

# SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 1

*Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968*

April, 2017

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



*The staff of the Smoke Signal wishes you a Blessed Easter and a Beautiful Spring!*

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## **Sears Industrial Complex Plans Finalized!**

by Ms. Avril Foley

After many hours of negotiating and planning, the site of the Sears Complex has finally been approved but modified in order to satisfy the needs and tastes of Tucker, Smoke Rise and Stone Mountain Village. Council voted to change the existing zoning from MU5 (mixed use) to PU5 (Party Use). The construction will include, but will not be limited to, the following categories:

**Fusion Restaurant Facilities:** The fusion idea was created so that either everybody or nobody would be pleased. It will include a flavors of the world complex blending Greek, Indian and Thai flavors.

It was decided that a chitterlings bar and grill could be added at a later date, or never.

**The Crematoria and Fireworks Center:** In keeping with multi-use goals, and because we're running out of viable space, the center of the main building will encompass a retail fireworks facility and display. Customers will be encouraged to enjoy their purchases in a special enclosed, yet open, atrium complete with water hydrants, hoses and first aid station. This station will also be a do-it-yourself crematorium if you're dumb enough to actually use the fireworks center.

**The Casino and Dog Park:** City council unanimously agreed that the famous painting of the Gambling Dogs was custom made for the Sears Complex. The combo facility will run the length of the building and will include the entire current parking lot. The casino will not only have full gambling facilities, but will include stages and theaters for entertainment. Already booked is what is left of the Ringling Brothers Circus. A horse possibly.

The dog park had such strong support from City Council that it was decided to also include a ride-through monkey trail. Since a barrel of monkeys is so much fun, adding excited dogs and speeding cars is sure to be even more exciting and entertaining. The monkey trail will continue through the woods and end at Harry Strack's house if he doesn't sue us first.

All of us who have worked so hard on finalizing the plans for this long-vacant facility are very excited and proud to have finally arrived at what we hope will be the crowning glory of our neighborhood and surrounding communities. And, we all wish you a happy APRIL FOOLS' DAY and hope you'll understand why we have no more time for this silly April fool gag!



*Ride-through monkey trail to be included in Sears Complex.*

## **Easter Events Around Atlanta**

### **Meet the Easter Bunny**

The Easter bunny is always busy this time of year, so don't miss your chance to snap a picture with the big furry guy and make a memory that will last a lifetime. Catch him at Perimeter Mall, Mall of Georgia, and Atlantic Station, among other places.

### **Events at Fernbank**

April 8, 2017 - Meet baby animals, play games, and collect eggs at activity stations during Spring Eggstravaganza at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History.

### **Easter Egg Hunt on the Farm**

April 10, 2017 - Kids search for colorful eggs, play games, and create springtime crafts during Magic Mondays: Egg Hunt on the Farm at the Atlanta History Center.

### **Easter Egg Hunt in Roswell**

April 14, 2017 (10 a.m.) - Kids bring baskets to fill with candy at the \$5 Easter Egg Hunt at Archibald Smith Plantation in Roswell.

### **Easter Bunny Photos at Sugarloaf Mills**

Photos available March 30 – April 15 in the Food Court (no reservations necessary)

### **Easter Egg Hunt in the Garden**

April 15, 2017 - Buy a ticket online & bring a basket to hunt for candy-filled eggs at Eggstravaganza. Meet the Easter bunny, shop for baked goods, and enjoy kids' activities at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center. Park across the street at Atlanta Metro Cathedral. Rain will cancel.

### **Easter at Callaway Gardens**

April 15 - 16, 2017 - Easter Weekend events at Callaway Gardens include a brunch, a 5K race, a kids' race, an Easter bunny, egg hunts, hot-air balloon rides (tethered), entertainment, and a sunrise service.

### **Easter Brunch - Park Tavern**

April 16, 2017 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) - Enjoy an Easter brunch overlooking Piedmont Park and the city skyline, with an appearance by the Easter bunny and an egg hunt at noon at Park Tavern.

## **SRCA REPORT**

by Michael J. Huerkamp

Things continue to hop in Smoke Rise and Tucker and the SRCA board has stepped up to stay in unison. Since the last Smoke Signal recap there have been board meetings on February 20 and March 20, and the SRCA will have concluded the annual membership meeting on March 28 (to be reported on in detail in May). The latter featured invited guests Mayor Auman, City Council Representatives van de Kreke and Rosenfeld, and Major Padrick from the Tucker precinct.

The potential for development of the 88 acres at the intersection of Hugh Howell and Mountain Industrial remains in the forefront. To that end, the SRCA board met with the developers once more on February 23, and the mayor and council members in groups of three or less on March 2, 6 and 9. In an effort to remain abreast and keep our community informed, it is suspected that various board members will be regular attendees at city council meetings on into the summer. The board also has a link to the Tucker Community Council and has obtained representation on the Tucker Collaborative Steering Committee.

In another development, we've been establishing firmer relations with the Friends of Tucker Parks who are organizing tours of Tucker greenspace, including those within our neighborhood. In a bit of sad news, our community garden has fallen upon hard times and we're looking for a savior to lead its resuscitation.

Lastly, the annual document shredding event has been scheduled for April 22 with details provided in this issue in a separate piece. All of this for \$35 dues where 100% of your investment goes to programs and services.

### **REMINDER.....**

### **IT'S TIME TO PAY SRCA DUES**

Please mail your check for \$35.00 to:

Smoke Rise Community Association  
P.O. Box 870793, Smoke Rise, GA 30087

Or to pay online, go to:

[www.smokerise.org/membership.html](http://www.smokerise.org/membership.html)



## Smoke Signal

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

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

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### April Calendar of Events

- 1 April Fools' Day
- 3 Smoke Rise Garden Club at Paula Adeoba's home, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Georgia Iris Society Meeting, St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 2:00 p.m.
- 10 Mtn. Shadow Garden Club, Founders Hall, Eastminster Church, 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Mountain Mums at Mary Jacobsen's home, 10:00 a.m.
- 16 EASTER
- 19 Career Assistance Workshop, Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Rm 220, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- 20 Free concert the Cole Auditorium on the GPC Clarkston Campus, 8:00 p.m.
- 20 Tucker Arts Guild, First Baptist Church Tucker, Bldg. B, Church St. ent., 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Shredding Event, Smoke Rise Elementary School, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- 22 Tucker Historical Society Plant Swap, First Baptist Church in Tucker 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- 27 Take Your Daughter to Work Day
- 29 Mtn. Shadow Garden Club Plant Sale, Eastminster Church, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 29 Car Show at Smoke Rise Baptist Church, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar for May:

ARTucker Art Show, May 6, 11 a.m.- 5 p.m., Tucker Recreation Center - See page 4  
 Tour of Smoke Rise III Park, May 7, 2-4 p.m. - See page 8

## Smoke Signal Deadlines

### APRIL 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 APRIL 10**

### SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

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

"Like" us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews](http://www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews)

or visit our website at [www.smokesignalnews.com](http://www.smokesignalnews.com)

Link to the digital version of the *Smoke Signal*

at <http://eepurl.com/pjn4v>

or scan this QR Code with your smart phone!



