

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 1

Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

April, 2019

www.smokesignalnews.com



*The Smoke Signal Staff
wishes our neighbors
a very Happy Easter!*

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SRCA Annual Meeting Recap

by Mike Huerkamp

The annual public membership meeting of the SRCA was held on March 5 at the chapel which was kindly made available by Smoke Rise Baptist Church. A dedicated audience of 82 were treated to an extensive report of the positive trajectory of DeKalb County by our CEO and neighbor Michael Thurmond. CEO Thurmond stayed until every question was answered and then turned the dais over to Senator Steve Henson and then Mayor Auman and city council representatives Pat Soltys and Bill Rosenfeld.

SRCA President Mike Huerkamp and selected board members finished up business by reporting on the resurgence of the community garden, landscaping enhancements at the Glacier, Greencastle and Rosser Rd. stacks on Hugh Howell, the replacement of the Stratmor medallion, reinvigoration of the Friends of Lord Park, association finances, sponsorship of the school, Walk to Remember, Tucker High School Foundation, Smoke Rise Prep, Smoke Rise Sharks, the Stone Mountain Women's Club, and outreach and productive connections with eight additional city, school, police and business organizations.

The night ended with attendees mixing with representatives from the Mountain Creek Swim Club, Mountain Shadow Garden Club, Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet, Smoke Rise Community Garden, Smoke Rise Country Club, Smoke Rise Sharks Swim Team, The Summit at Smoke Rise Swim & Tennis Club, Smoke Signal, and Yellow Dot initiative. We'll see you at free shredding on April 20 and then Tucker Day on May 11. It is an exciting time to be in DeKalb, Tucker and Smoke Rise.

Shred Event

The annual SRCA document shredding event will be held at Smoke Rise Elementary School on Saturday April 20, 2019, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and extending until 1:00 p.m. or when the truck fills. We are pleased to partner with Shred-It this year and look forward to providing this service to our neighborhood and seeing our neighbors there.



Dues appeal

The 2019 SRCA annual membership renewal campaign is winding down and we thank all of our generous members for their dues payments. Income from dues has been declining for the last several years, but is the sole source for greenspace and aesthetics initiatives, services such as free document shredding and candidate forums, investments that better our elementary school, enhancements to our website, exploration of branding possibilities, and sponsorship of events and other organizations that define our community. If you've not yet re-upped, the \$35 dues can be paid online at smokerise.org. Every dollar paid in dues is invested back into our Smoke Rise community.

City Council Wrap Up

by Matt Holmes, Communications Director

Tucker's Mayor and City Council held their first March meeting on Monday, March 11, voting on three very high-profile projects. The first project involves lighting for the tennis courts at Henderson Park. Council voted unanimously to enter into a contract with West Georgia Lighting for \$97,000. The vote means the lights should be in place by summertime.



Next, Council voted to hire Lowe Engineers for construction design services on a previously-funded sidewalk along Idlewood Road. The sidewalk would be constructed on the east side of Idlewood between Tucker Middle School and Lawrenceville Highway. The contract with Lowe Engineers is for \$51,205 and the design work should be complete within 90 days.

The third project Council voted on deals with oversight of the City's spring road resurfacing projects. They voted unanimously to give Construction Engineering Inspection (CEI) services to BM&K for the price of \$55,846.60. CEI oversight ensures that road work is done to GDOT specifications and can actually save money on the project.

Earlier in the meeting, the Mayor and Council issued a pair of proclamations. One proclamation was in honor of Chief James Conroy, who is retiring from the DeKalb County Police Department after 28 years of service. The Mayor also recognized Assistant Chief Greg Padrick, who was recently promoted after serving as commander of the Tucker Precinct. He then introduced Tucker Precinct's new commander, Major Craig Medlin. The Mayor also issued a proclamation to members of the Tucker Civic Association for their work in promoting the Yellow Dot Program. The resolution is aimed at spreading the word about the program, which assists police and first responders to be better equipped with information to handle medical emergencies.

Finally, the Mayor offered up, and City Council ratified, a list of names for service on Tucker's Community Council. The new Community Council for 2019 will be Will Arroyo, Suzanne Borchert, Seth Burrow, Linda Clark, Thomas Lupo, Frank Luton, Jan Mixon, Cara Schroeder and Jonathan Vaughters.

Tucker Is Growing!

Look for ribbon cuttings this month at several new Tucker Businesses. BT Solutions is a company on North Royal Atlanta that specializes in job training for developmentally-disabled adults. Meades Discount Doors on Tucker Industrial just relocated to Tucker from Decatur. Northlake Senior Apartments will be opening this month also, as well as the groundbreaking for Fairfield Apartments on Northlake Parkway.

These properties are a big part of the live, work, play initiative for the Northlake/Tucker Meridian area. Mamas Chicken and Seafood is renovating the old Krystal on Mountain Industrial near Lawrenceville Highway and planning to open the end of March.

Please welcome these new businesses to Tucker!



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.....(470) 545-0248
 Cheri Schneider.....(770) 717-9914
 AvivA Hoffmann helloaviva@hotmail.com
 * This Issue's Editor-in-Chief
 Recording SecretarySusan Gilbertsgilbert@apogee.net
 Corresponding Secretary ..Barbara Bruschi.....(770) 934-4644
 Treasurer.....Harry Strack(770) 365-9381
 Classified Ads.....Harry Strack(770) 365-9381
 Display Ads.....Harry Strack(770) 365-9381
 Church News.....Susan Gilbertsgilbert@apogee.net
 Health News.....Cheri Schneider, M.D.(770) 717-9914
 Flyer InsertsBarbara Luton.....(770) 491-6711
 Recipes and Home.....Joyce Ray(770) 491-9015
 Social MediaPat Soltys(770) 573-9715
 News You Can Use.....AvivA Hoffmann helloaviva@hotmail.com
 Staff Writers.....Rene Boven.....(770) 905-5404
 Joel Gilbert
 Susan Gilbert.....(404) 312-8328
 Joyce Ray.....(770) 491-9015
 Pat Soltys.....(770) 573-9715
 Barbara Bruschi(770) 934-4644
 DistributionLaura Smith.....(770) 934-7595
 DeliveryMorgan Taylor and Charlie Smith

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April Calendar of Events

- 1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY!
- 3 *Smoke Signal* Staff meeting at the home of Cheri Schneider, 9:30 a.m.
- 10 Mountain Mums meeting at the home of Rene Boven, 10:00 a.m.
- 13 Ikebana Workshop at Paula McEvoy's house
- 13 Georgia Iris Society, St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 2:00 p.m.
- 20 Shredding Event, Smoke Rise Elementary, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- 21 EASTER SUNDAY
- 27 Mtn. Shadow Garden Club Plant Sale
 Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- 27 Iris Show and Sale, St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- 28 PINK THE RUNWAY Fashion Show
 Smoke Rise Country Club, 3:00 p.m.
- 29 Rotary Club's Golf Tournament
 Summit Chase Country Club – See pg. 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
The Smoke Rise Community Garden on Hugh Howell Rd.

