



# The TCA Tribune

## April 2011

Tucker Civic Association

**"Partners in the Progress and Preservation of Tucker"**



Two dozen residents came out to clean up the yard and patio area and donate outdoor furniture for the heroes at Fire Station 5 in March.

## "Give An Hour" has hot start to third year

Citizens donate money for local station firefighters

Tucker Civic Association's "Give An Hour" program got off to a great start for its third year with a service project in March at DeKalb County Fire Station 5 on Lawrenceville Highway.

About 30 volunteers raked up the station's lawn, cut down invasive vines, swept up the patio, put out new patio furniture and beautified the front yard planter with evergreens and marigolds. The improvement was striking.

TCA had asked Tucker residents to donate "5 for 5," i.e., to give \$5 a piece to help the effort to improve Fire Station 5. This marketing effort produced enough donations to purchase plants and patio furniture and a new gas grill.

TCA began its "Give An Hour" program in March 2009, asking residents to donate one hour a month for a worthy cause. Since then, TCA's "Give An Hour" program has benefited parks, schools, youth athletic fields and a local food pantry.

Wendy Henderson brought her two sons to the "Give An Hour" at Fire Station 5. "I'm really pleased with the efforts of TCA," she said. "I've lived here 35 years, and I want to be a part of

the efforts to improve Tucker."

John Knablach came out because Station 5 personnel had responded when his wife had a heart attack and stroke. "We wanted to do something for the firefighters," he explained.

The next TCA "Give An Hour" will coincide with the national "Clean Up America Day" on April 30. For more info visit [www.tuckercivic.org](http://www.tuckercivic.org).

## New officers working to establish board priorities

President Tom Lawrence, Vice President Ron Wilkinson, Secretary Lisa Kennedy and Treasurer Earl Ryan are working with the new TCA Board to establish priorities for this year.

"We want to have a full discussion with members of the Board to establish our priorities for this year," explained the new president. "Last year, TCA experienced great growth in membership, and we expanded our influence on land use and zoning, on public safety, and on parks and greenspace.

"With the renovation of Main Street, the opening of a new restaurant on Hugh Howell, the Baker Paint mixed-use development in downtown Tucker, this is a great time for TCA Board members to decide our priorities for the coming year."

At a brainstorming session in March,

## "Student of the Year" nominations sought

Tucker Civic Association will present a "Student of the Year in Community Service" award at its membership on May 19.

This award goes to a graduating senior at Tucker High School who best exemplifies the spirit of community service. The award will give the winner prestige in college applications and a \$300 scholarship check.

Past winners have been cited for serving as a reading mentor for middle and elementary students, for visiting seniors at nursing homes, and for participating in TCA's "Give An Hour" projects.

Anyone (teacher, parent, classmate) can nominate a student by simply writing a short essay explaining why the student deserves to be honored. Please list the student's name and phone number, and the nominator's name and phone number. The nomination can be mailed to Student of the Year, P.O. Box 1916, Tucker GA 30085, or emailed to [vicepresident@tuckercivic.org](mailto:vicepresident@tuckercivic.org).

A review committee will read the nominations and decide the winner.

board members committed the organization to continue the "Give An Hour" program, but with less emphasis on providing rewards for volunteers (e.g., breakfast & lunch) and more focus on simply running efficient service projects.

"We're going to do monthly projects that really benefit the community," Tom Lawrence said.



TCA officers: President Tom Lawrence, VP Ron Wilkinson, Secretary Lisa Kennedy, Treasurer Earl Ryan.



Tucker Civic Association  
 P.O. Box 1916  
 Tucker GA 30085  
 Hotline 770-270-1620  
 www.tuckercivic.org

The Tucker Civic Association Board of Directors meets once a month on each second Thursday, usually at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church on Lavista Road. If you are interested in joining TCA or want more information, leave a message on the TCA Hotline at 770-270-1620 or visit the website and email a Board member.

## Community gardens to be topic of May membership meeting

Tucker Civic Association (TCA) will hold a membership meeting on Monday, May 16, 7 p.m., at the First Baptist Ministry Center, 2367 Main Street. The meeting will include a community forum on community gardens.

In 2010, TCA held meetings with Tucker Business Association, Main Street Tucker Alliance, Smoke Rise Community Association, Tucker Historical Society and Tucker Arts Guild, and these groups agreed to form the Friends of Tucker & Smoke Rise Parks (FTSRP), operating within the umbrella of DeKalb County's Park Pride, which offers advice and resources to "Friends of Parks" groups.

The meeting on May 16 will explain how Park Pride and FTSRP will work together to improve local parks and greenspaces. This effort can promote a "Friends" group for each of Tucker's and

Smoke Rise's parks, with local residents taking the lead to preserve and improve the property.

One goal of FTSRP is to encourage development of community gardens in the parks. The meeting on May 16 will feature speakers of an established community garden and of a garden currently in development.

Susan Farrar will make a PowerPoint



Workers digging at Henderson Park Community Garden

presentation on Henderson Park Community Garden, a fully developed project that has all plots rented. She will explain how the project started, the steps required to place the garden in a county park, and the process of recruiting gardeners and building the finished facility.

There will also be a speaker to describe a community garden now being developed on Bancroft Circle by Janet Jubilee, well known as an editorial member of *Tucker Times*, a local monthly publication. She plans to put a 30' x 40' plot on the empty lot, plus an 800 sq. ft. modular building for storage of tools.

Her intent is for a garden of organic produce from heritage seeds, with gardeners sharing seeds with each other for future crops.

For more info on the meeting, contact Pam McNall at parks@tuckercivic.org.

## News: TCA invited to cosponsor police picnic; May "Give An Hour"

**Police picnic May 29.** Cliff Gates, Outreach Pastor at Mountain West Church on Hugh Howell Road, last year organized a picnic to show appreciation for the officers of the Tucker police precinct. This year, he's thinking bigger, planning an appreciation picnic for the officers of all five DeKalb County police precincts, and Tucker Civic Association will co-sponsor the event.

TCA has long been the voice of the community on public safety issues, working with both the police precinct and fire stations in the community to make Tucker safer. When Cliff invited participation, TCA eagerly agreed.

The event will be held in the parking lot

at Mountain West Church, 4818 Hugh Howell Road, Sunday, May 29, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Cliff is planning seating for at least 300, and he anticipates a constant flow of officers that afternoon.

He has organized a presentation ceremony to honor two officers per precinct for exemplary service. County politicians and police brass will be in attendance.

TCA will help solicit donations for the event. We will also have a booth on site to support our county police officers and explain our role in improving DeKalb County.

**May "Give An Hour" at Fitzgerald Field on the 14th.** Tucker Civic Association will host a "Give An Hour" community service project at Fitzgerald Field, one of the oldest privately owned youth athletic facilities in the country, located near the intersection of Lawrenceville Highway and Jimmy Carter Boulevard, on Saturday, May 14, at 10 a.m. It's home to many local youth football teams. Volunteers will clean up the facility in advance of the spring football game for Tucker High School. Please bring gloves and rakes. This will be the third straight year of a TCA-sponsored clean up at the field. For more information, contact Evelyn Burkett at district4@tuckercivic.org.

