



INTUCKER

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FROM THE MAYOR

The year 2016 will always have a special place in the history of Tucker. Future generations will know this as the year we incorporated as a city; our birthday, so to speak. What they may not realize is how much sweat equity was put in by volunteers, business, civic and church leaders and, only very recently, its own elected officials, to help lay the foundation for this great town over the course of the last 125 years!

This past year, we have completed some daunting tasks. Tucker opened its own City Hall, complete with an amazing staff. These talented professionals come to us through contracts with CH2M, InterDev and Charles Abbot Company, bringing with them decades of local government experience. You may not know them personally yet, but you know their work, because you've seen it in the dozens of public meetings and other accomplishments over these past few months.

Led by City Manager Tami Hanlin, Tucker now handles all its own zoning and code enforcement. John McHenry and Courtney Lankford work diligently with developers on behalf of the city to ensure that any growth in Tucker is "smart growth". Code enforcement veteran William Wharton has taken on the challenge of leading a department that will be critical to protecting the property values and public safety of our community. And, with leadership from City Clerk Jennifer Davis, we are also issuing our own business and alcohol licenses, as well as building permits.

As we move into 2017, I see a year of opportunity for our city. We will continue to work toward establishing a department to oversee Tucker's beautiful parks. "Tucker Tomorrow", the effort to create our first comprehensive plan, will come into focus thanks to input from our residents and businesses. We will soon have our own public meeting space and court, to be housed in a refurbished office space in what we will call the City Hall Annex on First Avenue.

These are exciting times in Tucker. I hope you'll join me and your City Council on the road ahead as we work together toward a bright future.

DATES TO KNOW

January 2
New Year's Day
(observed)

January 9
City Council

January 11
Community Council

January 12
Planning Commission

January 16
Martin Luther King
Day

January 17
Zoning Board of
Appeals

January 21
"Tucker Tomorrow"
walking tours

January 23
City Council

January 24
Tucker Town Hall



CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

December was a busy month for Tucker’s City Council. From development proposals to annexations and setting up courts, councilmembers had a lot on their plates.

At the December 12 meeting, council appointed Judge Steve Nicholas as the Municipal Court Chief Judge for the city of Tucker. They also approved an amendment to the City Code authorizing the sale of beer and liquor on Sundays.

Council gathered again on December 19 for a special called meeting to discuss a pair of annexation requests. They voted without opposition to welcome the residents of the Westwood neighborhood and adjacent Wanda Woods off Chamblee Tucker Road. In a separate vote, council approved annexation of the Shell gas station at the intersection of Lavista Road

and Parklake Drive NE.

Additionally, City Council voted 6-0 to grant Atlanta Gas Light the right and franchise to use roads, alleys, and other public places in Tucker to do construction and maintenance work needed to serve their customers in the city..

Two public zoning hearings were postponed in December at the request of the applicants. Developers of the proposed “Nexus Tucker” mixed-use development made major changes to their application, including reducing the number of apartments and adding office/medical/retail facilities. The other hearing involves construction of a family life center at Mount Moriah Baptist Church on Brockett Road. Both of these issues will now come before City Council at their meetings in January.



We always considered ourselves to be a part of Tucker and were saddened when we were removed from the map at the last minute. We are delighted to again be included in the City of Tucker that we call home.

- Newly annexed Tucker resident

CHRISTMAS ON MAIN STREET

The weather outside was certainly frightful, yet hundreds of residents and visitors alike braved the conditions on Saturday, December 3rd to celebrate Tucker’s annual Christmas on Main Street.

The event was originally scheduled to run from 5 to 8:30 p.m., but with rain intensifying throughout the night, organizers decided to wrap the festivities early.



There was quite a bit packed into the abbreviated window. Main Street Theatre put on a spirited performance, offering a new take on The Night Before Christmas. Local band Thunder Gypsy kept the party going with popular cover tunes. Mayor Frank Auman and his wife Gaye judged an ugly Christmas sweater competition.

The highlight of the night, though, came when Santa Claus arrived direct from the North Pole. Santa, eschewing his traditional sleigh and reindeer, cruised in on a fire truck, waving to the crowd before helping to light Great Tree. He then stuck around to greet revelers and lend an ear to the Christmas wishes of the many children in attendance.

Christmas on Main Street is sponsored by the Old Town Tucker Merchant’s Association, with help from local businesses and civic groups.



TUCKER FOOTBALL BACK ON STATE STAGE

Faced with a 17-point halftime deficit on the biggest stage of the season against their toughest opponent of the season, the Tucker High School football team could have easily quit.

They had a great year, highlighted by a 13-game win streak that carried them all the way to the AAAAAA state championship game. They were up against a very tough Valdosta team that, on account of its 23 previous state titles, is considered by many to

be one of the best high school football programs in the nation.

But coming out of the locker room and onto the field at the Georgia Dome for that second half, it was apparent the Tigers had no intention of going down without a fight. Tucker outplayed the Wildcats over the final two quarters, yet ultimately fell short in a 17-7 defeat.

Tigers senior running back Chris Broadwater kept a stout Valdosta defense on its heels in the second half,

rushing for 74 of his team-high 109 yards and the lone Tucker touchdown. Senior quarterback Xavier Shephard was 9-of-19 for 105 yards, but completed some key passes to move the chains as the Tigers tried to stay in the game late.

Tucker (13-2) finishes the season as the state runner-up for the second time in the past four years. The Tigers captured the AAAA state championship in 2008 and 2011.

TUCKER TOMORROW COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Join your neighbors on a walking tour and give feedback about what you want in your community! More info at tuckerga.gov

Downtown Tucker Tour
Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017
11:30am – 1:30pm
2367 Main Street

Northlake Area Tour
Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017
2:30pm – 4:30pm
4099 Lavista Road



WHO TO CONTACT

The city of Tucker currently provides planning and zoning, building permitting, business licensing and code enforcement. We continue to work in coordination with DeKalb County for public safety, roads and drainage, water, sanitation and park and recreation.

Here is a list of some of the important numbers you need to know. Find a complete list at tuckerga.gov or you can call City Hall at (678) 597-9040

BUILDING & PERMITTING

(470) 273-3097

BUSINESS & ALCOHOL LICENSE

(470) 273-3089

CODE ENFORCEMENT

(470) 273-3093

PARKS & RECREATION

(404) 371-2711

PUBLIC SAFETY

(770) 724-7899

PUBLIC WORKS

(404) 371-4778

ROADS & DRAINAGE

(404) 297-3840

SANITATION

(404) 294-2900

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

(770) 621-7200

WATERSHED 24 HR. EMERGENCIES

(770) 270-6243

ON THE BEAT WITH LT. SMITH

With the recent formation of the city of Tucker, the DeKalb County Police Department wanted to demonstrate their eagerness to work with the city by creating a specialized position that would allow us to continue the exchange of information between the two entities with ease. I was chosen to fill that position.

My official title is city of Tucker Liaison Officer and I bring to the job 18 years with the DeKalb Police Department. I've spent the last five years assigned to the Tucker Precinct. As part of my new assignment, I am working closely with the elected officials of Tucker as well as the city staff members. You'll see me at city and community meetings, and I'm available on social media; all in an effort to build a stronger bond between DeKalb Police and the community.



[facebook.com/LtRSSmith](https://www.facebook.com/LtRSSmith)

One of my responsibilities is to closely monitor crime in the city of Tucker. I do this on a daily basis and follow up with a weekly crime briefing for the elected officials and staff members. Over the last year, I've been tracking crime trends within our boundaries, both good and bad.

During 2016, we saw a decrease in robberies and residential burglaries. This can be attributed to an increased officer presence within our shopping plazas and residential subdivisions. Unfortunately, we also witnessed an increase in business burglaries and automobile break-ins ("entering autos"). Although we have been able to reduce some of the business burglaries with proactive enforcement, we could still use the help of the public in reducing our entering autos. Ninety percent of all entering autos involve either someone leaving their vehicle unlocked or leaving valuables (purse, bag, GPS, etc.) in plain view of anyone walking by. To that end, we would like to encourage everyone to always lock your vehicle and remove any valuables from the vehicle, if possible. At the very least, hide your valuables from public view.

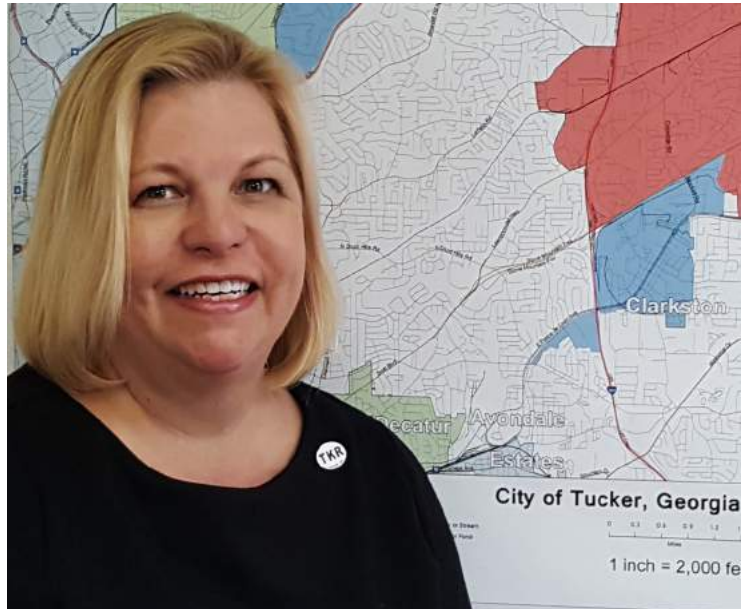
As we ring in a new year, we look forward to continuing our relationship with the residents of the city of Tucker.

TEAM TUCKER SPOTLIGHT

Tami Hanlin - City Manager

What was your work experience before coming to Tucker? Local government has been my passion throughout my entire career. After receiving my Master of Public Administration, I worked for four communities in Metro Detroit. After 13 years in city government up north, I was ready for a change.

I moved to Atlanta with my family in 2001 to join my parents and sister and took a less demanding job in order to spend more time with our son. I was the Director of the Country Club of the South Homeowner's Association for six years. During that time, I also volunteered to help stand up the city of Johns Creek. As a result of that experience, I was hired by CH2M to be the Project Manager for the new city of Milton and, later, the city of Sandy Springs. While at CH2M, I have also been a local government consultant, helping with the startup of new communities in Malaysia and India.



What does your day-to-day workload look like? There is no 'typical day' in City Hall, which is what makes it exciting and interesting. My primary role is carry out the policy directives of the City Council. We are a small, close-knit group in City Hall. Because we are doing almost everything for the first time, I spend a lot of time making decisions on matters that are routine in an established organization.

How has starting up the city of Tucker been different from other start-ups you've been a part of? A startup of any organization is intense. The start of Tucker has been particularly challenging since we had to 'operationalize' the city while actually conducting city business.

What is your favorite thing about working in Tucker? The strong sense of community and the fact that we, as staff, are treated as part of a large family. We all feel very lucky to be part of Tucker's first year of cityhood.

What are you most looking forward to in 2017? I look forward to many more "firsts": our first Code Enforcement Court session, our first Council meeting in our own facility, the completion of our first Comprehensive Plan and our first steps in the process of taking over Parks and Recreation. I look forward to moving the City from a reactive to a proactive mode. During start-up the staff, Mayor and Council, have had to take on items as they came in order to ensure the legal and structural framework was in place for the City to operate. In 2017, the Council will be able to spend more time on policy matters and staff can concentrate on building a solid professional organization.

OFF THE WALL

What's your favorite season and why?

Spring because I can go to the beach.

What's the last song that played in your car?

"Another Tricky Day" by The Who



Which celebrity do people say you look like?

Jane Jetson

SAVE THE DATE

TUCKER TOWN HALL MEETING

Tuesday, January 24

Come meet and hear from your elected city leaders.

Details to come on tuckerga.gov and our "City of Tucker – Government" Facebook page.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Do you know someone in Tucker who is deserving of special recognition? Nominate them for the Citizen Spotlight or Business of the Month in our new monthly City Hall newsletter. Our staff will review the nominees and choose one member of the community and one businessperson who are working to make Tucker a better place.

Please include the nominee's name and why they deserve to be recognized (250 words or less).

Submit to info@tuckerga.gov or mail to 4119 Adrian St, Tucker, GA 30084. Attn: Newsletter Submissions

GET IN TOUCH WITH US !

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