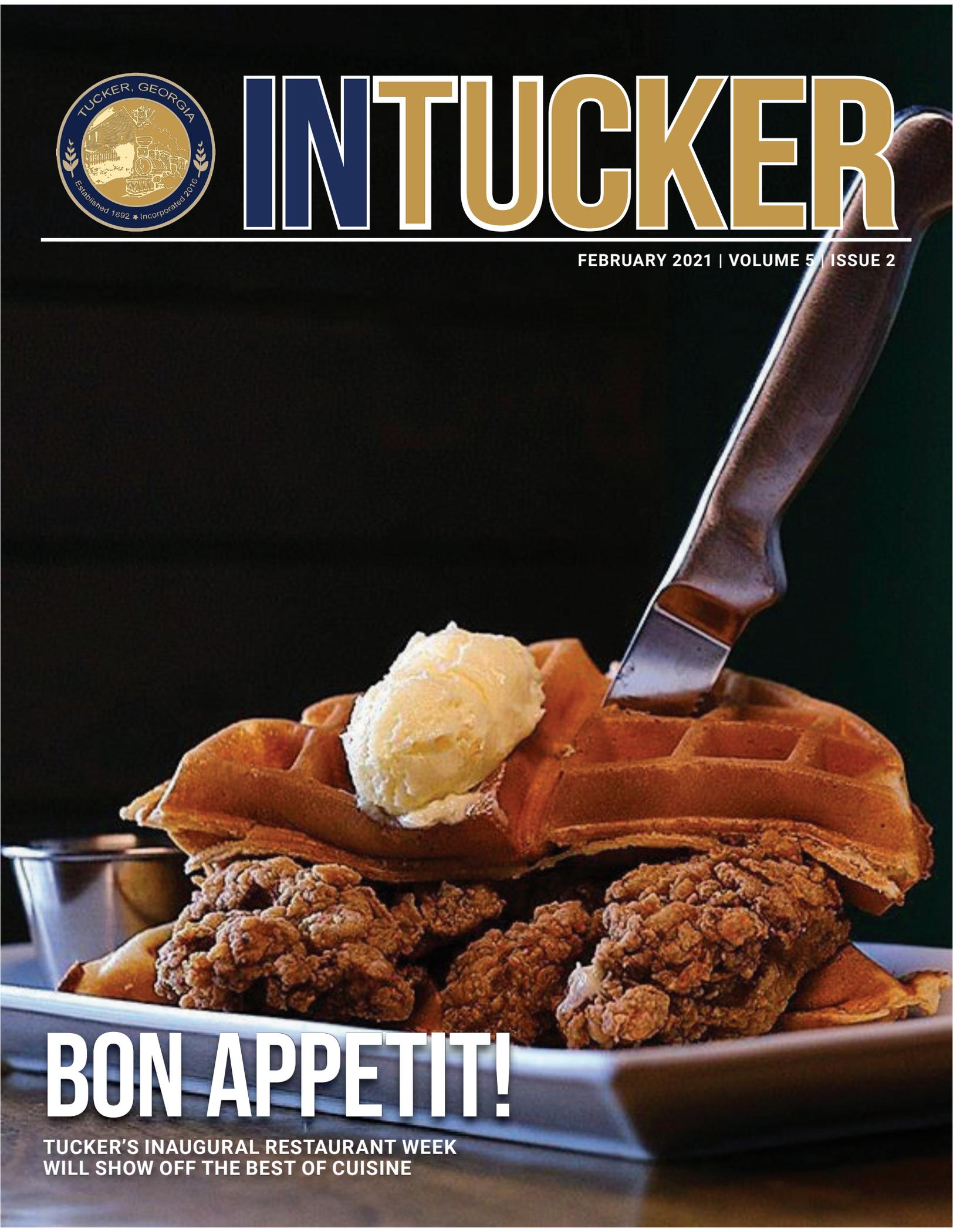




INTUCKER

FEBRUARY 2021 | VOLUME 5 | ISSUE 2



BON APPETIT!

TUCKER'S INAUGURAL RESTAURANT WEEK
WILL SHOW OFF THE BEST OF CUISINE

EDITOR'S NOTE



Welcome to February, friends! If you talked to me a couple weeks ago, I'd have told you this was one of the most fun issues we've ever done. But, as many of you have

likely heard by now, the City lost a dear friend in late January. Councilman Bill Rosenfeld – well, it's not fair to just call him "Councilman". He was much, much more than just an elected official. Bill was a character. He was a volunteer. He was a golfer. He was a husband. He was an entrepreneur. He was too many things to contain in the length of this column. But to those who knew him, Bill Rosenfeld was one-of-a-kind.

