are also harmful for the fish and other wildlife that live in this habitat. The scouts of BSA Troop 876 felt proud to make a difference in their community. (Will Stephens, Troop Historian).



**Rivers Alive**

**Operation Christmas Child**

The International Outreach Program of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club under the leadership of Barb Hess is filling boxes with items for boys and girls for Operation Christmas Child. The boxes are shipped to children here in the United States and around the world.

The club will collect 80-100 boxes to be delivered to the Smaritan’s Purse warehouse for shipping.

L-R Pat Sartain, Sheila Hortman, Susan Coletti, Nelda Lunsford, Gail Rushing, Pam Heisler, Elizabeth Wells, Barb Hess, Chairman





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



**FODAC Annual Golf Tournament  
Raises over \$25,000**

Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) held its Annual FODAC Golf Classic Fundraiser on Wednesday, October 12 at Bear's Best Golf Course in Suwanee, Georgia. The Rotary Club of Stone Mountain provided volunteers to work the tournament as well as some golfers to play. The event hosted 88 golfers and raised over \$25,000 to support FODAC's mission of providing durable medical equipment (DME) at little to no charge to those in need.



Winning first place at the tournament with a score of 53 was the foursome of Dwight Standridge (Jefferson), Derek Conley (Athens), Justin Brown (Commerce) and Zach Kles (Athens).



**Stone Mountain Rotary Club**

By L. A. Dison

**School STEM Workshops Propel the Next Generation of Rocket Scientists**

Rotarian Gene Fleeman and some of his fellow Stone Mountain club members are touring local DeKalb schools with the "Soda Straw Rocket Competition," an interactive workshop teaching students how to build a rocket using basic art materials while teaching them physics and mathematics. Gene, a retired aerospace engineer, and his volunteers from the Stone Mountain club have brought the hour-long workshop to seven DeKalb schools, including Smoke Rise Elementary, Brockett Elementary and Stone Mountain Middle, where the fusion of fun and education connected the students with science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fundamentals. Gene and his program were recently profiled in DeKalb County paper



Students from Smoke Rise Elementary line up with Gene Fleeman to launch their soda straw rockets. (photo by L.A. Dison)

*The Champion* ("Propelling Education," Thursday, November 3).

The Rotary Club of Stone Mountain joined with The Rotary Club of Tucker in November to sponsor an Electronics Recycling Day at First Christian Church of Atlanta in Tucker. The event, benefitting Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC), collected seven and a half pallets of electronics that would otherwise have ended up in landfills; working electronics went to FODAC's thrift store for resale and non-working electronics were sold to recyclers. In addition to electronics, Rotarians collected \$150 in cash donations to support FODAC's mission of refurbishing and redistributing durable medical equipment (DME) to the disabled.



Stone Mountain Rotarian Joe Donovan unloads another donated television for the FODAC truck. (photo by L.A. Dison)

The Stone Mountain club meets every Tuesday for noon lunch at Smoke Rise Country Club; visitors and those interested in learning more about Rotary are welcome to attend as a guest of the club. To learn more about the club and its upcoming programs, go to [www.stonemountainrotary.org](http://www.stonemountainrotary.org), or follow on Facebook and Twitter.

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A Chili cookoff was held at the Smoke Rise Country Club on Sunday November 6th. All proceeds benefited the Community School, a specialized learning environment for adolescents and young adults with Challenges including Autism Spectrum Disorder.



Chili cookoff winners – Pictured left to right: Lucy Harris, People's Choice; Emily Alexander, Third Place; Marian Fetzek, Second Place; Susan Mojcik, Winner

**Beginner Tennis League**

On Saturday, January 7, an 8-week beginner tennis league will be forming. There will be home and away matches usually scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Team practices will be on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at the Smoke Rise Country Club. Cost is \$160 for the season, plus a \$24 league fee and a \$20 USTA membership fee.

Interested parties can contact Jim Richards at 770-980-2582 or by email [jrichards@smokerisecc.com](mailto:jrichards@smokerisecc.com).

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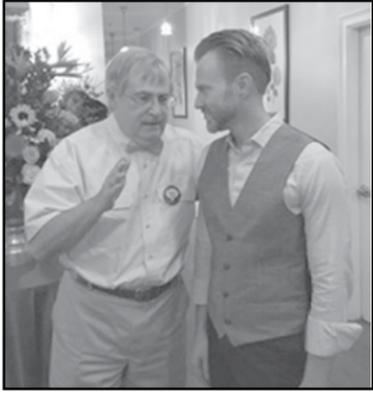
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 1672 Lilburn-Stone Mtn Rd \$344,400	 6133 Kings Mountain Ct \$299,500
 2139 Rosser Place \$279,000	 1759 Mountain Glen \$297,500

**Manor Celebrates Grand Opening**

The Stone Mountain Manor hosted a wonderful grand opening reception on October 28. A very large crowd enjoyed cocktails and a lavish hors d'oeuvres display. New owner Adam Holcomb opened the manor for all to explore and the renovations are sure



to appeal to all who stay in this beautiful setting right in Stone Mountain Village.

