

# Suwanee connects

## inside this issue...

suwanee.com | april 2018



**2** Get Outside,  
it's SPRING!



**4** Art on a  
Limb Root



**9** Suwanee  
Named  
2017 Green  
Community

**GET LIT IN SUWANEE!**

glow  
-IN THE-  
park

community lantern  
parade returns April 14



The first thing you'll need to be a  
part of the lantern parade?  
**A LANTERN OF COURSE!**

### Two Ways to Get a Lantern:

- 1** Join the North Gwinnett Arts Association at lantern building workshops on **APRIL 4, 11, & 13!**
- 2** Stop by the NGAA to purchase a DIY lantern kit!

Visit [NGAA4arts.com](http://NGAA4arts.com) for more info or to register.

On Saturday, April 14 at 5 pm, the City of Suwanee invites everyone to get lit in Town Center at the community lantern parade! Glow in the Park will feature a strolling jazz band leading an illuminated pageant of light, music, and color around Town Center, ending at a concert starring high-energy (and aptly named) entertainers The Glow Band at the park stage.

So, who gets to be in the parade? You do! This event is a community celebration of creativity; everyone is strongly encouraged to create illuminated costumes and carry their pre-made lanterns to parade together! This electrical spectacle is family and pet friendly, so everyone can join in as we make our beloved park glow in the dark!

# Get Outside IT'S SPRING

## FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS

Food Truck Fridays return to Town Center May 4 from 5:30-9:30 pm and will continue the first Friday of each month through September (with the exception of July). Check [suwanee.com](http://suwanee.com) for food truck line-ups and music information.

## SUWANEЕ FARMERS MARKET

The Farmers Market will open every Saturday starting May 12 through October 6 from 8 am until noon.

## SUWANEЕ HAS THE RUNS!

Longer days and warmer weather create that undeniable call to go OUTSIDE! Suwanee's line-up of runs includes:

- Apr 14 ..... Race to Cure Sarcoma **\*\*New Event!\*\***
- Apr 21..... Race for the Rescues 5K & Fun Run **\*\*New Event!\*\***
- Apr 28..... Gwinnett March for Babies
- May 19..... Great Strides Atlanta

## STAR 94'S WOOFSTOCK: MAY 5-6

Town Center Park goes to the dogs at Star 94's Woofstock! Join us for dock diving competitions and Frisbee, agility, and high jump demonstrations for our furry friends, as well as pet rescues, hundreds of vendors, and inflatables for the kids.

## ARTS IN THE PARK: MAY 12

Join us from 10 am-5 pm for this free annual festival featuring the work of about 50 juried artists, onsite artist demos, several create-it-yourself community art projects, music, and food.

## MOVIES UNDER THE STARS: MAY 19

Movies Under the Stars is bringing a double feature to Town Center Park! Our signature movie night will feature films appropriate for young children on a digital board at 7 pm and movie selections for slightly older audiences on a big screen beginning around 8:45 pm. The movies are free and open to the public. Bring chairs, blankets, and snacks.

- 7 pm..... *Cars 3*
- 8:45 pm ..... *The Greatest Showman*

## RED, WHITE, BLUEGRASS & BACH: MAY 25

Suwanee's annual Memorial Weekend concert features bluegrass and classical performances as well as a musical salute to our servicemen and women. The event will open at 7 pm at Town Center Park.

Visit [Suwanee.com](http://Suwanee.com) for a full listing of upcoming events.



# CITY OF SUWANEE NAMES ITS

# 2018 SUWANEE YOUTH LEADERS CLASS



The City of Suwanee has named the members of its fifth Suwanee Youth Leaders (SYL) class for the year 2018. These students were chosen based on a combination of the strength of application, feedback from a student-led selection committee made up of recent SYL graduates, recommendations from teachers and school administrators, academic performance, and extracurricular resume.

SYL is an eight-month leadership program for high school sophomores and juniors who live within the North Gwinnett, Peachtree Ridge, or Collins Hills cluster districts. Participants gain genuine exposure to local initiatives and community and civic leaders, while also allowing the city to engage with youth, providing a strong voice and active role in planning the city's success.

SYL recently won Southeast Festivals and Events Association Kaleidoscope Awards for Best Volunteers (2017) and Most Creative Idea (2016) for their collaboration with Suwanee Fest, as well as an Atlanta Regional Commission 2016 CREATE Community Award in the category of Educational Excellence.

"The Suwanee Youth Leaders program allows the city to make a genuine commitment to the youth in our community," said Suwanee Downtown Business & Development Manager Adam Edge, a co-leader of the program. "While it's an honor to win awards, it's an even greater reward to see kids becoming invested in their community through this initiative."

Thanks to SYL, said Assistant City Manager Denise Brinson, "We now have a group of young people who have more knowledge of their community and how local government works and the work that goes into building community. The city wanted to develop a real connection with our schools and find a way to meaningfully encourage youth involvement as prescribed in our strategic plan – not just checking a box, but building sincere, authentic relationships."

# ART **ON A** LIMB ROOT

Longtime Suwanee residents know to keep an eye on the tree branches in the spring – not just to enjoy the dogwood blooms, but to search for pieces from the City of Suwanee’s annual Art on a Limb program. This year, however, treasure hunters don’t need to look up; they have to look *down*.

“We decided to change things up a bit this year by choosing fairy doors as our Art on a Limb piece,” said City of Suwanee Events & Outreach Manager Amy Doherty. “We like to keep the citizens on their toes.”

A fairy door is a tiny door most commonly found among the roots or in the knot of a tree. They’re gateways through which our imaginations can play in the magical realms – and through which fairies can visit our world.

“Finders can put their fairy doors out in their yard or even inside their houses,” said Doherty. “Experts suggest leaving a welcome gift at the threshold. If the present is gone the next morning, you can be certain that a fairy has moved in.”

Through the Art on a Limb program, the City of Suwanee hides two pieces of art along one of the greenways or within city parks each day throughout the month of May. Those who find the art pieces get to keep them!

This year’s Art on a Limb piece was created by Bloomington, Indiana artist Tommie Smith. The fairy doors are hand sculpted polymer clay with a finishing coat to protect them from the elements (though the doors should not be left outside in freezing temperatures). The artist does not use any paint – all color variations result from using different colors of clay.

Smith began her work with polymer clay creating ‘pot people,’ then moved onto beads and dollhouse miniatures before making the logical jump to fairy doors. Each fairy door is unique and one-of-a-kind.

If you’re one of the lucky ones to find a fairy door in one of the parks or on the trails during the month of May, be sure to share a photo with us on social media!



## #artonalimb2018

# City of Suwanee Events Honored with Multiple Kaleidoscope Awards

The best and brightest were spotlighted at the Southeast Festivals and Events Association's Kaleidoscope Awards in Murfreesboro, TN on February 26, 2018. Top festivals and events throughout the southeast were recognized for their outstanding contribution to the events industry, including multiple events from the City of Suwanee.

Glow in the Park won a silver award for Best New Event, while Suwanee Fest also took home a silver for Best Children's Programming. The Suwanee Youth Leaders claimed a bronze prize for Best Volunteers for their work throughout the 2017 events season, and Suwanee Fest staple Classic Tents & Events took home a bronze for Best Vendor.

Designed to recognize the marketing, programming, and overall event, the SFEA Kaleidoscope Awards acknowledge the highest level of achievement in the festival and event industry throughout the southeast United States. This year, 29 organizations submitted 157 entries for the top prizes.

"I'm so proud of our staff and volunteers for continuing to make our events award-winning memory makers for those that attend," said Suwanee Events & Outreach Manager Amy Doherty.



## Students & Teachers Recognized

Congratulations to the students and teachers from Suwanee high schools who were honored at the STAR luncheon on March 20, 2018. Each STAR student is the senior in the top 10 percent of his or her class with the highest SAT score. STAR students select a teacher to honor as the educator who has had a strong influence on their academic career.

### Collins Hill High School

**STAR Student:** Rubin Park  
**STAR Teacher:** Ms. Danielle Wilcher

### North Gwinnett High School (tie)

**STAR Student:** Savannah Hearn  
**STAR Teacher:** Mr. John Payne  
**STAR Student:** Hongbum Kim  
**STAR Teacher:** Mr. Jeremy Martin

### Peachtree Ridge High School

**STAR Student:** Brittney Hagenbarth  
**STAR Teacher:** Mr. Kevin Cameron





# SNAP SUWANEE PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

From quiet moments of reflection to the moments before becoming the state champions, each of this year's Snap Suwanee Photo Contest winners illustrates the Suwanee community in a unique and beautiful way.

Sponsored by Suwanee's Public Arts Commission, the annual community photo competition provides an opportunity for participants to share images that communicate something telling about the Suwanee community. The winning photographs – chosen out of nearly 60 entries – will be on display at Suwanee City Hall through February 2019, and the winning photographers will be recognized at the April council meeting.

"Snap Suwanee is a fantastic opportunity to see the various aspects of our community through the eyes of our citizens and visitors," said Suwanee Public Information Officer Abby Wilkerson. "The photos submitted for this year's contest capture everything we love about Suwanee, including quite a few from unique perspectives that we've never seen before."

**JUDGES'  
CHOICE  
WINNER**



*"Biking Til the Sun Goes Down"  
– Eric Rozell*



*"Bubbles & Smiles"*  
- Boo Kirsch Hynes



*"A Different View"*  
- Eric Rozell



*"Endless Summer"*  
- Jammie Partee



*"Future State Champs"*  
- Carla Hoff



*"Grand Park Drive with Snow"*  
- Markus Rimmelle



*"Making New Friends in Suwanee"*  
- Lisa Pittarelli



*"Mother Daughter Reflections"*  
- Boo Kirsch Hynes



*"New Resident"*  
- Beverly Smith



*"Winter Sneak Peak"*  
- Autumn Crowley

# Arbor Day Foundation Names **SUWANEE TREE CITY USA**

Suwanee achieved Tree City USA status by meeting program requirements, including:

Maintaining a tree board or department

Tree care ordinance

An annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita

An Arbor Day observance and proclamation

The City of Suwanee was once again named a 2017 Tree City by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. The Tree City USA program has been greening up cities and towns across America since 1976. It is a nationwide movement that provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees.

“Trees provide multiple benefits to our community,” said Suwanee City Planner Josh Campbell. “When properly planted and maintained, trees visually improve neighborhoods, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants, and provide wildlife habitat, among other benefits.”

More than 3,400 communities with a combined population of 140 million people made the commitment to become a Tree City.

“Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has in a community firsthand,” said Dan Lambe, president of the Arbor Day Foundation. “Additionally, recognition brings residents together and creates a sense of community pride, whether it’s through volunteer engagement or public education.”

The Suwanee City Council presented the 2018 Arbor Day proclamation at the March council meeting. The city will celebrate Arbor Day with its annual tree planting on Saturday, April 28 at 2:00 pm at the Orchard at White Street Park. Please email [whitestreetorchard@gmail.com](mailto:whitestreetorchard@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating.

**COME**  
**play** **IN**  
**dirt** **THE**

**ORCHARD  
VOLUNTEER  
WORK DAY  
SATURDAY,  
MAY 5  
8:30 AM**

Spring has sprung, and so has the Orchard at White Street Park! The Orchard experienced its first winter, first snowfall, and first deep freeze – now it’s time for the first official Volunteer Work Day of 2018! Join us on May 5 (a.k.a., “Cinco de Huerta”) at 8:30 am to learn about organic orchard management, install drip irrigation, construct a platform for the handpump, and install new plants. Other opportunities to get involved include:

### **THE ORCHARD CARETAKER PROGRAM**

A fun, unique way to give back! Volunteer to become the official Orchard Caretaker for one week, complete a weekly checklist of small tasks, and receive two volunteer hours upon completion.

### **SOLAR POWERED WEATHER STATION AND FROST FAN**

We’re teaming up with the North Gwinnett High School Robotics Department to develop a customized weather station for the Orchard. In addition to recording rainfall and temperature data, the project would also track chill hours: the cold weather hours from fall dormancy until spring flowering that determine the fruit crop for the year. The system would also include a frost fan mounted onto the pavilion – which could help the blueberries from freezing and crop losses in late spring cold spells – and be powered by solar panels.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Over the past several months, the Orchard has been increasing its public outreach program to engage local groups such as scouts, homeschoolers, and Annandale Villagers, for fun and educational activities.

For more information or to register for any of the Orchard programs, please email [whitestreetorchard@gmail.com](mailto:whitestreetorchard@gmail.com).





# IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN!

City of Suwanee Once  
Again Recognized by  
the Atlanta Regional  
Commission as a 2017  
Green Community



The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) recognized the City of Suwanee for their efforts to lead the way to a greener Atlanta region by once again recognizing the city as a Green Community. The community was recertified at the bronze level through ARC's Green Communities program for their commitment to environmental stewardship and their leadership in sustainability practices.

"We applaud these local governments for reducing their environmental impact," said ARC chairman Kerry Armstrong. "As they do so, they lead the way in creating a greener and more livable region."

The Green Communities program is a voluntary certification program that helps local governments implement measures that will reduce their environmental impact. It recognizes a commitment to environmental stewardship and leadership in sustainability practices. Some measures that earned Suwanee certification points include:

- Offering residents both enjoyment and increased access to pedestrian and bicycle activity via Brushy Creek Greenway Trail, which connects Stonecypher Road and Suwanee Dam Road
- Constructing the first city hall in Georgia to be LEED certified in 2009
- Starting Gwinnett County's first community bike share program. Currently the city has two bike rack locations, and has tracked more than 2,500 trips
- Hosting Georgia's largest organic community garden as well as a rainwater cistern and a new community orchard
- Encouraging smart growth development by focusing the highest density in the city in Town Center, resulting in increased activity in the area

ARC developed the Green Communities Program in 2009 to recognize local governments that invest in programs and policies that lead to a more sustainable region. The nationally-recognized program showcases the many ways that local governments can reduce their environmental footprint.

In metro Atlanta, 20 local governments — 13 cities and seven counties — are currently certified under the ARC Green Communities program. This is the first program in the country to promote sustainability through a green certification program for local governments.



# EMPLOYEE Recognition Night

On Thursday, February 8, 2018 the staff of the City of Suwanee gathered at Main Event to celebrate another great year and recognize some of its top employees for the year 2017. The following employees were nominated by their peers and recognized by City Manager Marty Allen for exemplary service:



## RESULTS CHAMPIONS

Champion of results and progress, recognized for achieving a monumental accomplishment in the past year.

Alyssa Durden – Planning  
Robert Davis – Public Works



## CHAMPION OF THE PEOPLE

Understands that the actions and initiatives of Team Suwanee affect people and promotes it in his or her actions and influences others to do the same.

Sgt. Nick Jacobs – Police



## STEWARDSHIP CHAMPIONS

Promotes logic, procedure, and safety so that projects and initiatives exhibit Suwanee quality and are successful.

Taranta Anderson – Business Services  
Ofc. Brian Bartlett – Police  
Nathan Deans – Police



## SUWANEE POLICE AWARDS

Several members of the Suwanee Police Department were also recognized for outstanding work in 2017, including:

### OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Ofc. Brian Bartlett

### CHIEF'S AWARD

Sgt. Brandon Matthews

Sgt. Jeff Dickens

Communications Officer Nathan Deans

### TOP GUN

Detective Chance Belcher

### LIFESAVING AWARD

Detective Chance Belcher

### SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

Sgt. Nick Jacobs

### CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR

Theresa Miranda



## TEAMWORK CHAMPIONS

Works behind the scenes to ensure everyone looks good and Team Suwanee can shine.

MaryAnn Jackson – Planning  
Luis Lopez – Public Works



## INNOVATION CHAMPIONS

Never satisfied with the status quo and always seeking to improve; a creative visionary.

Abby Wilkerson – Economic Development  
Sgt. Jeff Dickens – Police

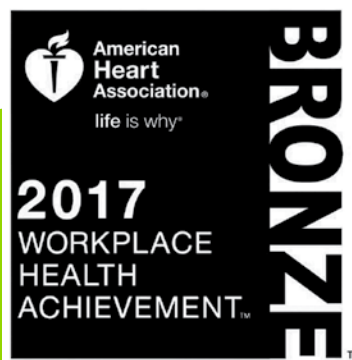
## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Suwanee Police Chief **Mike Jones**, who received the Leadership Award at the March 21 Valor Awards. Chief Jones was honored for excelling in community-oriented engagement and activities. Local public servants received top honors for bravery and much-deserved praise at the luncheon, held at the Infinite Energy Forum. The event, hosted by the Gwinnett Chamber, honored the men and women who have performed heroic and extraordinary acts to protect and serve the citizens of Gwinnett.



# Welcome to City Hall

The Suwanee Police Department recently welcomed new Records and Evidence Tech **Harriett Drummond**. Originally from Greenville, Mississippi, Harriett now calls Grayson home. In her free time, she loves watching movies, reading, shopping, traveling, meeting new people, and bowling.



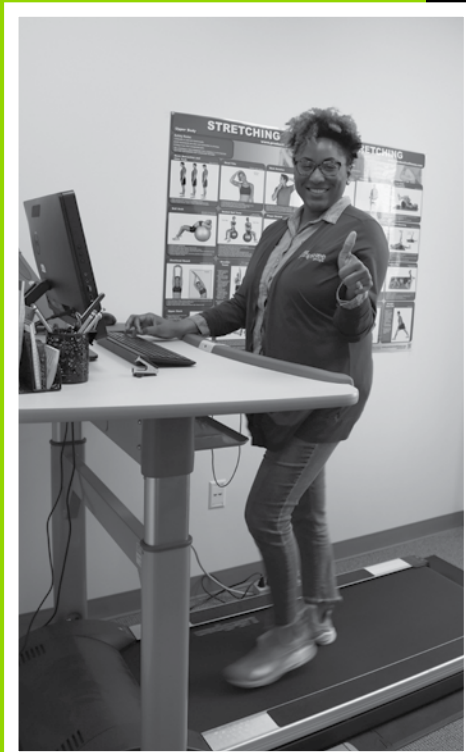
## American Heart Association Recognizes City

for Workplace Health Achievement

The City of Suwanee was recently awarded bronze level recognition from the American Heart Association for taking significant steps to build a culture of health in the workplace. The award was based on the Association's Workplace Health Achievement Index. The Index uses science-based best practices to measure the effectiveness of workplace health programs, as well as the overall heart health of employees.

