

CELEBRATING OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

# INTUCKER

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## FROM THE MAYOR

You get a lot of fun opportunities when you're the Mayor of a thriving city. In my two-and-a-half years as Tucker's mayor, I've cut dozens of ribbons for new businesses. I've been a part of events at each of our Tucker schools. I've traveled across the country to look at transportation solutions that could make a difference here in Tucker (see page 2).

Recently, I've had a couple of experiences that really touched me. The first, you saw in the September issue of InTucker. At our August 13 City Council meeting, I got to present a proclamation to Ms. Annie Bell Bailey, the oldest known resident of Tucker's Peters Park community. At 102 years of age, Ms. Bailey has lived about half her life here in the Tucker area.

The second experience was presenting a proclamation to Mrs. Jeanette Davis on September 18, her 100th birthday. Mrs. Davis just moved to Georgia recently. In fact, she lives in The Mansions at Decatur, a stone's throw outside our City limits.

Then, this past Sunday we hosted a block party for our neighborhood. Not only did we have nearly 100 people show up, but they ranged in age from six months to 85 years plus (see page 2).

All happening within a period of about three weeks, these events drove home for me one of the most distinguishing characteristics of Tucker: ours is an area where more and more people are looking to live their whole lives in one place. Whether that's staying in their homes like Ms. Bailey and my neighbors who have lived in theirs for 50 years and more; in an independent living facility like Mrs. Davis; or younger people just starting out, buying a home where they might raise their families and stay for 50 years, our citizens are looking at Tucker as a place to live, work, play and pray for all their days.

What does that mean? It means that we – as individuals, as leaders, as a City government – should embrace our neighbors. We can learn from them, lean on them, and vice versa. When we care for them and care about them, we'll be cared for in return. After all, we hope to be neighbors for a long time! You likely have seniors in your neighborhood, and maybe a younger family, all of whom could probably use a hand. I hope you'll seek these people out. Befriend them. Listen to them. Taking a few minutes to chat with these folks might just brighten their day.

*(continued on page 2)*

## DATES TO KNOW

**October 8**  
City Council

**October 22**  
City Council

**October 25**  
Planning Commission



**Bring your little ghouls and goblins to Trunk or Treat on Halloween, Weds. Oct. 31. Tucker's Main Street will be lined with vendors ready to hand out candy from 4-8 p.m.!**



## CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Our Mayor and City Council held a pair of regular scheduled meetings in September, a rare month where there were no land-use petitions before them.

At their meeting on September 10, Council held a public comment period to gain feedback on the City's ordinance pertaining to fireworks. The City Attorney and City Police Liaison answered questions about penalties associated with illicit use of fireworks, as well as enforceability of potential restrictions on fireworks use. There is no formal proposal before the Council on fireworks, but with recent changes to state law, localities have the opportunity to revisit their own ordinances.

They also voted unanimously to approve funding for installation of four security cameras at Henderson Park. The cameras will be located near the playground parking lot, as well as on the playground, and should be installed later this fall.

At the meeting on September 24, Council approved an ordinance prohibiting people from transporting open containers of alcohol anywhere in the City except for in the case of a special permit associated with a festival. They approved a series of revisions to the Community Development Fee Schedule, a move that is anticipated to be revenue neutral and solely designed to create an easier process for developers and the public. They voted 6-0 to approve a contract with TSW to conduct Tucker's Downtown Master Plan. The effort, whose \$80,000 price tag will be a 50-50 split between the City of Tucker and the Tucker-Northlake Community Improvement District, will show potential buildout options, as well as opportunities for streetscapes and civic spaces in Downtown Tucker. It should be complete around mid-2019.

Finally, Council voted 6-0 to authorize the Mayor to negotiate and execute a contract to make City Manager Tami Hanlin an employee of the City. Hanlin has been Tucker's only City Manager since incorporation and is currently working with the City under a contract with service provider Jacobs.

The next City Council meeting will be October 8 at 7 p.m. at the City Hall Annex (4228 First Avenue).

## TKR TRANSPORTATION



Last month, Mayor Auman joined a delegation of leaders from DeKalb County on a trip to Minneapolis to study the region's successful transportation system. Matthew Lee, Director of the Tucker-Northlake Community Improvement District, also made the trip. Transportation and transit are big factors in businesses' decisions to stay or relocate to a city. That's why trips like this, as well as the ongoing Transportation Master Plan and Downtown Master Plan will be so important for the City of Tucker.