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)
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New Exhibit at DeKalb County Courthouse *Deep Roots in DeKalb: The Flat Rock Story of Resilience*

Believed to be one of the oldest African American communities in Georgia, Flat Rock was founded and strengthened by individuals who wanted to ensure the safety and success of African Americans following the aftermath of the Civil War. The community of Flat Rock thrived in part because of the immense communal bond of its citizens as well as the selflessness of its leaders. Theodore A. Bryant, Sr., ensured the development of Flat Rock by purchasing nearby land and distributing it to families in the area. This gesture allowed for the citizens of Flat Rock to build a strong foundation of support as well as ensure the safety and well-being of the community. Despite consistent animosity and prejudice, the people of Flat Rock remained strong, resilient, and united.

This exhibit explores the story of Flat Rock as well as the people who called it home. By examining objects collected over time from the residents of Flat Rock, we have been able to better narrate the lives and experiences of the families within the community. This exhibit would not have been possible if not for the generosity of Flat Rock Archives, who graciously lent part of their collection and all of their expertise to allow us to tell the inspiring story of the community who stood strong for over one hundred years.

Open Monday - Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p. m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



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Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

Holy Week 2019

Palm Sunday, April 14

9:00 AM: Worship in the Chapel
 9:45 AM: Sunday School
 11:00 AM: Worship in the Sanctuary (Processional of the Palms)
 7:00 PM: Wondrous Love (Holy Week Concert by the Sanctuary Choir)

Wednesday, April 17

Regular Wednesday Evening Schedule

Thursday, April 18

7:00 PM: Maundy Thursday Service of Holy communion with Tenebrae (Sanctuary)

Resurrection Sunday, April 21

???: AM: Easter Sunrise Service at Stone Mountain
 9:00 AM: Columbarium Dedication Service
 9:45 AM: Sunday School
 11:00 AM: Easter Worship in the Sanctuary

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor: Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III
 Pastor of Senior Adult Ministries: Rev. Jeanne Simpson
 Director of Mission & Youth: Mark Sauls
 Director of Music Ministries: Andrew Meade
 Director of Preschool: Stacey Moura
 Director of School Age Program: Celeste Sears
 Director of Respite Care Program: Helen Wilborn
 Director of Communications: Joy Summerville-Johnson
 Telephone (770) 469-4881
www.eastminster.us

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

Sundays:

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary - nursery provided
 5:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship
 Communion: First Sunday of each month

Wednesdays:

5:45 p.m. Join us for dinner! - \$5 per adult
 6:30 p.m. Program
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

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 Student Minister: Will Tyler
 Coordinator of Kids Ministry - Jim Barber
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www.mc3.life

Sunday Worship at Parkview High School Auditorium

9:30 a.m. -- Coffee and donuts; adult and student c-groups; nursery and Sunday school for infants to 5th graders.

10:30 am. - Worship service

C-groups throughout the week at various homes -- check out our website for more times and addresses

Business Address and Hours:
 1316 Rockbridge Rd, Suite M
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087
 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Mailing Address:
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 STE 208-251
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087

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.
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 4950 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain, GA 30087

Mountain West Church

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 Worship Arts Pastor: Gary Robinson
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www.mwchurch.com
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PINK THE RUNWAY FASHION SHOW

When the models of PINK THE RUNWAY: A Celebration of Survivors & Loved Ones Hat & Fashion Show walk the runway at Smoke Rise Country Club on April 28th, they will not only be sporting the latest spring and summer styles – they will be helping to raise funds to combat breast cancer. All of the models that grace the runway are either breast cancer survivors or loved ones of those lost to breast cancer.

The participants will be modeling spring attire with a special focus on hats and headpieces. Attendees are encouraged to wear a hat. Among the models will be Smoke Rise resident Roxanne Spicer Curry, the founder of Prevent Today Breast Cancer Foundation a 501(c) (3), the charity hosting the event. Her battle with breast cancer was found through self-detection under the age of 40. She will be celebrating her five year cancer-free anniversary. "I wanted to start this organization and have this event because I want to educate, inspire and empower women and men to be advocates for their health. Early detection and prevention strategies help individuals go from awareness to action in combating the disease. Providing the community with ways to prevent the disease through a healthy lifestyle and early detection strategies is our focus."

The foundation also plans to gift Hope boxes to women currently in treatment. The boxes will be filled with items known to be a comfort to victims, such as warm pajamas, head scarves, and cozy socks. The Sunday afternoon event begins at the Smoke Rise Country Club at 2:00 p.m. with a Vendor Boutique and Pink Carpet Mingle. The fashion show follows at 3:00 p.m. It is a first for the Prevent Today Foundation which hopes to turn it into an annual event. Organizer, Roxanne Curry, believes it will be an enriching and unforgettable experience for all involved. "The courage displayed by the models, combined with the supportive atmosphere created by the audience, will create a special energy in the room. This will be a lively and meaningful experience for attendees while providing everyone with a unique opportunity to support people who have been affected with this devastating disease."

Individual tickets cost \$20 in advance and are \$25 the day of the show. A limited number of VIP Front Row tickets are available for \$30. Proceeds will support Prevent Today Breast Cancer Foundation's efforts. The show promises to be exciting with fashion as well as several performances. The foundation is currently taking submissions for breast cancer survivor models and those who would like to walk the runway in honor of a lost loved one to breast cancer. Vendor space and sponsorship is available. Tickets and more information are available on the event website: www.preventtodaypinktherunway.com Contact: Roxanne Curry, Prevent Today Breast Cancer Foundation, preventtoday@gmail.com, 404-860-2113

Tucker Chili Cook Off was Hot-Hot-Hot!!

by Rene` Boven

Winter is leaving town and spring is hot on its heels! And, with the weather in transition, this past Saturday, March 9, was a perfect day for the 2019 Tucker Chili Cook Off. The Old Town Tucker Merchants Association along with Local No. 7 hosted the eighth annual event from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Main Street.

The Cook Off, featured in tents all along Main Street, was festive and fun. Two bands, Electric Avenue – The 80's MTV experience and Dial Up (a 90's rock group), provided entertainment throughout the day. It was a wonderful activity for people of all ages, and a great way to raise money for Day League (formerly DeKalb Rape Crisis) which provides direct services, prevention education, and advocacy for youth and adult survivors of sexual assault, their families and the community as a whole.

Over 40 individuals and local restaurants, entered the competition with hopes of winning one of several prizes. There were a variety of chili recipes offered for sampling including beef chili, white chili, spicy chili, sweet chili, and even an Australian style chili (an ingredient was vegemite)! And, there was plenty of chili to go around as each competitor made anywhere between 5 – 11 gallons distributing 1 ounce samples to the masses.

Best Chili winner was People's Baptist Church. Nick Squared won the People's Choice award, Tucker City Limits won the Best Booth award, and Shorty's won the Best Restaurant award. However, the true winners were all of the competitors (for their efforts) and also, all of the attendants, estimated at 5,000, for making this day such a success. Other sponsors included Cofer Brothers, Primo Grills and Smokers, Handy Hardware, Tucker Brewing Co., and The Tucker Farmers Market.

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Tucker Butterfly Garden Gets Big Boost from Silent Auction Benefit

by René Boven

Ever wonder what a Kamado Grill/Smoker has in common with Elvis? Probably not but it's something just as hot as both of them! Turns out they were items featured in the latest silent auction held by The Garden Enthusiast/Backyard Nature Station on Main Street in Tucker. From February 4 – 16, bids were taken on a variety of items that were donated by area businesses and community members, including tickets to Main Street Theatre's "Four Weddings and an Elvis," all to help fund a special project for the Tucker Butterfly Garden.

Located on Lavista Road at the Tucker Recreation Center and Browning Courthouse, the garden is a DeKalb County Master Gardener site established in 2008. "Ms. Fritillary," the seven foot scarecrow presiding over the garden, is a familiar landmark in Tucker. The educational garden provides food and habitat for pollinators, including butterflies and bees. Signage teaches visitors the life cycle of the butterfly as well as the benefits of pesticide-free gardening.

The auction was a huge success; it not only met the fundraising goal of \$5,000 but it exceeded it, much to the delight of the garden's Master Gardeners. Some of the other 'hot' items, i.e., items that generated bidding wars included a Christine Sibley garden plaque, an acrylic painting of Henderson Park by Louise Georges, a landscape consultation, and a coral bark Japanese maple. The total raised, \$7,455.51, will be used for the construction of a 100' extension of the accessible pathway including soil amendments, plants and hardscapes.

Linda Karr, a founder of both the garden and the popular birding and gardening store reported that "the auction is a win-win – a fun event that also raises funds to enhance a park that we all enjoy." Over the last five years, The Garden Enthusiast's auctions have raised \$24,500 to benefit local parks, including Kelly Cofer Park, John's Homestead, and Henderson Park Native Plant and Wildlife Walk.

Chorale II Spring Concert May 5

Chorale II, a Tucker/Northlake community chorus, will present its spring concert, "Heart Rhythms," on Sunday, May 5, 4:00 p.m., at First Baptist Church, Tucker, 5073 Lavista Road. Selections include sacred, spiritual, and American folk songs, African chants, and Broadway tunes that center around the rhythms of our hearts and our lives. The group was founded by Dr. James T. McRaney, a retired DeKalb County Schools choral director, and is directed by his former student, Peggy Ray.

Admission is free, and donations are welcome. www.choraleii.org Information: Karen Bates 770-938-0148.

Dues Are Due!

Have you seen signs around the neighborhood about SRCA dues and wondered what it's all about? Smoke Rise Community Association is an active neighborhood group that serves the more than 2000 homes that are clustered along the DeKalb County border in the City of Tucker. As you drive along Hugh Howell Road you pass a Community Garden that is fenced, has a garden shed, parking and water source. The garden not only enables neighbors to grow food for themselves, but also for the local food pantry, while offering opportunities for community fellowship.

Continue your drive along Hugh Howell and you will see 19 landscaped chimneys. The steep slope near the elementary school is also landscaped with evergreens and blooming shrubs. As you pull onto the individual streets you will notice sign toppers designating Smoke Rise, as well as "welcome" markers along the community borders. You may also have seen signs for community meetings about crime, the new Smoke Rise Elementary School, or annual meetings. There are also document shredding events, blood drives, and support for the annual neighborhood Walk to Remember, remembering young lives lost too soon in our community.

These things happen because we have an active group of volunteers spending countless hours to improve the aesthetics, branding, safety and awareness in our community. Landscaping, maintenance, and signage aren't free, but have you ever thought about what our community would be like with weeds growing at the Rosser triangle or if we had crumbling chimneys? \$35 is all that is asked of the homeowners to help maintain our neighborhoods. Currently only one third of neighbors pay their dues! \$35 a year isn't much to invest in the value of your home. So now you know. Please pay your dues because Dues are Due! \$35. And you may want to include a thank you to your SRCA for all they do to maintain the integrity of this place we all call home. Dues may be paid online at smokerise.org or mailed to: SRCA, P O Box 870793, Smoke Rise, GA 30087

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For questions, contact Pat Soltys at pat@smokeriseagents.com.



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Smoke Rise Prep: Where Everyone is Welcome!

by Sherrie Waddell

Smoke Rise Prep, Stone Mountain's best kept secret, focuses on the core values of curriculum, character, and culture. In order to shape well-rounded students, our teachers and parents create an atmosphere that aligns with those core values. One way that we accomplish this is to create a healthy balance between academic rigor and enriching activities.



In March, we celebrated Pi Day with some awesome events. We had a student and teacher pie baking contest, pi digit recitation, pi trivia, and a community drive for items to benefit the Lilburn Co-op. It was amazing to see the baking and memorization talents of the students! We culminated this day with an assembly celebrating the winners of the different events and pies in the face of the Executive Director and other willing participants. Kudos to our middle school math teachers for organizing this fun day!

Not only do we have fun activities for the kids, we also challenge them academically. Starting in 6th grade, students that qualify are able to take accelerated courses in math and language arts. By 8th grade, they are able to add Physical Science and Spanish to their load. Everyone takes at least one high school course, so they work hard and play hard. Milestones and EOC's are coming up, and we want to wish them good luck! We are confident that they will do a phenomenal job.

Are you interested in checking out more? Feel free to come to our last Open House or set up a private tour. We love visitors and welcome the opportunity to talk to you more. Open House: 4/26- 9:15 a.m.

For more information about the school, please visit our website at smokeriseprep.org or email Sherrie Waddell at sherrie@smokeriseprep.org



Happy 50th Anniversary!

Eastminster Presbyterian Preschool celebrated their 50th anniversary on Sunday, March 10. A reception was held to honor the many teachers (past and present) and volunteers (music, reading, chapel, building and grounds). Congratulations to this wonderful community preschool!



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

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

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



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Boy Scout Troop 876 News

by Jack Yang, Troop 876 Historian



One of the virtues of scouting is reverence. Reverence means a deep respect for something, but is more commonly used as a way to describe worshipping a god. We respect this virtue by going to church, mosque, synagogue, or any other place of worship. Our main sponsor for Troop 876 is the Eastminster Presbyterian Church. They graciously allow us to use their church for our troop meetings. We thank the church on a date called Scout Sunday. On this day, scouts go and worship the Lord during this occasion. This year Scout Sunday was held on February 24th. The attendance of scouts was very good. Everyone had an opportunity to go to church. This is a fun occasion for newcomers and regular worshippers. It was a good way to thank the Eastminster Presbyterian Church and worship the Lord.

If you would like to join us for fun trips, service projects and other activities, stop by one of our troop meetings at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Rd. on Mondays at 7:30 p.m., or check out our website www.bsatroop876.com.



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FODAC Announces 19th Annual Run Walk 'n' Roll

Charity event will include people with disabilities among runners, walkers and rollers

Run Walk 'n' Roll now an AJC Peachtree Road Race qualifier

Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC), a non-profit organization providing over \$10 million annually in home medical equipment (HME) and supplies to those living with disability, will hold its 19th Annual Run Walk 'n' Roll (RWnR) at Stone Mountain Park on Saturday, May 4, 2019. The family-friendly event is one of FODAC's main fundraisers. Participants can run the 5K route, or walk or roll through the two-mile course; wheelchairs, strollers and walkers are all welcome. For the first time, the 5K portion is a USA Track and Field (USATF) sanctioned event, and is a qualifying race for the 2020 AJC Peachtree Road Race.

The RWnR begins with registration and a continental breakfast at Stone Mountain's Event Meadow at 7.30 a.m.; the 5K race starts from there at 8.30 a.m., and the walk and roll starts at 9:00 a.m. There will be door prizes, face-painting, clowns and music during the event. Special guest WSB traffic reporter Doug Turnbull will emcee.

Registration costs are \$25 for participants 6 and up (children 5 and under are free). Teams of four can be registered for \$160. Paid registration includes t-shirt. Registrations before Sunday, April 28, are also eligible for free Stone Mountain Park entry. A Stone Mountain Adventure Pass is available for an additional \$25.00 (\$29.95 regular price).

Medals and prizes will be awarded to the top three male and top three female finishers in the 5K run. There are also prizes for the top individual fundraisers and the top fundraising teams. Team leaders with four or more team members get a free Stone Mountain Adventure Pass; \$50 in fundraising gets a free Stone Mountain Adventure Pass, and \$100 gets two free Stone Mountain Adventure Passes. Visit fodac.org/walk to register as a fundraiser.

Immediately following the 2-mile walk/roll is the annual raffle; tickets are 3 for \$10 and can be purchased onsite (cash only).

Sponsors for RWnR include WSB-TV Family 2 Family; Kids 'r' Kids; Emory Alliance Credit Union; DeKalb County GA; Abatek Americas, Inc.; Fraternal Order of Eagles; DaVita, Inc.; E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc.; and Mobility Works. Sponsorships are still available; please contact Leslyn Weekes at 770.491.9014 ext. 137 or leslyn.weekes@fodac.org.

Registration and other details for Run Walk 'n' Roll can be found at fodac.org/walk.



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Tucker Parks Offering Spring Break Fun

It may not be Destin or Daytona Beach, but the City of Tucker will be a happening spot this Spring Break. The City's Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a series of free events to encourage residents of all ages to get outside and discover Tucker parks.

On Monday, April 1, there will be a self-guided Photo Scavenger Hunt on the hiking trails of Henderson Park. The first 30 participants who complete the scavenger hunt and show their photos to a Parks and Recreation employee will win a free, limited edition Henderson Park t-shirt custom made by All-Pro Graphics.

That event will be followed by a Trail Mix Hike on Wednesday, April 3, through Smoke Rise Park. Ingredients for trail mix will be scattered at stations along the hiking trail. Those who complete the entire hike will have a big bag of trail mix as a reward. Hikers can participate throughout the day or join in a hike with Mayor Frank Auman starting at 7 p.m. Participants are encouraged to park at Smoke Rise Elementary School.

On Saturday, April 6, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m, Peters Park will be the site of a free basketball clinic presented by Halftime Sports. Boys and girls from kindergarten through seventh grade will work with coaches on fundamentals, participate in drills and have the chance to win prizes. Pre-registration is available at www.tuckerga.gov/parks, but participants can register upon arrival.



ART Station Opening Two Exhibits on March 30

ART Station in Stone Mountain Village will host an opening reception for two new exhibits in their galleries on Saturday, March 30, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public. In the Trolley Stop Gallery on the ground floor, "Rejuvenescence" will be showing work by three "creative spirits" including Columbus Brown, Henrietta Andrews and Joy Lyons. Their work includes photography, painting, collage and quilting. Together, their work creates a vibrant visual statement.


In the Main Gallery on the second floor, the exhibit will be the spring juried exhibit of member artists of ART Station. There are over 100 member artists entering this exhibition and competition. Marie Matthews, the juror for this exhibit is a well-known Atlanta area artist and teacher.

Everyone is invited to come to the opening reception and enjoy the artwork, along with light refreshments and an arena of good artistic will and company. ART Station is located at 5384 Manor Drive, Stone Mountain.

For more information, call 770-469-1105. Both exhibits run through May 19. www.artstation.org



Tattoo Ballerina, watercolor by Marie Matthews






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SRCA Shredding Event

The annual SRCA document shredding event will be held at Smoke Rise Elementary School on Saturday, April 20, 2019, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and extending until 1:00 p.m. or when the truck fills.

