

SMOKE SIGNAL



VOLUME 51, ISSUE 12

Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

March, 2019

www.smokesignalnews.com

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at ART Station

ART Station in Historic Stone Mountain Village will hold its 23rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration and Fundraiser, "Raising of the Green," on Sunday, March 17 from 6:00–10:00 p.m. The event features silent and live auctions, "A Taste of Stone Mountain," music and complimentary green beer. Tickets are \$25 at the door or \$20 in advance. For more information or to purchase tickets call 770-469-1105 or visit www.artstation.org.

The live and silent auctions offer 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.



ART Station is located at 5384 Manor Drive in Historic Stone Mountain Village. The Village of Stone Mountain is located in the City of Stone Mountain one exit prior to Stone Mountain Park. Founded in 1986, ART Station is a non-profit contemporary arts center that provides cultural and educational opportunities to the entire community. ART Station is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation.



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*Mark
your
Calendar*

SRCA ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 5

7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Smoke Rise Baptist Church



City Council Wrap-Up

by Matt Holmes, Communications Director

Tucker's City Council met Monday night, February 11, voting to allocate \$2.3 million for new road resurfacing projects. The City's SPLOST-funded resurfacing effort got off to a solid start, as 21 poorly-conditioned streets were resurfaced in 2018. City Engineer Ken Hildebrandt presented to Council on plans for a spring resurfacing push that will cover 24 streets, starting with Livsey Drive. Of the \$2.3 million, \$1.2 million is a combination of money left over from the 2018 resurfacings and higher-than-expected revenues. The remaining \$1.1 million was unallocated money that will be transferred from the City Manager's budget to the City Engineer's budget. The spring projects will be handled by Atlanta Paving, the same firm that did the 2018 resurfacings for the City.

Council also voted unanimously to approve \$39,793 to replace two aging HVAC units at Tucker Recreation Center. They then held a first read of an ordinance to bring the nuisance code into conformance with state law. The updated code would address unsafe properties or structures and empower the City to remedy those by imposing a tax lien, when necessary. A second read and vote are anticipated at the Council's next meeting on February 25.



SRCA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

by Michael J. Huerkamp, President

The annual public membership meeting of the SRCA will be Tuesday March 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of Smoke Rise Baptist Church. Please plan to join us. We'll be reporting on the plantings at the stacks and community garden as well as our various collaborations with the city, TCA and other organizations. We've invited our city and state governmental representatives to provide updates and, as a new twist, seek to have community groups and amenity providers within Smoke Rise on hand to give a quick pitch and meet with members. Please be on the alert for the annual membership renewal campaign mailings.

Tucker Earns Age-Friendly City Designation

The City of Tucker has received the World Health Organization's (WHO) prestigious Age-Friendly City designation, an honor that recognizes localities for promoting health and growth for residents of all ages. Tucker Civic Association (TCA) spearheaded the effort with support from Tucker City staff and elected officials.

"The term 'age-friendly' was used, not to promote an older population, but to look at the entire population from infancy through old age," says Dr. Lois Ricci of the TCA's Lifelong Community Committee. "The sidewalk has to be safe for the stroller and the walker. Transportation has to accommodate everyone needing a way to get to school, to work or to the doctor. Services must be made available for everyone regardless of age."

In 2013, Tucker was added to the Atlanta Regional Commission list of Lifelong Communities. With this latest designation from the WHO, residents and community leaders will be asked to focus on sustaining eight domains that might influence the community's overall health and quality of life. Those include:

- outdoor spaces and buildings
- transportation
- housing
- social participation
- respect and social inclusion
- civic participation and employment
- communication and information
- community support and health services

It's Another Tucker First!

Our Parks and Recreation Department is proud to share its first-ever Parks and Recreation Guide for 2019. Check out the course offerings at Tucker Recreation Center, amenities at our nearly 300 acres of parkland and opportunities for residents of all ages to get active and get involved!

For more information, please call: 470-481-0205

...continued on page 2



Smoke Signal

P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085
 A non-profit service organization devoted to furthering neighborhood cooperation with the aid of good neighborhood communication.

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March Calendar of Events

- 5 SRCA Annual Meeting, Smoke Rise Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Iris Society Meeting, St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 2:00 p.m.
- 9 Jawbones vs. Sawbones, Decatur High School Gym, 4:00 p.m.
- 10 Smoke Rise Garden Club Open House, for info call 770 939 1866
- 11 Mtn. Shadow Garden Club, Eastminster Presbyterian, 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Morning Glories Garden Club installation luncheon at the Smoke Rise Country Club
- 12 Mountain Mums Garden Club meeting at the home of Lynn Malone, 10:00 a.m.
- 13 Presentation about dinghy at SR Country Club, 6:00 p.m. (See page 7 for info.)
- 17 HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY! Wear something green today.
- 17 Raising of the Green, ART Station, 6:00-10:00 p.m.
- 21 Tucker Arts Guild, First Baptist Church of Tucker, 7:00 p.m.
- 22-24 *Beauty and the Beast*, Academy of Arts (see article on page 6 for times)

Smoke Signal Deadlines

MARCH 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
The Smoke Rise Community Garden on Hugh Howell Rd.

Deadline for classified ads is MARCH 10

SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

Cost: \$150 by check to *Smoke Signal*
 Deadline to Receive: 6:00 p.m. on 19th of month
 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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Tucker... continued from page 1

The WHO Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities was established in 2007, with support from the AARP. It currently includes more than 700 cities in nearly 40 countries worldwide.

"We were glad to support TCA as they pushed for this important designation," says Tucker's City-Community Connector Sonja Szubski. "The City looks forward to supporting TCA and all of our volunteer-led community groups as they continue to focus on the tenets of being an age-friendly city."

Tucker was established as a community in 1892 and incorporated as a City in 2016. It is home to more than 35,000 residents and 2,000 businesses.



DID YOUR PAPER GET WET?

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

They are longer available on Smoke Rise Drive

Preferred Formats for Smoke Signal Submissions

When sending articles and photos to the *Smoke Signal*, articles should be sent in .doc or .docx format. Articles sent in .pdf format cannot be edited or changed in any way. Ideally, photos and graphics should be submitted in .jpg or .pdf format. Thanks for helping us make your neighborhood paper the best it can be!

