



INTUCKER

JUNE-JULY 2024 | VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 2



**CELEBRATING
COMMUNITY
THROUGH
OUR PARKS**

EDITOR'S NOTE



I am excited and nervous to announce that this edition of InTucker Magazine will be the last as we know it.

You may notice this month, at certain businesses across the City that there is a new periodical on the scene, The Tucker Reporter. Published by Rough Draft Atlanta, the Tucker Reporter is an expansion of the Reporters in Dunwoody, Brookhaven, Sandy Springs and Buckhead. All the Reporters share the same content every month. Tucker will be receiving information about the surrounding Metro Area and they will be reading about us, too!

We saw this as an opportunity to expand our coverage and distribution so starting in August, the City will be printing and inserting our monthly InTucker magazine to be delivered with the Tucker Reporter. The initial delivery run will be 6,000 copies with the hope of future growth.

Pictured is the cover for the inaugural edition that you can find in area businesses this month.

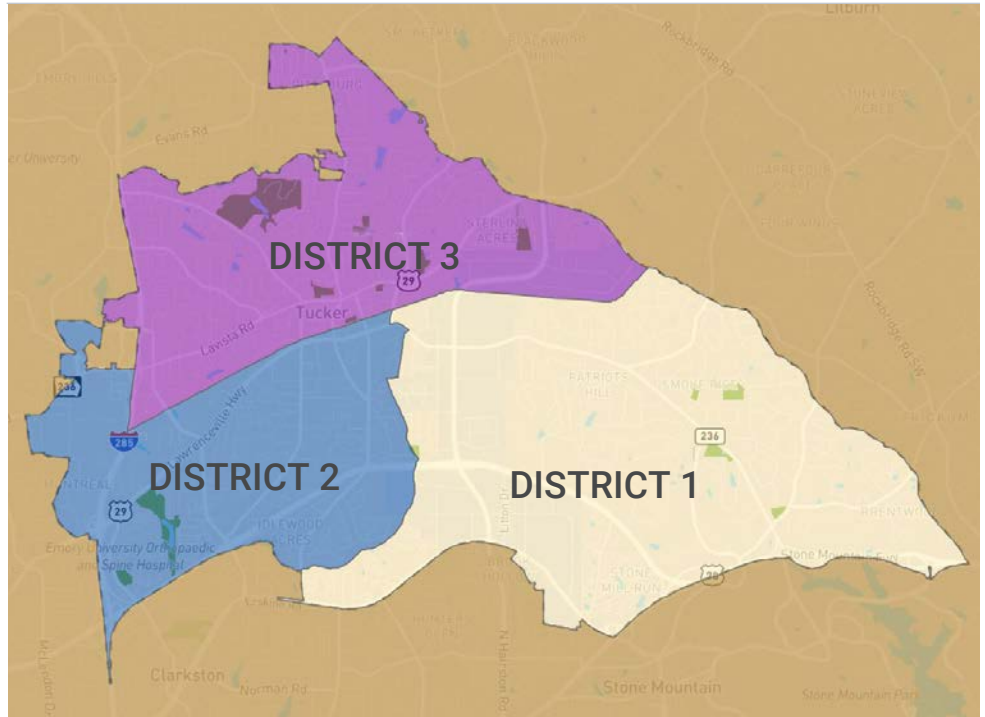
We will still house InTucker digitally on our website and share via our monthly email.

Thank you for your continued support Tucker!



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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 Dede Musser - Design
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 Robin Stevens - Contributors

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From the Mayor

What does it mean to be a city? The word city is rooted in the Latin word civis, from which we also get words like citizen, civics, even civilization. Our main task as a city is to provide services - specifically to do certain things our citizenry has asked and authorized us to do. Our main goal is to improve quality of life by doing things as and for our community that individuals cannot do for themselves.

When we took over the reins of managing services for the new City of Tucker, we expected it would grow into much more than the three designated services outlined in our charter. Providing services like Code Enforcement, Planning and Zoning and Parks and Recreation are integral to our quality of life. We also expected that as we matured as an organization, developing and proving our proficiencies, we would seek to bring other services in-house, rather than continue to contract them out to third parties, as we did a year ago with stormwater and road maintenance.

But keeping our eye on the bigger picture, we continually ask ourselves questions like, "How is all this leading to a better quality of life?", and "Is our community getting stronger?"

The Tucker community existed before the formal city government

for over a century. Tucker was a known place with a strong sense of civic pride. The community celebrated itself with the famous Tucker Day celebration, Taste of Tucker, Trunk or Treat and the Holiday Tree Lighting on Main. At the start of our incorporation, we vowed to not wrest these long traditions from our community volunteers and we have instead opted to support them, and add more community events to the lineup. In 2018, on a shoestring budget funded mostly with local sponsorships, we launched the inaugural TKR Summer of Fun with a Movie on Main, the July 3rd Celebration of Independence and Fireworks Spectacular and National Night Out in partnership with DeKalb County Police Department and the DeKalb County School District.

In the years since, we have expanded our community gatherings to monthly events in our parks like the Sip n' Stroll and Adult Field Day. Our TKR Summer of Fun has filled out now with the First Friday Concert series and the Movie on the Green on the third Thursdays of the summer.

In 2021, we purchased the Cofer RV lot off Railroad Avenue and for the past year, staff and our contractor Barge have been designing and navigating all that is needed to create a signature downtown park and community

space. Even though we are a year (or more) into this project it still feels like we are just beginning. It may be August before a shovel hits the dirt with an expected completion around 12 months later.

But why do we support and conduct all those activities? It's contained in the phrase you've heard me use about nurturing Tucker as a place where a person can Live, Work, Play and Pray for their whole life. My goal is to create multiple opportunities for every one of our citizens to spend as much time close to home as possible. Because when we do, we run into our neighbors, local business owners, elected officials, faith leaders and so many others. We develop connections that are meaningful and durable. It's what makes us a community and not just a city. It's what makes Tucker home.

So, when you see announcements about events coming up, or the opening of a new park or business, stop by and make yourself at home. Because you are.

**FRANK AUMAN
MAYOR**

JULY IS NATIONAL PARK & RECREATION MONTH



Celebrated annually in July since 1985, this month of recognition is an opportunity to highlight how Park and Recreation Departments across the country help build strong and vibrant communities.

Park and Recreation professionals provide vital services to our communities — from protecting open spaces and natural resources to providing activities and resources for everyone. Park and Recreation Month encourages everyone to reflect on the exponential value parks and recreation professionals bring to their communities.

It's also a month for Park and Recreation professionals to thank all the volunteers and community members that participate in maintaining the parks, attending community events and participating in our programs. The efforts of volunteers is greatly appreciated and feedback that allows for continued growth is always welcome. Each of Tucker's parks and facilities have Friends groups that fall under the umbrella groups of Friends of Tucker Parks. These groups work with the City hand-in-hand to improve our parks and volunteer their time and talent.

The City of Tucker is an active member of both the Georgia and National Park and Recreation Association's (NRPA and GRPA). These professional organizations help local agencies meet national goals and standards to aid them in serving their communities.

Tucker invests annually in the park system and continuously works towards meeting not just state and national goals but more importantly, community goals. There have been many accomplishments from the initial Parks Master Plan adopted in 2019. The completion of these accomplishments triggered the need to update our Master Plan in 2024. This update will assist the City to move forward with capital improvements, programming and staffing.





Park maintenance is ongoing and new programs and activities are brought to the community that have been identified as part of the master plans. The Park and Recreation Department has seen several changes over the last year with new outdoor programming, water aerobics and new youth camp offerings. More big changes are coming, not just in programming but in the parks as well.

- Upgrades and construction at Tucker's Fitzgerald Field Sports Complex are almost complete and will open this fall.
- The Tucker Town Green in downtown Tucker will start construction this fall, and the hope is to open by late summer 2025.
- There are plans to completely renovate Johns Homestead Park, including the replacement of the dams at Twin Brothers Lake to assist in creating a safe and thriving area, new access points from the surrounding neighborhoods, a new lake trail and parking.
- There are also plans to add new parking and pickleball play at Tucker Recreation Center, new tennis courts at Rosenfeld Park and access to Lord Park with a planned disc golf course.

The parks are in great shape, and the daily usage by residents is heartwarming to staff. Every effort is made to maintain the parks in a safe and accessible way. We continuously look for way to engage with the community. In celebration of Park and Recreation month, everyone is encouraged to post fun experiences in the parks and in any recreation programming in Tucker on Facebook and Instagram. Use the hashtags #PowerofParks and #WhereYouBelong when posting.

Come out and celebrate with us by visiting one Tucker's parks or attend one of our Summer of Fun events and activities. And as always, the department is accessible through the City website at tuckerga.gov/parks or call the Rec Center directly at 470-481-0205.



City Council Update



Municipal Clerk Week was celebrated with a proclamation and matching t-shirts.

May and June saw a lot of budget talks for the City of Tucker and the Mayor and Council. The process starts internally in February of each year, and the City Manager presents a balanced budget starting in May for public comment and direction from the Mayor and Council, with final approval in June. The approved FY25 budget can be found on the City website at tuckerga.gov/finance.

The Mayor presented retired State Senator Steve Henson with a replica of the road sign designating the bridge and interchange at Mountain Industrial and Highway 78 the Steven B. Henson Interchange.

Items of note that the Mayor and Council approved include:

- Approval of a SLUP to allow for a drive-thru for the new Jim 'N Nicks at Northlake
- An Intergovernmental Agreement with the Tucker Public Facilities Authority to enter into a lease for a shared parking lot with Main

Street Church (formerly Tucker First Baptist)

- Approval of a contract to pave and stripe the shared parking lot

One of the more exciting approvals besides the balanced budget for the 2025 Fiscal Year, was the unanimous vote from the Mayor and Council to rollback the millage rate for the third year in a row. The ability to adopt a rollback rate is due to the residential and economic draw and viability of Tucker and is reflected in the property values assessed by DeKalb County every year which in turn increases the tax digest dollar amount. The rollback rate is calculated to maintain the dollar amount of the existing previous tax digest plus the estimated value of new properties added to the digest through community growth.

Tucker's Mayor and Council meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at Tucker City Hall, 1975 Lakeside Parkway, Suite 350B, Tucker, GA 30084. Meetings are live streamed and recorded on the website tuckerga.gov/documents.

DATES TO KNOW

July 17

Traffic Court

Public Kick-off for the Tucker City Standard Guidebook

July 18

Planning Commission

July 22

City Council Work Session

July 24

Municipal Court

July 25

Downtown Facade Grant Webinar

August 5

Downtown Development Authority

August 6

Zoning Board of Appeals

August 7

Traffic Court

August 12

City Council Meeting

August 14

Traffic Court



nextdoor

NEWS FROM CITY HALL

PUBLIC WORKS CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR OF SERVICE

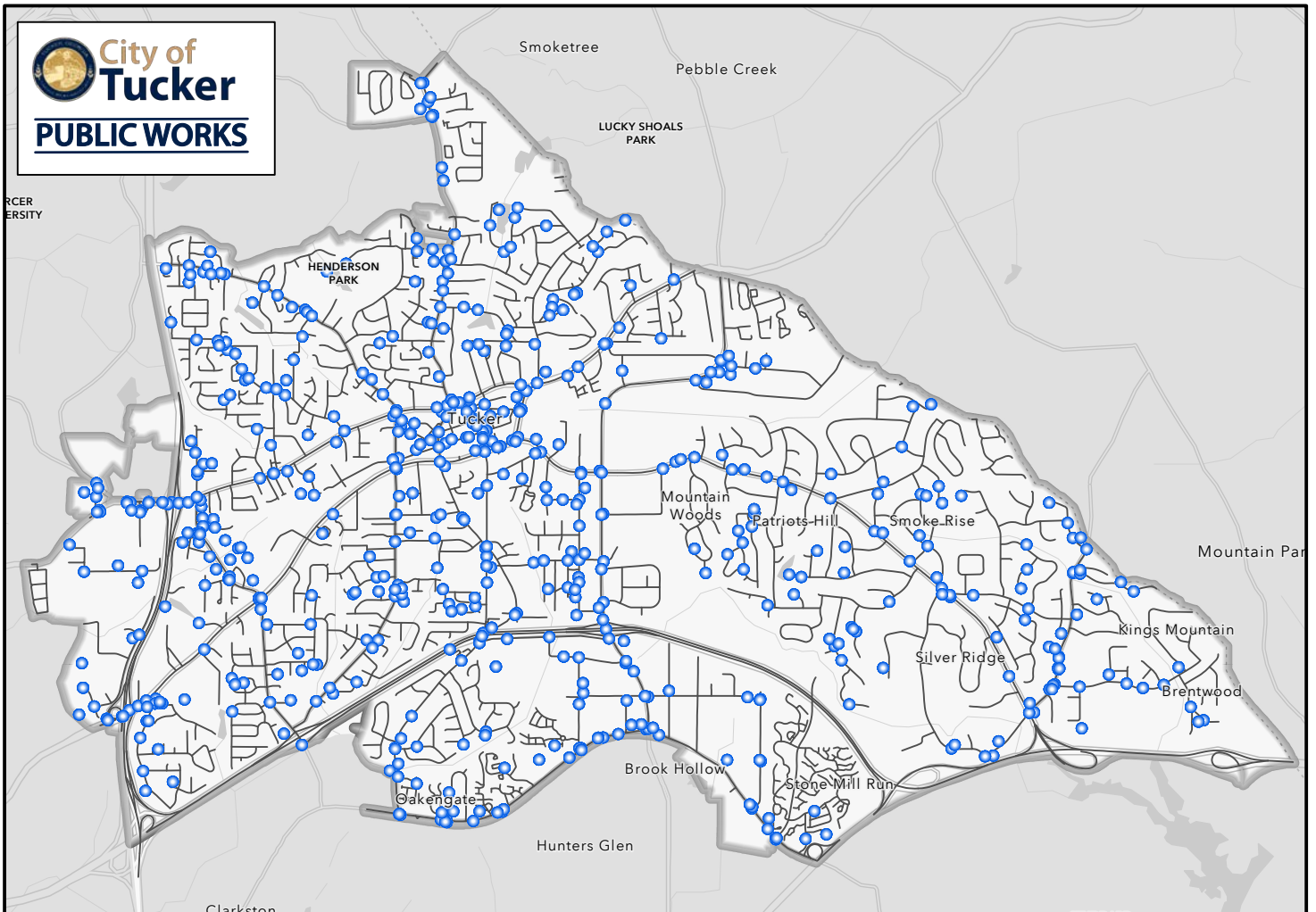


Fiscal Year 2024 is closed and one of the greatest accomplishments of the year was the addition of public works services for the City.

The Department of Public Works handles stormwater, traffic, operations and maintenance for Tucker's transportation infrastructure. With an approved budget of just over \$1.7

million, the City launched the department with over 700 inherited tickets from DeKalb County and closed out the first year of service closing 1,167 work orders!

To learn more about Tucker's Department of Public Works's services, goals and how to create a work order visit tuckerga.gov/publicworks



BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

WORKPLACE LEARNING SOLUTIONS

Bridget Lewis has come a long way since immigrating from Antigua to the United States. Despite setbacks along the way, Lewis has overcome obstacles and over the past 14 years has built a thriving business helping others find their own success.

"I am very proud of this accomplishment, and I am proud of the people that have helped me along the way," Lewis said.

Workplace Learning Solutions is a human resource consultant firm that caters to small businesses and helps them with their HR needs. Lewis grew up in Antigua, the oldest of seven children, where she studied and became a schoolteacher. After some time, the Antiguan made her way to the United States and joined the corporate America workforce after graduating from Mercer University. Lewis worked in HR as a training development consultant for Intercontinental Hotels Group. She loved the field and the company. Unfortunately, it came crashing down along with the recession between 2008 and 2009.

When Intercontinental Hotels Group downsized and restructured, Lewis started doing consultant work. Years into it she decided to start her own firm. Lewis went back to school to earn her MBA in small business management to gain more

knowledge and better serve her clients. Following years of success, Lewis decided to move her company to its first office space in 2022.

"I always wanted to work in Tucker. When it came time for me to find a space, Tucker was the only place that I actually looked because this is where I always wanted to be. I love the fact this location is right off the interstate," Lewis said.

Lewis said when she lived in Tucker, she enjoyed how close and convenient Tucker is to all the fun in Metro Atlanta. She also praised the learning environment in the schools in Tucker and how safe the community was. Lewis is glad her business was able to land in Tucker and is proud of how far she has come.

"It is a lot to overcome," Lewis said. "Just being black, being foreign and being a woman that gave me three strikes, but I have been able to keep Workplace Learning Solutions for 14 years. I take huge pride in that."

Workplace Learning Solutions is located at 2310 Parklake Dr NE Suite 288, Tucker, GA 30084 and can be found on the web at wlstraininginc.com



(L-R) Nikki Carter and Bridget Lewis of Workplace Learning Solutions

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

ANTHONY ADAMS



Tucker is a great place full of people and businesses that truly care about the community. One that stands out amongst the rest is Anthony Adams. Anthony is a pillar in the Tucker community and has been for years. Which is why I am nominating him for Tucker's Citizen of the Month.

Anthony grew up just down the road from Tucker and his first job was stocking at Tracy's Medicine Center. There he learned to love Tucker and the art of serving others. Working at Tracy's, Anthony developed a passion for pharmacology and went on to manage the store while studying to be a pharmacist.

As a resident of Tucker, you can always find Anthony and his sweet family at events like Tucker Day or playing in the City's kickball league. He also stays abreast of City business and is quick to share information.

Now the owner of Tracy's, he consistently goes above and beyond serving as a pharmacist. Always with a smile that you can even hear over the phone, Anthony is warm, helpful and treats us all like family. He genuinely cares about his customers, even making home deliveries for those in need.

Anthony is someone who loves his community and those in it – always making Tucker a better place.

Nomination by Andrea Wahl

TUCKER WELCOMES NEW ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

Tucker is thrilled to announce the arrival of the new Assistant City Manager, Derrick Turner. Mr. Turner comes to the City with vast and varied municipal experience.

Born and raised in Tennessee, Turner graduated from Tennessee State University and settled in Georgia where he worked for Fulton County Government, City of Lawrenceville, Franklin County and most recently at Matrix Consulting, where he advised municipalities in a variety of capacities.

City staff is excited for the breadth of experience Mr. Turner brings to Tucker and are looking forward to teaching him the Tucker Way.



TUCKER CLUSTER UPDATES & NEWS

DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL'S AREA SUPERINTENDENTS

The DeKalb County School District recently changed the coverage of their area superintendents. Previously, the superintendent services were based on a map and included school clusters from elementary school through high school. Their service areas now are based on school level and specialty. The seven Tucker Cluster schools now have representation with three area superintendents plus one for the specialty schools.

If you have any concerns and need to get in touch with your area superintendents, you may email them through the DeKalb County School District website at dekalbschoolsga.org/superintendent/area-superintendents or you may call their offices at the numbers provided.

Area 2 Elementary School – Terri Brown, 678-676-0417

- Brockett Elementary School
- Idlewood Elementary School
- Livsey Elementary School
- Midvale Elementary School
- Smoke Rise Elementary School

Area 4 Middle School – Jacqueline Taylor, 678-676-2850

- Tucker Middle School

Area 5 High School – Dr. Thomas W. Glanton, Jr., 678-874-1902

- Tucker High School

Area 7 Specialty – Dr. Michelle Jones, 678-676-0329

- Any specialty school like magnet or theme schools that do not have a set attendance zone



Upcoming Events & Classes

WONKA



LET'S ALL GO TO THE MOVIE!

JULY 18 - CHURCH STREET GREENSPACE

The graphic features a purple top hat with a gold 'W' on a yellow sign, surrounded by candy canes, lollipops, and a smiling sun wearing sunglasses. The background is a stylized city skyline.

ON THE BORDER THE ULTIMATE EAGLES TRIBUTE



FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT SERIES

AUGUST 2 - CHURCH STREET GREENSPACE

The graphic shows a group of six musicians standing in front of a brick wall. A banner at the bottom reads 'FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT SERIES'. A smiling sun wearing sunglasses is in the top right corner.

REPTILES & BUGS WORKSHOP



AUG 10 | 10 a.m.-1 p.m. | \$25 person

TUCKERGA.GOV/PARKS

The central image shows a vibrant green chameleon with a yellow stripe along its back, perched on a thick, brown tree branch. The background is plain white.

TUCKERGA.GOV

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



TUCKER *Community Corner*



The world's biggest hotdog on wheels drove down Tucker's Main Street!

Every Thursday – Tucker Farmers Market

4-7 p.m.

4885 Lavista Rd

The Tucker Farmers Market is back! Come to St. Andrews Presbyterian Church for fresh veggies, local curations, food trucks and live music.

7.13 – Tucker Cruise-In

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Main Street

Stroll Main Street for one of the areas largest cruise-ins. From antique cars to hot rods, Tucker's got them all. Check out tuckercruisein.com for more information.