



# INTUCKER

FEBRUARY 2019 | VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 2



## CELEBRATING HISTORY

LONGTIME TUCKER RESIDENTS LOOK BACK ON THE HISTORY OF THE PETERS PARK COMMUNITY

## EDITOR'S NOTE



Since our first issue more than two years ago, *InTucker* had a mission to keep people in the City of Tucker

informed about what's happening in their community. But more than just keeping you informed, we want to keep you connected. We want to help you meet some of the people who are working everyday to make Tucker a better place, whether it's in our schools, our neighborhoods or our businesses. In this month's issue, you'll get a taste of all three.

February is National Library Lover's Month. On page 10, we'll introduce you to the seven women overseeing the Media Centers at our Tucker Cluster schools and let you know why, even in the digital age, libraries are so important to the growth and development of our young people. This is, of course, Black History Month and on page 6 you'll meet some longtime Tucker residents and read as they look back on the racial progress in our community. You'll also be introduced to Ruth Sutley, who at 90-years-old has made it her pleasure to serve you at the Tucker Station Chick-fil-A for 15 years. Find out why she's deciding now to hang up her apron and what her plans are for retirement.

We're so excited to tell you about these amazing people. Maybe you've seen them around Tucker and you already know their faces. Now you'll know their names. You'll also know their stories. So next time you see them, strike up a conversation. It'll be like talking with an old friend.

**MATT HOLMES**  
INTUCKER EDITOR

## IN THIS ISSUE



### From the Cover

Peters Park is one of the oldest neighborhoods in the City of Tucker. Now, in honor of Black History Month, this close-knit community looks back at its roots. Hear their stories on Page 6.



### Library Love – Page 10

They're the unsung heroes in many schools. As we celebrate National Library Lover's Month, get to know the media specialists of our Tucker Cluster Schools.



### Business Boom - Page 8

In his monthly column, John McHenry looks at a recent surge in business coming to one particular corner of Tucker's downtown.



### Citizen of the Month - Page 14

She's made it her mission to let the world know what a great community Tucker is for residents of all ages. Meet Dr. Lois Ricci, our Citizen of the Month.



### Ask Rip - Page 15

Every time a movie or television production shoots at the Tucker Recreation Center, the City gets some money. Rip explains how he and the Parks and Rec staff are putting those dollars to work.



# INTUCKER

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

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# From the Mayor



There are a lot of things I love about owning a small business. Renewing my business license has never been one of them.

For several years, I – just like every other business owner in the area – had to wade through paperwork and calculations to renew my license with DeKalb County and, more recently, the City of Tucker. It can be an exhausting way to start the year: you make the trip downtown, wait with the crowd and eventually make your payment. Unless you're told you made an error somewhere along the way, then you get to go through the whole process again.

While there's nothing I can do to get myself or my fellow business owners excited about the license renewal process, we have made it better and it's going to continue to get better. If you're a business owner who recently received their annual business license renewal letter in the mail, you know that for this year we have moved part of this process online. One of the main reasons for the change is you can now sit at your desk or your kitchen table,

## ***I don't own a business. Why does this affect me?***

The City of Tucker is able to function because of our businesses. This business license renewal process is crucial for us being able to make a budget for the coming fiscal year. It's also crucial to help us ensure we keep the City millage rate where it belongs: at zero.

go to [www.tuckerga.gov/licenses](http://www.tuckerga.gov/licenses) and complete this process whenever you want to, not just during business hours.

In theory, you'll never have to come into the office. For now, this is a two-step process: step one you file your renewal application online, step two our team processes your application and sends you an invoice. Make payment and you're licensed in the City of Tucker.

The process will be a little longer this year, as you'll need to input your business' information and set up your online account. But that's a one-time requirement.

The other thing to know is that this year, for the first time, we'll be calculating your business license fee based on your actual revenue from the

previous year, rather than the old "estimate and reconcile" method. Simply put, this is an easier and more transparent way of calculating your license fee.

I hope you'll give this new online renewal system a chance. We have additional staff in our Business License Department to help guide you through the process. The sooner you're able to file your renewal application, the sooner this process will be complete.

This isn't perfect. Nothing is the first time around. But it's designed to make things easier. Our staff is here to walk you through questions or challenges that may arise; I know, because they had to do it for me.

**FRANK AUMAN**  
MAYOR OF TUCKER



# City Council Update

Tucker's City Council met twice in the month of January, holding several public hearings and casting votes on issues ranging from land use to transportation.

At the meeting on January 14, Council voted 4-2 to approve an amendment to the City's Comprehensive Plan that will allow for construction of a 33-unit townhome complex on Fuller Way. They also cast a series of 6-0 votes to approve:

- an ordinance to regulate donation dropboxes and collection bins in the City
- allocation of \$31,295 for a citywide pedestrian safety study
- a mid-year budget amendment necessitated by higher than anticipated revenues

Council also voted 5-1 to impose a 120-day moratorium on electronic scooters in the City. This is an issue potentially impacting public safety, as well as traffic flow. Council will examine the issue during the moratorium.

At the meeting on January 28, Council saw a presentation of preliminary recommendations on the City's ongoing Parks Master Plan. Barge Design Solutions, the consulting group overseeing the plan, took questions from Council. They will fine-tune the plan and come up with specific financial projections before presenting a final draft of the plan in the spring.

Council also voted unanimously at that meeting to provide funding for Phase One of a plan to build a sidewalk along the southside of Elmdale Road from Fellowship Road to Tucker Industrial Road. Lowe Engineers will execute a survey of storm water structures and utilities along the stretch. The survey and construction documentation, which will not exceed \$34,430, will give the City a shovel-ready project to apply for funding in the next round of Community Development Block Grants.

The next City Council meeting will be February 11 at 7 p.m. at the City Hall Annex (4228 First Avenue).

## DATES TO KNOW

**February 7**  
Downtown Development Authority

**February 11**  
City Council

**February 13**  
Community Council

**February 18**  
Presidents' Day observed  
(All City buildings closed)

**February 19**  
Zoning Board of Appeals

**February 25**  
City Council

**February 28**  
Planning Commission

## TUCKER SOCIAL

Keep tabs on your City Council through our social media channels



 **Nextdoor**

# ON THE BEAT *with Lt. Schoeppner*

*Lt. D.G. Schoeppner is Tucker's liaison to the DeKalb County Police Department and can be followed at [facebook.com/schoeppner](https://facebook.com/schoeppner) or emailed at [dgschoeppner@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:dgschoeppner@dekalbcountyga.gov)*



Back in October, when I wrote in this space honoring Gwinnett County Police Officer Antwan Toney, as well as several DeKalb County Officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice, I never guessed that I would be doing it again so

soon. This time I'm writing about the incident that occurred on December 13 where Officer Edgar Flores lost his life and K-9 Officer Indi was critically injured.

This incident occurred on Candler Road near Interstate 20. Officer Flores was conducting a traffic stop and, unbeknownst to him, the driver had an extensive criminal record and an active arrest warrant. The suspect ran from his vehicle and the officer gave chase. At some point during the chase, Officer Flores was shot by the suspect.



**Officer Edgar Flores**

Courtesy: DeKalb Co. Police

As Officer Flores lay mortally wounded the suspect continued in his attempt to flee. Officers responding for backup converged on the area. K-9 Officer Indi led officers to the location where the suspect was hiding. When they attempted to apprehend the suspect, he shot K-9 Officer

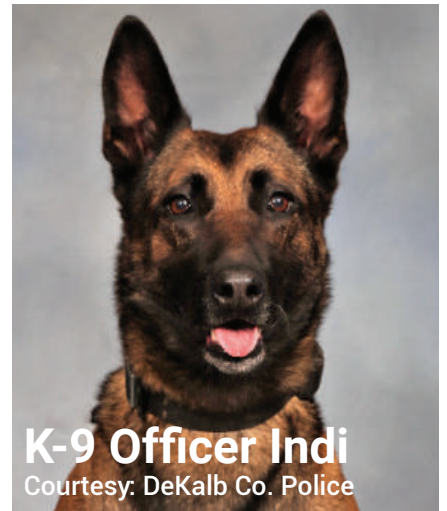
Indi. The suspect was, in turn, killed when officers returned fire.

Officer Flores had been a police officer for 18 months. He was days away from his 25th birthday. He left behind a fiancée, mother, father and brother. He had his entire life in front of him. It was all taken away in an instant

because a career criminal decided he didn't want to go back to jail. Officer Indi was shot in the head during the incident. As a result of his injuries he lost his right eye. It is unknown, at this point, if he will ever return to working the road. This is a sad example of what every police officer faces when they go to work every day.

An average of 141 police officers have been killed on duty nationwide every year since 2010. In 2018, there were 148 officers killed; 59 percent of those were responding to felony incidents. The DeKalb County Police Department has lost 31 officers throughout its history. Including Officer Flores, we have had seven officers killed in the line of duty since I started here in 2001. I can't think of a single person I know outside of law enforcement who can say they have lost as many coworkers on the job.

There is no telling exactly how many lives have been affected by this incident. Obviously, Officer Flores' fiancée has been robbed of the future they had planned together. His family has lost a son and brother. Officer Indi suffered a potentially career-ending injury. Though I don't shed any tears for him, I recognize that even the suspect in this case has friends and family that will feel his loss. When incidents like this occur there truly are no winners.



**K-9 Officer Indi**  
Courtesy: DeKalb Co. Police

# FOUR STREETS

## TUCKER CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH NEW DOCUMENTARY

The history of the Tucker area stretches back almost 200 years. Over that time, the community has had a front row seat to everything from a Civil War to an historic cityhood vote. It also, like most other communities across America, witnessed segregation and discrimination against many of its residents throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

In honor of Black History Month, the City of Tucker Communications Team sat down with several longtime residents who experienced those days, giving them the chance to reflect and share their stories with younger generations. The result is a documentary, *Four Streets*, which focuses on Tucker's Peters Park community. The documentary will debut with a special screening at Tucker Recreation Center in February.

In the film, residents talk about how they've witnessed their neighborhood change over the last 70 years, in some ways for the better and in some ways not.

"I've been here ever since I was born [in] 1947," recalls Mary Ramey Harper. As she sits in her home on Tucker Industrial Road, she looks out at the businesses that have sprung up around her and remembers the way things used to be. "Across the street it was a pasture. It was nothing but trees and fields all around. I remember the dirt roads...and then they started to pave them."

"This street was Ramey Road, which is our dad," Harper's sister Patricia Ramey Smith remembers. "It was Ramey Road for a long time."

"Once they started building the factories and building up here, they changed the name," Harper adds.

Virginia Turks Sharpe was born in the Peters Park community in 1953. The youngest of 10 children, Sharpe shares those same memories of growing up in a close-knit residential neighborhood. She says over the years, she and her neighbors have had to work to preserve the character of the area.

"The goal was eventually for this whole area to be commercial, but we kind of fought against that," she explains. "We went to DeKalb County and fought against that. So, we stopped that from happening in the community. We tried to preserve the area. Some families were offered money to buy their land, but the majority decided to hold onto what they had...because we value this little area right here."

Common themes throughout the interviews included the importance of faith and family to the Peters Park community, as well as what the future holds for one of Tucker's oldest neighborhoods.

Four Streets will be available on the City's YouTube channel following the February 28 premiere.





*Common themes throughout the interviews included the importance of faith and family to the Peters Park community, as well as what the future holds for one of Tucker's oldest neighborhoods.*



# BUSINESS BOOM

by John McHenry, Community and Economic Development Director

The northern end of Main Street Tucker has recently experienced a resurgence of activity with several new tenants, some great retail and food options, along with the renovation of a long-time dilapidated building.

Starting across from Tucker Animal Hospital at 5001 Lavista Road, Georgia Gifts & More sells Georgia-themed items including gift baskets, foods, souvenirs and wedding favors. Started in 2008 as a home-based business, they recently relocated from Doraville to Tucker. Owner Daren Gayle told me, “We chose Tucker because we like the City. The people are very welcoming with great visibility and easy access off Lavista Road.”

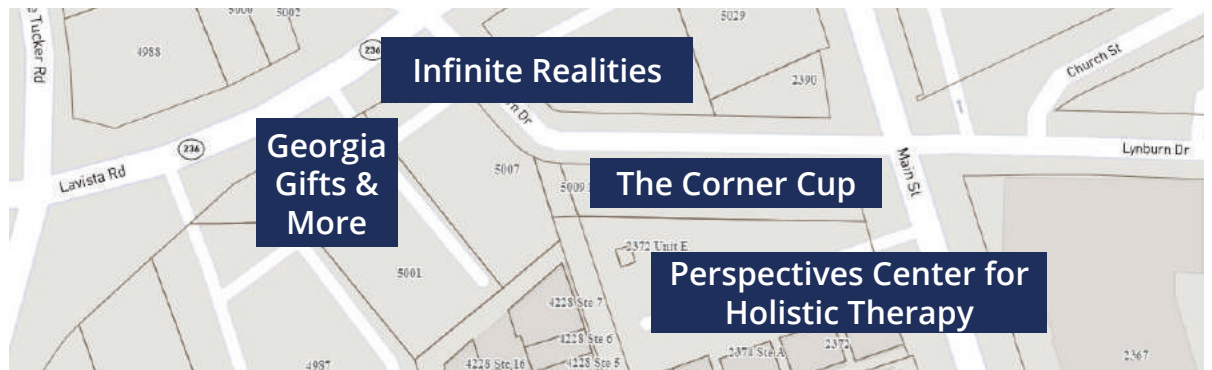
The next property to the east was a property that experienced a substantial renovation at a gateway location. On December 1, Infinite Realities opened at 5007 Lavista Road with a dynamic offering of comics and games. Co-owner Chris Brennaman stated, “We chose Tucker because of the strong sense of community. Having this level of local engagement was essential to our business model. We’re excited with the direction that Tucker’s leadership is taking the City and want to be an integral part of that vision.”

Heading further east on Lynburn Drive, you can grab a cup of joe and delicious pastries at The Corner Cup at 2380 Main Street. It is a community-based coffee shop that offers fresh baked goods and locally roasted

coffee beans that come from Nicaragua. The business started with a successful store at Lawrenceville Highway and McLendon Drive right inside the Perimeter. As co-owner Rich Lavery shared, “We chose Tucker because we saw the amazing things that the City has done in such a short period of time. We believe the vision of the City fits perfectly with our goal of creating a space where people can gather, have a cup of coffee and maybe make a new friend or two.”

Rounding it out on Main Street is a new kind of therapy practice, Perspectives Center for Holistic Therapy, which relocated from Decatur to 2370 Main Street. This practice offers innovative approaches to happy, healthy living for all ages through a wide range of services that includes counseling, speech therapy, parenting coaching, social skills training, nutritional support and free workshops. Owner Laurie Patrice says, “Perspectives has found its ideal home on Main Street in Tucker. We love our renovated offices that we were able to design to meet the specific needs of both adults and children. It’s so fun to be able to walk to the shops and restaurants nearby and our clients love it. We are delighted by the strength and openness of this community.”

This influx of business is happening in just one small corner of our downtown area. And in a very short time! I’m excited for everyone to see the continued economic growth of our downtown area as we go through 2019.





## BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

# THE CORNER CUP



Over the past couple of years, Tucker's downtown has seen additions of unique restaurants and retail options, breathing new life into an already popular district. But last month, Main Street got a caffeinated jolt with the opening of The Corner Cup. The locally-owned coffee shop is looking to fill a void in the Tucker community.

"We decided to open in Tucker because a lot of people wanted us to," owner Michael Vorndran explains. "Our vision is being a hub for the community. So, if it is high school kids hanging out after school, if it is college kids doing their study, if it's a knitting group in here knitting... that's what we want. We literally want people to come here and treat it like their home."

The shop is the second in the area, with the original Corner Cup located on Lawrenceville Highway just west of Tucker. Vorndran says a lot of thought went into scouting out a second location.

"We found what shopping local and supporting local did in our first location, so we wanted to be at a place where we could truly be local, support local, be part of the community...which is why we chose Main Street."

When Vorndran talks local, he means it. He gets coffee

beans from Beanealogy in Poncey-Highland. Baked goods come from Atlanta staples Holeman & Finch and Emerald City Bagels. Gluten and soy-free options are baked by Atlanta's Heavenly Cakes. The shop also features artwork for purchase from Tucker-area artists.

Ownership held a ribbon cutting on January 8 to celebrate their grand opening, but the work is far from done. In the coming months, they plan to expand The Corner Cup into the neighboring parcel formerly occupied by Snyder Cycles.

"The first phase will just be cutting a hole in the wall and joining the spaces and putting [in] seating. The second phase, in the next six months to a year, we'll move the counterspace into the back so it'll be pretty much an open floor plan [with] bigger, community style tables," Vorndran says. "We don't want to take away from what helped us build, which was sort of the *Cheers* of coffee shops, where we know people's names and we know their drinks when they walk in."

The Corner Cup is located at 2380 Main Street. You can find out more about the business on their website [www.thecornercupcoffee.com](http://www.thecornercupcoffee.com).



February is recognized as National Library Lover’s Month. In past generations, the school library was seen as a place for bookworms to dig through a card catalog or silver screen delinquents to spend a Saturday detention. Today, the school library is a high-tech spot, where students can find e-books, magazine downloads and learn to use the internet for research projects.

Even though schools long ago ditched the term “library” in favor of the more technologically inclusive “media center”, *InTucker* went to the media specialists at the seven Tucker Cluster schools to find out what they love most about life in the library.

## **BROCKETT ELEMENTARY**



**Keena McKibbins**

“I am the keeper of knowledge and I share with the students. We have a high circulation of books and every week they come in ready to learn.”

## **IDLEWOOD ELEMENTARY**



**Frances Bishop**

“I love my library because it reflects my student population: it is very diverse and represents the international population of Idlewood Elementary School.”

## **LIVSEY ELEMENTARY**



**Dr. Deborah Sandford**

“The Media Center provides students access to information in a variety of formats and reading levels, as well as leisure reading materials in a carefully curated collection that supports the curriculum.”

## MIDVALE ELEMENTARY



**Rose Konouck**

"I love that children can discover new worlds and expand their horizons even when they have very little. The library is an equal opportunity place."

## SMOKE RISE ELEMENTARY



**Beverly Yang**

"The Media Center is the hub of Smoke Rise. It connects the students to not only what they are learning in class, but also to what is outside the classroom walls."

## TUCKER CLUSTER

### Updates & News

#### Important Dates

- **February 15** – Schools closed for February Break
- **February 18** – Schools closed for Presidents' Day

#### The Brag Sheet

- Brockett received a pollinator garden from Dunwoody Nature Center. Now installed at the school, it will be the meeting spot for the school's new Garden Club in the spring.
- Livsey school secretary Jolene Key was named 2018 Region 2 Educational Support Professional of the Year by the DeKalb County School District.
- The Midvale PTA raised around \$18,000 in the first semester, much of which will go toward extensive renovation of the school's Media Center over the summer break.
- Students from Smoke Rise took home multiple awards at the National Junior Beta Club Convention in Savannah, including first place in the Creative Writing category.
- During the fall semester, Tucker High School expanded its IB program and increased enrollment in its STEM program.

## TUCKER MIDDLE



**Lea Whitfield**

"The Media Center is a place where we encourage learning in a myriad of ways. We bring in outside programs to entice and excite the students about reading."

## TUCKER HIGH



**Roberta Barber**

"The library is all about resources. Whether it is space, books, databases, computers or printing...it is all about resources."

Want to learn more about your Tucker Cluster schools?

Visit [www.tuckerclustercouncil.org](http://www.tuckerclustercouncil.org)!

# It's my pleasure

## LONGTIME TUCKER CHICK-FIL-A GREETER CALLS IT A CAREER AT 90



Ruth Sutley was the typical American worker. She spent 25 years balancing work, life and family before deciding the time was right to call it a career. The longtime dental hygienist enjoyed retirement, involving herself in hobbies and church work, but before long she felt an itch. And that's where she became the atypical American worker.

The 75-year-old fielded a phone call from her nephew, at the time the operator of the Chick-fil-A at Tucker Station.

"He asked me if I knew of anyone who would like to be a hostess," Sutley recalls. "I told him I'd think about it. Well, I thought about it a very short time and came back to him."

At an age when many people are slowing down, Ruth Sutley decided to jump back into the workforce.

She was a natural hostess, spending her shifts refilling drinks and cleaning up spills, but most importantly

brightening the day of her customers. Her nephew took to calling her 'Miss Ruth', a nickname that quickly caught on with co-workers and customers.

"Our customers love Miss Ruth," says Brad Spratte, who now operates the Chick-fil-A at Tucker Station. "There's something about coming to a place where you see the same person and they're there to serve you and they get to know you...they get to know your story and you get to know their story."

After 15 years of making those connections, Miss Ruth sat her bosses down late last year and delivered some difficult news: it was time for her to retire again. Spratte and his wife Deone knew how many lives Miss Ruth had touched inside that Chick-fil-A and couldn't let the opportunity pass without giving her a proper send-off. So, on January 16 the Sprattes hosted a party to celebrate Miss Ruth's retirement and her 90th birthday. Longtime customers packed the restaurant to share memories, give some hugs and let Miss Ruth know how much they would miss her.

"There's been so much love and outpouring for Miss Ruth and for what she has done," Spratte said. "She's meant a lot to a lot of people. She's an inspiration to us all."

Her contributions weren't just appreciated here in Tucker, but at Chick-fil-A's corporate headquarters,

as well. CEO Dan Cathy wrote a letter to Miss Ruth that was framed and presented to her as a going away present. In the letter, Cathy wrote "... thank you for being an example of the purpose and the mission of our brand both inside and outside the restaurant...Your willingness and eagerness to work at Chick-fil-A up until your 90th birthday is both inspiring and encouraging."



While Miss Ruth admits she'll miss her customers at Chick-fil-A, she leaves the job determined to make the most of her retirement.

"There are so many things I haven't had time to do," she explains. "I like to paint...I like woodworking in my workshop."

As for that younger generation that's just reaching retirement age? She has some advice for them.

"Just keep going. Don't stop. You sit down, you die."

Don't expect to see Miss Ruth do much sitting anytime soon.

# TEAM TUCKER *Spotlight*

## NIKKY COLE, ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN



### Off the Wall

**Do you have any hobbies?** I am a crafter at heart. I love creating personalized gifts for friends and family.

**What's your favorite sports team?** I'm ashamed to admit that I don't have one as I don't watch sports often. However, I make a great cheerleader! I would cheer for whichever team my friends tell me to.

**Tell us one thing your co-workers don't know about you...** One thing that my co-workers don't know about me is that I enjoy party planning and decorating.

**If you could pick one spot for a dream vacation, where would you go?** There are many places I would love to go for a dream vacation, but since I can only pick one, I would choose Bali.

**What does an Accounting Technician do?** The Accounting Technician works within the City of Tucker's Finance Department. The Accounting Technician reports directly to the Finance Manager and performs various accounting functions within the Department. That includes processing and recording Tucker's revenues, processing invoices, conducting bank reconciliations and financial reporting. In addition, the Accounting Technician provides support to the business license and procurement divisions.

**How did you arrive in Tucker?** I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance, as well as a Masters degree in Public Administration. In addition to my formal education, I have over 10 years of experience working in the finance and accounting field. I've worked for financial institutions, private entities, as well as government agencies performing accounting and finance functions.

**Why are you so excited about business license renewals going online?** I am extremely excited with the changes that

have been made to the business license renewal process. The addition of the online option will afford business owners a simplified and hands-on approach to managing their business license renewals. It also makes the renewal process more efficient, allowing for accurate record keeping and tracking, and reduces the turnaround time on business license issuance.

**What are the best and worst parts of your job?** The best part of my job is my team and fellow colleagues. We support and encourage each other to perform on a level that produces the best outcome for the City of Tucker. When assisting the business license division, I enjoy establishing rapport with the current and new business owners. There is no "worst" part to my job, however, as with any other job, there are challenges. The Finance Department handles various functions. As a result, tasks vary from day to day. It is important that I maintain a process and streamline my work so that I perform at optimal level. The way I like to look at it, challenges present opportunity for improvement.

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# DR. LOIS RICCI

## CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

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"I would like to nominate long time Tucker resident Dr. Lois Ricci for Citizen of the Month. Lois is a consultant and adjunct faculty member with Kennesaw State University and Clayton State University, where she teaches gerontology courses and the Professional Development in Gerontology Certificate Class. She has also worked with the AARP, Department of Technical and Adult Education, Lifespan Resources, Mercer Senior University and Atlanta Regional Commission, just to name a few. With her extensive and successful background, Lois was a logical choice to chair the Tucker Civic Association's Lifelong Community Committee when she first joined a few years back.

I have never met a person more dedicated and determined than Lois. She has a servant's heart and does what she does, not for accolades, but because she cares and loves her fellow humans. Over the last few years I have had the pleasure to get to know her better each day and I can truly say Tucker is a better place to live because of her and all her hard work.

With her leadership the Tucker Civic Association partnered with the Georgia Department of Health on the Yellow Dot Program. Lois also championed the campaign to join the World Health Organization and their Age-Friendly City Network. It was through her vision and leadership that the City of Tucker earned the designation of an Age-Friendly City.

Thank you, Lois, for all that you do for Tucker!"

*Nomination by Bob Espy, TCA President*

# “ASK RIP” *Answers Your Park Questions*



*Rip Robertson is the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Tucker. He brings to the job 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*

The Ask Rip inbox is full this month...and that's a great thing. It shows people are really engaging with our parks and curious about the direction we're headed. So, without further ado...

**Eliot Robinson – Greetings. I'm looking for some relatively easy walking trails, preferably with some open space to get some sun. Can you point me to a good description of each of the Tucker parks with a list of facilities?**

Eliot, we've got plenty of easy-to-moderate walking and hiking trails throughout our City parks. If you're looking for a longer hike, I would recommend Henderson or Kelley Cofer Park, where you can hike down around the lakes and enjoy some nature. There are heavily wooded, but equally beautiful, trails at Johns Homestead and Smoke Rise Park. Tucker Nature Preserve offers what is probably the easiest hike. While it is through the woods, it starts and ends in a greenspace where you'll have full sunlight.

For a complete list of our parks and what amenities are offered, check out the Tucker Outdoors app on our webpage.

**Bob McOsker - Hi Rip. I noticed that the benches facing the lake at Kelley Cofer Park are anchored to the ground, but have no concrete slabs in front of them. As a result, there are bad, low places in front of the benches that sometimes fill with water from rainfall. Is this something that you can address down the road at Kelley Cofer and, perhaps, at some of the other parks?**

Bob, thank you for the question. This is actually something that is already on our list of projects. We hope to accomplish these pads in the coming year. The goal is to create neater, cleaner areas for citizens to sit and relax in

our parks. Beyond that, we're hoping to bring additional park benches and trash receptacles to the parks, as well.

**Daniela Hazelwood – Any thoughts on using existing park space to convert to dog park/off-leash friendly space? I'd like to suggest looking at Tucker Nature Preserve for a dog park. Is it in any way possible?**

This is one of the biggest questions we've gotten throughout our Parks Master Plan process. That process, which started last October, is now nearing its conclusion. The Mayor and City Council got an update from the project consultants at their meeting on January 28. From there, they'll make a final presentation in the springtime. The Mayor and Council will need to approve a plan and funding going forward. This will happen once they've had the chance to consider the results of our other ongoing plans and studies. But from this process, we're going to be able to see what kind of will there is within the community to build a dog park and what logistical hurdles we'll need to clear to make it happen.

As for converting existing park space, that is certainly something we plan to look at, and not just at Tucker Nature Preserve. You can stay involved and updated on the Parks Master Plan at [www.tuckerga.gov/plans](http://www.tuckerga.gov/plans) or just email us at [parks@tuckerga.gov](mailto:parks@tuckerga.gov).

The last question I want to address this month actually came to me as part of my presentation last month at Tucker's University of Government Affairs. We had to move the class session at the last minute because of some filming happening at Tucker Recreation Center. So, logically, someone asked what happens to the money the City makes off film shoots at the Rec Center?

All rental fees generated by the Rec Center are part of our revenue budget. We have worked hard on making improvements and are grateful to our City leaders for continuing to support our efforts. The money we've generated has allowed us to propose additional repair and maintenance funding from the City Council to continue to improve both our Recreation Center and parks facilities. We're talking about small items like paint touchups to big items like new HVAC units. So, it is a win-win.

# TUCKERGA.GOV

CITY OF TUCKER - 4119 ADRIAN STREET, TUCKER, GA 30084  
678.597.9040



## Community Corner



### 2/8-9 – Roald Dahl’s Willy Wonka Jr.

Times Vary by Day, 5901 Hugh Howell Road

Smoke Rise Academy of the Arts Elementary Cast presents this beloved classic. Admission is free of charge for all four shows.

### 2/14 – Senior Valentine’s Social

11 a.m. – 2 p.m., 4898 Lavista Road  
It’s another first for Tucker’s Parks and Recreation Department! Seniors, come out for a delicious barbecue lunch and be ready to dance the day away. Tickets are available at Tucker Recreation Center - \$10.00 for singles and \$15.00 for couples.

### 2/16 – Valentine’s Day Benefit Soirée

7 p.m., 4985 Lavista Road  
Celebrate Valentine’s Day with your honey and help your community, too! Enjoy live music, dancing and dinner. Proceeds benefit your neighbors in financial hardship through NETWorks Cooperative Ministry. Adults only, please.

PLEASE DELIVER TO: