

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 3

Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968

June, 2017

www.smokesignalnews.com

Happy Father's Day from the staff of the Smoke Signal!



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The First State of Tucker Address: Let's Make Tucker a Place to Work, Live, Play and Pray!

Mayor Frank Auman held the very first State of the City of Tucker address in the newly opened Tucker City Hall Annex on May 13. The First Lady, Gaye Auman introduced her husband by describing him as very hardworking, and active in the Tucker City process for the last four years. With a smile she said, "First it was Tucker Together in 2013, then Tucker 2014 and Tucker 2015. Now we just call it "Tucker 24/7".

Following a standing ovation, Mayor Auman began his address by introducing and acknowledging the many volunteers in the community. "The volunteer base in Tucker is, has been and always will be our greatest strength," he said.

Mayor Auman reminded the audience "Tucker operated as a city before we were a city." The community of Tucker was established in 1892 when it got its first Post Office and Train Depot. Since that time Tucker has operated as a cohesive community before any city infrastructure existed. "We inherited the community. We are standing on the shoulders of 125 years of community. A community of variety that knows how to get along! That is the strength of Tucker!" he said.

The mayor then turned his attention to describing the enormous progress Tucker has made since being incorporated as a city in the spring of 2016. Much of the rapid progress was due to a wonderful working relationship with Dekalb County and CH2M, a private sector organization that has helped Tucker with staffing, timeline deadlines and staying on track with the more important duties of becoming a city.

From opening a bank account to developing a website and social media outlets for the city, to creating a map of the city, and hiring staff, a city manager, an attorney for the city, a judge, clerk and later code enforcement officers. Tucker has been busy.

In June of 2016, code enforcement was established. By January, 2017, the first court session in the 'borrowed' courtroom in Clarkston occurred and the administration of zoning was assumed from DeKalb County. Tucker has now held over 100 public meetings of various kinds. The City Council has learned to work together. Basic city ordinances have been adopted and the city has assumed authority over business licenses, leasing and etc. The city moved into the new City Hall on Adrian Street. And now there is a City Hall Annex on First Avenue!

Last, but not least, Tucker has established an accounting system and has completed the first audit of the system. The City of Tucker has 6 million dollars of revenue, and has passed two balanced budgets. The fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) begins with 2 million dollars in reserve for the work ahead.

Mayor Auman closed his talk by saying "Here is where I would like to lead us--- to make Tucker a city in which we can 'live, work, pray and play'".

Live: making Tucker a community where you can have a home, with a lifestyle you love, and be able to stay in the community if you wish, through, all the stages of life. What is the city's role? To encourage building that will close the gaps in housing that exist.

Work: To make sure expansion is possible, permits and taxes are reasonable and the internet is the fastest in the area.



Play: We should have a variety of options for spending leisure time that are convenient and safe. These should include parks, restaurants, shopping, commercial and entertainment events. Tucker will be taking over the park system in the coming year. The city is currently thoroughly studying all aspects of this process.

Pray: This doesn't mean 'building churches'... although there is a long history of the establishment of churches in Tucker. Mayor Auman hopes our community

...Continued on page 2

Go to: tuckerga.gov/state-city-address-2017/
to hear the address yourself!



A Special Racket Rally by Marsha Kelley

As the school buses rolled into Smoke Rise Golf & Country Club, "happy" became the theme of the day for our annual April racquet rally day for Tucker High School's special needs students. Planned by supportive members of Smoke Rise, including the Alta Tennis Team: "the Babes", this one-day event has become the best day of the year for all those involved.

The event began in the parking lot as participants greeted the students while still on the buses. It's always so wonderful to see these smiling faces, so familiar from year to year. It's also sad to realize there are some who have graduated and moved on.

Next, on the tennis court, Vanessa Vaughters, personal trainer and Tucker tennis team mom, led us in exercises to the students' favorite song, Pharrell William's "Happy", which always sets everyone moving, jumping, dancing and sweating. Following the warm-up, each student received individual tennis instruction on strokes and strategy. Milton Crosswy, Jeff Kelley, Chris Swinn, Art Wood, and Coach Jim Richards manned the courts.

Lunch followed with grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, brownies, and all the fixin's prepared by Chef Claude and his staff. While we ate, a tennis foursome demonstrated how the game should be played, with cheers from all the students. I had forgotten just how much teenagers can eat!! As the day came to an end, each student received a goody bag and a framed individual photo of himself/herself to remember the day, and reluctantly headed back to school wearing a purple racquet rally day t-shirt donated by Greg and Nancy Wilson of Smoke Rise Bottle Shoppe.

Thank you to Lisa Carlisle and her caring and dedicated staff of 13 teachers who accompanied these 19 high school students. A big thanks also to all who donated their time, lunch, and goody bag items. As always, on this day, "special" brings a new meaning. These kids are not only appreciative, well mannered, loving, and happy- they are truly "special"!

COMMUNITY FORUM 6: TUCKER TOMORROW PLAN AND THE COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM

– THURSDAY, JUNE 15 –

6:30-8:30 P.M.

First Baptist Church
2367 Main Street
Tucker, Ga 30084



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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June Calendar of Events

- 12 Mountain Shadow Garden Club Meeting: 7:30 p.m.
Eastminster Presbyterian
- 13 Tucker Art Stroll and Eat Out for Art: 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Local 7, Tucker Main St.
- 15 Tucker Tomorrow Plan, Community Forum 6: 6:30-8:30
Tucker First Baptist
- 16-17 Friends of Sue Kellogg Used Book Sale: 9:00-4:00 p.m.
Sue Kellogg Library
- 22 Tucker Arts Guild Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Tucker First Baptist Church, Bldg B.
- 24 3rd Annual Smoke Rise BBQ Cook Off: Noon
Smoke Rise Bath and Racquet
- 24 Tucker Turns 125: 11:00-2:00 p.m.; Tucker Recreation Center

Smoke Signal Deadlines

JUNE 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 JUNE 10

SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

Cost: \$150 by check to *Smoke Signal*

Deadline to Receive: 6:00 p.m. on 19th of month

Flyer inserts should be 8 1/2" x 11" (flat, not folded)

Please provide 2,300 copies

Reservation Required:

Contact Barbara Luton, (770) 491-6711 by 15th of month.

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Link to the digital version of the *Smoke Signal*

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

or scan this QR Code

with your smart phone!



State of Tucker Address...continued from page 1

will have churches, temples, and mosques with communities of people who will care for the poor, infirm and lonely. People who will be a supply of volunteers, and provide the community with activities like boy scouts and sports leagues. "As long as we teach and preach love for your neighbor, we extend our welcome, respect and high regard" Auman said.

This first state of the city address may very well be the first step in making, as Mayor Auman said "Tucker a place for your whole life." Go to Tuckerga.gov for more information on the new one-year-old City of Tucker.



