

SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 55, ISSUE 10

Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968

January, 2023

www.smokesignalnews.com

Happy New Year
2023
from the staff of the Smoke Signal



*Smoke Signal Staff annual Holiday Luncheon at the Smoke Rise Country Club
 Wishing you all good things in this New Year!*

Pictured L to R: Bob Espy, Victoria Crosby, Joyce Ray, Frank Luton, Cheri Schneider, Joel Gilbert, Susan Gilbert, Linda Karr, Gaye Auman, AvivA Hoffmann

Not pictured: Barbara Luton, Barbara Bruschi, Harry Strack, Beth Henson, Gia Anderson, Pat Bauman, Pat Soltys, Rachel Caines

Public Works Referendum Passes in Tucker

The Public Works referendum for the City of Tucker, included on the November 8, 2022 election ballot, got firm approval by almost 75% of the vote. That's about the same percentage of votes from November 2015 when 74% of voters favored the creation of the City of Tucker.

The shift in taxation for Public Works services from DeKalb County to the City of Tucker becomes effective July 1, 2023. In preparation for the change, the city is hiring qualified, professional service providers for Public Works. The scope of work will include the repair and maintenance of 168 centerline miles of roadway and more than 13,000 known stormwater structures. The city expects to award a contract for the needed work by mid-February.

According to DeKalb County records, and a stormwater assessment completed by Atlas in 2021, the stormwater system in Tucker includes approximately 150 miles of conveyance pipes, 71 detention ponds, and four dams. The city will continue to manage road resurfacing, new trails and sidewalks and use the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) to fund these projects. SPLOST represents a 1% sales tax increase for specific, "special," purposes overwhelming approved by voters in 2017.

The approval of the Public Works referendum allows Tucker to increase funding for related projects AND allows the city to fund needed repairs on existing infrastructure that is not eligible through SPLOST funding. Examples of such infrastructure include repairs to potholes, sidewalk and curbs, traffic signal maintenance, and bridge maintenance. Tucker will also take over responsibility for landscaping projects in the rights-of-way currently maintained by DeKalb County.

The new management of Public Works is expected to streamline the process to better serve businesses and residents in the City of Tucker. If you're wondering how this will affect your taxes, the city anticipates "a homeowner with a property valued at \$328,000.00 will see a projected increase of \$94.00 annually for roads and maintenance services and stormwater services combined. Businesses located within the City of Tucker [will have] proportionate increases as well." (City of Tucker website: <https://www.tuckerga.gov/publicworks/>)

For more information on Public Works, visit [tuckerga.gov/publicworks](https://www.tuckerga.gov/publicworks/).



Look inside for...

Tucker Road Project Summary pg 3
 Casper the Great (Pyreneese)..... pg 4
 Give Your Christmas Tree New Life pg 7
 Are EVs for You?..... pg 9
 Can Viruses Cause Cancer?..... pg 10



Saturday, January 21
 9:30 a.m.

12th ANNUAL

TUCKER

WALK TO REMEMBER

Smoke Rise Baptist (upper parking lot)

The event remembers seven lives lost too soon in our community due to driving accidents.

The Walk is free. Donations are accepted to fund driving scholarships for deserving students in our area.

Check Facebook for possible Weather issues

<https://www.facebook.com/>

TuckerWalkToRemember/

Dreams Of Martin Luther King

by Victoria R. Crosby

The dream and vision of Martin Luther King was to see a future that would bring people together of every race.

Let your town be the place where dreams come true.

Ask yourself what you can do and how you can be, to make his dream a reality.

What does it take to reach out a hand to help another, and to understand that we are brothers and sisters underneath. That color of skin, or religious belief are outer differences; we are the same.

So when you hear the name of Dr. King, ask yourself what you can bring to our community to help it be a place of racial harmony.

We are still building on his dream. Over the years we have seen progress made and barriers removed; with people like Rosa Parks, whose bravery proved that one person can change the status quo to make a difference, and you know that to make the dream real you have to feel a bond with all people, and you have to see that it's all up to me, and it's all up to you for Martin Luther King's dreams to all come true.

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Smoke Signal

P.O. Box 1038, Tucker, GA 30085

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

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Views and/or opinions expressed in articles, stories or letters published in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the Smoke Signal or its staff. The information contained in it is believed to be accurate, but not warranted in any way. It is the policy of the Smoke Signal to publish signed letters to the Editor. We will not publish unsigned letters, but will withhold the writer's name upon request. All content may be edited.

WE NEED YOU!

Smoke Rise - this is YOUR paper!

The Smoke Signal began more than 50 years ago and remains, to this day, a community newspaper created, written and produced by volunteer, Smoke Rise neighbors for the entire neighborhood.

PLEASE consider becoming a contributor, editor or joining our staff. It's a rewarding way to give back to your Smoke Rise community!

Contact us today. staff@smokesignalnews.com

Digital copies of the *Smoke Signal* are posted to the archives at www.smokesignalnews.com. You can also visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews to view postings of newsletter pictures and stories throughout the month.

Smoke Signal Deadlines

JANUARY 13

Please e-mail articles to:

staff@smokesignalnews.com

(Word documents or text file attachments preferred)

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

Deadline for classified ads is JANUARY 10

SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

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

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

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

Please provide 2,300 copies

Reservation Required:

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

"Like" us on Facebook at

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or visit our website at www.smokesignalnews.com

Link to the digital version of the Smoke Signal at:

Archives (smokesignalnews.com)

Remember Your Pets During Freezing Weather!

