



CELEBRATING OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

INTUCKER

Published by the City of Tucker, GA

JULY 2017



FROM THE MAYOR

Among the most important things a City is charged with is making land use decisions. The process to arrive at those decisions is designed to make it as easy as possible for residents and other stakeholders to give their input. Throughout the land use petition process, you could have as many as four opportunities to present your opinion in a public setting; that's in addition to being able to email or meet with your elected and appointed officials.

While the process is designed to be really engaging, it can also be incredibly confusing. One of our biggest challenges – and opportunities – as a new city is to educate our citizens about how this process works. It's different from the county level; there are different processes and different governing bodies involved. But there is one major similarity: when our citizens get involved in the process, it makes for a more robust debate and, ultimately, a better outcome.

Whether you have an advanced degree in government or you're new to the municipal game, I hope these bullet points will teach you a few things and help you to engage with what's happening in Tucker.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL – Usually the process begins with a land owner applying for a land use change. They meet with City Staff, then go to the Community Council, a group of seven Tucker residents that hears cases once a month. Think of this as the most informal meeting we have; a group of folks sitting around a (theoretical) living room and discussing an issue that could impact their neighborhood. They talk, you talk, the applicant talks. One cool aspect of this is that the applicant can change aspects of their plan based on feedback they get at the Community Council meeting and move forward without having to start over. Nowhere else in this process is that true. While they don't cast votes, the Community Council is an important step in helping to gain more information about a proposed project.

PLANNING COMMISSION - Step Two is going before our Planning Commission. Like Community Council, these five people are volunteers who meet once a month. The Planning Commission is made up of Tucker residents who generally have some expertise in the planning and development field. They act as a recommending body for the Mayor and City Council, asking questions of the applicant and sometimes offering conditions that should be met for a project to be approved.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL - The third, and final, step has the applicant going before the Mayor and City Council twice for a first and second read. We weigh feedback from residents, Staff, Community Council, the Planning Commission, and we ask our own questions of the applicant before voting one way or another.

(continued on page 4)

DATES TO KNOW

July 4
City Hall CLOSED for
Independence Day

July 10
City Council

July 12
Community Council

July 18
Zoning Board of Appeals

July 24
City Council

July 28
Planning Commission



You like to read what's happening in the City of Tucker, now you can watch it, too! Subscribe to our YouTube channel and check out all the latest ribbon cuttings, City events and special features.



CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

The month of June was another busy one for Tucker’s Mayor and City Council.

They held a pair of meetings on June 12, the first a Public Hearing on the proposed “zero” millage rate and the second their regular called meeting. At that second meeting, Council held first reads on a number of issues including a 19-unit detached residential development on Saren Court, an 81,000 square foot self-storage facility on Northlake Center Drive and amendments to the City sign code and overlays.

From June 23-26, the Mayor and members of Council were joined by Tucker’s City Manager and Asst. City Manager for the annual Georgia Municipal Association Convention. This gathering gives local lawmakers and government leaders from across the state of Georgia the opportunity to participate in trainings, as well as obtain new insights into how to more effectively and efficiently govern.

Council returned from the convention for the second called meeting of the month on June 28.



Mayor Auman and his wife Gaye visited Senior Connections’ food preparation facility on June 21, before helping to deliver meals to Tucker-area senior citizens.

TUCKER TOMORROW COMP PLAN UPDATE

By now the term “Tucker Tomorrow” has been discussed and debated by City residents, business owners and other stakeholders for the better part of the past year. Last fall, the City contracted the consulting firm The Collaborative to manage the process, empowering them to gather input, hold community meetings and, ultimately, author a draft version of a comprehensive plan; a set of recommendations for Tucker residents and leaders to consider. In June, The Collaborative presented their draft plan to the community.

The process, however, is far from done. In fact, if you were to think of our comprehensive plan process as a two-act play, we’re currently at intermission.



This document, which will guide Tucker’s land use and community development decisions for the next generation and is mandated by state law, is now under review by City Staff and the citizen Steering Committee. Throughout the late summer and into the fall, the document will be presented before the Community Council and the Planning Commission, with each body having the opportunity to gather additional community feedback, as well as provide their own critiques.

The final word in the comprehensive plan process lies with the Mayor and City Council. They will consider the consultant’s recommendations, and balance those with what they’ve heard from constituents, Community Council and Planning Commission before settling on a final version of the comprehensive plan.