Tucker Turns 125! Let's Celebrate!

In June of 1892, the Tucker Post Office opened its doors for the first time. This is generally considered to be the date that Tucker was founded. To celebrate Tucker's 125th Anniversary, the Friends of Tucker Parks and Tucker Historical Society are hosting a celebration at the Tucker Recreation Center on June 24 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

The U.S. Postal Service will be on site with a one-day-only commemorative anniversary pictorial postmark. Tucker-themed postcards will be available to purchase at the event or people can bring their own items to mail. To make the event even more special, the postmaster will be using the desk that belonged to Alf Chewing, Tucker's first postmaster!

The celebration will also feature a photography exhibit and contest hosted by "Tucker Clicks", live music, food trucks, an eating contest, a quilt show and a bouncy house. Tucker 125th Anniversary car magnets will also be available for purchase with proceeds to benefit the restoration of Browning Courthouse. For more info, visit www.tuckerrec.org/anniversary.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

Sundays:
 9:00 a.m. Worship in the Chapel
 9:45 a.m. Sunday school
 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Communion: Second Sunday of each month
 1st Tuesdays: 11:30 a.m. Prime Time

Wednesdays:
 5:00-5:45 Fellowship Dinner
 6:00-7:00 Programs for children, youth and adults
 7:00-8:30 Sanctuary choir
 Nursery provided

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

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

Sundays:
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary - nursery provided

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

Mount Carmel Christian Church

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

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

Wednesdays beginning August 10:
 5:30 p.m. Dinner
 6:30 p.m. Bible Studies/Electives for All Ages

First Moravian Church

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

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

Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

Mountain West Church

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

The *Smoke Signal* is posted to
www.smokesignalnews.com
 the first of each month.

Go to the "Smoke Signal Digital" link.

You'll also find the link posted to the

Smoke Signal News Facebook page each month

with posting of pictures and stories throughout the month.

For questions,

contact Pat Soltys at pat@smokeriseagents.com.

ENGAGEMENT

NAIL ~ VEAL

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Rhinehart of Smoke Rise, Georgia are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Laura Elizabeth Nail, to Michael Marshall Veal, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Veal of Marietta, Georgia. They will be married on August 19, 2017 in Atlanta and will live in Kirkwood, Georgia.



WEDDING

HANCHETT

Dr. & Mrs. Donald (Geonice) Hanchett of Stonleigh Drive would like to announce Mr. & Mrs. Paul (Ashley) Hanchett!! Ashley & Paul were married in the beautiful Botanical Gardens in New Orleans, Louisiana on Saturday April 22nd. Their wedding was absolutely gorgeous! Family & Friends attended from all over the U.S. The



lovely couple left the country to enjoy an extraordinary honeymoon. They have now begun their lives together as one in the Atlanta area.

Stone Mountain Woman's Club Wins Art Award

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club's Art Community Service Program was recognized as the best in the State during the recent GFWC Georgia State Convention in Atlanta. The Art CSP, under the leadership of Miriam Boone and Nelda Lunsford, were happy to share the Silver Award with their sister club members and expressed thanks to all the members for their help with the many projects completed during the year. In addition, a second grade student sponsored by the ART CSP won an award for his short story, and club members and past presidents of the club, Kim Sekulow and Lorraine Dress were recognized for their art projects.

The Tallulah Falls School Committee was also recognized as the best in the State and received the Gavel Award. Elizabeth Wells, Co-Chairman of the Tallulah Falls School Committee for the Stone Mountain Woman's Club, explained that the Gavel was especially made for this state award approximately 80 years ago. The Stone Mountain Woman's Club was also recognized with a silver award for contributing the most money of any general club to the Tallulah Falls School. This award is known as the TFS Georgia GOAL Award and is presented to both a General Club and a Junior Club. Sue Shoemaker and Elizabeth Wells serve as Co-Chairmen of the Tallulah Falls School Committee for the Woman's Club and enjoy taking members to visit the school a couple of times each year.

Other awards and recognitions received by the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club at the state convention included the following: Second Place Awards (51+) in both Education and International Outreach, and 3rd Place Awards (51+) in Home Life and Public Issues. Also, the club received GFWC GEORGIA/CARE and GFWC UNICEF Participation Certificates and Outstanding Community Service Program Citation for 51+ memberships. Special Awards received: Leadership Award Citation for Central East District, Legislation and Public Policy Award for Central East District, \$50.00 over Contribution Award for Ella F White Fund and the 1734 Society Recognition Certificate.

SRCA Meeting

The SRCA board held its monthly meeting May 1. If there had been a theme declared for the session it would have been "Green space." The board focused efforts on resuscitating the community garden and provided detailed input to Lowe Engineering-- the consultant hired by the city to assess the condition of the parks and advise on the transition of ownership of the properties from the county to the city.

Special invited guest Beth Ganga of the Friends of Tucker Parks led a review of the history of Park Pride and the Friends of Parks initiatives and provided recommendations for Smoke Rise to more fully engage in the development and maintenance of our sites. As reported previously, the SRCA was invited and now provides a regular liaison to the Friends of Tucker Parks.

Within the city limits of Tucker there are at least 11 public park parcels with three situated within Smoke Rise District 1: Smoke Rise Park on Hugh Howell Rd (18 acres), Smoke Rise Crossing on Lilburn-Stone Mountain Road (6 acres), and the Charlie and Ruth Lord green space, the third largest parcel in the city at 30 acre. This is accessible to pedestrians via Smoke Rise Dr. or Militia Dr. Roughly 21% of Tucker public park acreage is situated within our neighborhood.

Your SRCA board continues to monitor and participate in developments with the proposal for the Sears property, the relocation of the elementary school, and the strategic plan for city development as managed by Tucker Tomorrow.

SRCA also continues to regularly receive dues payments, for which we are most grateful.

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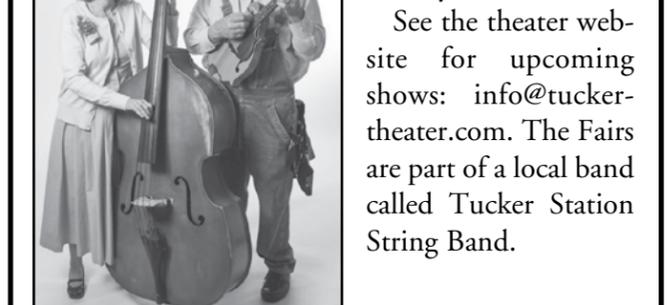
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Smoke Rise Neighbors Perform

Smoke Rise residents Reuben and Kim Fair's acting and gospel style strings were featured in the Tucker Main Street Theater comedy "Smoke on the Water" in May.



See the theater website for upcoming shows: info@tucker-theater.com. The Fairs are part of a local band called Tucker Station String Band.

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Tucker-Reid Cofer Library Adult and Teen Events

Animé Club (Ages 10 to 17 years)

Can't get enough animé and manga? Join the Tucker Animé Club. Wednesdays, June 14 and July 12, 3:30—5:00 p.m.

Adult Improv Night! (Ages 18+)

Please join us for a night of fun, games, and self discovery. Improvisation is a wonderful vehicle for leadership development as it imparts crucial life skills! Tues., June 13th. 6:00 – 7:00

Adult/Teen Open Mic (Ages 13 to adult years)

Do you sing, dance, play an instrument, or write poetry? Would you like to do a comedy routine, poetry reading, or read a passage from your favorite book? Come show your talents at our open mic! Sat., June 17, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Preregistration required.

Teen Book Club (Ages 13 to 17 years)

Pick up a copy of this month's book, and then join us for a discussion, activities and pizza! Tues., June 20, 4:30—5:30 p.m. Sat., July 1, 1:00—2:00 p.m. Preregistration required.

Build a Better World Through Art! (Ages 10 to 17)

Friendship bracelets, pastel landscapes, fun with duct tape... A variety of materials will be on hand for you to build and create. Tues., June 27, 6:00—7:00 p.m.

Teen Movie Afternoons (Ages 13 to 17 years)

Join us for pizza and a great movie! Saturdays, 2:00—4:00 p.m. July 1: *Perks of Being a Wallflower* (PG-13) July 15: *It's Kind of a Funny Story* (PG-13)

Creation! Comics! with Kyle Puttkamer (Ages 10 to 17 years)

Do you like to draw? Have you ever wondered what it takes to create a Graphic Novel or Comic Book? Kyle Puttkammer, creator of "Galaxy Man," will offer an insider's look at the amazing world of Superheroes! Tues., June 27 6:00-7:00 p.m. Preregistration required.

Meaghan Farrell (Ages 13+)

This passionate singer and writer has been vocally compared to female rockers like Melissa Etheridge and PINK! Her positive and enriching spirit is felt by all who experience a live performance. The Jason Beyer Band will be opening. Sat., July 29 5:00-8:00 p.m.



SUMMER CAMP NEWS:

Youth Performance Company: Ages 7-13. June 5-16, 9:00-4:00 p.m.
 Summer Arts Camp: Ages 5-13. Weeklong Camps, June 19- July 21. 9:00-5:00 p.m.
 Teen Performance Company: Age 13+. July 10-14, 9:00-5:00 p.m.

IN THE GALLERY: May 20- June 24

Chattahoochee Handweavers Guild Biennial of Textiles Juried Exhibit
 "Narratives," the works of husband and wife Anne Emerson and Larry Hall.
 Experience the awesome works of these extraordinary artists in a combined exhibit through June 24.



Summer is upon us and the Youth of Smoke Rise Baptist Church have their summers packed with fun, service, and singing. Their Wednesdays will be spent at Get Air, bowling, and taking in the Braves. They'll head off to Passport Choices Camp in Greensboro, NC June 18th- 23rd. Then summer will end with a choir tour in the Nation's Capitol from July 7th -16th.

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Food and Art Combine to Celebrate Tucker's Creativity

On Tuesday, June 13, Tucker residents are invited to an incredible evening promoting the arts in their community with the combination of two events: Tucker Art Stroll and Eat Out for Art. From 6 – 9 p.m. the public is invited to eat, drink and browse a varied display of work from several local artists. Hosted by Community Art in Tucker (CAT), these events join together to celebrate the creativity of Tucker.

As in the past with Eat Out for Art, participants can dine at Main Street favorite Local 7, or stop by for a drink, and a percentage of the evening's proceeds will be donated to benefit CAT.

Now, with the kickoff of the Tucker Art Stroll, community members can also enjoy browsing an artwork display in the hallway directly behind the restaurant. The public is welcome to stop by to see the exhibit, even if they choose not to enjoy a meal. Artists are local Tucker residents, chosen to display their various talents for the viewing pleasure of the community. Members of the Tucker Art Guild (TAG) will be making their artwork available for purchase.

"We anticipate a festive evening for Tucker Art Stroll with tons of great energy. Artists gathering for a market are always excited about showing their work," said Patty Young, one of the project coordinators. "Our hope is that attendees see the city of Tucker as the great arts destination it is. The public can support community artworks by dining locally and finding artwork for their own collection. Eat, drink and shop!"

No reservations are needed to participate in the evening. The address for Local 7 is 2316 Main Street, Tucker, GA 30084. For questions, contact tuckerartstroll@yahoo.com.



3RD ANNUAL SMOKE RISE BBQ COOK OFF

JUN 24

HOSTED BY THE SMOKE RISE BATH & RACQUET CLUB

Don't miss the annual Smoke Rise BBQ Cook Off. Hosted by the SRBRC

Watch Smoke Rise neighborhood Pit Masters compete for bragging rights. Judge their skill and expertise and vote for your favorite. Inaugurate the 2017 Smoke Rise BBQ King!

- Saturday June 24, 2017, event starts at noon. Judging begins at 2PM
- Smoke Rise Bath and Racquet Club, 2046 Glacier Drive
- Pool open to members and non-members at no charge
- Tickets to sample and judge competitors are \$5
- Live musical entertainment

Want to compete? Go to SRBRC.org for complete rules and entry information. Or call 770 493 9073.

The event is open to everyone, members and nonmembers. Enjoy a free pool party or buy a ticket to judge the neighborhood pit-masters' skill and talents, and crown the Smoke Rise BBQ king of 2017.



On Sunday, May 7, a group of neighbors from Smoke Rise and Tucker took a tour of the new 30-acre Smoke Rise Park, hosted by Friends of Tucker Parks www.tuckerparks.org and the SRCA. It was a perfect day for a walk, and we learned a lot about the trees and plants. This was originally the property of the Lord family, and their two daughters were there to tell us about how life was on this parcel of land when they were growing up. The tour was led by Kathryn Kolb, Director of EcoAddendum. For more information, visit Ecoaddendum.org.

The Friends of Sue Kellogg-Stone Mountain Library
Used Book Sale
Friday, June 16, and
Saturday, June 17
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

SRCA Community Document Shredding Event a Huge Success!

SRCA and Smoke Rise Elementary School marked Earth Day on April 22 with our free annual document shredding service. More than eighty vehicles and one pedestrian filled the shredding truck for the first time ever with an equivalent of 330 banker boxes of documents. The value of the free service, had partakers been charged for the benefit, was around \$19 per delivery.

Approximately \$0.33 of each SRCA member's \$35 dues covered the cost. The SRCA once again partnered with Tucker's Eagle Secure Shredding to make this happen. If you need documents shredded, contact Eagle Secure Shredding at 770-619-5300 or email info@eagleshred.com.