*Frank Luton engaged in an animated discussion with owner Adam Holcomb.*

**SR Attorney Honored**

James W. Howard, an attorney residing in The Summit and practicing with The Howard Law Firm in Tucker, Georgia, was awarded the Leeza R. Cherniak Award of the Sword. The Federal Defender Program, Inc. presented the award on October 26 at it's annual St. Crispin's Day seminar at the State Bar of Georgia headquarters. The Award of the Sword is presented to a single criminal defense attorney practicing in the federal courts to recognize "consistent valor in the face of adversity, heroism in defense of others, and commitment to the cause of justice."



**Of Note to the Community: Safety Alerts & Watches**

by Cedric Ross

As the holidays approach we turn our attention to family, friends and celebrations. We may even let our guard down because our heart turns to cheer and good will. There are members of society who would take advantage of our good nature and that is sad.

I am not recommending the product listed below however security is something we take seriously. Consider using something like this if you will be away.

**"Nightlock" Security Lock Door**



This note about a possible scam was given to me. Please be alert when someone comes to your door!

"There may be someone who arrives at your home claiming they are from the Water Company, to install shower caps, to save water. Or they will claim they are from Electricity Company to change energy-saving electric bulbs for free as part of government lay down program. They have been spotted in so many areas. Please be very careful, it has been said, they are robbing people at gun-point."

I am not personally aware if this is valid or not, however I felt the need to share what was given to me. Never open your door to a stranger. Speak to them through a closed door or intercom.

**Crime Reports**

- 10/19/2016 Burglary 5000 Block Chedworth Dr. 12:30 p.m.
- 10/28/2016 Larceny Associated of a Vehicle 2100 Block of Spencers Way 9:00 a.m.
- 11/3/2016 Damage to Private Property 2300 Block of Deer Ridge Dr. 9:30 p.m.
- 11/9/2016 Larceny, theft from vehicle The Summit and Silver Hill Rd.

We make an effort to list local crimes, if we miss something please let us know! Email address for submission – staff@smokesignalnews.com. Note that this is a new email!

**Smoke Rise Country Club Introduces New General Manager**

We are pleased to announce that our new General Manager will be Rob Sabat, who previously worked with Mosaic as the Assistant GM in their very successful turnaround of The Manor Golf & Country Club in Alpharetta. Before and after that engagement, Rob worked at Woodmont Golf & Country Club in Canton. Rob has extensive Food and Beverage expertise, from which we will certainly benefit as we continue our quest to consistently provide an outstanding F&B experience for our Members and their guests.

Rob joined us effective November 15, and he is looking forward to getting to know all of our Member families. We will be scheduling a welcome reception for Rob in the near future.

Thanks to all of our staff for the excellent job they have done maintaining a great quality country club experience under difficult circumstances. Working without a GM for nearly two months, everyone on the staff has pulled together and they truly have made us proud! We know they will continue to do that under Rob's and Mosaic's leadership in the months and years to come.

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**HEALTH NOTES:**

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

**Hookah? Or Hooked?**

Last month I wrote about electronic cigarettes and “vaping”. This month I thought I would follow up with an article on the equally popular Hookah smoking. In the Middle East, the Hookah, or “water pipe” as it is sometimes known, has traditionally been a vehicle for smoking opium and hashish. In the U.S., most hookah bars offer a selection of tobacco types and flavorings to mix with the tobacco. Hookah aficionados, like cigar lovers, are quite versed in the different types and flavors of tobacco they enjoy.

The hookah pipe has several parts. First, tobacco is packed into a bowl, which is then covered with aluminum foil that has air vents poked into it. Preheated embers or charcoal are placed on top of the bowl to heat the tobacco. Smoke from the heated tobacco is filtered through water, or sometimes flavored liquids, and then is inhaled through a rubber hose with a detachable mouthpiece. The hookah pipe can have multiple mouthpieces and be used as a communal pipe, or a single mouthpiece can be passed from person to person or used alone. Obviously, pipes passed from person to person can also transmit diseases like oral herpes, TB, upper respiratory viruses and influenza.

