



The TCA Tribune

July 2008

Tucker Civic Association

"Partners in the Progress and Preservation of Tucker"

June 27 forum featured candidates in contested races

The candidate forum co-sponsored by Tucker Civic Association and Smoke Rise Community Association on June 27 drew candidates in all non-judicial contested races which local voters will be deciding in the July 15 general primary.

Attending candidates included those vying for U.S. Senate Democratic nominee, Public Service Commission Districts 1 and 4 nominees, State Senate District 40 Republican nominee, State House District 88 Democratic nominee, Democratic nominee for DeKalb County CEO, Republican nominee for DeKalb County Commissioner District 1, DeKalb County Sheriff Democratic nominee, and DeKalb County Clerk of Superior Court Democratic nominee.

The forum was moderated by DeKalb County Superior Court Judge C. J.



Candidates for Public Service Commission address the crowd.

Becker, who read to the candidates questions submitted by the audience. More than 200 people were in attendance, though many were campaign staffers, so the number of Tucker residents was fewer.

There were no major surprises. All U.S. Senate candidates, for example, supported bringing troops home from Iraq. "But this was an opportunity to see the candidates up close and as individuals," Ellingson explained.

TCA Board members Joe Scarpaci (left) and Harriett Gess joined Tucker High School senior Rodney Reeves and other volunteers to help DeKalb County's Greenspace Environment Manager Dave Butler (right) clean up the 47-acre John's Homestead property off of Lawrenceville Highway on June 7.

DeKalb Parks & Recreation Department will develop a master plan for the John's Homestead property next year. The plan will cover all of the property including the historic house, the wooded areas that were previously farmland, and the two lakes and streams at the south end of the site. The public will be invited to participate in the planning process.



Hilson first THS student winner of "Community Service Award"

On the day of the TCA May membership meeting, President Paul Ellingson and Membership Committee Chair Becky Lancaster presented the first annual award of "Student of the Year in Community Service" to Tucker High School senior Kye Hilson. Kye worked with Habitat for Humanity, raised funds for cancer research with the school's Christian Club and assisted a 2nd grade teacher with the Tucker Cadet Class.



Tucker Civic Association
 P.O. Box 1916
 Tucker GA 30085
 Hotline 770-270-1620
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The Tucker Civic Association Board of Directors meets once a month, normally on the second Thursday, 7pm, in the education building of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 4882 Lavista Road. If you are interested in joining TCA or want more information, leave a message on the TCA Hotline at 770-270-1620.

Meetings: public safety, new high school

Public safety meetings. The Tucker Civic Association will host four community meetings on public safety this fall. The meetings will update area residents on crime statistics and introduce officers from the DeKalb Police Department’s new community oriented policing initiative. This will be an opportunity for residents to ask questions and raise issues.

For more information, visit the TCA website at www.tuckercivic.org.



New High School Featured July 16. Have you seen the new fencing up at Tucker High School? Then you know that efforts to construct our new school are about to begin. If you missed the TCA May membership meeting, you missed hearing Milton Pate, head of the architectural firm for the new high school, discuss how the construction process will take place in phases over the next couple years. You may want to attend the July 16 community meeting at Tucker Middle School, 6 p.m., to learn about plans to build Tucker a state-of-the-art high school.

Nominate someone for “Citizen of the Year”

TCA will present a “Tucker Citizen of the Year Award” at our membership meeting in late September. The winner but must be someone who has contributed significantly to the progress and preservation of the Tucker community. Anyone can submit a nomination by writing a short essay. The essay must reach TCA by Friday, September 5, and it can be submitted as a letter, as a Word document or as an email. Each nomination should list address and phone number of the nominee and of the person who submits the nomination. Nominations can be mailed to CITIZEN OF THE YEAR, Tucker Civic Association, P.O. Box 1916, Tucker GA 30085, or emailed to vicepresident@tuckercivic.org.

Zoning and land use issues: specific properties and assisted living

4829 LavVista Road. The owner wants to use the residential property for an accounting service. If the zoning changes to O&I, it will require a 50-foot buffer, which the property cannot support. The property lies within the Tucker overlay district, which makes an O&I zoning difficult. The property may qualify for a live-work designation, under which it remains zoned as residential. The TCA Board has voted to oppose any rezoning, but negotiations continue. As PPLUZ Chair Bruce Penn says, “We want TCA to be an organization

that finds solutions, rather than simply opposes every proposed property use.” A Zoning Board of Appeals hearing is scheduled for July 9.



TA-08-1483. Proposed legislation would allow for multi-family assisted living with more than six residents on 25-acre residentially zoned property. TCA has concerns about the lack of height and density restrictions.



Lawrenceville Hwy Funeral Home. The owner wants to convert a church to a funeral home chapel and is willing

to agree to O&I zoning with conditions that no other use be allowed. TCA’s PPLUZ Committee recommends supporting the application if adjacent neighbors agree.



Auction of property behind Meadowbrook Nursing Home. The 8+ acre property sold at auction to a Tucker resident for \$350,000. The property has access via easement to Lawrenceville Highway, but it cannot as currently zoned be legally developed, and any proposal must go through the full zoning cycle.