



# INTUCKER

FEBRUARY 2020 | VOLUME 4 | ISSUE 2



## COURT IS IN SESSION

TUCKER TAKES A BIG STEP IN HOSTING  
ITS FIRST MUNICIPAL COURT DATES



## EDITOR'S NOTE



Our chief mission at *InTucker* is to help create more educated citizens by connecting with them and letting them

know what is happening in their city. I hope you'll find this February issue does just that.

On page 3, Mayor Auman details some big changes for Tucker's government, both from a personnel standpoint and from an infrastructure standpoint. We are almost four years into being an incorporated city and these changes happening over the next few months are among the biggest we have undertaken.

Our cover story (page 6) looks at Tucker's court system. We have held municipal court dates for about two years now, but we are just now hosting our first court dates here in Tucker. We're going to pull back the curtain a bit to explain to you how we've run court in the past and how our new way should be easier for those involved and more cost-effective for the City.

Finally, on page 10, we were excited to get a sit-down interview with Tucker's representative on the DeKalb County Board of Education, Allyson Gevertz. The School Board's work is always important, but with new construction on Smoke Rise Elementary, the ongoing search for a superintendent and talk of school redistricting, we thought it was a great time to catch up and get answers straight from one of the people who is charged with making these decisions.

It's February, the month we celebrate Valentine's Day. Here's hoping you'll love all the great information you're getting in this month's issue!

**MATT HOLMES**  
INTUCKER EDITOR

## IN THIS ISSUE



### From the Cover

Tucker's court services are on the move. On page 6, find out what it means for those involved in the court system and why residents of all stripes should take notice.



### Looking to the Future

Allyson Gevertz is only in her second year representing Tucker on the DeKalb County Board of Education, but as you'll see on page 10, she's already got some big decisions on her plate.



### On the Beat

There's no replacement for good old fashioned police work, but find out on page 5 how the Tucker Precinct police are now incorporating technology to give them a leg up on the bad guys.



### Business Boom

There's new business development happening all the time in Tucker. But as John McHenry explains on page 9, the newest entry onto the Tucker biz scene will have a long-term impact on food service in the City of Tucker.



### Ask Rip

With the new year in full swing, the list of offerings at Tucker Recreation Center keeps on growing. On page 15, our Parks and Recreation Director looks at some of the sporting options you may not know about.



# INTUCKER

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# From the Mayor

We're already a month into the new year. Can you believe that? As I reflect on these early years of cityhood, I'm having a difficult time remembering a year that has gotten off to as busy a start as we've seen here in Tucker in 2020.

For example, this past month we moved our court services from their temporary home in the City of Clarkston to a new venue right here in Tucker. You'll read more about it on page 10, but what you need to know is that this is a move that is easier on our residents, more efficient for our staff, and serves as another step forward in our growth as a city.

We also made a huge decision to bring our Parks and Recreation Department under the umbrella of the City.

"Wait," you say, "Tucker has had Parks and Recreation for a couple of years now."

While that's true, our Parks and Recreation staff was provided these past two years through our contract with Jacobs. That public-private partnership model isn't changing; we are thrilled to continue working with Jacobs in the areas of Planning and Zoning, Code Enforcement, Communications and Engineering. What will change is that we will now run our own programming at the Tucker

Recreation Center with our own in-house staff supervising children's programming. You'll likely see the biggest difference in our revamped Summer Camp starting on June 1.

We're also underway with a big sidewalks project downtown, and our first segment of the Path and Trails program to provide walkable connectivity between our schools, parks, churches, neighborhoods and downtown. And, we have several new high-visibility residential and commercial developments that will break ground soon.

Lastly, because when you're the Mayor they let you brag a little bit, this year got off to a big start on a personal level. Gaye and I welcomed our second granddaughter, Virginia, to the family. We could not be more proud or humbled. I'll warn you, if you see either of us around town, be ready to see baby pictures. Because when you're a grandparent they also let you brag a little bit.

We knew 2020 was going to be a big year for Tucker and, I promise, there's much more in the months ahead!

**FRANK AUMAN**  
MAYOR

# City Council Update



Tucker's Mayor and City Council met twice in the month of January, kicking off the new year with a number of legislative issues.

