



INTUCKER

JUNE 2022 | VOLUME 6 | ISSUE 6

THE GARDEN ISSUE

A TRIBUTE TO THOSE THAT MAKE TUCKER BEAUTIFUL AND LUSH

EDITOR'S NOTE



School is out and the summer heat is here! What a perfect time of year to celebrate our gardens.

National Garden week is this month and I encourage you to explore Tucker and take in the natural beauty all around us. I particularly appreciate the hard work it takes to create and maintain these gardens by our neighbors and friends. Many Tucker residents have gone through the Master Gardener program through the UGA Extension office. Their knowledge shines throughout Tucker's neighborhoods, and especially at the Butterfly Garden located in front of the recreation center on Lavista Road.

As you flip through this month's issue be sure to check out our Citizen (Group) of the Month, the Morning Glories Garden Club based out of the Smoke Rise neighborhood of Tucker. They are highlighted due to their continuous service to our Tucker community.

Another way to beat the heat is start taking your daily walks indoors...at Northlake. Over the past few years, our mall has transformed into a sleek office space with space to return to safe "mall walks" away from Georgia's oppressive heat. Look inside for a picture update.

You asked Rip and he is going to tell you! Join Rip and the Parks and Recreation Department for three informational meetings on upcoming plans for Lord Park, Fitzgerald Park and the renovation of Johns Homestead Park.

I hope you have a wonderful summer of exploring Tucker's gardens, parks and developments.

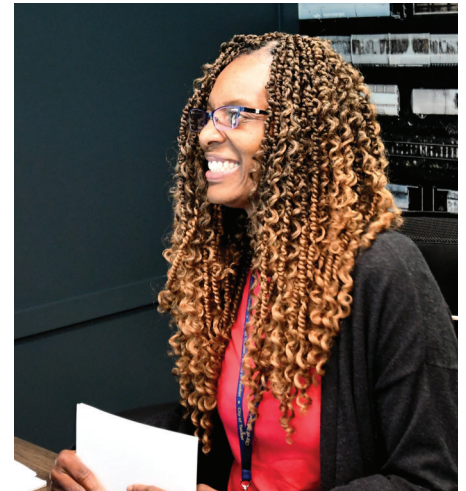
SONJA SZUBSKI
INTUCKER EDITOR

IN THIS ISSUE



ON THE COVER

Atlanta is known for its green canopy as you fly into the airport. We say Tucker is known for our award-winning gardens and garden clubs. Learn more about our Citizens of the Month on page 9.



TEAM TUCKER

The Citizen Responder role on Team Tucker is arguably one of the most important and Cheryl Neal is a perfect fit. Learn more about Cheryl in our Team Spotlight on page 8.



BUSINESS BOOM

Tucker hosted its third Manufacturing Day in mid-May with a fun twist this year. Check it out on page 7.



WELCOME BACK

Catch up with Dr. Satterfield and what brought her back to the Tucker Cluster as Principal of Tucker Middle School on page 10.



INTUCKER

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Printed and mailed by
AtlantaPrintandMail.com, Inc.

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 6

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From the Mayor:

My wife Gaye and I both grew up in DeKalb County, but in our first 15 years or so of marriage, we had several homes. In 2005, we came back here to put down roots. That phrase has a long history, and a meaningful one in a number of ways.

In the earliest history of mankind, everyone was a hunter-gatherer, moving across the land with the seasons and the migrations of the food. But when we learned to plant crops that would grow year after year, we were able to stay in one place putting down roots literally and figuratively, and build a community. People learned to work and live together. We built structures that could stand the test of time, eventually building villages and then cities and nations. The ability and desire to plant has always been at the heart of every community.

In these modern times, most of us don't grow our own food, or at least not all of it, because we don't have to. Most of us grow edible things for the enjoyment of the process (and the delicious dishes that come from it!). And we plant and grow lots of other things for the joy and the beauty they add to our lives – flowers and shrubs and trees and grass in endless varieties. In Tucker, we are blessed to have master gardeners who care for many of our public spaces, an Orchard Guild which cares especially about fruit trees, and volunteers who operate community gardens where those who don't have the space, or who just want to share the joy, can cultivate a small plot close to friends and neighbors.