It is a common misbelief that dogs and cats are resistant to cold weather because of their fur. Like people, cats and dogs are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia and should be kept inside. Longer-haired and thick-coated dog breeds, such as huskies and other dogs bred for colder climates, are more tolerant of cold weather; but no pet should be left outside for long periods of time in temperatures below 32°F. Also, during cold weather, pets may be more prone to dehydration due to the dry air. It's important to ensure they have access to plenty of water.

Hope you (and your pets) stay warm and healthy this winter!

**BRING A BOOK
 -
 TAKE A BOOK**
 Don't forget to check out the Little Libraries that have popped up near the swim clubs.



ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:

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

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

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Dr. Chris George: Senior Pastor
 Bart McNeil: Associate Pastor of Administration, Ministry Support and Congregational Care
 Becky Caswell-Speight: Minister of Families, Faith Formation and Connection
 Jim Smith: Pastoral Care Associate
 Danny Vancil, Minister of Music & Worship
 Hannah Vassar: Minister of Youth and Congregational Connection
 Rashette Walker: Director of Weekday School
 Denise Burcham, Director of Academy of Arts
 Telephone: (770) 469-5856
SmokeRiseBaptist.org

SUNDAY

9:45 a.m. - Attend Sunday School through Zoom or In-Person
 Schedule Available at smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/

11:00 a.m. - Attend Worship via Live Stream or In-Person
 Live Stream Available at smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/

WEDNESDAY

5:00 p.m. - Attend our Wednesday Dinner

6:00 p.m. - Followed by activities and Bible Study for all ages
 Live Stream at smokerisebaptist.org/wednesday-evening-activities/

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

SUNDAYS

9:15 a.m. Adult and Children's Sunday school in person and via Zoom

10:30 a.m. In-Person and Live streaming of Worship service

Child care is available for young children during the Sunday school and worship times.

MC3 Church

Senior Minister: Art Stansberry
 Outreach and Family Life Minister: Gerardo Mancilla
 (770) 783-1035 ~ www.mc3.life
 4415 Stone Mountain Hwy., Lilburn, GA 30047

Sunday Schedule:

10:00 a.m. Coffee and donuts

10:30 a.m. Worship service (in person and online)

Life groups throughout the week
 check out our website for times and addresses.

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

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

First Moravian Church

Pastor: Rev. Elroy Christopher
 Congregational Acolyte: Bill Hitz
 (770) 491-7250, (770) 755-8289
www.gamoravian.org

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

Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

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

Mountain West Church

Pastor: Mo Huggins
 (770) 491-0228 ~ www.mwchurch.com
 4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain

Sunday Services: 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
 Thursday Neighborhood Bible Study with Pastor Mo: 10:00 a.m.
All Welcome!

In-person and streaming online on Facebook and mwchurch.com

Preferred Formats for Smoke Signal Submissions

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

DeKalb History Center

Lunch & Learn: A. S. Turner & Sons

January's Lunch & Learn is presented by Cy Hume, President and General Manager of A. S. Turner & Sons Funeral Home and Crematory. Hume will speak on the 120-year history of A. S. Turner, as well as funerary practices and history.

In 1903, Addison Stewart Turner, also known as A. S. Turner, opened a hardware store with his business partner, Mr. Johnson. The store sold all the necessities, including wooden caskets. Mr. Turner, being a skilled embalmer by this time, assisted the community around Conyers with arrangements for their deceased loved ones. He moved the business to Decatur and acquired a new business partner, Mr. George Everitt; the funerary business flourished. So much so that in 1926 they converted the business to a funeral home and discontinued selling hardware.

Years of growth followed, and in 1959, A. S. Turner & Sons opened a new facility at its current home on North Decatur Road in Decatur. Today, it remains one of the largest family-owned funeral homes in Georgia.



Tuesday, January 24, 2023 • 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Free! Bring your lunch.

Historic DeKalb Courthouse, 2nd floor • 101 E. Court Square, Decatur GA 30030



Road Project Summary

From the Tucker Summit CID December 2022 Newsletter

Thanks to the financial commitments from Commissioners Steve Bradshaw and Robert Patrick, TSCID was able to work with the City of Tucker throughout 2022 to complete extensive infrastructure repairs along Mountain Industrial Boulevard with more work to continue throughout the district in 2023.

Plans are in development for the right-of-way traffic on Mountain Industrial Boulevard at Hugh Howell Road, and design work continues for intersection improvements at East Ponce de Leon Avenue at Rock Mountain Boulevard and Mountain Industrial Boulevard at Tuckerstone Parkway. In addition, plans are expected to be submitted to the city to increase the median length on the southerly end of Mountain Industrial Boulevard by 900 feet.

Phase one of the new district-wide street lighting project has been completed with the remaining two phases slated for completion throughout 2023.

TSCID is working with Image360 to replace more than 100 street signs throughout the district.



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A Tribute To ELVIS
January 8, 2023
6pm - 10pm

Appetizers:
Roast Beef, Biscuits, Bacon Finger Sandwiches, Hash & Gravy

Dinner:
Green Salad, Southern Fried Chicken, Mac & Cheese, Mac & Potatoes, Fried Potatoes, Macaroni & Cheese, Cornbread, Wild Rice Pilaf

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Two weeks after the King of Kings comes the birthday of the King who sings. On January 8 at 6pm we'll listen to some Elvis music then. Ever since August 16, 1937 Elvis has been King of Rock 'N' Roll Heaven. Join us for the birthday tribute show there is more to Elvis than you know. With poems from The Book of Elvis: His life in Rhyme the music is his, the poetry is mine. Elvis trivia will make you smile and if you wish, dress in Elvis style. With dinner and dancing to celebrate Elvis, who would have been eighty-eight. I'm your host Victoria Crosby, please be my guest for an event that's different from all the rest.

