



INTUCKER

OCTOBER 2025 | VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 10

TUCKER GRAD'S RECIPE FOR SUCCESS



ELECTED OFFICIALS

FRANK AUMAN
Mayor

ROGER W. ORLANDO
District 1 - Post 1

CARA SCHROEDER
District 2 - Post 1

ALEXIS WEAVER
District 3 - Post 1

VIRGINIA RECE
District 1 - Post 2

VINH NGUYEN
District 2 - Post 2

AMY TROCCHI
District 3 - Post 2

CITY SOCIALS



nextdoor

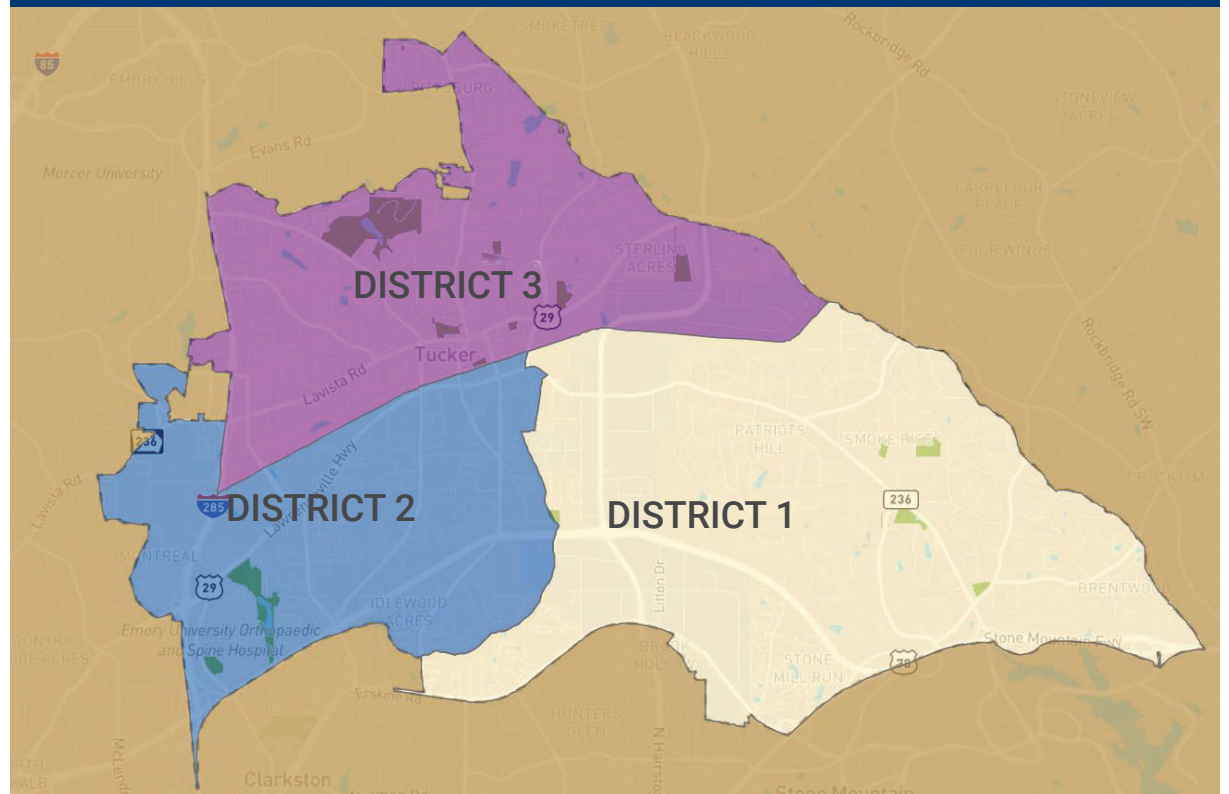
INTUCKER STAFF

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DISTRICT MAP



EDITOR'S NOTE

SONJA SZUBSKI - COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR



OCTOBER 6 – Deadline for voter registration

OCTOBER 14 - Special Election Runoff

OCTOBER 14-31 – Advanced voting

NOVEMBER 4 – Municipal General Election and Special Election – Public Service Commissioner

DECEMBER 2 – Runoff for Municipal General Election and Special Election – Public Service Commissioner

Every fall brings an election for our residents. This year, the municipal election is unique as the seat for Mayor does not have an incumbent. The City Charter allows Council members to sit for a total of two back-to-back four-year terms, and the Mayor for three back-to-back four-year terms.

Three residents have qualified to run for the office of Mayor; Anne Lerner, Beverly Williams and Noelle Monferdini. The Post 1 seat in each of the City's three districts is also on the ballot.

Two candidates qualified in August to run in each district:

- D1 – Roger Orlando (I) and Karen Peters
- D2 – Patrice Cosby and Cara Schroeder (I)
- D3 – Sam Ulrich and Alexis Weaver (I)

I encourage residents to do their due diligence, attend candidate forums, watch online, and read each candidate's websites and social accounts. Local government affects our daily lives and our quality of life as we live, work and play in our City of Tucker. These candidates are hopeful to take on a big responsibility to their neighbors and to lead with the best of their ability. I applaud them all for stepping up and taking on this challenge and I hope they earn the respect they deserve.

Visit tuckerga.gov/elections for links to the DeKalb Voter and Registration Office as well as your voter page with the Secretary of the State. There is also a special map that shows every single elected seat that serves your address.

This City was created to serve you, the residents. Stay informed and vote!

See you at the polls, Tucker.



FROM THE MAYOR

PROMISES, PROGRESS AND POTENTIAL

October marks the start of autumn. The year is winding down, the air is crisp, football is midseason, and sweaters will soon come out of hibernation. This autumn is unique for me as it is the last quarter of my service as Mayor for the City of Tucker. Over the next three months I'll be sharing some stories about the road to city-hood, the promises made, our progress throughout our ten years, and our potential in the coming generations.

This journey from "unincorporated" to the strong and established municipal government that we are today started over a decade ago. A group of concerned residents and neighbors gathered and forged a path to self-governance that led to a three-year period of sweat, tears and long hours, beginning in 2013. Ten years ago right now, we were in the run-up to a referendum to create the City of Tucker, which ultimately passed with an overwhelming 74% YES vote in November of 2015. It's the best decision we ever made for our community, and things have never been the same.

The driving force for incorporation was a very specific philosophy that there were certain things we could do better for ourselves very locally (like parks and zoning), and others where we would be better served by being part of a larger government (like sanitary sewer and water, and Fire services). We promised that as a city, we would make decisions right here at home about how to improve and care for our parks, and have local control over development in the city limits. Neighbors would be elected by neighbors to make informed decisions for the community, and local citizens would fill the boards and commissions that would steer us into the future. The results would include a higher level of service delivery and increased local investment to improve the community's quality of life. Those are promises we've kept, and the results can be seen everywhere in the city.

From the beginning, we sought to be wise and efficient with our provision of the three services authorized in our original charter: Planning and Zoning, Code Enforcement and Parks and Recreation. Parks and Recreation is where we have been able to make some of the biggest tangible impacts on the community, and our success there provides a great example of the benefits of local spending and decision-making:

- We replaced and added to play equipment in every park we inherited from DeKalb
- We added 20% of acreage and numerous amenities to our parks system, including Rosenfeld Pool, new trails and on-site restrooms
- We greatly expanded programming at the rec center and added a variety of sports and athletic leagues, including the return of the Tucker Baseball League after a 15 year hiatus
- We acquired and renovated Fitzgerald Park, creating a state-of-the-art youth sports facility
- We created safe off-leash spaces for our dogs and their owners

A city is much more than just the services mandated by our charter. Tucker has expanded and improved services year after year. Our Building and Permitting process has been streamlined and is more responsive than ever. We have expanded our engineering services and managed SPLOST revenue to repave nearly 120 miles of our roads and streets, and we've built over six miles of new sidewalks since 2018. In 2023 we added a fourth direct service - Public Works - and have since cleared out the inherited backlog of stormwater issues, drastically reduced response time for filling potholes and removing dangerous trees, and improved traffic flow and safety through better signage and signals. All around the city, we have been replacing infrastructure that has been aging for decades.

Our success has been self-evident, and I am proud that we have been able to make good on the promises of cityhood. The foundation we've built by fulfilling those promises will support continued growth and increased quality of life for generations to come.

In the next two months, I look forward to sharing more about our progress, and highlighting our potential, our vision and the many reasons to have optimism for the future of our home town. See you out there!

DATES TO KNOW

- **OCTOBER 6**
Downtown Development Authority
- **OCTOBER 7**
National Night Out
Church Street Greenspace
- **OCTOBER 7**
Zoning Board of Appeals
- **OCTOBER 8**
Municipal Court
- **OCTOBER 9 - 6 P.M.**
Candidate Forum
Northlake Church of Christ
1625 Cooledge Road
- **OCTOBER 11**
Rivers Alive
- **OCTOBER 11**
Tucker Cruise-In
- **OCTOBER 14**
Mayor & City Council Meeting
- **OCTOBER 15**
Municipal Court
- **OCTOBER 16**
Planning Commission
- **OCTOBER 22**
Municipal Court
- **OCTOBER 24**
Haunted Trail
Henderson Park West
- **OCTOBER 27**
Mayor & City Council Meeting



A SWEET SURPRISE

FOR TUCKER HIGH GRAD ZOE HOLLAND



Zoe Holland had no idea her summer morning would turn into a moment she'd never forget. The Tucker High School graduate was gearing up for a day of thrills at Six Flags with her family before heading off to begin her freshman year at Johnson & Wales University. But just after sunrise, a scream echoed through the house—not from a rollercoaster, but from sheer joy.

Holland had just received a notification on her phone: she'd been awarded a \$20,000 scholarship from US Foods.

"I did apply for a lot of scholarships," Holland said, still beaming. "But when I heard back from that one I was shocked. It was really great. It is just not the financial aspect of it. They also have a lot of programs throughout the year that you can join in."

The US Foods Scholars Program, launched in 2017, supports students pursuing degrees in culinary arts, hospitality, baking and pastry, or business management. With over \$2.4 million awarded to more than 120 students so far, the program is highly competitive. This year, Holland was one of just 18 recipients nationwide.

The application process was no small feat. Holland submitted a resume, a recommendation letter, and an essay—each piece reflecting her dedication and passion for the culinary world. That passion first sparked during her sophomore year at Tucker High, when she joined the school's culinary program.

"I like Tucker High School a lot," she said. "I was really glad that they had a culinary program because I feel like I might have sort of taken a different path if I didn't get to be in the culinary program."

Her time in the program was filled with hands-on experiences, including the Battle of the Brigades—a high school cooking competition that simulates the fast-paced environment of running a restaurant. Students plan menus, manage budgets, and serve guests, all while working as a team under pressure.

Outside of school, Holland continued to sharpen her skills through the Navigate Program, which offers kitchen training and job placement. That led to a paid internship at the Georgia Aquarium, where she helped prepare food and cater events.

Her entrepreneurial spirit also caught US Foods' attention. Holland runs her own baking business, often selling treats at events alongside her sister Willow, who showcases her artwork. Among her favorite creations is her grandparents' cream cheese poundcake—a dessert that holds a special place in her heart.

Now a freshman at Johnson & Wales, Holland is excited for what lies ahead. She's grateful for the support from US Foods and proud that her talents helped open this new chapter.

The day she found out she was a US Foods Scholar? She'd rate it "Six Flags."



Battle of the Brigades Culinary Program

A culinary competition developed in partnership n developed in partnership between DeKalb County School District CTAE program and the Shular Institute.

Zoe and Tucker High School made it to the finals in 2024 and faced off with Miller Grove High School.

More information can be found on their Facebook page.



US Foods Scholarship

From their website: "Since 2017, the US Foods® Scholars program has awarded financial support and professional development to students pursuing careers in the culinary arts, restaurant and hospitality industries. The program aims to inspire the next generation of culinary talent to reach their potential and helps address the talent shortage facing the foodservice industry."

Further information and how to apply can be found at usfoods.com



Navigate Program

From the website: "Navigate partners with public and private entities to serve a diverse set of talent pools. The groups in which Navigate focuses range from high school students to young adults, from either low- income, high potential communities or displaced situations void of access or proper direction to career opportunities."

Visit thenavigateprogram.org for more information

SCHOOL NEWS

SHINING STARS OF THE TUCKER CLUSTER

BROCKETT ELEMENTARY

TEACHER OF THE YEAR – CASSANDRA WALKER
EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR I - PIPER WATKINS
EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR II - RICHARD REESE



IDLEWOOD ELEMENTARY

TEACHER OF THE YEAR – KOWSAR ISSAK
EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR I - CHANDRA CAREY
EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR II – DR. JANICE BOYD

LIVSEY ELEMENTARY

DCSD AREA 2 PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR- SHAWNA L. PICKETT
TEACHER OF THE YEAR – MIA JOHNSON
EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR I - KAREN HILL

MIDVALE ELEMENTARY

TEACHER OF THE YEAR – SARAH MCCARTER
EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR I - KATE WEATHERSBY
EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR II – LINDSEY BROWN



SMOKE RISE ELEMENTARY

TEACHER OF THE YEAR – CHELSEA BROWN
EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR I - SOLOMON GEBREMICHAEL
EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR II – LATASHA BROWN



TUCKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

TEACHER OF THE YEAR – ARTANZA DENSON
EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR I - CHELSEA COOK



TUCKER HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHER OF THE YEAR – LILLIAN SELLERS
EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR I - ALEX DICKERSON
EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR II – BRITTANY AARESTAD



CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

RAEY ZIROTTI



Some heroes wear capes, and some wear Tucker Parks and Recreation shirts. Last month, the American Red Cross honored Tucker Parks and Recreation's Raey Zirotti. He was honored with the Red Cross Lifesaver Award, for saving a child's life from choking at the rec center. Raey is also a resident of Tucker and fully qualified to be this month's Citizen of the Month.

On April 29, Zirotti was performing his usual duties at the recreation center's back desk when a young boy and his sister approached. As the boy began chatting with Zirotti, he pulled out a burger and started eating. Suddenly, Zirotti noticed the boy coughing. After listening for two more coughs, Zirotti realized something was wrong. The boy's eyes widened and he had a concerned look on his face. That's when Zirotti sprang into action. He rushed from behind the desk and performed the Heimlich maneuver.

"I ran around the desk and did the Heimlich abdominal thrust and it was just so quick," Zirotti said. "There was no time to think, I knew what I was supposed to do. After he coughed out the obstruction, I checked to see if he was okay. He said he was fine and I made sure he got water."

After the piece of burger dislodged and fell from the boy's mouth, he apologized to Zirotti, who reassured him that everything was okay and that he was just relieved the boy was safe. Zirotti credits his CPR and first-aid training for preparing him to respond quickly and effectively. He also expressed gratitude to Parks and Recreation Administrative Services Manager Jess Joiner for providing the training.

"This was part of our normal training to be CPR and first-aid certified working at TRC," Zirotti said. "It was doing the

regular online course and then in-person training with Jess. One of the things that really helped me out was we trained with the mannequins but we also had an exercise simulating an actual choking event with a real person. We had another staff member come in and we went through what we would do to position somebody. I have to give props to Jess for talking to us about different scenarios versus a kid or an adult. That training really did come in handy."

Zirotti received so much praise from his coworkers for his bravery and his heroism. Many people at TRC are also proud of Raey for including his Red Cross Instructor.

"All Parks and Recreation staff are CPR/First Aid/AED certified," Joiner said. "As our Red Cross Instructor, it is my role to ensure that we are adequately trained in the event of an emergency at one of our

facilities. Raey demonstrated a calm and cool head during an emergency. He's a very humble and hard-working guy, and to nominate him for this award was a no brainer. We are beyond proud of him and take great pride in calling him part of the TRC family."

Zirotti is glad to receive this award because it shows that the training that people go through really does matter. Despite his heroic act Zirotti said he does not feel like a hero, he's just glad he was in the right place at the right time.