Gaye and I recently attended the anniversary party of the Henderson Park Community Garden to celebrate 12 years of growing. It was a day to celebrate the hard work and commitment to the goal of providing space to grow nutritious food with neighbors. The story of their start up and Smoke Rise Community Garden's are the same as so many other organizations. A group of people saw a need and an opportunity to bring a service to the community, pooled their collective talents and made it happen.

Henderson Park Community Garden was brought to life by a generous land donation to the DeKalb County Parks System. When the neighbors identified it as an opportunity to create a community garden, volunteers created by-laws, prepped the land, and leased the plots. Smoke Rise



followed suit just a couple of years later under the umbrella of the Smoke Rise Community Association. Through the years the groups expanded through contributions and grants, adding a greenhouse and electricity at Henderson Park. At Smoke Rise they have housed beehives and built the iconic red barn seen from Hugh Howell Road. We are so grateful for their vision and service to all of us.

Another group which has long provided unheralded service, beauty and joy to Tucker is composed of our six active Garden Clubs. You can read about one of them on page 9 as our Citizen(s) of the Month. For over 50 years, including through the pandemic, they have given of themselves and shared so much with all of us. They would welcome you to join them, as would so many of the other gardeners and growers right here in our community, so let's get out there and put down some roots – together!

FRANK AUMAN
MAYOR

City Council Update



DATES TO KNOW

June 1

Traffic Court

June 6

Downtown Development Authority

June 7

Zoning Board of Appeals

June 8

Traffic Court

June 13

City Council

June 15

Environmental Court

June 16

Planning Commission

June 27

City Council Work Session

June 27

Bench Trials

May's regular scheduled City Council meeting was held on May 9, 2022 at Tucker's City Hall. The Mayor and City Council welcomed new Tucker Middle School Principal Dr. Debbie Satterfield back to the Tucker Cluster.

Council started with the second read and vote on the Tucker Exchange Special Land Use Permit to allow a mixed-use, multi-family development at 2059 Northlake Parkway. Mayor and Council voted 6-1 to approve all four concurrent variances and 5-2 to approve the SLUP. City Council then voted unanimously to amend the amendment to keep the designated dog park money separate and then voted unanimously on the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Amendment.

New Business followed and started with a first read and public hearing of an ordinance to the Mayor and Council for a Special Land Use Permit to allow a drive-through restaurant and four concurrent variances for 4435 Hugh Howell Road and 2239 Dillard Street for Chick-Fil-A, Inc. Followed by a first read and public hearing of an ordinance for a rezoning from R-75 to RSM to allow for a townhome development at 3207, 3217, 3227, 3259 Lawrenceville Hwy and 3563

Bishop Drive for Embry Development Company. Both items are scheduled for a second read and vote at the June 13 regular scheduled meeting.

Council then unanimously approved a Task Order Contract for the Johns Homestead Park and Dam Improvement Project. Followed by the unanimous approval of the Georgia Fund 1 Resolution to Authorize Investment, and the resolution to designate the days for which City Hall will be closed April 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 and specifically to add June 20, 2022 in celebration of Juneteenth.

May's fourth Monday brought a special called meeting for the first read and public hearing of the proposed Fiscal Year '23 Budget and to re-appoint the sitting four judges for Municipal Court. Council then held a work session for a presentation on Public Works by the Mayor and further discussion of the Fiscal Year '23 Budget.

The next City Council meeting will be on Monday June 13 at 7 p.m. at City Hall (1975 Lakeside Pkwy., Suite 350B).

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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.

Growing up in the 1980s, I had to quickly learn to become comfortable with "modern" technology. After struggling through the COBOL and BASIC languages in high school computer lab, I would spend countless quarters attempting to beat Pac-Man and Defender at the local arcade. I grew up during a time of rapidly changing technology and science (and some great video games, of course).

Here at DKPD, the Department has also adapted and embraced technology. From our upgraded Computer Aided Dispatch system (see April's On the Beat), to our newest Bluetooth and Wi-fi enabled patrol vehicles, we are fortunate that the citizens and leadership in DeKalb County and the City of Tucker have invested heavily to provide our officers with the modern tools they need to handle their calls.

Speaking of our patrol vehicles, gone are the days of the Chevrolet Crown Victoria or the Ford Impala. As you can see when you drive around Tucker, most of our officers have now been assigned a newer-model Chevrolet Tahoe. Larger and more fuel efficient, these SUVs allow the officers to carry more equipment and supplies and - more importantly - are safer in case of an accident. In addition, all our patrol vehicles are directly tied into our CAD system and GPS tracked for more efficient dispatching and re-routing if needed. The technology continues inside the vehicles with reliable Toshiba "Toughbook" laptop computers issued to every officer. Any computer-generated reports written by an officer are now sent electronically through the internet, ready to be reviewed by a supervisor almost immediately after they are written. Also integrated into our dispatch and vehicle tracking is our officer video recording system, more commonly known as "body cameras".

Several years ago, after an extensive research and testing period, our department selected a local vendor (utility.com) to provide our officers with the latest state-of-art video cameras. These high-tech body cameras are currently housed in the front of our officers' vests, inconspicuous yet ever ready. Per DKPD policy, our officers are required to record all interactions with the public when conducting official police duties. With the assistance of various Bluetooth and GPS "geofence" triggers, these newer body cameras will self-activate and start recording any event handled by an officer. On the chance that some type of crime occurs right in front of an officer - without it having been dispatched through our CAD system - our body cameras



have internal triggers that will initiate a recording, such as whenever emergency "blue" lights are utilized on our vehicles. More recently, all our officers were equipped with Bluetooth sensors attached to their weapon holsters. On the extremely rare occasion that their weapon is utilized, this sensor detects their weapon removal and begins a camera recording if not previously activated.

Our policies and procedures are clear: officers will have their cameras activated, either manually or automatically, and recording throughout the duration of an event. Fortunately, the technology in our body cameras is supportive of the dynamic nature of our work.

While it is important to note that our officers are required to record all interactions with the public, it is also important to remind our citizens that they too have the right to record any interactions with a member of our department while they are conducting their work in public view. Of course, there are a few limitations to this right, including the need to preserve crime scenes and maintaining the ability to investigate a crime without interference. Nevertheless, because of our advanced body camera system, it is almost a guarantee that our work will be video recorded and preserved for future use.

As a "Generation Xer", perhaps my definition of technology is a bit outdated. Luckily, the DeKalb County Police Department has stayed in front of the rapidly evolving field of modern technology. From our upgraded laptop computers, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth-enabled patrol vehicles, to our advanced body camera systems, and our NASA-like Dispatch Center, rest assured we are keeping up with the times. Now, if we could only get a video game arcade somewhere in Tucker...

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

TUCKER FLOWER SHOP

When you think of flowers, you probably think of the only flower shop in Tucker's city limits: the Tucker Flower Shop. With its over sixty-year history, few locations are more quintessentially Tucker. Its arrangements are an essential part of the major holidays, and one doesn't have to look far to find images of beautiful floral creations and a customer raving about the product and level of service he or she received. Demand for Tucker Flower Shop arrangements is so strong as to require a Sunday opening on Valentine's weekends; the shop is traditionally closed that day of the week.

For years, Tucker Flower Shop was run by Julia McDonald, local Tuckerite and avid horticulturalist. Under her careful attention, the shop bloomed into a local gem, winning awards that include Nextdoor's "Neighborhood Favorite" for 2017 in 29 neighborhoods.

However, the new year marked a changing of the guard. Julia McDonald retired, and Tucker Flower Shop found a new owner in Jeffry Wieloch.

It wasn't Jeffry's first rodeo with the Tucker Flower Shop. He and new manager Kristin Laymon had previously assisted with the abundant orders the shop receives over the holiday season. In addition, his own relationship with Julia McDonald stretches back 30 years.

"When Julia expressed her desire to retire," Jeffry says, "I decided to step in as the new owner and continue the excellent reputation Tucker Flower Shop has earned over its many years of business."

"I've worked with Jeffry in various positions in the floral industry," Kristin adds. "He asked me to join him in taking over Tucker Flower Shop, and I readily agreed."

Both Jeffry and Kristin are passionate about the new opportunities Tucker Flower Shop brings them. For Jeffry, the ability to express his creativity in conjunction with his designers and the experience of meeting new people are the most exciting aspects of his work. For Kristin, developing relationships with clients and providing personalized service are her passions.

