



# INTUCKER

JULY 2019 | VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 7



# SISTER ACT

MAIN STREET THEATRE MODERNIZES AN OLD FAVORITE FOR THEIR FIRST SUMMER SHOW

## EDITOR'S NOTE



Ever hear the saying about all work and no play? In this month's *InTucker*, we want to let you know about all the different opportunities coming up in July for you to enjoy your free time in the City.

Start with our cover story. Main Street Theatre is bringing its first summer show to the stage later this month with an adaptation of *Little Women*. Tucker is so fortunate to have a dedicated and highly talented theater troupe putting on shows throughout the year and this production promises to be one of their best.

As for getting outside, our Parks and Recreation folks are planning a big July 4 bash at Kelley Cofer Park pool. If you haven't seen it, kids are loving the new splash pad there. But the fun of the splash pad will actually be eclipsed by some amazing events and contests our staff is putting on for the Fourth. You can read up on that, as well as our first-ever Dive-In Movie, in the Ask Rip column.

And, of course, we're hoping to see all of you for the best show in town on July 3 at our Celebration of Independence and Fireworks Spectacular. When we talk about the TKR Summer of Fun, we mean fun! See you out there!

**MATT HOLMES**  
INTUCKER EDITOR

# IN THIS ISSUE



### From the Cover

Theater buffs are in for a treat with Main Street Theatre's newest offering. On page 10, get to know the cast of the new adaptation of *Little Women*.



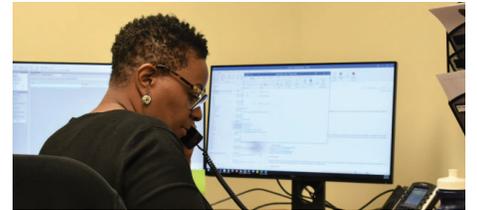
### Under Construction

The new Smoke Rise Elementary is breaking ground soon. On page 6, find out the beneficial ripple effect the new school will have on the rest of the Tucker Cluster.



### Business Boom

Tucker is seeing new investments throughout the Lawrenceville Road corridor. On page 8, John McHenry tells you why that's a plus for your health and your appetite.



### London Calling

Tucker's new Citizen Responder made the long journey across the pond, bringing a British sensibility to her work at City Hall. On page 13, get to know the newest member of Team Tucker Jennifer Downer.



### Ask Rip

Tucker's Parks and Recreation Department made a major acquisition recently. On page 15, Rip tells us why bringing on Fitzgerald Field is going to be such an asset to the City.

