

# SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 49, ISSUE 10

*Serving the Smoke Rise Community Since 1968*

January, 2017

www.smokesignalnews.com



## The staff of the Smoke Signal wishes you a healthy and happy **2017**

### WALK TO REMEMBER 2017– Saturday, January 21 by Mary Lou Still

I can't believe it has been 10 years since the Mountain Mums Garden Club planted the eight Memorial trees at the Hwy 78 Triangle and that this will be our 6th year of walking/strolling through our neighborhoods to commemorate that special day. As many of you know the trees were planted to honor our young Smoke Rise neighbors who sadly lost their lives in car accidents. There is a Japanese Magnolia planted for Julian Carter, Ben Lories, Brandon Hubbard, Mandi Smith, Brandon Stovall, Matt Taylor, and Charlie Wellman. The Mountain Mums have also added a rose garden and many other plantings since that cold January day in 2007. Unfortunately, the garden has had some rough times over the years with trees being stolen (unbelievable!) and car crashes resulting in the loss of our plants and signage. Fortunately, we have had wonderful sponsors and we certainly appreciate their support in maintaining the Memorial Triangle and promoting the importance of organ donation and safe/non-distracted driving. NO TEXTING while driving has been our main concern and we hope our message is helping drivers pay more attention to the road. I read a report recently that there are more cell phone related car crashes than alcohol.

Thanks to our sponsors - the SRCA, and local businesses like Smoke Rise Agents, Pincents Advertising, Metropolitan an Intown artist business district, It's My Party Rentals, Kroger, Rosenfeld's Jewelers, and many caring neighbors we have been able to award Taggart's Driving scholarships to young drivers every year. This year we will be opting for donations and NOT collecting the \$10. walk fee. We will also be planting 200 red tulips to beautify Smoke Rise Elementary as we stroll by their school's flag. The Mountain Mums motto this year is "CULTIVATING OUR COMMUNITY"- and YES WE WILL! ALL are WELCOME to join the walk or just "hang out" --- bring your dogs too! In the past Serena Salzer (Mark and Pat Soltys's daughter) and Dekalb County Police have helped us at the crosswalks -- this year parents and Boy Scouts take on that task. Hope to see you at Smoke Rise Baptist church parking lot at 9:30 on the 21st- Thank you AGAIN!



### *Look inside for...*

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- When is a Nosebleed Dangerous?..... pg. 9
- Democracy Here at Home .....pg. 10



*More than 100 attended the presentation of the new master plan for Smoke Rise, the new development proposed for the intersection of Mt. Industrial and Hugh Howell.*

### SRCA NEWS

The SRCA board has been active up right up through the end of the calendar year. Despite the complications of the holiday season, the SRCA organized and sponsored a late-breaking meeting on December 20 for residents to meet with the prospective developers of the Sears property and in advance of the January 9 consideration of the evolved land use proposal by city leadership. The onset of 2017 brings with it the SRCA membership renewal campaign. Please respond to the dues campaign as it ensures benefits such as confidential document shredding, public area landscaping, investment in our elementary school independent of the school board, coordinated monitoring of community developments important to us all, and organized interactions on behalf of



*New Smoke Rise Country Club General Manager, Rob Sabat, was joined by Club members Jim and Barbara Conard at the December 20th event hosted at the Country Club to share with the community plans for the new development for the Sears property at Hugh Howell Rd and Mt Industrial.*

Smoke Rise, a distinctive Tucker neighborhood, with city leadership. The SRCA board is also pleased to disclose that the independent and first-ever audit of SRCA books was recently completed by AhartBoyett, LLC and showed the finances of your association to be in regular order.

...Continued on page 2

### Update on the City of Tucker By Pat Soltys

Lots has been happening in Tucker this week! The city grew again with the annexation approval of the Westwood and Wanda Woods annexations off Chamblee Tucker Road. This added 127 parcels to Tucker. This subdivision is located off Chamblee Tucker Road near Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. The annexation was by the 60% method in which 60% of the parcels stated that they wanted to be part of the City of Tucker. Once the 60% mark was achieved, they did not add to the number. A commercial parcel at 4118 LaVista Road was also annexed by the 100% method, as the single owner wanted to be in the city. This is commercial property located inside Interstate 285.

A municipal court chief judge has now been appointed, and the office of solicitor is being established. Once established, a city prosecutor will be named. The firm of Mauldin and Jenkins has been hired as city auditors.

On Tuesday, January 20, 2017 Smoke Rise Community Association will host a meeting

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



## 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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*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.*

### January Calendar of Events

- 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
- 4 *Smoke Signal* staff meeting at the home of Barbara Bruschi, 9:30 a.m.
- 9 Mountain Shadow Garden Club  
Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Smoke Rise Garden Club at the home of Margarita Fajardo, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Mountain Mums at the home of Cheri Schneider, 9:45 a.m.
- 14 Dress Up Your Pet Day
- 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 21 Walk to Remember, Smoke Rise Baptist Church parking lot 9:30 a.m.



### Smoke Signal Deadlines

#### JANUARY 13

Please e-mail articles to:

**staff@smokesignalnews.com**

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

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

**Deadline for classified ads is 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.

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 Link to the digital version of the *Smoke Signal*  
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### Tucker... continued from page 1

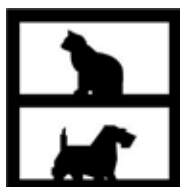
to allow residents to ask questions, voice concerns and share ideas for the "Sears Project" developer, Stephen McCauley and his team. The team went back to the drawing board to align the project closer with the objectives of the city. The new plans decrease the number of apartments by approximately half, add commercial space to bring jobs with a focus on the medical community and address some of the concerns regarding parking, greenspaces and the location of the senior housing. The replacement school for Smoke Rise Elementary is still on the plans.

The revised plan will be presented to the Tucker City Council on January 9, the Community Council on January 11, and Planning Commission on January 12. For more information on Tucker meetings and hearings go to [www.tuckerga.gov](http://www.tuckerga.gov).



### DeKalb County to Offer Free Christmas Tree Curbside Collection Service

The DeKalb County Sanitation Division announces free Christmas tree curbside collection service for county residents from December 27 until January 17.