## FROM THE MAYOR

*(continued from page 1)*

After being involved for a while at The Mansions at Decatur, they've started to call me their "adoptive mayor". The residents like it when I come around and visit with them. But you want to know a secret? As much as they may enjoy having their "adoptive mayor" there, I'm the one who's getting the most out of those visits. Don't believe me? Try reaching out to a senior or another neighbor here in our community. After spending some time, I think you'll see how blessed we are to have these people as the past, present and especially our future in Tucker.

## CELEBRATING COMMUNITY



On September 23, nearly 100 neighbors in the Smoke Rise community came together for a "block party". The effort was intended to help neighbors get to know one another better. If your neighborhood has a "block party", send a photo to [info@tuckerga.gov](mailto:info@tuckerga.gov).

# ON THE BEAT WITH LT. SCHOEPPNER

Just over a week ago, DeKalb County's Tucker Precinct changed its boundaries to include the entire City of Tucker, as well as some unincorporated areas. This was one of the conditions set forth by the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) that Tucker and DeKalb County signed back in May. While it is an exciting development, I want to help you understand why this matters.

Before I get into the details about the new boundaries, it would probably be good to give you a brief history lesson. When I started working at DeKalb Police back in 2001, the boundary between Tucker and Center Precincts was I-285. It stayed that way until 2007 when police headquarters, and by extension Center Precinct, moved from Memorial Drive to West Exchange Place in Tucker. Department leaders decided that it didn't make much sense for Center Precinct to not actually be located inside its precinct. This led them to change the boundary line to Henderson Road/Brockett Road. This is where it stayed until last month. Like when headquarters moved, we find ourselves in a situation where it doesn't make a lot of sense for the City to straddle two precincts.

So here we are. You won't see any dramatic differences in your day-to-day police service. You're still calling the same 911 call center. The same operators are dispatching officers. The officers responding to your call will be wearing

the same uniforms. The biggest difference will be what happens behind the scenes.

Proponents of Tucker's cityhood argued that it made sense for Tucker to become a city because a smaller and leaner government was able to respond to citizen's needs in a way the county just could not. The same theory applies here.

With Tucker being served by one precinct instead of two, there is less bureaucracy in the way of solving problems and addressing crime. Increased efficiency is the biggest gain from this move and it should benefit the citizens of Tucker for years to come.



FACEBOOK.COM/SCHOEPPNER  
DGSCHOEPPNER@DEKALBCOUNTYGA.GOV



Mayor Auman spoke with WSB-TV about the innovative IGA the City executed with DeKalb County and the new boundaries that took effect on September 23. (Credit: tuckerga.gov)

## POLICE BLOTTER

### CASE CLOSED

During the spring of this year, the Smoke Rise area of Tucker had been the scene of multiple burglaries. Detectives were able to collect video evidence from some of the victims and eventually received a tip after airing the video on "Crime Stoppers". This tip led to the arrest of one of the suspects, Avery Jones. However, following Jones' arrest, there were still burglaries occurring in the area.

On August 28, Brookhaven Police got into a car chase which ended in the capture of Shamonta Swift. An investigation involving Brookhaven and DeKalb County Police led detectives to believe that Swift was one of our burglars. Upon being interviewed, Swift confessed to several burglaries in the Smoke Rise area and also identified two accomplices. This led to the subsequent arrests of Jonathan Grier and Daunte Jones.

Since the arrests of all these subjects, there have been no further burglary incidents in Smoke Rise. Tucker Precinct detectives are also working to confirm that these subjects are responsible for multiple burglaries in the neighborhoods around Henderson Road. We will keep you posted as we learn more.

# NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS: MAIN STREET THEATRE, TUCKER PARKS & REC ENJOYING A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP



Since its inception in 2014, Main Street Theatre has brought a mix of music, drama and comedy to Tucker's already colorful arts scene. But even with gifted actors, experienced directors and entertaining scripts, any theatre troupe would find it difficult to succeed without a place to call home.

With no actual place to set up on Main Street, one of the first things Main Street Theatre did when they got started four years ago was to reach out to leadership at Tucker Recreation Center. Since that time, they've performed for sold out crowds in a space they've been able to make their own.

"Tucker has many things, but an abundance of stages is not one of them," said Main Street Theatre founder Sabrina Chambers. "We approached the Tucker Rec Center back in 2015 knowing that we didn't have any other options or much money. Their initial partnership and continued partnership through the City transition has been one that the theatre could not survive without."

Chambers isn't the only one who thinks the relationship between the Main Street Theatre and the City of Tucker is a good one.

