

# SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 12

*Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968*

March, 2016

www.smokesignalnews.com



The Smoke Signal staff wishes you all the luck o' the Irish on St. Patrick's Day!



SRCA's candidate forum (L-R) Mayoral candidates Frank Auman, Bruce Jackson, and Lorne Cheek, moderator Pam Heisler, City Council candidates Bill Rosenfeld, Jon Carr, and Honey Van de Kreke.

## SRCA Hosts Tucker Candidate Forum

Smoke Rise Community Association (SRCA) hosted a political event on February 8th highlighting the candidates vying for seats in District 1 in the newly formed city of Tucker. There will be three districts in Tucker and District 1 encompasses all of Smoke Rise. All three mayoral candidates, as well as the three candidates running for city council seats, had a five-minute opportunity to introduce themselves and their platforms. This was followed by an audience-generated Q & A session moderated by Pam Heisler, Vice President of SRCA.

Mayoral candidates include two residents of Smoke Rise: Frank Auman of Pheasant Run and Bruce Jackson of Princewill Drive. The third candidate vying for the mayor's office is Lorne Cheek of Shady Lane in Tucker.

Our district will be divided into Post 1 and 2 for the city council seats. Honey Van De Kreke of Mountain Creek Drive is running unopposed for the Post 1 vacancy. Two candidates face off for Post 2 - John Carr of Patriot Drive and William (Bill) Rosenfeld of Leatherstocking Lane.

Election Day is March 1st, the same day as the Presidential primary. Early voting began February 8th and concluded February 26th.

Over 300 neighbors attended the session which was held in the Fellowship Hall of Smoke Rise Baptist Church. The proceedings were videotaped in their entirety and are posted on the Smoke Rise Georgia 30087 Facebook page. In addition to joining our FB page, community members are also encouraged to email SReNews@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list for SRCA's email newsletter.

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## SRCA DUES

Please watch your mailbox for the annual Smoke Rise Community Association (SRCA) dues notice. For more information, go to: [www.smokerise.org](http://www.smokerise.org)

## What's Next for Tucker?

by Pat Soltys

On March 1, the new government consisting of a mayor and six council people, two from each district, will have been elected. They will have a lot of work to do as soon as the election is over. There are a lot of hours to be invested.

Much like setting up a new business, a couple of the first things to be done will be to get a phone number and communications set up, including email. First meetings are likely to be in borrowed conference rooms of banks, hotels, churches and other places as there will not yet be a city hall.

While the search for a city hall location may be important, it will not be the most important item on the agenda. All contracts for services that are contracted through the county will need to be drafted, negotiated and put in place to retain police, fire, water, sanitation and other foundation services.

Other services and hiring of employees to take care of the business of the city will not be long after that. Decisions will need to be made on a cost/benefit and needs fulfilled basis for hiring whether contract or city employees.

The city will need to establish banking relationships and set up accounts. Initially

...Continued on page 2



## SRCA Annual Membership Meeting: March 22, 2016

The annual membership meeting of the SRCA will be held on Tuesday March 22, 2016 in the Fellowship Hall of Smoke Rise Baptist Church beginning at 7:00 p.m. sharp. The meeting will feature a recap of the year, plans for 2016, and SRCA board elections. We will invite our new mayor and newly-elected District 1 council members to attend as our featured guests for Q&A and are optimistic they will accept.



A CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER

## Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at ART Station

ART Station, in Historic Stone Mountain Village, will hold its 20th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration and Fundraiser, "Raising of the Green" on Thursday, March 17, 2016 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](http://www.artstation.org).

The live and silent auctions offer art work, theater tickets, meals at Atlanta restaurants and various goods and services. All items in the auction have been donated to ART Station by local theater companies, restaurants, businesses and ART Station's individual members. Proceeds benefit ART Station. "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.

For additional information regarding "Raising of the Green" or ART Station programming call 770 469 1105 or visit [www.artstation.org](http://www.artstation.org).



## SAFETY REMINDER

When you "Spring Forward" on March 13th, and set your clocks ahead for Daylight Saving Time, don't forget to check the batteries in your smoke detectors!



## Smoke Signal

P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085

A non-profit service organization devoted to furthering neighborhood cooperation with the aid of good neighborhood communication.

Editorial Committee... \*Jan Mahoney.....(770) 621-0155  
 Cheri Schneider.....(770) 717-9914  
 AvivA Hoffmann ..... helloaviva@hotmail.com  
 \* This Issue's Editor-in-Chief

Recording Secretary .....Susan Gilbert .....sgilbert@apogee.net  
 Corresponding Secretary ..Barbara Bruschi.....(770) 934-4644  
 Treasurer.....Harry Strack .....(770) 365-9381  
 Classified Ads.....Barb Hess.....(404) 229-0742  
 Display Ads.....Barb Hess..... barbhess48@gmail.com  
 Church News.....Susan Gilbert .....sgilbert@apogee.net  
 Features:.....Barbara Bruschi.....(770) 934-4644  
 Cedric Ross.....(770) 621-0155  
 Cheri Schneider, M.D. ....(770) 717-9914  
 Renee Hopf .....(770) 921-5540

Flyer Inserts .....Barbara Luton.....(770) 491-6711  
 Hodge Podge .....Jenny Hall-Busch.....(404) 200-4227  
 Pet Lost & Found.....Kay McKenzie ..... (770) 491-6784  
 Social Media .....Pat Soltys .....(770) 573-9715  
 News You Can Use.....AvivA Hoffmann ..... helloaviva@hotmail.com  
 Staff Writers.....Jenny Hall-Busch.....(404) 200-4227  
 Susan Gilbert.....(678) 684-6802  
 Joyce Ray .....(770) 491-9015  
 Kimberly Sizemore.....(770) 530-5939  
 Pat Soltys .....(770) 573-9715

Distribution .....Chris Schneider.....(770) 717-9914  
 Delivery .....Chris Taylor and Chris Schneider

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### March Calendar of Events

- 2 *Smoke Signal* staff meeting at the home of Barbara Bruschi, 9:30 a.m.
- 4 National Hug a GI Day
- 7 Smoke Rise Garden Club at the home of Denise Finley, 7:00 p.m.
- 7-13 National Wildlife Week
- 9 Mountain Mums Garden Club meeting at the home of Mary Lou Still, 10:00 a.m.
- 12 Jawbones vs. Sawbones Benefit, 5:00 p.m., Decatur High School Gym
- 12 Tucker Chili Cook-Off, Main Street, Tucker, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- 13 Benefit Concert for Stone Mtn. and Lilburn Co-ops Eastminster Presbyterian, 3:00 p.m.
- 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 13 Bike Race, Main Street, Tucker, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- 15 Mountain Shadow Garden Club, Eastminster Presbyterian, 7:30 p.m.
- 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY
- 17 Raising of the Green, ART Station, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- 17 Tucker Arts Guild meeting, Custom Frame Shop, Tucker, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 SPRING BEGINS!
- 22 SRCA Annual Membership Mtg. Fellowship Hall, Smoke Rise Baptist Church, 7:00 p.m.
- 27 HAPPY EASTER!

