

# INTUCKER

DECEMBER 2021 | VOLUME 5 | ISSUE 12



# IT'S SHOWTIME

NEW, LARGE SCALE PRODUCTIONS SHOW  
TUCKER IS IN DEMAND IN THE FILM INDUSTRY

## EDITOR'S NOTE



And so we've reached the end of the year. Typically when we get to this point, we find ourselves looking back on the successes and

challenges of the past 12 months. What went right? What could we have done better? Was it a good year overall?

Instead of looking back on 2021, however, I've recently found myself reflecting on the past year in terms of how it compared to 2020. I think we're all still a little bit scarred from the worst year that any of us has ever lived through. Through that lens, 2021 was a pretty good year. In this month's magazine, we're going to end the year on a high note and look at some of the exciting things happening in our community as we prepare to flip the calendar.

For example, with COVID cases on the decline, the film industry has really ramped up here in Tucker. Unless you're living under a rock, you saw all the commotion on Main Street last month as Pierce Brosnan and other Hollywood royalty spent a whole week filming scenes for a movie right in our downtown. On page 6 you'll hear from the woman who coordinates a lot of that movie magic and find out why so many productions are choosing Tucker as their backdrop.

We're also helping families and individuals in need. As we move into the new year, we are working with our partners at NETWorks Cooperative Ministries to provide financial assistance to those who need it most, courtesy of the American Rescue Plan. Do you or one of your neighbors need some support during a difficult time? See if you qualify for assistance on page 9.

And the good news goes on and on. As bad as 2020 was, 2021 was pretty decent. And 2022 promises to be even better in the City of Tucker!

**MATT HOLMES**  
INTUCKER EDITOR

## IN THIS ISSUE



### ON THE COVER

All the world's a stage and lately that stage has been located quite a bit here in Tucker. On page 6, find out how film production crews are choosing our city as their preferred backdrop.



### BUSINESS BOOM

Just when you thought it didn't get any bigger than winning at Taste of Tucker, the Tucker Meat Market team goes and snags a world accolade. Read about their triumph on page 8.



### SAYING GOODBYE

She's shaped thousands of young lives through her decades of work at Tucker Middle and Tucker High Schools. Now, on page 10, read what's in store for Dr. Kathy Cunningham as she calls it a career.



### FOOTBALL MOM

Since moving to Tucker, her contributions to the local schools have been immense. Get to our Citizen of the Month on page 13.



### ASK RIP

Have you already packed on some holiday pounds? On page 15, Rip shares some ways the Tucker Parks and Recreation Department can help you shed the extra weight!



