



INTUCKER

OCTOBER 2024 | VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 5



TASTE OF TUCKER

FIFTEEN YEARS OF FOOD, MUSIC AND FUN

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Frank Auman
Mayor

Roger W. Orlando
District 1 - Post 1

Cara Schroeder
District 2 - Post 1

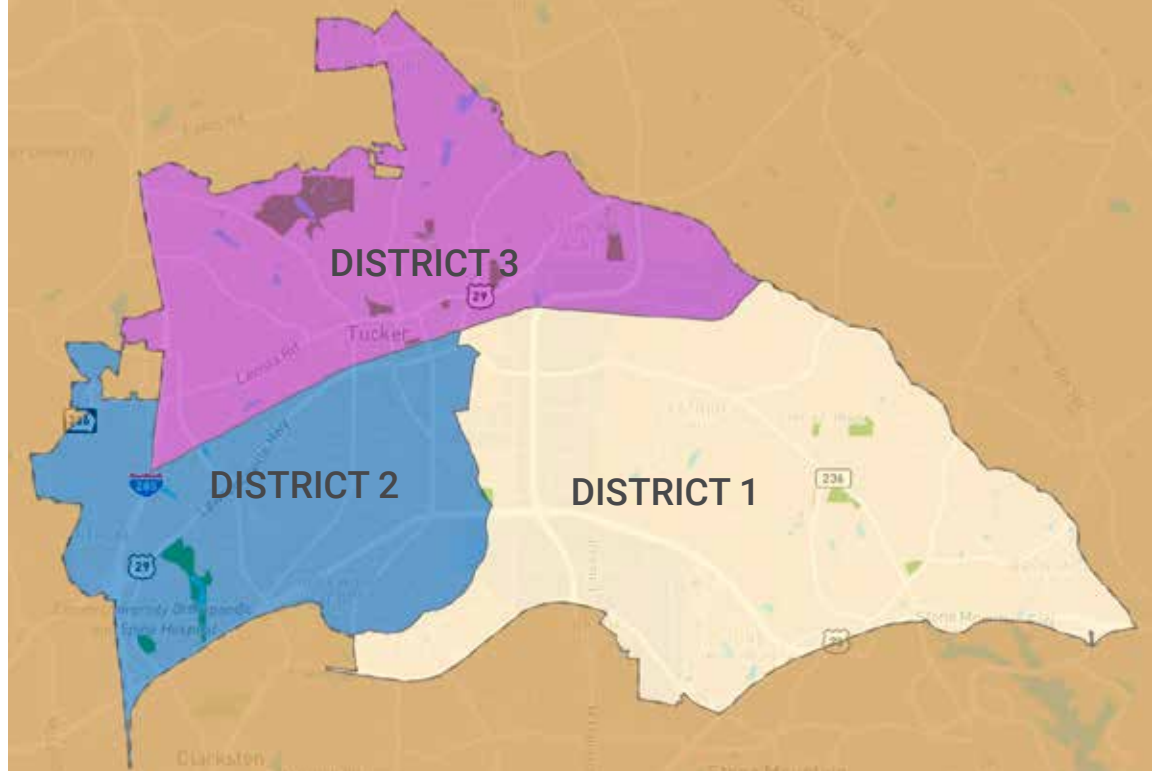
Alexis Weaver
District 3 - Post 1

Virginia Rece
District 1 - Post 2

Vinh Nguyen
District 2 - Post 2

Amy Trocchi
District 3 - Post 2

DISTRICT MAP



EDITOR'S NOTE

SONJA SZUBSKI - COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR



We just launched our redesigned website. All the same information, maybe a bit more, laid out in a more intuitive and easily accessible format.

My favorite is our Project pages. You can find all pertinent documents, information, timeline and pictures for all of our ongoing projects. Take a click around and let me know what you think. I always welcome feedback.

You may notice a theme in this issue...the staying power of community. Honestly the focus of this magazine is almost always community because that is what is interesting and why we, as a government, exist...to serve the community.

Community is a symbiotic relationship between the people the businesses and the government. In order to strengthen and flourish, we need each other. When businesses come into Tucker, we need the people to support them. In turn, our businesses give back by supporting our school fundraisers and sponsoring our festivals, like Taste of

Tucker. Many festivals then support our local non-profits, like Juneteenth with Frontline, and Taste of Tucker with NETWorks. These non-profits are then able to support our people in their areas of need.

I must ask for your forgiveness on one front, Tucker. I am allowing a non-resident to be honored as our Citizen of the Month. But I am pretty sure that everyone would agree that the Cofer name is synonymous with Tucker and that Chip is the embodiment of our community culture of generosity and kindness.

In the vein of community kindness, don't forget to be on the look out for early morning walkers to the five elementary schools. Each school has picked a morning in the first two weeks of October to celebrate National Walk to School Day. Keep your eyes open and your speed down.

Stay safe, Tucker. See you on Main.

P.S. Our partnership with the Tucker Reporter has moved up our deadline by over a week and we are no longer able to cover the regularly scheduled work sessions of the City Council in this magazine. Please look for meeting recaps on our website tuckerga.gov/news or watch online.

CITY SOCIALS



nextdoor

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FROM THE MAYOR

FRANK AUMAN



A great community. Every city wants one, and most say they have it. But what is it, and how do you create and nurture one?

Of course, there's a lot more that goes into a great community than what the city government can do, but as one of our core responsibilities, we are constantly seeking ways to strengthen our community and our quality of life.

The foundation of community is relationships - Relationships between and among all our citizens, be they neighbors, businesses, churches, schools, local government, or our many non-profit and volunteer organizations. It's all wrapped up in the phrase you've heard me use many times: Live, Work, Play and Pray. The more we can do all of those things right here in our hometown, the more and stronger relationships we build, and the stronger our community becomes. Increasing the frequency, quantity and quality of the interactions between all those citizens strengthens the bonds between us, and that's good for everyone.

It's why we have festivals and concerts in our parks and on Main Street. In fact, it's why we're always building and expanding our parks. It's why we offer sports leagues and hundreds of other opportunities at our Rec Center. It's the same reason our businesses like to hire local talent, and it's why our churches and volunteers serve locally with such passion. It's why our local businesses invest in themselves but give back to our community.

Part of what we do to encourage this kind of community strength and spirit is to recognize those who make a special effort. For the last seven years, I've given a Mayor's Business Award to a local business who has not only made significant contributions to our community, but who has sustained their efforts over a significant period of time. Recipients have included Local 7, Cofer Brothers, FODAC, Northlake, Siggers and Handy Ace Hardware. I'll be presenting this year's award later this month to another very deserving recipient.

We also recognize a large group representing all our community volunteers at an annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner that will also take place this month. Many of our volunteers work quietly and even anonymously, which means we can't recognize them all. Instead, we lean on leaders of many such organizations to attend and represent the amazing work that goes on every day in Tucker. We hope that by doing so, even those who don't seek credit or recognition will get the clear message that we know their work and we never take it for granted. We appreciate every minute and every dollar spent toward strengthening our community.

All our citizens can and should appreciate every decision made by every individual to do the small things that make us strong. Shopping local, going to events at the parks and schools, even just a friendly wave from the car or the sidewalk builds us up. Helping a neighbor with a chore or a meal, recommending a local service provider and an occasional kind word about law enforcement and emergency responders encourages everyone and reminds us of all we have to be grateful for. Thanks for doing your part.

TUCKER VOTES

GENERAL ELECTION

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION

MONDAY OCTOBER 7

ADVANCE VOTING DATES & TIMES

MON. – FRI.
OCT. 15–NOV. 1
7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

SATURDAYS
OCT. 19 & OCT. 26
9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

SUNDAYS
OCT. 20 & OCT. 27
12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

tuckerga.gov/elections

FEATURE STORY

COMMUNITY, FOOD AND MUSIC: A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Born out of a love for music and community the first Taste of Tucker was in 2010 and on the campus of Tucker First United Methodist Church. Karen and Art Wood, then Tucker residents and parishioners of TFUMC, were called to organize what was initially called Music Under the Stars made up of praise bands from the Tucker area churches, shared picnics and fellowship. It was their outlet to serve others and have some fun.

