



INTUCKER

JULY 2022 | VOLUME 6 | ISSUE 7



SUMMER FUN

A PHOTOGRAPHIC RETROSPECTIVE

EDITOR'S NOTE



July is a turning point of the year for me, an opportunity for a fresh start, and it always has been. It is the start of the second part of

the calendar year and the beginning of the City's fiscal year. It is the preparation month for the coming school year and the last chance for summer break fun. In this issue there are a few topics of change that are important and interesting.

Is the City going to stand up its own Public Works department? That remains to be seen but we are starting this discussion with the community so that we can all make informed decisions. Please be on the look out for upcoming meeting dates to start the discussion and explore opportunities and possibilities.

With the start of the new school year just around the corner I am urging you to take this opportunity to get involved with our Tucker schools, now that we are allowed back in the buildings. Over the years I have chaired various organizations including the Tucker Cluster Council and it has been the best way to receive important information as well as make new friends. The Tucker Cluster Council is under new leadership and welcoming participation now!

Internally, City staff is growing and changing as well. There are currently eight job postings on our website and we just contracted with a new City Attorney. All this is a testament to the City's growth, new developments, and to how we provide service and what services we provide.

And finally, our Citizen of the Month is a great example of the growth and change within our community. She is a constant in many volunteer organizations and is breathing new life into our local festival calendar.

January isn't the only month of the year marked for change and opportunity. What are you going to do this month and even the rest of the year? Make it count!

SONJA SZUBSKI
INTUCKER EDITOR

IN THIS ISSUE



ON THE COVER

Summer is the time for relaxation and rejuvenation. Take a visual walk through the first half of the summer of 2022 on page 8.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN TUCKER

Are you looking for a new career challenge? Team Tucker is hiring! Learn more about available opportunities on page 13.



BUSINESS BOOM

Camille Mahdi has made a splash in Tucker with two new and family friendly festivals in our City. Read up on how she is making her mark through volunteerism on Page 6.



ASK RIP

In this issue Rip shares recent and upcoming improvement projects in several of Tucker's parks. Check out all of the upcoming events and registration dates as well. All of this and more on pages 14 and 15.



INTUCKER

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MMXXII



From the Mayor:

The genesis of seeking and attaining cityhood for Tucker was that we had become convinced there were things we could do more effectively as a local government than a larger, more removed government could do for us. Many citizens were rightly concerned that a new government would mean more complexity, and higher rather than lower costs. So, we memorialized in our charter the limited services we would provide, and we severely limited the taxes the City could levy. In addition, we agreed as a community that if we ever thought there were other services we could provide more effectively than the county, we would have to have the electorate's approval before we could take on the authority to do so, and impose the necessary taxes. 74% of you gave your approval, and six years in, we can say things have worked out remarkably well.

Since our incorporation in 2016, we have provided three core services: Planning and Zoning, Code Enforcement and Parks and Recreation. The cost of those services to our taxpayers has actually gone DOWN over that time. The other services, including Roads and Drainage, Sanitation, Sanitary Sewer, Water, Police, Fire, EMS, and a range of other services are still being provided by DeKalb County. As we've matured and grown into operating as a city, we are seeing other needs that could be better met locally, along with opportunities to make improvements in service.

A few years ago, the residents of DeKalb, including all of Tucker, voted overwhelmingly to approve a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, or SPLOST. We worked closely with DeKalb County to be the fiduciary of Tucker's share of the tax that would be collected. I am very proud of how we have handled these funds and how our staff has executed our projects with those dollars. SPLOST money can only be spent on certain capital projects like road resurfacing, additional sidewalks and trails, and new park facilities. Maintenance of many of those items remains the responsibility of DeKalb County, which means wherever we have potholes, broken sidewalks, right of way maintenance, erosion of creeks and drainage ditches and so on, we have to rely on DeKalb County to keep them up. Our staff has met monthly with DeKalb County staff since the very beginning, tracking every single complaint or request that's been

submitted, but we are not able to dictate their priorities or timetables.

Based on that six years of data, and the taxes we are paying for those services, we are becoming convinced we could do better locally on some of those services. The Council and I have been discussing it for several years, since before COVID put a damper on so many things. Now we are seriously discussing the idea of standing up our own Public Works department. This is no small undertaking: There are initial costs, maintenance costs and staff costs that will all go into it. We are starting the discussion and public education now as we look to add this to the ballot in November's election. We expect to do a lot of public meetings and other forms of education for our residents as to what will be involved to do this well.

For us, Public Works includes pothole and road repair, sidewalks, stoplights and signage, and management of the stormwater that runs off the roads and every property in Tucker. Sound costly? You aren't wrong, but this is perfect timing fiscally as we will be able to use some of the American Rescue Plan funds that we have received from the Federal government to cover many of the start-up costs.

The discussions will be ongoing both at our Council meetings and scheduled public information meetings. I sincerely hope that you stay engaged and help inform your neighbors. Our community is Tucker's greatest strength and we need a full understanding and agreement to make this work. It is imperative that our citizens make informed decisions on the future of Tucker, so please be sure to share meeting notifications and sign up for our eblasts and share facts with your friends.

FRANK AUMAN
MAYOR



Tucker's Mayor and City Council began their monthly meeting with the final discussion and public hearing of the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget. After an explanation of slight changes to the numbers and the process set forth by the state, county and our own charter, the council voted unanimously to approve the budget.

Next on the agenda, was the second presentation and public hearing for a rezoning from R-75 to RSM to allow for a 52 townhome development at the corner of Lawrenceville Highway and Bishop Drive for Embry Development Company. Council voted 2-5 to deny the ordinance. Council then voted 5-2 to approve proposed amendments to the ordinance of additional conditions. Council approved the ordinance as amended by a vote of 5-2.

Council then held the second read and public hearing of an ordinance for a Special Land Use Permit (SLUP) to allow a drive-through restaurant and four concurrent variances at 4435 Hugh Howell Road and 2239 Dillard Street for Chick-fil-A, Inc. The four variances were approved 5-1 with Councilmember Monferdini recusing herself and the SLUP was approved 5-1 as well.

The Mayor and Council next moved to new business with a presentation and public hearing on the proposed rollback on the millage rate based on the 2021 tax digest. Staff then presented a new SLUP application and a major modification to the site plan. Next, they unanimously approved a contract with Maulding & Jenkins, CPA's & Advisors for FY2022 audit.

Later in the month the Mayor and Council met for a special called meeting and a regular work session. During the special called meeting they approved the following unanimously:

- A tax ordinance to rollback the millage rate for property owners
- A contract renewal for capital project management with Griffith Project Management
- Park maintenance operations contract extension and amendment with OPTECH
- A renewal of pool operations contract with Swim Atlanta

The next meeting of the Mayor and City Council is scheduled for Monday July 11 at 7 p.m. at City Hall (1975 Lakeside Parkway, Suite 350B).

DATES TO KNOW

July 4

Closed in observance of Independence Day

July 5

Downtown Development Authority

July 6

Zoning Board of Appeals

July 11

City Council Meeting

July 13

Traffic Court

July 20

Traffic Court

July 21

Planning Commission

July 25

City Council Work Session

June 27

Environmental Court

FOLLOW US



nextdoor



ON THE BEAT *with Lt. Berg*

Lt. J.W. Berg is Tucker's liaison to the DeKalb County Police Department and can be contacted by email at jwberg@dekalbcountyga.gov or by phone at (678) 597-9040.

Like many of you, summertime is often a period when my family and I look forward to taking a vacation. This year, due to several national factors such as inflation and the high price of gasoline, our vacation plans have been scaled back. We hope to head to the beach for a few days, traveling there the old-fashioned way – in the minivan. Not very glamorous, but it works.

With many of you traveling in the same fashion, I'd like to refer to my December 2021 On the Beat article. In this article, I discussed at length one of the most common and disturbing crimes I have handled as an officer, what Georgia Code 16-8-18 defines as **Entering Automobile**. More commonly known as "vehicle break-ins," these property crimes can and do affect their victims deeply. From the loss of a laptop computer that contained family pictures, to the theft of cash or other irreplaceable valuables, the loss of these items can be even more disruptive when traveling out of town in an unfamiliar location.

Oftentimes while on vacation, we tend to let our guard down, caught up in the joy and relaxing atmosphere that most vacation destinations provide. Unfortunately, there is a small criminal element that is also attracted to these locations. These criminals are not there on vacation but are "working" to support themselves by taking advantage of our bliss and relaxation.

Let me repeat one thing you can do to help prevent a vehicle break-in whether at home or while traveling. **Do not leave anything of value inside your vehicle.** This includes the keys to your car. I wish I did not have to remind everyone of this. However, as I mentioned above, vehicle break-ins are by far the most common crime that we respond to as local law enforcement officers. With literally millions of vehicles on the

road, it is one of the most difficult crimes to predict where and when they might occur.

I would also like to remind everyone traveling on the roads this summer of one other important safety tip. Four years ago, our legislature passed a "**hands-free**" law, **O.C.G.A. 40-6-241**. This law - like many others that exist nationwide - makes it illegal for a driver to have a cell phone in their hand or to have a cell phone touching any part of their body while talking on the phone and driving. The law further states that drivers cannot watch or record videos while driving, including on social media. Even with the existence of hands-free technology such as a Bluetooth player, drivers in Georgia are not allowed to text or email while driving unless a voice-to-text app is utilized.

While it has been several years that we have had this law in Georgia, I still see a myriad of drivers texting, looking at videos, and even playing video games while driving. This can be extremely dangerous, particularly when traveling great distances to areas we normally do not travel. Indeed, the state of Georgia thought this "hands-free" law was so important that it specified that "points" would be assessed on a license if someone was cited with violating this law. This is in addition to the assessment of a large fine. As a former teenager that accumulated way too many "points" in my youth, I can attest that they easily add up to having to depend on others to drive you around. I am glad those days are over!

Hopefully, I have not scared you into forgoing your much-needed summer vacation. However, with a bit of caution, both for your own personal safety and for that of others, we can all have a great time wherever we end up. Perhaps we can all think even bigger next summer – Hawaii!



CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

CAMILLE MAHDI

I would like to nominate Camille Mahdi for July's Citizen of the month. Camille is a resident of Tucker and from the get-go has immersed herself in serving the community in many ways. Her passion for helping and entertaining the Tucker community runs deep and she has dedicated much of her spare time to coming up with innovative ways to bring joy to Tucker.

Camille is a member of several volunteer organizations that serve the community, and she always finds a way to say "Yes! Let's make it happen!". Not long after Main Street Theatre was created, Camille found a way to get involved. She had a major role in the Spring 2019 production of *Four Weddings and an Elvis*. Camille's personality came alive on the stage and was a scene stealer at times! She is returning to MST this fall as the producer of *Smoke on the Mountain Homecoming*, the final installment of the Saunders Family story.

In 2019 Camille formed Citizens for Family Activities in Tucker, LLC as a vehicle to create new and fun events throughout Tucker. CFATucker was able to get in one event before COVID affected all gatherings. On December 31, 2019, Camille presented a New Year's Eve festival offering live music, bounce houses, a game truck and science exhibits, all at an affordable price. There was even an early

"countdown to midnight" for the little ones so that regular bedtimes could be honored. In 2021, Camille expanded the event to include carnival rides and more live bands!

Camille was a natural choice when discussions about a Juneteenth festival started up. In her typical fashion Camille replied yes and went all in. Tucker's inaugural Juneteenth Jubilee was a huge success! It started with a community Unity Walk down Main Street and followed with a gathering at the new Church Street greenspace. It was a day of live musical performances, an active kid zone, vendors and speakers from Tucker and DeKalb County. Camille, her organization CFATucker, LLC and the Tucker community shone that day.

Camille has also been very involved with the Tucker Optimist Club and currently serves as the chapter's President. The Optimist Club is an international network of volunteers with hyperlocal chapters with the mission of "...providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves." Camille takes that mission to heart with everything in which she endeavors, and Tucker is beyond blessed to have her as a resident and passionate volunteer.

Nomination by Mary Still



TUCKER CLUSTER COUNCIL WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP

The Tucker Cluster Council was created in 2017 at the urging and under the direction of our former DeKalb County School District Board Member Jim McMahan. As an involved parent in the Lakeside cluster, Jim saw firsthand the value of a cluster-wide parent council and as a School Board Member he encouraged the clusters in his region to each form one. While Jim was the motivator, he knew he needed strong and dedicated parents to set up the council, so he approached Erin Kirn who then brought in Anne Thomas.

Erin and Anne spent some time attending other cluster council meetings to get an idea of how it might work for Tucker. Tucker's needs were different from the driving force behind the other clusters and they wanted to make sure the council would be able to meet different and growing needs for the years to come.

Over the years the council has performed SWOT analysis to identify needs and participated in the District-wide comprehensive master plan, but like everything else in the world, COVID stalled any progress towards creation of by-laws and sub-committees but it did offer an opportunity to allow for flexibility in scheduling meetings and allowing for more informational output.

At every meeting, each of the schools share exciting projects and upcoming events. Representatives from the School District are invited to present on various projects and answer questions and the School Board members that represent the Tucker Cluster give board updates as well. The topics and ideas have changed since inception and as leadership of the Cluster Council has changed the goal and mission have remained the same: create a unified voice to efficiently and effectively communicate the needs of every school in the cluster to the District.

When Erin was ready to pass the torch to new leadership last year she called upon two Tucker powerhouse volunteers, Sabrina Chambers and Stephanie Wilson. With the schools still closed to the public, Sabrina and Stephanie continued TCC on Zoom with great success. The two were commended for providing an opportunity for the cluster principals to have an opportunity to meet as a small group to share and listen to ideas and projects.

The coming school year brings two new faces to lead the Tucker Cluster Council, Malaika Washington and Maria Damian, both parents of Smoke Rise Elementary students. They have been busy learning the history, goals and mission of the Cluster Council and are eager to get the ball rolling this fall.



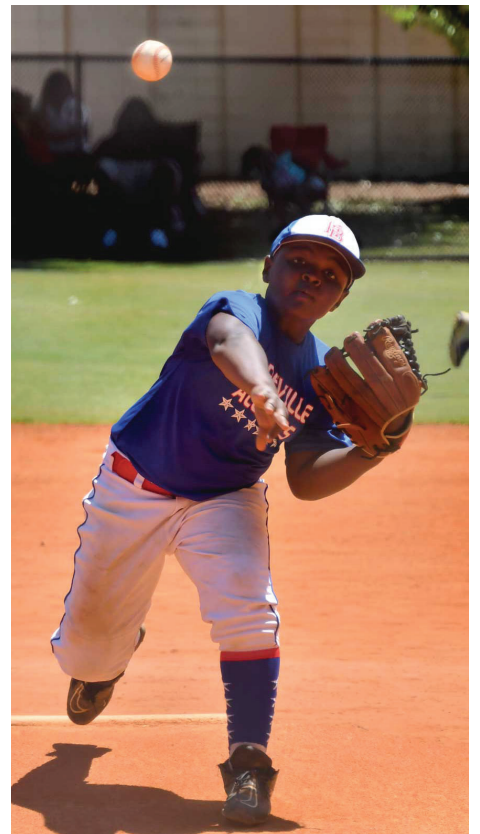
Maria Damian



Malaika Washington

To learn more about the Tucker Cluster Council and receive notices about upcoming meetings please visit tuckerclustercouncil.org

SUMMER FUN IN TUCKER





Top, left to right: Dancing at the Juneteenth Jubilee, the Tucker Express baseball team, summer campers performing a science experiment

Bottom, left to right: Main Street in bloom, pitching at the GRPA State Baseball Tournament at Kelley Cofer Park, the winners of the Extraordinary Ears competition at Walk for the PAWS



BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

GEORGIA TRANSMISSION CORPORATION



Tucker has become prime real estate for new business in recent years. Even during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses were able to take off and even thrive with the help of Tucker's welcoming community. However, the success of new businesses would not be possible without the support and growth of those that came before them. It's companies and families who have put down roots in Tucker, some for generations, who have enabled the City to continue to flourish. One of those organizations, Georgia Transmission Corporation, has called Tucker home since its inception in 1997. At a recent celebration commemorating Georgia Transmission's 25 years of service, Mayor Auman shared a proclamation from the City honoring their work and impact in the community.

You may have never heard of Georgia Transmission, but they have a big impact across our state as well as in Tucker. As a not-for-profit cooperative, they are owned by 38 Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs) and employ more than 300 people. With at least 3,500 miles of high-voltage transmission lines and more than 760 substations, Georgia Transmission helps provide electricity to more than 4.4 million Georgians.

Closer to home, Georgia Transmission associates have worked alongside our community members during Rivers Alive cleanups and for more than eight years have also contributed to STEM education through hosting career days, creating educational games, and providing other curriculum assistance.

"One of our values at Georgia Transmission is to be a responsible corporate citizen, supportive of our community and the environment," said Georgia Transmission President and CEO Barbara Hampton. "We are proud to support the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program at Tucker Middle School – the first middle school in Georgia to earn the STEM certification – and community cleanup projects like Rivers Alive. We look forward to our continued partnership in the City's progress."

Georgia Transmission's commitment to its members and their communities, including Tucker, makes us proud to recognize them as our Business of the Month.

For more information about Georgia Transmission Corporation's mission and operations, visit their site at gatransmission.com.

BUSINESS BOOM

by Angela Brooks, Business Outreach Coordinator



New shops continue to open at Hugh Howell Marketplace, one of Tucker's newest retail centers.

The kickoff of the mixed-use development located at Hugh Howell Road and Mountain Industrial Boulevard, was in the first quarter of this year with Buffalo Wild Wings GO, Piedmont Urgent Care, and anchor store Publix supermarket. They were soon followed by The Joint Chiropractic, ATI Therapy, and Queen Nail Bar.

Buffalo Wild Wings GO, a new scaled-down to-go format of its namesake company, was actually the first tenant to open its doors. Co-Owner Mike Thurman says business has been great!

"In addition to the steady flow of construction workers and others completing the center's build out, we've gotten customers from the elementary school down the street and from some of the businesses in the North Royal area."

"It's a beautiful complex," he added. "I believe it was a home run for the development space with Publix being here and because there were no other grocery stores in this area."



Thurman was also excited to share that he recently added something unexpected to his expansive wings menu – hamburgers!

"We got delayed by supply chain issues, but our grill is up and running, and we now have four amazing burgers that we're anxious for our customers to try!"

In June, Scenthound owner Bill Gray opened his third metro Atlanta location in the Marketplace. When asked what brought him to Tucker, he responded that he's seen the recent growth in development and interest in the metro Atlanta community and folks wanting to move out this way.

Scenthound is a wellness-centered, membership-based dog grooming franchise. According to the company, its model takes

a unique approach to grooming focusing on five core areas of routine and preventive care: Skin, Coat, Ears, Nails, and Teeth (SCENT) as in Scenthound.



Baxter, Council and staff celebrated the grand opening of Scenthound Tucker in June.

"Having friends living in the Stone Mountain area, I knew that Tucker was a terrific opportunity to service a lot of dog parents who probably don't have easy access to a dog grooming establishment such as ours focused on health and hygiene," said Gray.

He went on to add that when he saw what Branch properties was doing with this development, "I immediately knew that Scenthound would provide a great complement to the lineup of retailers and that they are going to be here to meet the convenience needs of the Tucker residents."

"Here's a place where you can get your groceries, you can get a great meal, get your nails done and so on. There's a lot of diversity here in this plaza that allows for everybody in the family to get what they need."

"It is a great center and a strong location," said Branch Partner Brett Horowitz. Although the shopping center was sold to investment management firm Stockbridge, Branch Properties continues to oversee tenant inquiries. "The swift interest in leasing space is a testament to the continued growth and interest in locating in Tucker," he added.

Antico Sporto, The BOK (Bite of Korea), First Watch, Flawless Jewelry & Phone Repair, gusto!, Magical Waxing, and Chase bank are in construction and anticipated to open in the second half of this year.

With a keen eye to the future, having local, expansive retail choices for the retention and attraction of a talented workforce will undoubtedly serve Tucker well.

TEAM TUCKER *Spotlight*

TED BAGGETT, CITY ATTORNEY

How does being Legal Counsel for Tucker differ from your past positions?

For the last twenty years, I've been in positions with large organizations that serve all the cities across the state, the Georgia Municipal Association and more recently, the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia. Those organizations do a great job, but they must focus on assisting folks across the state.

Being legal counsel for Tucker means getting the chance to focus intently on the aspirations of this great city.

How will your past work with Carl Vinson at UGA help you in tackling municipal law?

A lot of my work at UGA centered on studying proposed cities and service arrangements between existing local governments as well as developing and delivering training for municipal

officials on bread-and-butter issues like zoning, annexation, and open meetings. That work requires maintaining contemporary knowledge of municipal law that is very relevant to helping the city navigate legal issues.

Where did you go to school?

I went to Emory University for my bachelor's degree, and I received my law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law.

Off the Wall

Are you from Georgia?

Yes, I've lived here my entire life, in fact, I grew up in DeKalb County and attended Lithonia High School. The house I grew up in is only about 10 miles from the Tucker city limits.

Do you have any hidden talents?

I'm a decent home cook (so I'm told) and I'm a threat at ping pong.

What is your favorite summer activity?

Reading, very closely to the air conditioning.

Do you have a favorite Tucker restaurant yet?

Matthews Cafeteria, my youngest brother introduced me to it. It reminds us of our grandmother's cooking.

Binged anything good recently?

I've been devouring episodes of the "You're Dead to Me" history podcast from the BBC. They are comprised of 30-minute episodes and include a guest history professor and a stand-up comedian covering a huge range of world history topics.



WANT TO JOIN TEAM TUCKER? WE'RE HIRING!



Since incorporating in 2016, the City of Tucker has been growing in size, services and staff. The new fiscal year starts in July and with that is a new budget and new staffing positions. Several of our departments have open positions and qualifications run the gambit from entry level to specialized services.

Team Tucker is a great group of individuals that work hard in a unified mission of providing stellar service to the residents of the City. Almost all of the City's services and projects cross multiple departments and it shows in the quality of the work.

"I have really enjoyed my time here at the City of Tucker," shared Robin Stevens of the Communications Department. "My co-workers are kind and so supportive."

If you are looking for a change in your current position or even if you want to start a new career, Tucker may have something for you. Visit tuckerga.gov for position details and information on how to apply.

- The **Administrative Assistant** for the Parks and Recreation Department will perform advanced administrative support including the handling of public contacts, maintaining complex records, compiling reports and related functions.
- The **Building Inspection Technician** will inspect buildings and building systems at various stages of construction, alteration and repair for compliance with applicable codes. This position will also provide information and assistance to owners, contractors and others regarding code conformance.
- The **Capital Projects Coordinator** will be responsible for project development and coordination of the city's capital improvement program. Work will include a variety of tasks including budget preparation and management, grant application and management, capital purchase oversight, and other related tasks.
- The City's **Customer Service Representative** will process court payments and applications for occupational tax certificates, update court jackets in advance of the court calendar, prepare departmental reports, and complete other related functions.
- The **Field Services Superintendent** will conduct inspections for construction/maintenance projects and provide project oversight, ensure adherence to applicable codes, regulations, contracts, design specifications and quality standards.
- The **Human Resource Generalist** will assist with administration of daily activities of the Human Resource Department including Human Resources Information System management, leave administration, and related Human Resources functions.
- The **Multimedia Coordinator** for the Parks and Recreation Department will create content for the department's social media accounts, document programs and events via photographs, and complete other tasks related to the design and delivery of digital content.
- The **Recreation Assistant** will assist in the execution of all Parks and Recreation programming, athletic activities, facility usage, and activities for the community. Must be able to work holidays, weekends, and nights.

TUCKER PARKS & RECREATION
YOUTH COED



**AUGUST
1-4**

10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Boys and Girls
Ages: 5- 12

Price: \$50

**REGISTER
NOW!**

tuckerga.gov/registration

We will work on the fundamentals of dribbling, shooting and passing. Please make sure your child has on athletic clothing, sneakers and brings a water bottle.

Questions? Contact Ray Rollins
rrollins@tuckerga.gov | 678-3710324

Tucker Recreation Center
4898 Lavista Road | Tucker, GA 30084

PARKS & REC
COMMUNITY
MEETING

JOHNS
HOMESTEAD

**JULY 14
7 p.m.**

Tucker City Hall
City Council Chambers
1975 Lakeside Parkway
Suite 350B
Tucker, GA 30084

AUG. 5, 2022
MIKE VEAL BAND

**CHURCH
STREET
GREENSPACE**



**SATURDAY JULY 23
PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT**

- 3 Levels of Play: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0+
- Teams of 2 can consist of 2 males, 2 females or Mixed
- \$30 per team
- Timed Matches, Rally Scoring, and fast paced
- 8 Games guaranteed
- Register now at tuckerga.gov/registration

TUCKER REC CENTER | 4898 LAVISTA ROAD | TUCKER, GA 30084

“ASK RIP”

by Rip Robertson, Parks and Recreation Director



July is National Parks and Recreation Month! The Parks and Recreation Department has grown tremendously over these past four years with completing park improvements, expanding old programs, and creating new programs and events for our community. Our team has done some amazing

work on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. They continue to complete a tremendous amount of capital projects, work hard to produce fun and safe programs and events, and plan even more exciting things to come.

We have a new boardwalk from the parking area to the trail at Probst Park that has improved accessibility and allows for a safer hike around one of our many scenic trails. The recently completed Probst Memorial will provide many years of enjoyment, much like Mr. Probst did in developing the Smoke Rise neighborhood. It features the iconic chimney stack with a granite patio and a step-down observation deck overlooking the stream that runs through the middle of the park. A huge thank you goes out to the many friends of Bill Probst for funding this exciting treasure.

We were also busy improving access to our other parks. We added new sidewalks at Henderson and Rosenfeld Park. We also added parking around Rosenfeld to help both the park and the neighborhood.

There is a new playground at Rosenfeld Park, the first in the Smoke Rise neighborhood. We are also looking at other features in the area, including improving the tennis courts and adding a dog park as part of our City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan.



We recently held a meeting for the possible development of a disc golf course at Lord Park and will be exploring other projects at this undeveloped location.

Fitzgerald Park is getting some much-needed improvements as well. We have contracts for new water/sewer lines to ensure that facilities, both existing and planned, function properly. We have also recently begun renovating the concession/restroom facility on Field #3 and will be adding new lighting as well. We recently

hosted a community meeting to discuss further renovations at the park including ingress/egress, upgraded LED lighting on all fields, new scoreboards and sound as well as a possible turf field to serve as the main stadium for our youth sport programs. We hope to add a playground and, if space is available, a walking trail. There will also be new and renovated facilities on all fields at the completion of this exciting project.

We are also thrilled to have received a sizeable grant to help alleviate major erosion and lake issues at Johns Homestead Park. This grant will fund the replacement of the existing nonfunctioning dams and will restore proper flow of the stream through the lakes into the existing stream at the lower section of the park. This will also provide improved stormwater flow throughout the area to help protect against future flooding issues. This vital project also includes many improvements to the entire park with new playgrounds, walking trails, bridges, and boardwalks as well as new access and parking. This will be a park for the entire community to enjoy.

There will also be projects at Cofer Park to help the lake and add to our existing trail and PATH plans. We have funding available for the dredging of the lake to provide proper growth within the lake and surrounding area. We hope to get something started later this year and completed before next spring. There is also a plan to add a boardwalk across the lake near the dam to replace the challenging sidewalk that exists now. This boardwalk is part of the PATH plan adopted by our Mayor and Council several years ago. As you may have seen, our first segment of PATH is being completed downtown and should be ready by fall. This boardwalk will add a significant feature to Kelley Cofer Park and will provide a scenic view of one of our park lakes.

We encourage you to visit our newest addition to the Tucker Nature Preserve. We have installed beehives and have several Tucker beekeepers to both tend to their needs and also develop a learning environment. We hope to soon have new educational signage in the area and offer classes.

Lastly, you may have seen new signage at some of our parks. We are working on installing new signage at all the City of Tucker parks entrances. We plan to add educational, directional and assistance signage in the interior of all parks as well.

Come out and celebrate our month by visiting one of the many Tucker parks. And as always, you can contact us through our website at tuckerga.gov/parks or call us directly at the TRC at 470-481-0205.

TUCKERGA.GOV

1975 LAKESIDE PARKWAY, SUITE 350, TUCKER, GA 30084
678.597.9040



TUCKER *Community Corner*



6/11 – Tucker Cruise-In

11 a.m.-2p.m.

Main Street

Stroll Main while looking at a wide variety of vintage cars, eat at local restaurants and enjoy the summer weather. Get more information at TuckerCruiseIn.com.

6/18 – Tucker Walks Launch Party

9:30-10:30 a.m.

4316 Church Street

Tucker Civic Association's Lifelong Community committee is launching a new walking program in Tucker. Join in for informational speakers and explore our new sidewalks.

Every Thursday – Tucker Farmers Market

4882 Lavista Rd

The Tucker Farmers Market is back in person for 2022! Live music, food trucks, and fresh produce all available. Schedule and more details can be found online at TFMOnlineStore.com.