

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 2

Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968

May, 2017

www.smokesignalnews.com

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



City of Tucker Announces First-Ever "State of the City Address"

Tucker Mayor, Frank Auman, will deliver the City's first-ever State of the City Address on May 12, one day before the annual Tucker Day celebration.

The State of the City Address will touch on the progress made in the first year of Tucker's cityhood, as well as look ahead to some of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in Year Two.

"Tucker has a lot going on in 2017," Mayor Auman said. "We'll look forward to updating our citizens and business owners on next steps for our comprehensive plan and the exciting process of assuming responsibility for Tucker's parks."

The speech will be part of the grand opening celebration for Tucker's rehabilitated City Hall Annex on 1st Avenue. The venue, which is being refurbished by Tucker-based D.K. Lippy Construction, will house City meetings and other events.

"To have this celebration serve as the unofficial kickoff to Tucker Day weekend will be phenomenal," Auman said. "This is a new city, but with 125 years of tradition. I'm looking forward to all the great things the Tucker Business Association and Tucker Historical Society have planned to help us celebrate."

The grand opening festivities are May 12 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Mayor Auman's State of the City Address will begin at 2:00 p.m.

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THE SMOKE SIGNAL HAS A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!!
staff@smokesignalnews.com
Please send all questions, columns and contributions to this new address.

Smoke Rise Community Association Report

The annual public membership meeting of the Smoke Rise Community Association (SRCA) was held on the evening of March 28 at the Fellowship Hall of Smoke Rise Baptist Church. The approximately 75 attendees were treated to updates and interaction with Mayor of Tucker Frank Auman and city council members Honey Van De Kreke and William (Bill) Rosenfeld. Additionally, there was a detailed law enforcement and crime report tailored to our city and the Smoke Rise neighborhood presented by Captain Greg Padrick of the Tucker precinct and his team.

President Mike Huerkamp reported that from a \$35 dues payment in 2016, \$25 went to greenspace maintenance and community improvements and events; \$4 to the first ever audit of SRCA finances; \$3 to liability insurance; and \$3 to operations. Dr. Huerkamp noted that the SRCA finished the 2016 calendar year with a balance of \$45,388, but had operated at a deficit of \$8,200. The \$25 component of the dues went most prominently toward mowing at the Hwy 78 (Stone Mountain Freeway) triangle and iconic Rosser stack, landscaping at 15 chimneys, investment in the community garden, replacement of all sign toppers, and the deployment of four book exchange little libraries.

Other initiatives included the purchase of minicomputers in support of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program at the elementary school, providing document shredding as a benefit to the community, and support to events such as the city hall dedication and the annual Walk to Remember. Over the course of 2016, the board held 10 governance meetings and participated in numerous meetings related to development with city leadership and planners and developers. A late breaking development reported at the membership meeting was that the community garden had fallen on hard times and with the property owner, who has kindly let the SRCA use the plot for five years, deciding to liquidate. Although at the time of reporting, the closing had not occurred, the SRCA is pleased to report that an anonymous angel benefactor

...Continued on page 2



Tunes by the Tracks, the Village's popular trackside indie and blues music series, returns to Main Street Stone Mountain for 2017.



Concerts take place every Friday night in May, June, September and October. Well-known artists "On Tap" for May and June: Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Davin McCoy Trio, Delta Moon, Jimmy T. Harris & Friends, Donna Hopkins Ralph Rodenberry, Caroline Aiken & Dee Dee Voght, Diane Durrett & Junebug w/Yoel B'nai Yehuda, Mudcat w/Lil' Joe Burton, and Gareth Asher w/ Nicki Thrailkill.

The series is the largest musical offering of its kind in metro Atlanta. It provides an outstanding musical line up of local artists and an incredibly good time together as neighbors and friends.

"Eighteen community concerts and amazing music every Friday for four months of the year! You're really underestimating what you guys are doing here in the Village. It's off the chain crazy and so close to home!" - Pine Lake Resident and Atlanta Musician

The concerts are free. The music goes on "come rain or come shine" each Friday from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the city's parking lot near the gazebo and across from the middle of Main Street in Stone Mountain Village.

Don't forget your lawn chair! Beer, wine, and soft drinks are available to purchase. Proceeds go directly to keeping "Tunes by the Tracks" free to enjoy with exceptionally talented indie and blues artists trackside and on stage in Stone Mountain Village.

REMINDER..... IT'S TIME TO PAY SRCA DUES

Please mail your check for \$35.00 to:

Smoke Rise Community Association
P.O. Box 870793, Smoke Rise, GA 30087

Or to pay online, go to:
www.smokerise.org/membership.html



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 SecretarySusan Gilbertsgilbert@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..... barbness48@gmail.com
 Church News.....Susan Gilbertsgilbert@apogee.net
 Features:.....Barbara Bruschi.....(770) 934-4644
 Cedric Ross.....(770) 621-0155
 Cheri Schneider, M.D.(770) 717-9914
 Flyer InsertsBarbara Luton(770) 491-6711
 Hodge PodgeJenny Hall.....(404) 200-4227
 Pet Lost & Found.....Kay McKenzie (770) 491-6784
 Social MediaPat Soltys(770) 573-9715
 News You Can Use.....AvivA Hoffmann helloaviva@hotmail.com
 Staff Writers.....Susan Gilbert(404) 312-8328
 Joyce Ray.....(770) 491-9015
 Kimberly Sizemore.....(770) 530-5939
 Pat Soltys(770) 573-9715
 Guest Writers.....Jenny Hall.....(404) 200-4227
 Renee Hopf(770) 921-5540
 DistributionConnie Schneider.....cheri5942@comcast.net
 DeliveryChris Taylor and Jack Smith

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May Calendar of Events

- 1 Smoke Rise Garden Club meeting at home of Usha Ramakrishnan, 7:00 p.m.
- 3 *Smoke Signal* meeting at home of Barb Luton, 9:30 a.m.
- 6 FODAC 17th Annual Run Walk 'n Roll, Stone Mountain Park, 8:00 a.m.
- 7 Chorale II, Metro Community Concert "Music Inspiration," Briarlake Baptist Church, 3715 Lavista Road, Decatur, 4:00 p.m.
- 8 Mountain Shadow Garden Club, "The World of Hostas..." with Steve McMurtry, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Mountain Mums meeting at home of Lisa Armisted, 9:45 a.m.
- 12 State of the City Address, Tucker Mayor Frank Auman, City Hall Annex, 1st Ave., 2:00 p.m.
- 13 Tucker Day Celebration, Main Street, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- 14 Happy Mother's Day
- 17 Job Fair, Smoke Rise Baptist Church, 5901 Hugh Howell Rd, Rm 220, 6:00 pm
- 20 Tucker Historical Society Annual Garden Tour, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Smoke Signal Deadlines

MAY 13

Please e-mail articles to:

staff@smokesignalnews.com

(Word documents or text file attachments preferred)

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CLASSIFIED ADS TO THIS E-MAIL ADDRESS

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

Deadline for classified ads is MAY 10

SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

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

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

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

Please provide 2,300 copies

Reservation Required:

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

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Link to the digital version of the *Smoke Signal*

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

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Smoke Rise Baptist Career Assistance Ministry

Looking for a job can be stressful. Search strategies have changed a lot over the years. Don't go it alone – help is available! You are invited to participate in the next session on May 17.

