



CELEBRATING OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

INTUCKER

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FROM THE MAYOR

Summer is upon us and – if you can handle the Georgia heat – it's always a great time here in Tucker. I've got to tell you, though, I'm especially excited about what's happening this summer.

Over and over again, the people of Tucker have said that what they love about Tucker, what they want to nurture and have more of, is community. People know each other and they love that whenever we gather for an event, we run into people we know. It feels good and unlike anyplace else. It feels like home.

So, to help build on our connectedness, our staff sat down last year to discuss and brainstorm possible community events that could be fun additions to our City calendar. They came up with a series we're calling the "TKR Summer of Fun". It consists of a Movie on Main Street (June 8), a big fireworks extravaganza (July 3) and our second annual National Night Out celebration (August 7).

While these are going to be top-notch events, the idea did give me some pause. That's because it's a lot of work - I know the countless hours our great volunteer groups put in year after year on projects like Tucker Day, the Chili Cook-Off, Christmas on Main, Taste of Tucker and Trunk or Treat. Those are great events because they're created and executed by volunteer community members. The last thing I wanted to do was overshadow or take away from their invaluable efforts. So be assured, they're not going anywhere. Groups like the Old Town Tucker Merchants Association, Main Street Tucker Alliance and so many more are going to continue to organize the events they've always produced and they're going to do it with the complete support and gratitude of the City. These new events are just additional opportunities for our community to gather in fellowship and become even closer.

I'm also excited about the new-look swim facilities at Kelley Cofer Park. Since our Parks and Recreation Department assumed responsibility for the park back in April, they've worked tirelessly to make needed

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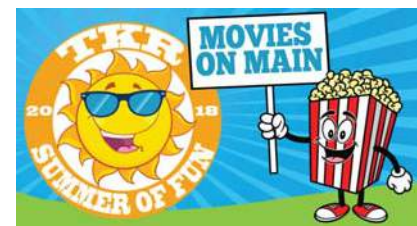
DATES TO KNOW

June 11
City Council

June 13
Community Council

June 19
Zoning Board of Appeals

June 27
City Council



Movies on Main
June 8 - 9 p.m.

The Greatest Showman
Rated PG



CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

The Mayor and City Council met twice in May, holding public hearings on four land use cases.

The first case dealt with a rezoning petition that would allow 15 single-family homes along Cooledge Road between Sarahs Lane and Mary Anna Drive. After a first read on May 13, the developer asked for a deferral of the second read and vote. The same happened for a proposed furniture distribution warehouse on Sarr Parkway. Both those cases are scheduled to come back at the June 27 City Council meeting.

On May 29, Council voted 6-0 to approve a special land use permit (SLUP) for the purpose of formally allowing Warrior Body Spa to relocate to 2298 Brockett Road. Council also agreed to grant a SLUP for a mixed-use, 245-unit multi-family development on Northlake Parkway.

The next City Council meeting is scheduled for Monday June 11 at 7 p.m. at the City Hall Annex (4228 First Avenue).

FROM THE MAYOR

(continued from page 1)

improvements to the pool. Some of these changes, like upgrades to the pool house and a fresh coat of paint on just about everything in sight, are already being noticed. Brand new fencing and the highly-anticipated new splash pad will be ready very soon, and I look forward to spending time there myself.

Finally, if you'll allow me a personal moment, there's another reason I'm so excited about this summer: next month, Gaye and I are going to become grandparents. We could not be more thrilled for this beautiful life coming into our world. While she may have some years before she's ready for a movie night, a fireworks show or to dive into the pool, I can't wait to sit and watch the train go by as we share breakfast together at Matthews and to hang out in our beautiful parks. To see Tucker through the eyes of a new generation is a joy we experienced many years ago as parents. We look forward to doing it all over again this summer and sharing it with the people we are so attached to in the places we call home.

NEW TUCKER RESIDENT BRINGING "TOUGH LOVE" TO HENDERSON PARK

Yovanna Madhere's story is similar to many of those who are new to Tucker: an entrepreneur looking for a great place to raise her young family and see her business thrive.

"We moved here from Miami to be closer to family," Yovanna recalls. "My husband and I were interested in Lawrenceville, but our real estate agent said 'Oh, no. You're not dealing with that traffic. You've got to look at Tucker.' We've been here one month and we love Tucker!"

Not only does Yovanna love Tucker, she loves physical fitness. A personal trainer by trade, her first call when she moved to town was to Tucker's Parks and Recreation Department. Yovanna pitched them on an idea for a boot camp to be held at Henderson Park. That six-week boot camp begins on June 2 and will continue each Saturday through July 7.

"In these boot camps, I see working professionals, family people with a lot of obligations," Yovanna explains. "They say, 'I'm always tired, stressed out, don't feel good about myself.' One of the benefits of boot camp is that it's a break in the monotony."

One of the challenges she faces in getting this class off the ground is the idea that boot camp is only for fitness buffs. Yovanna says all it takes to make it in the class is a yoga mat, bottle of water and the desire to get healthy.

"Most people who come to boot camp aren't physically fit," she says, adding that those considering taking the class should "be bold, be brave and let go of expectations. Come have fun!"

The exercise provided through the boot camp series is enhanced, Yovanna says, through a better diet. That's why she's providing an individualized meal plan for each person who completes the six weeks. It's her way of making people feel better about themselves and the world around them.

"My goal is to infuse more love into people's lives. If people can love themselves more, they can love their community more."

If this boot camp series is successful, one of Tucker's newest residents will have made her new home a healthier place and built upon the neighborly feel that's characterized Tucker for more than a century.



SAGITTAL SOUL BOOT CAMP
Saturdays 8-9 a.m.

\$60/individual
\$100/couple
\$10/weekly drop-ins

Sign up at tuckerga.gov/parks

ON THE BEAT WITH LT. SCHOEPPNER

One of the things I hope to accomplish with this monthly column is pull back the curtain and help folks understand how the DeKalb Police Department functions. To that end, let's talk about the place every officer is assigned after they graduate the Police Academy: the Uniform Division. This is the largest division and also considered to be the backbone of the department. That's because it handles the department's primary mission of responding to 911 calls and patrolling the streets. Even officers who have moved into specialized positions typically move back to uniform, at least for a while, when they get promoted.

When an officer graduates from the Police Academy, they will be assigned to one of the four precincts. These are North-Central, Tucker, South and East. The city of Tucker shares territory with North-Central and Tucker Precincts.

Once the new officer arrives at the precinct, they spend the next nine weeks in "field training". This means that they ride along with a veteran Field Training Officer (FTO). At first the FTO does most of the work and the new officer observes. As the training progresses, the new officer takes over more and more responsibility, until they are finally ready to

work alone. It isn't even really accurate to say anyone works alone. Police work is truly a team effort where backup is only a radio call away and senior officers and supervisors are always available to help with situations where the correct decision isn't always clear.

Working in the uniform division, you really never know what your next call is going to be. Quite a few of the calls that we answer are alarm calls and traffic accidents. Most of the time these calls are pretty mundane. However, you never know when a traffic accident will have life-threatening injuries or when the alarm you're responding to will be a burglary in progress. No one outside of public safety can truly appreciate the roller coaster ride of going from dangerous situations to routine calls that officers experience just about every day.

After an officer has worked in uniform for a couple years, they are able to apply for more specialized positions. These include criminal investigations, traffic specialty and others. Next month, I'll take you behind the scenes of our Criminal Investigation Division, a unit near and dear to me because it is the path that I chose to pursue after my first five years working in uniform.



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POLICE BLOTTER

DOUBLE PLAY

On April 12, we took a report where the victim said a car had been stolen from his residence on Green Bark Circle. The vehicle was spotted four days later with a female suspect driving. On May 10, the victim called us again to say he caught a female crawling through the window of his house. Turns out it was the same woman. Officers arrested her and charged her with burglary.

PHONE SCAM

On April 29, officers responded to an armed robbery on Chartley Drive where the victim had gone to the incident location to purchase an iPhone 7, which they had seen advertised on the website "Offer Up". Upon arriving, the victim was robbed at gunpoint. Detectives immediately went online, found the ad and set up a meeting to purchase the phone. When the suspect arrived, he was arrested after a short chase.

TRACKING TROUBLE

On May 14, DeKalb Police responded to a home invasion just outside the City of Tucker on North Indian Creek Drive. A cell phone was among the items stolen. Detectives tracked the phone by its transmitter. When they checked the area out, they located a house with a vehicle parked there that matched a description of the car the suspects were driving. Detectives knocked on the door and spoke with the homeowner, who helped them make an arrest in the case.

UPDATING SPLOST: WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR PENNIES?

The City of Tucker is committed to keeping its residents informed and updated on how their SPLOST dollars are being used. Look for periodic updates here and on tuckerga.gov/splost detailing upcoming projects.

Over the past several weeks, Tucker's SPLOST plan has begun to crystallize. Significant steps have been taken – largely behind the scenes – to get projects lined up and have some noticeable progress made to many of Tucker's streets before the end of 2018.

There is currently a Request for Proposals (RFP) out for bids on the road resurfacing contract. The City is also evaluating bids for a firm to inspect the resurfacing once it's complete to make sure the work was done properly. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is out for professional engineering services. This is looking for a group of consultants to examine possible improvements to sidewalks and intersections, as well as to conduct surveys and traffic studies. Finally, an intersection accident analysis is underway to find out how and where transportation professionals can implement safety measures to keep Tucker drivers safe.

The RFPs, RFQs and intersection accident analysis are all anticipated for completion this month.

As for road resurfacing, a pavement quality analysis by the professionals at Stantec was presented to the Mayor and City Council. This analysis surveyed every mile of Tucker roads and gave each section of road a score from one to 100 indicating how good or bad the condition of the pavement was. The Council voted to use these scores and pave the worst 22 streets in the City right away. The number of streets was based on estimates of how much resurfacing could be done with the \$5 million allocated for FY '18 and '19. Barring weather delays or other unforeseen circumstances, all 22 streets should be resurfaced by the end of the year.

As the summer progresses, you will also start to hear a lot about the City's Transportation Master Plan. This process is already underway, with a stakeholder committee being selected later this month. There will be numerous opportunities for Tucker residents and business owners to provide input, including a series of public meetings set to begin this summer.

WORST TO FIRST: THE STREETS THAT ARE GETTING FIXED NOW

Based on the Stantec survey, these 22 streets are in worse shape than any others in the City of Tucker. Ten are collector/arterial roads and 12 are residential streets. Resurfacing should be complete on these roads later this year.



#	STREET NAME	FROM	TO
1	Auger Drive	Hammermill Drive	End
2	Bonnie Glenn Cove	Bonnie Glenn Lane	Cul de sac
3	Sable Court	Gloucester Drive	Cul de sac
4	Chedworth Court	Chedworth Drive	Cul de sac
5	Vera Circle	Archdale Drive	End
6	Summeroak Drive	Morgan Road	Cul de sac
7	Wenlock Edge Cove	Oakengate Drive	Cul de sac
8	Ashleywood Court	Ashleywoods Drive	Cul de sac
9	Burleigh Drive	Harbour Oaks Rd	Drayton Woods Dr
10	Thornridge Lane	Thornridge Drive	End
11	Stratmor Drive	Hugh Howell Rd	Deer Ridge Dr
12	Hideaway Drive	Idlevale Drive	End
13	Winding Woods Drive	Lavista Road	Winbrooke Lane
14	Cold Water Canyon Ct	Cold Water Cyn Dr	Cul de sac
15	Roadhaven Drive	E Ponce de Leon Ave	Greer Circle
16	Midvale Road	Lavista Road	I-285 overpass
17	Mountain Industrial Blvd	E Ponce de Leon Ave	Lawrenceville Hwy
18	Lewis Road	Roadhaven Drive	Rock Mtn Blvd
19	Brockett Road	Lawrenceville Hwy	Lavista Road
20	Old Norcross Road	Lawrenceville Hwy	Ginson Drive
21	Idlewood Road	E Ponce de Leon Ave	Sarr Parkway
22	Fellowship Road	Idlewood Road	Lavista Road

TEAM TUCKER SPOTLIGHT

Crystal Dawson - Recreation Leader



OFF THE WALL

What was your best and worst subject in school?

My best subject was probably science or math. Worst was definitely chemistry, which seems contradictory to my best subjects. But I just couldn't get chemistry!

Who's your favorite actor/actress?

The one and only, Mr. Tom Hanks.

Do you have pets?

KEANU!! He is my 6-month-old Plott Hound puppy that I am so in love and obsessed with. If you ever want to see a picture, all you have to do is ask.

What's your philosophy in life?

Be kind and try my hardest.



