



INTUCKER

JULY 2020 | VOLUME 4 | ISSUE 7



OPENING A DIALOGUE

TUCKER PRECINCT POLICE REACHING OUT
TO THE COMMUNITY TO START A CONVERSATION

EDITOR'S NOTE



Back in November, *InTucker* did a cover story on the U.S. Census and the impact it would

have here in Tucker. At that point, we knew the Census was not yet on the consciousness of most people. We also knew that once we got to about this point in the calendar (summer 2020), all you'd be hearing about across these fruited plains were the Census and the presidential election.

Boy, were we wrong.

But amidst the pandemic and the protests, this Census remains incredibly important. As we set about planning for this issue of *InTucker*, I balked at another feature story for a topic we'd just featured eight months ago. The truth is this is a critical time for people to be hearing about the Census. While Tucker has performed really well to this point on response rate, we can do better. This is the last push to drive our numbers higher and secure additional federal funding for our community.

If you're like me, you filled out your Census forms months ago. But that doesn't mean our work is done. Talk about the Census. To friends, neighbors, family members, your mailman... whoever hasn't completed the Census needs to know about it. They need to know the difference that taking ten minutes out of their day could make on the entire community for years to come. This is that rare issue that actually exists in this day and age: the non-partisan one that we can all agree on.

So, get out and help us spread the word!

MATT HOLMES
INTUCKER EDITOR

IN THIS ISSUE



ON THE COVER

It's been a tumultuous time in the law enforcement community. On page 8, Lt. Schoeppner looks at solutions for getting the police and the community back on the same page.



SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Will students be back in class next month? Will it be full-time or hybrid? DeKalb County Schools are weighing those questions right now. Get the details on page 6.



BUSINESS BOOM

Some Tucker businesses are weathering the COVID storm, while others are actually expanding operations. John McHenry has the scoop on page 12 in Business Boom.



MAN ON THE MOVE

He loves Tucker so much that, when he and his wife moved outside the City, they convinced his new neighbors to annex in! Meet our Citizen of the Month on page 5.



ASK RIP

From greenspace to swimming pool hours, Rip's got questions coming at him from all directions. He'll answer them all on page 15 in Ask Rip.



INTUCKER

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From the Mayor:

It goes without saying that this has been a challenging year for all of us. As we reach the halfway point, there's reason to be optimistic that we'll come out of this year stronger and more united than we went into it, as individuals, families and as a community. As a city government, we've been working harder than ever to fulfill our regular responsibilities to our citizens and keep the city moving forward while we grapple with coronavirus, the closure of schools and businesses, and the aftermath of several racially-charged killings, including one much too close to home. A lot of what's happened has been talked about at length, and some of it has gone almost unnoticed. So, for these next few paragraphs, I want to say thank you to some people who have been instrumental in keeping Tucker successful in a variety of aspects.

For the better part of four months now, we've been battling the coronavirus pandemic. My own background is in business and economic development, not public health, epidemiology or medical research. Because of that, I early on assembled a task force of people who live here in Tucker who could advise me on how the City should respond to coronavirus. Professionally, these people touch all parts of the issue. They were generous with their time and it was comforting to get advice from such brilliant minds. On their advice, we have enacted several executive orders, modified guidelines for our city staff, and distributed almost 13,000 medical grade masks to

businesses and residents in our community. Their work on the task force isn't done, but I'm grateful for what they've done for Tucker so far.

Next, I want to thank all of the people who have made their voices heard surrounding issues of social justice. It was eye-opening to me to talk with people young and old at rallies and other events, hear their stories and what they think can be done to bring about positive change. I had the privilege of working with our DeKalb County Police and our City Council on a resolution to encourage Georgia lawmakers and lawmakers at the federal level to pass hate crimes legislation. I also want to thank the citizens who organized and participated in five separate days of public demonstrations with a positive message in favor of loving, valuing and respecting all members of our community back in the first half of June. It was a privilege to be a part of a powerful example of a grassroots force for good.