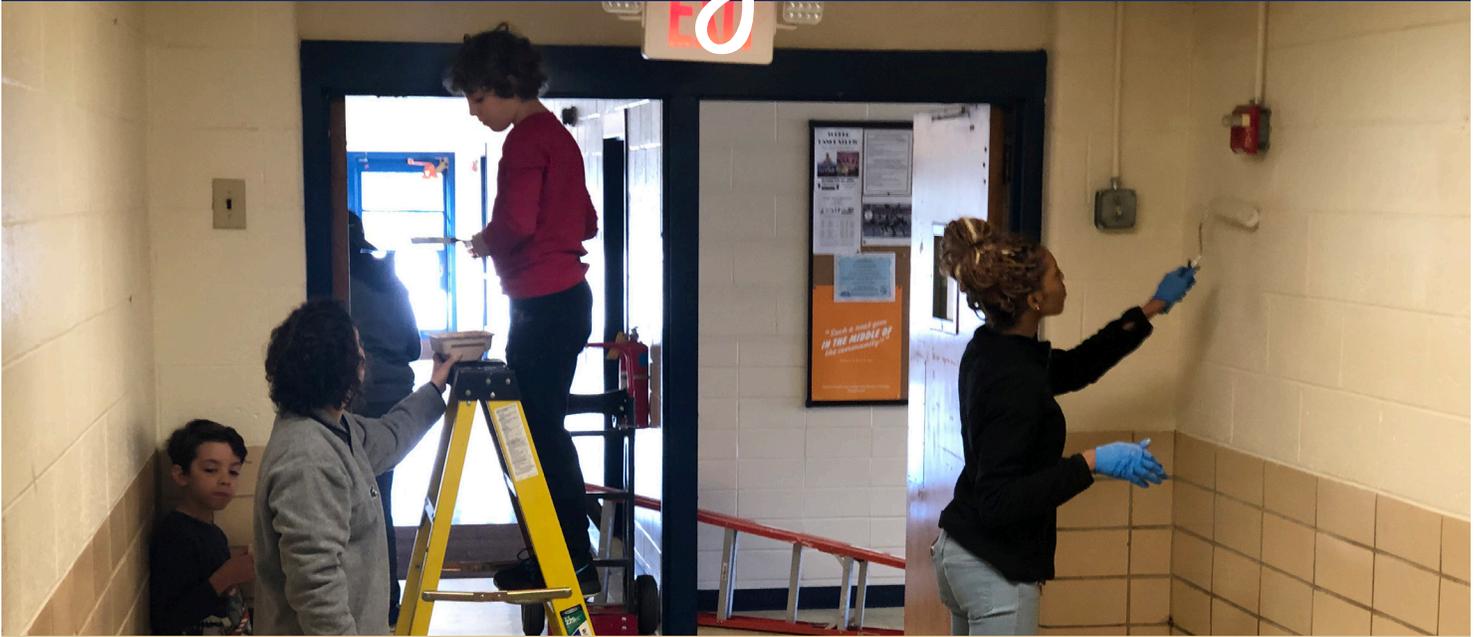
# INTUCKER

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 12

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# From the Mayor:



December is known for a lot of things, but one way I have always heard it referred to is as “the season of giving”. If you think about it, that term means something, especially here in Tucker. Growing up, society and popular culture condition us to focus on what gifts we *receive*. As we mature in age and in the way we think and see the world, though, many of us start to think about the gifts we have to *give*. It doesn’t mean you have to be wealthy; giving of one’s time or God-given talents can mean just as much as opening up your wallet. And if you’re like me, you’ve learned you always end up getting back more than you give when you volunteer.

One of the things I have loved about Tucker since we moved here so many years ago is the giving nature of our people. Tucker is truly unique in that regard. It predates cityhood, it predates me and, more than likely, it predates you. For more than a century, neighbors have come together to make Tucker a better place, to lift up the least and the lost among us. We help friends. We help complete strangers. Think about this: up until the mid-1940s, communities all across the state, including Tucker, even ran their own schools! It’s what we’re called to do, and it’s what we’ve come to call the Tucker Way.

Why is that important? There are certain things that government cannot do for us. It cannot check in on a sick neighbor. It cannot give an elderly friend a ride to

the grocery store. It cannot meet the many human needs among us – only people can do that.

A question I often hear is “Okay, I want to volunteer but I don’t know how or where?” Our city is so flush with active volunteer and civic groups that it really isn’t hard to find your niche. Visit [tuckerga.gov/volunteer](http://tuckerga.gov/volunteer) for a complete list of groups who are working in our area. For example, you can reach out to Tucker Civic Association to see how you can help with one of their volunteer events. Give the Tucker Optimists, Lions or Rotary a call to check on their upcoming outreach efforts. Volunteer through the schools. Get your hands dirty with one of our Friends of the Parks groups. Get involved in your Homeowners or Community Association. There really are an endless variety of ways to connect and contribute.

Tucker would not be what it is today without the diligent work of our volunteers. It is my hope that you will find your own way to give back. What better time to start than during this season of giving?

**FRANK AUMAN**  
MAYOR

# City Council Update

Tucker's Mayor and City Council met twice during the month of November, dealing with a laundry list of agenda items, while also welcoming a new member to the Council. That new member, Virginia Rece, won a special election on November 2 to replace Councilman Bill Rosenfeld, who passed away in January. Rece was sworn in at the meeting on November 8.

Also at that meeting on November 8, Council voted to approve an ordinance creating an entertainment district in downtown Tucker, as well as setting new standards for sidewalk dining. They then approved a request to defer a special land use permit petition by Chick-fil-A to relocate their Tucker Station location across the street to the site once occupied by The Greater Good Barbecue. The deferral will allow the applicant to continue to work on traffic and other considerations associated with the project.

Council then held a slew of public hearings on matters including:

- requested major modifications to approved conditions for a townhome development at 3281 Tucker Norcross Road. The petition seeks to allow for more rentals in the development.
- a requested major modification to approved conditions for a

drive through facility at the new development at the intersection of Hugh Howell Road and Mountain Industrial Boulevard.

- a special land use permit request for a massage establishment at 2088 Idlewood Road.
- city-initiated rezonings for eight properties in the area of Richardson Street and East Ponce de Leon Avenue.

These issues all came before the Mayor and City Council on first reads, meaning no votes were taken.

On November 22, Council held a work session and special called meeting. During the work session, they were briefed on several items, most notably the results of the City's pavement condition study. Council will soon decide which streets will be repaved in the upcoming 2022 SPLOST-funded road resurfacing campaign. At the special called meeting, they cast several votes including awarding a contract for the Chamblee Tucker Road lane diet and a contract for the replastering of the city pool at Kelley Cofer Park.