The inaugural event drew 500 attendees with such tremendous support that Karen and Art decided to do it again. Each year they added more restaurants and bands, and each year the crowd grew. In 2014 they realized they had outgrown the TFUMC parking lot, so they moved to Main Street, switched to secular music and just kept growing. Today they boast 20 restaurants offering tastings, live music, a kid zone, arts & crafts vendors, informational booths, a beer garden and new this year, a VIP Experience (details below). Stick around until the end of the day for the Taste of Tucker prizes, awarded for Best Appetizer, Best Entrée and Best Dessert.

This year marks 15 years of feeding Tucker for the Woods. But thankfully, as the festival and their mission has grown, so has their board of volunteer organizers. Taste of Tucker is now primarily organized by six dedicated and motivated people: Karen and Art Wood, David Fisher and Stephanie Shapiro of NETWorks, Sharda Vishwanathan and Rob Shaw of Camp Kudzu. NETWorks and Camp Kudzu are the two beneficiaries of the annual event and receive 100% of the proceeds.



Photo of Karen and Art Wood courtesy of tasteoftucker.com

NETworks
Cooperative Ministry
Celebrating **20** Years 2004 - 2024

camp
kudzu
We've Got Diabetes Covered!



GIVING BACK

When the Woods realized they had a large and growing platform in Taste of Tucker, they decided to connect with a local charity to enhance the prestige of the event. Every year the funds raised have increased and in 2023, Taste of Tucker raised \$57,750!

NETWorks was the initial beneficiary and Taste of Tucker remains their largest fundraiser as a single event every year. Celebrating 20 years, NETWorks serves Tucker and the surrounding area with a food pantry, a grocery alliance, financial assistance and clothing closet.

The Woods added Camp Kudzu after their son, Trace, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 2017. Camp Kudzu's mission is "to educate, empower and inspire" children and their families living with type 1 diabetes. Camp Kudzu has been serving families of T1D children for 25 years and is Georgia's largest provider of diabetes self-management education and support services.

Visit networkscoop.org and campkudzu.org for more information and opportunities to give.

ENTERTAINMENT

Music has always been a major part of Taste of Tucker, with a wide variety of bands taking the stage over the years. This year two major hitters will be rocking by the railroad tracks. The Platinum Band is an Atlanta favorite playing from 1-3 p.m. and Almost Famous closes the day out from 3:45-5:45 p.m..

Often lauded as the most fun day in the city, Taste of Tucker is a great illustration of how serving the community builds a stronger community. See you October 5, from 1-6 p.m. on Main Street.

THE BEER GARDEN IS BACK!

The Taste of Tucker Beer Garden, sponsored by Tucker Brewing Company, will offer craft beers and ciders from several local breweries. Only taste tickets will be accepted.



JIM ELLIS VOLKSWAGON VIP EXPERIENCE



Elevate your Taste of Tucker day with an exclusive VIP Bundle! For \$100, enjoy access to the YES! Event Space, \$35 in Taste Tickets, and a special Taste of Tucker 2024 T-shirt. VIP amenities include exclusive seating, air conditioning, complimentary soft drinks, and snacks. VIP tickets are capped at 100, so secure yours early!



TICKET SALES

Tickets may be bought online at tasteoftucker.com and during the event.

Advance sales of ticket bundles and the VIP Experience end October 3 at 6 p.m.

CITY HALL UPDATE

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Tucker City Council met on the second Monday of the month after taking a small break in August with only one scheduled meeting.

In general, the first meetings are reserved for items requiring public hearings and voting, as well as time for public comment at the beginning. If you would like to speak for your allotted two minutes, please sign up when you arrive at the Council Chambers at City Hall. The second meeting of the month is reserved for updates on ongoing projects or open discussion on upcoming agenda items or proposed projects. The second meeting does not reserve time for public comment but does allow for business items requiring votes, if needed.

Included on the consent agenda were the previous month's meeting minutes, and four contracts: culvert replacement, renewal for ESRI software, an amendment to the Hugh Howell sidewalk construction and an amendment for the Tucker Town Green contract.

The biggest discussion of the night was the first read and public hearing of an ordinance to amend the Tucker code regarding multifamily density, townhome width, lot coverage and building height in the downtown corridor. Brought to the table by four councilmembers there were slight differences from the amendment brought forth in April that was ultimately voted down. The amendment proposes:

1. Increase the amount of permitted multifamily density in the DT-2 and DT-3 zoning districts from 24 units per acre to 35 units per acre. Density over 35 units per acre would require a Special Land Use Permit (SLUP).

2. Reduce the minimum required townhome width in DT-3 from 20 feet to 18 feet.
3. Remove an error with the lot coverage requirements in DT-3.
4. Remove minimum building heights in the DT zoning districts.
5. Allow property owners/developers to request additional building height in DT-2 and DT-3 with a special land use permit.
 - a. Up to one additional story or 10' could be requested by SLUP.
 - b. Height transitions would be required to ensure appropriate scale and massing with adjacent and nearby parcels, buildings, green spaces, and trails.

The Council held first reads and public hearings for a rezoning to allow for a place of worship at 6430 Lawrenceville Highway, a consideration for a 12-month time extension of SLUP-22-0002, an amendment to create Article V Chapter 38 Streets, Sidewalks and other Public Places, and to amend the Tucker purchasing policy.

The Council also approved a purchasing contract for a mobile LED video/scoreboard, an amendment for city services with Jacobs Engineering, and a resolution of support for the submittal of the ULI TAP application to explore and expand the City's housing study.

The Tucker Mayor and City Council meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at Tucker City Hall, 1975 Lakeside Parkway, Suite 350B, Tucker, GA 30084 and are streamed and recorded on tuckerga.gov



Visit the Science Gallery at Emory's exhibit "Resilient Earth" at Northlake. It is free to the public through April 2025

DATES TO KNOW

- **OCTOBER 1**
Zoning Board of Appeals
- **OCTOBER 1**
National Night Out
Church Street Greenspace
- **OCTOBER 2**
Municipal Court
- **OCTOBER 7**
Downtown Development Authority
- **OCTOBER 9**
Municipal Court
- **OCTOBER 14**
City Buildings Closed in Observance of Columbus and Indigenous People's Day
- **OCTOBER 15**
University of Government Affairs
- **OCTOBER 15**
City Council Meeting
- **OCTOBER 16**
Municipal Court
- **OCTOBER 17**
Planning Commission
- **OCTOBER 23**
Municipal Court
- **OCTOBER 25**
Haunted Trail at Henderson Park
4-7 p.m.
- **OCTOBER 28**
City Council Work Session

NEWS FROM CITY HALL

WHO YA GONNA CALL?

Who do you call when a tree falls into the street? What about if a streetlight is out?

The City of Tucker is here to serve you. Always contact City Hall first with any questions or needs. The Citizen Responder will address your concerns or direct you to the right DeKalb County Department. Below is a list of City services and numbers to have on hand. To submit permit applications, a public works work order, or file a code compliance inquiry, please visit tuckerga.gov/services.

CALL 911 FOR DOWNED POWER LINES AND ALL EMERGENCIES

CITY SERVICES

- ALCOHOL LICENSING
- BUILDING AND PERMITTING
- CODE ENFORCEMENT
- FIRE MARSHAL
- PLANNING AND ZONING
- OCCUPATIONAL TAX CERTIFICATE
- MUNICIPAL COURT
- PUBLIC WORKS:
 - DEAD ANIMAL REMOVAL IN THE RIGHT OF WAY (SMALLER THAN A DEER)
 - POTHOLES/ROAD MAINTENANCE
 - ROADS AND DRAINAGE
 - STREET SIGNS
 - TRAFFIC CALMING
 - TRAFFIC SIGNALS
 - TREES DOWN IN ROW

CALL THE DEKALB COUNTY DEPARTMENT NUMBER BELOW FOR ANY COUNTY SERVICES OR VISIT DEKALBCOUNTYGA.GOV

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| • ANIMAL SERVICE | 404-294-2996 |
| • DEAD ANIMAL REMOVAL | 404-294-2900 |
| • KEEP DEKALB BEAUTIFUL | 404-371-2654 |
| • MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES | 404-892-4646 |
| • SANITATION | 404-294-2900 |
| • SUPERIOR COURT | 404-371-2251 |
| • WATER AND SEWER BILLING | 404-378-4475 |
| • WATER AND SEWER EMERGENCY | 770-270-6243 |

CALL GEORGIA POWER FOR STREET LIGHTS/POWER OUTAGES

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

CULINARY AND HOSPITALITY ENTHUSIAST OF THE FUTURE ACADEMY

The Culinary and Hospitality Enthusiast of the Future Academy is ready to bring food to the table. Chef Simone Byron and Adeola Sokunbi opened C.H.E.F. Academy's doors last month.

"C.H.E.F. Academy is a space for culinary students, restaurateurs and foodies alike," Sokunbi said. "We wanted to provide an opportunity for various audiences to learn culinary skills, get better at their crafts, and enjoy fun events that involve good food within metro Atlanta."

C.H.E.F. is a place that allows people to come together, enjoy each other's company and learn to make delicious dishes. The Academy offers classes for learners of all levels, from industry veterans looking to sharpen their skills to couples out for fun date nights.

Byron has over 20 years of experience working in hospitality in addition to teaching and management. Sokunbi has worked with global brands, created her own sauce Ade Spice® and owns AYO Hospitality & Consulting Services.

The pair felt that the Tucker community needed a place for people to learn how to cook and improve their abilities. They combined their efforts, put their plan into action and started C.H.E.F. Academy. They are thrilled to

see their plans come into fruition and just as pleased to serve the Tucker community and metro Atlanta area.

"It is surreal," Byron said. "It is something that we have been trying to do for a long time."

C.H.E.F. Academy plans to offer children's courses and training for new restaurant staff in the future. In addition, they hope to become more involved in the Tucker community by providing workshops and other learning opportunities.

"We are happy to be in Tucker," Byron said. "Tucker is a good space, it is equidistant to a lot. There is a lot of diversity and culture, and it is something that we need over here."

"We are really excited about the growth, and we are just looking forward to what is coming next," Sokunbi said. "We have a whole generation that is thirsty to be able to grow in their skills, and we're just so happy to be able to fill that void."

"People say healing comes at the kitchen table," she added. "Not only are we giving you a table, but we're also teaching you as you go."

C.H.E.F. Academy is located at 1927 Lakeside Parkway Tucker, GA 30084. For more information visit chefacademyatl.com



Photo courtesy of [instagram.com/chefacademyatl](https://www.instagram.com/chefacademyatl)



CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

CHIP COFER



The Tucker community is synonymous with the Cofer name. I am blessed to be part of this historical family through my mother. The Cofer family settled in the area over a century ago and has helped build the foundation of the Tucker culture and fostered the growth of the area throughout the decades. The current head of our household is Chip Cofer, my uncle, and while not a current resident of Tucker, he is a local leader and has been making his mark on the community since his childhood.

Chip is not one to seek the spotlight nor recognition for his efforts, which makes him all the more perfect for InTucker's Citizen of the Month. Early in his childhood, Chip learned the importance of community and giving back helping out the Jay-cee's organize the annual Tucker Days festival. Back then it was a three-day event, that brought the entire surrounding area out to have fun. In his adulthood he headed up the Old Town Tucker Merchant Association and organized more street festivals like the Chili Cook-Off, helped with the Main Street Tree lighting every year and the Tucker Cruise-In. Chip grew up around antique cars and developed a love for showing them off. Chip participated in numerous car shows in the Atlanta area before bringing the Tucker Cruise-In to Main Street. Held every 2nd Saturday of the month from April through October. The event combines his love for all things Tucker, bringing the community together and great cars.

Chip and his family are the lifeblood of Tucker and the inspiration for the phrase "the Tucker Way". He leads with kindness, is inclusive, is respectful and has the community of Tucker in his heart in all things.

Here's to you, Uncle Chip.

Love,
Your Favorite Nephew
Jamey Wilson



SCHOOL NEWS

HIGH EXPECTATIONS AT TUCKER HIGH



Trophies on top of trophies and banners on top of banners line the walls and shelves of Tucker High School. THS has a reputation for high expectations, and this extends to their Fall Athletics. That success brought Football Head Coach Wayne Jones to THS, and he looks to add more trophies and banners to their pile.

Jones played football and track at Hart County High School in Hartwell, Georgia. After high school he competed in track at High Point College. Then he coached track and football in North Carolina. Years later he wanted to come back home to Georgia and had his eyes on THS.

"I have always seen Tucker on the Corky Kell and things of that nature," Jones said. "I always knew that Tucker had a rich tradition."

In 2021 he was given the opportunity to join THS as a Track Coach and Assistant Football Coach. The following year he was named Head Coach of the Tucker Tigers and got to work continuing their success.

"If anyone gets a win against Tucker it's a notch on their belt because Tucker is expected to win," Jones said.

THS Football has won 18 regional championships and two state championships. The Tigers have not missed the playoffs for the past 16 seasons.

Part of that success is due to the support THS Athletics receives. A handful of pro athletes who are former THS students give their time and resources back to THS. Jones has had former student-turned-NFL players come back to talk to current players and help with equipment and practice gear.

Football is not THS's only successful fall sport. Their cross-country teams have a history of sending runners to the state championships. Their flag football team is coming off a run in the playoffs and expects to do the same this season. The THS softball program has a history of making playoff runs and started off the season with a 27-0 win in a dominant performance against their opponent. Volleyball is another successful program coming off a playoff run from last season. This season THS hired Cheer Head Coach Dionyal Spencer to lead the cheer program and add to the success of THS Athletics.

"It is that mystique of what Tucker has built and the foundation that they have built that makes it so special," Jones said. "Tucker High School has always been a place where people want to go. It will continue to be one of those schools people want to go to because you are going to have some academic success as well as athletic success."

AROUND TOWN

UPCOMING EVENTS IN TUCKER

Benefitting NETWorks & Camp Kudzu



MAIN STREET TUCKER

October 5 1-6 p.m.

Haunted Pirate Trail

@Henderson Park



October 25 4-7 p.m.

JOIN US AT TRC FOR MONTHLY SENIOR LUNCH & LEARNS AND EXCITING FIELD TRIPS



- **SENIOR LUNCH & LEARN: MEDICARE 101**
October 9, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
FREE
- **SENIOR OUTING ELLIJAY APPLE FESTIVAL**
October 19, 2024
Fee: \$10 (includes transportation)

tuckerga.gov/parks/events



TUCKER Community Corner



Welcome to Books & Brew, Tucker newest gathering spot!
Visit them at 4316 Lawrenceville Highway or booksandbrew.net

Every Thursday through October
- Tucker Farmers Market
4-7 p.m.

4885 Lavista Rd

Don't miss the last month of the market! Come to St. Andrews Presbyterian Church for fresh veggies, local curations, food trucks and live music.

10/12 - Tucker Cruise-In

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Main Street

Tucker Cruise-In is a old-fashioned town meet and greet car show with a wide variety of cars, ranging from antiques to street rods, motorcycles to imports. Vehicle entry is \$5.

10/19 - DeKalb County Paper

Shredding Event

8 a.m. to noon

3720 Leroy Scott Drive, Decatur GA 30032

Participation is FREE and open only to DeKalb County residents with proof of residency. For more information call 404-294-2900 or dekalbsanitation.com