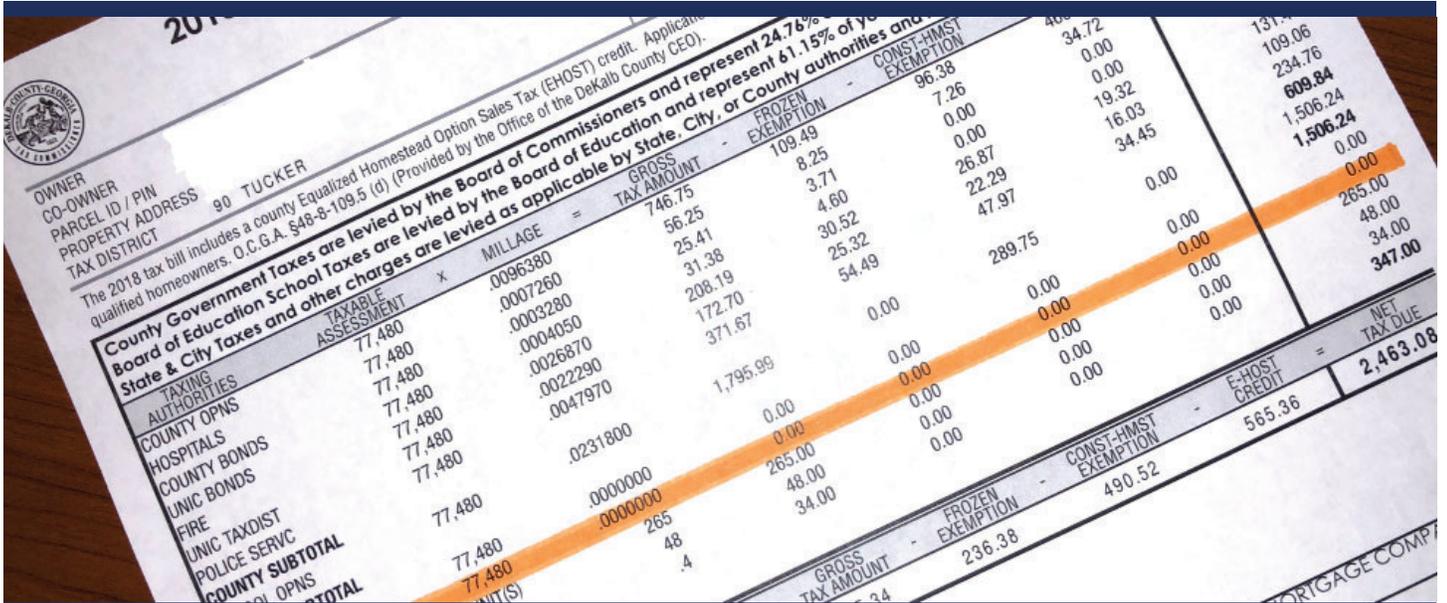


# INTUCKER

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# From the Mayor

When we started the City of Tucker three years ago, there were so many things we wanted to do: bring more localized Code Enforcement to our neighborhoods and business districts, take on and improve our Parks and Recreation services, have more of a direct say in the development of our commercial centers. It's taken a lot of work, but we've accomplished a lot in all of those areas.

Our latest milestone, at least on the surface, is something I wouldn't ordinarily brag about. We've run the City to this point on a zero-millage rate. We've funded our budget through things like business license fees and alcohol permit revenues, but with zero property taxes. It's always been part of the promise and the plan that as we took over more services to be provided by the City, we would take over the corresponding taxes from the County. On June 26, your City Council voted to

impose our first millage rate, set at 0.9 mils. That means Tucker is collecting a property tax for the first time.

If you know me, you know I'm no fan of new taxes. But this new millage rate is a great thing for Tucker, and I want you to know why.

Historically, DeKalb County has collected a millage for the area known as Tucker and the rest of unincorporated DeKalb. It goes to fund our police, fire, roads and drainage, and other critical services. One of those services is Parks and Recreation. When we assumed responsibility for our parks in 2018, we made an agreement with the County that called for them to continue collecting the taxes, but via a service agreement to compensate Tucker for running the parks and making improvements to them. We've worked closely with the County on this, and now we're going the rest of the way.

This year, we will take on our own millage rate to fund our own parks.

DeKalb's millage rate was 1.458 mils for parks. Ours has been approved at 0.9 mils. We're going to continue to provide an excellent level of service, but for less of your tax dollars. You'll see this as an increase on the line in your regular property tax bill that says City of Tucker, and a (larger) decrease in the lines at the top for County Operations.

I write all that to say, if you hear that Tucker is introducing new taxes, you're now armed with the facts: our tax hike is actually a tax reduction. You win. Our parks win. And our City has another great milestone to celebrate.

**FRANK AUMAN**  
MAYOR OF TUCKER

# City Council Update



Tucker's Mayor and City Council held a pair of meetings in June, with the major vote being to adopt the City's first millage rate. The proposed rate of 0.9 mills to fund Parks and Recreation had public hearings on May 28, June 10 and June 26. It was then approved by a 7-0 vote at the meeting on June 26.

At the June 10 meeting, Council cast a pair of votes okaying improvements in Tucker's parks. The first vote was a unanimous approval of \$62,582.85 for repair and expansion of the dock at Lake Erin. The project is the latest collaboration between the City and DeKalb County on improvements in Henderson Park. The second vote, also unanimous, authorized \$19,000 for a change order for the tennis court lighting project at Henderson Park. The expenditure was necessitated when crews digging the footings for the light poles hit rock, preventing them from digging deep enough to complete the project.

On June 26, Council received a presentation by the PATH Foundation on recommendations for the first project stemming from Tucker's Trail Master Plan. The proposal, a two-phase project which saw no formal action by the Council, would provide connectivity in Kelley Cofer Park and come with a \$1.21 million price tag. Council also cast a pair of votes to impose a 120-day moratorium on electronic scooters in the City. Finally, they approved amendments to the City's zoning code and official zoning map. The changes were brought about by the Overlay Rewrite project overseen by consultants from TSW.

One issue from the June 26 meeting that will resurface in July was a first read and public hearing on a special land use permit (SLUP) to allow a tattoo parlor at 2316 Main Street. That is anticipated for a second read and vote at the next Council meeting on Monday July 22 starting at 7 p.m.

## DATES TO KNOW

**July 4**  
Independence Day  
(All City buildings closed)

**July 16**  
Zoning Board of Appeals

**July 17**  
Environmental Court

**July 22**  
City Council

**July 24**  
Offenses Court

**July 25**  
Planning Commission

## TUCKER SOCIAL

Keep tabs on your City Council through our social media channels



 **Nextdoor**

# ON THE BEAT *with Lt. Schoeppner*

*Lt. D.G. Schoeppner is Tucker's liaison to the DeKalb County Police Department and can be followed at [facebook.com/dgschoeppner](https://facebook.com/dgschoeppner) or emailed at [dgschoeppner@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:dgschoeppner@dekalbcountyga.gov)*

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One of my main responsibilities as the Tucker Liaison Officer is to brief the Mayor and City Council on crime trends. Crime is continuously going up and down and moving from one area to another. Quite often there doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason to it. I usually compare pinpointing crime trends to looking at the inside of a clock. There are so many moving parts that it is not always easy to see how one affects the other. However, once in a while a situation presents itself where you can clearly see the effect of how taking certain criminals off the street can directly impact crime. One such instance occurred last year.

By the end of April 2018, the City had 121 entering autos complaints. This was 16 more incidents than the same time the year before. Around that time, there was a burglary at Landmark Dodge over in the City of Chamblee. Thirty-three cars were stolen in this particular incident. On May 6, 2018 a seven-year-old boy was murdered on Sweetgum Lane in DeKalb County's Center Precinct. When it was all said and done, all of these crimes turned out to be connected.

Meshon Williams was arrested for the murder on Sweetgum Lane. In the subsequent weeks, six other

subjects were arrested in connection with the cars stolen from Landmark Dodge. Mr. Williams was significant because he was captured on video committing several entering autos near Sarr Parkway here in Tucker. The investigation of the stolen Landmark Dodge vehicles also revealed that Meshon Williams was associated with the subjects arrested with the stolen vehicles.

After the arrests from these incidents, Tucker ended last year with 272 entering autos complaints. This was 95 fewer incidents and a 26 percent decrease from the year before. I'm sure that the arrest of Williams and his associates wasn't the sole reason for the entering autos decrease last year, but with the upward trend leading up to the arrests and the steep decline after, I'm confident that it was a significant factor.

This is a clear example of arrests from crimes around DeKalb County impacting Tucker. I'm sure that, to some degree, this is happening all of the time. It is also likely that arrests that we are making here are impacting crime in other agencies as well. Tucker tries to maintain a small-town feel, but it is not an island. It is part of a large metropolitan city. As such, we need to work together to stave off big city crime.

# SMOKE RISE RISING

## DEKALB COUNTY PREPARING TO BREAK GROUND ON NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This summer marks a huge milestone for a project three years in the making. Contractors for the DeKalb County School District are expected to break ground in the next couple months on a new, state-of-the-art elementary school to replace the existing Smoke Rise Elementary. The project, which is located on the old Sears site at Hugh Howell Road and Mountain Industrial Boulevard, is expected to open in time for the 2021-'22 school year.

There are two main problems being addressed by the construction of the new school. One is that Smoke Rise Elementary is one of the older facilities in DeKalb County. It was important not just that the building be replaced, but that concerns with an overburdened septic system be addressed.

Secondly, a new, larger school building, combined with redistricting, will help alleviate overcrowding in elementary schools across Tucker. Idlewood Elementary, for instance, is projected to be at 134 percent of its capacity for the 2021-'22 school year. With redrawn lines, some of those students could potentially find themselves zoned for the new elementary school.

Redistricting is an issue that will be talked about next year by the School District, parents and community leaders. Right now, there is no definite plan in place at the District level about which students could be redistricted to the new elementary school. There will be a public engagement process starting in Fall 2020, where the community can weigh in on how they would like to see redistricting handled. Ultimately, the Superintendent, then the School Board, would approve a plan in Winter 2021, about five months before the new school opens.





## SMOKE RISE ELEMENTARY REPLACEMENT SCHOOL "BY THE NUMBERS"

**\$24,548,223**

Lump sum agreement with Nix-Fowler Constructors, Inc. approved by School Board in June for construction of new Smoke Rise Elementary

**105%**

Enrollment of the Tucker Cluster elementary schools above total capacity before the new Smoke Rise Elementary is constructed

**900**

Student capacity of the new Smoke Rise Elementary School

**410**

Projected enrollment of Smoke Rise Elementary for the 2021-'22 school year

Source: DeKalb County School District

# TUCKER CLUSTER

## Updates & News

### Important Dates

- **July 9** - DeKalb County Board of Education Meeting
- **July 29-31** – Faculty Pre-Planning Days

### The Brag Sheet

#### **Idlewood Elementary**

- Principal Rosemary Malone announced her retirement ahead of the upcoming 2019-'20 school year.
- Tucker Brewing Company hosted a well-attended service day on July 22 at Idlewood, assisting with painting and repair work at the school.

#### **Livsey Elementary**

- Livsey hosted 68 students during the first week of June at Camp Invention. This was Livsey's 10th year hosting Camp Invention, which is a nationally acclaimed summer program for students in grades K-6, which provides them opportunities to learn teamwork and hands-on problem solving.

#### **Midvale Elementary**

- Midvale staff hosted their popular Summer Camp for four weeks in June, averaging almost 40 campers per week.

#### **Tucker Middle**

- Tucker Middle's Technology Student Association (TSA) competed at the national competition in National Harbor, Md. Eighth grader Brooke Slone was the lone student in the nation to receive the prestigious Dr. Bob Hanson Distinguished Student Award. She received a \$500 honorarium and was presented the award at the National Conference. TSA advisor, Amber Clinton received the TSA Advisor of the Year Award for the State of Georgia.

# BUSINESS BOOM

by John McHenry, Community and Economic Development Director



Lawrenceville Highway is a major regional thoroughfare. It's also one of the business corridors that drives Tucker's economy. From the eastern end of Lawrenceville Highway at the Perimeter to the Hugh Howell intersection, the City of Tucker is witnessing several exciting redevelopment projects.

At Lakeside Center, which hosts a range of Class A office space, a new tenant is on the move. PREP Atlanta, providing dedicated commercial kitchens to expanding restaurants, food producers, and food trucks, is moving into the former Le Cordon Blue building. Doug Marranci, the COO of PREP Atlanta, says there were a number of reasons that he was interested in expanding into Tucker.

"We found an ideal space for us with a building that was made to order," Marranci explains. "The access to I-285 and US 78 is great, plus we're bullish on Tucker. We have seen the teamwork and dedication that was put in by everyone to assist new businesses and that is just so important when choosing a site."

Heading further east on Lawrenceville Highway, in what was previously the home to El Tapatio Mexican restaurant, there will be a new take on this popular cuisine with Bell Street Burritos.

Owner Matt Hinton told the Atlanta Business Chronicle, "We are moving the operation to a new location – our first shop outside the Perimeter – in Tucker. If you have been paying attention, you know that Tucker, Georgia is killing it right now and Bell Street is very happy to begin a new thing there."

Hinton said the new shop located at 4053 Lawrenceville Highway will have a soft opening shortly and eventually a grand opening.

Over at the intersection of Lawrenceville Highway and Hugh Howell Road, the former Jack's Package Store is being redeveloped into an 8,600-square-foot multi-level space. The owners of the property, which had sat vacant for seven years, are set to welcome

Peachtree Immediate Care as the first tenant in the newly constructed retail building.

"Peachtree Immediate Care was attracted to the property due to the great demographics for patients seeking quality medical care in the surrounding Tucker community," says broker Brian Chambers. "This new project will be just one of many upgrades to Tucker Plaza as the owners look to complete additional upgrades and refreshes of the existing shopping center which currently includes Staples, Dollar General, and Camp Woof among many others."

Tim Knight, a commercial real estate developer who built the adjacent Tucker Village Shopping Center – which includes Chipotle, Wingstop and AT&T – is also sold on Tucker.

"Tucker is undergoing a renaissance," Knight says. "This location was an A-plus site to develop, lease and, ultimately, sell."

All of these developments entail significant capital investment and they speak to the fact that property owners, as well as large and small business owners, know that Tucker is a great location that supports its business community.



Learn more about what's happening on the Tucker business scene at [www.tuckerga.gov/biz](http://www.tuckerga.gov/biz).

## BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

# PRIMO CERAMIC GRILLS



George Samaras' entrepreneurial success story is among the most unique you'll find. A pharmacist in his native Athens, Greece, he came to America – Tucker, Georgia, to be exact – and decided to make high-quality ceramic grills. Nearly a quarter-century later, he's running one of the most successful businesses in Tucker.

"I developed one product and then started going around to find distributors," Samaras recalls of the early days, adding he was just trying to gain a foothold in the southeast region. "Now, we are manufacturing here in Tucker and exporting to about 40 countries around the world."

The grills, which can cook everything from meats to breads, even vegetables and pizzas, are a source of pride for Samaras. When talking about his product line, he eschews modesty.

"We have the best ceramics," he explains. "We are the best kept secret in the industry. We are the only ones who actually make and sell our product."

Primo Grills has two "busy seasons" which run from May to mid-July (Memorial Day, Father's Day and Independence Day) and through November and December (Thanksgiving and Christmas). Those busy times don't bother Samaras who, when he re-located the business seven years ago to its current facility on Montreal Industrial Way, did so with his commute in mind.

"I live six minutes from here," he says. "With all this [Metro Atlanta] traffic, it really is the best reason."

Customers can find more information on Primo Grills, accessories and cookbooks at [www.primogrills.com](http://www.primogrills.com) or Samaras offers tours of his showroom at 3289 Montreal Industrial Way.

# GIRL POWER

## MAIN STREET THEATRE MAKING A STATEMENT WITH ADAPTATION OF *LITTLE WOMEN*

Merle Westbrook has been with Tucker's Main Street Theatre from the very start. She's worked onstage, behind-the-scenes and as a volunteer. But her latest role will be her most challenging and, perhaps, most rewarding. Westbrook is directing a modern adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's classic novel *Little Women*, with six shows being staged at Tucker Recreation Center from July 19-28.

Westbrook and the actresses portraying the March sisters sat down with *InTucker* to give the scoop on sibling rivalry, burning manuscripts and why this play is unlike anything Tucker has ever seen before.

### **Summer Spectacle**

For several years now, Main Street Theatre has sought ways to engage their audiences in new and innovative ways. After starting with two main stage shows per year, they have put on murder mystery plays, musicals and even an interactive street show. *Little Women*, however, will be their first-ever main stage show to take place in the summertime.

"One of the things that Main Street Theatre likes to focus on is giving newcomers without any experience an opportunity to get up there on that stage," Westbrook says. That includes young actors who are too busy with school to audition for

plays in the spring or fall.

Three of the March sisters in this production of *Little Women* are still school age, as is Keegan McDaniel, the actor cast to play the male lead role of Laurie. Katie Mogilski, who plays the role of Beth, is making her Main Street Theatre debut. The rising junior at Chamblee High School says she's not intimidated being the second-youngest member of the cast.

"I feel really comfortable around these people. They're my sisters!"

### **Modern Family**

When Westbrook set out to cast the sisters in *Little Women*, she wasn't looking for actresses who looked exactly like what was described in the book. She wasn't even looking for actresses who looked like they could be sisters in real life. She made it known from the start that women of all ages, races and abilities were welcome to audition.

Because of that, Erin Eben came out to audition. Eben, a junior at Emory University and African-American, won the role of strong-willed writer Jo March.

"We don't point out that I'm the black one in the family," Eben says as she and her castmates share a laugh.

Indeed, the physical difference between the actresses is noticeable, but that's exactly how they want it.

"It kind of shows that in modern times a family can look like anything," Mogilski explains.

### **Source Material**

Written a century-and-a-half ago, *Little Women* is one of the most beloved novels of the 19th century and it's still relevant today. Alcott's classic is taught in high schools across the country. Hollywood is good for a new movie adaptation every few years. Yet, this particular set of March sisters came to the Main Street Theatre production of *Little Women* without much prior knowledge.

"I tried to read it once I knew I got the part," Eben recalls with a smile. "The beginning (of the book) was wonderful."

Eben's not alone. Mogilski and Mia Trocchi, who plays Amy, say they've never read *Little Women* either.



Merle Westbrook provides direction during a rehearsal of "Little Women".  
(Photo courtesy of Main Street Theatre)



*"When you get four women  
living together under one roof,  
it's going to get intense."*

Merle Westbrook, *Little Women* Director





"I have the book," Trocchi, a rising sophomore at Greater Atlanta Christian, admits. "I plan on reading it."

The lone exception is Carly Sharec, who plays the role of Meg. Sharec says her affection for *Little Women* is what drew her to audition in the first place.

"I'm obsessed. My parents took me to see the movie in the theater and I've loved it ever since," Sharec says. "I read the book multiple times. I've read *Little Men* multiple times. I'm a huge fan of Louisa May Alcott period."

Westbrook, the director, says it's no secret how she feels about *Little Women*. The book so impacted her life, she named her daughter after the character Meg.

## Role Play

As the actresses have gotten to know the March sisters, they've identified some similarities, but realized a lot of differences between themselves and their

characters. That's forced them to do some serious acting.

"[Amy]'s the youngest and I'm the youngest in my family. So, on some level I can relate to her," Trocchi shares. "But I would never get pushed far enough to do some of the things that Amy would do. How angry would you have to be to burn Jo's manuscript? That would be like a different part of me that I would have to draw from."

"My character Beth is very timid," Mogilski adds. "She has a lot of inner thoughts, but she only expresses some of them out loud. She kind of has her sisters speak for her. I think that's one thing I'm not like in person. It's something I have to work on day-to-day and rehearsal-to-rehearsal."

In portraying Meg, Sharec says the biggest obstacle for her was clear from the outset: age. "Being in my 30s and playing an 18-year-old, it's a challenge."

## Moral of the Story

The women behind *Little Women* want to make it clear that this is not just a show to entertain audiences; they're going to leave the theater having learned a lesson.

"The stories that the sisters are facing are stories that anyone could face at any time," Sharec says. "These are timeless experiences and struggles that everyone goes through."

"They're going to be surprised at how much they can relate to it," Trocchi agrees.

Westbrook says that when she signed on to direct the play, she saw an opportunity to connect with things happening in society today.

"With the entire #MeToo movement, Lean In and so on, we felt like these were stories

that people wanted to hear and needed to hear [and] that it was a message to be tapped," Westbrook explains. "We're just a community theater in Tucker, but at the same time, as the Artistic Director, I take serious responsibility for trying to bring a different perspective and a new point of view to the conversation on important, timely topics that are in the news or in the headlines and things that affect our relationships with each other and that impact our community of Tucker."

*Tickets for 'Little Women' are on sale now at tuckertheatre.com. Performances will be Friday July 19 and Saturday July 20 at 7:30 p.m., Sunday July 21 at 2:30 p.m., Friday July 26 and Saturday July 27 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday July 28 at 2:30 p.m.*

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

### 2019

- **Murder Mystery Dinner Theater**  
August 15-25
- **The Dining Room**  
November-8-17

### 2020

- **Murder Mystery Dinner Theater**  
February (dates TBD)
- **Sanders Family Homecoming**  
April 17-May 2
- **Laughing Stock**  
July 17-26

# TEAM TUCKER *Spotlight*

## JENNIFER DOWNER, CITIZEN RESPONDER

### **What is your job as Tucker's Citizen Responder?**

My responsibility as the Citizen Responder is to respond to all service requests from citizens who live, work and play in the Tucker community. From the moment our doors open at 9 a.m. until we close at 5 p.m., my time is spent sharing information with citizens who have questions and/or issues they need answers to. As the Citizen Responder, my goal is to deliver a level of service across multiple channels here at the City of Tucker to increase customer satisfaction.

### **How did you get to Tucker?**

Having worked in local government for some time, I heard about the Citizen Responder opening from a former colleague who believed I would be a good fit for the position. After reading the job description and having a customer service background, I decided to apply. I like what Team Tucker is doing in Tucker. The growth and progression of the city is fresh and expanding and I wanted to be a part of that.

### **What do you enjoy most about your job so far?**

Every day is different in local government, but what I enjoy most about my job and Tucker is the people. I am a people person who enjoys serving and helping others, so if I can be of service in any way, it makes me feel good.

### **What has been the biggest challenge so far?**

Transitioning from one city to another can be challenging, as every city has its own practices and dynamics, so I hope to learn more about Tucker.

### **How does the Metro Atlanta area compare to some of the other big cities you've lived in?**

The Metro Atlanta area is growing. This area, compared to New York and London, is big on development and building an infrastructure around the city. Infrastructure has been built up to compliment the attractions and mainstays of the city.



## *Off the Wall*

**What do you do in your free time?** Much of it is spent serving others while in ministry at Voices of Faith in Stone Mountain. I also enjoy reading and entertaining.

**Do you have a favorite TV show?** I don't watch much TV, but when I do, I like to watch "Brit Box" on Netflix, which has all the English TV shows. On Thursday evenings I tune into Grey's Anatomy and How To Get Away With Murder.

**Any hidden talents?** I love to drive. At one point in time I wanted to be a truck driver. I can drive for long periods of time as long as I have my music and a reliable vehicle.

**What is your proudest accomplishment?** My greatest accomplishment is having a family that I'm proud of who is loving and very supportive.

**Is there a quote that you live by?** No so much a quote, but a scripture: "All things are possible to him who believes." Mark 9:23

# JAN MIXON

## CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

“Jan Mixon should be honored for her longtime work within the City. She lives in the Drayton Woods subdivision and has been very involved in community activities.

Decades ago, a year after the Drayton Woods pool won the County swim championship, a decision was made to close the pool due to limited membership. I served as President of DWRC during these next tenuous years. Jan, along with a few other residents, took the initiative to reopen the recreation club by expanding membership coverage and member safety responsibility at the Club. These actions resulted in increased members at a refurbished pool. Return of young families improved participation and market values of the area. As President of DWRC, Jan brought high energy to the Club’s revitalization.