Tucker Arts Guild News:
TAG meets the 3rd Thursday night at 7 p.m. at Tucker First Baptist Church

Tucker Clicks, local lovers of photography. Join the Facebook Group "Tucker Clicks" to see where they will meet this month to photograph and then share photos for discussion and critique.

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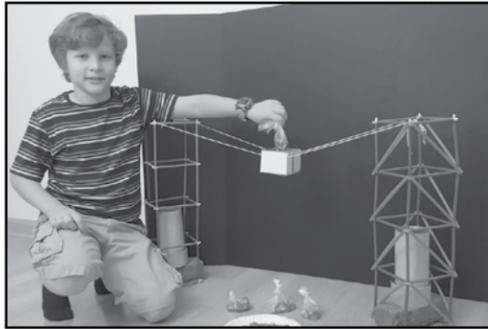


Providence Christian Academy is pleased to announce five graduating Seniors from the Smoke Rise community. L-R: Olivia Wilson (will attend Howard University), Kelsey Hoskins (will attend Harvard University), Jack Smith (will attend the University of Georgia), Connie Schneider (will attend Liberty University) and Grace Auman (will

attend the University of Georgia). Connie & Grace are considered "Lifers", having attended Providence beginning in Kindergarten. All five students have been together for many years, involved in student government, school plays, athletics, and community service. Congratulations to these students and best wishes for a bright future!

Smoke Rise Elementary School's Science Achievements

The DeKalb County School District honored Excellence in Science students at its Torch Bearer's Ball on April 21. The distinguished guests were acknowledged for their Excellence in Science achievements. Fourth grader Alexander Hoffman represented Smoke Rise Elementary well as he was recognized for winning first place at the DeKalb County School District's 2017 Science and Engineering Fair. Congratulations, Alex, on a job well done!



Alexander Hoffman's Project: "How to Strengthen a Structure"

Smoke Rise Elementary is also excited about its new set of robots created through a project on DonorsChoose. As a result, the school purchased a set of Dash and Dot robots. The robots will help students achieve a basic understanding of computer science programming. Congratulations Smoke Rise Elementary on your science achievements!

**Summer Class Schedule
Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts:**

Smokerisebaptist.org/arts

678-533-0562

Summer Drama:

Bye Bye Birdie (August performance), Disney's Jungle Book, Kids (September)

Drama Workshops: Five day non-performance workshops, June and July

MusikGarten: Ages 1-5, Tuesdays and Thursdays in June

Music Makers at the Keyboard: Ages 6-9

Summer Dance Classes: Ages 3-12 and adults. Thursdays June-July

Act One Preschool Drama: Ages 4-5, June

Twinkler Violin: Ages 4-5, June

Music Lessons: Various voice, piano, guitar, drums, orchestra

Oil Painting for Adults: Wednesdays June 7-July 19

GRADUATE

MONICA SHAW DEWEY



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

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Smoke Rise Preferred Contractor's List

If you are looking for reliable people to build decks, paint, do electrical, plumbing, interior design and many other services, then request a copy of this list as a potential starting point. We maintain a free listing of contractors and other service providers that your neighbors have used successfully. If you want a copy of this list, please email Jim Farmer at: jimfarmer@live.com or call him at (770) 939-8949. We also ask for your feedback. Tell us about a contractor or service provider that you have used with opinions about their work. This information will be useful for future revisions of the list.

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Upcoming events:

- Saturday, June 10, 4pm – representatives from AWARE Wildlife Center in Lithonia – we will hear about wildlife in the Smoke Rise and nearby areas, and see a special guest: a rescued barred owl
- Saturday, June 17, 11am – Water Aerobics starts
- Saturday, June 24, 8-10 pm – Teens Night – pizza & games – open to members and their friends
- Every Sunday in June, 3pm – kids' games
- Tuesday, July 4th 1-3 pm – Annual Mountain Creek Holiday cook-out and potluck

**Summer Sounds
at Mountain Creek Pool
by Gretchen Brechin**

Memorial Day has come and the sounds from the Mountain Creek Pool can be heard again. The sounds tell stories I've listened to from my backyard for the past 25 years. The young kids shrill when they learn a trick and call out to their parents to watch. The sound of the lifeguard's whistle, and the command to "Walk!" was a sign the young kids (often boys) are at the pool. Now the gentle sounds of adult laughter can be heard as water aerobics classes are being taught.

During June, the sounds of splashing from the swim team's twenty-to-thirty teenagers are heard as they swim lap after lap, with occasional motivating cheers from the coaches. The elementary school swimmers talk a lot or maybe it's just a few very loud ones. Then there is the quiet of the four-to-six-year olds learning to swim. Coaches and parents can be heard encouraging the swimmers as they try so hard to figure out how to stay afloat--- and then the cheers of accomplishment when they complete their very first lap.

The sounds of chatter among friends and families can be heard on the weekends. When you hear the diving board bounce and then a loud splash, an adult (usually a dad) is showing off his dives during adult swim. I've decided to leave out the few times years ago, when "partying" was heard between midnight and 3:00 am. Those were some really good stories.

The sounds I hear from the Mountain Creek pool are symbolic of the neighborhood and the Smoke Rise community: a place for friends and neighbors to come together for different activities and events, socializing or just to enjoy the pool. I invite you to be a part of the summer sounds.

For membership information visit the website: mountaincreekswimclub.com, facebook page, email mountaincreekswimclub.com, or call 678-824-2108. I hope to hear you there.

**Smoke Rise Country Club:
New Talent; 'No Initiation Fees' Extended**

Smoke Rise welcomes top new talent in most departments of the Smoke Rise Country Club. Since bringing The Mosaic Resorts country-club management firm onboard last year to operate the Club, a stunning transformation has taken place at what most in our community knew as a traditional, staid, 18-hole golf and country club. "The addition of 55 new members in the past few months means you see lots of new faces at events," reports General Manager, Rob Sabat, who is shaking things up since he took over last November. Much of that success can be attributed to the major dues reduction and limited-time no initiation fees that Mosaic implemented.

Credit also goes to the energetic new membership director, Kelsey Paulley, who has been working tirelessly to make visitors feel at home and welcomed. "Having no initiation fees has helped," says Paulley, "but that ends June 1, so we are in a big push now to make sure anyone interested in joining knows to act before May 31st." *The deadline will be extended to June 11 for anyone bringing in a copy of this article. Also, see Smokerisec.com for information on the now reduced dues!*

Sabat also attributes some of our success to the expansion of social activities and providing kid's activities and child care during some events. "Members like to get out, meet their neighbors, make new friends, and have a reason to get to the Club, says Sabat, adding, "We had nearly 300 here for our Easter Brunch and the events are beginning to reach capacity and selling out."

Then, there is the food... New Head Chef Claude Ellis has wowed members and guests with his extraordinary culinary capabilities. Long-time member Dianne Dougherty calls what Chef Ellis has done with food quality and consistency "truly miraculous." And she should know, having owned and operated a commercial kitchen for many years. "Every meal at the Club now just amazes my family and guests," she says. "We dine there several times a week now and look forward not only to the wonderful menus but the surprising diversity of flavors he packs into each meal. Next Month: *Meet Our New Staff*



The The Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club's Pool is back for the 2017 season. Enjoy a summer packed with activities.

The fun begins with a huge open house BBQ and Music Festival on June 3. Come meet your friends and neighbors, listen to live Blue Grass Music throughout the afternoon, have a plate of awesome BBQ, cool off in the pool and take home some great raffle prizes.

On June 24, SRBRC will host the 3rd annual Smoke Rise BBQ Cook Off. Come have fun at the pool party or buy a ticket to judge the neighborhood pit-masters' skills and talents, and crown the Smoke Rise BBQ king of 2017. This event is also open to everyone, members and nonmembers. If you are interested in competing, go to the website SRBRC.org or call 770 493 9073.

Look forward to our other fun events this season; including the Low Country Shrimp Boil, thrilling Dive-In Movies, fun Kids Campouts, sweet Ice Cream Socials, entertaining Evening Mixers, Open Grills, Tennis Round Robins, the Labor Day Pig Roast and more.

SRBRC is partnering with Crocodile Dave's Pest Control all season long for a mosquito-free environment. You'll also find certified lifeguards seven-days-a-week, a great diving board, toddler pool, roped-off swim lane, party gazebo, four tournament-ready tennis courts (with lights), basketball area, music, WiFi, concessions and more!

See our flyer in the Smoke Signal, or go to SRBRC.org. If you're in a hurry to jump in, bring your form and payment to the pool. Look for an SRBRC board member to collect it. We are also on Facebook. 'Like' us there to stay informed.

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Of Note to the Community: Safety Alerts & Watches

by Cedric R.

Crime Reports

5/9/2017 Burglary 1500 Block Lilburn Stone Mountain Rd around 2:30 p.m.

5/8/2017 Theft / Larceny 5300 Block Greencastle around 9:30 a.m.

We make an effort to list local crimes, if we miss something, please let us know!
Email address for submission - staff@smokesignalnews.com



Stone Mountain Rotary Club

By Lizbeth Dison

Community Projects Help the Lives of Young and Old

Members of the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain kept busy in May with several community service projects that touched the lives of the young and the old.

Stone Mountain Rotarians continued their support of Smoke Rise Elementary School by participating in May's Career Day at the school. RSCSM members Samuel McIntosh, a civil engineer, and Gene Fleeman, an aerospace engineer, along with Gene's son Chris, an aerospace engineering student at the University of Alabama – Huntsville, all talked about their jobs and the education requirements necessary to pursue their careers. The students were excited particularly to see the younger Fleeman's working model rocket that he had designed and built.

Park Springs Assisted Living hosted a group of RSCSM volunteers who spent one Saturday morning visiting elderly residents of Park Springs Assisted Living for coloring and conversation. RSCSM President Gillian Leggett was joined by fellow members Scott McEvoy and Diane Dougherty as well as Redan High School Interact members Kevin Monsalve, Cris Monsalve, Jordan Richburg and Adedapo Ognba and Redan High School teacher Lenita Stovall.

The group spent the morning helping residents work with colored pencils and coloring sheets donated by RSCSM, and the Interact students got them talking about their lives and history. Park Springs Assisted Living personnel Maria and Ingrid joined in the fun, and were very excited to find that the group planned to leave all the materials for the residents to enjoy another day.

The Rotary Club of Roswell sponsors HonorAir each year, providing Atlanta area veterans a free trip to visit the various war memorials in Washington DC. Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) partners with the club to provide wheelchairs and walkers for the trip, and this year RSCSM members Anresa Davis and FODAC president and CEO Chris Brand went along on the trip as volunteers, each assigned a veteran to aid during the day trip. It was a long day for everyone (the flight left at 6 a.m.!), but honoring these aging veterans is a memory that will be treasured by all.

RSCSM hosts a diverse variety of speakers at its weekly meetings each month. Speakers in May included singer /songwriter Jerry Gilmore, a former leader in the U.S. Navy Band who, as a throat cancer survivor, shared his journey "From Denial to Anger to Hope to Inspiration," and performed a few of his songs. Tony Holley, founder and producer with Fake Wood Wallpaper, also talked about the growth of Georgia's television and film industry, and what was happening right here in the Tucker / Smoke Rise / Stone Mountain area.

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



*(Photo Gillian Leggett)
RSCSM member Scott McEvoy assists a resident at Park Springs Assisted Living during the coloring day.*



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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

The Epi-Pen

This article will be brief, but very important for those one in fifty Americans who have life threatening allergic reactions to foods, bee stings, latex and medications. Each year about 40 adults will die from a serious allergic reaction. For those who know they have this type of allergic reaction, the Epi-Pen may save their life.

The Epi-Pen and Epi-Pen Jr. are single use Epinephrine filled syringes, sold in pairs, and prescribed by a doctor. The contents of one of the syringes are injected into the large mid thigh muscle when a patient experiences a serious allergic reaction—such as shortness of breath, wheezing and/or swelling of the lips, mouth and throat. After the patient has used their Epi Pen they should *always* go to the emergency room as some people will have a delayed reaction. The second pen should be used if symptoms return (the epinephrine wears off after 10-20 minutes). It is important to let the emergency room physician know if the first epinephrine shot caused chest pain, blurred vision, uneven heartbeats, seizure, severe headache or worsening of breathing.

It is important to note that the Epi-Pen has an expiration date. If possible, replace your Epi-Pen yearly. That said, studies have shown that the Epi-Pen has up to 84% of its original potency as long as 4 years after the expiration date. This is enough to prevent anaphylactic shock. So, in an emergency, if all you have is an expired pen, use it, but go to the Emergency Room after the dose. Replace your Epi-Pen as soon as you can. Do not use the Pen if the liquid is cloudy or has changed colors. Do not store the Epi-Pen in temperature extremes: for example, the car or the refrigerator.

Recently, the manufacturers of the Epi-Pen have been in the news for increasing the cost of the pens by over 400%. In 2009, the Epi-Pen (which comes in a two pack) cost approximately \$100. Early this year, the same Epi-Pen pack cost over \$600. After the outrage hit the media, the manufacturer began to distribute a 'generic' version for \$300. Those with life threatening allergies need this medication! Several studies have mentioned a quick absorbing epinephrine tablet that dissolves under the tongue. It seems to work just as well as the Epi-Pen, but so far is not available in the U.S. Have a safe summer!!



Get Ubering!



Some new technologies are making our traditional way of doing business obsolete. This “Digital Disruption” is a phenomena rocking our world now. Airbnb and Uber are two of the best examples of how new methods are changing old paradigms forever. Let’s look closer at Uber through the experiences of our Mountain Creek neighbor, Doug Reynics.

Doug got started when his old SUV was on its last legs and he needed a replacement. Having admired his friend’s Prius, he set out to acquire one for himself. The price of the impeccably maintained and well-appointed 2014 Prius made him wonder if it could somehow help pay for itself. And it could! Loving to drive anyway, he signed up to become an Uber driver.

That was back in 2016 and he has been driving ever since. He even signed up to also drive for Lyft. All it took to be in business with them was an online sign up, a background check, proof of insurance, and a copy of his driver’s license.

I interviewed Doug to see what we all need to know to most effectively use these new services. Here is what I learned:

- Some people using his services say they do so because they don’t want strangers knowing they are being dropped off at the airport ... indicating the house may be empty for a time.
- When using the app to request a ride, you are shown a picture of the car and driver. Before getting in a car, be sure that is the car and driver you were assigned.
- When requesting a ride, you select the vehicle capabilities by indicating just Uber, UberX (holds 4+ passengers), UberXL (6 passenger vehicle), UberBLACK (seats 4 and must be newer, black, luxury sedan), or UberSUV (newer luxury SUV that seats 6+).
- Rides on either service to the airport or downtown typically run \$35. (We have been paying two or three times that amount with taxis and limo services.) The Pool cars are the least expensive and the quote I see online is \$33. An UberX runs \$28 - \$38, UberXL is \$69 - \$92. The UberSUV is \$146 - \$191.
- “Surges” are when the prices spike because there is more demand than supply for drivers. The higher prices encourage more drivers to make themselves available to riders. Surges can make a fare double, triple or more. To avoid costly surprises, once you open the app and enter your destination, just prior to clicking on “request Uber,” you will see the price up-front and can decide if you want to book immediately or want to wait. Doug says a surge might last five minutes or an hour.
- Drivers are compensated 75% of the fare with the other 25% going to the ride company. This means there is a hefty incentive to get to the areas where drivers are needed.
- Payments are conveniently handled completely through the app. When riders sign up for the app, they enter a credit card number. Fares are automatically charged upon completion of the ride.
- Contrary to common belief, you can tip drivers. Some even have a tip jar in their cars.
- Doug says he does about 8 Uber rides for every one of Lyft. He attributes this to Uber being more recognized by the public. After all, they were the first in the business.

Doug says there can be some interesting conversations shared unintentionally with driver... girls negotiating over the phone for special pricing on body piercing comes to mind. I also learned that Uber drivers do not appreciate driving passengers to drug deals where words like, “Go, GO, GO!!” are shouted upon re-entering the car.

If you want to learn more about what Doug does, he is happy to share it! His number is 770-842-4261. You can also reach him via email at dfr@me.com. If you need a ride, sign up for the Uber or Lyft app and begin enjoying the wonders of digital disruption rocking our transportation system.

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Islands in the Sun: Relaxation and Fun

by Barbara Bruschi

Close your eyes and imagine that a magic carpet whisking you away to an island in the sun. There, by the sparkling sea and the shimmering light, mystifying sounds of the tropical forests transport you into a little paradise. Life invites you to experience and celebrate nature and all its glorious vistas. Each island has its own topography, history and culture to be explored and enjoyed.



Saint Barthelemy is located in the northeastern corner of the Caribbean Sea and was first settled in 1648 by French colonists. The official language is French. You can get there by ferry or plane from St. Martin. Hotels average 15 - 58 rooms; notable is the Rock of Eden, the Cheval Blanc and Hotel Le Toiny. For more information visit: www.comstbarth.fr or www.saintbarth-tourisme.com.

All of the amazing beaches are public. St. Bart has a rocky, dry terrain, which is not suitable for sugar plantations, however the harbor allowed the town of Gustavo to grow around it. As a free port under Swedish rule, Gustavo served the useful purpose of providing a trade and supply center that played a key role in intermittent conflicts between warring factions. The island features several landmarks and a Museum, as well unique architecture. The cuisine is mainly French, West Indian, and Creole. The music and rhythm that fill the air are calypso, meringue, soca, zouk and reggae. There are festivals throughout the year. The fauna and flora are beautiful. Saint Bart is a pearl of an island, very expensive, yet unforgettable.

St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands, located five miles east of St. Thomas and 35 miles north of St. Croix is a nature's lover paradise. St. John is by far less populated than St. Thomas, yet has all the amenities desired on a vacation. This island offers a haven for swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving, sailing and fishing which can easily be reached by open air taxi.

In 1950, philanthropist Laurance Rockefeller set foot (and checkbook) on the palm-flecked shores and bought half the island, later donating it to establish the vast Virgin Islands National Park. This park spans more than 10,000 acres and offers fantastic vistas. Among the wooded areas, are more than 250 species of flowers, plants and trees.

Cruz Bay (major city) has an efficient ferry system. Take a tour to learn about the history, folklore and culture of the local population. St. John offers tranquility, picture-perfect beaches with emerald cays and warm turquoise water that restores your sense of well-being.

Nevis (capital Charlestown) was originally settled by the Arawak Indians and later by the Caribs and named by Columbus in 1493. The establishment of sugar and tobacco plantations by the British in the mid-1600s altered the destiny of Nevis considerably. The British and French battled over the island several times and in 1793, by verdict of a Treaty with France, gave dominance to the British. It was another 200 years before independence came to Nevis.

American statesman Alexander Hamilton was born in Nevis. His birthplace is now a museum. British naval hero Horatio Nelson met and married his wife while stationed here in 1787.

Another highlight of Nevis is The Botanical Gardens at the Montpelier Estate, which feature more than 100 species of palms and 70 orchid varieties. Hiking, (highest peak 3200 feet), exploring and relaxing at the beach are of interest in Nevis. This is a non-commercial, out-of-the-way wondrous place.

Virgin Gorda, so named by Christopher Columbus, because it has a silhouette of a fat woman lying on her back. At one time it profited from the sugar industry. When slavery was abolished in 1838, the economy floundered for years. Later, tourism and offshore banking brought new vitality and economic growth. The islands volcanic origins formed scenic grottos that open to the sea. Swimming and snorkeling as well as exploring old ruins and exotic wildlife are part of its allure.

Many islands have great butterfly farms and preserves where you find exotic birds, monkeys and can witness how nature in all its infinite splendor interact. Surprise your loved one with a trip to an island where romance, mystic and magical sunsets can fill your heart with wonder and joy!

NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

Do You Know Your Neighbor?

It's hard to get to know everyone in our neighborhood these days. I'm guilty of that to some degree myself, but being out-of-touch can make us more vulnerable to break-ins and less connected to important community events and services. Plus, we may also miss out on establishing some really enriching friendships.

Social networks on the web, like Facebook, Pinterest, and Twitter, have shown us the value of connecting online. Now, there's a service that helps neighbors connect online with a very easy format. It's called "Nextdoor," and it aims to bring back a sense of community to our neighborhoods, including Smoke Rise.



"Nextdoor" is a FREE, private, social network which establishes virtual neighborhood connections that lead to real-life connections. The network allows members to get to know one another, ask questions and exchange information. Topics on "Nextdoor" are tailored specifically to the interest of residents of that neighborhood. Each member must verify their address before they can log onto this private neighborhood website. With its added sense of security, residents can talk about everyday things – both big and small. People are using Nextdoor to:

- Quickly get the word out about a break-in or suspicious activity
- Organize a Neighborhood Watch Group
- Track down a trustworthy babysitter or music instructor
- Find out who does the best paint job, deck build, or plumbing in town
- Ask for help keeping an eye out for a lost dog or cat
- Find a new owner for an outgrown bicycle or school desk
- Finally call that nice woman down the street by her first name
- And lots more!

Neighborhoods establish and self-manage their own "Nextdoor" website. More than 100,000 neighborhoods across the country are already signed up. In Stone Mountain, there are already more than 100 "Nextdoor" neighborhood networks, and the Smoke Rise group has nearly 800 neighbors connected. That means thousands of members in our neighborhood, county, and state are actively engaged with their neighbors, and more members are signing up each day.

Information is only visible to verified members who are residents of the Nextdoor community they join. DeKalb County police and other organizations can post important information, such as crime updates and government news directly to affected communities. But, these "outsiders" can't access neighbors' contact information or content. Also, information shared on the "Nextdoor" network is password protected and not found on search engines.

If you're interested in joining Nextdoor, be sure to check out the website: www.nextdoor.com. When you enter your address, it will take you to the signup site for the Smoke Rise network.

Now, go out there and get to know your neighbors!

Park Springs Member
Katrina Shoemaker & Daughter

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Smoke Rise Morning Glories Members Attend 89th State Convention

Members of Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club were among 300 statewide garden club members and guests attending The Garden Club of Georgia's 89th Annual Convention April 18-20 at The Lodge and Spa at Callaway Gardens. Members of the Smoke Rise Garden Club and Mountain Mums also attended the conference. The 3-day event spotlighted education and awards, beginning with several workshops and tours Tuesday afternoon.

Morning Glories members attended five workshops that carried out the convention's theme, "It's All About the B's" - Bees, Butterflies, Birds and Bats. Several toured the Little White House at Warm Springs and the Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center at Callaway Gardens.

Tuesday evening's Keynote Speaker was Noted butterfly expert Arabella Dane. Her subject: "All a Flutter: A Joyous Look at Butterflies and How We Can Protect Them". Speakers at the workshops included naturalist and photographer Todd Schneider on songbirds, beekeeper Cindy Hodges telling how bees help feed the world, and DNR Wildlife Biologist Trina Morris on the "Unlikely Eco Heroes, Bats." Callaway Garden staff members spoke Thursday on "Wildflowers: Attracting Pollinators in Large & Small Ways."

The club brought home the First Place award for the Yearbook from the annual Awards Banquet on Wednesday evening, attended by Quill Duncan, Glendolyn Hallman, Janet McGinnis, Tally Sweat and Joy Zaidan. Club president Glendolyn Hallman accepted the award for the Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club and DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs.

The Life Member Luncheon--where National, Deep South Region and State Life members were recognized--concluded the convention Thursday. The 2017-2019 GCG officers and district directors were installed by Deep South Region Director Carol Bullard during the Life Member Luncheon.

Mountain Mums have an Adventure at Callaway Gardens

A group of the Mountain Mums attended the 89th Annual Garden Club of Georgia Convention in April at Callaway Gardens. The Mums were asked to bring gift bags for 250 participants of the Convention. We started soliciting donations from companies around the state in the fall and by March had collected many items- from magazines, to pens to put in the bags. Using a lot of Mum effort we assembled the bags the week before the convention and drove down with two vehicles full of bags to deliver them.

Our next adventure was helping to assemble floral centerpieces for the tables. A different centerpiece was used for each meal and we helped put together arrangements for two of the meals (that's 50 arrangements).

Tired but still game for another adventure, we visited Callaway's Day Butterfly Center. The next day we got the chance to visit the Little Whitehouse at Warm Springs and the gardens at Hills & Dales estate in LaGrange, Ga. My overall impression of the Convention was that a large group of woman can do anything they put their mind to!

The Mountain Mums were also honored to receive five awards at the recent DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs annual awards luncheon held at Callanwolde. Heather Mcendon received an award for her horticulture in addition to the Mums awards for collecting the most pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald house, the award for the club with the largest gain in membership, the 100% attendance award and the Certificate for Excellence. The Mountain Mums are one of several active garden clubs in the Smoke Rise area. If you are interested in learning more about the Mums, or becoming a member, contact Carol Wales at cawale@hotmail.com.



Sally Young arranges centerpieces for the convention.

Smoke Rise Garden Club

The May meeting of the Smoke Rise Garden Club was in the lovely home of Usha Ramakrishnan with Deb Christensen and Paula Adeoba serving as co-hostesses. The speaker was Stanley Harper of Ferncliff Catering. Stanley brought fresh herbs for three dishes he prepared for the club to sample. Each herb combination represented a different country: France, Italy and Thailand. His favorite place to buy herbs, if not available in your garden, is the Buford Highway Farmers Market. Stanley offered many cooking tips and prepared Pesto, Tomato Confit and Thai spring rolls. Everything tasted so fresh!

The club made plans for a field trip in July to pick blueberries, and planned a summer pool party. The SRGC's next meeting in September will have a speaker on Orchids!

Oops! I forgot to mention Deb and I planted whopper begonias and sweet potato vine at Fire station #5 in Tucker! They are most appreciative.

And, The Plant Sale which went so smoothly and fast brought in \$\$\$! Woo Hoo! We also met five potential new members. Our long time member Mary Giordano joined us.

Mountain Shadow Garden Club to Feature Gwinnett Tech Horticulture Program

The meeting of Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) on Monday evening June 12 will feature a presentation on the Horticulture Program and Urban Garden at Gwinnett Technical College in Lawrenceville. Aaron Poulsen, director of the program, first came to Atlanta for the 1996 Olympics and has worked in garden center management as well as public garden management while furthering his education. He has an Associate's Degree in Environmental Horticulture from GTC and a Bachelor's degree in General Biology from Georgia Gwinnett College.

The Horticulture Program at GTC began in 1984 and there are 75 current students. Options include a one-year certificate, one and a half-year diploma, and a two-year degree. With excellent facilities, GTC hosts many industry events, workshops, four plant sales each year, and a weekly farmers market. In addition to the horticulture building, there is a full size greenhouse, landscape with water feature, hardscapes and lighting, an aquaponics system, and a small-scale farm with in-ground and raised bed production of sustainably grown fruits, vegetables, and cut flowers.

Gwinnett Tech currently offers degrees and diplomas in Environmental Horticulture and certificates in GIS Technology, Landscape Installation Technician, Landscape Design Technician, Floral Designer, and Sustainable Urban Agriculture Technician. There is also a continuing education class in "Starting and Operating a Small Business".

Students can pursue an eco-friendly career after completing Gwinnett Tech's Horticulture program, in a job that's not just good for the environment, but with endless career possibilities. Job opportunities in this field span everything from landscape designer to greenhouse manager. Students can learn the latest in green technologies, practices, and sustainability techniques.

At least four active members and leaders of Mountain Shadow Garden Club completed study in programs in Horticulture at Gwinnett Tech. Each year, the club sponsors a scholarship in the amount of \$500 (five hundred dollars) to a student in the Horticulture Program at Gwinnett Tech. The 2017 winner of the award will also attend the meeting on June 12 and make comments.



Speaker Aaron Poulsen



Co-hostesses, Paula Adeoba, Deborah Christensen and Hostess, Usha Ramakrishnan

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HODGE PODGE



By Jenny Hall

I have been experimenting with macaroons-- the French kind that are filled and cost about \$5.00 each and are in darling pastel colors and all froufrou. Froufrou is French for pain in the butt. Because I experimented so much and had to eat a ton of those sweet little cookies, I find that the idea of anything sugary is pretty hard to take. I can feel my body screaming for protein and real food, so I begged a fabulous recipe from my piano student Barbara, who served this dish at her last book club. I am impressed that her book club discusses the author and book. My last book club became an excuse to go out for brunch, visit and perhaps discover that a few of us had read the book or knew the title. Because the author of Barbara's monthly book was Korean, she served a Korean themed meal and it's exactly the protein yumminess I want right now. It is a slow cooker recipe (or crock-pot to us seniors. We know all about crock. Perhaps a little bit about pot. Let's stop now).

Korean Beef Stew

1 cup beef broth (gluten free if needed)
1/2 cup reduced salt soy sauce (gluten free if you need it)
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
2-4 cloves minced garlic
1 Tbl EACH: sesame oil, rice wine vinegar, & grated fresh ginger
1 tsp Sriracha sauce or more if you like it for a bit more zazz
1/2 tsp pepper
1/2 tsp onion powder (I didn't have so just left out)
3 pound boneless beef chuck, cut into 1-inch cubes
2 Tablespoons cornstarch
1/4 cup water
sesame seeds and 2 green onions for garnish

Mix broth with soy sauce, sugar, garlic, oil, vinegar, ginger, Sriracha, pepper and onion powder. Put beef in slow cooker (5-6 qt size) and pour mixture over. Cook on low for 7-8 hours until done but beef still holds shape. Whisk the cornstarch and water together and add to cooked beef mixture. Cover and cook on high another 30 minutes to thicken the sauce. Serve over white rice and sprinkle with sesame seeds and sliced green onions. Serves 8.

Serve this with that wonderful slaw recipe found in every church cookbook in the world. It's the one that uses ramen noodles, almonds and sesame seeds. The dressing is just tart enough to balance the richness of the beef. Kimchi is a traditional fermented, salted Korean cabbage mixture that takes about 5 days to make, so-- no, no, no. Again. No. If you hate slaw, I'd suggest just serving marinated cucumbers or asparagus on the side!

Dessert is a bit more daunting. As you know, I am easily daunted. So I dug around in all my old Chinese and Japanese cookbooks and found this cool dessert that is terrific with any spicy food. It's wonderful to serve with a light almond cookie, which actually is an unfilled macaroon - so I'm back where I started. Wow.

Almond Cloud Float

1 envelope plain gelatin (like Knox®)
1 1/4 cups cold water, plus 3 Tablespoons more
3/4 cup undiluted evaporated milk
6 Tablespoons sugar
2 teaspoons almond extract

Soften the gelatin in 3 Tablespoons water and set aside. In saucepan heat milk and 1 1/4 cups water to almost a boil, stirring. Add the sugar and heat to dissolve. Add softened gelatin and stir to dissolve. Cool and add almond extract. Pour into shallow glass dish (like 8x10) and refrigerate to set.

Make syrup next:

1 can Mandarin oranges, drained but save juice
1/4 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon almond extract
8 maraschino cherries

Measure juice from oranges and add enough water to equal 2 cups liquid. Put in saucepan and add 1/4 sugar, heating to dissolve only. Cool and add almond extract. To serve, cut the gelatin in cubes and place in dessert cups. Garnish with Mandarin oranges and cherries and pour about 1/4 cup of the syrup over the gelatin. Cool, refreshing and very good also with pineapple, sliced grapes or even fruit cocktail.

Serve with plain sugar cookies. Refrigerated ones are great. I buy them on sale, freeze them for later and use them all the time. Roll them around in your perfectly clean hands so they look homemade and just press some sliced almonds on top as you flatten them on the cookie sheet. Bake according to package directions. Do half in coconut or even add in a handful of diced mixed fruit that has mango, coconut and papaya in it. Everyone will be fooled, yet incredibly impressed!

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

Dante and Popcorn, Therapy Bunnies

by Ellen Stilwell

Rabbits have a gentle and loving nature, and many make good therapy pets. A therapy bunny is a personal pet that provides affection and comfort to people of all ages with physical, social, emotional and cognitive needs. My 2 rescue bunnies, Dante and Popcorn, are therapy rabbits with Happy Tails Pet Therapy. We visit the patients at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, as well as schools, nursing homes and other therapy centers in the Atlanta area. My bunnies are also part of a staff wellness program at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Therapy bunnies offer different benefits to each person they come in contact with, some are soothed from the stress of the day by petting a rabbit, while others are affected just by the cuteness factor.

I love how I can partner with my bunny to bring comfort and healing to those in need. I also love knowing that the bunnies I have chosen to work with are rescue bunnies that came from rough beginnings and came out with such wonderful personalities, a testament to their strength and heart. Now, they are ready to share their bunny love, and bring happiness to others! It's so heartwarming to know our animals are a part of helping people along their journey of recovery, whether it's physical, emotional or spiritual!

My husband and I love to take Dante and Popcorn out among the Tucker community, to places like the Tucker Farmer's Market for their greens. We also enjoy taking them to Local 7 on the patio where they love visiting with the staff and patrons. At Christmas, we went to the Lighting of the Tree on Main, where the bunnies got to meet Frank Auman, the Mayor, and several others from the newly formed City of Tucker.

We were thrilled with Mountain Creek Swim Club invited the bunnies to come to an Easter event for Parents and their children to have photos with the "Easter Bunnies". Around 20 children sat at the pool side arbor for photos and a little bunny cuddling/fun! Everyone had a wonderful time and lots of cute photos were taken for the Easter season.