"This is one of the greatest community partnerships I've ever seen," says Tucker Recreation Center Manager Tom McDermott.

McDermott, a veteran in Parks and Recreation and city event coordination, points to the improvements the two sides have collaborated on to make the Recreation Center feel more like an actual performing space. Chambers says one of the biggest projects was giving the actors an entrance to come from offstage.

"We blew a hole in the wall from the stage to the former unused bathroom that was behind the stage," Chambers recalls. "This was a huge project that required contractors and engineers, as well as a close relationship with Tucker Rec. While the audience may not see the change, it allowed for us to have a backstage and a stage entrance that didn't require us to go through the auditorium side doors."

More recently, Main Street Theatre installed new shades in the performing space to block out ambient light, thus enriching the theatergoing experience. Just last month, they covered most of the cost of installing new electrical circuitry that will provide more flexibility when it comes to lighting for future performances.

"This particular improvement won't be evident to the audience," explains Main Street Theatre Technical Manager Randy Davison, "but for the crew, it saves us about two days' worth of work hanging lights and running extension cords."

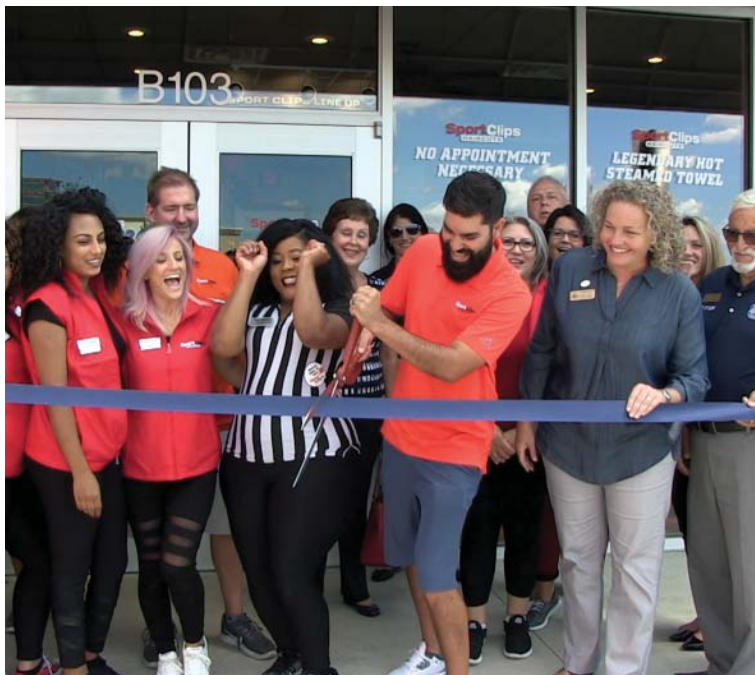
The next big production will be *Sanders Family Christmas*, a musical debuting November 30 at the Recreation Center. Before that, the troupe will be busy with an offsite production entitled *Escapade*. The interactive theater event will take place at various locations on Main Street on October 13 and 20. Tickets for all productions are available at [tuckertheatre.com](http://tuckertheatre.com).



Electricians work on wiring upgrades at Tucker Recreation Center. These electrical improvements will save Main Street Theatre productions countless manhours in the future. (Credit: [tuckerga.gov](http://tuckerga.gov))

# TUCKER COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## BUSINESS OF THE MONTH SPORT CLIPS



Tucker Meridian exploded onto the Metro Atlanta retail scene in 2017, with major corporations like Sprouts Farmers Market, Dick's Sporting Goods and Hobby Lobby signing up to anchor the new development. While those and many other businesses have enjoyed great success in their first year at Meridian, others sat back and watched, waiting to jump in on the few remaining parcels and become a part of the growing commercial center.

One of those companies that pinpointed Tucker as a growth opportunity was Sport Clips. The male-focused haircut chain opened their doors at Tucker Meridian on September 15 to great fanfare.

"Tucker is going to be the third store that I've opened," says Sport Clips manager Monique King, "and I find that this market is something that I've been looking for."

Sport Clips, which is in the midst of an aggressive expansion across the region, caters to clients who want a little more pampering when they get their haircut.

"Our MVP service is a hot steam towel, shoulder, neck and back massage, face massage [and] good quality haircuts," King explains. The biggest draw for their clientele may be the unique opportunity to watch sports while they get their haircut. Nearly a dozen television screens are tuned to ESPN or some other sporting option so that customers can won't miss a minute of the game.

Sport Clips is located at 4320 Lavista Road next to Mattress Firm and Massage Envy. You can find more information at [www.sportclips.com](http://www.sportclips.com).

## CITIZEN OF THE MONTH GEORGE WIEDER



"While I work in Atlanta at the Frazer Center, a nonprofit providing inclusive support services to children and adults with disabilities, I've been a Tucker resident for 20 years. One of our outstanding volunteers, George Wieder, is a Tucker resident. I'd like to nominate him for Citizen of the Month.

George is a friend to many nonprofits. One thing in particular that he loves to do is create themed gift baskets as auction items for fundraisers. George has another favorite pastime; he plays Santa Claus during the winter season. He loves seeing kids light up when Santa walks in the room.

But that Santa spirit isn't just an act. George has the joy-filled giving heart of Santa and that's what motivates him to scour the City for items that might be of use to the nonprofits he connects with. He is a master bargain hunter. He knows what stores to hit on which day of the week to get everything half-off or everything for a quarter. When he lands on a 90 percent off sale—jackpot! His basement is filled with goodies he has found at these basement prices.

"My wife says I shop every day. Sometimes I do," he admits. "You get addicted to finding these things. But when you have these purposes—that's why I love Frazer Center. It gives me a purpose."

*Nomination by Paige McKay Kubik*

# TEAM TUCKER SPOTLIGHT

Alvенеase Jackson - Revenue Specialist



**What is your professional background?** I have a diverse professional background in Operations Management. I bring to the City of Tucker more than 24 years of bank operations and leadership experience. I have more than 10 years' experience as a project assistant, where I have supported executive level managers and project engineers with waste water projects, design and engineering projects and municipal services operations.

**How did you come to work in Tucker?** I came to work in the City of Tucker as a project assistant with Jacobs Engineering Group to support the Finance Department's Business License function.

**What does your job look like day-to-day?** A day in the life of a Revenue Specialist with the City of Tucker is based around customer service. I make every effort to greet each customer with a smile and appreciation because this type of customer service now appears to be a thing of the past. I am the first person our customers see when they arrive at the City Hall Annex for business license inquiries. Our customers arrive with questions about our processes, which are new to them. I make every effort to ensure a seamless process for business licensing. I am pleased when our customers leave with confidence of being compliant with the City's Business and Code Enforcement Ordinance.

## OFF THE WALL

**Where are we likely to find you when you're not working?** When I am not working the front desk of the City Hall Annex, you can find me at a local 5K Run/Walk, a Community Clean Up event or on an adventure completing one of my bucket list items.

**What is your favorite movie?** One of my favorite movies is Mr. Church.

**What is the most exotic place you've traveled to?** The most exotic place was with a team of 12 CH2M teammates to support the organization Bridges to Prosperity. We completed a 60-meter bridge in Rwimvubu, Rwanda.

**What is your proudest achievement?** My proudest achievement was walking across the stage to receive my Bachelor of Science degree, witnessed by my son, my long-time mentor, both of my parents, my four siblings, their spouses, their kids and my three closest friends!

**If your co-workers had to describe you in three words, what would they be?** Compassionate...Team...Player



**What do you enjoy most about your job?** What I enjoy most about my job is the interaction with our customers and helping our customers to unbundle some of the complexities of the Business and Alcohol License Process.

**What is the best part about coming to work in the City of Tucker?** Being part of the customer's experience, when I often hear residents and business owners speak about the pride they have in a community where they live, work and play.



## COMMUNITY CORNER

**10/8 – Atlanta Regional Commission Presents “Diabetes”**

11:30 a.m., 4898 Lavista Road

An informative presentation about diabetes will be free for seniors and hosted at the Tucker Recreation Center. Light snacks will be provided by Sprouts.

**10/9 – University of Government Affairs at Tucker**

7-9 p.m., 4228 First Avenue

The second session of UGAT will focus on economic development and business growth in the Tucker area. Participants must attend five of the six class sessions to get their UGA Tucker diploma, so don't miss out!

# “ASK RIP” ANSWERS YOUR PARKS QUESTIONS

**Sean – I wanted to inquire about where to go to apply for a job at Tucker Recreation Center.**

Sean, we periodically have either full- or part-time jobs come open in the Parks and Recreation Department. When we do, you can find the positions posted at [tuckerga.gov](http://tuckerga.gov) on our “Career Opportunities” page.

Currently, we are in the process of interviewing candidates for the Recreation Center Manager position. I mention this because many of our InTucker readers likely have gotten to know our outgoing Rec Center Manager Tom McDermott. Tom is one-of-a-kind, coming from a background in business and finishing out his career in City recreation. He was integral in getting Tucker Recreation Center up and running as the City's destination for community activity. He led the way in creating rental agreements and fostering relationships with new and existing vendors at the Rec Center.

This month, Tom leaves us to go into retirement. Tucker's loss will be his wife, children and grandchildren's gain. Our new Recreation Center Manager will have some big shoes to fill.



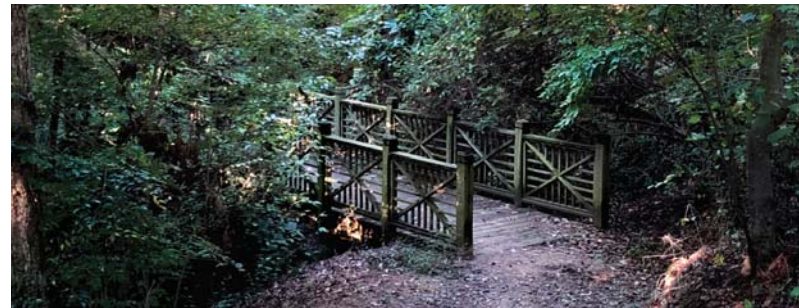
**Barbara Katz – My spouse and I are avid pickleball players and would like to know whether the Henderson Park tennis courts could have pickleball lines painted on them. The cost would be minimal and it would allow people to play either tennis or pickleball on the same courts.**

Pickleball is something that's grown in popularity and we've seen other cities take steps in recent years to give pickleball players a place to play. I will say that we are looking into how Tucker can develop pickleball courts. Using those existing tennis courts is one option, but not the only option. So we have some studying to do before we come up with a long-term answer.

With that said, we are embarking on a Parks Master Plan. Public input meetings are scheduled for October 2 and November 14 at 7 p.m. at Tucker Recreation Center. Ideas for new sports are the perfect type of feedback our consultants will be looking for as we go through this process. Of course, not everyone can make these meetings. Feel free to email us your feedback at [parks@tuckerga.gov](mailto:parks@tuckerga.gov).

**Courtney Smith – Does Tucker have any parks that allow dogs to be off leash? I know a certain handsome fellow who would love to know!!**

Courtney, for safety reasons the City does not allow dogs to run off leash in any of our parks. Being a pet owner and having been here in Tucker for more than a year, I understand that there is a demand for some sort of dog park or a larger, contained off-leash area. As I mentioned in my answer to the previous question, this is the type of feedback we'll want to hear in our Master Plan meetings. I hope you'll be able to join us!



**Last month, Mayor Auman and the City Council authorized the purchase of property at 5707 Hugh Howell Road adjacent to Smoke Rise Park. The purchase will allow the City to expand the 10.5-acre park and create as many as five designated parking spaces for people wanting to use the park. Additional improvements to the park will be discussed during the City's ongoing Transportation Master Plan and Parks Master Plan processes.**

**Rip Robertson is the first Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Tucker. He takes the job with years of experience in Parks and Rec, as well as Public Works. Rip is a former Military Intelligence Analyst for the U.S. Army and is active with the Army Reserve.**



**10/17– Tucker Lifelong Community Meeting**  
7-8 p.m., 4358 Lynburn Drive

Tucker Lifelong Community (TLC) is an initiative led by the Tucker Civic Association to incorporate lifelong community work. Come to this monthly public meeting to find out what new projects TLC has planned for Tucker!

**10/20 – United Methodist Children's Home Flea Market**

9 a.m.-4 p.m., 1967 Lakeside Parkway #400

The United Methodist Children's Home (UMCH) long-standing and popular flea market is free and open to the public. Proceeds of the sale of donated items will help UMCH reach more children and families in crisis in new communities across North Georgia.

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## FALL VOLUNTEERISM IN FULL SWING

On September 15, a team of volunteers from the Georgia Transmission Corporation office in Tucker spent their Saturday giving back to the community with a Rivers Alive cleanup service project. If this sounds like the type of project you would like to help with, Tucker Civic Association is holding a Rivers Alive cleanup event on Saturday October 13 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. To sign up, go to [www.tuckercivic.org](http://www.tuckercivic.org).



## OCTOBER PUBLIC MEETINGS

**OCT. 2**

**Parks & Rec  
Master Plan**

**OCT. 15**

**Transportation  
Meeting**

**OCT. 23**

**Trails  
Meeting**

***PLEASE DELIVER TO:***