Is hookah smoking better or worse than regular cigarette smoking? Consider the following differences: A cigarette is usually smoked in about twenty puffs over five to ten minutes of time. Hookah smokers puff fifty to two hundred times in a one-hour session. This is a difference of about 500 cubic centimeters of cigarette smoke versus 90,000 cubic centimeters of smoke from a hookah—which is often inhaled much more deeply. Carbon monoxide, a component of smoke from any source, is also found in much higher levels in hookah smokers. Carbon monoxide levels in smokers are naturally higher than levels found in the non-smoking population (9% vs 2-5%). In hookah smokers, carbon monoxide levels (measured as ‘carboxy-hemoglobin’) as high as 26% have been reported! This is high enough to require treatment in the hospital!

Like E-cigarette studies, little long-term data exists on the effects of flavorings and tobacco from hookah on the body. Yet! Several chemicals released in hookah smoke are known to be toxic or are known carcinogens: nitrosamines, benzene, formaldehyde, and heavy metals like arsenic, chromium and lead.

Lastly, like E-cigarette smokers, hookah smokers often ‘dual-smoke’. This means they also smoke regular cigarettes in addition to hookah. ‘Hookah bars’, are popping up all over the place, heavily targeting areas that 18-24 years olds hang out... like college campuses. Encourage your younger neighbors to consider these facts when deciding if hookah is really a cool social activity to partake in!



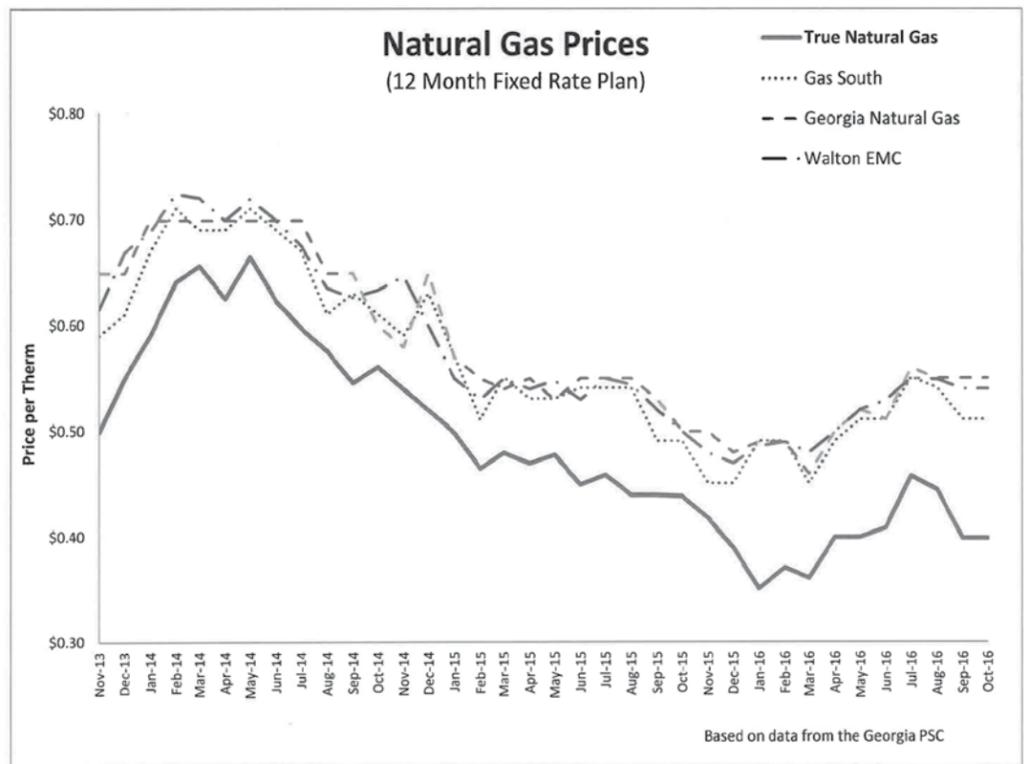
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Saving on Natural Gas**

Are you paying too much for natural gas? Let’s investigate this. In our area, most homes are heated with natural gas costing about \$1,000 annually. You can add your own bills up to see if that is where you land, but the bottom line is, if it is more, you may be paying too much. Who you select for your gas retailer makes a difference in how much you pay each year for heat.

As readers of this column know, I believe in keeping our dollars here in our Smoke Rise community whenever possible. So I will for a second time devote this article to how you can save some money in the selection of a natural gas retailer. This is timely because the best time to lock-in a 12 to 18 month gas rate is in the fall. I recommend locking in a rate instead of going month-to-month where you are exposed to volatility in the market-place and might do better in some months, but risk doing far worse in other months.

