

SMOKE SIGNAL



VOLUME 52, ISSUE 12

Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

March, 2020

www.smokesignalnews.com



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Walk to Remember

Saturday, January 25 was a beautiful morning for the 9th annual Walk to Remember. Neighbors, dogs, children & sponsors gathered to walk the Smoke Rise three-mile loop in honor of the Mountain Mums Memorial Triangle and the young lives it remembers. The walk began at Smoke Rise Baptist Church and included two parks: Smoke Rise and Smoke Rise Crossing. Both parks have new gravel paths thanks to the City of Tucker's Parks and Recreation staff. The Walk to Remember dedicated sponsors: SRCA, Smoke Rise Agents, Pincentives, Kroger, Rosenfeld Jewelers, Senator Steve Henson and The Metropolitan, Inc. enable the Mums to maintain the memorial garden and also award two driving scholarships to Taggerts Driving School to local students each year. The walkers planted 100 daffodil bulbs at the entrance to Smoke Rise Park. Watch for the daffodils to bloom and the trees in the Memorial Garden to flower this spring—beautifully enriching our community and reminding us to drive carefully.



March Madness

Joel Gilbert, P.E., Staff Writer

This may come as a surprise to our readers, but I am not a sports fan. I do not watch TV anymore and I graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, a college that set the all-collegiate record for consecutive football losses. While I earned both Bachelors of Science and two master's degrees there, our team never won a game. Once we even brought in a newly formed team from an all-girl college that had just gone coed hoping to break the streak, but to no avail.

So, as we now hear endless news about March Madness, the idea that anyone really cares about college or even professional sports is always a surprise to me. When I moved from upstate New York to join a prestigious engineering firm in Washington DC, I truly proved my ignorance when my administrative assistant greeted me my first morning with the question: "Did you see the Skins' game?" I replied, "No, who did they play...the Shirts?" Obviously, my only experience with basketball was when one side wore shirts and one did not. I later learned that she was talking of course about football. Who knew!?



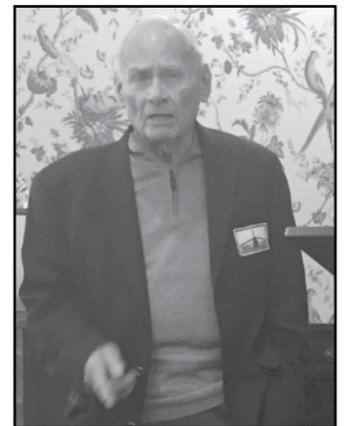
When asked to write something for the paper about March Madness, my ignorance of sports was evident. So naturally, I went online to find out that it is, of course, the college basketball tournament held every year in March. Evidently, basketball fans around the U.S. will turn their attention to the best college teams in the nation.

Even though "March Madness" is now practically synonymous with NCAA college ball, the term's origins are located one-rung down the sports ladder. The

Smoke Rise: Our Humble Beginnings

By Susan Gilbert

The long-anticipated Lecture Series presentation by highly-regarded Smoke Rise developer and neighbor, Bill Probst, took place in January at the Smoke Rise Country Club—a place he helped create. Not surprisingly, it drew a standing room only crowd anxious to hear the story of how this nearly 800-acre tract of land became what we now call home in Smoke Rise. This wasn't just a lecture. Bill brought copies of newspaper articles, maps, and other memorabilia to display. Someone else brought recently found scrapbooks from the 1960s and 70s showing the Smoke Rise area in its very early development. Bill's passionate, animated, articulate delivery made the hour fly by.



Born in Philadelphia and reared in Baltimore, Bill attended Cornell University before transferring to Georgia Tech and graduating as a Civil Engineer in 1955. In his work, he found he had a knack for the land development business and dove in. By the age of 30, he was named head of Gateway, the largest land development company in Atlanta. This was quite an accomplishment, since he been with the firm only 8 months!

Smoke Rise began as a 792-acre plot of land that was to be one of Gateway's subdivisions. Bill Probst had a very unique idea about how he would buy and develop the acreage. And he brought proof in the form of a reprinted article that he distributed to the crowd.

The headline of the front page of the July 1964 *Dekalb Pictorial Newspaper* read: "THIS SHOULD MAKE BILL PROBST A MILLIONAIRE." It went on to explain how "Bill Probst will parlay a \$1 down payment on more than 700 acres into a gross income of more than \$2.5 million over the next few years." For all you aspiring real estate entrepreneurs, the paper says his sophisticated financing plan for the 792 acres on Hugh Howell Road consisted of these 4 steps: 1) \$1 down payment, 2) one note payable on or before 10 years, 3) monthly interest payments of about \$2,000, and 4) release of the property when it was sold to a buyer. The one-acre lots sold quickly. The paper reported 110 lots had already been purchased in the \$4,000 to 5,500 price range, and 87 homes

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SRCA Annual Meeting

March 24, 2020

Tuesday, March 24, 7:00 pm

**Smoke Rise Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
5901 Hugh Howell Rd, Tucker**

We'll be reviewing the accomplishments of the past year, issuing our financial report card, and will have exciting news of our reincorporation and the tax benefit now available to SRCA donors and supporters.

...continued on page 2

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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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March Calendar of Events

- 3 Dekalb Co. Sheriff Candidates Forum:
7:00-9:00 p.m.: Tucker UMC Activities Center
- 7 Aging in Place Lecture and Resource Fair;
Heffner Hall, St. Andrews Presby Church, Tucker
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- 7 Smoke Rise Prep Casino Night, 6:00 p.m. SRCC
- 14 Tucker Chili Cook-off
- 14 Pi Day-Pie-K run: 10 a.m., 1:00, 4:00, 7:00 p.m.
Tucker Recreation Center
- 17 St Patrick's Day
- 17 Raising of the Green; 7:00-10:00 p.m.
ART Station, Stone Mtn. Village

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.
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Smoke Signal Deadlines

MARCH 13

Please e-mail articles to:

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

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The Smoke Rise Community Garden on Hugh Howell Rd.

Deadline for classified ads is MARCH 10

SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

Cost: \$150 by check to *Smoke Signal*
 Deadline to Receive: 6:00 p.m. on 19th of month
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 Reservation Required:
 Contact Barbara Luton, (770) 491-6711 by 15th of month.