Some of the Suwanee programs encompassed in this recognition include the Zagster Bike Share Program, Suwanee Youth Leaders, Flu Shots for Canned Goods, and the police department's No Shave November for cancer awareness.

More than 800 organizations completed the Index assessment this year, with 67 percent receiving recognition. Participating organizations receive benchmarking reports, which allow them to identify potential areas of improvement so that they can advance their annual performance and recognition.



## connections

**Open** for business

The following companies received new business licenses from the City of Suwanee in January and February:

- **Able House LLC**  
1300 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.
- **AV Acumen LLC**  
450 Satellite Blvd.
- **Buffalo Mo's**  
3265 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Rd.
- **Clear Path Family Chiropractic**  
1500 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
- **Complete Medical Billing Management**  
3465 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Rd.
- **Crown Hair Studio Salon**  
1500 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.
- **Station Master**  
125 Celebration Dr.
- **Dreamers Auto Sales Inc.**  
4411 Suwanee Dam Rd.
- **Econo Service Agency, Inc**  
530 Highland Station
- **EM Construction**  
4294 Tacoma Trace
- **Friendly Auto Sales GA, LLC**  
4411 Suwanee Dam Rd.
- **G3 Solutions Cleaning**  
150 Park Reserve Court
- **Gerald R. Stinnett CPA, PC**  
454 Satellite Blvd.
- **Hajun's Health Food Mart**  
80 Horizon Dr.
- **Keen Academy**  
3555 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Rd.
- **Payless Auto Brokers**  
4411 Suwanee Dam Rd.
- **L. Leigh Ayer, MS LPC**  
4411 Suwanee Dam Rd.
- **The Maki Group – Keller Williams**  
1039 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.
- **IT to Web**  
3957 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Rd.
- **New Journey Counseling, LLC**  
4411 Suwanee Dam Rd.
- **NGE Inc.**  
43034 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Rd.
- **Rock Your Nails**  
4320 Suwanee Dam Rd.
- **Smooth Dance Studio**  
686 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.
- **Styles by Stephanie Salon LLC**  
1500 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.
- **Suwanee Barber Shop**  
525 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.
- **Sweet Style Salon**  
1500 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.
- **Sylvia Lee Photography**  
3370 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Rd.
- **Tomy Therapy Clinic**  
4140 Moore Rd.
- **Wintop Business Solution LLC**  
530 Highland Station Dr.
- **WLI Real Estate**  
530 Highland Station Dr.
- **Zeezor**  
659 Main St.

**upcoming events**

official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia

**A April**

- 1 Community Sunrise Service 7:00A
- 4 Public Arts Commission 6:00P
- 9 Suwanee Fest Planning Committee 6:30P
- 10 Harvest Farm Board Meeting 5:00P
- 10 Planning Commission Meeting 6:30P
- 12 City Council Workshop 5:30P
- 14 Race to Cure Sarcoma Atlanta 8:00A
- 14 Winter Farmers Market 9:00A
- 14 Glow in the Park 5:00P
- 17 Downtown Development Authority 7:30A
- 17 Zoning Board of Appeals 6:30P
- 21 Race for the Rescues 5K & Fun Run 8:00A
- 24 City Council Meeting 6:30P
- 28 Gwinnett March for Babies 9:00A

**M May**

- 1 Planning Commission Meeting 6:30P
- 2 Public Arts Commission 6:00P
- 2 Budget Workshop 5:00P
- 4 Food Truck Friday 5:30P
- 5 Orchard Volunteer Workday 8:30A
- 5-6 Star 94's Woofstock 11:00A
- 8 Harvest Farm Board Meeting 5:00P
- 10 City Council Workshop 5:30P
- 12 Farmers Market 8:00A
- 12 Arts in the Park 10:00A
- 14 Suwanee Fest Planning Committee 6:30P
- 15 Downtown Development Authority 7:30A
- 15 Zoning Board of Appeals 6:30P
- 19 Farmers Market 8:00A
- 19 Great Strides Atlanta 9:00A
- 19 Movies Under the Stars 7:00P
- 22 City Council Meeting 6:30P
- 25 Red, White, Bluegrass & Bach 7:00P
- 26 Farmers Market 8:00A
- 28 City Hall CLOSED