

CELEBRATING OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

INTUCKER

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FROM THE MAYOR

Merriam-Webster defines the word community as “people with common interests living in a particular area”. If you want to see how Tucker defines community, you don't want to miss Tucker Day on May 13.

Our brand-new, 125 year-old city boasts a diverse populace, with folks of every age, race and religion. We have many citizens with deep roots, and many others who have only recently planted themselves here. But we all recognize and hold dear the fact that we live in a community where neighbor is connected to neighbor like no other place I know.

Tucker Day has always been a shining example of that. Our little city of 33,000 puts everything on hold for one day to march in a parade, see old friends, enjoy great local music and food, and celebrate the community we love.

This year, Tucker Day will be on Saturday May 13. I'm proud to say the City of Tucker will have a booth, but that's really where our role as city officials ends. Tucker Day – just like Taste of Tucker, the Chili Cook-Off, Christmas on Main, the Cruise-Ins and all our other great events – is put on by Tucker's business and civic groups and their volunteers. The City is here to help and be a part of the fun, but after 125 years it's YOU who know how to throw a party to celebrate this great town.

And on that note, this will be a special Tucker Day, marking 125 years since a railroad and a post office put Tucker “on the map”. As you walk through downtown and enjoy all that Tucker Day has to offer, I hope you'll take time to notice and think about some of the rich history of our community. I'm sure the folks at the Tucker Historical Society – another of our great volunteer groups – would be glad to help you learn about all that it took to get us to where we are.

In looking deeper into the word community, there is an alternate definition that caught my eye. It mentions “joint ownership or participation”. We all own this city. You own it. So do your kids, your neighbors, the shopkeeper on the corner and the big manufacturer hidden in an industrial park. It's for all of us. And with everyone's participation, we make this a compassionate, connected community that we are rightly proud to call home.

I look forward to seeing you on Main Street at Tucker Day.

DATES TO KNOW

May 1
City Council Work Session

May 8
City Council

May 9
Tucker Tomorrow Steering Committee

May 10
Community Council

May 12
State of the City Address

May 16
Zoning Board of Appeals

May 18
Tucker Tomorrow Community Forum

May 22
City Council

May 25
Planning Commission

May 29
Memorial Day
(City Hall Closed)



CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

City Council held a pair of regular called meetings in April, laying the groundwork for a busy month of May.

One issue the Council discussed was a change to the City sign ordinance that would prohibit the so-called “feather signs” used by certain businesses. This was debated over a first read at the April 10 meeting, but no vote has happened yet.

They also held a pair of discussions about a possible Downtown Development Authority (DDA). A DDA, if instituted, would be an appointed body focused on spurring redevelopment in the City of Tucker. The discussions held on April 10 and 24 surrounded what the boundaries of a Tucker DDA would look like. This is another issue that is being studied and there has not been any action taken.

On the annexation front, Council voted 6-0 to approve a petition

by the newly-renovated Masters Inn. The hotel sits just inside the Perimeter on Montreal Road. They also held a first read of an annexation petition for five properties on and around E. Ponce de Leon Ave. on the south side of the City. A final vote on that annexation will likely happen at the City Council meeting on May 8.

Mayor Auman also presented a proclamation declaring April 24, 2017 to be Tucker Historical Society Day. The proclamation came 125 years to the day that the first train rolled through what is now known as the City of Tucker.

Finally, the Council held their first meeting at their new dedicated meeting space, the City Hall Annex, at 4228 First Avenue.

The Annex will have a formal grand opening on May 12 from 1-3 p.m. Mayor Auman will deliver the first-ever State of the City Address that afternoon at 2 o'clock.



Mayor Auman presents a proclamation to Trish England, Matthew Lee, and Kathy Powell of the Tucker Historical Society on April 24th.

TUCKER MERIDIAN BLOSSOMING THIS SPRING

For Tucker shoppers, the Meridian Shopping Center at Lavista Road and Northlake Parkway has long been a source of interest. From the excitement of groundbreaking to the announcement of anchor stores and tenants, the project has been watched closely from day one.

This month, Tucker’s newest shopping destination becomes a reality.

Dick’s Sporting Goods and Hobby Lobby will open their doors in May, following the late April openings of Sprouts and DSW. Ross Dress for Less is targeting an opening on June 19.

Along with the five anchor stores, the development will feature casual dining options like Newk’s Eatery, Jimmy John’s and Einstein Bros./Caribou Coffee. There are no announced opening dates for those businesses.



“Meridian is a huge plus for the City of Tucker,” said Community and Economic Development Director John McHenry. “This is the first major development that’s been built out since we became a city. Now to see it come to fruition is really exciting and I think it’s just the start of some great commercial and residential investments that will be happening along Northlake Parkway and in the City of Tucker.”

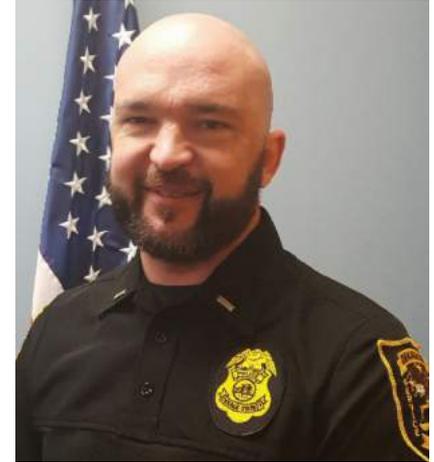
Tucker Meridian, which sits just feet from I-285, is the biggest, latest example of developers looking to capitalize on the location and demographics of our Tucker community.

ON THE BEAT WITH LT. SMITH

On March 30 of this year, many of us were shocked to hear that part of I-85 had collapsed due to a fire and would be closed for several months. This incident obviously dominated the news stations, as it affected a majority of the city. Unfortunately, this story drowned out another tragic incident which led to the first homicide of the year for the city of Tucker.

According to witnesses, a black 2012-2015 Nissan Altima was observed aggressively following and terrorizing Gerald Lovell Tisdale II as he was driving his Jeep Cherokee. As the vehicles passed Mountain Industrial Boulevard on Highway 78 eastbound, the Altima pulled alongside Mr. Tisdale and a passenger discharged a handgun at the victim. His Jeep Cherokee immediately left the roadway and struck a retaining wall, catching fire. Several motorists stopped to render assistance and Mr. Tisdale was rushed to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

This case is still open and under investigation by our Homicide Unit. Anyone with information can contact Crime Stoppers Atlanta anonymously at 404-577-8477 to leave your tip and be eligible for a reward.



DRIVER SAFETY TIPS

I would like to take this opportunity to go over a few things that we all can do to avoid similar situations like this. First and foremost, avoid actions that routinely enrage other drivers. These would include:

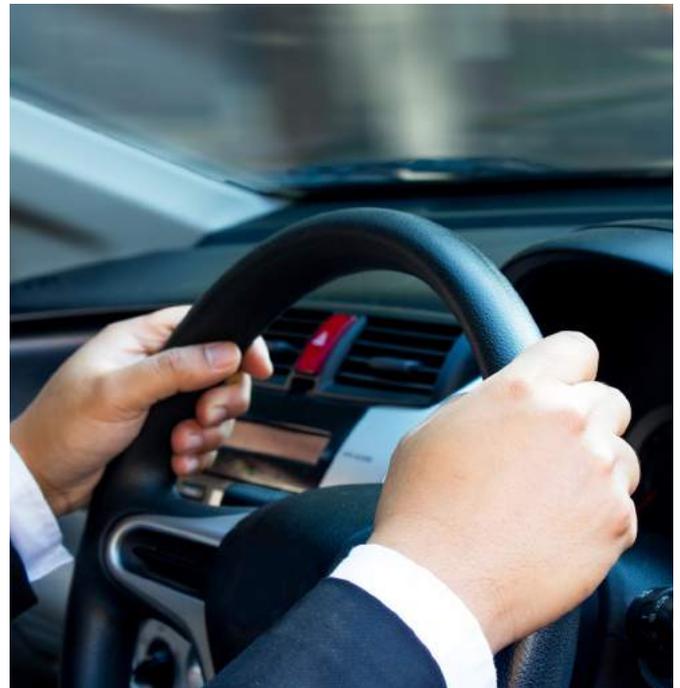
- cutting vehicles off
- driving slowly in the left lane
- tailgating
- blocking the turning lane
- not using your turn signal
- using obscene gestures

Additionally, there are several things you can do to keep yourself from becoming upset at other drivers and escalating the situation. These would include:

- leave early, allowing yourself plenty of time to arrive at your destination
- listen to music that makes you happy or calms you down
- avoid distractions (i.e. cell phone, eating, reading, applying makeup)
- avoid using your horn unless absolutely necessary

Finally, if you find yourself in a situation that's turning hostile, there are several things you can do to de-escalate the situation. These would include:

- move over if someone is tailgating you
- use an "I'm sorry" gesture (waving)
- avoid eye contact
- resist the urge to retaliate
- slow down and allow the other driver to pass
- if none of this works, contact 911 for assistance or go to your nearest local police station



We all want to get to our destination as quickly and safely as possible, but nothing is worth losing your life. Please be careful and drive safely!



COFFEE WITH A COP

DeKalb County Police officers enjoyed breakfast with Tucker citizens on April 25 at their 'Coffee with a Cop' event at the Northlake Festival Chick-fil-A.

MAIN STREET THEATRE DEBUTS NEW MUSICAL

The talents of Tucker will be on display this month as Main Street Theatre brings its production of "Smoke on the Mountain" to the Tucker Recreation Center.

The play, written by Connie Ray and conceived by Alan Bailey, tells the story of a 1930s family of gospel singers in Mt. Pleasant, North Carolina who are coming to grips with their mother's death.

"It is a show that is very well-known throughout the south," explains the play's director Maria Karres-Williams.

Karres-Williams has a wealth of directing experience, but never at Main Street Theatre. She says leading the troupe in its first musical production is an honor and a challenge.

"Directing a musical is a whole other beast entirely," she says. "You have to develop characterization and relationships, but then you also have music, the logistics of choreography, what instruments are played. It's just a whole other level of considerations."

The play will run for two weekends from May 12-21, and in spite of the sad premise, the audience is in for a night of singing and laughter.

"There will be very tender moments, but I would say this is more of a comedy," Karres-Williams says. "The audience actually doubles as

members of a gospel church, so they will be given printed music and encouraged to sing along."

Between cast and crew, this is a 30-person production, with rehearsals three days a week for the past three months. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. with a set of 2:30 afternoon matinees also scheduled.

Tickets range from \$10-\$15 and can be purchased at tuckertheatre.com. You can also find information on the site about Main Street Theatre's partnership with Main Street eatery M572 for pre-show meal.



Maria Karres-Williams will direct Main Street Theatre's production of "Smoke on the Mountain"

Tickets available at tuckertheatre.com

TUCKER INTRODUCES NEW APP

Before the June 20 special congressional election in the Sixth District, check out our new Tucker Votes app to find out which district you live in.

Go to tuckerga.gov today!

TUCKER OTES

TEAM TUCKER SPOTLIGHT

William Wharton - Code Enforcement



OFF THE WALL

What was the first concert you attended? Hampton Jazz Festival 1982 featuring George Benson & B.B. King. I was only 12 and went with my parents.



Favorite food? Seafood, flounder and Chesapeake Bay blue crabs.

Is there a quote that defines you?

Matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul."

- "Invictus" by William Ernest Henley

What led you to get into Code Enforcement? I was doing an internship with Fulton County Planning & Zoning when I was offered to apply for a position with Code Enforcement in Sandy Springs.

What is the biggest misconception about Code Enforcement? That I personally can "make people" do something. Code Enforcement is a legal process that includes notification, courts, and case law.