## Smoke Signal Deadlines

### MARCH 13

Please e-mail articles to:

**smoke-signal@earthlink.net**

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

Extra copies may be picked up at box at  
**5365 Smoke Rise Drive**

Deadline for classified ads is **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  
 Flyer inserts should be 8 1/2" x 11" (flat, not folded)  
 Please provide 2,300 copies  
 Reservation Required:  
 Contact Barbara Luton, (770) 491-6711 by 15th of month.

"Like" us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews](http://www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews)

or visit our website at [www.smokesignalnews.com](http://www.smokesignalnews.com)

Link to the digital version of the *Smoke Signal*

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

or scan this QR Code  
 with your smart phone!



## Tucker...

continued from page 1

the city will not have tax revenue and will have to work with the banks for operating funds. This is not unusual, and because the banks can see revenue after July 1, is usually not a problem.

A magistrate court will need to be set up and most likely be a traveling magistrate and court set up in temporary locations on a schedule rather than a permanent court. The case load initially will be light, but with planning and zoning being one of the Tucker City services, it will be needed before too long.

The new mayor and councilpersons will have a lot of work to do on the set up, the details and initial governance. Fortunately there are sources for training and assistance that will make it easier but not simple.

The county has already begun preparing a duplicate tax record for each property in the new city in preparation for billing and division of revenue. Should you do a search, you will see one record for Tucker (incorporated) and DeKalb unincorporated. These are duplicates, but needed until the city is officially operational.

An item of interest to note: the water department already recognizes the incorporation, and res-idents of the new city are no longer required to comply with the low flow compliance that only applies to unincorporated areas of DeKalb.

Homeowners selling are no longer required to change out fixtures prior to a buyer being able to get water service. This has long been considered an unfair item of compliance as with the exception for incorporated areas, the reason behind the compliance was negated.

## Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

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

Communion: Second Sunday of each month  
 1st Tuesdays: 11:30 a.m. Prime Time  
 Wednesdays:  
 5:00-5:45 Fellowship Dinner  
 6:00-7:00 Programs for children, youth and adults  
 7:00-8:30 Sanctuary choir  
 Nursery provided

## Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

Sundays:  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Worship  
 Wednesdays:  
 5:45 p.m. Fellowship Dinner  
 6:30 p.m. Adult and Children's Program  
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## Mount Carmel Christian Church

Senior Minister: Art Stansberry  
 Worship Leader: Leslie Riley  
 Director of Students and Kids Ministries: Vicki Tyler  
 Telephone (770) 279-8437  
[www.mountcarmelcc.org](http://www.mountcarmelcc.org)

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

## First Moravian Church

Interim Pastor: Stephen Weisz  
 Congregational Acolyte: Bill Hitz  
 Telephone (770) 491-7250  
[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  
 Thursdays:  
 7:00 p.m. Adult Study Group

## Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

## Mountain West Church

Pastor: Michael Shreve  
 Telephone (770) 491-0228  
[www.mountainwestchurch.com](http://www.mountainwestchurch.com)  
 4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain  
 Service Times 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.



## FREE NEIGHBORHOOD PET LOST AND FOUND

Please call Kay McKenzie at (770) 491-6784 if you have lost or found a pet.

The *Smoke Signal* is posted to [www.smokesignalnews.com](http://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](mailto:pat@smokeriseagents.com).

**Smoke Rise Baptist Weekday School**




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Stone Mountain, GA 30087

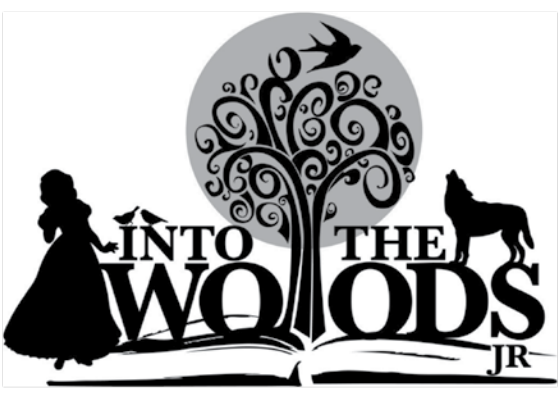
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CHORALE II CONCERT

The popular community chorus, CHORALE II, will present a concert at Lawrenceville Road United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. on March 20 as part of the successful Music for Missions concert series hosted by Jack Sartain and the men of the church. There is no admission, but a donation will be taken by the men’s group. The chorale, founded and directed by Dr. James T. McRaney, numbers 80 members. Music for the March concert is chosen from the variety of repertoire the group is preparing as it celebrates its TENTH anniversary in a second concert coming this spring on May 1st.

**Egg Hunt at Mt. Carmel Christian Church**

Mount Carmel Christian Church in Stone Mountain is hosting an Easter Family Fun Event on Saturday, March 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Carnival Inflatables, games, concessions, egg hunt. All are invited!



**Upcoming March Events at Eastminster Presbyterian Church**

CONCERT: African-American Spirituals  
Wednesday, March 16 @ 6:30 p.m.

Our weekly Wednesday night program will feature music from the African-American tradition sung by Samantha Burke (soprano) and Jarius Cliett (baritone).

WORSHIP: Good Friday  
Friday, March 25 @ 7:00 p.m.

A contemplative remembrance of the death of Jesus.

WORSHIP: Easter Sunday  
Sunday, March 27 @ 11:00 a.m.

A joyous celebration of the Resurrection!



On Sunday, February 7th, Boy Scout Troop 876 celebrated Scout Sunday at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. Senior Patrol Leader, Davis Summers, presented the church with the 2016 Charter.

**Kids’ Easter Egg Hunt with Adult Attractions – Something New**

Lawrenceville Road United Methodist Church in Tucker invites the community to an “Easter Egg Hunt with a Twist” on Saturday, March 19, at 11:00 am.

While the egg hunt is underway under adult supervision, adults may attend a cake walk, participate in adult games with prizes, and visit a craft sale.



Parents are urged to bring their camera and have pictures taken with the Easter Bunny.

Another new feature will be a toddler egg hunt section.

The church is located at 3147 Lawrenceville Highway in Tucker, just outside 285. For further information, call the church at (770) 939-3717.

**Print Exhibition of The Saint John’s Bible**  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church  
5901 Hugh Howell Road

The Saint John’s Bible is the first handwritten, illuminated Bible commissioned by a Benedictine Abbey in over 500 years. Its handwritten lettering and stunning artworks truly present the Word of God in an engaging and inspirational way. Discover the splendor of The Saint John’s Bible at an exhibition of 17 beautiful reproduction prints. The exhibition will be in the church parlor March 2-27. Open on Sundays 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Wednesdays 4:00-7:00 p.m.; or groups by appointment.

