



INTUCKER

MAY 2020 | VOLUME 4 | ISSUE 5



A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

WITH TUCKER DAY POSTPONED, RESIDENTS LOOK
BACK ON SIX DECADES OF THE BELOVED EVENT

EDITOR'S NOTE



"Bored."

That's pretty much the standard answer I get anytime I ask the kids how they're feeling over this last month and a half. I must admit, they're not the only ones.

Springtime is usually so active and busy. Running non-stop from work to soccer games to piano practice to school functions...it's stressful. And what we wouldn't give for a little bit of that stress right now. Unfortunately, May is promising to be more of the same. The beloved Tucker Day celebration is postponed until September, 5K races are going virtual and we had to scrap our entire series of Tucker Day Week events.

But rather than dwell on the current state of affairs, with this issue of *InTucker* we decided to take a look back at previous Tucker Day celebrations. Sometimes drumming up old memories – fond memories – can be exactly what you need to get you through a tough time. So, we solicited your Tucker Day memories and got some really good ones (page 8). From longtime residents to brand new neighbors, it seems like everyone has something they cherish about Tucker's signature festival.

Sit back, read up and enjoy this trip down memory lane. It's sure to get you stoked for Tucker Day's new date on September 26!

MATT HOLMES
INTUCKER EDITOR

IN THIS ISSUE



ON THE COVER

Tucker Day is to Tucker what the Harvest Festival is to Pawnee. So when everyone's favorite event is postponed, what is a community to do? On page 6, take a look back at Tucker Days past and get the inside scoop on the rescheduled Tucker Day happening this fall.



BIG GIFT

It was completely unexpected, but now it's the buzz of Tucker scouting. On page 8, find out how Tucker's Troop 129 ended up with a big fat check to support their scouting efforts.



BUSINESS BOOM

This may be the scariest time for small businesses in at least a generation. On page 10, John McHenry talks with some local businessmen about how they've applied for and received federal support, and walks small business owners through how they can get help for themselves.



RENAISSANCE WOMAN

She's given back through her church, the theater and her Tucker parks. On page 14, get to know our Citizen of the Month Dawn Hines.



ASK RIP

How will coronavirus impact the opening of Tucker's pools and the popular summer camp? You asked, Rip answered on page 15.



INTUCKER

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From the Mayor:

A month ago, as I wrote this column, we were just beginning to realize how serious coronavirus had become. We were looking everywhere for hope, for signs that it would ease soon, for a vaccine, a treatment, a way to stop the spread. We looked to health professionals, government officials, our employers, friends, family and neighbors. Now, it's time to look forward.

After more than a month of lockdowns, sheltering-in-place, and caring for each other the best we can from a distance, we're starting to understand how to respond out of something other than fear. We're learning who is most vulnerable, and how to protect them. We're learning how to put some things back into our lives after so much has been taken away. But we still have to be careful, and we have to be very intentional.

When Governor Kemp issued his shelter-in-place order back on April 2, he left room for most businesses to continue to operate at a "Basic Minimum" level. Now, at the end of April, he has issued strict guidelines under which most of the businesses he forced to close entirely can begin to re-open. It's an enormous political risk for him to be among the first. And it's a risk for us as individuals too, if we choose to operate under those strict guidelines as businesses and as customers and clients of those businesses. But it's no risk at all – it's a near certainty – that if we go back to "normal" and ignore the fact that the virus is still among us, we'll find ourselves suffering the consequences. It's the reason we can begin to look forward. It's a reason to begin thinking about the future, and how we can begin to relate to each other again. While we may have to wear face coverings or keep six feet apart or whatever else we must do for perhaps a very long time, we can begin to think about seeing our parents and grandparents, children and grandchildren again. We can imagine meals together, outings together, maybe even a Braves or Bulldogs game!

