



INTUCKER

OCTOBER 2026 | VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 10



**CALLING ALL
HEROS AND VILLAINS
TO TUCKER'S HALLOWEEN TRAIL**

ELECTED OFFICIALS

ANNE LERNER
Mayor

ROGER W. ORLANDO
District 1 - Post 1

CARA SCHROEDER
District 2 - Post 1

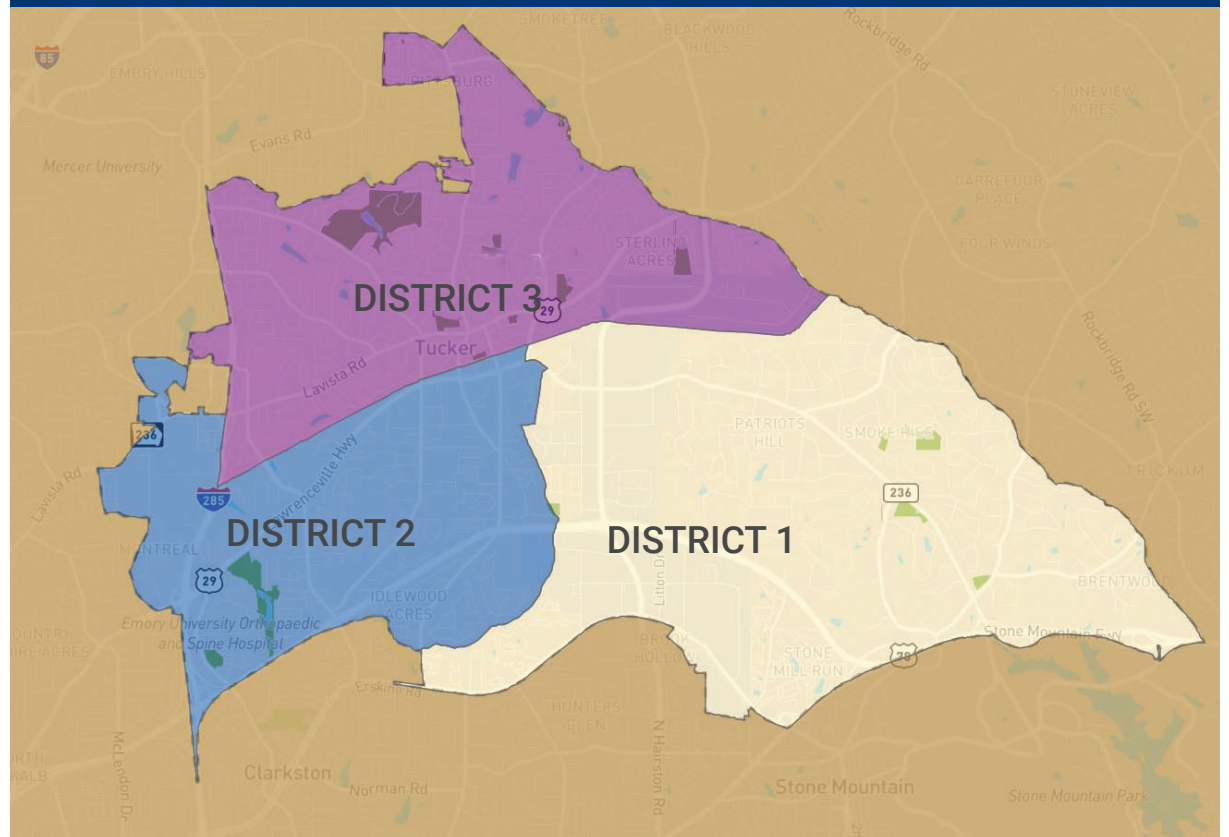
ALEXIS WEAVER
District 3 - Post 1

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



Calling all heroes and villains! Have you seen our calendar and all that is going on? October 17 brings our year-long celebration of our ten years to an end with our Ten-tober Fest, an Oktoberfest themed day of games followed by a Main Street concert with Starship, featuring Mickey Thomas. And then one of my favorite annual events, the Halloween Trail where you get to choose...are you a hero or a villain? Man, Tucker is busy this month.



To that end, who here remembers when we sent out a second weekly email specifically for community events? It went out every Friday morning but once COVID shut down the world, it just didn't make sense to continue as we were all staying home. The content for that email was driven by submission from the organizations to our Community Calendar on our website.

Last month I did something that has been a want of mine for a bit of time. We revamped the weekly email and have added community events to it! If you would like your event included in the City's weekly email just submit your event to our website, tuckerga.gov/calendar. There, you will find the guidelines on what type of events qualify and our submission form. It is best to include as many details as possible and a good point of contact or website. Imagery or flyers are appreciated as well. Once submitted, Team Tucker vets the event and creates its own webpage that is shareable and great way to promote your event specifically.

As always, this City is successful because of its engaged community, and our role is not only to be good stewards but good partners.

CITY SOCIALS



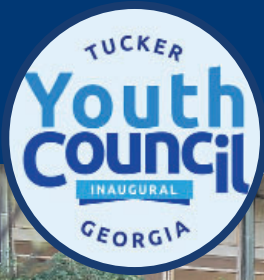
nextdoor

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TUCKER YOUTH COUNCIL



September 16 saw the first meeting of the inaugural Tucker Youth Council.

Per the resolution passed by the Mayor and City Council, the Tucker Youth Council cohort was selected from a pool of student applicants. Participation was limited to sophomore through senior high school students who live within Tucker city limits. Throughout eight months, these students will meet to learn about the workings of the City of Tucker and explore civic issues.

Sixteen students gathered at Tucker Recreation Center to meet for orientation. City staff members and Youth Council supervisors Joe Stewart, Stacey Harris and Sonja Szubski opened the meeting introducing themselves and welcoming the members. This was followed by a series of icebreakers and opportunities for participants to meet each other led by Joe.

Next, Sonja provided the history of Tucker's cityhood movement and incorporation process. Sonja and Stacey discussed how the cityhood movement decided which services the City of Tucker would offer residents at its onset: planning and zoning, code enforcement and parks and recreation. Then staff defined the City's services and what those entail as well as what services are instead provided by DeKalb County or the state of Georgia.

Stacey shared the City's next community input opportunities, the survey and open house for the Montreal Park Master Plan. Sonja implored participants to share these opportunities and encourage their friends in civic involvement.

The Tucker Youth Council also examined their group bylaws and discussed potential changes the Youth Council may decide to make with the intent to move further at next month's meeting. The Youth Council and its staff supervisors discussed their takeaways and adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m. with plans to meet again on October 21.

DO YOU KNOW ALL THE TERMS THE CITY USES? HERE ARE SOME OF THE CONCEPTS THAT AROSE DURING TUCKER YOUTH COUNCIL'S FIRST MEETING.

- **ZONING** – the code determining a parcel of land's use and form
- **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT** – a formal arrangement between governments to work together on a specific policy or service
- **PUBLIC WORKS** – the combination of physical assets, management practices, policies, and personnel necessary for government to provide and sustain structures and services essential to the welfare and acceptable quality of life for its citizens (from the American Public Works Association)
- **INCORPORATION** – how a municipality becomes a self-governed entity
- **FEASIBILITY STUDY** – an analysis conducted to determine a project's practicality and viability

DATES TO KNOW

- **OCTOBER 3**
THS FALL FESTIVAL
Tucker High School
- **OCTOBER 3**
TASTE OF TUCKER
Tucker Town Green
- **OCTOBER 5**
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY
- **OCTOBER 6**
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
- **OCTOBER 6**
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
Church Street Greenspace
- **OCTOBER 10**
TUCKER CRUISE-IN
Main Street
- **OCTOBER 10**
SUNDAY SHOWCASE
STRANGER COMPANY
Tucker Town Green
- **OCTOBER 10**
UGA VS ALABAMA
GAME-WATCHING PARTY
Tucker Town Green
- **OCTOBER 12**
CITY BUILDINGS CLOSED OBSERVANCE
OF COLUMBUS AND INDIGENOUS
PEOPLE'S DAY
- **OCTOBER 13**
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
- **OCTOBER 16**
MIDVALE FALL FESTIVAL
Church Street Greenspace
- **OCTOBER 17**
PERK UP WITH PARKS
Tucker Recreation Center
- **OCTOBER 17**
TEN-TOBER FESTIVAL
Tucker Town Green &
Main Street
- **OCTOBER 26**
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

ELEMENTARY ATHLETICS AT DCSD

Is your young student ready to make their foray into the world of school sports? DeKalb County School District's new Elementary Athletic Program allows fourth and fifth grade students' participation in several sports, including fall track and field and soccer; winter competitive dance and basketball; and spring flag football. DCSD Elementary Athletics will teach your child the rules of the game, collaborative skills, healthy competition and responsibility.

A study by the University of Chicago shows that participation in school sports may be associated with higher academic achievement and positive self-esteem (Wretman, 2017). It serves as an additional avenue by which to promote child development. DCSD's new opportunities for early sports engagement allow students to build their foundations for athletic success throughout their academic careers.

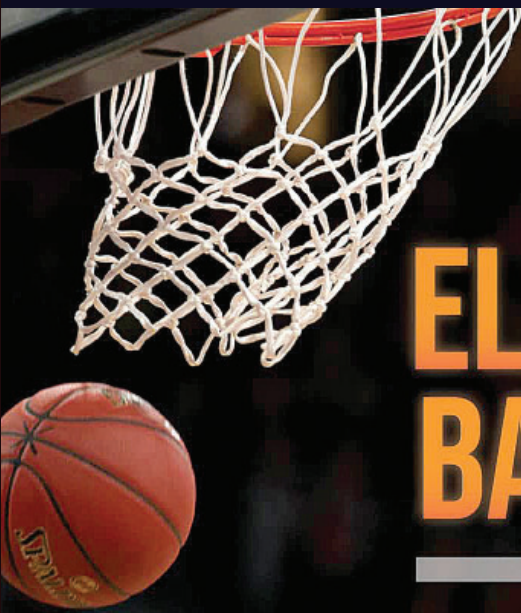
Children who wish to participate must maintain at least a "C" grade average and have a current physical on file. There are no try-outs for sports; all students who register during the registration period will be involved. Students are not limited to participation in a single sport, and track and field and soccer seasons do not overlap, so students may participate in both sports provided they were registered during the summer.

Team practices will take place after school two days a week. Coaches will select their team's practice days, but practice will never fall on Fridays. All games will be held on Saturdays. All equipment will be provided by DCSD except for shoes, spikes and cleats, which are not required. Parents will be responsible for their child's transportation to and from practices, but the county will provide transportation to and from schools for games.

Are you a parent interested in helping with the Elementary Athletic Program? Parent volunteers are welcome. You may reach out to your school's athletic coordinator for required training and a background check.

The DeKalb County School District Elementary Athletic Program follows the safety guidelines set by the Georgia High School Association and the district.

You can keep up with what's happening in all DeKalb County School Elementary Athletics by following their social media pages at @DCSDEAthletics on X and @DCSDAthletics on Instagram. The DCSD Facebook page will also post important updates like registration deadlines and season schedules. For more information on the Elementary Athletic Program or to register your elementary student, visit dcsdea.org.



ELEMENTARY BASKETBALL

2027



SEASON DURATION:
Jan 25, 2027 – Apr 17, 2027



FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE:
Jan 25, 2027

2027 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

JAN 25	First Day of Practice
FEB 27	First Game
MAR 6	Second Game
MAR 13	Third Game
MAR 20	Fourth Game
MAR 27	Area Championship
APR 17	County Championship

REGISTER NOW

Registration Window:
September 14 – October 29

Visit the link to sign up for
the 2026-2027
Basketball Season



bit.ly/4gTp8pT



REGISTRATION CLOSES OCTOBER 29

THE TUCKER WAY

SANDY WAHL



They say all roads lead to home, and that couldn't be more true for the 1,500 square foot red brick ranch house on Ball Park Drive that has come to symbolize home and a place of belonging to the Tucker community. The woman who has lived in that house for over 40 years embodies the very essence of the Tucker spirit and what it means to set roots and leave a lasting legacy on an entire community.

Sandy (Burns) Wahl was born in Tucker in the early 1960s. She attended Brockett Elementary where she met a group of girlfriends who later dubbed themselves the "Brockett Rockets". These friendships carried her through Tucker High, where she graduated in 1978. In 1982, she married Marty Wahl at First Baptist Church of Tucker and they settled on Ball Park Drive in 1984. In order to support her growing family,

she opened Sandy's Daycare in 1985. Little did Sandy know at the time, her desire to work from home while raising her own children would become so much more than just a business venture. Through her work as a daycare provider, she was slowly bringing an entire community of people together and creating lasting friendships that would span decades. It's estimated that Sandy has cared for hundreds of children over the last 41 years, including some multigenerational families!

Andrea Chapman, who attended Sandy's in the 1990s and whose daughter currently attends, said she is "so thankful for the family of kids and adults that have come along with our time in her daycare. We've truly been blessed with an amazing community because she loved me as a child and now loves my daughter!"

Sandy's love for children extended outside her own home and into her church community where she took her servant heart and poured it back into the church she was raised in. Over the years, Sandy served in countless roles at First Baptist Church of Tucker (Now Main Street Church), including Children's Minister, Sunday School Leader for the Randolph Special Education Class, multiple committee positions, and Deacon.

It is truly amazing to think of the number of lives Sandy has touched. That little redbrick house holds more memories than anyone can imagine and will always feel like home to all who were lucky enough to pass through it. That is the type of legacy we should want to leave for the next generation and the very way we should strive to live each day the Tucker way!

Submitted by Sandy's daughter, Christy Beebe

TUCKER SOCIAL QUEST

TABLETOP ROLE PLAYING GAME ENHANCES SOCIAL SKILLS



Tucker Social Quest, or TSQ, is the brainchild of Bishop Harry. During the week he works in behavioral therapy, and he has a decade of improv experience. He combines these skills to create the fictional world of TSQ and lead his players as they explore.

Tucker Social Quest is a non-clinical social skills workshop for children ages 6 through 14. Players are split into two different sessions based on age: players 6-10 in one group, and players 10-14 in the second. Players practice problem solving, logic puzzles and collaboration through participation as fantastical characters in a different world in an experience both educational and entertaining.

THE EXPERIENCE



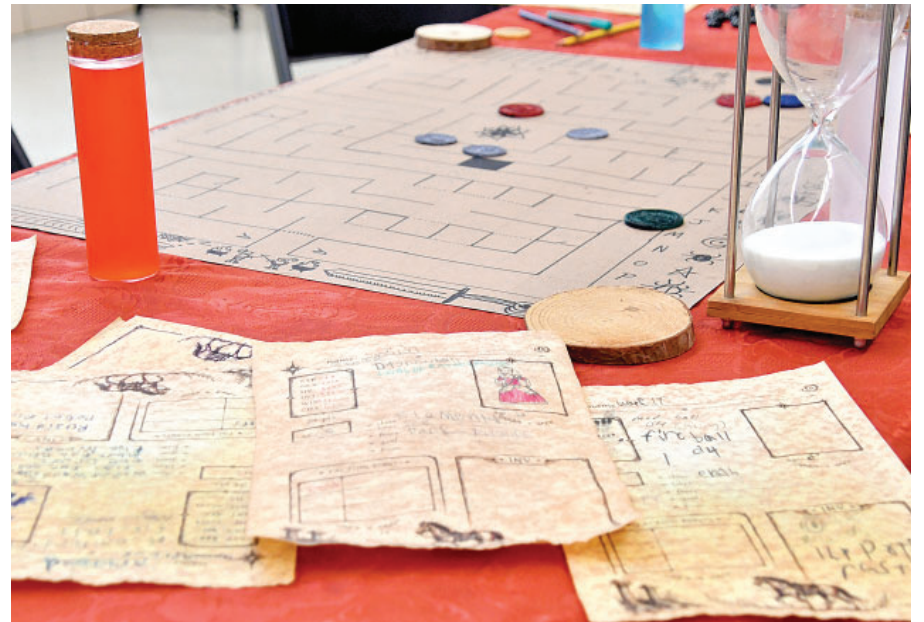
The adventure takes place in Bishop Harry's world of Post-Terra, an Earth nearly 5,000 years in the future in which contemporary technology has been lost and magic has appeared. Three different factions run this world. Each has its own rules. The Red Ember Society allows its members only to use fire-based magic, while Green Iron Will appreciates technology and is skeptical of magic. Blue Faith Shield teaches holy and defensive magic but has the fewest restrictions on what its members may learn.

Once they choose their factions, each child receives a coin with their faction symbol and color to represent their character as they move across the map Harry has made. Factions are malleable and may change as the session progresses.

Aside from maps, Bishop has created a variety of materials to aid immersion. Each player has their own "character sheet" with the details of the individual they have decided to play. As players encounter spellbooks, potion manuals and notes from non-player characters, or NPCs, Bishop can hand them a physical page allowing players something tangible to

explore. These sheets have been artificially aged to show wear and tear and edges torn to look as if they were just taken from whatever fantastical book Bishop describes.

Over the course of this session, Bishop's players discover a forbidden magic book and a winding labyrinth they must navigate to find a missing person. When they encounter an alchemy set in their journey, Bishop asks them which potion they would like to make and retrieves the corresponding corked bottle. His players are excited to examine and taste the bottle's contents.



"Is this essential oils?" one player asks after a sniff of an open bottle. Bishop reassures the players that he would not encourage them to drink essential oils. His potions are water and sports drinks transferred to clear bottles.

THE SKILLS

Each TSQ session may have between three and eight players. Participants gather around a single table and must work together to accomplish their



goals while navigating the rules of their factions and the impact of their actions on the fictional world.

As GM, or game master, Bishop gives his players the opportunity to make choices and experience their consequences. In a recent session, players defeated a giant slime. It then turned into several smaller slimes, and a player adopted one as a pet. After the player fed it, the pet became as large as the original giant slime and a monster once again.

"I feel like we all have very high standards for kids," said Bishop. "I want a place where they're allowed to be a little messy, you know? I want them to be bad guys. I want them to be good guys. I want them to play with those levels and think about that for themselves."

Conflict between players naturally arises as the game continues, such as when a non-player character or NPC, cat-person passed and its fur was turned into a cloak. Players fought over who would get to keep it, surprising Bishop.

"I'm sitting there flabbergasted at these 11 year olds, but then it always strikes me, like, yeah, I would have done the exact same thing."

TSQ is a welcoming environment. "I think it's for anyone," Bishop said. "I think anyone can work on social skills, and anyone should be able to get along and have a good time and make something goofy or exciting."

"Kids deserve to play," Bishop added, "and to have that freedom to think and not be constrained just like other support needs. Just, you know, let them be who they are."

"I was a bit of a troublemaker as a kid," Bishop admitted. "I didn't like being told what to do, and I was very adamant about doing whatever. I just wanted to make a space for kids like that. That's what I've dedicated my life to have."

Bishop Harry is currently gauging interest in holding sessions for older teenagers ages 15-17. Those interested can email tuckersocialquest@gmail.com to join the waiting list. Tucker Social Quest sessions are held every other weekend at Tucker Recreation Center. More information on TSQ can be found online at tuckersocialquest.com.



WHAT HAPPENED AT THE LAST CITY COUNCIL MEETING?

SEPTEMBER 2026 CITY COUNCIL RECAP

The first Mayor & City Council Meeting of the month of September was held Monday, September 14 and began promptly at 7 p.m. following a reception honoring Mayor Anne Lerner's birthday. New Parks & Recreation Director Gregg Zulkeski and Court Clerk Giselle Simmons led the Pledge of Allegiance.



Following Public Comment, Mayor Lerner read a proclamation recognizing September 26 as Human Resources Professional Day and celebrating the efforts of the City's Human Resources Department. Then the Mayor and Council unanimously approved the meeting agenda following an amendment to add item I.10, a resolution for a grant application to alleviate congestion via intersection improvements at six locations along Mountain Industrial Boulevard from Lewis Road to North Royal Atlanta Drive. They proceeded to approve the consent agenda of last month's meeting minutes; an amendment to the 2026 fiscal year budget to account for revenue increases, received grant funds and Streetlight Fund expenditures; contracts for NextGen Security at Johns Homestead Park and lighting systems at Rosenfeld Park; and two stormwater repair contracts.

The first item of Old Business was the second read and public hearing of an amendment to the City's Code Chapter 6 Animals to bring it into compliance with new state regulations and clarify enforcement responsibility. The Mayor and Council approved its ordinance unanimously. This was followed with an approval 6-1, this one regarding a 12-month time extension for Special Land Use Permit 22-0002.

The New Business portion of the meeting contained multiple first reads and public hearings:

- An amendment to Tucker Code Chapter 14 Environment to replace references to the DeKalb County Watershed Department
- A resolution to adopt the Henderson Park Master Plan
- A resolution to recognize findings of Blight at 4281 Hugh Howell Road
- A resolution to participate in the Trees Atlanta Front Yard Tree Program
- A resolution to approve the SBA Indemnification Waiver for the stormwater site at 3289 Montreal Industrial Way

These considerations were followed by three approved contracts for:

- Construction of a sanitation enclosure on First Avenue
- An intergovernmental agreement between the Tucker Public Facilities Authority and the City related to parking lot leasing
- Road resurfacing

The Mayor and Council then approved the adoption of the City of Tucker Official 2027 Calendar and the resolution for the grant application per the amended agenda.

The Mayor and Council recessed to Executive Session and returned to adjourn the meeting without further action.

The September work session was held September 28, after the printing deadline for InTucker, but the agenda included:

- A presentation from the Georgia Department of Transportation on the i-285 Eastside Express Lanes project
- A presentation on an opportunity for possible grant funding for Henderson Park Improvements
- A presentation on the City's ADA Strategy Report

This was followed by three staff reports concerning economic development, the August interim financial report and an overview of potential agenda items and capital projects.

Tucker's Mayor and Council meet the second and fourth Mondays of each month at Tucker City Hall, 1975 Lakeside Parkway, Suite 350 B, Tucker, GA 30084. All meetings are livestreamed and recorded on [YouTube.com/cityoftucker](https://www.youtube.com/cityoftucker)



HENDERSON PARK HALLOWEEN TRAIL

VOL. 1

SUPER HEROES VS SUPER VILLAINS



FRIDAY OCT. 23
4-7 P.M.

FREE!

Henderson Park West | 2801 Henderson Road

PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

HAPPENING THIS MONTH



YOUTH WINTER BASKETBALL

Ages: 4u-17u
Evaluations for 6u and up take place during the last two weeks of October
Fee:
\$50 (4u,6u)
\$95 (8u-17u)
Contact Chris Satterfield,
chrissatterfield@tuckerga.gov

PAINT LIKE BOB ROSS

Saturday, October 3, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Tucker Recreation Center
Fee: \$95
Registration required
Contact Charlie Chavez,
cchavez@tuckerga.gov

**TUCKER OUTDOORS CLUB HIKE:
SUWANEE MOUNTAIN TRAIL**

Sunday, October 4, 8:30 a.m.
Tucker Recreation Center
Group transportation \$5 per person
Note: You must be a Tucker Outdoors Club member to register for the hike.
Contact Charlie Chavez,
cchavez@tuckerga.gov

REEL FUN FISHING

Tuesday, October 6, 5-6 p.m. &
Tuesday, October 20, 5-6 p.m.
Kelley Cofer Park
Fee: \$5 per participant per date
Registration required
Contact Charlie Chavez,
cchavez@tuckerga.gov

WILD WALK

Wednesday, October 7, 9 a.m.
Probst Park
Fee: Free
Plant Education Walk with Kathryn Kolb
Contact Charlie Chavez,
cchavez@tuckerga.gov

**TUCKER REC WORKSHOP:
BUTTERFLY PINNING**

Saturday, October 10 & October 17
10-11:30 a.m.
Tucker Recreation Center
Fee: \$65 one-time fee
Registration required
Contact Charlie Chavez,
cchavez@tuckerga.gov

DANCING THROUGH THE DECADES

Wednesday, October 14, 7-8 p.m.
Tucker Recreation Center
Fee: \$10 per person
Registration required
Contact Stacey Harris, sharris@tuckerga.gov

**TUCKER OUTDOORS CLUB HIKE:
EAST PALISADES TRAIL**

Friday, October 16, 8:30 a.m.
Tucker Recreation Center
Group transportation \$5 per person
Note: You must be a Tucker Outdoors Club member to register for the hike.
Contact Charlie Chavez,
cchavez@tuckerga.gov

SENIOR OUTING: WILDLIFE SAFARI

Tuesday, October 20
Tucker Recreation Center
Buses will leave TRC at 9 a.m.
Fee: \$40 per person
Registration required
Contact Stacey Harris | sharris@tuckerga.gov

**PUMPKIN PAST & PRESENT:
HISTORY, ECOLOGY, AND CARVING
WORKSHOP**

Thursday, October 22, 6:30-8 p.m.
Tucker Recreation Center
Fee: \$10 per person
Registration required
Contact Charlie Chavez,
cchavez@tuckerga.gov

**NATIONAL
PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK
DAY**

Saturday, October 24
Dropoff Time: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Tucker Recreation Center
Contact Stacey Harris, sharris@tuckerga.gov

**SENIOR LUNCH & LEARN:
ARCHERY**

Wednesday, October 28, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Tucker Recreation Center
Fee: Free
Contact Stacey Harris, sharris@tuckerga.gov

TUCKER PAGE TURNERS

Wednesday, October 28, 7-8 p.m.
Tucker Recreation Center
Fee: Free
No registration required
October book selection: "The Sideways Life of Denny Voss" by Holly Kennedy
Contact Stacey Harris, sharris@tuckerga.gov

STROLLER WALKING CLUB

Thursday, October 29, 10 a.m.
Henderson Park West (Community Garden)
Fee: Free
Contact Charlie Chavez,
cchavez@tuckerga.gov



THURSDAYS, 6-9 P.M. OCTOBER 8-NOVEMBER 19

Every Thursday your favorite lawn games will be at Tucker Town Green; Kan Jam, Giant Jenga, Four Square, and more. Cornhole tournaments start at 7:30 p.m. First come, first-served. No registration required.
PLAY FOR CLOUT AND TO WIN GREAT PRIZES.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN TUCKER

PARKS IN THE DARK

**FRIDAY
OCT. 9**

7:30-9:30 P.M.



BATS

KELLEY COFER PARK

**THANKSGIVING
BREAK CAMP**

November 24-25
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
& **November 26**
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Tucker Rec. Center
Ages: 5-12
Fee: \$150

**REGISTRATION
OPENS
OCTOBER 19**



**REEL FUN
FISHING**

**TUESDAY
OCT. 20
5-6 P.M.**



KELLEY COFER PARK

**ALL AGES
\$5 PER PERSON**
(INCLUDES FREE MINI TACKLE BOX)

**SATURDAY
OCT. 24**

6-7 P.M.

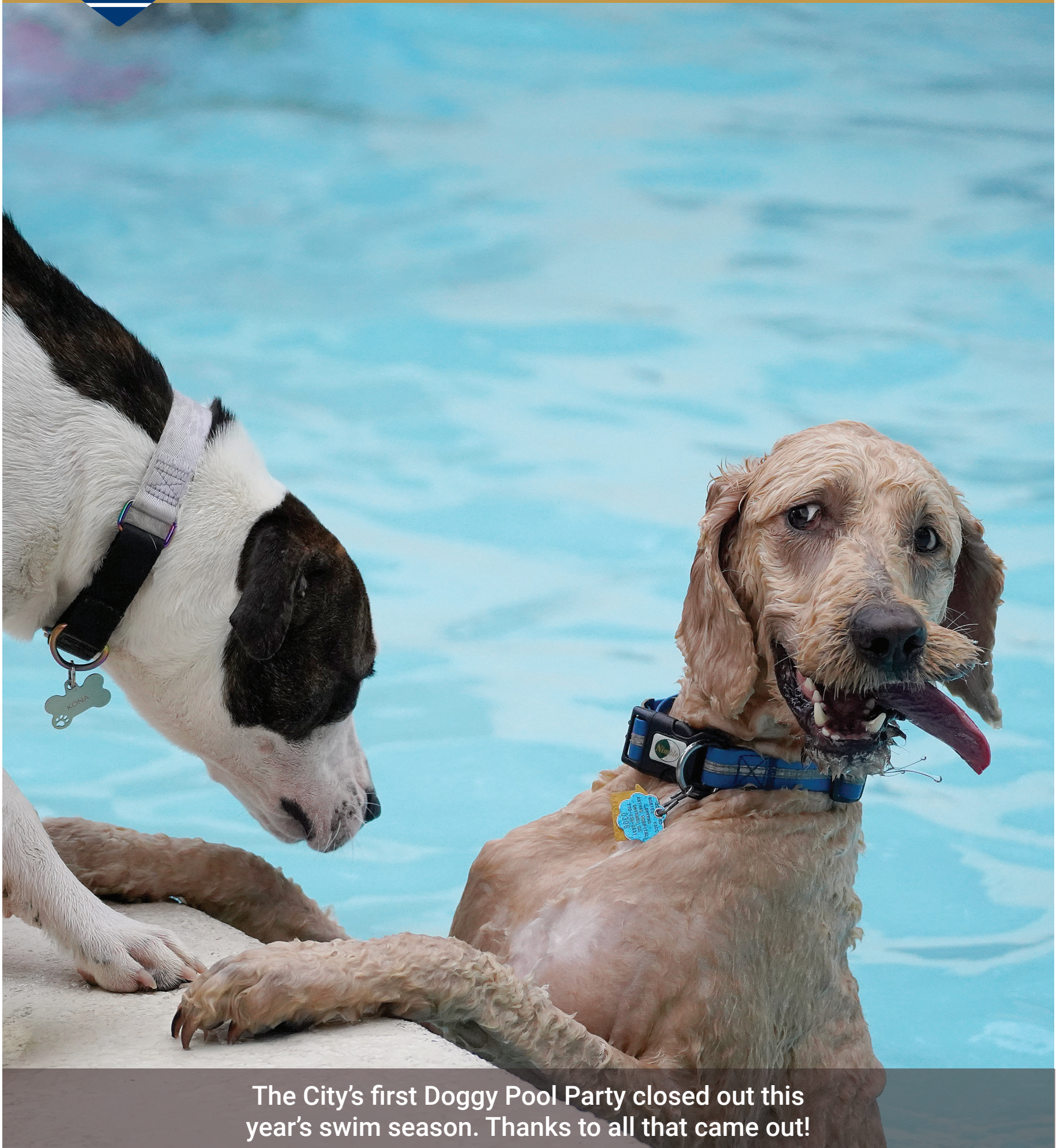


**PUMPKIN CARVING
CONTEST**

TUCKER REC CENTER



TUCKER



The City's first Doggy Pool Party closed out this year's swim season. Thanks to all that came out!