

# Suwanee connects

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August Concert Celebrates 15 Years!

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Broadway in the Park Takes Us to 'A Whole New World'

suwanee.com | June 2018

Join us in **Old Town Suwanee** for an evening of *musique al fresco!*

## suwanee **Summer** porch jam

Yes, June 21 is on a Thursday, and yes, the date is correct! The Suwanee Summer Porch Jam is part of Make Music Day – an international celebration of music! Launched in 1982 in France, it is held on the summer solstice every year in more than 750 cities in 120 countries. The first Make Music Day event in Georgia, Summer Porch Jam will have the feel of an old-fashioned summer block party. Featuring food trucks and alcoholic beverages, musicians will be playing outdoors at multiple venues throughout Old Town Suwanee, such as:

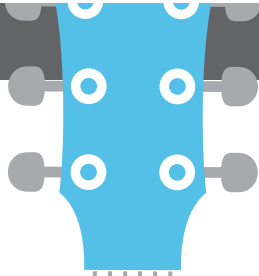
**EVERETT'S MUSIC BARN** – A fixture on the bluegrass scene for 50 years, Everett's Music Barn brings top bluegrass talent to our community every Saturday night, and – for this very special occasion – the evening of the summer solstice!

**HUTHMAKER VIOLINS** – Located in the historic Rhodes Hotel, expect to find some incredible string music on one of the three wraparound porches of the historic venue which Margaret Michell frequented.

**BURNETTE-ROGERS PAVILION** – Located at Main Street Park across the street from the caboose, this pavilion will host southern soul band ThunderGypsy, whose sound is an eclectic mix of blues, country, early rock and roll, and a strong gospel influence.

**MAYOR JIMMY BURNETTE'S FRONT PORCH** – A lesser known musical venue (in fact, this is its first show!), Mayor Jimmy Burnette will host musicians on the front porch of his home on Main Street during Summer Porch Jam. Stop by and hang out with the mayor in his front yard!

Check out [Suwanee.com](http://Suwanee.com) for more information on venues, musicians, parking, and more!



# FROM NEWBORNS TO SENIORS

## Suwanee Police Department Offers Programs Benefitting the Entire Community

Normally, being on a first-name basis with police officers wouldn't be considered a good thing. But in Suwanee, it's not only part of the job, it's crucial to how our police protect us.

The Suwanee Police Department and citizens work together to build trust and relationships through the *community*

*policing* philosophy. Department programs are accessible to all Suwanee residents, ranging from senior citizens to newborns.

Becoming active in Suwanee's community policing programs allow citizens to form a relationship with Suwanee's police officers. The programs touch all aspects of our community and embody the philosophy of a symbiotic relationship. While its priority is to keep us safe, the department believes that maintaining communication and trust throughout the community promotes an amiable and engaged city.

"Community policing is when the police build positive relationships with our citizens. We cannot keep our community safe without our citizens acting as our eyes and ears to report crime and community issues," said Suwanee Police Chief Mike Jones. "The programs are tools we use to help our citizens and build relationships. Using these programs help citizens and police meet each other in a positive way."



## SUWANEЕ COMMUNITY POLICING PROGRAMS

### **CAR SEAT SAFETY INSPECTIONS**

› A thorough 30-minute car seat installation inspection is provided by a certified officer.

### **CARING OFFICERS PROVIDING SUPPORT (COPS)**

› Elementary school children in need of extra attention are matched one-on-one with a police officer who meets with the student once a week at school.

### **EXPLORERS**

› Program allows 14-20-year-olds to experience and explore a career in law enforcement.

### **GEORGIA TEENS RIDE WITH PRIDE**

› Teens and their parents learn how attitude and behavior effects driving.

### **CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY**

› Citizens receive hands-on experience to understand the daily lives of police officers.

### **POLICE AND CITIZENS TOGETHER (PACT)**

› Participating neighborhoods are assigned a police officer to be positively engaged and build relationships, allowing the police to address issues before they escalate into criminal activities or injury.

### **CARFIT**

› A certified officer will help senior citizens evaluate the fit of their personal vehicles, as well as provide information regarding local resources available to increase their mobility.

For more information about any of the programs listed, contact Officer Richard Pope at 706-904-7641 or [rpope@suwanee.com](mailto:rpope@suwanee.com).