At the first meeting on January 14, they approved a rezoning and concurrent variances for a 63 home development set on approximately 22 acres at the intersection of Midvale and Lavista Roads. They then held public hearings on special land use permit (SLUP) petitions for a pair of personal care homes. Both petitions, one at 2722 Regal Way and the other at 5002 Chamblee Tucker Road, were approved.

Earlier in the meeting, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Michelle Penkava as Mayor Pro Tem. They also voted to support Mayor Auman's appointments to the new the City's new Public Facilities Authority. The Authority members will be:

- Terry Grandison (three-year term)
- Bill Kaduck (two-year term)
- Davis Stewart (one-year term)
- Shawn Stone (two-year term)
- Josh Wallace (three-year term)

Before the meeting, recently re-elected representatives from each of the Council districts were sworn in. Bill Rosenfeld (District One), Noelle Monferdini (District Two) and Anne Lerner (District Three) took the oath of office for terms that will run through the end of 2023.

At the meeting on January 27, Council unanimously approved an ordinance to amend the City Charter. The change will allow the City Manager more time to present a draft of the City budget to the Mayor and Council. It would also give the Mayor and Council more time before ultimately having to approve the budget. Both changes will allow for more accurate financial forecasting. They then held a public hearing on a pair of SLUPs for the redevelopment of an existing gas station at the intersection of Northlake Parkway and Lavista Road. The project, which required special permits for alcohol sales and fuel sales, was approved by Council.

There were a pair of first reads and public hearings regarding issues to be voted on at an upcoming meeting. The first dealt with a mid-year amendment to the Fiscal Year '20 budget. The amendment was necessitated by higher than anticipated revenues that need to be allocated. The second was for a rezoning and concurrent variances for a 13.99-acre development at the intersection of Hugh Howell Road and Mountain Industrial Boulevard. Plans call for 99,000 square feet of commercial space, if the plan is approved.

The next meeting of the Mayor and City Council will take place on February 10 at 7 p.m. at the City Hall Annex.

## DATES TO KNOW

**February 10**  
City Council

**February 17**  
All City buildings closed  
(Presidents' Day)

**February 18**  
Zoning Board of Appeals

**February 19**  
Municipal Court

**February 24**  
City Council

**February 26**  
Municipal Court

**February 27**  
Planning Commission

# TUCKER SOCIAL



 **Nextdoor**



# ON THE BEAT *with Lt. Schoeppner*



*Lt. D.G. Schoeppner is Tucker's liaison to the DeKalb County Police Department and can be followed at [facebook.com/dgschoeppner](https://facebook.com/dgschoeppner) or emailed at [dgschoeppner@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:dgschoeppner@dekalbcountyga.gov)*

It's not really news that in the last several years police have had a challenging time with staffing levels. In this day and age, when we are expected to do more with less, we are continuously looking for ways to make technology pick up the slack. Two of the tools which are coming into prominence are tag reading cameras and "Ring" doorbell cameras. Even though both of these are based on video, they work in somewhat different ways. This month I'm going to explain how we use these tools to catch criminals who may be preying on you or your neighbors.

Tag reading cameras are typically mounted on poles along the roadway. They are motion activated and ideally take a snapshot of every car that passes by. The most obvious use for this would be to detect stolen cars. Since October, when the DeKalb County Police Department signed its agreement to access the "FLOCK" system, Tucker Precinct has recovered 13 stolen vehicles. However, this is only a portion of the use that these cameras provide. If our detectives are able to get a vehicle description and we know that vehicle likely passed a tag reading camera, we can search for that vehicle type on the date and time of the incident. If we find a match, we can then follow that lead to develop a suspect. This means that the cameras can be useful to us in investigating a wide range of crimes, not just stolen vehicles.

"Ring" cameras typically mount in place of a doorbell ringer on your front door. The common use for these cameras is to give the owner a real time video and audio feed of anyone at their front door.

The cameras are also motion activated and record anyone that approaches near it. These videos tend to be useful in burglary and entering auto cases. This technology is so useful, in fact, that back in December, DeKalb Police finalized a partnership with "Ring" for us to access their system.

I can already hear many of you saying, "Lt. Schoeppner, I don't want the police to be able to snoop through my Ring camera!" For the folks concerned about that, I have good news: that is not the way the system works. In order for us to access a "Ring" video, it first needs to be uploaded by the owner of the device. Every day our investigative aide looks in the system for new videos. She will even send you a message saying that she has gotten it. If this matches any of the crimes we are investigating, she will send it over to the appropriate detective for them to look at. Neither of these tools is a silver bullet. Both require some level of police work to make them useful. However, when there always seems to be more criminals than police, every little bit helps.

## DKPD IS HIRING

Are you or someone you know looking for a career that really gives back? Consider joining the DeKalb County Police Department!

Enjoy full benefits, competitive pay and state-of-the-art training programs!

**Call (770) 724-7445 today!**

# COURTING PROGRESS

## CODE PROCESS STREAMLINED AS COURT OPENS IN TUCKER

One of the initial services Tucker took on from DeKalb County when it incorporated as a city in 2016 was Code Enforcement. The Code Enforcement process is quite simple: if you are in violation of, for example, the ordinance pertaining to grass height, you receive a notice of violation from a Code Enforcement officer. That notice of violation allows you ample time to come into compliance (i.e. cut your grass) and not face any legal or financial penalties. The majority of Code Enforcement notices of violation in the City of Tucker have this outcome. It represents a win for the City, the neighbors and that resident who was not punished.

But what happens if that person chooses not to come into compliance? This happens occasionally with overgrown lawns, unpermitted work, dilapidated buildings and other issues that violate the City Code. At that point, the resident would be issued a citation from the Code Enforcement officer and they would have to go to court to present their case before a judge.

As a brand-new city, Tucker opted not to construct a courthouse on Day One of cityhood. Realizing that would be a costly and complicated endeavor, city leaders instead turned to their neighbors in Clarkston with a proposal to share that city's courthouse. Those conversations resulted in an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) where Tucker paid Clarkston for use of its courtroom and initially their staff on a monthly then bimonthly basis.

One of the big changes happening in 2020 is that Tucker is now housing its own court dates. The third and fourth Wednesdays of each month will see cases adjudicated here in Tucker, a move that has a significant impact on several groups of people.

### DEFENDANTS

Holding court in Clarkston was difficult for defendants. Aside from the confusion of going to a different city for things that happened here in Tucker, they would often have to drive back to Tucker to pay a court fine, rather than paying the fine right there at the court.

No longer. Payments will be made outside the courtroom at a secure window staffed by members of Team Tucker. Defendants and their attorneys will have nicer dedicated spaces to meet and talk with the City Solicitor at or before trial. There is also ample onsite parking for those attending court sessions.

### STAFF

Tucker's City Clerk and Court staff bore the brunt of holding court in a different city. For two and a half years they carted files and materials from their offices here in Tucker all the way to Clarkston to set up what was essentially a temporary workspace twice a month.

This new move will allow staff members to save the time and effort of moving everything around. Court sessions will be held at the City Hall Annex (4228 First Avenue), where City Council meetings are also conducted. Staff members have offices onsite and the solicitors and judges will have dedicated space to work before, during or after those court sessions.

### FINANCES

It has been well-documented that the Code Enforcement process loses money for the City of Tucker. That's right, in terms of pure dollars and cents, the City loses money on Code Enforcement. That's largely because the process is not

meant to be punitive, but to bring violators into compliance without penalty.

In reality, it has a positive impact on property values and the overall appearance of the City, meaning the net value of the Code Enforcement process makes it worthwhile.

But on the topic of dollars and cents, one of the ways the process has lost money to this point is through holding court in someone else's building. Under that IGA, Tucker was paying \$2,400 per month for the use of Clarkston's courtroom. By holding court sessions here in Tucker, the City will be moving to a facility where they are already paying rent, thus making the process a little less costly to the City's bottom line.

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It is important to note that this court move has no impact on where you show up for traffic tickets. Tucker has dates for environmental court (Code Enforcement offenses) and offenses court (lesser legal charges like public intoxication or citation for being in a park after hours). But, for now, if you receive a traffic ticket in the City of Tucker or are charged with a felony offense, you will still go through the County to resolve it.







## BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

# TUCKER MEAT MARKET



Tucker is known for many things: a charming Main Street, the railroad, the friendliest people in Georgia. But have you ever stopped to think about the fact that Tucker has some serious bragging rights when it comes to hamburgers?

For almost a decade, Local 7 has been delighting customers with their burger selection. Then came Village Burger with an array of beef, turkey and veggie patties. And, of course, there are the classic chain options of McDonald's, Burger King, Cookout and Five Guys. But for five years, Tucker burger lovers have journeyed off the beaten path for something a bit different, a burger from Tucker Meat Market.

"In addition to being an old neighborhood butcher with quality fresh meats, we also offer prepared foods like our famous, handcrafted Mammoth Burger and made-from-scratch Buffalo chicken dip," said Tucker Meat Market owner Andrea Woolf.

Woolf presides over a menu that, while focused primarily on burgers, is incredibly diverse. Take, for instance, her Bacon Overload burger, which is a half-pound of bacon-infused ground beef topped with bacon-infused cheddar cheese and four strips of, you guessed it, thick cut bacon.

"I make what I like to eat," Woolf explained.

Woolf really lets her creativity flow each summer at the World Food Championships. She finished 10th place in 2018 with an entry that included her Mammoth Burger. Last year, she couldn't match the 10th place finish, but Woolf still wowed the crowd with her Cowboy Burger.

Woolf says her operation is more than burgers, though. She runs a full-service butcher shop with everything from deli meats and cheeses to ribs and cuts of steak. They are also active on social media, letting customers know about specials like homemade chicken and dumplings or chili.

Tucker Meat Market is located at 2187 Brockett Road. You can find them online at [facebook.com/TuckerMeatMarket](https://www.facebook.com/TuckerMeatMarket).



# BUSINESS BOOM

by John McHenry, Community and Economic Development Director



The City of Tucker will soon see a range of new cooking and restaurant options as cuisine returns to the Lakeside Center complex off Northlake Parkway.

PREP Atlanta, which provides dedicated commercial kitchens to expanding restaurants, food producers, and food trucks, has acquired over 60,000 SF of space at this location. They are proud to announce that one of the first new tenants will be the Shular Institute, which can take advantage of a space already built out for catering. This community-based school will offer a range of food service, cooking, a workforce development program, advanced culinary diploma classes, as well as a restaurant that will be staffed by the students and industry professionals.

Sean Rush is the Director of Operations and comes to the project with plenty of experience. He previously worked at the Le Cordon Bleu Institute and says he's excited about returning to the community in a new capacity, rolling out a new restaurant that will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

"We are very familiar with the Tucker market and its continued rise as a destination," Rush said. "We believe that our restaurant offering will be a most welcome addition as it will have a high level of fine cuisine while still at an affordable price."

Chef Daryl Shular, who served as Executive Chef at the Atlanta Athletic Club and is a Certified Master Chef, will be overseeing the restaurant and the professional development and education programs. The restaurant is slated for opening this summer.

For PREP Atlanta owner Mitch Jaffe, this is just the start of creating more opportunities for culinary entrepreneurs and building on the success of PREP's 200 Member-Businesses at the Presidential Parkway location, including popular eateries Little Farmhouse Café, Let's Taco Bout It, Meatballerz and South of Philly.

"Tucker is on the rise," Jaffe said. "It can't be ignored and we want to be a part of that story by providing for increased entrepreneurial activity and, just as importantly, great food."

Look for PREP Atlanta, the Shular Institute and that new restaurant option to open later this year.

Keep tabs on the Tucker business scene at [tuckerga.gov/biz](http://tuckerga.gov/biz)



# STATE OF EDUCATION

## ONE-ON-ONE WITH TUCKER'S SCHOOL BOARD REP



*Allyson Gevertz is one of seven elected representatives on the DeKalb County Board of Education. Elected in 2018 to represent DeKalb's District 4, Gevertz represents an area that includes the Tucker Cluster. The longtime education advocate sat down with InTucker last month to talk about her path to serving on the Board, as well as her long-term priorities and the highly anticipated hiring of a new school superintendent.*

**InTucker:** How has the transition been going from a volunteer involved in education to an elected representative whose job is education?

**Allyson Gevertz:** It's been a very steep learning curve. I attended Board of Education meetings off and on [for] probably 10 years. So, I did have a decent feel for what happens at board meetings, what they talk about, what's important, what the priorities are [and the] strategic plan and all of that.

What I did not know was everything that goes on behind the scenes that we don't see as just public observers. So, it's been quite a learning experience this first year, but I do feel like I have a better grasp the second year. It took a year to sort of

feel like I got my legs under me and now I think I'm going to be okay.

**InTucker:** How many emails do you get from constituents?

**AG:** That's the thing...it varies dramatically. So there will be weeks that go by where, I probably get no calls and maybe just get a handful...two-to-five emails on something. Then when something like redistricting happens, I mean, there could be one day where [there] might be 30-50 in a day. So, it just varies. There's really no rhyme or reason to it than just what the hot topics are.

**InTucker:** What kind of background makes someone a successful school board member? Where does that expertise come from?

**AG:** I think part of what makes the Board function in a more comprehensive way is that everybody sort of came to their positions in a different way.

I was a school psychologist for Gwinnett County Public Schools for several years. So, that's unique in that I've spent a lot of time in public schools and then I also raised kids and I'm still raising kids in DeKalb County Public Schools. So, I do think it's helpful to have that experience as a parent and a lot of people on the DeKalb board has at some point had a student in the DeKalb School District.

**InTucker:** Tell us about your connection to Tucker.

**AG:** I did spend a lot of years as an education advocate in leadership roles, which actually introduced me to Tucker in a different way. I had been at Tucker Rec actually multiple times when my kids were little, for programs in Tucker and had gone to events in Downtown Tucker and we certainly were aware and engaged in Tucker. In my education advocacy, I was involved with at the time the Tucker Parent Council and I was co-president of the Emory LaVista Parent Council and we worked together a lot. So, I was in Tucker schools in that capacity.

The way I came to it gave me a sort of depth to my understanding of education issues locally, so everybody comes at it in different ways.

**InTucker:** Why are the emergence of the so-called Cluster Councils such a benefit?

**AG:** It's been fantastic. Clusters historically did not have a lot of communication vertically. So, the elementary schools



didn't necessarily know what the middle school was doing or what the high school was doing and vice versa. So, just for communication purposes, it's nice to have leaders from the whole vertical alignment in one room so everybody knows what's going on.

What's come from it in these cluster models is a prioritization of advocacy. The Lakeside and Tucker Clusters both did a SWOT analysis and it was a cluster-wide SWOT analysis and made some prioritizations based on that. The [best] example, which is a true example in both clusters, is building maintenance and deferred maintenance issues in the schools. They would pop up with every school pretty much, so it would be at the top of the list for the cluster SWOT analysis and then the cluster could advocate on the issue, which impacts every school pretty much in the cluster. That's an added benefit because there's power in those numbers and, even since I've come on the board, the issues that have bubbled up for the Tucker Cluster as a whole and the Lakeside Cluster as a whole have influenced me because it is powerful to say "this is a concern for the entire cluster, this is not one classroom in one school".

Druid Hills also has a Cluster Council and the hope is Druid Hills, Lakeside, and Tucker's Cluster Councils will start to regionally collaborate.

***InTucker: What right now are the biggest strengths within DeKalb County Schools?***

**AG:** Equity is a big focus. There are a lot of seminars and workshops that we go to in Atlanta and throughout the country where the focus is on educational equity. What that means is instead of every school or student getting equal resources, it's based on need. So, the students who don't have as much need actually may get fewer resources than students who have a greater need. It could be wrap around services, it could be access to [medical facilities]. But all kinds of resources are distributed based on equity, not equality.

That's kind of what's going on in DeKalb and has been going on for a long time. One program is our Family Impact Hub that's housed at the headquarters on Mountain Industrial. It's an amazing resource for our entire county. They actually are offering GED classes so that parents are getting an education alongside their students. There's more and more research coming out that parents being educated and valuing education has a profound impact on their students and the students actually achieve better just knowing their parents are improving themselves academically. It's very powerful.

We also have our career tech program. We'll hear in the media that "our school districts aren't valuing the trades and we don't have enough plumbers and electricians and why aren't schools doing something?" We are and we have been for a long time. It's just we haven't done a great job promoting it. We have centers in the north part of DeKalb and the south part of DeKalb where kids come from all over to get additional career technology opportunities that may not be offered in their home schools. Cross Keys houses the Career Technology North Center and last spring I attended a signing where businesses throughout Atlanta were there onsite to physically sign on the kids with their credentials to go into the field and work for them on the spot. They were getting jobs and going into the work force because they have the credentials they need coming out of our Career Tech Program to go work immediately.

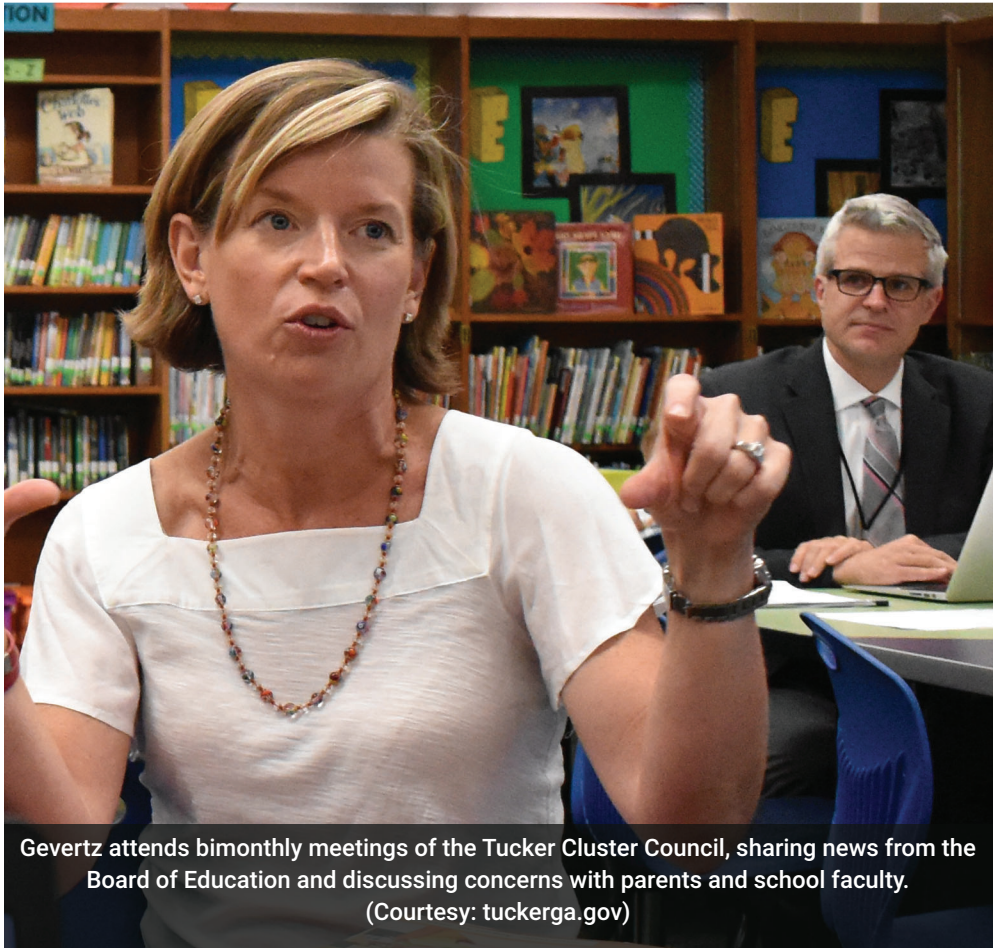
***InTucker: Where do we stand in the process of choosing a new superintendent?***

**AG:** We were able to get ahead of the game in our superintendent search because thankfully our previous superintendent, Steve Green, told us early he did not want to renew his contract at the end of this school year. So, we were able to get the ball rolling and hire a search firm relatively early compared to the other districts.

Our superintendent search firm has actually already done a



Board of Education member Allyson Gevertz delivers remarks at the groundbreaking for the new Smoke Rise Elementary School on October 24, 2019. (Courtesy: tuckerga.gov)



Gevertz attends bimonthly meetings of the Tucker Cluster Council, sharing news from the Board of Education and discussing concerns with parents and school faculty. (Courtesy: tuckerga.gov)

## TUCKER CLUSTER

# Updates & News

### Important Dates

- February 10 - Board of Education Meeting
- February 14-17 - February Break

## THE BRAG SHEET

### Brockett Elementary

- Throughout December, Brockett hosted a Toys for Tots drive and collected over 200 toys to donate to children in need.

### Livsey Elementary

- “Science for Everyone” visited Livsey in December for an exciting event. The green-haired scientist known as “The Science Machine” engaged students in a series of dynamic, fast-paced, interactive science experiments.

### Midvale Elementary

- Midvale students demonstrated the IB Learner Profile of Caring through participation in a schoolwide sock drive. New socks were donated to My Sister’s House via the Atlanta Mission. The socks will go to women and children currently in the shelter.

### Tucker High

- The THS Air Force JROTC Drill Team won second place in the Unarmed Drill Regulation category at the “Drill on the Hill” competition in January at Collins Hill High School.
- On January 17, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students participated in their Region 10 Leadership Conference with five students qualifying for states. The FBLA State Leadership Conference will take place March 20 and 21.

community input [session] to speak with residents about what they want to see in our next superintendent. They also hold focus groups where they would take business leaders, for example they would invite the Chamber of Commerce or elected officials and they invite the DeKalb delegation...[and] asked what they wanted in the next superintendent. They spoke with [School] Board members individually about what we want in the superintendent. Then they put all of that info together in a report and gave it to us. They also used it to develop a profile they put out with the application so the people interested would know exactly what our community is looking for.

We ended up receiving 68 applications by the cut off. Sixty-eight is higher than the number that they usually get in a superintendent search and they said there’s a few reasons for that. Number

one is DeKalb actually does have a good reputation nationally for a lot of the programs and innovative steps that we’ve taken in a lot of areas. Another reason is that people like [living in the] Atlanta [area].

So that got us a lot of interest because we have a very confidential process. The [applicants] were from 20 different states. It was a great group [and] our superintendent search firm was very pleased. We’re hoping our timeline, which is online, has us interviewing in February. So were hoping to interview our top candidates in February, which is coming soon so we’re excited about that.

*If you have a question for Allyson Gevertz, she holds a monthly listening session at locations throughout District 4. You can also email her directly at [Allyson\\_Gevertz@dekalbschoolsga.org](mailto:Allyson_Gevertz@dekalbschoolsga.org).*



# LORI JONES

## CITIZEN OF THE MONTH



“It is my pleasure to nominate Lori Jones for this month’s Citizen of the Month.

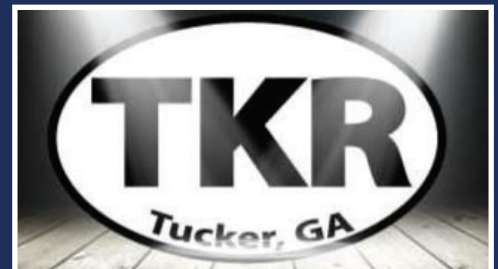
Ms. Jones is a Tucker resident, full-time employee, advocate and, most importantly, a wife and mother to two incredible children. Her eldest started school at Smoke Rise Elementary School, went on to Tucker Middle and is now a freshman at Tucker High, while her youngest is still with us here at Smoke Rise. Throughout the years of her children’s attendance, Ms. Jones has been a committed and supportive parent to the Smoke Rise school community. She has served on the Principal Advisory Council for several years as the secretary, treasurer and chair. With her leadership, advocacy and as a true partner to the administration of Smoke Rise, she has helped our school excel and grow. Ms. Jones also demonstrates a commitment to our overall Tucker community by serving on the board of the Smoke Rise Community Association.

I am so thankful to Ms. Jones for all that she does and we are very fortunate to have her as a parent leader who is so devoted to making sure our school and community are successful.”

*Nomination by Pamela McCloud,  
Smoke Rise Elementary Principal*

## SUBMIT A NOMINATION

Do you know of someone making a difference in our Tucker community? Nominate them for our Citizen of the Month feature! Send 300-500 words about what makes this person worthy of recognition to [info@tuckerga.gov](mailto:info@tuckerga.gov).



# TEAM TUCKER *Spotlight*

## NICOLE ADAMS, CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

### **How did you become interested in a career in Code Enforcement?**

While having an extensive career history in law enforcement, my interest was being able to not only communicate with residents/business owners but to also extend helping hands on a day-to-day basis to build a working relationship by educating and informing on how we can help keep the City of Tucker beautiful.

### **How is Tucker different than other places you've worked?**

I'm more hands-on with the community with an open line of communication to the people, which is an awesome thing.

### **What do you like best about being a Code Enforcement officer?**

The ability to set certain goals within the workplace and accomplish them one resident at a time. It's not always easy, but the fact that we reach out in person, by mail, email etc. to make sure that the residents are receiving important information and that we as a city are playing a vital role in making sure that we enforce the rules and regulations regarding Code Enforcement policies and procedures is rewarding.

### **What should people know about Code Enforcement that they may not be aware of?**

Communication is everything. We want to hear from you and your information is very important to us. If you see something, say something. We are here for the residents and business owners in the City of Tucker. If there is anything that we can assist with in regard to possible extensions based on production or if there is an illness or life changing event that may occur, we are only one phone call away and are willing to help in one way or another.

### **What is the biggest improvement you've seen in Tucker thanks to the influence of Code Enforcement?**

Four words: Getting the job done. We are constantly working each and every day to improve the City of Tucker through communication, dedication and determination.



## *Off the Wall*

### **What are some of your favorite hobbies?**

Traveling, spending time with family and helping out with home renovating.

### **When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

Growing up I always wanted to obtain a career in law enforcement and become an officer and that's exactly what I did.

### **Valentine's Day: romantic holiday or crass commercialization?**

Valentine's Day for me would not only be a romantic holiday, but to also extend lots of love to my kids (Mali and Skylar) to express to them how grateful I am to share my love with them.

### **What was the last song to get stuck in your head?**

"I Need You Now" by Smokie Norful. It's a gospel song and very inspirational.



# “ASK RIP” Answers Your Park Questions



Rip Robertson is the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Tucker. He brings to the job years of experience in Parks and Rec, as well as Public Works.

It was a busy close to 2019 at the Tucker Recreation Center and we are anticipating an even busier 2020. Here are some things happening with our department and ways to get involved and active as well:

## GYM RENOVATION UPDATE

- We host the fastest growing sport in Tucker, pickleball, on Tuesdays from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Thursdays from 12-3 p.m. and Fridays from 3-6 p.m.
- We are hosting “Sensory Saturdays” from 8-9 a.m. Call our office at (470) 481-0205 for more information.
- Our first-ever youth basketball program is going great! Stop by on Saturdays throughout February and cheer on our Tucker teams.

## SILENT AUCTION

- It’s time for the annual Garden Enthusiast Silent Auction!
- The goal for this year’s auction is \$5,000, which will help fund our “Bee-Educated” Project at Tucker Nature Preserve.
- Specifically, that money will pay for supplies such as the hives, safety fencing, signage and landscaping.
- The auction takes place at The Garden Enthusiast (2343B Main Street) between February 10 and 22.

## SENIOR VALENTINE’S DAY

- Our second annual luncheon will be held on Friday February 14 at Tucker Recreation Center.
- The \$15 ticket includes music, dancing, food and a romantic movie.

## NEW CLASS OFFERINGS

- Camp Gladiator Fitness Classes at Kelley Cofer Park and Tucker Recreation Center. More details at [www.campgladiator.com](http://www.campgladiator.com).
- We’ve added a weekday Zumba class for those who can’t make our Saturday morning class. This new session will be Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. at Tucker Recreation Center.
- Registration is open for the next class of Musical Journeys at Tucker Recreation Center. If you know of an adult looking to learn the piano, have them stop by and ask for details!

## UPCOMING CAMPS

- Our Tucker Recreation Center Spring Break Camp will take place April 6-10 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
- The popular Tucker Recreation Center Summer Camp is happening June 1-July 24 from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. We are also adding camp dates for the first and last weeks of Summer Break with details forthcoming.
- Registration dates for all of our camps coming soon!



Dozens of seniors participated in the inaugural Valentine’s Day Social for Seniors on February 14, 2019. (Courtesy: [tuckerga.gov](http://tuckerga.gov))





## TUCKER Community Corner



### **2/11 – University of Government Affairs at Tucker** **7 p.m., 4451 Lawrenceville Highway**

Whether you've been with the class all year or are just jumping in, this last session of the UGA Tucker Class of 2020 promises to be a good one. Hear from our Tucker Precinct police about latest crime trends, community engagement and take a behind the scenes look at how they keep Tucker safe.

### **2/21-23 – Disney's The Lion King, Jr.** **Times vary, 5901 Hugh Howell Road**

The elementary drama class of Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts presents this run of free shows. This is a 60-minute version of the beloved Disney film and Broadway production, featuring songs from the Academy Award-winning film score.

### **2/22 – Tigers Festival of Winds** **9 a.m., 5036 Lavista Road**

Join the Tucker High School Band Program for this first ever event. Atlanta-area symphonic bands will perform and be judged. This is a precursor to the annual large group performance evaluation held by the Georgia Music Educators Association.

### **2/22 – William McKinley Peters Park Benefit Concert** **4 p.m., 4532 Lavista Road**

Enjoy an evening of operatic favorites and Negro spirituals featuring the talents of soprano Mrs. Lucille Golden-Blakely. Tickets are \$20 and include a post-show reception with refreshments. Proceeds benefit the Friends of Peters Park.