What's your professional background? The majority of my professional career was spent working as a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist with kids and adolescents in a residential psychiatric setting. I was a member of a multi-disciplinary team that worked to help the kids reach their treatment goals through our perspective disciplines. So, I used different types of recreation to teach kids things like social skills, self-esteem, anger management, self-care and coping skills.

Why did you come to Tucker? As a young professional who transplanted to the Atlanta area after college, I have not lived in any one place for more than a year. So, truthfully, I happened into Tucker for a housing opportunity I couldn't pass up. The people, the passion and the sense of community are what is keeping me here. And now, over a year later, I am feeling more at home than anywhere besides home (Wisconsin) and comfortable enough to really start planting some roots.

What has been the biggest challenge about starting up the first-ever City of Tucker Summer Camp at Tucker Recreation Center?

Wanting to do it all! I, as part of an extremely talented and innovative team, have big ideas and big plans. Creating a sustainable and successful Summer Camp takes solid groundwork, though, which takes time and patience. I need to constantly remind myself to complete Steps 1 and 2 before jumping to Step 6.

What are you most looking forward to with this Summer Camp? Hands down, the kids. At my previous job, I had constant interaction with the kids I was working with. I miss that. I am excited to see campers at TRC engaging in activities, smiling, making friends and having a safe place to spend their summer. Being one of the people who is helping to provide that to the kids in this city is such an honor.

I am also excited for it to end. With this being our first year, and as prepared as we are trying to be, I know there will be room for improvement. I am excited to reflect upon the summer to evaluate our successes and hiccups. I look forward to feedback and ideas on ways to make Summer Camp 2019 even better. But, like I said before, Steps 1 and 2 are first.

When you're not focused on Summer Camp, what are your day-to-day responsibilities in the Parks and Recreation Department? I work closely with the other members in the department to ensure that our current programs have the support they need from us to be successful, meeting and talking with potential new programs, helping to manage our rentals and, most recently, taking the steps to start planning for afterschool in the fall.

If you had to describe your co-workers at Tucker Rec in three words, what would they be? Funny, Kind, Hardworking. I know those sound so generic, but everyone here really is the cream of the crop and just such a joy to work with!

TUCKER COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH TUCKER BREWING COMPANY



Tucker's newest business has been the talk of the town for quite some time.

"We haven't even opened yet and I think we're at like some crazy, insane Facebook number of like 1,400 (likes)," says Tucker Brewing Company co-founder Ashley Hubbard. "Nobody's tried our brand. Nobody's seen our brand and what we can do...that's huge to us. Having the support without people even trying anything is just so big."

Hubbard, along with her brother and business partner Ryan Chapman, held an invitation-only ribbon cutting and tasting at the facility on South Bibb Drive on May 19, with a formal grand opening set for Saturday June 2. They say beer aficionados should be happy with what they're brewing up.

"We are German-style beers with Southern roots," Hubbard explains, mimicking Tucker Brewing's slogan. "We do pilsners, we do lagers and [we're] kind of focusing on more traditional styles."

The Tucker Brewing brain trust flew halfway around the world to find the most critical member of their team: the brewmaster. After plucking him from a brewing institute in Germany, they set about planning the logistics of the facility. What they came up with is stunning.

"Our tasting room is a 1,500 square foot tasting room...with an 8,500 square foot beer garden that comes equipped with a 600 square foot stage," Hubbard says, pointing out that the vision is to make Tucker Brewing a destination for Tucker families. "The exterior is completely fenced in so that way it's completely safe for kids. We are pet-friendly as long as they're on a leash."

Hubbard says her own two children were the impetus for turning part of the outdoor beer garden into a 'Kids Corner', complete with games and a sandbox.

It all adds up to Tucker having a new spot for family fun this summer.

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH LINDA CLARK



"As Tucker's Community Development Director, I work daily with our staff on ways to enhance Tucker's neighborhoods and commercial districts, while also striving to preserve the charm of this history-rich community. There are plenty of tactics and strategies to accomplish these goals, but in my 20 years of Community Development, I've found that no tactic or strategy can match the impact of people.

That is why I want to nominate Linda Clark as Tucker's Citizen of the Month.

Linda is a longtime resident of the Peters Park community. In fact, the street she lives on bears her family's name. Linda is one of several residents in that community who have grown increasingly concerned about deterioration in that part of town. Instead of getting angry about it, she contacted City Hall to see what could be done.

It turns out a lot could be done.