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Casper the Great (Pyrenees)

By Rachel Caines

If you live in Smoke Rise, you've surely seen the occasional herd of sheep munching on ivy in a neighboring yard. Those sheep might have belonged to John Wierwille, a local sheep herder whose family runs a company called "Ewe Can Do It Naturally." Like goats, sheep are great for ground clearing without leaving behind any nasty chemicals, and the practice has grown in popularity in Smoke Rise over the years as neighbors search for safe, easy ways to curb overgrowth in their yards. The sheep on duty are always protected by one or more livestock guardian dogs, and one such loyal pup made national headlines recently for fiercely protecting his flock from a pack of coyotes. (Warning to those who might want to skip the gruesome details of the fight, it will be detailed in the next two paragraphs).

On the evening of November 3, John Wierwille spotted a pack of coyotes near his land in Decatur at around 9:00 p.m. He scared them off, but at around 2:30 a.m., the sound of his dogs barking awakened him, alerting him that the coyotes were back. He ran outside to witness 20-month-old Great Pyrenees pup Casper and his pregnant partner Daisy backing five to six sheep into a corner before Casper leapt into attack mode, killing a few coyotes in the

pen before eventually chasing the remaining coyotes off their land. Wierwille heard more fighting as Casper kept at it for at least 30 minutes, but then it went quiet, and Casper was missing. For two days, the Wierwille's feared the worst as neighbors jumped in to help search for him, only to find blood, pieces of Casper's tail, and more dead coyotes in the nearby woods. In total Casper had killed eight of the 11 coyotes in the pack that night. After two days of searching, Casper made his own way home and sought shelter in an unused chicken hutch, and he was in rough shape, suffering large open wounds on his neck and back, what was left of his tail was ultimately declared beyond repair and amputated. The wound on his back alone was nearly a foot long and more than six inches wide, and Wierwille really wasn't sure Casper would make it. It ended up becoming a massive undertaking to find a doctor who could save Casper, but once LifeLine Animal Project (the local non-profit animal shelter) found out about his injuries, they were able to help him get the care he needed to make a surprising recovery as most of this staff has never seen a dog survive injuries as severe as Casper's. In addition to their hard work, they've also credited manuka honey

with helping to heal his large open wounds, which were at constant risk of infection.

The Wierwille family set up a fundraiser to help cover Casper's mounting costs, and consequently those efforts went on to exceed the cost of Casper's care (which has surpassed \$15,000), so the extra funds raised will now go towards urgent care for other animals in LifeLine's care. After six weeks under constant, and sometimes 24 hour supervision, Casper was finally sent home in time for the holidays to recover with his family. Whether he'll ever go back

to working with the sheep again, only time will tell.

This story has made waves with coverage by CBS News, Washington Post, People Magazine, and Pyrenees Rescue groups throughout the country.

Find more information on LifeLine Animal Project at lifelineanimal.org.



Photo: Fox 5 Atlanta/YouTube

You can find more information on John Wierwille's sheep at his Facebook page, Ewe Can Do It Naturally (bonus: it's lamb season! Follow along as he shares new updates to the flock!)





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Spending quality time with family over the holidays is the perfect opportunity to evaluate their care needs. Is Mom becoming forgetful? Is Dad having a hard time with daily tasks? Do both have decreased interest in things they once enjoyed? It might be time to talk to them about moving somewhere they have help.

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A Life Plan Community

Poet Victoria Crosby gave a reading of her inspirational poetry to the Kiwanis of Atlanta



Victoria Crosby with Kiwanis leaders.

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**JANUARY 16
MLK DAY**

Join us in honoring
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
with a Day of Service
at Johns Homestead

**TRAIL
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MAKE IT A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF

GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club Donates Wreaths

By Barbara Luton

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club donated 10 hand-made wreaths and a decorated Christmas tree to the Festival of Trees held at the World Congress Center before Christmas. All proceeds were to benefit Wellspring Living. Wellspring Living helps women and girls who have been rescued from human trafficking. The organization provides shelter, classes and counseling, as well as job placement for the victims.

Members of the Woman's Club collected supplies and spent several hours in workshops to create the wreaths that were sold at the Festival. Nelda Lunsford, a Smoke Rise resident, directed the workshops and helped with assembling the wreaths. Members also decorated a five-foot tree that was sold at the festival.



Wellspring Living is a project that is supported by the entire Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs. It is the special project of State President, Kim Sekulow, a former Smoke Rise neighbor, and a member of the Stone Mountain Club.

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Thank You! Our team had an amazing year in 2022! We beat last year's numbers at the end of September. While we sell all over Atlanta. We are for 2022:

1 Agent in Smoke Rise
1 Team in Smoke Rise
1 Company in Smoke Rise



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Club Lecture Series Brings Ukrainian War into Focus

By Susan Gilbert, Staff Writer

Three years ago, Smoke Rise Country Club launched a Lecture Series to bring important, relevant topics to our community. Most are open to the public and announced in the Smoke Signal. The largest one to date was last August when Smoke Rise neighbor, Frans de Waal, the world's more famous primatologist and renowned author, addressed about 300 attendees. The December event drew a large assembly of neighbors interested in learning more about the Ukrainian War from Emory Morsberger, president of the Tucker Summit CID, who has been to the front-lines delivering desperately needed medical supplies from FODAC and other local charities.