While Tucker Flower Shop's focus is on floral arrangements, they also carry a variety of additions to supplement floral gifts such as garden baskets, stuffed animals, mylar balloons and chocolates. The classic storefront is located at 2249 Idlewood Road.



BUSINESS BOOM

by Jackie Moffo, Economic Development Manager



Nearly 60 attendees filled Stone Ridge Event Center on Thursday, May 12 to celebrate Tucker Manufacturing Day 2022. Each year, the City of Tucker brings the community together to hear from and learn more about the manufacturers that invest and help create jobs in Tucker. Thanks to event sponsors the City of Tucker, Tucker-Northlake CID, and Tucker-Summit CID this year's event showcased major employers, industry experts, and community stakeholders on two informative panels, along with interactive games and prizes. Best of all, this was free and open to the public!

The event began with networking between community attendees and the panelists with coffee provided courtesy of The Corner Cup Coffee. Once the crowd was properly caffeinated, the program began with the first panel – “Careers in Manufacturing”. The first panel included big names in Tucker manufacturing such as Hormel, International Paper and PepsiCo, as well as Georgia Piedmont Technical College. Moderated by Mayor Frank Auman, this panel focused on the “why”; why were these panelists in the manufacturing field, and why would they suggest it as a career for our students and community? Panelists provided thought-

provoking answers and provided personal anecdotes about their career paths. Panelists also spoke about the future of manufacturing, how careers are changing and how the reputation of “dirty, dark, and dangerous” manufacturing no longer holds true in their high-tech facilities.

Dialing in on technology and automation, the second panel was dubbed “Tucker Businesses of the Future”. This panel included PepsiCo, Georgia Power, Decide DeKalb and Tucker-Northlake CID. These panelists dug deeper into what the future of automation might look like in some advanced manufacturing facilities, from AI to robotics. Georgia Power and Tucker-Northlake CID provided an economic development perspective and shared more about growing existing advanced manufacturers and recruiting new high-tech manufacturing to the community. Decide DeKalb chimed into the economic development discussion, providing some insight into manufacturing’s role in creating equitable economic development for Tucker and the region.

To commemorate the event, the City of Tucker created a “Tucker Manufacturing Day Map”, which highlights just a few of Tucker’s many manufacturers. Attendees were also able to win City of Tucker sunglasses as a part of the event games and 12 lucky winners were able to win PepsiCo gift baskets via an event raffle.



TEAM TUCKER *Spotlight*

CHERYL NEAL, CITIZEN RESPONDER

What made you decide to apply for the Citizen Responder role?

I knew the role consisted of communicating with citizens and it is my passion to provide the highest level of customer service. And because Tucker is a young city and that is exciting!

What aspects of the job are you enjoying most?

Meeting the new citizens and being able to assist all of staff in whatever way is helpful. I get to communicate with every person in the building and that is amazing.

What have you found most challenging?

When I am not able to have the answer at the top of my brain. I am still learning but there is a lot. Thankfully, my co-workers are awesome and so helpful in training me and guiding me.

Why is the Citizen Responder so important?

I feel like it is important because it is the first contact for the City and is there to help guide the community.

Off the Wall

What can we find you doing on the weekends?

Probably exercising. Climbing Stone Mountain is a favorite pastime and of course any time I can spend time with my family, I do.

What are some of your favorite hobbies?

I enjoy riding my bicycle, reading and crossword puzzles.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to go into the Air Force and fly.

Who is your favorite singer/songwriter?

Bruno Mars

What did you last binge on Netflix?

Stranger Things!



CITIZENS OF THE MONTH

THE MORNING GLORIES

I would like to nominate The Morning Glories Garden Club as Volunteer of the month. The Morning Glories, led by Joyce Ray as President, were recently awarded the Community Service Award Club at the annual DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs Awards luncheon held at Callanwolde.

The City of Tucker currently has six active garden clubs: SmokeRise Garden Club, the Mountain Mums, Winding Woods, Lake Ivanhoe, Four Seasons and the Morning Glories. The Morning Glories began in 1970, breaking off from the SmokeRise Garden Club. SR garden club was a nighttime club and the Morning Glories wanted to meet in the daytime, hence their name, the Morning Glories!

The 32 ladies of the Morning Glories have been very busy, even finding ways for community service during Covid. The club received the School Grounds Improvement Grant which gave them funds to partner with a local elementary school, SmokeRise Elementary. Working with the STEM teacher, a space was designated & raised beds were constructed, ready for Fall planting at the school.

The ladies partnered with Tucker First United Methodist Church & Networks to collect plastic grocery bags, cut them into strips and crochet the strips into Mercy Mats for the homeless. In addition to the mats, the ladies bought and donated toys for Wellroot Children's Services and collected gift cards and food for Networks.

The Morning Glories sponsor a Youth Garden Club, the Daffadillies, at a local school, educating children on

the joys of gardening. The club maintains the Blue Star Memorial at SmokeRise Elementary School, placing a wreath there on Memorial Day. The Morning Glories participate in the Fig Leaf Project by collecting and donating socks and underwear for the VA hospital. Pull tabs are collected for the local Ronald McDonald House to provide funds for families of pediatric patients hospitalized locally. The ladies also decorate the historic Wells Brown House with period appropriate Christmas decorations collected from their gardens. Christmas cards are also collected, signed and mailed to hundreds of overseas veterans each year.

In addition to these projects all of the garden clubs contribute to local and nature related organizations such as: Trees Atlanta, the Tucker Nature Preserve, Atlanta Audubon Society, Georgia Piedmont Trust, and local Friends of Tucker Parks.

Most of the clubs participate in Horticultural Therapy, connecting gardening and garden related crafts with our local assisted living communities.

Garden Clubs do a lot more than just garden! They enrich our community by beautifying areas, volunteering services and contributing to local charities: all while making lasting friendships in the neighborhoods where they live.

Nomination by Gaye Auman



WELCOME BACK DR. SATTERFIELD

Q&A WITH THE NEW PRINCIPAL OF TUCKER MIDDLE SCHOOL



What brought you back to Tucker?

The opportunity to work in a space that allows me, through collaboration, the chance to continue strengthening and building the relationships between the schools within the Tucker cluster is what brought me back to this community. Schools are the hub of any community. I'm excited to work with other Tucker stakeholders to support and assist our award-winning schools within the Tucker Cluster in exceeding their potential growth. Not everyone is fortunate enough to help shape our future; as an educator, I have the honor and privilege as Tucker Middle school's principal to play an integral part in what is already proven to be a thriving learning environment.

In what ways do you plan to implement support for not only students but also teachers and staff?

I plan to support students by creating a nurturing learning environment that provides structure and consistency. The

past two years have been unsettling and caused unprecedented life-changing events. My goal is to offer students a space that addresses their unique academic and social-emotional needs while assisting them in reaching their full potential as they cultivate a desire to be life-long learners that impact humanity positively.

Teachers and staff play an integral part in implementing plans and goals for student achievement. I have found the best way to support students is to help the individuals who have direct contact with learners. Student success occurs when staff members feel they have a collective voice in decisions and understand and work in concert to obtain identified goals.

I recognize that retaining quality teachers is not easy. Still, despite national statistics, Tucker Middle has done a great job of building a solid culture of dedicated teachers willing to go the extra mile. My goal is to continue

supporting teachers and staff who prepare students for the future by being a listener who establishes relationships and is fair and consistent with all staff members.

What is your proudest accomplishment as a principal?

My proudest accomplishment as a principal is hard to pinpoint because there have been countless moments when I beamed with pride throughout my career. Each time a student or staff member reached a targeted goal, there was a reason for celebration.

During my tenure at Wesley International Academy Charter School, I led the school in increasing professional learning opportunities for teachers. Additionally, the charter school developed into a community of learners under my leadership. The school transitioned from 67% of staff with out-of-field teaching certificates to 67% with in-field certification. Another 21% of homeroom staff enrolled in teacher education and

advanced degree college programs. In addition to ongoing professional learning opportunities, Wesley's gifted endorsed teachers increased from 2% to 63% of gifted homeroom teachers in three years. There is ongoing professional development training in implementing researched-based instructional practices and effective ways to use student data to drive instruction.

While serving as principal at Midvale, the school's overall CCRPI score increased from 63.3 to 80.6. The school was recognized as a Title I school for improving students' academic performance. Additionally, I led the process in Midvale, becoming the first elementary school in Georgia with both IB and STEM accreditations.

Tell us about your educational experience prior to becoming a school principal.

As a special education teacher, I was honored and recognized as a Teacher of the Year recipient. My work as a

teacher leader allowed me to collaborate with parents and teachers to create individualized instruction that met my students' unique learning and behavioral needs in grades kindergarten through seventh.

As a guidance counselor, I worked cooperatively with teachers, parents, and students to maintain a favorable school climate and promote positive school morale. Additionally, I created and implemented school-wide attendance initiatives, which resulted in Dresden Elementary consistently meeting and exceeding attendance criteria for AYP. As the school counselor, I performed monthly parenting workshops that increased parent involvement and engagement.

As an assistant principal, I built partnerships with school staff and stakeholders to develop instructional programs that supported the district curriculum and encouraged student growth. During my tenure at Fernbank

Elementary, I collaborated with teachers on ways to utilize data and created purposeful instruction through the IB framework that resulted in Fernbank Elementary obtaining its highest CCRPI score (95.5).

What was the biggest lesson you took away from the pandemic, either personally or administratively?

Personally, the pandemic forced me to slow down and reflect on how valuable life is and the need to extend grace and compassion to those around me. We were faced with trying times as we worked with families looking to balance learning at home and school. Hopefully, we have weathered the worst of the pandemic, and now we can move toward not forgetting but embracing our new normal with a kinder and gentler approach to life.

IMPORTANT DATES

**JUNE 6
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**JUNE 6 & 16
MILLAGE RATE INCREASE HEARINGS**

TUCKER CLUSTER



Tucker High School had 329 graduates and they are attending colleges and universities all across the nation, including Emory, KSU, UGA, Georgia Tech and Yale.

NORTHLAKE UPDATE: A VISUAL TOUR



Since opening in 1971, the Northlake Mall has been through several changes, updates and owners with the most recent being the most dramatic. ATR Corinth Partners bought the building in 2016 and started the steps to request annexation into the City of Tucker.

ATR Corinth Partners is a development and management company out of Texas and has worked well with the City and with the Tucker-Northlake Community Improvement District to help revitalize the area and have been great stewards of growth. The largest lease thus far has been with Emory Healthcare when they signed on to take over the Sears space

in late 2019. The healthcare giant has re-envisioned the retail space into a mixed-use office space for medical administration and lab work and construction has been ongoing throughout the pandemic.

In addition to the Emory Healthcare upgrades, there has been some moving around of retail staples with new upgraded spaces, like Footlocker and the newest branch of the CDC Credit Union in the parking lot in front of the main entrance.

We will continue to update as more shops and restaurants sign leases and upgrades are made.





WALK for the PAWS TUCKER

11 a.m.-3 p.m. | Henderson Park



A family-friendly afternoon of fun for your friends, kids, and favorite rescue pet - Join us for a **rescue reunion!**

JUNE 11

Walk to benefit
PAWS Atlanta
"Best in Rescue" contests
Craft Beer
Food Trucks
Local Vendor Market

UPCOMING PARKS AND REC COMMUNITY MEETINGS (4898 Lavista Road)

June 9 at 7 p.m.
Lord Park

June 16 at 7 p.m.
Fitzgerald Park, the City
Sports Complex

Date & Time TBD
Johns Homestead Park

**All meetings held at
Tucker Rec Center**

SATURDAY JUNE 18

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



UNITY

JUBILEE

Tucker, Georgia

Unity Walk down
Main Street Tucker
followed by a picnic
at the Church Street
Greenspace
(4316 Church Street)

Speakers
Poetry Readings
Live Music
Food Trucks
Kids Entertainment
Area
Art Walk
Vendors

Additional
information at
cfatucker.org

“ASK RIP”

by Rip Robertson, Parks and Recreation Director



Welcome to summer! Our first concert is in the bag and it went very well. The weather cooperated, although

it pressed us throughout the week. Nathan Angelo entertained us with great music and, with an unfortunate accident (nothing extreme) that had the drummer depart, we had one of Tucker's own step up and play like part of the band. What a night! Join us again this Friday for “The Woodys”. It will be an enthusiastic night and we look forward to hosting the community for a grand time.