The next meeting of the Mayor and City Council will be on Monday December 13 starting at 7 p.m. at City Hall.



Virginia Rece was sworn in on November 8 as the second person to ever hold the seat of City Council District 1 Post 2. She succeeds the late Councilman Bill Rosenfeld. (Credit: tuckerga.gov)

## DATES TO KNOW

**December 1**  
Traffic Court

**December 6**  
Downtown Development Authority

**December 8**  
Traffic Court

**December 13**  
City Council

**December 15**  
Municipal Court

**December 21**  
Zoning Board of Appeals

**December 17**  
Environmental Court

**December 24 & 27**  
Christmas observed  
(City Hall closed)

**December 31**  
New Year's Day observed  
(City Hall closed)

## FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



**nextdoor**



# ON THE BEAT with Lt. Berg

*Lt. J.W. Berg is Tucker's liaison to the DeKalb County Police Department and can be contacted by email at [jwberg@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:jwberg@dekalbcountyga.gov) or by phone at (678) 597-9040.*

With the holiday season finally upon us, and all the joys and stresses that come with it, I'd like to take a few moments to remind everyone of one simple step they can take to reduce their chances of being a crime victim while out shopping or eating dinner.

As you can imagine, over the course of my career I've had the opportunity to respond to a wide variety of situations involving criminal acts. While certainly not the most important crime in the books, one common crime that has disturbed me is what the State of Georgia defines as 16-8-18, Entering Automobile (more typically known as a "vehicle break-in"). Again, while generally not a crime that endangers human life, these vehicle break-ins affect their victims in deep and disturbing ways.

I think of all the reports that I have taken or reviewed that documented the damage caused when a suspect forces their way into a vehicle. These broken windows or damaged door locks are costly to fix, both financially and in terms of the amount of time and energy it takes to get them repaired. Imagine, for a moment you are from out of town, traveling through the City on your way to visit a family member for the holidays. You come out to find your vehicle with a broken window and your belongings strewn about inside. Where do you take your car to get fixed at 9 p.m., particularly if you unfamiliar with the area?

More disturbingly, I think of all the reports I have read over the years that describe the items that are frequently stolen during these vehicle break-ins. One recent report I read documented a local waitress who came outside during her break to discover her vehicle with a broken window. Unfortunately, inside the

trunk of her vehicle, she had left several thousand dollars in cash, intending it to be a loan to a friend in need. Sadly, the cash was missing, along with her wallet containing her driver's license, Social Security card, and several other important documents. While most of the documents can be replaced (with much time and effort), what cannot be replaced is the stolen cash and the missed opportunity to help a friend.

Unfortunately, during the holiday season these vehicle break-ins increase, with many of us busy thinking of other things besides securing our belongings. It is imperative that we do not leave any valuable items inside our vehicles when not attended. As you can see from the example above, even placing valuables inside a trunk or glove compartment does not provide sufficient protection. I know you have heard this before, but I want to reiterate: Do not leave anything of value inside your vehicle. This includes the keys to your car. While this simple step may not guarantee your vehicle will not be "entered", it does guarantee that nothing other than perhaps some loose change will be taken.

If you would like some additional tips on how to reduce your chances of being a victim of an Entering Automobile or other property crimes, I encourage you reach out to Tucker Precinct's 2019 Civilian of the Year, Public Education Specialist Donna Mann. Mrs. Mann is always available to speak with you about your personal or community crime concerns. She can be reached via email at [dsmann@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:dsmann@dekalbcountyga.gov) or via her direct line at (678) 937-5339. If you do reach out to her, be prepared to make a new friend! We are lucky to have her working with us at Tucker Precinct.



Public Education Specialist  
Donna Mann (credit: [tuckerga.gov](http://tuckerga.gov))

On behalf of Tucker Precinct Commander Major Medlin, his Command staff, and all the officers and staff members of Tucker Precinct, we would like to wish everyone a happy, safe, and crime-free holiday season.

## **POLICE BLOTTER**

### **POUR ONE OUT**

On November 1, Tucker Precinct officers responded to a dispute call in the front parking lot of Tucker Precinct. Upon their arrival, the officers met with the driver of a Chevy Equinox, who claimed that his passenger had poured beer on him after an argument while they were driving to the Walmart. What the driver didn't know was the Assistant Precinct Commander had been watching as the vehicle entered the parking lot, the driver poured a can of beer out his window, and then threw the can on the ground.

