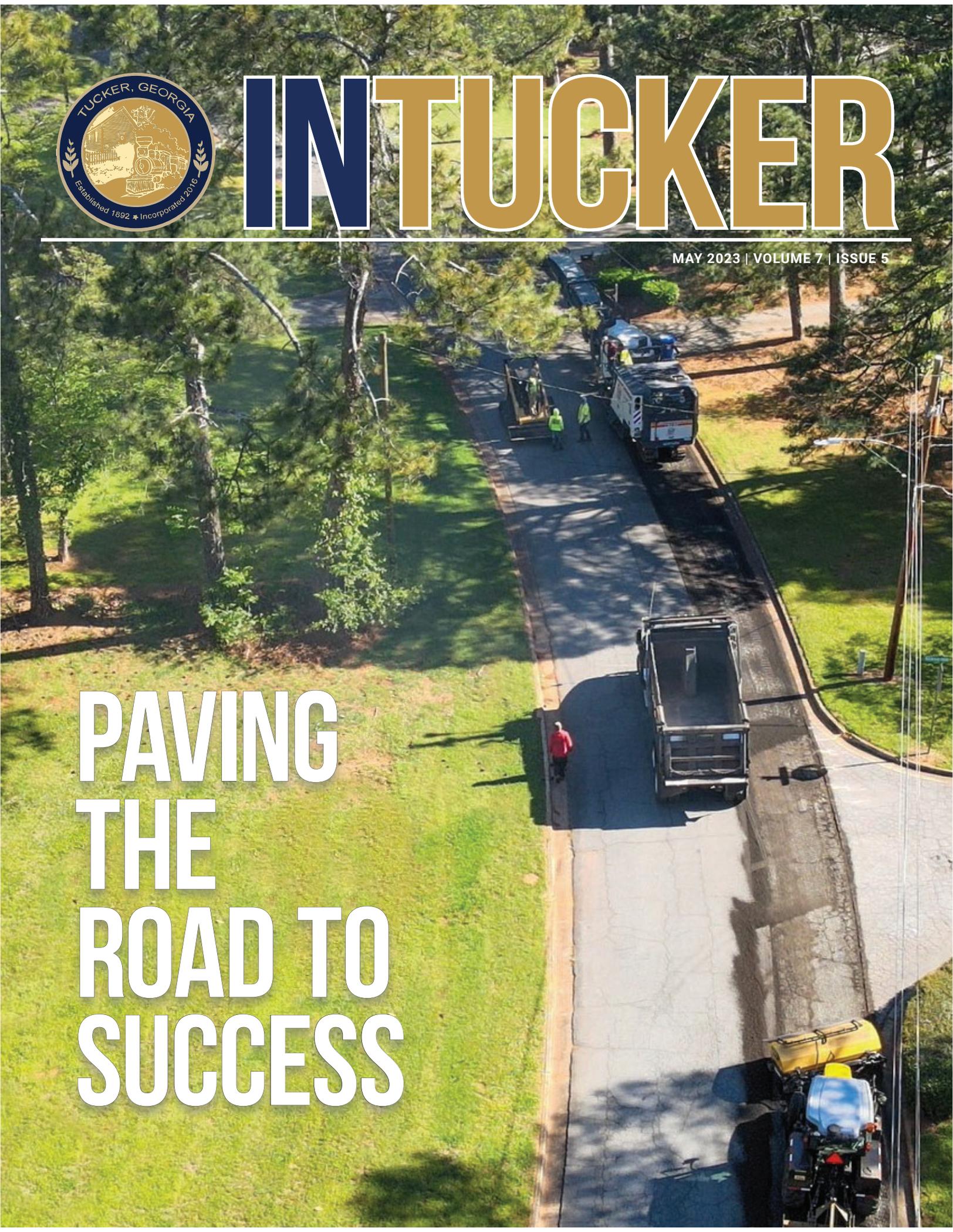


INTUCKER

MAY 2023 | VOLUME 7 | ISSUE 5

PAVING
THE
ROAD TO
SUCCESS



EDITOR'S NOTE



The school year is coming to a close and boy are my children thankful! May is always a hectic month, feeling like a

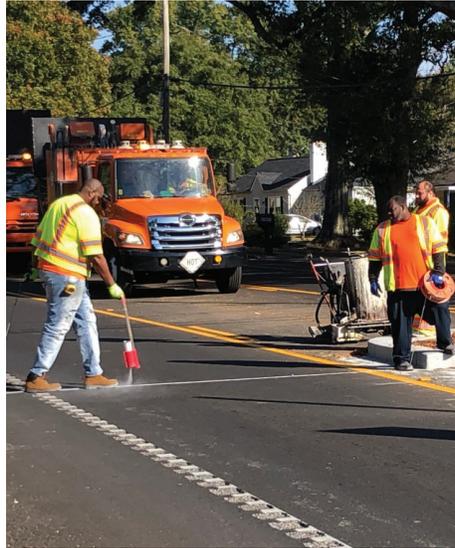
marathon sprint before the relaxation and slower days of summer. But your Tucker government is not slowing down and it is certainly shaping up to be busy here at City Hall. Standing up an entire department is an all hands-on deck endeavor, but I think we are having some fun with it too. As decisions are made and we close in on the July 1 launch date, look to our social channels for updates and some Friday Facts. As always, our goal is to keep you as informed as possible. Please share our posts with friends and neighbors!

