

50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

# SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 8

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

November, 2018

www.smokesignalnews.com

*Happy Thanksgiving  
from the staff of the Smoke Signal!*

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## City of Tucker to Expand Smoke Rise Park

The City of Tucker Parks and Recreation Department announced plans to grow the 10.5-acre Smoke Rise Park. The expansion is small, yet strategic, in that the additional land will provide space for dedicated parking for those who use the park.

“We’re so excited that the Mayor and City Council approved us to purchase this additional property,” explained Parks and Recreation Director Rip Robertson. “That they share our vision for improving Tucker’s beautiful park’s assets and are willing to give us the resources to make that vision a reality is truly amazing.”

The expansion comes after the City purchased the property at 5707 Hugh Howell Road, adjacent to Smoke Rise Park. Plans call for the property to accommodate four to five parking spaces. Smoke Rise Park currently has no parking, leaving it under-utilized. Additional improvements to the park will be discussed during the City’s ongoing Transportation Master Plan and Parks Master Plan processes.

“Smoke Rise Park is not a passive park,” Robertson said. “There are footpaths, bridges, beautiful nature. Now with this small improvement, it’s sure to be a destination for folks all over Tucker.”

The City of Tucker assumed responsibility for its Parks and Recreation services from DeKalb County in 2018. It is currently home to the busiest Recreation Center in DeKalb County, as well as 290 acres of parkland.

**Public Meeting for  
Tucker Parks and Recs Master Plan  
Wednesday, November 14 • 7:00 p.m.  
Tucker Recreation Center  
4898 Lavista Road, Tucker**

Anticipated completion: March 2019

Purpose: To create a road map showing how we want our Tucker parks to be in the future. Guidelines on future expansions, ensure there are enough parks for the community parks per square mile. This includes studies on staffing, programs, community needs, park ordinances.

Impact: Going forward, the City will better understand what residents want in their parks and will be better equipped to make that happen. You will see new activities and amenities in the parks, as well as better connectivity to the City’s anticipated trail system.

## SRCA Report

*by Michael J. Huerkamp, President*

In order to best serve our neighborhood, the SRCA board has been increasingly involved in the PATH and city parks committees where we enjoy the representation of Kim Nesbitt and Jenna Greene, respectively. Several board members met on October 3 with SMCID leadership to receive updates on their activities.

SRCA was also given the opportunity to provide an update of our activities at the well-attended September 18 District 1 Town Hall Meeting hosted by our council members, Pat Soltys and Bill Rosenfeld. A major source of buzz at that gathering, perhaps the major subject of interest, was the potential to install wireless license plate reading cameras to log vehicle traffic as a means to thwart crime in neighborhoods. It would make sense for the SRCA to manage this prospect should it be of interest here. The cameras rent for \$1,500 each per year making the seven or so necessary to cover the major entry points a \$10,500 annual commitment. At the current level of membership participation, where only about one-third of residents participate in SRCA by paying dues, that would not be a financially sustainable expenditure without putting other traditional commitments in peril.

Your board certainly is open to ideas about how to invest in technology that would protect our homes and assist our police to benefit both those who pay SRCA dues and those who do not.

As we finish out the calendar year, the current focus of the board is budgeting for 2019, the fall crops in the community garden, winter maintenance and plantings at our public sites, launching the 2019 membership drive, and wishing all of our members the best of Thanksgiving celebrations.

## City of Tucker Takes Home Three GRPA Awards

Not only did the City of Tucker host the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association (GRPA) District 6 awards on October 3, it was one of the big winners. Tucker claimed the awards for top Special Event, Maintenance/Operations Network and Recreation Programming Network.

“This was a great day for Tucker,” said Tucker Parks and Recreation Director Rip Robertson. “We know that we’ve got some special folks working for the City, but to have that affirmed by an organization like GRPA is really awesome.”

Tucker won the award for the best special event thanks to the July 3 Celebration of Independence and Fireworks Spectacular. An estimated 5,000 people descended on Downtown Tucker to witness the City’s first-ever Main Street fireworks display. The event was done in partnership with Old Town Tucker Merchants Association (OTTMA) and numerous sponsors, including TKR Summer of Fun series sponsors Jacobs and Kroger.

The Maintenance/Operations Network Award was accepted by Jason Collins, Tucker’s Operations Manager. In his five months with the City, Collins has initiated the Parks Master Plan process, overseen improvements in the parks and supervises the maintenance contract with OpTech.

Crystal Dawson, Tucker’s Recreation Leader, accepted the Recreation Programming Network Award. Dawson has been with the City since February and has been integral in fostering relationships with current programs, as well as attracting new programs, to the Tucker Recreation Center. GRPA’s District 6 covers from DeKalb County in the north to Houston County in the south. The GRPA state awards will be given out next month at the annual conference in Jekyll Island.



*Jason Collins, Operations Manager, Frank Auman, Mayor, Crystal Dawson, Recreation Leader, and Rip Robertson, Parks and Recreation Director*



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labeled *Smoke Signal*.  
They are longer available  
on Smoke Rise Drive



## Smoke Signal

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

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### November Calendar of Events

- 3 FODAC Recycling Event, Ace Hardware Tucker  
9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.
- 3 ARTucker Fall Show, Tucker Recreation Center
- 4 TIME CHANGE - FALL BACK ONE HOUR
- 5 Smoke Rise Garden Club's Annual Christmas Workshop  
at Deb Christensen's home
- 6 VOTING DAY!!
- 9 Take a Vet to School Day, Smoke Rise Elementary
- 11 Veterans Day
- 12 Historic Society Spaghetti Dinner, Wells Brown House,  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Mountain Shadow Garden Club  
Eastminster Presbyterian Church – 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Tucker Parks and Recs Meeting, Tucker Recreation Center,  
7:00 p.m.
- 15 Tucker Arts Guild, First Baptist Church of Tucker  
Bldg. B, Church St. entrance, 10:30 a.m.
- 16 The National Gospel Singing Convention, First Baptist Church  
Tucker, 7:00 p.m., Saturday, November 17, 10:30 a.m.
- 26 THANKSGIVING - Eat, drink, and be thankful.

## Smoke Signal Deadlines

### NOVEMBER 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 NOVEMBER 10

### SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

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

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Link to the digital version of the *Smoke Signal*  
at <http://eepurl.com/pjn4v>  
or scan this QR Code  
with your smart phone!



## WANTED...

Someone to volunteer  
for a fun job  
with the *Smoke Signal*.

Be part of a paper that's  
been in the community  
for half a century!

We need someone to scout  
out new businesses,  
restaurants and activities  
in Mountain Park  
for a new  
column, "What's New."  
This will not require  
writing an article,  
just listing the businesses.

We have people to do  
Stone Mountain  
and Tucker.  
Would you like to be  
the third reporter  
for this column?