Officers subsequently conducted a DUI investigation on the driver, utilizing the Standardized Field Evaluations (SFEs). This was the first – and hopefully the last – recorded DUI arrest that occurred on the property of the Tucker Precinct.

# READY FOR OUR CLOSE-UP

## TUCKER AND DEKALB COUNTY SEE BOOST IN FILMING WITH NO END IN SIGHT



Tucker City Manager Tami Hanlin meets Pierce Brosnan on the set of "The Out-Laws". (Credit: tuckerga.gov)

Tucker can range from traffic to snakes to "what was that boom"? The myriad of topics keeps residents endlessly entertained and engaged with one another across any number of Facebook groups. But last month there was exactly one topic on anyone's mind: the movies.

Netflix and Happy Madison Productions chose Tucker's Main Street as the spot to film scenes from the upcoming Pierce Brosnan film "The Out-Laws". With cast and crew set up on Main and filming for an entire week, it was the largest scale production Tucker has seen since it incorporated as a city. Amidst movie prop shootouts and chase scenes, locals were able to sneak a peek at some of their

Hollywood experience.

Contrary to what some may think, film production teams don't just show up to a city and decide to start shutting down roads. They first call the DeKalb Entertainment Commission (DEC), the group charged with coordinating multimedia production throughout many of DeKalb's cities, as well as its unincorporated areas. The DEC team has been working with film crews and the municipalities where they shoot since the body's incorporation in 2016.

"Initially, when we started, I was in economic development," recalls DEC Director Shelbia Jackson. "I had to do research. I reached out to the Georgia Film Office. I talked to industry

professionals [and] economic development partners. I reached out to the City of Savannah, who had a film commission before us. I visited Film Los Angeles, then provided all of that research to the county commissioners and the CEO."

Jackson has been with the DEC since the very beginning, helping film location scouts to find locales for television shows, small indie films, and Hollywood blockbusters like "Black Panther". During her time, Jackson says DeKalb County has become the biggest film destination in the State of Georgia, and Georgia has become the third most popular state for filming in the United States.

"We have a number of diverse locations in the County [attractive] to the location scouts," Jackson shared. "They know who we are now. They know we are open and welcoming and they know exactly who to call to address their needs."

Jackson's impressions are backed up by the data. Taking out the anomaly of the COVID year of 2020 where film production ground to an almost complete halt nationwide, a comparison of 2019 and 2021 shows how productions are booming in Tucker and throughout DeKalb County. Film revenues for the

DEC are up 4.3 percent year over year, while the number of film productions has jumped 15.8 percent. The number of permit applications the DEC has received is up an even 16 percent.

Beyond the raw numbers, these productions actually have a value to the economy countywide. The Atlanta Regional Commission and DEC estimate that over the next three years more than 10,000 jobs will be created by film and television productions in DeKalb County. Further, they estimate an economic impact for the County in 2021 in the neighborhood of three-quarters of a billion dollars. And Jackson only sees this trend growing.

"I envision us growing bigger," she explained. "I have a vision for creation of studios for our students, jobs they can jump into right away. You don't have to be a director. You can be a screenwriter or something else behind the scenes."

For folks in and around Tucker, it's a fun and unique experience to be in the spotlight. And the growing film industry more than likely will be the focus of town talk in Tucker for years to come.

*You can follow the DeKalb Entertainment Commission on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @dekalbentertain.*



# TUCKER FILM HOT SPOTS

ACCORDING TO THE DEC, THERE ARE A HANDFUL OF LOCATIONS WITHIN TUCKER THAT FILM PRODUCERS AND LOCATION SCOUTS JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF!

- HUGH HOWELL RD.
- TUCKER REC CENTER
- MAIN STREET
- EAGLE ROCK STUDIOS
- STONE MOUNTAIN IND. PARK
- SMOKE RISE NEIGHBORHOOD



# BUSINESS BOOM

by Angela Brooks, Business Outreach Coordinator



This fall, the Atlanta area has quickly gone from “lovable loser” to “titletown”.

Sure, the Atlanta Braves

brought home the World Series, but what we’re talking about is Tucker Meat Market’s huge showing at the World Food Championships (WFC).

Andrea Woolf, owner of Tucker Meat Market, recently returned from Texas where she and her team took fourth place, in the world for burgers; not in Tucker, not in Atlanta, not in Georgia, but in the world! WFC is the largest competition in Food Sport, where grand champions of previous events convene for a chance at winning the ultimate food crown and a share of hundreds of thousands of dollars in prize money.

“You’re already up against the elite of the elite once you’re there, so even the opening round is against the top chefs and cooks in the industry,” Woolf explained. “It’s game’s on, right out of the gate.

“I only lost it by 1.41 points, that’s how tight it was between fourth and first place. I could easily have taken first place, but the judges took a more simplistic burger. You never know exactly what they’re looking for, but there’s always room to grow as a competitor.”

The WFC is a five-day, outdoor cooking competition that brings top chefs and home cooks from all over the globe to battle it out for a Category Champion title and \$10,000. There are ten categories from bacon to steaks, and the whole point is that you go into your category and try to make the top 10. The

10 Category Champs will move on for a shot at the World Food Champion title and an additional \$100,000.

Woolf took first place of the top ten best burgers in the world with her Southwest Chili burger, a vegetarian delight that she had never created prior to this competition. In addition to a medal and a certificate, she was also awarded a nice cash prize.

“It wasn’t about the money, I actually forgot about that part of it,” she admitted. “For me it was about the thrill of it, really. The end goal is just to do what I can do, and a win puts your name out there. I’m known now on that circuit.” She added that this particular event has produced over 75 Food Network-type stars.



Woolf took ownership of Tucker Meat Market nearly a decade ago, but it wasn’t in her original plans.

“It kind of fell in my lap. I was actually in school for nursing,” she said, adding she was initially asked to “help out” but eventually bought out the previous owner. With no background as an

entrepreneur and no experience in running a restaurant, “I just went with it,” she said.

Now she’s proud to say that everything they do at Tucker Meat Market is from scratch. “I smoke my own briskets, we grind our own meats, it’s my own particular meat blend I put in the Mammoth Burger.”

Like most businesses and restaurants, Woolf said they’re still dealing with the impacts of COVID-19.

“We were very blessed early on, but now it’s starting to affect us with the shortages and the pricing, so right now I’m taking it day by day. But I am looking to expand maybe not the meat market itself, but open up more of a restaurant so I can offer sit down and then the meat market will be in the commissary or the supplier for it.”

Woolf credits her very loyal customer base for the Market’s success and longevity.

“When I first took this over, it was a struggle for years, but I always refused to go down in quality to get the sales,” she shared. “So I chose to struggle instead of compromising, and it’s paid off” in what she described as a good foundation to incentivize her to move forward and give her customers the opportunity to enjoy her gourmet specialty burgers through a quality in-restaurant experience.

“Food is a creative outlet to be able to see people smile or, you know, putting something out there that you know people will enjoy.”

As she continues to delight customers, Woolf will also delight in her championship-caliber performance and look ahead, relishing the opportunity to improve next year on the world stage.

# HELPING HAND

## TUCKER PARTNERSHIP PROMISES TO BOOST RESIDENTS IN NEED

While the worst of the COVID pandemic seems to be in the past, there are still lingering effects from the virus. For some, it's a physical manifestation, while others feel mentally taxed. And yet there is another group that the City of Tucker is now looking to help: those who are feeling the financial effects of the pandemic.

According to the Pew Research Center, 47 percent of low-income adults in America say they are struggling to save money since the pandemic started. That means that when unexpected expenses come up, a medical bill or broken appliance, families don't have that emergency fund to dip into. It's leading some to fall behind on their rent and other household bills.

Understanding that reality, Tucker's Mayor and City Council decided earlier this year to earmark \$1.2 million in federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for residents who find themselves in such a bind.

"As soon as President Biden announced the ARP funds, we began to prioritize how best to put this money to work in the community," said Assistant City Manager John McHenry, who is overseeing distribution of the money. "I think it is telling that the very first move we made was to direct these funds to residents in need. The City saw a crucial need and we responded in a prompt manner with a trusted partner."

The City is partnering on the project with Tucker-based NETWorks Cooperative Ministry. It's a close relationship that got even closer last year when the two sides collaborated to distribute almost \$1 million in federal CARES Act funds. This time around, the mission is the same.

"We hear from people every day who are falling behind on their utility bills or, even worse, their rent or mortgage payments," explained David Fisher, the Executive

Director of NETWorks. "Some families have rebounded financially and are doing just fine. But it's important for everyone to remember that there is a large number of people who lost their jobs or had their hours cut as a result of the pandemic. We need to continue to work to help those folks get through this very challenging time."

Fisher predicts that, with the amount of need in the community, the \$1.2 million will go fast. But it's just the latest way to show how the City of Tucker and its nonprofit partners are stepping up to look out for all members of the community.

*If you are in need of financial assistance and meet the criteria for the American Rescue Plan program, go to [www.tuckerga.gov/arp](http://www.tuckerga.gov/arp) for more information and to apply.*



NETWorks has a team of professionals working out of the Tucker Recreation Center to ensure funds are disbursed as smoothly as possible. (Credit: tuckerga.gov)

## WHO QUALIFIES?

If you meet the following criteria, you can apply to NETWorks for assistance from the allotment of federal ARP funds:

- earn less than \$49,440 (for a single household), +\$6,600 for each additional member of the household
- have a demonstrated financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
- housing and/or utility arrears incurred between March 15, 2020 and February 28, 2022

# CALLING IT A CAREER

## LONGTIME PRINCIPAL STEPS ASIDE, REFLECTS ON IMPACTFUL STINT AT TMS



Things have changed in education since Dr. Kathy Cunningham began her career four decades ago. Back then, students weren't issued Chromebooks at the start of the school year. "Cracking the books" actually meant flipping through pages of a particular text. And "social media" was pretty much limited to passing notes in class.

One thing the longtime Tucker Middle School principal says has not changed are the children.

"The technology has changed tremendously, but students overall are pretty much the same," Cunningham explains. "The majority of students want to learn, want to be recognized. They want you to care about them. Even

though the factors that affect the kids are different than when I started back in the 1980s, the kids are the same."

Cunningham is set to retire from her post at Tucker Middle at the end of the month. She leaves as one of the longest tenured employees of the DeKalb County School District, having put in 37 years of service. Many of those years were spent just across Main Street as a math teacher at Tucker High School. Although she inspired students, served as department chair and even won a Teacher of the Year award, Cunningham feels that administration is where she was able to make her greatest impact.

"It's even more satisfying [than teaching]," she says. "I love the

classroom, but you only affect those few students...180 kids maybe the whole year. Becoming a principal, you get to touch the lives of the community, the parents, the staff members. You can have more of a vision in looking at what can we build a school to be."

Cunningham is clearly conflicted about the decision to retire. She feels the time is right with a brand new grandchild, one-month old Christian Samuel. She stands ready to travel the world, do some tutoring and become more involved in her church. It's all the things she says she's wanted to do.

Still, she gets emotional thinking about moving into this new phase and leaving behind her "family".

"I have been really blessed to have the best bunch of staff members. They have just been so caring, just caring about kids," she reflects. "And the kids...I'm going to miss the kids, the staff members, the community, [Region II Superintendent Trenton] Arnold and the DeKalb County Public Schools. That part is the bitter and the sad part."

And the community she loves, loves her right back. Thousands of parents have entrusted their children to Dr. Cunningham over the years and they say her respect for those students is what made her such an effective leader.

"Dr. Cunningham created an environment where students, teachers and staff are supported and encouraged - with high expectations that everyone achieve their best," says former Tucker Middle School parent and current City Councilmember Michelle Penkava. "I am so grateful that my daughter and son were part of the Tucker Middle School family under Dr. Cunningham's kind, caring and successful leadership."

As Cunningham looks back over a career which started back in 1982, she does so with pride. The two years teaching in North Carolina, the year in Cobb County Schools and the nearly two decades at Tucker High School were all foundational. But it's the time spent transforming Tucker Middle that she is proudest of.

"You have to love children," she says. "The middle school student is a little bit different. There are a lot of needs. You have to be a person that looks for the good in the student. You have to make sure you do all you can to make students successful and make sure they learn at the highest levels."

The DeKalb County School District sent Cunningham out on a high note earlier this year, tapping her as the Region II Principal of the Year. And as she walks out the door for the final time, it's just one of several career accolades that take a backseat to her greatest accomplishment: the transformation of young lives.

# Tucker Cluster

## Updates & News

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### December 13

Board of Education Meeting

#### December 20-31

Schools closed for Winter Break

## BRAG SHEET

### BROCKETT ELEMENTARY

- The Brockett PTA has initiated the "FBI" program, which stands for Fathers Being Involved. Dads will begin helping students and teachers by facilitating arrival and dismissal each day outside the school.

### IDLEWOOD ELEMENTARY

- Idlewood held its first-ever STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) Day on November 12. They also held Math Night on November 18.

### LIVSEY ELEMENTARY

- On October 22, the Livsey PTO presented its inaugural Movie on the Green. It was a big success with over 200 families coming out to watch a movie under the stars! It was the first time since the pandemic Team Livsey has been able to be together as a family.

- Livsey's 2021 Whooo's Reading Fundraiser saw students read 152,834 minutes, raising over \$24,000 for the school's PTO. Students far exceeded the goal of \$15,000, meaning Principal Pickett had to kiss a pig!

### MIDVALE ELEMENTARY

- Students and teachers at Midvale showed their commitment to community with a month-long Food and Sock Drive during the month of November. The socks will be donated to local adults and children in need, while the food is being given to the Embury Hills United Methodist Snax Sax program, which provides food for 360 food insecure children in the area.

### SMOKE RISE ELEMENTARY

- Smoke Rise was named an Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Distinguished School. This prestigious honor is awarded based on the success of educational programs and student progress.

### TUCKER HIGH

- School leadership is reinstating certain pre-COVID elements of its Work-Based Learning, Project-Based Learning and Habitat for Humanity efforts. They also recently reinstated the school PTA.

## BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

# KAYLEE'S CANDY BOUTIQUE

Tucker can be described by any number of adjectives; hospitable, friendly, welcoming and genuine all fit the bill. Now, thanks to entrepreneur Amber Carter, you can add the word “sweet” to that list.

Carter and her family opened Kaylee's Candy Boutique last month in the Tucker Town Square shopping center beside Handy Ace Hardware. The business, which is named for Carter's daughter, was birthed from an existing business that took them throughout metro Atlanta.

“We originally had a mobile sweet truck,” Carter explained at the store's ribbon cutting on November 7. “We wanted to extend the business to give an actual sweet place for people to come and visit. So we figured what better way to do it than to open up a candy store?”

Carter's love of candy was inspired by a fascination with the classic 1971 movie “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory”. Unlike the film, which features children touring the factory that creates their favorite sweet treats, Kaylee's Candy Boutique is open to all who want to visit, not just those with a golden ticket.

“We offer a variety of gourmet treats and candies from a lot of small businesses,” Carter shared. “[Kaylee's is] a fun place where people can come and have fun and just somewhere to kind of get away from the real world.”

So, what does a candy boutique sell? Essentially, anything sweet. A look around Kaylee's quickly reveals flavored chocolate bars, different varieties of cotton candy, popcorns and gummy candy, copious amounts of Rice Krispie treats, as well as a wall of gumballs. And the fact that the store is located here in Tucker is no accident either.

“Everything that we do has brought us back to Tucker,” Carter said. “[My husband and I] actually met in Tucker 12 years ago, we had our baby shower in Tucker, I used to work at Northlake Mall. So Tucker's always been our ideal place and everything that we do has just brought us right back to Tucker.”

Kaylee's Candy Boutique is located at 3977 Lawrenceville Highway, Suite C. You can find them online at [www.kayleecakepopsandmore.com](http://www.kayleecakepopsandmore.com) or on Instagram @kayleescandyboutique.



# CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

# ANGELA MALIK

Benjamin Franklin is quoted as saying, "If you want something done, ask a busy person." This quote perfectly describes my friend Angela Malik. Since she moved to what's now considered the greater metropolitan Atlanta area from Richmond, Virginia, Angela has been the "go to" person who everyone relies on to get things done. For more than 20+ years, Angela has made a considerable impact on her colleagues, her peers and the volunteer community at large.

From the time her daughter Sahura, now a Senior at Savannah State University, started elementary school at Smoke Rise Elementary, Angela has been an omnipresent figure around Tucker. There isn't a PTA or PTO, school foundation, classroom, recreational sports league, nonprofit board, or civic/community organization that hasn't been improved by the skill set she possesses.

What are her superpowers? By day, she brings 25+ years of experience as Sr. Proposal Manager for a Fortune 500 cybersecurity company slaying RFIs & RFPs. After work,

she redirects her energy to whatever volunteer activity is on deck. At the moment, that happens to be as a board member of the Tucker High School (THS) Quarterback Club, where her son Akil is a varsity offensive lineman. In this position, she is using her other skills as a graphic designer to redesign its fundraising materials, refresh its football swag gear logos and reorganize its operations. She is also working behind the scenes to help THS's girls flag football team establish itself as a new sports option in its inaugural year. In addition, she has recently jumped on board to assist a small group of THS parents to reestablish its PTA.

Angela is an ardent believer in "showing up", "being present" and "giving back" to the community. I am proud to nominate my friend Angela as Tucker's Citizen of the Month.

*Nomination by Simone Pacely*



# TEAM TUCKER *Spotlight*

## ROBIN STEVENS, SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

### **What are your job responsibilities with Team Tucker?**

I create for and monitor our social media feeds. If you see an Instagram post you love, I'll take credit! If you see one you hate, it was Matt's.

### **What do you like about working in local government?**

I like getting a closer look at the inner workings of the City. So much effort and consideration go into everything that local government does, and I'm nosy so it's incredibly interesting to see all the specifics.

### **Why is social media important to a city?**

Social media is one of the fastest ways to get information out to the people of a city. I'm sure you've seen the regular Facebook traffic updates about Main Street. Plus, there are plenty of opportunities to show citizens the City's lighthearted side and to brag about all of Tucker's gorgeous scenery.