### FREE NEIGHBORHOOD PET LOST AND FOUND

Please call **Kay McKenzie at 770-491-6784 with information if you have lost or found a pet.**

### Smoke Rise Baptist Church

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

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

Communion: Second Sunday of each month  
 1st Tuesdays: 11:30 a.m. Prime Time

Wednesdays:  
 5:00-5:45 Fellowship Dinner  
 6:00-7:00 Programs for children, youth and adults  
 7:00-8:30 Sanctuary choir  
 Nursery provided

### Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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

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

Sundays:  
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages  
 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary - nursery provided

Wednesdays:  
 5:45 p.m. Join us for dinner! - \$5 per adult  
 6:30 p.m. Program

### Mount Carmel Christian Church

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

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

Wednesdays beginning August 10:  
 5:30 p.m. Dinner  
 6:30 p.m. Bible Studies/Electives for All Ages

### First Moravian Church

Pastor: Dr. Stephen Weisz  
 Congregational Acolyte: Bill Hitz  
 Telephone (770) 491-7250, (770) 755-8289  
[www.gamoravian.org](http://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](http://www.mwchurch.com)  
 4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain  
 Service Times 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.  
 Christmas Eve Services - 3:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

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

**Love God/Love Neighbor:**  
 The intersection of Religion and Community  
 in a Diverse World  
 Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
 Smoke Rise Baptist Church

In today's world, it is vital that we learn about and engage with people of other faith traditions. At Smoke Rise Baptist Church we are committed to interfaith study and dialogue. We begin this quarter with an overview of the two Abrahamic Religions to be led by Dr. Rob Nash. Then we hear from actual practitioners of these faith traditions. Our neighboring city of Clarkston is a community of many nationalities, languages, and religions, including one of the largest refugee communities in the country. We will learn more about the city and the refugee mission we are now supporting.

Jan. 11: The Abrahamic Religions: An overview of Judaism, led by Dr. Rob Nash, Professor of Missions and World Religions at McAfee School of Theology

Jan. 18: The Abrahamic Religions: An overview of Islam, led by Dr. Rob Nash

Jan. 25: My Jewish Faith Tradition: Rabbi Ronald Bluming

Feb. 1. My Islamic Faith Tradition: Omer and Hasan Kamal

Feb. 8: Do Christians and Muslims Worship the Same God? Led by Dr. Fisher Humphreys, Professor of Divinity Emeritus, Samford University

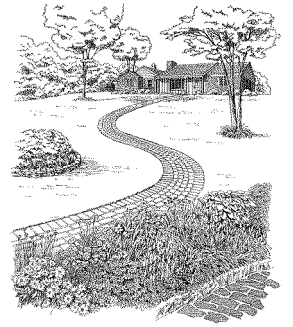
Feb. 15: "Friends of Refugees," Mission in Clarkston, Susan McDaniel, Director

Feb. 22: Clarkston: "The Most Diverse Square Mile in America," Mayor Edward Terry

**Curb Appeal**

Have a look at your curbs. Some are clean and swept, and with others, you can hardly find the curb stones! So many of them are still packed with leaves, pine needles, twigs and all kinds of trash, and with leaves still falling so late this year, it will only get worse. It makes such a difference in the appearance of the whole street if all the curbs are clean. Let's give a good first impression to a potential buyer of a home in Smoke Rise when they turn onto one of our streets.

So please get out and clean your curbs, or if you have a yardman, please tell him to make sure he collects the leaves from your curb - not blow them into the middle of the road.



**Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation Announces Its 2017 List of State's 10 'Places in Peril'**

Sites on the list include: Atlanta Central Library in Atlanta (Fulton County); Calvary Episcopal Church and Lee Street Bridge in Americus (Sumter County); Chivers House in Dublin (Laurens County); Marble YMCA Building in Columbus (Muscogee County); Gaines Hall, Furber Cottage, Towns House and Hamilton House in Atlanta (Fulton County); John Rountree Log House in Twin City (Emanuel County); Lyon Farmhouse in Lithonia (DeKalb County); Mimosa Hall in Roswell (Fulton County); Charles T. Walker House in Augusta (Richmond County); and Old Zebulon Elementary School building in Zebulon (Pike County).

Places in Peril is designed to raise awareness about Georgia's significant historic, archaeological and cultural resources, including buildings, structures, districts, archaeological sites and cultural landscapes that are threatened by demolition, neglect, lack of maintenance, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy.

Through Places in Peril, the Trust will encourage owners and individuals, organizations and communities to employ proven preservation tools, financial resources and partnerships in order to reclaim, restore and revitalize historic properties that are in peril.

Founded in 1973, the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation works for the preservation and revitalization of Georgia's diverse historic resources and advocates their appreciation, protection and use. As one of the country's leading statewide, nonprofit preservation organizations, the Trust generates community revitalization by finding buyers for endangered properties acquired by its Revolving Fund and raises awareness of other endangered historic resources through an annual listing of Georgia's "Places in Peril." The Trust offers a variety of educational programs for adults and children, provides technical assistance to property owners and historic communities, advocates for funding, tax incentives and other laws aiding preservation efforts, and manages two house museums in Atlanta (Rhodes Hall) and Macon (Hay House).

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

**Thank you for a Wonderful Year.**  
 2016 is a wrap with many notable achievements! We appreciate your business, your referrals and most of all the friendships that have grown. Our plans for 2017 are ambitious!

Our team is ready to serve you. L - R - **DeeDee Wilson, Mike San Fratello, Pat Soltys, Mike Dougherty & Dianne Dougherty.**

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**Tucker Tomorrow**  
By Pat Soltys

The City of Tucker has launched the process to write a comprehensive plan. Unlike established cities, residents will have a lot of opportunity for input on the plan. A website has been built at <http://www.tuckertomorrowplan.com/> where information on dates, events and opportunities will be posted. There is also a survey that the city would like all residents to

take. It is designed to deliver collaborative information to the city. The more residents who take the survey, the more collaborative it will be.

There is also an interactive map where you can submit your ideas and comments. For example, if you feel a sidewalk is needed, you can show where on the map and in the pop up box put your comments.

Walking tours are being held at different places in the city. The next tours are listed below with a driving tour to follow. Each of these tours has a consulting moderator facilitating the discussion. Many tours and meetings are available on video primarily on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CityofTucker/> click on videos and YouTube.