Joined by FODAC president and CEO, Chris Brand, Emory shared pictures of packing the trucks with pallets of medical supplies and basic relief materials like heaters and medicine. After loading the transport plane and 11.5 hours in the air, they offloaded them in Romania where they transferred the supplies onto trucks for the harrowing journey across the border into Ukraine headed to hospitals across the war zone. He shared tragic pictures and heart-wrenching stories of the people trying to survive this assault on the Ukrainian people. One was a most appreciated piece of surgical equipment, a precision saw, surgeons can use to spare the loss of limbs. He saw doctors doing surgery with little medicine, no electricity, and wearing lamps strapped to their foreheads to see what they were doing. Emory has launched www.helpingukraine.us to extend their reach and get more people involved in helping in the effort.



Emory brought with him friends Olga and Steve Gorman from Ukraine. They moved to Atlanta more than a year ago from the Donetsk region, which Russia occupied in 2014. Most of Olga's family is in Kharkiv - one of the hardest-hit cities in Ukraine. She shared how these past 10 months have been extremely painful, as they fear for their family members trying to survive there in their homes. Since the war began, Olga and Steve have become social activists here. They have organized the Mother's March, Ukrainian Rallies and cultural events highlighting Ukrainian liberty and culture.

They believe the shortest way to the heart comes through art and music, therefore, their mission here is to tell about Ukraine, promote modern Ukrainian culture, and inspire people to help Ukraine. They are creating a variety of events to accomplish that goal, including an exhibition of paintings by Ukrainian artists, an exhibition of war posters by Ukrainian designers, a movie festival showing contemporary Ukrainian films, and a traditional Ukrainian costume exhibition with performance and a children workshop to create "Motanka" Ukrainian traditional dolls. We will announce the dates and locations in the *Smoke Signal* as they become available.

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Contact Randy Brunson:
Email: rbrunson@centurionag.com
Call or text: 678.478.5781
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Home Office: 5900 Millstone Lane

We'd Enjoy Connecting With Our Smoke Rise Neighbors.

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Centurion Advisory Group is an independent fee-only wealth management firm registered with the state of Georgia as an investment advisor.

Gardening and Other Nature Thoughts for January *By Linda Karr*

Welcome to 2023 and a brand-new year of opportunities! Gardening – what a great way of brightening up your life and those who encounter your beautiful garden sanctuary. Spread joy!

What a difference the last four weeks made. We went from 34 plants blooming to just seven this month including Carolina jessamine, grasses (not blooms but great texture and visual appeal in their plumes), chrysanthemums, camellias, rosemary, Lenten rose, and paper and the daphne has buds. Other winter appeal in the garden are the lungworts with their green and white leaves, red-twig dogwood, the dark green of the illicium, fatsia, yew, dwarf mondo and evergreen ferns.

January is a great month to prune. It may not be your favorite thing to do in the garden, but it can make a difference in how your garden looks for the rest of the year. Here's a few notes on pruning:

Check out your trees and shrubs. Do some of the limbs need to be removed? Prune all damaged or dead branches. Use hand pruners for branches ½" or less in diameter; loppers for ½" to 2", and a pruning saw for those larger than 2". Pole saws are great for those high tree limbs. For larger branches, make three cuts. First make a small cut on the underside of the limb then cut the branch from above slightly beyond the undercut. Lastly, make your final cut close to the trunk, leaving a small collar. Do NOT prune spring flowering shrubs (such as forsythia, azaleas, viburnum) until after they have bloomed. Pruners need to be sharp to perform the best job.

Saturday January 21 is National Squirrel Appreciation Day. It's also National Hug Day. Maybe we shouldn't confuse the two! For those who are not overly fond of our gray squirrels, think about this. They keep us entertained with their acrobatics. They're smart and persistent – maybe we can learn something from them! They are constantly digging in our yards and gardens – aerating? So, whether you love them or hate them, they have their own entire day dedicated to them.

Opportunities in the garden for January:

- Still have some poinsettias? Water them only when the soil is dry to the touch.
- Plant pansies and violas for winter color – mulch well.
- Prune your Pampas Grass down to 12". Use gloves. We tie ours up with rope and then cut it with a chain saw.
- Cut and bring in camellia flowers to float in bowls. They'll bring color and the garden indoors to help chase away dreary January days.
- If you can work the soil, you can plant bare-root shrubs and trees. You need to wait until March to plant container-grown shrubs and trees.
- When the soil is dry in your garden, till it to break up the soil and help eliminate weeds and insects.
- Test your soil – stop by and get a soil kit from your county extension office.
- Take care of your house plants: wash off the leaves to keep dust from interfering with photosynthesis; water less often during the winter and don't leave plants sitting in saucers of water. Be careful not to overwater them. Check the soil for dryness before watering. If the leaves have drops on the edge (guttate), then they probably have too much water. If you notice spider mites or scale, spray the plants including the undersides of the leaves with insecticidal soap.

It's that time of year – it's cold outside so you can't do much in the garden, but you can do some planning. That might include looking through seed catalogs for ideas on new things to grow this year or maybe you want to go further and explore putting in a new garden such as a culinary herb garden or a flower garden that will attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees.

There is nothing better than adding freshly picked herbs to your food. If you plant an herb garden, it can provide you

...Continued on page 10

NEWS YOU CAN USE *by Aviva Hoffmann*

Give your Christmas Tree New Life!

Happy new year! It's time again to mention a convenient way to "dispose" of your Christmas tree – if you still have it on display in your home or if it's somewhere in your backyard rotting away until you figure out what to do with it!

You might be saving it for a neighbor who likes to set off donated (and cleaned) trees for a special, blazing glory/bon fire experience. But if not, note that DeKalb County offers free Christmas tree curbside collection service for county residents. If you are currently serviced by the DeKalb County Sanitation Division, you can have your Christmas tree picked up with your curbside collection service through January 5.