BRING A BOOK TAKE A BOOK

Don't forget to check out the Little Libraries that have popped up near the swim clubs.



Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Dr. Chris George, Senior Pastor
 Bart McNeil, Associate Pastor
 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
 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
 Pastor of Senior Adult Ministries: Rev. Jeanne Simpson
 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 Respite Care Program: Helen Wilborn
 Director of Communications: Joy Summerville-Johnson

Telephone (770) 469-4881
www.eastminster.us

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

Sundays:
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary - nursery provided
 5:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship
 Communion: First Sunday of each month
 Wednesdays:
 5:45 p.m. Join us for dinner! - \$5 per adult
 6:30 p.m. Program
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

MC3 Church

(formerly Mount Carmel Christian Church)

Senior Minister: Art Stansberry
 Worship Minister: Leslie Riley
 Student Minister: Will Tyler
 Coordinator of Kids Ministry - Jim Barber
 Telephone (770) 279-8437
 6015 Old Stone Mountain Rd., Stone Mountain, GA 30087
www.mc3.life

MC3 Church launched on Easter Sunday. Hours are:

Sundays: 8:30 a.m. Coffee/ Doughnuts/ Fellowship
 9:30 a.m. Life Group Classes - Adults & Children
 10:30 a.m. Worship

First Wednesday 5:30 p.m. Family meal and worship service
 All other Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. -- Life Groups on campus

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: 9:30 a.m. / 11:15 a.m. / 1:00 p.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.

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District One Update
Bill Rosenfeld & Pat Soltys

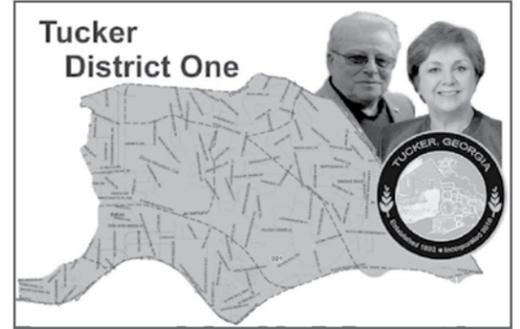
We held our first Town Hall meeting of 2019 on January 31. Lots of information on what is happening in the city, information sharing, questions and answers.

We were able to send three of our residents to the Park Pride Conference. Representing District One will be Eileen Stone, Lyle Collins and Linda Peters. We look forward to the information that they will bring back and incorporate in the improvement of our parks.

Our city really showed its heart on Valentine's Day with our first valentines dance for seniors. Live music, good food and a lot of fun at the rec center. There is something for everyone, no matter what age in Tucker.

Plans are really coming together from all of the studies. Lots of citizen input to help formulate the look, direction and opportunities we will see in the future. We are addressing many issues in the city from nuisance properties to taking care of our facilities. There has been a lot of discussion on Short Term Rentals. Let us know your thoughts.

Call or email Bill and I if you have questions, something on your mind or you would like to be active in the city.



Smoke Rise, Georgia, Real Estate Statistics - March 2019

The following is a summary report from the FMLS system specific to Smoke Rise, GA via mapped data. The \$/square foot is an average without consideration of price, terms, condition or location. These values should not be considered absolute in determining value. An analysis specific to an individual property will be required.

2019 started off a bit slow in terms of closings. We are hearing comments and stats across the nation of a slower market in spite of low inventory and lower interest rates than we saw at the end of 2018. It is expected that it will pick up but probably not be a record setting year. The age of the home and updates are definitely factors in the final sales price and dollars per square foot. Prices have risen but modestly compared to properties closer in. Traffic is a larger factor than ever in selection of homes. A multi-year perspective is always helpful.

Year	\$/sq ft list ave	\$/sq ft Sold Ave	Ave Yr Built	High \$/Sq Ft Sold	Low \$/Sq Ft Sold
2019 YTD	\$119.41	\$112.85	1972	\$133.96	\$66.73
2018 YE	\$120.12	\$116.62	1976	\$186.95	\$59.54
2017 YE	\$112.05	\$108.45	1979	\$192.54	\$48.30

Buyers are discounting heavily for homes that are dated and/or in need of repair but paying higher than ever prices for those that are undated and in good condition. A recent study for 2019 gives the return on investment for improvements in the greater Atlanta market. The highest return on the list for cost against return on investment in a sale was garage door replacement (97.5%). Kitchen and bath remodels also scored high but due to the cost of these projects has a longer period for return. Differences that really paid off in terms of attracting buyers and getting a higher dollar per square foot were those that impacted curb appeal and lack of work to be done.

What's New Around Tucker?

by Gaye Auman

Tucker is growing! The month of January saw 30 new business license applications in the City. Many of those new businesses are home-based businesses such as health-care, lawn care, financial services & tutoring services.

Other new businesses include:

- The Juicy Crab, coming soon to the Cofer Crossing shopping center. The Juicy Crab is a seafood restaurant chain with a Cajun flair.
- Gifts & More is now open on LaVista Rd across from the high school. This retail store recently relocated to Tucker from Doraville.
- Also up and running is The Corner Cup on Main Street. This locally-owned coffee shop is open now in the old barber shop and is building out the space once occupied by the bike shop. When complete, they will have plenty of space for book clubs, study groups and others to meet.

Let's shop local and support our new Tucker businesses!



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School Spreading Love Across Generations

The children at Smoke Rise Baptist Weekday School were busy during the month of February sending Valentine's Day cards to local home bound and care facility residents. Over 60 handmade cards were made with individual children's thumbprints and a simple message made "You are loved."

This month the children learned the importance of loving one another. Whether it was a friend in their class or a person they've never met. The children hope they touched the heart of someone new on Valentine's Day. Smoke Rise Baptist Weekday School has been an area leader in early childhood education for over 45 years. Lisa Mixon, teacher at Smoke Rise Weekday School has over 25 years experience at the school. She says, "At SRBWS we aspire to create a loving atmosphere where children learn and grow. I have chosen to be a part of this school because I have the opportunity to share God's love everyday."