There are some questions the internet just can’t answer!



**St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church**  
6780 James B. Rivers Drive  
Stone Mountain, GA 30083  
770 469 8551  
[www.stmichael.cc/](http://www.stmichael.cc/)

**Everyone is welcome!**

Join us on Sundays at 8 am or 10:30 am

Just 3 miles from Smoke Rise near the West Gate Entrance to Stone Mountain Park

**A Facelift for the Summit Swim & Tennis Club**

It is an exciting year at the Summit Swim Club, located on Silver Hill Road, as the pool undergoes a facelift. It has taken a few years to work out the plans but this summer members will reap the benefits of their patience. Beginning this month, the pool will be under construction as crews resurface the pool and replace the tile work around the pool, as well as the lane line tiles. It is going to take some time and cooperation from the weather, but we expect the pool to be ready for members to enjoy by May.

A full season of activities and a new pool, it will be a great summer to join the Summit Swim & Tennis Club! Information and registration is available at [www.thesummitat-smokerise.com](http://www.thesummitat-smokerise.com) including convenient, online payment. The Summit pool season is slated to begin May 26 and run through mid-September. Hours are 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily, and until 10 p.m. on Friday nights. That's a lot of pool fun and exercise for about \$3 a day for your entire family!

While you are waiting for the pool to open Memorial Day weekend, why not join the Summit Tennis Club? The courts are open year round and host men's and women's ALTA leagues. They another great way to enjoy our beautiful club. Consider adding this on to your pool membership for an even better value for the whole family, for just a little more.

Many member families return year after year to enjoy:

- uncrowded, quiet family oriented facilities
- year-round tennis play on renovated, lighted, dual tennis courts
- secure, electronic key fob access to pool and tennis facilities
- saline pool filtration system is softer on skin, hair, and swimsuits
- friendly, certified lifeguards on duty from 1 p.m. to closing
- covered pool pavilion with picnic tables, bathrooms, and fenced play area
- separate diving area with diving board
- Starlight swim on Friday nights till 10 p.m.
- off-street parking and handicap access

Early Bird registration fees for family memberships paid by April 30, are \$365 for Pool only (normally \$390), and \$410 Pool & Tennis (normally \$430). Other membership options are Tennis only for \$275 or Single Adult AM Swim for \$175.

Don't miss out on the savings, prices go up on May 1. Online payment and checks are accepted. Go to [www.thesummitat-smokerise.com](http://www.thesummitat-smokerise.com) for more information, to print an application form or to register online. Contact Jena Gress, Membership, at [smokerisesummitpool@gmail.com](mailto:smokerisesummitpool@gmail.com).

**Summit Residents Approve Pool Project; Elect Board Members**

The Summit's recent Annual Homeowners Meeting featured committee reports recognizing 2015 achievements and plans for 2016. The treasurer's report by Al Pilkinton showed positive financial results for 2015, with a strong cash reserve fund. The residents approved the 2016 budget, including a \$25,000 project to resurface and re-tile the pool. Since 2003, the Summit has invested over \$100,000 in capital improvements, including a pool pavilion, resurfacing the tennis courts, building a retaining wall, installing electronic access system, adding a saline filtration system and now the complete pool restoration. The strong participation of Summit residents and consistent pool and tennis membership have created a solid financial base to support the improvements. The electronic entry system now allows members to take advantage of extended pool and tennis hours with the same secure access card.

The business meeting concluded with the election of board members for 2016. Volunteer board members include Barb Pettitt (President), Bonnie Herron (VP), Martia Lloyd (Secretary), Betty Matthews (Pool), Al Pilkinton (Treasurer), Vic Economy (Grounds), Jena Gress (Membership), Elaine Groves (Tennis), and Michael Jeweler (Communications). Thanks were extended to former social chair, Britt Edlin, and former Communications chair, Bob Newman, for their service on the board and to Barb Pettitt for hosting the meeting...again!

The Summit looks forward to seeing many Smoke Rise neighbors at its pool and courts this summer. [www.thesummitat-smokerise.com](http://www.thesummitat-smokerise.com).

**Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club**

Join the number one summer-family-fun destination and experience live music, great food and a welcoming community.



It may not seem like it, but the winter will end soon and warmer weather will return. And, with that, the Smoke Rise Bath and Racquet Club is kicking things into high gear to get ready for an active season of family summer fun.

The club had a very successful 2015, increasing membership levels and realizing many improvements to rejuvenate the club. All the work around the club was completed for fractions of the real cost, made possible by donations of time, money, material and labor by individuals who want to see our community thrive.

SRBRC also had a packed social calendar like never before. The club hosted a huge opening party, numerous concerts, a nail biter of a BBQ cook-off, an awesome July 4th pyrotechnics display, a delicious low country shrimp boil, and a two-day pig roast with a sleepover, just to name a few. The club has big plans to build on this success for the 2016 season.

The tennis facilities are open year round. Four tournament ready courts are available. Two of them are lighted for a fun match after sunset. The club is home to a number of active ALTA teams you can join, and the Tucker High Tennis Team holds practice matches and hosts games at SRBRC too.

The pool is one of the largest in the area. Certified life guards are on duty during selected hours, and a diving board is waiting for you to show off cool flips and cannon balls. Plus, you'll truly find some of the friendliest neighbors waiting to greet you with a warm smile!

The membership fees are the most affordable around, with a Full Family Swim and Tennis membership for only \$375. And, if you have never held a membership at SRBRC before, you are eligible for a first-time membership for half the price at \$188. What a way to get your feet wet! For more membership information or any club-related questions call (770) 493-9073.

To meet some of SRBRC board members, come and support the Smoke Rise Bath and Racquet Club at the Tucker Chili Cook-Off on March 12th from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Main Street, Tucker. The club will be competing with a Stout Steak Chili to turn up the heat.

For more information about the club, check out the website at [SRBRC.org](http://SRBRC.org) and go to the Facebook page at [facebook.com/srbrccommunity](http://facebook.com/srbrccommunity).

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**404-721-2904**

**Jawbones vs Sawbones to Raise Funds for Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse**

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club is again partnering with the GFWC Lilburn Woman's Club to provide volunteer and financial support for the Jawbones (lawyers) vs Sawbones (doctors) basketball fund raiser. This is the 5th annual Jawbones vs Sawbones basketball game to benefit the Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse in Stone Mountain, the only one of its kind in the state of Georgia.



This year's event will again be held at the Decatur High School Gym, and will take place on Saturday, March 12. Shepherd Center is the new presenting sponsor and a fun opening event has been added, known as Bounty of the Bones. The evening's fun for family members of all ages will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a performance by Professional Stunt Men and the Imperial OPA Circus.