Prior to disposal, all decorations and lights must be removed from your tree. You should place your tree alongside your garbage and recycling roll carts during your regularly scheduled sanitation pickup days. Make sure your tree doesn't exceed seven feet in length (you can cut it if needed). Trees that cannot be trimmed to the required size may be taken to the county-owned Seminole Road Landfill or collected by the Sanitation Division's Special Collection unit (fees may apply).

This service provides an opportunity for residents to dispose of Christmas trees sustainably and free-of-charge. Collected trees will be recycled and converted to mulch. Much of the recycled mulch benefits playgrounds, local government beautification projects, and individual yards.

For more information, contact the Sanitation Division's customer service team at (404) 294-2900 or sanitation@dekalbcountyga.gov, or visit www.dekalbsanitation.com.

Now that you've tidied up any lingering holiday items, go forth and make good on all your other New Year's Resolutions!



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Pictured is Food and Beverage Committee Chair, Roger Orlando; Committee Member, Susan Gilbert; and GM, Jack Sauers.

Shaking it Up at Smoke Rise Country Club

By Susan Gilbert, Staff Writer

The word is getting out that something magical is happening in the heart of our community at the hidden gem that we all know as the Smoke Rise Country Club. The million+ dollar renovation that began last spring is wrapping up with the new furniture deliveries. The facilities have been transformed into something that is attracting attention from Decatur to Snellville and from movie companies and wedding planners looking for venues. Whether you use it regularly as a member or occasionally as a non-member for an event, party, business meeting, or golf outing, you will be impressed by what you see.

Let's begin with my favorite aspect of the Club... the dining experience. We don't like driving a long way to a nice restaurant and dreamed of having one right here in Smoke Rise at the Country Club. That wait is over, with the focus on food and beverage that took place during the latter part of 2022. Sort of like Chef Ramsey on his Kitchen Nightmares TV series, we brought in a consultant chef who was here for several months and helped recruit new staff, renovate the kitchen, institute new procedures, and begin moving the quality and consistency of the restaurant to a new level. Wow, that has worked, and it continues to surprise us with the impressive creativity of the new staff.

If you are a golfer, you will notice the cart paths have all been smoothed and the course has never looked better. Lots of trees were removed to get more sunlight on the greens, and more improvements are underway. You can play using Golf Now to sign up for a tee time online, but that may be short-lived, as we aspire to return to being the private golf club we were originally where play is limited to members only.

More good news, our three-month search for a strong General Manager produced a remarkable candidate as we were able to attract Jack Sauers as our Interim GM. He is running the place with the confidence that comes from being a GM at multiple successful clubs across the southeast. We are proud to share the Club with anyone interested in a tour or a chance to dine and experience the transformation. Contact Amy Lamitina (alamitina@smokerisecc.com) to make arrangements.

Out the Window

by Beth Henson

The festive holidays had ended and winter had finally arrived. Nighttime temperatures had plummeted into the teens and the gusty northwest winds were upon us. Gazing out the dining room window, everything looked gray, bare and downright cold. I even had to move my happy purple and yellow faced pansies into the safety of the sheltered garage.

Mr. Cat had asked to go out and had scrunched himself into a rather tiny ball at the top of the garden stairs, busily watching the steady stream of nuthatches, chickadees and wrens take turns at the bird feeder. He would momentarily be at the door ready to come out of the chill.

Gazing to the left of his kitty perch, I smiled, as I noticed several spiky stalks emerging from the frozen soil. My playful daffodils were already trying to force themselves into the winter gloom. They would stealthily inch taller, at every opportune warmer day.

Glad to see you my cheery friends; and thank you for reminding me that our southern early spring is just around the corner!



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Parks & Rec News

(Excerpt of information from "Ask Rip" column in the December edition of "InTucker" Magazine)

By Rip Robertson, Tucker Parks and Recreation Director

The Tucker Parks and Recreation department wrapped up 2022 on many positive notes that included growth in programs, activities, and events. Many of the city's events and outdoor activities saw record attendance numbers!



The Haunted Trail had double the participation. The Sip-n-Stroll and Campfire & Cocktails also saw growth, and the department introduced a variety of well-attended youth sports clinics. If you came out to Main Street for the city's annual Independence Day Celebration in July, you likely saw many familiar faces. Tucker's Parks and Recreation staff received positive feedback on the event, and especially about the Kids' Zone. The department also held a successful concert series with great musical talent.

Our community also saw many new additions to our parks and pools such as the Cofer Pool splash pad, the new playground at Rosenfeld Park and the Memorial at Probst Park. Planning has begun for new park projects in Johns Homestead, Fitzgerald, and Lord Parks. Stay tuned for exciting developments!

If you've made a New Year's Resolution to stay in (or get in) shape, the Parks and Rec department reminds you about several workout opportunities. Tucker has miles of trails and a gymnasium at the Tucker Recreation Center where you can play basketball, volleyball, and pickleball. A workout/exercise gym is open during operating hours Monday-Saturday. The outdoor Fitness Court is open for use in the downtown area on Church Street.

Be sure to get out and enjoy your Parks and Recreation offerings. There are a lot of ways to help maintain your health and well-being in the City of Tucker.

For more information about the department online, go to: <https://www.tuckerga.gov/>

techtalk by Susan Gilbert

Are EVs for You? Confessions of an EV Owner

Part 1 of 4

Electric Vehicles (EVs) are getting more and more attention these days, so I thought I would work with my husband, Joel, to create a 4-part series on our experience with ours. In his words...