Between now and then, Tucker stakeholders are encouraged to go online to www.tuckerga.gov and review the draft plan. Whatever comments you have can be sent in email form to info@tuckertomorrowplan.com or to your representatives on the City Council.

ON THE BEAT WITH LT. SMITH



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

On June 13th, DeKalb officers from our SWAT Team, Narcotics Unit and Tucker Precinct assisted a multi-agency unit in executing a search warrant at a residence on Morris Avenue off of Lawrenceville Highway. Several Tucker residents saw the police response (including what some called a “police tank”) and even posted about it on Facebook. Because the operation was still ongoing and resulted in additional search warrants at other locations being served, I asked those who created the posts to remove them until we could complete the operation. I did this not only for officer safety reasons, but for operational security, as well (we didn’t want additional suspects arming themselves and fortifying their locations in case we came to them). Those that created the posts graciously removed them and offered their support for us and for this operation. Now that it has concluded, we are able to share some of the details.

The officers involved were executing a search warrant for narcotics and, because of some of the initial intelligence on the location, we took additional safety precautions during the incident. This included using “The Beast”, which is actually just an armored personnel carrier used to provide our first-line officers with the highest level of armored protection. In the event that suspects began shooting at officers, this would completely protect them as opposed to body armor or shields, which have weak spots. It also has the added benefit of appearing intimidating and can sometimes lead suspects to comply just by seeing it.

During this operation, officers were able to safely make entry into the residence and detain two individuals without incident. Once the scene was safe, the detectives then executed the search warrant and were able to locate large amounts of marijuana, methamphetamines and other narcotics. They also discovered and seized 18 firearms that were concealed and placed throughout the entire residence. Several of these firearms had also been reported stolen and none of them should have been in the residence.

So although the appearance of “The Beast” in our community may alarm and trouble some, it is a necessary safety measure that protects our officers and is an effective law enforcement tool. Again, I appreciate those that took their social media posts down and am happy to report that our community is safer as a result of this operation which removed three violent felons from our streets.



POLICE BLOTTER

NOT JUST A STOLEN TAG – On May 23rd, Officer Crego was patrolling in the area of East Ponce de Leon Avenue and Central Drive when he observed a Honda Accord with a stolen tag that had eluded himself and other officers over the last couple of weeks. He was able to follow the vehicle until they pulled into a parking lot where additional officers assisted in making a traffic stop. During his investigation, he discovered that the driver had several outstanding warrants for her arrest. Although the tag on the vehicle was stolen, the vehicle had not been reported stolen at that time. While detaining the driver, she advised the officer that she had information on a recent homicide in DeKalb County and wanted to speak with detectives. She was transported to headquarters and spoke with homicide detectives where she provided crucial information on an outstanding homicide. This information produced several additional leads that assisted the detectives in identifying two murder suspects and obtaining warrants for their arrest. Several agencies are now attempting to track these individuals down and bring them to justice.

KEEP CALM WHILE DRIVING – On June 9th, Sergeant Parker was patrolling in the area of Lawrenceville Highway and 285 when he was flagged down by a motorist. The driver stated that he had observed the vehicle stopped at the next traffic light pull out a gun while on the highway and point it at another driver during a road rage incident. The officer caught up to the suspect’s vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. During his investigation, he discovered that the vehicle had been involved in a road rage incident, the passenger was in possession of a loaded firearm and the passenger was a convicted felon. The passenger was arrested and the firearm was seized from the scene.

FATHER'S DAY FOOTBALL: TUCKER'S NEW TRADITION

With the Falcons' improbable run to an NFC Championship this past season, the sports world has taken notice of Atlanta as a force to be reckoned with in the sport of football. Neither the speed, the athleticism nor the talent that catapulted the Falcons to an appearance in Super Bowl LI were on display June 17 at Henderson Park as a group of dads hit the gridiron for the Inaugural Tucker Father's Day Football Game.

The six-on-six flag football encounter was the brainchild of Tucker resident Charla Halverson. Halverson, a mother of four young children, organized the game as an effort to help fathers in the community truly enjoy their holiday with the game they love most.

"My husband always goes above and beyond every Mother's Day and I wanted to do something extra special in return," said Halverson, who publicized the event through the Facebook group Moms of Tucker. "The Moms loved seeing their husbands out there. It was nice to see them doing something on their special weekend they could all enjoy together."

The game ended with the Black team scoring a pair of second half touchdowns to pull away for a 30-14 victory over the White team. The dads now have 364 days to nurse their injuries and get ready for next year's contest.



FROM THE MAYOR

(continued from page 1)

I will note that decisions by our Planning Commission and City Council are based on codified criteria. This is important because if you want to speak in favor of or against a certain plan, you should gear your comments toward those criteria. We've got it all laid out for you on our website.

Generally, this process is going to take about three months. If you keep tabs on our website, social media or you sign up for our email list, you'll always know when the meetings are going to be.

There's one last group that isn't involved in that three-step process, but is equally important: our Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZBA has five members who hear variance cases or appeals of decisions made by our Community Development Director. They are a quasi-judicial board, meaning their decision is final on behalf of the City and any appeal of their decision would go before the Superior Court of DeKalb County.

At risk of repeating myself, I hope you will get involved in the process. Start by attending one of these monthly meetings at our City Hall Annex (4228 First Avenue). While you're there, stop and say hi to a member of our staff or to one of our board members. They can answer any questions you might have. Our tuckerga.gov website is another great tool to help you familiarize yourself with the legislative process. There are some really important decisions to be made in the coming months and years that will impact the long-term future of the City of Tucker. Come and be a part of the discussion!

TEAM TUCKER SPOTLIGHT

Cindy Jenkins - Assistant City Manager



What are the day-to-day responsibilities of an Assistant City Manager?

I manage the daily operations of the City, while working on special projects like the build out of the City Council chambers on First Avenue. One such project that I'm currently working on is identifying software that will make it easier for citizens to interact with the City. I also serve as a liaison between the Community Improvement Districts (CIDs), DeKalb County and GDOT regarding road issues. If you see a pothole or a sign that needs fixing, give me a call and I'll help you coordinate those requests.

You have a unique educational and work background for an Assistant City Manager...

I studied civil engineering at Auburn, then worked for six years as a roadway designer. I took that experience to the City of Roswell, where I oversaw their capital improvement project for four years. I was then hired by CH2M as part of the start-up team for the City of Johns Creek. Over my 10 years there, I was a transportation engineer, capital improvement manager and Deputy Director of Public Works.

Why did you decide to come work in Tucker?

I love City startup. Being a part of the Johns Creek team and seeing that come to life were exciting. It was exciting for me to be a part of Tucker's startup and help the Mayor and City Council to implement their vision. Additionally, this was a growth opportunity for me, in that I was able to move up into a project management role.

What is the best part about working in Tucker?

I love the people: the volunteers who are willing to help whenever and, of course, we have the best staff!

OFF THE WALL

Who was your childhood crush?

Growing up, I watched A LOT of re-runs of The Monkees on Nickelodeon. Who didn't have a crush on Davy Jones?



What's your favorite sport? Auburn football. My husband and I love going back to the games and tailgating.

Favorite movie? Any of John Hughes' movies from the 80s... Breakfast Club, Sixteen Candles, Ferris Bueller's Day Off, Weird Science, Pretty in Pink, Mr. Mom and, of course, the National Lampoon Vacation series.

Have any hobbies? I like to make "interesting" cakes.



TUCKER COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

MAGNOLIA ROOM BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



When a favorite restaurant closes, oftentimes it spurs loyal patrons to find a new haunt. In the case of the S&S Cafeteria at Embry Village, it led one loyal customer to open a new restaurant altogether.

The man who goes by the name “Mister Louis” says the S&S was an institution. “We tried so hard not to have the cafeteria close,” he recalls. “Suddenly we were left with 43 people without jobs and nowhere for the senior community to eat.”

So Mister Louis bought much of the Cafeteria’s equipment, hired most of their staff and opened his own place, Magnolia Room on Hugh Howell Road. “It’s your classic Southern cuisine,” he says, adding “most of these recipes are over 80 years old.”

Boasting traditional offerings like fried chicken, home style meatloaf, fried okra and sweet potato pie, Magnolia Room gives diners from all across Tucker and surrounding areas another option when it comes to cafeteria-style Southern dining. While the recipes may be old, the restaurant is jumping on the relatively recent trend of locally-sourced foods. “We’re proud to say that we’re now partnering with Sherry’s Produce here in Tucker to provide us now with fresh fruits and vegetables,” Louis explains.

