



INTUCKER

JUNE 2026 | VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 6



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TUCKER
AND
USA!**

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ANNE LERNER
Mayor

ROGER W. ORLANDO
District 1 - Post 1

CARA SCHROEDER
District 2 - Post 1

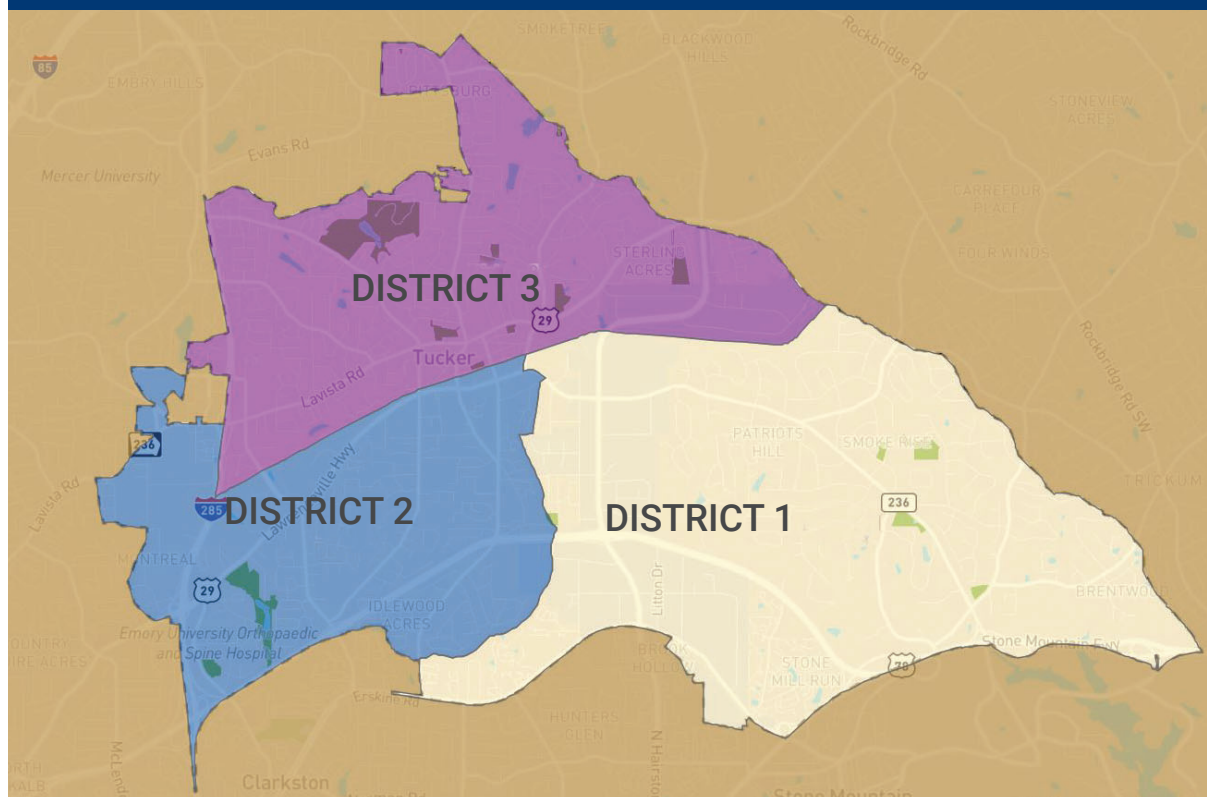
ALEXIS WEAVER
District 3 - Post 1

VIRGINIA RECE
District 1 - Post 2

VINH NGUYEN
District 2 - Post 2

AMY TROCCHI
District 3 - Post 2

DISTRICT MAP



EDITOR'S NOTE

SONJA SZUBSKI - COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR



June might be one of my favorite issues every year because we celebrate our Tucker High School graduates. On a personal note, my first born graduated this year and celebrated finishing 12

years in the Tucker Cluster.

Both of my children went through Livsey Elementary School, the STEM program at Tucker Middle and while my son graduated this year, my daughter has two more at Tucker High School. We know first hand how awesome our community of schools are and I am so thankful for the supportive

teachers and administrators over the past 13 years.

I am also thankful for the village of fellow parents that I have gathered around me through the years. Together we have navigated joys, disappointments and celebrations and many are my true friends for life.

I am so lucky that my life, my job and my community have settled here in Tucker. Our community is strong because of how we support each other and grow together, and I grateful to be part of it.

Thank you, Tucker, always.

See you on Main!



CITY SOCIALS



nextdoor

INTUCKER STAFF

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CELEBRATING TOGETHER

This is a big year for the United States of America and City of Tucker; both are celebrating milestone anniversaries. In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the USA, Tucker is inviting the public to participate in some fun. The birthday of the USA will be celebrated as a community at our annual July 3 Celebration of Independence on Main Street. It will be just like the past July 3 celebrations with an added boost of patriotism. Details can be found at tuckerga.gov/summer.



The City is also hosting two interactive events you can do on your own time. From June 1 to July 1, the community is invited to contribute to a community photo album and also participate in a local scavenger hunt.

COMMUNITY PHOTO ALBUM

Tucker residents are invited to submit photographs that remind them of the history of Tucker. They can be actual historical photographs as well as modern day views that harken back to the old days. These will be compiled into a digital photo album that will be shared with all.

SCAVENGER HUNT

The City will release a list of iconic Tucker landmarks to check off and submit with at least one selfie as proof of participation. Spots will include historical markers, plaques, and views of Tucker's history.

The prize for submission is your choice of either the 10-Year Celebration lapel pin or the 10-Year celebration challenge coin, seen pictured.

If you post on social platforms please tag City of Tucker – Government and make sure it is public!

Tucker and the United States have much to celebrate, join us!



DATES TO KNOW

JUNE 2, 7 PM
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

JUNE 5, 10 AM - 4 PM
HENDERSON PARK MASTER PLAN OPEN HOUSE
Tucker City Hall

JUNE 5, 7 PM
FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT - LANDSLIDE
Tucker Town Green

JUNE 6, 10 AM - 2 PM
HENDERSON PARK MASTER PLAN OPEN HOUSE
Tucker City Hall

JUNE 8, 7 PM
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 13, 10 AM - 1 PM
TUCKER CRUISE-IN
Main Street

JUNE 13, 11 AM - 5 PM
TUCKER JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION
Northlake Mall

JUNE 18, 7 PM
PLANNING COMMISSION

JUNE 18, 7 PM
MOVIES ON THE GREEN - ZOOTOPIA 2
Tucker Town Green

JUNE 19, 3 - 5 PM
CITY BUILDINGS CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF JUNETEENTH
POOLS OPEN
12-6 PM

JUNE 22, 7 PM
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 3
CITY BUILDINGS CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF JULY 4

JULY 3, 6 PM
CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE ON MAIN STREET

FEATURE STORY

A TALE OF TWO BIRTHDAYS: TUCKER'S FIRST DECADE AND AMERICA'S QUARTER-MILLENNIUM

This year, our community stands at a remarkable crossroads of time. As a nation, we are gathering to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States, a historic semiquincentennial milestone honoring the grand experiment in self-governance born in 1776. Simultaneously, right here in our own backyard, we are blowing out ten candles for the City of Tucker. While a decade may seem brief compared to two and a half centuries, the shared thread between these two celebrations is unmistakable: the enduring power of local people coming together to shape their own destiny.

FROM CITYHOOD MOVEMENT TO MUNICIPAL MATURITY

To understand the weight of Tucker's ten-year anniversary, one must look back slightly further than the official 2016 incorporation date. The groundwork was laid during the passionate 2015 cityhood movement. For years, residents felt that their tax dollars were disappearing into a vast county system, leaving local parks neglected, code enforcement sparse, and zoning decisions detached from the community's actual desires.

The push for cityhood was not an attempt to build a sprawling bureaucracy. Instead, it was an organized, grassroots effort by neighbors who believed that decisions regarding Tucker should be made by people who actually live in Tucker. When voters overwhelmingly approved the referendum, they won the right to local control.

Mayor Anne Lerner, an inaugural council member who was sworn in as the city's second mayor earlier this year, reflects deeply on that transition.

"When we took our oaths back in 2016, we were essentially starting with a blank canvas," Mayor Lerner said. "The cityhood movement was fueled by a promise to our neighbors that we could do better. Looking back over the last ten years, I'm proud of the progress we've made together and the strong foundation we've built as a city. But our work is never finished, and our goal should always be to keep listening and improving to serve our residents even better."

A DECADE OF GROWTH AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The tangible improvements across Tucker since 2016 are visible to anyone driving down Main Street or visiting a local neighborhood. One of the city's most significant achievements has been the total revitalization of its park system. Tucker inherited roughly 260 acres across 13 parks that had suffered from years of municipal disinvestment.

Over the past decade, the city replaced playground equipment, installed safer play surfaces, mended fencing, and overhauled security lighting. Major overhauls at the Tucker Recreation Center, including a new roof and modernized climate systems, have turned it into a bustling community hub. Parks like Fitzgerald, Peters, and Rosenfeld have seen major athletic field upgrades, giving youth sports a premier home.

Beyond green spaces, economic development and infrastructure have flourished. The city established its first Public Works Department to directly manage local roads, and the implementation of a comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan has guided smart growth. Major investments from healthcare giants like Emory Healthcare, alongside the revitalization of the Tucker Summit Community Improvement District, have brought thousands of jobs to the area while keeping the historic downtown core vibrant.



City Manager John McHenry, who oversees the daily administrative operations of the municipality, notes that the success of the last ten years boils down to efficiency and fiscal responsibility.

“Our goal from day one was to run a lean, effective government that prioritizes the needs of our residents,” City Manager McHenry stated. “We took over parks, zoning, and code enforcement, and later expanded into public works, always keeping a sharp focus on providing excellent services to our constituents. Ten years in, Tucker has proven that local governance is not just viable, but that it vastly improves infrastructure, secures economic stability, and fosters a distinct sense of place.”

GEORGIA PREPARES FOR THE US 250

While Tucker honors its local achievements, it is also participating in a massive statewide and national celebration. As one of the original 13 colonies, Georgia holds a sacred place in the story of the American Revolution. To mark the nation’s 250th anniversary, Governor Brian Kemp established the Georgia US250 Commission to lead the state’s commemorative efforts.

The commission, spearheaded by the Office of the Governor, Georgia Humanities, the Georgia Historical Society, and the Georgia Department of Economic Development, has spent months organizing civic, cultural, and educational programming. The commission’s mission is to inspire Georgians to reflect on the ongoing process of American self-government and renew their commitment to the ideals of the Declaration of Independence.

One of the most visible state initiatives is the rollout of a special standard-issue USA Semiquincentennial license plate. Available at the start of this year, the plate features a design created by a Georgia middle school student, Eden Pethel, as part of a statewide civics education program. The design honors Georgia’s Revolutionary War history, featuring red stars that mark critical battlegrounds from the conflict, including the Battle of Kettle Creek and the Sieges of Augusta and Savannah.

A SHARED SPIRIT OF SELF-DETERMINATION

It is entirely fitting that Tucker’s tenth anniversary coincides with America’s 250th. The founding of the United States was the ultimate assertion of local self-determination, a declaration that a community should govern itself rather than bow to distant administrators.

When the advocates of the Tucker 2015 cityhood movement gathered in living rooms and community centers, they were channeling that exact same American spirit. They argued that a smaller, localized government would be more accountable, more transparent, and more invested in the common good.

As the flags wave this July for the nation’s semiquincentennial and the banners hang along Main Street for the city’s decennial, Tucker residents have dual reasons to celebrate. We honor the grand history of a nation that made local liberty possible, and we celebrate a decade of local excellence that proves the American experiment is still working beautifully right here at home.

ANNUAL TKR
SUMMER
OF FUN

AMERICA
250

TUCKER
CELEBRATION
of
INDEPENDENCE
JULY 3, 2026

TUCKERGA.GOV/SUMMER



SCHOOL NEWS

THS CLASS OF 2026

Tucker High School celebrated their graduates last month at the Georgia State Convocation Center in downtown Atlanta.

The Class of 2026 was well represented with a valedictorian and two salutatorians, 39 students in the top 10%, almost 50 honors students and over 18 million in scholarship funds. Congratulations Tigers!

VALEDICTORIAN AKOSUA BAAH

PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: Attending Emory University and double majoring in political science and chemistry.

CAREER ASPIRATIONS: Undecided but is interested in policy and medicine. Would like to do something that combines both and likes helping people overall.

ADVICE TO YOUNGER STUDENTS: Focus on things that interest you, but try to branch out so you can become a well-rounded person.

FAVORITE THS MOMENT: I like the senior activities each year. I like to see the seniors get celebrated each year for their hard work and now that I am a senior it is fun to see the hard work pay off.

SALUTATORIAN JAENELLE MILICE

PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: Attending Georgia Tech and majoring in Biology

CAREER ASPIRATIONS: Career in medicine or culinary arts

ADVICE TO YOUNGER STUDENTS: Education and school are important, but you will never get far if you don't prioritize your health and the relationships around you.

FAVORITE THS MOMENT: My favorite moment was my junior year. That year I had teachers that were really helpful in my development as a student and as a person. That is also the year that I formed some of my strong relationships with my friends.

SALUTATORIAN SHAILA THOMAS

PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: Attending Georgia Tech and majoring in mechanical engineering

CAREER ASPIRATIONS: Hopes to become a designer. Would like to be a product or fabric designer.

ADVICE TO YOUNGER STUDENTS: Explore all of the opportunities your school and community offer and always say yes.

FAVORITE THS MOMENT: Any moment with my IB cohort



2026 TOP 10 PERCENT GRADUATES

Miski Abdi, Andrea Akwete, Mariel Austin, Akosua Baah, Aaron Davis, Damien DeBacher, Santana Doan, Yosef Endaylalu, Jada Ford, Haley Gallardo, Jacqueline Garcia, Kyleigh Hambie, Romana Ibrahim, Zachary Jean-Leon, Mattie Kelbaugh, Noah Lenac, Jadon Macon, Seanan McHoney, Thomas Mehari, Jaenelle Milice, Harrison Morledge, Ilhan Nur, Nnenna Ozumba, Elaina Parker, Alana Ralston, Emely Rodriguez-Ventura, Brendalee Sanchez, Jiya Shah, Jamila Sharif, Landen Sherrill, Silvana Solomon, Sandra Soriano Cortes, Caitlin Stuckey, Theodore Szubski, Shaila Thomas, Michelle Vega and Jessica Vu.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

SUCCESS ON THE SPECTRUM

After spending years in corporate America, Andres Dargent wanted to start a venture he could call his own. In his search, Dargent attended a franchise fair featuring numerous companies with franchise opportunities. Dargent, who had a godson with autism, visited the Success On The Spectrum (SOS) booth and thought to himself that this could be a good company that can help people and be truly meaningful.

SOS helps individuals with autism, assisting them with social skills and physical skills. The organization also hosts events for its clients and offers Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy.

Dargent did not expect to find an organization that would bring him purpose and fulfillment, but that one fair led to him becoming the franchise owner of the SOS location serving the Tucker community.

Dargent noted that one of the requirements of being an SOS franchise owner is that the owner must be the operator of the franchise, remaining involved and hands-on. SOS wants owners to know the clients and their families on a personal level. Dargent completely agrees with that sentiment and enjoys it.

"I personally want to know all the kids I want to know all the families so we can have

conversations and get to know each other at a human level," Dargent said.

He became a franchise owner in 2023 and has thoroughly enjoyed running SOS. His clients and their families enjoy it too.

One aspect of the operation families enjoy is the observation room, a space where parents can see their children on screens while they are having their therapy sessions. Dargent said parents love this feature because some parents are not comfortable leaving their children alone, especially for the first time.

Clients also appreciate the convenience that SOS provides. SOS has Board Certified Behavior Analysts onsite, along with speech and occupational therapists who come in to work with some children. Because some of the children are there all day, this makes life easier for parents who no longer have to pick up their children and take them to a speciality therapist.

Dargent believes that his franchise makes a positive difference in families' lives. SOS has seen its clients improve their lives, which is



incredibly rewarding for Dargent.

One of Dargent's favorite moments occurred when a boy with physical limitations was at the facility. The boy had a hard time moving around, and they had a therapist work with him to improve his mobility. One day, while working in his office, Dargent heard a scream. He came out of his office to see what the commotion was all about. The child, who previously had a hard time going on a slide by himself, went down completely on his own, causing the therapist to scream in excitement.

When Dargent found out what happened, he was overwhelmed and had tears of joy. The boy showed off to everybody there, doing it over and over again, and he showed off to his parents when they arrived. That day was incredibly special for Dargent. For him, days like those make being an SOS owner deeply fulfilling.

CITIZENS OF THE MONTH

BUY NOTHING

High on the list of great Tucker attributes is our Buy Nothing culture. This national radical experiment pursues two goals: keeping stuff out of the landfill and building community.

Buy Nothing members offer and ask for tangible "gifts" such as lightly worn kid's shoes, furniture gathering dust, Halloween costume components, and passalong plants. More intangible gifts are also welcome: notary services, resume advice, DIY advice like how to refinish a chair or family-favorite recipes. This is not a barter system or quid-pro-quo but mutual aid, gifting people what they ask for.

and quickly sprouted again into 3 smaller groups. Compact areas allow friendships to build among close neighbors. Buy Nothing neighbors get to know each other while giving and receiving, which leads to community gatherings like craft days, puzzle parties and potlucks.

Some members' favorites:

- Leah's ongoing plant-stand. Neighbors can take and/or drop off pots, seeds, seedlings and the occasional tomato.
- homemade jam, sourdough English muffins, passionflower vines – a long list of small gifts

- Claire's carnival glass candy dish: "Oh, my grandfather had one just like this!"
- folding puppy stairs for Heather's elderly dog to get into the car: "This has been a game changer for my girl."
- a Barbie house from Julie with many accessories: "the mom sent me a video of her daughter AND the little girl sent me a thank you note!"
- round robin boxes of kitchen items, jewelry or clothes. Members pass the box and take what they like, adding if they want, like a mobile free little library.
- not one specific gift, Chance says, "just the joy of walking around my house, seeing items

from people who are now friends"

- everything needed – truly! – for Crystal's new bonus baby

Several members also said they value raising their kids with a buy-nothing ethic. "They love to go on Buy Nothing runs: high excitement!" Buy Nothing also fosters and multiplies GRATITUDE. As great as it is to receive what I ask for, it truly delights me to find the perfect new home for a precious item. Neighbors can be so generous it takes my breath away. As Crystal says, "the people in our group are just the best neighbors – sharing love and care and expecting the best from people."

Nominated by Claire Hayes

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE LAST CITY COUNCIL MEETING?

MAY 2026 CITY COUNCIL RECAP

Tucker Mayor and Council started the meeting with the LEGO Robotics team made up of friends from GLOBE Academy and Kittredge Magnet School that have raised over \$20,000 to represent the state of Georgia in California!

During the Mayor's comments, the Mayor and Council presented a proclamation for the recognition of Public Works Week, May 17-23, 2026.

The consent agenda was quite large and included the previous month's meeting minutes, and FY 2026 budget amendment, several public works related contracts and a contract renewal for capital projects management. The Council heard to first reads and expect to vote in June on two items: a special land use permit (SLUP-26-0003) for a drive-through facility at 4453 Hugh Howell Rd - applicant Dale Friedly c/o Waner Summers, Inc and the proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027.

In voting business the Mayor and Council committed the following votes

- 6-0 Second Read and Public Hearing of an Ordinance to amend the City of Tucker City Code Chapter 46, including changes to definitions and other purposes
- 6-0 Second Read and Public Hearing of an Ordinance to amend Article IV of City Charter relating to Municipal Court

- 6-0 Consideration of a Resolution to appoint Steven W. Nicholas as Chief Judge to serve in the Tucker Municipal Court
- 6-0 Consideration of a Resolution to appoint Jennifer L. White as an Associate Judge to serve in the Tucker Municipal Court
- 6-0 Consideration of a Resolution to establish the Tucker Youth Council
- 5-1 abstain Consideration of a Resolution in Support of the City of Milton
- 6-0 Consideration of a bid award for 2026 Street Resurfacing of 29 streets within the city
- 4-2 Consideration of a bid award for Engineering Design for Hugh Howell Trail Phase 3
- 6-0 Consideration of a bid award for Daily Operations of Road and Stormwater Repair Services
- 6-0 Consideration of a bid award for Right of Way Maintenance Services

In the second meeting of the month the Mayor and Council received presentations on the DeKalb Watershed water pipe project up Hugh Howell Road slated to start in the fourth quarter of this year, presentation of three alternates for the intersection improvement at Hugh Howell and Rosser Road, proposal for a Vision Zero Policy and the Transportation Master Plan update that had been updated per the request of Council



during the previous presentation, a presentation on expanding the SMART Light program and creation of a camera policy.

The Council recessed to executive session for the purposes of real estate, personnel and litigation at both meetings, but returned with no further action than to adjourn.

Tucker's Mayor and Council meet the second and fourth Monday of each month at City Hall, 1975 Lakeside Parkway, Suite 350B, Tucker, Georgia 30084. You may also watch online at tuckerga.gov/agendas. Meetings are also live streamed and recorded for viewing on youtube.com/cityoftucker



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR PARKS ?

TRC AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM RETURNS



NEW PROGRAM ALERT!

The City of Tucker Afterschool Program provides a safe, engaging, and enriching environment for children ages 5 – 11 enrolled in DeKalb County Tucker cluster elementary schools.

This year's theme, "Once Upon a Time," invites participants into an imaginative world filled with creativity, exploration, and active play. The afterschool program will feature homework assistance, fun away from screens, afterschool snacks, and fun and excitement with friends in an enriching environment.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

Days & Time: Monday – Friday (while school is in session), 2:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Location: Tucker Recreation Center

Transportation: Not provided

REGISTRATION AND PRICING

Registration is completed by semester and will open on July 10 for the first half of school.

- Weekly Rate: \$80 per child
- Monthly Rate: \$320 per month
- Fall Semester Rate: \$1,424 (excludes dates not in school)
- Sibling discounts are available

When registering, the first month's fee is due at time of enrollment. All remaining payments will be automatically charged on the 15 of each month. A valid card on file is required, as all payments are processed through autopay.

No refund or discounts will be given for missed days. Payments must be made in full according to the schedule seen here.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE (PER CHILD):

MONTH	FEE	NOTES
August 3 – September 4	\$400	
September 7 – October 2	\$304	No Afterschool September 7
October 12 – October 30	\$240	No Afterschool October 5 – 9 (Fall Break)
November 2 – December 4	\$320	No Afterschool November 23 – 27 (Thanksgiving Break)
December 7 – December 18	\$160	

NEED ASSISTANCE? Reach out to our Deputy Director, Sara Holmes, at sholmes@tuckerga.gov to discuss our Financial Assistance Program.

QUESTIONS: Jazmine Milton-Dates, OST Coordinator. EMAIL: jdates@tuckerga.gov

SAVE THE DATE: JULY IS PARKS & RECREATION MONTH

THE POWER OF PARKS AND RECREATION



NRPA'S PARK AND RECREATION MONTH



Parks and recreation bring people together, strengthen health and well-being, and build resilient, connected communities. In celebration of Parks & Recreation Month, a variety of programs will highlight the power of parks through weekly themes.

POWER OF WELL-BEING

Parks and recreation support health, resilience, and overall wellness.

Explore evening fitness opportunities:

Pilates: July 8 | 6-7 p.m.

Cardio & Core: Wednesday, July 8, 7:15–8:15 p.m.

Location: Tucker Recreation Center

Age(s): 18+

Fee: Free

POWER OF PLAY

From playgrounds to programs, play fuels creativity, joy, and lifelong learning. Visit Fitzgerald Park's new ADA playground for organized games or free play. We'll have frozen treats to keep you cool!

Date & Time: Saturday, July 18, 9–11 a.m.

Location: Fitzgerald Park – Field 4

Ages: All Ages

Fee: Free

POWER OF CONNECTION

Parks create spaces where relationships grow, cultures connect, and communities thrive. Enjoy Game Night at the Rec Center, play classic board games or discover new favorites while meeting others. Games provided; feel free to bring your own.

Participants under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Snacks and bottled water are provided.

Date & Time: Wednesday, July 22, 6–9 p.m.

Location: Tucker Recreation Center

Ages: All Ages

Fee: Free

POWER OF NATURE

Access to nature restores, inspires, and enhances quality of life. Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities to explore and connect with the outdoors. Join us for our Summer Stewardship Volunteer Day and help make a positive impact on our local parks and green spaces! Volunteers will assist with projects such as trail maintenance, litter cleanup, and habitat improvement. Please register in advance and get ready to get your hands dirty and make a difference!

Days & Time: Saturday, July 25, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Location: Tucker Nature Preserve

Age(s): All Ages

Fee: Free

POWER OF BELONGING

Nature for All is a free, adaptive walking program designed for youth ages 4–12 with disabilities and their families. Enjoy a welcoming, accessible outdoor experience for all abilities.

Date & Time: Saturday, July 25, 10–11 a.m.

Location: Peters Park

Ages: 4–12 (with caregivers)

Fee: Free

POWER OF COMMUNITY

Bring your creativity outdoors for Chalk in the Park! Participants of all ages are invited to decorate the sidewalks with colorful chalk art, fun designs, and imaginative creations in a relaxed and family-friendly atmosphere.

Date & Time: Thursday, July 30, 4-7 p.m.

Location: Tucker Town Green

Ages: All Ages

Fee: Free

CELEBRATING THE POWER OF PARKS ALL MONTH LONG, THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

AROUND TOWN

UPCOMING EVENTS IN TUCKER

LANDSLIDE
FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE BAND



JUNE 5 • 7 P.M.
TUCKER TOWN GREEN

MOVIES ON THE GREEN



JUNE 18 • 7 P.M.
TUCKER TOWN GREEN

PERK UP WITH PARKS!

Join the Parks and Recreation leadership team for open and engaging conversation about our parks, programs, and community spaces!



JUNE 20 - 9 A.M.
TUCKER REC CENTER

CELEBRATION of INDEPENDENCE

July 3 - Main Street - 6 p.m.

- 5:30 p.m.** Main Street opens
Food Trucks open
- 6-9 p.m.** Kids Zone opens with free bounce houses, face painting, balloon artist and carnival games
- 6 p.m.** DJ Fernando
- 6:30-8:30 p.m.** Run Katie, Run
- 8:30 p.m.** DJ Fernando
- 9:15 p.m.** Fireworks





TUCKER



The City celebrated its first gateway sign last month with a ribbon cutting. It was designed and constructed in alignment with the recently created City Standards Guide Book.