This issue of *InTucker* has some great spotlights on active citizens and programs. Check out our Citizen of the Month, Destini Copeland. While not a resident of Tucker, Destini has dedicated her free time to the children of Tucker by growing and promoting the cheer squad for the Tucker Football League. In our school spotlight, we cover the revival of the learning garden that is truly taking a village to grow. The coming summer may be a great time to look at your zoned schools and see how you can engage and support different programs this fall.

The resurgence of school programs is also indicative of our community post-pandemic. Our community calendar is full this summer and I invite you to check it out on the website. In addition to our City community events, First Fridays, Third Thursdays and the celebration of Independence, our community of volunteers are making use of our new greenspaces downtown to host a variety of festivals, including the second Juneteenth Jubilee. There is always something to do in Tucker and we want to see you there!

SONJA SZUBSKI
INTUCKER EDITOR

IN THIS ISSUE



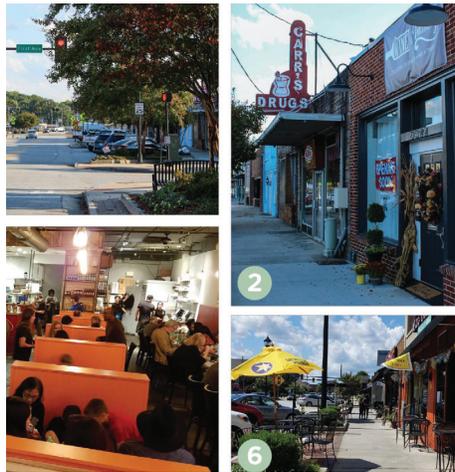
ON THE COVER

You voted for it and now we are doing it. Catch up on the latest progress as we stand up our Public Works Department on page 8.



TEAM TUCKER SPOTLIGHT

Tucker is in good hands. Get to know some of the new team that are leading our Public Works Department start-up on page 7.



EDSP FINAL APPROVAL

Read an overview of Tucker's first Economic Development Strategic Plan on page 11. Full document can be found online.



FIT & FUN INTUCKER

Our busiest department catches you up on future development and opportunities to stay fit and have fun on page 15.



INTUCKER

Sonja Szubski - Editor-in-Chief
Dede Musser - Design
Marcus Etienne &
Robin Stevens - Contributors

Printed and mailed by
AtlantaPrintAndMail.com, Inc.

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 5

INTUCKER is a monthly publication of the City of Tucker, Georgia.

All rights reserved.

MMXXIII



From the Mayor

It (almost) goes without saying that communication is key to any successful relationship. We all know it fosters trust, comfort and confidence for all parties, but we don't all always know how BEST to communicate. Among the city's staff and elected officials, we're always working on that.

As the City, we take seriously our responsibility to be transparent and communicative with our residents and businesses. I'm proud of the job our communications team does, but it's a job that's never finished, and requires constant attention. You can find information about the City and all of our business, meetings, events, volunteer and input opportunities and much more on various social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor and LinkedIn. We publish a weekly Monday morning email announcing upcoming meetings and City events. We print, mail and digitally share this magazine every month, and of course there is our website. Tuckerga.gov is very robust and comprehensive: You can find recaps of city council meetings (written and full video), various calendars of events including community-run events that are shared with us, contact information for our staff members, and details on all of our processes and departments. As comprehensive as the website is, we have heard and can see for ourselves that it has become a bit cumbersome to navigate, so we are excited to share that we are undergoing a redesign that is scheduled to launch this summer. Our City communicators are a talented crew and work hard to share city news and announcements in creative and engaging ways.

One change you may have noticed is that the city itself no longer shares or engages on the various private and community Facebook groups. We've found that by sharing and occasionally engaging on sites other than our own, some of our constituents have gotten the idea that if they simply post or comment on any one of the 20+ community sites run by community members, the right person with the city will see it and take the appropriate action. Of course, there is no way for us to ensure that consistently happens, and we don't want to contribute to any misunderstanding. There is just no way our staff can monitor them all and respond in a timely and effective manner.

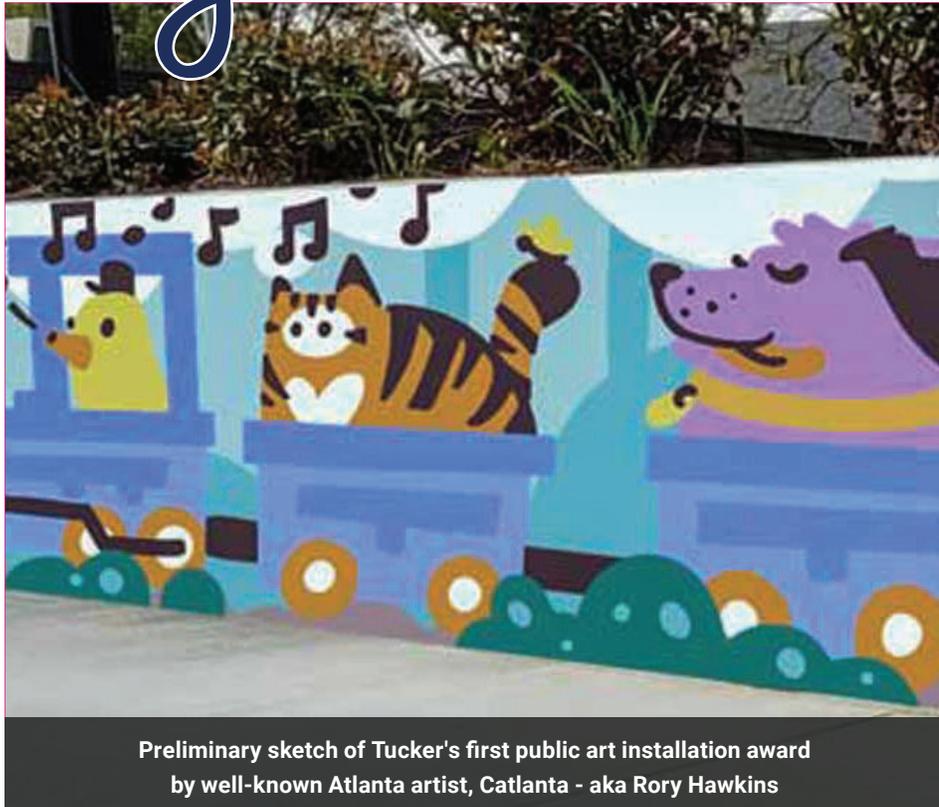
This begs the question, "What is the best way to communicate with the City of Tucker"? Your first best point of contact is usually your elected representatives. If you have an idea, a question, or a complaint, we're here to serve. Our emails are listed on tuckerga.gov, and although none of us spend our days at city hall, we have phones there that will forward your voice message to us. If you need help with something like public safety, business licensing, or any of the services provided by the city, you might want to contact the relevant department directly. Those contacts are also on the website, and we're publishing here in this issue. Beyond that, there are a number of other ways to reach us: As a body, the Council and I meet twice a month on the second and fourth Mondays, in addition to a range of other public meetings. In addition to opportunities for public comment and public hearings at those meetings, we are usually available before and afterward to chat about whatever's on your mind. Our staff is available during regular business hours via phone and email as well.

The point is, we want you to know how to get the responsive service you need from the city. While social media is great for many things, it is not a direct line of communication with, or for getting action from, your city's government. For that, the direct route is always best, and I hope these contacts will be helpful.

- FAuman@tuckerga.gov
- ROrlando@tuckerga.gov
- VRece@tuckerga.gov
- CSchroeder@tuckerga.gov
- NMonferdini@tuckerga.gov
- AWeaver@tuckerga.gov
- ALerner@tuckerga.gov
- CodeCompliance@tuckerga.gov
- Communications@tuckerga.gov
- Court@tuckerga.gov
- Licenses@tuckerga.gov
- Parks@tuckerga.gov
- Permits@tuckerga.gov

**FRANK AUMAN
MAYOR**

City Council Update



Preliminary sketch of Tucker's first public art installation award by well-known Atlanta artist, Catlanta - aka Rory Hawkins

DATES TO KNOW

- May 1**
City Council Work Session
- May 3**
Traffic Court
- May 4**
Community Meeting for Comprehensive Plan 5-Year Update
- May 8**
City Council Meeting
- May 10**
Traffic Court
- May 17**
Environmental Court
- May 18**
Planning Commission
- May 22**
City Council Meeting
- May 22**
City Buildings Closed for Memorial Day

The first meeting of April was called to order at 7 p.m., and cast members from Livsey Elementary School's play *Wooing Wed Widing Hood* led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first order of business was a second read on an ordinance to amend the Tucker code to allow for setting up a stormwater utility, and the addition to the City's code passed unanimously. This was followed by a unanimous vote on a resolution to adopt the Economic Development Strategic Plan. The plan was created by KB Advisory after months of public input and study of the economic environment in Tucker.

A slew of contracts were unanimously approved concerning park maintenance, change orders for road and park projects, and two contracts for software and training for public works.

The Mayor and Council then recessed for executive session to discuss matters of real estate. Upon return, they voted 5-2 to approve a PSA Agreement C2023-04-437711 and to authorize the Mayor, City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to take such steps as necessary to affect an agreement. This is a purchase sale agreement and an offer of \$5 million on the 1990 Lakeside Parkway three-story building. If accepted a 21-day period of due diligence will follow before a final decision is made. The offer was terminated with a 6-0 vote at the April 24 meeting after executive session.

In the second meeting of the month, Council voted 6-0 to award the City's first public art project and approve the stormwater fee.

Tucker's Mayor and City Council meet the second and fourth Mondays of every month at City Hall, 1975 Lakeside Parkway, Suite 350B, Tucker, GA 30084

FOLLOW US



nextdoor



ON THE BEAT with Sgt. Obester

Lt. J. Ridling is Tucker's liaison to the DeKalb County Police Department and can be contacted by email at jridling@dekalbcountyga.gov or by phone at (678) 597-9040.

In his November 2022, On the Beat article, former Lieutenant - now Captain - Berg began a series he informally titled "How to Use Your Police Department". After purchasing a vacuum cleaner, Lt Berg thought of the idea of writing an instruction manual for our police department. He intended this informal "manual" to help our citizens better understand and utilize our services. For this month's article, I'd like to continue this series and specifically address when things go wrong. In other words, what to do when things may seem "broken" after an encounter with one of our officers.

As we all know, police officers are not perfect. They make mistakes just like everyone else in this imperfect world. Fortunately, most of our officer's mistakes are minor and can be easily corrected with a telephone call or email to the officer.

Before contacting an officer, there is one important caveat you need to know. As a front-line supervisor here at Tucker Precinct, I occasionally receive emails and telephone calls from citizens wanting to complain about an officer. After contacting the complainant, many of these conversations reveal citizens simply wanting to dispute their ticket or their arrest. These well-intentioned citizens often proclaim to me their innocence to a specific charge e.g., "I was only going a few miles over the speed limit!" or the popular "Those weren't my pants I was wearing!"

After listening to many of these concerns over the years, in most cases I kindly refer these individuals to the court system. The DeKalb County Court system is the proper venue to argue one's guilt or innocence, not with an officer or his supervisor. During these conversations, I also advise the citizens to consult with a personal attorney. After an arrest is made or a ticket issued by an officer, in most circumstances it is up to the prosecutor to determine if the case is ultimately to be continued or will be dismissed.

Nevertheless, there are occasions when the officer may not have been as professional or courteous as he or she should have been. There are also occasions where the officer incorrectly documents the incident in his or her police report or perhaps did not document the incident at all. In these circumstances, a telephone call to the officer or his or her supervisor is appropriate.

To expedite a resolution, it is important to get to the proper division or police precinct where that officer is assigned. If you were unable to obtain the officer's name or badge number after

an encounter with law enforcement, feel free to call our 911 Communications Center. Our non-emergency number is (678) 937-2852. Please have the location, date, and time of the call so that the operators can research it and tell you the name and precinct assignment of the officer you encountered.

Once received, a complaint or concern will be thoroughly investigated by the appropriate division or precinct supervisor. This investigation may include taking a written statement from the individual officer, obtaining statements from any witnesses, and nowadays, reviewing the recorded body camera footage of the incident.

After an investigation is completed, if an officer is found to be in violation of a DKPD policy, corrective action will be administered. These corrective actions can range from verbal counseling (which is still documented in the officer's file) to suspension without pay or, potentially, can result in the officer's termination. Fortunately, it is the policy of our Department to follow the doctrine of progressive discipline, with the goal of improving both the performance of the individual officer and - if needed - update any Departmental policies and procedures that may be found deficient.

At the DeKalb County Police Department, we are also fortunate to have a very robust Office of Internal Affairs. This office, which reports directly to the Chief of Police, is staffed by supervisors and detectives who have shown exemplary performance throughout their careers. Our IA Detectives are individuals with very high standards for themselves and their fellow officers. These detectives are tasked with investigating the more serious complaints against officers that may come in. These allegations may include any unauthorized use of physical force, individual or group corruption, violations of the law committed by an officer, and any other major violations of departmental policies, rules, or procedures. The IA investigations are extremely thorough and professional. Occasionally, the findings might reveal the need to remove an officer from our employment.

In the end, while we certainly cannot offer a warranty with our work, the Department does have numerous policies and procedures in place to offer recourse to our citizens when we are made aware of any concerns about our officers. Ultimately, the goal of our complaint investigations is to ensure that we are providing efficient, fair, and impartial public safety services. It is my sincere hope that, for the most part, we are on track with this goal.

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS & UPDATE

In the November 2022 referendum, the residents of the City of Tucker approved amending the City Charter to add both roads and maintenance service and stormwater service along with raising the millage rate cap from 1 mill to 3 mills. This was a momentous decision that has set forth a flurry of work and preparation for the launch of Tucker's Public Works Department on July 1, 2023.

Tucker's Council, City Management and staff have been hard at work laying proper groundwork, approving ordinances, charter changes and service contracts to ensure that the department starts out on the right foot to provide top notch service to residents from the jump. The management contract was awarded to Lowe Engineering and the Public Works Director and Deputy Directors were named. You can meet Ishri Sankar and Jeff Mueller in the Team Tucker Spotlight on the next page.

In March, the Mayor and Council approved ordinances to amend the charter to allow for public works services including roads and maintenance and stormwater. Adding these services is costly and comes with its own line-item millage rate on the tax bill of property owners so this ordinance included increasing the allowable millage rate cap to 3 mills. This does not mean that the City will charge the full 3 mills allowed but that the Mayor and Council can increase the millage rate up to 3 mills without a referendum of the citizens. The millage rate for Fiscal Year 2024 has not yet been set.

Management of a public works department is heavily project driven and can be overwhelming for a City of almost 21 square miles. Staff relies on management software to track projects from start to finish including items called in by residents. Having

a software management system is integral and the City Council approved a contract with CityWorks at their April 10 meeting as well as a contract with Woolpert to implement the software. The City Council also voted to approve a resolution to set the stormwater monthly fee to \$6 per Equivalent Residential Unit and is scheduled to start July 1, 2023.

Prior to the July 1 launch date, the City has requested a stormwater inspection and assessment study to start later this month. The City awarded the project contract to Atlas Technical Consultants in February and they are tasked with verifying the existence of and age of the infrastructure the City will inherit from DeKalb County. This is estimated to be an inventory consisting of approximately 150 miles of aged stormwater conveyance pipes, over 13,800 drainage structures, and 71 detention ponds.

Atlas surveyors will be seen throughout Tucker and do have legal right to be in the right of way. They will be easy to spot but will also have a letter of allowance with them and residents are welcome to engage and ask questions.

The heavy lift is almost finished but there are few more decisions to be made. The City Council will need to approve the millage rate for FY'24 as it does for every fiscal year. An onsite warehouse is still in the works and more contracts need to be approved for services like right of way maintenance.

As decisions are made look to the City's social media channels to stay updated and informed. Sign up for the weekly email and check out our website at tuckerga.gov.



TEAM TUCKER *Spotlight*

GET TO KNOW OUR PUBLIC WORKS LEADERSHIP TEAM

ISHRI SANKAR PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

What do you do as a public works director/public works deputy director? Serving as the Public Works Director means being involved in every aspect of the Public Works Department. To name a few, this includes management of right of way maintenance, developing and implementing practical and legal policies, meeting the requirements of local, state, and federal environmental agencies, communicating between contractors, City management/staff, and the public, and ensuring that work on the City right of way is successful and beneficial to serve the demands of our stakeholders.

What was your last job? Previously, I served as the Capital Projects Manager at the City of Dunwoody.

What made you want to serve in this position? I liked the idea of starting a department. With previous knowledge in the Private and Public sectors, my unique understanding of the various aspects of design and maintenance made me interested in the position. I also saw this opportunity as a way to learn and develop in the municipal environment.

What are your goals with this job? Upgrading Tucker while maintaining its charm. I believe Tucker holds a unique character that reminds us all of comfort. As redevelopment moves in, I'd like to ensure Tucker has policies in place to maintain this character. As we repair and maintain infrastructure throughout the City, I'd like to bring the level of service up a notch so citizens can develop trust in us and understand the reasoning behind our decisions.

What is your favorite part about your job? I enjoy many aspects of the job including, but not limited to: learning new skills, multitasking, interaction with citizens and business owners, appreciating success, improving efficiency, and resolving complicated issues.

OFF THE WALL

- **Where were you born?** Guyana, South America
- **Favorite sports team?** Atlanta Braves/Atlanta Falcons
- **Favorite cartoon growing up?** Looney Tunes
- **What do you do during your free time?** Jam to LOUD Music
- **What is your favorite pizza topping?** Cheese



JEFF MUELLER PUBLIC WORKS DEPUTY DIRECTOR

What do you do as a public works director/public works deputy director? I'm back up to the director on day to day operations of roads and drainage infrastructure in the city. Also, my emphasis will be on the drainage side of the roads and drainage management, to include the MS4 program and minor stormwater system repair and maintenance.

What was your last job? I worked for a consulting firm where I served as the City Engineer for the cities of Dunwoody and Chamblee and as the Interim Public Works Director at the City of Stone Mountain.

What made you want to serve in this position? The opportunity to be in a start up situation. A start up provides the framework for innovation and reinvention, which was attractive to me professionally.

What are your goals with this job? To create a protocol for identifying necessary maintenance in the roads and drainage infrastructure so that we can maximize the amount of repair and maintenance that we can accomplish with the budget we have.

What is your favorite part about your job? To see projects developed and delivered into on the ground construction.

OFF THE WALL

- **Where were you born?** Davenport, Iowa
- **Favorite sports team?** Georgia Tech athletics
- **Favorite cartoon growing up?** Dick Tracy
- **What do you do during your free time?** Since our kids have made clear they don't want it, we sell all our stuff on Ebay
- **What is your favorite pizza topping?** Pepperoni

GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION

BUILDING A COMMUNITY THROUGH GARDENING



Gardening has long been a way to build community. From sharing tips to physically planting together, there are many opportunities for individuals to work as a group to create and maintain a garden.

Tucker's residents have plenty of dedication to gardening. The Henderson Park Community Garden, founded in 2010, has consistently seen every one of their plots rented. The Butterfly Garden in front of Tucker Recreation Center was established in 2008 and is continuously maintained by local master gardener volunteers. Many of our Tucker cluster schools have gardens on their grounds, including Brockett Elementary.

Brockett Elementary's garden has certainly been a group effort. Students' parents and community members have given much of their time and energy to building and maintaining the garden, united in their support for the value of the garden as a learning

experience. Volunteer groups continue to contribute, with many groups often earning community service hours by working in the garden.

Recently, Georgia organization Roots Down collaborated with the local Friends of Tucker Parks to create a planting plan for the season. The garden's newest layout includes the classic three sisters grouping, which draws upon Native American agricultural tradition in planting corn, beans, and squash together to form a symbiotic relationship. According to various sources through the United States Department of Agriculture, this method maximizes both crop yield and quality. As these are planted as seeds, students will see them grow through the entire process.

"Elementary school students and parents are able to see seedlings grow into vegetables to harvest," says Councilmember Cara



Schroeder, who joined parents and students this past March in a volunteer opportunity for a planting day in the garden, setting up raised beds for each grade level. "There are some steps there in environmental education that are really important for students to understand and experience so they know where food comes from."

Environmental education is far from the only type of learning these gardens promote. From counting seeds to classifying sprouts, there are many opportunities to use math, reading, and other academic skills. In addition, gardening is an incredibly hands-on activity, promoting tactile learning and serving as a way to engage the scientific concepts students are learning in the classroom on a practical level.

Importantly, gardening with a group engages a variety of communicative skills students cannot learn on their own. Sharing tools, listening to instructions, and taking turns are all just examples of the many abilities students have the opportunity to practice in a group setting. All are necessary for students to grow into well-rounded, considerate community members.

As the three sisters grow in harmony, so too does the Tucker community. We give our time and energy to the next generations with the knowledge that they will do the same for those who come after. The Brockett Elementary garden is just one way to see it in action.



TUCKER CLUSTER *Updates & News*

IMPORTANT DATES **May 24** **May 25**
Last Day of School Post-Planning

BRAG SHEET

- SMOKE RISE ELEMENTARY**
- Smoke Rise Elementary hosted an art show for students' creations to be displayed and purchased. Thank you to art teacher Melissa Johns for organizing a memorable show!
- TUCKER MIDDLE**
- Tucker Middle students in Mr. Ryan Manning's class created videos for the DeKalb County School District College & Career Day and won! You can find their top-ranking submission on the DeKalb Schools YouTube page.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

CHARLES BARBER & STYLE SHOP

After many years in Tucker, Charles Mason still has not found a reason to leave. The business and the community of Tucker have encouraged him to keep Charles Barber & Style Shop in the City. Thanks to their support, Mason has reached the big Five-0 milestone.

Before Mason started his 50 years of service in Tucker, Mason grew up in Union County. He was child number 10 of 11 children growing up. Watching his siblings grow up, Mason realized he had to find himself a career to make a good living. Mason decided to go into the barbering industry. He started his career in Atlanta at a bus station where they had a 24 hour barbershop. Mason worked the 12 am to 8 am shift. He then started cutting hair in Tucker at a shop called Taylor's Barbershop, and eventually started his own shop. Once he started cutting hair in Tucker, he liked it more than cutting hair in Atlanta.

"I like the Tucker community," Mason said. "I feel really good about my customers here. I could not believe people could be so nice coming from downtown Atlanta."

In half of a century at Charles Barber & Style, Mason has experienced some special memories. He has seen many of his customers grow. Mason has gone from cutting some of his young customers' hair to cutting their kids' hair to eventually cutting their grandkids' hair. Seeing that is special to him. His own favorite memory at the shop was during the time his first son was born.

"That was big time for me," Mason said. "I had a young man working in here named Hayne Teasley, and my son was born on a Monday morning. It was about six o'clock in the morning and I had been up all night. So, I went home, got me a shower, came to work and Hayne had my barbershop decorated with blue balloons and on my window it said, 'It's a Boy.'"

During his time at his shop Mason continued to make family memories. Mason was able to give all three of his children their first haircut there. Mason was even able to work side by side with his daughter, Angie Beck, at Charles Barber & Style Shop.

Mason has seen many things change working at his barbershop for 50 years. Mason said hairstyles and prices have changed. When he started cutting hair, the price of a haircut was \$1.75. Some things have not changed like the cash register he has from 1972. The antique still works and has stood the test of time. Mason has tried to replace it, but the newer registers have always broken down, leaving good old faithful. Charles Barber & Style Shop has been good to Tucker, and the community has been good to him.

"It has been good to me, and I have enjoyed serving the community," Mason said. "I have enjoyed my stay in Tucker."



BUSINESS BOOM

by Jackie Moffo, Economic Development Manager



TUCKER'S FIRST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN GETS GREEN LIGHT FROM CITY COUNCIL

Soon after its incorporation in 2016, the City of Tucker began work on its first Comprehensive Plan, Tucker Tomorrow. When Tucker Tomorrow was adopted in April 2018, it included five primary community goals for the community's future – one of which was Bolster(ing) the Economic Base. This goal called for the implementation and creation of programs and initiatives that would leverage and support the growth of Tucker's primary job centers which include the Mountain Industrial Area, Northlake Commercial Center, Lawrenceville Highway Medical Area, and Downtown Tucker. One of these would be an Economic Development Strategic Plan.

This was one of the initial items tasked to Tucker's Economic Development Manager, Jackie Moffo, upon her hire in 2021.

"Economic Development Strategic Plans are critical because they create a focused pathway for growth and business support that the community agrees on" Moffo shared.

In mid-2022 the Mayor and City Council approved and awarded the contract for the creation of this plan to the consultants at KB Advisory Group. Soon the research and planning period for an Economic Development Strategic Plan began. Over three months, the City of Tucker and KB Advisory Group conducted six public meetings, five business and community partner focus groups interviewed nine members of the City of Tucker Staff, Mayor and City Council, and we received nearly 300 online survey responses. This community and business input helped to create a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) Analysis for Tucker.

As a key component of any Economic Development Strategic Plan, Tucker established target industries. These allow the economic development team to dedicate time and resources

to setting actionable goals and creating programming to support these industries. Based on employment concentration, regional job growth, and contributions to Gross Regional Product (GRP), as well as community input, Tucker's target industries have been identified as Professional Services, Manufacturing, and Healthcare.

Tucker's Economic Development Strategic Plan also highlights specific industry zones, called Character Areas. Understanding these is also critical, as it is necessary for understanding real estate trends that are essential for setting development objectives. The three primary real estate categories in Tucker include the Northlake office district, Mountain Industrial and Lawrenceville Highway Industrial and Commercial districts, and the Downtown Tucker retail district.

The plan concludes with a list of recommendations and initiatives that fall into five major categories –

- Economic Development Capacity Building
- Business Retention and Attraction Program
- Major Projects Accelerator
- Visibility, Marketing, and Branding
- Business and Developer Programming

Over the next five years, in partnership with the Tucker Downtown Development Authority, and other community partners, such as the Tucker-Northlake Community Improvement District and Tucker Summit Community Improvement District, the City of Tucker will work to implement this five-year plan.

For more information about Tucker's Economic Development Strategic Plan, and a breakdown of goals and tactics that the City of Tucker will be implementing, head to the tuckerga.gov/plans_and_studies online or to the City of Tucker's Economic Development page for downloadable copies of the plan.

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

DESTINI COPELAND



Destini Copeland is a woman who contributes to the community of Tucker. She is a woman who gives back to the community that helped mold her. Growing up, Destini was part of the Tucker community participating in the Tucker Football League cheerleading youth program. Now this extraordinary woman is a great role model pouring her talent back into the Tucker Football League and knowledge of cheerleading in the cheerleading program. Destini has continued to build the program as a coach, molding young cheerleaders in their character, teaching them how to be better cheerleaders and helping them win championships along the way. These are some of the reasons Destini is a worthy candidate for Tucker's citizen of the month.

Just recently she led the Tucker Lions Gems to two titles, winning the Red Fox Cheerleading championship and winning a Grand Champion title last March competing at the Gas South District in Duluth. In January her team claimed two first place titles in a different competition as well. Destini's life experience helps bring home the wins, as she cheered both as a child and in high school. She has coached cheerleaders at the collegiate level

and trained all-star cheerleaders. Destini's passion for cheerleading is something that has benefited Tucker Football League cheerleading for 17 years. During the football season Destini oversees three cheerleading squads and is responsible for one competition team during the cheer season. Destini coaches cheerleaders from ages 4-11 for the Tucker Lions Gems and has done so much for the Tucker cheerleading program. She is still not done. She and her team are headed to Florida in May to compete for a National Championship representing Tucker.

Destini has been an integral part of TFL for many years. She has coached our cheer program with excellence as well as been a leading team mom for our football teams, as her son Alexander is on the 10-year-old team. She constantly shows her commitment to TFL and the community by being a shining example to all of our parents and children at Tucker Football League.

*Nomination by Athletic Director of Tucker Football League
Brandon Abrahams*

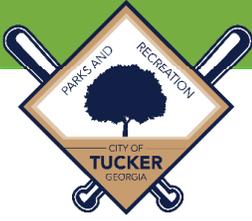
PARKS & REC SERVES ALL AGES

FROM AGES 3 TO 103, WE'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



FIT & FUN INTUCKER

contributed by Tucker Parks and Recreation



As spring and summer bring us incredible weather, park usage is increasing, and that provides us an opportunity to address several inquiries

from our community. We are working hard on maintenance issues, trail upgrades and ensuring all our fields, courts and greenspaces are ready for all the summer activity.

One inquiry we have recently received concerns off-leash dogs. We ask everyone to keep their dogs on a leash while in the park, and we are often met with comments about how nice the dogs are and how “they wouldn’t hurt a fly.” I’m sure that is absolutely correct. However, there are folks that aren’t necessarily dog people, or there may be some other pets that do not have the same demeanor, plus wild animals and critters are always present in the park. Our community should be able to hike the trails and enjoy themselves without those worries. We would also like to remind everyone that Henderson Park has an off-leash dog park near the lake, and a couple more are on the way. We will be completing dog parks at Montreal and Rosenfeld Parks very soon.

This month we have also received a couple of questions concerning the Tucker Recreation Center. The TRC is a 1960s era elementary school that was converted to a recreation center in the mid-to-late 1980s. This facility has served Tucker for many decades, and we continue to make repairs and

improvements to ensure it continues to be the hub of activity everyone has come to expect. In 2019, the city completed a feasibility study, as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, that looked at the long-term usage, space, and conditions of the current facility. This study provides the city with the needed insight into future plans for the Tucker Recreation Center.

As our programs and participation continue to grow, we are always searching for new ways to provide safe spaces for them. We have discussions with other community providers and agencies to share spaces that would accommodate our needs.

Fortunately, not all of our programs are indoors. Most of our growth is in outdoor activities, with the expansion of events as well as youth and adult athletics. We have been fortunate and added several new spaces that have allowed us to introduce and expand programs and are excited about new ones planned.

As mentioned, our Parks and Recreation Master Plan guides future project planning, expansion possibilities and needs. The current plan will be updated this year due to the added spaces, program growth and the need to reassess the community’s priorities.

Our website and social media are great ways to stay current on department happenings, activities, events, and general information. Visit our website: tuckerga.gov/parks and follow us at facebook.com/TuckerParksRec.



Upcoming Events

JOIN US FOR LIVE MUSIC UNDER THE STARS



FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT SERIES

MAY 5, 2023
SUGAR LIME BLUE

CHURCH STREET GREENSPACE

GREENSPACE OPENS AT 5:30 P.M.

MUSIC BEGINS AT 7 P.M.

4316 CHURCH STREET

THIRD THURSDAY



MOANA

ALL SHOWS BEGIN AT 7 P.M.

CHURCH STREET GREEN SPACE

MAY 18



TRIP

SUMMER OF FUN 2023



TUCKERGA.GOV/PARKS/EVENTS



TUCKER *Community Corner*



5/6 – Tucker Day

9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Main Street

Join your neighbors on Main Street for a daylong celebration of Tucker including a parade, craft vendors, music, food and kids play area.

5/6 – DeKalb County Paper Shredding

8 a.m.-Noon

**Central Transfer Station
3720 Leroy Scott Drive,
Decatur, GA 30032**

Free paper shredding is available, limited to 10 standard-sized boxes per vehicle and no commercial participation. Proof of residency is required.

5/6 – Georgia Hosta Society Show & Plant Sale

8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Main Street
Fellowship Hall
2367 Main Street**

Come see all kinds of hosta leaves and container-grown displays in their very best condition and browse the wares of specialized plant vendors.

5/13 – ARTucker 2023

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Church Street
Greenspace
4316 Church Street**

Join ARTucker for their 2023 outdoor artist market featuring local Georgia creatives. Come see the biggest showcase of artists and makers in the City of Tucker.