We're looking forward as a city government too. All through this crisis, our dedicated staff and council have been devoting themselves to continuing the daily work of the City, keeping the parks open and operating, issuing permits and licenses, paving roads and building sidewalks. And we've been planning a post-virus future.



On May 8, I'll deliver the State of the City address as scheduled, if not as planned. It won't be in front of an audience, but live-streamed for anyone who wants to watch. And it will be about looking forward. Forward to getting back to business. Forward to getting back to living. Forward to the great things we will do together.

The State of the City is literally about the state we find ourselves in, and our current state is neither normal nor permanent. This one time a year, we talk about where we've been and where we're going. We assess our assets and liabilities, and how to best deploy them for everyone's benefit. We've got a lot to look forward to, and I'm looking forward to sharing it with you.

FRANK AUMAN
MAYOR

City Council Update



Tucker's Mayor and City Council held three meetings, all virtual, during the month of April.

The first meeting took place on April 13, where Council took the important step of approving a series of contracts for buildout of a new City Hall. After outgrowing their current spaces, City staff are moving operations into the facility at 1975 Lakeside Parkway, just off Northlake Parkway. The other issue Council took action on was to unanimously approve an amended meeting calendar for 2020. This move was made to reflect changes to the land use process, specifically with Community Council ceasing operation. It will also move Planning Commission meetings to the third Thursday of the month.

At a special called meeting on April 20, Council had their first chance to ask questions about the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget. That draft budget assumes a 20 percent drop in revenues due to economic impact of the coronavirus. It also establishes a \$1.7 million contingency. A final vote on the budget will happen later

this spring. As far as action items, Council approved the acquisition of Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club on a 6-1 vote. The club, which has long been a staple in Tucker's Smoke Rise community, will give the City a second public swimming pool with additional tennis and pickleball courts. They also approved an amendment to the City's alcohol ordinance. This change will empower the City to revoke an alcohol license for businesses who do not comply with city audits, as well as creating stricter policies toward businesses who are routinely late in paying their alcohol excise tax.

The final meeting of the month took place on April 27. Council approved a \$108,095 contract with TriScapes to reconstruct eight intersection radii in the City. They also approved a handful of appointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Downtown Development Authority and Planning Commission.

The next meeting of the Mayor and City Council will be on May 11 at 7 p.m. at the City Hall Annex (4228 First Avenue).

DATES TO KNOW

- May 8**
State of the City Address
- May 11**
City Council
- May 12**
Zoning Board of Appeals
- May 18**
Downtown Development Authority
- May 19**
Municipal Court
- May 20**
Municipal Court
- May 21**
Planning Commission
- May 26**
City Council
- May 27**
Municipal Court

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 **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@dekalbcountryga.gov



You cannot count on anyone to be a better advocate for you than you are for yourself. This was a lesson that I painfully learned in the spring of 2013. I had always subscribed to this line of thinking to some extent, but until there is a painful event associated with the lesson, you never truly understand it. This month I'm going to share a little personal story and hopefully explain how it applies to us all as we move into the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On April 4, 2013 I was assigned to evening watch at North Precinct. That night I responded to a call which resulted in me being injured. At first, I thought I had broken my right ankle. Needless to say it was incredibly painful. When I sought medical treatment, the doctor said that it was tendonitis. I was given an ankle brace, some ointment and told that it would be better in seven to eight weeks.

As the eighth week passed and I still was unable to walk without a limp, I became concerned. I went back to the doctor and told her that I was worried that there was damage that would not heal on its own. The doctor responded by saying that they were going to prescribe me a regimen of physical therapy. I told her that physical therapy

was fine but I did not want another eight weeks to pass and still not be any better. The doctor finally agreed to prescribe the MRI. It revealed that my Achilles tendon was torn. The only way to fix it was surgery. Before the procedure, the orthopedic surgeon told me that so much time had passed since the injury that the injury may be permanent. Thankfully he was able to fix it and I fully recovered.

Sometimes I wonder what would have happened if I had not demanded an MRI. Would the price of me not taking ownership of my own health have been being crippled for life? I'm glad that I will never know the answer to that question.

So, as we move into the next phase of our coronavirus journey, I hear people debating whether the government has done enough to protect the health of the public. Personally, I say this: if you take ownership of your own health and well-being, if you personally decide to adhere to the common sense rules of cleanliness and social distance, and if you personally decide to stay home unless you absolutely need to go out, you are doing more for yourself and your family than any government order would.

TUCKER DAY MEMORIES

TUCKER'S SIGNATURE EVENT IS ON HOLD MAKING IT THE PERFECT TIME TO GET NOSTALGIC



Honey Van De Kreke was one of the driving forces behind Tucker becoming a city. A longtime resident of Tucker's Smoke Rise community, Van De Kreke helped raise money, organize meetings and convince her neighbors about the need for cityhood. Since the 2015 vote to incorporate, she has worn many hats in the City: business owner, City Council member, Downtown Development Authority member, Tucker Business Association chief. But the most important hat might also be the most fun: she heads up the volunteer group that runs Tucker Day.

"I love it. I do," Van De Kreke says. "I look forward to it every

year because we have a really good group on our committee. They're fun people and they care about Tucker and they care about Tucker Day. We always have a good time coming up with new things for Tucker Day and it just gets your creative juices flowing."

That creative team came up with a Roaring 20s motif for Tucker Day, and had been excited about seeing all of the nostalgic costumes such a theme would bring. But the event, which has become synonymous with springtime in Tucker, typically falling on the Saturday before Mothers' Day, had to be postponed this year.

"We had planned to have it on May 9," Van De Kreke says, explaining that the event, which is now scheduled for September 26, will still be special. "The format will be the same. We have not lost any of our arts and crafts people. Everyone's favorites that were there last year will be there this year. We have new food vendors. The entertainment is already booked. We had so much interest from people who want to perform that that was booked right away."

For the organizers, Tucker Day is a labor of love and a way to continue the traditions of Tucker from well before it was a city. Despite the unprecedented

circumstances surrounding this year's event, the Main Street Tucker Alliance volunteers are aiming to make this Tucker Day the best ever.

"I think that this year it may be the best Tucker Day ever because I think that people want to get out, be with their friends, their fellow citizens and they just want to celebrate," Van De Kreke says. "I think that this year will be even more important than ever to celebrate who we are."

The festival will start, as always, with an opening ceremony at 9 a.m., followed by a parade down Main Street at 10. Find a complete schedule at www.tuckerday.com.

WE ASKED AND YOU DELIVERED SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES FROM TUCKER DAYS PAST

Honey Van De Kreke:

In 2010, the year before we started the construction on the Main Street Streetscape, that year our theme was "Breaking Ground in Our Hometown" and Bob the Builder was one of the characters in our parade. That happened to be my grandson's favorite character and my grandson got to hold his hand as they walked down Main Street.



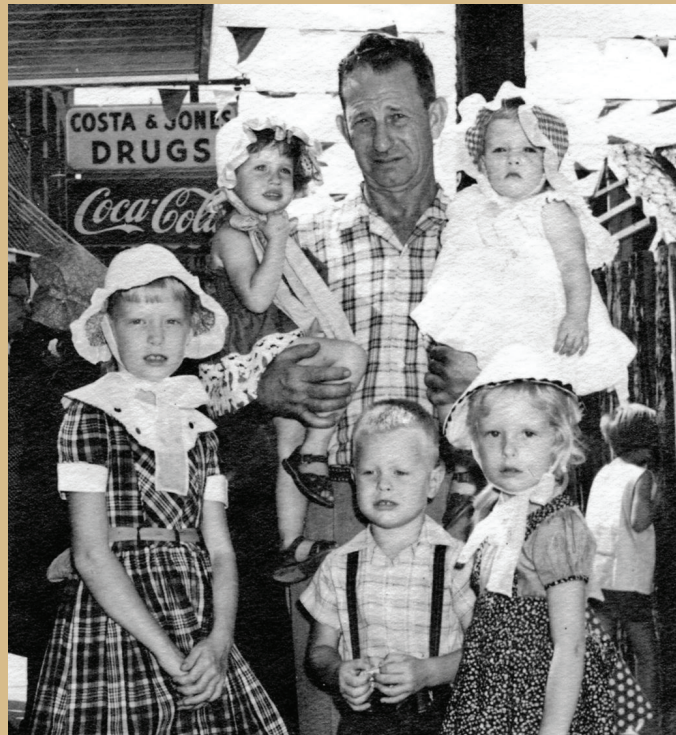
Longtime Tucker resident and activist Honey Van De Kreke is already planning ahead for a September Tucker Day. (credit: tuckerga.gov)