## Destroy Those Dirty Little Secrets!

With tax day in the rear view mirror, it is time to pack up the cargo bay of the family truckster and head to the parking lot of Smoke Rise Elementary School on Saturday, April 22, 2017, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for free, secure, on-site destruction of confidential, private and all other paper documents.

This service is brought to you by the dues-paying members of the SRCA partnering once again with Tucker's very own Eagle Shredding, and with the kind support of the Smoke Rise Elementary School administration. Please segregate your paper waste from binders, cardboard, plastic bags and metals as these cannot be shredded.

## Upcoming Events at the Tucker Library

**April 15**  
**5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**  
**Jess Goggans Band**

Jess Goggans puts her entire soul into her music and every ounce of her heart into every single performance. Jess' music defies genres, with influences of funk, rock and blues. Librarian Jason Beyer is the opening act.  
*Sponsored by the DeKalb Library Foundation.*

**April 24**  
**6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**  
**The Incredible Downloadable eBook**

Do you want to know more about eBooks? Library staff will show you what's available and how to access eBooks with your DeKalb County Public Library card. Please bring your electronic device.

**April 25**  
**6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**  
**Teen Anime Club**

Come join us to watch anime and enjoy snacks!

For more information, please call the library at (770) 270-8234.

## Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

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

## Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

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

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

## Mount Carmel Christian Church

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

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

## First Moravian Church

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

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

## Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

## Mountain West Church

Pastor: Michael Shreve  
 Worship Arts Pastor: Gary Robinson  
 Telephone (770) 491-0228  
[www.mwchurch.com](http://www.mwchurch.com)  
 4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain  
 Service Times 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

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

Smoke Rise Baptist Church  
Sanctuary Choir presents  
**The Creation**  
Sunday, April 30 at 7pm



The performance of Franz Joseph Haydn's oratorio, *The Creation*, is a particular Music Ministry highlight of Smoke Rise Baptist Church in April. This late 18th century masterpiece depicts and celebrates the creation of the world as described in the Book of Genesis. The Sanctuary Choir with orchestra will present parts one and two of this great work, along with readings, prayers and congregational hymns. Three stellar soloists will join our April 30th performance: Richard Clement, Tenor, Maria Valdes, Soprano, and Alan Higgins, Baritone.

The public is invited to attend. Admission is free.



Smoke Rise Baptist Church  
5901 Hugh Howell Road  
Stone Mountain, Georgia 30087  
770-469-5856



**Mountain West Church**  
**4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain**

**Registration Open!**

Smoke Rise Baptist Weekday School is now registering for Kindergarten, Preschool and Parents' Morning Out in the 2017-2018 school year. To register, schedule a tour, or for more information, call 678-533-0558 or email SRBWeekday@SmokeRiseBaptist.org.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church  
Career Assistance Ministry  
Next session: April 19  
Room 220, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Led by subject matter experts. Topics will include job search strategies, resume writing, interviewing techniques, networking and more!

For questions or to enroll:  
verneshsmith@staffingone.com  
(404) 370-0205, ext. 223  
5901 Hugh Howell Road,  
Stone Mountain, GA



Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) announced in January the successful end of its capital campaign, surpassing its \$1.5 million goal and paying off the mortgage on its corporate headquarters. FODAC celebrated the achievement with a mortgage burning ceremony attended by representatives from its management staff, board of directors, key donors, DeKalb County government and United Community Bank.

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Stars Class (3-year-olds) with Officer Scott DeForest, who came to visit the Smoke Rise Baptist Weekday School. The class is learning about "community helpers," including police.

**COLOSSUS**  
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**Taste of Tucker presents \$13,000 to NETWorks Cooperative**

Art and Karen Wood, directors of the annual Taste of Tucker street festival (held last October), recently presented a check for just over \$13,000 to David Fisher, director of NETWorks Cooperative Ministry, a coalition of 17 churches fighting hunger and poverty in the Northlake, Embury Hills and Tucker area.

"It's a lot of fun putting on a community celebration that brings out over five thousand food lovers and features our local restaurants," Karen Wood said, "But raising money for our charities transforms that enthusiasm into something even more rewarding."

Fisher explained that the funds help NETWorks supply badly needed food and financial support for local residents. "At our average cost of food in 2016, this donation represents more than 185,000 pounds of food. Or, on another measure, given the average amount we give in financial assistance, it represents 65 families helped with rent or utility bills."

The food celebration in its seventh year also raised funds for EIRO, a consulting service that works to promote community involvement of churches, and the Old Town Tucker Merchants Association, bringing Taste of Tucker's total charitable contributions to \$19,000.

For more information, contact info@tasteoftucker.com or visit www.networkcoop.org.



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Dr. Jeff Brown  
Dr. Nicole Aponte

**Smoke Rise Agents**

770.573.9715 www.smokeriseagents.com



Now in its third year, the Tucker Art Festival has announced its spring artist market date. ARTucker will be held Saturday, May 6, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Tucker Recreation Center. Representing the diverse talents of local artists, ARTucker will highlight a wide array of art mediums again this spring. The marketplace is open to the public and is free of charge.

The community is invited to view and purchase works from over 50 local artists who will be selling their creations, including jewelry, paintings, photography, pottery and more. Live music and a food truck, “Grubbin’ Out”, will add to the fun. A new addition this spring is face painting for the younger visitors. Chelle Face Painting will be there all day to demonstrate their own artistry!

For more information, contact [artuckerga@yahoo.com](mailto:artuckerga@yahoo.com).

### FREE Symphony Five Minutes from Smoke Rise

Joel Gilbert, P.E.

If you like concerts, particularly classical music and the symphony, you are in for a pleasant surprise. Having paid more than \$100 for tickets and needing to drive downtown and park to attend the Symphony, I am happy to share this news. Right here on the Clarkston Perimeter College campus, there is a local community wind ensemble consisting of about 50 musicians. The college sponsors this group of students, faculty, and community wind instrument playing volunteers.

The next free concert is on April 20 at 8 p.m. in the Cole Auditorium on the GPC Clarkston Campus, about a five-minute drive from Smoke Rise. The music is a broad blend of traditional orchestral music arranged for wind instruments. Plus, there is usually a mixture of modern composers and “show tunes” we all know and love.



ART Station is Proud to Announce **Pie In The Sky** April 13-30, 2017 An ART Station World Premiere Production by Lawrence Thelen

*Pie In The Sky* is a comedy about what happens when the “nesting instinct” is applied to the end of one’s life. It’s the story of two women, Dory (65) and her mother, Margaret (85), who live together in a mobile home in Abilene, Texas. On this particular morning, Mama has awoken early with the over-whelming need to bake an apple pie. When Dory is awoken by the noise, she joins her mother, and together they assemble the pie and chat. The conversation starts out innocently enough, but it soon becomes clear that mama is attempting to tie up loose ends and put Dory’s life in better order before she departs this world. Pie in the Sky: To do good on earth in hopes of obtaining some future reward in heaven.

Performances are Thursday – Saturday at 8:00 p.m., & Sunday at 3:00 p.m. running April 13 – 30. A reduced price (\$15) 10:30 a.m. matinee is scheduled for April 26. Ticket prices: \$19.00 Student/Military, \$24.00 Senior (60+), \$28.00 Adult. To purchase tickets call the Box Office at 770 469 1105 or [www.artstation.org](http://www.artstation.org). Visit the ART Station web site, [www.artstation.org](http://www.artstation.org).

### Free 2017 AARP Tax Assistance at Local Libraries

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) volunteers will provide income tax preparation at many DeKalb County Public Library branches. The dates for our two closest branches are listed below. AARP tax assistance is for lower and middle income taxpayers, with special attention to those 60 years of age and older. First-come, first served. Late arrivals may have to wait until the next day on the schedule for service. All tax help is from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- April 4 – Stone Mountain-Sue Kellogg Library
  - April 6 – Stone Mountain-Sue Kellogg Library
  - April 7 – Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library
  - April 11 – Stone Mountain-Sue Kellogg Library
  - April 13 – Stone Mountain-Sue Kellogg Library
  - April 14 – Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library
  - April 18 – Stone Mountain-Sue Kellogg Library
- For more information, contact your library.

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 Website: [www.bobbaileys.com](http://www.bobbaileys.com)



**Smoke Rise Prep Celebrates Diversity with Cultural Night**

Recently, Smoke Rise Prep (private) celebrated the diversity of students and staff with Cultural Night, a full dinner/celebration of food, song, dance, costumes, and exhibits. 150 parents and students gathered in the banquet room of the Smoke Rise Baptist Church to share in the experience. The hall was filled with the aroma of dishes to feast on from around the world - Scottish Haggis, southern fried chicken and banana pudding, Jamaican Jerk chicken, African goat stew, Chinese noodle medley, Pakistani Korma chicken, Mediterranean salads, German chocolate cake, Swedish cookies, and much more.

Dinner was followed by a fashion show featuring traditional dress from around the world. Greg Boone, father of a middle schooler, appeared in full Native American garb (Osage Tribe Oklahoma), adorned with glass beads, feathers, woven textile, silver ornaments, and a porcupine/deer hair headdress to perform a "straight dance" accompanied by an original native music composition.



**THE CLUB FOR ALL SEASONS**  
**Spring Activities**

Mountain Creek Swim Club invites you and your family to come by and take Easter pictures with Dante and Popcorn, therapy bunnies. The bunnies will be at Mountain Creek Swim Club on Sunday April 15th at 3pm. Free -- just bring a camera!

Free family fun will continue with a round of "Magic the Gathering." For more information please email [MountainCreekSwimClub@gmail.com](mailto:MountainCreekSwimClub@gmail.com), visit our Facebook page or our website at [MountainCreekSwimClub.com](http://MountainCreekSwimClub.com).

What is Magic the Gathering - Rolling Stone writes 'If you've never played Magic, the first and still finest game of its kind, it's a cross between chess, poker and Game of Thrones: players compile a deck from hundreds of potential cards, with lands ("mana"-generating resource cards), fantastical creatures (your army), enchantments and other spells, all imagined with Magic's unique mythology.

- 2017 - FULL MEMBERSHIP FEES!!!
- paid by April 30, 2017: \$350
- paid starting May 1, 2017: \$375
- 2017 - Day Membership Passes: 10 passes: \$100
- Water Aerobics: Free to members
- \$5.00 per session for non-members

Mountain Creek Swim Club is a family-oriented swim club located at 2092 Mountain Creek Court.

Visit us on Facebook, at [MountainCreekSwimClub.com](http://MountainCreekSwimClub.com), or call 678-824-2108.

**Chiropractic Works**  
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4985 Lavista Road | Tucker, GA 30084

770-508-4456 | [www.karlschwartzchiro.com](http://www.karlschwartzchiro.com)

**Read Across America Week at Smoke Rise Elementary**

February 27 through March 3, 2017 marked Smoke Rise Elementary School's Read Across America/Dr. Seuss Activity Week. Media Specialist Mrs. Beverly Yang and her Accelerated Reader Committee organized activities that truly engaged students in their quest to be reader leaders.

The first activity included grade levels hosting a photo booth design contest. Each grade level designed a photo booth based on seven Dr. Seuss books: Pre K - *Go, Dog, Go!*, K - *Green Eggs and Ham*, 1st grade - *Fox in Socks*, 2nd grade - *The Cat in the Hat*, 3rd grade - *Horton Hears a Who!*, 4th grade - *The Lorax*, 5th grade - *Oh, the Places You'll Go*. Thereafter, students were excited about taking pictures at the various booths, and awards were given for the best design and most creative.



Other Smoke Rise Read Across America/Dr. Seuss activities for the week included a "Book Time with Ronald McDonald" assembly, a parents and community partners' reading day, and reading celebration centers. It was genuinely a week that caused Smoke Rise Elementary School students to reflect on their love of reading.

We all know that looking forward to things is half the pleasure of them. The wait is almost over. The Smoke Rise Bath and Racquet Club is getting ready and it's time for you to think about summer entertainment.



Cheerful pool parties with friends, the laughter of children playing games, grilling and BBQ, or a carefree afternoon at the pool with a cool beverage, listening to great live music. Smoke Rise Bath and Racquet has it all. No longer just a pool and tennis courts. SRBRC has become a true social club. Play tennis in a competitive environment, relax at the pool, or have fun with your friends at one of the many events. There is something for everybody. Gentleman's Night, Kids Campouts, and a host of events around great food and music. A true vacation destination right here in your neighborhood.

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- Certified lifeguards 7 days a week; swim lessons upon request by a local instructor
- Diving board; roped off lap lane; reduced rates to the Smoke Rise Sharks swim team
- Party gazebo, kids playground, concession stand, Hi-Fi and Wi-Fi at the pool
- Gated entry with member code for early morning and evening access
- 2 wood fire grills, a smoking pit and 2 gas grills
- Movie nights on a 10ft x 6ft big screen
- Resort-like social calendar with events for all ages
- Bring your own food and beverages (adult beverages allowed)

No neighborhood swim and tennis community offers more summer fun for the whole family. Membership fees are among the lowest around. The club offers first-time family memberships at \$200 for the year.

Summer planning is easy, go to [SRBRC.org](http://SRBRC.org), or sign up on Facebook at [facebook.com/srbrccommunity](http://facebook.com/srbrccommunity)

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**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

**Shine Club at Smoke Rise Elementary**

Smoke Rise Baptist Church is sponsoring a new faith-based, after-school program called Shine Club, which meets at Smoke Rise Elementary School on Wednesdays from 2-4 p.m. through the end of April 2017. Shine Club is open to any student with parental consent and welcomes ecumenically-minded community volunteers who love children to join them. Shine Club kids learn leadership and peacemaking skills and values through small group activities, Bible stories, and fun. Shine Club will resume at Smoke Rise Elementary School in fall 2017. If you are interested in volunteering to work at the Shine Club, please contact Rev. Rebecca Caswell-Speight at [rspeight@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:rspeight@smokerisebaptist.org) or call 678-533-0546.

## What is the City of Tucker's Community Council and What Does It Do?

by Frank Luton

The City of Tucker has been in full operation for about nine months now. One of the processes that the city proposed to encourage public involvement is the Community Council. The Community Council is informal and is open to any and all comments. The Tucker Community Council has seven community representatives, all appointed by the Mayor and City Council. There are two members of the Community Council from the Smoke Rise area (District 1), Frank Luton and Jonathan Vaughters. The Community Council meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. Presently the meeting takes place at the Discover DeKalb offices at 1957 Lakeside Parkway, Suite 510, in Tucker. Upon completion of the City Hall Annex at 4228 1st Avenue, likely sometime in May, the meetings will be moved there.



Frank Luton



Jonathan Vaughters

The City of Tucker Community Council process is about vetting land use petition applications, allowing for community conversations and laying the groundwork for recommended conditions. It's more about recommending possible changes rather than the approval functions of the Planning Commission and ultimately the City Council. At this point in the process the applicant has submitted a completed application, but the City of Tucker planning department staff has not completed a formal analysis of that application.

The Community Council is where you, members of the community, give concerns, provide input and feedback, and help lay the groundwork for any recommended conditions. The Community Council is basically the "first required stop" of a developer although it is highly encouraged that the developer meet with nearby property owners prior to filing their application. If the applicant opts to have a neighborhood meeting, the onus is on the developer to contact the surrounding neighbors. The next step for the applicant is to go before the City of Tucker Planning Commission. The mission of the Community Council is to provide to the Planning Commission the concerns of the community, what recommendations were made to the applicant/developer and why.

The Community Council wants and needs your input and feedback. All applications for rezonings, land use amendments, modifications to zoning conditions and special land use permits are part of the process. The deadline for applicants is typically the last Monday of the month and all applications for upcoming meeting are made available after the first of the next month at the City of Tucker official web site ([tuckerga.gov](http://tuckerga.gov)). Jonathan and I look forward to seeing you at future Community Council meetings. Please get and stay involved.

## City of Tucker Standing Up for Residents and Business Owners

Dozens of Tucker residents and small business owners met face-to-face with executives from Comcast on February 28 to express their displeasure at a recent wave of service and reliability issues that have plagued the city.

Mayor Frank Auman opened the forum, which was organized by the city and held at Tucker Recreation Center, explaining why the gathering was needed.

"It's just an unacceptably high level of service issues: quality of service, availability of service, responsiveness when you need to make a service call," Auman said. "We've been hearing a lot about that. We, City Council, staff, have experienced it ourselves in our own businesses [and] even at City Hall."

Small business owners lined up to share their stories, saying, in some cases, that the lack of internet reliability has driven them to the brink of bankruptcy.

"Any time the internet drops, I'm unable to do my job," explained a Tucker insurance agent. Like many others, she's wrestled with internet outages for several months.

"In January, I knew I would soon be closing my doors if this continued much longer," she shared. "I hadn't had a paycheck in months, my income was gone and I would have to let go of my employee."

Although most of the complaints dealt specifically with Comcast internet service, issues were raised with phone and cable reliability, as well. Representatives from the cable giant were on hand to hear directly from customers, then to sit down and address their service issues one-on-one.

"We've spent over \$1 billion upgrading our networks and trying to change the customer experience," explained Comcast External Affairs Director Deyanna Jones. "Have we gotten it right? No."

The City of Tucker was just incorporated last year, taking over a franchise agreement with Comcast from DeKalb County. Mayor Auman reminded those in attendance that this type of service issue is an example of why 74 percent of Tucker voters cast ballots in favor of cityhood.

"We can advocate for...our community on specific things that, when you're part of a 750,000-person county, you just really can't do," Auman said.

The City of Tucker is committed to following up on behalf of its citizens and holding Comcast accountable for the fixes and service upgrades they promised at this forum. Residents or business owners who are not receiving that level of service can contact City Hall at (678) 597-9040.



Mayor Frank Auman addresses the crowd at the February 28 forum.

### 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](mailto: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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**Welcome Neighbor Stephen McCauley**  
by Pat Soltys

Stephen McCauley is the developer who proposed the multi-use development at what is known as the Sears Property. He was born in Watford, England, and came to the US in 1967, and had heard that America was the land where everything is bigger. Upon arriving he found sky scrapers, big buildings and a 56 foot tall chicken. As a student at Georgia Tech he earned a BS in Building Construction. He started building home communities and eventually sold the home building company to David Weekly Homes as he began to pursue and develop larger more diversified multi-use projects in the greater Atlanta area.



Like most real estate developers, the real estate market crash hit in 2007 and 2008, and forced developers, builders and many others to seek financial relief in the form of bankruptcy. Money that was needed to stay in business from lenders and buyers basically dried up, leaving developers caught with product that could not be sold or financed. Not all developers recovered but McCauley was able to.

Fast forward to 2015 – 2016. The Sears property, in what was to be the City of Tucker, had been available for a long time, but languished. Stephen McCauley was drawn to the property and location as the site of a multi-use project. Deciding to purchase the property was an immediate yes. Like all large acquisitions and development, it is a process not an event. A multi-use development was proposed to DeKalb County, the governing entity at the time. During the process needed for rezoning, Tucker gained cityhood and all projects in process within the new cities borders were taken over by the city. While this was potentially very positive in working with the new city council, it was also a lot for the new city that did not have the needed components to move the project forward. As there was still time, the community was engaged and the recommendations of the council and others incorporated as plans solidified.

