



INTUCKER

JANUARY 2023 | VOLUME 7 | ISSUE 1



OTC SEASON: THE DO'S & DON'TS



EDITOR'S NOTE



One should always start the year off strong. That is one of the reasons resolutions even exist, really. Set the bar high as a reminder all year what

we are capable of and inspire ourselves to stick to it. Resolutions don't have to be complicated or even very detailed. One of my resolutions for 2023 is self-care. I now have two teenagers, and it feels like I have less time for myself. Self-care can mean eating healthy, drinking more water, taking time to pamper myself, so I am confident I can meet this challenge pretty easily.

This January issue of InTucker highlights three entities that set their bars high all year and consistently hit their marks. Through hard work and consistency, these three inspire ME to do better.

Our Citizen of the Month, Whitney Teyf, is a business owner and community organizer with a long history in Tucker. Plus, she was part of the champion Kickball team through our Parks and Rec league this fall!

Tucker is known for its small, niche businesses, and Music Trader is one of the most sought after in our City. Owner Paul Allison has been operating since 1985 and has the stories to prove it.

William Kirkland has been a great addition to Tucker's team of staff this year. While he is a diligent worker and gets his work done, he is also a delight to visit with when I need a break from staring at the computer for what seems like hours!

Of course, no one is perfect, and we all have something that we can internally work on. But that is the delight of the new year. The blank pages of the year are an opportunity to challenge ourselves to grow, find something better, DO something better and inspire others to grow and challenge themselves.

SONJA SZUBSKI
INTUCKER EDITOR

IN THIS ISSUE



CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Mayor and Council stay busy year-round with setting policy, updating ordinances and approval on contracts. Learn more on page 4.



SCHOOL FEATURE

On page 10 read a recap of an educational night for our student athletes and what it takes to play at the collegiate level and beyond.



ON THE BEAT

This month we take a look back at a previous article featuring DeKalb County's K9 unit on page 5.



BUSINESS BOOM

Prudential Overall Supply is moving up and out but staying in Tucker. Learn about this important expansion on page 13.



INTUCKER

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From the Mayor

New year, new you? January is the traditional time of year to set resolutions for self-improvement, and the City of Tucker is no different. What is different is that our fiscal year runs from July 1 – June 30. That means everyone else's New Year is the mid-point of our year as a city, but it's nonetheless a good time to reflect and check in on progress.

Our budget this year is over \$40 million. Around \$17 million of that is what the accountants sometimes call "extraordinary items". That means they are one-time, or limited in duration – in other words, they are for special purposes and can't be counted on to repeat each year. These include ARPA funds from the federal government and SPLOST funds from the extra penny in sales tax. Both are intended for capital projects like roads, trails, sidewalks, stormwater facilities and similar large investments to improve the city's infrastructure for the long-term. These funds come with lots of strings about what they can be spent on, reporting and auditing requirements, public bid processes for those who want to be awarded contracts for the work, and so on. You'd be surprised how hard it is and how long it takes to spend that money well! In anticipation of this unique situation, the City has brought on a Capital Projects Manager to focus solely on spending that money effectively and efficiently. Micah Seibel has joined Team Tucker to manage many of the big projects underway now, and several to come in calendar year 2023.

Another "self-improvement" step we've taken is hiring a full-time Human Resources Manager. Initially, all of our staff were employees of our primary contractor, Jacobs Engineering (formerly CH2M). Jacobs has been responsible for HR functions like hiring, risk assessment, employment policy, and other protocols. As we have insourced many positions over these first seven years, we have come to need our own HR department. We are very pleased that Lolita Brown has come on board, and we welcome her guidance and knowledge based on her direct experience managing these functions in city government elsewhere.

As a City we continually seek a higher level of service for our residents. The addition of these two positions on the staff are examples of that constant pursuit. Another is our ongoing program of plans and studies aimed at improving

quality of life in Tucker. Highlights for the first half of 2023 include a housing study, a study on the Lawrenceville Highway corridor and an update to our Comprehensive Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan is a formal statement of the City's vision for its future, and serves as the basis for all our other planning. It expresses the Tucker community's aspirations and goals for its future while articulating a corresponding set of policies and recommendations regarding land use, development and capital improvements. Georgia state law requires all local governments to create such a plan and renew it every ten years. After five years (this year for Tucker, as we approved the current plan in 2018), we update the Work Plan section that lays out a detailed timetable for specific steps toward executing on the Comprehensive Plan. I have been gratified to see the tangible results of our work plan over the last five years, and look forward to identifying the specific steps we'll take over the next five years to keep moving Tucker ahead. Please look for announcements about opportunities for you to give your input and feedback on all these plans in the coming months.

In this new year, I wish you all success, the strength to address your challenges and the courage to face the ones sure to come. I also wish you time and space to simply enjoy life in Tucker! I am looking forward to 2023 with you and welcome your input and support as we work together for the future of our young city. Please make sure you have signed up for our weekly email to stay aware of upcoming City meetings and follow us on your favorite social media platform. We are currently on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram and Nextdoor. We are adding LinkedIn to our list this year, too, so there are many ways to be in touch, and I hope you will!

**FRANK AUMAN
MAYOR**

City Council Update



DATES TO KNOW

January 2
City Buildings Closed in
Observance of New Year's
Day

January 3
Downtown Development
Authority

January 4
Traffic Court

January 9
City Council Meeting

January 11
Traffic Court

January 16
City Buildings closed in
Observance of Rev. Dr.
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 17
University of Government
Affairs Tucker

January 18
Environmental Court

January 23
City Council Work Session

January 25
Bench Trials

The December 12 regularly scheduled City Council meeting was the only business meeting for the Mayor and Council this month and is the last of the 2022 year. Business started with unanimous approval of the evening's agenda after slight changes were made:

- The first read of an ordinance to amend Tucker Code regarding buildings and construction was exchanged for a resolution to adopt legislative findings, the required first step in the process.
- The minutes from the November 14 meeting were pulled out of the consent agenda for discussion.

Mayor and Council revisited the attendance of Councilmember Noelle Monferdini and approved it as excused 4-2. Councilmember Monferdini was recused from the vote and subsequent approval of the minutes from the November 14 meeting due to her absence.

Staff Reports were presented, and then the Council heard the second read of an ordinance to amend Tucker Code to allow the City to sell small, otherwise unusable parcels of land to bordering property owners. This amendment was approved with a unanimous vote by the Mayor and Council.

This was followed by eight items of new business including two first reads and one public hearing. The following items did not require action from the Mayor and Council:

- First read and public hearing for a Special Land Use Permit to allow for a major change in site conditions for a drive-thru restaurant at 4435 Hugh Howell Road and 2239 Dillard Street
- First read of an ordinance to amend the Tucker Code regarding criteria for alcohol licenses
- The following agenda items were all approved unanimously by the Mayor and Council:

- A resolution to adopt legislative findings regarding the importance of sprinkler systems in multifamily structures
- A resolution to appoint the Chief Judge of the Municipal Court of the City of Tucker
- A contract renewal with ConnectSouth LLC
- A contract amendment with Interdev for \$59,723.56 to create a geographical database of the city's road and stormwater system

In addition, City Council voted unanimously for resolutions to terminate the intergovernmental agreements, or IGAs, with DeKalb County regarding Maintenance, Repair, and Improvement of Stormwater, Roads and Bridges. This is one of the first steps in the City of Tucker assuming direct responsibility for these services.

There was no business for the Mayor and Council in executive session, and the last meeting of the year adjourned.



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.

Due to holiday travel we are reprinting an article from August 2018 by former liason Lt. Schoeppner about the DeKalb County Police K9 unit.

This month we continue our look at the different departments of the DeKalb Police Department with our K9 unit. DeKalb Police currently have 13 police canines. Most of the canines are Belgian Malinois (pronounced MAL-in-wah) with one Czech Shepherd. There are three separate disciplines of classification for these canines: utility, Explosive Ordinance D and single purpose. There are seven utility, or dual-purpose, canines which are utilized to track fleeing felons, find discarded evidence or lost property and narcotics detection. There are four EOD canines which detect explosive odors. They are used to assist bomb technicians and sweep events to keep venues safe. There are two missing person/narcotic detection canines who are attached to the Criminal Investigation Division/HIDTA unit. They can search for missing persons and detect narcotics.

Prospective K9 handlers go through a separate selection process, where they must complete another background check, oral interview and physical agility and strength test. If the applicant is selected, they will be paired with a canine that is selected through an approved vendor and go through the K9 handler school together. After completion of the school, they return to the department and continue to train numerous times a month. Not only do the canines need this training, but the handler needs it, as well. It usually takes a year for the pair to work well together. All the K9 teams are tested once a year in their specific disciplines by the North American Police Work Dog Association (N.A.P.W.D.A.). This testing showcases the K9 teams' proficiency in their specific disciplines.

The police canines are usually selected between eighteen months and three-years of age. They typically have a seven to nine- year work life and then will be retired to their handlers to relax and enjoy retired life. During the canine's

employment, DeKalb Police Department provides all food, medical care and necessary equipment for the canine. The handler is still responsible for the overall care of their partner on- and off-duty, like grooming and scheduling annual checkups.

Since joining the K9 unit, Sgt. Cusimano and K9 D'Jango have had over 300 deployments, from suspect searches and article searches to narcotic detection. They have made more than 135 arrests, seized nearly \$2 million worth of illegal narcotics and seized over \$100,000 of U.S. currency (which helps in funding equipment for the police department as a whole). Sgt. Cusimano is amazed at what his canine can do.

"He sure does make me look good," Sgt. Cusimano explains. He will never forget their first apprehension of a burglary suspect or how his partner led them directly to where the suspect was hiding in a backyard.



Sgt. Frank Cusimano is a 20-year veteran of the DeKalb County Police Department. He began his career in 1998 and was selected to be a canine supervisor/handler in 2013.

K9 D'Jango was born in Holland on February 8, 2011. He was selected from his breeder to become a police canine and was shipped to the Kasseburg Canine Training Center here in the United States, where their partnership began.

THE ABC'S OF OTC



What is a City without its business community? Not much, honestly. In order to be a thriving City, we need a thriving business community, and Tucker has it in spades. Every month the Mayor reports on the number of businesses that have applied for and the number of Occupational Tax Certificates (OTC) received in the previous month. This number reflects both home-based businesses and commercial businesses and illustrates the steady stream of innovation and commerce in the City. Tucker boasts a robust business economy that spans from locally owned, small businesses to large international manufacturers in the industrial corridor.

While the application process is straightforward for the applicant, there is a true dance of coordination and cooperation in the internal process for both the City and DeKalb County. It is recommended that all new businesses check in with the City's Planning and Zoning department to make sure that the proposed business aligns with the allowed building usage. Once the applicant submits the completed application and all required paperwork and permits, the City checks if the business fits the definition of zoning for the proposed address. If it is compliant

WHAT YOU NEED FOR AN OTC APPLICATION

1. Occupational Tax Certificate Application
2. Copy of Professional State License (if required by state)
3. Copy of first page of Articles of Incorporation (if incorporated)
4. Copy of Commercial Lease/Sales Agreement of Property/Warranty Deed
5. Copy of Owner and Applicant's Identification
6. All City building permits required for any building modifications

the application is approved and a route sheet for DeKalb County is provided to the applicant. This routing sheet is of utmost importance as it is up to the applicant to contact the various county departments. From there the County will perform various inspections including watershed and fire/life safety. If the application is for a restaurant a health inspection and a FOG (Fats, Oils, Greases) compliance inspection are required as well. Once these are completed and approved, the applicant will need to sign up with DeKalb County Sanitation if at a commercial address. These inspections can take time, so patience and diligence are recommended. The biggest hiccup in the OTC process is the length of time for the required inspections. That is why it is extremely important that applicants follow the directions closely on the routing sheet and contact the county should they have problems maneuvering through their system. The OTC application process from submission to receipt of the certificate should only take up to 30 days.

There are a number of business types that require additional paperwork by the state including automotive brokers, barber shop/beauty salons and massage therapy establishments. These businesses have their own PTC applications on the City website with clear instructions and requirements from the state. Home-based businesses do not require the routing sheet or additional inspections from the County, so the approval process is much quicker, and it is all in-house with the City.

Occupational tax certificate licensing is processed within the Finance department, but several departments have a hand in it as well. The City Planners sign off on the application to ensure that the proposed business fits within the zoning code. The Building and Permitting Department processes any required permits for needed structural modifications and performs inspections. The Economic Development department can even get involved at times. The City's Business Outreach Coordinator acts as a liaison between the applicant and the County to help coordinate this intricate dance of approvals.

Occupational Tax Certificates are valid through December 31 of each year and renewal is required annually. January marks the start of the OTC renewal period for the City of Tucker and applications are considered late on April 15. For more OTC information, applications and information on other required licenses please visit tuckerga.gov/business.



OTC FAQ

Q: Do all businesses in the City of Tucker need to apply for an occupational tax certificate?

A: Yes, all for-profit and non-profit businesses are required to obtain an occupational tax certificate (formerly known as business license). This applies even if you have a home-based business. Fees will vary depending on the type of business, so please check in with our team at City Hall at (678)597-9040 for details about your specific business.

Q: Why do I need an occupational tax certificate?

A: Per City of Tucker Code Chapter 10, all businesses within Tucker city limits are required to obtain a City of Tucker occupational tax certificate.

Q: Are all businesses eligible for an occupational tax certificate or can the City deny some businesses?

A: The City reserves the right to deny any business that does not comply with all rules and regulations or those that do not meet the requirements set out by the City to obtain an occupational tax certificate. This includes failing to meet building standards or zoning requirements and failure to get approval of the Fire Marshal or Dekalb Watershed.

Q: When is the deadline for Occupational Tax Certificate renewal?

A: Per Section 10-32 of the City of Tucker Code all renewals are due and payable on January 1st. Renewals shall be considered delinquent if not paid by April 15th. Delinquent businesses will be subject to penalties and interest.

Q: What should I do if I move or sell my business?

A: Section 10-36 of the City of Tucker Code states that the Finance Department should be notified of the move. The move will be reviewed by Finance and Planning and Zoning before issuance of a new occupational tax certificate. Section 10-37 states that occupational receipts shall not be transferable, and a transfer of ownership shall be considered in the same light as the termination of the business and the establishment of a new business. A new registration application will be required of the new owner of the business.

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

WHITNEY TEYF



I would like to nominate Whitney Teyf as Tucker's Citizen of the Month. Whitney moved to Tucker with her family partly because her husband Khanan grew up in Tucker and attended the Tucker schools. When they started their family, it just made sense to move "home" and make their place in the community.

Whitney quickly became a name in all of the area schools as she owns and operates a mobile dance company. Expressions in Motion Dance is a staple in the after-school programs all across the Metro Atlanta area and continues to grow every year, after a little hiatus for the pandemic, of course. But once the schools re-opened, Whitney and her cadre of talented dance teachers were back at it, serving, nurturing and having fun with Tucker's children.

Having grown up Jewish, Whitney saw a blank spot in the traditional holiday gatherings in Tucker. Every year there was a Christmas Tree lighting and gift market, complete with a visit from Santa, on Tucker's Main Street,

but no mention of any other holiday traditions. In 2018, Whitney recognized the need and saw a way to help. After connecting with the organizers of Christmas on Main, and receiving their warm welcome and support of her idea, Whitney raised the funds to purchase a giant electric menorah to be added to the long-standing festival. Christmas on Main became Holiday on Main and a more inclusive festival for the Tucker residents. Whitney and her family go out on each of the eight nights of Hannukah and light one more candle per tradition.

Whitney is an amazing example of a caring Tucker citizen in all that she does, but her dedication and hard work both in her company's service and her personal service to the community is what makes her stand out and deserving of Tucker's Citizen of the Month.

Thank you, Whitney. We love you!

Nomination by Shelley Thompson

TEAM TUCKER *Spotlight*

WILLIAM KIRKLAND, BUILDING INSPECTOR

What are your responsibilities as a Building Inspector?

My first and foremost responsibility is to protect the homeowners and citizens of Tucker from any defects of buildings (residential and commercial properties).

What is your previous experience?

I have worked for years in Code Enforcement, Residential/Commercial Maintenance for a variety of municipalities and companies.

What made you want to be a Building Inspector?

Building inspections was a new challenge, and I wanted to do something different.

What is the first thing you check when you are inspecting a building? The structure of the building, of course! That is the core of safety.

What is your favorite thing about working in Tucker? The feel of being in a small city/town with a fast-paced environment.

Off the Wall

How many people are in your immediate family?

There are six in my family. My wife, our two adult daughters and three granddaughters.

What is your favorite vacation spot?

We love to go to Florida and visit the beaches and Disney is an annual trip, too. My kids are grown but we have grandkids, ages three and five, and we just enjoy watching them have fun and being with them. We ride ALL the rides; I even get on the kiddie ones!

What's your favorite holiday?

I am normally the cook on the big holidays like Christmas and Thanksgiving, so my favorite holiday is the 4th of July. I get to really let my hair down, hangout with the family and watch some fireworks. I still cook all the meats like ribs and chicken. And it is GOOD. Like 10/10 good.

What is your favorite season?

Fall/Winter



TUCKER ATHLETES LOOK TOWARDS THE NCAA

AS THEY PREPARE TO TACKLE NEXT STEPS



Many high school student athletes around the nation are striving, jumping through hoops, and putting in blood, sweat and tears to earn an athletic scholarship for college. There are nearly eight million high school athletes in the nation, and only about 490,000 go on to compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Tucker High School recently hosted an NCAA Night to help give Tucker students the edge to become one of those select few. The night consisted of an informational session about what students must do to play in the NCAA as well as a panel with alumni collegiate and professional players.

The night started off with guest speaker Asher Allen, a former player for the Tucker Tigers and the Georgia Bulldogs who later played professionally for the Minnesota Vikings. Allen stressed to the crowd that grades were important and shared examples from when he played

for the Bulldogs. He recalled a time when the coaches asked players' input about potential recruits, but Coach Mark Richt was clear he would not "waste any time" on some potential recruits due to their grades.

"I am not sure if you know, but there are a ton of people who have made it to college, and that is the basics. There are a ton of people who go farther than that who have attended Tucker High School. So, you have a big family and a lot of access."

~ Asher Allen

Allen told the Tucker crowd that it was important for high school athletes to attend as many college camps as possible, as this would help them get noticed. He shared that when he was in high school, he

went to college camps every summer, and he thinks it helped him move forward in his collegiate career. In addition, he explained that high school athletes should have good game film to help in the recruitment process. He further encouraged the students, saying that Tucker students find success because the school sets them up for it.

"I went to Tucker High School. Once I came here competition was clearly the norm," Allen said. "I am not sure if you know, but there are a ton of people who have made it to college, and that is the basics. There are a ton of people who go farther than that who have attended Tucker High School. So, you have a big family and a lot of access."

One Tucker alumnus who played collegiately and professionally was Cameron Tatum. He played basketball at the University of Tennessee and went on to play professionally overseas. Tatum also expressed to the students the importance

of grades. Tatum shared his recruitment experience with the University of Alabama: Alabama offered him a scholarship but then realized his grades were not good enough, and they were not willing to wait for him to bring them up. He later learned that the scholarship was offered to an old teammate from his time playing travel ball.

"Alabama went right down Highway 78, right down to South Gwinnett High School to offer that kid that same scholarship and he took it," Tatum said. "He did not say 'let me weigh out my options,' and I lost my opportunity to go to the University of Alabama." The former Volunteer told the audience that the Alabama offer could have been his only one, though, and warned the student-athletes to make sure their grades are good because they could miss their only opportunity.

Tucker volleyball Head Coach Maureen Jekielek and THS football Head Coach Wayne Jones also spoke in the meeting. Coach Jekielek pointed out that summer volleyball is expensive but reiterated that it can increase an athlete's chances to play collegiately. She also shared that most female athletes don't get full ride

scholarships, and most of their offers are only between 25 to 50 percent of tuition.

Coach Jones acknowledged the success of one of his football players, junior linebacker Christopher Jackson, who has won recruiters' attention and received more than a handful of offers. His offers include the universities of Auburn, Clemson, Coastal Carolina, Georgia, Michigan State, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas A&M. Jones said that what his linebacker has done is exactly what Allen and Tatum recommended.

"Christopher Jackson has great film, great work ethic and good grades," Jones said. "He works hard on and off the field and has great character."

"I think it was great," THS athletic director Cameron Heyen said of the NCAA Night. "I think having Asher Allen come back and Coach [Cameron] Tatum...here was very powerful to the kids that were in the audience due to the fact they are not just hearing it from me over and over again. They heard it from somebody who's also been through this and has been very successful, who has played both collegiately and professionally."



TUCKER CLUSTER

Updates & News

IMPORTANT DATES

January 4

First Day of Second Semester

January 16

Schools closed for Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

BRAG SHEET

LIVSEY ELEMENTARY

- Livsey's Night of the Arts provided an opportunity to show off the artwork that preschool through fifth-grade students created during the first semester. In addition, second and third-grade students put on a musical performance for parents, showing off their abilities in both the performing and visual arts.

SMOKE RISE ELEMENTARY

- Smoke Rise's annual Giving Tree event supplied many students in need with holiday gifts in the form of necessities like coats and shoes as well as games, toys, and gift cards. The community pulled together to fulfill the wishes of 50 different leaves and went above and beyond to give more than was requested.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

MUSIC TRADER



If you have driven down Lawrenceville Highway, you have seen it. Across the way from the Handy Ace Hardware, between Billy Bob's and MoonShadow Tavern, there is a store marked with an eye-catching guitar-shaped sign. "Music Trader" it reads, giving a fitting indication of what you will find inside.

The Music Trader is exactly what it says on the tin. It primarily operates as a buy-sell-trade store; this leads to an eclectic, rotating stock of everything from classic acoustic guitars to brass instruments to audio equipment. In addition to browsing physical inventory, customers gain access to the extensive musical expertise of its owner, Paul Allison.

Paul Allison had been playing music his whole life, and a couple-year stint at another music store in Atlanta opened his eyes to the possibility of owning his own. In 1985 he opened the Music Trader in Tucker off Lawrenceville Highway, and the rest is history.

"I've stayed at the same location ever since," Allison says.

In the Music Trader's years of operation, Allison has seen a wide variety of customers. "From internationally renowned doctors, churches, and famous stars to local musicians and recording studios," he lists. "We do a little movie and TV business. They are unique in being interested in appearances, not sound!

"One thing that really stands out about this music store is the intelligence and intensity of artists," he adds. "They are very motivated, highly energetic folks—it keeps you on your toes because you never know what their needs are going to be!"

There hardly seems to be a need that the Music Trader cannot meet. If you are in the market for repairs, Allison can help with those, too. "Over time I learned how to repair things on top of sales," he says, a necessity for refurbishing some of the instruments he purchased for resale. This skill has served the Music Trader well, as customers rave about its reasonable prices and quick turn-around time.

Allison's time in the industry and his passion for the musical arts are evident in the way he handles each visitor who enters the Music Trader. Whether you are a complete beginner still learning to string your guitar or a seasoned professional just browsing in search of a lucky find, Allison will meet you at your level. If the Music Trader has what you need, he will have plenty of tips and tricks for how to best use it. If what you are looking for is not in stock, check back next week. There is sure to be something new to catch your eye.

The Music Trader is located at 3964 Lawrenceville Highway in Tucker. Shop hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday.

BUSINESS BOOM

by Jackie Moffo, Economic Development Manager



On November 16 community, business, and government leaders came together to celebrate the groundbreaking of Prudential Overall Supply's Tucker facility expansion located on four and a half acres at 1355 Rock Mountain Boulevard.

"The City of Tucker is thrilled that Prudential is expanding their space and providing even more jobs with the City," said Mayor Frank Auman during the ceremony. "We pride ourselves on having a diverse base of jobs here in Tucker, ranging from heavy Industrial to high tech to service and retail. Prudential Overall Supply has been a great business partner through the years, and we look forward to continuing that relationship."

Prudential Overall Supply is an industry leader in cleanroom services and reusable work and uniform apparel. As a production facility, this site will provide laundry processing services and systems for use in industries such as manufacturing and automotive as well as in high-tech and professional industries such as business services, pharmaceutical, and high-tech chip manufacturing. Uniforms, floor mats, towels, and napkins are some of the products to be serviced through the new Tucker facility.

With its modern new facility, Prudential is investing heavily in the State of Georgia and in our community with \$35

million and 100+ new production, operations, and sales jobs. Prudential's President Chris Welch proudly shared during the groundbreaking, "this facility will eventually provide over 100 well-paying jobs for the greater Tucker – DeKalb County community and provide our customers with best-in-class industrial and cleanroom laundry services throughout the region. The Georgia market is important to Prudential, so we can best serve our customers expansion requirements in the region. We look to serve these requirements for existing and new customers."

DeKalb County Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson also attended the ceremony. She commented, "I am proud to welcome Prudential Overall Supply to Tucker. Their presence brings both job opportunities and tax dollars to DeKalb. Our business community is integral to the future of DeKalb, and I am here to see all businesses in the county succeed."

The Tucker facility will be Prudential's thirty-sixth location, boasting one of the largest, newest, and most advanced industrial and cleanroom plants in the United States. Construction is scheduled to be completed in Q1 2024.

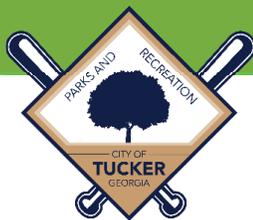
Prudential Overall Supply is a family-owned and operated business that is dedicated to its employees and the communities they serve – we are grateful to have them as a part of the Tucker Business Community!



Tucker Summit CID Director Emory Morsberger, State House Representative Billy Mitchell, DeKalb Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, Tucker Councilmember Anne Lerner, Tucker DDA member Honey Van de Kreke and Mayor Frank Auman attend media day at Prudential Overall Supply.

FIT & FUN INTUCKER

from Tucker Parks and Recreation



Happy 2023!

With the new year, we are looking forward

and planning out a busy year of fun and new additions to our programming and parks. Whether it's new community events, vendors and classes at Tucker Recreation or updates to the parks, we have a very full year scheduled and we welcome you to join us.

Basketball is in full swing, and we are thrilled to have added a girls league. This was a full-force campaign by the community, and we are so pleased with its success. The City has been selected to host the GRPA State Championship tournament for the 8U Boys, and we are hopeful our team will make it all the way. Baseball and softball are scheduled for registration to open this spring, and the expectation is for a continuing uptick in participation.

We continue to have dance, art, exercise, pottery/ceramics and senior programs at the Rec Center for all ages. There were some new programs developed this past year with preschool gymnastics,

STEM Lego sessions, and several new exercise options. The Fitness Room and Open Gym memberships are still being offered with times for different activities including basketball, volleyball and pickleball.

The event calendar kicks off the new year with a service opportunity at Johns Homestead on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Details can be found on our website and Facebook events page. There have been a few adjustments to some of the events for 2023, with Sip 'n Stroll moving to the spring and Adult Field Day moving to September. In addition, we will be hosting a Spring Fling event in April.

We will be adding some exciting new twists to these events as well as others. The First Fridays concert series is all booked and preparations are underway for our largest event, Independence Day Celebration, on July 3.

Tucker's parks are in constant update mode, but they are full of opportunities to better serve our residents. This year will bring improved fields with upgraded lighting, sound and scoreboards

at Fitzgerald, disc golf at Lord and renovated tennis courts at Rosenfeld.

The City worked closely with the Friends of Johns Homestead group and was awarded a generous grant from DNR to make the much-needed repairs and improvements at Johns Homestead Park. These funds will help stabilize the area, reduce erosion and improve drainage with the replacement of the dams and corrections made in the existing flow around and through the park. This project will also bring in new bridges and boardwalks for our many hiking enthusiasts and provide new access and parking points around the park and neighborhoods.

2023 marks the fifth anniversary of the City of Tucker assuming Parks and Recreation services. The City has made great strides in programming, facility updates and added park amenities in these short five years. Be sure to stay tuned for all of the excitement we have planned for the next five years. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, and our webpage is the best place for all information and registration.



Upcoming Events

**JANUARY 16
MLK DAY**

Join us in honoring
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
with a Day of Service
at Johns Homestead

**TRAIL
MAINTENANCE**

MAKE IT A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF

Valentine's Dance Class
Saturday Feb. 11



Ballet
Ages 3-7
3-4 p.m.

Hip Hop
Ages 7-12
4:15-5:15 p.m.

\$35 per parent/child
We welcome all family types to
join this Valentine's celebration

BIG GAME

TEEN
WATCH PARTY
FEB. 12 | 6-9 P.M.

JOIN US FOR FOOD, GAMES & PRIZES

Tucker Recreation Center



TUCKER PARKS AND REC

5th ANNUAL
SENIORS
VALENTINE'S
Day
CELEBRATION

CATERED LUNCH & MUSIC

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 14
NOON-2:30 P.M.
\$10 PER TICKET

PURCHASE ONLINE or @ TUCKER REC

TUCKERGA.GOV/PARKS/EVENTS



Thank you to the kindergarten and second grade classes of Livsey Elementary School for helping decorate the trees of City Hall.

1/4 – Tucker Civic Association Lifelong Community Meeting

7–8:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting- tuckercivic.org

The Tucker Lifelong Community Project aims to improve access to service programs, housing and transportation options while encouraging healthy lifestyles. Hop onto Zoom for their monthly meeting to learn more about their goals.

1/10 – Tucker Lavista Lions Club

6:30 p.m.

Tucker Christian Church
4291 Lynburn Drive

The Tucker Lavista Lions Club provides community service to people in need by collecting eyeglasses, restocking local free pantries, and participating in other local efforts. Attend the first meeting of the new year to learn more about how you can get involved.

1/19 – Tucker Business Association Luncheon

11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Smoke Rise Country Club
4900 Chedworth Drive

On the third Thursday of every month, the Tucker Business Association holds their monthly luncheon for networking and educational purposes. Non-members are welcome to reserve a spot and attend to meet members and learn from local speakers.