Mayor Frank Auman welcomes the crowd at Thursday's "Tucker Tomorrow" Civic Discussion. (Credit: City of Tucker)

**Downtown Tucker Walking Tour**  
Saturday, January 21, 2017 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Meet on Main Street in front of First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall  
2367 Main Street, Tucker, GA 30084

**Northlake Area Walking Tour**  
Saturday, January 21, 2017 from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Meet in the Wells Fargo Bank parking lot  
4099 La Vista Road, Tucker, GA 30084

Upcoming meetings:

**Community Forum 3: Needs and Opportunities**  
Thursday, February 16, 2017 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall  
2367 Main Street, Tucker, GA 30084  
Comprehensive planning team shares initial findings, including identifying major issues and opportunities.

**Community Forum 4: Tucker Tomorrow Plan Preliminary Recommendations**  
Thursday March 16, 2017 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Tucker City Hall Annex  
4228 First Avenue  
Tucker, GA 30084  
Comprehensive planning team shares initial findings, including existing and projected economic and housing data and potential impact on land uses.

**Community Forum 5: Tucker Tomorrow Plan and the Community Work Program**

Thursday May 18, 2017 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Tucker City Hall Annex  
4228 First Avenue  
Tucker, GA 30084  
Comprehensive planning team presents proposed Tucker Tomorrow Plan and Community Work Program.

**NEW HOURS AT TUCKER LIBRARY**  
Beginning January 3, 2017, the Tucker library will be open on Wednesday evening.

New Hours  
Monday - Wednesday:  
10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Thursday - Saturday:  
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Mountain Creek Swim Club  
2092 Mountain Creek Court  
Stone Mountain GA 30087



**MOUNTAIN CREEK – THE CLUB FOR ALL SEASONS**

During the dreary days of January, our thoughts turn to magical summer memories and the summer fun to come! Build new memories in 2017 with Mountain Creek Swim Club! The fun will include water aerobics, game nights, family camping, kids' activities, holiday meals, and so much more.

Look for future Mountain Creek news as plans take shape for summer activities! We will welcome back all our current members and look forward to meeting and greeting new members!

Mountain Creek continues special events throughout the year. Stay informed on what's happening by visiting our Facebook page, our website at [MountainCreekSwimClub.com](http://MountainCreekSwimClub.com), or call 678-824-2108.

**New Program at the Tucker Library**  
Introduction to Microsoft Word 2013

Learn how to create, edit and save simple documents, cut and paste, and use other Word features. Mouse, typing skills and some experience with Windows required. Class will be held Wednesday, January 25th, from 10:00 a.m. to noon and is limited to the first twelve participants. Sign up begins January 16th. Contact the Tucker branch at 770-270-8234 to register.

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Christmas is the special time of year to remember those who are close to our hearts. So the ladies of Millstone East, with some help from a neighboring family, had a notion to demonstrate just that to the local police. Hunter, age 6, wrote: "Thank you guys for keeping us safe. I hope you enjoy the cookies." While his mom expressed her sentiments in prose:

*Roses are red,  
Your uniforms are blue,  
We brought these cookies to say,  
We APPRECIATE you!*

### Holiday in Smoke Rise a Success

Just in time to kick off the holiday shopping season, on Saturday, December 3rd, every room and hallway of Smoke Rise Elementary School was filled with over 100 artists, crafters and vendors from all over the southeast. Specialty food, clothing, handmade jewelry, home accessories, candles, beauty and spa items, Christmas decor and



so much more pleased crowds with the variety and options offered. This long-standing tradition of our community, "Holiday in Smoke Rise," is an annual

event that benefits Smoke Rise Elementary School. Proceeds are used to purchase needed items such as Smart Boards, whiteboards, paint, science lab equipment, computers and more.

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### National Alliance on Mental Illness

The mission of NAMI is to promote recovery and improve the quality of life for all who are afflicted by mental illness by providing support, education, and advocacy. NAMI DeKalb will sponsor the NAMI Peer-to-Peer Education Program specifically for persons diagnosed with serious mental health condition. The 10-week series of classes will start on Tuesday January 17, 2017 from 2:00-4:00 p.m., in Decatur GA at the DeKalb Addiction Clinic.

Peer-to-Peer is a FREE 10-week recovery education course that offers a holistic approach to recovery. This course allows individuals diagnosed with a mental illness to share experiences and gain further insight into their mental health. Participants come away from the course with a binder of hand-out materials, as well as many other tangible resources: an advance directive; a "relapse prevention plan" to help identify tell-tale feelings, thoughts, behavior, or events that may warn of impending relapse and to organize for intervention; mindfulness exercises to help focus and calm thinking; and survival skills for working with providers and the general public. Graduates of this course experience new hope and inspiration in regards to recovery.

Peer-to-Peer is taught by a team of two trained "Mentors" who are personally experienced at living well with mental illness. This program offers a relaxed and confidential setting.

The outcomes of the Peer-to-Peer program include:

- Participants share experiences with other peers who are also working towards recovery.
- Gain further insight into mental health.
- Gain knowledge of how to cope with difficult circumstances.
- Learn to identify feelings, thoughts, behaviors and events that can result in a relapse.
- Learn how to be an active participant in your treatment plan.
- Learn how to strengthen interpersonal relationships.
- Experience new hope and inspiration in regard to recovery.

**New Class Starting: Tuesday January 17th 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.**

Location: DeKalb Addiction Clinic in Decatur

To sign up for the class: Call or email Crystal Gail 209-613-5340 or crystalwelcome@gmail.com

### WELCOME TO STONE MOUNTAIN!

Several Members of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club serve as volunteers at the Stone Mountain Village Visitor Center each month. These volunteers and others were honored with a lovely Christmas Luncheon at the Wells Brown House on Tuesday, December 6. Kim Cumbie, President of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club serves as Manager of the Visitors Center. A few of the Stone Mountain Woman's Club members attending the luncheon are pictured below.

*(l to r - Lynn Dundon, Pat Sartain, Barbara Luton and seated, Betty Pompey)*



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The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club sponsors the door decoration contest for Tallulah Falls School in Tallulah Falls, GA. First, second and third place monetary prizes are given to classes in the Middle School and the Upper School. Three members of the club judged the doors this year. Pictured L-R, Elizabeth Wells, Woman's Club chairman for Tallulah Falls School, and judges, Nelda Lunsford, Miriam Boone and Barbara Luton.

