



INTUCKER

MAY 2019 | VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 5



TUCKER'S BIGGEST MONTH

FROM SPEECHES TO GRADUATIONS AND, OF COURSE, TUCKER DAY, MAY IS THE MONTH WHERE EVERYTHING'S HAPPENING IN TUCKER.

EDITOR'S NOTE



Writing a magazine can be a lot of fun. You get to meet people, tell their stories and celebrate the cool things they're doing to make a difference in the community. In a city like Tucker, you don't have to go far to find amazing people doing amazing things.

For this month's issue of *InTucker*, we got to visit Brockett Elementary School where a pair of moms "organically" stumbled onto an after-school activity for their kids. The school's administration has embraced their idea and now students are getting a really unique hands-on experience that teaches them so much about the world around them. And it's giving those kids something they can be proud of.

You're going to meet one of Tucker's super-volunteers, our Citizen of the Month Shawn Stone. Find out why this man, big in stature and in personality, is so at home in Tucker's parks.

And, of course, we're building up to Tucker Day. A lot of folks put a lot of planning and effort into making this annual tradition so special. Really, there's nothing more "Tucker"; hard work and selflessness combining for the sake of cultivating community.

As you wade through the thousands of people on May 11 crowding Main Street, take a moment and look around. This is Tucker at its best!

MATT HOLMES
INTUCKER EDITOR

IN THIS ISSUE



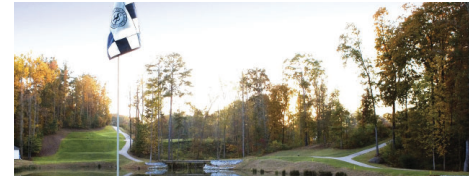
From the Cover

As if you didn't already know, you'll be reminded on May 11 about why "Tucker Rocks!" Check out a full Tucker Day Week schedule on page 11.



Back to Work

On page 5, the saga of DeKalb County's beloved police K9, Indi, takes another turn. Find out the tremendous odds he's overcoming to get back to his old life.



Business Boom

The business world is awash in cutting edge technology. But as John McHenry reminds us on page 8, some business trends never go out of style.



Citizen of the Month

He's put years of sweat equity into Tucker's Henderson Park. On page 13, get to know the story of Shawn Stone.



Ask Rip

Adults around Tucker are going to feel like kids again and it's all thanks to the Parks and Recreation Department. Rip tells you all about it on page 15.



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One of the most challenging things about running a city is you always have to be looking ahead. Nowhere is that truer than in our budget process. Our fiscal year begins each July 1. Yet each January, our Tucker staff begin planning out their budgets for the following year. In February, department heads sit down with our City Manager to think through their future needs, both for operational expenses to provide the level of service you expect, and for capital improvements and projects around the City. By March, those preliminary budget numbers have made their way to the City Council and me. And, after a ton of work and meetings by all parties throughout the month of April, we finally pass a budget; yes, with two months still to go in the current fiscal year.

We just finished this process for Fiscal Year '20 and I expect you'll be happy with the results. As required by our charter, this is a balanced budget. That means we'll only spend as much money as we're projecting to take in. For the upcoming year, that number comes out to about \$13.7 million. Of that, about \$8.7 million goes to operating the city, and \$5 million goes to capital projects. That money is going to help us improve upon some of the things we're already doing, while expanding upon others, like funding our new Trail Plan, sidewalks, road resurfacing and so on. Of note, we're adding staff within our Parks and Recreation Department. This includes two part-time positions who will be responsible for assisting the public and monitoring activities in the parks. Our Parks and Rec Director has more to say about the impact that's going to make on page 15.

We're also allocating funds to hire our first Finance Director. This is a senior-level person who will help us establish our credit rating, prepare for our annual audit and budget processes, solidify our business licensing, and give us expert guidance on how to invest the City's reserve fund.

The \$13.7 million budget is going to be supplemented by an additional \$4.9 million in anticipated SPLOST revenue from the extra penny sales tax. Eighty five percent of that money is required to be invested in road improvements and multimodal transportation like sidewalks and trails. The balance is more discretionary, and can be used for things like capital improvements to our parks, including new parking, restrooms and so on. You can be sure this money will be put to good use, as we will always have more needs than we have money.

So that's a taste of our financial future. But don't forget, there's a lot to be excited about in the present. From Tucker Day to graduations and the Summer of Fun, it's a great time to be in Tucker.



FRANK AUMAN
MAYOR OF TUCKER

City Council Update



Tucker's Mayor and City Council had a busy April meeting four times, mostly to address the Fiscal Year '20 budget. On April 8, they held a public hearing and first read on a \$13.7 million balanced budget. After a pair of special called meetings to hammer out details, the Council unanimously approved the budget at their meeting on April 22. This budget includes around \$8 million in expenditures for City operations and approximately \$5 million in capital projects funded from the general fund. That will be supplemented by an anticipated \$4.9 million in revenues from the special-purpose local-option sales tax (SPLOST). The SPLOST money will be allocated for capital projects in accordance with the parameters laid out in the 2017 SPLOST referendum.

At the meeting on April 8, Council also held a first read on an annexation petition by the ownership of five parcels of Northlake Mall. The mall sits within the boundaries of Tucker's original cityhood map and could become part of the City if the petition is approved by the Council later

this month. They also unanimously adopted the Trail Master Plan with conditions. The plan, prepared by the PATH Foundation and KAIZEN Collaborative, lays out a framework for expanding walkability and connectivity within the City with a 32-mile network of trails.

On April 22, Council unanimously approved a rezoning petition for the property at 4062 Comanche Drive. The petition, which will allow for construction of two new homes, asks for rezoning from R-75 to RSM and a concurrent variance to lot width requirements. They also held a pair of public hearings surrounding new business before the Council. The first hearing was for a special land use permit to allow for a massage establishment at 1505 Lilburn Stone Mountain Road. That was followed by a hearing on a text amendment stemming from the City's Sign Ordinance and Overlay Rewrite process. Each of these issues is anticipated for a second read and vote at the City Council meeting on May 13.

DATES TO KNOW

- May 2**
Downtown Development Authority
- May 8**
Community Council
- May 13**
City Council
- May 15**
Environmental Court
- May 22**
Offenses Court
- May 23**
Planning Commission
- May 27**
Memorial Day
(All City buildings CLOSED)
- May 28**
City Council

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



Back in January, it was with a heavy heart that I wrote about the brutal murder of Officer Edgar Flores during a traffic stop just weeks before his 25th birthday. Another casualty on that day was K9 Officer Indi. He played a key role in locating and apprehending the suspect. During the encounter, Officer Indi was shot in the head before other officers returned fire and killed the suspect. Today, I'm happy to report that even the darkest cloud has a silver lining: Officer Indi has made a full recovery and returned to work.

Initially, things looked grim for Indi. Even though he had not sustained any brain damage, he lost the use of his right eye. And in spite of the gruesome nature of the injury, Indi began defying the odds right away.

He was able to return home just two days after the incident. He then outdid himself again by attending the funeral of Officer Flores. This was a huge morale lift for a department that had just been punched in the mouth. It's a little bit easier to get back into the saddle when you see one of your fellow officers, overcoming a terrible injury, do the same; even if that officer has four legs instead of two.

Indi had a promising start, but faced a long, hard road to recovery. He had to build up his strength and coordination, along with passing the certification tests set by the North American Police Working Dog Association. Indi overcame

all of these obstacles with flying colors. Part of the recovery process was for Indi and his partner, Officer Norman Larson, to go to calls and shadow other K9 officers to become reacclimated. Larson said that he could tell that Indi wasn't happy about being on the sidelines.



On March 13, there was a ceremony honoring Officer Indi and Officer Larson in front of the K9 memorial statue at police headquarters. Both officers received meritorious service medals. In addition, Indi received a purple heart for his injuries. When asked about Indi's future, Officer Larson said, "He is only seven and full of energy. He's going to retire on his terms."

In a perfect world, everyone would have left that incident unscathed. However, we all know that the world in which we live is far from that. Sometimes when you face a situation where there are no winners, it is good to know that there are heroes out there who refuse to walk away a loser.

PLANTING SEEDS FOR SUCCESS

TUCKER STUDENTS GET OUT OF THE CLASSROOM AND INTO THE GARDEN



It's a sunny Tuesday afternoon and Sophie Johnson and her friends are making the most of it. Grabbing a notepad, the second-grader sketches some hostas she's planted in the courtyard of Brockett Elementary School. Classmates run around her, filling up watering cans from a nearby rain barrel and searching for creepy-crawlies in the soil. As Sophie looks up from her paper, squinting into the sun, a smile appears across her face. She's outdoors and she's loving it.

"Some of these kids have never played in the dirt," says Brockett parent Crystal O'Neal. "They start digging and they find slugs, worms, roly polys. They're so excited, so happy."

O'Neal and fellow mom Kimberly Adkins became friends through Brockett. They would grow bored after school while waiting for their kids to finish Mathletes and, instead of waiting inside a classroom, they eventually found themselves waiting outside in the courtyard. One thing led to another and soon, rather than waiting, they were pulling weeds. Weeding turned to dreaming and dreaming turned to planning. Before long, the pair had a vision for a community garden within the courtyard, but they knew they would need some help.

Thus, was born the Brockett Elementary Garden Club.

"We have about 25 students Kindergarten through second grade," Adkins explains. "We meet every Tuesday for an hour after school. We've planted nine beds with everything from tomatoes to herbs and we just planted some squash seeds."

While the kids are doing the work, it's parental involvement that is driving this effort. Adkins estimates more than a dozen moms, dads, grandparents and community members have given their time to help the Garden Club make amazing progress in just a short time.

"Here at Brockett, parental involvement is key," says Principal Antoinette Seabrook. "When Mrs. O'Neal came to us with the idea of doing a Garden Club, we were so excited. It was something that we wanted for our students but weren't sure how we could make it happen. We have awesome parents that make our school a wonderful place for our children."

Brockett isn't alone in creating an on-campus garden. Livsey Elementary has an aquaponic garden that is used by fourth grade science students to learn about plant reproduction and growth. Smoke Rise Elementary



has several unique gardens that the students utilize throughout the year: the Jaguar Garden, which is a traditional soil garden, and three aeroponic and aquaponic gardens. Tucker Middle has an expansive hydroponic garden in its courtyard, while Tucker High has its own aquaponic greenhouse, a facility built by STEM students and community partners.

These gardens are nice assets for the school campuses and good teaching tools for the faculty, but students like Sophie have their own reasons for enjoying the outdoor work.

"I like making things and helping plants grow," she says. "I want to help people who don't have food to have food."

With continued hard work by Brockett's Garden Club, Sophie's dream could soon become a reality.

TUCKER CLUSTER

Updates & News

Important Dates

- **May 23** - Last Day of School
- **May 27** - Schools and Admin. closed for Memorial Day
- **May 31** - Tucker High School Graduation at Georgia World Congress Center

The Brag Sheet

Idlewood Elementary

- Idlewood sent a team to the Science Olympiad under the tutelage of their head coach, Mrs. Cunningham. Team Idlewood placed first in Simple Machines and first in Straw Towers. They also placed third in Don't Bug Me.

Livsey Elementary

- The Livsey Mentor Program comes to a close for the year later this month. The Mentor Program pairs up students and teachers, providing a weekly opportunity for connection and guidance. This year, 50 students participated!

Midvale Elementary

- Georgia's former House Minority Leader Stacey Abrams delivered a lecture to Midvale fifth graders on April 19. The former gubernatorial candidate answered questions in connection to the students' recent Social Studies unit on Civil Rights.

Smoke Rise Elementary

- Smoke Rise Elementary School's newest girls' club, The Strands of Pearls, honored Smoke Rise Elementary School moms at the Music, Muffins, and Moms celebration.

Tucker Middle

- On March 31, the Tucker Middle School Concert Choir had the rare opportunity to go to Carnegie Hall to work with world-renowned conductor Greg Gilpin. Tucker Middle School represented the school and the community well.

Tucker High

- The boys and girls soccer teams, as well as the girls tennis team, were all crowned region champs. For the tennis team, it was their third consecutive region title.

BUSINESS BOOM

by John McHenry, Community and Economic Development Director



I've worked in business and economic development for a long time. How long? Let's just say a Bush was in the White House when I got started. While you try and figure out which Bush that was,

I'll tell you that business – and the way it's conducted – has changed over the years. It used to be that you started each day by reading the business section of the paper, you never strayed too far from your pager and you always kept some change in your pocket for the payphone.

Today, things are different. We get our business news from Twitter and the internet. Cellphones have rendered pagers and payphones obsolete. Shoot, with smartphones we really don't need a computer most of the time.

One thing I've found, though, that hasn't changed is the value of a face-to-face meeting. Sure, we utilize Skype, GoToMeeting and other virtual options on a daily basis, but if I want to really connect with someone, it's going to be in person. Fortunately, here in Tucker we have a lot of great places where folks in the business community can connect and "seal the deal". You really can't ever replace the benefits of a face-to-face meeting.

One of my favorite places to do business has always been the golf course. While my golf game has never been confused with that of Tiger Woods and can be dangerous to local flora and fauna, golf offers you the unique opportunity to spend four hours with someone, just two people in a golf cart, enjoying a shared experience that can help develop the basis of a business relationship. Tucker has two venues for this type of meeting: Heritage Golf Links, which actually straddles the border between the City of Tucker and Gwinnett County, and Smoke Rise Country Club, a private club located within Tucker's Smoke Rise community.

"Membership isn't just for families. It's for corporate meetings and events," said Heath McDaniel, the Membership Director at Smoke Rise Country Club. In addition to teeing it up on the 6,800 yard, par 72 course, McDaniel said the club boasts "diverse space options from multiple private rooms to a formal boardroom"



along with a veranda for meetings that occur on the 19th hole.

If you don't have half a day to invest, simply sitting down to a business lunch or a cup of coffee can be an effective way to connect, as well. On any given weekday, restaurants like Local 7 are packed at lunchtime, much of the clientele there for a business meeting. Tucker's Main Street scored a coup earlier this year when The Corner Cup opened and immediately became a meet-up place for morning business meetings.

"Right now, we are just adding seating because we have found that Tucker is a city where people like to gather," said Corner Cup owner Michael Vordran, adding they have plans to add a conference room that can be used by the community.

It's important to evolve with the times and use new technology to make you more efficient in what you do. It's equally important to understand the level of trust developed by looking someone in the eye and offering them a firm handshake. For that reason, I don't see the face-to-face meeting going away anytime soon. Now, if you'll excuse me, I need to go update my day planner and organize my Rolodex.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

MEADE'S DISCOUNT DOORS & MORE



Some of the reasons frequently cited for Tucker's success in attracting new businesses include location, demographics and commitment to smart residential growth. It was for all these reasons that Meade's Discount Doors & More made the move from Decatur to Tucker's industrial area this past February.

"Most of our customers are super excited that we're in Tucker," explains store owner Nichole Meade. "We had already kind of surveyed our customer base for the past couple of years when we thought about moving. Most of them are coming from the Stone Mountain, Tucker, Lawrenceville area...so we didn't think that we were going to lose anybody, hopefully we were going to gain people."

Meade's occupies a spacious warehouse on Tucker Industrial Road. Although they've just been in the location

for three months, there's already talk of a big expansion into neighboring warehouse space.

As for those "discounts" in the name of the business, Meade says she's saving customers hundreds, and in some cases thousands, of dollars on everything from front doors to vanities and crown molding.

"We are a discount building materials store," she says. "Think of us as like the T.J. Maxx or the Big Lots of building materials. We only sell things that we can be cheaper than everybody else in the market and everything is cheap for a reason. Sometimes it's got a scratch or dent in it. Other times we've just cut out the middle man."

Meade's Discount Doors & More is located at 1840 Tucker Industrial Road. You can find them online at www.discountdoorsandmore.com.

A vibrant outdoor festival scene with a large crowd of people walking on a paved street. In the background, there are several white and blue tents, green trees, and a clear blue sky. The text "GET READY TO ROCK WITH TUCKER DAY WEEK!" is overlaid in large, bold, white capital letters with a slight drop shadow. A black trash bin is visible in the lower-left foreground, and a traffic light is visible on the right side of the street.

**GET READY
TO ROCK
WITH
TUCKER DAY
WEEK!**

TUCKER DAY WEEK *Calendar*

May
06

MONDAY - Guided Hikes of Tucker's Parks

Tucker Parks and Recreation staff members will lead hikes at Smoke Rise Park at 12 p.m., Kelley Cofer Park at 2 p.m., Tucker Nature Preserve at 4 p.m. and Henderson Park at 6 p.m. Participants can enjoy getting to know some of the nearly 300 acres of parkland the City of Tucker has to offer, while also having the opportunity to hear about Tucker's Parks Master Plan, Summer Camp and other upcoming events.

May
07

TUESDAY - Public Meeting on Branding

The community is invited to a Public Meeting on Tuesday May 7 for the City of Tucker's first-ever Branding Campaign. Residents and other stakeholders will be able to talk with consultants and provide feedback on what Tucker means to them. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chamber at 4228 First Avenue.

May
08

WEDNESDAY - Health Fair and Blood Drive

From 3-7 p.m., representatives from the DeKalb County Board of Health will be on hand at Tucker Recreation Center to provide vaccinations, sports physicals and breast exams, as well as dental, blood pressure, and vision screenings. The Atlanta Regional Commission will have representatives present to discuss diabetes. The American Red Cross will be set-up for people to donate blood.

May
09

THURSDAY - Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Tucker's second annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will happen on Thursday May 9. The invitation-only event honors the men and women who are making a difference in the Tucker community. It's a small 'thank you' for the work they do throughout the year.

May
10

FRIDAY - State of the City Address

Mayor Frank Auman will deliver his third State of the City Address on Friday May 10 at 4 p.m. in the City Council Chamber. The event is open to anyone who wants to attend and will be followed by a Happy Hour reception at The Freakin Incan on Main Street.

May
11

SATURDAY - Tucker Day

This popular street festival brings thousands of people from across the Metro area to Tucker's downtown for live music, food and fun. This year's Tucker Day theme is "Tucker Rocks". A parade kicks off the festivities on Main Street at 10 a.m. For more information on this popular, volunteer-run event, visit www.tuckerday.com.

TEAM TUCKER *Spotlight*

RAY ROLLINS, RECREATION CENTER MANAGER

How long have you lived in the Atlanta area? I lived in East Point until I was about 5-years old and I have resided in Hapeville ever since.

How did you end up here in Tucker? After graduating from Valdosta State in the spring of '09, I moved back to Hapeville and began working the Summer Camps and front desk at the Hapeville Recreation Center. That lasted until 2014, when I became the Athletic Director in Hapeville. I have also been a part of the Athletic and Leadership Committees within the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association (GRPA) for the past two years, which helped prepare me for my new role here at the Tucker Parks and Recreation Department.

What do you do at the Rec Center? As your Recreation Manager I am responsible for making sure all of our programs, whether old or new, are beneficial to the community and also that they have a safe, comfortable space to provide that service at the Tucker Recreation Center. I am also responsible for room rentals and making sure all damages and repairs to the building are done in a timely fashion.

What are the biggest opportunities you see for improving the Rec Center? I believe that we have great options for both the senior community and for kids, but one of my goals is to create programs that cater to our teens/young adults. I believe we can create programs that can be both fun and educational for youth even if that's making a game room area (foosball, ping pong etc.) for them to congregate in after school.

Why do you enjoy working in the Parks and Recreation field? Growing up I was heavily involved in everything my local rec center had to offer including sports, programs and special events. This was because I got to interact with all groups of people throughout the community. I learned a lot of social skills and life lessons while participating throughout the years, so when the opportunity came up for me to work in this field and to give back, it was a no-brainer.



Off the Wall

What are your hobbies? Outside of work, I enjoy watching sports with my buddies and coaching youth sports.

Who's your favorite singer? Tough one!!! I don't have a favorite singer, but The Temptations is my favorite singing group because each member brought a different style and flavor to the group and it usually resulted in classic song.

Tea: sweet or unsweet? I'm from the south, do we even offer unsweet tea?

If you could have one meal, what would it be? Any soul food combination

Is there a quote that inspires you? From my Dad: "If you do it right the first time, you won't have to go back and do it again." Made a lot of sense the older I got.

SHAWN STONE

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH



“Shawn Stone is a very deserving nominee for Citizen of the Month. Shawn’s first introduction to Tucker was his employment with a CPA on First Avenue in 1981. In 1991, he and his wife Mary Nell moved to Tucker to raise their son Travis and daughter Penny. When his children were in school, Shawn was an active PTA member at Livsey Elementary and Tucker Middle and made time for School Council participation at Tucker Middle and Tucker High. He assisted his children in Tucker High Habitat for Humanity projects.

Shawn used his tireless energy and leadership skills to coach TYSA teams and lead Boy Scout Troop 129 for several years. He has served as Deacon, Elder, Property Chair and Board Chair at First Christian Church of Atlanta.

His dedication to Tucker is evidenced by the numerous local organizations that he has been affiliated with over the years; including the board of his neighborhood pool, the Tucker Rotary Club, Tucker Optimist Club and the Tucker Civic Association.

In 2017, Shawn, knowing he was about to make at least a three-year commitment, stepped up to fill the position of trail-building leader with Friends of Henderson Park. He always finds time for whatever needs to be done to make the trail-building projects a success. This includes meetings, securing tools for workdays, organizing volunteers and working on the trails. Currently Shawn can be found serving on the City of Tucker’s Parks Master Plan Steering Committee and as President of Friends of Tucker Parks. Shawn is always willing to support efforts to make Tucker an outstanding community.”

Nomination by Friends of Henderson Park



DIVING INTO SUMMER

SWIM TEAMS OFFERING KIDS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FRIENDLY COMPETITION

For some people, the neighborhood pool is a place to kick back with friends, relax and catch some rays. For others, it's the site of long practices and fierce competition. That dichotomy of board shorts and pool noodles versus Speedos and swim goggles will be on full display later this month as pools around Tucker open for the summer swim season.

The Tucker area is home to a handful of swim teams including Northumberland, Nottaway, Smoke Rise Country Club, Westhampton/Embry Hills and Winding Vista. Each year, hundreds of young swimmers splash into these pools to compete, forge new friendships and stay active through the summer season.

"As someone who grew up swimming at Winding Vista and Drayton Woods, I can attest to what a difference summer league swimming makes on the community and individuals," says Evan Nylander.

Nylander's youth swim days are long past, but he's still involved, now serving

as Director of Operations for the Atlanta Swim Association. What's unique about swim team, he says, is that you're learning a skill you can continue to use for your entire life.

"Summer League Swimming is often the first introduction to swimming for kids," he explains. "A neighborhood swim team brings together the entire community, comprised of kids aged 4-18 all on the same team, where neighbors who might attend different schools all come together under the same neighborhood banner."

Jason and Lenné Nawyn, and their three children, have been members at their neighborhood pool, Westhampton, for nine years. Jason has coached the joint Westhampton/Embry Hills summer league team for eight years.

"Having a neighborhood swim team provides a fun and exciting environment for kids to engage in healthy competition," he says. "Swim team teaches both individual persistence and group

teamwork. Not only do you race and push against yourself and attempt to better your own time, but you are also part of a bigger team which forces you to learn valuable teamwork skills. You either sink or swim together as team!"

While the kids might not think about it, parents and swim coaches are keenly aware of the dangers involved with inexperienced swimmers. Nylander cites a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study that lists accidental drowning as the number two cause of death for children under the age of 14.

"After being part of the swim team and becoming successfully confident about swimming, the entire family is more apt to [safely] enjoy the neighborhood pool throughout the entire summer," he says.

For parents in search of a way to keep their kids active and perhaps pick up some life skills this summer, those Tucker area swim clubs are ready to welcome you to the team.

“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

Hard to believe it's already May, isn't it?

Here in the Parks and Recreation Department, that means we're gearing up for Summer Camp. Hopefully you've heard all the great news surrounding the 2019 Tucker Recreation Center Camp: new recreational and educational activities, expanded swim time, and tuition frozen at last year's \$95 per week level.

Let's touch on that last point for a second. Ninety-five dollars per week is almost unbeatable when it comes to full-day Summer Camp in the Metro Atlanta area. Your Mayor and City Council set that rate each year and they should be commended for considering affordability for working families. That notwithstanding, Summer Camp tuition at any rate can be a challenge for some families, especially those with multiple children. I want to make sure you know that tuition assistance is available in the form of scholarships to our Summer Camp, as well as other assistance opportunities. Just drop-in or call the Rec Center and our staff will be happy to tell you how to apply.

To that end, we want to help as many students attend our Summer Camp as possible, regardless of income. That's why our staff has organized its first-ever Adult Field Day event, a fundraiser to benefit the Summer Camp aid program. We've partnered with Friends of Tucker Recreation Center to put on an event that will feature all your classic tailgate games, plus Bubble Soccer, a water balloon toss and much more! For

\$20 you'll get admission, all the games, a fresh-off-the-grill cookout dinner (including vegetarian options) and free childcare. That's right, bring your kids – ages three to 15, and they must be potty-trained – and have them babysat at the Rec Center by qualified child care professionals from the YMCA. All while you play! Tucker Brewing's going to have some adult beverages for sale and we'll have a DJ spinning classic tunes from the 80s and 90s. It's all happening Saturday May 18 from 5-8 p.m. at Tucker Recreation Center.

I want to finish this month's column with a quick note to tell you how our Parks and Recreation family is about to grow. In the budget just passed by the Mayor and City Council, we were approved for three new – and very necessary – positions in the coming year: a dedicated Parks and Rec Receptionist/administrative assistant and two operations assistants. The first position will be critical in greeting and assisting folks as they enter and leave the Recreation Center, as well as performing key administrative tasks that will make our operations more efficient. As for the other two, think of them as a park patrol. Because of their presence in our parks, you're going to see a difference in the level of cleanliness, maintenance and overall safety. I've seen it in countless municipalities: this kind of position is a game changer.

I hope you'll come out and see us May 11 at Tucker Day. Stop by our booth and, if you haven't already, sign our Lead the Pack pledge to keep your dogs on-leash in Tucker's parks.



Community Corner



5/4 - ARTucker Spring Show & Sale

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
4898 Lavista Road
ARTucker is an indoor art and makers market that celebrates local Georgia artists and makers. Featuring paintings, ceramics, jewelry, photography and much more, they'll also offer food music, and art technique demos.

5/5 - Heart Rhythms: Chorale II Spring Concert

4:00 p.m.
5073 Lavista Road
Chorale II, a Tucker/Northlake community chorus, will present selections including sacred, spiritual, and American folk songs that center around the rhythms of our hearts and our lives. Admission is free and donations are welcome.

5/11 - Tucker Road Race

8:00 a.m.
5036 Lavista Road
8:00 a.m. - 1 Mile Fun Run, \$10
8:30 a.m. - 5K Road Race, \$25
Support the Tucker High School Band Program by participating in their largest fundraiser of the year, which is also a Peachtree Qualifying Race. Registration for the one mile fun run is \$10, while the 5K Road Race is \$25.

5/14 - Tucker Cluster Council Meeting

6:00 p.m.
4228 First Avenue
The Tucker Cluster Council is an organization of community stakeholders invested in working together to actively support and promote the schools within our cluster. Participants include parents, school faculty members, business leaders and DeKalb School District leadership.