

INTUCKER

AUGUST 2023 | VOLUME 7 | ISSUE 8

TUCKER VOLUNTEERS

LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

FERRIS BIELLER
DAYS ABSENT: 9

EDITOR'S NOTE



With the start of school, I always feel like we should be experiencing actual fall weather.

Alas, that is just not in the cards here in the South and August tends to be the hottest month of the year. It is time to slow down, putter around the house and stay out of the oppressive heat. As a mom of two here in the Tucker Cluster schools, I ask that you extend that slow down to your morning and afternoon commutes to keep an eye out for student walkers and bus stops as you travel through Tucker.

I am so excited about this month's Citizen of the Month. Honestly, this is my favorite piece of our monthly magazine and I especially love that we are honoring another teen that has found a way to give back to the community while fostering a sense of accomplishment and leadership. Through partnership with Friends of Tucker Parks and Friends of Henderson Park, our local Girl Scouts and BSA Scouts have multiple opportunities for promotions and awards. We honored another group of Girl Scouts just two months ago and these teens give me hope for our future leaders!

Our On the Beat with Sgt. Obester this month addresses safety tips and celebrates recent arrests in response to a rash of commercial burglaries and entering auto sprees. We also say goodbye to our community liaison Donna Mann. She has served the Tucker community for ten years and will be greatly missed!

Enjoy your August, Tucker! Stay cool, healthy and good luck to teachers, administrators, parents and especially our Tucker students. I sincerely hope this school year is one of great success and important life lessons.

SONJA SZUBSKI
INTUCKER EDITOR

IN THIS ISSUE



ON THE COVER

Tucker is rich with volunteerism, read up on one of the newest groups in town on page 10.



BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Antiquing is one of the hottest trends in Tucker! Check out Treasures on Railroad on page 6.



SCHOOL UPDATE

The 2023-2024 school year brings new changes and updates. Read more on page 8.



THE INTERN EXPERIENCE

The City's staffing partner, Jacobs, welcomed a great intern this summer. Meet John on page 13.



INTUCKER

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

Printed and mailed by
AtlantaPrintAndMail.com, Inc.

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 8

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

All rights reserved.

MMXXIII



From the Mayor

Since before Tucker was officially incorporated as a city, we had volunteer and civic groups that were the envy of cities around the state. In fact, they are a big part of the reason we became a city at all! Not only did they create the kind of cohesive, proud community necessary for a successful city, but it was a volunteer group that led our successful advocacy effort at the state capitol. Tucker is truly special in this regard, and we are blessed with a large and varied group of organizations that serve our residents and provide volunteer opportunities for all ages.

This month the City is setting aside an evening to honor and thank our volunteer groups and organizations. The Volunteer Appreciation dinner started back in 2018 but this is our first time back since the pandemic and it will be bigger than ever. We want to go out of our way to honor and recognize the people who bring the energy to Tucker and make it feel like home. We want to make sure everyone who pitches in knows how much we appreciate them, and how much poorer we'd be without them.

Volunteering means many different things to different people. Our faith community serves the people of Tucker every day in thousands of ways that no one else can. We have nationally recognized civic groups like the Rotary, Optimists and Lions working alongside our own Tucker Civic Association and the Tucker Business Association. There are clean up days hosted by our Friends of Parks, volunteer organizations who put on many of the Main Street festivals and events, and many, many more. As reported earlier this year in this magazine, we have a dedicated group that works together on their own to stock a Little Free Kitchen for neighbors in need. They are a prime example of just seeing a need and filling it – and now word has spread to the point that around 150 items are donated and picked up on a daily basis! Later in this issue you will learn about yet another need that has been filled for area residents with special needs. It has been our privilege to host many workshops and events for Peter and Paul's Place.

There are several ways to get involved in the Tucker Community including direct contact with the organizations listed on our website at tuckerga.gov/volunteers.

The City's Boards and Commissions are also volunteers, appointed by me as the Mayor to serve the community and help our local government make decisions on important matters. Later this month, the qualifying period for three Council seats will open, and while it's a paid position, I can tell you, none of us serves in local elected office for the money! This November we will have the opportunity to vote for the Post 2 seat in all three districts. Two of our original members have reached their term limits and we will be sad to see them go but excited to see who will step up to serve. And one more thing: If you are interested in running for office in the future, I can't encourage you enough to participate in the City's University of Government Affairs Tucker (UGAT) course. UGAT is a six-class course that runs from September through February and is a deep dive into what the city does and how it operates, department by department. As a potential candidate or an interested citizen, UGAT is a great opportunity to learn about your local government and become a valuable resource to your neighbors. Registration for the Class of 2024 opens this month and classes start in September. Visit the City website for more information.

And by all means, if you know someone who pours their heart into Tucker, please join me in thanking them for making Tucker the warm and open community we know it to be!