Although it’s been open for several months, Magnolia Room held a formal ribbon cutting attended by the Mayor and members of the City Council on June 13. Customers can keep up with their ever-changing menu at magnoliaroomtucker.com or [facebook.com/MagnoliaRoomTucker](https://www.facebook.com/MagnoliaRoomTucker).

CLIFF GATES CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

“Last year I was conducting a monthly clergy meeting when Cliff Gates mentioned trying to host some type of basketball tournament between teenagers and officers to improve that relationship and foster a positive impression of police officers in the minds of teenagers. Everyone thought it was a great idea, but immediately recognized that it would be a big undertaking. Cliff volunteered to look into it and see if it was plausible.

Since that time, he has coordinated with the DeKalb PALS unit, Tucker Precinct, Tucker High School, Tucker Recreation Center, the City of Tucker and was even able to get the Atlanta Hawks to assist and sponsor the event. With the assistance of several volunteers, he scheduled the entire event, which culminated in April at Tucker High School where more than 100 teenagers participated in the tournament. Each three-man team had an officer that worked with them throughout the tournament. Through his efforts, these teenagers were able to play alongside a DeKalb County police officer and had the opportunity to see us as regular people and in a positive light. In a time where officers are routinely demonized in daily newscasts, this event was the chance to show those within the community just one of the many positives that police officers perform on a daily basis.

This was just the latest of many events that Cliff Gates has organized for our police department, all of which have always cast the department and officers in a positive light. He recently had Kroger donate ice cream to feed 1,000 and then coordinated with Tucker Precinct to have officers give them out to students at Tucker High School during lunch for free. He has organized several officer appreciation luncheons at Mountain West Church, where volunteers have fed officers from the entire department for free. He routinely organizes volunteers for the precinct for our holiday events and special projects throughout the year. All of this he does on his own time and for the betterment of the Department. It is for these reasons that I would like to nominate him for the Citizen of the Month in Tucker.”

Nominated by Major G.A. Padrick, Tucker Precinct Commander



BUILDER'S CORNER WITH STEVE HOLDER

RESIDENTIAL RE-SIDING FAQ:



1. Why do I need a permit to re-side my house?

Your permit allows the building department to inspect for code compliance. By ensuring your project meets the minimum building code standards of safety, the building inspection can reduce the risk of fire, structural collapse and other issues that might result in costly repairs. Inspections complement the contractor's experience and act as a system of checks and balances that can result in a safer project.

2. May I, as the owner, do the re-side myself?

Yes.

3. Will my siding be inspected?

Yes, the permit holder must call for possibly a framing inspection (if there was damage to framing), a sheathing inspection, a moisture barrier (house wrap) inspection and a final siding inspection.

4. What is house wrap?

House wrap is a water resistive barrier installed behind an exterior wall covering that is intended to resist water that has penetrated behind the exterior covering from further intrusion into the framing wall assembly.

5. Are there any flashing requirements?

Yes, flashing must be installed over all exterior openings, continuously above all projecting wood trim and at all wall and roof intersections.

6. Are there other requirements?

Yes, the Zoning Department reviews any changes made to the exterior of the home to assure compliance of any local codes. In addition, if your neighborhood has a Homeowners Association, we advise you to contact them prior to making any changes in your exterior covering materials.

TIPS ON HIRING CONTRACTORS

- Hire only licensed contractors.
- Get at least three bids.
- Get three references and ask to see a project.
- Get it in writing, but before you sign the contract make sure you completely understand it.
- Do not make final payment until a Certificate of Completeness (CC) has been issued and you are satisfied.
- Verify the contractor has applied for the required permits.



Steve Holder is the Building Official for the City of Tucker. He has nearly two decades of experience in building inspection.

TUCKER 125TH CELEBRATION

Hundreds of people turned out to Tucker Rec Center on June 24 to celebrate our 125th birthday. The event, organized by the Friends of Tucker Parks, Friends of Tucker Rec, Tucker Historical Society and Tucker Optimist Club, featured live music, food trucks and a hot dog eating contest sponsored by Local 7. *Photos courtesy of Dean Hesse, Hometown News*



GET IN TOUCH WITH US !

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