



INTUCKER

JUNE 2019 | VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 6

NORTHLAKE MALL

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

IN THE MIDST OF MAJOR REDEVELOPMENT PLANS, NORTHLAKE MALL CHOOSES TO ANNEX INTO THE CITY OF TUCKER

EDITOR'S NOTE



If you had to choose a theme for this month's magazine, it would probably be "partnership". Really, when you think about it, so much of what's happened

in Tucker over our 127 years as a community is the result of different people or groups coming together. It's encouraging to see that trend continuing now and into the future.

One of the great partnerships you'll read about in this issue is between the City of Tucker, the DeKalb County School District and the parents at our Tucker Cluster schools. As a City, we don't have our own district, but we do work closely with DCSD to improve and innovate at our seven cluster schools. One big issue we've worked on is school safety. We're excited to share some enhancements happening across the City, but particularly at Tucker Middle School, that are going to keep our students safer on a daily basis.

The City also has an unofficial, yet strong partnership with Leadership DeKalb. For three decades, this group has provided professionals within DeKalb County with experiences and insights to help them be better connected and to grow as leaders within the County. I should know; I'm a proud member of the LD Class of 2018! In this issue, you'll hear from Courtney Smith, the latest member of Team Tucker to graduate from this prestigious program.

And I'd be remiss if I didn't brag about the partnerships we have in place that, for the second straight year, are going to make our TKR Summer of Fun a reality. Business and civic leaders are stepping up with their time, talents and money to support this series of community building events. For that we are grateful.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Movie on Main on June 7!

MATT HOLMES
INTUCKER EDITOR

IN THIS ISSUE



From the Cover

Long considered a part of the Tucker community, much of Northlake Mall is now a part of the City of Tucker. Mayor Auman offers a welcome on page 3.



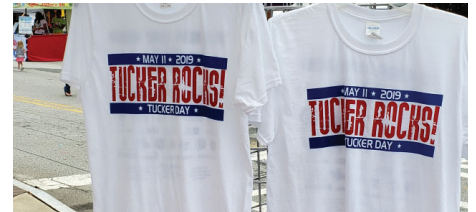
Summer of Safety

It promises to be a busy summer around Tucker's Cluster schools. On page 6, get the lowdown on safety improvements being made before school goes back in August.



Business Boom

Homes are selling like hotcakes across the City of Tucker. John McHenry looks at some of the factors contributing to the real estate surge on page 8 and what it means for Tucker as a business destination.



Citizen of the Month

There are a handful of key volunteers who make Tucker Day possible. Marsha Ashby is among the most invaluable. Get to know her on page 14.



Ask Rip

Summer swim season is off to a successful start in Tucker. On page 15, Rip answers your questions about Kelley Cofer Park pool.



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I feel like we've told the story a thousand times, but if you're new to Tucker or haven't had time to plug into what's happening, you probably don't know about our cityhood movement.

Back in 2013, a group of engaged citizens got together, prompted by a proposal for a nearby community to take part of what we considered Tucker and incorporate it into a separate city. That led to more than two years of meetings, petitions and fundraising. Ultimately, lawmakers under the Gold Dome sat down to decide what the Tucker map would be should it pass a cityhood referendum. As political solutions go, this one was a classic. In an attempt to "split the baby", they arrived at a proposed map that seemed on paper to be even-handed, but was completely impractical in the real world. It divided the regional commercial center known as Northlake and left Northlake Mall, long acknowledged and recognized by the public as being part of the place known as Tucker, outside what would become our city limits. We knew that this area, which included Northlake Mall, was Tucker. We'd always known it.

To make a long story short, Tucker's cityhood referendum passed with 74 percent of the vote and the other community's referendum failed. We became a city, but because of the last-minute legislative changes to our map, many residents and businesses were left out of the new city they considered their hometown.

Today, we take a big step in rectifying that misjudgment.

As of June 1, most of Northlake Mall becomes a part of the City of Tucker. The owners of the mall asked the City Council to officially make them a part of Tucker and we voted unanimously last month to do just that. I could go on at length about the mall's impressive redevelopment plans or the significant financial impact this annexation will have on Tucker, DeKalb County and the region. For now, I just want to say to them "Welcome back!" It's the way we always knew it should be. Those who carried the torch for Tucker cityhood should be proud; this is a big day for our city.

And to the others who were cut out of officially becoming part of Tucker, I say: We have not forgotten you, and we look forward to welcoming you back, as well. You're always welcome and encouraged to take part in the community life of Tucker, but if you want to put your property into the City so that your taxes support your parks, so you and your neighbors will benefit from Tucker's code enforcement, and so you can have a say in rezoning and other development proposals, there is a process you can access to gain citizenship in Tucker. Whether you are a property owner in the Northlake area or a homeowner in the neighborhoods north of downtown Tucker, we would love to work with you to get you back where you belong, and where you can make a difference.

FRANK AUMAN
MAYOR OF TUCKER

City Council Update



Tucker's Mayor and City Council met twice in the month of May, dealing with several Parks and Recreation issues, as well as approving a major annexation into the City.

At the meeting on May 13, they unanimously approved a petition by the ownership of five parcels of Northlake Mall to become a part of the City of Tucker. The annexation became official on June 1.

The May 13 meeting also saw Council unanimously approve the City's Parks Master Plan and a special land use permit (SLUP) and concurrent variances for a 94,800-square foot, climate controlled multi-warehouse facility on Northlake Center Drive. Lastly, they cast a 6-1 vote to approve a text amendment to the City's sign code. The changes stem from a Sign Ordinance Rewrite conducted over the course of several months by consultant TSW.

At the May 28 meeting, Council unanimously approved a SLUP to allow for a massage establishment at

1505 Lilburn Stone Mountain Road. They also granted a SLUP for a child day care facility at 1940 Idlewood Road. Beyond that, they approved the Parks and Recreation Department to enter into contracts with contractor F.H. Paschen for renovations to the kitchen and a bathroom at Tucker Recreation Center, as well as to replace all athletic field fencing at Henderson and Kelley Cofer Parks.

On the transportation front, they gave approval for contractor Construction 57 to install seven pedestrian-activated flashing beacon crosswalks across the City (more details on page 6). They also got an update on the City's Strategic Transportation Master Plan. The document, which outlines \$200 million in projects over the next two decades, will be folded into the City's Comprehensive Plan upon its anticipated adoption later in the summer.

The next City Council meeting will be Monday June 10 at 6:45 p.m. at the City Council Chamber (4228 First Avenue).

DATES TO KNOW

June 6
Downtown Development Authority

June 10
City Council

June 12
Community Council

June 19
Environmental Court

June 26
City Council

June 26
Offenses Court

June 27
Planning Commission

TUCKER SOCIAL

Keep tabs on your City Council through our social media channels



 **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://www.facebook.com/dgschoeppner) or emailed at dgschoeppner@dekalbcountyga.gov



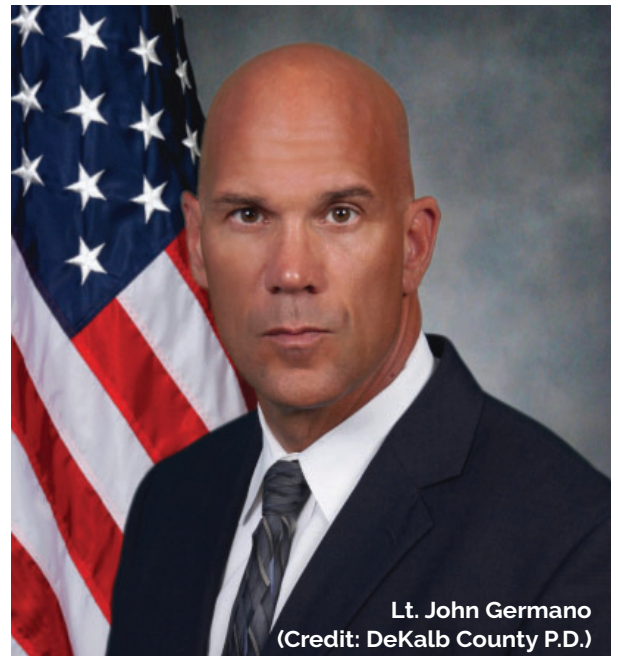
The last several months have been a pretty turbulent time to be a police officer in the local area. It started in October of last year when Gwinnett County Police Officer Antwan Toney was killed by a suspect during a suspicious vehicle investigation. In December, our own Officer Edgar Flores was killed by a suspect during a routine traffic stop. Now, just two weeks ago, the grim reaper has visited us again. This time, on April 30, Lt. John Germano took his own life. This is especially significant to me because I have been a coworker and friend of John's for over a decade.