In 1997, the Georgia General Assembly deregulated the natural gas industry. Atlanta Gas Light (AGL) became the gas wholesaler providing gas, reading the gas meters, and providing the local pipelines for retailers who then buy the natural gas, deliver it through the interstate pipelines, and provide billing and customer service. AGL’s retail operations became Georgia Natural Gas, which is now one of 14 natural gas retailers operating in Georgia according to the Public Service Commission (PSC) website. Some of the retailers are local, and some are out-of-state investor owned utilities. Two utilities- True Natural Gas and Walton EMC- are operations of Georgia-based, not-for-profit, electric membership cooperatives.

These two retailers run neck-and-neck in having the lowest overall price, in what the Public Service Commission website ([www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us)) shows as “apples-to-apples” price. The apples-to-apples designation refers to factoring in service and other fees to give a fair comparison. This is why you can’t believe every TV ad or postcard mailed to you home about low per therm costs. Some retailers show low per therm rates but have higher monthly service fees that hide the fact you are paying more than you think. In



the chart, you can see the 3-year history of several retailer’s rates and how they vary over time. What you won’t see in the chart is that True Natural Gas also gives a loyalty discount allowing customers to save on each bill with a credit toward their monthly service fee once eligibility is met. And the longer you stay, the more you save. Stay long enough and your monthly customer service charge could be as low as \$3.45 a month versus \$5.95. That’s a \$30.00 per year extra savings. In November they offered an 18-month fixed rate of \$0.443/per therm and the lowest published 12-month fixed rate of \$0.398/therm. Mention you are a Smoke Rise resident learning about them from the Smoke Signal, and get the additional advantage of no credit check, no deposit, and no switching fee.

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**Smoke Rise Preferred Contractor’s List**

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 as a potential starting point. We maintain a free listing of contractors and other service providers that your neighbors have used successfully. If you want a copy of this list, please email Jim Farmer at: [jimfarmer812@earthlink.net](mailto:jimfarmer812@earthlink.net) or call him at (770) 939-8949. We also ask for your feedback. Tell us about a contractor or service provider that you have used with opinions about their work. This information will be useful for future revisions of the list.




NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

Be Smart with Your Online Purchases

Online shopping can be fun, but you should always have your guard up – especially during the Holiday season. Many people like going online to easily find the perfect gift and save time, but they can also end up with identity theft, malware, and other cyber unpleasantness. To reduce your chances of becoming a cyber-victim, be sure to observe a few simple security precautions.

You can minimize your risk with the following:

1. Do not shop on public computers or with public wireless Internet access. They may contain viruses and other malware that steal your information.
2. Protect your computer and mobile devices. Be sure to use up-to-date antivirus protection, and make sure each device is receiving updates.
3. Use strong, unique passwords for each online account. A strong password uses more than 10 characters, with numbers, special characters, and upper and lower case letters.
4. Use a credit card to pay online – not debit cards. Credit cards are protected by the Fair Credit Billing Act and may limit your liability if your information was stolen or used improperly. Always check your statements regularly and carefully.
5. Look for “https” in the Internet address (URL) when making an online purchase. The “s” in “https” stands for “secure” and indicates that communication with the webpage is encrypted. Alternatively, look for the lock symbol (it’s sometimes green) in the Internet address bar.
6. Beware of “pop-ups” that claim items are “free” or available at a very low price. Sometimes a refundable deposit is requested, other times, direct access to your social media account is requested. These are scams intending to victimize you and your friends. Close the ad by pressing Control + F4 on a Windows computer and Command + W on a Mac.
7. Do not auto-save personal information. You may be given the option to save your personal information online for future use – don’t do it. Consider if the convenience is really worth the risk.

There are several Internet sites that help debunk scams. The Federal Trade Commission has a great website devoted to sharing information on scams. Go to: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/scam-alerts>. Also, be sure to check out the Internet Crime Complaint Center: <http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>. Whenever I get an email warning about a new theft ring, or a free offer, I go to the Urban Legends Reference Pages to investigate. You can find that site online at <http://www.snopes.com>.

The bottom line is – use precautions each and every time you are online. If you do encounter problems with an online shopping site, contact the seller or company directly to resolve any issues. You may also contact the state’s Attorney General’s Office, the Consumer Protection Agency, or the Better Business Bureau - [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).

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 Meals on Wheels this Season!**

More than 15,000 nutritious meals are prepared weekly out of Senior Connections’ main kitchen in Chamblee, and meals are distributed from its Chamblee and Decatur centers throughout metro Atlanta and middle Georgia. Most of the organization’s local meal preparation and delivery is handled by volunteers, who donate anywhere from just a few hours on one day to a regular weekly commitment of time.



Senior Connections is especially looking for volunteers during November and December to pick up duties from those who are busy with their own families or may be traveling during the holidays.

“For many seniors, the volunteer who delivers that meal may be the only person they will see all day, and the meal may be the only healthy one they have that day,” said Furtado. “We rely on an army of volunteers to support our Meals on Wheels program, and we hope that everyone will consider sharing their time during this holiday season. That brief moment of personal connection will nourish the volunteer and senior alike, and what better gift could you give or receive than that?”

Volunteer opportunities at Senior Connections are available for meal delivery drivers and food prep / kitchen personnel the week prior to Thanksgiving and all throughout the holiday season; contact Senior Connections’ Volunteer Services at [seniorconnection-satl.org/volunteer](http://seniorconnection-satl.org/volunteer) or call 770-455-7602.

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## Mountain Mums Garden Club

The Mountain Mums Garden Club had a very interesting and active meeting in November. On November 9, the Mums met at the old Browning Courthouse in Tucker. There, Trish England, a founding member of the Tucker Historical Society (THS) and 15 year board member, shared with us the history of the courthouse and much of Tucker. Although not on the list of historic places (because it was moved), it has the original cedar shakes and tin roof. It badly needs painting due to termite destruction and lead based paint... and will cost approximately \$16,000 to complete. Currently the THS is taking donations for the project and selling books about Tucker history at stores in the Tucker area. The original ledgers from the courthouse have been bound and can be viewed on site.

Trish also told us how Tucker had a large garden club, started in 1934. It is now defunct, but the records rare preserved in spite of a clubhouse fire several years ago.

The Mountain Mums then met Matt Houser, a Professional Landscape Architect, Urban Planner and Capital Program Manager with CH2M who took us on a tour of three of the ten park or green space sites in Tucker. Tucker has yet to take over the Park and Recreation Department from DeKalb County. They have two years from May of 2016 in which to choose to do this. Mr. Houser told the garden club group that three parks: Johns Homestead Park, Henderson Park and Cofer Park have dams holding back lakes. Currently they have not been well maintained and will need more than \$1 million for dredging, repair and maintenance. Tucker Recreation building may also need significant work to rid it of lead based paint, asbestos and mastic from floor tiles. This could cost nearly \$100,000. Additionally, the swimming pool at Cofer pools is aged and needs significant modernization. It also could cost nearly \$1 million to update. The bottom line is, that it is a very expensive thing to take over the Parks and Recreation Department. Much planning and investigating are actively occurring to create a master plan for Tucker Parks and Recreation. Mr. Houser said, the good thing, is that Tucker's parks have 'great bones' to work with.

Mr. Houser then spoke briefly about how funding for Parks and Recreation would likely occur. Beside collection of Franchise fees already in the budget, they would consider issuing bonds. Then, he anticipates that Tucker would receive a share of the county-wide SPLOST, which is being reworked before it will be voted upon. Negotiation with DeKalb County will be key. Please attend any community meetings regarding this important topic! Clearly this will take time to work out!

The Mountain Mums next meet at the Smoke Rise Country Club for their Christmas Luncheon. Please call Carol Wales at 908-229-4179 or email her [cawale@hotmail.com](mailto:cawale@hotmail.com) for more information.

## Georgia Pecans for the Holidays

While many area residents received their delivery from Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) in November, the group will continue to offer pecans during December until the supply is gone.

Despite earlier weather concerns, the newly harvested crop from south Georgia turned out well and the pecans are high quality as usual, noted Scott Uthlaut of MSGC. And the prices of pecans from the garden club are the same as last year.

The annual "Georgia Pecans for the Holidays" sale by MSGC has become a local. Several options are available for those who still need pecans. Please e-mail [msgcpecans@gmail.com](mailto:msgcpecans@gmail.com) or call one of these phone numbers: 770-923-9762, 404-296-7317, or 404-915-7132.

- Mountain Shadow Garden Club pecans will also be available for purchase at these locations: The Garden Enthusiast, 2316D Main St., Tucker, GA 30084 Phone 404-474-7072

- Hall's Flower Shop, 5706 Memorial Dr., Stone Mountain, GA 30083 Phone 404-292-8446

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



## Morning Glories Garden Club Enjoys Tree Care 101 Lecture

November's meeting was a primer on tree care from expert Peter Jenkins. Peter "Treeman" Jenkins is an ISA certified arborist who owns the company, Trees Inspection.com. He offered us some very pertinent insights into tree care and management. His website [www.treeinspection.com](http://www.treeinspection.com) is full of helpful information about trees and tree care. "How to Spot a Dangerous

Tree" may be especially helpful as you evaluate the trees on your property.