If you would like to be a part of the Smoke Rise Baptist Weekday School's community, we are now accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year, (ages 18 months - Pre-K). We would love to have your child join our family. For more information www.smokerisebaptist.org/weekdays-school



Smoke Rise Book Club by Marty Bryan

"So many books, so little time," and that's why the Smoke Rise Book Club was started...so we would make the time. A group of neighbors answered the social media call to form a neighborhood book club this past summer. More than 20 women responded and have been getting together every month to discuss books and to socialize. Books read include "The Rosie Project," "The Girls," "The Death of Mrs. Westaway," "Oil and Marble," "Exit West," "White Chrysanthemum," "Hillbilly Elegy," and "Where the Crawdads Sing." The March selection is "The Nightingale." We encourage others to share their love of books, too, by starting another book club through social media!

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SMOKE RISE SHARKS

Swim Team

Please join us at the SRCA Meeting on Tuesday, March 5th at Smoke Rise Baptist Church where you can meet our new coach and learn about the upcoming 2019 Summer Community Swim Season! Visit our website for more information on our 2019 Parent Meeting, summer swim practice schedule, and swim meets.

Register now!
www.smokerisesharks.com

Tucker Reid-Cofer Library March Events for All Ages

- Building Blocks (*Story times for babies ages 0 to 24 months*) March 5, 12, 19, 26 @ 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
- Tales for 2s (*Story times for two-year-olds*) March 6, 13, 20, 27 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.
- Teen Study Time (*A THS math teacher will be on hand to answer questions.*) March 6, 13, 20, 27, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- Chess for families (Drop by the library and play a game-no instruction provided.) on March 7 and 21, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- Read to a Pet Partner (Practice read-aloud skills by reading to a therapy dog.) *Call to schedule a time.* March 14, 3:00-4:30 p.m.
- Eager Readers Book Club - A book club for beginner readers *Call branch and pick-up book before meeting.* March 25, 4:30 -5:30 p.m.
- Teen Book Club *Call branch and pick-up book before meeting.* March 25, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Homeschool Family Get-Together, March 20, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- Open Mic! (for all ages) March 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The Tucker Reid-Cofer Library is located at 5234 LaVista Road, Tucker, GA. Register for all events by calling (770) 270-8234, ext. 2312.

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More Awards for the Jaguars

The Smoke Rise Elementary School Jaguars are once again soaring with excitement! They are the recipients of \$7,600 in grant money. These grants were awarded by the Dart and Krystal Foundations. STEM Coordinator Bernadette Cummings, who applied for the grants stated, "There are so many grants out there, I had to take advantage of these opportunities."

The first opportunity came from the Dart Foundations Grant. The \$4,600 will be used to fund Smoke Rise's Aeroponics Tower Garden. Ms. Cummings's vision is for the garden to be sustainable enough to grow food for a Smoke Rise cafeteria salad bar. She would also like to donate our agricultural products to local food banks. Students will not only grow food, but learn about the Engineering Design Process, and take part in community service projects as well.

The second opportunity came from the Krystal Foundation. This \$3,000 grant will be used to purchase a second 3D printer. This 3D printer will further aid the fifth grade students by transforming their researched ideas into an engineering reality.

Speaking of reality, drones are up! Using the two Smoke Rise Elementary School drones, acquired through the efforts of Ms. Cummings, students will meticulously survey the school yard, while measuring the different areas of the campus. Students will also use the drones to study topics such as erosion.

Congratulations to Smoke Rise Elementary School and the tireless efforts of STEM Coordinator Bernardette Cummings for a job well done. Smoke Rise Elementary School is well on its way to May 2019 STEM certification.

SMOKE RISE PREP: Where Learning Meets a Culture of Kindness

by Sherrie Waddell and Grier Kellett

Smoke Rise Prep is a small private school in Stone Mountain, Georgia, focusing on the core values of curriculum, character, and culture. In order to shape well-rounded students, our teachers create an atmosphere that aligns with those core values. One such way is to have monthly events where our families can get together.

In January, we had our annual Cultural Dinner where we celebrated the diversity of our students and parents with dishes from around the world, a world-class fashion show, and enticing raffle prizes. Smoke Rise Prep also loves visitors! In February, we had amazing visits from a local artist who taught the students some fundamental art strategies. Also visiting was Fox 5's meteorologist Ryan Beesley. He showed the students what it takes to be on TV, answered questions about being a meteorologist and storm chaser, and made important connections in how his career heavily relies on science, technology, and writing. We were even highlighted on the evening news as one of his school visits!

This month, we have our book fair from March 11-15 between the hours of 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (with the exception of Wednesday when it will be open until 7:00 p.m.) Did you know that a child who reads for 20 minutes a day will be exposed to 1.8 million words per year and is more likely to score in the 90th percentile on standardized tests? In this age of technology, books are sometimes viewed as antiquated, but we love that our kids don't feel that way. They love to read, and we love to encourage them to try new genres and authors.

You're also invited to a special Open House on March 14 where we will have some fun activities planned all day to celebrate Pi Day. See our Open House and Info Session dates below and let us know when you want to come and see how we are refreshing education!

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Open Houses | Info Sessions |
| 3/14- 9:15 a.m. | 3/24- 3:00 p.m. |
| 4/26- 9:15 a.m. | |

For more information about the school, please visit our website at smokeriseprep.org or email Sherrie Waddell at sherrie@smokeriseprep.org.



Tucker High School News

Great things are happening at Tucker High School (THS)! Students: Sean H was selected out of 10,000 students nationwide to participate in the Disney Dreamers Academy - a four-day workshop at Walt Disney World in March.

Teachers: Roberta Barber was honored as DeKalb County School District's (DCSD) Library Media Specialist of the year and will represent DeKalb at the Metro Regional Competition in the spring. James Hartry, THS Varsity Boys Basketball Head Coach, was honored as the DCSD 2019 Coach of the Year.

Sports: The Tucker Tigers Varsity Boys Team (24-4) will be competing in the 6A State Championships Playoffs! The first playoff game was at home against Valdosta on Saturday, February 16th.

Six THS students participated in the State Swim Meet at Georgia Tech in February! Two THS wrestlers are headed to the State Wrestling Competition!

