

# SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 11

*Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968*

February, 2022

www.smokesignalnews.com

H A P P Y  
*Valentine's Day*

FROM THE SMOKE SIGNAL STAFF!

### *Look inside for...*

Shopping in Smoke Rise.....	pg 5
Take Control of Your Data Privacy.....	pg 7
Salute to DeKalb Sanitation Workers .....	pg 8
Home COVID-19 Tests.....	pg 10
Smoke Rise Real Estate Prices.....	pg 11

## Hugh Howell Marketplace Update

*By Emory Morsberger, President - Tucker Summit Community Improvement District (CID)*

The much-anticipated Hugh Howell Marketplace is now open for business! Joining the new and modernized Publix are a bevy of popular restaurants including Antico Sports, a new sports concept from Antico Pizza Napoletana; Bite of Korea, the delectable food truck is opening its first brick-and-mortar restaurant; Buffalo Wild Wings GO, a smaller restaurant from the national chain designed for takeout and delivery; First Watch, a national restaurant chain specializing in breakfast, brunch and lunch; gusto!, the growing local restaurant specializing in healthy bowls and wraps along with Jersey Mike's Subs and service providers such as Piedmont Urgent Care and The Joint Chiropractic.

The 89,510 square foot development is managed by Branch Properties and is located at the heavily trafficked intersection of Hugh Howell Road and Mountain Industrial Boulevard.

\* The Tucker Summit Community Improvement District (formerly Stone Mountain CID) is a self-taxing district comprised of commercial property business owners that help fund area improvements, including transit roadway updates and repairs, landscaping, security and more.

## City of Tucker; Induction of Elected Officials

*By Gaye Auman, First Lady of Tucker*

Tucker's Mayor and new City Council met Tuesday night, January 11. The first order of business was to swear in the newly re-elected Mayor, Frank Auman, and three new members of council. They are Roger Orlando from District 1, Cara Schroeder from District 2, and Alexis Weaver from District 3. Along with Virginia Rece, who was sworn in for District 1 immediately after the November election to fill the remainder of Bill Rosenfeld's term, these five, along with Noelle Monferdini (D2) and Anne Lerner (D3), who each have two years remaining in their terms, will comprise the city council until the next municipal elections in 2023.

Officiating was Judge Steve Nicholas, who has been the Chief Judge for Tucker's municipal court since the city's incorporation. Prior to the swearings-in, Matthew Lee, President of the Tucker Historical Society, gave a few words of inspiration. The history he recounted related not only to Tucker's founding as a city six years ago, but also back to its origins as a community. As has become a tradition, the original 1892 desk of Tucker's first Postmaster, Alpheus Chewing, was brought in for the newly elected councilmembers' use in signing their oaths. Even the pen used for the occasion is the same one every member of council has used in the city's brief history.



The first item on the agenda for every newly seated council is to elect a Mayor Pro Temp. The council unanimously elected Anne Lerner from District 3, who has served her district since

the city's inception. The job of the Mayor Pro Temp is to fill in during any absence of the Mayor, whether that is for a single meeting, or a longer period of absence for any reason.

From there, the council dove right into regular business, taking up items relating to the Downtown Development Authority, a sidewalk on Old Norcross Rd., improvements to MARTA bus stops city-wide, and a Special Land Use Permit for a gas station redevelopment near Northlake on Lavista Rd. Congratulations and Thank You to our newest public servants!

If you would like to stay updated on the business and activities of the city council, you can join the email list using the link at [www.tuckerga.gov](http://www.tuckerga.gov).

You can also receive the two-time award-winning InTucker magazine simply by requesting it by emailing [info@tuckerga.gov](mailto:info@tuckerga.gov).



## Second Annual Tucker Restaurant Week

The City of Tucker and Discover DeKalb will host the second annual Tucker Restaurant Week, February 23-27. This delightful culinary event features nearly 20 dining establishments offering special prices and menu items throughout the five-day period.

"Last year, we saw thousands of diners from all across metro Atlanta flock to Tucker's restaurants to enjoy Tucker Restaurant Week," said Discover DeKalb Executive Director and CEO James Tsismanakis. "Our mission is to bring people here to explore and discover Tucker, and that's exactly what we accomplished during Restaurant Week."

"Tucker is a warm and welcoming city and that will be on full display during Tucker Restaurant Week," added Tucker Mayor Frank Auman. "I hope that everyone comes and enjoys our diverse and accomplished group of Tucker restaurants."

Tucker Restaurant Week is a partnership between the City of Tucker and Discover DeKalb, which serves as the city's convention and visitors bureau. In its inaugural year, Tucker Restaurant Week captured accolades and awards, including three national awards for the work of organizing, promoting, and marketing the event. Complete details and restaurant offerings for the 2022 event are available at [www.tuckerrestaurantweek.com](http://www.tuckerrestaurantweek.com).

## Smoke Rise Civic Association Update

*By Michael J. Huerkamp, SRCA President*

Minus 5,913. No, that obviously was not the recorded low temperature when Winter Storm Izzy passed through in January, but rather the fiscal deficit finish of the Smoke Rise Civic Association (SRCA) for 2021. Your association starts 2022 with a balance of \$36,421 and our annual new and renewal membership drive, usually in full bore by now, delayed by the omicron variant surge and the bad weather over the MLK Jr. holiday weekend. Likewise, the first board meeting of the year was delayed until January 24.

For those desiring to get a jump on submitting the annual \$40 donation, the easiest way right now is to send checks endorsed to SRCA to P. O. Box 870793, Smoke Rise, GA 30087. As you prepare your taxes, remember that 100% of donations to SRCA in 2021, in light of our 501(c)(3) non-profit status, are fully tax deductible and all of your \$40 or more donation in 2022 goes wholly to programs such as landscaping at chimneys, support of the elementary school, a vibrant community garden, local charity initiatives and the swimming team, mowing at the US78 triangle, and other civic initiatives that preserve, promote, and improve Smoke Rise. Please support SRCA today.