Rotary Club of Tucker's Golf Fundraiser

Calling all teams and Rotary supporters! This is our Club's third golf tournament fundraiser, and we welcome golfers of all levels to join the fun. This year's event is being held April 29th at the Summit Chase Country Club at 3197 Classic Drive in Snellville. All of the money raised stays in the Tucker community for scholarships and local projects. The cost is \$600 a foursome and includes lunch from Chick-fil-A. Complimentary beverages and snacks are provided on the course.



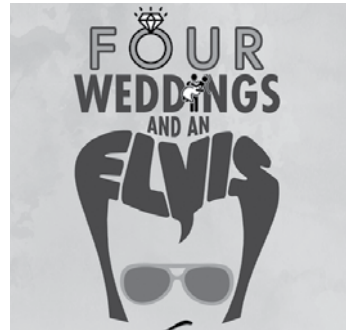
For more information contact Penny Stovall at pennystovall29@gmail.com.

April Children's/Teen Events at the Tucker Library

- Building Blocks (Storytimes for babies ages 0 to 24 months.) April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 @ 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
- Tales for 2s (Storytimes for two-year-olds.) April 3, 10, 17, 24 @ 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.
- Teen Study Time (A Tucker High School mathematics teacher will be on hand to answer questions.) April 3, 10, 17, 24 @ 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Chess for families (Drop by the library and play a game - no instruction provided) on April 4 and 18 @ 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- Read to a Pet Partner (Practice read-aloud skills by reading to a therapy dog.) (Call to schedule a 20 min. time slot.) April 11 @ 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
- Book Buddies Book Club (A book club for beginner chapter book readers - call branch and pick-up book before meeting.) April 8 @ 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Tween Homeschool Book Club (Call branch and pick-up book before meeting.) April 17 @ 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
- Homeschool Family Get-Together on April 17 @ 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- Book Ends Book Club (A book club for middle grade readers - call branch and pick-up book before meeting.) April 22 @ 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- College Admissions Exams Workshop (Ages 13 to 17 years) Tuesday, April 30 @ 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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

TUCKER ARTS GUILD
TAG now has a website: tuckerartsguild.org
Tucker Arts Guild meets January through November on the 3rd Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Tucker



Main Street Theatre cordially invites you to Four Weddings and an Elvis April 12 - 20

Sandy, the four-times-married-three-times-divorced owner of a wedding chapel in Las Vegas, has certainly seen her fair share of matrimonies! In the hilarious *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, we witness four of her funniest: Bev and Stan, Vanessa and Bryce, and Martin and Fiona. However, the final wedding is the funniest of all...

Tickets are on sale NOW!
\$15 - Adults
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Friday, April 12, 7:30
Saturday, April 13, 7:30
Sunday, April 14, 2:30
Friday, April 19, 7:30
Saturday, April 20, 2:30
Saturday, April 20, 7:30

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April 23, May 21, June 25, July 30, August 27

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College Admissions Exams Workshop

May 9 - 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Learn about the resources the library has to help you study for the SAT, ACT and AP exams. Opportunity to take a sample test will be provided. Open to the first 12 participants. Please call or visit the branch to register or register online at www.dekalblibrary.org, 770-270-8234

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GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club learns about Stone Mountain plants and wildlife



Members enjoyed a guided tour of the museum at Confederate Hall, the newly installed bee hives, and the meadows which encourage birds and pollinators. Smoke Rise residents Marty Bryan, Linda Smith, Marilyn Oatway, and Barbara Luton, were among the group learning about conservation.



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**Rotary Club of Stone Mountain
"Reads Across DeKalb" with Partner Schools**

By L.A. Dison

The National Education Association's (NEA) Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. Volunteers from Rotary Club of Stone Mountain visited some DeKalb elementary schools in March to honor Dr. Seuss's legacy by sharing some favorite books with students. RSCSM member Gene Fleeman and his wife Mary visited Smoke Rise Elementary School, then teamed with member Anresa Davis at Jolly Elementary, while member Father Doug Coil and his wife Carolyn entertained the students at Stone Mountain Elementary. This has been a popular annual event with RSCSM members and the students, and plans are already underway for expanding the club's participation for Read Across America 2020.

Lunch meetings had a special focus on member travel during the month, and two members shared some memories of trips abroad. Gene Fleeman is a missile engineering consultant, i.e. a real "rocket scientist." He lectures all over the world, and often is accompanied by Mary as they add a pleasure element to his business trip. They presented an informative slide show that spotlighted some of their many global adventures. Father Doug Coil's wife, Carolyn, planned a family trip to Cuba to research the mostly unknown paternal side of her family. Her engaging presentation described discovering her roots and visiting where her grandfather lived, died and was buried.

The Stone Mountain Club meets every Tuesday for noon lunch at the Village Corner German Restaurant and Bakery in Stone Mountain Village. Visitors are always welcome to attend as a guest of the club. To learn more about the club and upcoming programs, go to stonemountainrotary.org or follow the club on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter.

GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club FODAC Awarded Grant

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club Night Guild sponsored an evening tea and shower for a graduating Wellspring Living resident. The Enrichment Coordinator from Wellspring Living, Kerrione Phillips, gave an informational presentation about the facility and its program to the group. Wellspring Living is an organization that helps ladies transition out of the sex trafficking trade. The event was attended by 25 members. Forty-one presents and twelve gift cards were collected for the graduate. These items will give her a good start for her new life on her own. The club has been working with Wellspring for three years.

Georgia Baptist Health Care Ministry Foundation (GBHCFM) honored this year's grant recipients at its 14th Annual Grant Award Luncheon on February 7 at the Georgia Baptist Missions and Ministry Center. The GBHCFM Board honored 51 ministries throughout the state that have demonstrated effective and efficient direct health care services to their local communities. FODAC received a \$100,000 grant, which will support the non-profit's statewide mission to provide home medical equipment (HME), such as wheelchairs, hospital beds, walkers, patient lifts and shower benches, at little or no cost to those with disabilities.

"GBHCFM is both honored and blessed to provide financial support to all these ministries," said J. Robert White, president and CEO, GBHCFM. "Organizations like FODAC have demonstrated an active service that aligns with our core mission to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ through the provision of direct health care services."



Smoke Rise Elementary Librarian Amy Yang helps Rotary Club of Stone Mountain member Gene Fleeman select books for his reading assignment.




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techtalk Electronic Door Locks

by Susan Gilbert

Have you ever found yourself locked out of your own house because you forgot your keys or the door slammed behind you as you walked out? Or, have you been at work and had to come home to let someone in or help your kids when they forgot their key?

You can say goodbye to lost, stolen, or forgotten keys with today's broad array of electronic door locks. Couple these with a Ring doorbell and you will know someone is at the door and can then decide to give them the code to unlock the door. Best yet, many of today's locks have multiple lock coding systems so you can give someone a temporary code to get in that will only last for a few hours. No fear they share that with others to break into your home in the future. Best of all, the Ring doorbell lets you share information about prowlers, break-ins, or suspicious people in the neighborhood.



When I appreciated most the combination of our Ring doorbell and our electronic keypad lock was when I was out of town at a conference and was alerted by my phone chiming that someone was at the door. Upon opening the Ring app on my phone, I could see and speak with a contractor who needed to get in and do some repairs at the house. Because of the electronic door locks, I could give him a temporary code to enter. If I only had the video door bell,

I could speak with him but would not be able to easily give him access. Another advantage of the doorbell is that the person talking with me over it has no way of knowing if you are speaking from inside the house or not, which might run off intended burglars.

There are so many types and styles of electronic door locks to choose from. In general, you can get one from your favorite hardware store or door lock provider. Most are under \$100 to purchase. Getting them installed is another challenge requiring either a good DIYer or a check to someone who knows how to install them properly. Some of the more expensive ones even come with internet connectivity so you can unlock the door from wherever you are. Our new garage door opener came with that feature ... but it proved more trouble than it was worth.

For our doors, we are delighted with the stand-alone lock with a numeric keypad. It runs on 4 AA batteries that do have to be changed every few years. The lock will beep at you to remind you to change them toward end of life. At least twice a day, as we leave and return home, we are reminded how much we appreciate the convenience of our keypad lock. No more fumbling for or trying to keep up with keys. It has proven to be a real pleasure.

The Dogwood - Atlanta's Heavenly Tree

by Joel Gilbert



Wow, what a wet winter! Some say it only rained three times, but each time for 30 days! Meteorologists report that it was the second wettest winter on record with nearly 70 inches of rain. But, the signs are now clear that winter is past. Our chirping birds are back, flowers are popping up everywhere, and soon we'll see the dogwood trees that seem to show up everywhere here in Atlanta.

The first time I visited Atlanta in the spring, I couldn't believe how beautiful it was. I lived in Washington, DC, and enjoyed the cherry blossoms, but they were seen only in certain places. Here, dogwood trees seem to be everywhere ... in yards, along roadways, and sprinkled across the forest floor. Some were planted, but most were not. Visible for just a few weeks when their delicate pink or white flowers bloom, it is almost as if they were scattered about by some eternal power to remind us to appreciate the renewal of spring. That is one reason why I chose to call it the heavenly tree.

Why is it called a dogwood tree? As with all of antiquity, there are many theories and legends. Most scholars suggest it was because of how the wood was used: to make 'dags' (short for dagger, meaning short stake). Woodworkers like the dense, strong wood and use it to make tool handles, wedges, engraver's blocks, and even for golf clubs.

There is also a legend about the dogwood tree and Christianity. It is said that Jesus had a special love for dogwood trees, which in his time grew tall - the size of oaks and other forest trees. So firm and strong, it was the tree used for making crosses for crucifixions. It is said, to be used for such a cruel purpose, greatly distressed the tree. So, while on the cross, Jesus said "because of your regret and pity for My suffering, never again shall the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a cross - henceforth it shall be slender, bent and twisted and its blossoms shall be in the form of a cross ... with two long and two short petals."

Since there is no "approved" story to explain the name, I would like to propose my own. To me, dogs are the most special animals in our lives. They seem to understand us in ways hard to explain. I have always thought their name was simply God spelled backwards ... kind of like a heavenly wink reminding us that we are not alone. So, given there is no "authorized" explanation for how the dogwood got its name, I would simply like to give thankful praise to the One who we should be thanking at this time of the year for all our lives and those we share life with.

Hence my description for the dogwood in this article: Atlanta's Heavenly Tree.

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

How to “Watch” Out for Crime in Smoke Rise

Our Smoke Rise area is known to be “esthetically pleasing with lots of trees, handsome landscaping and a peaceful atmosphere... [inclusive of] many cultures, beliefs and lifestyles.” The area is unquestionably inviting. Unfortunately, like many neighborhoods throughout the country, Smoke Rise is also occasionally inviting to those who are up to no good!

There are ways residents can help reduce - and prevent – crime in our community. Our county and city governments (DeKalb and Tucker) support Neighborhood Watch (NW) programs. You’ve likely heard about these programs before (or are already part of one). They have made an impact in many areas, including Smoke Rise.

The first Neighborhood Watch crime prevention program was launched by the National Sheriffs’ Association in 1972. It still works much the same way today, sometimes with the help of technological advancements. Studies have shown NW programs are one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime in a neighborhood. The programs also improve communication and interactions between police and the community.

A Neighborhood Watch program consists of volunteers - Block Captains, a Coordinator, and the community. The program basically covers an entire community; however, with larger communities, it is recommended to break it up into sections so it’s not overwhelming to the NW Coordinators and Block Captains. It’s a communications-based program. If you “See Something, then Say Something.” (Report all suspicious activity to 911.) Donna Mann, Public Education Specialist for the Tucker Police Precinct (and our Smoke Rise contact for a Neighborhood Watch program), says the best way to start is to introduce the NW program at a community meeting. Ms. Mann often attends these kinds of meetings to provide information on NW programs, home security, and other crime awareness and prevention tips.

Some residents have shared video from home and doorbell surveillance cameras to help catch robbers (think “Ring” and other standard video alarm systems). In January 2019, Shamonta Swift, a “career criminal” was sentenced for an August 2018 burglary in our area. The resident got clear video from a surveillance camera and shared it with police.

From the DeKalb County Police Department:

“The defendant [Swift] still has two remaining cases in the DeKalb jurisdiction and pending cases in Gwinnett and Fulton Counties, but for now, and the foreseeable future, he has been taken off the streets and will remain in confinement for at least five years!”

Remember, some people, no matter what, will commit a crime. Be sure to take interest in your community, get involved, and protect your most important “investments” – your family, your friends, and your “stuff!”

To learn more about how a Neighborhood Watch program works, you can go online and search the term “DeKalb GA Neighborhood Watch Program.”