Please contact  
the *Smoke Signal* at:  
[staff@smokesignalnews.com](mailto:staff@smokesignalnews.com)

### November Lunch & Learn

### The Lyon Farm: Preservation in Progress

The DeKalb History  
Center's November Lunch  
and Learn will be presented  
by Sarah Lisle, Director of  
Interpretation at the Arabia  
Mountain Heritage Area  
Foundation who will dis-  
cuss the preservation of the  
Lyon Farm.

November 13  
12 p.m.-1 p.m.

For more information  
on this program, call  
404-373-1088, ext. 23,  
email  
[mobley@dekalbhistory.org](mailto:mobley@dekalbhistory.org)  
or visit  
[dekalbhistory.org](http://dekalbhistory.org)

DeKalb History Center  
101 E. Court Square  
Decatur GA. 30030

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check out the Little



Libraries  
that  
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popped  
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swim  
clubs.

## Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Dr. Chris George, Senior Pastor  
Bart McNeil, Associate Pastor  
Kathy Dobbins, Minister of Spiritual Formation  
Danny Vancil, Minister of Music & Worship  
Becky Caswell-Speight, Minister to Families with Children  
Jeremy Colliver, Minister to Families with Youth  
Amanda Coe Burton, Director of Nursery Ministries  
Valerie Coe Lowder, Director of the Weekday School  
Telephone: (770) 469-5856  
[SmokeRiseBaptist.org](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  
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](http://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](http://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](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. | 11:15 a.m. | 1:00 p.m.

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[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).

## Books Make Wonderful Christmas Presents

By Barbara Bruschi

Start a tradition by giving books at Christmas. Books inspire, inform, excite and delight, no matter your age.

When I was a child, there was never a Christmas without receiving a book. For years to come I have upheld this tradition in my family. Presently the "Great American Read" [www.pbs.org/the-great-american-read](http://www.pbs.org/the-great-american-read), has a hundred favorite books to choose from. The more you read, the further your horizon expands and your imagination can take you away on a magic carpet to explore a magnificent universe. Joining a book club is another venue to share your impressions and opinion, to expand your thought process, and learn from others.

These are books that I would like to share with my esteemed readers:

1) *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*: Betty Smith

An old (1943) classic that describes the struggle (1912) within a family that lives in a slum in New York. A coming-of-age story in all its quest to find hope in America and joy among the heartbreaking conditions that life has to offer. No matter how insurmountable the circumstances, there is a glimmer of a better life to come.

2) *Love and Ruin*: Paula McLain

Martha Gellhorn, one of the greatest war correspondents of the 20th century, while reporting on the atrocities of the Spanish Civil War becomes involved with Ernest Hemingway. When Hemingway's success of the book *For Whom the Bell Tolls* is about to make him a legend, they are no longer equals. Their marriage and relationship are being deeply challenged. Martha must risk everything to find her own voice.

3) *Next Year in Havana*: Chanel Cleeton.

A prominent exiled society family recalls life in Cuba before the revolution (1953-1959) and the communist rule. A young woman is in search of her identity and finds love along the way. By visiting her grandmother she grapples with "what it is to be Cuban" and discovers her love for her beautiful and historic native country. The book deals with the present (2017) difficult conditions in Cuba. Captivating read.

4) *These is my Words*: Nancy E. Turner

*The Diary of Sarah Agnes Prime 1881-1901.*

Sarah, the heroine of this book, starts a diary even though her writing skills are very limited. She depicts frontier life in the Arizona Territories with vivid characters and harrowing events that take place throughout this pioneering odyssey. She shows the grit and determination that are needed to survive frontier life. This book is a treasure.

...continued on page 12

## Smoke Rise Elementary School Celebrates the 41st Year of Holiday in Smoke Rise!

Holiday in Smoke Rise began with a few crafty moms that wanted to sell homemade items to raise money for the school. It has grown to a craft fair with around 100 vendors located in our lovely community. In addition to shopping last year, we had a Jr. Elves corner that was hosted by Smoke Rise Baptist, and we're even looking into having Santa at the craft fair for pictures! Please check our website to get updated information. All proceeds are used by the school to enhance the educational opportunities for our kids. In previous years, it has meant new computers, new smart boards for our teachers, and other desired items. The community looks forward to the first Saturday in December, especially since the holidays are only weeks away!

Saturday, December 1, 2018 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Parking will be off-site, please look for signs.

[www.holidayinsmokerise.com](http://www.holidayinsmokerise.com)

facebook: holidayinsmokerise



Stone Mountain Village Christmas Parade

December 1, 2018

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Shopping, marshmallow roasting, hot chocolate, Santa letter-writing, train rides for kids, choirs

6:00 p.m. Parade starts  
Fireworks to follow parade

For information about happenings in the Village, call Kim Cumbie at 770-630-1727 or email [kcumbie@stonemountaincity.org](mailto:kcumbie@stonemountaincity.org)



## WSB Chief Meteorologist Glenn Burns to Host Friends of Disabled Adults and Children Annual "Breakfast with Santa"

Saturday, December 8, 2018

10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. (Seating starts at 9.30 a.m.)

Evergreen Marriott Conference Resort  
Stone Mountain Park  
4021 Lakeview Drive, Stone Mountain

Join WSB Chief Meteorologist Glenn Burns and the "Man in Red" himself for a festive holiday breakfast! The event will include a gourmet breakfast buffet; free park admission with an all-attractions pass for each person (\$34.95 value); carol sing-along; a toy for each child; and an opportunity to meet and take pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, their friends and, of course, the elves.

Professional photographer on site at the event will take photos, which will be available via free online download.

Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children ages 6 -11; children 5 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. All proceeds benefit FODAC.

For registration and info, visit [fodac.org/breakfast](http://fodac.org/breakfast).



## A Whole Lot of Christmas at 1833 Smokerise Summit



Fall is in the air in our Summit Community, and the Christmas season is right around the corner. The neighborhood elves are busy helping with preparations for this year's Christmas display, and as usual, the display will come to life on Thanksgiving night at 6:15 p.m.

Santa Claus has even called and confirmed that he will stop by on weekends in December to sit in his sleigh for pictures. As in years past, donations will be collected for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Since 2012, a total of \$22,781.98 has been collected for charity. This year we are hoping to surpass last year's total of \$5,171.28. Please be sure to come by and enjoy the lights this year with your family and friends.



## SAVE THE DATE!! Breakfast with Santa to Benefit the Stone Mountain Co-op

On Saturday, December 1, the Stone Mountain Cooperative (food bank) invites you to come have Breakfast with Santa, shop at the Silent Auction for gift items, and let your children do their Christmas shopping in Santa's Secret Shop.

The fun starts at 8:30 a.m. and runs until 11:00 a.m. Admission also includes a country breakfast, and photo ops (your camera) with Santa. The breakfast will take place in the Fellowship Hall at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain.

Tickets to the event are \$7.00, children three and under eat free. All proceeds will go to help provide Christmas to needy families and seniors in our area.



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**District One Update**

**Bill Rosenfeld & Pat Soltys**

Greetings to all as we enter the months full of holiday activities and celebrations! There is a lot going on in Tucker and District One.

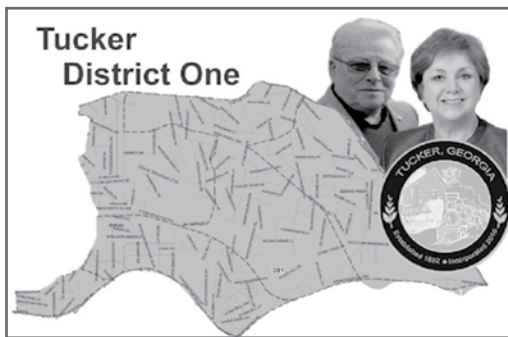
Did you see that Stratmor Dr. is newly paved? It's one of the paving projects being completed with SPLOST funds this year. We also have a number of other things on our plate including new development proposals and rezoning for properties in Tucker. Yes, we have attracted the interest of developers and doing our best to make sure that the best interests of Tucker are in the forefront.

The Trails Committee will have met again before this newspaper is in print. There is very strong support for trails, sidewalks and community amenities that connect us. The Parks Committee also has a lot of interest with 85 people showing up to the last meeting.

The Traffic and Transportation Committee is also very active and seeking input. Considerations include traffic calming options for Hugh Howell Rd. and changes to both Hugh Howell and Mountain Industrial.

In all of these meetings, citizen input is gained and a kind of voting with dots showing preferences on boards with options. It is nice to see a lot of new involvement in the community from young families.

We will also be working on ordinances regarding Airbnb's, B&B's and other short term rentals as well as signage in general. Please make sure that Bill and Pat have your input on these.



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**Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts Partners with Smoke Rise Baptist to Benefit Local Food Banks**



Students will provide live music during Kroger collection drive

Students, faculty and parents of Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts (SRAA) will partner with the mission team from Smoke Rise Baptist Church in November for the church's annual Thanksgiving basket food drive. The food collection effort will benefit area families in need through NETWorks and Lilburn Co-op which will be responsible for distributing the dinner baskets. The SRAA team will be outside the Stone Mountain Kroger on Rockbridge Road on Saturday, 10 November from 10:00 a.m. to noon to encourage food donations (and provide live performances), and then meet with the church mission team later the following week to assist in sorting the food and assembling the baskets.

"Last year was the first time the Academy students volunteered to help with the food drive," said Denise Burcham, director of Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts. "They collected over 400 food items and \$250 in gift cards, and helped the church put together 150 food baskets to distribute to local families in need. What a great way to show thankfulness for what they have by sharing with those less fortunate."

The Smoke Rise Baptist mission team each year assembles about 150 baskets with enough food to feed Thanksgiving dinner to a family of four. Each basket contains boxes of macaroni and cheese, stuffing mix, cranberry jelly, cans or packets of gravy, cans of vegetables, cookies, sweet potatoes, mashed potato mix, canned fruit, napkins and a \$10-\$15 gift card to purchase a meat item. Greeting cards with words of blessings are decorated by the children of the church and included in each basket.

Donation bins are in place now inside the church lobby to collect donated items but the church is hoping the added effort by the students will help increase this year's number of baskets. Anyone wishing to donate items for the food drive can stop by Smoke Rise Baptist Church during normal business hours or contact Denise Burcham atartsacademy@smokerisebaptist.org or 678-533-0562.

The Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts will also present its Second Annual Holiday Show on Saturday, 15 December at 1.00 p.m. at Smoke Rise Baptist Church. More details will be available in the December *Smoke Signal*.

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 As a Smoke Rise native and a Realtor in the area, my knowledge of the area and of the market are unparalleled.  
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 bbelvin02@att.net  
**Keller Williams Realty**  
 Atlanta Partners  
 1957 Lakeside Pkwy, Ste 520  
 Tucker GA 30084

**Children's/Teen Events at the Tucker Library**



5234 Lavista Rd, Tucker  
(770) 270-8234

Building Blocks (Storytime for ages 0 to 24 months)  
November 6, 13, 20 and 27 @ 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Tales for 2s (Storytime for two-year-olds)  
November 7, 14, 21 and 28 @ 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Read to a Pet Partner  
(practice read-aloud skills by reading to a therapy dog)  
Call to schedule a time - November 8 @ 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Book Ends Book Club (for middle grade readers)  
Call branch and pick-up book before meeting.  
November 19 @ 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Teen Book Club  
Call branch and pick-up book before meeting.  
November 27 @ 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Open Mic! (for all ages) November 10 @ 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Homeschool Family Get-Togethers  
November 14 @ 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

**Troop 876 Activity Day**



It's not too late to sign up for Smoke Rise Boy Scout Troop 876's day of outdoor activities on Saturday, November 17, which is open to the public. Activities will include: Orienteering, learning Boy Scout 10 Essentials, preparing and cooking a meal, and hiking. Youth in 5th grade and up or 11 years and older (and parents) are invited.

It's going to be a fun time, so grab a parent or grandparent and come on out! No Scouting experience required.

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

Check out our website at [www.bsatroop876.com](http://www.bsatroop876.com)



**Take a Veteran to School Day**

November 9, 2018

Smoke Rise Elementary School

Sponsored by:  
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Come join your neighbors who are veterans and speak to students at the school about your experience in the military. It is an educational experience for the students and a fun day for those who participate.

Please contact Barbara Luton (770-491-6711, [barluton@aol.com](mailto:barluton@aol.com)) if you might be interested in helping our neighborhood school.

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**Smoke Rise and Tucker Moms Club**

by Jenny Gravitt

In 2012, my husband Jon and I moved into our new home in Smoke Rise with a three-week old baby. Although we had both grown up in this area, I quickly realized that, though I knew Smoke Rise and many of the long-time residents (including my parents), I didn't know any young people, especially young parents. I knew they were here; I just wasn't sure how to meet them.

Once I went back to work, I wanted to meet some other moms in the area and I was determined to figure out a way. That is how the Smoke Rise and Tucker Moms Facebook group was born. It first started out as a group to simply connect: to find out who else lived in the area, schedule playdates, and ask questions and receive advice. It quickly picked up steam and we started adding members regularly. We are now up to 492 members and add a few more every month. I began meeting more local moms and have made some of my best friends through the group.

In 2014, we decided to start having monthly girls' nights out, and we continue them to today. We frequent local restaurants and businesses, and also host them at members' homes. We have the nights out the third week of every month. As more and more young families move into the area, I am excited to see the group grow even more!

If interested in joining the group, search for Smoke Rise and Tucker Moms on Facebook!

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For more information, please call 770-469-1105

**Smoke Rise Residents to Hostess Home Tour**

These Smoke Rise residents are members of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club. They will be hostesses in three homes in Smoke Rise and one home in Stone Mountain Village for the "Homes for the Holidays" Tour of Homes sponsored by the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club. The tour is on Saturday, December 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The tickets are \$25 and include lunch at the Stone Mountain First United Methodist Church. Tickets can be purchased from any of these members, at The Garden Enthusiast in Tucker, or the ART Station in Stone Mountain. Tickets are available online at [www.stonemountainwomensclub.org](http://www.stonemountainwomensclub.org).



*Pictured left to right: Seated: Elizabeth Wells, Tour Co-chairman; Brenda Price, President; Kim Sekulow, Tour Co-chairman. Standing: Terry Ingwersen, Barbara Luton, Pat Soltys, Linda Smith, Glenda Willett, Nelda Lunsford, Jolene Davis, Jo Ann Patterson, Marilyn Oatway, Jackie Cornett, Pat Sartain*

**Stone Mountain Historic Society Sponsors Spaghetti Dinner**

**November 12  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

Wells Brown House  
Historic Society Headquarters  
Ridge Avenue,  
Stone Mountain Village

Adults \$15 - Children \$5

Dinner includes: Salad, bread, spaghetti, and cheese cake for dessert

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**The National Gospel Singing Convention is coming to Tucker!**

First Baptist Church Tucker will host The National Gospel Singing Convention on November 16-17. Smoke Rise resident Crandall Woodson serves as National President and invites everyone to come enjoy this convention.

Singing begins Friday night, November 16th at 7:00 p.m. The Saturday session begins at 10:00 a.m.

The metro Atlanta area has deep roots with southern gospel music. If you are like most folks, you are familiar with older gospel songs that began as convention songs, like "I'll Fly Away". Or maybe you are one of many of our neighbors who attended singing school or a singing convention in the past. Come listen to or participate in the convention!

Convention singing is best described as 'everyone singing brand new gospel songs in four-part harmony.' During the convention, we use five songbooks that contain beautiful shaped note songs. The songs, directed by leaders from across the country and accompanied by some of the best pianists, will provide an opportunity for everyone to sing or just listen, if you like.

There is no admission charge! Please feel free to contact Crandall Woodson for additional information [cwoodson1@comcast.net](mailto:cwoodson1@comcast.net) or 678-508-0508.

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**It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood, a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood...**  
*By Spomenka Newman, Smoke Rise Resident*

This was my song from Memorial Day to Labor Day weekend because of a group of girlfriends that met every morning in the Summit pool. There were six of us, self-proclaimed Golden Gals, not because of our age, of course, but because we had such fun together. Some of us did not know each other before this summer, but we found an instant liking, ease, and joy in each other's company. We looked forward to our mornings at the pool and to our new friendship. Although we lifted weights, did aerobics, treaded water, or swam laps all with joy, what made our time really special was the camaraderie, the friendship. We shared stories of our lives, families, friends, pets, and hairdressers. And when you are of golden age, plenty has already happened and there is plenty to tell. Occasionally, we talked about our work but not that much. There were more interesting topics to cover, like travel, books, health, food, wine, sports, news, and politics. Yes, politics as well. I was the swimmer, and regrettably heard only half of the stories, having my ears under water the other half of the time. Sometimes I got it all wrong, trying to piece it together.

I looked forward to getting up early enough to fit pool time into my day. When I arrived, there was already a bike parked at the entrance, a white Camry, and Bob (a nickname for the adorable Smart car owned by one of the Gals). Two Gals from Tucker, collectively nicknamed J & J of Tucker would follow. You never knew what they would wear, featuring different and colorful bathing suits every morning. Waiting to see the suit of the day became one of the morning routines. We nicknamed one of them, endearingly, Esther Williams for her classic style and grace. On the days I missed the pool for an early appointment at my office, I looked forward to slowing down on Silver Hill, blowing my horn and waiting for the collective response of the Golden Gals standing up and waving in unison from the pool. Their cheer and waving made my day.

As the summer came to a close, we felt genuine sadness at the end of something beautiful that had just unfolded. On the last Sunday, we came to the pool in the evening, to swim once more until the closing time. We shared a little picnic, toasted the summer with chilled champagne in the parking lot, and we dipped and dived for the last swim of 2018: The Last Waltz. Emails were exchanged and promises made: We will be there on that first morning of the next season, the Memorial Day weekend of 2019. And there will be new bathing suits, stories of last year's travel, laughter, love, and an old and comfortable friendship. In the meantime, I still slow down when I drive by the pool and I see them in my mind's eye, Golden Gals waving me to a good day.

**Common Myths about Medicare Advantage**

Health insurance plans can be confusing, and Medicare Advantage is no exception.

*Myth #1: Enrolling in a Medicare Advantage plan means that you know longer have Medicare.*

Truth: Medicare Advantage is also known as 'Part C'. Medicare Advantage covers everything that traditional Medicare provides 'Part A' and 'Part B,' as well as additional benefits which may include dental, vision or hearing coverage.

*Myth #2: Medicare Advantage plans are more expensive than traditional Medicare.*

Truth: What you pay for Medicare Advantage can depend on several factors. However, there are plenty of Medicare Advantage carriers out there that offer \$0 premium plans. And, Medicare Advantage plans may be less expensive than a Medicare Supplement or Medigap plan, depending on your own individual situation. Members with traditional Medicare only with no Supplement or Medigap plan have no limit on what they pay in a plan year and are on the hook to pay 20% of all medical costs—this can put folks at huge financial risk if they have a medical issue.

*Myth #3: You do not have dental, vision or hearing coverage under Medicare Advantage.*

Truth: Many Medicare Advantage plans include coverage for vision, hearing and dental. Most Medicare Advantage plans even bundle in prescription drug coverage into one plan, so you don't have to join a separate prescription drug plan.

Medicare's Annual Election Period runs October 15 through December 7—now is the time of year to review your options and consider if Medicare Advantage is right for you.

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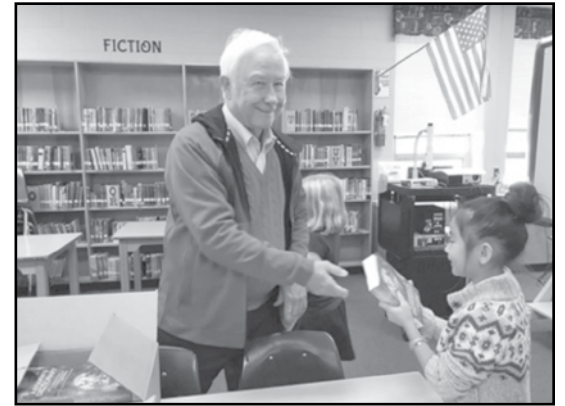
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**Rotary Club of Stone Mountain Distributes 1,200 Dictionaries to Local Third Graders**

In October, members of the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain once again participated in the national "Dictionary Project," a program which distributes dictionaries to third-grade students across the nation, seeking to help them become good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners. The Stone Mountain club purchased the dictionaries using a Rotary district grant, and members personally delivered them to third-grade students in eleven DeKalb County Schools. Each dictionary had a sticker inside the front cover noting that it was a gift from the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain.



*Last year, Stone Mountain Rotary Club member Bill Witcher delivered dictionaries to the students at Smoke Rise Elementary.*

The Stone Mountain club hosted a variety of engaging speakers in September and October, including Kim Cumbie, the manager of the Stone Mountain Visitor Center, who talked about the wealth of sights and events in Stone Mountain other than the mountain and park. Joy Hammond, head of the drama department at Champion Middle School, brought several of her students with her to the weekly lunch, and they spoke enthusiastically about what being in the school's drama program meant to them.

October had five Tuesdays, and as is custom for the club, members were treated to a social event on the fifth Tuesday, this time at Summit's Wayside Tavern, where they met for a casual dinner and a chance to sample some of the fall brews.

The club meets every Tuesday for noon lunch at Stone Mountain First United Methodist Church, 5312 West Mountain Street, Stone Mountain, Georgia. Guests are always welcome. To learn more about the club and its programs, go to [stonemountainrotary.org](http://stonemountainrotary.org) or follow the club on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube.

**Smoke Rise Beta Club Students Raise Money for Upcoming Competition**

Mary Nuam and Nel Lun, fifth graders at Smoke Rise Elementary, collectively raised \$440 to pay for their upcoming Beta Club competition in Savannah in November. Their neighbor, Anita Stoltzfus, helped them brainstorm and come up with a goal and plan to pay for the trip themselves, independent from their parents and their Beta Club. The project was called "Brownies for Beta Club" and these besties baked LOTS of brownie batches! They decided to sell them "by donation" instead of a set price, hoping that would propel them towards reaching their goal quickly, and it did!



The girls learned about expenses, profits, and investing time, money, and effort into their own pop-up business venture. Their investment paid off and they raised \$220 each in only three days, exceeding their goals of \$190 per person.

Congratulations, Mary and Nel, and thanks to those who supported them!

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## Where Did This Traffic Come From!!?

Have you noticed traffic being worse now on our side roads? It's bad enough on the freeways and main thoroughfares, especially at rush hours, but it's getting surprisingly heavy now on neighborhood backroads that were pretty quiet, but recently are jammed with traffic, defying explanation. This question led me to do some investigation. Many believe this clogged side-street phenomena is being caused by increased use of the Waze phone app directing people to short-cuts around those traffic-jammed roads. Could Waze be the culprit? Here is what I found.

If you are not familiar with Waze, it's a downloadable app that works on smart phones and tablets with GPS support. Simply download it to your device, then open it when you begin a trip or just want to check traffic in an area. You begin by entering where you want to go. It memorizes frequently visited places like your home or work, so they are always readily click-able. Other locations can easily be entered by address or description. Waze collects map data, traffic information, and travel times from app users and sends it to the Waze server for analysis. Once your destination is entered, you receive on your device a map overview of the recommended route with arrows pointing your way. Along the route, you can see accidents, disabled vehicles, police cars all labeled with familiar, easy to recognize icons. You can also see other Waze users, known as "Wazers" along your route.



Waze allows for two-way communication. Wazers can use the app to report police traps, accidents, traffic backups, and using the map editor can even update roads, landmarks, house numbers and other information of interest to other users. This input is used to constantly improve the apps performance and usefulness. Based on information the app collects, Waze can provide optimal trip routing and real-time traffic updates. There's an option for turn-by-turn voice navigation and other location-specific alerts, like notifying the driver when passing through a high-crime area or locating inexpensive gas stations along your route.

For a little history on the firm, it was founded by an Israeli programmer in 2006 as a community project aimed at creating a group of local users to build and share map information. Seven years later, in 2013, Google bought Waze for just under a billion dollars to add social data to its mapping business.

Having used Waze for more than four years now, I have to admit it is a powerful and useful tool. I rarely use my car's mapping display anymore because Waze is far easier to use and has much more real-time information. And I do frequently get off jammed freeways and take the app suggested backroads, so if I am any indication, the Waze app could certainly be part of the problem.

If you want to join the Wazer party, download the app and join the fun. Do remember to mount your mobile device in a holder to stay within the law.

## 2018 Georgia Pecans for the Holidays

The Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) is pleased to announce its 2018 "Georgia Pecans for the Holidays" sale, our annual fall fund raising event. "The newly harvested pecans from our supplier, Stone Mountain Pecan Company, will be available in November, in time for the holidays," said MSGC president Jeff Raines. Demand continues to increase for Georgia pecans.

Our prices are the same as last year:  
 Fancy Natural Pecan Halves in 12 oz. packages are \$8.00.  
 Chocolate Covered Pecans in 8 oz. packages are \$5.00.  
 Roasted and Salted Pecans in 8 oz. packages are \$5.00.

We expect high quality pecans again this year and would be delighted to add you to our customer list. Our long-standing customers know "You Can Taste the Difference!" in freshly harvested pecans. It's a local tradition. Proceeds help fund a scholarship to a Gwinnett Tech student and other community projects.

To assure your request is filled, we recommend orders be placed in advance with a member of MSGC. Please email msgcpecans@gmail.com or call us at one of these numbers: 404-641-8633, 770-923-9762, 770-469-5376, 770-879-6116, or 404-915-7132.

On Saturday, November 10, pecans that were pre-ordered may be picked up at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain. From 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, MSGC members will be in the parking area outside to assist with pick-up and accept payment. A limited supply of all varieties will also be available for purchase.

After mid-November, MSGC pecans that were pre-ordered may be picked up at the following locations:  
 The Garden Enthusiast, 2316D Main Street, Tucker, GA 30084  
 Phone 404-474-7072  
 Hall's Flower Shop, 5706 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30083  
 Phone 404-292-8446

Pecans will be available for purchase in November and December until supplies run out.



## "OLD SMOKE RISE" HOSTS BLOCK PARTY

by Gaye Auman

In July, our quiet streets (Pheasant Run, Flintlock, Oxbow, Oxbow Circle, Antelope, and Fawn Ridge) were rocked by several home burglaries. Three homes were broken into, stealing not only precious belongings but also our sense of security. Within days, at the request of neighbors, my husband, Frank, organized a meeting with Tucker's police at the Precinct on Lawrenceville Highway. Fliers were delivered which resulted in a standing room only crowd!

Major Padrick, Lt. Schoepner and others shared valuable tips on home safety including the three L's: Locks, Lighting and Landscaping. But they also stressed the importance of knowing your neighbors.

My neighbor, Beth Henson, and I had talked about organizing a street party for two years! We realized it was time to put that talk into action. On September 23, more than 80 neighbors gathered together in the cul de sac on Pheasant Run for an old fashioned Block Party. We grilled hot dogs and had an amazing buffet of sides and desserts provided by residents.

We realized we have neighbors ranging in age from six months to 85+ years old. We have neighbors who have lived here less than two years and quite a few original home owners who have lived on our end of Smoke Rise 50 years! Two neighbors have purchased their parents' and grandparents' homes and are renovating them. Wonderful stories were shared about "living, working, playing and praying" in Tucker!

We have created an email list and are in the process of creating a Facebook page for our local streets to better share information. We also now recognize each other at the grocery stores and stop to chat while taking walks.

The home break-ins were horrible, but true community was the result. Knowing your neighbors and being involved in your city make for a safer place to live, but it also creates community, fellowship, and lifelong friendships!

PS: All four criminals involved in the burglaries have been arrested and are in custody. They have been linked to numerous crimes throughout Tucker.

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

If you are looking for reliable people to build decks, paint, do electrical, plumbing, interior design and many other services, then request a copy of this list. We maintain a free listing of contractors and other service providers that your neighbors have used successfully. For a copy of this list, go to: <http://www.smokesignalnews.com/vendor-list.html>

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





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- Linda Porter  
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NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

An Update on Recycling in DeKalb

You may be feeling a little gluttonous this month, as you prepare for – and experience - the big holiday feast that brings family and food together. Perhaps one way to feel a little better about all that indulgence is to participate in DeKalb County’s curbside recycling program. The program does not accept food scraps, but you can recycle a wide variety of materials! All acceptable, recyclable materials go into one county-approved recycling container – placed at your curb on collection day. Sorting recyclable material is NOT required!

This subscription-based service is offered to county residents at no additional cost beyond the annual sanitation assessment fee. To date, more than 93,000 of the 150,000+ households serviced have subscribed to the program.

If you’ve already been participating, there are some important updates to note. Eighteen-gallon recycling bins and 40-gallon recycling bags are no longer offered. The new recycling container options are: a standard complimentary 35-gallon roll cart, or a 65-gallon roll cart - for a one-time \$15.00 prepaid fee.



Existing subscribers with 40-gallon bags may continue using the bags until their inventory is depleted. If you still have an 18-gallon blue bin, you need to trade it in for a 35- or 65-gallon roll cart by December 28, 2018. The bins are being “recycled” – or repurposed – for use in the DeKalb County School District’s recycling program.

The county has more information on its website about the “why” and “how” of its many sanitation collection services at: [www.dekalbsanitation.com](http://www.dekalbsanitation.com).

Another update: DeKalb no longer accepts glass in its curbside, single-stream, recycling program. County officials want to ensure residents’ glass will be processed in a responsible and environmentally friendly way. Several large volume, county-operated glass recycling drop-off containers are located throughout the county, and are available for public use. For a complete list of DeKalb’s glass drop-off locations, procedures, and what types of glass are accepted, go online to [www.dekalbsanitation.com](http://www.dekalbsanitation.com).

Probably the most convenient location for Smoke Rise residents to take recyclable glass is Fire Station 22 at 1859 Montreal Road, Tucker, GA 30084. Look for the container in the front area, to the right of the building. Although not ideal, residents who do not want to sort their glass and drop it off at a recycling center should throw it away with the rest of the non-recyclable trash.

Requests for recycling roll carts can be submitted by mail, email, online, or in person at the Sanitation Division’s administrative office. A recycling subscription form is available online and must be completed for all roll cart requests. Recycling bin trade-ins are processed at the Sanitation Division’s administrative office, 3720 Leroy Scott Drive, Decatur, GA 30032, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Smoke Risers, help keep our community “green” by lining our neighborhood streets with blue every week. For more information on DeKalb’s recycling program – as well as sanitation collection procedures for yard trimmings and garbage pickup - contact the Sanitation Division’s customer service team by phone at (404) 294-2900, send email to [sanitation@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:sanitation@dekalbcountyga.gov), or go online to [www.dekalbsanitation.com](http://www.dekalbsanitation.com).

ELECTRONICS AND HOME MEDICAL EQUIPMENT RECYCLING DAY

Saturday, November 3, 2018, 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Handy Hardware – Ace Hardware Tucker  
3969 Lawrenceville Highway (Town Square Center)  
770-939-6842 • [handyacehardware.com](http://handyacehardware.com)

The Rotary Clubs of Tucker and Stone Mountain will host an Electronics and HME (home medical equipment) Recycling Day to benefit Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC). Working and non-working electronics (with the exception of CRT monitors and televisions) and HME, such as wheelchairs, crutches and walkers, will be accepted for recycling at no charge, but participants are encouraged to make a donation to FODAC.

Funds raised from the event help support FODAC’s main program supplying HME to the mobility impaired and their caregivers, at little or no cost to the recipients.



FEMA staff and FODAC volunteers prep equipment last year for distribution to evacuees from Hurricane Maria housed in shelters in Florida and Georgia.

Ladies in Stride, Inc. is “Keeping It Moving”

The sisters of Ladies in Stride, Inc. are “Keeping It Moving” as they celebrate seven years of health and wellness. Ladies in Stride, Inc. is an awesome diverse sisterhood promoting total health and wellness for all ladies 13 years and older. L.I.S. was founded in Smoke Rise, Georgia, on Sept. 24th, 2011, by Mrs. Geonice Jackson Hanchett. Their launch day was held at Tucker High School during the 2012 Tucker Day Celebration. L.I.S. now has members in 21 states and two countries.

On Saturday, September 22nd, L.I.S. members and special guests came together in Smoke Rise, Georgia, to celebrate seven successful years. The 2018 Founder’s Day Committee members were Panette Griffin, Andea Dickerson and Alison Dealy. Special guests were Mrs. Pat Soltys, Tucker City Council Member, Capt. Edecia Richards, U.S. Dept. Of Health & Human Services and Dr. Donald Hanchett, L.I.S. Medical Advisor. Congratulatory letters were read from Pastor Jesse Curney III, L.I.S. Spiritual Advisor, and Mayor Frank Auman, Mayor of the City of Tucker.

Everyone had a wonderful time together, with members coming in from near and far. Music was played by DJ Armand Nailing, Photos taken by Mr. Termaine Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hanchett and Mr. Kevin Hanchett.

A special moment was taken in loving memory of Donald Hanchett II, former member of the L.I.S. medical team and son of L.I.S. Founder & Medical Advisor Mrs. Geonice Hanchett and Dr. Donald Hanchett.

Ladies in Stride, Inc. are now preparing for their 7th Annual Health & Wellness Retreat in San Diego, California, and Mexico in May of 2019.

L.I.S. would like to say thank you to Julia McDonald of the Tucker Flower Shop for the beautiful roses, and to everyone who came out to support their 7th Anniversary & Founder’s Day Celebration. All of the many cards and donations were greatly appreciated.

If interested, please visit [www.ladiesinstride.com](http://www.ladiesinstride.com) to read “About Us” and become a member.



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1773 Kings Mountain Drive \$519,000

5841 Silver Ridge Drive \$445,000

1788 Chartwell Trace \$569,000

5004 Mountclaire Road \$349,900

6063 Bowers Road \$224,900

### Mountain Mums Garden Club

The Mountain Mums Garden Club held their October meeting in the home of local artist, Beth Henson. The Mums enjoyed brunch by hostesses Heather McLendon, Mary Lou Still and Lisa Armistead. During the brunch, the Mums socialized with guests Jean Weathers and Connie Henry, and new member, Rita Maloof. The raffle gift, a tin full of succulents, was donated by Angie Ballard.

Ms. Marty Hillman entertained the group with a fun floral designing presentation – “The Unexpected in Holiday Florals”. For the program, she used many materials found in one’s yard or area landscaping such as leaves from magnolias, acuba and “ugly Agnes” (aka – Elaegnus!) “The latest trend in floral design,” like in food with farm-to-table, “is field-to-florist,” reported Ms. Hillman.

“The most important thing in floral design is to have a good foundation made up of lots of leaves, and extras such as bamboo sticks, cat tails or other elements,” said Ms. Hillman. Chicken wire placed in your container is good for arranging thick or woody stemmed cuttings, and oasis is good for smaller cuttings.

She demonstrated how to think outside the box when selecting containers, materials and making your arrangement. Using unusual containers found while bargain hunting at thrift shops, Ms. Hillman created several arrangements that were given as door prizes. She also shared some good tips with the group. Did you know that hairspray should not be used on florals as it yellows and dulls the materials? And, if you want to add a wood look to your design (particularly nice for the fall), she suggested staining dead magnolia leaves.

“Plant Smiles, Grow Laughter, Harvest Love!” is this year’s theme. A field trip was taken to the Gainesville Botanical Gardens on Oct. 24, and members will meet next month at Hall’s Florist for a hands-on holiday table top floral project. Anyone interested in joining the club should contact Debbie Jones, Membership Director, at 678-381-1648.



Marty Hillman

### Mountain Shadow Garden Club

The meeting of Mountain Shadow Garden Club on November 12 will feature a program titled “Gardening in Small Spaces” by Rick Barnes. The presentation will include photos and ideas for maximizing the impact of garden spaces, focusing on varieties of plants that won’t overgrow their bounds. There will also be ideas for turning those trouble spots and focal spaces into eye-catching mini-gardens.

Speaker Rick Barnes has been an active horticulturist in the Atlanta area for over 35 years. He worked in the interiorscape industry while attending the University of Georgia and after graduation, and then as co-owner of Greensphere Landscaping, Inc., an award-winning design-build-maintenance firm. Greensphere was acquired by NatureScapes, Inc. in 1996 and Rick stayed with the company as Vice-President of Sales and Marketing until March of 2016, when he became a part of the team at Downey Trees, Inc. There, he is a Business Developer for the Tree & Plant Health Care division.

Rick is Past Chairman of the Georgia Green Industry Association, and is a Certified Arborist and licensed Pesticide Applicator with the Georgia Department of Agriculture. He has had numerous articles published on horticultural topics and has spoken to many horticultural groups. He also works for the enhancement of the Georgia State University/Perimeter College Native Plant Botanical Garden.

Mountain Shadow Garden Club is open to men and women of all ages who enjoy learning about a diverse range of topics related to home landscapes, plants, and gardens. The meeting and program begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. in Founders Hall, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain. Free. Refreshments and socializing follow.

For more information and directions, contact club president Jeff Raines at 404-641-8633. [www.facebook.com/MtShadowGardenClub](http://www.facebook.com/MtShadowGardenClub).



### Smoke Rise Garden Club

The club met at the home of Peggy Clegg on October 1st with Paula McEvoy serving as co-hostess. Tucker High School Senior Anna Lippy spoke to us about the importance of honey bees. She showed us concrete ways to help the bees whether it’s by planting for pollinators (see <https://ugaurbanag.com/pollinators>), planting native flowers, creating a bee water oasis and even a bee house!

Anna has achieved the equivalent of an Eagle Scout in the Girl Scouts - the Gold Award. She has been a strong advocate who has reached tens of thousands of people with her message of conservation! She’s a motivated leader and we wish her well.

November 5th is our annual Christmas workshop at Deb Christensen’s house. We’ll be decorating stockings and packing Christmas Santa boxes for Eggleston Children’s hospital. Smoke Rise Garden Club is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc, Garden Clubs of Georgia, Redbud District and DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs. We are celebrating our 50th anniversary of gardening in the Smoke Rise Community.



Feed Your Bee! Anna Lippy, Gold Award Girl Scout

### Autumn Décor Tricks with the Morning Glories

Have you ever tried to carve a pumpkin? It is not the easiest job, and once the pumpkin is cut, it really does not last very long. But there are lots of creative ways to still incorporate a pumpkin in your tablescape décor without cutting it, as we learned from our October speaker, Rosie Douglas.

Rosie is a DeKalb Master Gardener, and she offered some fascinating tips on using succulents with pumpkins. Each member was asked to bring a small to medium sized pumpkin and an assortment of succulents to the meeting. Rosie provided a growing medium that was intended



Pumpkins with Bonnie Pennington, Gloria Cooke, Rosie Douglas, Janet McGinnis, Ruth Ann Hill and Marsha Pittard

to support the succulents within the stem well of the melon. We used additional pieces of decorative material to enhance the pumpkin color and design. And because the pumpkin was not cut, it will last for several months in a cool, dry place such as your dining room table with occasional misting of the succulents planted within its stem well. This idea could be used with different types of melons, fruits or gourds at other seasons also. It was a fun way to get into the spirit of fall!

The club has been very active in the community with 151 underwear donations for Georgia Regional Hospital, 334 signed Christmas and holiday cards for Veterans, dozens of packages of disinfectant wipes for the battered women’s shelter and planting winter annuals and adding pine straw on the Smoke Rise Elementary school grounds. A field trip to Fernbank Forest is planned for November. Musical Member Kim Fair and her husband, Reuben, are in the cast of the Main Street Theatre Production “Sanders Family Christmas”, which will be performed Nov. 30-Dec. 5th in the Tucker Rec Center. Tickets are available online.

Hostesses for the meeting were Marsha Pittard, Janet McGinnis, Gloria Cooke, Ruth Ann Hill and Bonnie Pennington. Bonnie provided the raffle item of a Yellow Daisy Flower Show Blue Ribbon winning “Bird’s Nest Fern” which was won by Betty Curlee. Autumn décor pieces were won by Glendolyn Hallman in the raffle and our speaker provided a raffle item that was won by Marsha Pittard.

If you would like more information about the Morning Glories, please contact Bonnie Pennington at 770-469-2304. The club meets September-May and welcomes new members.

### DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs Presents “Leading Lights!”

On November 8th, The DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs will be celebrating its 70th birthday! And what better way to celebrate than to throw a party at Callanwolde and invite all of you to attend.

This event, entitled “Leading Lights,” is a fundraiser for the DeKalb Federation and supports their many projects in the county such as public grounds beautification, VA annex seasonal plantings, Christmas cards for Veterans, Blue Star Markers, recycling and other projects.

The party begins at 10:30 a.m. with raffles, special vendors, a fashion show presented by Von Maur, a catered luncheon, door prizes, and music. Reservations are required so contact Quill Duncan at 770-414-4766 for information. Tickets are \$35 and the address is Callanwolde, 980 Briarcliff Rd. NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. Come join the fun!

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

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

## Classified Ads

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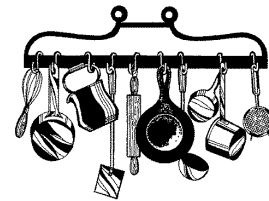
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# HODGE PODGE



By Barbara Luton

## THINK PUMPKINS, THINK THANKSGIVING

Here are some recipes to use this month in preparation for the Thanksgiving meal.

*This recipe comes from our editor, Cheri Schneider, who writes our health column also. We would expect a healthy offering from her, and here it is.*

### Crockpot Turkey White Bean Pumpkin Chili

(from Skinnytaste.com)

2 lbs. lower-fat ground turkey  
1 small onion, chopped  
3 garlic cloves, minced  
1 teaspoon chili powder  
2 bay leaves  
2 teaspoons cumin  
1 teaspoon oregano  
2 cans white beans, rinsed  
15 ounces pumpkin puree  
4 ounces canned green chilies  
2 cups low sodium chicken broth

Brown the meat, onion and garlic in ½ teaspoon oil. Add meat mixture and rest of ingredients to crockpot. Stir well. Cook on low 8 hours or high 4 hours. Serve with fat free sour cream or Greek yogurt and other garnishes like jalapeno peppers, chopped onion, and grated cheese.

*The next recipe comes from Sharon Matheny, a member of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club. Sharon shared this cake recipe that she used for the Yellow Daisy. It was a hit with the cake cutters and the buyers at the park.*

### Pumpkin Crunch Cake

1 box yellow cake mix  
1 15 oz. can pumpkin puree  
1 5 oz can evaporated milk  
3 eggs  
1 ½ cup sugar  
1 teaspoon cinnamon or pumpkin pie spice  
½ teaspoon salt  
1 ½ cups pecans  
1 cup butter, melted

Mix pumpkin, milk, eggs, sugar, cinnamon, and salt. Pour into a 9X13 pan. Top with dry cake mix, then pecans, then melted butter. Bake 350° for 50-55 minutes.

*Everyone has a favorite recipe for pumpkin pie either from his or her family or a cookbook. If you want to kick the pie up a notch this year, try using this crust with it.*

### Spiced Nut Crust for Pumpkin Pie

1 cup all purpose flour  
½ cup finely chopped pecans  
¼ cup packed light brown sugar  
¼ cup plus 2 Tablespoons butter melted  
½ teaspoon cinnamon  
16-18 pecan halves to decorate the crust (optional)

Mix and press onto bottom and sides of 9-inch pie plate. Press pecan halves onto the rim of the crust at 1-inch intervals.

*Everyone has a favorite Pumpkin Bread recipe. This is mine. I have been baking it for years for Thanksgiving gifts for my daughter's teachers and now my granddaughter's teachers. She is in the seventh grade, and her kindergarten teacher still expects her loaf at the holidays.*

### Pumpkin Bread

3 cups sugar  
1 cup salad oil  
4 eggs beaten  
1 15-oz.can pumpkin  
3 ½ cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
2 teaspoons salt  
2 teaspoons soda  
½ teaspoon ground cloves  
1 teaspoon each ground cinnamon, ground nutmeg, ground allspice  
2/3 cup water  
1 cup raisins softened in hot water and drained well  
¾ cup chopped pecans

Combine sugar, oil and eggs. Add pumpkin. Mix well. Sift together dry ingredients and add to pumpkin mixture. Add water. Beat thoroughly. Add raisins and nuts. Pour into 2 greased loaf pans (9x5x2 in.). Bake at 350° for 1 hour. May bake in 3 smaller loaf pans (4x8x2 in.) for 45 minutes. Test with tooth pick to make sure bread is done but do not over bake. If giving for gifts, I weigh the pans to make sure they are equally full before baking.

**HAPPY HOLIDAY AND HAPPY BAKING!**

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

## Books...continued from page 3

5) *Little Fires Everywhere:* Celeste Ng

A conventional suburb in Cleveland is fired up when an "enigmatic artist, single with a daughter, goes against the values of the local conventional society by not playing by the rules. Friendships from different socio-economic backgrounds bloom, yet there are deep dark secrets. The ferocity of how a mother will protect her child, no matter what happens. The complexity of the characters, turns and twists make this an interesting read.

6) *The Flying Tigers:* Sam Kleiner

The untold story of the American pilots who waged a secret war against Japan.

7) *A Gentleman in Moscow:* Amor Towles

Count Alexander Rostov (1922) is relegated to live in the attic in the Metropol, a grand hotel near the Kremlin. He is falsely accused of having written an anti-Bolshevik poem. He enters the world of other denizens of the hotel and finds purpose in life once again by adopting and furthering friendships within his realm of living. Mastering the challenges you are given, you defy being mastered by them. Witty and charming.

8) *Grand Canyon:* Jason Chin

This most creatively designed book is for younger readers. A father and daughter take a trip through the Grand Canyon and discover the past and present. It is a wondrous place where animals roam and nature is king.

9) *The Reckoning:* J. Grisham

An original, gripping, penetrating novel that may be his greatest yet.

10) *No 1 Ladies Detective Agency Series:* Alexander McCall Smith. These books are a treasure; warm, charming, witty and utterly entertaining. They make a great Christmas gift.

Relax, enjoy and lose yourself in the enchanting world of books which have enriched people throughout centuries.