In addition, Jan served as the community contact for residents south of downtown. Her resource list for the Idlewood Coalition of Neighborhoods (ICON) became a most valuable tool to inform residents of actions taking place prior to and after the formal creation of the new City of Tucker. This asset continues to be an efficient contact point for Council Monferdini and me in District 2.

Even with a very busy personal schedule, Jan agreed to become a member of the Tucker Community Council. She was active in enlisting feedback from residents and businesses concerning issues and actions being proposed in the City. The Community Council is a most valuable asset to the City Council as a whole.

Recently Jan had to resign her position on the Community Council. She will, however, continue her liaison role with ICON and will be a positive contributor to the growth of the City.

Jan Mixon is being honored for her long-time commitment to our City. I know her involvement will continue.”

*Nomination by Matt Robbins*



# “ASK RIP” *Answers Your Park Questions*



*Rip Robertson is the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Tucker. He brings to the job years of experience in Parks and Rec, as well as Public Works. Rip is a former Military Intelligence Analyst for the U.S. Army and is active with the Army Reserve.*

In the nearly two years I've been running the Parks and Recreation Department here in Tucker, we've seen a lot of growth, but perhaps nothing more significant than the growth we experienced just a few weeks ago. After a lot of work by myself, Mayor Auman and our City Manager, we executed an agreement with the Board of Trustees for Fitzgerald Field to take over operations and make it a City of Tucker park.

I cannot overstate how big an acquisition this is for our City. These 19 acres of athletic fields have been a mainstay in the Tucker community

for generations. Young sluggers have hit their first home runs here. Quarterbacks have thrown their first touchdown passes here. Countless cheerleaders have waved pom-poms here. All of that will continue under our supervision, but we plan to provide this facility with some TLC to bring it up to par with the quality of the youngsters and programming that are taking place. And we look forward to the opportunity to work alongside long-standing organizations like Tucker Football League and Druid Hills Baseball to make it happen.

As part of National Parks and Recreation Month, I also want to invite you out to the parks for some summer fun. We are kicking it off on July 4 with a big Independence Day pool party at

Kelley Cofer Park. There will be music at the pool. We'll grill out and offer a free lunch to everyone in attendance. There will be a hot dog eating contest, pie bake-off and a cannonball contest. Bring your family, bring your friends and bring your appetite. I think this will become a fun, new tradition for years to come.

We're also hosting our first Dive-In Movie at Kelley Cofer Park pool on Saturday July 27. You can gather around the pool or hang out in the water on your pool noodle, and enjoy a full-length feature film. As for which film we'll show, we're open to input. Email [parks@tuckerga.gov](mailto:parks@tuckerga.gov) with your suggestions and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 27th!





## Community Corner



### 7/11 - Tucker Civic Association Board Meeting

7:00-9:00 p.m.

4358 Lyburn Drive

TCA is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organized to promote the health, safety and welfare of Tucker residents. Meetings are held at Hearthside Club the second Thursday of every month.

### 7/13 - Tucker Cruise-In

5:00-8:00 p.m.

Main Street

Love cars? Then you'll love the Tucker Cruise-In! Set up on Tucker's historic Main Street, you'll see a wide variety of cars, ranging from antiques to street rods, motorcycles and imports.

### 7/18 - Tucker Business Association Luncheon

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

4450 Hugh Howell Rd., #10

TBA serves as the unofficial voice of Tucker's business community. Meetings are held every third Thursday at Magnolia Room. Attendees will hear from guest speakers and can take advantage of networking opportunities.

### 7/29 - Got Magic with Ken Scott

6:00 p.m.

5234 Lavista Road

Families will be amazed and amused by award-winning magician Ken Scott. His appearance is the culmination of Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library's summer-long Monday Family Fun Nights series.