



INTUCKER

DECEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 6 | ISSUE 12



**TUCKER'S PLANS
ARE GROWING**

EDITOR'S NOTE



December can be one of the most stressful months of the year, rivaled only by May for parents of school-aged children. The holidays

often bring about a myriad of feelings, stress from finding the perfect gift, family relationships, Forced Family Fun (as my teens call it) and possibly the sadness of a first holiday without a dear friend or family member. It has been my experience that leaning on those we love, supporting those that need it and enjoying what we have before us can do wonders for experiencing true holiday magic. Sometimes, a little self-indulgence is just what we need, though. And our Main Street has three new options for gifts, indulging and sharing. Wine & Whimseys (read more on page 12), Munster Cravings and Cakes Castle have all recently opened and added some new life to our Main Street. Sweets, libations and gifts from these three new retailers can ease your holiday load. And don't forget our steadfast eateries on Main and the surrounding area that keep our Tucker going while you are out shopping and exploring.

Don't forget our annual holiday ornament that is pictured on the front cover. I love working with our graphic designer every year to create and source our ornament. We try to make sure it is widely available and affordable for all. This year there are THREE options to purchase the ornament, Georgia Gifts & More, Wine & Whimseys and the online store for the Tucker Farmers Market. This year's may be my favorite of all that we have done since our first holiday season as an official City back in 2016. Enjoy!

I hope we all have an enjoyable holiday season and find some time for rest and relaxation...it has been a year.

SONJA SZUBSKI
INTUCKER EDITOR

IN THIS ISSUE



ON THE COVER

Tucker is planning and studying for smart growth in the future. Read about our ongoing plans and studies in this issue on page 6.



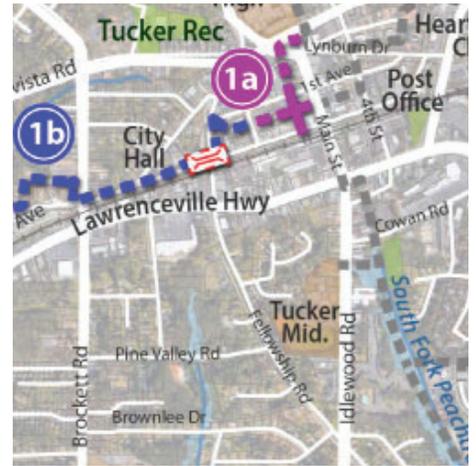
BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Retail has returned to Main Street! Read up on Wine & Whimseys, a Tucker local's dream come true on page 12.



CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

Also known as Tucker's Sweetheart, Honey Van De Kreke is Tucker's number one volunteer! Learn more about her tireless work on page 8.



BUSINESS BOOM

Jackie catches us up on the downtown Trail segment and how it will affect our local economics on page 13.



INTUCKER

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From the Mayor

December is typically a slow time of the year for the City. With the cold and mostly rainy weather, new building, renovations and community events slow down as holiday shopping and gathering ramps up. This makes for a perfect time to not only reflect but to look forward and plan for the coming year.

As a Council we are always seeking input about priorities from our residents, businesses and staff. In that process we will often commission studies and plans to help guide us in our decision making. Further into this issue of InTucker, you can read up on some of our ongoing plans and studies and how they are coming along.

As an example, for the past six years, we have worked diligently with DeKalb County to make sure that our public works dollars were being spent properly within our City borders. Our role has been to track needed work and act as advocate and facilitator. Part of our effort was to create the Citizen Responder position to be the liaison and advocate for our citizenry and to also be able to track work orders and make sure work was being done well and on time. Another piece we added was monthly public works meetings between our engineering and project staff, the Citizen Responder and their counterparts at the County to have clear communication on our work in progress. Over the past two years we have studied the results of these monthly meetings and as a Council we decided it was time to ask the residents officially if we should take on Public Works and stand up our own department. It was a whirlwind of educating everyone on just what that means for us both financially and what would be under our responsibility. In the end our voters approved the measure with a landslide YES.