Clubs: The THS Reading Bowl Team won Metro Regionals and advances to the Divisional competition of the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl.

All five THS Robotics teams made it to State! Team 1320B won Tournament Champion, 1320D won the THINK award and Skills Champion and 1320C won Judge and Tournament Finalist at the Georgia VEX State Championships at Ola High School in McDonough, GA on February 9th. All five teams qualified for the Worlds VEX Robotics Competition in Louisville, KY in April. Only 15 teams from the ENTIRE state of Georgia advance to the Worlds and THS has earned five of those spots! Participating in over 12 competitions during the 2018-2019 school year, the THS VEX team has accumulated over 50 tournament awards. Tucker High School's VEX Robotics program was established in 2010. Vex is a global robotics competition owned and hosted by Innovation First International, Inc. It is the largest robotics competition in the world with thousands of competing teams. Every year, a new game is developed by VEX and each team designs and builds a robot to solve these unique problems in order to win. VEX is highly competitive and requires a significant amount of time and effort.



Foundation: The Tucker High School Foundation (THSF) will host its annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser on Sunday, March 24th, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at the Lakemont Course at Stone Mountain Park. Register here: <http://www.tuckerhighschoolfoundation.com/register.html>.

Alumni: Lt. Andrea Lewis, from Stone Mountain, graduated from THS and UGA and made history this month as the first black woman pilot in the Georgia Air National Guard.

We will have a THSF Spirit Night at Tucker Brewing Company (2003 S. Bibb Drive) on Thursday, March 28th, 2019 from 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Support the THSF and enjoy live music from the THS Band!

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Join the Social Committee at the Summit Swim & Tennis Club

It is going to be another exciting year at the Summit Swim Club, located on Silver Hill Road, as our social committee is gearing up to schedule more great, family events for our members. Last season members enjoyed many great activities including happy hour with live music and dive-in movies. We are once again looking for members to join the social committee to help create another fun-filled summer calendar. If you are interested, contact us at smokerisesummitpool@gmail.com.

With a full season of activities, it will be a great summer to join the Summit Swim & Tennis Club! Membership details and online registration are available at thesummitat-smokerise.com including convenient, online payment. The Summit pool season is slated to begin May 24 and run through September 8. Hours are 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily, and until 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday 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 on 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, as 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
- saline pool filtration system – softer on skin, hair and swimsuits!
- friendly, certified lifeguards on duty from 1 p.m. till close
- covered pool pavilion with picnic tables
- separate diving area with diving board
- year-round tennis play on renovated, lighted, dual courts

Early bird registration fees for family memberships paid by May 15 are \$375 for Pool only (normally \$410), and \$420 Pool & Tennis (normally \$450). Other membership options are Tennis only for \$285 or Single Adult Morning Swim 6 a.m. - Noon for \$185.

Don't miss out on the savings - prices go up on May 16. Register today at thesummitat-smokerise.com.



Presents

DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR. in March

Public invited to free performances of this magical "tale as old as time"

The Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts (SRAA) drama department will present the family musical DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR., MARCH 22-24. Staged by the high school drama class, performances will be in the Fellowship Hall of Smoke Rise Baptist Church.

The classic story tells of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed to his former self. But time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity.

The musical features some of the most popular songs ever written by Alan Menken and the late Howard Ashman, along with new songs by Mr. Menken and Tim Rice.

DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR. is a magical musical suitable for all ages, filled with spectacular costumes and colorful sets. Show times are 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 22; 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 23; and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 24. Each show will have concessions available for purchase during intermission. Attendance is free with no tickets required.

SRAA provides group arts instruction for children and adults, and individual music lessons for all ages. Visit smokerisebaptist.org/arts or call 678-533-0562 for details on performance, program and classes.

Gearing Up for Swim Season at SRBRC

We all know that looking forward to things is half the pleasure of them. The wait is almost over. The Smoke Rise Bath and Racquet Club is getting ready and it's time for you to think about summer entertainment.



Cheerful pool parties with friends, the laughter of children playing games, grilling and BBQ, or a carefree afternoon at the pool with a cool beverage, listening to great live music. Smoke Rise Bath and Racquet has it all. No longer just a pool and tennis courts. SRBRC has become a true social club. Play tennis in a competitive environment, relax at the pool, or have fun with your friends at one of the many events. There is something for everybody. Gentleman's Night, Kids Campouts, and a host of events around great food and music. A true vacation destination right here in your neighborhood.

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- Party Gazebo, Kids Playground, Concession stand, Hi-Fi and Wi-Fi at the pool
- Gated entry with member code for early morning and evening access
- Two wood fire grills, a smoking pit and two gas grills
- Movie nights on a 10ft x 6ft big screen
- Resort-like social calendar with events for all ages
- Bring your own food and beverages (adult beverages allowed)

There is NO neighborhood swim and tennis community in Smoke Rise offering more summer fun for the whole family. Membership fees are among the lowest around. The club offers first-time family memberships at \$275 for the year.

Summer planning is easy, go to SRBRC.org, or sign up on Facebook at facebook.com/srbrccommunity.

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



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

You may also submit a new recommendation, comment on a service you used or brag on a contractor.

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techtalk Ta Da! Ready to Row!
by Susan Gilbert

You may remember from Joel's article back in August when he and I started building a 10' wood-strip dinghy. For several months, we glued, stripped and clamped long pieces of cedar and mahogany into place on a skeleton-like form to create the elegant outside shape. Beginning in October, with all the strips in place, I did the detail work that I enjoy, filling all the small gaps and cracks with color-matched putty. Then the sanding began. We sanded and sanded and sanded some more. The outside, or bottom, of the boat was pretty easy. The inside was harder because of the concave shape. After weeks of sanding and puttying we applied the first coat of fiberglass resin and were delighted seeing the rich colors of the different wood strips "popping" out. We considered it our woodworker's reward for all the time spent to that point.