Smoke Rise is filled with many lovely species of trees of all ages. Examining your trees each year to observe their growth and identify any issues that need to be addressed is good stewardship. Mr. Jenkins suggested a four-zone inspection for every homeowner. First, look at the tree as whole. Does it look full and lush with normal foliage, or is it thinning, leaning and etc.? Second, look at the base of the tree. The presence of fungi may or may not indicate a problem, depending on the type of fungus. Third, look at the trunk. Do you see borers? Do you see 'toothpicks' that indicate the Ambrosia Beetle infestation or other insects? Lastly, look at crown of the tree. Is it full? Are there broken limbs or brown leaves at the wrong time of year? If there is an issue, Mr. Jenkins advised us to call a certified arborist.

Peter shared numerous tree tales: from cat rescues to destruction of homes or cars by trees falling due to storms or fungal infestations. He also noted that with our current drought we should be especially diligent in observing and maintaining the health of our wonderful tree canopy.

The Morning Glories met at the home of Joyce Ray. Our hostesses for the luncheon were Judy Abrams, Betty Curlee and Ruth Ann Hill. President Glendolyn Hallman reminded the group that we will be meeting on December 1st to decorate the historic Wells-Brown house in period correct holiday décor- always a fun event for the club. We discussed a new service project for the 2016-2017 club year that will focus on providing Christmas gifts and other needs to the local Battered Women's Shelter. More details will follow after our December meeting.

## Smoke Rise Garden Club

Our club painted stockings and filled gift boxes at our November meeting. It was an enjoyable evening. This project really helps to promote the spirit of the season and the children at Egleson look forward to the gift boxes, as do the patients at Central State who enjoy the Christmas stockings. Thanks to Deb Christensen, our hostess and co-hostesses Peggy Clegg and Denise Finley, who kept us nourished with delicious cookies, cakes and other assortment of goodies. Two neighbors stopped by to give us a hand, Gloria De Andrade and Pam Erdman. These ladies said they might be interested in joining our club. We would be very pleased if they would.



Hostesses Peggy Clegg, Deb Christensen, Denise Finley

The first week in December is when our club refurbishes wreaths and decorates the corners along Hugh Howell for the holiday season. This is also an enjoyable time for our members who like the hands-on crafting and fellowship.

Our club is a member of the DeKalb Federation of Garden clubs. Their location is in the grand old Callanwolde estate. Every third Thursday excellent programs are presented for the seasoned as well as the beginning gardener.

If you are interested in joining or learning more about garden clubs, please contact Jane Culbertson at 770-938-3060 or [destovan@aol.com](mailto:destovan@aol.com).

## 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!



**Belinda Belvin, REALTOR®**  
404-844-8811  
[bbelvin02@att.net](mailto:bbelvin02@att.net)

**Keller Williams Realty**  
Atlanta Partners  
1957 Lakeside Pkwy, Ste 520  
Tucker GA 30084





# HODGE PODGE

By Jenny Hall

*This time of year I start to feel the panic rise, realizing that I have done little or nothing to prepare for the holidays yet. There is still a Halloween owl sitting on my stair case. He's going to get a little Santa hat to cover the dust. However, I am prone to sudden bursts of energy when I cook, decorate or buy gifts. This brings on an affliction that I like to call bi-purchase angst. That's the feeling you get when you buy a great gift, take it home and then realize that you really, really need two of these amazing and charming items, only to return to the store to find that they are sold out forever in all stores in the Western Hemisphere. Why didn't I buy two? Why? Why?!!! Even though I'm sure to spend more on the dog than my family I know we all need easy, thoughtful gifts to give so that our human friends will think that we are nice, charming and capable of operating kitchen appliances other than the can opener. These recipes are not complicated, or elaborate or even all that unusual. What they are is easy, so that you can host a brunch, tea or party that won't have your guests fleeing in terror from your house, even with the Halloween Santa owl.*

## Raspberry Salad Dressing

- 1 (10-oz.) jar seedless raspberry all-fruit spread - like Polaner's®
- 1 clove of minced garlic (optional)
- 1/2 cup plain white rice vinegar - don't get flavored
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil other than olive oil
- A tiny dash of cayenne pepper

Just blend this all together until really combined. Taste and add more vinegar if you want to...or salt and pepper. It's delicious on this winter salad:

- 1 package salad greens, or fresh baby spinach...enough for 4
- 1 orange, peeled and sectioned
- 1 pear, sliced into about 12 sections
- Thin slices of sweet onion if desired
- Bleu cheese crumbles if desired
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1/2 cup toasted walnuts, pecans or almonds

Divide greens among four plates. Divide remaining ingredients equally and artistically to impress everyone. Drizzle with raspberry dressing.

*So easy, I'm ashamed to share it*

## Gingerbread with Custard Sauce

Gingerbread: Take 1 box of Gingerbread Mix. Make it. Cool it. Cut it into squares to serve eight. Pour "custard" sauce over or around and pretend it took you all day.

"Custard Sauce": Mix together 1 box instant cheesecake flavored pudding, 3 cups of whole milk, and 1/4 cup heavy cream. Let sit. Taste and decide if it's the pourable consistency you want. Stir it again and decide it will do. Pour over gingerbread, add a dash of nutmeg and tell everyone how difficult your life is but that it's Christmas and nothing is too much trouble for those you love.

*This next recipe is an oldie but goodie. Make at least a day ahead. The leftovers can easily be stirred together and re-used if put in a darling little serving bowl. I often use this same mixture mixed with mayonnaise and prepared mustard as a spread for ham and rolls. It's very versatile and lasts a long time in refrigerator.*

## Good Ol' Jezebel Sauce

Mix together equal amounts of pineapple preserves and apple jelly. 8-ounce or a 10-ounce jars are fine. Add 2 Tablespoons dry mustard, 1 teaspoon pepper and half a jar of prepared horseradish. NOTE: use half a jar and let this mixture sit for a few hours in refrigerator. Taste it, and if it's not zippy enough, add the rest of the jar of horseradish. The original recipe calls for a full 5-ounce jar. Refrigerate 24 hours and serve over a block of cream cheese with crackers.

## My Favorite Fudge

- 1 can condensed milk
- 1 large bag milk chocolate chips
- 1 small bag semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup chopped toasted pecans

Lightly grease an 8" square pan. Heat condensed milk in heavy saucepan until it's fairly hot, stirring continuously so it won't stick. Just before it boils, remove from heat and add chips. Stir until melted. Stir in pecans and immediately pour into pan. Spread and cool. Perfect. Every single time. If you are ambitious, roll the mixture into balls while it's still a little warm, roll in cocoa, sprinkles, or chopped nuts and tell everyone this is your best truffle recipe. Well, it's my best truffle recipe. Merry Christmas from Santa Owl and me!

**ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:** Starting immediately, all inquiries regarding advertising should be directed to the following: Classified and display ads: Barb Hess at barbhess48@gmail.com. Flyers: Barbara Luton at barluton@aol.com.

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 copy in writing with a check for the months the ad is to run. Deadline is the 10th of each month. ADS NEED TO BE PREPAID. Checks should be made out to *Smoke Signal* and mailed to 1868 East Gate Drive, Smoke Rise, GA 30087-1911. When submitting classified ads, please include your full name, address, and phone number. This information is for our records only! For classified ads, contact Barb Hess at (404) 229-0742 or barbhess48@gmail.com. For information on display (box) advertisements or flyer inserts, see contact information on page 2.

## Classified Ads

**NOLAND'S TREE SERVICES**  
770-597-6616 - Trimming, removals and tree top rescues. In business since 1980. Call for free estimate.

**- MARKETING RESEARCH -**  
20% cashback on your shopping (gas, groceries, restaurants) using your own credit/debit card! 404-634-5590 (text or voice)

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Licensed/Insured. Design. Installation. Year-Round Maintenance. Weed Control/Fertilization. Drainage. Hardscaping. Irrigation Systems. Pinestraw. 404-556-2634

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Painting, Carpentry, Minor Drywall, Pressure Washing, Deck Staining, Any small jobs  
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**HANDYMAN INC.** has over 225 clients in the SR community. Providing all your "homework" needs. Logan Carlisle, owner and Handyman@770-235-3684.

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**COMPUTER AND NETWORK SALES AND SERVICES -**  
Trusted company working with local community since 1995. References available. Call 770-979-1800 or visit www.thepclink.com.

**Computer giving you a headache?**  
Trusted, on-site computer repair working within the Smoke Rise community.  
Call Terry at 678-827-6444

**LOCKSMITH SERVICES -**  
Deadbolts installed, re-key, repair, reinforced strike plates & motion lights installed, door threshold & weatherstrip replacement. SR res/SR ref, Rick 770-617-0466.

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

**Champion pedigree Standard Longhair Dachshund puppies** due November 30, 2016!!! Call Kim at 770-717-2741.

**CHIROPRACTIC CARE - SMOKE RISE SPECIAL**  
19 yr. veteran chiropractor relocating in Tucker. Consultation, exam, and x-rays for \$20 donation to SRCC. 770-508-4456

**N.K. CONSTRUCTION**  
Stucco, Stones, Blocks, Brick, Tile, Driveways, Roof, Room Additions, Decks, Walls/Fences, Painting.  
30 yrs. exp.  
Nick 678-791-9546 (cell)  
770-934-4148 (home)

**PETS, PAPERS & POSIES:** I'll care for them while you're away. Smoke Rise resident 30+ years. Karen Bouchard, 404-472-7348  
petspapersandposies@gmail.com.

