

INTUCKER

NOVEMBER 2023 | VOLUME 7 | ISSUE 11



ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 7

GET OUT THE VOTE!

EDITOR'S NOTE



Election season is always one that charges my battery. It is exciting to see

people that care about their community, their city and their neighbors. Campaigning is not easy, and some people can get pretty judgmental and mean in how they treat candidates. It is rare that local elections elicit such treatment, but it does happen. Tucker is still relatively young, and we have not had many elections, and for the most part they have remained civil. I am grateful to those that have raised their hands and are willing to serve.

In this issue of InTucker we announce a new addition to our City Code of Ordinances. Animals. This ordinance may seem like common sense to most but there are some that just can't grasp the safety issues surrounding unleashed dogs in public. I hope this ordinance is clear and helps to modify the behavior of some.

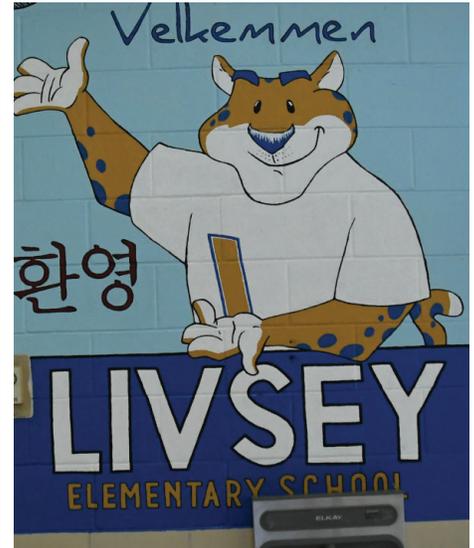
Our Fit & Fun article highlights two age groups that are close to my heart. Our seniors and our teens. Our Parks & Rec staff have done an amazing job building out the programs to include interesting outings and opportunities to volunteer. Our Parks & Rec Department truly has something for everyone.

November is the month of thanks. I hope you take the opportunity to spend some time with those that you love and let them know how special they are to you. For myself, I am grateful for you, Tucker. You are my home, my career and my community.

SONJA SZUBSKI
INTUCKER EDITOR

IN THIS ISSUE

SPECIAL ELECTION DEKALB COUNTY	forgoing; (D) CHAMBLEE projects to be funded from Chamblee's share of the proceeds including: transportation improvements, including roads, streets, bridges, sidewalks, transit oriented features, bicycle and pedestrian paths, intersection improvements, streetscapes, as well as payment of expenses incident to accomplishing the foregoing; (E) CLARKSTON projects to be funded from the City of Clarkston's share of the proceeds including: (i) transportation, including, but not limited to, roads, street, bridges, sidewalks and bicycle paths, (ii) recreational facilities, (iii) City administrative building and (iv) public safety facilities; (F) DECATUR projects to be funded from the City of Decatur's share of the proceeds including: (a) transportation, including, but not limited to, roads, streets, bridges, bicycle paths and sidewalks and traffic calming improvements, (b) cultural facilities, (c) recreational facilities, including, but not limited to, the acquisition of land; (d) paying all or a portion of the purchase payments due under an Agreement of Sale, dated as of October 15, 2012, between the City of Decatur and the Urban Redevelopment Agency of the City of Decatur; for the acquisition of Fire Station #1, the Lowell Public Works Building and the Decatur Recreation Center, and (e) paying all or a portion of the purchase payments due under an Agreement of Sale, dated as of May 1, 2013, as amended on October 1, 2020, between the City of Decatur and the Urban Redevelopment Agency of the City of Decatur; for the acquisition of the Beacon Municipal Complex and stormwater improvements, but not including the administrative facilities for the City Schools of Decatur; (G) DORAVILLE projects to be funded from the City of Doraville's share of	problems and other safety concerns, as well as widened lanes and shoulders; (H) public safety; (I) parks, recreation and greenspace and (iv) repairs of capital projects; (J) LITTONA projects to be funded from Littona's share of the proceeds including: (a) transportation improvements such as roads, streets, bridges, bicycle paths and sidewalks; (b) infrastructure improvements; (c) capital outlay projects such as the improvement of land and structures, purchase of police cars and other major equipment; (d) facilities improvements such as recreational facilities and other government buildings; and (e) public safety purposes such as major equipment; and (f) public works purposes such as major equipment; (L) PINELAKE projects to be funded from the City of Pine Lake's share of the proceeds including: (a) roads, streets, bridges, bicycle paths and sidewalks and improvement of surface-water drainage from roads, streets, bridges and sidewalks, and other stormwater capital outlay projects, but not limited to parks, lakes, dams, trails, and acquisition of land; (c) public safety facility renovations and equipment; and (d) public works facility renovations; (K) STONE MOUNTAIN projects to be funded from the City of Stone Mountain's share of the proceeds including: (a) transportation improvements such as roads, streets, bridges, bicycle paths, sidewalks, and resurfacing; (b) new infrastructure such as government administration buildings and recreational buildings; (c) recreational facilities improvements such as parks; and (d) property acquisition; (L) STONE MOUNTAIN projects to be funded from the City of Stone Mountain's share of the proceeds including: (a) roads, streets, bridges, sidewalks, and paths; (b) improvement of surface-water drainage and other stormwater capital outlay projects; and (c) recreational facilities including, but not limited to parks, trails, and trails. These projects may include land, facilities, equipment, vehicles and other capital needs related to such projects; and (M) TUCKER projects to be funded from the City of Tucker's share of the proceeds including: (a) road improvement and repair; (b) expansion and improvements of trails, sidewalks, and bikeways; (c) parks capital
<p>*NOTICE TO ELECTORS: Unless BOTH the equalized homestead option sales and use tax (EHOST) AND the special purpose local option sales and use tax (SPLOST) are approved, then neither sales and use tax shall become effective.</p> <p>*Shall an equalized homestead option sales and use tax be levied and the regular homestead option sales and use tax be suspended within the special district within DeKalb County for the purposes of reducing the ad valorem property tax millage rates levied by the County and municipal governments on homesteaded properties?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p>		
<p>DeKalb County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (Vote for One)</p> <p>*Shall a special 1 percent sales and use tax be imposed in the special district of DeKalb County for a period of time not to exceed 6 years and for the raising of an estimated amount of \$850 million for the purpose of: (A) DEKALB COUNTY projects to be funded from DeKalb County's share of the proceeds to: (1) plan, design, construct, demolish, add to, acquire, relocate, renovate, replace, repair, improve accessibility to, furnish and equip projects for: (a) public safety purposes, to include fire stations, police facilities, courts, and an animal welfare facility; (b) transportation purposes, to include roads and streets, road and street repaving, sidewalks, bicycle path/lanes, multi-use trails, mass transportation, and other road, street, and bridge purposes; (c) multi-generational recreational purposes, to include senior facilities, parks, libraries and related</p>		