Sample topics include Resume Writing, Mock Interviews, and Job Readiness/Search Strategies.

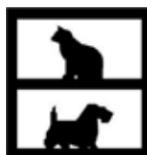
The Job Fair is led by career professionals. For questions, or to enroll, email vernessmith@staffingone.com (404) 370-0205, ext. 223.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church, 5901 Hugh Howell Road, Room 220, 6:00 p.m.

SRCA... continued from page 1

had acquired the property with the intent of enabling continued SRCA use.

The elections resulted in the addition of Moira Waldron and Lori Jones to the board and the re-election of Jon Gravitt, Pam Heisler, Lisa Khemani and treasurer Anna Ogletree. Other board members are Lyle Collins, Jenna Greene, Kalpana Patel, Virginia Rece, and Eileen Stone. A special acknowledgment was accorded Victor Economy who exited the board after four years of service. It bears noting that SRCA board members receive no tangible benefits, and, in fact, also pay SRCA dues - 100% of which are applied to programs. It is not too late to pay your dues, if you have not done so. The SRCA is grateful for the support of all of those who choose to join and also encourages readers to remain vigilant, informed and engaged with respect to city happenings.



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Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

Sundays:
 9:00 a.m. Worship in the Chapel
 9:45 a.m. Sunday school
 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
 Communion: Second Sunday of each month
 1st Tuesdays: 11:30 a.m. Prime Time
 Wednesdays:
 5:00-5:45 Fellowship Dinner
 6:00-7:00 Programs for children, youth and adults
 7:00-8:30 Sanctuary choir
 Nursery provided

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

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

Sundays:
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary - nursery provided
 Wednesdays:
 5:45 p.m. Join us for dinner! - \$5 per adult
 6:30 p.m. Program

Mount Carmel Christian Church

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

Sundays:
 8:30 a.m. Coffee/ Doughnuts/ Fellowship
 9:30 a.m. Bible School Classes – Adults & Children
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 Wednesdays beginning August 10:
 5:30 p.m. Dinner
 6:30 p.m. Bible Studies/Electives for All Ages

First Moravian Church

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

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

Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

Mountain West Church

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

The *Smoke Signal* is posted to www.smokesignalnews.com the first of each month. Go to the "Smoke Signal Digital" link. You'll also find the link posted to the *Smoke Signal* News Facebook page each month with posting of pictures and stories throughout the month. For questions, contact Pat Soltys at pat@smokeriseagents.com.

**Tucker Historical Society
Annual Garden Tour
Saturday May 20**

This year, four of the gardens are new to the tour. Also, returning to the tour is The Children's Garden at The Garden Enthusiast-Backyard Nature Station in Tucker. The Master Gardeners "Tucker Butterfly Garden" in front of Tucker Recreation Center and historic Browning courthouse on Lavista Road. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$15 at:

- Festival Unique Gifts and Fine Art, Main Street
- The Custom Frame Shop, Fellowship Road
- The Garden Enthusiast-Backyard Nature Station, Main Street
- Tucker Flower Shop, Idlewood Road

Day of the event tickets will be \$20 each. Event proceeds benefit Tucker Historical Society.



**High Noon History
from the DeKalb History Center**

"Bring a sandwich, bring a friend, and enjoy some history!" The DeKalb History Center announces, "High Noon History," a new tour offering on Fridays in May. The tour will last 30 minutes, perfect for those on their lunch break. Topics will include Architecture of the Historic DeKalb Courthouse and Decatur Square history.

Tours will begin on the south steps of the Historic DeKalb Courthouse from noon to 12:30 p.m. "High Noon History" will be offered every Friday in May, beginning May 5 and including May 12, May 19, and the last program is on May 26. Reservations are not required. Cost is FREE for Members, \$3 for Non Members. All forms of payment accepted. Call (404) 373 - 1088 ext. 20, for more information.



**GFWC Attend Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
at Smoke Rise Elementary**

Members of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club recently attended the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the Smoke Rise Elementary School. Under the leadership of Doris Hoenig, Co-Chairman of the Club's Education Community Service Program, club members continue to provide volunteer services for the students and faculty at the school. Club members have participated in the Read Across America day, taken Veterans to the School to talk about their experiences, and given Valentine treats to the faculty and staff on Valentine Day, to name a few of the Club's activities.



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FODAC Announces 17th Annual Run Walk 'n Roll
Charity event will include people with disabilities among runners, walkers and rollers

Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC), a non-profit organization providing more than \$10 million annually in durable medical equipment (DME) and supplies to those living with disability, will hold its 17th Annual Run Walk n' Roll (RWnR) at Stone Mountain Park on Saturday, May 6. The family-friendly event is one of FODAC's main fundraisers. Participants can run, walk or roll through the course; wheelchairs, strollers and walkers are all welcome.

FODAC's RWnR is a five mile race and two mile walk routing through Stone Mountain Park. The morning event begins with registration and a continental breakfast at 7:30 a.m.; the race starts at 8:00 a.m. and the walk and roll starts at 8:30 a.m. There will be door prizes, face-painting, clowns and music during the event. Special guest WSB traffic reporter Doug Turnbull will emcee.

Medals and prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers in the run.

Registration costs are \$50 (adults), \$25 (children 5-18, must be purchased with adult registration), and children under 5 are free. Teams of four can be registered for \$160. All registrations include a T-shirt and pre-registrants also will receive a Stone Mountain Park Adventure Pass (valued at \$29.95).

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

Registration and other details for Run Walk 'n Roll can be found at fodac.org/walk.

For more information on FODAC and its programs, visit www.fodac.org. Follow FODAC on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

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The DeKalb History Center Presents "Lunch and Learn"

The DeKalb History Center's May Lunch and Learn will be presented by architectural historian, Patrick Sullivan. He will present The Best in this Section: Lithonia, the DeKalb Granite Industry, and Metro Atlanta's Early Soccer History.

Professional soccer marked its return to Atlanta in March 2017 with the inaugural season of the Atlanta United Football Club. While soccer is often viewed as relatively new sport in the United States, and the South in particular, the history of the game in Metro Atlanta extends back almost 130 years and has its local origins in DeKalb County's granite quarry industry. Immigrant English, Scottish, and Welsh stonecutters brought soccer over when they arrived in Georgia during 1880s and 1890s. Teams and players representing Lithonia and Stone Mountain later emerged as stalwarts of the sport when organized league play began in Atlanta in 1908 and continued (off and on) through the late 1920s. The Lunch & Learn presentation will explore the largely forgotten history of soccer in Atlanta and DeKalb County during the early twentieth century, examine the sport's strong ties with the Lithonia branch of the Paving Cutters' Union, and highlight some of the prominent individuals who promoted and played the game here.