**FRANK AUMAN
MAYOR**

City Council Update



The sole meeting in July for the Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:02 p.m. on Monday July 10, 2023. The Mayor and three Councilmembers were in physical attendance, one attended on Zoom and two were granted excused absences. As a first matter of business, the Mayor proposed to amend the agenda for the evening and add an item to New Business to address canceling the second scheduled meeting of July. The amendment and the amended agenda both passed 5-0. Immediately following they voted 5-0 to approve the consent agenda which was made up of the minutes of the four meetings in June.

It was stated that the month's financials were in the packet and would not be presented, and the meeting moved forward into a feedback presentation from Barge Design on the design of bathrooms and stage options for the Tucker Town Green on Railroad Ave in downtown Tucker.

The single item of old business was the second read and public hearing for a special land use permit for a massage establishment in the Briarcliff Village shopping center. The SLUP passed 5-0.

The first item in new business was the addition of a vote to cancel the second meeting of July. This is a tradition for the City of Tucker, and it was passed 5-0. This was followed by two contracts, the first an award to CW Matthews for \$4.8 million to start the fall resurfacing made up of 50 streets. The Mayor and Council approved the contract award 5-0. The resurfacing list can be found at tuckerga.gov/SPLOST. The second contract was a contract award for the Phase 2 project in Fitzgerald Field for the remaining renovations at the park, including new turf, restrooms and concessions on Field 2, expanded parking in Fields 1, 2 and 3, and sidewalk and infrastructure upgrades. The contract was awarded to Vertical Earth for \$4.2 million with a 5-0 vote.

The Mayor and Council recessed into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters of personnel, litigation or real estate. They returned at 10:55 p.m. with no action taken and adjourned.

Tucker's Mayor and Council will next meet the first Monday of August for the regular scheduled meeting. All City meetings are held at Tucker City Hall at 1975 Lakeside Parkway, Suite 350B, Tucker, GA 30084.

DATES TO KNOW

- **August 1**
Zoning Board of Appeals
- **August 2**
Traffic Court
- **August 7**
Downtown Development Authority
- **August 9**
Traffic Court
- **August 14**
City Council Meeting
- **August 16**
Environmental Court
- **August 17**
Planning Commission
- **August 28**
City Council Work Session

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 jaridling@dekalbcountyga.gov or by phone at (678) 597-9040.

Over the years, the question I have been asked the most is "When should I call 911?" As Lt. Berg wrote in several *On the Beat* articles last year, the quick answer to this question is to call whenever you see or hear something suspicious. While the definition of suspicious may be different based on an individual's own knowledge and experience, we in law enforcement are fortunate that the laws in our state and in our country give us specific guidance and circumstances where a legal stop or citizen encounter can be made. In most of our encounters, police officers find no need to go beyond a friendly conversation, what we call a citizen stop. Indeed, our job is quite mundane most of the time!

The second question I most frequently come across is "I was a victim of X crime, should I make a police report?" This scenario requires a more nuanced answer, for it opens up an obvious second question: what can the police do after a crime has been committed? The good news is that there is quite a bit that we can do after-the-fact.

You may not be aware of this, but the DeKalb County Police Department has several officers and supervisors who are specifically tasked with analyzing crime statistics. These specially trained officers spend countless hours looking at crime reports, at both the micro and macro levels, in order to improve our Department's allocation of resources and manpower. Our Certified Crime Analysts look at each and every report made by our police officers, such as those who work on Tucker Precinct's Day, Evening, and Morning Watch teams.

At the micro level, our Crime Analysts work in tandem with our diligent Criminal Investigation Division (CID) Detectives, attempting to find similarities and commonalities among crimes reported within and across certain neighborhoods. While our detectives catch and solve a good number of reported crimes based on their own expertise, occasionally our Crime Analysts will spot something that can be helpful to our precinct-based detectives. This teamwork-based approach has resulted in our detectives having a historically higher-than-average case closure rate than those working in other urban departments.

On the macro level, our Crime Analysts compile crime statistics from across our four precincts (Tucker, North Central, South, and East). They compile these statistics into reports sent to our Command Staff and to those of us who work directly supervising our beat officers, such as myself and my

supervisor, Tucker Precinct Day Watch Lieutenant Smith. We utilize these reports on a daily basis to reallocate our officers - and any supplementary officers working overtime - to areas that have been shown to have a higher crime rate or those communities experiencing specific crime-related issues, such as the entering automobile sprees I discussed in last month's *On the Beat*.

More recently, the Department restructured our four precinct-based Neighborhood Enforcement Teams (NET) to be supervised under one command. This adjustment will allow for a quicker and more nuanced response to those issues identified by our Crime Analysts and Precinct Commanders. These NET team supervisors and officers are the best of the best - individuals who have proven to have the determination and drive to tackle reported crime-related issues affecting our communities. Notice that I said reported crimes. As stated, we need this information for a variety of reasons, most importantly so that we can respond quickly and effectively to a known issue.