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dsmann@dekalbcountyga.gov

Tucker Yellow Dot Program

Have you thought about what the immediate aftermath of a serious crash might be? What would happen if you passed out in your bathroom? Would you be conscious? Able to speak? Able to tell first responders what medications you’re taking, any special medical considerations and who to contact?

These considerations and the importance of administering the most effective care as quickly as possible to victims led to the creation of the Yellow Dot Program. It is designed to communicate critical information to first responders when accident victims might not be able to speak for themselves.

Last May, the Tucker Civic Association’s Lifelong Community Committee rolled out the Yellow Dot Program in Tucker.

The relatively simple idea has proven to be an effective way to relay information to the emergency response teams in the event of an accident on the road or in your home.

Participants in the Yellow Dot program place a yellow sticker on the bottom left corner of their vehicle’s rear window or on an entrance door or window to their home. This sticker lets emergency response crews know to check the vehicle’s glove compartment or the refrigerator for important medical information regarding the victim.

Tucker started its Yellow Dot Program in May, 2018. Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Providers are trained to recognize the Yellow Dot.

Yellow Dot can be used in conjunction with other safety programs.

How to participate in Yellow Dot

Many groups and organizations have invited someone to their meeting to talk about Yellow Dot.

You can contact: Guy Van Ort
404.626.6580
guyvanort@kw.com

Packets are being distributed at Tucker Library, Tucker Police Precinct, Methodist Church on LaVista, and Tucker Rec Center.

ATTENTION GRADS AND BRIDES

Please send in your pictures and a brief article for publication in the *Smoke Signal*.

Email submissions to
staff@smokesignalnews.com



Daughter of Smoke Rise Resident Named South Carolina EMS Nurse of the Year

Julie Jones, daughter of Bill Jones of Smoke Rise, and the late Sunnie Jones, was recently awarded EMS Nurse of the Year for South Carolina. Julie and her father will travel to Myrtle Beach later in the month for the acknowledgement ceremony and to receive the award.

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**Mountain Shadow Garden Club Plant Sale
Saturday, April 27**

Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) will present its popular plant sale--an annual event--on Saturday, April 27, 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 selection of top quality plants will include 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 Atlanta 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.

**Smoke Rise Garden Club Golden Anniversary
Open House 1969 – 2019**

It was a festive affair! The Mayor of Tucker, Frank Aumen, and his lovely wife, Gaye, came! The President of the Garden Club of Georgia, Jane Hershey, sent an Award of Achievement Certificate and her congratulations. DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs President, Glenndolyn Hallman attended. Charter members were reunited. We received calls, emails and letters from prior members far and wide. Neighbors came. Husbands came. New officers were introduced. There was a round of cheers for our hosts, the Ramakrishnan family - Usha, Ramesh and Arun! Sara Ann Pepper, charter member who hosted the first-ever meeting in February of 1969, spoke about the club's beginnings and we watched a slide show of all the gardening projects achieved in Tucker for the last 50 years! There was so much to celebrate!



SRGC Charter Members, Sara Ann Pepper and Jean Lutz

Garden Club girlfriends got their pictures made in our homemade floral frames and photo booth. We had chocolate, lemon marmalade and wild-flower seed packet party favors. The Smoke Rise Garden Club members went "all in" preparing a beautiful buffet and decorating with homemade paper flowers, tulips and balloons.

Our 50th year is just beginning! There is so much more to come! We hope you join us as we continue to beautify our neighborhood and the city of Tucker!

Smoke Rise Garden Club is a member of the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs, The Garden Club of Georgia-Redbud District and the National Garden Club.

GEORGIA IRIS SOCIETY MEETING

The Georgia Iris Society will meet Saturday, April 13, 2019 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 Kathy Blackwell, 678 471 2604



Morning Glories Welcome New Officers

At the March 2019 meeting of the Morning Glories, club members enjoyed a colorful and creative experience with the installation of the new board. Club member and Dekalb Federation President Glenndolyn Hallman presented each incoming officer with a piece of fresh fruit representing their new role in the organization. Once everyone was installed, she combined the fruit into a beautiful cornucopia symbolizing the new leadership team. The new board consists of Joyce Ray, President; Kim Fair and Bonnie Pennington, Co-First Vice Presidents; Glenndolyn Hallman, Second Vice President; Quill Duncan, Recording Secretary; Peggy Youngblood, Corresponding Secretary; Joy Zaidan, Treasurer, and Betty Curlee, Parliamentarian. Congratulations to the new board!

Joyce Ray honored outgoing President Bonnie Pennington with a lovely gift of appreciation for her leadership over the last two years.

And one more surprise was in store at the meeting. Bonnie honored Dekalb Federation President Glenndolyn Hallman with a special proclamation and anointed her with the first ever "Order of the Daffodillies" for her outstanding accomplishments as the Federation President for the last two years.

After several rounds of applause, the club enjoyed a delicious luncheon at the Smoke Rise Country Club. The new club year begins at the April meeting with a special meeting focused on the Partnership Against Domestic Violence. If you are interested in attending a meeting, please contact Joyce Ray at 770 491-9015.



Left to right: Joyce Ray, Carolyn Woodson, Kim Fair, Joy Zaidan, Glenndolyn Hallman, Ruth Ann Hill, Marsha Pittard, Betty Curlee.

**Mountain Mums Learn About
the Concrete Jungle**

Katherine Kennedy, Executive Director of the Concrete Jungle gave the Mountain Mums Garden Club one of the most interesting talks of the year entitled "The Concrete Jungle." The Mountain Mum's March luncheon meeting was held at the home of Lynn Malone in Mountain Creek. Lynn is president of the club and a Master Gardener.

Atlanta is known as a 'city in the middle of a forest' and has one of the most dense tree canopies in the U.S. with over 50% of the city covered. This fact, along with the knowledge that the South is one of the poorest areas of the country, led a small band of friends to come up with an idea that would help those who are food insecure or hungry, have better, fresher, healthier food options.

The Concrete Jungle began by locating fruit trees (apples were the first to be found) all over the city that were neglected and unpicked. Many of these trees are on roadsides, medians and alleyways. Some are in yards and the fruit is a 'nuisance'. The group has mapped over 3,000 fruit trees and collected more than 300,000 servings of fruit to donate to food pantries and food banks. Along with their farm endeavor this equals the donation of 93,000 pounds of fresh produce. They pick, with the help of volunteers -apples, pears, serviceberries, plums - plus a whole list of other types of fruit trees all over the city.

The 501C3 organization has now expanded its efforts to develop a unique farm called Doghead Farm. In Southwest Atlanta the farm grows produce in 18 x 2 foot ditches that are filled with logs and debris to keep the water available for plants. They farm 5,000 pounds of vegetables - winter squash, turnips, eggplant, kale, carrots, tomatoes, radishes and cucumbers, and more - on one half acre.

The organization also hosts "adventure picks", where, for example, 30 volunteers picked 14-15,000 lbs. of corn. Food pantries and foodbanks, meet the trucks and pick up the produce at the site. They also have 'Fishes and Loaves' classes at Grant Park for cooking, taste testing and soup preparation, which is a way to help people become more familiar with little known fruits and veggies like paw-paw and fennel.

The Concrete Jungle partners with Georgia Tech and other organizations to develop technology wonders like 'noses' that can smell when apples are ripe and sensors the note the 'bend' of the tree branches to determine when they may be ripe. This keeps volunteers from having to check over 3,000 trees across the city to see when the fruit is pick-able.

Finally, the Concrete Jungle hosts fun events like 'Cider-fests', 'weed dating' (pick weeds, meet a potential date). You can find out more about Concrete Jungle by going to concrete-jungle.org.

The Mountain Mums meets next month, April 10 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Rene Boven. We plan to tour her outside garden as part of the program. Please join us! Call Debra Jones at 678-260-7806 for more information.



Mountain Mum's March Meeting hostesses: Shannon Betsill & daughter, Brownyn; Lynn Malone; Connie Henry; and Beth Henson on March 13th at the home of Lynn Malone

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: All inquiries regarding advertising should be directed to: Classified and display ads: Harry Strack, tigertaxstrack@att.net. 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 by email a copy of ad to tigertaxstrack@att.net. Deadline is the 10th of each month. ADS NEED TO BE PREPAID. Checks should be made out to *Smoke Signal* and mailed to P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085. When submitting classified ads, please include your full name, address, and phone number. This information is for our records only! For classified ads, contact Harry Strack tigertaxstrack@att.net.
For information on display (box) advertisements or flyer inserts, see contact information on page 2.

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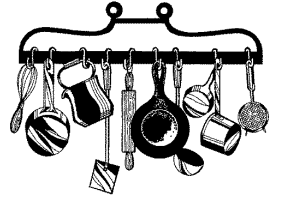
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Amen, Let's Eat!

by Joyce Ray



The Incredible Egg

Eggs are one of the most nutritional foods available to us. They are packed with a powerful amount of protein that will benefit every diet, are enclosed in their own protective container, last a long time in the refrigerator, are economical and can be prepared quickly. Chances are you will see deviled eggs on your family's Easter menu, and it is such a basic recipe that anyone can make them. The only dilemma that's left to solve is the egg aisle at the grocery store as we are provided with many more choices, prices and varieties of eggs than ever before. What's the difference? Let's explore:

Conventional eggs: These are your standard eggs that are branded by your supermarket. The hens that lay them are caged and usually fed grain supplemented with vitamins and minerals.

Omega-3-enriched eggs: Similar conditions to conventional eggs but the chicken feed is supplemented with an omega-3-source like flax seeds.

Organic eggs: The hens were not treated with hormones or antibiotics and receive organic feed. They have enough outside access to be considered "cage free".

Pastured cage-free eggs: Chickens roam free and eat their natural diet of plants and insects supplemented by commercial food.

Chocolate Eggs: Delicious convection that is available in any flavor filling that suits your taste. These are likely to comprise the highest consumption of eggs over the week of Easter.

The only sure way to know which of the above conditions apply to the eggs you buy is to get them directly from the farm or provider.

Basic Deviled Eggs

Everyone "swears by" their own method of boiling an egg. Cook them too long and the yolks will be a lovely shade of grey green with the consistency of a pencil eraser. Not cooking long enough will result in runny yolks. Methods for hard boiled eggs that I have checked out vary in cooking times from 8 to 12 minutes. Most recommend room temperature eggs that are dropped into enough rapidly boiling water to fully cover the eggs. Reduce to medium heat, cover the pot and allow them to boil for 8 minutes. Remove pot from heat, remove eggs and plunge them into ice water for a few minutes before peeling. The basic recipe for six "deviled" eggs is:

Cut peeled eggs lengthwise and remove yolk. To mashed yolks, add 1/3 cup mayonnaise, 1 tsp. mustard, 1/2 tsp. salt and pepper. Depending on the size of the eggs you might need to adjust the amount of mayonnaise for a creamy texture. Fill egg halves with a spoon or cut the corner from a plastic sandwich bag, spray the interior of the bag with cooking oil spray, fill with egg mixture and "pipe" into the shells. Ingredients to add to the egg mixture could include: Bacon, celery, sweet pickle relish, diced pimentos, goat cheese, smoked salmon or any other favorite ingredient. Decorate the top with sprigs of parsley or sprinkle on the paprika. Older eggs are easier to shell due to the membrane that surrounds the egg which becomes denser with age. Begin peeling egg from the large end where the "pocket" of air resides. Cooked boiled eggs will last up to one week in the refrigerator in the shell and a couple of days out of shell. My best advice if you are unsure of cooking time is to experiment with boiling a few eggs before you agree to provide all the deviled eggs for Easter lunch.

Cracking the Carton Code:

Notice all the numbers on the end of your egg carton. The "sell by" date is the date the store must remove them from the shelves. Eggs are consumable for at least 10 days after that date. If you are buying fresh eggs from a local farmer, be sure the dates on the cartons are correct.

Speaking of cracking, NEVER use an egg that is cracked in the carton. Once the shell is cracked bacteria can get in the shell and have a field day multiplying. Always open the carton before buying the eggs to be sure they are all intact. If you accidentally crack an egg once you bring them home, you can take it out of the shell and store in a plastic container for up to two days and then use it only for baking. Never store the broken shell with the egg.

May you have an EGGceptionally blessed and Happy Easter with your loved ones.

For flowers that bloom about our feet, for tender grass, so fresh, so sweet, For song of bird, and hum of bee, for all things fair we hear or see, For blue of stream and blue of sky, for pleasant shade of branches high, For fragrant air and cooling breeze, for beauty of the blooming trees, Father in heaven, we thank Thee. Amen, Let's Eat!

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



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