With the wood sealed, we used a squeegee to spread a thin layer of fiberglass resin, then we wrapped one side of the boat with shiny, white fiberglass mesh-cloth and wet it with more resin. To anyone unfamiliar with this process, they are amazed when it disappears completely! This process must be finished in one sitting once you start. About two hours later, we had one side of the boat covered in cloth. The epoxy sets slowly, so we trimmed the excess cloth the next day and repeated the process on the other side. With both sides covered, we applied an additional layer of cloth for strength on the keel and the forward stem because they take the brunt of the rocks and dock rubbing.

Two more coats of resin on the outside with sanding in-between and we were ready for the inside. This is a bigger challenge to add the fabric because of the interior's cupped shape. Slow, careful application and working of the cloth is needed to get it in smoothly.



Two more coats of resin with ample sanding in-between to smooth drips and we were ready to add the gunwales, the boat's top railing. Gunwales are composed of two long pieces of wood called outwale and an inwale that are cut to fit, faired back from the bow and stern where they have to be thinner. We had a neighbor router the outwale to create the scooped-out

area where we would adhere a heavy rope to act as a top rub rail or bumper. We were fortunate that he had a full shop style router table since the outwale was 12 feet long.

To finish out the front of the boat, we cut a section of plywood into the bow to support a layer of decorative strips. We picked various contrasting colors of wood strips to create a nice pattern for the bow, which is one of the most visible parts of the boat. Once that was fiber-glassed in place our fears of the whole boat breaking apart were gone.

Now we were ready to add the base blocks for the oars, which we trimmed to fit and mounted. Bronze oarlocks were then inserted into the base blocks. And, making this an extended family affair, my wood-craftsman brother-in-law in Alabama made graceful grab handles, which we fiber-glassed into place. The last step was adding a chrome stainless-steel towing eye to the bow stem. Two coats of marine-grade varnish to protect the entire boat from UV on both outside and inside surfaces and voila ... a row-ready dinghy.

We ordered some fine, light-weight oars from a company called Shaw and Tenny whose business includes making oars so beautiful they are given as trophies at boating events. They are stunning and have the same light wood, dark wood combination of the boat.

If you would like to see the finished boat and hear more details about its creation, Joel is giving a free one-hour presentation at Smoke Rise Country Club at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13th. You are also welcome to stay for the Friends and Family dinner buffet, which requires reservations. Non-members can pay by cash or credit card. To RSVP or learn more, contact Heath McDaniel at hmcDaniel@smokerisec.com or call 770-908-2582 ext. 4.

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Side by Side Brain Injury Club House Honors Two Local Women's Clubs

The Side by Side Brain Injury Club House in Stone Mountain Village honored the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club and the GFWC Lilburn Woman's Club with a "Thank You" dinner and program at the facility. Members for both groups are long-time supporters of Side by Side. The Stone Mountain club has a Christmas brunch and the Lilburn club does a Halloween party for the adults who are part of the program.

Both clubs have supported and volunteered at the charity basketball game, Jawbones vs. Sawbones, since its beginning eight years ago. The proceeds from this event pay for scholarships for adults with brain injuries to be able to come to the clubhouse and relearn life skills needed in their lives.

Jawbones vs. Sawbones is coming to the Decatur High School Gym on March 9 at 4:00 p.m. Come see the doctors and lawyers play the Harlem Wizards. Tickets are \$15 (\$10 for students and seniors). Come out for a worthy cause and a fun time for the whole family.



Grant from Rotary Club of Stone Mountain Supports Drama Arts at Champion Middle School

By L.A. Dison

Last summer, the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain invited Joy Hammond, drama teacher from The Champion Middle School in Stone Mountain, to speak to the club members about the purpose and goals of the school's Drama Club. Joy brought a few of her students to share their personal stories of how the Drama Club has helped them gain self-confidence and develop critical life skills. At Champion, drama class allows students an opportunity to develop modes of self-expression in a safe, creative environment. Students learn to respond to the world through the creation and reflection of the performing arts. They practice communicating ideas in a variety of ways as well as evaluating amateur and professional performances. Personal development and growth is an important part of the process.

During the presentation, RSCSM members found that this Drama Club was lacking the basic audio-visual equipment needed to put on a professional-level performance. Using Rotary district grant money, and partnered with The Stone Mountain Charitable Fund, the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain was able to present almost \$10,000 to the school to purchase the needed equipment, including an audio system, speakers and a video camera. RSCSM members were excited to be able to help the school, and look forward to attending the Champion School Drama Department's production of Annie KIDS at the Art Station in March.

The Stone Mountain Club meets every Tuesday for noon lunch at the Village Corner German Restaurant and Bakery in Stone Mountain Village. Visitors are always welcome to attend as a guest of the club. To learn more about the club and upcoming programs, go to stonemountainrotary.org or follow the club on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter.

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Tucker Arts Guild News
We now have an ongoing venue at Northlake Tucker Library - artists will rotate on a monthly basis. Patty McIntire has her work showing now. Marjorie Foster is showing her artwork at the Reid-Cofer Tucker Library.
If you would like to join TAG, you just have to pay your 2019 dues of \$20. You can pay them at this month's meeting or you can mail them to TAG, P.O. Box 2801, Tucker GA 30085
Tucker Arts Guild meets January through November on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Tucker, Building B, Church Street entrance.

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Last Minute Checklist Before Showing Your Home

by Joyce Ray

Now that you have made repairs to fixtures and systems in your home to get it ready to sell, it's time to look at some things that might not make your "A" list but will be very obvious to a buyer.

Clean EVERYTHING! To the prospective buyer, a clean home translates into a well-maintained home. A professional cleaning service is recommended. If you choose to do the cleaning yourself, pay attention to the kitchen and baths. Carpets should be professionally cleaned.

Wash windows inside and out. Make sure all window screens are in good repair and the windows work well and are clean.

Remove excess furniture. This will allow visitors to move around easily and will give the appearance of spaciousness.

Replace old door mats with new ones. Repaint front door to give a good first impression to buyers. Clean steps. Add colorful, live seasonal plants.

Replace all burned out bulbs and add lamps to dark areas. Make sure all lights work and all fixtures have the maximum number of working bulbs that are the highest wattage recommended. Leave lights on when house is being shown, especially in basements and areas where light switches are not easy to locate. Oil squeaky doors and make sure the doorbell works and all doors close and latch properly.

