



# INTUCKER

NOVEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 6 | ISSUE 11



## LITTLE FREE KITCHEN

THE LITTLE KITCHEN THAT COULD

# EDITOR'S NOTE



'Tis the season of gratitude. This time of year can be a struggle for some, full of joy for others and for most, a combination of

the two, if we are being honest. Over the past few years around my own family's table, there have been some newly emptied seats but also a few new additions and I am forever grateful for my family and friends and their continuous support on this journey called life.

Continuous support and love are two words that have always been synonymous with Tucker for me. In this issue you will hear from our Mayor and his advice to our citizens on how to get involved and make a difference in the community.

Another amazing example of a supportive community on life's journey is the story of one of our newest restaurants, Honey Joe Café. Opening their doors just over a month ago, owners Kat and Kevin Johnson drew their inspiration from Kat's parents, Honey and Joe. You can read about their restaurant here but also watch their ribbon cutting video on our YouTube channel, [youtube.com/cityoftucker](https://www.youtube.com/cityoftucker).

In this season of giving, the City's Parks and Recreation Department has once again partnered with the Empty Stocking Fund to help distribute donations and fulfill gift wish lists from neighboring communities. If you would like to help in the sorting and distribution, please visit our website at [tuckerga.gov/esf](https://tuckerga.gov/esf)

I leave you with my gratitude, Tucker. Every day I learn something new with you and that is a precious gift.

**SONJA SZUBSKI**  
INTUCKER EDITOR

# IN THIS ISSUE



## ON THE COVER

The Cover feature this month is all about the generosity of our neighbors. Learn more about The Little Free Kitchen in Tucker on page 6.



## CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

Join us in expressing gratitude to this month's Citizen of the Month, Katherine Atteberry. Check her out on page 8.



## TEAM TUCKER SPOTLIGHT

Learn about one of the newest additions to Team Tucker, Pam Price. Pam has an intense hobby collection. Read more on page 9.



## BUSINESS BOOM

A first for Tucker, Manufacturing Day took place at Tucker High School last month. Read up on all the details on page 13.



# INTUCKER

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# From the Mayor

As we approach this season of Thanksgiving, I find myself more and more grateful for the many people who contribute to our community without fanfare, and often without any acknowledgement at all. Throughout my time of service as Mayor for Tucker, I have had many residents ask how they can get involved and help the City. Many are interested in an appointment to a Board or Commission, and that is a great way to serve, but there are so many more opportunities within the community as well. While elected officials and members of boards and commissions make decisions about policy and spending by the city government, there are many people making an even bigger impact on our quality of life through serving in other ways. They truly make Tucker the warm and welcoming City that we are.

To promote and help get more of the community involved, the city maintains a volunteer webpage with a list and contact information for many of our volunteer groups. By no means is this exhaustive but it is a great place to start and to find your interests. The Tucker Civic Association has been around for decades in one iteration or another and interestingly many of the other organization started as subcommittees of TCA, including all the Friends of Parks groups, Tucker Business Association, the Historical Society, and the Tucker Lifelong Community Committee. We have volunteer-led, running, walking, biking and even pottery groups. We have a local chapter of Habitat for Humanity right downtown.

We have a great partner in the NETWORKS Cooperative for our neighbors in need of a hand up in escaping poverty. If you love the outdoors, then one of the Friends of Tucker Parks groups might be a good fit for you with trailblazing and park clean up days (we also rely on them for input in parks planning and improvements). Our Rotary, Optimist and Lions clubs are flourishing and incredibly supportive of our local community as well as serving needs nationally and internationally. If you're interested in performing or visual arts, Tucker has that too! We have our very own Main Street Theatre and Community Art Tucker, and we're about to begin a pilot public art program.

And please check with your local church. They give of themselves through their own service projects, youth programs and holiday celebrations. Above all, they do the



indispensable work of loving our neighbors and caring for those with all kinds of needs in time of grief and loss and daily struggle by reminding us all of the hope we can have in a future bigger and brighter than ourselves.