## 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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### Preferred Formats for Smoke Signal Submissions

When sending articles and photos to the *Smoke Signal*, it is helpful if articles could be sent in .doc or .docx format. Articles sent in .pdf format cannot be edited or changed in any way. Also photos sent in .jpg format can easily be opened and formatted to fit a particular space, so that is also a preferred method. Thanks for helping us make your neighborhood paper the best it can be!

In the future, digital copies of the *Smoke Signal* will be posted to the archives at [www.smokesignalnews.com](http://www.smokesignalnews.com). For now, you can request a digital copy of the current issue, after the first of each month, by contacting [staff@smokesignalnews.com](mailto:staff@smokesignalnews.com). You can also visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews](http://www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews) to view postings of newsletter pictures and stories throughout the month.

## Smoke Signal Deadlines

### FEBRUARY 13

Please e-mail articles to:

[staff@smokesignalnews.com](mailto:staff@smokesignalnews.com)

(Word documents or text file attachments preferred)  
 PLEASE DO NOT SEND CLASSIFIED ADS  
 TO THIS E-MAIL ADDRESS

Extra copies may be picked up at  
 The Smoke Rise Community Garden on Hugh Howell Rd.

Deadline for classified ads is FEBRUARY 10

### SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

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

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 Link to the digital version of the *Smoke Signal*  
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### GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club

salutes its members for their dedication to community service:

13,069 volunteer hours  
 \$49,400 funds donated  
 \$29,293 value of goods donated

In support of organizations and individuals in Stone Mountain, Tucker, and the greater East Metro area.

<https://www.stone-mountainwomansclub.org>

### ATTENTION GRADUATES, NEWLYWEDS, AND HONOREES

Please send in your picture and a brief article for publication in the *Smoke Signal*.  
 Email submissions to [staff@smokesignalnews.com](mailto:staff@smokesignalnews.com)



### DID YOUR PAPER GET WET?

EXTRA COPIES OF THE SMOKE SIGNAL ARE NOW AVAILBLE AT THE COMMUNITY GARDEN Look for the wooden box labeled *Smoke Signal*.



### ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:

The *Smoke Signal* has reached its ad-space limit and we are now keeping a waiting list for future advertisements.

Please send your ad-size requests to Frank Luton, [luton@mindspring.com](mailto:luton@mindspring.com), and your ads will be included as space becomes available, in the order requests are received.

## Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Connecting in New Ways During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Chris George: Senior Pastor  
 Bart McNeil: Associate Pastor of Administration,  
 Ministry Support and Congregational Care  
 Becky Caswell-Speight: Minister of Families,  
 Faith Formation and Connection  
 Jim Smith: Pastoral Care Associate  
 Amanda Coe Burton: Ministry Director for Children and Families  
 Harrison Litzell: Co-Director of Weekday School  
 Stacey McNeil: Co-Director of Weekday School  
 Telephone: (770) 469-5856  
[SmokeRiseBaptist.org](http://SmokeRiseBaptist.org)

### SUNDAY

9:45 a.m. Attend Sunday School through Zoom or In-Person  
 Schedule Available at [smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/](http://smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/)  
 11:00 a.m. Attend Worship via Live Stream or In-Person  
 Live Stream Available at [smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/](http://smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/)  
 5:00 p.m. Children and Youth Activities In-Person

### MONDAY

7:00 p.m. Journeys Racial Justice Study Group  
 Zoom or In-Person  
 Schedule Available at [smokerisebaptist.org/journeys/](http://smokerisebaptist.org/journeys/)

### WEDNESDAY

5:00 p.m. Dinner  
 6:00 p.m. In-Person Programing for all ages,  
 join the Adult Bible Study via Live Stream

Live Stream at [smokerisebaptist.org/wednesday-evening-activities/](http://smokerisebaptist.org/wednesday-evening-activities/)

## Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III  
 Director of Spiritual Formation ~ Jeanine Fulton  
 Director of Family & Outreach ~ Mark Sauls  
 Interim Director of Music ~ Ben Holcomb  
 Organist ~ Carole Mitchell  
 Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zabarac  
 Director of Weekday Ministries ~ Celeste Sears  
 Office Coordinator ~ Christina Wetzel-Sizemore  
 5801 Hugh Howell Road ~ Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
 770-469-4881 ~ [www.eastminster.us](http://www.eastminster.us)

### Sundays:

9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School via Zoom and In-Person  
 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School via Zoom and In-Person  
 10:30 a.m. In-Person and Live streaming of Worship service

### Events:

December 8 at 5:30 p.m. Game Night and Dinner  
 Reservations required by December 3  
 December 13 at 5:30 p.m. "Voces Amicis" Chamber Choir in Concert  
 December 19 at 10:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols Worship service  
 December 24 at 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service

Sunday School Zooms and streaming information can be found on our website at <https://www.eastminster.us/sundays>.

## MC3 Church

Senior Minister: Art Stansberry  
 Worship Minister: Leslie Riley  
 Student Minister: Will Tyler  
 Children's Minister: Rae Tyler Caggiula  
 (770) 783-1035 ~ [www.mc3.life](http://www.mc3.life)

Sunday Worship at Parkview High School Auditorium

9:30 a.m. Coffee and donuts; adult and student c-groups; nursery and Sunday school for infants to 5th graders.  
 10:30 am. Worship service  
 C-groups throughout the week at various homes -- check out our website for more times and addresses

### Business Address and Hours:

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

Mailing Address: 1227 Rockbridge Rd., SW, STE 208-251  
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087

## First Moravian Church

Pastor: Rev. Elroy Christopher  
 Congregational Acolyte: Bill Hitz  
 (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 Moravian Church sanctuary  
 4950 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain, GA 30087

## Mountain West Church

Pastor: Mo Huggins  
 (770) 491-0228 ~ [www.mwchurch.com](http://www.mwchurch.com)  
 4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain  
 Sunday Services: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
 In-person and streaming online on Facebook and [mwchurch.com](http://mwchurch.com)

**Operation Smile** *By Barbara Luton*

Operation Smile is an affiliate organization of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club is part of this international group. Operation Smile provides health that lasts for people affected by cleft lip and cleft palate living in places of need around the world. The organization has been sending teams of volunteer doctors and nurses to do the work for almost 40 years.

Even in the pandemic, which has caused adversity in many ways, the organization conducted 97 medical programs across 412 sites in 15 countries. Each program was led by local medical volunteer teams operating under stringent safety protocols. They provided 12,971 patients with surgery and dental care at medical programs, care centers, and partner hospitals last year.

The pandemic presented the Operation Smile global community with adversity in many ways, from lockdowns to food insecurity to health systems stretched beyond their limits. Yet thanks to the unwavering compassion and generosity of supporters and volunteers, their teams continued to provide patients with life-changing surgeries and care.

The Stone Mountain Woman's Club has provided blankets, hospital gowns and "no-no" armbands, which keep the children from touching the incision, to the volunteers. The club has supported the organization with monetary donations through many years and sponsored a nurse to go on a trip after hearing her story at one of the club meetings.

Information for this article was provided by the General Federation of Women's Clubs "News and Notes" website.



**RANDY OTTO AS WINSTON CHURCHILL at ART Station in Stone Mountain**

Renowned worldwide, electrifying Keynote Leadership Speaker and seasoned actor Randy Otto has embodied Winston Churchill for more than four decades and hundreds of appearances, earning him the distinction:

Churchill Leadership Expert. Forged during four decades of passionate academic study, countless speaking engagements and theatrical performances, Otto's portrayal of Winston Churchill is unforgettable, entertaining and full of passion, detailed and quick witted.



Masks are required. ART Station requires all patrons, ages 12 and older, provide proof upon entry of a completed COVID-19 vaccination (at least two weeks prior to the arrival at ART Station) or a negative COVID-19 PCR test that was completed no more than 72 hours prior.

Tickets are required. Performances of Randy Otto as Winston Churchill are Friday, February 11 at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, February 12 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 13 matinee at 3:00 p.m. All performances will be in the ART Station Theatre located at 5384 Manor Drive in the historic village of Stone Mountain (770) 469-1105. [www.artstation.org](http://www.artstation.org).

**Senior Moments in the ART Station Theatre**

Senior Moments is a hilarious, fast-paced musical and comedy variety show featuring the Paris Dancers and 2nd Act Performing Company - multi-talented dancers, actors, and singers of the Senior Set. Their goal is to model in their performances - the agility of the "Senior" body and spirit; to change the negative view of what being or becoming a "Senior" citizen is in our society today. This group strives to entertain, encourage and inspire Seniors and others to

experience the joy of living fully each day. "We are great at what we do... We just can't remember what it is!"



Cherilynn Paris founded the original Paris Dancers in 1964, with performers ranging in ages from 18 to 28. Forty-seven years later, she founded the new mature Paris Dancers, consisting of performers with the ages of 56 to 82.

Tickets are required. Performances of Senior Moments will be February 24, 25, and 26 at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, February 27 matinee at 3:00 p.m. All performances will be in the ART Station Theatre located at 5384 Manor Drive in the historic village of Stone Mountain, (770) 469-1105. [www.artstation.org](http://www.artstation.org).

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*We'd Enjoy Connecting With Our Smoke Rise Neighbors.*

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*Blowin' Smoke*  
By Rachel Caines

**LEED Certified Production Studio to Open in Stone Mountain**

Electric Owls Studio has broken ground on phase one of a 17-acre, six stage, 300,000 square-foot production space, located minutes from the Indian Creek MARTA station. The studio was formed from a partnership between co-founders Michael Hahn and Dan Rosenfelt, who worked together on Doraville's Third Rail Studio.

They describe the new studio as "The first ever purpose built and gold LEED-certified filming studio" (LEED = Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, an internationally recognized "green building" rating system) and they hope to set an example in sustainability for future studios around the world by creating the "greenest studio on earth." They'll do this by utilizing solar power, recycled rainwater, efficient insulation, LED lighting, smart thermostats, and nearly 50 electric vehicle charging stations in their parking lot.

According to co-founder Dan Rosenfelt, "We are large enough for a Marvel-size film but small enough to be considered a boutique property. We can focus on one or two big productions at a time and give them the type of attention and treatment they deserve."

In addition to the studio, the area will also see a large "town center" Kaplan development of 200+ rentable townhomes, as well as a \$10 million update to the Indian Creek MARTA station itself. Phase One is to be completed January 2023 and will put DeKalb County's total studio square footage at more than one million square feet!

**Smoke Rise "Christmas House" Does it Again**

By Victor Economy, S.R. Resident and Holiday Cheer Maker

The 2021 Christmas season was as merry and bright as ever! We continued the tradition of decorating our home with thousands of lights and welcomed the addition of a whale to our display. It fit in quite nicely with the dolphins, octopus, and Christmas Shark!

Santa Claus was able to stop by again this year to hear requests and pose for pictures in his sleigh. We are happy he made time in his busy schedule to do this and are hoping to have him again next year!

With the help of neighbors, friends, and Make-A-Wish volunteers, we collected \$13,124.95 for Make-A-Wish Georgia. One hundred percent of the collected amount was presented to organization representative, Jaylie Stratton, on January 5 by my wife Theo and me. This amount exceeded the 2020 total



and brings the grand total to \$61,284.98 for the past nine years (100% of collected donations go directly to the charity). We are so grateful to everyone for their donations and for the generosity they have shown to this wonderful organization.

On average it costs \$10,000.00 to grant a wish, and we are so excited that for the past two years we have been able to fully grant the wishes of local children! Once our Make-A-Wish child recipient for 2021 is revealed, we will share the details.

We also want to thank all our wonderful Summit neighbors who tolerate the constant traffic on our street. We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We are already working on our new addition for this Christmas!



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**Shopping in Smoke Rise** *By Rachel Caines, Smoke Rise Resident*

When we moved from Downtown Tucker to Smoke Rise, we bought the first and only house we saw - an Open House caught our eye, we fell head-over-heels in love, and we looked no further.

As we furnished and decorated our new home, we quickly realized we didn't have to leave the neighborhood to fill our home with beautiful, unique pieces - so that's what we did, at the local Estate Sales of Smoke Rise! Take a tour of our home and you'll surely hear

a story of one of our neighbor's interesting artifacts:

- A 25-year-old Ficus tree in our entryway, a gift from the brother of a former Smoke Rise resident who retired to Spain (I bought the plant for its cool pot, and ended up learning a whole lot about how to keep a Ficus alive!)
- A king-sized, hand-knit afghan blanket crafted by the 92 year-old mother of another former resident who retired to Lake Lanier.
- A very unique stone bird bath, but I can't even

describe it. You'd really just have to see it! We were waiting for the right one to find us, and this one belonged to a Garden Club member who hosted plant sales where I've purchased many of my bulbs lately!

When I asked my husband his favorite find so far, his initial reaction was "Fossils!" followed by "funky chairs, stained glass, and a large wooden shark." My favorites include a large ornate terrarium and a colorful hand-blown wine

glass set.

We're proud to make our Smoke Rise home an unofficial museum dedicated to the journeys of our SR neighbors, past, present, and future. One day, someone will surely tell a story of the strange item they picked up at our sale!

Not only has "Estate Sailing" been a fun way to decorate our home, it's also been a great way to see many of the custom Smoke Rise homes, especially since we didn't look

at any other houses before buying. I've noticed a common decor piece in many of the older, "original" Smoke Rise homes - Wallpaper! So far, I've seen metallics, funky colors, bold patterns, mismatched walls, even what may have been hand-made wallpaper! I've had so much fun checking out all of the wallpaper in our community that I've started to compile my wallpaper findings on Instagram! Check them out at @WallsOfSmokeRise.

*Looking for a way to give back to your community?*  
**THE SMOKE SIGNAL**  
 is looking for a few more writers or people with a passion for storytelling.  
 Contact: [staff@smokesignalnews.com](mailto:staff@smokesignalnews.com)



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**Thank You Smoke Rise!**  
 of the 101 sales in Smoke Rise in 2021  
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**Estate Sales – When You Need to Get Rid of Stuff**

*By Pat Soltys*

The size of the homes in Smoke Rise might be a contributing factor in our ability to collect so much stuff. When we decide to move, usually it means getting rid of things, especially when downsizing. Our options include garage sales, auctions, giveaways, donations, selling bit-by-bit or having an estate sale. There is a lot to know, if considering the estate sale route. Do you hold it yourself or do you hire professionals? Holding it yourself is a lot like a garage sale and a lot of work, often for little return.

Estate sale companies bring a lot to the table, usually earning their commission fee. One of the biggest assets is that they do not have the emotional connection with your possessions, they are looking to get the most out of the sale for you. If you take a little time to visit estate sales before you meet with companies, it will help you a lot in understanding how they run their sales and which companies you want to invite to talk to you. When you meet with an estate sale company, often the owner, be prepared to ask a lot of questions.

In the appointment, they will want to understand what you want to sell and your timing. Remember, everything can be sold, even partial bottles of cleaning products. The fuller the sale, the better it will draw. They should ask you questions, including access for set up and sale as well as answer your concerns. You should ask to see their contract and understand the responsibilities of all parties. Do they advertise and how? Are their fees all inclusive? Is their fee structure different by what is being sold? For example, trinkets and vehicles usually do not have the same rate. How do they account for the sale, is there an inventory? What are the terms of paying the proceeds of the sale?

Ask about their staffing, traffic management, insurance, security of your home and possessions, especially those not being sold as well as how heavy items are moved - especially if there are challenges for access. How do they work with specialty and high value items, including whether they take certain items to auction where higher prices might be achieved? How do they set pricing and are there scheduled reductions? What are the hours and days of the sale?

Ask whether they bring things that are not yours to be sold. In some cases, they bring things that help your sale and will bring people. Some set up their consigned, or other items, to sell basically using your house as their store. In these times of COVID, how are they taking precautions to keep people as safe as possible? Finally, how do they leave your home, and what happens to the stuff that does not sell? Find out about the company's following and sales that they have done in your area and of course, references!

Lots of questions, but it will be worthwhile before making a commitment. Randall Hudson, owner of Crystal Clear Advisors and a Smoke Rise Resident says, "You have taken care of your treasures all these years, now let your treasures take care of you."



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**Out the Window**

by Beth Henson

The streaming, morning sun was a welcome visitor to my studio, along with the soft, humming furnace, keeping everything cozy and warm. Settling in for a morning of painting, a flurry of activity outside my bright floor-to-ceiling window caught my attention. Several show-stopping plumaged bluebirds were taking turns on the suet feeder I had recently placed near the house, snugly tucked in between two sturdy boxwoods. Adding to the vibrant scene was a delicate blooming winter jasmine cascading with pops of tiny, lemony yellow flowers. I couldn't help but mentally pat myself on the back for moving the feeder front and center for my own enjoyment and entertainment.

Without warning, the happy bluebird family unexpectedly took flight, landing in the upper branches of a nearby dogwood. As I peered out, checking both directions to see what had warranted their exodus, I noticed a swishing silky brown tail, obviously belonging to something camouflaged in the hedge. Mr. Cat had also highly approved of my new location. On second thought, I'll be immediately relocating the suet to its previously more open and cat unfriendly home.



Bluebird by Beth Henson

**techtalk**

by Susan Gilbert

**Sold Down the River**

Surely you have noticed that anytime you use a search engine to find something online, you begin seeing ads, articles, videos, and websites related to the object of your search. I once did a Google search for wooden bench, and for weeks afterwards, every website I visited was covered with wooden bench advertisements. Who knew there were so many wooden benches in the world!?

If you use YouTube, you start seeing videos related to your searches. You never gave YouTube permission to push these videos at you, and even if you try to opt out of them, they will keep coming back.



The reason I chose this title for this article is that we all know the phrase and its intent: If someone sells you down the river, they betray you or do something that harms you to gain an advantage for themselves.

This TechTalk presents a quick warning about those search engines we all use and any other software we can get "for free." My intent writing this is to remind you that nothing is ever truly free... and we are sold down the river thinking we are getting something for nothing.