Paws and read: Many people are allergic to pets and your "friendly" dog or cat might not be as friendly to strangers. If a buyer is nervous about your pet, he will not pay full attention to your home. If the buyers love pets, Fido might steal the spotlight from your home. Take them out of the house when it is being shown and put away big bags of pet food and feeding bowls. Clean the dog kisses off the windows and doors and put cat litter boxes outside or in the garage.

Neutralize your décor. Most buyers are led by emotion when shopping for a home. They won't be able to envision their family in your home if it is overloaded with photos of your family, awards, diplomas and mementos. This is a good time to pack up your collectibles like small figurines or sports memorabilia.

Political or cause-related posters or pictures should be removed.

Pay special attention to storage areas and closets. Organized cabinets, linen closets and clothes closets will look bigger with less clutter. Remove some clothes from closets to make them look larger. Renting a storage unit during the listing period to store furniture and seasonal items could be a great investment.

Kitchen should look warm and inviting with clear countertops – put away any counter appliances that take up too much space. Clean the oven. Remove the trash can if it is not hidden in a cabinet.

Touch up painted woodwork that has paint chips or scratches. Stained woodwork and wood paneling can be refreshed with a good all-purpose wood cleaner.

Clean and organize the bathrooms. Put out a nice set of towels. Remove clothes hamper and trash can before showing.

Clean garage and storage areas. Buyers will want to use your garage for parking so make sure they can see that there is room for their car! Remove bad spots or stains on floor or driveway.

Clear the basement of clutter. Correct the musty odor by running a dehumidifier. Make sure basement steps are clear of clutter, are in good repair and well lighted. Add a hand rail if it is missing.

Smoke odors: While smoke odors cannot be completely eliminated you can clean carpet, upholstery and drapes. Open windows to freshen stale air. Don't continue to smoke in the house during the listing period.

Remember to stay away when buyers are present. Buyers feel that they are imposing on your time when you are at home and they will be anxious to leave. They won't feel free to open closets or cabinets or openly ask questions of their agent when you are on the premises. If an agent calls to show your home with short notice, feel free to ask for more time to get ready for it to be shown. When you leave your home remember to leave all the lights on - even on a sunny day!

A buyer will look at a house that is not well kept and assume that the house has not been well maintained. This could scare buyers away or at least create a mindset that a lower offer is justified!

Salute to Advertiser

Dr. David Shapiro, DC

by Barbara Luton, Staff Writer

Dr. David Shapiro, DC, has been practicing at his location on Brockett Road in Tucker for 16 years. He reported that he likes the small town feel of Tucker and the wonderful people who visit his facility. His business has grown consistently with many innovations added to his work.

When you walk into his office you are met by Paris, his receptionist, and by Philip, his Rehab Manager. Arlene, his wife, is his office manager. You will see state of the art machines that deal with manipulation, custom traction, whole body vibration with lots of work on proper posture, an essential to healthy body alignment. Work is done on spinal adjustments to reposition the spine to take pressure off of the discs to help the spinal cord and nerves. Class IV Laser therapy and custom orthotics are available in this office. Dr. Shapiro's daughter works with him as a nutrition coach.

Dr. Shapiro suffered a knee injury at age 16 while wrestling. Rather than have surgery at that young age, he visited a chiropractor who was able to get him back to full activity. This led to years of undergrad school followed by four years of graduate work at Life University earning him a Doctor of Chiropractic.

Today Dr. Shapiro enjoys snow skiing and reading, especially professional information. He is a writer who publishes case studies. His is a research facility. Chiropractic interns from Life University work with him for six months as part of their graduate studies. Dr. Shapiro is especially proud of his work in Chiropractic Biophysics, the most researched nonsurgical spinal corrective technique in health care today. It improves spinal biomechanics to decrease pain and increase function.

A few more facts about our long-time advertiser in the *Smoke Signal*: He has two other children - the youngest is at Georgia State and his oldest works in IT in Philadelphia. He is a primary care provider and accepts walk-in patients as well as referrals from area doctors. Each month he chooses a "Patient of the Month" whose picture is added to a notebook in his facility.



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NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

DeKalb Park Certified as a Bird Sanctuary

DeKalb County's Briarlake Forest Park has a new distinction to brag about. The Atlanta Audubon Society officially recognized the park on February 8, 2019 as a certified wildlife sanctuary for birds.

The Audubon Society is a national organization that focuses on the conservation of birds, other wildlife and conservation of important habitats. It is committed to building and preserving places where birds, and people, thrive. The certification process took several months, with a collaborative effort between the Atlanta Audubon Society and the "Friends of Briarlake Forest." The Friends group has worked tirelessly to protect and restore the 21-acre, old-growth forest located near Northlake Mall.

"We have identified 26 species of birds on this property, and we maintain them, and we feed them, and we take care of them, because they're important to this community," said Maintenance Chair with the Friends Group of Briarlake Forest Park, Margo Reynolds.

Aside from the existing bird species at Briarlake Forest Park, other features of the park were considered for the sanctuary designation, including: bird shelters, a bird bath, a water source, a proper habitat for the birds, and large public involvement. Some community members fill the bird feeders on a weekly basis, and many get involved on a regular basis to help maintain the greenery and grounds.

Special signs, noting the Wildlife Sanctuary designation, are being placed at each entrance of Briarlake Forest Park, so more people can "tweet" the praises of this great slice of nature.

Briarlake Forest Park was acquired by DeKalb County's Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs in 2015. The Friends of Briarlake Park group has worked with the county to remove invasive plant species, such as English ivy and privet, and to add native ones, including blueberry bushes, azaleas, and grasses that benefit birds and other wildlife. Future improvements include plans for the old homestead on the property to be developed into an education center for the community.

Find out more about the Atlanta Audubon Society at: <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/>



Caught in the Act!

by Dr. Michael Baron, D.O.

It has been over twenty-five years since I decided to take time out of my regular medical practice to do some volunteer work. I still recall the gratification I felt when the patients showed their appreciation for the care provided. Initially, I had considered going to a distant location and spending a week away, as some local physicians do on an annual basis. As I considered the foreign care option, I realized that I had responsibilities as a father and a husband that made it impractical.