Best and worst parts of your job? Seeing the physical transformation of blighted properties. On the other side, managing conflict and competing interests.

Why did you decide to come work in Tucker? I was looking forward to a new opportunity.

Tell us about your family ... I am married and have a 12 year-old daughter

TEAM TUCKER IN THE COMMUNITY

Assistant City Manager Cindy Jenkins leads a STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) activity with Pre-K students at Tucker First United Methodist Church Preschool.



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 May newsletter, email us at 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

GROWLER TIME TAPAS AND TAPS

"I'm here to sell beer, but then also give really good food behind it."

Those words mark a change in course for Chris Cordero, the owner of Growler Time on Main Street. Cordero, his family and friends gathered on April 13 for a ribbon-cutting as they rebranded to "Growler Time Tapas and Taps in Tucker". In addition to the wall of taps that loyal customers have grown accustomed to, Cordero will now serve Spanish-style tapas. The menu includes offerings ranging from meats and cheeses to Marcona almonds. It's a cuisine that is new to diners along Main Street.

For more information on this new downtown dining option, you can visit the website at growlertime.net.

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

JAMES JACKSON

As a parent and former teacher, I feel that we have been fortunate to have Mr. Jackson as our THS principal. In the years I've known him, I have witnessed his sincere care for our students and their families. He sets a high bar for all our children and encourages each to challenge his/herself academically, socially and in extracurricular activities. Mr. Jackson is always available to meet with parents to hear concerns and problem-solve solutions. He works to reach families who are difficult to engage due to socioeconomic, language barriers or other issues.

Perhaps Mr. Jackson's best attribute is the way he leads our students by example. Even during conflict, Mr. Jackson seldom, if ever, raises his voice, instead encouraging respectful dialogue. He tackles problems with thoughtfulness and honesty. He leads without ego, sharing praise with the faculty and students. He quietly and effectively has created a supportive environment where all the students feel that they belong to something bigger than themselves.

Tucker High students are some of the most polite, respectful and involved kids around. This is in part due to Mr. Jackson's influence. He has helped create a positive future for our City and is leaving behind some mighty big shoes.

Nomination by Jennifer Winterscheidt



BUILDER'S CORNER WITH STEVE HOLDER

BUILDING PERMITS AND WHY YOU NEED THEM



Summer is a great time for home improvement projects, and with the popularity of all the home fix-it shows and house flipping reality programs, the City of Tucker is experiencing a large number of permits for this type of work. The Building and Safety Department is reminding homeowners to understand rules regarding building permits before embarking on common remodeling projects.

A permit is generally required for remodeling projects that involve changes to the building's existing footprint, wall configuration, electrical, plumbing or mechanical/HVAC systems. You are likely to need a permit for any project that goes beyond a simple repair or aesthetic upgrade such as:

- adding walls or taking down supporting walls
- adding a pool or a porch/deck
- replacing the roof, siding, windows, and decks
- backyard shed
- basement finish
- concrete sidewalks, driveways and slabs

There are two major reasons why a homeowner needs a permit on projects, the first is because when a permit is filed, city officials will inspect the work completed at different stages to ensure the work complies with current safety and health building codes. The second, and most significant reason, is it protects the homeowner's investment they are making to improve the property.

The code states, "Any owner or authorized agent who intends to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, the installation of which is regulated by this code, or to cause any such work to be done, shall first make application to the building official and obtain the required permit."

For questions, please contact the Building Permitting Department at 678-597-9040.

FORMS AVAILABLE AT TUCKERGA.GOV



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

SEEN AROUND TUCKER



Executives at the Ricoh facility on N. Royal Atlanta Drive give Mayor Auman and Economic Development Director John McHenry a tour of their cutting-edge operation.



Students in Ms. Xiques' ninth-grade Government class made PowerPoint presentations on a 10 year plan for the City of Tucker. The projects were done in conjunction with the 'Tucker Tomorrow' Comprehensive Plan process at Tucker High School.

GET IN TOUCH WITH US !

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