There is a group for whatever fills your heart and drives your need to help, and all of them would welcome you. While I do not think such opportunities are unique to Tucker, I do know that the breadth of opportunity and our citizen leaders do make us unique. There have been surveys published that show Tucker to be at 2-3 times the average rate of volunteerism in Metro Atlanta. Our citizens and leaders are a blessing to this community, and beyond. I challenge and invite you to find an organization that suits you. It doesn't have to be a full-time job, it doesn't have to be a weekly commitment, it can be as little or as much as you can add to your life. As mentioned above our website is full of really great and helpful information about our City and there is a dedicated page for volunteer groups. Click around and learn more about how you can help. Visit [tuckerga.gov](http://tuckerga.gov), click on Community then click on Volunteer. Serving this community has been one of my greatest joys and I invite you to join me. Please consider expressing your gratitude by giving back through one of these many opportunities - You'll make a much bigger difference than you might imagine!

**FRANK AUMAN  
MAYOR**

# City Council Update



## DATES TO KNOW

### **November 1**

- Economic Development Strategic Plan SWOT Analysis Meeting
- Zoning Board of Appeals

### **November 2**

Traffic Court

### **November 9**

Traffic Court

### **November 11**

City Hall Closed in Observance of Veterans Day

### **November 14**

City Council Meeting

### **November 15**

University of Government Affairs Tucker

### **November 16**

Environmental Court

### **November 17**

Planning Commission

### **November 24 and 25**

City Hall Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving

### **November 28**

City Council Work Session

Tucker's Mayor and City Council held their first meeting of the month on October 10, performing a number of first reads and contract considerations in addition to unanimously approving the adoption of the City of Tucker official calendar for 2023.

The ordinances that received a first read were:

- ordinance for City-initiated rezonings at 1220 and 1250 Richardson Street
- ordinance to amend the Tucker Code Chapter 46 Zoning regarding convenience store regulations to better reflect district zoning requirements and amend some definitions for clarity

The unanimously approved contracts were:

- an award on a bid for the Johns Homestead preservation plan & construction documents project to Morrison Design
- park signage services for A-1 Signs to replace the remaining park signs with the newly-designed monument signs as seen at Tucker Recreation Center and Henderson Park

An amendment to the contract for the Cooledge Road sidewalk construction project to modify the stormwater pipe in the area and increase the concrete quantity to smoothly tie-in

driveways was approved 6-1.

Council then recessed for executive session and returned with no further business.

Mayor and Council met again for a work session on October 24 for presentations by the City Manager, the Finance Director, Discover DeKalb and the Parks & Recreation Director. Council recessed for a quick executive session with no action taken before adjournment.

All City Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at City Hall (1975 Lakeside Parkway, Suite 350B).



# 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](mailto:jwberg@dekalbcountyga.gov) or by phone at (678) 597-9040.*

Recently, I purchased a new cordless vacuum cleaner. Imagine my surprise when I opened the box and discovered something ancient – a written instruction manual. Finding a physical document is rare nowadays, with most information located on something the younger people call “the internet”. In addition to helping me put my new vacuum cleaner together, this amazing artifact prompted me to finally write on something I have been thinking about – an instruction manual for our police department.

Of course, our police department does have a significant online presence ([dekalbcountyga.gov/police-services/welcome](http://dekalbcountyga.gov/police-services/welcome)), which includes a helpful “Frequently Asked Questions” section. However, despite all the technology that the Department has invested in over the years, and despite all the news conferences and other outreach efforts by our incredible Public Education Specialists such as Mrs. Mann, there is still a good amount of ambiguity that surrounds when and how to utilize our police services.

The most basic question I still hear after all these years is “when should I call 911?” There is no right or wrong answer to this question. On most occasions, it may be obvious when to call us – after being involved in a traffic accident, finding a firearm lying in your front yard, discovering your car with a broken window and your laptop missing, etc. In other situations, it may not be clear that the police department should be notified. These situations can involve a myriad of encounters where the police may - or may not - be able to help.

One of the more frequent calls that our officers have responded to in recent years are those involving individuals suffering from mental health or substance abuse issues. While our officers are certainly not licensed “mental health professionals”, the good news is that the majority of us have received extensive training in helping in these very sad situations. As I mentioned in my February On the Beat article, the state-mandated Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training course has provided our officers with a variety of tools and resources to help aid families with a loved one struggling to maintain their sanity or their sobriety. While we may not be the first or the best solution to help in these situations, our officers can and will respond with empathy and the knowledge to help if called upon.