SCHOOL FEATURE

Livsey has done it again! Learn how this little gem of a school continues to finish in the top rankings year after year on page 10.

ON THE COVER

It's election season. Read up on two very important questions on the ballot on page 6. EHOST and SPLOST II...what do they mean?



ON THE BEAT

Lt. Obester updates us on recent changes within the Tucker Precinct on page 5. We are grateful to the community for taking care of them.



BUSINESS BOOM

Thank you to Tucker High School for once again partnering with the City to host the annual Manufacturing Day. Learn more on page 9.



INTUCKER

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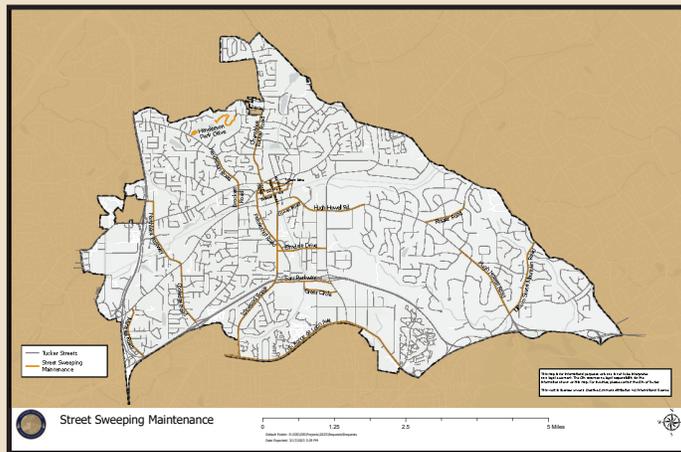


From the Mayor

I never miss an opportunity to boast about Tucker. Whether it is our highly talented staff or our caring community, our beautiful parks or all the new businesses finding a home here, it all comes together to make a great place to Live, Work, Play and Pray. And this space is one that I greatly treasure as each month I get to share progress toward our goals and highlight our achievements.

The most recent initiative that has had an immediate and positive impact on the city we call home has been the addition of the Public Works Department. After years of planning, educating and gaining the consensus of our residents, we launched the department on July 1. The first two priorities were 1) to assess in detail the condition of our entire system, and 2) to immediately begin addressing the 679 known deficiencies we inherited from DeKalb County. In our first three months of service, we have completed 301 orders and you the public have added 724 more! These numbers are the perfect illustration of the needs that weren't getting met, AND that we are up for the job. I am proud of the work our staff and contractors are doing. As a city, we are responsive and getting the work done. As you can see, there's a long way to go, but we have a plan and an approach that will get us there. Of course we are prioritizing the most severe issues, and the ones

that affect the most people. As we get through those and pare the list down to something manageable, we'll reach a point where we're addressing new issues in real time, and ultimately, working ahead on preventive maintenance.



In addition to addressing these immediate needs, we are also increasing our level of service in Public Works. Among my favorites is a new street sweeping program. Curb bumping, where caked on vegetation and debris are removed, was completed in September to set the stage for ongoing street sweeping. The initial sweep is scheduled for this month with a follow up in December. Starting in 2024 the highlighted streets in the map above will be swept quarterly.

We have had to make hundreds of individual decisions since we proposed adding Public Works to our responsibilities. Chief among these is what level of service the community desires, and what we can provide for a rate property owners

are willing to pay. This month, the Council and I will be publishing a document outlining the extent of service we will commit to providing for our community stormwater infrastructure. City staff has done extensive research and data mining,

met and spoken with similar municipalities, and have presented their findings and recommendations to me and the Council in several briefings. When finished, this document will clearly outline which stormwater facilities are to be maintained by the city's ratepayers, and which will be the responsibility of private property owners. It should clear up a lot of confusion, and serve all

our citizens to know exactly what to expect for the fees they are paying.

As with all our service delivery initiatives, the goal is to create and nurture a safe, healthy and welcoming place for all of us. While stormwater management is no one's first choice for casual conversation, it's our first priority to get it right so we don't have to spend any time talking about it!

**FRANK AUMAN
MAYOR**

City Council Update

The first council meeting in October began promptly at 7 p.m.. The evening's business started with a presentation of a Health Promotion and Wellbeing Grant to the City of Tucker by the Georgia Municipal Association and Local Government Risk Management Services in the amount of \$2,500.

Council heard a second read and public hearing of an ordinance to amend Tucker Code's zoning code to update references to the Comprehensive Plan. The ordinance was adopted unanimously. Council also unanimously adopted an ordinance for another code amendment to create a new Chapter 6 Animals to give guidance for pet owners and implement a requirement for pets to be leashed while off the owner's property.

Three contracts were awarded unanimously. These include:

- Lease and installation of 15 FLOCK license plate reader cameras and purchase of software to aid local law enforcement and improve area safety
- Purchase and installation of a retractable bleacher system in the Tucker Recreation Center Gymnasium
- Design and engineering phase of the Lord Park Entrance and Parking Project

A resolution to adopt the City of Tucker's 2024 calendar was unanimously approved with an amendment to move the date of the second council meeting in June 2024 from June 24 to 26.

The second Council meeting for October was an occasion for two special called meetings. The Mayor and Council convened at 4 p.m. for a special called meeting for an executive session for the purposes of real estate, personnel and/or litigation. The executive session adjourned with no action. The 7 p.m. meeting, while typically a work session,

was a special called meeting as there were two second reads that required votes.

The first order of business was a presentation by the DeKalb Community Service Board. The DeKalb CSB and the City of Tucker are exploring a partnership to better serve the Tucker community and support the DeKalb County Police Department with the creation of a part-time Community Mental Health Case Manager position. The proposed position would act as a liaison between available resources and those in the community that have been identified as being in crisis.

Following the presentation, the Mayor and Council heard a second read of an ordinance to amend the Tucker Strategic Transportation Plan. Specifically, to address updates as dictated by the 2023 Tucker Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan. The update was passed unanimously. A second read of an amendment to the Tucker Purchasing Policy was next for old business. This policy will establish updated guidelines including procedures for purchases using federal funds and slight adjustments to micro-purchasing threshold from \$10,000 to \$50,000. The policy was approved with a unanimous vote.

In new business, there was a first read and public hearing to amend the City's ordinance to update the code regarding adult entertainment. There will be a second read and vote at the first meeting of November.

The next City Council meeting will be November 13, 7 p.m. at Tucker City Hall, 1975 Lakeside Parkway Suite 350B, Tucker, GA 30084. All meetings are streamed live via Zoom and recordings are available at tuckerga.gov/documents.

DATES TO KNOW

November 1
Traffic Court

November 6
Downtown Development Authority

November 7
Election Day

November 8
Traffic Court

November 10
Closed in observance of Veterans Day

November 13
City Council Meeting

November 15
Environmental Court

November 21
University of Government Affairs Tucker

November 23-24
Closed in observance of Thanksgiving

November 27
City Council Work Session

FOLLOW US



nextdoor



ON THE BEAT with Lt. 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.

Things have been very busy around Tucker Precinct! New staff, a new building (sort of), new initiatives like the FUSUS system, and our always present mission - to help make DeKalb County and the City of Tucker a safer place to live, work and play. It's no exaggeration to say we are running full steam ahead into the approaching holiday season.

The Tucker Precinct lobby is open for business after being closed for several years due to Covid-19 restrictions. We are eager to see people face-to face again during our normal business hours of 9 am to 5 pm. Tucker Precinct is located at 4451 Lawrenceville Highway, next to the Cofer Crossing Shopping Center. We would like to express our appreciation to Pastor Huggins and his congregation at Mountain West Church (mwchurch.com). After a good amount of elbow grease by the pastor and many volunteers, the precinct building, and its surrounding landscaping are looking much better. The lobby was cleaned and painted, landscaping trimmed back, and the shed finally cleaned out (yes, we have one!). We are proud to be good stewards of a building obtained many years ago through the generosity of the Cofer Brothers Company and its employees.

DKPD TKR officers continue to respond to hundreds of calls for service around the city each week. Please call 911 for emergencies or us directly for non-emergencies (678) 937-5301. If you need to come in and speak with an officer, you will meet one of our newest civilian staff members, Mrs. Shiferaw.



In addition to answering our telephones and greeting our visitors, Mrs. Shiferaw handles our screening desk. Our screening personnel take police reports in person and over the telephone. This is beneficial because the hard work they perform allows our officers to stay on their beats, patrolling and handling higher priority issues such as crimes in progress.

The new Assistant Precinct Commander at Tucker Precinct is Captain Louis Pierre. He joins us after a long career with the DKPD, including his last assignment as the commander of the busy South Precinct Criminal Investigations (CID) Unit. Captain Pierre brings with him a great amount of enthusiasm and will be assisting Precinct Commander, Major Harden, by helping to ensure that officers, detectives, and the first-line supervisors are providing the most professional and caring service to citizens. Tucker Precinct is also fortunate to have several new officers and sergeants that have been assigned to each of the three teams (Day Watch, Evening Watch, and Morning Watch).

Several of the outstanding Tucker officers have transitioned to new

opportunities. Officer CJ Lee, a Tucker local, was promoted to first line of supervision, Police Sergeant. He transferred to the North Central Precinct, located off West Exchange Place. Also promoted to sergeant were Officer Menefee and Officer Sargent, who will now be called Sergeant Sargent! Officer Mealor,

another officer who grew up in the Tucker area, was recently chosen to work with the Advanced Technology Unit. Among other things, Ofc. Mealor will be working to promote the new FUSUS camera integration system (see September's On the Beat). Rest assured, while you may not see these officers around the Tucker area as frequently as before, they will still be assisting Tucker Precinct with various initiatives and programs. I also know that we will continue to find Sergeant Lee eating at Matthews!

As you can see, we are working hard to upgrade both our human and physical resources to meet the needs of Tucker. If you are a local resident and want to stay engaged with us, I recommend you download the Nextdoor app on your phone and take the steps to join our online community. We frequently post about the daily and weekly happenings at our Precinct, including our monthly "Coffee with a Cop" community meetings.

On behalf of Major Harden, Captain Pierre, and all the staff and officers of Tucker Precinct, we wish everyone a safe and crime-free holiday season.



The City of Tucker does not have an item on the ballot in every election. You may have noticed that there are never items in the primary elections because our elected seats are non-partisan. This was decided by design so that local representatives serve the community rather than a party. The Tucker Council is made up of seven people, the Mayor and two members for each of the three districts. The Mayor and seat one of each district are elected the same years as the presidential election. The second seat for each district is scheduled for the middle year in between. The City saw eight candidates qualify for the three seats in August and seven are still on the ballot. In District One, Virginia Rece and Karen Berry are on the ballot, in District Two there are Patrice Cosby, Vinh Nguyen and Derik West, and in District Three are Simone Pacely and Amy Trocchi. There have been several candidate forums hosted by local media and co-hosted by the Tucker Business and Civic Associations. Residents will only be able to vote for the candidates in their Districts. To find out your district please visit tuckerga.gov/elections and click on the Tucker Votes icon to see your district and your representatives all the way up to the federal level.

In addition to the Council seats, there are five questions for DeKalb County residents that also affect municipal residents. The first question considers increasing the income cap on the homestead exemption for residents who are 65 years of age or over or those that are disabled. The second and third concern raising the income cap for seniors regarding an exemption for the school tax.

The fourth and fifth questions require citizens to vote whether to approve a second six-year Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and whether to continue the suspension of the Homestead Option Sales Tax (HOST) and continue replacing it with the Equalized Homestead Option Sales Tax (EHOST). Both of these special taxes are currently in place for all DeKalb citizens and these votes are whether or not the County will continue with them. The ballot also states that in order for one to be enacted then both need approval. If one fails then neither will go into effect.

Tucker has been receiving SPLOST funds since March of 2018 and it is set to expire in March of 2024. These funds are from a one percent sales tax and are given to the City to manage capital improvements to the infrastructure. The approved project list on the ballot include: projects to be funded from the City of Tucker's share of the proceeds including (a) road improvement and repair, (b) expansion and improvements of trails, sidewalks, and bikeways, (c) parks capital outlay, and (d) stormwater infrastructure.

For more details and information please visit tuckerga.gov/elections. There you will find links to the state and the county regarding your voter status, where to vote and what is on the ballot explanations.

SAMPLE BALLOT FOR TUCKER VOTERS

SPECIAL ELECTION DEKALB COUNTY

DeKalb County Suspension of Homestead Option Sales Tax and Approval of Equalized Homestead Option Sales Tax (Vote for One)

***NOTICE TO ELECTORS:** Unless BOTH the equalized homestead option sales and use tax (EHOST) AND the special purpose local option sales and use tax (SPLOST) are approved, then neither sales and use tax shall become effective.

"Shall an equalized homestead option sales and use tax be levied and the regular homestead option sales and use tax be suspended within the special district within DeKalb County for the purposes of reducing the ad valorem property tax millage rates levied by the County and municipal governments on homestead properties?"

- Yes
- No

DeKalb County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (Vote for One)

"Shall a special 1 percent sales and use tax be imposed in the special district of DeKalb County for a period of time not to exceed 6 years and for the raising of an estimated amount of \$850 million for the purpose of: (A) **DEKALB COUNTY** projects to be funded from DeKalb County's share of the proceeds to: (1) plan, design, construct, damask, add to, acquire, relocate, renovate, replace, repair, improve accessibility to, improve energy sustainability to, furnish, and equip projects for (a) public safety purposes, to include fire stations, police facilities, courts, and an animal welfare facility; (b) transportation purposes, to include roads and streets, road and street repaving, sidewalks, bicycle paths/lanes, multi-use trails, mass transportation, and other road, street, and bridge purposes; (c) multi-generational recreational purposes, to include senior facilities, parks, libraries and related recreational facilities; and (d) capital outlay projects owned or operated by DeKalb County, to include physical and mental health facilities, and water, sewer, and/or stormwater facilities; and (2) pay expenses incident to accomplish all of the foregoing (collectively the "DeKalb County Projects"); (B) **AVONDALE ESTATES** projects to be funded from Avondale Estates' share of the proceeds including (i) transportation, including, but not limited to, roads, streets, bridges, bicycle paths and sidewalks, and (ii) stormwater infrastructure; (C) **BROOKHAVEN** projects to be funded from Brookhaven's share of the proceeds including (i) pavement management, (ii) transportation improvements, (iii) parks capital asset maintenance, (iv) public safety equipment and fleet; and (v) to pay expenses incident to accomplish all of the

foregoing; (D) **CHAMBLEE** projects to be funded from Chamblee's share of the proceeds including: transportation improvements, including roads, streets, bridges, sidewalks, transit oriented features, bicycle and pedestrian paths, intersection improvements, streetscapes, as well as payment of expenses incident to accomplish the foregoing; parks and recreation projects, including playgrounds, site development, renovations and new equipment; and police vehicles and related equipment, as well as payment of expenses incident to accomplishing the foregoing; (E) **CLARKSTON** projects to be funded from the City of Clarkston's share of the proceeds including (i) transportation, including, but not limited to, road, street, bridges, sidewalks and bicycle paths, (ii) recreational facilities, (iii) City administrative building and (iv) public safety facilities; (F) **DECATUR** projects to be funded from the City of Decatur's share of the proceeds including (a) transportation, including, but not limited to, roads, streets, bridges, bicycle paths and sidewalks and traffic calming improvements, (b) cultural facilities, (c) recreational facilities, including, but not limited to, the acquisition of land, (d) paying all or a portion of the purchase payments due under an Agreement of Sale, dated as of December 15, 2010, between the City of Decatur and the Urban Redevelopment Agency of the City of Decatur, for the acquisition of Public Works Building B, (e) paying all or a portion of the purchase payments due under an Agreement of Sale, dated as of October 1, 2020, between the City of Decatur and the Urban Redevelopment Agency of the City of Decatur, for the acquisition of Fire Station #1, the Levent Public Works Building and the Decatur Recreation Center, and (f) paying all or a portion of the purchase payments due under an Agreement of Sale, dated as of May 1, 2013, as amended on October 1, 2020, between the City of Decatur and the Urban Redevelopment Agency of the City of Decatur, for the acquisition of the Beacon Municipal Complex and stormwater improvements, but not including the administrative facilities for the City Schools of Decatur; (G) **DORAVILLE** projects to be funded from the City of Doraville's share of the proceeds including: (1) 60% Pavement Management; (2) 15% Transportation Improvements; (3) 15% Parks Capital Asset and Maintenance; and (4) 10% Public Safety Facilities, Equipment, and Fleet Replacement; (H) **DUNWOODY** projects to be funded from Dunwoody's share of the proceeds including (i) transportation, including, but not limited to, infrastructure preservation (road resurfacing, replacement and rehabilitation of bridges and drainage systems), pedestrian and bicycle path improvements (addition of sidewalks, streetscapes, bike lanes, and multi-use trails), congestion relief (intersection improvements, road widenings, traffic management, and signal upgrades), safety and operational improvements (addition/extension of turn lanes, elimination of sight distance

problems and other safety concerns, as well as widened lanes and shoulders); (ii) public safety; (iii) parks, recreation and greenspace and (iv) repairs of capital projects; (I) **LITHONIA** projects to be funded from Lithonia's share of the proceeds including (a) transportation improvements such as roads, streets, bridges, bicycle paths and sidewalks; (b) infrastructure improvements; (c) capital outlay projects such as the improvement of land and structures; purchase of police cars and other major equipment; (d) facilities improvements such as recreational facilities and other government buildings; and (e) public safety purposes such as major equipment; and (f) public works purposes such as major equipment; (J) **PINE LAKE** projects to be funded from the City of Pine Lake's share of the proceeds including (a) roads, streets, bridges, bicycle paths and sidewalks and improvement of surface-water drainage from roads, streets, bridges and sidewalks, and other stormwater capital outlay projects (b) recreational facilities including, but not limited to, parks, lakes, dams, trails, and acquisition of land (c) public safety facility renovations and equipment, and (d) public works facility renovations; (K) **STONECREST** projects to be funded from the City of Stonecrest's share of the proceeds including (a) transportation improvements such as roads, streets, bridges, bicycle paths, sidewalks, and resurfacing; (b) new infrastructure such as government administration buildings and recreational buildings; (c) recreational facilities improvements such as parks; and (d) property acquisition; (L) **STONE MOUNTAIN** projects to be funded from the City of Stone Mountain's share of the proceeds including: (a) roads, streets, bridges, sidewalks, and paths; (b) improvement of surface-water drainage and other stormwater capital outlay projects; and (c) recreational facilities including, but not limited to, parks, and trails. These projects may include land, facilities, equipment, vehicles and other capital costs related to such projects; and (M) **TUCKER** projects to be funded from the City of Tucker's share of the proceeds including (a) road improvement and repair, (b) expansion and improvements of trails, sidewalks, and bikeways, (c) parks capital outlay, and (d) stormwater infrastructure? If imposition of the taxes is approved by the voters, such vote shall also constitute approval of the issuance of general obligation debt of **DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA** in the principal amount not to exceed \$50 million for a portion of the above DeKalb County Projects, to pay capitalized interest incident thereto, and to pay expenses incident to accomplish the foregoing. If imposition of the taxes is approved by a majority of the voters within the **CITY OF AVONDALE ESTATES**, such vote shall also constitute approval of the issuance of general obligation debt of the City of Avondale Estates in the principal amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 to pay all or a portion of any of the Avondale Estates'

projects, the costs of issuing the debt and capitalized interest. If imposition of the taxes is approved by a majority of the voters within the **CITY OF BROOKHAVEN**, such vote shall also constitute approval of the issuance of general obligation debt of the City of Brookhaven in the principal amount not to exceed \$50,000,000 to pay all or a portion of the transportation improvements, paving management, parks capital asset maintenance, public safety equipment and fleet projects, the costs of issuing the debt and capitalized interest, and to pay expenses incident to accomplish all of the foregoing. If imposition of the taxes is approved by a majority of the voters within the **CITY OF CLARKSTON**, such vote shall also constitute approval of the issuance of general obligation debt of the City of Clarkston in the principal amount not to exceed \$12,000,000 to pay all or a portion of any of the City of Clarkston's projects, the costs of issuing the debt and capitalized interest. If imposition of the taxes is approved by a majority of the voters within the **CITY OF DECATUR**, such vote shall also constitute approval of the issuance of general obligation debt of the City of Decatur in the principal amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 to pay all or a portion of the transportation, cultural and recreational projects, the costs of issuing the debt and capitalized interest. If imposition of the taxes is approved by a majority of the voters within the **CITY OF DUNWOODY**, such vote shall also constitute approval of the issuance of general obligation debt of the City of Dunwoody in the principal amount not to exceed \$36,000,000 to pay all or a portion of any of the Dunwoody projects, the costs of issuing the debt and capitalized interest. If imposition of the taxes is approved by the voters within **LITHONIA**, Georgia, such vote shall also constitute approval of the issuance of general obligation debt of Lithonia, Georgia, in the principal amount not to exceed \$2,130,000 for a portion of Lithonia's Projects, the costs of issuing the debt and capitalized interest. If imposition of the taxes is approved by the voters within the **CITY OF STONECREST**, such vote shall also constitute approval of the issuance of general obligation debt of the City of Stonecrest, in the principal amount not to exceed \$40,690,000 for a portion of the City of Stonecrest's Projects, the costs of issuing the debt and capitalized interest."

Homestead Exemption for Residents 65 Years of Age or Older or Who Are Disabled (Vote for One)

House Bill 591, Act No. 152

"Shall the Act be approved which increases the income cap to \$37,500.00 on the \$14,000.00 homestead exemption provided to certain residents of DeKalb County who are 65 years of age or over or who are disabled?"

- Yes
- No

DeKalb County School District Homestead Exemption for Residents 62 Years of Age or Older or Who Are Disabled (Vote for One)

House Bill 593, Act No. 153

"Shall the Act be approved which increases the income cap to \$40,000.00 on the homestead exemption from DeKalb County school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes in the amount of \$20,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that school district who are 62 years of age or older or who are disabled?"

- Yes
- No

DeKalb County School District Homestead Exemption for Residents 65 Years of Age or Older or Who Are Disabled (Vote for One)

House Bill 594, Act No. 154

"Shall the Act be approved which increases the income cap to \$37,500.00 on the \$14,000.00 homestead exemption provided to certain residents of the DeKalb County School District who are 65 years of age or over or who are disabled?"

- Yes
- No

CITY OF TUCKER

For City Council Member District 1, Post 2 (Vote for One)

- Karen Berry
- Virginia Reec (incumbent)
- _____
- Write-in

For City Council Member District 2, Post 2 (Vote for One)

- Patrice Cosby
- Vinh Nguyen
- Derik N. West
- _____
- Write-in

For City Council Member District 3, Post 2 (Vote for One)

- Simone Pacey
- Amy O. Trocchi
- _____
- Write-in

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ORDER OF THE SAMPLE BALLOT MAY BE DIFFERENT THAN WHAT VOTERS WILL SEE.

TUCKER VOTES

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT TUCKER.GA.GOV/ELECTIONS

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

MAIN STREET CLEANERS



Tucker is a small town near a big city and one of the characteristics in which the community takes pride, is the down-home, neighborly feel of the long standing, family-owned, small businesses. Main Street Cleaners has been a community staple for generations. Established in 1965, the dry-cleaning store has remained at its original location for all of Tucker's dry-cleaning needs including preservation of wedding dresses, dry cleaning for special occasions like prom and job interviews as well as your everyday clothing.

A few families have been the proprietors of Main Street Cleaners through the decades. Bob Eckhart is the current owner of the shop, and he bought it from his father-in-law in 1987. His father-in-law

was partners with the original owners and the business has been a success as it has been passed down. Through the years, Eckhart and Main Street Cleaners have seen fashions come and go...and come around again! Thankfully, the customer base and volume of clothing has increased.

When a business lasts as long as Main Street Cleaners not only does the fashion change through the decades, but the technology does, as well. In the early years, a perc machine cleaned the clothing using perchloroethylene as the solvent, but technological updates made a hydrocarbon drycleaning machine available and is more environmentally safe and friendly. Although the store has seen numerous changes in its 58 years,

the hometown feel and the support of the Tucker community has stayed the same. Eckhart shared that he is happy with the community and loves the location on Tucker's Main Street.

"The location is a good one," Eckhart shared. "We are next door to Matthew's Cafeteria, and they get a lot of traffic. It's been good for us since the renovations of Main Street. They certainly tried to improve the infrastructure and the types of businesses. It has been a positive thing!"

Main Street Cleaners is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays and closed on Sundays. They are located at 2285 Main Street in Tucker and on the web at main-street-cleaners.business.site.

BUSINESS BOOM

by Jackie Moffo, Economic Development Director



Tucker's manufacturing legacy began in the 1960s when Patillo Construction Company developed the industrial park areas along Mountain Industrial Road. By 1974, these industrial areas were completed, and over the last 50 years have continued to attract manufacturers and industrial businesses to our community. Today, manufacturing currently accounts for 10.4% of Tucker's total share of jobs and continues to be a critical part of our local economy.

Manufacturing is a constantly evolving industry, with many of our Tucker manufacturers adopting new technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics. With these new technologies comes the increased demand for talent, and upskilling. Here in Tucker, and across the nation, manufacturers are eager to find new ways to communicate these changes in the industry – to highlight the diverse variety of career opportunities and to dispel old stereotypes of manufacturing jobs long since passed.

Looking for a way to bridge this gap, Manufacturing USA (also known as the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation), as a part of the Manufacturing Institute and in conjunction with the National Association of Manufacturers, MEP Centers, and federal agency partners, has established a national Manufacturing Day. Annually, the first Friday in October is celebrated as Manufacturing Day to show students, parents, and the public “what modern manufacturing is all about”.

Since 2018, the City of Tucker has celebrated in its own way – with the goal of connecting the Tucker community with the manufacturing businesses that call it home. In 2022, the city modified the format, re-focusing its efforts and aligning with the national efforts on student connections.

On October 12, 2023, Tucker High School hosted Tucker Manufacturing Day. The event this year boasted expo-style booths with product demonstrations and displays, mock interviews for students, and classroom visits for direct student conversations and Q&A. Some of Tucker's largest employers participated again, including PepsiCo, Sugar Bowl Bakery, Rise Baking Company, WinCup, Briggs & Stratton, and Ruco/Southern Wall as well as a few businesses new to the event including Image360, Oldcastle, Thomas Concrete, and Prudential Overall Supply. In a first this year product displays also include an interactive concrete truck experience courtesy of Thomas Concrete!

The event started at 8:30 AM with a kick-off welcome by Mayor Frank Auman and Tucker High School Principal Dr. Eric Parker. The expo tables were immediately flooded with excited students. During the four-hour event, over 600 students participated – meeting businesses, learning about products made in Tucker, and about the career paths of each employer. PepsiCo, Prudential Overall Supply, Ruco/Southern Wall, and Georgia Piedmont Technical College participated in mock interviews with Work Study and other interested students. Over 40 students took part in these mock interviews and businesses provided feedback on the students to their teachers as a part of their ongoing coursework. Mayor Auman joined the businesses for classroom visits, wrapping up the event.

On the heels of an extremely successful event, the city is not slowing down and has already begun evaluating new ways to continue to connect manufacturers and other businesses to Tucker students throughout the year!



Livsey Elementary School added two feathers to its cap last month when they received two recognition awards from the Georgia Department of Education for being a top performing Title I school.

The Distinguished Schools honor is awarded to Title I schools that rank in the top five percent of eligible schools in the state based on the combined content mastery test scores for ELA and Math. The Rewards Schools honor is bestowed on the Title I schools that are ranked in the top five percent and have shown improvement within that ranking over the past two years.

Georgia has over 1,500 Title I schools in the state and Livsey consistently ranks in the top five percent for performance. Principal Shawna Pickett is proud of Livsey and gives credit and praise to the staff, students and parents at Livsey for demonstrating their commitment to excellence.

"We are part of a community," Pickett said. "So everything we do here we try to look at it complete. So the staff, the parents, the

school, the students, we all work together to make achievements and to move forward in our success."

Principal Pickett further credits the school's success with how the additional Title I funds are utilized to best support the student body. Livsey uses the additional funds to hire retired teachers on a part-time basis. These teachers help students in small groups during regular instructional time and during after school tutoring opportunities.

"It is great and I think it is a large portion of what has helped us reach those goals," Pickett said.

The Livsey principal has been with the school for eleven years, including four years as Assistant Principal. Under her leadership, the schools has earned the Distinguished Schools honor four times since 2019.

Livsey is a STEM certified school located in north Tucker off Chamblee Tucker Road and serves grades pre-k through fifth.



Livsey Principal Shawna Pickett



TUCKER CLUSTER Updates & News

IMPORTANT DATES	November 7 Independent Learner Day	November 20-24 Thanksgiving Break
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BRAG SHEET

BROCKETT ELEMENTARY celebrated the season with a Fall Festival featuring Trunk-or-Treat, a costume parade, raffle drawing and plenty of other fun activities for students and their families to enjoy.

LIVSEY ELEMENTARY students raised over \$18,000 as a part of their “Whooo’s Reading” fundraiser from September 23 to October 13. Students logged thousands of minutes reading online.

SMOKE RISE ELEMENTARY will host the 44th annual Holiday in Smoke Rise Market on December 2. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. you can explore an artist market of crafts, gifts and more.

TUCKER MIDDLE SCHOOL’S Tucker Tigers secured first seed in the Region II football playoffs! Congratulations to our hardworking players.

CITIZENS OF THE MONTH

REVS. TOM AND ANN EDMUNDSON

Tom and Ann Edmondson have lived in Tucker for the last six years, but their history with our city goes back to 1990 during their student days. While attending Atlanta Christian College, where they met, Tom and Ann came to serve The Asian Outreach Church that met in the Tucker Christian Church building on Lynburn Drive until graduation in 1992. They returned to Tucker in 2016 at the First Christian Church of Atlanta on Lavista Road after twenty-three years of ministry elsewhere, both fulltime and bi-vocational, and teaching in private schools. Both have earned graduate degrees from Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

Since coming to First Christian in 2016 Tom and Ann have worked to revitalize the 170+ year-old congregation. Tom serves as Senior Pastor; Ann serves as Minister of Music and Outreach. In addition to serving their congregation, they have also been active in the Tucker community, including Tucker Civic Association, Tucker Business Association, and the Rotary Club, among others. Tom also co-founded the Tucker Community Action Network with Dr. Lois Ricci. Ann is the founder and director of the Tucker Community Singers and has conducted numerous free musical programs and activities for children and adults, including Wednesday evening music enrichment for children, Music Workshop for Adults, and the Community Handbell Players. Additionally, under their leadership, First Christian Church has hosted a number of community-oriented programs sponsored by AARP, Edward Jones, NAMI, and more. Tom was recognized as "Member of the Year" by Tucker Civic Association in 2020 and Tucker Business Association in 2021.

Tom is the author of *Faith Greater Than Our Challenges: What the Apostle Paul and Viktor Frankl Can Teach us About Difficult Times*, published by Wipf and Stock in 2021. Recently he launched the website *Meaning in Ministry: Pastoral Care with Logotherapy* (meaninginministry.com).

Rev. Ann Edmondson is a native of Seoul, South Korea. She immigrated during her college years. Tom is from Dalton, GA. Revs. Ann and Tom have been married for over 34 years, have two grown sons, a daughter-in-law, and two precious granddaughters.

Nomination by Kirk Lunde



CITY HALL *Update*

CHAPTER SIX: NEW ANIMAL ORDINANCE

The Mayor and City Council voted unanimously to add a chapter to the city code regarding Animals last month. Most regulations pertaining to animals remain under the jurisdiction of DeKalb County for enforcement but this addition to the city code allows for the city to enforce certain aspects of pet ownership.

The entire City Code can be found on the website under GOVERNMENT > CITY DOCUMENTS > CITY CODES. This then goes to a searchable document of all City Ordinances and Code. The chapter concerning Animals is Chapter Six and includes definitions, general responsibilities of owners, animal restraint while on owner's property and off property, enforcement, penalties and more.

Chapter Six of the City Code designates DeKalb County for animal control and the operations of animal shelters. The addition that will affect our residents the most will be Section 6-4. - Duty to restrain while off owner's

property. As stated, it is the duty of all animal owners to keep their animal under physical restraint through the use of a leash no longer than six feet when off the owner's property, with the exception of City owned and designated off leash areas. Owners found in violation of the code can be cited and fined up to \$1,000.

This addition to the code is for the safety of all residents and their animals. The City's parks and trails are open to all and it is imperative that dogs are leashed at all times. You may say that your dog is not reactive and just a jelly roll of love but that doesn't mean the leashed dog is as well. When your dog is unleashed, they are not within your reach or control and while they might not harm others, others might harm them.

The reality is that we all need to keep others in mind when we take our animals out into public. And part of that is leashing our dogs, for the safety of others and our dogs.



FIT & FUN INTUCKER

contributed by Tucker Parks and Recreation



This month we are highlighting opportunities for our growing senior and teen participation. We have created a variety of opportunities for both populations to engage in various aspects.

Our most popular senior class is Tuckercise where participation continues to increase. This class is on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. for all ability levels. Along with Tuckercise, we provide a variety of fitness classes such as Jackie Sorenson and Silver Foxes.

In addition to various fitness classes, we hold monthly Lunch & Learns and Senior Outings to keep our senior community socially active. Our upcoming Lunch & Learns include a 'Learn to Play' series with different games such as Cribbage, Farkle, and Canasta. We have also introduced Open Play time on Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m., and we invite seniors to come play board and card games with one another. We have planned several outings in and around the Atlanta area and we look forward to you joining us for Cirque Du Soleil, Christmas Lights, Civil and Human Rights Museum, and the Fox Theatre Tour.

Though some of these outings require a nominal fee for tickets and a meal, we continue to keep most of our programs free as we engage with the seniors in our community.

We offer several outings and volunteer opportunities for teens to enjoy within Tucker and the surrounding Atlanta area. We are excited for teens to learn and experience new things, make friends, have fun, and give back to the community during these trips. The next teen volunteer opportunity will be on November 21 at FurKids Animal Shelter. Attending teens will complete various projects at the shelter to help those animals in need. Teens can enjoy seasonal fun at our other upcoming outings. The first is a visit to Uncle Shuck's Corn Maze on November 11. Next we will visit Six Flags Over Georgia for Holiday in the Park on December 9.

As always, our goal is to keep everyone active, involved, and having fun regardless of age. Check out our webpage for more details about upcoming events and opportunities for seniors and teens at tuckerga.gov/parks. You can also follow us at facebook.com/TuckerParksRec to get the most up-to-date department information.



Senior outing to historic Oakland Cemetery.



Teen volunteers for 'Boo at the Zoo'.

Upcoming Events

KELLEY COFER PARK PEACH PIT

Join us for s'mores, and signature fall cocktails.

Bring your favorite chair and enjoy the fire while listening to live acoustic music.

NOV. 18
5-8 P.M.



Sponsored by.



HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Dec. 2

**North Pole
at Tucker**

5-8 p.m.

CHURCH STREET GREENSPACE

TUCKERGA.GOV/PARKS/EVENTS



TUCKER Community Corner



City staff visited the four-year-old class at Tucker First United Methodist Church Preschool to talk about traffic safety and road design.

11/16 – Tucker Business Association Monthly Luncheon

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

**First Christian Church of Atlanta
4532 Lavista Road**

Come network with local business owners and get advice and updates from relevant speakers. Previous speakers include Mayor Auman, Molly Dickinson of BannerDay Branding, Tucker Summit CID President Emory Morsberger and more!

11/18 – Tucker High School Foundation Casino Night

6:30-10 p.m.

**Tucker Recreation Center
4898 Lavista Road**

The Tucker High School Foundation's third annual Casino Night features games of chance like blackjack, craps and Texas Hold 'Em. Browse the silent auction and purchase tickets for the 50/50 raffle. Support Tucker High School and register online!