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March Madness... continued from pg. 1

term "March Madness" is thought to have first been applied to the world of basketball by Henry Porter, assistant executive secretary of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA). He was describing the way fans looked forward to the annual statewide high school basketball tournament, writing that a "little March madness may complement and contribute to sanity and help keep society on an even keel," in a March 1939 issue of the organization's magazine *Illinois High School Athlete*.

Well now, I feel much better about March Madness if it contributes to sanity and helps keep society on an even keel. After all, I do observe that most people have a healthy spirit of competition and comradery as they discuss their team's standings. One can only hope and pray that this kind of madness pervades our society on broader issues that are in fact truly important to all of us.

BRING A BOOK TAKE A BOOK



Don't forget to check out the Little Libraries near the swim clubs.



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 Look for the wooden box labeled *Smoke Signal*.

(They are no longer available on Smoke Rise Drive.)

Preferred Formats for Smoke Signal Submissions

Articles and photos for the *Smoke Signal*, should be sent in .doc or .docx format. Articles sent in .pdf format cannot be edited. Ideally, photos and graphics should be submitted in .jpg or .pdf format.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Dr. Chris George: Senior Pastor
 Bart McNeil: Associate Pastor
 Becky Caswell-Speight:

Minister of Families, Faith Formation and Connection
 Jeremy Colliver: Minister of Youth, Mission and Communication
 Danny Vancil: Minister of Music and Worship
 Amanda Coe Burton: Ministry Director for Children and Families
 Harrison Litzell: Co-Director of the Weekday School
 Stacey McNeil: Co-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

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

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Pastor ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III
 Pastor of Senior Adult Ministries ~ Rev. Jeanne Simpson
 Director of Mission & Youth ~ Mark Sauls
 Office Coordinator ~ Christina Wetzel-Sizemore
 Director of Weekday Ministries ~ Celeste Sears
 Director of Respite Care Center ~ Helen Wilborn
 Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zabarac
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 6:30 p.m. Program
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

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10:30 am. Worship service

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 11:00 a.m. Worship
 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time

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Please join us for worship on Sundays at 8:45 a.m.
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Mountain West Church

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 Worship Arts Pastor: Gary Robinson
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www.mwchurch.com
 4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain
 Service Times: Sundays: 9:00am / 11:00am / 1:00pm

RoboTigers Win Championship

The Tucker HS RoboTigers win the state championship tournament and skills robotics competition the weekend of February 8th at Ola HS in McDonough, Georgia. For the second year in a row, Tucker teams faced each other in the finals. Only 60 teams out of approximately 300 in the state make it to the state championship tournament. The Tucker teams have advanced to the World Championship in Louisville, KY!
(Submitted by Dr. Brittany Aarestad)



SRP: Where Everyone is Welcome!

By Grier Kellett

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

We had such a great time participating in the Daffodil Project with Smoke Rise Baptist Church. The Daffodil Project, a worldwide initiative empowering Holocaust education aspires to build a Living Holocaust Memorial by planting 1.5 million daffodils around the world to remember the children who perished at the hands of the Nazis. Our students in grades 5-8 helped to plant daffodil bulbs around the SRBC entrance sign and we are excited to see them bloom in the spring!

Come join Smoke Rise Prep Saturday, March 7 at 6:00 p.m. as we host the 8th annual Casino Night at the Smoke Rise Country Club. Be sure to bring Lady Luck with you as all proceeds will benefit the Smoke Rise Prep community. Get your tickets early at www.smokeriseprep.org/casino because they sell out fast!

If you'd like to see the amazing learning going on at SRP yourself, come to one of our open houses March 13 or April 24 at 9:15 a.m. or attend an info session March 22 @ 3 p.m. Email Principal Sherrie Waddell at sherrie@smokeriseprep.org to RSVP.



The Tucker Tiger's Reading Bowl Team competed Saturday, January 25th at the DeKalb County School District's annual Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl. The high school team competed against 10 other high schools in the DeKalb district to win 1st place. First and second place winners automatically advanced to the Metro Regional competition at Clayton State College on February 8th. Tucker HS won and will now advance to the North Divisional competition. Go Tigers! (Submitted by Roberta Barber)

Local Drama Students Win National Awards, Recognition at International Theatre Festival

In January, drama students from Smoke Rise Academy of Arts (SRAA) earned praise and national recognition at the 2020 Junior Theater Festival Atlanta. The festival, held at Cobb Galleria Centre January 17-19, united 7,000 students and educators from 128 educational musical theater groups representing 31 states, as well as Australia, New Zealand, and the U.K.



Smoke Rise Academy of Arts Drama Students with their Outstanding Production trophy.
Credit: James Barker Photography

SRAA drama students presented selections from Disney's and Cameron Mackintosh's *Mary Poppins*. Adjudicators were Deborah Wicks La Puma, composer, music director and orchestrator; and Michael J. Bobbitt, artistic director of the Adventure Theatre MTC.

"This group had amazing character work," commented La Puma. "I fell in love with everyone in the Banks household. They transported me to London with their bodies and voices!"

SRAA student Jeremiah Bailey made it to the call-back for future Broadway Junior shoots for "how-to" choreography videos for soon-to-be released Broadway Junior musicals. The shoots will be taped in New York City this summer. The Broadway Junior scouts were on the lookout for outstanding students, 150 of whom made it to the final call back for iTheatrics resident choreographer Steven G. Kennedy. The final cast will be determined later this year. These videos will be used in tens of thousands of schools across the country and internationally.

SRAA's Anna Kirk and William Madafarri were named to the Junior Theater Festival All-Stars and performed a song during the closing ceremony for all 7,000 festival attendees.

Smoke Rise Academy of Arts Drama won a Freddie G. Outstanding Production award and performed for all 7,000 festival attendees during the closing ceremony.

Smoke Rise Academy of Arts is housed in Smoke Rise Baptist Church at 5901 Hugh Howell Road in Stone Mountain. Classes are offered all year for adults and children in music, dance, drama and art; visit smokeriseprep.org/arts for class information and registrations.



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APRIL 22, 2020
You are invited!

Join us at Smoke Rise Country Club to celebrate the *Smoke Signal's* 50th year of continuous monthly distribution.

6:00 p.m. Meet the staff, view our archive, and hear our history
6:45 p.m. Optional Buffet Dinner

Space is limited. RSVP required:
Layna Denault, mdenault@smokerisecc.com
or 770-908-2582 ext. 7



CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT ART STATION

ART Station, in Historic Stone Mountain Village, will hold its 24th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration and Fundraiser, "Raising of the Green" on Tuesday, March 17 from 6:00-10:00 p.m. The event features silent and live auctions, "A Taste of Stone Mountain," music and complimentary green beer. Tickets are \$25 at the door or \$20 in advance. For more information or to purchase tickets call 770-469-1105 or visit www.artstation.org.

The live and silent auctions offer donated art work, theater tickets, meals at Atlanta restaurants and various goods and services. "A Taste of Stone Mountain" highlights restaurants and caterers in the Stone Mountain area. Complimentary green beer, good music, and lots of fun make "Raising of the Green" one of Atlanta's most unique St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

**Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts Presents
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF in March**

Public invited to attend free performances of this classic Broadway musical

The teen class of Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts (SRAA) drama department will stage FIDDLER ON THE ROOF Friday, March 20 through Sunday, March 22. All performances will be in the Fellowship Hall of Smoke Rise Baptist Church, 5901 Hugh Howell Road in Tucker. Members of the public are invited to attend this free performance.

Set in the little village of Anatevka, the story centers on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instill them with the traditional values in the face of changing social mores and the growing anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia. Rich in historical and ethnic detail, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF's universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy and sadness.

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF premiered on Broadway in 1964, and went on to win nine Tony Awards. It has enjoyed enduring international popularity, and is a fun family show suitable for all ages. Show times are 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20; 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 21; and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 22.

Concessions will be available for purchase during intermission. Attendance is free with no tickets required.

Visit smokerisebaptist.org/arts or call 678-533-0562 for details on performance, program and classes.



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History Repeats Itself

By Kathryn Turner

February is Black History Month and one of the great trailblazers in Black History was Martin Luther King, Jr. On January 20, 2020, the Tucker Recreation Center opened its doors once again. This time it was not just for fun and activities, but to recognize MLK Jr. Day and his servanthood work. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s efforts to advance civil rights made him one of the most visible spokesperson, activist and leaders in the Civil Rights Movement and to present day. The Atlanta-born, Morehouse graduate and Christian pastor was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was fully invested in the community and his works touched the lives of many. The Tucker Recreation Center is also invested in its community and holds a variety of activities throughout the year that cultivate a spirit of togetherness for people of all ages living in and around Tucker. MLK Day, Jr. Day was no different. The Tucker Recreation Center hosted various volunteer-based activities, including painting bird houses, planting vegetation seeds and mulching around the building. There was a steady turnout of families that stopped by to volunteer their time. They were all greeted by the friendly staff at the Tucker Recreation Center. The servanthood spirit that Martin Luther King Jr. reflected in his work was embodied by the folks that used his holiday to serve their community.

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Aging in Place Workshop in Tucker *By Dr. Lois Ricci*

Most people want to stay in their own homes as they age, but it can be difficult. For some, the concerns are about the costs of living in and maintaining their home. Others worry about how to navigate their living spaces independently as they age.

Many improvements can be made at little or no cost. Common fixes include the addition of handheld shower sprayers, bathtub chairs, security lighting, and small ramps for zero-step entries. Furniture relocation, handrails, safety bars, doorknobs, safer doormats, and nightlights can make a huge difference in helping you remain in your home. Many people don't really know what they need, and it's surprising how simple fixes can make a difference. Thinking through these issues can give you a home that allows for comfort, easy access, and mobility and may even help you prevent falls and injuries.

Join us for the "Aging in Place" workshop and resource fair at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Lavista Rd on Saturday, March 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A continental breakfast will be served. Experts in the field of home modification, and Certified Aging in Place Specialists will talk about the ways that a home can be retrofitted to meet the needs of all. A resource panel will talk about services and resources available. Exhibitors will share information about products and services especially of interest to elderly residents.

The "Aging in Place" workshop sponsors are St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Tucker Civic Association's Lifelong/Age Friendly Community committee, AARP, and Waffle House. The workshop is FREE and open to the public.

Tucker Opens City Municipal Court

By Matt Holmes, Director, Communications and Administrative Services, City of Tucker

Court is in session in the City of Tucker. The city began hosting municipal court proceedings in mid-January at the City Hall Annex located at 4228 First Avenue. Previously, the city hosted court dates in neighboring Clarkston through an intergovernmental agreement.

"This is another step in Tucker's growth as a city," said City Clerk Bonnie Warne, who oversees the City's court system. "We are grateful to Clarkston for their partnership these past couple years, but we are excited to progress to the point where we can host these court dates ourselves."

Tucker's municipal court convenes twice a month, on the third and fourth Wednesdays beginning at 10:00 a.m. The first session is for environmental court. That session brings about resolution to citations from Tucker's Code Enforcement Department. The second session is for offenses cited by DeKalb County's Tucker Precinct police.

Anyone with questions about citations or court dates can call (678) 597-9040 or email info@tuckerga.gov.



What's Happening in Tucker in March?

By Frank Luton

March is a busy month with spring coming on, and it's a busy month in the City of Tucker. Here's some things to pay attention to:

(1) On Tuesday, March 3rd, there's a candidate forum where all the 9 candidates for the office of Sheriff of DeKalb County. The forum will be at the Tucker First United Methodist Church Activities Center, 4315 Church Street, Tucker, GA 30084. The forum will be from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

(2) On Saturday, March 7th, there's an Aging in Place and Resource Fair to be held at Heffner Hall at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 4822 Lavista Road, Tucker, Georgia 30084. There will be opportunities and resources there to allow you and/or parents, grandparents, etc. to age in place in your or their homes. The event will be from 8:30 AM to 12:30 p.m.

(3) In April there's another candidate forum, April 16th, which will include lunch. This forum will concentrate on candidates for Senator Steve Henson's District 41 seat in the state legislature and possibly DeKalb County Commissioners Jester and Bradshaw's seats. The forum will be held at the Stone Ridge Event Center, 1750 Stone Ridge Drive, Stone Mountain (in the Industrial Park).

(4) Court is in session in the City of Tucker. (See article on this page.)

(5) If you see Smoke Rise resident, Lori Jones, please offer her your congratulations, as she was chosen as the Citizen of the Month for the City of Tucker.

(6) And here's something to look forward to. The Shular Institute has acquired the old Le Cordon Bleu property and their FarmED Kitchen and Bar, as well as Enthusiast Classes, will begin operation in the Summer of 2020. The Shular Institute itself will start in the Fall of 2020.

And now let's look forward to March, be it coming in like a lamb or like a lion!




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The Talk of Tucker Rec

By Crystal Dawson

There are so many wonderful things that have happened at the Tucker Recreation Center during the first few weeks of 2020. The gymnasium is in full swing. Pickleballers show us every day that our



community needed a space for them to play and they are grateful to now have one! Our first youth basketball league boasts two teams that have been learning some basics and testing their skills against other local municipalities.

Youth aren't the only age group we see shooting some hoops--- teens, young adults, and professionals on their lunch breaks can be spotted on any given day. Several new classes: piano lessons for adults, an extra Zumba class, and even a children's book club have started and are picking up members each time they are held. It's been a good start!

Moving into March we are excited to continue growing and developing programs. Parents start to look for events and activities for their students this time of year and will find that there is no shortage here. With activities like dance, tumbling, theatre and capoeira-- there is surely something that might interest your little one.

Worried about those long breaks from school? The City will be hosting its first ever Spring Break camp that includes daily field trips, quality supervision, and creative programming. This camp will be available to kids aged 5-12 and running Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. for only \$75. But with only 28 available spots, you better act fast!

Registration for our 3rd annual Summer Camp will open March 9! This day camp for children ages 5-12 will run 8 weeks Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. starting June 1 and ending July 24. Daily snack and lunch will be provided along with swim days for each age group. Each week will cost a total of \$95, of which \$20 will be due at the time of registration to secure your spot. Mini camps that mimic the same format of the Spring Break camp will have limited availability for the weeks of May 26-29 and July 27-31.

Are you instead looking for something for yourself? We've got that too! Camp Gladiator has kicked off to a "record-setting start" reported instructor Eboni. These are fitness classes running two days a week in two different locations. Details are available on campgladiator.com. The City is also excited and buzzing about an upcoming adult kickball league. The league is being run through respected 'Go-Kickball'. All games will be at Fitzgerald Park on Wednesday evenings starting March 18th. For more details and to register visit gokickball.com/atlanta.

The much-anticipated Pi Day Pie-K will be returning in 2020! On Saturday, March 14 (Pi day after the mathematical number 3.14), stop by the Tucker Recreation Center for one or all the following times to take part in a pi-k, or 3.14km run. Staff will be leading the charge on the course at 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 4:-00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. Regardless of time or speed we will entice you to replenish those calories with pie, of the sweet or savory kind. This year, thanks to a sponsorship from OrangeTheory Fitness of Northlake, there will be a raffle of a 10 day class-pack at each scheduled run!

Coming March: we will be releasing our brand-new Parks and Recreation activity guide! This guide will include information and details on camps, programs, and special events. If you have any questions, you can check out our Facebook page Face Book Page: @Tucker Rec Center, our website, tucker.gov or give us a call 470-481-0205/470-481-0143!

Smoke Rise Community Association Board Report

By Michael Heurkamp, President of the Board

The landscaping at prominent chimneys, the community garden, strategic investments into the elementary school, shredding events and public meetings, all bringing distinction and vitality to our community, and are made possible by your annual dues.

Although the 2020 dues campaign is drawing to a close, we are in need of more Smoke Rise residents to pay dues.

After averaging over \$30,000 income per year over 2013-17, SRCA bottomed-out to just above \$25,000 revenue per year over the past two years.

We are grateful to our current supporters whose investment goes 100% towards the programs SRCA supports...and now through our reincorporation, your dues will be 100% tax-deductible! Please re-consider if you have not made a 2020 investment by paying your dues.

With you dues, this year we plan to update the Stratmore and Deer Ridge sites on Hugh Howell with planting upgrades We will do the same for the smoke-stack at Silversmith Lane and Lilburn-Stone Mountain Road. The Board appropriated funds to support the Walk to Remember, a golf hole at the THS Foundation tournament, and Casino Night at Smoke Rise Prep. Lastly, the community garden is poised for spring resurgence.

The SRCA board held two meetings so far this calendar year and, as a representative of Smoke Rise, continues to meet regularly with our city counsel representatives about many things, including the old Sears property. Several board members are actively engaged with the school, including one serving on the construction committee. Thank you for your support neighbors and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on March 24, 2020 for the annual SRCA meeting. You will want to be there, as we will rollout details of our freshly minted reincorporation plans.

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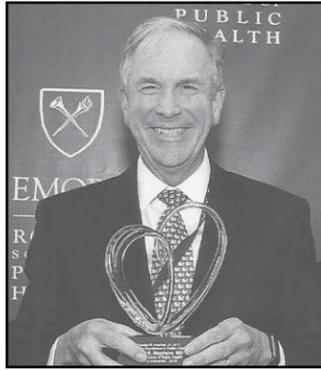
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Smoke Rise Resident Receives Prestigious Health Award

Emory Public Health's *Rollins* magazine recently acknowledged Smoke Rise resident, Dr. David Stephens. Dr. Stephens received the 2019 Charles R. Hatcher Jr. MD Award for Excellence in Public Health.

Dr. Stephens has quite an impressive resume. He is vice president for research in the Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center (WHSC), a position in which he oversees the WHSC research enterprise and leads planning activities that enhance research programs and collaborations throughout the WHSC and Emory University.

Dr. Stephens is also the Stephen W. Schwarzmann Distinguished Professor of Medicine, chair of the Department of Medicine at Emory School of Medicine, professor of microbiology and immunology, and professor of epidemiology at Rollins. Additionally, he is chair of the Research Advisory Council in the WHSC and a member of the Executive Committee on the WHSC Leadership Team.



Stephens joined Emory in 1982. Since then, he has advanced very successful programs in infectious diseases and microbial pathogenesis. He has also been a major contributor to the creation and development of the NIH-funded Emory Vaccine Center, the Emory Center for AIDS Research, the Serious Communicable Diseases Unit at Emory, and has contributed to efforts to combat infectious disease threats such as epidemic meningitis, SARS, and recently Ebola virus disease. And, those are only a few of his accomplishments in the health field!

To learn more about Dr. Stephens and his great work at Emory, check out the article in the Fall 2019 edition of the *Rollins* magazine online at: <http://publichealthmagazine.emory.edu/issues/2019/FALL/briefs/stephens-hatcher-award/index.html>

The *Smoke Signal* extends its congratulations to Dr. Stephens on a well-deserved award!

Dr. Kathleen McDuffie, Smoke Rise resident, served as the commencement speaker for the Walden University Gold ceremony in Tampa, Florida, on January 17, 2020. The Gold ceremony honored graduates of the doctoral programs in the schools of Health and Nursing. This was Walden University's 63rd commencement and 2020 is its 50 anniversary. Dr. McDuffie is the chief consultant of Inspiration Avenue Inc. and Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, assigned to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Her message to graduates centered on the importance of self-awareness and the character development that occurs during the pursuit of a doctoral degree.



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Who knows what the weather will be by the time you read this article! I have been so tempted to plant a few things on the sunny days...however, I am holding off as I know that it has been known to snow in Georgia on April 15th!

It is time to reserve your gardening plot at the **SMOKE RISE COMMUNITY GARDEN**. By peak gardening time, we were at capacity last year with several beds reserved for food bank planting. If you are interested in joining us this year, please contact Eileen Stone at esstone@bellsouth.net or 404-583-3091.

TUCKER REID-COFER LIBRARY NEWS

- **Building Blocks:** (storytime for ages 0-24 months) every Tuesday 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
- **Tales for 2s:** (story time for two-year-olds) every Wednesday 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.
- **LEGO Club:** (ages 5 to 12) Come build creations based on a monthly theme. LEGOS and resources for ideas are provided. 3/19 @ 3:00 p.m.
- **Read to a Pet Partner:** on 3/12 or 2/26 @ 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Readers can pre-register and practice their skills by reading to an excellent canine listener. Please call or visit branch to register for a 20 minute individual session.
- **Eager Reader Book Club:** (beginner readers ages 5 to 6) on 3/16 @ 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Please call or visit branch to pre-register.
- **Book Buddies Book Club:** (beginning chapter book readers ages 6 to 9) on 3/30 @ 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Please call or visit branch to pre-register.
- **Read with Your Crew:** (ages 14 to 17) on 3/10 @ 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Please call or visit branch to pre-register.
- **Crucial Conversations:** (tweens, teens and adults.) 3/10 and 3/24 @ 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. A four part series, presented by Cliff and Mary Gates of Map to HOPE, will address topics related to tween and teen health and well being from a prevention standpoint. Advance online registration is available or call branch.

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

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

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

Smoke Rise is Counting on You in the 2020 Census!

The United States Census occurs every ten years. Make sure you're ready for our next one on April 1, 2020. The census is important for our future and responding is required by law. The results provide a tally of our population and households. The data serve as the basis for reapportioning congressional seats, redistricting, and distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to support vital programs in the areas of education, healthcare, transportation, housing, recreation and other public needs.

By April 2020, you should expect to receive an invitation to participate in the census. The Census Bureau may reach you through almost all communication outlets, including phone, email, mail, fax and in-person. There are three ways you can reply to the census: by phone, mail or online. The 2020 Census is the first U.S. census to offer a full internet response option and the first to extensively use technology—instead of paper—to manage and conduct field work. Census workers—who will be carrying a census badge and bag—will visit households that do not return questionnaires.

The 2020 Census questionnaire will consist of ten questions, asking for basic information about the people in your household and should take about 10 minutes to complete. Taking the census is free and no one should charge you. Strict federal laws protect the confidentiality of the information you provide. The Census Bureau and its workers cannot share an individual's census questionnaire responses with anyone, including other federal agencies or law enforcement entities.

Unfortunately, some criminals are also counting on the census to trick people. Census Bureau scams can be hard to spot. We all want to do our duty and participate, BUT how can you know who to trust? The Census Bureau will never ask for: Social Security numbers, money, donations, anything on behalf of a political party, your mother's maiden name, or bank or credit card account numbers.

If something sounds suspicious, confirm it by calling the government agency directly or checking the government agency's website. Don't click on any links in an unexpected email. Instead, type the official URL into your browser or do a web search to find the right website. Call a trusted phone number, other than one provided by the caller, to verify the caller's identity. Finally, don't click, download, or open anything online that comes from an anonymous sender. This is likely an attempt to gain access to your personal information or install malware on your computer.

To learn more about census efforts in DeKalb County and the results of past census data specifically in our county, go online to: <https://dekalbcounts2020.org/> The official website of the Census Bureau is census.gov; the homepage for the 2020 Census is 2020census.gov.



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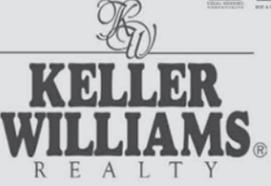
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Out the Window

By Beth Henson



Opossum by Beth Henson

Darkness and quiet had settled across Smokerise and it was finally time for our nightly routine. I was happy the winter solstice had passed and soon the days would be growing longer. I padded around the house in my fluffy pink slippers (a recent Christmas present) making sure all blinds were drawn and doors secure. My other half was letting our jet black fur baby have her last spin around the fenced backyard. Passing the back window I heard a sharp yip from our sweet girl. It was not a cry of pain or the fierce bark reserved for strangers, but more like a short alarm- beware! As I pulled back the blinds to peak out onto the spotlighted brick pathway, I saw my husband whisking our obviously shaken pup into his arms. Further observing the scene I spied Mrs. Opossum, staring out from behind the stump in the corner of the yard, her sinister grin displaying razor sharp glistening teeth (she has 50, more than any North American land mammal!). She had decided not to “play possum” by pretending to be dead, but was holding her ground. I couldn’t help but wonder how she had meandered into the chain linked yard. She was rather rotund and frankly the fattest possum I had ever seen. On the other hand, I knew that she was actually a superb climber thanks to her opposable thumbs and prehensile tail that gives her great balance!

Mrs. Opossum is not our most beautiful nocturnal visitor, but she is definitely an unsung hero. She can eat as many as 5000 ticks per season, helping keep Lyme disease under control. She is also a hardworking garden buddy, gobbling up snails and slugs that wreak havoc and cleaning up any rotten fruits and veggies. Not to mention, she uniquely holds the title of the only marsupial in North America. She keeps her babies in her pouch for the first two months and later sports a passel of young joeys on her back. Thanks for being such a helpful neighbor, Mrs. Opossum! Visit any time you like!

Humble Beginnings...continued from page 1

had been or were being built with price tags ranging from \$28,500 to \$41,000.

Bill’s vision was making Smoke Rise a tree filled, relaxed area with houses on larger lots than typically seen in Atlanta at the time. The large lots with septic only meant that no apartment complexes would be built in the subdivisions. If you look on a satellite map of our area today, you will see that Smoke Rise stands out as a result of his vision. Seen from above, the Smoke Rise area shows as deep shades of green, compared to surrounding subdivisions, business parks, and industrial sites. We have Bill Probst to thank for that!

Bill’s vision for Smoke Rise was that it would not have the usual cookie-cutter, similar looking homes. He wanted architectural creativity and diversity of design to make the neighborhoods more interesting and attractive. One of my favorite lines from his talk was learning what builders-of-the-day called some of the homes in Dunwoody: “Five, Four, and a Door,” referring to five windows on top, four on the bottom and a door in the middle. Driving through Smoke Rise, you’d have to admit, the houses are diverse, beautifully situated on green lots and stand out from other developed areas. He definitely delivered on his dream!

Bill and his wife Gale are active members of our Smoke Rise community and live in Chartwell Trace, one of the many subdivisions he developed.

To learn more about the Smoke Rise Country Club or the Lecture Series, contact Heath McDaniel, Membership Director at 770-908-2582, ext. 4. Upcoming topics include protecting your computers from attacks, what to look for in your auto insurance—before an accident, and on Wednesday, April 22, honoring 50 Years of *Smoke Signal!* It, like some others, are open to non-members by making reservations with Heath McDaniel. Social Memberships are under \$100/month with initiation of just one-month dues.



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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

ROSACEA

Acne is one of those things that you usually think of as a teenager’s disease. Did you know that acne’s mean ‘cousin’ Rosacea is common in middle aged and older adults? Rosacea, like acne, has a spectrum of severity. It is more often seen in those with fair skin, Scandinavian or British Isles ancestry or in those who have a family history of Rosacea. The National Rosacea Society estimates that over 16 million Americans have this disease.

Rosacea is a skin condition that is characterized by redness and flushing of the skin- especially in the center of the face around the nose and cheeks. It can be accompanied by the formation of tiny capillaries and acne-like bumps on the face.

The acne-like lesions of Rosacea usually form around the nose and cheeks. The nose surface can develop very large pores, enlarge and become knobby and red. This may be permanent. This severe form of Rosacea is called Rhinophyma. Rosacea can also affects the eyes: this may include red, dry eyes and eyelids. This is called Ocular Rosacea.

In some people, flushing and redness of the face (and sometimes chest and arms) is the only symptom of Rosacea. Flushing can be triggered by exposure to the heat, eating spicy foods, drinking alcohol, caffeine or hot drinks or taking a hot shower. Strenuous exercise, some medications, ‘hot flashes’, and emotional stressors can also cause or worsen flushing. Cool compresses to the face, cooler showers and moving to a cool environment along with avoidance of known triggers will lessen or prevent the flushing.

Various medicines have been used to decrease flushing: topical oxymetazone, clonidine, beta-blockers and antidepressants are among medications used; No one medicine has been completely successful. Laser and light therapy have also been used with mixed results.

Rosacea patients may have very sensitive, dry or scaly skin. This may make it difficult to tolerate some types of skin care products or cosmetics. Skin products containing alcohol (which is drying) should be avoided. Cosmetics or skin care products in the form of lotions or creams with a broad -spectrum sunscreen are preferred. Sunscreen should be used daily.

Here’s the ABCs of Rosacea care:

A: Avoidance of –known triggers, sun, heat, harsh soaps and drying skin products.

B: Be Proactive!!

--If your symptoms are primarily redness and flushing, see your doctor to try medical treatment. There are multiple categories of medications to try. Flushing can become permanent. Even if this happens, it is worth it to try medications.

--If your symptoms consist of mild redness and acne like lesions, several topical medications have scientific evidence behind their use– topical metronidazole, topical tetracycline, azelaic acid and sulfur products are a few commonly used. These medications have anti-inflammatory and antibiotic properties. The exact mechanism of their action is largely unknown. Most primary care doctors can prescribe these meds. Gel forms of these medicines typically have alcohol in them and can be drying. Gels are better if you have oily skin. Lotion and cream versions of these meds are less drying and work for a variety of skin types.

--If you have a large number of visible capillaries: You will need to see a Dermatologist for laser or light therapy.

--If you have Rhinophyma: Don’t just live with it! Help is available. You will need to see a Dermatologist or Plastic Surgeon. Laser treatment, dermabrasion or scalpel surgery can markedly improve the appearance of an enlarged, bumpy, big nose. Five percent of patients with Rhinophyma develop skin cancer on the nose tissue, so this should be followed carefully.

--If you have Ocular Rosacea: Treat the dry eye with lubricating eye drops and cleanse your eyelids with ‘tears free’ baby shampoo. See an eye doctor if your symptoms get worse or are severe. Prescription drops may help.

C: Camouflage the redness by using a green tinted moisturizer, or primer. This can be covered further with a natural colored foundation. Men can use the same technique to hide red blotchy skin.

techtalk

Now That’s CHEAP! Buying a New Computer

By Susan Gilbert

Have you looked at buying a laptop lately? While shopping for a new computer last week at Sam’s and BestBuy, I was astounded to see many nice, lightweight, portable computers with 10+ hours of battery life for around \$200. The last one I purchased 5 years ago was over \$2,000, so this price discrepancy raised my curiosity: how could prices have dropped that significantly? How can a new computer cost up to 80% less and have better features?

In the past, deciding which computer to buy was a choice between a Window’s laptop or a MacBook. Today, a new, inexpensive challenger has entered the market -- the Chromebook.

What makes a Chromebook so inexpensive? Mainly because it is run on Google’s Chrome Operating System instead of having software stored on a hard drive. Anyone who has used the Chrome web browser will feel at home using the Chromebook. All your computing happens through the browser using web apps. There are no programs to install, no large hard drive to pay for and a long battery life.

When you want to write a document, you use the Google Docs app. This feels like Microsoft Word, so you don’t have to learn a new software, and there are no license fees. Web apps are available for other tasks too, like computing spreadsheets, streaming video content, managing an inbox or calendars.

Because they have only a small amount of storage, Chromebooks back your work up to the cloud, saving battery-intensive hard drive operations.

Saving to the cloud is safer and more secure than keeping files on your computer. If your computer is lost, stolen, or damaged, your work is safe, secure, and accessible in the cloud.

There are downsides, however. The major reason I can’t consider a Chromebook is that if you are EVER without Internet service, you are dead in the water. Internet is required. Plus, it has limited onboard storage, limited number of programs, and requires that you work through a browser.

On the other hand, they’re generally very cheap, have amazing battery life, are easy to use and are fast starting up.

My conclusion – While not for me, a Chromebook might be the wise choice for a casual user who mainly surfs the web, streams videos and writes an occasional document. If you need to operate in situations where Internet is unavailable, or must run a variety of demanding software, or need to store files on your computer, a traditional laptop is your best choice.



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.

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Kim Fair with Mike Tsurutis and his bonsai

Morning Glories Share the Love

February's almost daily rain lightened up for the Morning Glories monthly meeting which was held at the Smoke Rise Country Club. Members brought soap and toilet tissue for distribution to the Stone Mountain Cooperative Ecumenical Ministry's clients. This organization in Stone Mountain Village helps the community with food and assistance three days a week. If you would like to help, food donations can be left at the Stone Mountain UMC each week day.

The Club's February speaker was Decatur resident Mike Tsurutis who is a Bonsai Gardener of thirty years. Mike brought a beautiful blooming bougainvillea, a Japanese black pine, a yew, an azalea and a Chinese elm to demonstrate his art. With a collection of 100 bonsai, Mike shared his tips for potting, grooming and maintaining the plants. He also brought several examples of pots or vessels--both glazed and unglazed--that are commonly used for Bonsai planting. Traditionally, deciduous trees or shrubs should be potted in glazed pots, and conifers in unglazed pots. In addition, he showed us his collection of grooming tools that are uniquely suited to the care and maintenance of the plants. Did I mention maintenance? In the summer Mike waters every plant once a day. Each plant is on a four-year repotting schedule using a special soil mixture that he prepares for his plants. If a plant is normally grown outside--like the Chinese elm, it should be kept outdoors in the same conditions of sunlight, water and air circulation as a normal full size tree.

The Atlanta Bonsai Society is a great source for learning about this art and the public can volunteer to work at the bonsai collection at Smith Gilbert Gardens in Kennesaw two Saturdays a month. To purchase a bonsai plant, Mike recommends Plant City in Gainesville, GA.

The Smoke Rise Morning Glories will be celebrating 50 wonderful years as an active garden club this March with a special tea featuring honored guests, former Presidents and members and friends. The annual Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. convention will be held in late March in Macon, GA featuring an oriental theme to compliment the annual Cherry Blossom Festival. Many members of the club will be attending this event. The annual meeting features garden speakers, an awards presentation and other events. If you are interested in attending a Morning Glories meeting, please contact Joy Abrams at (404) 323-1695.

Smoke Rise Garden Club

Executive Director of the Wylde Center and horticulturist, Stephanie Van Parys conducted a workshop on "Winter-Sowing Seeds Outside." From lettuce, herbs, and annuals to perennials, Stephanie gave us tips for a successful harvest from seed. We each made a "Water-Jug Greenhouse" for propagating lettuce seeds for our spring gardens.

Stephanie recommends starting around Christmas-time planting herbs and perennials; mid-January she plants seeds for spring vegetables; February she plants summer annual seeds; then in August she plants for fall vegetables.

She recommends reusing opaque or clear plastic con-

tainers (water jugs are a favorite) for starting these seeds. Rotisserie chicken and spinach/green containers work well also. She cuts two dime size holes in the bottom, two quarter size holes in the top then cuts around the jug stopping at the handle leaving the top connected as a lid. Then she fills with Miracle Grow soil, sows the seeds and lightly covers with soil. Replace the jug cap or using duct tape, the spout is covered and the top/lid is sealed across the front. The container is placed outside in full sun. If the soil gets dry it is best to water from the bottom placing the jug in a shallow container of water for an hour. Once the seeds have germinated (about a week) then allow them to grow to

Mountain Mums See the Light

The Mountain Mums welcomed Lyle Collins, owner of Southern Trillium Landscape and design service to our February meeting. Most of you know Lyle as he is a familiar face in SR and active in many organizations, including the SR Community Garden. Lyle's presentation was about how to use lighting in your outdoor landscape at night. It shed some 'light' on navigating around the garden spaces at night. In fact, you might say we 'saw the light' about expanding our ability to entertain and enjoy the outdoors through lighting our landscapes.

We learned that good quality lighting can be expensive and that cheap isn't necessarily saving you money. He showed us the different types of lights used to feature special areas you want to illuminate. Up lights can draw your eyes to a special tree or garden statue and can make it a focal point of the area. You can strategically use an up light to cause that tree or object to look perfectly framed in a window as you look outside. Up lights can be directed to the side of the house, creating light for a path or showing the house structure. Path lights do not have to be in a straight line. Ground lights come in many sizes, heights and shapes, each having its best function. Down lights placed high in a tree can give the appearance of the moon shining on a garden path. Pond or pool lights can draw guest towards a bubbling fountain or waterfall. Barbeque lights can assist the outdoor chef and invite guests into the outdoor dining space. Lights under step risers or under stair railings can make getting from the deck to the backyard safe again!



The Mountain Mums enjoy Horticultural Therapy with the residents at Brookside in Stone Mountain. Each visit includes a craft project, but more importantly fellowship, with the residents. February's project was designed by Mum Kelly Samaras. We made painted paper towel roses in a decorated vase with fresh greenery to brighten the residents rooms for Valentines Day.

In February we toured the Dekalb History Center and Cyclorama along with the

Cherokee Library. The Mountain Mums meet monthly on the second Wednesday at 9:45 a.m. Call Debra Jones at (678) 260-7806 for more information.

Mountain Shadow Garden Club

The meeting of Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) on Monday, March 9, will feature a program by Melanie Furr, presenting "A Year in the Life of a Hummingbird." As Director of Education with the Atlanta Audubon Society, she develops and teaches programs about birds for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. In addition, Melanie provides professional development for educators with training on how to incorporate the study of birds in classrooms and to engage students in conservation, science, and other core subjects.

A licensed wildlife rehabilitator, Melanie has volunteered at Atlanta Wild Animal Rescue Effort (AWARE) center for more than eight years, rescuing and rehabilitating injured and orphaned native wildlife and providing training and enrichment for AWARE's non-releasable animals. In 2018, she became the custodian for Atlanta Audubon's first wildlife ambassador, a ruby-throated hummingbird name Shep. She is a certified Master Naturalist, serves on the board of the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia, and is a lifetime member of the Georgia Ornithological Society.

MSGC is open to men and women of all ages who enjoy learning about a diverse range of topics related to home landscapes, plants, and gardens. The meeting and program begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. in Founders Hall, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5801 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain. Free. Refreshments and socializing follow. For information and directions, contact club president Jeff Raines at 404-641-8633. www.facebook.com/MtShadowGardenClub



Melanie Furr with Owlbert Einstein.

be an inch tall. The seedlings can be transplanted to a flat or 6-pack container covered with a plastic flat cover outside. After 4 weeks, the seedlings can be planted in pots or in the soil. We expect to harvest our lettuce in May.

The Wylde Center is an excellent resource for speakers and the gardens are wonderful places to visit. Children are definitely nurtured by their programs. Oakhurst has a chicken coop and Edgewood has a herd of pet goats. Wylde Center was founded in 1997 out of a need to provide opportunities to experience nature in an urban environment. They now operate five greenspaces in four different Decatur and Atlanta neighborhoods. They are open year-round for

the community, for events and for their educational programs. Wylde Center also provides one of the largest youth environmental and science education programs in metro-Atlanta, including the Decatur Farm to School program, Atlanta Farm to School, Healthy Living by Healthy Growing at the Decatur Housing Authority, and science program and field trips linked to Common Core standards.

The meeting was hosted by our President, Marilyn Oatway with co-hostesses Deb Christensen and Alice Norton. We were treated to a lovely meal of homemade chili and carrot cake.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 2 at

Denise Finley's home with Ann Weisz and Peggy Clegg serving as co-hostesses. The speaker is Barcia Chasteen of Stone Mountain Memorial Association. Her PowerPoint presentation topic is "Native Plants-Backdrops and Perspectives."

Smoke Rise Garden Club is a member of the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs, Redbud District of the Garden Club of Georgia and the National Association of Garden Clubs. If you are interested in learning more or would like to attend a meeting please contact Alice Norton (770) 939-3564 or alice1230@att.net. We have some really inspiring programs and workshops.

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Amen, Let's Eat!



By Joyce Ray

I will have to confess that I have never tried to make Irish soda bread, but I only had to mention it to our committee of dedicated cooks who also write and edit for the Smoke Signal, and Barbara Luton had the recipe in her file, along with Irish Stew. These are both made in a slow cooker so give yourself plenty of time to follow the directions and the payoff will be awesome!!

Irish Toast: "May you live to be a hundred years with one extra to repent!"

Irish Soda Bread – Slow Cooker

- 1 egg
- 16 oz. sour cream
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- ¼ heaping cup packed brown sugar
- 3 ¾ cup flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 cup raisins

Mix egg, sour cream, butter and sugar until blended. Combine flour, baking soda, and salt in large bowl. Add sour cream mix and raisins. Stir just until mixture forms soft dough. Place on lightly floured board. Knead 10 times or just until dough is smooth and no longer sticky. **DO NOT OVERMIX.** Shape dough into ball. Place in 4 qt. slow cooker sprayed with cooking spray. Use sharp knife to cut ¼ inch deep "X" in top of dough. Cover with lid. Cook on HIGH 2 ¾ - 3 hours or till toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. (2 ½ hours in my crockpot.) Turn off slow cooker. Remove lid. Let bread stand 10 minutes. Run knife around edge of slow cooker to loosen bread. Transfer bread to wire rack and cool slightly.

Irish Prayer: "May your home always be too small to hold all of your friends"

Corned Beef and Cabbage – Slow Cooker

- 1 purchased corned beef
- 1 head of cabbage
- Red potatoes

Place corned beef with the seasoning packet into slow cooker that has been sprayed with vegetable spray. Add water to about halfway up roast. Cook on high for about 6 hours. Add potatoes for last couple of hours. Remove liquid from cooker and add to water in a separate pot to season and cook the cabbage. (Some recipes call for adding cabbage to cooker.)

Note: The corned beef will shrink considerably when cooked.

"Ample food and sturdy drink; a clean pillow for your head. May you be in heaven a half hour before the Devil knows you are dead."

For the green in the Luck of the Irish, I have chosen Grasshopper Brownies – made with a mix as a shortcut. These are pretty and delicious. The recipe makes 48 brownies cooked in a 13"x9" pan.

Grasshopper Brownies

1 (18.4 oz.) Pillsbury Family Size Chocolate Fudge Brownie Mix
Prepare mix according to package directions using oil, water and eggs. Optional: Add 1 cup Andes Crème de Menthe baking chips (found near the chocolate chips). Bake according to directions. Cool completely.

Filling:

- ½ cup butter, softened
- 3 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 2 ½ cups powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. mint extract
- 2-4 drops green food coloring

Beat butter and cream cheese in medium bowl until light and fluffy. Add powdered sugar, mint extract, and food color. Beat until smooth. Spread evenly over cooled brownies.

Frosting:

- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips and 1/3 cup butter

Place chocolate chips and butter in small microwave safe bowl. Microwave on HIGH 30-45 seconds or until chips are completely melted and mixture is smooth when stirred. Drizzle over the top of the cream cheese filling. Spread carefully to cover. Chill at least one hour before cutting and serving.

"May the roof above us never fall in and the friends below never fall out!"

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