



INTUCKER

2024 SPECIAL EDITION | VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 1



2024
SPECIAL
EDITION



EDITOR'S NOTE



Whew! What a start to 2024. We hit the ground running in January with the swearing in of our three Post 2

seats in each district and our second ever City Manager. The new year is always a time to reconsider, rearrange and redesign and that has proven no different for our little magazine. This special edition is kicking off a recommitment to our monthly magazine as we continue to explore more and varied options of delivering City news to you.

This year will be a big one for Communications. We will launch a redesigned website, expand coverage of the City and grow our reach to our residents. It is only fitting as we grow in our services that we also strive to communicate more and further. To that end we are commissioning a strategic plan and policies to guide how we communicate with our community.

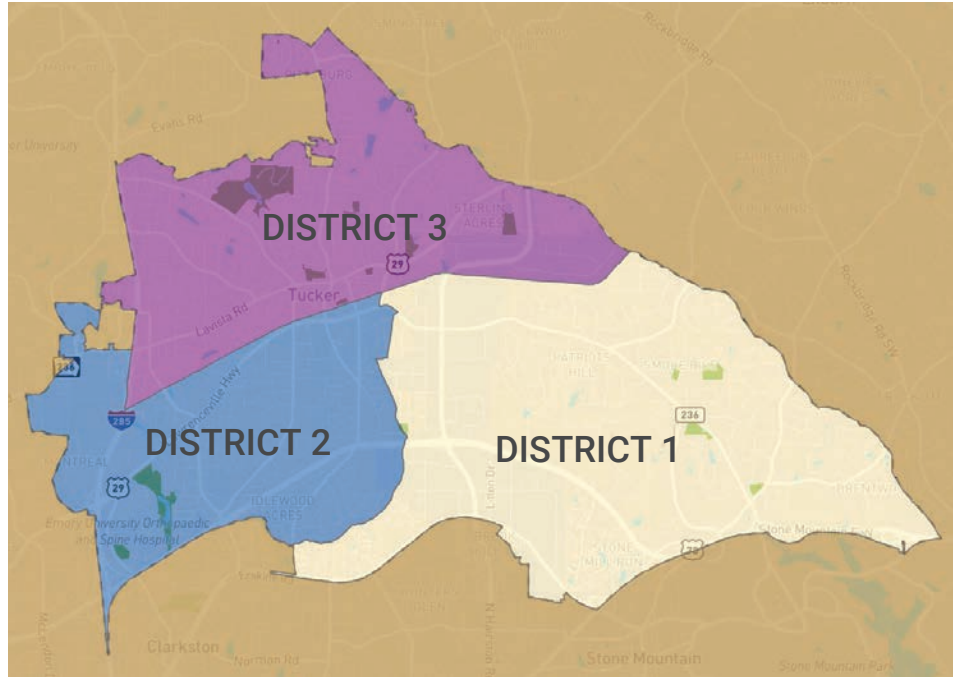
The City is also launching its first ever survey. Read more about how to sign up and participate inside.

It is a new era here in Tucker, our council has completely rolled over and we are excited for fresh ideas and growth. But we also cherish our established traditions like Tucker Day and the Tucker Cruise-In. And that is the beauty of our Tucker; classic, small town primed to grow into the future.

In this issue you will read about a beloved community staple, Paramount Coffee, and two residents that created a service opportunity out of their daily routine for health. We also honor the top students of Tucker High School's Class of 2024. City staff has expanded as well, learn about our new Fire Marshal position and the scope of duties.

SONJA SZUBSKI
INTUCKER EDITOR
 Communications Director

INTUCKER



ELECTED OFFICIALS

Frank Auman
 Mayor

Roger W. Orlando
 District 1 - Post 1

Virginia Rece
 District 1 - Post 2

Cara Schroeder
 District 2 - Post 1

Vinh Nguyen
 District 2 - Post 2

Alexis Weaver
 District 3 - Post 1

Amy Trocchi
 District 3 - Post 2



INTUCKER

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From the Mayor



It is with great excitement that I invite you to help me welcome Vinh Nguyen of District 2 and Amy Trocchi of District 3. Longtime Tucker residents, Vinh and Amy both come to us with years of community involvement and a passion for service.

As we mature as a city (we're now 8 years-old!), one of the challenges is to keep strong working relationships on the council as our members change over time. All of our original members of council have now rotated off due to term limits. Vinh and Amy become our 13th and 14th members in our short time as a city. One of my highest priorities as Mayor is to keep us focused on our core mission, seeking to continually improve on its execution. Another is to establish good processes for decision-making, even and especially when we face the more difficult or unpleasant ones. To accomplish those priorities, we must be sure our new members get off to a good start, and that means providing all the training and resources they need to be effective representatives for all of us.

I don't view a new councilmember's role as filling the shoes of their predecessors so much as it is fulfilling the same critical duties in their own way. One upside of our frequent turnover in members is that each new person

brings their own set of experiences, skills and knowledge, and is able to apply them to an ongoing set of challenges with a perspective we didn't have before. The mix of experience in office and the institutional knowledge that goes with it, along with fresh eyes and approaches should serve us well, and Vinh and Amy are already making a positive impact.

And of course, I would be remiss if I failed to congratulate Councilmember Virginia Rece on her re-election to District 1 Seat 2. Thanks to Virginia, Roger Orlando, Cara Schroeder and Alexis Weaver for your dedication to this role and all that you have brought to the success of our City of Tucker over these last two years. Here's to many more!

**FRANK AUMAN
MAYOR**

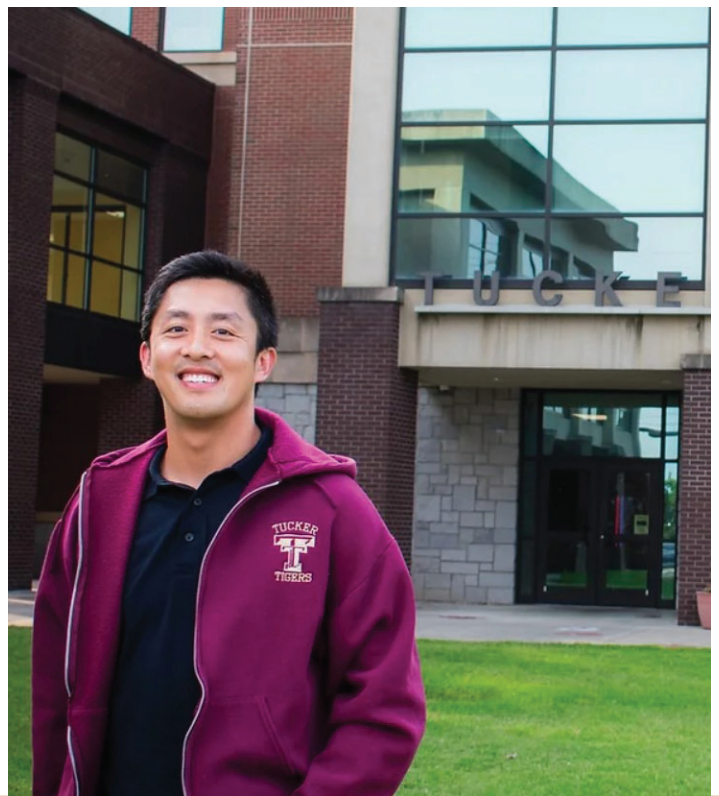
VINH NGUYEN

DISTRICT 2 - POST 2

Vinh Nguyen is the newest elected to hold the Post 2 seat in District 2, joining Cara Schroeder in Seat 1. Vinh grew up in Tucker, attended local schools and graduated from Tucker High School. After a successful career in the Marines, Vinh has grown in his chosen field of cyber security, settled back in Tucker and recently married his love, Brooke.

Vinh ran on a platform focusing on progress and inclusivity and is dedicated to modernizing Tucker while preserving the community feel.

The City of Tucker is known for its history-making firsts and Vinh fits right in, being the first person of color to be elected to the City's Council.



AMY TROCCHI

DISTRICT 3 - POST 2

Longtime community advocate, Amy Trocchi joins the City Council in the Post 2 seat for District 3. Amy moved to Tucker 17 years ago, seeking a strong community to raise her three children in. Amy soon became a leader in the Tucker community through her work with the local schools, neighborhood swim teams and the Main Street Tucker Theatre.

Amy campaigned with a focus on recreation, business, arts, safety and accessibility. Drawing from her work experience in project management across several industries, Amy is confident and excited to work for Tucker's growth.

VIRGINIA RECE

DISTRICT 1 - POST 2

Virginia Rece was re-elected to District 1 Post 2 seat in November of 2023. Initially elected to finish the term of Councilmember Bill Rosenfeld, Virginia has led strongly and continues to serve the entire community of Tucker.



TUCKER HIGH SCHOOL

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES



**EPHERATA ZELEKE
VALEDICTORIAN**



**AVA ELIZABETH JACOBY
SALUTATORIAN**

2024 TOP 10 PERCENT HONOR GRADUATES

Tewodros Admass	Roza Ham	Samantha Purvis
Tsegemash Atiso	Ava Elizabeth Jacoby	Gavin Schauble
Ifrah Bade	Jaden Joyner	Helina Seleshi
Anna Bereket	Samantha Kirn	Zion Shigute
Sangayleh Carter	Josiah Lawson	Calliope Snook
Jacob Dayoub	Bryan Macias	Nhi Tran
Vivian Diep	Shaman Mark	Otto Wiese
Lucas Duncan	Yosan Mebrahtom	David Williams
Christopher Eam	Hirut Mengistu	Epherata Zeleke
Luke Friedman	Norris Minnis	Daniel Zeleke
Aden Gebregergs	Alexis Purvis	Ryan Zimmerman

TUCKER CLUSTER

Updates & News

IMPORTANT DATES

May 22
Last Day of School

Brag Sheet

BROCKETT ELEMENTARY

- Students will be performing Lion King Jr. at Mount Moriah Church of May 18 at 1 and 5 p.m

LIVSEY ELEMENTARY

- Livsey students and families held the seventh annual Color Run fundraiser for the PTO. Every year participation grows!

MIDVALE ELEMENTARY

- The Midvale PTO hosted a very successful silent auction event at Heritage Golf Course this past month. Big thanks to all that donated, volunteered and bid!

TUCKER MIDDLE

- For the second year, Tucker Middle School produced a musical. This year the students performed Shrek Jr. to a full house on both scheduled nights.

City Council Update



The first meeting of April convened on April 8 at 7 p.m. with six members in attendance and an excused absence for Councilmember Cara Schroeder. The Livsey Elementary School Science Olympiad Team lead the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a presentation from the Tucker Civic Association for the City's lifetime designation as an Age-Friendly City.

The City Manager distributed the first draft of the Fiscal Year '25 Budget, and staff then presented an update on SPLOST I and II. The Mayor and Council heard three second reads and public hearings including a SLUP, a major zoning modification and a text amendment:

- SLUP-24-0001 with a modified condition for a three bathroom requirement, to allow for a personal care home was approved 6-0
- A major modification to zoning on Fellowship Road to allow for a compounding pharmacy was approved 6-0.

- The proposed text amendment to change the allowed density, width and height in the downtown corridor was amended twice by Council. Neither amendment passed and the text amendment was ultimately denied with a 6-0 vote.

In new business, the Mayor and Council voted 6-0 to accept 0.41 acres from Georgia Department of Transportation on Lawrenceville Highway and to award the contract for the City Standard Guidebook to TSW. They then voted 6-0 to defer the contract award for the Montreal Road sidewalk design and 6-0 to approve the contract for right of way acquisition along Mountain Industrial Boulevard.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 p.m. without Executive Session.

The City of Tucker's Mayor and Council meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month in Council Chambers, 1975 Lakeside Parkway, Suite 350b, Tucker, GA 30084. Recordings of all City Council meetings can be found on the website at tuckerga.gov/documents.

DATES TO KNOW

May 6

Downtown Development Authority

May 7

Zoning Board of Appeals

May 8

Traffic Court

May 13

City Council Meeting

May 15

Traffic Court

May 22

Municipal Court

May 23

Downtown Facade Grant Webinar

May 25

Tucker Recreation Center closed in observance of Memorial Day

May 27

All City Buildings closed in observance of Memorial Day

May 28

City Council Work Session



nextdoor

NEWS FROM CITY HALL

TUCKER ADDS FIRE MARSHAL TO CITY SERVICES

The City transitioned Fire Marshal services from the DeKalb County Fire Department as of January 1, 2024. This is an exciting step for the City as we will be able to provide direct assistance for permitting, plan review and inspections related to life safety requirements. This will result in a more streamlined permitting process, faster plan reviews and inspections.

The City of Tucker Fire Marshal's office will be providing the following services:

- Enforcement of fire codes, including fire lane and handicap parking requirements
- Plan review and inspections for commercial buildings and multifamily buildings (new construction, additions, renovations)
- Plan review and inspections for fire sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, and hood suppression systems
- Plan review and inspections for LDP's and Final Plats
- Certificates of Occupancy for new buildings and/or new businesses
- Setting occupancy loads
- Firework permits
- Blasting permits
- Annual, biannual and triannual inspections of existing businesses
- Review and enforcement of 3rd party inspections for fire sprinkler, alarms, hoods



The DeKalb County Fire Department will still provide the following services:

- Responding to fires
- Fire investigations
- Fire prevention education
- ERRCS (Emergency Responder Radio Communication Systems)
- Knox Box setup
- Fire Watches
- Film permits



The City has engaged Flashvote to perform a scientific community survey. The questions will relate to the community's priorities and satisfaction. Sign-up takes less than one minute and your input is always kept anonymous. Personal or demographic information collected by FlashVote is never shared with the City or anyone else. When you sign-up, you can determine how the survey is received – whether by email, text or phone call. You will receive a notification when the survey is open, and you will have 48 hours to participate before voting closes. Once a survey is closed, everyone who participated will automatically receive a summary of the overall results and be able to see how their responses compare to the group.

Sign-up now at flashvote.com/tuckerga or call 775-235-2240. We want to hear from you!

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

A LOVE OF COFFEE BREWS COMMUNITY AT PARAMOUNT COFFEE

Tsina Yilma and his wife Frey share a deep passion for coffee. They loved brewing it for friends and family, fostering connections over steaming cups. Witnessing this unifying power of coffee, they dreamt of creating a space where people could gather. This dream materialized into Paramount Coffee, a welcoming haven in Tucker.

"We both love coffee and we used to invite our friends home for coffee and we decided why not open up a spot and have a community center," Tsina said.

For two decades, Paramount Coffee has been a cornerstone of Tucker. This family-owned business offers a warm environment where people can connect and unwind over a cup of freshly brewed coffee. Tsina appreciates the town's diversity, reflected in his clientele.

"We see people from all walks of life here," he says, "different cultures, religions, and ethnicities. I love that Paramount Coffee can be a place for people to gather and share experiences. Not everyone has that kind of space, and I'm happy to provide it for Tucker."

The friendly atmosphere at Paramount Coffee is palpable. Tsina, the Ethiopian owner, describes Tucker as having a close-knit feel, mirrored by the warmth of his customers. Regulars enjoy a familiar experience, where both staff and patrons know each other by name.

"They really appreciate the space," Tsina said. "They appreciate us. We have great loyal customers. They come frequently. So it's like a community cafe. We know them by name and they know us by name."

Paramount Coffee boasts some of the finest coffee in the Atlanta metro area. Their reputation was solidified by an AJC coffee critic searching for the best espressos. After visiting 50 shops, the critic placed Paramount among the top three for espresso in Atlanta. This recognition is a testament to Tsina and Frey's love and passion for coffee, which has fueled their successful business for the past 20 years. Interestingly, Paramount opened its doors in March, the same month Tsina and Frey celebrated their wedding anniversary. So, when you step into Paramount Coffee, you're greeted not just by exceptional coffee, but by the love story that inspired it all.



CITIZENS OF THE MONTH

GERALD ROBISON & EMILU BAILES



For over a decade, Emilu Bailes and her husband Gerald Robison have been the unseen heroes of Montreal Woods, quietly making their community a cleaner and healthier place. Their dedication to picking up litter has resulted in the removal of a remarkable 19 tons of waste from their neighborhood streets.

This commitment to environmental stewardship began even before they arrived in Montreal Woods. They spearheaded a community de-littering effort in their previous residence. Upon moving in, they immediately connected with Keep DeKalb Beautiful, demonstrating their proactive approach to neighborhood improvement.

Their walks cover a significant area, encompassing 18 streets around Montreal Woods. While they find personal satisfaction in the exercise these walks provide, their true motivation lies in combating the eyesore of litter.

Their efforts extend beyond simple cleanup. They've observed seasonal trends in littering, allowing them to focus their efforts during peak periods. The pandemic offered a temporary reprieve, but they've tirelessly tackled the surge in littering since restrictions eased.

Their dedication goes beyond just picking up trash. They've returned lost wallets with identification and

even found treasures like \$20 bills. These acts showcase their genuine care for the well-being of their community.

Emilu Bailes and her husband Gerald Robison are shining examples of responsible citizenship. Their unwavering dedication to a cleaner environment inspires others to take action. For their commitment to making Montreal Woods a healthier and more beautiful place to live, we nominate them for Citizens of the Month.

Nomination by Richard Kelley and Greg Bautista, Montreal Woods Neighborhood Association



ANNUAL TKR SUMMER OF FUN



• **MAY 3 - FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT**
The Troubadour Project

• **MAY 23 - MOVIE ON THE GREEN**
Elemental

• **JUNE 7 - FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT**
The Wildflowers

• **JUNE 20 - MOVIE ON THE GREEN**
Migration

• **JULY 3 - CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE**
Fireworks, Radio 80's Band & DJ Fernando
Main Street Tucker - 6 p.m.

• **JULY 18 - MOVIE ON THE GREEN**
Wonka

• **AUGUST 2 - FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT**
The Ultimate Eagles Tribute - On the Border

• **AUGUST 15 - MOVIE ON THE GREEN**
Trolls Band Together

• **SEPTEMBER 6 - FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT**
The Return

[TUCKERGA.GOV/SUMMER](https://tuckerga.gov/summer)



TUCKER Community Corner



WABE's Rose Scott visited the Corner Cup on Main Street and spoke with City officials, local business owners and community stakeholders. Pictured from left to right: Michael Vorndran, Jackie Moffo, State Representative Imani Barnes, Rose Scott, Stephen Bentley, Veronica Dalzon, Geonwoo Lee and Mayor Frank Auman.

5/11 – Tucker Cruise-In

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Main Street

The Tucker Cruise-In is one of the most well-known car shows in the Atlanta Area and brings well over 200 cars each month. See you on Main!

5/11 – Celtic Lands Concert

7:30-9 p.m.

5095 Lavista Rd

Traditional folk and new music from Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Ticket and more information at harmoniaatlanta.org