And, as always, I want to call out our city staff professionals who have continued to diligently perform their duties under the most difficult conditions, but always putting Tucker's citizens first. We have managed to keep open or re-open almost every aspect of our park facilities now, and I believe it has contributed significantly to the physical and mental health of our community. Our city engineer and his team have worked very quietly over the past couple months to resurface

almost 80 roads throughout the City, while also making progress on two critically important sidewalk projects, downtown and on Henderson Road. Our finance department led us through a four-month budget process, creating a budget that is not only balanced, but creates a range of contingencies that will keep us financially healthy through our next fiscal year regardless of potential economic developments. We have re-opened court for offenses and code enforcement, re-started the regular meetings of our various boards and commissions, and held Council meetings in which the public was able to fully participate despite all the restrictions on gathering. And the fact that you're reading this is just one reminder of the excellent work being done by our communications department throughout these difficult times. A sincere thanks is due to every member of Team Tucker.

The important work of our city is never done and I'm certain that new issues loom on the horizon. The fact that we have learned, grown, and adjusted as people, families, and as a community gives me confidence that whatever comes our way, Tucker will be not only able to handle it, but to gain from the experience. Let's keep our eyes and our spirits looking ahead. That's the Tucker way.



FRANK AUMAN
MAYOR

City Council Update



DATES TO KNOW

July 3

All city buildings closed
(Independence Day – observed)

July 6

Downtown Development
Authority

July 13

City Council

July 15

Municipal Court

July 21

Zoning Board of Appeals

July 22

Municipal Court

July 27

City Council

Tucker's Mayor and City Council had a busy month of June. At their meeting on June 8, they voted unanimously to adopt a balanced budget for Fiscal Year '21. The \$14 million budget was created with a forecast 20 percent drop in revenue as a result of the impact of coronavirus on Tucker businesses.

At that meeting, they also unanimously passed a resolution on Social Injustice, urging the Georgia legislature and leaders in Congress to pass hate crimes legislation.

On June 22, Council voted unanimously to approve an annexation petition by neighbors in the Hughes Pointe subdivision. The neighborhood, which sits on the west side of Chamblee Tucker Road just north of Livsey Elementary School, brings 35 new parcels into the City. Council took action on several additional items, including:

- Approving a special land use permit (SLUP) for minor auto repair at 3145 Tucker Norcross Road.

- Adopting an ordinance to amend the City Code, strengthening the regulations pertaining to disorderly conduct.
- Approving a contract for construction of a bridge on the red trail at Henderson Park. That contract is with JOC Construction for \$30,736.
- Approving a contract for construction of a second dock on Henderson Park's Lake Erin. That contract is with JOC Construction for \$50,060.
- Approving contracts with city service providers Jacobs and InterDev.

Prior to the meeting, Council was busy, holding a pair of public hearings (11:00 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.) on the proposed millage rate, as well as a work session to discuss public works in the City.

The next City Council meeting will be July 13 at 7 p.m. at the City Hall Annex (4228 First Avenue).

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 **Nextdoor**

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

FRANK SAPP



Don't be fooled by Frank Sapp's low-key demeanor - his enthusiasm for Tucker is bubbling just below the surface.

When the community began considering cityhood, he was among the first to raise his hand. An already engaged citizen, Frank attended community listening sessions and added his voice to the informed discussion going on among his neighbors. As efforts took shape, he put his boots to the ground traveling door to door delivering information directly to those who would benefit by the creation of the new city.

When the votes were tallied and cityhood was approved, Frank celebrated by offering to serve. He was appointed by City Council to the Planning Commission, a critical body tasked with making recommendations on rezoning, special land use permits, and comprehensive plan amendments. Frank's love of his community was essential to guiding these often highly-charged considerations impacting Tucker's future.

Not content to sit on the sidelines when his term expired, Frank extended his service by ramping up his involvement in the Tucker Civic Association (TCA), a volunteer organization of residents and business owners who work together to promote a healthy, safe, and fun community. As a member of the TCA Board, Frank's leadership is invaluable to a successful partnership with the City. Always willing to help a neighbor, Frank was also instrumental in assisting members of the Hughes Pointe community when they sought to be annexed into the City of Tucker.

Frank is more than worthy of recognition as Tucker Citizen of the Month!

Nomination by Terry Cole

SCHOOL CHOICE

DEKALB EDUCATION BRASS FACE BIG DECISION ON SCHOOL PROTOCOL



One of the biggest unanswered questions from the coronavirus pandemic is what we will do with our nation's children when the new school year begins. Some parents and educators are concerned about sending students into environments where social distancing can be extremely challenging. From the cafeteria to crowded classrooms, school buildings were not constructed with the idea of keeping their occupants six feet apart.

On the other hand, there is also a group of parents that is less than thrilled at the prospect of having students stay home to start the new school year. They helped their kids complete two months of virtual learning in the spring and saw first-hand how different it is from the traditional classroom learning experience.

Many districts around the country have some extra time, as their students don't report back until after Labor Day. But here in DeKalb County, the first day of school is scheduled for August 3. That means the DeKalb County School District is on the clock and will have to be one of the leaders both locally and nationally when they make the decision on what to do about school.

Fortunately, the decision is not being made in a vacuum. Last month, district leaders posted a survey for stakeholders to complete. It offered a range of options for the coming school year,

asking questions on everything from full-time school attendance to full-time virtual learning, as well as a hybrid of the two. Leadership will announce their plans, educated by those survey results later this month.

So, what could the school year look like? You know what full-time school and full-time virtual learning would entail. According to the survey, "DeKalb County School District is currently planning our return for the 2020-2021 school year based on three different options...A hybrid model may be necessary due to space constraints at schools and social distancing requirements."

The hybrid would either see students in class for alternating days or alternating weeks. Under the first scenario, half the students would go to school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, while the other half would go on Wednesdays and Fridays. The second scenario would put students in class for one four-day week, followed by a four-day week of in-home virtual learning. In each scenario, faculty would get one teacher workday per week.

Ultimately, the decision will rest with the new school superintendent. Whatever is decided, it will be an unprecedented choice in an unprecedented time. And one way or another, Tucker's student body will be ready for a new school year.

TUCKER CLUSTER Updates & News

IMPORTANT DATES

- **JULY 13**
DeKalb County Board of Education Meeting
- **JULY 27-31**
Pre-Planning Days

THE BRAG SHEET

IDLEWOOD ELEMENTARY

- Idlewood was selected to host Atlanta Community Food Bank Distribution efforts and served as one of the sites for the meal distribution program sponsored by the DeKalb County School District.

LIVSEY ELEMENTARY

- Livsey sent home grade-specific Summer Learning Books and Parent Guides for each student to continue their learning over the summer. Each week for eight weeks, the student will read, complete a writing activity, practice math skills and enjoy a bonus activity. At the end of the summer, students will receive a bronze medal for completing four lessons, a silver medal for six lessons and a gold medal for completing eight lessons.

MIDVALE ELEMENTARY

- Renovations to the media center (pictured) and front office should be completed by the end of the month. The media center will feature new, modern shelving and durable laminate flooring. The front office will have improved function and serve as a more welcoming space for visitors to the building.



MIDVALE MEDIA CENTER - BEFORE



MIDVALE MEDIA CENTER - AFTER

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 or emailed at dgschoeppner@dekalbcountyga.gov

These past few weeks police and police work have been put under a microscope. It's not the first time, but I have to say that this scrutiny has brought with it the most widespread outrage that I have ever seen. I will accept that police officers are far from perfect. I will also accept that there are aspects of what we do that can be done better. However, I will not accept the notion that we are biased because of race. If we can agree on those facts as a starting point, our focus should now be on how to move forward.

Some citizens have contacted the Mayor about instituting policy changes within the police department. Mayor Auman was kind enough to invite me to speak about these proposed changes at the June 8 City Council meeting. I was happy to say that all eight of the proposals were already in place either by state law, Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training requirements, or DeKalb Police policy. These are all positive things which put the State of Georgia and the DeKalb County Police Department well ahead of the curve regarding police accountability. However, this should not be taken to mean that we believe our mission is accomplished.

Before the coronavirus outbreak we routinely interacted with the community. We hosted a monthly Coffee with a Cop, as well as our bi-monthly Community Engagement Meeting, and participated in bigger events like National Night Out.

We also have a full-time public education specialist who is constantly communicating with the public and arranging community meetings. We have these meetings to encourage dialogue between the citizens and police. We are always open to feedback.

The sad truth, though, is that people tend not to show up. We do have several regulars that we can count on seeing, but nowhere near the number of people who recently felt compelled to protest in Tucker and elsewhere. Hope, however, is not lost. Once the health restrictions are lifted, I expect we will continue with these initiatives. I hope that these events may now attract new people who can give us additional perspective on how to tackle some of our societal problems.

The most proud I have ever been at one of these events was the topic of my column in the August 2019 issue of *InTucker*. This was where a young man named Carlos Allen specifically came to a Coffee with a Cop event to thank Sgt. Parker for arresting him. That's right, Mr. Allen had strayed down the path of dealing drugs and it took being arrested to wake him up and decide that he needed to straighten out his life. It sure is a shame that these positive interactions don't get as much attention as the negative ones.

Being a police officer is a difficult job. We are always trying to do better. If we can focus our energy into constructive communication, there is no reason we can't get there.





HEAD OF THE CLASS

TUCKER'S CENSUS RESPONSE COULD YIELD BIG BUCKS FOR THE CITY

According to the grading scale in our DeKalb County schools, a 65 percent is an F. Not an F+, not almost a D, but a failing, disappointing F.

In terms of the United States Census, however, 65 percent puts the City of Tucker right near the head of the class.

"The city of Tucker's self-response rate is reflective of the efforts the City and community leaders have put forth to raise awareness about the 2020 Census and encourage participation," said Will Powell from the United States Census Bureau. Noting that Tucker has already surpassed the response rate for what was then unincorporated Tucker in the 2010 Census, Powell added, "Much work has been done to ensure a complete count in the City of Tucker, and there is still much work to do."

As of the last week of June, 65.6 percent of Tucker residents had completed and submitted their U.S. Census forms. That percentage puts Tucker well ahead of the state and national response rates, and ahead of nearby cities like Dunwoody, Chamblee and Doraville.

It's no accident that Tucker has responded so well. Late last year, the City formed a Complete Count Committee comprised of Tucker residents. Their charge was to generate ideas on how to help spread the word about the Census and to influence friends and neighbors to do the same. The group met several times, coming up with innovative and engaging plans to drive Tucker's Census response rate.

Then everything came to a crashing halt.

"On a scale of 1 to 10 in disappointment, I was a 10," said Complete Count Committee member Linda Clark. "Everyone was on the same page, ready and excited. [It was] our first Census as a City. We expected to get close to 100 percent participation...

then Corona reared its head and I knew the Census would probably [seem] unimportant to a lot of people."

All of the plans, all of the preparation had to be scrapped due to the coronavirus outbreak. Organized outdoor efforts were shelved. Engagement at big community events became impossible. The community, in general, had much more on their collective minds than the Census.

When Tucker's Complete Count Committee had to go on hiatus in March, one man continued making it his daily mission to get people to fill out their forms.

"Matt was the perfect leader," Clark said. "He understood the importance of the Census, what it would mean to all families and to us as a city."

Matt Robbins, Tucker's octogenarian city councilmember, was a natural fit to lead the City's Complete Count Committee.

A retiree, Robbins remains active in a plethora of community groups. He also leans on his experience of 43 years working in the federal government to understand how important securing federal resources can be to a small city.

"This is my ninth Census," Robbins reflected. "I see the effort of the Complete Count Committee to be so important as this is Tucker's first-ever formal Census. As a seasoned resident of Tucker (here since 1980), I have a hand in establishing this important baseline for our future."

When it comes to encouraging Tucker residents to take the Census, Robbins has been a whirling dervish of emails, social media posts and good old-fashioned face-to-face communication. His outreach over the past several months has educated thousands of Tucker neighbors about the Census.

"Matt has been the perfect person to lead our Census outreach," said Tucker City Manager Tami Hanlin. "His efforts, as well as the efforts of the Complete Count Committee, are going to mean an influx of federal funds for our roads, our schools and hospitals here in Tucker and across DeKalb County."

From a federal perspective, the Census outreach schedule was delayed due to the coronavirus. Door-to-door Census takers are just now being deployed, something that was supposed to happen back in the springtime. Deadlines have been extended and a final count now will not be delivered to the White House until April 30, 2021.

Still, as the U.S. Census team works here in the metro Atlanta area to get as many people counted as possible, they are hoping that those in Tucker who have completed the Census will not consider their work to be done.

"For those who have already completed their Census, we say thank you for helping to shape the future of your community, state and our nation," Powell said. "As such, we encourage you to be a Census ambassador and help encourage your family, friends and neighbors to participate in the 2020 Census."

"Tucker may be near the head of the class in its Census response, but the class isn't being graded on a curve," Robbins added. "I think we can get to 80 or even 90 percent response. Now that would be success."