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to announce several community meetings concerning some of our specific parks. We have plans to discuss for Lord Park, Fitzgerald Park and the complete renovation of Johns Homestead Park. We will meet on June 9 to discuss the plans for Lord Park and some of the improvements made to other Smoke Rise community parks. These improvements include several new bridges/boardwalks in Probst Park, the new playground in Rosenfeld and possibly beginning some early phases of Lord Park. There has been some planning completed for Lord Park and we are excited about answering the community's questions.

On June 16, we will host a meeting to discuss the renovation plans for Fitzgerald Park. Some improvements, most importantly the water/sewer, have already started. This is a very important part of the community's park system, as Fitzgerald is the City's “sports complex”. This park was a unique acquisition and filled a need discussed in our adopted Parks and Recreation Master Plan. We will discuss additional projects and

answer questions specific to the sports complex.

There will also be an important community meeting to discuss the upcoming project at Johns Homestead Park. This critical project will address decades-old issues with the lakes and dams in this historic park. The project will include replacing those failed structures, additional improvements to the streams and erosion issues in the park. We will also be adding several amenities to provide the surrounding neighborhoods with additional access points, improved trails, bridges, and boardwalks as well as play areas and environmental learning opportunities. We have not yet set a specific date but hope to get it scheduled later this month or in early July.

Please visit us at tuckerga.gov/parks for more details about the parks, projects and these specific meetings.

Of course, with summer comes fun. Don't forget to schedule time for our Annual Independence Day Celebration on July 3 beginning at 6:00 p.m. The fireworks will be incredible with live music from The Vibe rocking Main Street, great giveaways and food. This year we are adding a new feature with fun games and activities for the kids. Near the end of Main Street bring the little ones over for activities that are sure to entertain. The local and always fabulous downtown restaurants are gearing up and, as usual, we'll have several additional food options with wurst/dogs, queso/nachos, BBQ, Americana, Greek, Asian and more from the scheduled food trucks. Come to Main Street and enjoy a great, hometown family evening.

Keep in mind that the summer doesn't end there. We'll be back in August with the very energetic Mike Veal Band (mikevealband.com) and on September

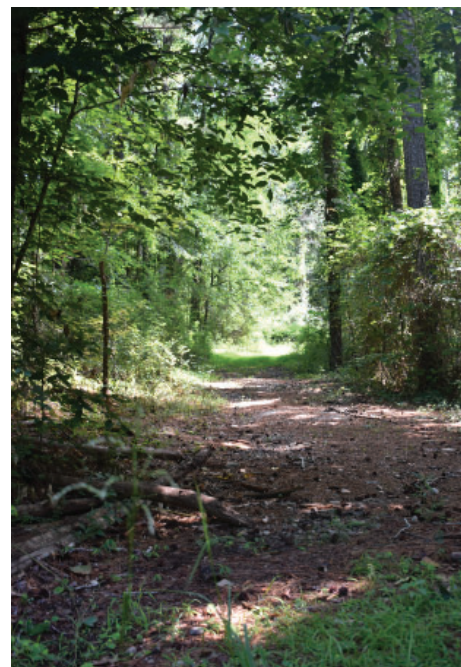
2 with A1A (a1a-live.com), the “official” Jimmy Buffett cover band.

Another part of our Summer of Fun is the National Night Out celebration on August 2 at Smoke Rise Elementary School. We'll also have a movie on the Church Street greenspace in October. More details to come on both of these exciting events in the upcoming issues.

Come out to Henderson Park on June 11 to support PAWS Atlanta with the “Walk for the Paws” event. There will be vendors, food trucks and beverages with several contests. This benefit walk is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and starts at the lakeside pavilion (Livsey entrance).

If you haven't already, don't forget about your annual pool membership. The pools opened over the Memorial Day weekend and are a great way to spend your day cooling off and playing in the water. Our pool schedules along with annual and daily rates are available online.

Make sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram to get the most up-to-date department information!





TUCKER Community Corner



**6/3 – rek Gallery First
Friday Meet and Greet
6-8 p.m.**

3383 Lawrenceville Highway

The rek Gallery invites the Tucker community for a monthly meet and greet of various artists every first Friday. Check rek.gallery for details.

**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 – Juneteenth
Jubilee
10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

**Church Street Greenspace
4316 Church Street**

All are welcome to join the unity walk down Main Street and picnic at the greenspace. Live music, food trucks, Art Walk and kids area. cfatucker.org.

**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.