My Tesla Model S is now eight years old with about 55,000 miles on it. I have taken it from Atlanta to Miami and to Boston, and I did that before Tesla put in all the fast-charging stations they have today. We do have another car that we use for long trips, but I will admit that we could live with the Tesla alone.

Let me begin by sharing that Susan and I love about our Tesla. From the time we saw it in the showroom, we thought it was the most stylish car we had ever seen with its clean lines and smooth curves. On the inside, the 18" tall high-resolution touchscreen monitor on the dashboard is impressive. And, the vehicle is amazingly spacious having no hump for a drive shaft. Plus, it has



lots of cargo space with front (no engine) and back (no gas tank) trunks. People stare when they see us open the hood and put our groceries in what is referred to as the "Frunk."

But all that is background noise compared to the fun of driving it. My wife calls our EV the "zip zip" car, because it literally leaps when you tap the accelerator. (That's right, it isn't a gas pedal.) It can do 0 to 60 MPH in about three seconds, which will snap your neck, if you aren't prepared.

We have been impressed too when an overnight software update changes the appearance of the dashboard adding new information displays and additional functionality, like changes to the way it self-drives. It's kind of like getting a new car every couple of months when the software is upgraded. I remember buying a new car to get new features. No more with the EVs.

We have learned some lessons about driving the EV that may be useful to anyone considering purchasing one. For one, on long trips, you only average 50 MPH because of having to stop to recharge for 30 to 45 minutes. In our gasoline powered car, we can average 75 MPH, so that is always a consideration for trips.

Then there is this new term added to every EV owner's vocabulary: "range anxiety." You do live with a constant concern over range, thinking about how many miles remain on the battery and where you are going to replenish it.

Other surprises include when you start out just fine but a cold weather snap hits as it did when we were coming back from Florida one evening. The car dashboard lit up with warnings and alarms that we were not going to make our planned charging station. We had to slow down and turn the heat off to make it...not fun. And, we learned the hard way that even something as simple as rain can reduce your car's range because of the rolling resistance of those big tires.

(Read Part 2 in next month's edition of The Smoke Signal!)



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HEALTH NOTES:

by Cheri Schneider, MD

Can Viruses Cause Cancer?

The search for the cause of cancer has been one of the longest most desperate searches of humanity. Cancers of all types kill hundreds of thousands of us each year. The American Cancer Society estimated there would be approximately 1.9 million new cancer cases diagnosed in 2022 with 609,000 cancer deaths in the United States alone. Worldwide, the numbers are even more staggering!

Many people assume all cancers are alike. They are not. In fact, each cancer has its own unique risk factors, environmental drives, and in some, a genetic push. Because of this, on-going research for the answers we need continues.

Did you know several common cancers are caused by viruses? You could say these cancers are contagious. While the exact number is not known, researchers estimate approximately 10-20% of all cancers are caused by a virus. The following viruses are on this list:

Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C viruses cause about 50% of Hepatocellular cancer (liver cancer). Hepatitis B is very contagious and is mainly passed by contact with bodily fluids-- sweat, tears, saliva, blood and by sharing needles. All health care workers having direct patient contact should be immunized against Hepatitis B. The Hep B vaccine is a usual part of childhood vaccinations.

Hepatitis C virus also causes liver cancer. It is transmitted sexually or through contact with blood. This infection can be stealthy and slow moving. It can take decades to develop liver cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer. It is the most common cause of liver transplant in the US. Many people have no symptoms and continue to pass on the virus. If you are a baby boomer, you should be tested for Hep C. There is not a vaccine to prevent it, but now there is treatment and a cure for it.

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV): There are more than 200 variations of HPV. Most HPV infections clear by themselves within two years. This virus can cause the common wart, or as we now know, can cause cancer. The viral link was discovered when it was noted that nuns, who are generally not sexually active, did not develop cervical cancer. Decades long research showed that more than 90% of cervical cancers are caused by a few HPV "bad boys" – HPV subtypes 16, 18 and 45. HPV is also a growing cause of other anal and genital cancers and some head and neck cancers. The HPV vaccine series is recommended at age 10-11 but can be given as late as age 45. It can prevent 70-80% of these cancers. Unfortunately, this vaccine is underutilized, largely due to the misconception that using the vaccine will encourage teens to be promiscuous.

Epstein-Barr Virus or EBV: This very common virus is in the Human Herpes virus family. It is the cause of "infectious Mononucleosis." Ninety percent of the world's population have been exposed to EBV at some time in their life, but why some develop cancer is not clear. Burkett's Lymphoma was first noted (by Burkett of course) in sub-Saharan Africa among children who had EBV and may have been weakened/immune suppressed by malaria. This led to the discovery of the EBV link. In addition to Burkett's Lymphoma, EBV can cause Hodgkin's lymphoma, and HIV related lymphomas. Only 1% to 5% of cases are found in North America and Northern Europe. Thirty to 80% of cases of Burkett's Lymphoma are seen in sub-Saharan Africa.

Human T cell leukemia virus: This cancer is rare. One to 5 % of infected individuals get an aggressive leukemia. It is more common in Japan, the Caribbean, Middle East, Central Africa, and South America.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV): Increases the risk of Lymphomas, myelomas, Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and Kaposi's Sarcoma. Kaposi's sarcoma is relatively common. Interestingly, "Endemic Kaposi's sarcoma" is found in Africa and is caused by a Herpes virus, not HIV.

Viral behavior within the cell is very complicated and not all is known about it. Most viruses enter healthy cells and kill the cell. This triggers the army of immune cells to attack the viral entry point. Often it is the body's protective response (increased white cells or pus, mucous production and the outpouring of immune factors) that create the symptoms of a cold. Getting over a cold means the army fought back against the virus.