Patrick Sullivan is an architectural historian with New South Associates in Stone Mountain, Georgia. He received his M.A. in Heritage Preservation from Georgia State University. Mr. Sullivan has been investigating the history of soccer in Atlanta as a personal research project over the past two years.

Free! Bring your lunch.

Tuesday, May 16, Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Historic DeKalb Courthouse, 101 E. Court Square, Decatur, 2nd Floor, Superior Courtroom
For more information, call (404) 373-1088.



The Lithonia "Stonecutters" Soccer Football Club (Source: Paving Cutters' Journal, May 1914. Courtesy of the Johns Hopkins University Special Collections and Archives).

Spring Choral Concert

CHORALE II, the outstanding metro community chorus, will conclude its 11th season in concert on Sunday, May 7 at Briarlake Baptist Church, 3715 Lavista Road, Decatur, at 4:00 p.m. Admission is free, and donations will be taken to support the musical operations of the group.

The concert's theme is Music Inspiration, and the selections will explore how inspiration has led to the creation of musical compositions and how music inspires social behavior in certain cultures. The choral selections include opera, instrumental music, musical theater, sacred standards, and gospel favorites.

Musical Director Dr. James T. McRaney and Associate Conductor Peggy Ray will conduct this journey of musical inspiration. Guest artist, Terry Bates, will be featured on trumpet, and Tucker native, Larry Saggus, will perform a classic piano interpretation of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy."

Be sure to join the exciting exploration of two of the most beloved opera classics, *La Traviata* and *Madam Butterfly*, as well as music by Franz Schubert, Richard Rodgers, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Martin Luther, and Moses Hogan. The program concludes with Irving Berlin's patriotic favorite "God Bless America," with Tucker resident Rebecca Daniels as soloist.

Information: Dr. James T. McRaney, Musical Director (770) 939-1394.



The Smoke Rise Academy of Arts will begin its summer offerings in May with classes in drama, dance, music and art. The Summer Drama class begins May 1 with classes every Monday evening through the summer months. The summer productions will be *Bye, Bye Birdie* (August) and *Disney's Jungle Book, Kids* (September). For students interested in a non-performance venue, two Drama Workshops will be offered in June and July. These five-day workshops will offer students an opportunity to work on musical production numbers, individual scene work and improvisational skills with games and fun for all school ages.

Musikgarten Family Music classes for children ages 1-5 will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays in June. MUSIKGARTEN curriculum provides enriched early training in rhythm, dance and singing. Class time includes rhythm instruments, dancing to the music, singing and clapping to the children's favorite tunes.

Music Makers at the Keyboard will offer five classes in June for children ages 6-9. This is an introductory class for the 32-week fall/spring class. Music Makers is a graded Musikgarten curriculum designed for group piano instruction for ages 6-9.

Summer Dance classes will meet Thursdays June – July for children ages 3-12 and adults. Young dancers will work tap and ballet, older children will add jazz to their dance, and adults stretch and get their hearts pumping as they dance to lively jazz rhythms.

Act One pre-school drama and Twinkler Violin classes are for children ages 4-5. These classes offered in June are introductory classes for the fall/spring class. The classes provide children with a start in stage acting and violin playing in small group settings.

Oil Painting for Adults is an ongoing class for adults on Wednesdays. The class is open to all adults, regardless of experience in the field of oils. Summer session runs June 7 – July 19.

Music lessons for all ages are offered throughout the summer and academic year in voice, piano, guitar, drums, and most orchestra and band instruments. Lessons are offered weekly in 30, 45 and 60 minute sessions.

Visit the Smoke Rise Academy of Arts web page at <http://smokerisebaptist.org/community/academy/>. Or call (678) 533-0562 for class details and registrations.



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Smoke Rise Elementary Celebrates Its Partners!

Smoke Rise Elementary School hosted its annual March 24th Partnership Recognition Luncheon. The event celebrated Smoke Rise Elementary School's dedicated volunteers and how each partner shares in the vision of making sure every Smoke Rise Elementary School student is on or above grade level. Instructional Support Specialist, Caroline Croom, welcomed the distinguished guests, while the Teacher of the Year, Sherrie Adams, applauded the guests for their unwavering efforts. Assistant Principal, Syreeta McTier, read the Proclamation in which all the partners agreed.



Principal Pamela McCloud, on behalf of every Smoke Rise Elementary School student, shared her thoughts of appreciation and reiterated the school's mission: "Actively encourage the development of a personal best for all students by providing a school environment that will enable them to meet the challenge of living and working in an increasingly complex society." Smoke Rise Elementary School truly appreciates ALL of its noteworthy partners.

Contact the school directly to learn more about the 40+ Community Partners, (678) 874-3602.

Senior Connections "Celebrates Aging" in 8th Annual Senior Prom
Gregory and Betty Levett, Levett and Sons Funeral Homes, to Receive "Community Connections" Award

Senior Connections, a local non-profit organization providing home and community-based services to seniors in metro Atlanta and middle Georgia, will spotlight Gregory B. Levett, Sr. and Betty H. Levett, of Gregory B. Levett and Sons Funeral Homes and Crematory, Inc., as guests of honor at its 2017 Senior Prom, scheduled for Saturday, June 17 at the Thalia N. Carlos Hellenic Center in Atlanta. The Levetts will receive Senior Connections' 2017 "Community Connections" Award. This award, established in 2009, recognizes older adults who have been, and continue to be, outstanding business and community leaders, and who have given back significantly to the communities in which they live and work.

"Both Gregory and Betty have a long history of commitment to the community," said Debra Furtado, chief executive officer of Senior Connections. "They and their children work to provide emotional support and care services to grieving families, exemplifying the dedication of giving back to the community through multiple generations. They express their love for others through the many Atlanta charities they actively support, including Senior Connections, for which they not only provide financial support but for many years even delivered meals in our Meals on Wheels program. We are proud to recognize Gregory and Betty as true pillars of the community who have made a difference in the lives of so many."



Gregory B. Levett, Sr. and Betty Levett

(Photo courtesy of Gregory B. Levett and Sons Funeral Homes and Crematory, Inc.)

The Levetts opened the first chapel in 1980 in Scottdale, Georgia, and have since expanded the business to include three additional chapels and a crematory in Lawrenceville, Conyers and Decatur. Mr. Levett is the chief executive officer of the company, and Mrs. Levett serves as vice chair on the board of trustees. The business now includes their three children - Bernard, Lanier and Deana - who are all active in executive capacities.