Linda met with myself, our Code Enforcement team, our police liaison, the Mayor and local business leaders over a period of several months. She was always pleasant, proactive and focused in on her goal: restoring the Peters Park community to what it once was.

Her efforts culminated in a Community Cleanup on May 19, where more than 75 volunteers from all over Tucker rolled up their sleeves and pitched in. Some were young, some were old. Some were black, some were white. But they were all Tucker. And they were all there because of Linda Clark. We carted off 138 bags of garbage, 39 tires, five truckloads of waste. It was remarkable, and exactly the kind of effort that any Community Development professional will tell you is a win for the neighborhood."

Nomination by John McHenry

“ASK RIP” ANSWERS YOUR PARKS QUESTIONS

Regina Ferri - I live by Cofer Crossing and Lawrenceville Highway and I no longer drive. My question is: is there a park around this area at a walking distance?

Tucker Nature Preserve is right around the corner from you on Lawrenceville Highway across from the Tucker Precinct police station. While it's one of our smaller park properties, it is quiet, peaceful and has areas for walking or to sit and watch the birds.

Debbie Holiday - When will the drinking fountain and the sinks and countertops in the restrooms at Henderson Park soccer fields be replaced? This past soccer season there wasn't a usable drinking fountain for the players.

We are working on all of those maintenance issues. First and foremost, we needed to look at safety issues in our parks and having potable water is on that list. In addition to the soccer side of the park, we will also be looking at the drinking fountain by the playground on the Livsey side of the park.

Aster Lekene - I always have the most difficult time finding an updated schedule of classes at Tucker Rec and Kelly Cofer Pool. Any plans for making it easier to access?

In the coming days, the City is launching a newly redesigned website that includes a revamped tuckerga.gov/parks page. We will have additional information on that site, as well as in quarterly programming brochures that we hope to introduce in the fall. As for Kelley Cofer Pool, all the days, times and fees are currently on our website.

Kathryn Floor - Are swim lessons offered at Kelley Cofer Park pool?

Yes, there will be free group swim lessons on a daily basis. These will happen the first 30 minutes that the pool is open each day. Individual swim lessons can be arranged through Aquatics Management, who operate our pool. Just ask any of our friendly lifeguards next time you're at the pool and they can provide you details!

Randy Winkler - Where does the possibility of pickleball stand?

We get a lot of questions about different activities people would like to see in our parks. These include pickleball and frisbee golf, not to mention those who want a dog park. These are all great ideas that we are going to be exploring in our Parks and Recreation Master Plan process. This process, which will feature community meetings and surveys, will be the best way for people to let us know what programs are needed and what parks or facilities need to be expanded and improved in Tucker.

I wish I could give you a better answer, but this is the reality of being a new city that just assumed responsibility for our parks. All of our surrounding cities that have been established for a while have gone through a Master Plan process for Parks and Rec and, once we do ours, we will be better informed on how to improve upon what we have in Tucker.



Rip Robertson is the first Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Tucker. He takes the job with years of experience in Parks and Rec, as well as Public Works. Rip is a former Military Intelligence Analyst for the U.S. Army and is active with the Army Reserve.



COMMUNITY CORNER

6/9 – Butterfly Release Celebration

4-6 p.m., Kelley Cofer Park

Friends of Kelley Cofer Park will be releasing dozens of butterflies into the pollinator garden at their second annual Butterfly Release and Pollination Celebration. The young and the young at heart can see first-hand the magic of our pollinators and beneficial insects. King of Pops will be on hand to keep things cool and delicious for all in attendance.

6/16 – Father's Day Football Game

4 p.m., Henderson Park

For the second straight year, the Moms of Tucker Facebook group is giving Tucker dads exactly what they want for Father's Day: football! Any dad in the Tucker area is invited to play in this informal two-hand touch football game. Meet at 4 o'clock at the soccer field on the Livsey side of Henderson Park. Dinner follows the game at Village Burger.

TUCKERGA.GOV

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TUCKER DAYS 2018

The City of Tucker organized several events last month leading up to the volunteer-run Tucker Day celebration. On May 7, the City hosted its first-ever Free Community Health Screening. Dozens of residents came out on May 8 to get schooled at the University of Government Affairs at Tucker. The City honored some of its great citizens at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on May 10. Mayor Auman delivered his second State of the City Address at the City Hall Annex on May 11. Main Street was packed May 12 for Tucker Day.



PLEASE DELIVER TO: