

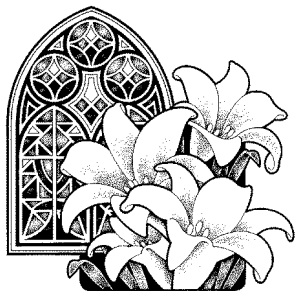
# SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 1

*Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968*

April, 2018

www.smokesignalnews.com



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

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## Smoke Rise Prominent in Georgia Films

by Jenny Hall

In light of the movie industry being a more-or-less constant presence in Smoke Rise, the Village and Stone Mountain Park, the CEO and CFO of a yet-unnamed studio have announced plans to audition a specific demographic population for a new action-packed zombie film entitled "When Zombie Met Caddy."



Clark Gable and Vivian Leigh will appear as zombies (naturally) who awaken from their war-torn Atlanta to find themselves at the corner BP with a microwaved pizza slice in her hand and a scratch-off ticket in his. Confused and still hungry, they determine to make their way up Hugh Howell Road, battling the ferocious turn-lane poles of spongy death. (These dramatic scenes of zombie entanglement will be shot with stunt doubles because zombies are afraid of yellow paint.) The journey they make up Hugh Howell Road is fraught with dangerous zombie possums, skunks, and occasional golf carts driven by lost country club members. Rumor has it that the scenes of dexterous cart driving through the turn-lane poles approach "Star Wars" proportions of grandeur, speed and awe.

Try-outs will be held in April in the parking lot of the bowling alley and parts to be filled include the following:

- Bewildered convenience store clerk
- Sassy, snappy microwave operator  
(must be able to chew gum and make it snap while talking and twirling strands of hair)
- Grumpy golf cart drivers - male and female. (Winter golfing attire required.)
- Surly cabbies
- Zombie skunk
- Dead possum

In order to create the most confusion, the film will be shot in late August and residents whose homes face Hugh Howell will be asked to allow snow machines to cover their homes and lawns with sleet and ice. Homeowners will be paid for their cooperation by being hosted at a gala pizza party held at Harry Strack's house when he finds out. Bring your own pizza.

The Smoke Rise Triangle on Rosser Road will be the location for all garden club members to convene and build snow zombies. Appropriate zombie attire is required. Be creative!

Authorities will give all residents a 72-hour notice of the close-down of Hugh Howell so that everyone can make alternate travel plans for work and school. Alternate routes and detours will be placed in such a way as to cause as much inconvenience and anger as possible and should result in us all being fired or ending up in New Jersey someplace. For instance, getting your child to school will be quite simple if you live on Deer Ridge. You will simply need to go to Lawrenceville, wing back to Athens, come through Grayson and circle up to the base of Hugh Howell Road, where you will be refused entrance. Kanawha will be closed. New Jersey is looking better and better.

Georgia, and our area in particular, is growing by leaps and bounds as the movie industry discovers our open spaces, quaint towns and ample dead possums. Don't miss this chance to be a part of this epic film. More information can be attained by emailing april1@gotcha.nuts.

## SRCA Board Update

The most recent SRCA board meetings were held on February 19 and March 19, 2018 and focused on finishing the annual membership campaign, laying the project groundwork and approving the budget for 2018, and preparing for the March 27 annual public membership meeting and the April 21 document shredding event. Detailed information regarding finances and projects was provided at the March 27 meeting and will be in the ensuing May edition of the *Smoke Signal*.

## MUMS Make Memorial Triangle Marvelous!

by Rene` Boven

There is a lovely triangle garden at the intersection of Hugh Howell Road and Hwy 78 (East/West) ramps. Have you ever noticed it? Or, perhaps, you have seen it but thought that it was brought to us by the GA DOT??



Well, this is a memorial garden, now known as the "Memorial Triangle of Trees", that the Mountain Mums Garden Club started in 2007 to commemorate the lives of seven young, beautiful community members who lost their lives in automobile accidents. A special sign marker is on site with this information.

The garden features seven Japanese Magnolias, spring flowering trees that are planted in a circle honoring Julian Carter, Brandon Hubbard, Ben Lories, Mandi Smith, Brandon Stovall, Matt Taylor and Charlie Wellman. And, in the center of the circle, is another tree that signifies HOPE.....promoting the importance of organ donation and safe/non-distracted driving. NO TEXTING while driving signs are posted at the garden and in the area to promote this very important message. The garden also features other

*...continued on page 2*

## Annual Document Shredding Event

Please take advantage of the free, secure, immediate document shredding event to be held on Saturday April 21, 2018 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Smoke Rise Elementary School and ending at 1:00 p.m. or earlier, if the truck fills. 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 our elementary school leadership. Please segregate your paper waste from binders, cardboard, plastic bags and metals as these cannot be shredded.

## SRCA 2018 Dues

The SRCA annual dues campaign is approaching its end-stage with the direct mailing just delivered and the strategic posting of a dozen sign reminders. If you've already paid dues in response to a previous appeal, the SRCA thanks you. Otherwise, please consider supporting SRCA and its 2018 projects. Please refer to smokerise.org for PayPal and stay tuned for details of the annual membership meeting.



## Smoke Signal

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

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### April Calendar of Events

- 1 HAPPY EASTER!
- 2 Smoke Rise Garden Club meeting at Paula Adeoba McEvoy's house
- 5 Tucker Farmer's Market opens for the season, 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- 9 Mountain Shadow Garden Club Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Mtn. Mums meeting at Custom Crafts in Tucker, 9:45 a.m.
- 19 Tucker Arts Guild meeting, First Baptist Church of Tucker, Building B, Church Street entrance, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Shredding event at Smoke Rise Elementary, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- 21 Tucker Plant Swap, Tucker First Baptist Church 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. rain or shine.
- 21 Mountain Shadow Garden Club Plant Sale Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- 21 Smoke Rise Garden Club Plant Sale, Smoke Rise Baptist Church parking lot, in the morning
- 28 Stn. Mtn. Woman's Club Day of Service Mountain Park Kroger, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- 28 Iris Show and Sale, St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church 1790 LaVista Rd. NE, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- 28 FODAC's Run, Walk and Roll, Stone Mountain Park Registration starts at 7:30 a.m.

## 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!



**Tucker Historical Society's  
17th Annual  
Plant Swap & Share**  
Saturday, April 21  
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
rain or shine.

**BRING PLANTS,  
TAKE PLANTS!**

All plants will find a home...but please leave your English Ivy, kudzu and nandina in your own yard. (Donations welcome.) Meet your neighbors, enhance your environment, have fun and learn about plants.

Tickets for the Garden Tour will be on sale! Come out and enjoy a fun day!

The Plant Swap will be at the Tucker First Baptist Church parking lot at LaVista Road and Fourth Street.

### Triangle... continued from page 1

plantings and flowers, and some garden art to make this a truly lovely memorial garden in our community.

On Wednesday, March 7, several Mums and a member's husband, did some necessary garden management to the triangle. Special thanks to Debra Adams, Heather and Larry McClendon, Mary Lou Still, Lucy White and Sally Young for cutting back the pampas grass, bagging it up, pruning the roses, cutting back the liriop and mums, and for weeding. There will be another work day soon and volunteers are always welcome! As it warms up, watering is always needed too if it's been particularly dry.

So, the next time that you pass the triangle and see this pretty garden, know that it has meaning besides the beauty it brings this community. Special thanks to the Mountain Mums for this marvelous memorial and maintaining it for us.

*"There's a very special garden where the plants of memory grow, nurtured by the kindness and concern that loved ones show. The roots are cherished memories of good times in the past; the branches tender promises that souls endure and last."*  
(from Memory's Lovely Garden)

## 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

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

Holy Week Schedule:

Maundy-Thursday March 29

7:00 p.m.: Service of Holy Communion (Chapel)

Good Friday March 30

7:00 p.m.: Community Worship Service

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Easter April 1

9:45 a.m.: Sunday School

11:00 a.m.: Worship in the Sanctuary

All are welcome!

## Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

Telephone (770) 469-4881  
[www.eastminster.us](http://www.eastminster.us)

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

Sundays:

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

Communion:

First Sunday of each month

Wednesdays:

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

## MC3 Church

**(formerly Mount Carmel Christian Church)**

Senior Minister: Art Stansberry  
Worship Minister: Leslie Riley  
Student Minister: Will Tyler  
Coordinator of Kids Ministry - Jim Barber  
Telephone (770) 279-8437  
6015 Old Stone Mountain Rd., Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
[www.mc3.life](http://www.mc3.life)

**MC3 Church (formerly Mount Carmel Christian Church) launches on Easter Sunday. Please join us to celebrate the risen Savior!**

Sundays: 8:30 a.m. Coffee/ Doughnuts/ Fellowship  
9:30 a.m. Life Group Classes – Adults & Children  
10:30 a.m. Worship

First Wednesday 5:30 p.m. Family meal and worship service  
All other Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. -- Life Groups on campus

## First Moravian Church

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

Sundays:

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

## Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

## Mountain West Church

Pastor: Michael Shreve  
Worship Arts Pastor: Gary Robinson  
Telephone (770) 491-0228  
[www.mwchurch.com](http://www.mwchurch.com)  
4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain  
Service Times 8:30 a.m., 10:15 a.m., 12:00 p.m.



**Mark Your Calendar...**

**Spring ARTucker**

Saturday May 5th, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Tucker Recreation Center

Purchase original artwork made by over 50 local artists. This family-friendly event features painters, potters, photographers, jewelers, and more. Free face painting for the kids. Music and food too! A fun day for all.

**THE 16th ANNUAL TUCKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY GARDEN TOUR**

Saturday, May 21st, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Rain or Shine

This is our most popular annual event, and it gets better every year. Explore some of Tucker's most amazing hidden treasures.

The tour will include FIVE gardens plus the Butterfly Garden at Tucker Recreation Center. Browning Courthouse will be OPEN to tour guests.

Tickets will go on sale at the Plant Swap and at the following outlets in Tucker: The Garden Enthusiast, the Custom Frame Shop and Tucker Flower Shop. Ticket prices are: \$15.00 in advance; and \$20.00 on the day of the tour. Individual garden tickets will be available for \$3.00 at the gardens.

**Tucker Farmer's Market**  
2333 Main Street

The Tucker Farmer's Market will open for the season on Thursdays beginning April 5th from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Come shop for fresh produce, farm-raised meats, and locally prepared foods, and enjoy live music while shopping!

**Top 10 Things Members Love About the Summit Swim & Tennis Club**

There has never been a better time to join The Summit Swim & Tennis Club... and here are ten reasons why our members come back year after year:

10. Certified lifeguards
9. No crowds and family-friendly
8. Newly resurfaced pool
7. The kids can use floats & pool toys
6. Saline pool filtration system is gentler on swimsuits and skin than chlorine
5. Members can bring guests
4. Order pizza and have it delivered poolside or bring your own food and use the grill
3. Social activities for the entire family
2. Two words: Diving Board
1. Most of all... It's FUN!

The Summit Swim & Tennis Club, located on Silver Hill Road, boasts extended pool hours: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily, Friday & Saturday nights swim till 10:00 p.m., secure electronic access for members, covered pavilion with picnic tables, family social events, fenced play area, diving board, saline filtration system and off-street parking. The pool will be open 7 days a week beginning Memorial Day weekend.

The Summit Swim & Tennis Club family early bird registration fees are \$365 Pool only or \$410 Pool & Tennis now through April 30. Rates increase May 1 to \$390 Pool only or \$430 Pool & Tennis. Additional membership options are \$275 Tennis only or Single Adult AM Swim membership is \$175. Pool memberships run Memorial Day weekend through September 9, and Tennis memberships run May 1 through April 30.

With these great benefits and a newly resurfaced pool, this is the year to join The Summit! Register now for a summer full of fun for the entire family! Online payment & checks are accepted. Visit us online at thesummitatmokerise.com or follow us on Facebook. For more information contact Jena Gress, Membership Chair, at smokerisesummitpool@gmail.com



**Chorale II Spring Concert**  
**4:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 6**

CHORALE II, the premier community choral ensemble of East DeKalb, will present its 12th annual Spring Concert. The concert is open to the public, and will be presented at Briarlake Baptist Church at 3715 Lavista Road near Northlake Mall. The concert will feature Atlanta's Arietha Lockhart as guest artist in several solos for soprano and choir. The orchestra from Briarlake Baptist Church, directed by Susan Purcell, will accompany the Chorale on several traditional selections as well as perform independently.

The concert honors the retirement of Musical Director James T. McRaney, who completes 60 years as a professional conductor. Dr. McRaney has held choral positions in Georgia's public schools, colleges and universities, in addition to serving in several local churches. In 2006, he founded CHORALE II around a nucleus of former students from having taught for 25 years in DeKalb County Schools. Dr. McRaney has also served as President of the Georgia and the Southern Music Educator associations, and on the Executive Board of MENC, the national music educators' organization. He was also named Georgia's Teacher of the Year for 1983. In addition to many local concerts, CHORALE II has taken three concert tours abroad including Great Britain, Ireland, Italy and Austria. The group performed in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and St. Paul's Cathedral in London; along with cathedrals in Vienna and Salzburg, Austria; Dublin and Cork, Ireland; York and Coventry, England; and Edinburgh Castle in Scotland.

The public is cordially invited to this celebration of Dr. McRaney's lifetime commitment to choral music.

**Patsy Cline at ART STATION**

April 5-15

Experience a theatrical concert of country music pioneer, Patsy Cline, as performed by Georgia singer Michelle Martin. Martin has appeared as Cline all over the country. Cline is recognized as one of music's most influential voices, with hits such as "Walkin' After Midnight," "I Fall to Pieces," and the iconic, "Crazy." Come enjoy these and more!

Call the box office at 770-469-1105 for information.



**Adult Classes at ART Station**

Writing – Nancy Knight's "Writing Novels for Today's Readers." This class is designed to help unpublished writers take that next step to publishing. Classes begin April 16 and will run for five Monday nights, 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Painting – Oil Painting for Beginning and Intermediate artists. Classes begin April 17 and will run for five Tuesday nights, 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Paint n' Party – Bring your favorite wine or other drink and snacks for an evening of fun and painting. The subject for this Paint 'n Party will be a sea shell in the surf. April 25, 6:30 to 9 pm.

Call 770-469-1105 to sign up or for more information.



**IRIS SHOW AND SALE**  
 presented by the  
**GEORGIA IRIS SOCIETY**

Member of  
 The Dekalb Federation  
 of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
 In cooperation with  
 THE AMERICAN  
 IRIS SOCIETY

**Saturday, April 28, 2018**  
**Judging 9:00 -10:30AM**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
 11am - 4pm

"CALENDAR OF IRIS"  
 A STANDARD  
 FLOWER SHOW  
 Kathy Blackwell –  
 (678) 471 2604

Free Entry and Admission

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 ATLANTA, GA. 30329

**Tucker Library Programs**

Building Blocks  
 (ages 0-24 months)  
 Tuesdays, 9:00-10:00 a.m.  
 April 3, 10, 17, 24

Tales for 2s  
 (for 2 year olds)  
 Wednesdays  
 April 4, 11, 18, 25  
 9:30-10:00 a.m.

Book Ends Book Club  
 (A book club for middle-grade readers)  
 Monday, April 2  
 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Teen After School Movies  
 (for ages 13 to 17)  
 Tuesday, April 3  
 4:00--5:30 p.m.

Homeschool Family  
 Get-Together, April 18  
 (ages 6 years and over)  
 1:00-3:00 p.m.

All Ages Open Mic!  
 (Ages 0 and over)  
 Tuesday, April 10  
 5:30-7:30 p.m.

For more information, call  
 770.270.8234, ext. 2312

**FODAC 18th Annual**  
**Run Walk 'n' Roll**  
**Saturday, April 28**  
**at Stone Mountain Park**

FODAC's Run Walk 'n' Roll is a five mile race (two mile walk) through Stone Mountain Park, starting and ending in front of Confederate Hall. The family-friendly event is one of FODAC's main fundraisers. Participants can run, walk or roll through the course; wheelchairs, strollers and walkers are all welcome. The morning includes a continental breakfast, music, door prizes, clowns, and more!



WSB airborne reporter Doug Turnbull serves as the emcee for this year's event.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. with the race start at 8:30 a.m. and the walk/roll at 9:00 a.m.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers in the run, as well as for the top three individual and top three team fundraisers.

Registration cost is \$25 (children 5 and under are free with an adult registration). Paid registration includes t-shirt and, for registrations prior to April 13, a Stone Mountain Park entry. A Stone Mountain Adventure Pass is available for an additional \$25.00 (\$29.95 regular price).

You can help raise funds for FODAC by setting up a fundraising team. 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.

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

Registration and other details for RWnR can be found at [fodac.org/walk](http://fodac.org/walk) or by calling 770.491.9014.



**Smoke Rise Baptist Church**  
**18th Annual Car Show**  
**Saturday, May 5**  
**9 a.m.--3 p.m.**  
**No Entrant Fee**  
**Call 678-533-0556**  
**if you have questions**

**Belinda Belvin, REALTOR®**

As a Smoke Rise native and a Realtor in the area, my knowledge of the area and of the market are unparalleled.

My mission is to market your home to get the maximum price current real estate markets will allow, through a multifaceted marketing campaign that renders broad exposure for your home. Call today to see how I can assist you in selling your current home or buying your next dream home!



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**WEDDINGS**



**LEE~BOONE**

Matthew Alexander Lee, son of Ron and Shelley Lee of Smoke Rise, married Abigail “Abby” Kathleen Boone on Saturday, August 19, 2017, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Buckhead. Abby is the daughter of Troy and Maryjane Boone of Cumming. A dinner and dancing reception was held

afterwards at the Biltmore Ballrooms. Matthew received a B.A. in religion from Samford University in Birmingham and a Master’s in Theology from Emory University, where he received the Boone M. Bowen Award for academic excellence in Biblical Hebrew. Abby received a B.S. in exercise science from Samford University and a Master’s degree, summa cum laude, from the School of Health Professions at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. She is a Certified Physician Assistant. The couple is currently living in Decatur.

**Tennis at Smoke Rise Country Club**

Smoke Rise Country Club congratulates the Senior Mixed Tennis ALTA Team captained by Eddie Still of Spencer’s Mountain for winning the B-7 division this winter. They advanced to the semi-finals in ALTA playoffs before losing to the champion of the division. Speaking of tennis, we welcome your children to come join our amazing tennis, sports and golf camps scheduled for this summer. Currently over 70 children are in our juniors tennis program and we keep them engaged, interested in sports and best of all we make it fun!



This summer will be action packed at Smoke Rise and we invite you to learn more about our summer camps and current limited-time membership specials by contacting membership at 770-908-2582 ext. 4 or email athmcdaniel@smokerisecc.com

**Tucker City Council Wrap-Up**

Tucker’s City Council held the first of two scheduled March meetings on Monday night, March 12, hearing staff presentations on two major issues.

The first presentation, given by City Engineer Ken Hildebrandt, provided a review of proposed paving areas to be funded by Tucker’s SPLOST allocation. Questioning from Council surrounded how the pavement conditions of roads would be scored, as well as how subdivision roads would be grouped for repaving. Specific decisions on those items could be made at the March 26 Council meeting.



Parks and Recreation Director Rip Robertson then led a discussion on how Council wants to approach an official policy for Parks and Recreation. Council asked questions involving room rentals at Tucker Recreation Center and got an update on how things have changed at the Rec Center since the City assumed responsibility at the start of 2018.

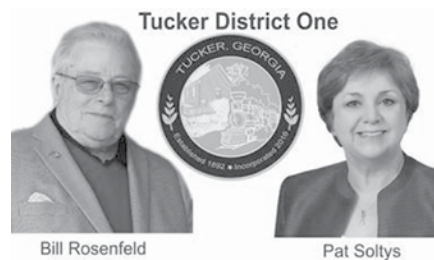
Council then heard a report from City Manager Tami Hanlin on an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with DeKalb County on parks. The IGA ensures:

- Tucker will have the same rights that the County did as property owners
- DeKalb County will prorate 0.4 mils to Tucker to help fund Tucker’s parks
- There will be a separate agreement with the County on storm water management

Council voted 6-0 to give the Mayor the authority to approve the agreement with the County. DeKalb’s Board of Commissioners is expected to take up the IGA at their meeting on Tuesday.

One agenda item, which seeks to approve amendments to zoning districts in the City Zoning Ordinance, was deferred by a 6-0 vote.

The City Council will meet next on March 26. That meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the City Hall Annex (4228 First Avenue).



Your council representatives, Bill Rosenfeld and Pat Soltys hosted an information and organization meeting for our parks at Smoke Rise Country Club. About 20 residents attended. Carlton “Rip” Robertson, City of Tucker Director of Parks and Recreation gave a brief update on the acquisition of the parks from DeKalb County which began with the purchase of the Rec Center on January 1, 2018 and will continue through the second quarter. City Council approved three bids for maintenance of park land and facilities on March 12.

Beth Ganga spoke about the structure of the Friends of the Parks groups. There are individual groups for all but the three parks in Smoke Rise. Those are currently under Friends of Smoke Rise Parks. All Tucker parks are under the umbrella group, Friends of Tucker Parks (<http://tuckerparks.org>). The umbrella allows all parks the benefit of 501C3 status as well as a bank account with sub accounts for each group, park and project. Donations can be targeted rather than general by information put in the memo line of the check. Beth serves as treasurer.

Joe Scarpaci, president, extended an invitation to all to attend the Friends of Tucker Parks meetings. There are many other benefits from the Friends of Tucker Parks including equipment, event information, fund raising and expertise. Tucker is currently working on renewing a contract with Parks Pride which offers tools, services, expertise, corporate giving and grants for parks groups. Honey Van De Kreke attended the meeting and gave her perspective and information from her role on the Parks Bond Advisory Committee.

The spirit in the room was wonderful with ideas mainly focused on developing the largest park known as the Lord property with picnic tables, a walking path that would be senior friendly and a playground. Georgia Lord spoke about her commitment to the memory of her parents who had owned the land. We had people stepping up to volunteer, donate and a corporate representative bringing substantial resources. We will initiate an email distro list to keep anyone interested informed. If you want to be on the list or volunteer – please send your email address to [psoltys@tuckerga.gov](mailto:psoltys@tuckerga.gov). We still have a lot of work to do and volunteers will be needed in many capacities. We need to make sure that the leadership and communications are in place as well as a website. We are off to a great start, let’s keep the momentum going.

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**The Tucker Civic Association (TCA) – What Do They Do?**

In 1984 the East Tucker Civic Association was formed to address community issues. Members were mainly from the Lawrenceville Highway corridor area from Lavista Road to the Gwinnett County line. In 1995 community participation in the Association began growing rapidly, as it became more involved in larger rezoning and land use issues and reorganized into a not-for-profit corporation, the Tucker Civic Association (TCA).



TCA is a 501 (c)(4) volunteer organization of residents and business owners located in Tucker, Georgia. Its purpose is to promote the health, safety and welfare of Tucker residents by:

- preserving the small-town atmosphere and enhancing the sense of community within Tucker
- developing, maintaining and promoting a strategic plan for the betterment of the community
- maintaining the integrity of the residential areas and supporting positive improvements and enhancements to assist the residents with code compliance and informing residents of the status of overlay and strategic plans
- assisting in the improvement of existing commercial areas and encouraging a vibrant local economy
- monitoring planning, land use, zoning, code enforcement, parks and green space, public safety, community building and any other issues that might arise affecting Tucker
- informing and educating community members so that they can make informed decisions and take appropriate action to protect their rights and interests
- communicating with the City of Tucker, DeKalb County Commission, State of Georgia, Atlanta Regional Commission and other relevant organizations and governing bodies on behalf of the Tucker Community

The current president of the TCA is a Smoke Rise resident, Bob Espy, and Smoke Rise’s representative on the TCA board is Frank Luton.

As the City of Tucker has formed and continues to move rapidly along, the TCA has become even more important as its partner. President Espy has often said, “Tucker is the best location to live, work, and play in all of Atlanta. Great well-built homes with large yards and convenient to everything in the Atlanta metro area, Tucker offers a wide variety of housing, restaurants, and a wonderful sense of community. We look forward to many events where we can partner with other organizations to make Tucker the Best of the Best. We have already partnered with the Tucker Business Association, the Smoke Rise Community Association, the Tucker Main Street Alliance, the DeKalb Association of Realtors, our local schools, and many of the churches in the area.”

There are a number of volunteering opportunities to get involved in....

- ” Give An Hour” service projects
- protecting our parks, greenspaces and waterways (Rivers Alive)
- the Tucker Lifelong Community (TLC) initiative
- the annual Veteran’s Job Fair
- monitoring and promoting public safety.

For additional information please visit the TCA web site, [www.tuckercivic.org](http://www.tuckercivic.org). Annual membership is only \$35 and you can join either on-line at the TCA web site or mail your check to Tucker Civic Association, P.O. Box 1916, Tucker, Georgia 30085.

Please consider becoming a TCA member and participating in its activities and projects.

**MILITARY HONORS**

Curtis B. Nelson, son of Steve and Cindy Nelson of the Forest, was promoted to Major in the United States Army on March 1, 2018. The ceremony took place at the Air Force Institute of Technology in Dayton, Ohio, where Curt is on assignment in a graduate program studying Operations Research. Curt has served in the Army since his graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 2007. He has had three deployments in Afghanistan as an aviation platoon leader, a special operations aviation liaison officer, and as a company commander of a UH-Blackhawk company. After his recent command at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, he relocated to Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton for his present assignment.



He has had three deployments in Afghanistan as an aviation platoon leader, a special operations aviation liaison officer, and as a company commander of a UH-Blackhawk company. After his recent command at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, he relocated to Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton for his present assignment.

Curt is a 2003 graduate of Tucker High School. He and his wife, Courtney, and daughter, Gemma, reside in Huber Heights, Ohio.

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### Silent Auction Benefits Tucker's Kelley Cofer Park

by Rene' Boven

The Garden Enthusiast/Backyard Nature Station of Main Street Tucker recently held their



annual Silent Auction which each year benefits a Tucker park. This year the auction's funds raised will benefit Kelley Cofer Park.

Linda Karr, owner of The Garden Enthusiast, reported that over 171 items were featured and 115 bidders participated. Some of the featured items included a "Life is Better in Tucker" sign, a juke box loaded with tunes, a stained glass fireplace screen, wind chimes, art work and furniture for the garden. Mrs. Karr said that "we raised over \$7,000 between this auction and the one in November."

Kelley Cofer Park is located at 4259 N Park Drive in Tucker. The park features numerous nature paths, a variety of habitats ranging from wetlands to forest that are perfect for bird watching, a pollinator garden where you can watch butterflies go through their life cycles, and The Peach Pit – a planting of peach and nectarine trees. This park is supported by the Friends of Kelley Cofer Park and they strive to make the park more environmentally friendly, ecologically sound, aesthetically pleasing, educationally enlightening and a safe place for recreational activities.

If you've never visited this park, take advantage of the spring weather and this jewel of a park in Tucker. We are blessed to have such green space and nature in the heart of our community.

### Sprouting Soon: The Smoke Rise Community Garden!

Plans are underway to rejuvenate the Smoke Rise Community Garden. Now that the garden land has been purchased by a generous garden angel, it is the perfect opportunity to evaluate the organization and layout of the physical garden space. Eileen Stone is coordinating efforts to raze the current garden space and start fresh. Lyle Collins, owner of Southern Trillium Landscaping, is volunteering his expertise to put together a garden plan that will hopefully become a focal point of the Smoke Rise Community.



Overgrown and neglected-BUT not for long!

The future plan is to have a layout that is easy to maintain, accessible to all members of our community and aesthetically pleasing to the eye. The entrance will be moved to encourage garden members to park behind the fence line. A fountain, designated pollinator planting beds and a children's digging area are new features included in the plans. The food pantry beds, bee hives and compost bins are several features that will remain. The fee for a garden bed for 2018 will be \$60. For garden updates, please join the Smoke Rise Community Garden Facebook group. If you are interested in joining the garden this year, please contact Eileen Stone (cell) 404-583-3091 or srgarden@smokerise.org.

She is working to comprise an email distribution list for all members in order to accommodate those not active on facebook. Loam wasn't built in a day-come join us!

### Read Across America Week at Smoke Rise Elementary

February 26 through March 2, 2018 marked Smoke Rise Elementary School's Read Across America/Dr. Seuss Activity Week. Media Specialist, Mrs. Beverly Yang, organized activities that truly engaged students in their quest to be reader leaders.

Throughout the week, students and teachers dressed as Dr. Seuss characters. Another activity was the daily trivia. The first three classes to turn in the correct answer earned one point for that day. Pre-K through 2nd and 3rd through 5th grade classes with the most points at the end of the week won the ultimate ice cream party. As an added twist, one of the trivia questions counted as a double, so it was anyone's guess as to who would be the ultimate winner.

Smoke Rise Elementary School also engaged in reading through QR code posters. Each QR code was linked to a Dr. Seuss book. Classes scanned the posters and enjoyed a Dr. Seuss book that was read aloud to them.

To close out our reading celebration week, our wonderful cafeteria staff served Green Eggs and Ham on Dr. Seuss's birthday, March 2nd. Thank you to everyone who participated and made this a fun reading event for Smoke Rise Elementary School. It was genuinely a week that caused Smoke Rise Elementary School's students to reflect on their love of reading.

### Plant Sale Scheduled for April 21

Mountain Shadow Garden Club will present its popular plant sale - an annual event - on Saturday, April 21, 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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**Stone Mountain and Tucker Rotary Clubs**

The Rotary Clubs of Tucker and Stone Mountain continue to "Make a Difference" with their focuses on helping those with disabilities and local elementary students.

In February, the Rotary Club of Tucker helped sort manual wheelchairs at the warehouse at Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC), and transport excess chairs to the Crutches for Africa (C4A) warehouse on the west side of Atlanta for preparation and shipment to a C4A location in Africa. The club has been supplying the manpower and transportation to deliver crutches, walkers, rolators and mattresses as well as leg and body braces from the FODAC warehouse to the C4A warehouse since 2016. The most recent delivery included 21 manual wheel chairs.



Rotary Club of Stone Mountain members (left to right) Carl Smith, Suzanne Sykes, Gene Fleeman and Smoke Rise resident Scott McEvoy read this year at Jolly Elementary in Clarkston.

The National Education Association (NEA) "Read Across America Day" is a nationwide reading celebration that takes place annually on March 2 - the birthday of children's author Theodor Seuss Geisel, lovingly known to millions as "Dr. Seuss."

Several Rotary Club of Stone Mountain members supported Read Across America Celebrations last week by stopping by some DeKalb elementary schools. Students at Smoke Rise Elementary, Jolly Elementary and Stone Mountain Elementary enjoyed having the members read to them from some favorite books. The club also supported other school activities for Stone Mountain Elementary School including prize sponsorship for students who successfully memorize and recite the Pledge of Allegiance or learn thirty words by sight, and underwriting entrance fees and supplying snacks for a class trip to the Atlanta Zoo.

The Stone Mountain Club meets every Tuesday for noon lunch in the fellowship hall of Stone Mountain First United Methodist Church; the Tucker Club meets the second and fourth Thursday at The Magnolia Room in Tucker. The third week of every month will now feature a Meet and Greet at Local 7 on Main Street, and the calendar will also soon add family events. Service projects will receive more emphasis under the Tucker Club's new format, with continued visits to FODAC every other month and other projects being added during the first week of every month. The Tucker Club's new focus will be "Rotarians Meeting People Helping People."

Visitors and those interested in learning more about Rotary are welcome to attend as a guest of either club. To learn more about the clubs and their upcoming programs, go to [stonemountainrotary.org](http://stonemountainrotary.org) or [tuckerrotary.org](http://tuckerrotary.org), or follow the clubs on Facebook and Twitter.

**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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- Sheldon and Susan Hammond, Park Springs Members



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## Reflecting on Passover and the Last Supper

by Joel Gilbert, P.E.

The eight-day festival of Passover (Pesach in Hebrew) is celebrated in the early spring, from the 15th through the 22nd of the Hebrew month of Nissan, March 30-April 7, 2018. It commemorates the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. It is observed by avoiding leaven (the substance that makes bread rise), and highlighted by the Seder meals that include four cups of wine, eating matzah and bitter herbs, and retelling the story of the Exodus from bondage in Egypt.

Pesach means "to pass over" honoring God passing over the Jewish homes when killing the Egyptian firstborn on the very first Passover eve. We all remember the movie "The Ten Commandments" and watched Charlton Heston put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts and the lintel indicating those inside were part of this new covenant.

For those of you who are Christians you of course know that the Last Supper was a Passover meal and Jesus redefined the elements in the meal revealing his role in the lives of his followers. The parallels are stunning and deepen the faith of all who take the time to consider them in their daily lives today.

The one I would like to emphasize is the role of leaven which to the Jews symbolized a break from a captive people to one on a journey to their promised land. They had no time to use the sourdough method of making bread. Instead, they started with a new lump of dough each time they made bread.

Jesus took that bread and redefined it as a symbol of life following him. It is interesting to note that this completely baffled his disciples at the time. They did not understand the journey they were about to undertake and as Jesus described it, the only thing they wanted to do was to argue about whether it was such a good idea.

As we each go through this month of new birth all around us with spring flowers and balmy weather, it wouldn't be a bad idea to reflect on the promises both faiths provide on this journey. Neither faith promised the journey would be easy. Both faiths promised you would not be alone in it ... and we are not ... if we take the time and quietly consider that we are not alone.

## Bus Tour to the "Madison in May Spring Tour of Homes" Saturday, May 5, 2018, 9:00 am- 5:00 pm

Join the DHC for an excursion to the famous "Madison in May Spring Tour of Homes." Your day will include the tour of homes, boxed lunch, plus sightseeing beautiful Madison. We will travel by chartered bus; lunch and admission fees are included. \$65 Early Bird tickets on sale now until 4/21 for members only. Nonmember tickets are \$80. Contact Marissa Howard 404-373-1088 Ext. 20 or howard@dekalbhistory.org

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Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 4- 5



## Summer Camp Announced at Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts

The Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts (SRAA) will host its 2018 Summer Arts Camp July 9 – 13, daily from 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. The camp is for children ages 5 to 12; cost is \$135 which includes a \$35 registration fee and a camp t-shirt.

Camp activities will include rhythm experience through drum circles; Orff instruments and rhythm cups; explorations through Nature's Music; beginner ukulele; building dulcimers; exploring the organ and organ chambers; hand chimes; art; dance; acting on stage; and more.

Groups will be divided by age, appropriate for the activity. All sessions will be led by teachers of the Academy of Arts.

For more information or registration contact Denise Burcham at 678-533-0562 or artsacademy@smokerisebaptist.org

*The Smoke Rise Academy of Arts is housed at Smoke Rise Baptist Church at 5901 Hugh Howell Road in Tucker. Classes are offered all year in music, dance, drama and art; visit smokerisebaptist.org/arts.*



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## Boy Scout Troop 876 News

by Nate Young, Troop 876 Historian

In February, Troop 876 went to FDR Park in Pine Mountain, Georgia. The scouts had a great time at the park and had fun at all of the activities we had planned. The scouts learned many new things while they were on the campout. The scouts participated in ILST training, Introduction to Leadership Skills For Troops. The scouts had planned a 5 mile hike for Sunday morning but the hike was rained out. The scouts were disappointed that the hike was cancelled but still had a great time. Overall, the scouts loved the campout and hope to go back to FDR Park again.

If you would like to join us on fun trips like this, 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](http://www.bsatroop876.com).





NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

Don't be a "Fool" This Tax Season

"...Nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

--Benjamin Franklin, a Founding Father of the United States of America

Tax season is in full swing once again. All tax returns are due this year by April 17. (April 15 falls on a Sunday, and April 16 is Emancipation Day). Although we should be mindful of potential scams all year long, it's important to be especially vigilant this time of the year. You might be surprised about the ingenious (and not so ingenious) ways thieves try to get your hard-earned income. From promises of a faster or bigger refund to threats of arrest or prosecution, the government estimates thousands of people will lose millions of dollars and their personal information to tax scams. Beware of unusual communications through your regular mail, telephone, fax and especially email.



Many scams involve erroneous or larger-than-expected refunds. If you receive any tax refund that you are not expecting, or before you've even filed your returns, contact your tax preparer immediately – or the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at (800) 908-4490. You can also find more information online at [irs.gov/identitytheft](http://irs.gov/identitytheft).

The best ways to minimize your risk of tax identity theft are:

- Send in your tax returns as early as possible – before thieves try to beat you to it
- Do not share personal or financial information with anyone – unless you know who is asking and why
- Shred personal and financial documents – before recycling or throwing away
- Make sure you have confidence in your tax preparer – do your homework before hiring
- Check the status of your refund after filling – [irs.gov/refunds](http://irs.gov/refunds)

The IRS does NOT initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels. Be very careful of any online communication you receive that looks like it's coming from the IRS. Criminals are getting more sophisticated at creating fake internet sites that look like the real deal. And, if you click on attachments or links within an unsolicited email claiming to come from the IRS, you might be at risk of downloading a malicious computer virus onto your computer – or giving away sensitive information to the wrong person.

The IRS does NOT call taxpayers with threats of lawsuits or arrests. Be mindful that criminals can easily alter their caller ID to make it look like they are calling from the IRS. Do not rely on caller ID to verify the location of where the call originated. The IRS will not contact you to demand a tax payment through a specific method such as a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. Finally, be very suspicious if someone contacts you claiming to be from the IRS and needs to know private information that's "missing" from your tax return. If it's really the IRS, they'll already know your personal information!

If you do receive a suspicious communication, you can reach the IRS directly at (800) 829-1040. You'll also find the IRS online at [irs.gov](http://irs.gov).

Happy tax preparation!

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Eastminster PreK Visits the Vet

The PreK Class of Eastminster Presbyterian Preschool recently took a field trip to visit The Village Vets of Stone Mountain/Lilburn as part of their studies of "Occupations and People in our Community". The children were led by the office manager, Ms. Treasure Dreher, around the clinic to see what happens behind the scenes at the vet clinic.

They saw the surgery room, then the room where pets recover from procedures, as well as the boarding area, and a patient examination room. Dr. Tyler showed students how to correctly brush their dog's teeth, and she discussed



why it is important to take care of their dog's and cat's teeth. The children got to say hello to a special dog and cat at the clinic. They each received a special take-home bag from the clinic. All of the staff at The Village Vets were very friendly and informative, and the students really enjoyed their community field trip! The Village Vets is located at 1227 Rockbridge Road in Stone Mountain.