In January 2017, at a council meeting well attended particularly by Smoke Rise residents, the plan was about to be voted down but instead was withdrawn by McCauley. What's next – according to McCauley, he will reapply again on March 27, 2017 to pursue the multi-use plan again. If he cannot gain the approvals and zoning changes needed, he will still close on the property at the end of September and begin development as permitted within the zoning. His preference is definitely the multi-use development, not to build light industrial. He must move forward as there has been a lot invested and many stakeholders that will require that development begins. According to McCauley, he has not ever had the support of a community embracing a project like he has found here in the citizen and business communities. It is a two way street in which McCauley intends to be involved in the greater Tucker community. (Look for him to have a booth at Tucker Days in May).

Asked about what he enjoys most – it is all about family first, then travel and reading. He is planning a trip with his kids who are 15, 13, 12 and 7 to England and Ireland in the summer. The website for McCauley Investments shows over 20 development projects.

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

by Cedric R.

Home security involves the security hardware in place on a property, and personal security practices. The hardware would be the doors, locks, alarm systems, lighting, motion detectors, security camera systems, etc. that are installed on a property. Personal security practices would be ensuring doors are locked, alarms activated, windows closed, extra keys not hidden outside and many other routine tasks which act to prevent a burglary. According to an FBI report, 58.3 percent of burglaries involved forcible entry. A typical burglary lasts for about 8 to 12 minutes and, on average, a burglar will break into a home within 60 seconds. Home security can be strengthened by adding a first line of defense like a thorny shrub or bush to give the burglar a hard time. A motion activated bright light can play a psychological role in deterring a burglar, also acting as a second line of defense along with outdoor security cameras. In order to protect the entry points, we need to have window and door sensors. Once a burglar gets past the second line of defense, motion detectors kick in. A motion detector can raise an alarm or send a security footage to the homeowner if it's linked to a camera system. Storing valuables like passports, jewelry, important documents, etc. might also be considered a home security precaution. Common security methods include never hiding extra keys outside, never turning off all the lights, applying small CCTV stickers on doors, and keeping good tabs with neighbors.

If you see something, say something.

Thank you to those who did say something, such as the following:

I had a break-in/burglary on 2/22/17 on Kings Crossing around 4:30 p.m. I had only been gone from the house for 15-20 minutes when ADT called me on my cell phone at 4:37 p.m. They didn't take much because the alarm went off and when the home phone rang it was ADT. All this was reported to and investigated by the Tucker Precinct.

**Crime Reports**

- 2/22/2017 Theft of other vehicle 5800 Old Stone Mountain Rd. around 10:00 p.m.
- 3/10/2017 Larceny/articles from vehicle 1900 Block Glacier Dr. around 12:00 a.m.
- 3/14/2017 Larceny/articles from vehicle 1800 Block Silver Ridge Ct. around 1:50 a.m.
- 3/14/2017 Larceny/articles from vehicle 2200 Block Gunstock Drive around 2:30 a.m.

We make an effort to list local crimes, if we miss something please contact the *Smoke Signal* at the following email address for submission - [staff@smokesignalnews.com](mailto:staff@smokesignalnews.com)

**City Council Vote Could Mean Big Improvements to Tucker Parks and Rec**

Tucker's City Council voted on March 2 to approve a resolution that supports restoring the hotel/motel tax in the city to eight percent. The 5-2 vote occurred at a Special Called Meeting of the Council at City Hall.

If approved by legislators under the Gold Dome this session, the decision would mean additional funds for Parks and Recreation projects in the city. One estimate has the move generating an extra \$171,000 annually for projects including renewal of the Tucker Recreation Center and installation of bathrooms at Tucker's parks.

Countywide the hotel/motel tax is eight percent. Tucker is one of five cities across DeKalb County pushing to make the rate uniform across the county.

– Matt Holmes, Communications Coordinator, City of Tucker

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**Tucker Historical Society**

The officers of the Tucker Historical Society for 2017 were elected at the annual membership meeting. They are as follows: Matthew Lee, President; Trish England, Vice President; Joe Rothwell, Secretary; Kathy Powell, Treasurer.

The March meeting was on March 13, at the Tucker library. The program for the night was The Classic Ranch Home - Mid Century Architectural Design by Amber Rhea, an architectural historian for GDOT.

Upcoming Events:

1. Bring a Plant-Take a Plant or Two, annual Plant Swap and Share on Saturday, April 22, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Tucker. The event is free but donations are welcomed. Please label all plants.
2. Tucker Garden Tour - Saturday, May 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Five private gardens plus the Butterfly Garden in front of the Browning Courthouse on LaVista Rd. and the Children's Garden at the Garden Enthusiast on Main Street in Tucker are included in the tour this year. Advance tickets are \$15.00. Day of tour tickets are \$20.

**Come Tour Smoke Rise's Newest Park!**

Friends of Tucker Parks and Smoke Rise Community Association are teaming up to host a guided tour of Smoke Rise III Park (aka the Charlie and Ruth Lord Property) on Sunday, May 7, from 2-4 PM. Naturalist Kathryn Kolb of EcoAddendum will lead participants through this beautiful 30-acre woodland. Participants will learn to identify and share fascinating information about plants, trees, wildflowers, wildlife, creeks, rivers, overall ecosystems, and how to better connect to nature. To register for the tour, please email [workshop@tuckerparks.org](mailto:workshop@tuckerparks.org).

The property, located at 5525 Smoke Rise Drive, was purchased by DeKalb County in 2013 from the Lord family for use as a passive recreation area. Shortly after the purchase, the family home was demolished and the property has remained undeveloped. It is a beautiful wooded parcel with a variety of native plants and relatively few invasive species. Little Stone Mountain Creek cuts through the southeast corner of the property, attracting a variety of wildlife. Come join us on this tour to see what makes this park so special!

This tour is offered at no cost to participants thanks to a Neighborhood Fund grant received by the Friends of Tucker Parks. To find out about upcoming events and workshops, visit [www.tuckerparks.org](http://www.tuckerparks.org) and sign up for the Friends of Tucker Parks mailing list.

**ATTENTION GRADS AND BRIDES**

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Email submissions to [staff@smokesignalnews.com](mailto:staff@smokesignalnews.com)

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**HEALTH NOTES:**

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

**Shingles Vaccine**

The current ‘baby boomer’ generation is probably the last generation to remember having had chicken pox during childhood. Ninety-nine percent of Americans over the age of 40 have had chickenpox, whether they remember the rash or not. Now, as these same baby boomers age, they are at risk of a second round of the virus - shingles.

Shingles is a very painful skin rash caused by Herpes Varicella-Zoster, the chickenpox virus. For some reason, after chickenpox heals, the virus can lie dormant in the nervous system. Decades later, it may come out of hiding and cause a painful rash along a nerve root. One in three adults over the age of 60 will get shingles, sometimes more than once. The rash begins as a cluster of red bumps that blister and then over 2-4 weeks heal. Because the skin rash follows nerve root distributions, it can cause serious complications like blindness or deafness when it breaks out along the facial, optic or hearing nerve. Other serious consequences of the shingles virus, pneumonia and death, are rare. Some people continue to have pain after the rash subsides. This is called Post Herpetic Neuralgia or PHN. One out of six people with shingles experience severe pain that can last weeks, months or years.

This leads me to a brief discussion about the shingles vaccine. Zostavax is currently the only vaccine approved by the FDA for shingles. It is recommended at age 60. Protection lasts for approximately five years. Currently, there are no recommendations for a booster. Zostavax reduces your chance of getting shingles by half, and decreases PHN by 67%. Patients who have already had shingles, should still get the vaccine, as it is common to have more than one episode of shingles.

There are several other important facts about Zostavax you should know. The vaccine is a live vaccine. This means it is a live, yet weakened form of the actual virus. The MMR, flu vaccine and oral polio vaccines are all examples of live vaccines. Those who have recently received the shingles shot, are safe to be around pregnant women, the young, the elderly and those with a weakened immunity. There is only a 1:10,000 chance of passing shingles along this way.

Side effects from Zostavax are usually mild: About 30% of people have redness, tenderness and swelling around the vaccine site. One in seventy recipients gets a headache. Some people get a mild chickenpox-like rash near the vaccine site. It should be covered until the rash disappears. Because the vaccine is only about 50% effective, you can still get shingles, although it usually comes in a milder form. Do not get the vaccine if you are pregnant or trying to get pregnant. Those with allergies to gelatin or neomycin should NOT get this vaccine. Serious reactions have occurred in these people. If you have HIV/AIDS, cancer - especially leukemia and lymphoma - active untreated tuberculosis, or are on chronic steroids or ‘biologics’, you should NOT receive the shingles vaccine. Rare cases of serious retinal damage have been reported, mainly in those with immunosuppression.

Not all insurances cover the shingles vaccine, so check with your insurance company.



**Protecting Garden Produce from Plundering Pests**

Inspired by having mastered a kitchen-counter herb garden described in last month’s column, my husband and I were determined this spring to grow vegetables in a home garden. We had both grown up with gardens in our yards, his in New York and mine in Kentucky, and the memories of picking vine-ripe tomatoes, sweet peas and squash from our yards for meals motivated us to try to replicate the experience here in Smoke Rise. The obstacle, besides knowing it would be a lot of hard work, was fear that the deer and rodents would enjoy the fruits of our labor before we’d have a chance.



Doing some online research, we found a number of reasonably priced options in do-it-yourself greenhouses. Perfect! That would keep most varmints out. Ranging in price from \$40 to \$800, most were in the \$100 to \$200 price range. Higher priced units were larger, looked more durable, and had more features, like operable windows in the roof. Less expensive ones tended to be metal frames draped with plastic. We opted for a \$500 unit that looks like it would last a few years and ordered it through Amazon Prime thereby paying no shipping or delivery fees.



Two days later, two 3’ x 4’ boxes arrived on our porch. Examining the contents of plastic panes, metal rods, plastic connectors and sundry odd parts and pieces, we remembered seeing on the order site three of our most feared words: Some Assembly Required. We called a neighbor-friend for professional help. The instructions suggested it might take 6 hours. It took several days in total, but we added a foundation of railroad ties to make it more stable and create planting beds, and that added some time. We were glad to have done that when the big windstorms in February would have

topped it had it not been securely grounded.

The next step was moving the seedlings from our kitchen into the greenhouse and hanging some twine for climbing vines. Now we wait, water, and hope our little plants will flourish in their new home, well protected from the preying pests. We are hoping for a bountiful harvest for our table and overflow for our local foodbank.

**-WANTED-**

We welcome human interest stories from members of the Smoke Rise community. Do you know someone who quietly does good deeds or does something unusually interesting? We would love to publish these stories about our neighbors. Send your stories and photos to [staff@smokesignalnews.com](mailto:staff@smokesignalnews.com)



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**THE WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL**

by Barbara Bruschi

Nothing is as beautiful and beguiling as nature for all the world to behold. Spring marks an awakening of the human spirit, and Christians look forward to the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. A diversity of religions honors their culture and beliefs as well.



The Easter Bunny and colorful Easter eggs are a part of greeting spring. The Easter Egg Roll of the White House is one of the oldest traditions (1872) in Washington. Some historians believe Dolley Madison first suggested the idea of a public egg roll, while others tell stories of informal egg-rolling parties at the White House dating back to President Lincoln's day.

In the year 1872, children came together to roll eggs at the congressional grounds. The children caused a ruckus, damaging the Capital grounds, and in 1876 a turf law was passed, prohibiting the children from treating the landscaping as their playgrounds. President Rutherford B. Hayes softened his heart and opened "the gates to the South Lawn" and welcomed all the rollers to his end of Pennsylvania Avenue. This was the first official White House Easter Egg Roll.

Over the years, games were added to the event such as "Egg Picking," "Egg Ball," "Toss and Catch," and "Egg Croquet." Music and food were added to the celebration. John Phillip Sousa and the President's own Marine band performed for the guests. In 1929 Lou Hoover (wife of Herbert Hoover) instituted folk and maypole dances. In 1933 Eleanor Roosevelt gave an Easter greeting for the first time over the radio on a nationwide hookup.

The tradition of the egg-rolling has been held on the South Lawn ever since President Hayes and his wife Lucy opened the White House grounds to the children on Easter Monday. There were a few exceptions. The year 1977 showcased a circus, petting zoo and antique car show, and in 1981, Broadway shows and giant balloons. The most famous egg-rolling race was introduced in 1974 when spoons borrowed from the White House kitchen were used.

What would Easter be without a bunny? The White House Easter Bunny is most commonly an anonymous White House staffer. The most famous bunny was the wife of President Reagan's Attorney General, Edwin Meese III. Ursula Meese played bunny six times and earned the name "The Meester Bunny."

There were periods when the roll was canceled due to inclement weather and World War II. When President Eisenhower reintroduced the egg roll in 1953, a whole generation had not experienced this national treasure. Presidents, First Ladies, their children, grandchildren and pets take part in this tradition.

Last year 35,000 children and parents attended. The tickets are by invitation and lottery. Understandably, crowd control, invitations, logistics and security pose a major challenge.

A nation like ours cherishes traditions and celebrates children in many ways. When the day of the Egg Roll ends, happy children leave with a wooden egg, complete with the signature of the President and First Lady. A day they will cherish for years to come.

**Mountain Shadow Garden Club Plant Sale – April 29**

Mountain Shadow Garden Club will present its popular plant sale - an annual event - on Saturday, April 29, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain.

It will be in the same parking lot area where the sale has been staged in recent years. The sale offers a wide range of perennials, annuals, shrubs, and other plants and garden materials that are well adapted to the local area.