### **You're brand new to Tucker. What has your experience been so far?**

Right now, I'm obsessed with the food! I swear the Communications Department is going to make me try every local restaurant in town. Everyone I've met has been very kind so far. It's nice to have that small town feeling despite how close Tucker is to a major city.



## *Off the Wall*

### **What do you like to do for fun?**

I'm always listening to music, and I love to play video games! I also love watching theatre, so I'm very excited to keep up with what Main Street Theatre is doing.

### **Who is the most famous person you've ever met?**

I worked at an ice cream shop for a while that Owen Wilson would regularly visit. He was a nice guy and a great tipper! I'm going to keep his favorite flavor a secret for now, though. Ask me in person, and I'll tell you!

### **Are you a bigger fan of Christmas or New Year's?**

I like them both, but New Year's is my favorite. Traditionally, I spend Christmas with my immediate family, but I spend New Year's Eve with both my immediate family and my community family from my hometown. It's one of the only times of the year we can get everyone together, so it's always special.

### **What is the most interesting place you've ever travelled to?**

That would have to be Washington D.C.. I visited once as a child, and I was obsessed with all the museums. The International Spy Museum was my favorite!

# “ASK RIP”

*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.*



With the holidays providing plenty of eating and fun, we

at the Parks and Recreation Department would like to remind everyone about our workout opportunities. Tucker has miles of trails, as well as a gymnasium at the Tucker Recreation Center where you can play basketball, volleyball, or pickleball. You can check our website and calendar for days and times for open play or call

the Center directly. We also have our new exercise gym available. It is open daily during operating hours Monday through Saturday. Additionally, we have just opened our new outdoor Fit Court in the downtown area on Church Street. There are a lot of ways to help maintain your health in the City of Tucker. Give us a call, check out the newest edition of our Program Guide or visit our website at [www.tuckerga.gov/parks](http://www.tuckerga.gov/parks) for all the details.

Speaking of getting active, our youth basketball program has begun, and

we are looking for volunteers for coaching, officiating or any number of opportunities to work with kids. Give Joe Stewart a call or email him at [jstewart@tuckerga.gov](mailto:jstewart@tuckerga.gov). Play begins in January and runs through February.

Lastly, keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for information about our spring youth baseball and softball programs. Registration will begin early in 2022 with practices and the season to start in the early spring. We had an exciting season last year and we expect even more in 2022.



## GET ACTIVE WITH TUCKER PARKS & RECREATION

**DEC.  
11**

We are hosting our second annual North Pole at TRC event. On Saturday December 11 from 3-7 p.m. we will have cookie decorating, winter arts and crafts, hot chocolate, and a singing Santa. Come out, have a fun day and let the kids tell Santa everything they want for the holidays. Check out our webpage for full details!

**DEC.  
20-23  
and  
28-30**

If you're looking for time to take care of those holiday chores without the prying eyes of the kids, register now for the TRC Winter Break camp. Camp will be daily, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Our camp is full of fun, sports, and time for free play. It runs December 20-23 and December 28-30. Spots are limited, so check for availability and register on our website.

**DEC.  
31**

Ring in 2022 with a bang...or a dink! Join us for our inaugural "Dink in the New Year" glow pickleball event from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. We'll have snacks, music, raffles and games, and finish with a midnight toast, all for only \$15. This event is only for adults 18 and over. Check for availability and register online.

**JAN.  
17**

January brings the annual MLK Day of Service. On Monday January 17 we will have improvement projects in several of our parks and greenspaces, as well as a food drive to benefit NETWorks Cooperative Ministries. You can volunteer to help by checking our website!

# TUCKERGA.GOV

1975 LAKESIDE PARKWAY, SUITE 350, TUCKER, GA 30084  
678.597.9040



## TUCKER Community Corner



### 12/2, 12/9, 12/16 – Tucker Farmers Market Online

The Tucker Farmers Market continues online. Be sure to complete your orders by Wednesday morning before market day.

### 12/4 – Holiday Concert 5 p.m., 4532 Lavista Road

Deck the halls with boughs of holly! Fa la la la la la la la! Join the Tucker Community Singers at First Christian Church of Atlanta for an evening of holiday favorites.

### 12/4 – Holiday on Main 6 p.m., Main Street

Main Street restaurants will be decorated and offering specials to celebrate the lighting of the great tree and menorah.

### 12/31 – Music on Main 4-8 p.m., Main Street

Join your community on Main Street for a family friendly ringing in of the New Year. Live music, games and food trucks.