The Levett family has donated more than \$1 million to various charities and organizations throughout their 35 years of service. Gregory and his wife made the largest donation to the DeKalb Medical Center (Hilandale) by a minority since 1961 and because of their generosity, the hospital created the Gregory B. Levett Sr. and Betty H. Levett Emergency Department Reception named in their honor. He is a member of the South DeKalb Business League and former chairman of the board, and a board member of the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Levett currently serves as a member on the board of directors for the DeKalb Medical Center (on the budget and finance committee) with an annual budget of \$500 million. He is also the chairman of the DeKalb Hospital Authority which oversees \$250 million worth of hospital bonds annually. Mrs. Levett serves as a board member of DeKalb Medical Foundation as well as 100 Black Women of Funeral Service.

WSB-TV news reporter Audrey Washington will serve as emcee for the event, and local "soul line dancing" phenomenon Beulah Boys will perform. The event will also include dinner, high-energy dance band Ready or Not, and both a live and silent auction. All proceeds raised will provide funding for Senior Connections' programs and operational expenses.

For more information about the event, including becoming a corporate sponsor, purchasing tickets and/or donating silent auction items, contact Sharon Steele at (770) 216-2576 or sssteel@seniorconnectionsatl.org.

More information about Senior Connections is available at seniorconnectionsatl.org. Follow them on Facebook and Twitter.

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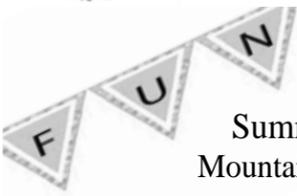
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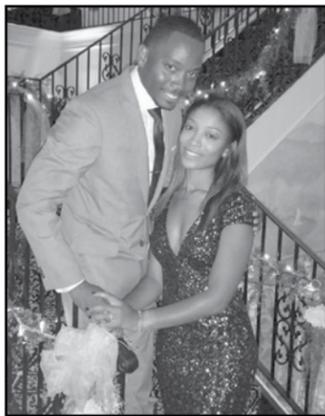
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Full Season Membership: Paid by April 30: \$350
Starting May 1: \$375

WEDDING

GREEN-HANCHETT

Dr. & Mrs. Donald (Geonice) Hanchett of Smoke Rise announce the marriage of their son Mr. Paul J. Hanchett to Ms. Ashley N. Green of New Orleans, Louisiana. The lovely couple married on Sat. April 22 in New Orleans. They will begin their lives together in the Atlanta area. The couple is wished much love and many blessings.



Above is the couple's engagement photo. A wedding photo will be featured in the June issue of the *Smoke Signal*.

ATTENTION GRADS AND BRIDES

Please send in your pictures and a brief article for publication in the *Smoke Signal*.
Email submissions to
staff@smokesignalnews.com



A vacation without arduous planning or strenuous travel? An epic summer to remember? Looking for fun in the sun, live music, cookouts and cook-offs, movies under the stars, or just a fun time, packed with entertainment? The Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club is the place.

Days are getting warmer, the afternoons longer and in few weeks school is out for summer. Blue skies and hot sunny days, and while others push their noisy lawnmowers and wrestle with their string trimmers you'll go to the pool, refresh in the crystal clear water and kick back with friends and family enjoying a cool beverage or an icy popsicle---if you're a member of the Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club---that is!

Grab your swimsuit, lather up with sunscreen, pack a cooler and maybe something to throw on the grill and come on out. It's a vacation in the neighborhood all summer long. For very little money, you'll find a host of things to do and fun to be had. There is no other swim and tennis community in Smoke Rise that has more to offer.

- A full swim and tennis membership for the whole family runs at \$375
- First-time memberships are available for only \$200.00 for the whole family
- Other arrangements are also available
- Refer a new member and get a \$50.00 cash reward

Check out the club's Facebook page at facebook.com/srbrccommunity/ or go to the website at SRBRC.org.

The pool opens on May 20 and the club will jump into summer fun with a huge splash you definitely don't want to miss. Mark your calendar and reserve June 3 for a huge Opening Party and Birthday Bash with entertainment, Live Music, homemade BBQ and cold drinks.

The event is open to members and non-members. So go ahead, grab your friends and neighbors and bring them too! Again, if you have never been a member, the club offers \$200 memberships for newcomers. What a way to get your feet wet.

Get your ticket to an awesome summer. Complete the flyer in this edition of the *Smoke Signal*, enclose your payment and become a member. You will not regret it.

Visit SRBRC's website at SRBRC.org and follow the club on Facebook, so you'll always get the latest updates and events at SRBRC. For membership questions, please call (770) 493 - 9073.

The Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club is celebrating its 50th anniversary!



So you can celebrate too, the club is giving away free Family Swim and Tennis memberships. For a chance to win, like and follow SRBRC on Facebook, share the "Birthday Bash/Open House" event, and you're automatically entered to win one of two FREE Full Swim and Tennis Family Memberships! Good Luck!

Smoke Rise Preferred Contractor's List

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



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

There has never been a better time to join The Summit Swim & Tennis Club... and here are 10 reasons why members come back, year, after year.

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

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

The Summit Swim & Tennis Club family registration fees are \$390 Pool only or \$430 Pool & Tennis. Additional membership options are \$275. Tennis only or Single Adult Swim membership is \$175. Pool Memberships run Memorial Day weekend through September 24, and Tennis Memberships run May 1 through April 30.

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



Of Note to the Community: Safety Alerts & Watches

by Cedric R.

WHAT YOUR BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU (Part 1 of 2)

What would a burglar say if asked?

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And, I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
5. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door - understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
6. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)
7. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.
8. Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.
9. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.

Some additional things to think about: If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where a burgler can see if it's set. That makes it too easy. A good security company alarms the window over the sink, and the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom - and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too. Finally, a loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at <http://www.faketv/...com/>)

Crime Reports

- 3/30/2017 LARCENY 5600 Silver Ridge Dr around 12:00 p.m.
- 3/08/2017 DAMAGE TO PROPERTY 5900 Hugh Howell Rd around 10:55 a.m.
- 3/16/2017 LARCENY 1500 Block Silver Hill Rd. around 4:00 p.m.

We make an effort to list local crimes, if we miss something please contact the *Smoke Signal* at the following email address for submission – staff@smokesignalnews.com.



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DeKalb Reminds Residents of Level 2 Drought Restrictions
Restrictions include outdoor watering



The DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management (DWM) reminds DeKalb residents and businesses that, despite recent rainfall, the county is still under a Level 2 drought status.

That means, outdoor watering of lawns, gardens and trees is limited to a maximum of twice a week on an odd/even schedule. Even addresses and sites with no numbered address may water Wednesdays and Saturdays before 10:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m., while those with odd-numbered addresses may water on Thursdays and Sundays before 10:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m.

In addition to mandatory restrictions, DWM asks customers to water only as needed, when plants show signs of distress, such as curling, wilting and graying foliage. Replace water intensive landscape with drought resistant plants when possible.