Oncogenic (cancer causing) viruses just act differently. No one knows what causes these viruses to lead to cancer. Environmental triggers, immune suppression, or some type of host cell mutation are all theories being researched. I am thankful for our current knowledge and very hopeful that someday Cancers--- all Cancers may be preventable or a thing of the past.



Gardening...continued from page 7


with great flavors and also create a garden of interest with flowers, textures, and shapes. It will also attract bees and butterflies and other pollinators. So, what will you need?

- A sunny location near your kitchen – at least morning sun in our area!
- Well-drained, good soil. Amend with compost to help.
- Access – make sure you can get to all of the herbs for a quick snip.
- List of the herbs you use – or want to try. Make your plan based on which ones you will be growing. Are they evergreen, annuals or perennials. Will they have to be replanted next season?
- Some of the herbs you may plant such as basil and oregano bloom during the summer, but if you want more color, then try adding some edible flowers in with your herbs. These might include marigolds, pansies, or geraniums.

Who doesn't love to see a hummingbird hover over a long-throated columbine as it sips the nectar or a butterfly float among the flowers? Think about adding some of the plants listed below to your garden, so you can enjoy these winged creatures.

For hummingbirds: columbines, spider flower, bleeding heart, foxglove, fuschia, moon vine, cardinal flower, nicotiana, penstemon, petunias, salvia, spotted jewelweed, coral honeysuckle, trumpet creeper, pineapple sage, lobelia, geraniums, bee balm, hollyhock, penstemon, gaura, heuchera, and Abelia are examples.

For butterflies (use host and nectar plants) and bees just to name a few: Milkweed, fennel, dill, parsley, passionflower, purple coneflower, Joe Pye Weed, butterfly bush, black-eyed Susan, bee balm, lantana, yarrow, Shasta daisy, coreopsis, zinnias, cosmos, echinacea, dianthus, and marigolds.



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Happy New Year from the Morning Glories!

By Quill Duncan, Morning Glory Member

We hope 2023 will bring some new opportunities for all of you to garden and appreciate our beautiful community. We will continue to support the Smoke Rise Elementary School and their wonderful STEM program with the raised beds project. Winter vegetables are thriving in the new raised beds which are tended by the STEM students. And, we will be gardening at Callanwolde and supporting many

other organizations such as the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs and their recycling initiatives.

As members of The Garden Club of Georgia, we have the opportunity to participate in many projects such as the “Dollars Educate Scholars” program every January. Funds from this project support scholarships for students in GA colleges and universities who are pursuing studies in landscape design and archi-

itecture, horticulture, forestry and land studies. The Garden Therapy project at GA Regional Hospital is an on-going project that benefits the residents and patients. This November Garden Club of Georgia awarded \$250.00 to the project to fund winter vegetable starts and other needed supplies for the gardens on the campus. Several Morning Glories donate time and expertise to the project that is such a great benefit to staff and patients at the facility on Pathersville Road in South DeKalb. And, this past December, we applied for an award for our work with “Gardens for the Challenged” category with the Garden Club of Georgia.

We all enjoyed decorating the Wells Brown House in Stone Mountain Village on December 1, 2022. Using period appropriate greenery and adding clove



Christmas 2022 with the Morning Glories



Morning Glories decorating team at the Wells Brown House

studded oranges for scent created a lovely winter décor for the Stone Mountain Historic Society’s Open House on December 2.

Our December meeting was held at the Smoke Rise Country Club with our guest speaker, Carol Hassell, who is the Executive Director of the Piedmont Land Trust. This group is supported by the Garden Club of Georgia and is tasked with preserving open and green space in North Georgia. In her talk, she

mentioned a 50-acre green space in South Gwinnett near Snellville that was once the home of Mary Kistner who was a local artist and plantswoman. If you are interested in conservation, gardening or other community projects, come join us for a meeting and a luncheon. Our January speaker will be Jim Mynes who will lecture on “Hydrangeas in the Garden.” Contact President Janet McGinnis for information on the club at (770) 939-8878.

Georgia Iris Society

The Georgia Iris Society cordially invites you to the first meeting of 2023 on Saturday, January 14 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 1790 Lavista Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329.

Dianne Smith will present “Monet’s Garden at Giverny, France -A Pictorial Tour.” Join in for education, beautification and recreation. The meetings are free to the public and all are welcome.

For more information, contact Quill Duncan (770) 414-4766.

’Tis the Season for Gardening, Gifts—and Grandmothers’ Recipes!

By Maureen Fraser

More than 20 members gathered in mid-December for the Mountain Mums Garden Club’s holiday meeting and festivities. The event, held at the Smoke Rise Country Club, began with an inspiration by Jean Weathers who shared the story of Jesus as originally told by St. Luke.



Mountain Mums met at Smoke Rise Country Club for lunch and Dirty Santa

The brief business meeting was followed by a delicious lunch by Chef HESSIE and her team, with desserts provided by lead hostess Mary Lou Still and co-hostesses Collette Riefkohl and Lucy White. Mary Lou’s luscious rum cake—using her Grandmother’s recipe—was especially memorable, along with refreshing lemon tarts and mouth-watering chocolate drops!

The merriment continued with the annual White Elephant gift exchange that proved to be as entertaining as always. The gifts that garnered the most steals included a Santa gnome with a greenery body, a beautiful red and black scarf, a Pottery Barn holiday tray, a ceramic lighted tree, and a matching holiday platter and bowl set.



