



INTUCKER

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FROM THE MAYOR

The photograph you see above shows Tucker's Main Street in the year 1952. Sixty-five years ago! Boy, things looked different back then.

They're going to look different 65 years from now, too.

What will change? What will stay the same? That's something Tucker residents are deciding right now!

"Tucker Tomorrow" is what we've named our comprehensive plan process. Maybe you've been to a meeting, taken a walking tour or participated in the online survey. It's our effort to gain your input on how Tucker should evolve over the next couple generations. Up until now, we've operated under DeKalb County's original plan for zoning in the city, but now it's time to determine our own future.

I hope you'll join us at First Baptist Church on February 16 as the firm we've contracted to gather all this input, The Collaborative, will report back what they've heard from you over the three-month survey period. That's far from the end of the process, but it should be a good opportunity for us all to see where things are headed.

If you haven't taken the opportunity yet, log onto our website and complete the "Tucker Tomorrow" survey. It's your city, I hope you'll have your say in where it's headed.

DATES TO KNOW

February 4
"Tucker Tomorrow"
Walking Tours

February 8
Community Council
Work Session and
Meeting

February 13
City Council Meeting

February 16
"Tucker Tomorrow"
Community Forum

February 21
Zoning Board of
Appeals Work Session

February 23
Planning Commission
Work Session and
Meeting

February 27
City Council Meeting



CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Tucker's City Council held a pair of meetings in January, taking action on several important issues.

On the development front, Council voted to allow the Einstein Bros./Caribou Coffee at the new Tucker Meridian shopping center to build a drive-thru lane. They denied a petition to convert the Northlake Inn into an assisted living facility. They also began review of a proposed 14,500 square-foot family life center at Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church on Brockett Road.

One development that garnered a lot of attention in the community was the proposed 88-acre mixed-use

project at the intersection of Mountain Industrial Boulevard and Hugh Howell Road. At the City Council meeting on January 23, developer Stephen Macauley asked to withdraw his petition. He has stated publicly that he plans to re-submit plans to the City at a later date.

At that same meeting, Council voted unanimously to approve an excise tax of three percent on all motor vehicles that are rented within the city limits.

Looking ahead to February, Council is scheduled to vote on the Mt. Moriah project as well as a development that would bring 210 apartment units next to the Old Hickory House Restaurant.



Mayor Auman addresses Tucker Middle School FCCLA Club

CITYWIDE TOWN HALL

Want proof that the people of Tucker are among the most active and civically engaged of any city in Georgia? Look no further than the first-ever citywide Tucker Town Hall Meeting.

On January 24, nearly 300 Tucker residents and business owners packed the cafeteria at Tucker Middle School to participate in a program that was designed to give them a chance to get to know city leaders and staff, as well as to learn about some of the immediate priorities of the City.



The public was invited to submit questions for an hour-long, moderated question and answer session with the Mayor and City Council. That was followed by an open reception, where people could approach any member of the City government with questions or concerns that they wanted answered.

The big points of conversation included development, strategy with regards to taking over Tucker parks, traffic and code enforcement.

If you missed the Town Hall, you can find a video recording on the City's YouTube page. Additionally, each elected representative and staff member's contact information is readily available on the www.tuckerga.gov website.

TUCKER COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Each month we solicit nominations from the community for outstanding residents who are making a difference in Tucker. Our panel reviews the nominations and selects one person to be featured in our "Citizen Spotlight". If you want to make a nomination for the March newsletter, email us at info@tuckerga.gov and tell us in 250 words or less who you're nominating and how they are going above and beyond in Tucker!



BUSINESS OF THE MONTH AMANDA JEWEL FLORAL + DESIGN

It's easy to miss, but one of Tucker's newest businesses is also one of its most stylish. Entrepreneur Amanda Lankford opened Amanda Jewel Floral + Design in an old house across the street from Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library on Lavista Road.

From the outside, it looks like a modest home. Inside, it's decorated with a sophisticated blend of flowers, candles and fixtures that help to inspire brides and others who are looking to plan their big event.

A mother of two, Lankford lives in Tucker with her husband. She's planning a formal ribbon cutting for her business in early February. You can find out more at www.amandajewel.com.

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH LYLE COLLINS

"Lyle helps all of his neighbors, who may be sick or in need of information on how to have some home repair accomplished.

As a neighbor, he is a 'watchdog' for possible crime and reports it to the homeowner or police. He assisted with some of the start-up of the Smoke Rise Community Garden, installed the lighting on the mural at the Tucker Recreation Center, as well as lighting at the entrance to Smoke Rise.

He and his wife Hannah also helped build the Little Libraries that are being installed around Smoke Rise."

Nomination by Lavonne Randall



ON THE BEAT WITH LT. SMITH

A police department's two primary responsibilities are the quick response to 911 calls for service and the prevention of injuries and fatalities from accidents through the enforcement of traffic laws.

To this end, we are always vigilant to trouble spots and deploy additional resources when manpower permits. This may include officers working overtime operating laser in areas where speeding is a problem or deploying units from our special operations division in school zones during the high travel times.

Recently, one of these spots has been Fellowship Road and Lawrenceville Highway. We are aware that this location has been mentioned repeatedly on social media because of safety concerns. Over the last couple months, we have increased our enforcement actions in this area as a result of those concerns, combatting aggressive drivers who make illegal lane changes during rush hour traffic and cause safety issues for other drivers.

As we work on enforcement, we have also been in communication with traffic engineers and planners from DeKalb County who have advised that they are reviewing data from the intersection to see if there are any actions that they can take to improve safety.

We're doing our part. Now we need you to do yours. As you talk about this intersection with friends, neighbors and co-workers, encourage them to abide by the traffic law. Remind them that arriving at their destination a couple minutes late is far more preferable than having to pay a traffic ticket - or worse - injuring themselves or other motorists by causing a traffic accident.



POLICE BLOTTER

Masked Robber - Dec. 25th - Officers responded to the Walgreens on Lavista Road in reference to an armed robbery. A masked suspect had walked behind the counter and taken money out of the register while in possession of a firearm. Based on his description and the method used during the robbery, our detectives were able to link the suspect to an additional 24 armed robberies that have occurred all over DeKalb County within the last month.

Two days later, a detective following up on a lead noticed the suspect driving away from a motel and was able to get officers to stop and detain him. Further investigation revealed that he was the suspect in the robberies and he is currently facing multiple counts of armed robbery.

Intoxicated Burglar - Dec. 28 - At 2234 hours, officers responded to a burglar alarm on Briers Drive. When the officers arrived, they located broken glass and an open rear door to the location. They entered to clear the residence and located a male in an upstairs bathroom taking a bath. The male advised them that he had broken into the residence, became intoxicated and wanted to end his life. Officers located a BB rifle next to the bathtub and the suspect still had the BB embedded in his forehead. He was transported to an area hospital for medical treatment and was later lodged in the DeKalb County Jail.

Forgetful Burglar - Jan. 6th - At 1240 hours, officers responded to an alarm call on Oakwood Drive. They located a forced front door and several items missing from the residence. Upon further investigation, a cell phone was located in the driveway that did not belong to the homeowner. Detectives responded to the scene and were able to determine the owner of the phone. They also discovered that the same person had pawned several items that belonged to this victim at a local pawn store several hours after the burglary. With this information, they were able to secure arrest warrants for the suspect.

TEAM TUCKER SPOTLIGHT

John McHenry - Community & Economic Development Director

What was your work experience before coming to Tucker? I had served as the Community Development Director for Flowery Branch, a job which involved zoning, redevelopment, historic preservation as well as some public works oversight.

Directly before that I worked as the Program Manager for the Gwinnett Village Community Improvement District (CID), which borders Tucker. I've also had the opportunity to work for advocacy associations such as the Homebuilders, engineering firms and regional agencies; it's all been helpful background for working here in Tucker.

What does your day-to-day workload look like?

There are invariably zoning- and planning-related items that come across my desk, which can range from simply verifying zoning to a complex staff report regarding rezoning requests.

I also oversee the code enforcement and building permitting departments, so I look to make sure that we're providing the best service possible to Tucker citizens. Woven in among this, and equally important, are economic development efforts to both support our strong business community and bring in more and better jobs.

How is Tucker unique from other cities you've worked in?

Working for a start-up city is a one-of-a-kind experience, as you get to provide services and define what those services will be moving forward. It's a huge opportunity and I enjoy the challenge of setting a very high standard.

What is your favorite thing about working in Tucker?

The depth and energy of the civic groups is just incredible. There are so many local advocates, so much pride and, most importantly, a great sense of fellowship in the community. It's the Tucker Way, and that means taking care and helping others. I think that's why people love this community so much.



OFF THE WALL

What's the TV show you never miss? Nothing that I would say that I never miss, but I do enjoy Parks and Recreation (although at times it cuts a little too close to home).

Which celebrity do people say you look like? I used to get that I looked like Kevin Bacon, then Ferris Bueller's best friend.



What is one thing your co-workers don't know about you? That I lived in Minnesota for two years. It snowed 30 inches before Thanksgiving my first year – I moved.

What is your favorite sport/sports team? Just to exhibit my advanced age, the Mets won the World Series my last year in college in New York and I have stayed with them ever since. Go Mookie, Keith, Gary!

TUCKER VOLUNTEERS FOR MLK DAY



On Jan. 16th, local volunteers gave freely of their time at Henderson Park (above) and Tucker Recreation Center (below) for the National Day of Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



GET IN TOUCH WITH US !

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