DWM, as the water supplier, is required by the State's Environmental Protection Division to enforce drought requirements. Enforcement actions are now being implemented for repeat or significant violations found that can include monetary penalties as well as termination of water service, as warranted.

For more information on water restrictions in DeKalb, visit www.dekalbwatershed.com.

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Stone Mountain Rotary Club

By Lizbeth Dison

Members Support Community Events

Spring brought many events to the Stone Mountain community, with lots of opportunities for participation from Stone Mountain Rotarians.

The Rotary Club of Stone Mountain (RCSM) has supported multidisciplinary art center ART Station for many years, providing everything from funds for summer camp scholarships to volunteers for special events like its annual Tour of Southern Ghosts. In March, RCSM members again stepped up to help the organization with its Raising of the Green annual fundraiser. Several members attended the event, and the club donated items for a “garden basket” that raised \$140 in the silent auction.

RCSM has also enjoyed a longtime relationship with Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse, an organization which provides skills-based rehabilitation, mutual emotional support, and professional guidance for those living with the lifelong effects of traumatic brain injury (TBI). Two RCSM members participated in Side by Side’s 6th Annual Jawbones v Sawbones Charity Basketball Tournament, pitting attorneys against doctors. Past club president (and former District Governor) Al Lipphardt led The Honor Guard representing the VFW Department of Georgia. The members were from several posts, specifically VFW Post 4706 Decatur and VFW Post 12002 North Fulton (Al’s post). SMRC member (and current club secretary) Scott McEvoy joined in to lead the National Anthem, before the start of the game.



(Photo Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse) Al Lipphardt leads the VFW Honor Guard for the Jawbones vs. Sawbones Charity Basketball Tournament.



(Photo L.A. Dison) Carol and Al Lipphardt celebrate Carol’s new membership in the club.

The club grew its membership by two in April. Smoke Rise resident Carol Lipphardt joined the club after many years of association through her husband Al. Carol herself has held many roles in the club, including editing the weekly newsletter for several years. Also inducted as a new member was Kent Stewart, manager and funeral director at Wages and Sons Funeral Homes and Crematories in Stone Mountain.

RCSM hosts a diverse variety of speakers at its weekly meetings each month. In March, Richard Tigner, chairman of Spivey Hall Friends Council, talked about the history of the Hall’s Albert Schweitzer Memorial Organ, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year with a year-long series of special concerts. Joel Gilbert, Chief Software Architect with APOGEE Interactive, brought laughter to members with his humor-filled presentation on “How to Get Along with Geeks.” In April, Bill Boyd, executive director of Habitat for Humanity – DeKalb, talked about Habitat’s recent work in DeKalb, particularly in regards to the growing refugee community. Also in April, lawyer, fitness trainer and community activist Randy Faigin David offered advice on how to make an impact in your community.

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



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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

This is the Season for Swimmer's Ear

The pools are open, and summer is finally on the way! For many this means swim team, beach trips, and the swimming pool! Unfortunately, for some, it can also mean a painful condition called "swimmer's ear." Swimmer's ear, or Otitis Externa (OE) is an infection of the ear canal that is usually caused by one or more types of bacteria.

The ear canal is a fascinating structure that is protected from infection, "critters" and debris by a slight curve and a hairy skin surface covered with a thin layer of wax. The ear usually "self-cleans" by moving the wax in a spiral direction to the outer canal, where it drops off or is in reaching distance of your finger. Some people make excessive amounts of earwax. Build up of this wax can prevent water from draining properly during showers or trips to the pool. Prolonged exposure to fresh water - like swimming pools - can create the perfect environment for bacteria to multiply. If you combine this with trauma to the ear canal (e.g. cleaning out ear wax with Q-tips), or certain common skin diseases of the ear canal like eczema, seborrheic dermatitis and psoriasis, which disrupt the natural skin barrier to infection, you have the perfect set up for OE. Other causes of wax build up - like ear canal malformations, foreign bodies in the ear canal (you wouldn't believe what kids put in their ears!), wearing hearing aids and extra hairy ear canals are also predisposing factors for OE. Type A blood (no clue why this is a cause!) and reactions to certain kinds of soap are less common causes of OE.

Symptoms of swimmer's ear include pain and/or itching in the ear canal, and drainage coming from the ear canal. Some people have redness and pain when their ear is even touched or moved. Rarely, the infection can be quite severe, especially in diabetics and those with immune deficiencies. These people are sick and know it!! Pain extending toward the bone behind the ear, pain on opening the mouth and extremely high fever may mean the infection has invaded the bone or facial structures. These patients need to be hospitalized for intravenous antibiotics immediately!

No good studies prove that these preventative measures work, but they are definitely worth a try! Most ear, nose and throat doctors recommend them: Earplugs before jumping in the pool. These are required (!) if you have an ear perforation of any type or ear tubes. Wicking moisture away with a tightly twirled piece of Kleenex; drying the ear with a hair dryer on the low setting and using Acetic Acid drops (Vosol is one) may be preventative if used after swimming.

Treatment of swimmer's ear is simple. Most doctors prescribe antibiotic drops with or without cortisone. The cortisone component helps decrease swelling and inflammation. It is important to be able to get the drops past the debris in the ear canal, so sometimes the doctor will physically remove the debris before writing a prescription. Oral antibiotics are not used unless the infection has spread beyond the ear canal, or there is a dual infection in the middle ear.

Pain is a very common complaint. Tylenol or Ibuprofen usually help. Occasionally, the pain is severe enough to require stronger pain medication.

Most patient's symptoms are better in 24 hours. If no improvement occurs within 49-72 hours, or if symptoms increase, the patient should be seen again. Symptoms usually disappear by 10 days, but can take weeks to completely resolve.

Theatre Seeks Volunteers

Main Street Theatre needs volunteer ushers, concession stand workers and box office workers. Additional tasks generally include set up of chairs and tables, hanging signage and assisting the actors. Volunteers will be asked to show up 1.5 hours before curtain time and stay through the show... which you get to see at no charge!

There will be seven performances in all and the theatre needs 10-12 volunteers per performance. It is usually not practical to work every performance, but the theatre prefers if volunteers can work for more than one. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator Ray Ganga at (404) 580-2671 or raymondganga1@gmail.com.

All performances will be held at the Tucker Recreation Center, 4898 Lavista Road, Tucker.

Show Schedule:

- Friday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday May, 13 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 14 at 2:30 p.m.
- Friday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 20, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 21 at 2:30 p.m.

Red Cross Hosting 2nd Annual Women Warriors' Baby Shower

In conjunction with the VA, the Tiffany Circle of the Red Cross is hosting a baby shower for 75 women veterans on May 6. This is the second event for Women Veterans; the first was highly successful last year.

The Red Cross of Georgia serves more than one million military personnel, including active duty, National Guard and Reserve, as well as our veterans. Georgia has the fifth largest military population in the nation. In addition, Atlanta is home to the largest veteran pregnancy population in the U.S. According to the Georgia Department of Veteran Services, many of these women veterans are well below the median income. There are currently 70 expectant veterans who are receiving health care through Women's Veteran Services in Decatur, Georgia - 90% of them are considered low-income.

To provide assistance to this vulnerable population of women who have bravely served our country, we are seeking support for items to be given at the "Women Warriors Baby Shower."

To help, please go to Target.com. Click on Registries then Click "Find." Under First Name: Women Warriors, Last Name: Red Cross. At this website, the gifts go directly to the Atlanta Headquarters, 1955 Monroe Drive, Atlanta, GA 30324.



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Is Green Smoke Rise Sustainable?

By Smoke Rise Resident, Spomenka Newman, Ph.D.s, Licensed Psychologist

When I first visited Smoke Rise in the mid 1990s, traveling down Gunstock toward Red Coat Run, I felt like I was in a green paradise, as I descended under the luxurious canopy of mature trees on the winding road to a friend’s house. It was not long after that, that my husband and I started dreaming of escaping from the bareness and sameness of a typical suburb we lived in and started searching for a vacant wooded lot in Smoke Rise to build on. We later heard that many of our neighbors were attracted to move to Smoke Rise by the same qualities of living close to nature, in mature woodlands shared with the wild life. It is my love for this quality of Smoke Rise that makes me feel concerned about tree cutting practices in our community and the sustainability of our earthly paradise.

I hear sounds of chain saws and wood grinders with a heavy heart, especially as I often find that the trees that are being cut and laid by the curb are perfectly healthy. We have all seen clear-cut back yards bare of any beauty, lawns susceptible to run offs, and carelessly decapitated ancient healthy oaks that look like a scene following a tornado.

What I rarely see around Smoke Rise is the planting of new trees. With cutting down but not replanting, the sustainability of a wooded community is not possible. It may not seem that this is a pressing problem now, but this community will not look the same in the future if new trees are not planted in the present. Trees, like any living beings, need to be maintained, trimmed, cleaned and taken care of to live and mature to their old age. If you have planted one and waited for it to mature, year after year, you would be less likely to cut it down.

I believe that practices of some of the landscaping companies that service this area promote indiscriminate cutting by rarely advising residents to clean the dead branches and to save the tree. Residents ought to seek more than one opinion before cutting down trees that look healthy, especially if they are offered deals for multiple cutting or for selling lumber. For example, we had been advised to cut down a mature oak that is still perfectly healthy and beautiful after more than five years.



But, sustainability is not only about beauty. Living close to nature is known to have positive effects on the nervous, endocrine, and immune systems. By reducing levels of stress, we can also reduce levels of depression and anxiety while increasing immunity and resilience to illness. But, let me just add, as a psychologist, that the effect that nature has on mental health reaches much further and impacts our cognitive functioning, learning, and social engagement. Just looking out the window at natural scenes or even at the photos of them can reduce mental stress and increase recovery. A walk in nature can lower the risk of depression. The interest in sustaining the nature-friendly character of Smoke Rise ought to be motivated by more than the sustaining monetary value of our properties. Sustainability of our quality of life and health, and beauty of the community we have inherited from previous residents, must be one of our priorities as the community goes forward into the future.

What can you do?

- * Ask for a second opinion before cutting a tree and encourage neighbors to do the same.
- * Select businesses you hire with care; seek those who know and love nature.
- * Maintain and clean the woods on your property from decay, disease, and invasive plants.
- * Plant native trees and plants to maintain and enrich a healthy habitat for wildlife and people.
- * Reduce reliance on chemically maintained lawns that require large amounts of water.
- * Reduce reliance on chain saws, blowers, mowers, and other heavy and noisy lawn equipment.
- * Get out for a daily walk through the neighborhood, to be in contact with nature and friendly neighbors.

The Smoke Rise Community Association website starts with this description: “Smoke Rise is a tranquil community nestled at the foothills of Atlanta’s Historic Stone Mountain. Our unique homes and natural setting provide an environment rarely found in one of our nation’s largest metro areas...” On the Wikipedia page, our community is described as: “...nestled in some of the metro area’s most picturesque wooded countryside... abundance of green space ...creating some of the most scenic property in the Metro Atlanta area... rich in water which runs in multiple creeks...hardwood trees dot the slopes of the creeks, among them pines, yellow poplar, and sweet gums...”

We are in residence here, because we love Smoke Rise. And while the county has a tree ordinance, the law alone cannot prevent tree cutting and does very little as a deterrent. Unless we all see trees and nature as valuable to our lifestyle and wellbeing, we will be likely to continue cutting them. I hope that the Smoke Rise Community Association, on behalf of our residents, comes up with an aspirational and inspirational statement that shows this community’s univocal support to actively work on sustaining a natural habitat we love and value. And to start thinking forward and acting a part, I hope that we will soon see a couple of benches, trash cans, and pet stations installed beside the little libraries and in the areas where neighbors walk and would congregate, if there were a place to stop and rest. That would be one way of encouraging daily walking and communication among neighbors while helping sustain a clean neighborhood.

Now go and plant something!

Editor’s Note:

Regulations Regarding Tree Removal in DeKalb County Neighborhoods: Dead, diseased or hazardous trees may be removed at any time. Homeowners may remove up to five (5) healthy trees on their property per calendar year – with restrictions.

If you need to remove more than five (5) trees, you must have all trees assessed by a certified arborist and forward tree assessments in writing to the DeKalb County Arborist, before trees are removed from the property.

Find out more – and find a link to the entire DeKalb County tree ordinance – at: www.dekalbcountyga.gov/sanitation/greenspace-natural-resources. The Georgia Urban Forest Council also has a wealth of information to help you keep your plants and trees thriving at: www.GUFC.org.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

A New DeKalb County Information Source is at Your Fingertips

Do you ever wonder about the sale price of your neighbor’s home? Are you ready to open a business in DeKalb, but aren’t sure where you should locate it? Or perhaps, you’re looking to move to another area of the county, but you need to know more about it first. There’s a brand new DeKalb County app, available to the public that provides a lot of help with those answers.

The county’s Geographic Information Systems Department (GIS) has created a new, FREE online application. You only need internet access, to pull it up either on a computer, or any type of mobile device or cell phone. It’s called, “Select DeKalb,” and it provides valuable details about our county. For example, someone considering setting up a business in DeKalb can use this app to plug in specified criteria to find the best spot for their business location. The app can help narrow down the sites based on needs regarding the size of the land, the size of the building, the distance to airports and highways, etc.

Business owners can also use the information from the app to help determine a perfect place that appeals to employees as well as customers. It’s all dependent on the customized filter selections. The information can also include detailed street views and demographic data – like household income, residents’ ages, and family details. Of course, the app makes full use of DeKalb County Government’s own in-house, county-owned property data, as well as the new street imagery data for the maps and property pictures.

Arguably, one of the most vital information pieces on the Select DeKalb app includes the business summary report – information that normally costs money. However, Select DeKalb is one of the few, if not the only, site selection tool that provides access to business reports and demographic reports, free of charge! Plus, the list of information that can eventually be tied into the new Select DeKalb app is limitless – from emergency response, fire hydrant location, and traffic conditions to construction, parking information and other police apps – just to name a few. You can expect this app to continue to evolve.

The new Select DeKalb app is user-friendly and can be easily shared through social media and email. That means businesses from as far away as China and other places around the globe can research the exact spot where they want to set up, and grow, their business.

There are several other handy DeKalb County apps, including voter precinct apps, library locator apps and other government services info apps. Be sure to check them out too, and find the answers to your nagging DeKalb County questions!

Select DeKalb:

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Mountain Shadow Garden Club

The meeting of Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) on May 8 will feature a presentation titled “The World of Hostas—Queens of the Shade.” Steve McMurtry, owner of Popo’s Garden, will discuss the wide range of hosta varieties now available as well as appropriate cultural practices that enable the plants to thrive in the Atlanta area.

Hostas are hardy, herbaceous perennials, meaning they emerge each spring from winter dormancy. The plants are shade-tolerant and relatively low maintenance. They have more popular in recent years, as new cultivars are introduced, and are considered by many now as the most popular perennial in the U.S.

Mr. McMurtry and his family have been avid growers of hostas for many years, and he now cultivates more than 200 different varieties. He is active in The Georgia Hosta Society and is the current president. He is also a member of the American Hosta Society and has served as a Senior Judge for hosta and cut-leaf shows. Popo’s Garden was located on three acres in Stone Mountain Village for several years, but has recently moved to Jackson, GA.



Steve McMurtry

Unlike many perennials, hostas are grown primarily for their foliage. Leaf colors include green, blue, white, gold, and countless unique variegated combinations. Leaf shapes include circular, oval, heart, and lance in both upright and symmetrical mounding habits. Foliage texture can be smooth, glossy, cupped, seer-suckered, or rippled. Some hostas are also noted for their blooms.

Mr. McMurtry will discuss planting, dividing, watering, mulching, and other management for best results with hostas. Hostas do well in conjunction with hellebores (Lenten rose) and many other shade-loving perennials and shrubs. There are an increasing number of small hosta types which can be incorporated into designs for miniature gardens and fairy gardens.

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. For more information, contact MSGC president, Jeff Raines, at (404) 641-8633. www.facebook.com/MtShadowGardenClub.

Morning Glories: Reaching Out to a Special Community

April’s meeting at the home of Glendolyn Hallman was a different type of garden club meeting. Where the speaker is usually presenting information on gardening tips and plant care, this meeting focused on another type of care. Last fall we learned that a local Battered Women’s shelter was in need of some basic supplies for the residents. Frequently when a woman or a family leaves their home, they can only bring the items they can carry. The emergency aspect of the situation requires that she leave while she can get away without warning. As a result, the shelter needs to be able to provide basic hygiene items like a toothbrush or toothpaste, shampoo, soaps, lotions and other sundries. When members learned of the need, the club decided to donate gently used or new purses for the residents and fill them with needed supplies.



The April meeting was designed to fill the purses with donated items including a small denomination gift card to Walmart. Members brought costume jewelry, make up, wallets, combs and brushes, nail clippers and nail polish, tissues and all types of soaps. It was definitely hands-on and a good experience that members will be repeating in the fall of 2017. The 25 purses will be delivered to the director of the shelter. At any one time there might be as many as 20 women in the shelter who will be able to use these items.

If you or your group is interested in this project, please contact member, Joyce Ray, for more information at joycemray@bellsouth.net.

Hostesses Carolyn Woodson, Nancy Hudgins, Peggy Youngblood and Beth Woodward provided a delightful sack lunch. The raffle of two hostas and oak leaf hydrangea were won by Nancy Hudgins, Joyce Ray, and Marsha Pittard. A number of club members will be participating in the State Garden Club of Georgia 2017 Convention in Callaway in April and also at the DeKalb Federation Awards Luncheon at the end of the month. If you would like to visit one of the meetings and consider joining the club, please contact President, Bonnie Pennington, at bonniepennington@comcast.net.

Mountain Mums Love African Violets!

Kathy Spissman joined the Mountain Mums garden club as the April 12 speaker. Her love of African Violets was evident as she shared with members how she came to have more than 3,000 African Violets in her basement. This favorite indoor plant will bloom almost continually, if you will follow a few simple steps:

1. Pour water into a saucer under the plant. Pour off what is left in the saucer, if it is not absorbed by the plant. Overwatering can cause root rot.
2. Light: African violets need indirect light—like from an eastern window. Direct sunlight will “burn” them. A grow light can be used for 10-12 hours a day. Rotate the plants if they begin to grow “lopsided.”
3. Food: These violets like to be fertilized. Use 1/8 teaspoon of fertilizer in a gallon of water each time you water. Once every week, use plain water. Fertilizing with a higher middle number will help blooms to form.
4. Pots: African violets like to be pot bound. In general, use a pot that is 1/3 the size of the plant width.
5. Soil: Repot these plants every year, especially if they are growing a “neck.” Light, porous, loose potting mix (think: perlite in the mix) made especially for African violets is best.
6. Atmospheric Conditions: African violets like to grow in 60-90 degree temperatures. If you are comfortable, chances are they will be too. They also like high humidity. Sixty percent humidity is ideal. Leaving a water saucer in the room near the plant or misting them occasionally can help.



Mary Jacobson (speaker), Kathy Spissman, and Sally Young.

Mrs. Spissman invited the garden club to the African Violet Club of Greater Atlanta’s annual show and sale “A Spring Garden of Violets” on May 13, from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00p.m. at the North Decatur United Methodist Church, 1523 Church Street, in Decatur.

The final spring meeting of the Mountain Mums garden club will be May 10 at the home of Lisa Armisted at 9:45 a.m. The club will have a speaker from Wild Birds Unlimited. Email Carol Wales at cwale@hotmail.com for more information.

Smoke Rise Garden Club News

The April meeting of the Smoke Rise Garden Club was held in the home of Paula Adeoba. Peggy Clegg and Penny Galpin were co-hostesses. Due to last minute schedule changes, Lea Ray, neighbor, stepped in and presented a program on propagating Azaleas as well as other similar plants. Her program was well prepared, as if she had spent a long time putting it together. When someone commented on this, she said she has been collecting clippings (from neighbors), and over the years, she has been able to get the species and colors she wants. Very interesting and fun program. Members send a heart-felt thank you to Lea.



Lea Ray

At the time of the publication deadline, the Smoke Rise Garden Club continued collecting and gearing up for the club’s annual plant sale Saturday, April 29 at the side parking lot at the Smoke Rise Baptist Church on Hugh Howell Road Stone Mountain. Club members attend each year to answer gardening questions.

This is the 41st year of SRGC in the Smoke Rise community! The club’s purpose is to stimulate the interest of amateur gardeners in the study of flowers, landscape gardening, the environment and conservation and the beautification of the Smoke Rise neighborhood.

If you are interested in joining or learning more about garden clubs, contact Jane Culbertson at (770) 938-3060 or destovan@aol.com.

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By Jenny Hall

Mother's Day, May 14, is also the day Lewis and Clark set out on their famous journey in 1804. Mothers all over the world understand and appreciate this journey, since we all have had our trailblazer badges for years. This badge certifies that we can maneuver through dusty old junk shops, crowded grocery stores, big box warehouses, classes of screaming 8-year-olds and even teenage bedrooms. Once, I blazed a trail through our garage and was only lost for five hours. No one noticed. But still, it's amazing that women can find our way through, to, from, or around almost any obstacle, but no one in the family can successfully find their way to the laundry room. So, to honor those of us who are mothers, or who have had mothers (so all of humanity), I give recipes to show appreciation for anyone or anything with two x chromosomes.

This first recipe is an oldie - but experts say not to slow cook because of eminent and highly toxic bacteria growth that will surely destroy our homes and entire planet. We eat slow smoked food and raw eggs all the time. Get over it.

Sticky Roasted Chicken

Don't let the name put you off. It's called that because it gets a wonderful almost sticky brown crust as it bakes. Delicious.

- 1 (3-4 pound) roasting hen or large fryer
- 2 teaspoons salt, 1 teaspoon paprika, 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon each: powdered thyme, poultry seasoning, black pepper
- 1 medium onion, peeled and cut in medium chunks

Clean chicken and dry it a bit. Mix seasoning ingredients and rub over the bird. Put chopped onion in cavity and tie legs together with string. Seal in a large plastic bag and refrigerate overnight. Or about 4 hours if you are in a hurry. Preheat oven to 250° and bake chicken (take out of plastic bag, by the way) in roasting pan, uncovered, for 4 hours or until the leg nearly comes out when you wiggle it. It smells heavenly and tastes like it was a farm raised chicken. Serve to your favorite double x chromosome with mashed potatoes and sautéed asparagus or fresh green beans.

I also love this old fashioned pea salad that is perfect for the spring and easy to prepare as well. It's delicious made with drained red kidney beans.

English Pea Salad

- 1 regular can of green peas, drained (you can use fresh or frozen but cook them first)
- 1 cup of diced, cooked white potato (one baking potato about)
- 1 cup chopped cooked carrots
- 1 small sweet onion, diced
- 1 small jar drained diced pimiento
- 2 hardboiled eggs, shelled, and diced
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise and salt and pepper to taste

Mix everything together gently and refrigerate. You can thin the mayo a bit with some cream or milk. This salad is colorful and delicious. It's even better after it sits a while in the fridge.

And from the "Blue Willow Inn Cookbook," I give you a super easy pie recipe that has been around as long as dirt. There are so many gluten-free cookies out there now that you can make this gluten-free easily. And remember what I said about raw eggs? Well this has three uncooked yolks, but if you insist, you can bake it for about 10 minutes at 350°. I don't.

Easy Lemon Pie

- Vanilla wafers to line a pie plate or baked crust of your choice, graham cracker or regular
- 14 ounce can of condensed milk
- 3 egg yolks
- 1/3 cup lemon juice plus zest - or 1/2 cup lime juice
- 12-ounce container of thawed whipped topping

Layer wafers to cover bottom of pie pan, or have a baked crust ready to go. Stir the condensed milk with the egg yolks, then add lemon juice and zest. Pour over wafers (bake in 350° oven at this point if you choose; cool) and spread whipped topping over it. Or just cover filling unbaked. That's what I do. Refrigerate or serve right away.

Lime juice and zest make a great lime pie and you can cover that with either whipped topping or a meringue. Use the leftover 3 egg whites, and beat them with 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar and 6 tablespoons of sugar gradually added and beaten to stiff peaks. Spoon over filling and bake at 350° for 15 minutes until golden. Cool on wire rack and serve. Refrigerate leftovers.

Not easy enough? Well, try this lemon pie that is also older than the hills but twice as tasty.

Frozen Lemonade Pie

- Mix 1 (6 ounce) can of frozen lemonade concentrate thawed, with 1 (14 ounce) can condensed milk. Fold in 1 (8 ounce) container thawed whipped topping. Pour into graham cracker crust and freeze at least 3 hours. Limeade can be substituted as well here. This is super easy and super tasty. We used to make this and freeze it in ice cube trays, but that was before x chromosomes were invented I think. Happy May, and Happy Mother's Day to us all!

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: All inquiries regarding advertising should be directed to: Classified and display ads: Barb Hess at barbhess48@gmail.com. Flyers: Barbara Luton at barluton@aol.com.

All classified ads are limited to 20 words, with the *Smoke Signal* reserving the right to edit any copy. Ads are \$15.00 per month, (\$75.00 per six months if prepaid). Please submit copy in writing with a check for the months the ad is to run. Deadline is the 10th of each month. ADS NEED TO BE PREPAID. Checks should be made out to *Smoke Signal* and mailed to 1868 East Gate Drive, Smoke Rise, GA 30087-1911. When submitting classified ads, please include your full name, address, and phone number. This information is for our records only! For classified ads, contact Barb Hess at (404) 229-0742 or barbhess48@gmail.com. For information on display (box) advertisements or flyer inserts, see contact information on page 2.

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Congratulations to GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club recently served as co-host of the GFWC Georgia Central East District Spring 2017 Meeting held at the Smoke Rise Country Club. Club President, Kim Cumbie thanked Barbara Luton, a District Officer and Immediate Past President of the Stone Mountain Woman's Club, for her leadership with the event.

The Spring Meeting was also the District's Award's Luncheon. The annual awards recognitions are based on club reports submitted in early January. The GFWC Stone



Mountain Woman's Club was recognized for numerous projects and service. The club was awarded the Tallulah Falls School Award and won First Place in the 51+ Club Membership category for every Community Service Program. Kim Sekulow and Lorraine Dress received First Place Awards for their creativity skills in the member Art competition.

The Stone Mountain Woman's Club also received the following awards: Best Overall in Central East District & Best General Club in Central East District for: Arts, Education, Home Life, International Outreach, and Public Issues. The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club was also awarded the Central East District Overall Excellence Award, which is given to one Club out of the 19 clubs in the district.

As she thanked the Stone Mountain Woman's Club members for their efforts and hard work, President Cumbie said it was very humbling to represent the Club as they were recognized by their peers for their accomplishments and a year of outstanding service for numerous programs and charities.