Eastminster Presbyterian Preschool serves children ages 2 – PreK in the Smoke Rise/Stone Mountain area, and is located at 5801 Hugh Howell Road in Stone Mountain. We now have Open Registration for the 2018-2019 school year at Eastminster, please contact the Director, Stacey Moura, at 678-507-7584 to arrange a tour of the school or visit our website at <http://www.eastminster.us/preschool-afterschool>.

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**Smoke Rise Garden Club News**

On March 5th, Smoke Rise Garden Club met at the home of Marilyn Oatway, with Denise Finley and Deb Christensen serving as co-hostesses. It was a chilly night for an outside workshop but members braved the cold with blankets and raingear. Hot soup, baked bread and salad were on the menu after the demonstration.

Michael Eurey of Pikes Nurseries was our speaker. The topic was Container Gardening. Michael prepared two containers of annuals, a window box and a large pot. He had lots of tips and recommendations, including establishing a regular watering schedule for summer (i.e. Mon, Wed, Fri), recycling crushed water bottles for drainage material in the bottom of pots instead of gravel, and always



*Smoke Rise GC Life Member – Jane Culbertson, Edith Morton and Denise Finley*

water and feed annuals in the summer with half-strength fertilizer in the water. Michael has two soil amendments he highly recommends - for containers, Miracle Grow Bloom Buster and for planting and amending red clay, Soil Perfecter (fired slate). Also, a very good and popular camellia variety is Fairy Blush. It is less than 5 ft. tall and has clusters of three blooms. Michael is a good neighbor and a friend. We enjoyed our workshop and look forward to seeing

Michael's garden in the coming months. It never fails to impress.

The club nominated member Jane Culbertson to be a DeKalb Federation Life Member. She's been a resident of Smoke Rise for 37 years. Jane joined Smoke Rise Garden Club in 2012 and has been active in many capacities. She is currently First Vice-President (Programs) and also serves as Membership Chairperson. Jane received her first hydrangea plant as a birthday gift from a friend over 30 years ago and it's been a love affair ever since. Jane's front yard contains over 60 plants of multiple varieties including "Penny Mac" and "Mini-Penny". Jane's son, John owns and operates 5 Sons Farm, an organic blueberry and vegetable farm in Talking Rock, Georgia. Club members plan to make 5 Sons Farm an annual berry-picking outing to visit our lovely friend!

The club has set the date for our annual Plant Sale at Smoke Rise Baptist church parking lot. The morning of April 21st members will gather to sell seedlings, plants, bushes and trees. The April Meeting will be at Paula Adoeba McEvoy's house, and the speaker will be Master Gardener Dawn Hines.

Smoke Rise Garden Club is a member DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs which is a member of the Garden Club of Georgia. GCG is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. We are celebrating our 50th Anniversary of gardening in the Smoke Rise Community.

**Mountain Mums Turned 'Green' for March Meeting**

Oh, for the luck of the Irish and the Mountain Mums twas a fine although chilly day for the Mum's March 14th meeting. Member René Boven hosted the group in her home which was decorated for St. Patrick's Day. Members enjoyed a festive brunch by co-hostesses Mary Lou Still, Sally Young and Jody Currie. The raffle included a stained glass sign and yard art from member Debbie Jones.



*Mountain Mums March Hostesses Sally Young, Mary Lou Still, Debbie Jones and Rene' Boven (seated) with guest speaker, Jim Pruckler in Rene's garden.*

The Mums struck gold with their guest speaker, Jim Pruckler, Vice President of the local North Georgia Camellia Society. A retired microbiologist with the CDC, Jim moved to Georgia from Iowa in 1987. He became interested in camellias because of their winter bloom. Jim is the camellia advisor at Woodlands Garden in Decatur, and is helping with the creation of a camellia garden at the Cator Woolford Garden also in Decatur.

His program touched on how to grow and care for camellias, and how to identify and treat conditions affecting camellia health. There are many members of the camellia family with many diverse species including everblooming camellias, cold hardy camellias, fragrant camellias and dwarf camellias. Jim shared with the group over twenty blooms ranging from bright red to blush pink, to large almost hibiscus-like to tiny, multi-petaled varieties. The group was definitely inspired to go out and plant more camellias!

The Mums' next meeting will be held at Custom Crafts in Tucker; we'll be making yard art. Please contact membership director, Debbie Jones at (678) 381-1648 for information. If you love gardening/flowers, we'd love to have you join us. We meet at 9:45 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, August through May. "Gardeners, like mothers, make beds out of love."

**Morning Glories Garden Club**

Bonnie Pennington, co-President, welcomed the Morning Glories to the Smoke Rise Golf and Country Club on Tuesday, March 13. Bonnie reported on the club's Youth Project at St. John Neumann School where students planted a native azalea for Georgia Arbor Day. Members and neighbors are encouraged to support the DeKalb Master Gardeners at their Spring Plant Sale, April 7-8, at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center.



*Linda Karr*

Master Gardener Linda Karr, owner of The Garden Enthusiast in Tucker shared tips for attracting birds to our gardens. She began with the basics: providing water, food and nesting sites for our feathered guests.

Incorporate a shallow bird bath in a location with some shade and a nearby tree or shrub for preening. Add a few stones to the bath to provide smaller birds a choice of water depth and secure footing. Birds appreciate clean water for both hydration and a refreshing dip. Keep your bird bath clear of debris and change the water frequently to deter algae growth.

Plan your plantings to leave seeds in the garden during the chilly months of autumn. That's another good reason to encourage black-eyed Susan and coneflowers. To increase the number and diversity of birds in your surroundings, vary the type of feeders and seeds you provide. Platform feeders with a scattering of black oil sunflower seeds give cardinals and doves secure footing; a tube feeder with perches caters to the smaller birds who search out a mix of seeds.

With food and water in place, the finishing touch to make your yard a wing haven is housing. While some birds insist on making their nests in the branches, most backyard birds will move into a clean, ventilated bird house. Choose houses with a hinged door to make clearing last year's nest easier. Remove perches (they give predators access to the interior) and reinforce entries to discourage squirrels from nibbling around the edges.

Ms. Karr encouraged members to place bird feeders, baths and houses near where they spend their time. In return for providing bird essentials, we can enjoy the sight and sound of the original "twitter feed."

**Mountain Shadow Garden Club**

**A Tribute to Mr. Ryan Gainey by Tim Wolfe**

The meeting of Mountain Shadow Garden Club on Monday, April 9, will feature a program by Tim Wolfe of Wolfe Designs, Atlanta, with the title of "Living, Loving, and Leaving Paradise". Mr. Wolfe was a longtime friend and next door neighbor of Ryan Gainey, a talented and admired garden designer from Decatur who passed away in a tragic fire in 2016. Mr. Wolfe's presentation will revisit what it was like having the unique opportunity to purchase the little yellow gardener's cottage next door, building out his own version of a garden paradise, and leaving his garden paradise behind. Weather permitting, Mr. Wolfe plans to drive the 1933 Ford Woody wagon Mr. Gainey bequeathed to him to the presentation for viewing and photo ops.



*Mr. Gainey, at left, with Tim Wolfe and a 1933 Ford Woody wagon in 2008.*

Wolfe, an Atlanta-based landscape designer, certified arborist, and YouTube blogger, provides landscape designs, installations, consultation, project management, and select maintenance to discerning property owners.

Mr. Gainey was the author of "The Well-Placed Weed: The Bountiful Garden of Ryan Gainey," "The Gathered Garden," and co-author of "The Well-Set Table." He grew up in South Carolina, moved to the Atlanta area in the 1970s, and purchased the defunct Holcomb Cut Flowers Nursery and residence in Decatur in 1980. While in its prime, his cottage garden was a showplace and a popular site for garden tours and occasions. Mr. Gainey was world-famous and was sought after for design work.

MSGC is open to men and women who enjoy learning about topics related to home landscapes, plants, and gardens. The meeting and program begin at 7:30 p.m. in Founders Hall, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain. Free. Refreshments follow.

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



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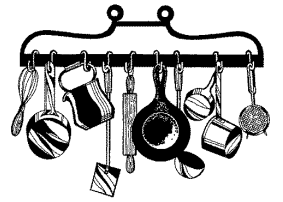
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# HODGE PODGE



By Jenny Hall

*I'm actually working on the column early because today is (was) the day that the water main broke on Buford Highway. That seems like a good distance from us, but I, alas, have almost no water and so cannot even brush my teeth without boiling water. It goes without saying that I'm not going to get a shower this morning so I opted to skip bowling and write instead. My team bowlers will understand that I would give a whole new meaning to stinky bowler. And I am finding out as well that I am worthless when anything breaks or quits or malfunctions. I mean, I boil water all the time to cook...why is it so daunting to boil water for brushing teeth? I do not know, but I am daunted and grumbly, pitiful and slightly distraught. So recipes are going to be fairly easy and I'm sure you have water by now and just think I'm a whiny baby. You ought to hear me when the electricity goes out!*

*Ok, first recipe is really a good accompaniment for soup or salad. I found the recipe in a magazine someplace or the Sunday supplement. No telling, but it's cute and not too much trouble to make. Freeze cooked rugelach (crescent cookies) and just reheat.*

### Savory Rugelach

2 sticks butter, softened  
8 ounces cream cheese  
2 Tablespoons sugar  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
2 cups plain flour  
Prepared pesto  
Parmesan cheese  
1 beaten egg  
Coarse sea salt, dried Italian herbs, pepper



In food processor, beat the butter and cream cheese until it's smooth. Add sugar, salt and flour. Whirl it around by pulsing off and on until it comes together in a ball. Pat it out on waxed paper and divide into four sections. Wrap them and put in freezer for about 20 minutes or refrigerate about an hour. When you're ready, preheat oven to 375° and lightly spray cookie sheets or line with parchment paper.

Roll out one portion into a 10-12-inch circle on lightly floured surface. Spread about 1 1/2 tablespoons pesto in thin layer, but leave about 1/2 inch border around outside edge. Sprinkle with 1-2 tablespoons parmesan and press slightly into the dough. Cut into 8 portions and roll from outside in to create crescents. These are fairly large. Brush with a bit of beaten egg and sprinkle with a little salt, pepper and herbs. Repeat with another portion and bake for 20-30 minutes until browned on bottom and golden. The original recipe said 16-18 minutes, but my insulated cookie sheets took almost 30 minutes. Depending on your type of sheet, start to watch at 15 minutes. These are great warm. I froze half the dough to use later. Thaw until cool enough to roll out and proceed as above. Great with this soup:

### Roasted Red/Orange/Yellow Bell Pepper Soup

*I give you all the colors because that's what I got on sale. All red is fine. They were cheap so I mixed them up. Beautiful color though!*

4 large red bell peppers (or one orange, one yellow and two red) roasted  
1/2 a large diced onion  
1 can condensed chicken broth  
1-2 cans water (approximate so start with 1 can)  
1/2-3/4 cup evaporated milk or half and half  
Salt and pepper

I roast the peppers in the oven, placing the whole peppers on a foil lined pizza pan. Place in upper middle of oven and set broiler to high. Turn with tongs until they are slightly charred and beginning to collapse. Don't let them really get black all over, or the flesh will be grey and the color pretty dismal when you make the soup. Usually takes about 30 minutes. Throw them in a plastic bag and seal. After about 30 minutes you can carefully slice them in the sink to catch juice, de-seed, and peel off the outer skin. It's messy, but do two batches and you can freeze them. Just cover in olive oil and they thaw beautifully.

Cook the onion in a little olive oil and water until tender in a Dutch oven. Add sliced peppers. Pour in the broth and water and use a stick blender to puree, adding a bit more water if you need. You can do this in a blender but it's pretty messy! If you do, once it's pureed, put back in the original cooking pot. Add milk, salt and pepper and heat until barely ready to boil. Taste and adjust seasonings. Delicious served with a dollop of sour cream on top and a couple of the savory rugelach. Adjust the soup to any thickness you like and you can add more or less milk as well. This should serve four and is easy to double too. Just enough for those 32 rugelach you made!!

*Correction: In last month's Hodge Podge, it said that the recipe for Strata with Asparagus, Sausage and Fontina was Barbara Luton's recipe. It should have said that the recipe is Barbara Bruschi's.*

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

## GFWC Georgia Day of Service

On Saturday, April 28, members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in Georgia will be out in their local communities collecting personal care items for local domestic violence shelters and raising awareness of our national signature project: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention.

GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club members will be outside the Mountain Park Kroger, 1227 Rockbridge Rd., from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Members will be collecting diapers, baby wipes, shampoo, conditioner, body wash for adults, children and babies, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, etc. to be given to local domestic violence shelters. Members will share information about local resources for domestic violence victims.

Please plan your shopping that day. Greet your neighbors. Pick up a list of the items needed and add it to your shopping list. Drop the goods off with the Woman's Club members. Help us to educate the public about preventing domestic violence and to stock the local shelters with these needed items.

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