**Smoke Rise Elementary School**

Smoke Rise Elementary School's (SRES) students made real-life connections in December as they communicated across the Atlantic. From the corridors of Stone Mountain, GA to the Alps in Switzerland, Smoke Rise Elementary School's 2nd graders anxiously anticipated the face to face SKYPE session that took place the morning of December 6, 2016. SRES's former student teacher, Ms. Kaavya Pandian's 5th grade class, asked the first question that truly was an ice breaker. "Do you (SRES students) give dap?" Looks of confusion permeated the air until dap was demonstrated. Students on both sides of the screen, including teachers broke into laughter. The Carolina Panther's football quarterback, Cam Newton, made dap famous as he would prance for a football touchdown. Thereafter, questions and discussions stemmed from how many languages do you speak, favorite books, sports, cherished recess games, the cost of various items, favorite foods, common restaurants, currency value/how it looks, and even politics. It will be an event that will forever be remembered for years to come and will hopefully spark an interest in students from both countries traveling to the other to make connections in an ever-changing society.

Furthermore, science connections were also made on December 6, 2016. STEM teacher, Ms. Bernadette Cummings reported that the Smoke Rise Science and Engineering Fair took place from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Forty-three families attended this event. They viewed projects that students in grades 3rd through 5th completed and entered in the fair for competition. The fair demonstrated a wide range of interest and talents that our students have in the science and engineering fields. Our students experimented with invisible ink, the elasticity of balls, and homemade plastic. They also created bristle bots, hydroelectric water wheels, and tested the strength of structures.

This year's winners are listed below:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>2nd Grade:</b>                             | <b>3rd Grade:</b>                           |
| 1st Place- D. Patel                           | 1st Place – M. Fowler                       |
| 2nd Place- K. Williams                        | 2nd Place- S. Segal                         |
| 3rd Place- X. Ragland                         | 3rd Place- K. Evans and A. Jefferson (tied) |
| Honorable Mention- A. Segal                   | Honorable Mention- A. Henry and O. Patel    |
| <b>4th Grade:</b>                             |   |
| Engineering Division- 1st Place – A. Hoffmann |   |
| 2nd Place- J. Melling                         |   |
| Science Division- 1st Place K. Armstrong      |   |
| 2nd Place- R. Gomez                           |   |
| 3rd Place- S. Suarez                          |   |
| Honorable Mention: T. Lam & O. Adegoke        |   |



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**Smoke Rise Preferred Contractor's List**

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



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**“Do I Live in Tucker?”**

The city of Tucker has a new web application that will help area residents determine whether they live inside the city’s boundaries.

The appropriately-named “Do I Live in Tucker?” offers a user-friendly way to see exactly where a property is in relation to the city limits. Users log on from their desktop browser, tablet or mobile device, input their address and they are instantly notified whether their property is part of the new city of Tucker.

The app is the brainchild of Chris Rice, the city’s GIS (Geographic Information Systems) analyst. He says there was a definite need for this type of technology.

“It was based off of the amount of questions we get from citizens who are trying to look at our paper maps to determine ‘do I live in the city or not?’” Rice explains.

The program, which offers detailed aerial shots of the city, is much less complicated than it appears.

“[It’s] very simple and straightforward,” Rice says, adding that from conception to completion, the app took just two days to build.

More than 19,000 addresses are listed in the “Do I Live in Tucker?” database, as are close to 13,000 parcels. The app was developed using ArcGIS Online, a product of GIS industry leader Esri.

Here’s where you can try out the new app: <http://tucker-ga.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eebf50cfce6341a48b28bd75119a1018>

**Of Note to the Community: Safety Alerts & Watches**

by **Cedric Ross**

Our community is a special place and when one of our citizens is harmed we all must learn a lesson. Crime is not rampant; however, vigilance must always be practiced. We will continue to highlight ways to increase your personal safety. This month I will share a Youtube (Youtube.com) link and a product that may shed some light on how you may increase your defenses at home.

By no means am I endorsing any product, this is just a means to highlight products you may find of value.

This item is a leap forward from the standard door chain ([www.strikeplatelocks.com](http://www.strikeplatelocks.com)). Youtube.com link to product: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liMf8jof08>



**Crime Reports**

- 12/2/2016 Larceny 1700 Block Silver Hill around 5pm

We make an effort to list local crimes, if we miss something please let us know at [staff@smokesignalnews.com](mailto:staff@smokesignalnews.com).

Smoke Rise Baptist Church is hosting a  
**Chili Cook Off** in its Fellowship Hall on  
Sunday, January 29th, immediately following the  
11:00 a.m. worship service. All proceeds will benefit  
Family Mission Trips in the spring.  
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Contact the church office  
at (770) 469-5856 for more information.

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 **Stone Mountain Rotary Club**  
By L. A. Dison

**Serving Humanity in the Holiday Season**

Rotary International’s 2016 motto “Rotary Serving Humanity” inspired the Stone Mountain club this holiday season to volunteer time and resources to help those less fortunate in their community.

The club adopted 36 children from the Salvation Army Angel Tree program, filling bag upon bag with toys and games but also much-needed items including diapers, shoes, clothes and even school uniforms. Members also volunteered one Saturday in December as bell ringers in The Salvation Army’s annual Red Kettle Campaign. Stationed outside the entrances at Northlake Mall and braving the first of Atlanta’s winter cold, Stone Mountain Rotarians and family members collected funds that would provide meals for the hungry and coats for the homeless.



*Stone Mountain Rotary Club President Margie Kersey poses with some of the gifts collected for the Salvation Army Angel Tree project. (photo by L.A. Dison)*



*Stone Mountain Club Past President Donna Jensen stands ready to march with this year’s float for the city’s Holiday Parade. (photo by L.A. Dison)*

Club members brought joy to Stone Mountain residents as they ushered in the season with a sparkling float in the annual holiday parade. The float was built and decorated by club members, many of whom marched alongside it in the procession.

The Stone Mountain club meets every Tuesday for noon lunch at Smoke Rise Country Club; visitors and those interested in learning more about Rotary are welcome to attend as a guest of the club.

To learn more about the club and its upcoming programs, go to [www.stonemountainrotary.org](http://www.stonemountainrotary.org), or follow on Facebook and Twitter.

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**Incredible Corridor Initiative Crosses CID Boundaries**

Leaders of the Stone Mountain, Lilburn and Gwinnett Village CIDs continue to find areas of cooperation and coordination across their district and county boundaries. Unifying efforts targeting the spaces along Mountain Industrial Boulevard and Jimmy Carter Boulevard will contribute to one Incredible Corridor serving the commercial property owners within the three CIDs.

**CID Roadway and Landscaping Improvements**

Crews are completing substantial traffic-related improvements and planned landscaping upgrades at key locations in the Stone Mountain CID. Significant intersection improvement is underway at North Royal Drive at Lawrenceville Highway, the entrance to the Royal Atlanta Business Park.



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**Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club Partners with Two Tennis Professionals!**

SRBRC, a long standing leader in the Atlanta tennis club community, has developed a partnership with two of Atlanta's top tennis professionals. Beginning November 2016, Bryan Shepherd and Chris Dudley began using the club's recently resurfaced tennis facilities for tennis clinics and individual lessons five days per week, two sessions per day. SRBRC is working with the tennis professionals to provide other events to include holiday Round Robins, beginner lessons, and "stroke of the week clinics." More to come!



Bryan Shepherd, a native of Norfolk, Virginia, graduated from Duke University in 1980 with a BA in Mathematics. He enjoyed a 21 year career as an IT professional at several corporations with emphasis on problem determination and resolution. Bryan leveraged that experience and translated it into a 25 year tennis career specializing in the same discipline. He is an Independent Professional Tennis Registry (PTR) PROFESSIONAL serving this past season alone at 14 subdivisions and parks. Bryan's other accomplishments as a tennis professional include:

- 2010 Georgia Professional Tennis Association (GPTA) Independent Professional of the YEAR -- Nominated again in 2011, 2015, and 2016! AYTEF Professional of the YEAR Nominee 2014
- Past USTA and ALTA champion
- Past member ALTA Board of Directors and Executive committee plus 15 years as an active ALTA volunteer

Bryan can be reached at (770) 912-4851 or onemoretennismut@aol.com.




Chris Dudley has been a USPTA certified Elite Professional since 1988. Chris played his college tennis at Concordia College in Bronxville, NY. He was formerly Head Pro and Director of Tennis at Concord Sports Club in St Louis. After several years of operating his own landscaping company in Charleston, SC, Chris moved to Snellville in 2015 and has been coaching at Mountain Park and other courts. Chris coaches a handful of ALTA teams and works with players of all ages and abilities. Chris can be reached at (843) 270-1883 or chrisdudleytennis@gmail.com.

**Open Tennis Clinic Schedule at SRBRC**

Monday through Friday, two sessions per day at 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. and Noon until 1:30 p.m. (Rates are \$10 per session, and these clinics are open to all to participate). Chris and Bryan are also open to providing a regular tennis clinic each week specifically for SRBRC members and guests. Please respond with your feedback on potential time slots or other tennis programs that are of interest. They are both available for individual lessons as well. If you are interested in joining or rejoining SRBRC under a single tennis, family tennis, or combined tennis/pool membership, please contact AvivA or Oliver Hoffmann at (404) 804-1082 [www.srbrc.org](http://www.srbrc.org).

**GEORGIA IRIS SOCIETY MEETING**

Georgia Iris Society will meet on Saturday, January 14, 2017, at 2 p.m. at St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 1790 Lavista Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329. Our speaker will be Valarie Nichols, free-lance illustrator, graphic designer and backyard beekeeper who will present: "To Plan Your Garden, Think Like a Pollinator."



Our meetings are free to the public and all are welcome. Join us for education, beautification and recreation. Door prizes and snacks will be provided.

For more information call Stacey Cooke or Harvey Holmes at (404) 202-3888.

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**HEALTH NOTES:**

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

**Sitting In The Nosebleed Section:  
When Is A Nosebleed Dangerous?**

Nosebleeds are a very common complaint. Especially during the winter months when the air is dry because we are using our furnaces and enjoying fires in the fireplace. How do you know if a nosebleed is dangerous or is a symptom of something more serious?

The anatomy of the inner nose can give us some answers. In a way, it is a perfect set up for nosebleeds. The nasal septum-- the central structure that divides the nose into nostrils-- is made up of bone and cartilage that is covered by skin. Just underneath the skin is a network of blood vessels that supply the inner nose. This network of vessels runs very close to the surface of the skin. Excessive drying of the nose caused by low humidity or wind, habitual nose picking and repetitive blowing of the nose can open the surface of the smaller vessels causing them to bleed. People with chronic allergies or those who use allergy medicine and nose sprays are also at higher risk of bleeding from the nose.

A deviation of the nasal septum – say from a broken nose – increases the likelihood of nosebleeds. This ‘crumple’ in the septum makes one side of the septum jut out into the nostril causing the septum on that side to quickly dry out during normal breathing. This can then lead to more frequent nosebleeds.

Minor causes of nosebleeds can be helped by using a humidifier to increase the humidity in the air. Applying Vaseline, A and D ointment or Polysporin to the septum with a cotton swab and stopping nose picking, will also prevent many nosebleeds.

To stop a simple nosebleed: lean your head forward. Pinch the soft parts of the nose and hold for five minutes without letting up. Apply ice afterwards to your nose and cheeks. Do not stuff cotton or tissue into the nostrils as this may dislodge a clot and bleeding may start again. If bleeding does not stop using this technique, go through the steps again. If it continues after two tries, and bleeding is significant, go to the emergency room. Do not lean your head back and allow blood to go towards your throat! This may mean you need to sleep with your head elevated until the episode is over.

Some nosebleeds are indicators of a more serious problem. Patients who take blood thinners, or aspirin to prevent heart disease, are much more prone to have bleeding (and bruising of their skin). Patients who use anti-inflammatory drugs like Advil and Naprosyn on a regular basis for arthritis, premenstrual syndrome or other aches and pains can have an increased potential for bleeding. Those with undiagnosed blood disorders such as low platelet count, bleeding disorders, leukemia and various other rare conditions can manifest first with nosebleeds. Often bruising is present in these patients as well. Snorting cocaine or other drugs can result in frequent nosebleeds.

You should you consider calling your doctor or going to the emergency room for a nosebleed if:

- there is a large amount of blood, or the bleeding is recurring and you cannot get it to stop.
- you are feeling faint, weak and light headed, especially when you stand- this may indicate a significant amount of blood loss.
- you have other signs of bruising or bleeding elsewhere along with the nosebleed.

In the emergency room, the doctor may take a blood sample to look for significant causes, place a nasal pack in your nose, or cauterize the blood vessels in the septum.

Most nosebleeds are minor and do not mean you have a serious disease. Use the simple advice above, and call your doctor if you have more questions.

## techtalk *Making Good Use of Your New Toys*

by Susan Gilbert

‘Tis the season to learn how to operate all those new gadgets! It’s likely you received some, given a Google search reported 20 of the top 20 Christmas gifts this year are all technology-based. Apple Watch, Amazon Echo Dot, Cozmo, Fire TV Stick, all sorts of activity trackers, drones, and game systems to name just a few from the list.