December Hostesses Lucy White, Colette Riefkohl, & Mary Lou Still

Everyone went home with a gift, but also a reminder of what this season of giving is all about.

If you are interested in joining or would like more information about the Mountain Mums Garden Club, please contact Mary Jacobson, Membership Chair, at mjacob1010@gmail.com.

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Amen, Let's Eat!

by Joyce Ray

Copy of 1st "Amen, Let's Eat" column published in January 2019

From my earliest childhood memory when our family gathered to eat, we paused to hear my daddy say the "blessing" on the food and to give thanks before the meal. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner were each prayed over, although in those years they were breakfast, dinner and supper. My siblings and I understood that no fork was to be picked up or crust pinched from the cornbread until the blessing was said. If Daddy was there to say it, he didn't need to announce it. He just bowed his head and prayed "Lord, make us thankful for these and all thy blessing, we ask for Christ's sake, Amen." On occasions when he was not there, my mother would take over. On the Sundays when the preacher's family was invited to lunch, he would be given that honor and in his authoritative pulpit voice, he would pray a protracted prayer that made us long for the blessed "Amen," and the homemade fried chicken and biscuits that would become a distant memory in about 15 minutes.

As I begin a new year with the anticipation of writing this column, I invite you to share some of your family food traditions. If your family, like mine, has a favorite blessing that is said before meals, please send me a copy. I will feature them in this column which I have titled "Amen, Let's Eat." You can email to my attention at staff@smokesignal.com.

January begins with New Year's Resolutions, and the cold weather makes us think of one-pot meals like beef stew, chili, and hearty soups. This month, I am featuring a family favorite that I developed, called Creamy Crab Soup and a thicker soup that has been a winter favorite: Bacon Cheese Corn Chowder. Each serves 10-12 one- and one-half cup servings. My tip for successful cream soups is patience! Boiling soup will cause the milk to curdle and boiling it once cheese has been added will result in separation. Refrigerating soup overnight will help develop the flavors. It will be thick, so simmer until heated and add more chicken broth or milk to thin, if needed. Serve with crusty bread for a hearty standalone meal.

Creamy Crab Soup

- Lump Crabmeat – 1 (8 oz.) can or ½ pound fresh
- Six large carrots, scraped, chopped
- One large yellow onion
- 1 cup shredded swiss cheese
- 2 cups milk
- 2 cups half and half
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. Cream Cheese
- ¼ cup cooking sherry or dry white wine

Cook carrots and chopped onion in water just to cover until they are tender. Puree in the blender. If needed, add a little of the water they were cooked in for blending. Bring chicken broth to a boil and add cream cheese. When cheese is soft, whisk until smooth and then add puree mixture. Cook 15 minutes on low heat stirring often. Add crabmeat and cooking sherry, simmer for 5 minutes and add milk and half/half. Add Swiss cheese and simmer until cheese is melted. Add 1 T. salt and pepper to taste. Serve with dash of hot sauce if desired. Refrigerated soup will be thick. Simmer until heated. To thin, add more chicken broth or milk.

Bacon Cheese Corn Chowder

- 6-8 slices crisp bacon
- 1 pkg. frozen creamed corn
- 2 cans cheese soup (undiluted)
- 1 can beef broth
- 3 med potatoes
- 2 large carrots – about 1 cup raw or frozen
- 1 large yellow onion
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 ½ cups half/half
- 1 ½ cups milk
- 2 small cans diced green chili peppers
- 1 large jar chopped pimentos

Cook bacon until crisp. Save drippings. Cook potatoes and carrots together until soft. Drain. Mash to lumpy consistency. Add cheese soup, beef broth, corn. Sauté onion in bacon fat. Drain and add to soup. Add milk and half/half. Simmer. Do not boil. Add peppers/pimento. Just before serving, add cheese and simmer until cheese melts – DO NOT BOIL. Garnish with crumbled bacon and shredded cheese. For a heartier soup, add chopped ham or chipped beef instead of bacon.

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CENTRAL VACUUM SERVICES Installation Repair Maintenance
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(PLUMBER)
Plumbing-Electrical-H.V.A.C
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AFFORDABLE LAWN CARE
Mowing, edging, pruning, trimming, etc. Reasonable, dependable, insured. Call Mark at 404-697-7426.

SELL ME YOUR UNWANTED VEHICLE. CASH PAID FOR YOUR CAR OR TRUCK, running or not, free pick up. Call 404-786-1330

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Auto body shop local serving Tucker, Stone Mtn, Smoke Rise. Honest, reasonable, quality work. Providing home-to-shop transportation. Call Dave 770-609-8759.

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Interior / exterior home pest control
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Professional Groomer since 2006

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Individual swim lessons taught in a private heated pool. I'm fully vaccinated and CPR/First Aid certified. Contact: 404-747-9545 or petersmadison@gmail.com

Need a professional pet sitter? Call **Critter Sittin' Sisters** at 404-409-3765. We make your pets smile!

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LOCKSMITH SERVICES — Deadbolts installed, re-key, repair, reinforced strike plates & motion lights installed, door threshold & weatherstrip replacement. SR res/ SR ref, Rick 770-617-0466.

AFFORDABLE CLEANING SERVICES Providing excellent cleaning services at a reasonable price. Reliable references available upon request. Call Halida at 404-610-9056

HOUSEKEEPER -- Reliable, experienced housekeeper for several years in Smoke Rise area. Hours are flexible. References available. Contact Sabina @ 770-634-0463

PRIVATE CHEF/CATERER offering seasonal meals with your schedule, health, and happiness in mind. Taylor Mead, Chef & Owner BetterOffFedATL@gmail.com

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