**WINDOW CLEANING -**  
Year-round detailed window cleaning by owner. Fully licensed, owner operated company.  
Call Paul at 678-516-7939 or visit AbsoluteWindowCleaning.net.

**GREENER PASTURES LAWN MAINTENANCE**  
General lawn care, fertilization, pinestraw coverage, etc. Established 1985, licensed and insured. Call 404-697-7426.

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

**UPHOLSTERY AND TRIM**  
Recover replace and repair upholstery for auto, truck, motorcycle, boat, home, commercial and more. Call 770-465-0996 or visit www.freestyleupholstery.com.

**DOG BOARDING:** Loving dog care. Small, selective, safe, fun. Your dog will be glad you went on vacation! Call 770-674-0680 or visit www.theshepherdsglen.com.

Whilst summer hasten pass  
Winter lies in wait  
Repair property,  
fit-it, paint, improve, replace  
Call Kelley 770-652-0674-  
Mulliganandphilips@gmail.com.  
Credit accepted

**DAVE'S LANDSCAPING**  
Lawn maintenance, Landscaping & Weed control service. Licensed & Insured. For an estimate email daveslandscaping@comcast.net, or text 404-822-6319

**AAA TREE EXPERTS.org - ISA Certified Arborist,** Tree Removal, Pruning, Storm Damage. Workers Comp. & Liability Ins. 15 yrs. experience. Erik Miller 678-488-6942 cell

**EXPERIENCED CAREGIVER**  
offers individualized personal care. Experience caring for hospice, Alzheimer, Dementia, Dialysis, Diabetes patients. Non-Emergency transport available. Personal care designed just for you. Call Pat 404-543-6213/770-413-5637

**HOUSEKEEPER -** Reliable, experienced housekeeper for several years in Smoke Rise area. Hours are flexible. References available. Contact Sabina @ 770-634-0463.

**PIANO TUNING AND REPAIRS -** Over 40 years of professional experience, contact Smoke Rise resident Steve Duncan at 770-414-4766 or lswd@att.net

**HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES AVAILABLE** If you want your house cleaned to perfection, I am the one to call! Experience. References. Halida: 404-610-9056  
**A KICKIN' & PICKIN' ESTATE SALES** We stage, price and sell your treasures and offer liquidation and cleaning services. Contact Rick Kicklighter at 678-234-6956.

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

## DeKalb County Adds Water Bill Dispute Locations

DeKalb County residents wishing to dispute their water bills now have additional times and locations throughout the county to begin the dispute process.

In September, DeKalb Interim CEO Lee May issued a moratorium through the end of 2016 on the disconnection of residential water accounts that have been contested through the Utility Customer Operations Center's Customer Assurance Team.

At these locations, water customers will be able to speak with county representatives about their bills and place their accounts in dispute. During the dispute period, customers with disputed accounts will be required to pay their average bill based on 12 months or six billing cycles prior to the anomaly bill.

There will be no water service disconnections for customers whose accounts are in dispute and who have paid their average bill through the end of 2016.

In addition to notifying the Utility Customer Operations Center at 774 Jordan Lane in Decatur, or calling (404) 371-3000 to speak with a customer service representative, water customers can visit the following locations:

Name	Address	Date	Time
Latin America Association Building	2750 Buford Hwy., Atlanta, GA 30324	11/16/16	1 - 4 p.m.
Stonecrest Mall	2929 Turner Hill Rd., Lithonia, GA 30038	11/19/16	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Pan Asian Center - Doraville	3510 Shallowford Rd., Atlanta, GA 30341	11/30/16	1 - 4 p.m.
Perimeter Mall	4400 Ashford Dunwoody Rd., Atlanta, GA	12/1/16	6 - 8 p.m.
North Lake Mall	4800 Briarcliff Rd. NE, Atlanta, GA 30345	12/3/16	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Brookhaven Public Library	1242 N Druid Hills Rd., Atlanta, GA 30319	12/5/16	6:30 - 8 p.m.
DeKalb County Fire Department - Station 4	4540 Flakes Mill Rd., Ellenwood, GA 30294	12/7/16	1 - 4 p.m.
South DeKalb Mall	2801 Candler Rd., Decatur, GA 30034	12/10/16	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
North DeKalb Mall	2050 Lawrenceville Hwy., Decatur, GA 30033	12/17/16	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.