All too many of these devices are doomed to what is known as the “Kitchen Drawer” destiny. This occurs when a device is opened and used for a few days, or even a few months, but is then relegated to the back of a kitchen drawer where it will remain for many years or until the owner moves because it was too expensive to ever be thrown away.



If you are a regular reader of this column, you might remember a previous article where I shared another term for this phenomena: “ESO,” which stands for Equipment Superior to Operator. That is the problem that causes customers to return devices to the store complaining they don’t work when all that was not working was the user’s ability to figure out how to work them.

If one or more gadget or gizmo has found its way into your home, you might benefit from these tips on getting value from them.

1. Read the user manual or whatever information comes with them.
2. Go online to the product’s website. You may find useful videos and frequently asked questions and reviews there that will help you through the rough part of getting comfortable with the new technology.
3. Talk to others who have the same or similar product. They can provide personal instruction on usage.
4. Begin using the new gift right away before the instructions are lost or essential peripherals are disassociated from the main device.
5. Label a suitable-sized zip lock bag with the product’s name and enclose all those adapters and connections along with the instructions. Put it in a drawer so you can locate all the parts and pieces that otherwise disappear over time.
6. And most important of all: Put a flap of tape on the charger-cable and write the name of the device it charges on the tape. That way, there is some hope that you will be able to locate the correct charger when it is needed.

Wishing you much enjoyment and entertainment with your new toys!

### DeKalb County Achieves ‘Functional Zero’ for Veteran Homelessness

This milestone means all homeless veterans can receive fast access to housing and services. The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, Department of Housing and Urban Development and Department of Veterans’ Affairs have confirmed that DeKalb County has developed and implemented the infrastructure and systems to ensure veterans experiencing homelessness can receive quick access to services and housing. The benchmark is called “Functional Zero” and means that any homeless veteran who will accept housing will receive it. DeKalb is the first jurisdiction in Georgia to achieve the Functional Zero status.

To reach Functional Zero, DeKalb met the following benchmarks:

- Chronically homeless veterans who are willing to accept permanent housing intervention are offered and enter permanent housing. Veterans who choose transitional housing or refuse to enter housing when offered are not included.
- Veterans have quick access to permanent housing. The average number of days to permanently house veterans who were willing to accept housing is 90 days or less.
- The community has sufficient permanent-housing capacity. The number of veterans exiting homelessness to permanent housing is greater than the number of newly identified veterans.
- The community is committed to the Housing First model and provides transitional housing in limited instances

Excerpt from Nancy Jester Newsletter

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

By Aviva Hoffmann

The Recipe for Democracy Here at Home

More than a century ago, European politician and author, Otto Von Bismarck is credited with saying, "Laws are like sausages. It is better not to see them being made." Many of us agree with that clever statement, but sometimes the law-making meetings contain an interesting amount of spice!

In DeKalb County (population > 700,000), the Board of Commissioners (BOC) serves as the legislative branch of our county government. The BOC is comprised of seven part-time commissioners, each elected to a four-year term. DeKalb County is divided into five districts with one commissioner serving each district. There are also two "super districts," served by one commissioner each. One of them represents the west section of the county - running north to south and the other super district commissioner represents the east section of the county - running north to south. Therefore, every citizen of DeKalb County is served by two commissioners, one within the district and one within the super district.

Most of us in the Smoke Rise area are served by either Commissioner Nancy Jester (District 1) or newly elected Commissioner Steve Bradshaw (District 4) in addition to newly elected Commissioner Gregory Adams (Super District 7). Everyone in DeKalb County is also represented by the county's Chief Executive Officer, newly elected Michael Thurmond (CEO).

The commission has the power and authority to fix and establish policies, rules and regulations governing all matters reserved to its jurisdiction by the DeKalb County Organizational Act. Meetings discussing the regular business of the county are typically held on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month and begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Maloof Auditorium at 1300 Commerce Drive in Decatur, unless otherwise noted.

And guess what! All regular Board meetings are open to the public. That means you have a regular, open invitation to witness ordinances in action (or the making of sausages in DeKalb County)! Additionally, public hearings, where members of the public are invited to speak directly to the BOC, are held during the regular BOC meetings.

If you can not attend a regular Board meeting in person, they are also televised live on DCTV, Channel 23 (Comcast Basic Cable service in DeKalb County. The DCTV broadcast is also available on the Internet. You will find DCTV's homepage at: <http://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/dctv/welcome-dctv>. Look for the "DCTV Channel 23 Live Stream" link. Online visitors can also view DeKalb County's archived programming through the "Video on Demand" link. Commissioners also hold public committee meetings. There are currently five standing committees. These committee meetings are also available live on Ustream (via a link on the DCTV site).

In Smoke Rise, we also have representatives through the newly incorporated City of Tucker. GA. HB515 was passed by the House and Senate on April 2, 2015 and signed by Gov. Deal on May 12, 2015. HB515 called for a referendum to be held on Nov. 3, 2015 that allowed Tucker citizens within the map boundaries to have the right to vote on incorporating a City of Tucker. The Nov. referendum passed with nearly 74% of voters in favor of incorporating. As you likely recall, Tucker residents elected the city's first mayor and city council in March 2016.

DeKalb County Government still provides many of our services, however, the City of Tucker currently oversees Planning, Land Use and Zoning (which includes Permitting and Licensing), Parks and Recreation, and Code Enforcement.

Learn more about the City of Tucker and find contact information for our elected officials at <http://tuckerga.gov>. Also you can reach Tucker City Hall by phone: (678) 597-9040.

City of Tucker Elected Officials:

- FRANK AUMAN – Mayor of Tucker
- HONEY VAN DE KREKE – Council Member, District 1 - Post 1
- WILLIAM (BILL) ROSENFELD– Council Member, District 1 - Post 2
- MATT ROBBINS– Council Member, District 2 - Post 1
- NOELLE MONFERDINI– Council Member, District 2 - Post 2
- MICHELLE PENKAVA – Council Member, District 3 - Post 1
- ANNE LERNER – Council Member, District 3 - Post 2

MOVING ON.....

by Renee Hopf

Denny and I have moved to a retirement community very near to our neighborhood in Smoke Rise. We made our decision to make the move on our last birthday (we were born 8 days apart in 1941....You can figure our age out....you are all younger than us and won't be packing up any time soon!) It was hard to leave our very comfortable neighborhood and friends but we are close by. It was especially difficult to leave our garden, our birds and surrounding moss and trees. It wasn't long, however, before we realized that we weren't going to have to miss the bird life that was present in our Millstone area. When we first moved to Millstone I had joined the Morning Glories Garden Club and through our friendship with Frances Sawyer we found a wonderful and fulfilling project. The club worked with Mike Lawrence, the Superintendent of Grounds at the Smoke Rise Country Club, to help save the delicate blue birds from extinction. The Morning Glories provided 15 blue bird houses to enhance the number of this beautiful bird by providing the housing and access to food in the wide-open golf course environment that they prefer. That happened slowly but surely. As the population grew on the golf course the blue birds filtered out to your yards, as you put up boxes and enjoyed watching the population grow. All of us should feel very proud of that accomplishment.

I was afraid that I might miss all of these blue feathers by moving, but it's not a problem. The blue birds have, of course, migrated here as well. We have also seen many finches, cardinals, chickadees and even turkeys and an occasional heron...just like Smoke Rise! Plus, we have been amazed at the variety of hawks that we are hearing and then seeing. The most popular in our area is the red-shouldered hawk. That is because they rarely migrate. Look for them in your neighborhoods. Their heads, shoulders, chest and bellies are of a cinnamon hue. They build their nests here in February - their young leave next June and they are a very vocal hawk with a distinct siren! They dine on small rodents, reptiles, amphibians, large insects and birds. We have a small lake where we are now living - so the reptiles and amphibians are much more available.

In trying to figure out why the small birds are so abundant, we became aware that our new smaller, cluster neighborhoods are often trimmed with hedges - thick hedges. It actually became obvious just by watching the number of small birds that would disappear into these "thickets" escaping from other birds or animals, keeping warm, and finding insect foods or seeds. Aha! I never gave those ordinary hedge landscapes any credit for being so supportive of birds. Live and learn!! (And more time to do so by downsizing!!)

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### Morning Glories Spread Christmas Cheer

December's damp chill did not discourage the multitude of Morning Glories who made their way to the Pittard North Pole to celebrate Christmas! Marsha welcomed the group and everyone enjoyed a delicious holiday brunch contributed by Gloria Cooke, Julianne Goecke, Cookie Roland, Gwen Seeliger and head co-hostess, Joy Zaidan.

A brief business meeting was called to order by President Glendolyn Hallman. Each year the Morning Glories provide Garden Therapy to various organizations and charities. This year the contributions were designated to go to the local Battered Women's Shelter. Each garden club member brought



Hostesses from left to right: Julianne Goecke, Marsha Pittard, Joy Zaidan and Cookie Roland

unwrapped toys for children of all ages to be distributed to those children who are currently in the shelter. There were also Walmart gift cards for each of the mothers, tucked into little red stockings. The gifts were distributed

that afternoon to a local church and then taken to the shelter to be selected and then wrapped for Christmas Day. The club will continue to support this group with other activities later next spring. Judi Crutchfield won the raffle this time around... a lovely garden art ceramic piece that she will enjoy in her wooded garden retreat.

One more surprise awaited the guests for this year's event. Santa Claus made a special appearance and greeted each Morning Glories member in turn and surprised them with a wonderful pair of garden gloves! The perfect gift for all gardeners that will certainly be put to use in the coming days as we put our perennial beds to sleep for the winter to come.

We wish you all a healthy, prosperous and happy 2017!

### Mountain Mums Play Naughty in December

The Mountain Mums Garden Club had their annual Christmas luncheon on December 14 at the Smoke Rise Country Club. They welcomed a new member, Rene Boven. After the luncheon, the Mountain Mums had their annual 'dirty Santa' gift exchange. To protect the guilty, names of the naughty will be withheld.

The next meeting will be held at 9:45 a.m. on Wednesday, January 11, at the home of Cheri Schneider.

The program topic will be "Legends in the Garden: Who in the World is Nellie Stephens?" featuring gardening author Linda Copeland.

Later in the month, the Mountain Mums will be sponsoring the 6th Annual Walk to Remember. We will be meeting in the upper parking lot of Smoke Rise Baptist Church on January 21 at 9:30 a.m. Donations for scholarships to Taggart's School of Driving will be accepted. We will again be planting over 200 red tulips near Smoke Rise Elementary School as we walk. Bring your family, kids and dogs!

Please consider joining us as a club member. Email Carol Wales at cawale@hotmail.com for more information on becoming a part of our fun and active garden club!



### Smoke Rise Garden Club

Denise Finley organized our December meeting at the 1910 Public House in Lilburn. It was a pleasant evening with a surprise birthday cake for Dan Morton celebrating his 90th birthday that day.

We are very glad to welcome new member, Gloria DeAndrade and her husband, Charles. They have made their home in Smoke Rise.



L-R Edith Morton Charles DeAndrade, Gloria DeAndrade, and Dan Morton.

Our club meets the first Monday of the month unless otherwise noted.

Our club is a member of the DeKalb Federation of Garden clubs. Their location is in the grand old Callanwolde estate. Every third Thursday excellent programs are presented for the seasoned gardener as well as the gardener just starting out.

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

### Learn about Rain Gardens on January 9 at Mountain Shadow Garden Club

The January 9 meeting of Mountain Shadow Garden Club (MSGC) will feature a program called "Rain Gardens", presented by Master Gardener Kate Pittman, a Lilburn area resident.

Rain gardens can help solve drainage issues in lawn areas and provide attractive planting areas as part a practical solution. With proper design, they filter rain run-off water and provide small environmental areas attractive to birds and butterflies. Adequate soil preparation and possible use of stones and other landscape materials are often part of the design.

Plants adapted to rain gardens include native grasses, sedges, and rushes in part of the area. Plants that grow around the margin or edge of the rain garden might include canna, cardinal flower, Siberian iris, obedient plant, and several others. The speaker will use a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate guidelines for building and maintaining rain gardens. Even small areas in the home landscape can be adapted for this purpose.

Ms. Pittman has a degree in Geology from the University of Georgia and a degree in Geological Engineering. Now retired, her career included serving as Superintendent of a working mine and later as a consultant on environmental regulatory compliance and nuclear waste repository design. In recent years she has taught both Environmental Science and Geology at the Gwinnett campus of Georgia Perimeter College. She has been a volunteer with the Gwinnett County Master Gardener Program for more than 11 years and has completed Master Composter training.