The Council, staff and I do not take this lightly. We are grateful for the faith our community has in us and we are looking forward to this new responsibility. We intend to provide stellar service to all who live in Tucker. We have a strong history of responsible stewardship with our tax dollars and as a team we are committed to continuing on that path.

Our deadline for standing up Tucker's public works department is next July 1. In the time between now and then we will be studying what infrastructure we will be



taking on, major and immediate needs, who will be best to staff the department and how it will be managed. The Council and I will take all this into consideration and will set a new tax rate, as we do every year, to best serve our residents for the coming fiscal year.

It is going to be a lot of hard work and I am confident in our staff and our Council as we move forward. But this is not the only project the City has this coming year. We are launching our Economic Development Strategic Plan, we are studying and building out our parks and green spaces to better serve our community needs, we will be exploring better parking solutions for our downtown and a possible Arts Commission to add character to our new public spaces. As the kids say, "Don't sleep on Tucker", we are in constant motion and invite you to keep up and involved.

**FRANK AUMAN
MAYOR**

City Council Update



Mayor Auman presents a proclamation to Smoke Rise Principal Ms. Pamela McCloud in recognition of being named Region 2 Principal of the Year.

DATES TO KNOW

December 5
Downtown Development Authority

December 6
Zoning Board of Appeals

December 7
Traffic Court

December 12
City Council Meeting

December 14
Traffic Court

December 23-26
City Hall Closed in Observance of Christmas Holiday

In the first order of business for the November 14 City Council Meeting the Council voted 6-0 to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the October regular meeting and work session as well as the first read of an Ordinance to amend the Tucker Code Chapter 40 concerning the Hotel Motel tax code to mirror state law language. This was followed by three matters of Old Business on the agenda. These were three second reads on ordinances: two were rezonings and the other a code update. All three were approved with a 6-0 vote.

For New Business staff presented four items for consideration:

- First read of an ordinance for the purpose of amending Tucker Code Chapter 38 to allow for the sale by the City of parcels too small to be used independently.
- A resolution to accept changes in state route designations for Hugh Howell Road and Mountain Industrial Boulevard.

- A contract award to DAF Concrete, Inc for the Juliette Road sidewalk project
- A Contract amendment for the Trail Segment 1A project

The resolution and two contracts were approved with 6-0 votes.

The Mayor and Council recessed for the purposes of personnel, real estate and litigation and returned to vote 6-0 to approve a settlement with Richard McGaughey.

During the City Council Work Session on November 28 the Mayor and Council attended four presentations: The FY 22 Financial Audit, updated Financial Statements for October, and update on the ongoing Economic Development Strategic Plan, and a presentation on the proposed Town Green design.

All City Council meetings and work sessions take place on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

Tucker City Hall
1975 Lakeside Parkway, Suite 350B
Tucker, GA 30084

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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 or by phone at (678) 597-9040.

In last month's *On the Beat*, I began my highly-anticipated, future award-winning series of articles which I have titled "How to Use your Police Department".

I discussed a few situations where calling 911 is important, such as after a traffic accident with injuries, concerns involving "suspicious" persons or vehicles, and when encountering a person experiencing a violent or uncontrollable mental health crisis. I also discussed some of the information our 911 operators need when dispatching an officer, most important of which is the specific incident location. In this month's article, I will continue to discuss what to expect when the police arrive to help.

First, a caveat. It is well known by now the struggles that law enforcement agencies nationwide are having attracting and retaining new officers. The DeKalb County Police Department is no exception to this unfortunate trend, with our staffing levels lower than previous years. While our Department is taking steps to overcome this staffing challenge, such as increasing starting pay and other benefits, we are still faced with doing more with less. Fortunately, our current uniformed officers and front-line supervisors do an incredible job at prioritizing and managing our high volume of calls. While this might mean a few extra minutes of waiting time on a non-life threatening call, our officers will come – prepared and ready to help.

Once on scene, our officers will begin collecting the necessary information to do their job. For the majority of calls, the officer will document the situation in an official police report. At the DeKalb County Police Department, we have a great electronic reporting system we call "RMS". This modern software program has made writing and updating reports much quicker and easier. I would ask that you please be prepared with as much information as possible so that the officer can properly document the call. This includes any suspect or victim information and may also include identifying yourself with a proper state-issued identification. Our officers have the right, both legally and for officer safety reasons, to know who they are encountering.

When making 911 calls, you can be anonymous and decide not to meet with an officer. However, doing so may not allow for an effective response to the call if the officer needs to ask follow up questions or needs further assistance in identifying a potential victim or suspect. I can assure you that our officers will never identify a caller to a suspect or a third party. We

all swear an oath to protect and serve – and that includes protecting anyone who may call 911.

Our officers are trained to quickly ask questions and investigate after arriving on scene. In addition to learning about laws and criminal procedures, our officers are also taught methods to take charge of chaotic situations so that a level of control and calmness can begin. Please allow our officers an initial few minutes to gather the information they need and to de-escalate the incident at hand. After this initial period is over, the officer will explain him or herself to you and answer any questions you may have.

If the officer determines there is sufficient probable cause to make an arrest, he or she will do so following all Departmental guidelines and state and federal laws. If needed, the officer will also ask for assistance from our detectives in our Criminal Investigations Division ("CID"). While all our officers are given the autonomy to make decisions, there are also times when a supervisor must be notified by the officer to ensure that proper decisions have been made. This quality control allows for a better overall response and provides for immediate feedback and learning on behalf of the officer.

Depending on the situation, the officer may provide you with a business card containing the "case number" of the report he or she will write. If you need a copy of your police report, please call our Central Records Section at (770) 724-7740 for options on how to obtain a copy. Currently, our Headquarters and records room are closed due to continuing Covid restrictions.

Before I conclude, I want to briefly introduce our new Tucker Precinct Command Staff. Major Anthony Ford has replaced our retired and well-loved Major Medlin. Major Ford has a varied and long career with the DeKalb Police Department, including commanding our Internal Affairs Unit, otherwise known as "IA". Speaking of Internal Affairs, Captain McCown has returned back to IA, and has been replaced here at Tucker Precinct by Captain Ariel Toledo, our former Tucker Day Watch Commander. We are fortunate to have both of them lead us at Tucker Precinct - and I am not just saying that because they are my bosses!

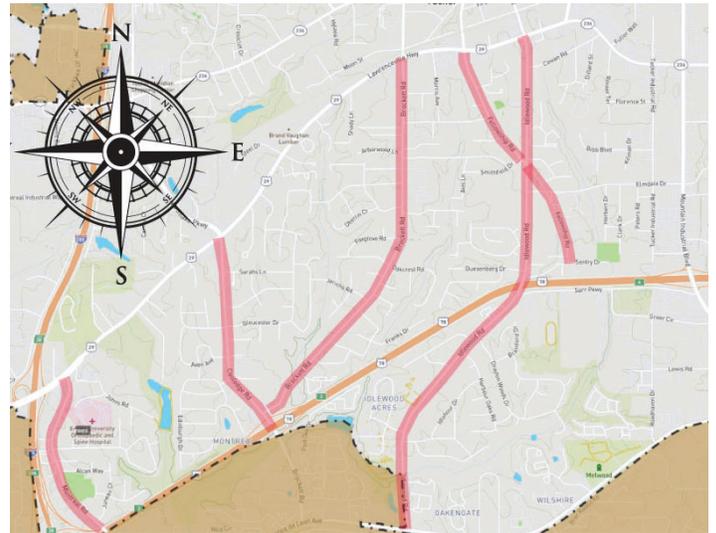
On behalf of Major Ford, Captain Toledo, all our officers, and our wonderful civilian personnel here at Tucker Precinct, we wish everyone a happy and safe Holiday Season. I hope you do not experience a situation where you need to call someone in law enforcement during this wonderful time of year. But if you do, Tucker Precinct will be here ready to respond, 24 hours a day.

PLANS, STUDIES AND GROWTH

The City of Tucker is in its toddlerhood. No longer in the beginning stages of standing up the City and establishing initial policies and codes, the City has been taking steps to continue its growth in smart and responsible ways. In an effort to keep the residents informed as it progresses and grows, there is a dedicated page on the Tucker website with completed and ongoing studies.

Two studies that are currently in motion are the Economic Development Strategic Plan and the North-South Connectivity Plan which is in the beginning stages of public input and fact finding.

The Economic Development Strategic Plan is the first for the City. KB Advisory is performing the footwork for the plan and recently updated the Mayor and Council at the November Council Work Session. The purpose of the strategic plan is to not only develop tactical implementation but create a roadmap for funding and help strategically shape the character of redevelopment according to a shared community vision. KB Advisory has performed months of public engagement with four public meetings, a survey for residents, two additional meetings with local small businesses and a business-driven survey, as well. The next steps are to organize their findings and collected input into a digestible document to help guide the City's Economic Development team, the Mayor and Council make decisions on Tucker's growth.



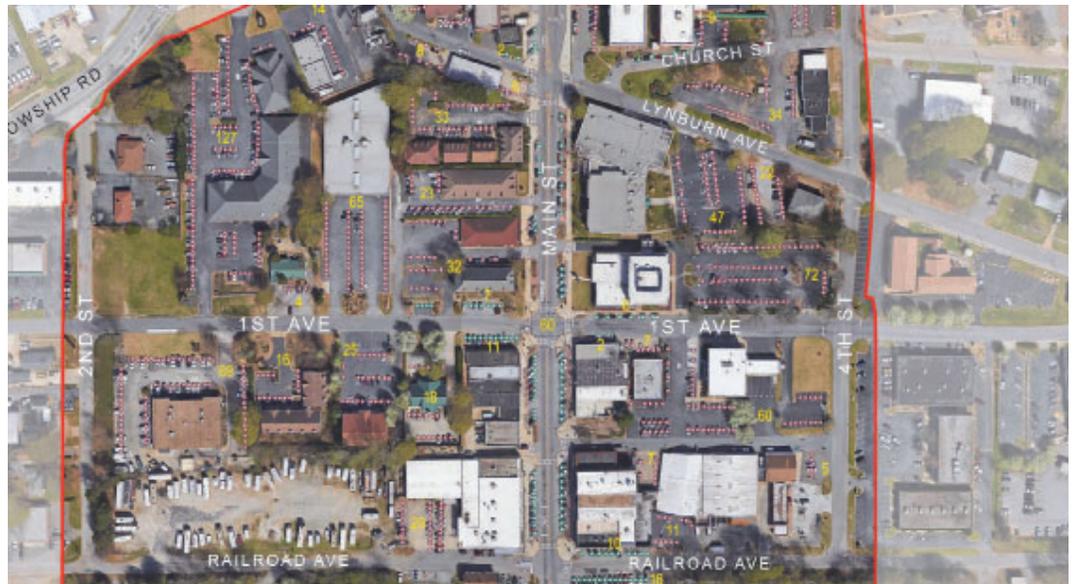
The North-South Connectivity Study was funded by the Mayor and Council in direct response to citizen safety concerns on our collector roads in the southern region of Tucker. Kimley Horne was brought on board to evaluate the performance of Brockett, Idlewood, Cooleedge, Montreal and Fellowship Roads and to identify roadway improvement projects - focused on operational and safety improvements. The plan is expected to be complete in the Spring of 2023. In this initial stage of community input residents and all drivers through Tucker are encouraged to take a survey found here by scanning the QR code below.



Brockett Road is already underway with road safety improvements due to citizen demand. The project started in the fall of 2022 and is projected to finish later this month. The road remains a two-lane road but with side chicanes alternating down the length of the road from Lawrenceville Highway to Highway 78. The purpose of the chicanes is to slow down drivers and create safety buffers for pedestrians on the sidewalks. This construction will not affect the study by Kimley Horne and Brockett Road will still be part of the study.



In addition to these two major plans, the City is also conducting an internal study on the available parking in the downtown area and is performing ongoing updates and additions to our parks. For more information on upcoming meetings on these topics and more be sure to sign up for the weekly email from the City and follow on the various social media channels. Full and updated information is also available on tuckerga.gov.



COMPLETED STUDIES AND PLANS

**COMP.
PLAN**

**DOWNTOWN
MASTER
PLAN**

**HISTORIC
RESOURCE
REPORT**

**PARKS
MASTER
PLAN**

**PAVEMENT
MANAGEMENT**

**PEDESTRIAN
SAFETY**

**STRATEGIC
TRANS.
MASTER**

**TRAIL
MASTER
PLAN**

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

HONEY VAN DE KREKE



Since the 2015 vote to incorporate as a city, Honey has served as a City Council member, Downtown Development Authority member, and advisor. But the most important hat might also be the most fun; for years she chaired the volunteer group that runs Tucker Day.

Honey was one of the driving forces behind Tucker becoming a city. A longtime resident of Tucker's Smoke Rise community, she helped raise money, organize meetings, and convince her neighbors about the need for cityhood. She was involved with the Tucker cityhood movement since the very first meeting around a dinner table in 2012. Honey was on the Tucker 2013, 2014, and 2015 Committees. She recalls, "I worked very hard, along with a lot of other people with the same mindset and determination to protect Tucker's sense of identity and community." This identity is something Honey has always held dear to her heart. She says, "I want to keep Tucker moving forward toward a better future

I would like to nominate Honey Van de Kreke for Citizen of the Month. Honey has done so much for the City of Tucker and our community as a whole. She is a lifelong resident of Tucker, graduated from Tucker High School and now lives in the Smoke Rise neighborhood. She raised her family and owned a few businesses, Market Makers to name one, with her husband Ben right here in Tucker. She and Ben have two children and three grandchildren. Having grown up in Tucker, she has actively served as a volunteer, activist, organizer, and has worked to improve our community for more than 30 years. Honey has had a steady hand in helping build a stable and growing community.

The Tucker Business Association (Past President), Tucker Civic Association (Past President), Tucker Women's Club, Main Street Tucker Alliance (Co-Founding member), Tucker Northlake CID (Founding Member), DeKalb CEO's transition team, and DeKalb's Parks Bond Committee are a few organizations that have benefited from her leadership.

by supporting and encouraging meaningful development and quality growth while at the same time protecting both property values and the sense of community that makes us such a unique place."

Honey was named a 2016 DeKalb Community Hero. In partnership with The Champion Newspaper, the CEO's Community Hero Award honors outstanding individuals and organizations making a significant impact in DeKalb County. She is a dedicated public servant who works tirelessly for our community. There is not another person in Tucker that has more integrity, strength of character, and persistence than Honey.

As she has often said, "I want Tucker to be the envy of Georgia", and with her guidance and leadership that dream is becoming a reality.

Nomination by Bob Espy

TEAM TUCKER *Spotlight*

JESS JOINER-MARSHALL, P&R ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

What do you do as admin for the Parks and Rec.?

My, that varies wildly! I register new members, work with the part-timers to ensure set up and break down of our programs, check people in for programs, assist with administrative requests for our department, and some accounting tasks. I was also a ghost puppeteer for our

Haunted Trail, so you could say I have a large skill set.

How long have you worked for the City of Tucker?

Almost 4 months!

What did you do before joining Team Tucker?

My background is largely social work related, but I've also worked in HR and accounting.

What are some of the things you like about your job?

I love meeting my fellow Tuckerites. (Tuckeronians?) I see this wonderful, old building abuzz with tiny ballerinas, basketball playing teens, and seniors breaking their personal records in bridge. There's something for everyone. I love helping people find their place here.

What is the challenging part about your job?

We refer to it as the "pivot". Last minute things (weather, etc.) happen and we will work together and invoke a little imagination to ensure the success of our programs and events. Luckily, I work on a team of very creative and adaptable people.



Off the Wall

What is your go to Waffle House meal?

OK. Load my hashbrowns with cheese and onions, then give me raisin toast with more butter than one human should safely consume in one sitting.

What are you currently binge watching?

I'm impatiently awaiting the Willow sequel release this month.

What is your favorite book to read to your child?

He's really into Cars, Trucks and Things That Go. We like to find Goldbug hiding on every page.

Marvel or DC?

DC. I've been a fan since I was in middle school and my mom would make me wear shorts under my Wonder Woman Halloween costume.

TIGER NEWS NETWORK

THE STUDENT VOICE OF TUCKER MIDDLE SCHOOL



Two students sit at a table in a brightly lit room. There is a green screen behind them, and they take turns reading text off a teleprompter. Another student sits nearby operating the teleprompter. Behind a glass window, two more double-check slides and run the broadcasting software on computer monitors, and another oversees.

"Countdown starting," says the last student, and she begins at the number fifteen. The anchors straighten. The script scrolls back to the beginning. Hands tighten on computer mice.

The student holds up her fingers. Three, two, one.

"Good morning, Tigers! Welcome to TNN."

To the students of the Tiger News Network, it is a familiar scene. At 8:50 a.m. they run morning announcements. Later this afternoon they will lead dismissal.

"From a school perspective, it's essential," says Nathan Williams, STEM teacher and faculty advisor of TNN alongside Tucker Middle School's other STEM teacher, Amber Clinton. "Morning announcements are necessary and not super effective over the intercom. Probably more important is post-dismissal. If kids don't see those numbers, they miss their bus."

TNN is also helpful to the student participants; they get to learn critical communication skills.

"It's like a public speaking club," says Skye, one of TNN's anchors. "We all have to do some type of speaking role."

"You essentially have to be an anchor first and then you can go to the production side," says Mr. Williams. "And you can watch their confidence just grow."

"It also makes me feel more connected with the school," says Hazel, another anchor. "Since I do Tiger News Network almost every morning, it means I know all the announcements and things that are happening. I really like that part."

Once students move from anchoring to production, they take over one of many other necessary tasks that keep the broadcast running.

"As the lead producer, I'm the one behind the screens switching the slides and putting in the pictures," says student contributor Araf.

"I'm the scriptwriter, so I write most of what [the anchors] say and the emails," says Jaden, who ran the teleprompter for this past broadcast.

"I was never a tech person beforehand," says Molly, another student contributor



who now has experience with producing and running the teleprompter. Today she led the countdown. "When you first start, you're not allowed to do a lot of stuff. Once you start staying for longer and working more, that's when you get to start doing more."

Students get to do a lot; the Tiger News Network is almost entirely student-run, and more experienced students help manage each other and find new resources.

"I kind of make people go to their places, like, 'Oh, you guys go read, you guys start doing the slides with the broadcasting,'" says Jackson, who has been involved with TNN for a year and a half. "I help people get to where they need to be...and Andrew is not here, but he helped us find Open Broadcasting Software, OBS."

"Jackson and Andrew figured out Open Broadcasting Software and did the set," says Mr. Williams. "The kids also write the script." Although, "We do have to check it."



"They're still middle school students," adds Ms. Clinton.

In addition to morning announcements and dismissal, TNN also broadcasts special events from their YouTube channel.

"We're doing the spelling bee December 2," Ms. Clinton says. "You can go to the website, click on the TNN logo, and watch it from home if you're a parent."

"Last year we had to film the eighth-grade graduation, and that was really fun because we're able to see what it would be like next year," says Araf. "It was a special moment."

One thing is clear from speaking with the students of TNN; there are many special moments.

"We make memories every single day," says Jaden.

"Every day is pretty good, pretty fun," says Jackson. "Sometimes there are small mistakes, but usually you don't let that get to you. You just keep going."



TUCKER CLUSTER

Updates & News

IMPORTANT DATES

December 12
Board of Education Meeting

December 19-30
Schools closed for Winter Break

BRAG SHEET

IDLEWOOD ELEMENTARY

- Idlewood is embracing the spirit of the giving season by hosting a Food Basket Giveaway, a Holiday Wish List and Winter Coat drive, and the student council will collect holiday items for patients at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

LIVSEY ELEMENTARY

- Livsey's Walk to School Day was very successful, as over 200 students walked to school on October 6, and Ms. Osbin's fourth grade class won the Golden Shoe award for their participation.

SMOKE RISE ELEMENTARY

- Smoke Rise is hosting their annual Giving Tree. Sponsors will provide gifts to children in need. From November 28 to December 9, sponsors can stop by the school to select a leaf ornament, and all gifts are due to be returned by December 12.

TUCKER MIDDLE

- Tucker Middle's Ms. Amber Clinton is recognized as the 2022-23 Middle School Teacher of Excellence and will receive this award at the 85th Annual ITEE Association Conference.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

WINE & WHIMSEYS



Main Street, Tucker got a little more whimsical in November with the addition of a new retail shop, Wine & Whimseys. Bridget Elliott Brady cut the ribbon on her storefront and welcomed Tucker to her lifelong dream of owning a wine shop.

“I sort of wake up every day thinking I can’t believe I am able to do this,” Brady said. “I can’t believe that I get a crack and a chance and a shot to prove to myself.”

Bridget grew up in an Italian household and cut her teeth in the service industry helping out in the family restaurant. Her grandparents opened “Sunny Italy Café” in 1926 and her mother continues the legacy of running the restaurant to this day. As a child, Bridget would help her grandfather sort and stack the wine for the restaurant, and she fondly remembers her uncle introducing the family to new wines at gatherings and credits him as the catalyst to her lifelong love of wine.

After graduating from Notre Dame with a bachelor’s degree in business, Bridget started her 20 year long career in wine with E. & J. Gallo Winery. While building retail display shelving to hold over 300 bottles of wine, Bridget would dream of starting her own business and developed a business plan for a wine shop.

Fast forward to today and that dream has come true with the help and support of her husband and children. True to Bridget’s vision, Wine & Whimseys stocks a variety of wines from all over and spanning the spectrum of affordability. Customers are offered a tasting as they enter to start the conversation and help guide their shopping experience.

“The whimsy part for me is those things that are extra,” Bridget said. “It adds a little touch”. In addition to wine, the shop offers wine accessories including humorous cups, towels, cutting boards and more. Bridget continued, “You will get that something extra that you couldn’t find at a traditional grocery or liquor store. We want to be something the community will look to for unique things.”

Locating her business in Tucker was an easy decision for Bridget. A resident of Tucker herself, Bridget was thrilled when a perfect spot in downtown opened. Wine & Whimseys’ opening marks the return of retail shopping to Main Street.

Wine & Whimseys is located at 2344 Main Street in Tucker. Shop hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday and 12:30 to 7 p.m. on Sunday.

BUSINESS BOOM

by Jackie Moffo, Economic Development Manager



If you've had the chance to visit downtown Tucker over the last few months, you may have witnessed some of the activity around Tucker's Trail construction.

Trail planning officially began with public meetings in October 2018. The formal Tucker PATH Master Plan, a joint venture with the PATH Foundation and the City of Tucker, was adopted by Mayor and City Council in April 2022. The plan provides a vision for a connected, expanded network of trails to run through the City and could also lead to trail connections to neighboring communities. It proposes 32 miles of greenway trails, side paths, and neighborhood greenways connecting to downtown Tucker, the Stone Mountain Park and Trail, seven schools, seven parks, and nine trailhead access points.

Tucker's Mayor and City Council awarded the trail construction contract in February 2022, and work began on Downtown Section 1A of the trail in March. Section 1A includes .04 miles of newly paved 10-foot sidewalks that frame the space that will soon become Tucker's Downtown Park. The 1A trail section then proceeds down to Railroad Ave with a section stretching

up to Lynburn Ave and includes an alleyway cut through to Main Street. This section is nearly completed.

While the construction of the Trail was underway, our city staff was busy working on what comes next for the trail. In September the Mayor and City Council approved a contract for engineering services on a major phase which will connect our Trail section to the Northlake area. This section of the Trail will include sections 1B, 1C, and 6A and is estimated to be nearly 2.5 miles. The engineering plans will be extensive, and the exact trail layout is subject to change as the engineering consultant team is tasked with finding the best and least environmentally impactful route.

The next Trail sections slated for construction will include 4C Phase 2, Hugh Howell Rd, and 4A, South Fork Peachtree Creek. The Hugh Howell section is a continuation of work already underway in the area.

If you are interested in keeping up with Trail construction and planning, follow the City of Tucker's social media pages for updates and join any of the Mayor and City Council meetings where approvals and engineering plans are discussed and approved. You can also find more information online by following the Friends of Tucker Path at www.tuckerpath.org.



LIMITED EDITION 2022 CITY OF TUCKER ORNAMENT ON SALE NOW AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

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404-474-2659

Tue.-Thu. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sun. 12:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

wineandwhimseys.com



“ASK RIP”

by Rip Robertson, Parks and Recreation Director



2022 was an exciting year. We experienced many firsts and tremendous growth in all our programs, activities, and events with record attendance numbers for most of the City’s events and outdoor activities. Our Haunted Trail had

double the participation, the Sip-n-Stroll and Campfire & Cocktails also saw growth and we introduced a variety of well-attended youth sports clinics. We saw many familiar faces on Main Street for our annual Independence Day Celebration and had great feedback about our Kids Zone.

We had many new projects this past year. We started a successful concert series with great musical talent. We saw many new additions to our parks and pools such as the Cofer Pool splash pad, the new playground at Rosenfeld Park and the Memorial at Probst Park. We also began planning for new park projects in Johns Homestead, Fitzgerald, and Lord Parks. Stay connected to be informed as our events and your parks continue to grow and expand with new and improved features for you and your entire family.

With the holidays providing plenty of opportunities for eating and fun, we at the Parks and Recreation Department would like to remind everyone about our workout opportunities. Tucker has miles of trails and a gymnasium at Tucker Recreation Center where you can play basketball, volleyball, and pickleball. Our workout/exercise gym is open daily during operating hours Monday–Saturday. Our outdoor Fitness Court is open for use in the downtown area on Church Street. There are a lot of ways to help maintain your health in the City of Tucker.

Our youth basketball program is already practicing, and games begin in a few weeks. Teams have already been formed, but we invite you to check for any available spots with Ray Rollins. We are always searching for volunteers for coaching, officiating or any number of opportunities to work with kids. If interested, you can contact Ray Rollins to get involved as well. Our season will begin in December and run through February.

Registration for our youth baseball and softball programs has already begun. Practices and the season are set to start in the early spring and we expect it to be an exciting season.

A poster for MLK Day Trail Maintenance. The top section has a dark blue background with the text "JANUARY 16" in white and "MLK DAY" in large, bold, white letters. Below this, on a white background, is the text "Join us in honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a Day of Service at Johns Homestead" in dark blue. In the center is a green logo for "TRAIL MAINTENANCE" with stylized trees. The bottom section has a dark blue background with the text "MAKE IT A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF" in white.

A poster for a Teen Watch Party. The top section has a black background with the text "BIG GAME" in large, bold, yellow letters. Below this is a large, detailed image of an American football. Overlaid on the football is a black banner with the text "TEEN WATCH PARTY" in white, with "FEB. 12 | 6-9 P.M." below it. At the bottom, on a black background, is the text "JOIN US FOR FOOD, GAMES & PRIZES" in white. The very bottom of the poster has a black background with the text "Tucker Recreation Center" in white.

TUCKERGA.GOV

1975 LAKESIDE PARKWAY, SUITE 350, TUCKER, GA 30084
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TUCKER *Community Corner*