Other situations where there is often some ambiguity and hesitation to call the police are ones involving “suspicious” individuals. Unfortunately, there is no clear definition of what is

“suspicious”. What might be suspicious to one citizen may be totally innocuous or benign to another. Fortunately, our officers have received extensive training - beginning in our world-class police academy - to look at the totality of the situation when responding to a call of something or someone that has been deemed “suspicious”. The time of day, the location, any previous calls in the area, the behavior of the individual(s) and the officer’s own knowledge, training, and experience are all considered when determining if a subject or traffic stop is needed.

While our officers are required to respond to all 911 calls for service, the help they provide will vary based on a variety of factors. Most importantly, our officers are required to follow the guidelines provided for under the United States Constitution, all State and County laws, and our Departmental policies and procedures. My point is that if you are hesitant to call us because you feel that our officers are not capable or qualified to help, I would kindly disagree. Our Department has worked very hard over the years to improve in both our response times and in our officers’ abilities to provide effective solutions to the wide variety of calls they encounter.

One final note about calling us. If you do find that you need to contact us, either by dialing “911” or through our non-emergency number (678-406-7929), please be sure to have several pieces of information handy. Most importantly, we need the location of the incident or situation you are calling about. While our emergency operators have access to “reverse 911” and other location-finding technologies, there are times when these technologies do not work. Just recently, there were several occasions when a citizen called 911 from a cell phone inside the City of Tucker and the call was routed to the Gwinnett County 911 Center - due to the caller’s proximity to the county line. If a caller is unable to provide an exact address to the emergency operator, whether inside or outside the City, this could result in a delayed police response. Please know your location, or least give a recognizable landmark like Mathews!

In next month’s On the Beat, I will continue to “instruct” the citizens of Tucker on how to best utilize our Department. In the meantime, if you feel the need to call us, please do not hesitate. Once dispatched, our officers will respond as quickly as possible with an empathetic and knowledgeable resolution. Now, if you just need someone to vacuum your home, please call me here at Tucker Precinct...

# THE LITTLE FREE KITCHENS OF TUCKER

## NEIGHBORS FEEDING NEIGHBORS

With the recent downturn of the economy, the population of Tucker's homeless and neighbors in need has increased. While there are programs to provided aid and assistance for rent and utility bills, sometimes a little more help is needed. In times like these, charitable organizations have even more need of donations, and as we head into the holidays, the needs and asks are increasing.

Tucker is blessed to have charities like the NETWorks Cooperative and Omega Support Services that provide food on an emergency basis, short term financial assistance, and most importantly classes on finances, resume writing and small business coaching. But there will always be those in need of more. This is where our Tucker residents have stepped up in numerous ways. There are food drives all around Tucker at the schools and local businesses and donations are always welcome at NETWorks, but there is a little group of residents that has chosen to also do more on their own.

In 2020 a local Girl Scout contacted the Parks and Recreation Director of the City of Tucker and asked if she could use the Tucker Recreation Center as a site to build a Little Free Pantry for her Gold Award, which is the highest rank of a Girl Scout. The City excitedly allowed the pantry to be built on the east side of the Tucker Rec Center.

What is a Little Free Pantry? We have all heard of, and have probably either stocked or helped build, a Little Free Library. Little Free Library is a non-profit organization that has a mission to "be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Libraries." They have inspired over 150,000 registered Little Free Libraries across 100+ countries with 70 million books shared annually. The Little Free Pantry movement was inspired by the community success of the Little Free Library and has created a network of Little Free Pantries

*"We are always able to find food from veggies, snacks, drinks, fresh fruit, breads, and desserts. Even treats for our fur family too. Thank you all for everything you do!!"*

*~Member~*



and Mini Pantries all across the United States. The Mini Pantry at Tucker Recreation Center is registered with the network and has been an incredible boon to the community.

Just a year ago, Lew Nix posted in Tucker's largest community Facebook Group, Tucker Town Talk, that he had noticed the Little Free Pantry was low on offerings, and he requested help keeping it stocked. With this one post he not only made the community aware of the need but has helped meet this need.

Over the following month there was such interest and so many posts that Tucker residents decided to start a Facebook group to keep each other updated on the pantry's needs and have a central location for communication. Mr. Nix started The Little Free Kitchen in Tucker on January 6, 2022, and there are 160 members in the public group to date.

Since launching The Little Free Kitchen in Tucker Facebook group, there are almost daily posts updating the group on the level of food available for those in need and posts sharing what items seem to be popular. There is also discussion on how to provide fresh produce and other necessary items like dog food and treats or personal hygiene products. The general feel of

the group is upbeat, positive and willing to give. One member, Barbara Bugg, shared, "There is nothing better than to share with those around you."

Members of the Facebook group also include those that benefit from their neighbors' generosity. "The amazing generous people who donate to this food kitchen are a huge blessing to my 4 teens and I," shared one member. "We are always able to find food from veggies, snacks, drinks, fresh fruit, breads, and desserts. Even treats for our fur family too. Thank you all for everything you do!!"

The Little Free Kitchen in Tucker has inspired its own offshoot. The Tucker Lavista Lions Club has partnered with Omega Support services to build their own Little Free Pantry. Omega Support Services accepts donations and replenishes both pantries on a weekly basis.

Tucker has a strong reputation for being a community of support and help. During this holiday season of gratitude and generosity, don't forget our community partners and food kitchens. Consider joining your friends at The Little Free Kitchen in Tucker.



## CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

# KATHERINE ATTEBERRY



Tucker is full of amazing volunteers and citizens that enhance our community on a daily basis. Katherine Atteberry is one that, for years, has quietly added her sunshine without expectation of recognition. Katherine was a big cityhood supporter and organized the December 2014 event on Main Street when Santa brought Tucker it's successful feasibility study and has worked along with the Tucker Civic Association for years on the annual Rivers Alive event.

Rivers Alive is a volunteer opportunity for areas to clean up the waterways of the community and to promote awareness of the preservation of Georgia's water resources. Katherine has been involved in one way or another with Rivers Alive for years. After living in Tucker for a while, Katherine was recruited to take over organizing the annual event for the Tucker Civic Association.

Over the years participation has grown and the event is now capped for registrations, but volunteers still show up to help without registration. BSA Troops, sororities and corporate volunteers along with avid gardeners and local residents, all came out this past October to clean up the waterways and trails of Johns Homestead Park. Katherine, as the main organizer, secured corporate sponsorship of the event, ordered the food for the hungry participants, and made sure all were safe on the property.

Year after year, Katherine gives of her time and talent to the waterways of Tucker and benefitting the Tucker community. We are grateful for all that Katherine has done for the City of Tucker and are thrilled to celebrate her as November's Citizen of the Month.



# TEAM TUCKER *Spotlight*

## PAM PRICE, PERMIT TECH

### What do you do as a Permit Tech for the city of Tucker?

My job is the intake of building permits and the monitoring of the process from intake to issuance. You could say I am the face of the Building Department.

### How did you gain your expertise?

I made a career change in my forties and started working for the City of Atlanta at the front desk. About six months in they noticed my people skills so I started working in the Commercial Division. Ms. Al-nisa Tinglin was the Senior Project Manager and she took me under her wing and taught me the foundation of buildings and I fell in love with all of it. I have been in this for six and a half years and every day is still interesting.

### How long have you been part of Team Tucker? What do you enjoy most?

I started in September 2022, so I am a newbie! The culture, hands down. It is the best that I have been part of in all aspects of the team. The City makes their employees feel like they have been waiting for them to get here. From the team support to the free oranges in the fridge... It is an amazing place to work.

### Why is it important to get work permitted?

It is important because it protects you and your family and your city. When you do renovations, additions or any additional buildings legally, you have something to protect you and your investment should some kind of accident happen. We understand that it is your property, but we are here to make sure it is safe for you and all who come onto your property.



## Off the Wall

**Do you have any hobbies?** – I love to garden but I am a fifty year Michael Jackson fan and I take my collection of memorabilia seriously. In fact, in 2021 I came in seventh place in the Hector Barjot Best MJ Collection contest.

**If you could have a superpower what would it be?** – To be invisible

**What is one of your happiest memories?**  
– From the time my daughter was 12 to 18 years old we went to Disney every year. Being a Disney family was an amazing time.



# ON THE RISE

## PRINCIPAL TAKES SMOKE RISE TO NEW HEIGHTS

Principal Pamela McCloud's office door is open. This is not unusual for her.

"She has an open-door policy not only to us, but to anybody that wants to come through that door," says Ms. Caroline Croom, sitting across from Mrs. McCloud. "You could have made an appointment this morning...she would have told you 'Oh, come on, come in.'"

Open communication has been an important part of Mrs. McCloud's tenure as principal of Smoke Rise Elementary School since 2014. Regular meetings with parents ensure that they understand the standards students are being taught and that they have access to resources to help their children succeed. Programs like ClassDojo allow for quick messaging between Smoke Rise and the community, and while many schools have a policy of teachers responding to parents within 48 hours, Principal McCloud is not satisfied with that.

"Here we get back within 24 [hours]," she says. "That way we can be very responsive."

This kind of commitment requires an incredible buy-in from teachers.

"Our teachers every day—I mean, God bless them—come in and they do not hesitate. They hit the ground running from when the kids walk in the building to the time they leave," Principal McCloud says. "Teachers are engaged, and we've been very strategic with our resources." Such strategies include bringing in tutors during the day to engage with students in the classroom, which Smoke Rise has found very successful.

Principal McCloud emphasizes the importance of studying data in education. It was a careful data review that made her realize how all students, whether they be struggling or gifted, need help to reach their full potential.

"We understood then, and we knew we needed to put a process in place to cover all our students and all our student needs," says Principal McCloud. As a result of changing their process, Smoke Rise Elementary saw another big change in the form of their College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) score.

The CCRPI is a 100-point scale tool to measure how well schools are preparing students for the next level in their education. Elementary schools in Georgia are required to reach at least 60 points, but the state averages 79.9 points. Smoke Rise's score skyrocketed from 58.2 in 2014 to 89.2 as of 2019, an increase of 31 points in a five-year period.

"We're steadily looking at ways for improvement, to make gains," Principal McCloud says. "Our goal is now 100 [points]."

With so many strides taken in such a short time, it's no wonder that Smoke Rise Elementary was named a 2021 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Distinguished School, and Pamela McCloud herself named the Region II Principal of the Year for 2022. Not only have they received these accolades, but Smoke Rise has also achieved 2021 Cognia STEM certification.

When Principal McCloud and Ms. Croon last attended the ESEA conference and received the award, they brought back a wealth of knowledge they were excited to implement at Smoke Rise Elementary School. This year, they are sharing information that they hope helps other schools reach their goals.

"The name of our presentation is 'Dare to Be Distinguished: Student Growth and Achievement,'" Principal McCloud says.

"We are going to be presenting how we got to that point, about helping our students to grow and teachers to understand effective teaching and learning."



# MANUFACTURING DAY @ THS



## TUCKER CLUSTER

### Updates & News

#### IMPORTANT DATES

##### November 8

Independent Learner Day/  
Professional Development Day

##### November 14

Board of Education Meeting

##### November 21-25

Thanksgiving Break

## BRAG SHEET

#### LIVSEY ELEMENTARY

- The PTO recently presented the second annual Screen on the Green. It was attended by almost 200 families, and there will be another Screen on the Green in the spring.

#### SMOKE RISE ELEMENTARY

- Principal Pamela McCloud was recognized as the Region II Principal of the Year.

#### TUCKER MIDDLE

- The Tigers football team ended the season undefeated and advanced to the playoffs where they were eliminated in the semi-final round.

#### TUCKER HIGH

- Tucker High School recently hosted Manufacturing Day where students were introduced to a variety of careers in and information about manufacturing in Tucker. In addition, they recently hosted a STEM Day featuring electric race cars to learn about STEM careers.

## BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

# HONEY JOE CAFE



When you walk into Honey Joe Café, one of the first things you'll notice is the eye-catching mural on the left wall. It reads "Be sweet. Stay strong," in black cursive against a bright blue background. A smiling bumblebee flies above the words, its flight path forming a heart. In the middle of the far wall behind the counter are two framed photographs of the café's inspirations, Honey and Joe.

"Honey was my mom, Joe was my dad, and they both were amazing cooks," says Kat Johnson, owner of Honey Joe Café alongside her husband Kevin Johnson. "My dad cooked professionally all my life."

Now Kat is continuing the family tradition to rave reviews. Facebook, Yelp, and Google are all alight with the comments of customers complimenting the soul food on the Honey Joe Café menu. Their slogan "Where the eating is sweet!" is evident in offerings like the honey cornbread and sweet fried donuts. Special mention must be given to Honey Joe's oxtails and macaroni for how often they are recommended by customers.

"I've had at least a meal a week since they've opened and I have never been disappointed," one Google reviewer says. Another

claims that the macaroni and cheese is good enough to "make you buy a futon and sleep in the lobby."

"This is really a labor of love," says Kat. "We've worked so hard, and a lot of people have worked hard with us."

Nowhere was this hard work more evident than at Honey Joe's ribbon cutting ceremony held in early September. Dozens of friends and family came out to support the event, congratulating Kat and helping set up. Following the ribbon cutting, walk-up guests quickly formed a line that stretched outside the building to get a taste of the great food on offer. It was immediately back to work for Kat, Kevin and staff.

"In the spirit of [Honey and Joe] we just want to serve good food with some love to people who are our friends and family, who will become our friends and family," Kat said at the event.

"We look forward to serving good quality food in the City of Tucker," Kevin added.

Honey Joe Café is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. They are closed Monday and Tuesday. Honey Joe Café is located at 4349 Lawrenceville Highway, Suite C.

# BUSINESS BOOM

*by Angela Brooks, Business Outreach Coordinator*



On October 14, the hallways of Tucker High School (THS) were overrun with boisterous teenagers rushing here and there with giggles, whispering and a whole lot of LOLs (Laughing Out Loud). How is that

different from any other day at Tucker High or any other high school you may wonder. These students were actually participating in a unique learning opportunity as a part of the City of Tucker's Manufacturing Day at their school.

The event brought together representatives from some local manufacturing companies and students from the school to explore the multitude of career opportunities within the industry and right here in Tucker. It featured panel discussions with industry experts talking about 'Careers in Manufacturing: a day in the life of,' 'Advanced Manufacturing,' there was expo booths where students could see product displays, interact one-on-one with company representatives to learn about job opportunities, skills required, along with paid education and even training in some instances.

"The businesses and organizations that were willing to take their time to come to our high school is so invaluable," English teacher at THS and the event organizer for the school's participation Tasheika Mason, said. "Because meeting students where they are is one of the best ways to form those partnerships and to provide that exposure to today's students because sometimes they don't know how to find out about certain jobs or how to meet people who can give them information that will help them weigh their options."

Mayor Frank Auman's original vision of Tucker Manufacturing Day was launched in 2018 to spotlight the importance of this industry to the city's economy. The idea for the THS event came from the city's most recent Manufacturing Day (last May) at the Stone Ridge event center, when for the first time, students were invited to attend and to learn about modern manufacturing as a career option. This time around the city brought the event to the students with enormous success. The City Economic Development Manager Jackie Moffo strongly agrees and hopes to engage more businesses for future opportunities.

"In the economic development space, whether you're recruiting a business or talking to an existing business, their number one concern these days is finding qualified talent, and that's not a concern that we see changing in the near future," Moffo said. "So, by having events like this we can really create a place where students can look at alternatives to college that can create

careers and great opportunities. It also helps fill that talent gap for the companies that choose to do business here.

TJ Mauder, owner of Southern Wall Products, said he was excited for his drywall business to participate because it fit perfectly with a strategy that they already had in mind.

"We had been talking about building a relationship with Tucker High School so that hopefully we could get the opportunity to either share information or get in front of kids that are maybe not considering a college path and to at least explore manufacturing," Mauder said. "We're not a huge company but you know we need people and someone that was not gonna go on a college path at least give them an opportunity for something to check out."

Engineer Mike Haun, who attended on behalf of Southern Wall expressed his concern with helping the next generation.

"We are genuinely concerned about making sure that the next generation has the tools to live their life," Haun said. "I actually live down the road from the high school and down the road from Southern Wall. I care about Tucker, and I care about its future, and I do think that people who feel that college isn't for them, should feel included and feel good about their choice."

Having this event again is something Mason would want to happen.

"We were able to have over three hundred students participate, I would definitely want to do it again," Mason said. "Since this was what I considered the inaugural event, I would consider it a test run and because it went so well, it would be great if it could happen again perhaps in the spring of 2023."

Mason said that the school has the capacity to have even more students participate.

"Because of the way we built the logistics, I think it could support more students and more businesses participating as well," Mason said.

Moffo said that they had thirteen companies represented that included a mix of businesses, technical colleges, and workforce resources participate this time around.

"Knowing how well-received this one was, I'm sure we can get even more folks on board for the next one," Moffo said.

Participating manufacturers: American Tables and Seating, Hermeus, Hormel, International Paper, Pepsico, Rise Baking Company, Steel Mart, DeKalb Tool and Die, Sugar Bowl Bakery. Workforce resources: Georgia Piedmont Technical College, Universal Technical Institute, and WorkSource DeKalb.

**REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 14 - SPOTS ARE LIMITED**



**8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**MONDAY-THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 19-22**

**&**

**TUESDAY-FRIDAY  
DECEMBER 27-30**

Our TRC Winter Break Camp will be full of fun, sports, and plenty of time to play.

Cost is \$30 per day



**KELLEY COFER PARK  
PEACH PIT  
NOVEMBER 19  
5-8 P.M.**

We invite you to join us at our annual "Campfire and Cocktails" event where we gather around a warm fire, sip signature cocktails from one of our downtown favorites and enjoy live music from Brooke & Mike.



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3  
5 - 8 P.M.**

TRC will host its third annual North Pole event and will include the City's Annual Holiday Celebration.

This expanded family fun event will include officially lighting the City's tree and menorah, have music along with artistic performances from local groups, as well as crafts, games, and food.

Santa will be there to hear your children's gift wishes, take photos and spread the holiday joy.

**CHURCH STREET GREENSPACE  
4316 CHURCH STREET, TUCKER GA 30084**

# “ASK RIP”

*by Rip Robertson, Parks and Recreation Director*



Tucker Parks and Recreation is proud to partner once again with the Empty Stocking Fund for the 2022 holiday season. After assisting hundreds of families last year, we are happily continuing this effort for a second holiday season. It is even more important today as our community continues with their efforts to return to normal.

Not familiar with the organization? In 1927, the Empty Stocking Fund was created by a small group of employees of The Atlanta Georgian, the predecessor of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Through relationships with wholesale distributors and in-kind donations from trusted corporations, the Empty Stocking Fund acquires new items in quantities sufficient to offer a variety of age- and gender-appropriate holiday gift choices and essential school supplies.

Those families that qualify for benefits through the state of Georgia are invited to register and shop for gifts through this program. In December, qualified families are invited to shop for gifts and supplies for their children (birth to 12 years old).

This program is unique in how they allow parents to choose (shop) for toys and gifts they want for their children. The gifts are prepared and packaged for giving at the family’s time and place chosen. For decades, parents were invited to come to Santa’s Village, a toy and gift store, to shop for their children’s gifts. As they continue to protect staff, volunteers, and especially families during the holidays, Santa’s Village will once again be digital! Parents only need to register their children, upload proof of benefits, and will again shop online from any



web-enabled device. Orders will be packed at ESF’s warehouse facility in SE Atlanta and parents may choose a convenient location for pick up, whether it’s at the ESF facility or one of the distribution partners events.

The City of Tucker is a distribution site for the Empty Stocking Fund again in 2022. Parents can choose to pick up their holiday packages at the Tucker Recreation Center on December 8 and December 10. If you are a family in need of support or would like to volunteer to distribute gifts at the Recreation Center, you can get more information and/or register at [tuckerga.gov/esf](http://tuckerga.gov/esf).





## TUCKER Community Corner



### **11/12 – Electronics and HME Recycling Day**

**9 a.m.-2 p.m.**

**3969 Lawrenceville Highway and  
4898 Lavista Road**

Recycle working and nonworking electronics and donate gently-used medical equipment like wheelchairs and crutches. Monetary donations are also appreciated. All donations benefit Friends of Disabled Adults and Children.

### **11/19 – Campfire & Cocktails**

**5-8 p.m.**

**4259 North Park Drive**

Join Tucker Parks and Recreation for the annual Campfire & Cocktails celebration! Enjoy s'mores and signature drinks at the Peach Pit at Kelley Cofer Park. Bring your favorite chair or blanket to set up around the fire and listen to live acoustic music.

### **11/17-19 – Art from the Heart Opening Party & Artist Market**

**6-8 p.m. Thursday, Noon-7 p.m. Friday,**

**10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday**

**2601 Henderson Mill Road**

Find a unique gift for yourself and your loved ones at this arts market. Browse local vendors for a sneak-peek and enjoy food and drinks during the opening party on Thursday with a \$10 ticket. Free admission Friday and Saturday.