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 or directions, contact club president Jeff Raines at (404) 641-8633. www.facebook.com/MtShadowGarden Club.



Kate Pittman

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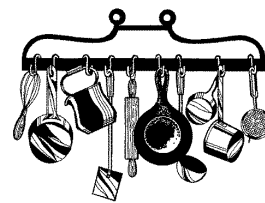


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# HODGE PODGE



By Jenny Hall

*I normally love a challenge and this New Year I am determined even more than usual to get things done no matter what. This means that recipes that fail are just going to have to work or I'll die trying. I will buy the ingredients five times over until I make that stupid recipe work even if it ends up being a slightly different recipe. Grrr. I found an old brand name recipe booklet and tried a cookie that was, amazingly, gluten free. (Back then everyone thought gluten was just Hansel's sister.) The recipe was easy but directions said to put the cookies on ungreased foil, and to cool completely before peeling foil off the cookies. Disaster. I ended up with a sheet of cookie glop welded to indestructible foil. I tried parchment paper and that worked well, but it rolled up on the edges and encapsulated a few cookies. My silicon baking mat was the best solution of all. Cookies came right off! I ate a lot of both raw cookie dough and much of the scraped-off goo from the foil so you know I really liked these enough to share. Crispy yet chewy, they are really tasty.*

## Chocolate Walnut Peanut Butter Cookies

Preheat oven to 325° and cover cookie sheet with either parchment paper, creased so it won't roll up, or a silicone baking mat. Make 12 cookies per sheet, spaced 2" apart.

Mix 1/2 cup undiluted evaporated milk (not condensed), 1 cup sugar and 1/2 cup peanut butter. I put the milk in a deep bowl, creamed in the sugar and then added peanut butter. Once combined, dump in 1 cup chocolate chips and 1 cup chopped walnuts. One teaspoon per cookie, and spread it a little with your finger. They will grow outward to about 3 inches across. Bake 17 minutes and rotate cookie sheet. Bake another minute or two until they are a deep golden brown, maybe even a few bubbles around the edges. Cool completely and place on wire rack. These are crisp with a slight chew. Store tightly sealed.

I got about 3 dozen and discovered that I like them a little more on the done side so they caramelize. I ate a lot of the batter and there is no egg and no flour. And they work. I'm amazed but grateful!

*Another recipe that you can't actually make anymore is the cranberry biscotti made from the quick bread mix. I made them years ago and they were great. Problem is that you can't find quick bread mixes much anymore. All I could find was banana and that would make, in my view, a dismal biscotti. So I decided to try the recipe with Krusteze® Cranberry Orange muffin mix. And it worked with modifications. Here goes my version which makes a lot but they freeze beautifully.*

## Cranberry Biscotti

- 1 box Krusteze® Cranberry Orange muffin mix
- 2 eggs
- 1 stick soft butter
- 5 tablespoons plain flour plus extra
- 1/2 cup white chocolate chips, or chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350° and have a slightly greased cookie sheet ready. Combine dry muffin mix with eggs, butter and the can of cranberries in the box. I didn't drain them. It's wet, so now you add in that 5 tablespoons flour. Add chocolate chips. It's still wet. Decide you made a big mistake listening to me. OK, make two mounds on the cookie sheet, crosswise, not lengthwise. They should be about 10 x 4 inches. Try your best, flouring hands a lot. Bake these two blobs for about 30 minutes until they are firm to touch. (They do spread some so make sure you have space between the two blobs.) Cool on cookie sheet for 15 minutes or so and, using a serrated knife, cut crosswise into biscotti fingers. Just lay them down on the same sheet as you slice them. Bake cut side down in oven, temperature lowered to 325°, for about 15 minutes. Flip them over and bake another 10-15 minutes until they are just a bit golden and firm. These freeze well and you can even remake them to make them crisper if you want to. You get to determine how crispy or chewy you want them. Fantastic dipped in your morning coffee!

*And for a recipe that actually never fails, perfect with soup or chili, remember to make these cheese wafers from an old recipe.*

## Crispy Cheese Wafers

Mix 2 sticks butter with 8 ounces (2 cups) grated sharp cheddar. Do this in processor. Add 2 cups plain flour, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon cayenne. Whirl around until combined. Add 2 cups crispy rice cereal by hand. Roll into 1 inch balls, then flatten them with the back of a fork. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet at 350° for 18-20 minutes or until just golden on the bottom. I use insulated cookie sheets and the baking takes a bit longer with them. Original recipe said to bake 12 minutes, but mine were nowhere done by then. Recipe makes about 60 but you can make them larger. Freeze and reheat later on for that chili you're going to make.

**ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:** Starting immediately, all inquiries regarding advertising should be directed to the following: Classified and display ads: Barb Hess at barbhess48@gmail.com. Flyers: Barbara Luton at barluton@aol.com.

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

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## Nelda Lunsford Honored as Clubwoman of the Year

Rarely is she at a loss for words, but when Nelda Lunsford was announced as the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club Clubwoman of the Year for 2016, she was truly surprised and speechless. An additional surprise was the appearance of her husband, Ron, who was in on the award selection and was waiting in the hallway of the Smoke Rise Country Club. Since Nelda seemed at a loss for words, Ron said he could tell the group a few things about his busy volunteer wife.



Nelda serves as the Co-Chairman of the Art Community Service Program for the Stone Mountain Woman's Club. As a result, she has spent numerous hours of time volunteering for projects at ART Station in Stone Mountain. These have included helping to host the Plein Air Paint Out in Stone Mountain, helping to prepare "boo boxes" and numerous other items to be sold at the Gift Shop of the Tour of Southern Ghosts, coordinating refreshments for art exhibits and Art Strolls sponsored by ART Station. She and her co-chairman, Miriam Boone, have also arranged art related activities for members of the Woman's Club, including a trip to Saint Luke's United Methodist Church to see their historic stained glass windows which depict the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Nelda and her husband, Ron, shared their lovely home several years ago for the Club's Homes for the Holidays Christmas Home Tour, and most recently, Nelda hosted a summer party at their home where club members enjoyed an indoor picnic with hamburgers, hotdogs and all the trimmings, with ice cream sundaes for dessert.

Nelda's volunteer activities are numerous. Most recently she decorated the tables in the Family Life Center of the Stone Mountain UMC for the luncheon that was served during the Homes for the Holidays Christmas Home Tour.

Congratulations to Nelda Lunsford, the 2016 GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club Clubwoman of the year.