Club members with many years of experience in gardening around this area will be on hand to help customers make selections and learn about caring for new purchases. Proceeds from the sale help to fund a scholarship each year for a student at Gwinnett Tech.

For more information or directions, call Scott Uthlaut at 770-923-9762 or Jeff Raines at 404-641-8633.

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**NEWS YOU CAN USE**

By Aviva Hoffmann

**Water Protection Flows Both Ways**

Volunteer to help protect our streams.

Becoming an environmental steward is an important part of protecting and conserving our water resources. "Adopt-A-Stream" is a program that allows volunteers to learn more about the streams, lakes and wetlands around them. The Adopt-A-Stream program is coordinated by the DeKalb Department of Watershed Management (DWM) in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to educate residents about non-source water pollution. Participants learn how to collect water quality data, gather observations about their local waterways, create partnerships within their communities and use water collection tools.

"In addition to fostering ecological awareness, the important thing about the Adopt-A-Stream program is that it expands the community's stewardship of our precious waterways," DWM Director Scott Towler said. "It also provides extra eyes for early indicators of waterway contamination, such as high levels of E. coli."

Community volunteers "adopt" a section of a stream and conduct chemical, visual and/or biological surveys along the waterway. Data is submitted to the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and provides the state with a long-term overview of the health of our streams. Most new volunteers begin by attending an Introduction to Adopt-A-Stream workshop to learn about program goals, water quality challenges, watersheds, and non-point source pollution. After initial training, many volunteers attend additional workshops on how to examine their stream by performing chemical and physical monitoring with state-of-the-art field equipment. The Adopt-A-Stream program also offers workshops that include macro invertebrate monitoring, bacteria sampling, and visual observations. The level of involvement is up to the volunteer.

Another volunteer opportunity is through "Rivers Alive." This program assists volunteers in their efforts to remove trash and debris from local waterways. By becoming a Rivers Alive volunteer, DWM can provide trash bags, waste hauling, and event coordination.

For more information about DeKalb's Environmental Outreach programs or to schedule a workshop, contact Michael O'Shield, Public Education Specialist, at (770) 724-1456 or [msshield@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:msshield@dekalbcountyga.gov).

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**Mountain Shadow Garden Club to Feature Program on English Gardens**

The Mountain Shadow Garden Club meeting on Monday evening, April 10, will feature a unique program titled "English Gardens - From Cottages to Castles" by Lori Prosser. Travel along and become inspired by the history and beauty of the gardens of England.

Lori is a Georgia Master Gardener and avid photographer who has returned from living for four years in England. The experience gave her the wonderful opportunity to pursue her passion for photography. She has had photos in various exhibitions and won local and state awards. Her photos were recently exhibited at Callaway Gardens and are regularly used for a travel website.

Lori's presentation will take you throughout England and show a variety of garden styles and growing conditions. Whether wandering the footpaths of England or gardening in Georgia, her camera is always close at hand to capture the beauty. She is eager to share her garden visits and some history tales with you. Lori is now a Lawrenceville resident and member of the Gwinnett Master Gardeners, American Hydrangea Society, and Georgia Nature Photographers Society.



Lori Prosser

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](http://www.facebook.com/MtShadowGardenClub)

**GEORGIA IRIS SOCIETY MEETING**

The Georgia Iris Society will meet Saturday, April 8, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 1790 Lavista Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30329.

Ken Duke, GIS member, Master Judge and Landscape Designer will present "How to Prepare and Present Your Irises for the Spring show". Our meetings are free to the public and all are welcome. Join us for beautification, education and recreation. Door prizes and refreshments will be provided.

For more information contact Harvey Holmes or Stacy Cooke - 404 202 3888

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**Morning Glories Induct New Officers**

Mid-March's surprisingly blustery cold winds set the stage for a charming luncheon and installation of our new club officers. Karen Smith, former long-time Smoke Rise resident and advisor to the Morning Glories and Mountain Mums, graciously installed the new slate of officers for the 2017-2019 term. Karen used the influence of color in our lives to describe the various roles that the officers will fulfill during their time in service. As each position was announced, Karen took a pashmina scarf and expertly arranged it on the new inductee. The colors ranged from seafoam to ivory to brilliant red to royal purple for our new President.



The following officers were welcomed by the club: President Bonnie Pennington, First Vice Presidents Judi Crutchfield and Joyce Ray, Second Vice President Glendolyn Hallman, Recording Secretary Quill Duncan, Corresponding Secretary Peggy Youngblood, Treasurer Joy Zaidan and Parliamentarian Betty Curlee.

The club thanked outgoing President Glendolyn Hallman for her wonderful leadership and grace during her term in office and presented her with a lovely floral platter with matching napkins and a verdigris wall sconce featuring morning glories.

Members were reminded to attend the program at DeKalb Federation on March 23 for the lecture on "The Lost Oaks of Georgia" by Jim Rodgers, owner of the Nearly Native Nursery. On April 27th the DeKalb Federation annual awards luncheon will be held at Callanwolde and we were urged to attend. The raffle for this month's meeting was a "Pink Perfection" camellia and a bromeliad donated by Ruth Ann Hill, Glendolyn Hallman, Julianne Goecke and Kim Fair. The lucky winners were Mary Clark and Judi Crutchfield. MaryAnne Anderson provided the inspiration with an essay entitled "Garden of Memories". She also read the delightful poem "Daffodils" by William Wordsworth written in 1804 to set a dreamy mood of fields of nodding daffodils in the English countryside. What a reminder that spring would be joining us very soon.

**Mountain Mums Learn About Invasive Plants**

The Mountain Mums had a delightful brunch meeting on March 8 at the home of Gaye Auman. Our guest speaker was Valerie Boss, a long-time member of the GA Native Plant Society. Valerie spends much of her time volunteering in the gardens of the Atlanta History Center removing invasive plant species, maintaining the trails and reestablishing native plant species.



According to Valerie Boss, invasive plants are usually species that have been introduced into the environment, rather than native species "gone wild." Most of the time, invasive plant species were intentionally introduced as an ornamental plant. By definition, an invasive plant introduction is one that causes economic or environmental harm or health concerns to humans. These species become invasive because they disperse lots of seeds, mature quickly, and spread rapidly. They damage the environment by competing with our native plants for food, water and space. In some cases, they can even change the soil chemistry. They can spread so fast that they shade out native seedlings and encroach on the habitat of endangered species.

Examples of invasive species in Georgia are Japanese honeysuckle, wisteria, privet, mahonia, Japanese knotweed, rose of Sharon, golden bamboo, lesser celandine, vinca major, English ivy, garlic mustard, mimosa, Eleagnus, sweet autumn clematis, Johnson grass, kudzu, nandina and lirioppe. Unfortunately, many nurseries and big box stores still sell these plants! Eliminate them from your property by hand weeding, digging or spot spraying. Be careful to stay 25 to 100 feet from water sources with weed sprays.

