

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 49, ISSUE 11

Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968

February, 2017

www.smokesignalnews.com



*Happy Valentine's Day
from the staff of the Smoke Signal!*

The City of Tucker - City Development Report

By Pat Soltys and Matt Holmes

The January 9 City Council meeting dealt heavily with development around the City of Tucker.

One such project – Tucker Meridian – is well under-way. The City of Tucker council voted unanimously to approve a Special Land Use Permit for a drive-thru lane at the new Einstein Brothers/Caribou Coffee restaurant. They also gave the green light to a concurrent variance that allows the drive-thru lane to be constructed on the front side of the building, alongside Lavista Road.



Council then heard presentations and held public hearings on four application items for the 88-acre development at the intersection of Mountain Industrial Boulevard and Hugh Howell Road. Formerly known as “Nexus Tucker,” the project is now called “The Rise.” Council questioned the developers on tax abatements and architectural design of the project. (The development was scheduled to come up for a second read and final vote at the City Council meeting on January 23. Updates will follow in the March edition of the *Smoke Signal*.)

Council also held public hearings on plans for a pair of neighboring developments along Northlake Parkway that would feature apartments and senior living facilities. This was a first read. A vote was planned for January 23.

Council held a first read on an ordinance regarding a rental car tax before finishing the meeting with discussion of a Downtown Development Authority (DDA). No action was taken on either item.

The Planning Commission meeting on January 12, addressed Mt. Moriah Baptist Church's land use petition to allow an accessory structure and concurrent height variance to exceed the permitted height of an accessory structure. Also addressed was the zoning change for the conversion of an existing hotel into a senior housing development at 2180 Northlake Parkway. These items were passed.

Three special land use permits (SLUP) were considered for the property at the intersection of Hugh Howell and Mountain Industrial to rezone the property from light industrial to MU-5 – Mixed Use, Very High Density with a change in the comprehensive plan from light industrial to Town Center with a concurrent variance for a transitional buffer. After lots of questions and comments from the public, the vote was four yay and one nay to recommend approval to city council.

In support of the proposed development at Hugh Howell and Mountain Industrial, the Smoke Rise Community Association (SRCA) hosted an online petition at www.smokerise.org. In less than 24 hours there were more than 500 signatures and still growing at press time. There is a lot of development in process and proposed for Tucker. Our city is growing.

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Smoke Rise Community Association Update

As of the press deadline for the February edition, the SRCA board had not yet met in 2017, but was immersed in a flurry of activity around development of the vacant parcel at Hugh Howell Road and Mountain Industrial. Not only did this include the peri-Christmas community informational meeting already reported regarding The Rise - Tucker, but polling the neighborhood, attending city council and city planning commission meetings on behalf of Smoke Rise, and meeting independently with city leadership. As of the deadline, the SRCA online petition launched on January 11 was garnering 200 signatures per day in support of The Rise - Tucker. By the time of this report, the SRCA will have served as a sponsor of the January 21 Walk to Remember with the Mountain Mums Gardening Club. While yet to firm-up a commitment, the SRCA board is targeting the annual membership meeting for late March. Read the March *Smoke Signal* for details and, please pay your 2017 SRCA dues.



This is your neighborhood association! Dues help Smoke Rise have a say in issues like: potential adult entertainment establishments, cell towers on Smoke Rise Charter Elementary School property, annexations filed, and more. Dues also help fund common grounds maintenance and mowing, sign toppers, movies on the green, and more!

Send dues to the
Smoke Rise Community Association at:
SRCA, P.O. Box 870793, Stone Mountain, GA
30087 or go to the SRCA website at
<http://www.smokerise.org>.



FROM THE MAYOR – January 2017 FRANK AUMAN, Mayor of Tucker

The year 2016 will always have a special place in the history of Tucker. Future generations will know this as the year we incorporated as a city; our birthday, so to speak. What they may not realize is how much sweat equity was put in by volunteers, business, civic and church leaders and, only very recently, its own elected officials, to help lay the foundation for this great town over the course of the last 125 years!

This past year, we have completed some daunting tasks. Tucker opened its own City Hall, complete with an amazing staff. These talented professionals come to us through contracts with CH2M, InterDev and Charles Abbot Company, bringing with them decades of local government experience. You may not know them personally yet, but you know their work, because you've seen it in the dozens of public meetings and other accomplishments over these past few months.

...Continued on page 2

**THE SMOKE SIGNAL HAS A
NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!!**
staff@smokesignalnews.com

Please send all questions, columns
and contributions to this new address.



Smoke Signal

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

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

February Calendar of Events

- 1 *Smoke Signal* meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 2 Groundhog Day
- 6 Smoke Rise Garden Club meeting at the home of Denise Finley, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 The Mountain Mums Garden Club meeting at the home of Jody Currie, 10:00 a.m.
- 13 Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) Eastminster Presbyterian Church 5801 Hugh Howell Road, 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day!
- 16 Tucker Arts Guild Meeting, 7:00 p.m. First Baptist Church of Tucker, Bldg. B
- 20 Presidents Day



Smoke Signal Deadlines

FEBRUARY 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 FEBRUARY 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!



Letter to the Editor:

Loves Smoke Rise

Thirty-six years living on an old dirt road in Decatur GA, and the only surprise visitors were two, and I MEAN TWO! On Halloween (and one was a student/basketball player feeling sorry for me after telling a class that no one ever came Trick or Treating on Norris Street) and another group of (confused) Halloween travelers. Caroling this evening was Mr. Jennings, neighbor and former pilot (and family) who still works training younger pilots around the world. What a nice surprise! Sorry to leave the City of Decatur GA but Smoke Rise, GA is nice!"

From the Mayor... continued from page 1

Led by City Manager Tami Hanlin, Tucker now handles all its own zoning and code enforcement. John McHenry and Courtney Lankford work diligently with developers on behalf of the city to ensure that any growth in Tucker is "smart growth." Code enforcement veteran William Wharton has taken on the challenge of leading a department that will be critical to protecting the property values and public safety of our community. And, with leadership from City Clerk Jennifer Davis, we are also issuing our own business and alcohol licenses, as well as building permits.

As we move into 2017, I see a year of opportunity for our city. We will continue to work toward establishing a department to oversee Tucker's beautiful parks. "Tucker Tomorrow," the effort to create our first comprehensive plan, will come into focus thanks to input from our residents and businesses. We will soon have our own public meeting space and court, to be housed in a refurbished office space in what we will call the City Hall Annex on First Avenue.

These are exciting times in Tucker. I hope you'll join me and your City Council on the road ahead as we work together toward a bright future.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

Sundays:
 9:00 a.m. Worship in the Chapel
 9:45 a.m. Sunday school
 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
 Communion: Second Sunday of each month
 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

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

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

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

Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

Mountain West Church

Pastor: Michael Shreve
 Worship Arts Pastor: Gary Robinson
 Telephone (770) 491-0228
www.mwchurch.com
 4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain
 Service Times 9:30 a.m., 11:30 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
 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.

News from the Friends of Sue Kellogg/Stone Mountain Library

The Friends of Sue Kellogg Library in Stone Mountain village presented a \$1,000.00 scholarship to Nathan Pulliam of Atlanta, GA. The graduate scholarship is given to a person continuing his/her education in the field of library science or a related field. Nathan will be continuing his studies at the University of Alabama, School of Library and Information Studies.