When I heard about the DeKalb Physicians' Care Clinic (PCC) in Decatur, I immediately agreed. The organizers at DeKalb Medical Society started me off with evening shifts from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. every three months at the Health Department offices on Winn Way. I found it quite liberating in the sense that I didn't have to deal with insurance bureaucracies and staff at the business offices, or have to follow up on labs or handle refills.

The patients were asked if they could give a \$20 donation in exchange for seeing a physician and receiving a free 90-day prescription of medications, along with an explanation on how to take the medicines by a pharmacist. On the occasion that a patient needed diagnostic tests, it was so easy to circle the order page, and the staff would make the arrangements. Luckily, multiple specialists have worked out arrangements with the PCC so that the patients will be seen in their office at no charge.

With time, I found myself increasing my volunteer hours to monthly, and now I volunteer on the first two Wednesdays of each month. Luckily, we still do paper charting, so I don't find myself screaming at a computer screen. The positive spirit of all the nursing staff makes those two Wednesday evenings a joy! When Fox 5 did a feature on the PCC, I was lucky enough to be interviewed. You can view the interview at the following link: <http://www.fox5atlanta.com/health/fox-medical-team/217521742-story>

The patient featured in that November 2016 video is Katie Lyn who survived kidney cancer because of the team efforts of everyone at the PCC. I wish I could say that she was the only dramatic case, but really there are so many patients that have been helped by the PCC. There are so many patients that are insurance poor. In other words, they are not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid, but they can't afford health insurance. Luckily, there are multiple similar clinics around the state of Georgia that would benefit from volunteers. A good list can be found at CharitableCareNetwork.com.

If you know a Smoke Rise resident who volunteers or gives to others in need and would like to feature them in CAUGHT IN THE ACT, contact staff@smokesignalnews.com.

**Smoke Rise Garden Club
Golden Anniversary 1969 - 2019**

Smoke Rise Garden Club (SRGC) is celebrating its 50th anniversary! An organizational meeting was held in January, 1969. Twenty-four ladies attended the first meeting and full membership of thirty was reached in February, 1969.

For many years, the club focused on saving the threatened bluebird population. SRGC established a bluebird trail at Stone Mountain Park golf course, a bird sanctuary behind the neighborhood triangle, sold 75 bluebird houses to neighborhood residents and gave bluebird programs to other clubs and youth clubs. Judging by the number of bluebirds around Smoke Rise, the projects were successful!

Did you know that the Smoke Rise Garden Club started landscaping the Hugh Howell triangle at Rosser Road and the "smokestack entrances" in 1971 and initiated children's gardens at Kittredge Elementary, Reid Cofer Library, and Briarlake Baptist Church?

The club has sponsored Brownie troops, planted trees, landscaped Habitat for Humanity houses, promoted recycling and clean-up projects, coordinated programs in the area's nursing homes, beautified Tucker and has been very active in the Yellow Daisy Flower show.

One of the club's favorite projects lately has been donating "Santa boxes" to Eggleston's Children's hospital every December. The club has received many national, state and local awards, particularly in projects supporting youth, mentally challenged, and the aging.

The club has partnered with Smoke Rise Elementary, the Margaret Harris School (Scottdale), Montgomery Elementary and recently Brockett Elementary.

The past 50 years of the Smoke Rise Garden Club have been filled with many memorable moments and bonds of friendship. The club has held fast to its objective, "The stimulation of interest among amateur gardeners, the study of flowers and landscape gardening, environment and conservation and in beautifying home and neighborhood grounds." The club motto, "The smallest thing well done becomes artistic," has been their inspiration.

SRGC is accepting new members interested in making a positive impact on our neighborhood. The club is a member of the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs, The Garden Club of Georgia-Redbud District and the National Garden Club. The club will host a Golden Anniversary Open House on March 10. Past members and friends are invited. Call 770 939-1866 for more information.

GEORGIA IRIS SOCIETY MEETING

Saturday, March 9, 2019, 2:00 p.m.
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church
1790 Lavista Road, Atlanta

Gail Zorn, owner of Daybreak Flower Farm in Loganville is known to many of our members through her work with Gwinnett Tech Horticultural School and our installation of an iris garden. She has worn many hats since growing up in Savannah; advertising, software, accounting, teaching and horticulture. While at Gwinnett Tech she was Greenhouse Manager and later Grounds Manager/Campus Horticulturist. She was responsible for supervising the planting of more than 1,200 trees across the campus. Today, she pursues her dream of farming with one acre of seasonal flowers and perennials, including lavender, peonies, dahlias and an abundance of annuals for spring and fall sales.



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Mountain Mums

The Mountain Mums had a great February meeting at the home of Gaye Auman. Co-hostesses Mary Lou Still, Beth Henson and Rene Boven provided a delicious Valentine's brunch while Gaye, our hostess, treated each Mum to chocolates and a unique valentine: a 'kiss' emoji pin from Pincentives!

The Mums gave the community their 'heart' at the Walk to Remember on January 26. The community came together once again to remember our young drivers on the road. Both recipients of the 2018 driving scholarships - Charlie Smith and Isabel McHenry - came to walk and to thank the community. Isabel gave an outstanding talk about the importance of safe driving. She embodied all that we want to see in our young adults! The walkers planted 80 yellow daffodils at the corner of Hugh Howell and Silver Hill Road. Look for the flowers to come up in the next month.

The Mums also warmed the hearts (see the theme here?) of the men and women at Brookside Senior Living Center. The Mountain Mums planted smiles, grew laughter and harvested a lot of love on February 1 as nineteen residents showed up to make heart shaped door hangers out of potpourri and dried hydrangeas. It was great fun! And they all sound excited to come back to the next event in April.

Melanie Furr, Director of Education, of The Atlanta Audubon Society gave a very entertaining talk to the Mountain Mums during their February Meeting.

Melanie, who lives in Tucker, is a certified Master Naturalist and is education director at the Atlanta Audubon Society. She has been caring for injured or orphaned wildlife for nine years. In fact, in 2018, she became the custodian of a ruby throated hummingbird pair that were window-pane 'casualties'. She brought the cute little birds along in a clear aquarium container. The male was molting his chest feathers and had a beautiful fiery color beginning to show underneath.