Christy Robnett Atkins:

From when I was little, I absolutely loved the parade. Especially seeing the high school kids and old cars. I hope that can come back someday.

Carey Crews Allison:

My favorite memories are from when I was coaching cheerleading at THS in the early 2000s and I LOVED watching my cheerleaders in the parade, riding in convertibles and throwing out little footballs and candy to all the kids.



Jason Atkins:

My favorite memories were when Tucker Day was in the fall, and the football team and cheerleaders would ride through in the parade with the band playing. I still laugh about almost running over my future wife and her friends when they darted across the street.

Charles K. Hunt Sr.:

Watching my son participate in the big wheel race, me running the road race, and watching daughters over the next years march with the Tucker High School band.

Matt Robbins:

My memory is of the Tucker Day Parade 2016 where the new City Council was honored to be the Marshals of the parade. Tucker Day was honoring the State's newest city, voted overwhelmingly for in November 2015, and the new full Council who had been seated six weeks previously.



UNEXPECTED GIFT

TUCKER'S SCOUT TROOP BENEFITS BIG FROM CORPORATE BENEVOLENCE



Ten thousand dollars is an awful lot of money. So, imagine the surprise of Tucker's local Boy Scout troop when they found out they were getting a check for that amount, seemingly out of nowhere.

That's exactly what happened earlier this year. But the story of how the money ended up in Tucker and not, say, Marietta, is an interesting one.

As parents of two sons, ages nine and ten, Kyle and Katie McLeod have been active and invested with the Scouts. While he's not working at UPS, Kyle participates in activities with his sons' dens, including every scout's favorite: the campout.

This type of extracurricular activity is exactly what UPS wants from its employees. The worldwide delivery giant recently pledged its employees would perform "20 million hours of global volunteerism and community service by the end of 2020." And they put their money where their mouth is.

UPS has a program called "Neighbor-to-Neighbor" where they encourage their staff to log volunteer hours. Each hour of service is recorded and put into a pot for a big

drawing in February. In the end, somebody receives big bucks for their service group.

By the time February rolled around, Kyle McLeod wasn't thinking much about his service hours; after all, the company's Global Volunteer Month happened the previous October. So, when Kyle's day was interrupted and he was thrown in front of a couple dozen colleagues at a meeting, he wasn't sure why.

"They pulled me into a district staff meeting, and then recognized me with this big \$10,000 check," McLeod recalls. "I was completely shocked and at a loss for words."

Out of thousands of employees, the UPS Foundation had selected him as the winner. From the outside, the decision on where to donate the money would seem easy. The McLeod family had been so active in Tucker's Scout Troop 129 that it was a no-brainer they would make the donation to that troop. But it was a little more complicated than that. The McLeods recently had packed up and moved to Marietta, where their boys joined a new scout troop. Kyle and Katie were left with a

decision: donate to their new troop or give to the old one. In the end, Tucker won out.

"I could have chosen to put the money into the troop that we're going to in East Cobb," McLeod says, "but just because of what Tucker means to us...it's a family. They do so much with the community and its one of the only troops that is community-driven."

The check was presented to Troop 129 at this year's Blue and Gold Banquet. A hundred scouts and their families were on hand to thank UPS and the McLeods.

"The gift was a total surprise," said den leader Javier De Jesus. "The pack are very grateful to [the McLeod family] for selecting the pack. As I understand it, they could have assigned the gift to any charitable organization. And they chose to support the Scouts."

However Troop 129 spends the \$10,000 donation, it's a good lesson for those scouts and their parents about how volunteerism can really pay off. And those youngsters, most of whom attend Tucker Cluster schools, are sure grateful for the support.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS IMPROVING TUCKER

The culmination of a young life spent in the scouts is an Eagle Scout Project. The young man or woman must put together a written plan, get permissions from the benefitting organization, get permissions from their Scout Leader and then do the research necessary to start and complete the project. Here in Tucker, there is a long history of Eagle Scouts whose projects have contributed to the betterment of the community.



Some of the most visible Eagle Scout projects are in Tucker's parks. For years, hikers at Henderson Park could reference a trail map researched and constructed by Eagle Scout Tully Herr. While changes and upgrades to the trails have rendered the 2006 map obsolete, it still stands in the park as an example of hard work. Additionally, in 2019, Eagle Scout Wyle Woodman completed a project building bat houses in Tucker's parks. He chose the project after consulting with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), deciding it would be an effective way to curtail Zika and other mosquito-borne diseases.



Saluting Our Seniors

2020

Congratulations to Tucker High School's Class of 2020! This hard-working class is headlined by valedictorian Luma Younis and salutatorian Bidhya Pradhan.



LUMA YOUNIS

College: Georgia Tech

Intended Major: Biochemistry

Career Plans: Osteopathic Physician



BIDHYA PRADHAN

College: Georgia Tech

Intended Major: Neuroscience

Career Plans: Neurosurgeon

BUSINESS BOOM

by John McHenry, Community and Economic Development Director



ECONOMIC RECOVERY RESOURCES

Clearly, it is an unprecedented time that we are currently experiencing with a range of serious challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In balancing the overall health of the nation, important safety measures were instituted that involved the temporary closing of many businesses. This has had a devastating economic impact to our small business community, but there has been a federal response which is ongoing as this column goes to print. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) developed two loan and grant programs that are making a difference for many companies. Please visit the Economic Development page of the City's website for more specific information at tuckerga.gov/biz.

The Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) allows for small business owners who are eligible to apply for a loan of up to \$2 million at very competitive rates and up to a 30-year duration. Applicants apply for this loan directly through the SBA (not through banks) and may request an advance of up to \$10,000. This advance will provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. Funds are made available following a successful application and the loan advance will not have to be repaid.

Another tool offered by the SBA is the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), a potentially forgivable loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses and nonprofits to keep their workers on the payroll. SBA will forgive loans if an equal number and salary level of employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks following the funding day of your PPP loan. If a minimum of 75% of the PPP funds are used for payroll purposes only, the additional funds may be used for rent, mortgage interest, or utilities that have accrued after the day of funding. This program is offered through participating federally insured depository institutions, including community banks. The maximum loan size is \$10 million.

"It is a relief to know that no matter what happens over the next couple of months, we will be able to stay open and keep our employees working."

***~Micheal Vorndran~
The Corner Cup***





One of our new businesses, The Corner Cup Coffee, was able to secure a PPP loan with the help of Tandem Bank, right down the road on Main Street.

Owner Michael Vorndran shared, “The team at Tandem was extremely helpful throughout the application process. It is a relief to know that no matter what happens over the next couple of months, we will be able to stay open and keep our employees working.”

Andy Alexander, a local business owner and member of Tucker’s Downtown Development Authority, agreed, stressing that Tandem Bank was very professional and responsive on his PPP application and that he is grateful that Tucker now has a community bank with this expertise. Although initial funding for this program was exhausted, Congress is expected to approve an additional \$310 billion in funding (on top of the \$349 billion in the CARES Act) for the Paycheck Protection Program. Tandem Bank has already processed over 150 applications for \$23 million and expects to process more than 200 in total during the program.

The City of Tucker is also working closely with Decide DeKalb, Georgia Piedmont Technical College (GPTC) and the Georgia Department of Economic Development to ensure that our business owners are advised of all resources and programs that they may be eligible for.

“The DeKalb team is working hard to make sure that our business owners have all of the tools that we can provide at this difficult time. We want to make sure that DeKalb businesses know where to turn for loans, marketing support and the other programs that they need to survive,” said Randi Mason, Decide DeKalb’s Vice President of Economic Development.

Irvin Clark, Vice President of Economic Development at GPTC emphasized that the school is fully committed to supporting their business and industry partners and the communities they serve during the current COVID-19 crisis. GPTC’s Economic Development Division recently launched a series of free webinars that will focus on disaster mitigation strategies that will help support local

business during this unparalleled time. For additional information including start times and registration instructions please email GoMetroCorporateCollege@GPTC.edu.

During this period, the City has continued to provide all services and is still experiencing the same upward trend in building and development permits. The City has suspended late fees and penalties for occupational taxes through April 30th. The two Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) continue their comprehensive work of supplying additional transportation and aesthetic improvements, while providing additional security and advocating for their commercial property owners.

“I’ve been impressed by the wisdom, sacrifice, and ingenuity of those who have essentially retooled their entire operation to comply with the law.”

***~Matthew Lee~
Tucker-Northlake CID***

Matthew Lee, Executive Director of the Tucker-Northlake CID explained, “I’ve been impressed by the wisdom, sacrifice, and ingenuity of those who have essentially retooled their entire operation to comply with the law. It’s a reflection of who our local business owners are and their commitment to the community. From food service to banking, lumber, manufacturing, and even a comic book store, our businesses understand they have a role in shaping public health.”

There are two new restaurants that are in the planning and buildout stages for downtown, as well as many other residential and commercial developments still underway. This is a tough, tough time for our business community. Still, we know that Tucker is a caring, industrious community and that we will work together to come out of this stronger.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

THREAD BEAUTY SPA



Sanah Sayani has worn many hats in her professional career. Once a television personality, she moved to Tucker to become an entrepreneur, opening her own spa. But now, just weeks after celebrating her one year anniversary of doing business in Tucker, she has taken a step back, transitioning to a seamstress.

“Typically, what we do is thread eyebrows, facials, waxing,” Sayani explains. “Business is shut down because you can’t touch anyone and so we shut it down.”

Shut down by the global outbreak of the coronavirus. With the virus spreading from person to person, businesses like Sayani’s that require customer contact were forced to close, dealing a terrible blow to small businesses across the area. But, as Sayani will tell you with a smile, she found a new calling during this time of temporary turmoil.

“We’ve sent about 2,000 masks through these doors,” she says.

That’s right, Sayani has turned her spa into a sewing studio where she, her mom and brother are making masks to keep people safe during the outbreak. They make the masks through the generosity of donors, giving them away to anyone in the community who may need one. They’ve worked in conjunction with the Facebook group Tucker Makes Masks to get thousands

of custom, hand-crafted, reusable masks out into the community.

“I’m not running a business right now. I have tons of free time on my hands,” Sayani laments. “Success would be really just limiting the amount of people going into the hospital. Flattening the curve. Whatever we can do to help at this time.”

Her efforts have been so helpful, they’ve attracted the attention of multiple media outlets, most recently landing her a spot on the WSB television news. The attention is welcome, but Sayani says her real motivation is helping her neighbors.

“A sense of community has been rejuvenated in me,” she says. “I feel like, you know what? If things go bad in life, the community is there to support us. If anybody needs any help, the whole community will come together. Especially the Tucker community. It’s a very strong community.”

Sayani says she looks forward to re-opening her business at some point in the near future. But, in the meantime, she’s learning a lot about herself and her community as she spearheads this effort to keep people well and save lives.

You can find Thread Beauty Spa online at threadbeautyspa.com or visit in person once they re-open at 4426 Hugh Howell Road.

TEAM TUCKER *Spotlight*

FRANCES VOGEL, PARKS & RECREATION ADMIN.



Off the Wall

What do you do in your free time?

I like to hike, cook, read, do puzzles and hang out with my family. I am getting to do a lot of these lately since we are all home. I also love the beach and will take any opportunity to put my feet in the sand and hunt for sharks' teeth.

What is your favorite sport?

Whatever sport my children are playing. Currently my daughter is playing softball. I recently started to play golf and have come to enjoy the personal challenge it brings to my life, combining my love for nature and the excitement of a game.

How would you describe yourself as a mom? How would your kids describe you?

I am a black belt mom; I want it my way and usually get it either through cooperation or manipulation.

My kids would say I am high maintenance and can be a bit dramatic.

If you could vacation in one place you've never been, where would you choose?

Egypt. The history and architecture have always amazed me, and I look forward to being able to travel there one day.

Tell us about your history here in Tucker...

I have lived in Tucker since 1999, when my husband and I moved here with our two boys from Atlanta. The good schools and small-town feel are what have kept us here. We expanded our family and moved to our current home in 2004. After a year of renovations, we were definitely rooted in Tucker. Our kids attended the local public schools, this is where my volunteering began, and I have found it has been the backbone of my love for the community. I have been a volunteer since we settled here, and I am passionate about bringing the community together through service.

Why did you want to work for the City where you live?

As a 20-year resident of Tucker, I have visited and participated in sports and leisure throughout the city, starting with soccer at TYSA, t-ball at Fitzgerald Field, even teaching my boys to swim at Kelley Cofer Pool. These parks are at the beginning of my children's lives and my hope is that, through the work of the City of Tucker, they will continue to serve the community. I also had the opportunity to work with Rip and Ray on a volunteer project and knew that they would be great to work with.

What are the best and worst parts about working in Parks and Recreation?

The staff is the best part! I know that is so cliché, but I have truly enjoyed getting to know each and every one of them. I really enjoy people and developing relationships with them. The worst is that I am a helper and sometimes I try to help where help isn't needed.

How difficult has it been to adjust professionally to the challenges posed by coronavirus?

The hardest part has been not interacting with the clients that I have come to care about that use the Rec Center on a regular basis. I enjoy the small talk that I believe is a vital part of our health and wellness.

DAWN HINES

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH



"I would like to nominate Dawn Hines as Tucker's Citizen of the Month. Dawn and her late husband, Bill, have lived in the Tucker area for many years where they raised their large blended family. Their children attended local schools and graduated from Tucker High School. Dawn and Bill's blended family of five children produced seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren so far!

Dawn and Bill owned and ran Georgia Medical Gases, a company which started in 1986. They were landlords to other small businesses that shared their building's space.

Dawn's presence in the community is very much front and center. She is one of the original members of Main Street Theatre and has served as their Treasurer from the start, as well as being an actor, producer, greeter, box office manager, unofficial cheerleader, and general 'spreader of the news'.

Her drama skills and interests were very much in evidence through the years at Tucker First United Methodist Church with the production of many dinner theaters, dramas and early productions of Christmas at Tucker. Speaking of TFUMC, Dawn presently rings in two handbell choirs and, until recently, sang in two choirs. She is currently President of the Searchers Sunday School Class.

There is another side of Dawn that must be mentioned—the Master Gardener side of her. Through the years, her love and expertise of gardening has touched many locations in Tucker. Dawn was instrumental in starting the Tucker Butterfly Garden in front of the Recreation Center and still spends many hours (along with others) maintaining its upkeep. She has also worked on the Native Tree Walk behind the Rec Center. Her daily posts on Facebook provide information and pictures about plants that are native to Georgia. I can't tell you how many times I have seen the question asked, 'Hey Dawn, what kind of plant is this?' She has or will find the answer. Dawn has given many speeches to local garden clubs and has done private consultations on people's yards.

Speaking of yards, this is where Dawn finds her peace and purpose, especially in these difficult times. No one should be surprised she often gets 'Honorable Mention' or 'Yard of the Month' in her neighborhood of Winding Woods. The surprise would be if she DIDN'T get these honors.

I guess it can be said that our Tucker Community has been made better, more artistic and more beautiful by Dawn Hines' presence."

Nominated by Carolyn Davison

“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.



Things are still slower than normal in the world of Parks and Recreation. Of course, our hiking trails are getting worn out and spring is in full bloom throughout our parks, but we missed out on an adult league basketball season, a women's softball season and our Spring Break camp this past month. But brighter days

are ahead. We continue to host the Tucker Farmers Market as a drive-through location as it adjusts to state mandates. Our staff is working diligently to get meals out to those in need, while also planning for what's to come after everything opens back up. TYSA is working with Georgia Youth Soccer on plans to finish their spring season. And contractors are headed up to our roof to start scoping out the new solar panels we'll be installing this spring and summer. There's a lot to be excited about!



Now I want to address three questions we've received pretty steadily over the course of the past month.

Will Tucker Rec Center be hosting Summer Camp?

At this point, the answer is yes. What that camp will look like, however, is still a question. I would love to open up that first week of June and bring in 150 campers for a great time of swimming, crafts and STEM activities. As it stands now, that's probably not feasible. We will do as much as public health officials and our city leadership allow but know that we will always err on the side of responsibility; your child's safety is always the top priority.

Will the summer swim season start on time?

Another question that we don't exactly have an answer for. Our staff is preparing as if Memorial Day weekend will be opening weekend at Kelley Cofer Park pool. Last summer we shattered attendance records and really made our city pool the place to be to beat the heat. As with Summer Camp, we will be doing our due diligence to ensure a safe opening date for the pool. Keep up with us online and on social media for new developments.

And speaking of pools...

Why did the City acquire Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club?

I am so excited about this acquisition. For years, Smoke Rise Bath & Racquet Club has been a popular place to go swimming or to play some tennis. Now, thanks to a vote last month by the Mayor and City Council, the club becomes a City of Tucker park. This is great news for several reasons:

- 1) This park is located in an area of need as laid out in our Parks Master Plan.
- 2) The acquisition and upkeep of this park is cheaper than building a brand new park from scratch.
- 3) This provides another public swim option to our community and for the same price as a season pass to Kelley Cofer Park pool.
- 4) We get two more lighted tennis courts into our parks system and two others that will be converted into four pickleball courts. If you've been to the pickleball matches at Tucker Rec Center, you'll know how big a need more courts is.

So, my message this month is, don't let the frustration of sheltering-in-place and social distancing get you down. They are necessary steps in the near term, but looking long term there are plenty of reasons to be psyched for summer!

TUCKERGA.GOV

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TUCKER *Community Corner*



5/1-17 – 63rd Annual Tucker Road Race

TuckerRoadRace.com

Due to the coronavirus, this year's race will be a virtual 5K. Sign up at www.TuckerRoadRace.com, enter your time before May 17 and receive a race t-shirt. Registration is \$35 for adults and \$15 for kids under 12. Proceeds benefit the Tucker High School Band.

5/9 – Spring Fling Virtual Prom

8 p.m. – Tucker social media channels

Join the City of Tucker for the final installment of its Spring Fling series: our virtual prom. Popular local act The Riot Band will perform a closed concert from the stage at Tucker Brewing Company. Dance along with them on Facebook and Instagram!