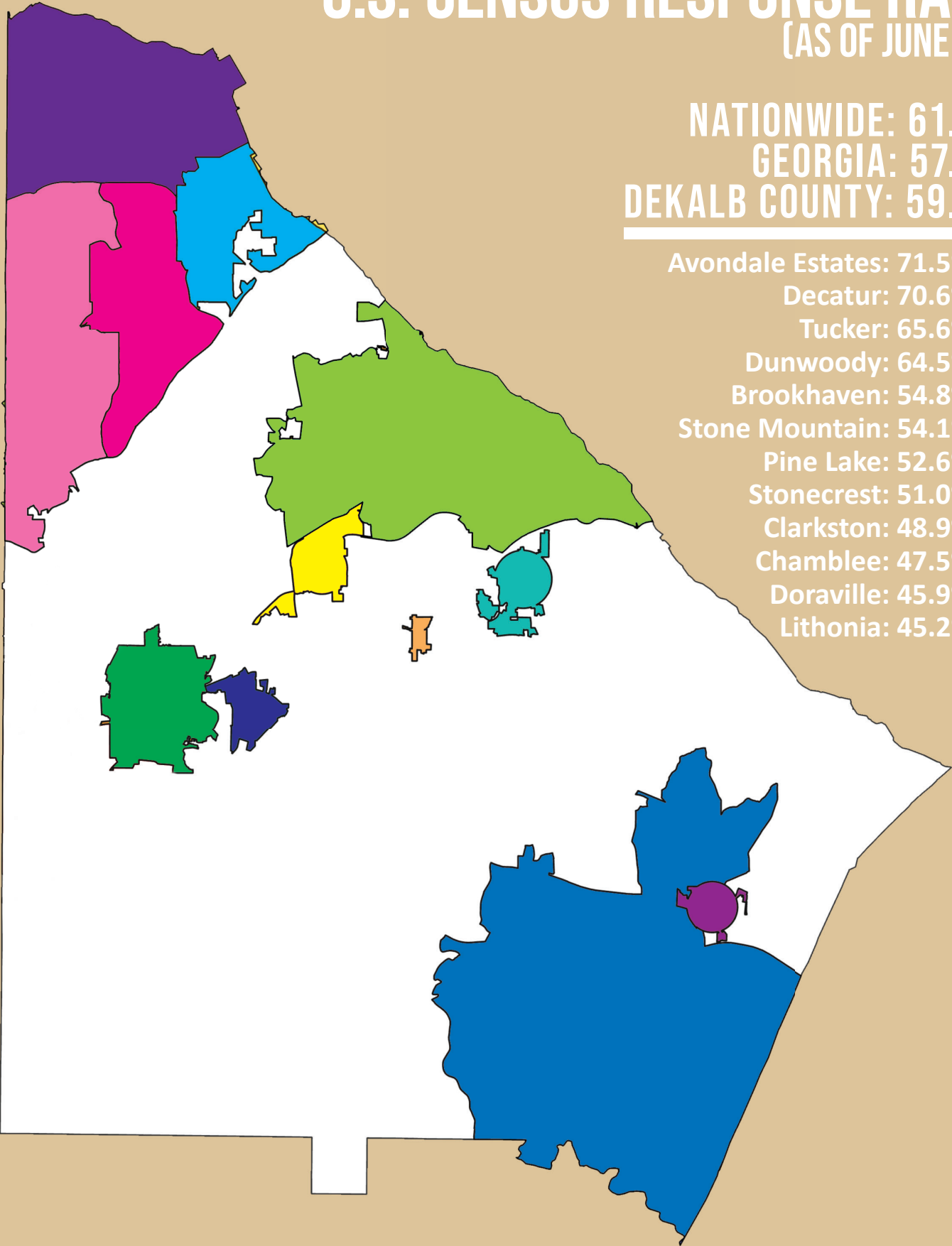


You can find out more about Tucker's Census efforts at tuckerga.gov/census and learn more about national efforts at census.gov.

U.S. CENSUS RESPONSE RATE (AS OF JUNE 22)

NATIONWIDE: 61.6%
GEORGIA: 57.5%
DEKALB COUNTY: 59.5%

- Avondale Estates: 71.5%
- Decatur: 70.6%
- Tucker: 65.6%
- Dunwoody: 64.5%
- Brookhaven: 54.8%
- Stone Mountain: 54.1%
- Pine Lake: 52.6%
- Stonecrest: 51.0%
- Clarkston: 48.9%
- Chamblee: 47.5%
- Doraville: 45.9%
- Lithonia: 45.2%



BUSINESS BOOM

TUCKER BUSINESSES MOVING FORWARD DURING PANDEMIC

by John McHenry, Community and Economic Development Director



This year has been an extremely challenging economic period for our local businesses due to the pandemic, and yet our local companies are toughing it out.