Melanie first fell in love with birds on her very first 'bird walk' tour. During that walk she saw 42 species of birds. According to her, listening to the bird's song is the easiest way to identify a bird. This comment became the launching pad for a very lively session of 'name that bird'. Here are a few we knew: "Jay! Jay! Jay!" (Blue Jay), "Peter! Peter! Peter!" (Titmouse), "Cheer-Up, Cheerily", "Cheer Up, Cheerily" (Robin), "Towhee! Towhee!" (Eastern Towhee), "Cher-ee, Cher-ee" (Carolina Wren), and "Kon-ker-ee!, Kon-ker-ee!" (Red-winged Blackbird).

The Mountain Mums love to learn! We have many great programs during the garden club year, great field trips and fun, worthwhile projects. Our next meeting will be held at the home of Lynn Malone on March 12 at 10:00 a.m. Our guest speaker will be talking about the "Concrete Jungle". Call Debra Jones at 678-260-7806 for more information.



Rene Boven, Kelley Samaras and a very sweet lady at Brookstone.

Morning Glories Learn about Sustainable Gardening

February's featured speaker was Susan Varlamof who is a biologist and environmental scientist and retired Director of the UGA Office of Environmental Sciences in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Susan is also a lifetime Gwinnett Master Gardener. She has written three books and her most recent book is entitled "Sustainable Gardening for the Southeast."

Susan shared ten areas where a homeowner can make choices to positively impact their own ecosystem.

In club news, President Bonnie Pennington welcomed two guests to the meeting who are residents of the Park Springs community. On February 28, the Dekalb Federation of Garden Clubs hosted a special luncheon honoring our Life Members. The Morning Glories honored members MaryAnne Anderson, Vivian Nickelsen and Bonnie Pennington. On February 20, member Tally Sweat hosted Capital Conservation Day at the State Capital with the GA Water Coalition. This annual event involves our local government representatives and emphasizes conservation causes that are pending in the state legislature during the current term. Our Youth Garden Club, the Daffodilies, met on February 27 and planted white pine seedlings and will monitor their growth as a special Arbor Day project.

The March 12 meeting will be a luncheon held at the Smoke Rise Country Club when we will install our new club officers for the 2019-21 term. For information on the club and to attend a meeting, please contact Bonnie Pennington at 770 469-2304.



Hostesses MaryAnne Anderson, Peggy Youngblood, Betty Curlee and Brenda Jones at February Morning Glories meeting

Mountain Shadow Garden Club

The meeting of Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) on Monday evening March 11 will feature a program by Susan Meyers discussing "Monarchs and Milkweeds Across Georgia." Susan has worked in environmental education for more than 20 years. Now retired, Susan devotes more time to "planting the seeds" of awareness, understanding, and commitment to education, conservation, and research related to monarch butterflies.

Susan will speak about the biology and ecology of the monarch butterfly, its migration, habitat needs, and threats. The importance of incorporating native milkweeds, the only host plant for the monarch, as well as plants that provide nectar for adult butterflies and other pollinators in spring, summer, and fall will be supplemented with appropriate plant lists and a field guide to Georgia butterflies.

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



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Amen, Let's Eat!



For over 22 of the last 50 years that the *Smoke Signal* has been in existence, I have had the privilege of being a member of the volunteer staff and contributing to the paper each month. Much effort, time and dedication goes into each edition and it all begins on the first Wednesday of the month at a brunch meeting in the home of one of the staff members. It's at those meetings when we meet, eat, and talk about the changes and events in the neighborhood and where this great communication tool is built for our community. The meetings alone are a special time to renew friendships and meet new neighbors who have an interest in being a part of the team that brings you the *Smoke Signal*.

The food is great and memorable and unique to each hostess. A favorite hostess is Barbara Bruschi who delights in serving us a full breakfast on fine china. Jenny Hall gave us the first shot at tasting her recipes that made the pages of her published cookbooks. Pat Soltys has overwhelmed us with the personal appearance and culinary creations of a professional chef. We love having our brunch in Barbara Luton's sunroom where we watch the many species of birds that are attracted to her feeders or sitting in the gazebo by the waterfall at Susan and Joel Gilberts home and then touring their gardens.

Did you notice that I said "Volunteer" staff? If you would like to become a member of the team that puts this publication together each month either as a contributing writer or much needed editor, please let us know. We will save a special place at the table for you and find the spot that fits your interest. Each contributor is listed in the top left column on the 2nd page. Pick out one and give them a call if you want to volunteer. I have chosen recipes for some favorite brunch items that we have enjoyed and served over the years. You will notice that they are all quick and easy to prepare with few ingredients. After all, this is a busy group of friends on a monthly deadline!
— Joyce Ray

Pecan Pie Muffins from Barbara Luton

- 1 cup brown sugar
- ½ cup regular flour
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- Mix dry ingredients
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2/3 cup softened butter
- 1 tsp vanilla

Add above to dry ingredients blending with spoon – not electric mixer.

Drop into well-greased muffin tins and bake at 350° for 20 – 25 minutes until centers are set.

Quick and Spicy Quiche from Jan Mahoney

- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup salsa (your favorite amount of heat)
- ½ tablespoon salt
- 6 eggs
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese

Spray pie dish with cooking spray. Spread salsa over bottom of dish. Beat eggs with sour cream and add salt and ½ cup of cheese. Spread over salsa. Add remaining cheese to top. Bake at 350° until set. (approximately 20 minutes) Slight cracks will appear on top. Cool slightly and cut in wedges to serve. If desired, add your own extra ingredients like browned and drained sausage, mushrooms, or spices.

Blueberry Muffins from Joyce Ray

- 2 cups bisquick
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 egg
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 can drained or 1 cup frozen blueberries

Mix first four ingredients & fold in blueberries. Pour into well-greased muffin tins. Add lemon sprinkles and bake at 400° until brown

Lemon Sprinkles: Finely grate peel of one lemon. Add granulated sugar one tablespoon at a time until mixture is coarse and grainy.

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