



CELEBRATING OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

# INTUCKER

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## FROM THE MAYOR

When we decided last fall to have a family photo made, it was a lot more complicated than you might think. Sure, there were the logistical challenges of getting our daughters and sons-in-law all in the same place at the same time, keeping our dog Cooper still during the picture, even worrying about whether or not it would rain.

But the biggest question was 'where to shoot?' Do we go to Henderson Park, where my father-in-law was instrumental in getting funding for the tennis courts? Do we shoot outside Tucker Rec Center, where Browning Courthouse represents generations of our city's history? In the end, we chose Kelley Cofer Park and, as you can see above, it was a perfect backdrop for our family photo.

The point is Tucker has some fantastic parks. The City is now embarking on the very important process of assuming responsibility for these gems of our community. Let's be honest – Tucker's parks haven't seen the type of upkeep, attention and love that they deserve. Sure, our amazing volunteer groups have broken their backs to try and keep up with the needs of these parks, but that can only go so far. From a government perspective, there's been a certain level of neglect. That's one of the reasons so many of you voted for cityhood.

The days of our parks being neglected are coming to an end. The City has hired Lowe Engineers to do an in-depth study of our parks and recreation facilities, including a survey of what you want to see prioritized. While jobs like slapping a new coat of paint on park benches are an obvious need, we'll be leaning on Lowe to help us with much bigger priorities like studying the integrity of the dams at Henderson Park.

Assuming responsibility of the parks is a big step and is more complex than it might seem, but it's a promise we made during the push for cityhood and a promise we intend to keep right now. As we get ready to roll up our sleeves and take this on, please look out in the coming weeks for opportunities to have your say in the future of our great Tucker parks.

## DATES TO KNOW

March 8  
Community Council

March 13  
City Council

March 14  
Tucker Tomorrow  
Steering Committee

March 16  
Tucker Tomorrow  
Community Forum

March 21  
Zoning Board of  
Appeals

March 23  
Planning Commission

March 27  
City Council Meeting

[tuckertomorrowplan.com](http://tuckertomorrowplan.com)



What makes Tucker unique?

What do you want to see  
change in the future?

Answer these questions and  
more on the Tucker Tomorrow  
Survey!

**TUCKERTOMORROW  
PLAN.COM**



# CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Tucker’s City Council used the month of February to address some existing business in the City, as well as to look ahead to the future.

On February 6, Council held a work session, where they got an update on the preliminary survey results from the Tucker Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan.

They also talked with staff on a 90-day work plan. This work plan addresses some of Council’s top short-term priorities, including coordinating with DeKalb County on intergovernmental agreements (IGAs), moving forward on the buildout of a City Hall annex on 1st Avenue and developing an emergency plan in conjunction with county officials.

At their regularly scheduled meeting held on February 13, they approved a contract with Lowe Engineering to conduct a study on Tucker’s parks. They also voted 6-0 to give final approval for Mt. Moriah Baptist Church to build a 14,500-square foot family life center at their property on Brockett Road.

Council finished out the month with a public information session on Comcast internet service. It was organized by the mayor and Council in response to numerous complaints from the community about the cost and reliability of the service that Comcast is providing.

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Monday March 13th.



City manager Tami Hanlin and Council member Bill Rosenfeld get a briefing on emergency response plans from Chief Sue Loeffler, director of DeKalb Emergency Management Agency.

# TUCKER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMING INTO FOCUS

“Tucker Tomorrow” has officially passed the midway point.

The effort to develop a new comprehensive plan took another step forward on February 16, when residents received a report on the “needs and opportunities” presented by preliminary community survey results. Representatives from The Collaborative, the firm heading up the comprehensive plan, have been collecting and analyzing community input since last November.

Ed Shoucair, president of The Collaborative, led a presentation which looked closely at how best to maximize Tucker’s strengths: the downtown/Main Street corridor, our parks and the strong sense of civic involvement.



“There’s just an enormously high level of participation in Tucker,” Shoucair told the crowd. “It adds up to this wonderful, intangible quality of feeling, of connectedness we normally call community and you guys [have] got that.”

The presentation looked at ways to make Tucker more walkable, especially along Lavista and Chamblee Tucker Roads. It explored the importance of Tucker’s industrial corridor as the financial backbone of the community. It also underscored the importance of prioritizing maintenance on Tucker’s parks and recreation center.

While initial findings are still being presented, there is opportunity still for Tucker stakeholders to make their voices heard.

“We want to hear from you,” The Collaborative’s Angela Parker told the audience. “We hope you’ll continue to stay engaged in this process because it’s very important.”

You can fill out an online survey at [tuckertomorrowplan.com](http://tuckertomorrowplan.com) and make sure to attend the next “Tucker Tomorrow” meeting on March 16 at First Baptist Church of Tucker.

# ON THE BEAT WITH LT. SMITH

On January 27, we had several people mention on social media that police had Lavista Road closed at Oak Avenue (between Lawrenceville Hwy. and Main Street) and were curious as to what was going on. Unfortunately, we were on the scene of a pedestrian that had been struck by a vehicle as she attempted to cross the street. She was rushed to the hospital for treatment, but tragically her wounds proved to be too severe and she did not survive.

As heartbreaking as this is, we hope by discussing it we can prevent this from happening to someone else in the future.

Last year DeKalb police officers responded to 438 pedestrians that had been struck by vehicles. Of those, 363 resulted in injuries and 22 of them were fatal. Many of these could have been prevented had pedestrians obeyed the laws or simply followed some basic safety practices.

First and foremost, if you need to cross the street you should ALWAYS use a crosswalk. Additionally, most of the new crosswalks have signals for pedestrians. You need to push the walk button where you're at and wait for the signal to indicate that it is safe to walk. If you cross without having the walk signal, you are still in violation and could be walking in front of traffic that has the legal right of way.

In the event that there isn't a crosswalk in your area, you should cross at an intersection and, if it is after dark, you should use one that is well lit. The pedestrian is still required to yield to all vehicular traffic in this case. If you know you are going to be crossing the street at night, you should wear reflective, or bright clothing and bring a flashlight with you if you have one.

Finally, when walking adjacent to the street, you must use the sidewalk if one is present. When there isn't one, you should walk along the shoulder as far away from the roadway as possible. In the event that neither is available and you have to walk along the street, you should ALWAYS walk on the left side of the road, against traffic. This is so that you can see approaching traffic and can quickly react, if necessary.

By following these simple rules, you will be safer in your walking journeys.



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

## POLICE BLOTTER

**CAMERAS SEE EVERYTHING:** On February 13th, an astute business owner on Mountain Industrial Blvd. observed a suspicious vehicle in his parking lot on his surveillance system. After watching the thieves break into his vehicle, he jumped into another vehicle and followed the suspects' truck while calling 911. He was able to give a good description and location to the dispatcher and maintain a visual until police stopped the vehicle. Officers were able to take three occupants into custody and recover more than \$6,000 in cash from the suspects that had been stolen. Through additional investigation by our detectives, it was discovered that the suspects all had multiple arrests for entering autos and are most likely related to at least 6-10 additional thefts in the area.

**UNMARKED POLICE CARS:** On February 17th, due to a high number of entering autos in the area, officers were utilizing an unmarked vehicle in an attempt to locate criminals in the act. While patrolling business and apartment parking lots, an officer witnessed a juvenile male breaking into a vehicle. He immediately requested assistance and, once uniformed officers arrived on the scene, he was able to direct them to the suspect's location, where he was promptly arrested. During the course of the investigation, it was discovered that the suspect already had an active warrant for his arrest and had property on him from several other entering autos. His arrest is expected to clear an additional 5-8 entering autos in the area.

**DON'T MESS WITH MOM:** On February 3rd, officers responded to a burglary call off of Jeri Lynn Court. When they arrived, the homeowner stated they had interrupted a burglary at their house and had obtained the tag number from the suspects' car. A quick check of the tag led officers to a nearby location where they found the vehicle and its registered owner. The owner stated that her son had borrowed her car earlier in the day but was now at a friend's house. She quickly called her son and demanded that he return home at once. He arrived soon thereafter and, once officers confirmed he was the culprit, he was arrested and charged with the burglary. The victim's stolen merchandise was also recovered and returned.

# TUCKER HAS HEART FOR HISTORY



## BROWNING COURTHOUSE HEART BOMB

A good crowd showed up for the Tucker Historical Society's inaugural "Heart Bomb" for historic Browning Courthouse. THS members and supporters joined together to create homemade valentines to express their appreciation for this well-known Tucker landmark. Thanks to Christy Robnett Atkins for coordinating the Heart Bomb for Browning Courthouse!

Browning Courthouse, circa 1860, was also open for visitors of all ages to see the special collections of Tucker Historical Society.

To learn more about the Tucker Historical Society and their efforts to preserve Browning Courthouse and the current "Drop in the Bucket" campaign, visit them online at [tuckergahistorical.org](http://tuckergahistorical.org) and also on Facebook.

# TEAM TUCKER SPOTLIGHT

**Shalonda Brown - Administrative Assistant**



## OFF THE WALL

**What's the TV show you never miss?** Grey's Anatomy.

**Which celebrity do people say you look like?** Actress Angela Robinson or singer Kelly Price.



**What is one thing your co-workers don't know about you?** Many of my co-workers don't know that I have a 23 year-old daughter who is in college.

**What's the one accomplishment you're most proud of?**

I am most proud of my contribution to the startup of this wonderful city. It takes hard work, dedication and a great attitude and I am truly honored to be a part of it.

**What was your work experience before coming to Tucker?** Prior to Tucker, I worked for Florida State University as a Membership Coordinator, a job which involved training volunteers for live pledge drives, planning TV pledge events, processing all donor contributions and fulfillment of thank you gifts. I have also worked within local government for more than a decade handling customer accounts, revenues and financial services.

**What does your day-to-day workload look like?** On a typical day, I open and distribute mail, monitor and respond to emails from our call center representatives, verify daily deposits, enter invoices, deal with revenues and administrative duties, and serve as the point of contact for facility issues. I also work on special projects for council as needed.

**How is Tucker unique from other cities you've worked in?** Tucker is unique because it is a smaller city and it allows you the opportunity to wear multiple hats, which is a great learning experience and allows for growth opportunities.

**What is your favorite thing about working in Tucker?** The people. We have developed the type of relationship here at City Hall that mirrors a family. I think that is how I would describe the City. From the Mayor, on down to the council, staff and citizens everyone embraces each other in a friendly and respectful way.

## CITY COUNCIL ATTENDS ALDI GRAND OPENING

# VIEW

### TUCKER CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

Grocery chain Aldi became the latest business to join in the economic development boom happening in Tucker, as they opened a store last month at Northlake Square. See more by clicking the YouTube channel link on our website.



# TUCKER COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

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



## BUSINESS OF THE MONTH ROSE DENTAL

After spending much of her life traveling the world, Dr. Zina Aaron's journey has led her right here to Tucker. A native of the former Soviet Union, Dr. Aaron has practiced and taught dentistry in New York, Miami, Atlanta and now she's opened Rose Dental at 4459 Lawrenceville Highway.

Rose Dental may be brand new in town, but they're already leading a push for innovative dentistry. They offer patients in need of orthodontic help "Fastbraces", a new approach to braces that has people done in months rather than years.

A mother of two, Dr. Aaron also has a passion for helping children. She is organizing several days throughout the year where she will offer free preventative dental care to low-income families here in the City of Tucker.

Rose Dental opened last December, but is planning a formal grand opening and ribbon cutting on Thursday, March 2.

## CITIZEN OF THE MONTH ERIC MCCASKILL

"Welcome to a brand-new day!" These are motivational words you may hear from Eric McCaskill after finishing a workout at Eric's Fit Lab. While Eric has been a prominent fitness instructor in Tucker for the last seven years, his contributions to the City of Tucker extend far beyond. Not only does he believe in building a stronger, better body, he strives to build a stronger and better community. During the past year, Eric has supported numerous community events such as Tucker Day, Taste of Tucker, Beat the Badge, Trunk or Treat and the Chili Cook-off. He organized the first annual 5K road race in conjunction with the Taste of Tucker. Monetary proceeds benefitted Networks Food Pantry.

As a military veteran, Eric is a proud advocate of the police and military. He has strong family values and challenges his family and clients to give back to the community. During the past few months, Eric and his wife Amy have collected food for Networks Food Pantry, adopted local families for Christmas and donated toys to the Battered Women's Shelter.

Eric is inspired by super heroes like the Avengers and the Justice League who fight evil and injustice. Like these heroes, Eric McCaskill champions groups and activities that make Tucker a great place to live."



*Nominated by Mel Knight, Cathy Pierce, Lavonne Randall, Kelley Samaras, Peggy Shell and Debbie Timms*

# BUILDER'S CORNER WITH STEVE HOLDER

## FAQ ON: RESIDENTIAL RE-ROOFING

1. **Why do I need a permit to re-roof my house?** Your permit allows the building department to inspect for potential hazards and unsafe construction. By ensuring your project meets the minimum building code standards of safety, the building inspection can reduce the risk of leakage, 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-roof myself?** Yes.
3. **Will my roof be inspected?** Yes, the permit holder must call for a Sheathing inspection and a Final Roof inspection.
4. **How many layers of roofing are allowed?** Two layers are allowed; however, we recommend removing the old layer.
5. **Is drip edge required?** Yes, drip edge requirements were added to the Code in 2012.
6. **Is Ice Barrier required?** No, this region of the country has no history of ice forming along the eaves.
7. **What should be done with existing roof jacks and vents?** These must be raised to the level of the new roof and replaced if they are in poor condition, badly rusted or otherwise deteriorated.
9. **Do these rules apply to Insurance covered repairs?** Yes, regardless of the reason behind the work, current codes shall be met.



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

# MAYOR AUMAN ADMINISTERS OATH



Mayor Frank Auman administered an oath last month to four men who will serve the City of Tucker in varying capacities: Building Official Steve Holder, Building Inspector Mike Sargent, Code Enforcement Officer James Duncan and Community Council Member Thomas "Tommy" Lupo.

Holder has 18 years of experience in the building inspection field. He comes to Tucker as Building Official after most recently serving the community in Roswell.

Sargent is a 15 year U.S. Army veteran, who has two decades of experience in construction. He comes to Tucker as Building Inspector after spending the past three years in Peachtree Corners.

Duncan holds an Associate's Degree in Environmental Service Management from Milwaukee Area Technical College. He comes to Tucker as Code Enforcement Officer after a six-year career in code enforcement in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Lupo is the newest member of Tucker's volunteer Community Council. He is a self-employed instructional designer and technical writer at Wolf Technologies. An Atlanta native, Lupo holds a degree from Texas Tech University.

## GET IN TOUCH WITH US !

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