



INTUCKER

FEBRUARY 2023 | VOLUME 7 | ISSUE 2

THIRD ANNUAL TUCKER RESTAURANT WEEK

RESTAURANT WEEK IS BACK AND BIGGER THAN EVER

EDITOR'S NOTE



You may notice some updates and refreshing in the upcoming issues in 2023. We started with the most logical refresh...for our Parks and Recreation.

January marked five years since the City assumed the management of the parks and the Tucker Recreation Center. There have been some major changes and updates to all facilities in that time and we are no longer in an educational phase. We are in a growth phase all across the City and this is reflected in the dedicated pages for our Parks and Recreation Department. Ask Rip has become Fit & Fun InTucker, look to it for updates on programming, construction, and community engagement.

Another new addition to expect later in the year is the addition of a Public Works space to keep you in the know on how we are standing up the department and what to expect in the first years. There is a lot of catch up to complete. It will be an exciting time and opportunity for growth.

There will also be the continuation of community favorites like Business of the Month and Citizen of the Month. The City is nothing without its standout residents and small businesses. We will always make space to honor them. If you know of anyone that should be nominated or if there is a business that you want to know more about, please reach out to me!

Change is inevitable, as illustrated by the switch in our Police Liaison role, once again. In this issue's On the Beat, we say goodbye to Lt. Berg. We are all grateful for the time he spent with us, but we are also excited to introduce you to our new liaison next month.

February is my favorite month of the year for a myriad of reasons. Have fun and chase away these grey and gloomy days.

SONJA SZUBSKI
INTUCKER EDITOR

IN THIS ISSUE



ON THE COVER

Tucker Restaurant Week is back! We have added more restaurants and the specials are extra special this year. Read all about it on page 6.



TEAM TUCKER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Philip Henderson, one of our newest staff members. Learn what he does for the City and his thoughts on Valentine's Day on page 9.



CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

If you don't know this month's Citizen of the Month by name, I bet you know her by sight. Vicki Warren is all over Tucker and on page 8.



TUCKER MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM

STEM is THE education buzzword and Tucker is leading the pack with the program at Tucker Middle School. Read more about it on page 10.



INTUCKER

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From the Mayor



Despite being the shortest month of the year, February 2023 is big and busy for our Tucker. First, America sets aside the month of February as Black History Month, a time to celebrate and honor the Black community, its culture and contributions. For the past few years, City of Tucker staff and elected officials have worked closely with the Peters Park community on beautification projects generously funded from former DeKalb County Commissioner Nancy Jester. Through this partnership the neighborhood has received sign toppers for the street signs, street trees along Elmdale Drive, and three gateway signs. Also during this time, the city has renovated Peters Park itself, added brand new playground equipment (one of the very best playgrounds in the city), installed new sidewalks for connectivity to other parts of Tucker, cleared dilapidated buildings, and provided advanced new security measures in and around the community. In conjunction with Black History Month, we will have an official unveiling this month of the new signage and celebrate all the great new additions and improvements to the area.

Valentine's Day is also a highlight of February, and one of the ways we celebrate here in the City is with our seniors at the annual Valentine's Day luncheon and dance. This event has already become an annual favorite with our staff at the Tucker Recreation Center and our residents as they enjoy a catered lunch and music on February 14. Tickets are only \$10 and are available at Tucker Recreation Center.

And starting on Fat Tuesday, February 21, let the good times roll for Tucker's third annual Tucker Restaurant Week! The week is longer and the participation is bigger with

some really amazing specials. You can read more details later in this issue of InTucker.

Our first segment of the Tucker Trail has been completed and we will celebrate with a Ribbon Cutting on February 27, which coincides with the launch of our healthy follow-up to Tucker Restaurant Week. Last year, my wife Gaye and I ate at every single participating restaurant during Tucker Restaurant Week – 17 restaurants in five days! It was awesome, but there was an obvious price to be paid for so much good eating. We only half-jokingly said that the next week would have to be fitness week – and that's exactly what we'll do this year! Tucker Fit Week will take place February 27 through March 5. Gaye and I will see you on one of the many trails throughout our beautiful city parks, and visiting the various options made available by the city and by our fitness community for balancing the joy of eating well with the joy of fitness.

February is also my birthday month, and while it is typical that the person is celebrated on their birthday, I want to celebrate and express gratitude to God, my family and my community. I am so grateful to have been born in this time, in this country and to live in this Tucker community with my wife, family and friends. Thank you for what you do to make it a great place to Live, Work, Play and Pray.

**FRANK AUMAN
MAYOR**

City Council Update



DATES TO KNOW

February 1

Traffic Court

February 6

Downtown Development Authority

February 8

Traffic Court

February 13

City Council Meeting

February 15

Environmental Court

February 20

City Buildings closed in Observance of George Washington's Birthday

February 21

University of Government Affairs Tucker

February 27

City Council Work Session

Mayor and City Council started off the new year with a special called meeting for the purpose of a master plan presentation for the Tucker Town Green greenspace located on Railroad Ave to the west of Main Street. Barge Design Solutions has shepherded the process from community input through to the final design.

The regular scheduled meeting for January 9 was called to order at 7 p.m. for a short meeting comprised of a unanimous approval of the consent agenda after three items were removed and pulled to discussion in old and new business. Old business was a second read and public hearing for a modification on a Special Land Use Permit to allow for a change in the condition related to the northbound right turn lane from Rosser Terrace onto Hugh Howell. The Mayor and Council approved the modification unanimously. This was followed by one of the removed items from the consent agenda, an amendment to the ordinance regarding the alcoholic beverages ordinance. Tucker City Council and Mayor approved the amendment 5-2.

The other two items that were removed from the consent agenda were contracts.

One was an agreement with GA Power in the amount of \$155,000 to add streetlights to Juliette Road with a \$1,121.89 monthly maintenance fee. And the other was a contract for the Hugh Howell Road Trail Design – Phase 2 awarded to Thomas & Hutton in the amount of \$105,700. Both contracts were approved unanimously.

The Mayor and Council called two meetings to order on the fourth Monday of January. The first being a special called meeting for the purpose to approve the design plan for the Town Green presented by Barge. The plan was approved 6-0. This was followed by the first read of an ordinance to amend the Tucker code relating to Home Brew Event permitting.

The second meeting of the night was the regularly scheduled work session with seven items for discussion and presentation.

City Council meetings are scheduled for the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. and are held in the Council Chambers of City Hall (1975 Lakeside Parkway, Suite 350 A, 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.

With the ringing in of the New Year, inevitably comes new challenges and new opportunities. For me, this is my last On the Beat article as the City of Tucker Liaison Officer. By the time you read this, I should have finished picking up my new uniforms to prepare for my promotion to Captain. While I would have preferred to announce my retirement, I suppose getting promoted is the next best thing!

These last few years working with the city have been one of the best professional experiences of my career. I will always remember the bi-weekly crime meetings at City Hall with city officials, Mayor Auman, and elected Board Members. While the questioning was tough at times, it was all done respectfully and with the safety and security of all Tucker citizens coming first.

Fortunately, crime in the City of Tucker has been relatively low for several years. Nevertheless, there will always be crimes of opportunity in every city. Over the years, for example, I've talked in particular about one "thorn in our side"

crime – the abundance of vehicle break-ins that have occurred throughout our community. I encourage all residents to be mindful of what they leave in plain sight in their cars. Vigilance in all is the best way to keep our city and our county safe.

"With our newly arrived Tucker Precinct Commander Major Harden, along with Assistant Precinct Commander Captain Toledo, I am leaving the Precinct in very good hands."

I am confident the new City of Tucker Liaison officer will tackle any crime-related challenges head on. With our newly arrived Tucker Precinct

Commander Major Harden, along with Assistant Precinct Commander Captain Toledo, I am leaving the Precinct in very good hands. Although our manpower is a bit lower than in previous years, the officers we have at Tucker Precinct (including several new ones just released from training) are all hard workers who care about the community. It still amazes me the types of calls our officers handle and the positive difference these dedicated men and women make every day.

I want to thank everyone with the City - its employees, elected officials, and most importantly, its citizens – for allowing me this opportunity to serve. In the end, while I am not leaving the Department for a condo in Costa Rica, I am excited to be able to help in other areas of the Department. However, you may see me again. If not at Tucker Precinct, then at least at one of the city's many great restaurants. I need to maintain my energy for a few more years!



Alex B., a local Boy Scout in Troop 550 recently met with Tucker's very own, Lt. Berg at Corner Cup to discuss the impact of Lt. Berg's career in our community. Alex is working on his Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge, with lofty hopes of becoming an Eagle Scout before the age of 15. Lt. Berg spoke with Alex for well over an hour about what it means to be a civil servant, and how serving in one's community is a tremendous way to impact many lives on a daily basis. Alex learned what training is required to become an officer, what a day in the life of an officer entails, and also ways to stay safe while playing with friends around Tucker. Thank you, Lt. Berg. You are a true hero in our community!

IT'S TIME TO EAT

RESTAURANT WEEK IS BACK & BIGGER THAN EVER



It's that time of year again, when we bust out our comfy pants and make a grand tour of Tucker's restaurants. Tucker Restaurant Week is in its third year and is bigger than ever with an added day and many more restaurants.

Tucker Restaurant Week was created back in 2021 in collaboration with the

City's Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Discover DeKalb, in the hopes of generating business for local restaurants that struggled through the pandemic. Discover DeKalb's partnership with the City is funded by the Hotel Motel Tax and regulated by the state to be used for marketing and generating tourism for Tucker. In 2021 this included t-shirts for restaurant staff,

table tents, hotel rack cards, social media campaigns and ads in local magazines and radio. That year, all participating restaurants reported significant increases in sales and new customers, "This was an incredible opportunity and we were honored to be a part of it. We appreciate all of the effort put in by the city to highlight local restaurants" – Magnolia Room.



In 2022 the momentum continued with the creation of a Tucker Restaurant Week specific Instagram account, ads on streaming radio and more diversity in the social media influencers. This translated to increased sales over the previous year's Tucker Restaurant Week for all participants and a notable uptick in new customers, "We estimate 4-5 customers per day came in because of Restaurant Week and of that number 1-2 were new customers." – Grecian Gyro

The third annual Tucker Restaurant Week planners have been hard at work for months, coordinating with the restaurants, building the website, and expanding the marketing plan. Discover DeKalb is facilitating geofenced advertisements on streaming local radio, print advertising and utilizing hyper-local influencers. The list of participating restaurants has grown and there are quite a few additional options for sweets, and all were excited and ready to start the week of delectable specials a day earlier than years past. "You may remember, last year my wife and I ate at 17 restaurants in five days. I don't think that is going to happen again though, as we have well over 20 restaurants this year. We have some new participants, and it is really exciting, this is a big leap forward. I am going to devote myself to as much as I can!" Mayor Frank Auman.

In response to the amount of anticipated caloric intake during Tucker Restaurant Week, Mayor Auman has requested a Tucker Fit Week to follow. Tucker Fit Week is a challenge to ourselves and our citizens to get moving and will take place the week of February 27 through March 5. Later in this issue you will read about fun ways to participate in Tucker's parks and recreation center, but Tucker does have a robust list of fitness opportunities (see insert) and several resident run Facebook groups. If you need some accountability and some fun check out the Tucker Running Club and Tucker Walks on Facebook for weekly scheduled times to explore Tucker on foot.

For more information about Tucker Restaurant Week and the specials being offered at each establishment visit TuckerRestaurantWeek.com and follow on Instagram @TuckerRestaurantWeek.



TKR RESTAURANT WEEK 2023

- Antico
- Bambinelli's
- Bell Street Burritos
- Bite of Korea
- Blue Ribbon Grill
- Cococakes by Coco
- The Corner Cup
- El taco Naco
- FarmED Kitchen & Bar
- Ford's BBQ
- Grecian Gyro
- Honey Joe Cafe
- Kaylee's Candy Boutique
- Las Colinas
- Local 7
- Magnolia Room
- Matthews Cafeteria
- Munster Cravings
- Pontoon Brewing
- Shorty's
- Tucker Brewing Company
- Tucker Meat Market
- VTasteCakes Vegan Bakery

FEBRUARY 21-26

TuckerRestaurantWeek.com



TKR FIT WEEK 2/27-3/5

GYMS IN TUCKER

- Big Girlz Move
- CrossFit Tucker
- LA Fitness
- Rock Hard Fitness
- Orange Theory Fitness
- Total Fitness for Life

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

VICKI WARD WARREN

Vicki Warren richly deserves recognition as Tucker's Citizen of the Month. To quote Woody Allen, "80 percent of success in life is just showing up." Vicki not only shows up, she does terrific stuff. Here are just a few of the places Vicki has shown up:

Parks and Greenspaces

She's a faithful volunteer at workdays at Henderson Park, Johns Homestead, and the Tucker Nature Preserve. She faithfully protects native plants in our parks and takes out after invasives with a vengeance. Just get her started talking about Japanese Chaff Flower! She often helps with the Master Gardener project at the Native Plant and Wildlife Walk. We have tried to entice her into becoming a Master Gardener, but she'd need an eighth day every week to squeeze that into her life. "Vicki is a tireless and valued volunteer, her help with the Historical Society Plant Swap is just a drop in the bucket of all that she does for Tucker." Beth Ganga. I for one am happy she passes along plants from her own yard.

Conference Tables

Vicki brings her civic mindedness to SO many meetings of SO many organizations. She even assumes chairmanship of many of those meetings. Friends of Henderson Park, Friends of Tucker Parks, Tucker Civic Association, Main Street Theatre ... Vicki's good humor and willingness to work enrich all the organizations she belongs to. Her meetings are never dull -- any activity is more fun with Vicki there!

Tents

If you attend any Tucker event that includes volunteer tents along Main Street, you'll probably see Vicki under one of them. She has handed out dozens of parks maps. She's worked shifts at Taste of Tucker, Tucker Day, 3rd of July fireworks, Tree Lighting, and probably more.

Restaurant Tables

It's important to patronize our local businesses, including our restaurants and taverns. Vicki is always willing to help out. Cheers!

Tucker Recreation Center, Auditorium and Backstage

Stacking and unstacking chairs for Main Street Theatre productions is only one of the House Manager's duties. Taking tickets, selling cookies, keeping the gears meshing ... Vicki is key to our hometown theater's success. "Vicki is



a dedicated and hardworking volunteer, and MST is better because she's with us. We are delighted that Vicki is part of the MST family!" Wayne Kelley

Social Media

All too often, people spew unpleasantness on social media. Not our Vicki. With her humor and enthusiasm, Vicki brings more light than heat to Tucker Town Talk and Facebook.

On the Road

She collects and delivers clothing for the NETWORKS Cooperative Ministry. She kindly provides rides to those many activities listed above, for anyone who can't get there otherwise. If you see a big red truck hauling plants, signs or people, Vicki may be at the wheel.

"What I appreciate most about Vicki is her positive attitude and her gung-ho personality. She's a wonderful contributor to all that is positive in Tucker! She deeply cares about our community." Kimbra Wiseman

This is a woman who is deeply committed to her community AND a ton of fun. Tucker is lucky she's one of us.

Nomination by Claire Hayes

TEAM TUCKER *Spotlight*

PHILLIP HENDERSON, CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

What is it that you do for the City of Tucker?

I handle business licensing needs for the City. That ranges from intake and processing new business licenses and renewing older ones. Tracking businesses to make sure that all their licenses are up to par with what we need here in Tucker.

How is Tucker different from other places you've worked?

Tucker is easily much quieter than other places I have worked. There are times where the foot traffic gets a little heavier but even then, I don't mind.

What do you like best about working for the City of Tucker?

I love the short commute to work for sure, but I really enjoy the friendly people here in the office that continue to be so kind to me and make coming to work enjoyable.

What should people know about city government that they may not be aware of?

People should know that anything that takes a while to process in government is not just sitting on a desk being forgotten, it is having to get looked at and deeply researched by several individuals at a time constantly.

How did you find Tucker and what made you want to work here?

I found Tucker completely by accident. I was thinking about starting a home-based business and my home is within the city limits. After getting familiar with the website, I saw an opening for a position doing what I already was doing for Clayton County so I applied.



Off the Wall

What are some of your favorite hobbies?

Some of my favorite hobbies and pastimes are creating music, striving to learn something new every day and going for long drives.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to do something with music whether it be perform or write songs.

Valentine's Day: romantic holiday or gross commercialization?

To me it is completely a gross commercialization that does not need to be placed solely on one day. Now with that being said I get sucked into all the festivities of the day because my girlfriend sees Valentine's day completely differently.

What was the last song on your drive in this morning?

The last song on my drive in was actually a song that I wrote trying to mix and master it and hear how it sounds in the car speakers so that I can then later go and make some adjustments.

TUCKER MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM

ALL ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS



STEM education has been on the rise in recent years. Science, technology, engineering and mathematics programming promotes critical problem-solving skills and challenges students. In addition, many STEM programs are facilitated, which means that students must work together to learn with their teacher as a guide instead of a direct instructor. The STEM cohort operates in groups to complete hands-on projects that keep students engaged and utilize strategic thinking.

Tucker Middle School became Georgia's first STEM-certified middle school in 2014. In the time since the program's inception, Tucker Middle's STEM students and teachers have won awards from the Technology Association of Georgia and made it to the finals of a national competition for one of their projects, a device to prevent human trafficking in airports. It is no surprise that many students are interested in learning from such a great program. Students can join the STEM program by completing the application process and being accepted into it.

So how does the application process work?

First, STEM Coordinator Nathan Williams opens up the application for the coming school year on the TMS STEM program's website; this year, it opened on January 30. Parents, guardians or students then fill out a six- to seven-page Google form. The application will close mid-March, and then applicants will learn whether they have moved on to round two. Round two is an "interview" portion that both parents or guardians as well as the applicant students will attend.

There are a few things one can keep on-hand when filling out the application. You will need your student identification number, the email addresses of two teachers you trust to serve as recommendations, and the knowledge of any academic accommodations you may need. If you are a parent, keep your student with you while filling it out; there are a few questions they will need to be present to answer.

"It's not super long, but it does have a few essay questions," says Mr. Williams. "Like, 'is being proficient in math useful

as a scientist?' 'What question would you like to devote your time to answering?' Be prepared to spend a little bit of time filling out the application because it's all part of that initial stage."

Contrary to what one may expect, there is no need to send test scores. "I get the applications in, and then I request math scores from the counselors at the elementary schools or, if it's at the middle school, then I can get them directly," Mr. Williams says.

From there, students' applications are graded on a rubric: 50% math scores, 25% teacher recommendations, and 25% application answers. Qualifying students are notified that they will move on to round two.

Round two is described alternately as an interview or audition, but Mr. Williams reassures interested parties that it is nowhere near as stressful as it may sound.

"The kids get split into little mini groups... and then there's a build challenge and a logic problem with math. Those are two separate things," he says. "During that time, the teachers are going to be evaluating



them on premade rubrics. Basically, how well are they working together, how insightful are comments, you know, that kind of thing.

“What we’re really looking for is, hey, is this kid not working at all? Is he not engaging and being too bossy?” he adds.

While the students are attempting these challenges, Mr. Williams answers parents’ and guardians’ questions about the program. One of the biggest questions that comes up is about accelerated math; whether students have previously been in the accelerated math classes or not, if they are accepted into the STEM program, they will also be moved into accelerated math.

Other questions tend to arise earlier in the application process, Mr. Williams acknowledges; sometimes parents fill out the STEM application under the assumption that acceptance to the STEM program can be used to get their student into Tucker Middle School even if they aren’t in the right zone. However, “That’s

just not how the program works. It’s not like a school choice thing,” Mr. Williams clarifies. “They still have to live at an address that allows them to go to Tucker Middle School.”

Mr. Williams urges Tucker Middle School students who do not qualify for the STEM program not to be discouraged. “We have tons of cool stuff that models the way all the STEM cohort teachers teach that is available at the school. We have engineering technology classes... an afterschool club called Technology Student Association that is one of the most successful in the entire nation. Our robotics team is very competitive. We have this entire innovation lab that I’m sitting in now that allows kids to innovate and create.

“Whether you’re in STEM or not, there’s a lot to learn and a lot to take advantage of at our school.”

You can access the Tucker Middle STEM website and application at tuckermiddlestem.weebly.com.



TUCKER CLUSTER

Updates & News

IMPORTANT DATES

February 13
Board of Education Meeting

February 17
February Break - Schools closed

February 20
Presidents Day - Schools closed

BRAG SHEET

LIVSEY ELEMENTARY

- Three Livsey Elementary students won the DeKalb Watershed Management 2023 Art Calendar Contest out of over 100 entries. You can find Grady Denton’s art in January, Daniella Bae’s in March, and Emory Williams’s in November. Congratulations to our students and thank you to art teacher Mrs. Beauvais!

SMOKE RISE ELEMENTARY

- The educators of Smoke Rise Elementary will bring their experience to the National ESEA Conference in Indianapolis on February 1. They will lead a presentation detailing their climb from a Focus School in 2015 to a nationally recognized Distinguished School in 2021 and teaching attendees their strategies for success.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

DAIRY QUEEN

One of Tucker's staples is celebrating 32 years of service and quality food. Altaf Momin is the owner of the Dairy Queen located on Lawrenceville Hwy in Tucker. Momin opened the store in March of 1991 and since then the DQ location has been a resident favorite. Over the years, he has seen many changes and improvements in the area and shared that when he opened the store the only surrounding restaurants were Matthews Cafeteria, Coffey Brothers and a Burger King where the current Longhorn Steakhouse is located, "I have seen it grow tremendously."

Momin was born in India and grew up in England. His uncle was in the United States and already owned a few Dairy Queen locations himself. He asked Momin to come and help manage the growing family business, but Momin was unsure and nervous about a big move and sent his brothers first. When England was facing economic hardship while he was a bank manager, he decided to come to the States and join his family in the restaurant business. He opened his first Dairy Queen off Chamblee Tucker Road, then in 1991 Momin bought the location on Lawrenceville Highway. Momin likes his Tucker location saying "I love it! It's very central to everywhere and you can get to downtown in no time."

Along with the location Momin loves the community here in Tucker. The Dairy Queen owner said the people here are friendly, good natured, and approachable. Momin appreciates having conversations with people within the community.

"We have really good customers," Momin said. "They are really loyal and really appreciative; we get a lot of repeat business. People always give us really good comments about the cleanliness, the service, and the quality of food."

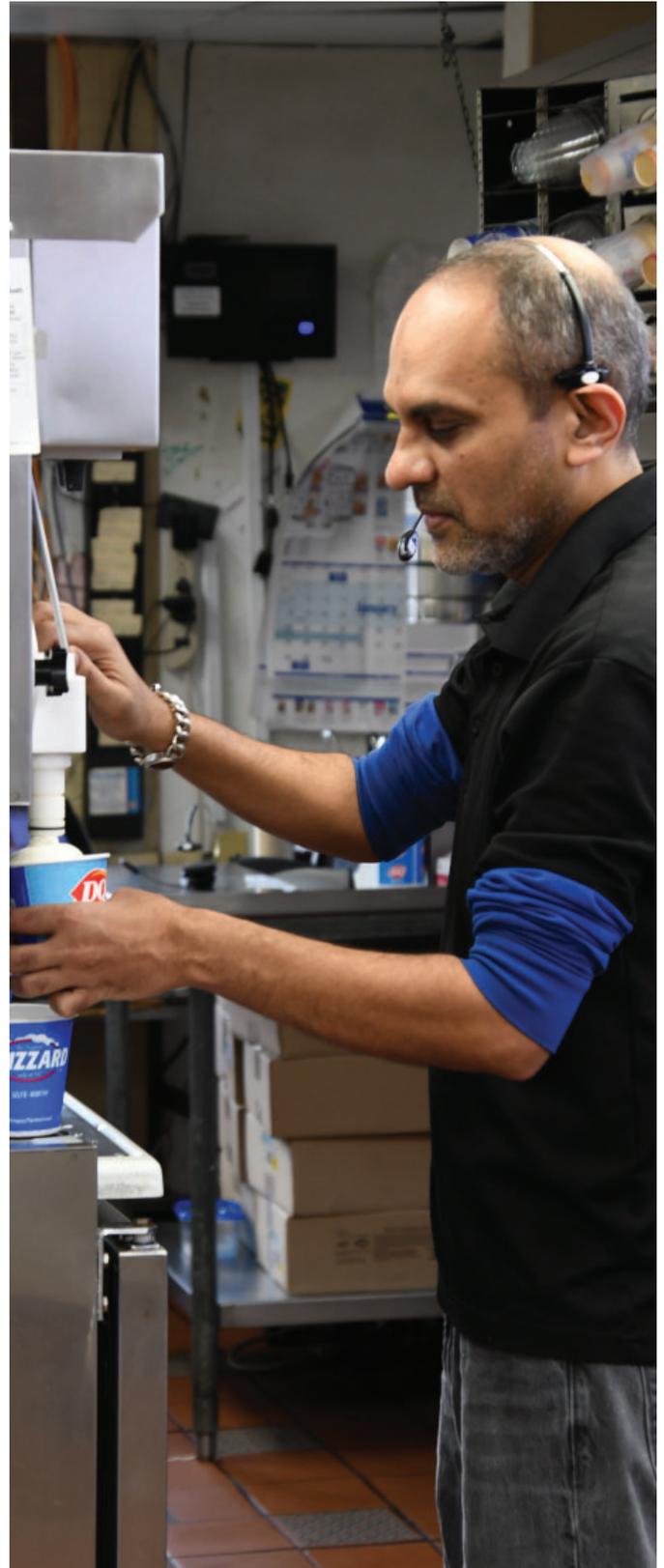
Since the Momin ownership of the store the DQ has seen many renovations. When he first bought the store, the location did not have a drive-thru. After the 1996 Olympics Momin took note how much business the store got drawing the Olympic crowd and added a drive-thru. Momin is also a Tucker resident and takes pride in his location and is glad he can help provide work for the Tucker community.

"It's good," Momin said. "You are your own boss, you provide work for the local people, and the locals appreciate the fact that you are here giving them good service and good food."

John Pounds is a regular and appreciates the service and quality food at the Tucker Dairy Queen. Pounds has worked at Siemens in Tucker since 2006. He usually goes to DQ at least twice a week during his lunch breaks.

"It's clean the staff has always been awesome, and their food is better than the other Dairy Queens I have been to," Pounds said.

Atlaf Momin's Dairy Queen is located at 4146 Lawrenceville Hwy in Tucker.



BUSINESS BOOM

by Angela Brooks, Business Outreach Coordinator



Black or African American History Month (Feb. 1-March 1) each year honors the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape this nation.

Davies Donkor, owner of La Baguette Bakery, is one of those African Americans who can actually trace his ancestry directly to Ghana in west Africa.

His family immigrated to the United States when he was two-years old, but he confesses that he didn't return to his homeland until 43 years later. "For all those years, I bought into the stereotype of Africa as an impoverished country with little to offer me." But to his surprise he fell in love with its beauty and its flourishing economy. "Now, I go back there as often as I can," says Donkor. "I have so much respect for the creativity

and ingenuity exhibited by Ghanaian people. They don't have the technologies that we have here, but they have become masters at doing more with less."

Like millions of other immigrants from around the globe that come to America, his father brought the family here to create a path to a better life, a path of education which ultimately led to entrepreneurship.

Donkor's journey to proprietor of a wholesale bakery began by happenstance with his mother's purchase of a restaurant in Buckhead and neither of them having experience running an eatery. Over the 12 years since then, the business has grown to service most of the Atlanta area in volume baking for restaurants, hotels, schools, and other commercial enterprises.

"An opportunity presented itself, and my mom unexpectedly bought a restaurant in Buckhead," he says." After ultimately transitioning to the bakery, he moved operations to the Fulton Industrial area. So, what brought him to Tucker? One of the key selling points that bring many businesses here; location, location, location.

"I had outgrown the space in Fulton industrial and was looking for a larger industrial space, and I wanted to be in close proximity to the city [of Atlanta]." Having grown up in Decatur, he knew that the Mountain Industrial area was one of the first places to look. "I wanted to stay close near 285 where I have easy access to get in the city to deliver my products fresh."

His product line consists of a variety of breads, buns, rolls from his signature creation: panoo (pronounced PAH-noo) a Ghanaian-inspired sweet bread. "My recipe comes from things that I knew of growing up; flavors that my mother would use at home that just resonated with me. Then took that to create the panoo," he explained. "Since I was already making bread, I just encompassed that in a product that was a simple hot dog bun when I started out, but from that I realized that I could open that same product to all facets of the American meal, whether it be for dinner, lunch, breakfast; it doesn't matter," he added.

He is grateful for all of those ancestors who made sacrifices that have enabled him to get where he is today. And although appreciative of the month-long observance, "I do think that our lives and our contributions to American history are much broader than 28 days."

He says his current business objective is to "really create a lane for panoo. This particular product is the next new wave of how I would like to leave my mark on this world."

La Baguette Bakery is located at 1810 Auger Drive in Tucker and can be found on the web at PanooBread.com.



FIT & FUN INTUCKER

from Tucker Parks and Recreation



We all make plans to get active, eat

better, and have

a great year. Most of us do just that but always struggle with the time to make it happen regularly. Well, we are here to help in many ways.

The eat better promise starts with good food and with the annual Tucker Restaurant Week this month, that's easy. Just check out the City's website for the participating restaurants and plan your week with great food and friends and have some fun. Tucker is a great food destination, so invite your out-of-town friends too.

As for the get active part of your new year's pledge, why not try out some of the Parks and Rec Department's parks and workout areas. We have some great trails in Henderson, Cofer, Probst, John's Homestead and Smoke Rise Crossing Parks as well as a paved path at Peters Park and an outdoor Fit Court at the

Church Street greenspace. We also have a great weight room at the Tucker Recreation Center and open gym hours for basketball, volleyball and pickleball. We have many instructor led classes as well, with Zumba (several styles), Yoga, Cardio and Core, Evolve (dance fitness), Fit Camp and several exercise classes designed specifically for your kids as well and senior specific classes with Tuckercise and Jackie Sorenson. These are fun ways to stay active and enjoy friends at the same time.

With the end of the Restaurant Week on February 26, Mayor Frank Auman would like to introduce Tucker Fit Week! This will be a self-motivated week beginning February 27 through March 5. Take some time to get out in the quickly warming weather and enjoy the outdoors. If there are some cooler days, come on by the TRC and exercise your competitive side with some basketball or pickleball. There's always someone for pickup games.

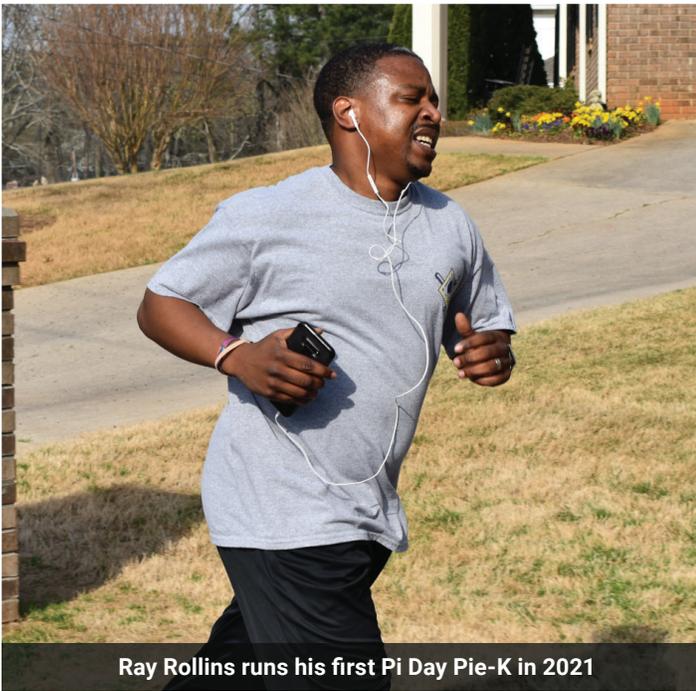
If you would just like to get out, enjoy the day and watch some great competition, come on by the TRC any Saturday morning and watch some great basketball. These kids are active and having fun and learning the game with the help of some fantastic volunteer coaches and our great staff.

Although we are a little early for spring (only about seven weeks away), keep an eye out for the many incredible events and activities coming up on the community calendar. Stay connected by checking our webpage, social media accounts and make plans to stay active and outdoors.

A quick reminder that youth baseball and softball registration is open, and we are excited about the new season. For those a bit older, we have the adult basketball and pickleball registration opening for play to start in March. We will also be offering another competitive season of kickball and we challenge everyone to come out and see if you can keep up!



Upcoming Events



Ray Rollins runs his first Pi Day Pie-K in 2021

In 2021, Tucker Recreation Center Manager Ray Rollins made a commitment to improve his health and run the Pi Day Pie-K.

In 2022, Tucker Recreation Center Manager Ray Rollins held to the progress he made and led the pack during the race.

This year he will take all the knowledge he's gained and tackle his biggest challenge yet: training Tucker Parks and Recreation staff for the Pi Day Pie-K.

Keep an eye on our social media to see their progress!

Registration for the 2023 Pi Day Pie-K is open now.

TUCKERGA.GOV/PARKS/EVENTS



TUCKER Community Corner



We appreciate all our volunteers who attended our recent MLK Day of Service at Johns Homestead. Pictured here is a volunteer group from Pepsi.

2/2 – Tucker Community Action Network Meeting

10–11 a.m.

Tucker First United Methodist Church

5095 Lavista Road

Tucker Community Action Network, formerly Tucker Community Action Team, will hold their first meeting of the year to discuss their plans. Tucker CAN serves the community through connecting residents to existing resources that meet their needs.

2/15 – Share the Love Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Tucker First United Methodist Church

5095 Lavista Road

Support the preschool ministry at Tucker First United Methodist! Buy your ticket starting February 5 and visit the Activity Center on February 15 to dine-in or grab a to-go plate for family and friends. A drive-thru option will also be available.

2/28 – Tucker Cluster Council Meeting

6–7:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting:

tuckerclustercouncil.org

Join this group of community stakeholders invested in the future of Tucker's students. At regular meetings, receive updates on the happenings at Tucker Cluster schools and directly contribute to the success of public education in our community.