A recent docudrama called The Social Dilemma points this all out in graphic detail. According to Wikipedia, the movie examines how social media's design nurtures addiction, manipulates people's views, emotions, and behavior, and spreads conspiracy theories and disinformation, to maximize profit. The film also examines the issue of social media's effect on mental health (including the mental health of adolescents and the rising teen suicide rates). The film features interviews with many former employees, executives, and other professionals from top tech companies and social media platforms including Facebook, Google, Twitter, and Mozilla.

These interviewees draw on their firsthand experiences working at these companies to discuss how such platforms have caused negative and problematic social, political, and cultural consequences. Some of the interviewees qualify that social media platforms and big tech companies have provided some positive change for society as well. These interviews are presented alongside scripted dramatizations of a teenager's social media addiction.

Therefore, as we increasingly go online to learn, buy, and socialize, please be aware that you, the viewer, are the product these nefarious people want, and they have spent millions learning how to play you like a fiddle. They want you to spend more and more time online, so they feed you things they believe you will want to read and/or watch... usually video, because they know that is the most compelling and addictive.

If you find they are "tripping your trigger" and causing you to spend hours on a topic, they have succeeded at their game, and in general, it is not in your best interest.

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**How to Take Control of Your Data Privacy**

*By Gia Anderson*

Many social platforms promise to protect our privacy online, but can we trust that they are doing it? Are we sufficiently informed about how these companies use our data? Do we read privacy settings before checking that "I agree" box?

I recently presented my final project at Columbia University where I was studying towards a Master of Science in Strategic Communication. My team and I conducted research where we surveyed 300 US-based social media users about their view of data privacy and personalization. We found out that most users enjoy their experiences on social media platforms. They love connecting with friends and family, keeping up with news about their communities as well as donating to causes they believe in. However, users expressed deep concerns about the privacy of their data; how it was being collected and used. All the media attention around platforms like Facebook and their effects on the social fabric of society also contributed to the sense of despair and distrust. Despite these deep concerns, users continued to use the platforms. It appears that the benefits far outweigh the negatives, or we are all so addicted that we have no option but to stay on.

Social media platforms make their money through advertisements. That is why they don't charge users to set up an account. They need to know what you like so that they can show you more of it and offer you opportunities to purchase products and services. The only way they can do that is if you are sharing data on their platforms. This process of sharing data starts at the point where you are setting up your account and continues as you interact with information on the platforms. Your gender, age, where you live, list of friends, hobbies, current job, what you eat for lunch, which shows you watch, where you shop for groceries, what brands you buy etc. The more you interact with content by posting updates, liking, sharing, and commenting on posts, the more likelihood of seeing relevant ads. That is what personalization means. Sometimes the ads are not immediately relevant to you, but with time they get more and more accurate.

It sounds scary to know that your every move online is being tracked, and there are users who have ended up deleting their social media accounts in panic. What has been lacking is a healthy balance. It is not just social media platforms, but every company selling products and services relies on consumer data to increase sales. The challenge for these companies is that they have not been prioritizing the users but rather focused on the commercial benefits of data.

It is important to be informed about how your data is being collected and used. This information can be found in the privacy settings section of every digital channel. You have the power to turn on and off certain capabilities on these platforms. Make a mental list of what personal information you are not ready to share with the world. It can be anything from your medical records, financial information, things you buy online or what you like to eat.

Next time you receive a marketing call from an unknown number in Nebraska, ask them to remove your details from their database and insist that you do not wish to be contacted again. You also have the power to ask apps not to track your data by opting out of location tracking etc. in the settings section of your devices. It is also advisable to consider using up-to-date anti-virus software on your devices for added security. The only way to stay protected is to empower yourself with the necessary tools and seek clarity before consenting.

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## Residential Single-stream Recycling in DeKalb County

The residential curbside single-stream recycling program is a free subscription service offered to county residents receiving garbage pickup from DeKalb County's Sanitation Division. It's a critical component of the county's environmental stewardship efforts. Currently, more than 105,000 households participate in the program. The county makes it easy to participate!

All acceptable, recyclable materials go into one county-issued, blue, recycling roll cart – placed at your curb on collection day. (No sorting required.) Visit [www.dekalbsanitation.com](http://www.dekalbsanitation.com) for more information.

### Acceptable Items:

- All steel, tin and aluminum cans • Newspapers, magazines, phone books and catalogs • Cardboard boxes (flattened); no packing materials (see Special Collections for large amounts of unflattened boxes) • Cereal and pantry paper boxes • All types of paper, including copy and wrapping paper • Frozen food containers (remove food liners & foil) • Tissue and paper towel cylinder cores (no tissue or paper towels) • Coated paper inserts • Books, circulars, brochures, manila folders • Envelopes, junk mail (shredded paper must be in transparent bags, and tied prior to placing at curb) • PETE, NPDE, PV, LDPE, PP, PS and plastics 1-5 and 7 that held food and beverage

### Unacceptable items

- Paper towels, tissue, paper plates and cups • Waxed paper, cellophane paper or plastic wrap • Aluminum or tin foil • Foam rubber material or packing material • Plastic grocery or department store bags • Dry cleaning bags; paper slips • Cereal box liners, frozen food box liners and foil • Ceramic or aerosol containers • Pane glass windows or mirrors • Pesticides and herbicides • Petroleum or oil • String, twine or strapping material • Polystyrene cups and to go trays (plastic #6) • All glass containers that held food and beverage (please use glass recycling drop-off containers)



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## NEWS YOU CAN USE by AvivA Hoffmann

### A Salute to our Hardworking DeKalb Sanitation Workers

Once it's out to the curb – you might not give your garbage another thought. That means DeKalb's Sanitation workers are getting the job done! In fact, they often go "above and beyond" their normal job duties. It's even in the department's Mission Statement: "To provide an efficient, cost effective, sustainable and integrated solid waste management program for residents and businesses... with a sustained focus on customer service excellence."

Just like the rest of the world, DeKalb's Sanitation Division has faced COVID-19 related staffing shortages that have created some service delays. Still, collection teams work hard to complete the pickups while ensuring the safety of all employees. Sometimes, that even means crews working extended hours and through the weekend to collect all garbage, recycling, and yard trimmings we residents put out to the curb!



There are additional aspects to our collection service that come with no added fees... our sanitation workers are fast, efficient, and friendly. One DeKalb County resident was inspired to send a letter to DeKalb CEO, Michael Thurmond to praise the Sanitation employees. Dr. Mike Louis said he can "better appreciate the work, professionalism, and good humor of our DeKalb sanitation workers," after his observations during nearly two years of teleworking. He shared that the workers endure the diverse elements of all the seasons, sometimes while even dealing with busy, two-way traffic hazards. He added these workers are some of the only regular exposures he has to DeKalb County staff, and that makes them, DeKalb's "day-to-day ambassadors." He made a point to commend these hardworking employees and to express his gratitude. Dr. Louis isn't from Smoke Rise (he lives in Druid Hills), but I'll bet our neighborhood folks feel the same way.

So, next time you see our hardworking sanitation employees, give them a friendly wave and smile, and let them know how much we appreciate their good work.

To find out more about regular collection services, special collection services, yard waste collections, curbside recycling, and more, please go online at: [www.dekalbsanitation.com](http://www.dekalbsanitation.com). You can contact the Sanitation Division's Customer Care team at (404) 294-2900. You can also send email to [sanitation@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:sanitation@dekalbcountyga.gov), or follow @DKalbSanitation on Twitter.



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**Dudes on Food**

**Episode 9: Three Blind Mice**

After a busy end of the year, with a bunch of holidays sprinkled in, the food dudes are back to take in some of the great eateries in and around Tucker. To kick off the new year, we ventured a little outside of Tucker, to Three Blind Mice (TBM). Both dudes have a bit of a soft spot for this place, thinking back to fantastic Sunday brunches, with terrific Bloody Marys, to celebrate nothing but the fact that it's the weekend. Or, just remembering appetizers and cocktails at the bar to take a load off after a hard day's work.

Side note; what a great idea to do an episode on nothing but Bloody Marys. Stay tuned for that!

Located in a small shopping center, the Lilburn Plaza on Killian Hill, TBM brought the concept of "casual bistro" to Lilburn nearly 12 years ago. When first stepping in, we were greeted by a warm and welcoming atmosphere, like entering a friend's house, ready to kick back and share great food and great conversation. Just as planned, we found a couple of spots at the bar - which was surprisingly busy for a weekday - and we ordered some local brews, like Creature Comfort (Love the KoKo Buni), Burnt Hickory, and more.

The premise of this evening's culinary excursion was to wind down after a busy afternoon, hang at a classy bar, and enjoy some upscale morsels. We ordered Pretzel bites with beer-cheese dip to get started. The dip was fantastic. An exquisite, sort of low-key fondue with a beer and pretzel twist, minus the fondue forks. The warm, buttery, salted pretzels were so good, we had to get another order to polish off the leftover cheese dip. Next up, Seared Scallops - Cooked perfectly, seared edges yet nice and soft all the way through, served over fried Brussel sprouts, tossed with lots of bacon, (yes!!!), fresh Pomegranate, and feta, all finished with a drizzle of an Apple Butter Balsamic. This sophisticated collage of ingredients worked perfectly and was beautifully presented. Getting hungrier with each bite, we decided to go for an entrée and switched from surf to turf, to land on the Pan-Seared Pork Chop. Perfectly seasoned and cooked, it was served atop a bed of hearty root-veggies. This winter-vegetable medley inspired a bit of a competition, identifying each morsel before devouring it. There again, the dish was unique and fantastic.

Just to procrastinate calling it a day, we ordered dessert! We closed with Sticky Toffee Pudding, topped with the obligatory scoop of vanilla ice cream. This desert has been a fan favorite since they opened. Indulgence is a prerequisite, and the taste, warmth and sweetness of the toffee sauce still lingers.

Thank you, Barb, for taking good care of us at the bar. We look forward to seeing you next time.

TBM has a weekly burger - pasta and dinner specials alongside their incredible menu and is also known for its wine tasting events, and half-price wine Tuesdays! (Check website for details.) Visit them for lunch, brunch, or dinner! You won't be disappointed.

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*Let us know your thoughts. Have an idea or a suggestion for the dudes, we would love to hear from you. Send comments to Dudes on Food at the email: [staff@smokesignalnews.com](mailto:staff@smokesignalnews.com). Thanks for tuning in!*

**Where are the Adults in the Room?**

By Joel Gilbert

Some tensions within a family are quite unhealthy. I was always told that fish and relatives begin to stink after three days. Well, I certainly hope this is not your experience.

However, we all know that disparate points of view, petty jealousies, and an abundance of alcohol can become a toxic brew even at these precious times of the year. It is against this backdrop that many people will refer to the person who mediates and conciliates these situations as the "adult" in the room.

Well then... where are the adults in the room to mediate the current polarization in the United States? Don't you remember what we would call these people at times in the past: statemen... OK... statespersons. Ombudsmen... negotiators... very clever people who realized that finding middle or even higher ground was more important than the bickering that goes nowhere.

As I think about today's world, I am struck by the lack of adults in the room. Today's politics are just like what we used to call a "food fight" in the cafeteria. Both sides have resorted to bullying tactics rather than diplomacy. What makes me crazy are those sitting on the sidelines who are just watching these food fights and waiting for the victor to emerge. As a result, there are no adults in the room and the factions are just throwing bigger and bigger rocks at each other.

We must learn to listen more and to show mature, sound, economic leadership. Most adults are just like you and I who run a business. You must plan and manage. There are always wants and desires that are beyond sound budgets and the ability to manage the details.

Planning is no accident. Read that again a few times. Then add the phrase doing the right thing never goes out of style. Mature adults plan to do the right things while always considering more things than what must be done if and when we have the time and resources to do them as well.

Adults in the room pay attention to the big things like sustainability of our life here and around the world and don't get distracted by things we can't change.

Perhaps this is best summarized by the serenity prayer: *God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.*

**HEALTH NOTES:**

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

**Home COVID-19 Tests: COVID Risk Management**

My good friend has a son who works for a very large Fortune 500 company in New York City. Goldman-Sachs not only requires vaccination and boosters for its employees but supplies them with test kits for required daily testing. This leads me to the question: are home testing or self-testing kits accurate? Useful? And how often should they be used if they are? Is daily testing a crazy idea? (spoiler alert: I think daily testing is wasteful).

The recent uptick in the Omicron variety of COVID-19 has set the world on edge. Not only is it the most contagious variety so far, but it is showing up in many who were vaccinated and boosted. Fortunately, for those who are vaccinated, it has proven to be a milder variant - with symptoms more typical of a cold or mild respiratory illness. Vaccinated individuals with a breakthrough COVID infection are less contagious and are contagious for a shorter period of time than those who are not vaccinated. For those who are not vaccinated, it is a different story. As of January 6, 2022: 2,500 reporting hospitals in Georgia showed 85% of their ICU space filled. Of those ICU beds, 30% (706 beds total), were COVID patients. Keep in mind: the number of seriously ill is probably higher, as not all seriously ill COVID patients are admitted to the ICU!

More people are turning to home testing to know whether they are safe to attend gatherings, travel or go to restaurants, class, or church. The following primer on home tests may be overly simplified but should help you decide when and if to use a rapid test for COVID.

1. Home testing kits are antigen tests - meaning they detect proteins specific to the COVID virus.
2. Positive results show up on a test strip, like a home pregnancy test or a strep throat test. The results take only a few minutes, not days.
3. Rapid tests are less accurate than the "gold standard" Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test. This is because a certain viral/ protein load is needed to detect the antigen. If you were just exposed or are vaccinated, the load may be small.
4. PCR tests detect genetic material from the COVID virus. Even a PCR test can be negative, if done too soon after exposure.
5. A Positive rapid test result is a True Positive. There is no need to "confirm" with a PCR test.
6. A Negative rapid test result may need to be confirmed with either a PCR or a second home test done at least 12 hours later if you have had a known exposure.
7. Rapid tests are readily available - although during times of peak outbreak, the kits may be harder to find.
8. Sources for the test include CVS, Walmart and other pharmacies, and Amazon or online. I bought test kits at Carr's Pharmacy in Tucker and at CVS. They cost approximately \$20-\$40 for a two-test kit.
9. Good brands to consider: BinaxNOW COVID Antigen Self-Test (Walmart and others); On/Go COVID-19 Antigen Self-Test (Amazon); Quickview At Home COVID-19 Self-Test (CVS); InteliSwab COVID-19 Rapid Antigen test (Walmart)
10. There are also a few self-administered PCR tests available: LetsGetChecked @ Letsgetchecked.com is one.
11. My recommendations on how and when to use the rapid test:
  - If you are going to be in a family gathering, especially with family members who are not vaccinated (including children). Test once or twice before gathering. Testing less than 12 hours prior to the gathering is most accurate. Remember: A POSITIVE means you have COVID!
  - If you plan to travel. Some destinations, airlines, cruise-lines require a PCR verified test. Remember: you can be exposed after the PCR is done, so do a Rapid self-test at home prior to leaving for travel, if you think you have any chance of exposure. If you are going by car: test before you leave and carry an extra test with you.
  - If you think you had possible exposure to COVID: Quarantine and do a rapid test at least 8-12 hours after exposure. You will want to repeat the test a day or so later if the first test is negative. If you are exposed and have symptoms: isolate and test.
  - No known exposure, but you have COVID symptoms- Even if symptoms are mild: Test. If negative and symptoms continue, test 12-24 hours later. If both negative, you likely have a cold. If positive, you have COVID. Isolate five days. Wear mask when out five days beyond.
  - Prior to returning to school: do a rapid test. If negative, you are good to go, unless you have a known exposure.
  - Prior to returning to work after break/time off: test, vaccinate, etc., especially high-risk work (nursing home, health care), elder care.

Vaccinate! Mask Up. Test. Quarantine with exposure and Test. Isolate if you have COVID. Do this for yourself and for others! In Tucker, WE CARE!

**Many Kinds Of Love**  
by Victoria R. Crosby

There are many kinds of love to celebrate, the many types we commemorate. Some are present, some are past, some loves fade, some loves last.

We search for that one special person to walk with along life's way, to share our journey together and to be there at the end of the day.

Our helpless infants need us so, but all too soon these babies grow to adolescents, who won't admit that they need us just one tiny bit.

Our love of children who are grown, love of children not our own, of siblings and friendships old and new. Love of country and of home, love of people we have known whose paths we no longer run into.

Where there is love there is friendship, there is kindness and learning to grow, yet the hardest part of loving is learning when to let go.

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**Whoa! What Happened to Real Estate Prices in Smoke Rise?**

*By Pat Soltys*

The last two years have been the longest sustained seller's market perhaps of all time, and it does not really show signs of slowing down in the near future. We have had very low inventory for a long time, which drives demand and prices. We have had great interest rates, buyers who want a little space - since many are working from home, and a great community.

To give perspective - Currently, the lowest price home on the market in Smoke Rise is \$425,000 and the highest is \$1,250,000 with an average of \$658,556. The high average is the result of few homes on the market. Our average pending is \$550,257. In 2021, the average sales price in Smoke Rise was \$470,569 including distressed, as is, and foreclosed properties. Five homes were bought by investors, renovated and sold at a much higher price in the same year.

The average price in 2021 was 67,000 higher than 2020 averages which ended the year at \$407,355. In 2019, the average price was \$388,393. In two years, we saw price increases of 17.5%, whereas our normal in years previous was closer to 4%.

We saw a significant gap in prices for renovated homes vs. those that were dated. We also saw that in many cases, the seller paid few if any closing costs on behalf of the buyer, and it was not unusual to have more than one offer shortly after putting the property on the market. It seems that inspections were more scrutinized with more repairs requested.

We do not have a clear view for 2022, but do anticipate that we will see a series of interest increases and more loan scrutiny from lenders. Even with the projected increases, the interest rates would still be considered low, less than 5% for most buyers and about 4% for the best qualified buyers. Inventory will define the velocity of the market for 2022.

**Trees, Trees and More Trees!**

*By Quill Duncan, Morning Glories Garden Club Member*

January's meeting featured a lecture by Jim Long who is a volunteer docent with Trees Atlanta. Jim offers a walking tour of Virginia Highlands each month highlighting the tree canopy and the advantages of a shaded environment. As you know, trees are nature's filter by removing carbon dioxide and replacing it with oxygen. The shade lowers temperatures, and it is host for a huge variety of species of wildlife and insect life. Smoke Rise's hardwood forests are great examples of the value of trees. Our

mighty oak varieties are a key component of our landscapes. The naturalist Dr. Doug Tallamy has written that the oak tree is our national tree. Of all the trees in America, it supports 534 known species of Lepidoptera or butterflies and moths, which is the most of any tree species.



Established in 1985, Trees Atlanta has planted 140,000 trees and now has a goal of one million trees to be planted in our metro area by 2030. With a staff of 68, the organization recruits volunteers to plant, prune and maintain trees year-round. In addition to the hands-on activities, the organization offers lectures at the Keneda Center on a wide variety of topics. Our club, the Smoke Rise Morning Glories, has supported Trees Atlanta for many years, and the benefits to our community are legion. There are seven arboreta across the city where you can sign up for docent guided tours. Grant Park and the Beltline are examples of the areas where a collection of trees or arboretum provide many benefits to the environment. For more information on Trees Atlanta, or to volunteer, go to [www.treesatlanta.org](http://www.treesatlanta.org).

In club news, Allison Reeves has been tapped to be our club's newest Life Member with the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs. She will be honored at a meeting at Callanwolde on February 24, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. Proceeds from the event benefit the Garden Club of Georgia's Scholarship program.

Our February club meeting will be held February 8 at the Smoke Rise Country Club, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Our speaker will be Doug Renics who many of you know as "Doug the Driver." Doug has lots of interests, but for this meeting, he will be discussing the Smoke Rise Community Garden's history and how it serves our community. If you would like to attend, please contact President Joyce Ray at [joycemray126@gmail.com](mailto:joycemray126@gmail.com). All are welcome, and this promises to be a lively lecture.

**The Georgia Iris Society** will meet at St.

Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 1790 Lavista Road, Atlanta, GA 30329 on Saturday, Feb.12 at 2:00 p.m.

The speaker will be Rose Guerra who is a Georgia Audubon Society Environmental Educator and Master Birder. She will present "Love is for the Birds."

You are invited to join in person for education, beautification and recreation. Meetings are free to the public and all are welcome. For more information, contact Quill Duncan at (770) 414-4766.

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*Amen, Let's Eat!*

by Joyce Ray

February greets us with many pleasant promises and some, like daffodils, unfold before our very eyes. Days are noticeably longer, landscapes are greener, and Valentine's Day approaches with thoughts of those we love. Whether you are planning to make a special meal or reservations, there is no doubt that Chocolate will be featured as part of the dessert. My suggestions for entrees this month are simple, yet delicious, and not your normal fare. Crab Cakes are quick to make and can be served with your own aioli or a gourmet remoulade sauce. The double chocolate New Orleans Praline Fudge cake will add the exclamation point to any menu!!

**Crab Cakes**

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 pound lump crabmeat     | 1 egg, beaten               |
| ½ cup mayonnaise          | ¼ tsp. dry mustard          |
| pinch of salt & pepper    | 1 tsp Old Bay Seasoning     |
| ½ tsp Paprika             | ½ tsp celery salt           |
| 1 T. Worcestershire sauce | 2 tsp. Minced parsley       |
| Panko breadcrumbs         | Butter and oil for sauteing |

Mix drained and picked crabmeat with the remaining ingredients, except the panko, butter and oil. Form in cakes about the size of a biscuit. If cakes don't hold together well, add another egg. Dredge in panko. Refrigerate for 1-3 hours to allow panko to absorb moisture and form a better crust. Heat 2 T. of butter and olive oil in skillet. Don't crowd in pan. Add more butter and oil for each batch.

**New Orleans Double Chocolate Praline Fudge Cake**

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 cup butter             | ½ cup unsweetened cocoa |
| 1 cup water              | ½ cup buttermilk        |
| 2 large eggs             | 1 tsp baking soda       |
| 1 tsp vanilla            | 2 cups sugar            |
| 2 cups all-purpose flour | ½ tsp salt              |

Grease bottoms of 3 (8-9 inch) cake pans and line with wax paper. Cook first 3 ingredients in saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly until butter melts and mixture is smooth. Remove from heat. Cool. Beat buttermilk, eggs, baking soda and vanilla at medium speed until smooth. Add butter mixture to buttermilk mixture, beating until blended. Batter will be thin. Pour evenly into prepared pans. Bake at 350° for 20-22 mins or until wooden toothpick comes out clean. Cool in pans on wire racks 10 minutes. Remove from pans and immediately remove wax paper. Layers will be thin.

Spread about ½ cup chocolate ganache between cake layers. Spread remainder on sides. Do not spread on top. Chill 30 minutes. Pour praline frosting slowly over top of cake and to edges, allowing some to run over sides of cake.

**Chocolate Ganache:**

- 2 cups (12 oz) semisweet chocolate morsels
- 1/3 cup heavy whipping cream
- ¼ cup Butter, cut into pieces

Microwave chocolate morsels and cream in a glass bowl on medium 2-3 minutes or until morsels are melted, stirring after 1 ½ minutes. Whisk until smooth. Gradually add butter, whisking until smooth. Cool about 25 minutes, whisking often, until spreading consistency.

**Praline Frosting:**

This hardens very quickly, so don't prepare until cake is ready for it to be added.

- ¼ cup butter
- 1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1/3 cup whipping cream
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup chopped, toasted pecans.

(Spray skillet liberally with Pam spray and add pecans. Stir and cook for about 2-3 minutes on medium heat until toasted.) Bring first 3 ingredients to a boil in a 1-quart saucepan over medium heat, stirring often. Boil 1 minute. Remove from heat and whisk in powdered sugar and vanilla until smooth. Add toasted pecans, stirring gently 3-5 minutes or until frosting begins to cool and thicken slightly. Pour frosting immediately over cake and allow to drip down over edges for dramatic presentation!

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