**Smoke Rise Garden Club**

The March meeting of the Smoke Rise Garden Club was held in the home of Margaret Lloyd. Prior to the installation ceremony, a lovely light dinner was served by hostess Margaret and co-hostess Jane.

Rigby Duncan presented the officers of the Smoke Rise Garden Club, 2017-2019. President, Denise Finley; 1st vice Presidents Deb Christensen and Jane Culbertson; 2nd vice president, Edith Morton; recording secretary, Penny Galpin; corresponding secretary, Paula Adeoba and treasurer, Peggy Clegg.

The April program will be Garden Photography presented by Arthur Ratcliff, Photographer and Master Gardener.

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

Member Debra Adams was inducted as a 'Lifetime Member' during the DeKalb Federation Meeting in February. In April, the Mums will be making "Egg Terrariums" with seniors at Brookside Senior Center. Later in April, several members will attend the Garden Club of Georgia Convention at Callaway Gardens and will provide gift bags for attendees.

The next meeting will be held at Mary Jacobsen's home on April 12 at 10:00 a.m. featuring a program by Kathy Spissman on African violets. Email Carol Wales at [cawale@hotmail.com](mailto:cawale@hotmail.com) for more information.



Peggy Clegg, treasurer; Paula Adeoba, corresponding secretary; Penny Galpin, recording secretary; 2nd vice president, Edith Morton; Jane Culbertson and Deb Christensen, first vice presidents and Gloria DeAndrade stood in for Denise Finley. Rigby Duncan presenting.

**ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:** All inquiries regarding advertising should be directed to: Classified and display ads: Barb Hess at [barbhess48@gmail.com](mailto:barbhess48@gmail.com). Flyers: Barbara Luton at [barluton@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:barbhess48@gmail.com). For information on display (box) advertisements or flyer inserts, see contact information on page 2.

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# HODGE PODGE



By Jenny Hall

*I just had my kitchen painted and you all know that means unloading all sorts of bazaar and useless stuff that has accumulated in drawers, on shelves and on top of the cabinets. I found approximately four billion cookbooks, among which was a terrific 1946 Better Homes and Gardens red-checked one once owned by someone who donated it to the antique shop I apparently shopped at about fifty years ago. It was in pristine shape, but the most interesting thing was that the pockets for holding favorite recipes were still intact and had old newspaper clippings and cutouts from various old magazines. A bonanza of time capsule experimentation! My favorite was a clipping headed "Strawberry Shortcake! Here's the Low-Down on Miracle Frosting!" It claimed it came from The Detroit Times cooking school (this should have been my warning), but I tried it anyway and managed to make so much frosting that my molars began to ache. It did work but I never really used it to frost anything and didn't actually follow the directions but it's worth sharing for scientific purposes. You'll need a stand mixer for this job. I don't have one so you know my result was less than perfect. I ate it anyway.*

### Miracle Strawberry Frosting! Huzzah! Hooray!

- 1 egg white
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup diced fresh strawberries

That's it. I didn't have strawberries so I used grated apple. The article said I could, so I did, and I even used my ancient hand grater so the results would be as authentic as possible since I'm such a purist and all. Just combine all in your large mixer bowl and beat for 30 minutes. Yep, 30 minutes. Doing this by hand was my exercise for the day. After a while this stuff will just turn into this fluffy strawberry, poofy loveliness. I'd sure use it on pound cake or such. And it's fat free. Like you care.



*So after making this I decided to try another frosting recipe that would be a little more grown-up. I've always wanted to try one of those "pretend buttercream" recipes, so I tried it. If you have a stand mixer this is easier. I had to make half a batch and it was just as messy as you'd imagine anything made with marshmallow creme could be. Or messier. But delicious.*

### Pretend Buttercream

- 3 sticks unsalted real butter
- 16 ounces marshmallow creme
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- dash of salt

Cream the butter well...get it nice and fluffy. Add the marshmallow creme and beat it. This takes brute strength and a desire to glue all your fingers to your reading glasses.

Once this is combined, just add the 1/2 cup powdered sugar and beat. Add pinch of salt and decide if you want to add flavoring. I didn't because the creme glop is already rather vanilla.

This freezes perfectly and is satiny and barely sweet. I was amazed. It really is tasty and suits a more adult taste for frosting. The kids, however, are going to love this next recipe almost as much as I hated it. Instead of dying Easter eggs or making cookies, make cupcakes and let the kids help with this frosting that actually could be eaten as a kid friendly mousse. This would be a great rainy day activity in the kitchen.

### Jell-O® Flavored Kid Frosting

- 1 - 3 ounce box of Jell-O®. (I used an old box of grape Jell-O® and I'm going to say do NOT use grape - it's rather odd and grey and awful. I think cherry or raspberry would be best.)
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 egg white
- 1/2 cup boiling water

You can use a hand mixer for this. Put dry Jell-O®, sugar and egg white in a large bowl. Start to beat it with your mixer and have that half cup of boiling water ready at hand. Just dump it in all at once while the beaters are going. Beat on high 5-7 minutes. It will magically and scientifically begin to fluff up and turn into this huge bowl of gelatin fluff. Great texture for piping on cupcakes and when chilled it sets up like a light mousse. It's sweet and pretty garish depending on gelatin flavor and you can add even more food coloring.

*If you make all three of these frostings I guarantee that you will need to repaint your kitchen, too.*

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



## Stone Mountain Rotary Club

By Lizbeth Dison

The National Association of America's (NEA) Read Across America Day is a nationwide reading celebration that takes place annually on March 2—Dr. Seuss's birthday. Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers participated by bringing together kids and books, and the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain celebrated the event by volunteering to read at one of its partner schools, Smoke Rise Elementary School. Smoke Rise residents Anresa Davis and Scott McEvoy, along with Rotary Club of Stone Mountain President Margie Kersey, read aloud to several classes at the school to promote the love of reading in honor of author Theodor Seuss Geisel, known to children everywhere as Dr. Seuss.

RCSM hosts a diverse variety of speakers at its weekly meetings each month. Two recent speakers captivated lunch attendees with presentations on their lives and careers. Star K9 trains and provides animal talent and professional wranglers for the entertainment industry; founder and lead trainer Trace Sargent is also a certified canine search specialist, and talked to the club about some of the local and international missing persons and crime missions with which she and her partner, Chance, have assisted. Local author Alison Reeger (A.R.) Cook discussed her journey to published author, and offered advice to members on getting their own work in print.

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



(left to right) Star K9 lead trainer Trace Sargent and her partner Chance meet member Mary Fleeman following the meeting.