In this month's column, I would like to highlight the adaptability of our long-standing businesses, as well as

introduce some new additions to Tucker.

Corporate Environmental Risk Management, LLC (CERM), a regional engineering, environmental and program management firm located off Northlake Parkway in Lakeside Centre is continuing to see growth in 2020. The minority owned and operated consulting firm has grown from a two-man start-up to an award-winning organization employing over 100 talented professionals consisting of project managers, technical leaders, planners and support staff covering the southeast U.S. region. Their Managing Director, Al Edwards, explained that as the firm is working in the critical infrastructure area, they have found that their water, transportation and energy clients are moving forward as well as advertising new opportunities. Al further reports that in terms of adapting to the need for distance separation due to the pandemic, CERM's qualified staff were already largely working remotely, and their production numbers have improved with the extended work from home period.

Al shared, "What concerns me is my staff, and it has been a blessing to provide employment stability through the pandemic, while continuing to invest in community partners in multiple communities."

In addition, CERM is very pleased with their location in Tucker. "This is an ideal location for our employees, we're close in but also able to avoid the worst of the congestion along the Perimeter."

Located nearby on Lawrenceville Highway is SteelMart, which supplies structural steel and other fabricated steel products to the commercial building community. SteelMart expanded their footprint in Tucker in 2018 with a 47,000 SF addition and according to co-owner Brian Satsky, "We have yet to see a slowdown from our customers, so we are staying focused as clearly commercial building is still going on."

Moving into the former Green Egg building also on Lawrenceville Highway is Imeca Lumber & Hardware, a Florida based family-owned company that provides supplies to the cabinet industry and wood flooring.

Imeca representative Vladimir Batista relayed that, "For our first flagship location in Georgia, Tucker, with its many cabinet shops and extensive commercial activity, was the perfect fit."

On the south side of Tucker, Wisconsin-based Briggs & Stratton opened a new advanced battery manufacturing plant. The 78,000 SF facility will start with four production lines and over 80 employees with capacity to accommodate future growth. Rick Carpenter, vice president corporate marketing at Briggs & Stratton, said the Georgia plant will provide additional capacity to the company's battery operations and supply a local golf cart manufacturer. Known for their lawnmowers, Briggs & Stratton is the world's largest producer of small gasoline engines and already has a significant engine facility in Statesboro, Georgia.

The City is grateful for our resilient existing industries and that we are still attracting quality jobs to our community.



BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

DONUT CITY



“Time to make the doughnuts” is a call that rings familiar for many Americans of a certain age. But, the truth is, most doughnut chains now truck in their frozen treats to be refreshed each day. Here in Tucker, Bill Comedy is a throwback to the days of fresh dough.

The owner and proprietor of Donut City, Comedy’s day starts while the rest of Tucker sleeps. He gets the mixer and fryer started at 1 o’clock every morning to make his tasty creations.

“I started making doughnuts in 1994 in California,” Comedy said, adding that in 2016, his brother moved to Gainesville, Georgia and opened his own doughnut shop. He called Bill to say that business was booming, so Bill took a leap of faith and made the move to Georgia.

“While driving around [Tucker], I saw this space was for lease and I liked the location,” he said of his restaurant on Mountain Industrial Boulevard. That’s where, in September of 2017, Donut City opened its doors.

In the almost three years since the grand opening, Donut City has delighted the community with freshly brewed coffee, tasty breakfast sandwiches and, of course, doughnuts. Comedy even partnered with a local gym to donate doughnuts for a fun run. When the coronavirus pandemic shut down the nation earlier this year, Comedy’s shop also shut down for a few weeks. Slowly but surely, business has been picking back up since they reopened in early April and, he reports, they are almost back to pre-pandemic numbers.

Comedy doesn’t harbor any grand dreams of franchising his store, saying he’s content to focus solely on the Tucker store. And that’s good news for taste buds of all ages.



TEAM TUCKER *Spotlight*

ANNIQUE HALL, PERMIT TECHNICIAN

What do you do in your role here at the City of Tucker?

I am a Permit Technician. I am responsible for the intaking of projects for both Residential and Commercial. I also issue Building, Trades and Sign permits, issue COs (Certificates of Occupancy) and take payments.