If you would like to see for yourself some of the crimes occurring in your community, I recommend looking at [Crimemapping.com](https://www.crimemapping.com). This website congregates crime reports from our Department's computerized reporting system (RMS) into an easy-to-view, searchable, geographically based civilian website. While it does not provide specific names, addresses, and other personal information, this website does provide enough information to see if crimes have occurred near a specific location over a specified period of time. After viewing [Crimemapping.com](https://www.crimemapping.com), if you have any concerns or questions, please reach out to our Public Education Specialist or to our City of Tucker Liaison Officer, Lieutenant J. Ridling. He can be reached via email at jaridling@dekalbcountyga.com.

Finally, I have some good news and a bit of sad news. The good news is that our Tucker Precinct Detectives have been very busy recently, making two arrests for business burglaries and several arrests related to the entering automobile sprees occurring throughout the City. After executing several search warrants, our detectives also recovered several stolen firearms and vehicles. Kudos to them!

The sad news is that I just heard that Donna Mann, our Precinct's Public Education Specialist, is retiring this month. For those that have met her, we are all better people because of her deep empathy for others and her hard work at Tucker Precinct. She will be sorely missed!

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

TREASURES ON THE RAILROAD



Bruce Carter began developing his interior design skills when he worked with his father. As a child Carter used to give his dad a helping hand remodeling residential homes. Now the skills Carter gained in his youth are benefiting the Tucker community through Treasures on the Railroad. Treasures on the Railroad is an antique collectable home furnishing store that also offers interior design services.

Carter's passion continued in adulthood where he designed for 25 years after getting his bachelor's degree in interior design from American College of Applied Arts. He worked in the Atlanta Metro area, Cartersville and Rome flipping houses for a period. Carter then flipped a house off Chamblee Tucker and decided to come back home to the Tucker community to start something he had wanted to do for a while.

"This is what I call my playground," Carter said. "It takes all of my interests and hobbies and puts it in one space."

In his playground there are several styles of furniture. Carter says he makes sure what he offers is good quality.

"With us you are going to find quality products." Carter said. "I am very selective in the items that I choose. I want good quality solid wood furniture. My upholstery pieces that I find are going

to be quality, something you have forever that you can reupholster for many years to come. Just something that is not offered at a lot of furniture stores. You don't have much of a selection and I am trying to bring that back to give people quality items."

With his experience family and friends urged him to open his furniture store. They were excited when Carter decided to open the store. Members of the community of Tucker were also excited that he was bringing his store to Tucker.

"I put feelers out on Facebook, Tucker Town Talk and Tucker Real Talk, Carter said. "I got phenomenal feedback. People were gung-ho about it."

Carter knew that Tucker was the place to start his business venture. Carter acknowledges the growth of Tucker over the years, and he believes the location will help his business.

"Tucker has come a long way. Downtown has really come back," Carter said. "When I came back to Tucker and started learning about the restaurants and how everything was, I thought, 'We are good at restaurants, but we need shops like this.'"

Carter said that the Tucker community is friendly. Carter is glad he can have his business in a town like Tucker. Tucker is his home, and it's just right.

"I just love the people coming in and being able to connect with everybody," Carter said. "I love meeting new friends and all of the clientele that have come in. It has been wonderful. I like the community feel. I thrive off that."

Carter knows his clientele and does his best to cater to the community. In his store he has a lounge catering to husbands where they can relax while wives shop. The lounge area has snacks and a tv for husbands to watch football games. Carter also has space where vendors can come into his shop to enhance the shopping experience. His dog Ella is his supervisor, he says, and she helps keep the store running.

Carter has learned a lot from his father about remodeling and furniture. It has come full circle that Carter is not only doing what his father did but also working with the same person. The landlord of the store's location is the same person that his father used to buy custom upholstery pieces from. Carter is glad to have learned from his father and is happy with where he is.

"Tucker is where I want to be," Carter said.

BUSINESS BOOM

by Angela Brooks, Business Outreach Specialist



Staples Supports Local Schools and Unveils Newly Revamped Tucker Store

At a time when so many retailers are shifting their business to more online commerce or closing brick and mortar stores, Staples in Tucker is reinforcing its physical presence in a big way.

"We are optimistic about the future of retail," said General Manager Stanley Martinez. "Our customers need an interactive, in-person retail experience that revolves around providing convenient solutions and fostering community, and we're here to do just that."

With recently completed renovations to the store, the international office supply chain has stepped up its products and services offerings.

Enhancements include:

- New Travel Ready department featuring TSA and passport photo services, and name-brand luggage
- Expanded shipping services and vendors
- Gaming section with high-end computers and accessories
- Expanded selection of high-end laptops and Apple products
- Expanded array of state-of-the-art office seating

"I am most excited about the Travel services, where customers can sign up for TSA PreCheck or get their passport photo taken right at the store. Plus, they can buy their luggage and go-to travel products from travel-size items to Bose Noise Canceling Headphones. We now offer great options for Total Support plans to help keep your computer up and running, and free tech recycling, when it's time to upgrade," said Martinez.

He went on to say that Atlanta is a market that is growing and evolving. "From our conversations with the Chambers of Commerce in Atlanta and learning more about the customers in this market, it was very clear that they would benefit from our expanded suite of services."

In July, Martinez and his team celebrated with a grand re-opening event and welcomed customers in to experience the newly transformed store layout. The event included a ribbon

cutting and a donation to DeKalb County Schools (DCS). Representatives from the DeKalb County Chamber and the city of Tucker brought remarks lauding the re-commitment to and investment in the Tucker community. The event was highlighted by the presentation of a \$1,000 gift card to DCS. Michael Harris, interrelated teacher for DCS, accepted on behalf of the school system.

"Staples has stepped up its game," he said. "I was a classroom teacher for 44 years, and when I walk through Staples' new teacher supplies section, I wish I was teaching another year," said Harris who retired from teaching last year. "With all the things it has, I feel like a kid in the candy store. They have everything I would need to make my classroom functional, beautiful, and unique."

Staples has a Classroom Rewards program that donates a percentage of sales, for in-store purchases, to help teachers to help their students. According to Staples, teachers spend \$745 a year of their own money on school supplies. The program is designed to help local teachers to buy supplies for their students. Any Staples customer can participate in support of the program.

Harris said that "working with Staples has been like opening up this amazing treasure chest and every time we open it more things come out." He added that "they continue to come up with more ideas of how they can give back, and that is wonderful."

"Staples is also really looking forward to partnering with DeKalb Schools for this year's Back-to-School Rally," said Martinez. "Supporting the communities that we reside in is something we are passionate about, and we think this is the start of a great partnership."

When asked what messages he'd like to send to Tucker's entrepreneurs and small business owners, he replied, "Staples is so much more than an office supply store! We are here to partner with entrepreneurs and small business owners to bring their big ideas to life. We offer not only the products, but the services and expertise that can help them get to the next step in their business."

Open seven days a week, the Tucker Staples is located at 4351 Hugh Howell Road.

DEKALB BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE



from *Allyson Gevertz*

The biggest news for the 2023-24 school year is the arrival of our new leader, Superintendent Devon Horton. He started the job on July 1st and has hit the ground running! Dr. Horton's background is teaching and learning, so he is focused on the classroom. We are excited to see him move the needle on student success.

School leaders across the district have voiced the need for instructional support. As part of a comprehensive reorganization, that need will be met. Superintendent Horton is shifting the regional model to a more instructional-need-based model. For the Tucker Cluster, this means there will be specialized support for specific grade levels. Instead of a Regional Superintendent focused on all pre-K through 12th grade issues (facilities, technology, HR, academics, etc.), there will be Area Superintendents primarily focused on teaching, learning, and student support. The Tucker Cluster will have an Area Superintendent for the high school, another for the middle school, and one for the elementary schools. These Area Superintendents will have team members focused on distinct grade-level needs, such as English Language Learners, Exceptional Education, Early Literacy, and

Culture and Climate. This model should empower Tucker's principals to efficiently obtain the support they need.

New this year are additional staff in the following areas: psychologists, social workers, school nurses, gifted teachers, art/music/PE teachers, custodians, and ESOL specialists. Also, each school will have a new Library Media Assistant position. The FY24 budget includes a 6% cost-of-living adjustments for all full and part-time employees, step increases (which translate into an average of \$5,000 for teachers), retention incentives, and hourly rate increases for bus drivers, paraprofessionals, and school resource officers.

Safety has been a focus for the Tucker Cluster, and several safety initiatives will be visible when school starts. Evolv weapons detection systems have been installed at Tucker High School and Tucker Middle School. Technicians are troubleshooting at the schools this summer, and staff will be trained on the system during pre-planning. Additionally, every Tucker school now has Centegix CrisisAlert System. This allows teachers and administrators to immediately request crisis support through a wearable badge button. Finally, the Georgia Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School program is working with several Tucker schools to enhance and promote safe biking, rolling, and walking to school.

Regarding facilities, the District continues to address work order response time. New COO, Erick Hofstetter, met with the Tucker Cluster Council to answer questions regarding facility concerns. As of the end of June, three Tucker schools were moving forward with new ESPLOST projects: Midvale with "pending construction solicitation," Livsey "in design," and Idlewood with "a scoping kickoff scheduled for late July 2023." All schools will be receiving security technology upgrades, fire alarm upgrades, and new school buses. ESSER/CARES/ARP dollars will continue to be spent on roofs and HVACs, along with class size reductions, MTSS specialists (one per school), and instructional supplies.

As always, I welcome your ideas and input as we launch the 2023-24 school year. I attend Tucker Cluster Council meetings, as well as many community events. Additionally, I hold a monthly "4 Feedback" listening session at various locations throughout Board District 4, check my Facebook page, Allyson Gevertz for DeKalb Schools, for updates. I'm thrilled to be part of the fabric of Tucker. The city, business leaders, nonprofit partners, and parents all champion our students. Many thanks to each of you for your continued support as we launch a spectacular school year!



IMPORTANT DATES

- **August 1-4**
Pre-Planning Days
- **August 7**
First Day of School
- **August 14**
Board of Education Meeting

The DeKalb County School District worked with students across the District to craft a dress code that is fair to all for the 2023-2024 school year.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

The atmosphere of a school must be conducive to learning. While the focus of the DeKalb Code of Student Conduct is behavior expectations, students clothing can affect their safety and their appearance can positively or negatively impact the climate of a school. Students must adhere to the school district’s dress code requirements. Students who fail to comply with the dress code requirements, as enumerated below, may be charged with Rule #25 –Student Dress Code Violation, Rule #8B – Refusal to Follow Instructions of Faculty or Staff Member/Insubordination and Rule #19 Repeated Violations and subject to the listed consequences.

DeKalb County School District Dress Code
The Dress Code is enforced at all school district sponsored events.

As a reasonable accommodation, exceptions for religious reasons, medical conditions, disabilities, or other extraordinary reasons may be granted on a case-by-case basis. Exceptions must be approved by the principal. This is not an exhaustive list of dress wear.

| All Students Must | All Students Must Not |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear suitable clothing that maintains a safe and orderly environment promoting respect, care for self, and others. • Wear a shirt of opaque (non-see through) fabric that covers all undergarments including during any movement while sitting or standing. • Wear bottoms of opaque (non-see through) fabric that covers all undergarments including during any movement while sitting or standing. • Wear clothing that corresponds with the demands and purpose of the activity in which the student participates. • Wear protective clothing, headgear, eyewear, etc. required for specific programs, classes, or activities. • Wear shoes at all times. Footwear that interferes with freedom, movement, or safety are prohibited. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear pajamas, pajama shirts, bottoms, or sleepwear of any kind. • Wear house shoes, bedroom slippers of any kind, or footwear that interferes with freedom, movement, or safety. • Wear headgear of any kind (religious practices, medical conditions, disabilities, specific school activities are excluded). • Wear clothing, jewelry, tattoos, piercings, or other body ornaments that disrupt the educational process or endanger the health or safety of other students, staff or visitors. • Wear clothing, insignia, symbols, tattoos, piercings, jewelry, or adornments worn or carried on or about a student which promote gangs or the use of controlled substances, drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. • Wear clothing, tattoos, or other adornments which show offensive and/or vulgar words, pictures, diagrams, drawings, or includes words or phrases of a violent nature, a disruptive nature, a sexual nature, politically/socially controversial words or graphics or words or phrases that are derogatory regarding a person’s ethnic background, color, race, national origin, religious belief, sexual orientation, or disability. |

NOTE: Local schools that offer school choice options may add additional requirements such as school uniforms. Students/Parents are urged to review individual local school handbooks for any additional requirements related to student dress. Any local dress code requirements must align to the DCSD student dress code.

WANT TO GIVE BACK IN TUCKER?

LOCAL VOLUNTEER GROUPS AND WHAT THEY DO



Citizens for Family Activities in Tucker organizes fun, family-friendly activities like the Juneteenth Jubilee for the residents of Tucker and surrounding areas. This month they will also hold an After School Swap, Buy, Barter & Boogie for parents to exchange and purchase school supplies, while their students enjoy indoor activities.

Friends of Disabled Adults and Children FODAC provides refurbished home medical equipment and other services to adults and children with disabilities. Keep an eye out for regular events to support their mission, including the upcoming FODAC Music Fest in September.

Friends of Tucker Trail coordinates fundraising, public relations, and community education opportunities to

support the planning and construction of Tucker's multi-use trails.

Friends of Tucker Parks Groups organize support for each of Tucker's parks and the Tucker Recreation Center in the form of regular community work days to keep our parks free of invasive plants and an annual Rivers Alive cleanup.

Gwinnett-Tucker Toastmasters Club, one of the oldest Toastmaster clubs in Georgia and recognized as a President's Distinguished Club, creates a positive learning environment for members to develop communication and leadership skills.

La Vista Lions Club serves the local community and provides fellowship among individuals who want to do the same.

MainStreet Tucker Alliance organizes the annual Tucker Day, encouraging residents to celebrate their community and its history.

Main Street Theatre Tucker works to bring the community together with high-quality, entertaining productions.

NETWorks Cooperative Ministry is a faith-based service that addresses food and financial needs of residents and partners with them to find long-term solutions to poverty.

Old Town Tucker Merchants Association supports a mix of shopping, dining and service options for residents and visitors.

Omega Support Center is a nonprofit organization providing resources and

education to the community, including financial and business literacy classes as well as food and school supplies.

Tucker Arts Alliance works to connect artists in the Tucker area and supporting creativity through the sharing of resources and education.

Tucker Business Association creates networking, professional learning, business development, and more opportunities for business owners in the Tucker area.

Tucker Civic Association is a nonprofit, volunteer organization that promotes the health, safety, and welfare of Tucker residents regardless of age.

Tucker Cluster Council is a collection of parents and other stakeholders invested in Tucker Cluster schools and their future. TCC seeks to keep the community up to date with what's happening in local education.

Tucker Historical Society shares local history and preserves personal and family histories. This includes recognizing notable properties and landmarks and sharing historical preservation resources.

Tucker Lifelong Community Committee works to transform Tucker into a welcoming city for people in all stages of life. Their goals include encouraging parks and green spaces, supporting schools, and raising awareness of community programs and spaces.

Tucker Optimist Club aids and encourages the development of youth through service. They promote community service and scholarship opportunities.

Tucker Orchard Guild plants and maintains fruit trees and bushes in the Tucker community and provides public education about their importance.

Tucker Rotary Club supports the community with contributions to area projects. Donation drives for disaster relief, cleanups, and fundraisers are just a few of the events the Tucker Rotary Club organizes and aids.

NEWCOMERS SERVE COMMUNITY

PETER & PAUL'S PLACE



Tucker has a very active volunteer and service community. If there is a cause you want to support, there exists either a group working to do the same, or individuals who share your vision and would love the opportunity to support that cause at your side.

Such is the story of Peter and Paul's Place, Inc., an organization that aims to give adults with intellectual disabilities opportunities to live, socialize and learn in a supportive, inclusive community.

Peter and Paul's Place was founded by Lois Shingler and Charlotte McKinnon, who were inspired to create the organization by their sons, Paul Shingler and Peter McKinnon. Growing up, the boys' families worked to ensure Peter and Paul had access to the same kinds of activities as other children, such as Boy Scouts, swimming, and other group activities. They found that once adults with intellectual development disabilities, or IDD, left the school system, it was more difficult to find opportunities for them to stay involved in the community. Thus, Peter and Paul's Place was established to create those opportunities.

The organization provides events, classes, and other engagement options to adults with IDD and their loved ones. Currently they offer art classes and seasonal dances at the Tucker Recreation Center; however, it is the hope of Peter and Paul's Place to create a community center of their own. This community center would have rooms for classes, a larger space to serve as a venue for events, a resource center and more necessities that aren't possible to maintain in a rented location.

More than acquiring a single community center, Peter and Paul's Place biggest goal is to make a residential community where individuals with IDD, their friends and families can "live together as neighbors, socialize together as friends, learn together as students and support each other when needed."

Organizations like Peter and Paul's Place engage Tucker residents with a heart for service and highlight the importance of community. Learn more about their mission and work at peterandpaulsplace.org.

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

ABIGAIL HEIZER



Abigail Heizer, a Tucker resident and rising Junior at Greater Atlanta Christian School, has been a Girl Scout since she was 5. Over the years, she completed her Girl Scout Bronze and Silver Awards, and is currently focused on earning her Gold Award. The Gold Award is the highest and most prestigious award that a Senior Girl Scout (grades 9-12) can earn. Gold Award recipients transform an idea for change into an actionable plan with measurable and sustainable results.

Abigail's project goal was to improve the availability of safe, easy access to the outdoors for the benefit of health and wellness. Her project focused on improving the navigation and safety of Henderson Park, the largest City of Tucker park at 120

acres. The timing for Abigail's project idea could not have been better. Tucker Parks & Recreation had identified new trails, however there was a great need to improve the trail marking system in the park due to old trail markings that were outdated or confusing.

With encouragement and support from Friends of Tucker Parks and Tucker Parks & Recreation, Abigail and her team of volunteers improved the signage and trail markings along all 6 miles of trails. Having trails that are easy to navigate makes the park more enjoyable and accessible for all! Abigail shared "I chose this project because of my love of the outdoors and my appreciation for living in a community with great hiking. The park organizations have

dedicated members, but do not have the manpower to address all the park's needs, and this is a way I could help."

In addition to her community service, Abigail stays busy as a competitive swimmer with 1st place finishes at High School State and qualification for USA Swimming Jr. Nationals among her accomplishments.

It has been a delight to observe Abigail's support system and family dynamic throughout this project. We are grateful to her and her family for choosing to work with Friends of Tucker Parks and Friends of Henderson Park.

*Submitted by:
Shawn Stone and Vicki Warren*

THE INTERN EXPERIENCE:

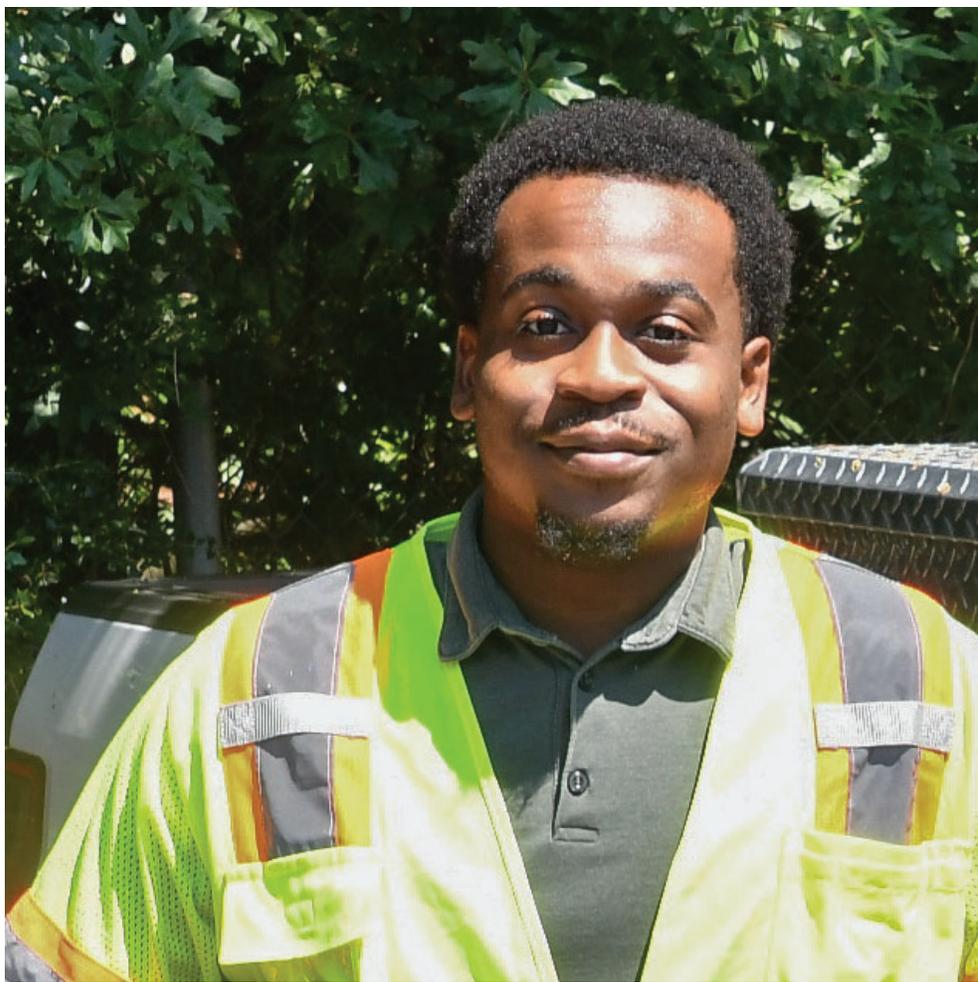
LEARNING THE ROPES OF CITY ENGINEERING

by John Harris, Senior Engineering student at UGA

I recently completed an internship at Jacobs Engineering, and it was an incredible learning experience! I had the privilege of working for two highly skilled municipal engineering teams within the greater Atlanta area. I was on the Transportation team for Tucker and the Stormwater Management team for Peachtree Corners.

During my internship in Tucker, I was tasked with several projects that included traffic analysis, roadway improvement projects, exhibits for bike path installations, speed detector relocation studies, and many more. I quickly learned how to use CAD software to create detailed designs/exhibits for intersections, roads, sidewalks, etc. I also had the opportunity to work closely with project managers, who ensured that all designs met the city's specific requirements and quality standards.

The second phase of the Brockett Rd sidewalk installation was a major project that I had the privilege of being involved in. From start to finish, I was able to gain real world experience, by managing this job toward completion. I began with a preliminary site visit to survey all existing conditions along the road. From there, I used AutoCAD to clearly document and identify the areas in which the sidewalk would be installed. I imported GIS imagery to create an aerial of the current roadway layout and scaled it to real-life dimensions. Everything from existing utilities and meters to roadway signs and even large canopies within this space, all needed to be identified on our plans before construction can begin. Labeling potential obstructions that lie within the limits of construction, for any project, helps to eliminate the risk of setbacks. For example, forgetting to label a huge tree can lead to a significant change order. A change order is when additional funding is requested that wasn't originally allocated for a project. Waiting until a construction team finds things out in the field usually requires them to demobilize. Simple mistakes like this can



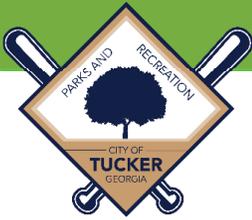
easily compound and create a nightmare situation for any project management team, especially when it could have been avoided. That is why the preliminary planning process is so crucial. I then completed additional easement exhibits that were required for negotiations between property owners on the northern side of the project. A final cost estimate, using accurate quantities obtained from AutoCAD was required as well.

I also had the chance to work on analyzing traffic data, and identified areas where speed detectors could be installed/relocated. This experience helped me to enhance my understanding of traffic flow patterns, while illustrating the importance of technology when managing transportation systems efficiently. This speed detector assignment was another opportunity for me to experience real-world projects, that will tangibly benefit the local community of Tucker.

My internship here in Tucker has taught me many valuable lessons. From the importance of attention to detail to the value of perseverance and adaptability, I gained skills that will serve me well in my future career. Most importantly, I learned that engineering is about way more than just technical proficiency - it's about using creativity, communication and innovation to make a positive impact on the world around us. This opportunity allowed me to work alongside some incredibly talented engineers/project managers and equipped me with a well-rounded understanding of the industry, further igniting my passion for civil engineering.

FIT & FUN INTUCKER

contributed by Tucker Parks and Recreation



The City took a definitive step forward in our parks this past month.

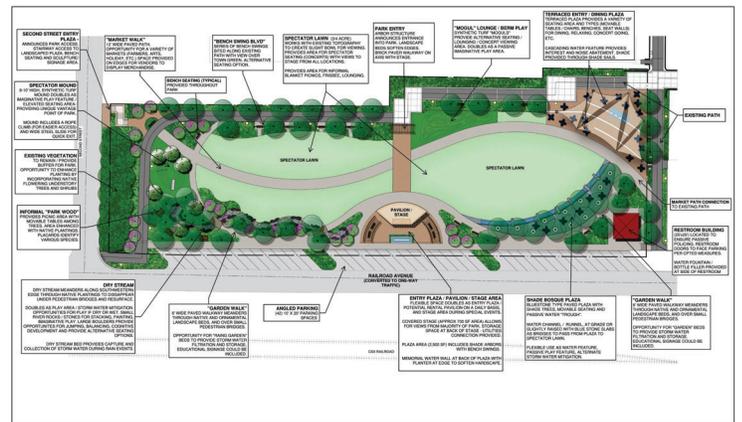
At Fitzgerald Park, the City's sports complex, a contract was awarded to Vertical Earth Construction to complete the renovation project that will transform the complex into a first-class home to our youth baseball, lacrosse and football programs. This big step will improve the complex with new LED (directional) sports lighting and new water and sewer throughout the park. This particular step includes new entrance roads, parking, sidewalks and pedestrian access and a new turf field with restrooms and a concession facility.

The Mayor and Council also made some decisions on the new downtown park. The discussion and decisions included design for the new pavilion and restrooms, plaza area and even the trash collection point for the park and downtown. The next step is to move to the final park design with a review prior to full construction documents. This will include a final look at the elements to be included in the park with decisions on materials and any water features and walkways. These decisions will move the process forward and provide the downtown area with an exciting new park within the next year or so.

There were several other steps taken in the last few weeks that will help the department continue to grow. First, with the approval of the new budget, we have added some new staff. An additional recreation leader will be available at the Tucker Recreation Center during the afternoon and evening hours, and an outdoor education leader will expand our park and outdoor education and adventure programs. We also gained approval to update our Parks and Recreation Master Plan that will guide us for the next phase of growth and programming.

Stay active this fall with the array of options at the TRC and in our parks. If you want to stay fit, we have numerous exercise classes: Dance, Cardio & Core, Fit Camp, Evolve, Tai Chi, Yoga, and Zumba for all ages. You can also enjoy our arts classes including pottery/ceramics, watercolors, drumming, theater, and more right here in your community. There is always something going on and several ways to get active.

Don't forget that the pools are still open with operating days and hours changing slightly with the return to school. Check our website for details.



CITY OF TUCKER
TUCKER TOWN GREEN PARK MASTER PLAN
 NOVEMBER 28, 2022





SEPT. 21
CHURCH STREET GREENSPACE



TKR
SUMMER FUN 2023

SEPT. 1, 2023
A1A BAND



ADULT FIELD DAY IS BACK!

SEPTEMBER 23, 2023
5-8 P.M.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

JOIN US FOR FOOD,
 DRINKS & FUN

\$25 per person



TUCKERGA.GOV/PARKS/EVENTS



8/3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 – Tucker Walks at Northlake Mall

11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Northlake Mall

4800 Briarcliff Road NE

Get your steps in without facing the heat! Join your neighbors to take advantage of Northlake Mall's air conditioning for a walk with great company in a safe, clean environment.

8/12 – Tucker Cruise In

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Main Street

Come see a variety of cars, motorcycles and other antique and classic vehicles. Admission is free for spectators and only \$5 per vehicle if you want to enter your car. The celebration ends with the presentation of awards around 2 p.m.

8/25 – Citizens for Family Activities in Tucker's After School Swap, Barter, Buy & Boogie

6-9 p.m.

Tucker First United Methodist Activities Center

4315 Church Street

Has your child lost all their pencils a month into the school year? Are their shoes a size too small? At the After School Swap, Barter, Buy & Share you can purchase and trade for school supplies, clothes, and other school necessities with fellow Tucker parents.