The Friends of Sue Kellogg meets quarterly in January, April, (June--used book sale) and October on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the library behind the depot on Leon St. Informative speakers or authors are planned each quarter. Light refreshments are served.

Gently used hardback and paperback books can be donated at any time at the library for use at the June book sale. The money from the sale goes toward library programs and the scholarship.

The membership campaign is underway. Dues are \$5.00. The Friends of Sue Kellogg Library urges everyone to consider joining and attending the programs. For membership information, please contact Barbara Luton at barluton@aol.com.

Women's Self-Defense Class

February 25, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

At the former Café JAYA address in the Stone Mountain Village: 6566 James B Rivers Memorial Drive, 30083 \$49.00, includes refreshments

More info: Duane Clark, Stone Mountain Police: eog.clark@yahoo.com

TALENT SEARCH!

Auditions for Main Street Theatre's upcoming musical, Smoke on the Mountain are coming up! The theatre is looking for some talented singers (and musicians!) to bring this hilarious story to life.

All the details, including character descriptions and vocal ranges can be found at: www.tuckertheatre.com/auditions.html

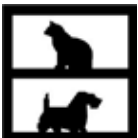
AUDITIONS

Monday, February 6, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 9, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 11, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
4882 Lavista Road
Tucker, GA 30084

Show runs May 12 - 21.
More info: maria.karres@gmail.com

FREE NEIGHBORHOOD PET LOST AND FOUND



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

A Nosy Neighbor Isn't Such a Bad Thing After All
Matt Holmes, Communications Coordinator for the City of Tucker

That was the message December 27, 2016 at a forum featuring leadership with the DeKalb County Police Department's Tucker Precinct. Investigators told the crowd that, if they are worried about property crimes like burglaries, they need to become more observant of what is happening in their neighborhood and be willing to report suspicious activity to the police.



Lt. Erik Heimer of the DeKalb County Police Tucker Precinct briefs residents on crime prevention. (Credit: City of Tucker)

"You never know what's going to prevent a crime. You never know what's going to solve a crime," explained Lt. Erik Heimer, the Daywatch Commander for the Tucker Precinct. "The fact that you saw a car in your neighborhood and you got a tag...after your neighbor's house may have been burglarized or a car may be broken into...there's a case solved. Not only solving your crime, but preventing future crime."

Despite a recent string of highly-publicized burglaries around DeKalb County, crime statistics show a significant decrease in burglaries year-over-year. At DeKalb's Tucker Precinct, burglaries are down 29 percent from the same point in 2015. Across the city of Tucker, those crimes are down 16 percent. Even better, DeKalb Police report they are solving burglary cases at approximately three times the rate of national law enforcement.

"The best way in my opinion to beat crime is trifold," Lt. Heimer said. "It's going to be the government, it's going to be the community and it's going to be the police. The most important resource we have internally or externally is you. It's the public."

The 50th season for the Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club (SRBRC) is around the corner, and if you have not given the club a closer look recently, you may have missed some of the major improvements made over the past few seasons.



- Resurfaced all four tennis courts
- Upgraded the flood lights illuminating the tennis courts for night play
- Entered into an agreement with two local tennis professionals to make SRBRC their home courts and offer daily clinics and lessons
- Partnered with Tucker HS to make SRBRC their home court for practice and tournaments
- Upgraded the pool club house and improved lighting in and around the pool
- Added a concession stand at the pool, open during pool season
- Upgraded the pumps, filtration system and chlorination system to improve the water quality
- Added an entertainment system and WIFI to the club grounds

While still a quiet neighborhood destination to relax and enjoy, the SRBRC also offers a diverse social calendar throughout the year. Dozens of member families enjoy events like the Smoke Rise Food & Music Festival, the Smoke Rise BBQ Cook-Off, 4th of July Bash, Pig Roast, Low Country Shrimp Boil, movie nights on the big screen and a number of live musical performances throughout the year.

For more information go to <http://www.srbrc.org>, check out the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/srbrccommunity> or call (404) 804-1082.

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

6780 James B. Rivers Drive
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
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www.stmichael.cc/

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





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GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club Supports Jawbones vs Sawbones 2017

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club is again providing leadership for the Jawbones (lawyers) vs Sawbones (doctors) fund raising basketball game to benefit the scholarship fund for persons with brain injuries who need the assistance provided by the Side by Side Clubhouse for Brain Injured Adults in Stone Mountain. The day facility is the only one of its kind in the state.



Barbara Curzon, Chairman, SMWC Home Life Community Service Program, Chris Pearson, Development Officer, Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse for Adults, Kim Cumbie, President, GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club

Terry Ingwersen, a member of the Stone Mountain Woman's Club is chairing this year's event, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 25, at the Mercer in Atlanta Gym. A Carnival theme is planned for the event, which will include events for children as well as a silent auction with a number of wonderful items available for your bidding pleasure.

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club recently made a \$500.00 donation to Side by Side as a sponsor for Jawbones vs Sawbones 2017. Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 25, for this fun event and join the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club in helping to support the Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse in Stone Mountain.

6:30 PM
Jawbones vs. Sawbones
Basketball Benefit Game

Save The Date!
March 25, 2017

6 PM Family Fun Carnival Activities
Silent Auction Concessions
Prizes Games Photo Ops

Mercer University Gym
3001 Mercer University Drive, Atlanta, GA 30341
Free parking available adjacent to gymnasium

\$10
One child (12 and under) free with each paid adult
Tickets available at www.sidebysideclubhouse.org
All proceeds benefit Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse

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

MOUNTAIN CREEK - THE CLUB FOR ALL SEASONS
Love for all seasons starts in February! Valentine's Day is on Tuesday, February 14, 2017. Show someone your love with delicious cookies!

On Sunday, February 12 at 3:00 p.m., participants will be decorating Valentine cookies at the pool, under the pavilion. There will be hot cocoa and tea, and a fire pit will help keep everyone warm.
This is an event providing fun for the entire family!

What's shaped like a house,
Requires no mouse,
Is easy to see,
And totally free?
The Little Free Library!
"give a book, get a book"

Grand Opening! ~ Saturday, February 11, 2017 ~ 11:00 a.m.
Mountain Creek Court ~ cul-de-sac ~ refreshments served!
Visit the Facebook page, and website at MountainCreekSwimClub.com, or call (678) 824-2108.

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Smoke Rise Elementary School's S.T.E.M. Updates
By Bernardette Cummings

It's a brand new year and Smoke Rise students are anxious about starting new S.T.E.M. projects.

January 18 was our school-wide S.T.E.M. day, and we geared up for our "Family S.T.E.M. Night" on January 25 from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Our families participated in a variety of science activities and demonstrations. The activities included making lava lamps, squishy balls, quick sand, and erupting volcanoes. They were also able to build robots, and create their own computer games.

Please note that Ms. Cummings, Smoke Rise Elementary's S.T.E.M. coordinator, sends her apologies to 2nd grader C. Miles and her family. She was not acknowledged in the *Smoke Signal's* January edition as a 2nd place Science and Engineering Fair winner. Congratulations, C. Miles.

Tucker Library News

Computer Classes:

Introduction to Microsoft® Excel 2013
February 15, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Learn to identify the basic parts of an Excel document, work with a sample spreadsheet, and create a new workbook. Mouse, typing skills and some experience with Windows required.

Creating a sortable address list in Microsoft® Excel 2013.
February 22, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Learn how to enter data in an address list template and sort it on completion. Introduction to Microsoft Excel or experience with Excel required. This class will be required later this year for those wanting to learn how to print return address labels, or print address labels for your holiday card list.

Registration for both classes begins February 6.

Informational Programs:

Writer's Forum with Wayne Smith
February 7, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Forum offers adult writers an opportunity to share their original creative writings of up to 500 words or five minutes of reading time. Excerpts of longer works can include a plot synopsis as part of the reading time. Works should be appropriate for family audiences. Readings are followed by brief, facilitated discussions where audience members offer balanced feedback. The Forum includes writers at any experience level and writing enthusiasts. No advance registration; authors who choose to read sign-up at the event, first come, first served.

Essential Emotions
February 18, 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.

Dr. Brigitte Rossi will explain how aroma therapy can work with your body chemistry to balance emotions, create a healthy mood lifestyle and help you empower others on their journey to emotional wellness.

DeKalb County Public Library
Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Branch
5234 Lavista Rd, Tucker • (770) 270-8234

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**Summit Pool & Tennis
Results of Member Survey**

A recent survey of members of the Summit Pool & Tennis confirmed a high level of overall satisfaction with their 2016 experience and also provided some great suggestions for new activities and improvements. The Summit board is already incorporating the feedback into its plans for the 2017 pool season. Of the survey respondents, 25% were first-time members, 40% had been members for two to five years and 35% had more than five years at the Summit Pool & Tennis. Almost 80% indicated they have already decided they are likely to join the club again in 2017.

When asked what was important when choosing the Summit for their pool and tennis activities, the features mentioned most often were having lifeguards on duty, friends who were also members, a quiet and uncrowded pool, extended Friday night hours, our guest policy, social events and secure access. Of particular interest were the suggestions for changes and new activities:

- Add a few more activity focused social events... but not so many that the pool becomes noisy or crowded!
- Bring back dive-in movies
- Add late hours on Saturday as well
- Improve communication and input from members

In planning for 2017, the Summit will extend pool hours until 10:00 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday through Labor Day, is forming a volunteer pool committee of active members to organize social events (hopefully including dive-in movies), and has the commitment of the pool management company to provide well-trained guards and high standards for pool cleanliness. The Summit Pool & Tennis intends to continue to be the first choice for neighbors seeking a quiet, relaxing, uncrowded pool while making exciting new changes suggested by its members. www.thesummitatmokerise.com



Positive changes continue with the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners. Congratulations to Commissioner Kathie Gannon, Super District 6, who was elected presiding officer of the Board by a five to two vote. Also congratulations to Commissioner Jeff Rader, District 2, who was elected deputy presiding officer. As presiding officer, Commissioner Gannon will be responsible for setting the Board's meeting agenda, presiding over the BOC meetings, and establishing working committees and their respective chairpersons. Commission Gannon will be committed to a Board that will work together for a brighter, better, and more productive DeKalb County.

DeKalb County Recognizes Winners of Watershed Calendar Artwork Contest

Twelve student winners of the Annual DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management Art Calendar contest were recognized during the Board of Commissioners meeting on Jan. 10. The winners represent DeKalb County public and private schools and are kindergarten through fifth grade students. Their artwork will hang in the Maloof Auditorium in Decatur and will be featured in the 2017 Watershed calendar to promote water conservation and awareness.



Extended Stay Motels/Hotels Ordinance

I am proposing an ordinance requiring extended stay motels and hotels to increase their security and limit the length of a customer's stay.

Police from across DeKalb County have told me that poorly run extended stay motels are havens for criminal activity, ranging from drugs to stolen vehicles to prostitution. Neighbors complain about the negative impact to their property values as well as their quality of life. And in some instances, the owners of these establishments are doing nothing to control illegal activity that may be occurring on their property.

It is not the intent of this legislation to hurt the owners of these businesses, nor to force out families or individuals with legitimate needs to lodge at an extended stay motel or hotel. The intent is to improve security and public safety around these establishments, improve the neighborhoods around these businesses and to protect the health and well-being of extended stay residents, including families with children.

Mobile Farmers Market

DeKalb County Extension is pleased to open the application period for the 3rd Annual Mobile Farmers Market season. If your community is interested in hosting a stop, please let them know by completing the application at https://ugeorgia.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_73Nv9x5bs0vHfBX. Submissions will be accepted until February 20, and new locations will be announced in March. The 2017 season will run for 16 weeks from June through September.

Your organization or program should have enough clients and community constituency to provide between 50-100 customers per weekly visit. The Mobile Farmer Market's mission is to raise awareness about the importance of fruit and vegetable consumption for healthy living and increase access by selling fresh and affordable produce.

The market makes stops throughout the county, bringing fresh regionally grown fruits and vegetables to low income communities. The Mobile Market accepts EBT (SNAP benefits), credit cards, checks, and cash. The DeKalb Mobile Farmers Market is a program of DeKalb County Extension. Read more from Commissioner Nancy Jester at www.nancyjester.com.

B. Harry Strack, Jr.
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TIGER TAX
 770-365-9381

1014 A Main Street Stone Mountain, GA 30083
 Next to Wages Funeral Home
 azteczig@comcast.net
<http://tigertax.is-an-accountant.com>
 Tiger Tax on Facebook

125 Henson Drive Monroe, GA 30655
 Behind Kentucky Fried Chicken

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GRADUATE

Monica Shaw Dewey, a Smoke Rise native and daughter of Jane Shaw and Brian Dewey of Spencer's Mountain, recently graduated in December 2016 from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. Monica received a Masters in Music in Voice where she specialized in Opera Theater and served as an Associate Instructor of Voice. While at Indiana, Monica sang in seven operas, including leading roles in La Fille du Régiment (Marie), Il barbiere di Siviglia (Rosina), and Alcina (Morgana). Monica has been a grant winner with Indiana University (IU) Friend's of Music, and was recently awarded an IU Georgina Joshi International Fellowship to travel to Germany for the spring of 2017. Following her trip to Germany, Monica will make her role debut at Opera Theater of Saint Louis singing Servilia in La Clemenza di Tito. Monica is a two-time district winner of the Indiana Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She advanced to the Central Region in November of 2016 to compete against singers from Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, and Ohio where she was awarded second place.



Smoke Rise Christmas House Spreads More Cheer
By Victor Economy

The 2016 Christmas season was as merry and bright as ever! We continued the tradition of decorating our home with thousands of lights, and welcomed the addition of pink flamingos to our display. They fit in quite nicely with the octopus and Christmas Shark! We also became the new home to some unwanted outdoor Christmas decorations, donated by neighbors and friends. Please remember to think of us as the adoption center for all unwanted outdoor Christmas decorations.



With the help of Make-A-Wish volunteers, we collected a record high of \$5,002.35 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. All of which was presented to organization representative Jaylie Welch on Wednesday, January 11 by my wife Theo and me. Tucker High School's Habitat for Humanity continued its tradition of caroling for donations, accompanied by Brian Dewey and his accordion on Thursday, December 15.



We are so grateful to everyone for the donations and generosity they have shown to these two wonderful organizations. During the past five years, we have been able to collect and donate more than \$15,000 to charity.

Santa Claus was able to stop by again this year and pose for pictures in his sleigh. We are happy he made time in his busy schedule to do this and hope to have him return again next year! We also want to thank all our neighbors who tolerate the constant traffic on our street. We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, and we are already working on our new addition for this Christmas!



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NEWS YOU CAN USE



By Aviva Hoffmann

Of the Community, by the Community, for the Community
Introducing DeKalb's Public Access Television Channel, DeKalb 25

Have you created programming you'd like to air on television? Do you have an interest in Public Access TV in DeKalb County?

DeKalb 25 is a public access television channel (broadcast on Comcast cable channel 25 in DeKalb County). It's the public's platform to broadcast creativity, entertainment, civic discussion, debate, and more.

In this digital age, television is still a powerful medium used by many as a primary source of information, news and entertainment. Public access television is another relevant avenue to disseminate messages. It's a unique creation of the community, by the community, for the community.

If you have produced content, you are invited to share it with DeKalb 25 for possible broadcast on television channel 25.

More details about the channel – and information on content delivery options (including an easy, electronic file sharing option) are online at the website: dekalb25.com.

Also, be sure to watch Comcast cable channel 25 in DeKalb County, GA.

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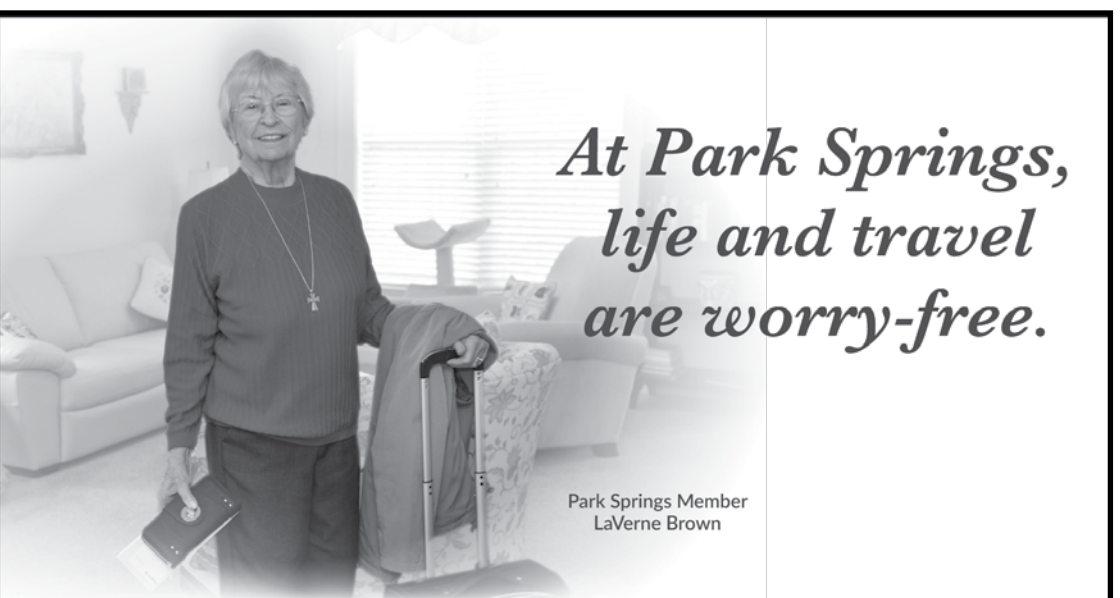


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Dues Drop!

Exciting Times at Smoke Rise Country Club

Many positive changes are taking place at the Smoke Rise Country Club! After an exhaustive search and numerous interviews, the club's Board of Directors has brought onboard a new management company and General Manager. Mosaic was chosen as the management firm best suited for the club and Rob Sabat was named GM to run the club's day-to-day operations.

The club's first order of business is focused on increasing the value of membership. From their studies and experience, they concluded the club would run better with lower dues, and expanded social/dining experience, resulting in greater use of the facilities by more members. The Board whole-heartedly agreed!

Notices of the new dues structure went out mid-January, and the membership campaign is in full swing. New members can select from these four membership levels:

Monthly Dues

- Dining/Social.....\$95
- Pool Fitness.....\$150
- Tennis.....\$180
- Golf\$360

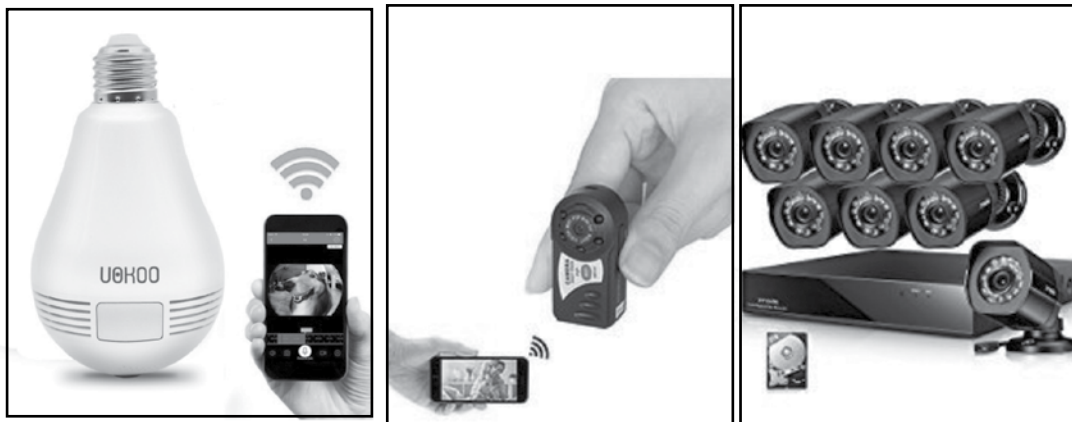
These monthly dues amounts are all inclusive, meaning there are no additional fees like service charges or food minimums. And, until April 30, there will be no initiation fee. To smoothly transition to the new fee structure, existing members will move to these lower dues levels as members are added.

Last year, the club upgraded the Clubhouse HVAC system. Rob and his team are now busily booking events like birthday parties, anniversary celebrations, weddings, showers and other special events. Hosting an event at the club does not require membership, but members do get preferential scheduling and discounted rates. Call the club to begin your 2017 event planning: (770) 908-2582.

Of Note to the Community: Safety Alerts & Watches

by Cedric Ross

As we begin the New Year, we look to the hope of a fresh start and great things to come. In our hope of a better tomorrow, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to protect today. As you can see bellow, we have some who would take advantage of our peaceful community. We hold a measure of responsibility to look out for each other. If you have security cameras, and are able to direct one into the common area to record, please consider it. If you are considering adding security cameras, I have listed some ideas that may help. This is not an endorsement of any of the products, just food for thought. "If you see something, say something."



- UOKOO 360-Degree Fisheye Panoramic Network Wireless Camera, LED Bulb Home Security System White (D)
- Fredi Mini Portable P2P Wifi Ip Camera Indoor/Outdoor HD DV Hidden Spy Camera Video Recorder Security Support iPhone/Android/IPad/PC
- Zmodo Full 1080p HD 8 Channel 8 Camera sPoE Home Security System Weatherproof with 2TB Hard Drive


Crime Reports

- 1/1/2017 Vandalism 4900 Block of Forestglade Ct. around 10:25 a.m.
- 1/5/2017 Burglary 5500 Block of Silver Ridge Dr around 8:00 a.m.
- 1/6/2017 BURGLARY 5500 Block Oakwood DR around 1:00 p.m.
- 1/14/2017 Larceny 2100 Block Spencers Way around 1:30 p.m.
- 1/16/2017 - Damage to Property 5200 Block of Gauley River Dr. around 3:18 p.m.

We make an effort to list local crimes, if we miss something please let us know at staff@smokesignalnews.com.

There's a New Doc in Town!
(Well, not so new—just a new location.)

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Smoke Rise, Georgia, Real Estate Statistics

The following is a summary report from the FMLS system specific to Smoke Rise, GA via mapped data. The \$/square foot is an average without consideration of price, terms, condition or location. These values should not be considered absolute in determining value. An analysis specific to an individual property will be required.

2016 Statistics In 2016 - 97 homes were sold in Smoke Rise with an average DOM of 127 days
Ave Buyer Closing Costs paid by seller - \$3401

	Bedrooms	Sq Ft	List Price	Lp/Sqft	Sales Price	SP/Sq Ft	SP/LP \$	SP\$/OLP\$	DOM
High	4	5,047	\$645,000	\$127.80	\$628,000	\$124.43	97%	84%	570
Average	5	3,254	\$332,893	\$102.68	\$321,160	\$99.06	96%	92%	134
Median	4	3,241	\$329,900	\$101.79	\$320,000	\$98.73	97%	97%	195
Low	5	2,971	\$144,000	\$48.47	\$155,000	\$52.17	1.07%	1.07%	69

2015 Statistics In 2015 - 89 homes were sold in Smoke Rise with an average DOM of 146 Days
Ave Buyer Closing Costs paid by seller - \$3341

	Bedrooms	Sq Ft	List Price	Lp/Sqft	Sales Price	SP/Sq Ft	SP/LP \$	DOM
High	8	6,417	\$835,000	\$130.12	\$835,000	\$130.12	100%	83
Average	4	3,300	\$322,241	\$97.38	\$310,873	\$93.84	94%	146
Median	4	2,827	\$299,900	\$106.08	\$290,000	\$102.58	97%	47
Low	3	1,666	\$60,000	\$36.01	\$60,000	\$36.01	100%	14

Key
Sq Ft = Square Footage above grade
Lp/Sqft = List Price average dollars per square foot.
SP/Sq Ft - Sales Price average dollars per square foot
SP/LP \$ = Percentage of list price home was sold at.
SP\$/OLP\$ = Percentage of the original list price home was sold at.
DOM = Days on market

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5683 Silver Ridge Drive \$469,000



1672 Lilburn-Stone Mtn Rd \$344,400



550 Mountainbrooke Circle



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2056 Hessian Court \$249,900

•• Call for Nominations ••

Do you know someone in Tucker who is deserving of special recognition? Nominate them for the Citizen Spotlight or Business of the Month in the new, monthly City Hall newsletter. City staff will review the nominees and choose one member of the community and one businessperson who are working to make Tucker a better place.

Please include the nominee's name and why they deserve to be recognized (250 words or less). Submit to: info@tuckerga.gov or mail to: 4119 Adrian St, Tucker, GA 30084. Attn: Newsletter Submissions.

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Stone Mountain Rotary Club

By Lizbeth Dison, Vice President, Media and Analyst Relations - Shiny, Inc.

Third-grade Dictionaries Encourage Students to "Read to Learn"

Rotary International's motto "Rotary Serving Humanity" was given new meaning with the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain's January project.

Each year since 2007, RSCSM has provided free dictionaries to third grade students in its service area. The annual project is part of a larger one initiated by The Dictionary Project (www.dictionaryproject.org). The goal of this program is to assist all students in becoming good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners by providing them with their own personal dictionary. The dictionaries are a gift to each student to use at school and at home for years to come. Educators see third grade as the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn, which is why sponsors, like RSCSM, are encouraged to gift third-graders every year with their own dictionary.



RSCSM member Gene Fleeman poses with Smoke Rise Elementary third graders and their new dictionaries.

This year, RSCSM members are visiting third-graders in 10 DeKalb elementary schools, including Smoke Rise Elementary, and distributing more than 1,300 dictionaries. The project is jointly funded by the club and Rotary District 6900.

The 540 page *A Student's Dictionary* has the spelling, meaning, and pronunciation of 35,000 words, as well as more than 150 pages of supplemental information, such as the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Independence, biographies of all the U.S. presidents, world maps, information on the 50 states, information on countries of the world, the periodic table, information on the planets of our solar system, and more. Inside

the front cover of each dictionary is the student's name along with a note that the book is a gift from the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain.

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, or follow on Facebook and Twitter.

Friends of Tucker Parks Kicks off Workshop and Event Series

The Friends of Tucker Parks recently received a grant from the Neighborhood Fund in the amount of \$14,700.00 to support a year-long workshop and event series. The purpose of the series is to celebrate Tucker's 125th anniversary, which falls in 2017, by showcasing the many offerings of Tucker's 10 parks. The first event will be a rain barrel workshop to be held on February 16, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Tucker Recreation Center. Michael O'Shield, from the DeKalb Department of Watershed Management will assist participants in making their own barrel. All supplies and tools will be provided at no cost, thanks in part to contributions from Coca-Cola and The Upper Chattahoochee River Keeper. During the workshop, citizens will be instructed on rain barrel maintenance and water conservation landscaping. Registration will be limited to the first 20 residents to sign up. To register for the workshop, please email workshop@tuckerparks.org.

Upcoming events in the series will include an outdoor movie, concerts, eco tours, festivals, parties and several hands-on workshops. The mission of Friends of Tucker Parks is to preserve, protect and improve all of the parks located within the city of Tucker, GA. The organization assists with planning, coordinates volunteers, generates funding, and aids in the formation of "Friends" groups for each park. For more information or to sign up for the mailing list, visit www.tuckerparks.org.

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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

Screening for Colon Cancer

Colon Cancer is the third most common cancer in the United States. It is the second most common cause of death from cancer (lung cancer is first). Colon Cancer is not only preventable and detectable in the early stages, but can be cured if caught early.

This month's article will deal with colon cancer and ways to screen for it. Next month, I will talk specifically about colonoscopy as a screening technique.

Colon cancer can be silent. Most of the time if symptoms are present, the cancer is more advanced. This is one reason that it is wise to follow colon cancer screening recommendations! Many of the symptoms of colon cancer are nonspecific. If you have blood in your stool or black stools, persistent abdominal pain and cramping or a new change in your stools such as diarrhea, constipation or pencil like stools, see your doctor. Most blood in the stool caused by cancer is not visible with the naked eye, however. And, black colored stools are usually from things you have ingested, like Pepto-Bismol, spinach, blueberries and other dark fruits and vegetables! If you feel an abdominal mass or swelling, or have weight loss or anemia of unknown origin, see your doctor.

Colon cancer is more likely to occur if you have a family history of polyps or colon cancer--especially if two or more close family members are affected. Those with a personal history of Ulcerative Colitis or Chron's disease have higher rates of colon cancer. Type two diabetics, those with obesity, older than 50 years of age, African-American race, and families with certain genetic cancer or polyp syndromes are all at higher risk.

How is this cancer preventable? Colon cancer gets its start in a structure that hangs down from the wall of the colon called a polyp. Not all polyps are breeding grounds for cancer, though. Most cancers form in the type of polyp called an adenoma. Thirty percent of adults older than the age of 50 have adenoma type polyps. This fact should make you want to keep reading! Fortunately, it usually takes several years for an adenoma to become a cancer. Removing polyps before they become cancerous is great prevention!

What are the screening recommendations for colon cancer? All adults should be screened starting at age 50. Higher risk individuals should start screening at age 45 or sometimes earlier! After the age of 75, your overall health and life expectancy will determine whether you should continue screening. No one recommends screening if you are older than 85. No one screening technique is perfect, although colonoscopy is the best way to fully visualize the colon and biopsy polyps.

Here are the three main types of screening tests for those of average cancer risk:

-Tests that look for blood in the stool:

There are three types of these tests: guaiac, FIT and stool DNA. These tests require that you collect a smear of stool or a whole stool and return it to the laboratory. To be sure cancer is not missed, this should be done every one to three years, depending on the type of test. If you have a positive result, colonoscopy will most likely be required.

-Endoscopy: Tests that look for polyps:

Flexible sigmoidoscopy looks in the lower third of the colon. No sedation is required, although a bowel prep to clean out the colon is. This test is accurate if it is done every five years, or every 10 years with the addition of a newer generation "occult blood test" - done yearly.

Colonoscopy visualizes the whole colon and in average risk individuals is done every 10 years. Sedation is usual for the test and bowel prep is required. It is considered the "gold standard" of screening. Both of these tests allow the physician to biopsy abnormal areas seen.

X-ray Evaluations:

"Virtual colonography" is a new test that uses X-rays and computers to reconstruct views of the interior of the colon. This test currently needs more study to see if it is adequate screening.

Double contrast barium enema can be done every five years as a screen. Both of these tests require thorough bowel prep and expose the patient to radiation. Small polyps may not be seen.

Please make sure you are being screened for colon cancer and not "skipping" current recommendations, especially if you are in the high risk category. More information is available on the American Cancer Society website: www.cancer.org/cancer/colon_and_rectum. Next month: "Colonoscopy."

techtalk
by Susan Gilbert

Bon Appétit!

One of our families' highlights of 2016 was discovering home-delivered meals-in-a-box cooking. It all began with a friend recommending we try one. By doing so, she received a credit on her account and we received a discount on our first order. We received an e-mail instructing us to scan the multitude of menus and select three we'd like to try. You indicate how many people (two or more) the meal needs to serve and what day you would like the box to arrive.

When our first box came, we unpacked it and placed the numerous small items in the refrigerator. The next day, upon returning from work, we placed the ingredients for the first dinner on our counter and began following the well-illustrated instructions on the preparation card. It was fun trying ingredients we had no experience cooking or eating, like bulgur and Khorasan wheat, quinoa, or how to make aioli sauce.



We have always wanted to take a cooking class but never found time to do that. We have found this to be better than a cooking class! We don't have to plan a certain day or time, it happens at our convenience and covers something we like to eat.

Our most fun with the box dinners was when our neighbor who suggested them told us she had a box she was planning on preparing that evening, and I told her we had one too, so she and her husband joined us, and we cooked the two different dinners and enjoyed them together. It was great entertainment combined with a chance to cook and converse with friends.

We find it averages about \$10/person per meal, but the savings come from having just the amount of each ingredient you need. Not a container of cream, just a small bottle of precisely what you need for the recipe. And, factoring in the entertainment factor and the avoided-cost of taking a cooking class makes the economics even more compelling.

Better, the instruction cards are durable, so it's easy to take them to the store as you shop for the ingredients to cook the same meal another time without reordering.

FRESHLY

The only negative we have with the concept is the waste resulting from packaging that keeps the food cold. It can be recycled, but there is a lot of it, and it's inconvenient to store and discard.

To get started, Google "home food delivery," and you will find many options. You could sign up for the discounted first order from several of them to see which you like best. We have tried Blue

Apron, which does the most advertising, Home Chef, and Freshly. Of those three, we liked Home Chef best. Bon Appétit!

**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: jimfarmer@live.com 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.



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Real Life Romance

As soon as Christmas decorations are down, stores become full of chocolates, hearts and roses. A commercialized Valentine's Day bombards us with greeting cards galore full of flowery words and inspirational poetry. While it can be overwhelming, it is a nice reminder to be thankful for those we love. However, some of the sweetest and funniest moments of love do not come from a card or a commercial, but from real life, which usually provides the best inspiration. Here are a few of Smoke Rise's own real-life love stories.

The Blind Date:

"I went to college for the first week of my freshman year for sorority rush week. All week. All girls. No guys allowed. On Saturday at the end of rush week, someone walked down the dormitory hall and called out, "Who would like a date tonight?" I immediately responded that I would. My blind date turned out to be my future husband. We went to see the movie, "The Interns." Not a great movie, but I had a good time with the guy. Five years later--after a lot of hills and valleys in the relationship-- we were married. Fifty years later we are still together." – Barbara L., Smoke Rise Resident 30 Years

The "No" That Turned to "Yes": "Long ago, during my stay as a USAF ROTC officer stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, I purchased two automobiles. It was at the British Motors Agency that I met a pretty blonde, blue-eyed young lady who handled all the English-speaking clients. I invited her to lunch and received the response, "I do not date Americans." Using

all of my American/Italian resourcefulness, I developed a relationship with the Chief Mechanic at British Motors, who had a close relationship with this young lady, Baerbel. So I invited him to lunch, and he suggested we invite her to join us. This began a courtship that ended with us marrying in Germany. How lucky can one man be!" – Bob B., Smoke Rise Resident 45 Years

"It was easier to get engaged by mail since Bob was in Rio de Janeiro and two months later, he presented the ring. It was easier and faster to get married on a legal basis in Switzerland, and shortly after we had our church ceremony in Germany, with German officers mixing with American officers. It was a happy day and short honeymoon, skiing in the Alps. I almost broke my neck horseback-riding." – Barbara B. (Bob's Valentine) Smoke Rise Resident 45 Years

Recognizing the Possibilities:

"My husband and I met at a church retreat in Franklin, Tennessee in 1991. I came from Kansas City to the retreat, and he traveled from Atlanta. We spent about 10 minutes talking over breakfast before someone interrupted us. Two months later, he sent me a Christmas card and we began to correspond. When he finally came to visit me in Kansas City, I had forgotten what he looked like...I thought he had a beard. After all, our 10-minute breakfast was four months old! So when he got off of the airplane, I had positioned myself so that I could see the reflection of all the passengers

as they disembarked before they came through the gate. That way I had two shots at recognizing him. Twenty-five years later, I am happy I did recognize him!! And guess what? No beard!" – Cheri S., Smoke Rise Resident 24 1/2 Years

The Best Ex:

"My ex-wife and I were married on June 24 when I was 24 years old, and we were divorced after 24 years. We have maintained a good relationship during the divorce, neither of us remarrying. In 2015, we had been divorced for 24 years, so we thought it would be fun to have a 24/24/24 party. There were about 140 people who showed up from all over the country, from California to Arlington, VA. We thought about having it run for 24 hours, but that was a little much." – Harry S., Smoke Rise resident 43 Years

The Persistent Pursuer:

"I was at an electric utility conference in Biloxi, Mississippi. I was speaking there to around 400 energy company or consulting firm attendees, most of whom were all male. I had been divorced about eight years and never expected to meet an eligible mate, but there she was ... this cute blond consultant. I tried to get her attention, but she seemed disinterested. A year later, we both attended the same utility conference, this time in Baltimore, Maryland. I decided to not let her get away quite as easily. I got what I thought was a date ... she said I should call on her firm the next time I was in Atlanta. I asked her if we could go out after that and she agreed because it was her company Christmas party. She pawned me off on the president's wife. As

I left, I asked her out for the next night and she took me to her Toastmaster's Christmas party. She pawned me off on some of the others there. Persistent as I am, I asked her out for the next weekend and she had no choice but to go out to dinner with me ... we were engaged five weeks later." – Joel G., Smoke Rise Resident 30 Years

The Miscommunication

"I found my attractive coworker and I had mutual friendships, even though we were in different departments. This gave us an opportunity to connect, but I didn't think he was ever going to ask me out. Despite the old-fashioned belief instilled into me to wait on the man to do the asking, I called him. My nervousness may have had something to do with my

inability to communicate well, but I indicated that I had two concert tickets to a music fest. He misunderstood my intention and agreed to take them, saying he "probably could find someone to go with him." I had to, quite awkwardly, make him understand that I was asking him to go with me. The entire date was as awkward as that phone conversation. It was one of the worst first dates in history. Was it a date? Was it a friendship thing? We planned to have dinner. He offered to go through Wendy's drive-through. Thankfully we gave it another shot, and we've been married 10 years now." – Kimberly S., Smoke Rise Resident Four Years





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Morning Glories Welcomes 2017!

January's Morning Glories meeting was one for the record books. It was a combination of Murphy's Law and Ripley's Believe it or Not! As anyone who has ever planned a meeting knows, things can go wrong. Sometimes it is the AV issue, or the meeting place or the food or weather. In this case, it was a problem with the designated speaker. The scheduled speaker developed pneumonia and was unable to attend, but he kindly found a substitute.

The substitute agreed to fill in, and on the morning of the event within about 15 minutes of the start time, the speaker coordinator phoned him to verify where he was in the journey. He was still in Cumming, GA. So at the last moment, club member Quill Duncan stepped in and delivered the talk on Native Azaleas to the membership. Quill, a DeKalb Master Gardener, had attended numerous lectures on Native Azaleas and also had been part of an identification search at the Woodlands Garden in Decatur a couple of years ago. The speaker had sent the club information on his talk in advance, and Quill used that information to inform the club about the many varieties of native azaleas in our landscape and specifically where to spot natives in Smoke Rise, Atlanta Botanical Gardens and also GA Perimeter College's Botanical Garden in South DeKalb. Attendees did truly miss seeing the photos of the beautiful flowers without the speaker's power point, but Morning Glories have good imaginations!

The raffle was a beautiful specimen of "Admiral Semmes" Native Azalea from Doug Dorough's nursery and was donated by Janet McGinnis, Vivian Nickelsen and Susan Morrison. This varietal has a large yellow bloom and sweet honeysuckle like fragrance. Carol Ann Culpepper won the raffle. Lucky lady!

President Glendolyn Hallman conducted a brief business meeting, and members welcomed their newest member, Sherry Pacella, to the club.



Many thanks to Smoke Rise Baptist Church for hosting the meeting. January's hostesses were Quill Duncan, Kim Fair, Susan Morrison, Vivian Nickelsen and Bonnie Pennington.

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Mountain Shadow Garden Club

The meeting of Mountain Shadow Garden Club on Monday evening, February 13, will feature a program on Smith-Gilbert Gardens of Kennesaw. Lisa Bartlett, Garden Manager, will discuss the history, mission, and programs offered by the facility. She is responsible for maintaining the collection of more than 3,000 species of plants. The collection ranges from rare herbaceous perennials to rare and unusual trees.

The speaker notes that she has not always been in horticulture. Before following her passion, she was a talent agent for stand-up comedians. Jeff Foxworthy was one of her clients. Lisa has had her own call-in gardening radio show and still writes for national gardening publications. She now lives and gardens in Kennesaw with her two dogs and three cats.



Lisa Bartlett



Hiram Butler House at Smith-Gilbert Gardens

Considered one of North Georgia's hidden gems, Smith-Gilbert Gardens is an established collector's garden. The Gardens stand as an exceptional blend of art, history, and horticulture, all creating a tranquil respite of reflection and enjoyment.

At the center of the Gardens is the historic Hiram Butler House, dating back more than 150 years. As a City of Kennesaw Botanical Garden, the mission of Smith-Gilbert Gardens is to serve as a resource for conservation, education, and the enjoyment of horticulture, fine arts, and historic preservation.

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

Looking ahead: Jim Tucker to Present MSGC Program on March 13

For many years, Mr. Jim Tucker of Smoke Rise served as President of Mountain Shadow Garden Club. On March 13, he will present a program titled, "An Engineer's Garden." Watch for more about this program in the March issue of the *Smoke Signal*.

Smoke Rise Garden Club

On the coldest night of the new year, home-made Butternut soup, grilled cheese sandwiches and harvest apple cake were served by hostess Margarita, and co-hostesses, Ann Weitz and Denise Finley. This was wonderful lite supper comfort food, and was appreciated by all participants.

The program speaker was Lyn Blackmon of the DeKalb Extension Service. His topic was "Backyard Berries." His favorite, and the easiest for the average home owner, is the blueberry. Lyn took the mystery out of growing them and shared many useful tips on growing the fruit, which is so beneficial for our health. Lyn reminded everyone of the DeKalb County extension plant sale. For more information, call (404) 298-4080.



Ann Weitz, Denise Finley, Hostess, Margarita Fajardo

The SRGC 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 gardener just starting out.

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

Mountain Mums

The Mountain Mums Garden Club began a new year at the house of member Cheri Schneider with a luncheon meeting. Charles Andrews, President of the Azalea Chapter of the Rhododendron Society gave an entertaining presentation on azaleas using slides from his personal gardens and property. Many of the Mums hope to view his gardens in April, when the azaleas are in full bloom.



Gay Auman, Cheri Schneider, MaryLou Still, Carol Wales at the home of Cheri Schneider

Mr. Andrews noted that there are 17 hardy species of azalea that grow from Florida to Canada. Georgia has more species of native azalea than any location in the world.

There are two types of azaleas. Deciduous azaleas lose their leaves. They are long lived and can be tree-like. Native azaleas fall into this category. They generally bloom from April to August.

Evergreen azaleas were originally hothouse plants and qualify as cultivated varieties. They are not truly evergreen. They actually have two sets of leaves -- one set drops in the fall and the other drops the following year. They bloom from March to May.

Mr. Andrew advised: "don't put a twenty dollar plant in a twenty cent hole." He plants his azaleas in a hula-hoop size circle. After breaking up the root ball, he amends the soil in a three-foot circle with 18 shovels full of soil conditioner. He then digs a hole and plants the bush in the center, making sure the root ball sits six to eight inches above the ground. Acid soil, consistently moist ground and sun make for beautiful low maintenance bushes. No pruning is required, if you buy the right size of plant for the location!

The Mums participated in the Walk to Remember January 28. Upcoming activities include field trips on February 22 to a Camelia garden and to a rose workshop on March 22. In March, the Mums will attend the annual Garden Club Convention in Callaway gardens and provide gift bags for all participants. Members also hope to have one garden craft project a quarter at the Brookdale Senior Living facility in Mountain Park.

The next meeting will be held February 8 at the home of Jody Currie at 10 a.m. If you would like to join, email Carol Wales at cawale@hotmail.com.

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: All inquiries regarding advertising should be directed to: 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.

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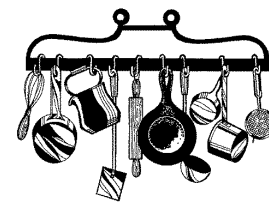
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HODGE PODGE



By Jenny Hall

*When I was young and gave a hoot,
I'd save up all my extra loot
To buy a special Valentine
To give to you, or me, or mine.
But now I'm old and all I need
Is someone to clean and dust and weed.
No flowers! No candy! Cause I'll just whine.
But I wouldn't say "no" to some Chocolate wine...
Or breakfast or brunch, homemade and delish.
You make it - I'll eat it! That's my Valentine wish.*

Nothing is more extravagant to me than brunch food, so for February, I'm focusing on fattening luxurious splurge foods to make you realize the you don't need to lose any more weight because you're just fine the way you are. You have struggled enough through January, so it's time to reward yourself a bit. You can get back on track tomorrow - or not. I choose not.

Extravagant Luxurious Granola

This is the best granola ever from my friend Gwen. She adapted this from Alton Brown's recipe. It's fabulous on yogurt, ice cream, as a snack or with milk. Amazing stuff.

3 cups rolled oats
1 cup each of cashews and slivered almonds
3/4 cup shredded sweet coconut
1/4 cup plus 2 Tablespoons dark brown sugar.
1/4 cup plus 2 Tablespoons maple syrup
1/4 cup vegetable oil
3/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup raisins, dried cranberries, cherries or craisens.

Preheat oven to 250° and have two cookie sheets ready to go - ones with sides so the stuff doesn't drift out and burn on the oven floor. Mix oats, nuts, coconut and brown sugar together. Mix the syrup, oil and salt together and mix with oat mixture to evenly coat. Bake 1 hour and 30 minutes, stirring and rotating the pans every 15 minutes. You do this because you love granola, you have to clean in the kitchen anyway, and you are going to count this as exercise.

The original recipe says to cook 15 minutes less, but the extra time gives it a really nice crunch. Cool a bit and add the raisins. Gwen tells me she used deluxe mixed nuts, chopped up a bit, so her mixture had cashews, almonds, pecans and hazelnuts, etc. Use whatever nuts you want actually. This is yummy!

And for brunch this ham pie really intrigued me. I am not the most successful quiche maker in the world. I struggle with soggy bottoms. And by that I mean the quiche. This recipe is adapted from a very old Southern Living Christmas book, and it would be great for a crowd. The recipe says it serves 6-8, but I think 12 is more like it unless you want this for dinner.

Ham Pot Pie or Upside Down Ham Potato Quiche Sorta
2 Tablespoons butter
1 cup chopped onion
10 ounce box frozen broccoli spears (asparagus or peas would be fine)
1 pound of new potatoes, coarsely chopped
1 can cream of potato soup, undiluted
1 cup sour cream
1 cup sharp cheddar cheese
3/4 cup whole milk
1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper
2-3 cups chopped ham
1 package refrigerated pie crusts

Cook onion in butter until tender and just turning brown. Cook broccoli according to package directions on stove or microwave and set it aside. Put chopped potato in water to cover and boil about 10 minutes or until just tender; drain well. Combine the soup, sour cream, cheese, milk, salt and pepper. Add the ham and the cooked broccoli and onions and spoon mixture into a greased 3 1/2 quart round casserole. You can cover and refrigerate this overnight if you want. Bring back to room temperature before proceeding. OK, take one of the pie crusts and roll it out to fit over the casserole dish, letting it go about 3/4 inch over the edge, so you can seal it or crimp it with gorgeous fancy designs. Cut slits in top and bake at 400° degrees for 45 minutes or until crust is deep golden brown.

You can put the ham mixture in two smaller round casseroles and bake one now, freeze the other. Top the casserole to be frozen with the crust before you freeze it, but don't cut slits in the crust. Just cover it well. Thaw about 20 minutes before you bake it.

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



Silent Auction to Benefit Local Park

The Garden Enthusiast - Backyard Nature Station on Main Street in Tucker will hold its fourth annual silent auction February 6-18. This auction will benefit the 50 acre Johns Homestead Park at 3071 Lawrenceville Highway. The park contains the historic Johns Homestead (ca. 1829) and four outbuildings, as well as two scenic lakes known as the Twin Brothers Lakes. The park is currently not officially open; however, passive use such as hiking and bird-watching is encouraged.

The forests, wetlands, and lakes support beaver, waterfowl, woodpeckers, owls, songbirds, a heron rookery, turtles and many fish species. During the last several years, the Friends of Johns Homestead, neighboring residents, scout troops and volunteers from Oglethorpe Power have worked together to construct trails at the park. Because there is a stream that runs through the park, a large section of the trail system is inaccessible from the rest of the park and presently has no public access. The Friends of Johns Homestead plans to build a boardwalk that would connect these trail systems. The estimated cost for the project is \$67,700.00 Monies raised from this auction will help fund this project.

Auction items include a Pentax camera, gazing ball and stand, an original painting by local artist Valarie Nichols, and wall art. If you would like to donate an item or a service, please call Linda at (404) 474-7072.

Georgia Iris Society

The Georgia Iris Society will meet on February 11 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 1790 LaVista Road, NE, Atlanta.

Mickey Gazaway, a native Atlantan with a degree in horticulture, certification as an Arborist, Georgia Master Gardener, and 25-year employee of Pike Nursery will present the program.

Mickey currently serves as Garden Club coordinator writing company training materials for Pike employees and co-hosts the Pike's Pick segment on the Walter Reeves Saturday morning radio show.

Meetings are free to the public and all are welcome. Snacks and door prizes will be available. For more information, contact Harvey Holmes or Stacy Cooke at (404) 202-3888.