You're a relative newcomer. How long have you been working for the City?

I have been with the City now for two months and two weeks.

What were you doing before you came to Tucker?

I was a Permit Technician in another municipality.

No job is easy. What are some of the biggest challenges you face each day as you do your job?

Outside of having to deal with this pandemic, I would have to say that I have not been faced with anything outside the norm. I come in, I get the job done.

What do you like most about your job?

The fact that I can help the community grow. I assist our homeowners and commercial business owners to get whatever it is that they need done (within legal bounds).

Off the Wall

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

When I do get some free time, I try to read a novel or anything for 'Dummies'.

Where is the most beautiful place you've ever been?

I have travelled to other places, but I would most definitely have to say Jamaica. I was born and raised in the beautiful island of Jamaica, which is surrounded by beautiful clear water, white sandy beaches and lush vegetation. Having the luxury of being able to step outside your home and be greeted with the waves crashing against the rocks and fresh ocean scent? Yes!!!

Are you a cold weather person or a warm weather person?

Warm weather! Coming from a tropical island where it is warm 365 days of the year? It will have to be. I can step outside and not have to worry about bundling up or getting sick because I did not dress for the cold weather.

What is your favorite TV show?

"What's Happening"

What is one thing your co-workers don't know about you?

That I am Lois Lane.



“ASK RIP”

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.



Before we get to this month's questions – and we got some really good ones this month – I wanted

to take a moment to give a shoutout to our Tucker Parks and Recreation staff. This is one of the most creative and dedicated groups that I have worked with in all my years in this line of work. Just when I think they can't impress me any more, they go and have a month like they had in June.

Because of coronavirus, we were unable to run a full-day summer camp. I was disappointed, but my staff quickly went to work on a slate of partial-day summer programs for residents of all ages. They came up with drama programs, tennis lessons, yoga classes; it was impressive to say the least. I will join with dozens of parents and kids here in Tucker when I say “thank you” to these very talented men and women.

Now on to the questions...

Bryan – Any idea when the Tucker Path plan will begin implementation? I haven't noticed any progress yet.

This initial segment (downtown area) of the project is underway with easement acquisition and engineering happening right now. The anticipation is to have it out for bid in the fall of this year.

Brittany King – My question is about open green space in Tucker's parks. On Sunday, I was looking for a place to lay out a blanket and have a picnic, but from what I could find, the parks were more woody than what I desired. Are there any plans to change that?

There are several parks currently with open greenspace: Tucker Nature Preserve, Peters Park (currently being renovated), Johns Homestead. We have been looking for some suitable space at both Henderson and Cofer Parks to add some open areas. We hope to identify some additional spaces early in the fall or winter for next spring.

Tracy Roberts – Any plans to do video tours of Tucker's parks?

Tracy, this is a great idea and, quite frankly, one I'm surprised we haven't thought of yet. I will work with our Communications team to see if we can start a video series to help people discover our parks.

Hoppy Ted – Why do the pools wait until 11:00 to open? My family has used the Smoke Rise B&R for nearly 20 years, mostly in the early morning while it is cool and shady. If we can't go until 11:00, we likely will never use it again. We are greatly disappointed.

Our pools are operating on similar schedules due to the recommended use and published safety guidelines. As long as we have these restrictions in place, these hours will be in effect. I understand when privately owned, Smoke Rise pool had unrestricted access and, obviously, as a city park that is not possible. There are liability issues as well as paid staffing and supervision required during operating hours to ensure everyone's safety.





7/3 – Celebration of Independence and Fireworks Spectacular

6-10 p.m., www.facebook.com/cityoftucker

It's the biggest fireworks display in the City of Tucker! Tucker's third annual fireworks bash will also be its first virtual outing. Due to social distancing, there will be no in-person viewing on Main Street, but the concert featuring Hush Money and The Riot Band begins streaming live on Facebook and YouTube at 6 and the fireworks go off at 9:30.

7/11 – Tucker Cruise-In

5-8 p.m., Main Street

A few months delayed due to the pandemic, the Old Town Tucker Merchants Association (OTTMA) is back with its first Cruise-In of 2020. Classic car enthusiasts will enjoy dozens of sweet rides, while cruising Tucker's historic downtown. Stay for a spell, have dinner in one of Tucker's great restaurants, then see the winners crowned at 8 o'clock.