John Germano was born in Hackensack, New Jersey and graduated Pascack High School in Montvale, New Jersey. He was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and a graduate of Georgia State University with a degree in criminal justice. John joined the DeKalb County Police Department in 1995. He held various positions in uniform and criminal investigations as an officer, detective, sergeant, and lieutenant. His last assignment was as the commander of the South Precinct Investigation Unit. He had enough service that he could have retired at any time. John leaves behind his two children, his parents, a sister and extended family.

I first met John in 2006. He was my supervisor when I was a brand-new detective in the major felony unit. That year was the first of three record setting years for homicides in DeKalb County. He wasn't my supervisor this entire time, but his influence laid the foundation for the eight years that I would be both a detective and supervisor in CID after that.

John was physically fit, self-confident and never seemed to let aspects of the job get to him. This

made it especially hard to imagine that he would ever contemplate suicide. He also didn't leave a note. So, we will likely never know what sort of pain he carried that set him down this path.



Unfortunately, John's situation is not an isolated one. Nationwide in the last three years, there have been nearly as many officers across the country lost to suicide as those killed in the line of duty. In 2018, there were 159 suicides vs. 163 line of duty deaths. In 2017, it was 159 vs. 174. In 2016, it was 140 vs. 174. It is almost universally accepted that being exposed to the worst society has to offer is a major factor. What is less agreed upon is the best way to go about dealing with it.

Personally, I can't help but wonder if there wasn't something more that we, his brothers and sisters in blue, could have done to help John deal with his demons. I am truly sorry that he felt that he needed to fight whatever battle he was having all by himself. I hope you have finally found peace my friend.

PRIORITIZING SAFETY

TUCKER STUDENTS TO BE SAFER IN AND AROUND SCHOOLS THIS FALL



Students and teachers in Tucker's seven cluster schools are out for the summer, but at the schools themselves, there is a lot of important work going on to enhance safety. Much of this is being done by the City of Tucker in collaboration with the DeKalb County School District. So, what are some of the big improvements happening?

Lighted crosswalks

Tucker leaders have heard plenty of feedback over the past couple of years about the need for safe crossings at schools in the Tucker Cluster. These schools all have traditional crosswalks for students to use, but time and again drivers are distracted or simply will not yield to pedestrians looking to cross the road.

As a response, Tucker's City Engineer Ken Hildebrandt worked with the Mayor and City Council to get money allocated for state-of-the-art lighted crosswalks at three schools around the City. Tucker Middle School got the first of those crosswalks installed back in April. The flashing lights of the crosswalk are activated when a button is

pushed on the signpost by those hoping to cross the street. Once the lights catch drivers' attention and they bring their cars to a complete stop, students can cross without fear for their safety.

An additional lighted crosswalk is coming to the south entrance to Tucker Middle School this summer, as well as to Brockett and Midvale Elementary Schools. And it bears mentioning that these lighted crosswalks are solar powered, meaning they're good for the environment!

Sidewalks

Walkability has been a much-discussed topic in the City of Tucker. This spring, the City tackled a sidewalk gap project where they used a study identifying roads where sidewalks abruptly stopped, then started again, and constructed sidewalks to connect those stops and starts. Streets like Hugh Howell, Elmdale and a handful of others are now more pedestrian friendly.

The focus is shifting now to areas where children walk



to or from school. This summer, work will continue on the highly anticipated sidewalk connecting Tucker Middle School and Lawrenceville Highway. Crews will be looking at engineering design and easements along Idlewood Road to prepare for construction of the sidewalk. Whereas in the past students had to walk through gravel lots or along the shoulder of the road, they will soon have a sidewalk where they can safely make their way to school.

Other sidewalk projects that will enhance student safety are looming, including one that's been several years in the making along Henderson Road.

Routine maintenance and improvements

DeKalb County School District has teams working on school grounds throughout the summer, as well. While the improvements they're making do not have an impact on the general population like crosswalks and sidewalks do, they are specifically done for the benefit of students and faculty.

When class starts back up in August, various schools in the Tucker Cluster will have seen ADA improvements, facilities upgrades and other infrastructure priorities addressed. While Tucker's middle and high school buildings are relatively new, its elementary schools are all older, meaning this kind of work in the summertime can stave off big problems during the school year.

TUCKER CLUSTER

Updates & News

Important Dates

- **June 10** - DeKalb County Board of Education Meeting

The Brag Sheet

Brockett Elementary

- After several meetings between parents and administrators and much work by the staff, Brockett will be applying for International Baccalaureate (IB) authorization.

Livsey Elementary

- The Cross Country Club wrapped a successful season which saw participation of 135 students and families.

Midvale Elementary

- Midvale hosted dozens of professionals in fields ranging from IT to public health for their IB/STEM Career Week. The week was highlighted by a visit from meteorologist Wes Peery and the 11Alive Thunder Truck.

Tucker High

- Senior Usman Saeed Jamal is valedictorian for the Class of 2019. He will attend Georgia Tech to study Computer Science. Classmate Leah Whitmoyer is the salutatorian. She will study Health Promotion at the University of Georgia. They joined a group of accomplished classmates at Tucker High's graduation on May 31.

BUSINESS BOOM

by John McHenry, Community and Economic Development Director



A critical component to a strong, diversified economy is a range of housing options available so that our current and future residents can have solid options from renting to owning. As part of the Atlanta metropolitan market, the City of Tucker is blessed with not only a central location, but also a range of affordable housing options.

Corbett Jordan, a licensed REALTOR with Smoke Rise Agents, has been working in the City of Tucker since 2017 and has found that it is not only a highly desirable market, but it's also one that delivers a range of resale product.

"Tucker is one of the best places to buy, whether it's your first or forever home," she says. "There are plenty of housing options in all price ranges from the starter in the low \$200,000s to luxury over a million. If you are looking for a home within walking distance to downtown Tucker, near great parks and recreation, or something with wide lawns and established landscapes, there is a neighborhood for you.

"The housing trend lately seems to be leaning toward updated mid-century modern homes. Regionally, Tucker is still a great deal. One last thing, don't list a home in Tucker unless you mean it – it will sell!"

Weslee Knapp, who owns Keller Knapp Realty on Main Street, sees the same diversity.

"Tucker is perfectly located in the Atlanta metro market with opportunities for first time home buyers to executive level housing," he explains.

In this recent development cycle, almost all the developments that had sputtered and laid dormant as "pipe farms" are now getting built out. This includes the 161 townhome Ashbrooke development off of Roadhaven Drive. This development ranges from the \$220,000's to \$280,000's and offers affordable new construction with excellent access to US 78. The City also contains a number of upscale apartment complexes including Green Park on Weems Road. Just constructed in 2016, Green Park contains 310 units with a range of one, two and three bedrooms and is currently 97 percent leased.

Ashley Rivers, a year-long resident, shared, "I love being here at Green Park. It's nice and quiet, but also convenient to downtown, Stone Mountain and Decatur."

There are also several senior living facilities with affordable units including The Phoenix at Tucker off Idlewood Road, Hearthside in downtown and Northlake Senior, which you can read more about in our Business of the Month feature on the following page.

Tucker will continue to work to keep this robust range of housing so that we can all live, work and play right here within this special community throughout our lifetimes.

Learn more about what's happening on the Tucker business scene at www.tuckerga.gov/biz.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

NORTHLAKE SENIOR APARTMENTS



With the City of Tucker's recent designation as an Age Friendly Community, a lot of attention has been directed toward the City's senior population. Many seniors seek to age in place, staying in the houses they've called home for decades, while others simply want a comfortable home to age in place within their community.

It's the latter group that were so excited for the grand opening this spring of the Northlake Senior Apartments. The development, located at the intersection of Northlake Parkway and Lavista Road and overlooking I-285, features 90 units complete with sweeping views and a bevy of amenities for active seniors.

"A personal philosophy of mine is, to keep a community vibrant, you have to have move-in areas for seniors that live within the community," says Bob Smith, Vice President of Development and Construction for Beneficial Communities, who built the Northlake Senior project.

One of the highlights of this development is that it sits across the street from a major commercial center in Tucker Meridian, giving residents the opportunity to dine, buy groceries and shop all within a minute's walk. It's a set-up that Smith says makes Northlake Senior "a walking community".

Also notable, Northlake Senior was one of the very first land use petitions to go through what was then the new City of Tucker's zoning process. That means it was discussed by the Community Council, went before the Planning Commission and was ultimately approved by the Mayor and City Council.

The management team at Northlake Senior says they still have a few apartments that are not leased, but that the number is getting smaller by the day. Potential residents can stop by the leasing office for information or visit their website at www.northlakesenior.com.

LEADING THE WAY

TUCKER LEADERS BENEFITTING FROM EXPERIENCE OF LONGTIME DEKALB COUNTY PROGRAM

Courtney Smith, Craig Medlin and Stephen Green never really knew one another. All three work in the City of Tucker, but in very different fields where paths rarely cross. It would take a Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon-type effort to connect Smith, the Deputy Director of Community Development for the City of Tucker, with Medlin, a Major at the DeKalb County Police Department's Tucker Precinct, and to Green, the Superintendent of the DeKalb County School District.

Those three relative strangers – along with 52 others – are now family, as this month they become the newest graduating class of Leadership DeKalb.

Leadership DeKalb is a ten-month program committed to developing and connecting professionals who work and live within DeKalb County. One Thursday per month, participants put their busy work lives on hold for “program days”, a chance to explore a different aspect of life in DeKalb. These program days include deep dives on topics like culture, education, criminal justice and economic development. Participants see presentations from well-known leaders in those areas, oftentimes Leadership DeKalb alumni themselves.

“The program days are the best part,” said Smith. “I really enjoyed getting to know more about the different characteristics of DeKalb County, especially the parts that I hadn't really explored before. As an expectant mom who just bought a house in DeKalb, Education Day was one that really opened my eyes to everything DeKalb has to offer!”

The woman who has driven Leadership DeKalb for the better part of the past decade is Maria Balais. Although short in stature, Balais, the organization's Executive Director, is a larger-than-life persona, who runs a tight ship. Program days are planned out meticulously. Every last detail is confirmed and put into an agenda, which

participants follow down to the minute. If a participant is late to a program day, they get fined, no questions asked.

“At Leadership DeKalb, the ‘be on time culture’ is a sign of integrity and a show of respect for other people's time,” Balais says. “We acknowledge from the beginning at orientation that everyone in the program are high performing leaders and that they are among peers. We also realize that perfect attendance can be a challenge, particularly regarding illness and family emergencies. So, we outline specific rules of engagement which include opportunities to be absent when necessary. Though we are strict, we are also reasonable and can be flexible, as needed.”

Tucker has been well-represented in the program in recent years. City Communications Director Matt Holmes was a 2018 graduate, while City Councilwoman Anne Lerner, a member of the Class of 2014, has stayed active in volunteering her time and is now serving on the organization's board.

“I continue to learn from these amazing leaders and am proud to call them my friend.”

Anne Lerner, Class of 2014

“Leadership DeKalb gave me the opportunity to meet leaders from across the County and from various sectors,” Lerner says. “I continue to learn from these amazing leaders and am proud to call them my friend. I want to ensure Leadership DeKalb remains a strong and vital organization so others have the chance to experience those same opportunities.”



Class of 2019 graduate Courtney Smith (r.) embraces the lessons taught by Leadership DeKalb Executive Director Maria Balais

Leadership DeKalb is about much more than connecting a group of professionals to one another; it's about connecting those professionals to the community. Each year, the class is split into small groups for Community Service Projects. A pool of non-profits across DeKalb apply to be selected for assistance with a certain project, projects that oftentimes far exceed their budgets. Those non-profits then work directly with Leadership DeKalb participants to utilize their varied talents to accomplish objectives that can make a huge difference for those groups.

"The Leadership DeKalb Community Service Project developed an expansion plan for our Good Neighbor Grocery Alliance, formerly known as our grocery co-op," says David Fisher of Tucker-based NETWorks, which was chosen for a 2018 Community Service Project. "They looked at marketing avenues and tactics we could employ to grow membership, and they looked at expenses of adding on new alliance groups, including in potential new locations."

One of the projects for this year's class was to devise a marketing plan for Decatur's Woodland Gardens. Smith says it was a highlight to work with a group just down the street from Tucker.

"The project challenged us as leaders as we had to work in a group setting outside our normal comfort zones," she says, adding the entire 2019 class enjoyed "[giving] back to the various nonprofit groups that make DeKalb a wonderful place to live, work and play."

The experiences and lessons provided by Leadership DeKalb have had an impact across the County for more than 30 years. Even in a new city like Tucker, the program is paying dividends, whether it's aiding the nonprofits or simply creating new friendships.

For more information about Leadership DeKalb, visit www.leadershipdekalb.org.

TEAM TUCKER *Spotlight*

ROSIE MAFE, CITY PLANNER

What are the day-to-day responsibilities of a City Planner? A typical day for me consists of meeting with residents to answer questions about their property or a project they may be interested in completing, like a new deck or a house addition. I also spend a lot of time reviewing building plans to ensure they are compliant with Tucker's Zoning Ordinance. Overall a lot of the responsibility of a City Planner is to educate those who want to do work in Tucker about our City Codes.

How did you end up here in Tucker? I grew up in Lilburn and, after high school, I went to Piedmont College and double majored in Art and History. The year after I graduated, I interned with Fulton County Arts & Culture and just worked several random jobs. I had a mentor at Fulton County who suggested I look into graduate programs and a few months later I was accepted to the Public Administration program at UGA. That program was tough and really pushed me out of my comfort zone, but I had two internships, one with Rockdale County and one with the City of Woodstock, that

helped solidify my decision to work in local government and be a City Planner. Luckily when I graduated, Tucker took a chance on me and I love it!

What is the best part of your job? Every day I get to figure out solutions to new challenges. That means working with residents to get them through the permitting process, meeting with developers about potential projects or with consultants to get a project completed. I enjoy that I have short-term and long-term projects to work on and that I do something a little different each day!

What work are you doing right now that the community would be interested in? I am currently working with the Green Team to submit an application for the Atlanta Regional Commission Green Communities initiative. It's a great opportunity to show what the City of Tucker is doing in the way of sustainability! I am also working with TSW and the Tucker-Northlake CID on Tucker's Downtown Master Plan, a visioning document that will help shape the core of our city.



Off the Wall

You recently got married. How's life as a newlywed? It's wonderful! Xavier and I have been together for six years, so it feels the same...but better! We are currently creating a mini-garden on our porch and hoping to rescue a dog soon!

What do you and your husband do in your free time? We love trying new restaurants and breweries in the Atlanta area. We also enjoy planning trips together – we have Colorado and New York planned for later this year and hopefully Iceland next year!

What's your favorite movie? School of Rock, Elf, The Big Lebowski! It depends on the day.

What's your go-to snack item? Something crunchy – apples, cashews, almonds, carrots!



SWINGING FOR THE FENCES

POPULAR TKR SUMMER OF FUN BRINGS A BASEBALL BENT FOR YEAR TWO

Summer promises to be a grand slam in Tucker with the return of the TKR Summer of Fun, this year with a baseball theme. Last summer, thousands took part in the three-event series and, starting later this month, thousands more are invited to come build on the tradition.



MOVIE ON MAIN

The three-event series will start June 7 with the return of the popular Movie on Main Street. Moviegoers will enjoy the inspirational and uplifting film *The Rookie* starring Dennis Quaid. Released in 2002, the movie tells the story of high school science teacher Jim Morris and his improbable route to becoming a Major League Baseball player. *The Rookie* is rated G and is appropriate for all ages. Before the show, fans can show off their slugging skills on Main Street in an inflatable batting cage and grab a free non-alcoholic drink at Village Burger. The City will also be handing out free bags of popcorn.



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION & FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

On July 3, the City is partnering with the Old Town Tucker Merchants Association (OTTMA) for the annual Celebration of Independence and Fireworks Spectacular. There will be live music preceding the fireworks and a group of armed forces veterans will be selected to lead the countdown to start the show. The fireworks will again be centered behind Tucker High School and executed by the professional staff from East Coast Pyrotechnics. Food trucks will be on hand to accommodate this hungry crowd of patriots.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The Summer of Fun wraps up on August 6 with the City's third annual National Night Out Celebration. The effort, a collaboration with the DeKalb County Police Department's Tucker Precinct, is a free community picnic hosted at Brockett Elementary School. In previous years, hundreds of neighbors have attended events at Idlewood Elementary School and Livsey Elementary School. Neighbors are invited to walk to Brockett, where possible, and enjoy a free dinner. To keep with the summer's theme, free dessert will be provided in the form of Cracker Jack and apple pie.

For the second straight year, the TKR Summer of Fun will be made possible through partnerships with local corporate sponsors and community groups. Series sponsors include Discover DeKalb, Jacobs Engineering and OTTMA. Hall of Fame sponsors are Tucker-Northlake CID, Tucker Summit CID and Optech. The All-Star event sponsors are Tucker Brewing, Infinite Realities and InterDev.

MARSHA ASHBY

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH



“Marsha Ashby is a long-time resident of Tucker. Shortly after moving to Smoke Rise, I asked her to join the Tucker Day Committee who plans the annual event. She eagerly accepted and has been a great volunteer all these years. Her enthusiasm and welcoming attitude have increased our vendor participation each year. She serves on the board of the MainStreet Tucker Alliance (MTA), who hosts Tucker Day. The MTA Board was instrumental in the formation of the Tucker-Northlake Community Improvement District (CID). Marsha helped recruit stakeholders during the early days.

In addition to her activities for Tucker Day and traveling for work, Marsha creates the time to volunteer with the Tucker groups in support of our schools. All three of her children attended Smoke Rise Elementary, Tucker Middle and Tucker High. In the early days of cityhood, Marsha spoke during the Council meeting public comments advising the attendees of school and student achievements because she thought it important to let the public know.

She is active in her church and a consistent supporter of youth activities. Marsha also serves as the President of the Mountain Creek Swim Club, which is a blessing to the neighborhood.

The theme for Tucker Day this year was Tucker Rocks! Tucker Rocks because of citizens like Marsha Ashby!”

Nomination by Honey Van De Kreke

“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. Rip is a former Military Intelligence Analyst for the U.S. Army and is active with the Army Reserve

I want to start this month's column by congratulating our Parks and

Recreation staff on a successful opening of the pool at Kelley Cofer Park on Memorial Day weekend. They have worked tirelessly to ensure improvements be made during the offseason and that, most importantly, the highly-anticipated splash pad be ready for business.

The early reviews are good, but there have been plenty of questions rolling in on Facebook that I'd like to address in conjunction with the opening of the pool.

Ellen Banerjee – Do you have to live in Tucker to use the pool?

No Ellen, you don't. One of the great things about spending your summer at the pool is that you're getting

active, making friends and cultivating community. Whether you live in Tucker or in surrounding areas, we hope you'll come out and be a part of our community this summer at Kelley Cofer Park.

Maggie Pinholster – Are there lifeguards at this pool?

Absolutely. The lifeguards we have are highly trained and dedicated to keeping the pool incident free this summer. Now, if that means your child gets a talking to about running on the pool deck or engaging in horseplay in the pool, just remember those lifeguards are doing their job and trying to make sure everyone is safe.

Ashley Freeman – Anyone know what days the summer camps usually show up? I went last year a few times and it was full of summer camp YMCA kids. I love kids, but it was PACKED.

Ashley, we hear you on that. Summer campers will be at the pool during

public hours on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 12-1 p.m. They will also get special swim time from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. on those days while the pool is closed to the public. This means more swim time for them, but less swim time during public hours.

Rebecca Ludwig – Do you offer a Military/Veteran Discount?

Yes, they will be honored at the Senior rate for daily or season passes.

There's one more item I wanted to share while I have your attention. In July, we're going to be doing a countdown of our favorite things about Tucker parks. If you have time, would you send an email to parks@tuckerga.gov with a list of your top 10 favorite park features? We'll boil down all the feedback and, starting on July 1, we'll do a monthlong countdown of our favorite park amenities.



TUCKERGA.GOV

CITY OF TUCKER - 4119 ADRIAN STREET, TUCKER, GA 30084
678.597.9040



Community Corner



6/8 - Tucker Optimist Club BBQ

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
4291 Lynburn Drive

The profits for the barbecue sale go to local youth-oriented projects. Chopped pork plates and half-a-chicken plates will be available at the barbecue pit across from the Tucker post office. Plates are \$10, but you may pre-order a whole butt for \$45.

6/8 - Tucker Cruise-In

5:00-8:00 p.m.
Main Street

Tucker Cruise-In is a non-profit, old-fashioned town meet and greet car show located on Main Street in Tucker, Georgia. They have a wide variety of cars, ranging from antiques to street rods, motorcycles to imports.

6/18 - Tucker Civic Membership Meeting

6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Presentation
2397 Fourth Street

Tucker Civic Association (TCA) is moving forward to promote our overall health and quality of life in Tucker by focusing on the World Health Organization's domains of community influence at their TCA Membership Meeting.

6/24 - Drumming for Success

6:00-7:00 p.m.
5234 Lavista Road

Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library continues its popular Monday Family Fun Nights series with the percussion talents of Dr. Arvin Scott. A longtime educator, Dr. Scott will entertain, engage and inform children at this free event.