I first met Bill about six years ago. Immediately, I noticed he had a way of putting people at ease. That's a handy skill for a politician...or a jeweler, I suppose. What resonated, though, was that smile. Bill seemed like he was almost always smiling, like there was some joke that the two of you were in on. I'm not quite sure what the joke was, and there were many over the years, but Bill was always there with a chuckle. We don't have enough of that in our world, do we?

Although he was short in stature, Bill's death leaves a void the size of a giant. He was so instrumental to so many of the positive things that have happened since we became a city; sidewalk construction, road repaving, park improvements, he had a hand in all of it. Beyond that, he was instrumental to Tucker's business climate through his leadership in the Tucker-Northlake CID and various civic groups.

We're looking ahead at the month of February, the month of love. We all loved Bill and our hearts collectively ache at his loss. To help cope, feel free to share your memories on our Facebook page. Or, better yet, next time you're out around Tucker, give somebody that Bill Rosenfeld smile. It'll be sure to brighten their day.

MATT HOLMES
INTUCKER EDITOR

IN THIS ISSUE



ON THE COVER

Tucker's in for a tasty treat! On page 6, get all the details and the backstory on how the inaugural Tucker Restaurant Week came to be.



HELPING OUT

A group of Tucker High School students has a unique perspective on the American Dream. On page 12, find out how they are helping others who are new to the country.



BUSINESS BOOM

Black History Month isn't just for people and accomplishments of the past. On page 8, meet an entrepreneur who is making waves on the Tucker culinary scene.



CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

Parent involvement is paramount to a successful school environment. No one understands that quite like our Citizen of the Month. Get to know her on page 14.



ASK RIP

Romance is in the air, even in spite of COVID. On page 15, Rip tells us how Tucker's Parks and Recreation Department is celebrating Valentine's Day.



INTUCKER

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

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From the Mayor:



It's hard to believe that next month marks five years since thousands of residents all across Tucker went to the polls to vote on their first Mayor and City Council. From the time we began campaigning right up to present day, we have heard plenty from our constituents; some compliments, some complaints, all of it taken into consideration as we look at ways to improve our city. But I can tell you that one of the most common questions we've gotten over the past five years has been: "When are we getting a dog park?"

Up to this point, the answer has been: "We're on it. We're completing a Parks Master Plan which will tell us exactly how many dog parks we need in the City, where they should be located, how big they should be and what kind of amenities they should offer. We want to do this right, and that will take time."

Well, the answer has changed. I'm proud to say we did this process right and, even though it took time, we have opened a brand-new dog park at Henderson Park! The fenced-in, wooded run is located on

the Livsey side of the park not too far from where the playgrounds are.

A couple of notes before you make your first field trip to our great new space: First, we are still in the midst of a pandemic. If you and your four-legged friend decide to use the dog park, please maintain your distance (at least six feet) from other pet owners. Wearing a mask wouldn't hurt either, even though it's outdoors. Secondly, this dog park is a work in progress. As I write this, the park is open, but we are still in the process of installing tables, trash cans, waste stations and water fountains. Be patient with us as we complete making this the best dog park around.

Now, why does this mean so much? Well, the dog park itself is important for the same reason that a human park is important: it gives us a place to see friends and get to know our neighbors. It's the same as having a great coffee shop, favorite pub or restaurant, or a 60-year-old landmark cafeteria on your Main Street; this is where people go enjoy some down time, hang out together,

and to get to know each other. But beyond that, it's an indication that we're progressing from the (long and arduous) planning stages for our new city, and are well into executing and implementing, and that includes not only a dog park, but sidewalks, trails, resurfaced roads, new developments, new businesses, clean-up of some of our rougher areas, and much, much more.

Especially in light of the pandemic, it is easier than ever to just live in your own insulated bubble. It's easy for your smartphone to be your main source of interaction. So, I'll challenge you; get outside and try out this new dog park, whether you have a dog to take with you or not. You know it'll be good for man's best friend. It might even lift your own spirits in the process.

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read "Frank Auman".

FRANK AUMAN
MAYOR

City Council Update

Tucker's Mayor and City Council met three times during the month of January, their first official business of the new year. During the meeting on January 11, they voted 6-0 to approve an amendment to the Fiscal Year '21 budget. The midyear amendment, a common practice in local government, recognizes grants and developer contributions received in the first half of the fiscal year.

Later in the meeting, Council took action on a series of measures including:

- Setting a qualifying fee for November's municipal elections. Interested parties will be able to register August 16-20.
- Approving a contract with Jacobs Engineering to manage demolition and grading of a handful of city-owned properties in the Church Street/Lavista Road area.

Lastly, Council held a first read and public hearing on an ordinance to adopt regulations regarding "urban camping". The measures would curb sleeping or storing property in rights-of-way, under bridges and in public greenspaces. It would also seek to provide assistance to anyone in violation of the ordinance. The proposed ordinance is similar

to measures that have passed in surrounding communities like Brookhaven, Chamblee and Dunwoody.

At the start of the meeting, Mayor Auman issued proclamations to retired State Senator Steve Henson and former State Representative Michele Henson. The proclamations were in honor of the lawmakers' service to Tucker and surrounding areas, each of them putting in decades of work under the Gold Dome on behalf of the community.

Council also held a brief meeting on January 25. Instead of the work session and meeting that had originally been scheduled, Council instead used the evening to remember their colleague, Councilman Bill Rosenfeld. All business from that work session will be taken up in February. The lone action item was taken up in a special called meeting on January 27. Council voted to approve a contract for intersection improvement at Hugh Howell Road and Flintstone Drive. The winning bid was for \$855,262 from E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc..

The next meeting of the Mayor and City Council will take place on Monday February 8 at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

DATES TO KNOW

February 1

Downtown Development Authority

February 3

Traffic Court

February 8

City Council

February 10

Traffic Court

February 15

All City buildings closed (Presidents' Day)

February 16

Zoning Board of Appeals

February 17

Municipal Court

February 18

Planning Commission

February 22

City Council

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nextdoor



Mayor Auman presents a proclamation to longtime State Representative Michele Henson in honor of her work for Tucker and surrounding communities. (Credit: tuckerga.gov)

ON THE BEAT with Lt. Schoeppner

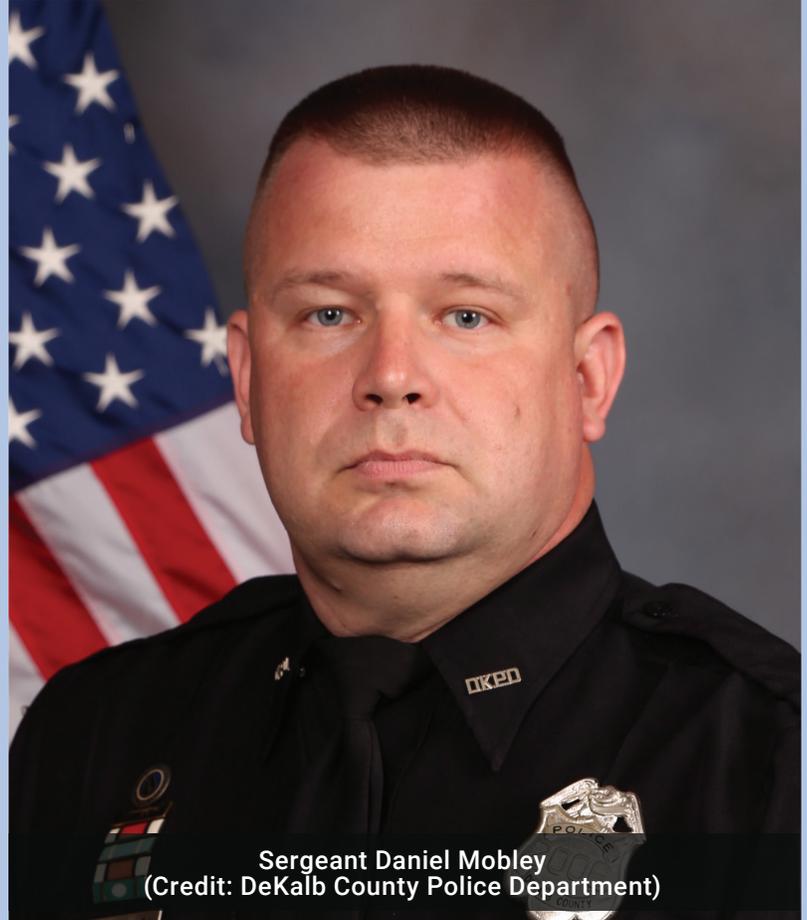
Lt. D.G. Schoeppner is Tucker's liaison to the DeKalb County Police Department and can be followed at [facebook.com/dgschoeppner](https://www.facebook.com/dgschoeppner) or emailed at dgschoeppner@dekalbcountyga.gov



This past November marked my 19th year working for the DeKalb County Police. In that time, I have seen quite a lot. Of all those things, what troubles me the most are the seven co-workers who have perished while doing this job. This isn't seven police officers that work in some far-flung place. This is seven DeKalb County Police officers. These officers didn't die in their sleep. These officers died while on the job for this community. Four of these seven were killed in shooting incidents. The remaining three were killed in some sort of vehicle wreck.

The most recent death was on January 2 when Sergeant Daniel Mobley was struck by a vehicle during a traffic accident investigation. The incident occurred on the 75/85 Connector, near Williams Street in Atlanta. One of our officers was involved in a traffic accident there while driving home from work. Sergeant Mobley had gone there to collect information for a supervisory report. While this was happening, another vehicle lost control, spun out and struck Sergeant Mobley. Georgia State Patrol was already there from the previous wreck and aid was summoned right away. However, Sergeant Mobley's injuries were so severe that he died before reaching the hospital.

Part of what makes this so disturbing is how mundane this event was. Police shootings are relatively rare encounters. However, we are out on the interstate working traffic accidents or assisting motorists many times per day. Not only that, but I doubt the person that killed Sergeant Mobley was some hardened criminal. In fact, I would say that up until this event that person was only guilty of driving too fast and not paying



Sergeant Daniel Mobley
(Credit: DeKalb County Police Department)

enough attention. That is something just about every driver in Atlanta has done at one point or another. The next time you're driving ask yourself: "Do I need to go this fast? Do I need to read/send this text right now? If something unexpected happens, will I be able to stop or maneuver around it?" Just because you may have gotten away with it a thousand times before, doesn't mean that the next time won't be different.

Why, after 22 years of handling traffic accidents, was this the one where Sergeant Mobley had to die? Of course, I'll never get an answer to that question. But that is the specter that looms over every police officer when we put on that uniform and go to work every day. Will that day be the one we roll snake eyes? If it is, will it be something rare, like a shooting? Or will it be something we've done a thousand times before?

WHAT'S COOKIN'?

TUCKER RESTAURANT WEEK INVITES PATRONS TO ENJOY NEW DINING EXPERIENCES FEBRUARY 24-28



Historically, Tucker has been known for everything from its railroad to its outstanding high school football team. But this month, Tucker will gain a different type of notoriety. With the inaugural Tucker Restaurant Week, the City's diverse collection of eateries will be in the regional spotlight for all to enjoy.

"One of the things we've found that drives local tourism around metro Atlanta is food," said Discover DeKalb Executive Director and CEO James Tsismanakis. "Tucker has some restaurants that have been staples in the area for decades and others that are among the newest and hottest on the Atlanta foodie scene. It's a diverse restaurant climate that folks are going to love to explore."

Discover DeKalb is the Convention and Visitors Bureau for Tucker. They coordinate with hotels, tour groups and other entities to drive a piece of Atlanta's tourism traffic

to Tucker. This means working to attract youth sporting events, conferences and family reunions to the City. While those efforts try to appeal to a broad segment of the southeastern United States, Tsismanakis and his team are focused on Restaurant Week appealing specifically to the metro Atlanta suburbs.

"When you live in Lilburn or Johns Creek or other parts of the metro, you've got plenty of restaurants competing for your dollar," Tsismanakis said. "But it's always good to know about new and different restaurants that are out there. Some really exciting things are happening on Tucker's restaurant scene and we want to use this event to get the word out about them."

Despite the pandemic, 2020 was a banner year for restaurant growth in Tucker. Tucker Brewing Company expanded, adding a full kitchen and chef-inspired



menu. Two new restaurants opened on Main Street, Hot Betty's Breakfast Bar and Ford's BBQ, both receiving glowing write-ups in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. And the vast majority of Tucker's restaurants were able to weather the financial storm and keep their doors open.

"If it weren't for the incredible commitment from our team to our brand through this pandemic, we wouldn't be open. I am truly so grateful to have this amazing team behind us," said Tucker Brewing Company CEO and owner Ashley Hubbard. "The Tucker community and beer industry overall has also shown amazing support to us and one another, rallying around so many restaurants, breweries, brands and bringing each other up. We are so excited to be able to share a special menu this Tucker Restaurant Week and show off what Tucker has to offer!"

While some restaurants were just getting started in 2020, others have been in Tucker for generations. Old Hickory House, which sits perched above I-285 on Northlake Parkway, has been putting some South in the mouth of patrons for almost 50 years. Manager Dale Bradley said Restaurant Week is a first for their long-established brand, and hopefully a turning point.

"We have all been struggling through a lot of the ups and downs of COVID and the fears of individuals coming in and out of restaurants," Bradley explained. "Hopefully this will give people an opportunity to come in, if not for the first time, [then] to come back and hopefully enjoy good food from our restaurant."

Similarly, Matthews Cafeteria first opened on Main Street in 1955. While serving homemade Southern cooking, including their famous fried chicken, for millions of hungry customers over the years, they have created a cult following.

"We are super excited to be a part of the first Tucker Restaurant Week," said Matthews co-owner Jenna Ward Greene. "Tucker has been home to our third-generation business for 65 years, and we can't wait to share our timeless classic Southern food with the rest of Atlanta. We hope everyone will come see just how special Tucker is and all the great food it has to offer!"

While all these restaurants are different, they have a few things in common: good, homemade food, friendly, inviting staff, and a home in the foodie haven of Tucker, Georgia. Their very best will be on display during Tucker Restaurant Week.

#TKRRestaurantWeek

Restaurants of all different cuisines and styles have lined up to participate in the inaugural Tucker Restaurant Week. So, which will you be visiting? Post a photo of you and your food to social media with the hashtag #TKRRestaurantWeek to join the movement. Post two or more meals with the hashtag and win a special prize from the City of Tucker!

- Bell Street Burritos
- Corner Cup
- FarmED Kitchen + Bar
- Ford's BBQ
- Grecian Gyro
- Hot Betty's
- Kobe Steakhouse
- Las Colinas
- Local 7
- Magnolia Room
- Matthews Cafeteria
- Old Hickory House
- Shorty's
- Tucker Brewing
- Tucker Meat Market
- Vista Vibes

Get full menus and restaurant specials at www.TuckerRestaurantWeek.com.



BUSINESS BOOM

by Angela Brooks, Business Outreach Coordinator



February is Black History Month and, in observance, I interviewed Chef Daryl Shular, the owner of FarmED Kitchen + Bar, which recently opened in the Lakeside Centre complex in Tucker.

In 2014, Chef Shular, or simply “Chef” as his team calls him, became the first African American and minority to earn the culinary industry’s highest honor, the designation known as Certified Master Chef (CMC). This was no small feat as the American Culinary Federation’s Master Chef exam includes a grueling and rigorous 130-hour, eight-day food preparation with written tests that only have pass/fail outcomes.

“It was a very intense, yet humbling experience,” Shular said.

Last year, he used his CMC credentials and his more than 25 years of culinary experience, preparation, and personal sacrifice to launch the Daryl Shular Hospitality Group (DSHG). FarmED (pronounced Farmed) Kitchen + Bar is the flagship restaurant of the Shular Institute culinary program; both are under the DSHG umbrella of companies.

FarmED opened in December, featuring a wide range of regional/Southern cuisine and custom beverages in a 7,000 square foot space with a bar and a view into the open kitchen and culinary test lab. Shular said he’s proudly built his career on the principles of healthy cooking, sustainability and supporting local food suppliers, something that’s on full display at his new venture.

“At FarmED we support local food suppliers and farmers by selecting the freshest product direct from the farm and bringing it to the kitchens here at Shular Institute,” he explained.

If you’ve been around the Tucker area for a while, DSHG is located in the space formerly occupied by the Le Cordon Bleu cooking school. And that’s no coincidence. Shular is not a newcomer to Tucker. He was Corporate Executive Chef/ Director of Education for North America for Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts when he earned his CMC certification.

“It’s been a 360 [degree] journey. This is where we started, and we’re back here again,” he said. “When I went looking for space to fit my current needs and allow for growth, this happened to be available and we closed the deal.”





He says he's excited to be back in Tucker and he's very anxious to give back to the local communities and share his knowledge and experience with the next generation of master chefs.

"Tucker is a very special place because it's so community-based," he said. "I love that it has that small-town feel, but with metro growth. It's a good fit to be here."

When referring to the Institute, Shular prefers the term "apprenticeship" rather than "cooking school".

"We have a different approach to culinary education at the Shular Institute," he expressed. "It will be a real-world learning environment that also incorporates business fundamentals to help arm graduates with career options and a better path to success. We're going to produce what we call Navy Seals of the culinary industry. There are benchmarks and requirements that must be met before one can even enter the program."

The Institute will be staffed with a 10-to-1 ratio of students to chef professionals and will serve as the internal labor pool for the other businesses within the DSHG. With six employees now, Shular anticipates ultimately growing to around 30, which means more jobs in Tucker.

Also under the DSHG umbrella is PlateED (pronounced Plated), a suite of interactive cooking classes led by industry professionals with both in-lab and online options from the

novice to the professional level. Earth First catering is the latest creation of Chef Shular, a catering and events company blending fine food with a world-class hospitality experience.

His skills as a Master Chef have led to invitations from all over the U.S. and throughout the world to speak, teach and participate in elite cooking competitions. But Shular is not about to rest on his CMC laurels. He's also developing his first recipe book, and even a television show displaying his skills and continuing his mission to teach others how to live a healthy lifestyle while enjoying the art of culinary cuisines.

Currently, Shular is one of only two African American CMCs on the American Culinary Federation's rolls. Among his many awards and accolades, he is archived in the Library of Congress and he is an inductee of the African American Hall of Fame in Savannah. When asked how he'd like to be remembered in Black History, Shular simply said, "As a trailblazer on the rough side of the mountain who helped other people along the way."

FarmED and the other DSHG businesses are located at 1927 Lakeside Parkway, Suite FK01.

If you are a business owner who would like to receive periodic emails from the City about important updates and relevant business information, send your email address to abrooks@tuckerga.gov.

TEAM TUCKER *Spotlight*

CHRISTIE COLBURN, ACCOUNTANT

What is your background in city government?

My background in city government began two years ago as I was chosen for a position with the City of Tucker as a business license specialist. I have advanced my career this year and took another position with the City of Tucker as an accountant. I am excited to learn and continue my career in city government.

What does an accountant do for Team Tucker?

An accountant does a lot for Team Tucker and wears many hats. I process and pay all invoices for the City of Tucker. I help manage and process business license renewals for businesses within the City and answer any questions they may have during the process. I also lend a helping hand with the Tucker Municipal Court and help out where I may be needed.



What are some of the most challenging aspects of your job?

I would say the most challenging aspect of my job right now is being new to the position. I look forward to the challenge of learning my new position and being a great asset to the City of Tucker.

Why do you enjoy what you do?

I enjoy what I do because not every day is the same, which challenges me and also helps me grow not only as an employee, but as an individual. Working for a great city and having amazing people to work alongside also makes me really enjoy what I do.

How is it working in the new City Hall?

I have enjoyed working in the new City Hall and being able to interact with everyone on Team Tucker.

Off the Wall

What do you like to do in your free time?

I enjoy shopping, spending time with my children, family and friends.

Are you a big sports fan?

I am a big sports fan. My favorite team is the Georgia Bulldogs...Go Dawgs! I am a Georgia Bulldog through and through because I was born and raised in this great state of Georgia.

What is your favorite fashion accessory?

My favorite fashion accessory would have to be my earrings. What is an outfit without the perfect pair of earrings? Earrings are what makes the outfit. You most likely will never catch me without earrings on.

What is the last show you binge watched?

The last show I binge watched, well when "Paw Patrol" or "Jessie" isn't on my TV, I binge watch any movie on Lifetime or LMN.

What is your favorite quote?

I have a few favorite quotes: "Be yourself, because an original is worth way more than a copy" and "When you love what you have, you have everything you need and when you love what you do, it won't feel like work."

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

COCOCAKES

To Nicole and Corey McDonald, their work is more than just work; it's personal. Corey learned to bake from watching his mother and grandmother. In fact, as a college senior at Lincoln University in Missouri, it was his mom who suggested he begin selling cakes to make some extra money. That was in 1991. By 1996, Corey was here in Atlanta baking, as he recalls, for the Dream Team at the Olympics. The year 2010 is where the story starts for Nicole.

"I was celebrating a milestone birthday and went in [to the Cococakes, then located in Stone Mountain] to get a birthday cake," she recalls. "This white chef's hat started peeking around the corner. He walked from around Corey McDonald the back and presented me with a warm sample of caramel cake."

"He" ended up being Corey. "He" eventually would become her husband. The couple now work together out of the Cococakes location on Hugh Howell Road, where they opened in 2015. One of the quirks of the business is they sell cakes by "the chunk" rather than by the slice. They say their biggest sellers are caramel, German chocolate, juicy lemon pound and butter cream cakes. They have designed their business to be truly grounded in the Tucker community, complete with a part-time staff comprised mostly of students from Tucker High School.

"Tucker has been fabulous," Nicole says. "We have employed so many Tucker High School students that come back and help us over the holidays. Our location, you can't beat it. We are right in the heart of Hugh Howell Road....We are loving this location [and] our customers are loving it."

They love the location so much that Nicole reports they've just signed a new five-year lease to stay in their building at Tucker Station. You can visit Cococakes at 4404 Hugh Howell Road, #26 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays or find them online at www.cococakesbycoco.com.



TUCKER HIGH STUDENT CLUB HELPING REFUGEES

YOUNG WOMEN'S EFFORTS ASSISTING PEOPLE AT HOME AND ABROAD

Most high schoolers are doing well to find ways to make a difference in their community. But can you imagine a young teenager making an actual impact on a global scale? That's what's happening at Tucker High School, where a group of young ladies in 2019 started up the STAR Club. STAR, which stands for Students Together Assisting Refugees, is exactly what its name would indicate; it seeks to provide assistance to those who have left their home countries and are trying to assimilate into American society.

Tsion Agaro, whose family hails from Ethiopia, is the club's co-president. She says the mission of the club is personal.

"We see [our parents] struggle to talk to people who are already assimilated into American culture and, us being in both the cultures of our household and this culture, we're able to bridge that gap and we're able to speak for them

whenever it's necessary. We're able to explain aspects of American culture they don't understand," said Agaro, a junior at THS.

The club has a two-pronged approach to helping refugees both here in the U.S. and globally. First, they work to raise awareness about what a refugee is and what kinds of challenges they face.

"We're given the opportunity and the chance to help our communities," said THS junior Edlawit Temesgen, also a co-president in the club. "We've seen our parents struggle and we've seen what they went through when we were younger, so it would basically be wrong for us not to go out and help our communities and those who actually need help now while we are given this opportunity."

The second part of the mission is to raise money for refugees in far-flung countries like Yemen and Lebanon. They donate that money to a non-profit called Next Page.



Next Page is the brainchild of another group of high schoolers, students out of Wellesley High School in Massachusetts. Money raised by Tucker High's STAR Club is donated to Next Page for efforts here in the U.S. and abroad.

"I believe that this club is the first step towards bringing us together in the community and getting to know each other's cultures and where we're from and what's going on with each other and just being able to come together as one," explained Halle Bereket, the club's secretary.

"It's really important, especially with the school that we go to," added THS junior Aryam Haile, the club's vice president. "Because Tucker and Clarkston are so different, people in Tucker aren't really aware of the issues and the struggles that kids from those countries go through. They don't know how hard it is to read, to know the math, to catch up to [other students]. We're just making a difference."

The clock is ticking on these students, as they have just a year and a half left to establish their club at Tucker High. But the mission is one that they plan to continue once their days in Tucker are over.

"Because we love this club so much, we really do hope that the club still continues even after we go to college. We also plan on pursuing the club at our own colleges and trying to get that started up there," Temesgen said.

With the momentum these young ladies have created, STAR's important work is sure to carry on in the coming years, and Tucker will be a closer-knit community because of it.

Find out more about the STAR Club and how you can help their efforts on Instagram - @ths.star!



The Tucker High STAR Club had a booth at Tucker's National Night Out celebration to raise money to aid refugees. (Credit: Halle Bereket)

Tucker Cluster

IMPORTANT DATES

February 8
Board of Education Meeting

February 15
No classes (Presidents' Day)

BRAG SHEET

MIDVALE ELEMENTARY

- Congratulations to Victoria and Ramses Sanchez and James Alloway and their families for winning the December STEM Challenge! This exciting contest gave families the opportunity to work together to explore the wonderful world of STEM.

SMOKE RISE ELEMENTARY

- The Smoke Rise STEM Club will participate in the Dell Technologies and Microsoft Girls Who Game program. The initiative, for students in fourth through eighth grades, focuses on increasing young girls' access to technology and preparing them for success in the digital world.

TUCKER HIGH

- The THS Beta Club inducted 115 students in January.

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

ERIN KIRN



Erin Kirn is a loyal friend, an incredibly hard worker and a firm believer in the power of community service in our schools.

Erin and I met when our children attended Tucker First United Methodist Preschool many moons ago. We soon discovered that we lived in the same neighborhood and the ritual “walk and talk” began. As our friendship developed, and as our children grew and attended Livsey Elementary, we found ways to use our skills to benefit the school community. Erin was tireless in her efforts to make the Scholastic Book Fairs fun, attractive and profitable. She served as PTO Co-Vice President and Co-President, and was the Whooo’s Reading Co-Chair, a fundraiser which to this day consistently makes thousands of dollars to benefit the students there.

Once our children entered middle school, Erin again led the way by being instrumental on the Tucker Middle School PTA, serving in multiple capacities and recruiting new members from other elementary schools.

Most recently, in 2017, Erin founded the Tucker Cluster Council (TCC), “a unique organization of community stakeholders that includes parents, businesses, educators and DCSD representatives who are invested in working together to actively support and promote the schools within our cluster.” Erin has remained at the TCC helm and continues to call the group to action, even amidst this COVID pandemic, for the betterment of all Tucker schools, scholars, and stakeholders. Erin is a true example of someone who is willing to go the extra mile for others all while working a full-time job, being a devoted wife and mother, and a steadfast friend.

Nomination by Anne Thomas

“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.



February is always a special month for us here at the Parks and Recreation Department. And that’s especially true on the recreation side. If you think about February – one of our coldest months – it’s not exactly a time to be out soaking up the sun and the amenities in our parks. Now, there are some exceptions to that, including our brand-new dog park at Henderson Park. Make sure to read the Mayor’s note on page 3 to get all the details there.

But really, February is special because it’s a busy time inside our Tucker Recreation Center. For years, and well predating the City of Tucker’s incorporation, one of the biggest users of the Recreation Center was our community’s seniors. Whether it was for workout classes, bridge games or any number of activities, the Rec Center was one of the main hangouts for Tucker’s older adults. Because of the pandemic, much of that activity has been shut down for almost a year now. The staff and I miss seeing those smiling faces each and every day. But there’s one tradition that we think we can keep going this month, at least with some modifications.

In 2019, we established our first-ever Valentine’s Day Luncheon for Seniors. Couples and singles showed up from all over the City of Tucker and surrounding areas. We had a buffet lunch, live music and dancing. Most importantly, and what left such an impression on myself and my staff, was the laughter, the enjoyment and the

new friendships that were forged. We knew immediately that this needed to happen every year. Last year, we held the luncheon for a second time; that was, in fact, the last event we held as a department that we didn’t have to modify in some way because of COVID. This time, it will be modified, but we’re hoping it will still show our seniors how much we love and appreciate them. The staff and I will be delivering a special treat to our Tucker senior facilities, as well as host a drive-through event for our independent senior population. It’s not much, but it’s a token to show how much we care and how much we’re thinking about them.

I also want to give a lot of credit to our staff, specifically Ray Rollins and Joe Stewart, on the success of our Tucker Basketball League. Talk about modifications, due to COVID this year’s league went 3-on-3 with a limited number of spectators. Still, we had more participants sign up than we’ve ever had before, and the competition has been great. I’ve gotten so much positive feedback from parents about the league and the safety measures our staff has taken, that I know we’ve done something right. If you and your family have enjoyed our winter basketball league, I hope you’ll sign up for our spring baseball league. The Parks and Recreation staff shot some promotional videos for the league that you’ll find on our Facebook page (@TuckerParksRec). You’ll learn two things from those videos: first, we are not trained actors and second, this league is all about fun for boys and girls ages 5-12. Get registered at tuckerga.gov/parks today!



TUCKERGA.GOV

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



TUCKER *Community Corner*



**2/9 – University of Government
Affairs at Tucker**
7-9 p.m., via Zoom

The UGA Tucker series is open to all and starts in September of each year, completed with a graduation ceremony during the first City Council meeting of March. Look for registration information each August.

2/11, 2/25 – Rehoboth Boost
4-7:30 p.m., 2997 Lawrenceville
Highway

High School students are invited to attend “Rehoboth Boost” on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. There will be games, food and dedicated time to work on assigned schoolwork.

**2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25 – Tucker
Farmers Market**
4-6 p.m., 4882 Lavista Road

The Tucker Farmers Market has gone virtual! Order online by Wednesday at 8 a.m. for pick up or delivery on Thursday. The Farmers Market website is TFMOnlineStore.com.



IN MEMORY
William 'Bill' Rosenfeld
1943-2021



Bill's family kindly asks that in lieu of flowers, you give as you are able to one of his favorite charities, Tucker's NETWorks Cooperative Ministries. You can go to <http://bit.ly/HonorBillR> to make your donation, or text "HonorBill" to 44-321 to be linked to the donation page.

On losing such a critical member of our community, we ask ourselves, “What are we supposed to do now? How will we carry on, and even in our darkest moments, why should we bother to carry on?” These are not rhetorical questions; they’re quite real, and must be answered.

First, we grieve, each in our own way, and in so doing, we help and heal ourselves, but we also help to share the burden of this loss to his family.

Second, we remember and acknowledge his many contributions to our lives. As a start, we are flying the City’s flags at half-mast until this Friday night, marking one week since his passing. I want to encourage everyone in the City of Tucker to do the same. And if you don’t fly a flag regularly, I encourage you to do so this week.

And third, we seek to learn from his example, and to fill the gaps he leaves behind. Who will support all those organizations now? Who will lead and participate and give of themselves as Bill did? Perhaps it will be you, in big ways or small. I pray you’ll consider what you can do to honor his legacy.

Remarks from Mayor Frank Auman
January 25, 2021