Following the performance, you will have time to enjoy Chick-Fil-A or pizza while perusing and bidding on the wonderful items in the silent auction. And, of course, the Jawbones (lawyers) will challenge the Sawbones (doctors) in a heated basketball game to break the 2 to 2 tie. Make your plans now to join in this evening of family fun and help provide scholarships for persons needing financial assistance to attend Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse in Stone Mountain.

For ticket information, please go to [sidebyside-clubhouse.org](http://sidebyside-clubhouse.org), or phone (770) 469-9355.

**Electronics Recycling Right Here in Tucker**



For those of you with electronics recycling needs, and particularly for those of you feeling the void with SRCA being unable to provide an electronics recycling event this year, the good news is that there is a recycling vendor right here in the heart of our new city of Tucker. E-Recycle USA is located at 4545 Granite Dr., Tucker, GA 30084, is accessible by telephone at 770-416-1628, and accepts e-waste from the general public. Information regarding their services is available via <http://www.ecycleusa.com>.

**AROUND THE MOUNTAIN**

Check out the daily news for Tucker/Stone Mountain at [www.patch.com](http://www.patch.com)

**Confidential Document Shredding - April 30, 2016**

The SRCA will partner once again with Tucker's Eagle Secure Shredding to provide for secure, on-site destruction of confidential, private and all other paper documents on Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the parking lot of Smoke Rise Elementary School. This service is free on the day of use as it is paid for by the dues-paying members of the SRCA. Please segregate your paper waste from binders, cardboard, plastic bags and metals as these cannot be shredded.

**Pine Straw for Sale**

Boy Scout Troop 100 - Harmony Grove United Methodist Church  
2016 Boy Scout Summer Camp Program

\$4.00 per Bale (5 bale minimum)  
FREE Delivery (Delivery in March)

This is a fund raiser for a local Boy Scout Troop to be able to fund scouts to attend the Boy Scout Summer camp program and purchase needed camping gear for the troop.

To order, call Michael or Malachi Lindsey at (770) 657-8984 or e-mail [troop100pinestraw@gmail.com](mailto:troop100pinestraw@gmail.com).

**60th Annual Tucker Road Race**

The Tucker High School band and orchestra will be hosting the 2016 Tucker Road Race on Saturday, May 7th. This event will promote our theme: A future of Fitness, Fun and Fellowship.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor by donating funds or in-kind goods/services, please contact Ms. Alicia Caldwell: (334) 303-3547, or Ms. Romona Duncan, Co-chair: (770) 714-1539.

**Boy Scouts Earn Game Design Badge**



Troop 876 has been working on the Game Design Merit Badge. To meet the last requirement to complete the badge, we had Gavin Bigelow from Hi-Rez Studios come and speak to us about his job and how it fits into the overall game development process. He also told us about the education, training, and experience that is required for the game design profession. He was very interesting and nice and he is an Eagle Scout!

**Bike Race in Tucker**

A bike race will take place on Main Street in Tucker on March 13 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. There will be a kid's race, pro and amateur races, and collegiate racing.

The race benefits the Georgia Tech Cycling Club. Each year they host a race weekend that all the other participating teams in the SEC come to in order to raise money for their club to help pay for racing.

Their road race will be in Palmetto the day before, and their criterion (closed course, short loop under 1 mile) will be in Tucker on Sunday, March 13th. The course runs down Main Street, Railroad, Lynburn, and First Avenue.

Please contact [benrothschild@builtbyben.com](mailto:benrothschild@builtbyben.com) or [seth@snydercycles.com](mailto:seth@snydercycles.com) at Snyder Cycles for more details.

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**Tallulah Falls School Leader Speaks to Woman's Club**

Mr. Larry Peevy, President and Head of School at Tallulah Falls School, was guest speaker for the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club general meeting. Tallulah Falls School is located in the northeast Georgia mountains in Tallulah Falls, Georgia. It was founded in 1909 by the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs under the leadership of



Elizabeth Wells, Club Chairman Tallulah Falls School, Shari Carter, Mr. Peevy, Barbara Luton, Club President, and Kim Sekulow.

Mary Ann Lipscomb, a member of the GFWC Athens Woman's Club, to promote the education of the Georgia mountain children. Today the coed college preparatory school is a combination boarding and day school serving grades 5 through 12.

The Stone Mountain club supports the school with monetary donations for scholarships, student activities and student uniforms. Members tour the school in the fall and spring each year. The club hosts a group of 50 or more students each fall for the Tour of Southern Ghosts at Stone Mountain Park.

**Smoke Rise Elementary Students Participate in Competitions**

During the 2015-2016 school year, Smoke Rise students have been actively participating in district and other competitions. This school year, they've had the opportunity to participate in Reading Bowl, the Technology Fair, the PTA Reflections Contest, DeKalb County Spelling Bee, and the Regional Science and Engineering Fair.



Smoke Rise would like to commend all students who participated, and send a special congratulations to Ikram Mohamed and Maya Prince for winning first place for Audio Production in the Technology Fair!

**SRES Partners with Kiwanis Club of Greater Tucker**

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Tucker has partnered with Smoke Rise Elementary by bringing their wonderful B.U.G. Program to the school. B.U.G. (Bringing Up Grades) is a program designed to provide recognition to students who raise their grades into an acceptable range and maintain or continue to raise them from one grading period to the next. Students had a wonderful time celebrating with a pizza party and an awards ceremony for their hard work. Great job, students!

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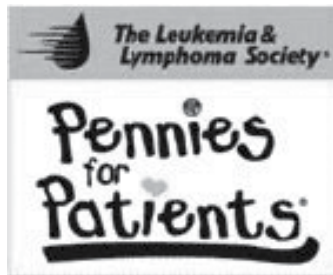
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**SRES Collects Coins for Cancer Research**

Smoke Rise Elementary School Beta Club has partnered with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to host the Pennies for Patients campaign. The mission of this society is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, myeloma, and improve the quality of patients and their families. Beginning February 29 - March 14, the students and faculty of SRES will collect change for this charity and all proceeds will be donated to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

**GSU Biobus Visits Smoke Rise Elementary School**

Have you ever heard of a moving science laboratory? On January 29th and February 5th, the Georgia State University Biobus visited Smoke Rise Elementary. This "Biobus" is a traveling science lab sponsored by Georgia State University. GSU graduate students majoring in the sciences organize and teach the hands-on, minds-on lessons. Smoke Rise students participated in lessons on genetics. They planted squash seeds and compared the growth rate of seeds with mutated genes with seeds that had healthy genes. Math was incorporated into the lesson. Students created graphs to compare the growth rates of the plants. Models of DNA were used to show the structure of DNA, and in turn, the students were required to make their own models. In addition, the students extracted DNA from pea plants.

The students had a fantastic time, and the graduate fellows were very complimentary towards SRES students. SRES is looking forward to this continued partnership with GSU, which has provided enrichment to the STEM program and science curriculum.

**STEM Capstone Project at SRES**

Green Engineering and Sustainability is the S.T.E.M. capstone project for the students of Smoke Rise Elementary. All students have been studying water pollution and conservation. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders act as environmental engineers by seeking solutions to oil spills and creating water filters for polluted water.

In light of the current crisis in Flint, Michigan, the students are studying the root causes of this problem and brainstorming possible solutions. In response to the crisis, Smoke Rise is holding a bottled water drive. The students have been challenged to bring in at least one bottle of sealed water to donate. If any Smoke Rise community members would like to participate in the drive, please drop off your bottled water to the parent center at Smoke Rise Elementary.



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## Eastminster Presbyterian Presents the Peachtree Symphonic Winds Concert to Benefit the Stone Mountain and Lilburn Co-ops

**Sunday, March 13 @ 3:00 p.m.**

Featuring classic music from Broadway and the Great American Songbook. This event is a fundraiser for the Stone Mountain and Lilburn Co-ops. There is no admission charge for this concert. Instead, attendees are requested to bring donations of non-perishable food items, cash or checks. All proceeds will be donated to the Stone Mountain and Lilburn Co-ops.

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Performances are Wednesday – Saturday at 8:00 p.m., & Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Ticket prices: \$23.00 senior (60+)/student, \$27.00 adult. To purchase tickets call the Box Office at 770 469 1105 or go to [www.artstation.org](http://www.artstation.org).



*Smoke Rise residents Linda Smith, Kim Sekulow, Terry Ingwersen and Barbara Luton, along with other members of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club, toured the Friends of Disabled Children and Adults facility on Lewis Road in Stone Mountain. The group saw where the medical equipment is refurbished and stored to be distributed locally, statewide and worldwide. They viewed a film explaining the mission of FODAC, how supplies are distributed and how the community can help this local charity. FODAC helps adults and children who are in need of medical equipment and are unable to find or to afford what is needed.*



The Old Town Tucker Merchants Association and The Local No. 7 will host the fifth annual Tucker Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, March 12th, 2016. The event runs from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. with all of the festivities taking place on Main Street. This a great opportunity for people of all ages to celebrate our new cityhood and check out some of the new businesses, as well as raise money for Day League. Your \$5 entry gets you access to taste all the chili prepared by event contestants and gives you one vote to help award the coveted People's Choice prize. Soft drinks and water will be available for purchase from the Tucker Free and Accepted Masons, while adult beverages will be on offer, courtesy of The Local 7.

Music:  
1:30 p.m.  
The Cigar Store Indians  
3:30 p.m.  
SMAC

For more information or to find out how you can take part in the event, please send an e-mail to [info@tuckerchilicookoff.com](mailto:info@tuckerchilicookoff.com) or call Jamey @ 404-556-7666.

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### Smoke Rise Preferred Contractor's List

If you are looking for reliable people to build decks, paint, do electrical, plumbing, interior design and many other services, then request a copy of this list as a potential starting point. We maintain a free listing of contractors and other service providers that your neighbors have used successfully. If you want a copy of this list, please email Jim Farmer at: [jimfarmer812@earthlink.net](mailto:jimfarmer812@earthlink.net) or call him at (770) 939-8949. We also ask for your feedback. Tell us about a contractor or service provider that you have used with opinions about their work. This information will be useful for future revisions of the list.

**Increase in Road Fatalities - from GDOT:**

In 2015 there were 1,389 fatalities on Georgia's roads. This marks the first annual increase in a decade. Many of these deaths are preventable - the result of distracted driving. DriveAlert ArriveAlive implores motorists to drive responsibly. 1—buckle up; 2—stay off the phone/no texting; and 3—drive alert. Visit [www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA](http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA)

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**Of Note to the Community...**

**(formerly Alerts & Watches)**

by **Cedric Ross**

The cold is still with us as our attention turns from winter to spring. We may begin to open our minds to spending more time outdoors. We have listed some of the crimes in our community; however, I am struck by the volume of crimes just outside of our doors. The crimes range from theft to more serious matters. When possible take someone with you as you shop, there can be safety in numbers. This may give you another person to see what you may not have noticed. The social interaction of having someone with you may have benefits too.

**Safety thoughts for the month:**

- When you return to your car have your keys (keyless entry device) handy before you walk up to the car
- If you are shopping in the evening, park as close to the door as possible and hopefully in a well-lighted space

We hope our goal of security speaks to some of your safety needs. Each issue has a goal to move everyone in the direction of living a little safer. I ask that each of you share your thoughts and ideas that can be shared community wide. I have listed an email address below for your submissions. We may not be able to share everyone's submissions; however, we will share several each month.  
Email [smoke-signal@earthlink.net](mailto:smoke-signal@earthlink.net)

**Crime Reports** – We make an effort to list local crimes if we miss something please forgive our human failings:

- 1/19/2016 Larceny, 5600 Block Bahia Mar Circle
- 1/24/2016 Damage to Property, 2200 Block of Flintstone
- 1/27/2016 Vandalism/Damage to Property, 1800 Block Silver Hill Road
- 1/28/2016 Larceny/Articles from Vehicle, 5800 Block Hugh Howell Road
- 02/1/2016 Vandalism/Damage to Property, 5100 Block Chedworth Drive
- 02/5/2016 Larceny, 5200 Block of Rosser Road

**NEWS YOU CAN USE**

By **AvivA Hoffmann**

**It's a Dirty Business; Illegal Dumping in Smoke Rise**

Illegal dumping has become an increasingly large problem throughout our country. DeKalb County is no exception and has also fallen victim to this unpleasant fact. Offenders are tricky, often dumping late at night to avoid detection. What do they dump? Everything from garbage, discarded appliances, abandoned automobiles, construction and demolition debris, hazardous materials, and other waste. At best it's unsightly and at worst, it endangers our public health. Why do they do it? Most offenders don't want to pay the cost or expend the time for proper waste disposal. However, those who are found guilty of illegal dumping can face up to \$25,000.00 in fines, or a prison sentence of up to two years, or both (depending on the type of material dumped, the quantity, and the number of prior offenses).



Some of you in the Smoke Rise area have noticed transportation crews digging along the entrance ramp from Hugh Howell to Highway 78 West. This is the result of a Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) project that is now more than 75% completed. It stems from an investigation into the illegal dumping of dirt and debris at this Smoke Rise/Tucker area as well as other metro Atlanta sites. After all the mess has been cleared at Hugh Howell and Hwy. 78, GDOT says the contractor awarded the project, C&S Paving Company, will plant trees in an attempt to restore the area. The expected completion date for this project is March 31.