"Pay attention to these things because you never know when they can save someone else's life or your own life," Zirotti said. "I don't feel like a hero I am just happy that somebody is ok."

Next time you are at TRC be sure to say hi to Raey and thank him for his quick thinking and for being part of the Tucker family.

NEWS FROM INSIDE CITY HALL

WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON



IS THE PICKLEBALL CONVERSATION OVER?
Probably not as the sport is in high demand, not only in Tucker but also in surrounding communities and across the nation.

Currently, pickleball is played outside at two parks, Rosenfeld and Henderson. Indoor play is offered at Tucker Recreation Center. The courts at Rosenfeld Park are in desperate need of repair and the project is about to go out to bid for construction. The design is for three tennis courts and additional parking. Construction was anticipated to start this fall during fall pickleball league play so two of the four tennis courts at Henderson have been temporarily painted for dual use, creating six outdoor pickleball courts.

The City of Tucker is seeking resident’s input and feedback on development at the Tucker Recreation Center.

Tucker is mostly built out, and opportunities are not readily available for the City to expand existing programming nor add to the current offerings. To that end, the City will continue to use land that is public to the highest and best use.

Program expansion at the Tucker Recreation Center will require a substantial investment to mitigate stormwater issues and add parking. This survey is not a referendum and the final decision for development will be made by the Tucker City Council with recommendations from City Staff.

With that knowledge and the reality of funding, please take our survey found here surveymonkey.com/r/PGB9B68.



**OPEN
UNTIL**

**OCT.
31**



BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

D TRAIN FITNESS



Derrick Brimmer has experienced both highs and lows in his fitness journey.

His highs began during his prime years playing football at Brown High School in Atlanta and continued through his college football days at Clark Atlanta University. After college, he played semi-professional football for two seasons with the Decatur Mustangs.

When his football career ended, he faced the low of falling out of shape. Without the pressure of maintaining peak athletic fitness, his workouts slowed along with his strict diet. His weight climbed from 195 pounds to 290 pounds. During that time Brimmer showed a friend his high school yearbook and received a comment that he would never get back to his prime shape.

"I took that to heart," Brimmer said.

At that moment Brimmer's fitness journey was reignited. Determined to turn things around, he made a life-changing decision.

He began with small changes. Instead of driving, he started walking daily to and from the barbershop where he worked. He cleaned up his diet and committed

to healthier eating. Before long, he dropped 20 pounds! Fueled by that momentum, he returned to the gym, and his transformation took off.

"I already knew how to work out," Brimmer said. "I just hadn't done it in a while."

Through hard work and consistency, Brimmer shed nearly 100 pounds, dropping from 290 to 198. His results turned heads at the gym, where people began asking if he was a trainer. At first, he said no, but the requests kept coming and he soon found himself training others.

As word spread, his clientele grew. He trained clients at multiple gyms before deciding it was time to open his own. Brimmer saved up money over the years and finally achieved a new high: opening his own gym to help others reach their own fitness goals.

Today, he witnesses those successes at his new gym, D Train Fitness, located on Railroad Avenue in Tucker.

"I like it compared to all the other gyms... it's the best location. Everybody likes the area," Brimmer said.

Today, D Train Fitness attracts members from as far as Douglasville and Snellville. The gym offers personal training, boxing, and Pilates classes. Most members are women between the ages of 19 and 35. Brimmer believes what sets his gym apart is the welcoming, comfortable atmosphere he offers. Many members have left other gyms for his after feeling uncomfortable elsewhere. Brimmer said he does not tolerate any type of harassment or disrespect at his gym.

"I am focused on customer service, and I am big about getting people's opinions and advice on how I could make the gym better. That is a big difference when people are comfortable giving you suggestions," Brimmer said.

The former Brown High School football player has already taken his members' thoughts seriously. He had some members that wanted to use dumbbells that were more than ten pounds, but 15 pounds was too heavy for them. He brought in 12-pound dumbbells to accommodate them.

He also had members that wanted weight belts to be wear while they worked out, so Brimmer brought in different size weight belts for his

members. Although many of his clientele are between the ages of 19 and 35, he is looking to serve everyone, including the senior citizen community. Some of his members are part of the Silver Sneaker program, a government program that provides financial aid for adults to cover gym membership fees.

Looking ahead, Brimmer has ambitious plans. He hopes to expand his current location by knocking down walls and, one day, to franchise D Train Fitness. For now, he's focused on steady improvements and celebrating his members' progress.

"It's a very high, elated feeling because you knew them before they showed their before and after pictures," Brimmer said. "You knew their measurements. Then two or three months down the line you see results and see them about to accomplish their goals. When you are witnessing the process and see the end result, there is no better feeling."

D Train Fitness is located at 4292 Railroad Avenue. Stop by, call or follow on Facebook for information on hours, memberships and offerings.

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE COUNCIL MEETING?

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE



The Mayor presented the IT/GIS department with a proclamation declaring September 16 IT Professionals Day.

Due to the September *InTucker* edition content covering Parks and Recreation programming, this City Council update covers both the months of August and September.

At the August 11 City Council meeting the following actions were taken:

6-1 vote to approve an amendment to the code to create a City Marshal's Office. This is not local law enforcement but onsite staff to aid in court proceedings and security at City facilities.

6-1 vote to approve an ordinance to amend the code regarding drive-thru facilities and drive-thru restaurant regulations:

- Approve changes to use table and definitions only
- Do not make any changes to the supplemental regulations at this time

- End the moratorium
- Continue to study and discuss possible changes to supplemental regulations as part of a future text amendment

Unanimous vote to approve the following changes in the code for general clean-up:

- Article III: Special and Overlay District Regulations
- Article IV: Use Regulations
- Article V: Site Design and Building Form Standards
- Article VII: Administration
- Article IX: Definitions

Unanimous vote to approve a resolution to implement the Trees Atlanta Front Yard Tree Program for one year dedicating up to \$13,000.

Voted 5-2 to table further discussion of adopting a

Capital Improvement Plan for FY2026-2030.

Unanimous votes to amend the FY2026 pay structure, the fall resurfacing bid for 29 streets, construction of the Midvale Road sidewalk, the construction for Richardson Street connection, resurfacing and added amenities, a lighting service agreement for Richardson Street, and CEI services for the Richardson Street Reconstruction.

The second meeting of August saw a single vote to approve an ordinance to amend the code regarding the regulation of coin operated amusement machines.

September was a little less busy with votes and included approvals for:

A resolution to accept a Land Water Conservation Fun Grant from the Georgia Department of Natural resources.

A resolution to amend the FY2025 budget.

A task order contract for the design of an intersection improvement at Rosser Road and Rosser Place.

A contract to modify the vehicular lane configuration at Chamblee-Tucker from Britt Road to Tuckersham Road.

A contract amendment for the Johns Homestead Park and Dam Improvement project for unsuitable soil.

After a presentation from PSM, LLC on the sound study conducted for the Tucker Recreation Center, Henderson Park and Rosenfeld Park the Mayor and Council voted to instruct the City Manager to pause on the bid for the pickleball court design at Tucker Recreation Center, hold a public meeting and gather input to bring back to Council.

AROUND TOWN

UPCOMING EVENTS IN TUCKER

2025 HAUNTED TRAIL
OCTOBER 24, 2025 4-7 p.m.



2801 HENDERSON ROAD
NOTE: Location change this year due to dam construction at Lake Erin.

Our last game-watching party this year!

GO DAWGS

DON'T MISS IT!!

Georgia vs Florida

November 1 @3:30 p.m.



City of Tucker Official UGA Game-Watching Party

TUCKER TOWN GREEN
GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14 4-7 P.M.

LIVE MUSIC, FOOD,
DRINKS AND COMMUNITY

4226 RAILROAD AVENUE

NOV. 15 5-8 P.M.

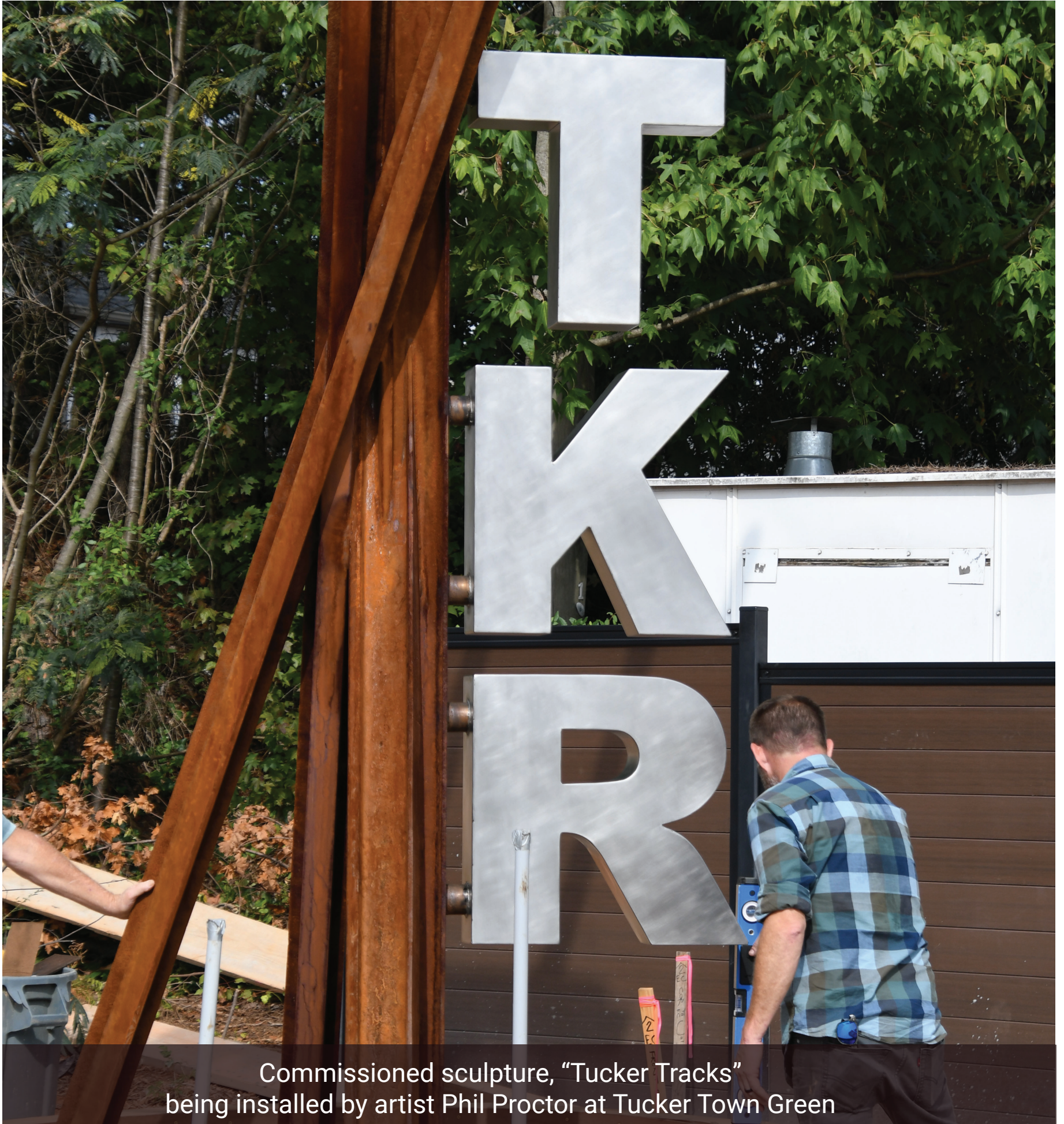


THE PEACH PIT
AT KELLEY COFER PARK

[TUCKERGA.GOV/PARKS/EVENTS](https://tuckerga.gov/parks/events)



TUCKER *Community Corner*



Commissioned sculpture, "Tucker Tracks"
being installed by artist Phil Proctor at Tucker Town Green