Shun L. Pringle, GDOT District Construction Engineer/Metro Atlanta, provided a statement from the Georgia Department of Transportation regarding this matter:

"The Georgia DOT has been informed that the GBI and the FBI have concluded an on-going investigation of illegal disposal of dirt/debris in DeKalb County. Georgia DOT has cooperated fully with all agencies involved in the investigation to ensure that those responsible for illegal actions are held accountable. As a result, the GDOT employees who were subjects in this investigation were terminated by the Department. We are appalled by the corrupt actions of these lone individuals that in no way reflect the hard work and commitment displayed by more than 4,100 GDOT employees. We will exercise all legal actions to recover the costs associated with cleaning up these sites and ensure that every effort is made to correct the damage to the impacted sites once the investigation is closed." If you see illegal dumping – or the results of illegal dumping - contact your local law enforcement agency to report violations. With the public's help, law enforcement and justice officials can more effectively prosecute dumping violators and work toward cleaning up our communities.



# ANTHROPOMORPHISM – WHAT IS THAT?

by Mary Grace Mauney

The month of March contains National Wildlife Week, making it an excellent time to educate children about wild animals. Not only just simple facts - what lives where, what eats what - but in particular, a lesson about (and against) anthropomorphism.

It is an unfortunate tendency of humans to ascribe our own qualities to animals. This is known as anthropomorphism. We cast wild creatures as noble or ignoble, heroes or



villains, based on our own natures and biases. Take, for example, the snake, considered throughout the Western world to be a wicked, crafty animal who always leads others astray, as in the Biblical story of Eden. Or The Lion King, in which one African predator is

portrayed as majestic and sympathetic, while another is cast in contrast as a cowardly, vile, "slobbering mangy stupid poacher." Sharks are mean, dolphins are nice. Mice are nice, rats are bad. There are countless more examples, but the point is, this is not reality. Animals are only animals, and have such qualities of good or evil to them, regardless of how beautiful they are or how disgusting their habits seem to us. Children, however, are even more likely than adults to believe otherwise, as it is media aimed at children that practices anthropomorphism the most.

This can be dangerous for both children and animals. A child who expects wild bunnies and deer to be sweet pets right out of Bambi may try to approach and touch them, and end up bitten or worse. A buck that is in rut can be deadly aggressive, as can a

doe who is protecting her fawn. And while one certainly doesn't want opossums and coyotes sniffing around the garbage cans beside the house, it's also not right to try to harm the animal (who is only in search of a free meal) because it's not as sympathetically cute as other critters. If more people learned this at an early age, perhaps we would not have so many harmless shark species hunted for no other reason than that they are perceived as evil man-eaters, when in fact only a few species are at all dangerous to human beings. In a world that is increasingly separate from nature, urban and suburban people become that much more inclined to believe such myths, since they don't encounter real animals as much as humans once did. Yet as urban and suburban areas encroach farther and



farther into once-wild territory, these animals are now more likely to appear in our backyards - because we've invaded theirs!

Wild animals are simply that: wild. They don't behave like pets because they are good, nor deliberately seek to attack mankind because they are evil. They should be regarded with respect whatever their species, which is to say, left alone. If visitors from the woods drop into your yard, it's best that children learn this sooner rather than later. Don't try to pet the deer, don't run after the coyote with sticks, don't regard any creature as having traits that it simply does not, and leave them be. Instead, teach children about the REAL traits that animals have, so they have a better appreciation for what they are, rather than what we imagine them to be.

## THIS IS FOR THE BIRDS! (Suet, that is!)

- Melt 1 cup shortening (or lard) in a saucepan on very low heat.
- Add 1 cup peanut butter and stir until melted.
- To this add 1 cup plain flour and 3 cups plain cornmeal. Mix thoroughly.
- Add whole rolled oats, seeds, raisins or bread crumbs if you have any. The final consistency will be putty-like.
- Pour into a disposable 8 inch by 8 inch aluminum pan and allow to cool.
- Slice into quarters; each one should fit nicely into a suet cage, available at most garden centers.
- Store remaining squares in the refrigerator.

This is well worth the time to make – the birds just love it – much better than store-bought!

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### Special Message for Home Buyers

(and for all others who purchased property in 2014 or 2015)

There is a Georgia law that states that the county cannot assess your property (for property tax purposes) for the year following the year that you purchased the property higher than what you paid for the property. However, I see this law being routinely ignored by the taxing authorities. So, if you purchased your home in either 2014 or 2015 – take a look at your tax bill for the year following the year of your purchase – if your assessment is higher than what you paid for your property, it is an illegal assessment and you have the right to have it changed.

This law is statewide and applies to all county taxing authorities throughout the State of Georgia.

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**Tax Preparation, Part II**  
by Harry Strack



Last month I discussed some general thoughts on using a tax preparer versus filing by yourself. I also discussed Obama Care and health insurance rules. This month I have a few sundry thoughts that might help when you work on filling out your tax forms. Hopefully, these thoughts will help you to be ready for that looming April 15th tax-filing deadline. And you might even save some money.

It's almost always better for married people to file a joint return as opposed to filing separately. If the couple would otherwise be entitled to claim child care and/or earned income credits, the credits cannot be claimed if filing separately.

Individuals who are claimed as dependents on other filers' returns have a special standard deduction rate and cannot claim the personal exemption of \$4,000. If a child has unearned income (interest, dividends, etc.) in excess of \$2,100, the tax is computed at the highest rate of the parents' return. The parents have the option of claiming the child's income on their returns.

Taxpayers can claim a standard deduction or itemized deduction, whichever is greater. If the standard deduction exceeds the itemized deductions, in some cases it may be more advantageous to elect to claim the itemized deductions. The state standard deduction is much less than the federal, and the reduction in state tax may exceed the increase in federal tax. Calculating both methods may result in less combined taxes.

If you receive a notice from the IRS or state concerning your return, be sure to immediately provide a copy to your preparer so that he can address the issue. Surprisingly, the taxing authorities are not always right. Don't automatically pay any penalty or interest you are assessed. There is a First Time Abatement program that may enable you to have the penalty waived if you have not had prior penalties on the same subject in the last three years.

Be sure to file your returns on time by the original or extended due date, even if you can't pay the tax. There are substantial increased penalties for returns filed over 60 days late.

Gifts not in excess of \$14,000 per person are not taxable to either the donee or donor. A married couple can make a gift of \$28,000 for any reason to an individual with no tax consequences.

The exclusion amount for gifts and estates is \$5,430,000 for 2015. There is no estate tax to a surviving spouse.

If you are 70½ years old, you can take tax-free distributions from an IRA of up to \$100,000 to a charity, eliminating the tax on the distribution.

I hope these suggestions help you as you try to navigate the often-confusing array of tax rules. Do not wait until the last minute to file your taxes and happy filing!!

**A Tale of Two Cities**  
**CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

by Barbara Bruschi

Envision the sparkling beauty of the Emerald Isle and your heart may yearn to be Irish, if only for a day. Ireland, the land of George Bernard Shaw, William Butler Yeats, Iris Murdoch, Oscar Wilde, only to mention a few, has brought forth a myriad of talents. Singers and actors of world class hail from Ireland.

Each year the Patron Saint Patrick is being honored in many parts of the world. He died on March 17th, 461 AD. Scottish by birth, kidnapped in his youth by Irish bandits and sold into slavery for many years, St. Patrick escaped from France and after devoting himself to many years of studying theology, he returned to the country of his enemies.

Following the doctrine of forgiveness he is credited for spreading Christianity throughout Ireland.

The city of Dublin was settled in 988 AD. Dublin's name comes from the Gaelic word Dubhind, meaning "black, dark", and lind "pool", referring to a dark tidal pool.

The government of Ireland established a St. Patrick's Festival in March of 1995 (17th-20th). This showcases the talents and achievements of the Irish people. Bands from Ireland, Brittany and the USA will deliver uplifting scores and inspiring rhythms. This national holiday captures the international attention presenting itself in all the Irish glory.

Dublin offers breathtaking views from high cliffs, along with luscious greenery and an old culture that is fascinating in many ways. The Irish are known for their exquisite lace and delicate needlework. Waterford crystal is known throughout the globe. It is hand-blown and fashioned by master craftsmen. It shimmers like diamonds and adorns many homes. Irish dog breeds, like the Irish Setter, Irish Terrier, etc., are very popular with dog lovers. Irish songs are steeped in folklore and melancholia that capture the heart and souls of music lovers.

Bridging the geographical and cultural divide, far across the sea there is a town in the USA named Dublin. It is located about two hours from Atlanta. It was founded in the year 1812 in honor of Jonathan Sawyer whose native country was Ireland. In 1966 the Festival of Saint Patrick was called into life.

Today the festival has more than 50 events to bring the community together. You can participate in a little shamrock-wearing, Irish-jig dancing and light-hearted fun as Dublin and Laurens County GA join together to indulge in a Wee Bit of Ireland. There is a fantastic parade, balloon fest, barbecues, kite flying, authentic Irish food, several Leprechaun contests, pageants, bunco and bridge, as well as many other forms of entertainment.

Saint Patrick's Day is a reminder to people of the Christian faith to spread peace and goodwill around the world.

"May your thoughts be as glad as the shamrocks. May your heart be as light as a song. May each day bring you bright, happy hours that stay with you all year long." Let your imagination fly, and if the luck of the Irish prevails, you may find your pot of gold at last. Saint Patrick's Day is a time of reflection and for being Irish just for a while.

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**Mountain Mums Meeting**

The February 10 Mountain Mums Garden Club meeting was held at the Decatur home of member Carol Wales. After the brunch and business meeting, Lyle Collins, Smoke Rise resident and owner of Southern Trillium, gave the Mountain Mums Garden Club a great program called "Garden Photography". Clearly an experienced and enthusiastic photographer, he took us through dozens of photographs from his own garden, client's gardens and botanical gardens around the country, showing us the characteristics of a good photograph.

Here are a few tips he shared with our group. These tips work with any camera.

1. The Best Light: Morning or late afternoon will give the best pictures. High noon is the worst time of day to take a picture because things in the shadow look black and contrast is very high.
2. Get your knees dirty: Don't be afraid to use new perspectives. Get low to the ground and look up when you are photographing a flower, etc.
3. Reflectors, polarizers and flashes can help with lighting issues.
4. The rule of thirds: Draw an imaginary 9 square grid over your picture. Align important objects of interest in the intersections of the squares. This causes the main subject to stand out.
5. Try before and after pictures of the same shot or scene.
6. Take garden photos at different times of the year.
7. Try garden specimen in a vase, take the vase outdoors and photograph against different backdrops... then crop out the vase.
8. Composition is important. Some subjects 'require' symmetry- like an Italian garden. Other subjects look best using the rule of thirds, or an unusual perspective.
9. While Lyle owns and uses a number of good quality cameras and lenses, he also suggested that photos from most cell phone cameras can be enhanced to get a more high-end picture. Two examples of free applications that can help with this enhancement are: photoshop express and adobe photoshop.

If you are interested in meeting a great group of women who love gardening, and want to hear about interesting topics like Garden Photography, join us March 9 at 10:00 a.m. Call Gaye Auman for details: 404-694-8044.



*Mountain Mums Garden Club Co-hostesses Lucy White, Carol Wales (hostess), Lynn Malone, Lyle Collins (speaker), and not pictured, Helen Homrich*

**Roses: Updates on Cultivars and Diseases at Mountain Shadow Garden Club March 14**

Master Rosarian Bobbie Reed will present a program titled "Roses: Updates on Cultivars and Diseases," at the meeting of Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) on Monday evening, March 14. She will discuss newer disease-resistant roses and give an update on Rose Rosette Disease, which is an increasing problem in the Atlanta area.

Ms. Reed is a member of the Greater Atlanta Rose Society, the Greater Gwinnett Rose Society, and the American Rose Society (ARS). In 1998, Ms. Reed became an ARS Consulting Rosarian (an ambassador for roses) and in 2008 was named a Master Rosarian. She serves as editor for *The Deep South District Bulletin* and has written about roses for garden magazines and rose society newsletters.

Ms. Reed first began growing miniature roses in pots in the 1980s. She moved to Georgia in 1991 and now has a yard with more than 200 roses.

MSGC is open to men and women of all ages who enjoy learning more 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 more information, contact MSGC President Jeff Raines at (404) 641-8633.



*Bobbie Reed, Master Rosarian*

**Smoke Rise Garden Club**

Stephanie Van Parys, Director of the Wylde Center, was speaker at the meeting of the Smoke Rise Garden Club, held at the home of Jane Culbertson. Stephanie's program featured the growing seasons of vegetables in our area and how best to take advantage of this knowledge. Through the Wylde Center, Stephanie has promoted gardening programs at local public schools, giving children the opportunity to learn and enjoy growing their own healthy foods. Stephanie's programs have been very active in local communities as well. All are invited to the Wylde Center plant sale in April. (Visit [wyldecenter.org](http://wyldecenter.org))

One of our club members, Denise Finley, award winner for her monarch butterfly project, has asked our club to help with the growth of the monarch's most significant food source, milkweed. I know as a child growing up in a suburban area the milkweed was an abundant plant that was considered a weed by many, but rather magical by children who may have been entranced by the seeds with their facility of floating in the air on a crisp fall day. Remember Disney's Fantasia? Since that time it has been found that milkweed is a significant source of the monarch's food. Denise has asked members of our club if they would be interested in starting seedlings and supplying young plants for sale at our plant sale at the beginning of May. The monarch's numbers have diminished because of a lack of milkweed do to urban growth and loss of growing areas. Using a small portion of our gardens could provide help to defray this loss.

Edith Morton, another very active club member, participated in Capital Conservation Day, CCD on February 17. This event invites garden club members the opportunity to express their opinion and concern about important environment issues. Again this year, Senate Bill 36 was designed to legislate and protect underground drinking water.

Anyone interested in our club, please contact Jane Culbertson at 770-938-3060.

**Morning Glories, Camellias and Cupid?**

At the Morning Glories February meeting, Tucker resident Jim Pruckler wowed the club with a fantastic display of over thirty camellias from his own garden. Jim is a retired CDC scientist and an active camellia expert in the Southeast. He is regularly asked to advise gardens such as Magnolia Plantation in Charleston, Lockerly Arboretum in Milledgeville and Woodlands Garden in Decatur on care, propagation and maintenance of their camellia collections.

Jim took each bloom and explained its name, provenance and characteristics. He offered advice on pruning, fertilizing and basic care. He also urged the club to attend the February 20-21 Camellia Show at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. The club will make a field trip to Jim's garden in March.



*February hostesses from left: Bonnie Pennington, Marilyn Hug, Gwen Seeliger and Brenda Jones.*

In the business meeting, Glendolyn Hallman was named as the incoming president, replacing Quill Duncan. MaryAnne Anderson was named Inspiration Chair, replacing Joy Streater. The March meeting will install these new officers. A cookbook is being prepared by the Redbud Garden Club district that includes the Morning Glories and a call was made to submit recipes to the cookbook for publication later this year.

Glendolyn Hallman won the raffle of the hydrangeas and southern maidenhair ferns and Bonnie Pennington won the lovely camellia shrub donated by our speaker.

And what about Cupid? We think he was there because he managed to play a little prank on Marilyn and Carl Hug and hid their favorite candy dish full of candy! They are still searching for that candy! That Cupid! You never know what he might do next!

**A BIG THANK-YOU TO THE SMOKE RISE MORNING GLORIES GARDEN CLUB FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION TO THE SMOKE SIGNAL!**

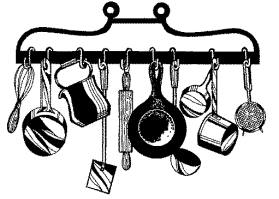


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# HODGE PODGE



By Jenny Hall-Busch

*I am a ranter. You already know this and I admire your even-tempered and gracious acceptance of most of the malarkey that I put in this column. Sometimes I use you as my personal psychiatrist and I should be ashamed but I'm not. Here's what is a shame....soup bowls that aren't microwave proof. This is a new century, right? A modern century, right? Isn't nearly everything ok for the microwave now? Except metal? Did the bowls say, "Don't under any circumstance get this bowl hot from any source warmer than melted ice cream?" NO. They had no warning. So I simply microwaved both the soup and the bowl itself to a virtual cauldron of what can only be called magma con carne. They are pottery bowls, nice and brown and lovely. They hide a dark secret of pain, disappointment and hot fingers. I actually should have looked on the bottom of the bowls first because - get this - the brand name was "Furio" as in furious: restrained energy - intensely violent. I created my own chili tsunami hydrogen bomb. So speaking of hot, I'm going with a sort of Cajun theme this month. I think March needs Etouffée and pecans and some zydeco music.*

*First is a Chicken Etouffée dish. Etouffée means "smothered", so you serve this over rice. It is a rather violent idea, actually.*

### Chicken Etouffée

- 2 chicken breasts, cut into small cubes
- 1 small onion, 1 green pepper and ½ cup celery, all finely diced (this is called the Holy trinity of Cajun cooking)
- 2 Tablespoons chopped green onions
- ½ Tablespoon minced garlic
- ½ Tablespoon Cajun seasoning (like Tony Chachere's®)
- ½ stick butter
- 2/3 cup flour
- 2/3 cup oil
- 2 cans chicken broth

Ok, sauté chicken in a little olive oil until done. Add onions, pepper and celery and cook until vegetables are soft. Add green onions, garlic, seasoning and butter. While this is cooking away, in another pan make your roux, using flour and oil. Cook over low heat until brown, about the color of a light brown paper bag. Don't let it get too brown. Add the roux to the chicken mixture and mix well. Add broth and cook about 30 minutes. Serve hot over rice.

### Black-Eyed Pea Gumbo with Sausage

- 1 pound smoked sausage, chopped
- 1 onion, 1 green pepper and 2 cups celery, all chopped
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 2 cups water
- 4 cans black-eyed peas
- 2 cans Rotel®
- 1 can diced tomatoes with juice
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 Tablespoons Cajun seasoning

Heat a little oil in a large saucepan and cook sausage. Remove it and add to the same pan the onion, pepper and celery and cook til they are soft in the oil left in pan. Add sausage back to pan with rest of ingredients. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to low and simmer 45 minutes to an hour. Add more water if you think it's too thick. Serve with rice and hot bread.

### Turtle Bars

- Crust: 2 cups plain flour
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 stick butter (use real butter)
- Caramel layer: 2/3 cup butter (real stuff)
- 1 cup pecan halves
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 cup milk chocolate chips

Mix crust ingredients with pastry cutter or fork and pat firmly into ungreased 9x13 pan. Sprinkle pecans over crust. In a heavy saucepan, combine brown sugar and butter. Cook and stir constantly until entire surface begins to boil. Continue to boil for 45 seconds to 1 minute. Pour evenly over crust and pecans. Bake at 350° for 18-22 minutes until bubbly and golden brown. Sprinkle with chips and cool completely. This won't work with margarine. Ask me how I know.

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## Stone Mountain Rotary Club

by L.A. Dison

### Stone Mountain Club Enlists Harlem Ambassadors in Fight Against Polio

Rotary International has set 2016 as the year that polio will be eradicated forever; the disease at this point is endemic in only two remaining countries. In support of the "End Polio Now" campaign, Rotary District 6900, including the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain, has scheduled an exhibition game with comedy basketball team the Harlem Ambassadors. The game, scheduled for Thursday, March 10, at Yaarab Shriners Auditorium, pits the Ambassadors against a volunteer team of District Rotarians and NBA players. All proceeds will benefit Rotary's international fight against polio. Tickets are available to purchase through the Stone Mountain club; contact chrisbrand@fodac.org.

In January, the Stone Mountain club recognized two members with Paul Harris Fellow medals. This award acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. Smoke Rise resident Scott McAvoy was awarded his second medal in January; Jerry Crane received his sixth one.

The club continued its support of local schools with its annual delivery in February of dictionaries to third-graders in 11 area elementary schools. The club distributed 1,200 dictionaries with the goal of helping the students enhance vocabulary skills.

The Stone Mountain club meets every Tuesday for noon lunch at Smoke Rise Country Club. Visitors and those interested in learning more about Rotary are welcome to attend. To learn more about the club and its upcoming programs, go to www.stonemountainrotary.org.



Pictured left to right: Durl Jensen, past president of the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain; Donna Jensen, current president; Scott McAvoy; and Margie Kersey, president-elect.