15th ANNUAL

# AUGUST CONCERT

headlined by the

*Gin Blossoms*



While the radio airwaves of the late 80s/early 90s was an eclectic mix of hairbands and grunge superstars, the fine people of Arizona were rocking out to a decidedly different style. The #1 local music draw in Phoenix featured a new sound, and soon a fusion of pop, melodic rock, folk, and country elements took the airwaves by siege, introducing the rest of the world to the Gin Blossoms.

Dubbed “The Best Unsigned Band in America” in 1989 by the *College Music Journal*, the Gin Blossoms released *New Miserable Experience* and began their rise to fame. This album kept the band on the charts for almost three years with singles “Hey Jealousy,” “Allison Road,” “Until I Fall Away,” “Mrs. Rita,” and “Found Out About You.”

Those hits were followed up by “Til I Hear It From You” which rocketed to #1 and moved the *Empire Records* soundtrack to platinum status. “Follow You Down” then spent ten weeks in the top 10, and “As Long As It Matters” earned the band a Grammy nomination.

Earning a well-deserved reputation as one of the busiest touring acts in the world, the Gin Blossoms will play one of their 150 shows this year on the Town Center Park stage as the headliner of the 15th Annual August Concert & Wing Fest.



## 15th Annual August Concert & Wing Fest

AUGUST 11, 2018  
TOWN CENTER PARK

**5:30 PM TWO TAKES**

**6:30 PM NEW MANTRA**

**7:30 PM WING EATING CONTEST**

**8:15 PM GIN BLOSSOMS**

\*All times are approximate

Wings from a variety of your favorite Suwanee restaurants and beer/wine will be available from onsite vendors and Town Center merchants. Alcohol must be purchased on site - bringing your own alcohol is prohibited.

A free shuttle will provide transportation between Town Center and the offsite parking location at Shawnee North Business Center, 305 Shawnee North Drive at Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road. The shuttles will run from 5:30-10:30 pm.



It was the...



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Time!



Please welcome twins Storm and Sue-Anna – so named because they were born during a rain shower in the middle of goat yoga in Suwanee Town Center Park!

# Goat Yoga in the Park

Sunday, April 29 & Sunday, May 20



MAIN ST

AMERICA

Years ago, Suwanee was a small town that needed a good kick. A farm town turned bedroom suburb, Suwanee was on the verge of something more. Fast forward 20 or so years to the vibrant Suwanee we know and love today - what happened? Main Street America happened.

Main Street America (MSA) strives for community revitalization and economic development. Seeing the “main streets” of cities across the United States as the heart of culture and community, the framework of MSA is centered around the belief that the creativity of each city brings success through economic vitality, design, promotion, and organization.

“Main Street principles, along with good urban design, provided guidance to community leaders who had an immense vision for the city,” said Adam Edge, City of Suwanee Downtown & Business Development Manager. “Thanks to years of dedication, we can now walk outside and experience a vibrant downtown that is the hub of our community. The culmination of the Main Street approach is in our downtown master plan and specific projects.”

Edge heads up Suwanee’s Downtown Development Authority (DDA), a City Council-appointed group charged with working to revitalize Suwanee’s downtown district: Town Center and Old Town.

More than just the epicenter of our city, Town Center showcases a robust event schedule, provides a family space, encompasses the love of art through its ever changing SculpTour, and promotes economic vitality through its commercial space. Preserving the Old Town historic district is a big part in telling the story of origin from past to present. Edge explained, “It is important to create connectivity between Old Town and Town Center,

both physically and aesthetically, so we have one cohesive downtown Suwanee.”

Edge, with his desire to improve Suwanee, also humorously stated, “In the main street community of cities we use the common acronym R&D. Most people know it as *research and development*, but in our circle it’s *rip off and duplicate.*” That phrase has circulated amongst communities, in turn, improving us all. We take ideas that we see and improve upon them. It’s the ultimate flattery when we notice our neighboring cities doing the same to us.”

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”

Every community is different, with its own distinctive assets and sense of place. The Main Street Approach offers community-based revitalization initiatives with a practical, adaptable framework for downtown transformation that is easily tailored to local conditions. The Main Street Approach helps communities get started with revitalization, and then grows with them over time. For more information about Main Street America, visit [MainStreet.org](http://MainStreet.org).



# Disney *Aladdin Jr.*



## Returning to Suwanee for Broadway in the Park's 12th Anniversary

Suwanee Performing Arts (SPA) is excited to bring back *Disney's Aladdin Jr.* for its 12th annual Broadway in the Park production, as well as the original one-act musical *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*. This energetic, family-friendly, free event will begin at 7:00 pm on July 27 and 28 in Town Center Park.

"We look forward to bringing *Disney's Aladdin Jr.* and our own *Ali Baba* back to Suwanee's Town Center stage," said Director Patty Etherton. "This year's production of *Aladdin Jr.* features new characters and music from the Broadway production. We are thrilled to bring all of the swashbuckling, magic, and adventure to the Suwanee community for two thrilling Arabian Nights!"

Based on the 1992 Academy Award®-winning film and the 2014 hit Broadway show, *Disney's Aladdin Jr.* is about a "diamond in the rough" street rat who learns that his true worth lies deep within. Aladdin (played by Ryan Cruz) and his friends Babkak, Omar, and Kassim, are down on their luck, until Aladdin

discovers a magic lamp and the Genie (played by Derrian Brown), who has the power to grant three wishes. Wanting to earn the respect of Princess Jasmine (played by Saanvi Diskalkar), Aladdin embarks on an adventure that will test his will and moral character. With expanded characters, new songs, and more thrills, this new adaptation of the beloved story will open up "a whole new world" for audiences to enjoy!

*Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves* is an adaptation of an ancient Arabic tale and begins as two young students stumble upon the book *The Tales of the Arabian Nights*. We are transported to another place in time, as a band of thieves hide their treasures - not knowing that Ali Baba has seen and overheard.

Admission to the shows is free, but plan to arrive early to claim seats on the lawn and dine at local restaurants. Reserved premium seating is available and can be found at [SuwaneePerformingArts.org](http://SuwaneePerformingArts.org) or 678-482-6333.

## YOU AIN'T NEVER HAD A RUNNER LIKE ME!

Suwanee Performing Arts will once again sponsor the Broadway in the Park 5k & Fun Run on July 21. Participants in the races will be greeted by characters from the upcoming shows and are encouraged to embrace the spirit by dressing in costumes inspired by *Aladdin* and *Ali Baba*! In addition to conventional race awards, prizes will be awarded for Best Dressed Genie, Best Jafar Impressions, and Best Performance of "A Whole New World," among others.

Racers may register in person at Big Peach Running Co. in Suwanee Town Center or at [Suwanee.com](http://Suwanee.com). New this year will be an option for "virtual runners" as well as a one-mile timed run for younger runners. This event will serve as a fundraiser for the performance groups supported by SPA as well as the community kickoff for a week of show preparation on the stage in Town Center Park.



# SUWANEE FEST 2018: A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY

In early 2018, the City of Suwanee issued an open call for designers, artists, and creative people of all ages, amateur to professional, to submit logo designs for Suwanee Fest. After receiving dozens of submissions, Suwanee resident Megan McWilliams' all-American design was chosen as the official logo for Suwanee Fest 2018. The logo will be featured in Suwanee Fest marketing materials and at the two-day festival, to be held on September 15 and 16. Logoed shirts also will be available for purchase at Suwanee Fest.

In conjunction with Gwinnett County's bicentennial celebration, the Suwanee Fest theme will celebrate our heritage and history.

"My inspiration came from the old American flag bunting used during elections. City Hall also played inspiration in my design since Suwanee Fest is all about celebrating community. I wanted to showcase where the heart of that community is," said McWilliams.

A marketing manager and lead graphic designer for a local bank, McWilliams became hooked on design after taking a class at Peachtree Ridge High School. She went on to study graphic design in college, earning her Bachelor of Arts degree with a minor in marketing from Georgia State.

"I was always into art, regardless of the medium, but once I took my first graphic design class in high school I knew that's what I wanted to do as a career," said McWilliams. "I was lucky enough to receive a job right after graduation for a community bank that's also headquartered in Suwanee - a godsend after having to commute for years to Georgia State!"

You can catch McWilliams riding in the Suwanee Fest Parade on September 15 and purchase your very own Suwanee Fest t-shirts adorned with her winning logo during the festival!



## CALLING ALL BANDS, ORCHESTRAS, SCHOOL GROUPS, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS!

The City of Suwanee and Suwanee Fest Committee are now accepting applications for our annual Suwanee Fest Parade on Saturday, September 15. Parade entrants are encouraged to adhere to this year's theme, celebrating our heritage and Gwinnett's bicentennial. Cash prizes are awarded each year to floats and participants in a variety of categories, including best overall entry, best reflection of theme, most creative, and most entertaining.

Applications are due by September 5 and are available at [suwaneefest.com](http://suwaneefest.com). A mandatory meeting will be held for all parade participants at 6:30 pm September 6 at City Hall. Additional information and parade guidelines are available at [suwaneefest.com](http://suwaneefest.com).

# FORE!

## Local Disc Golf Champion to Play for World Championship

Rock Arnold somewhat stumbled upon his second love in a Suwanee park. Three and a half years ago, Arnold looked on as some disc golf players were playing their game. Deciding he needed a little fun and exercise too, Arnold purchased some discs and gave it a go.

Now Arnold has clenched some serious wins. He won the 2017 MG1 Southeastern AM Disc Golf Championship, the largest A-tier tournament in the Southeast. Arnold's other wins that year were Barnett Park Championship, North Georgia Championship, and Eagle Eye Open. His goal is to be a world champion, and he will be playing in his first Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) Worlds Championship next year, in the Advanced Masters division (ages 60+).

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## COME PLAY! SUWANEE CREEK DISC GOLF COURSE 1170 BUFORD HIGHWAY

Designed by Professional Disc Golf Association Hall of Fame member John David, Suwanee's disc golf course has been described as "a short, technical course that serves as a great equalizer among players."

Several holes are designed to be more challenging, and two require throwing over water hazards. The majority of the course is in wooded, shaded areas, and all the holes have been placed outside wet conditions. No reservations are necessary.

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More than as a competitive sport, Arnold, a retiree, encourages others to join the game for its health benefits: "Disc golf has been a wonderful addition to my life. When I started playing I was somewhat



overweight, and after about six months of playing, I lost about thirty pounds and have kept that weight off."

A PDGA member since 2015, Arnold has won a total of thirteen PDGA tournaments, seven non-sanctioned events for a total of twenty wins in his short career. Arnold considers the course at Suwanee Creek Park his home turf; this may be because he holds the course record at 41 (-13).

If you want to check it out for yourself, bring some discs and some buddies down to Suwanee Creek Park! Fun for all ages, it's a great way to get outside and see why Arnold loves the sport. It is not difficult to learn the rules. Like golf, you try to have as few strokes - or throws - as possible to get from the tees to the targets. Who knows, maybe you'll stun the greenway, and be the next Suwanee disc golf professional!



One of the 2018 Snap Suwanee winning photographs in the April newsletter was incorrectly attributed. The winning photographer of *New Resident* is Traci Dickson.



# ARBOR DAY AT THE ORCHARD

Thank you to all of the volunteers who came out to help with our Arbor Day planting at The Orchard at White Street Park! Volunteers planted eight unique fruiting trees including a medlar tree, strawberry tree (yes, that's a thing), and an apple tree propagated from an original Johnny Appleseed planting, as well as eight redbuds! Other activities included a straw bale planting workshop and a weeding contest, complete with prizes for the top teams based on the weight of weeds pulled. In all, 122 lbs and 6 oz of weeds were pulled! If you're feeling the FOMO, follow the Orchard on Facebook and Instagram and join us for the next work day!



The Orchard at White Street Park



@WhiteStreetOrchard



*6th Place Female Finisher at the 2018 Boston Marathon!*

## RUN, BULLDOG, RUN!

Finishing a 26.2-mile race is an impressive feat, but being the sixth female out of the 11,604 runners to have crossed the finish line is simply sublime. Nicole DiMercurio, a 2009 North Gwinnett High School alumna, pushed against wind gusts estimated up to 45 miles per hour and temperatures ranging from the upper 30s to the mid-40s during the 2018 Boston Marathon to finish fifth in the Woman's Elite division and sixth overall with a time of 2 hours, 45 minutes, 52 seconds.

DiMercurio ran for teams at both North Gwinnett and the University of Georgia. Continuing her love for the sport, she joined the Greenville Track Club Elite, a post-collegiate Olympic development program. This program has led her to qualifying for the 2016 and 2020 Olympic trials. Now 27, Nicole DiMercurio professionally runs for ZAP Fitness-Reebok.



## No matter how you say it, Suwanee's Language Court can assist!

As Dr. Daniel J. Kaufman, president of the Gwinnett Chamber and former president of Georgia Gwinnett College, likes to say, "Gwinnett is the community of tomorrow, today." Gwinnett's 2014 census data showed what we already know: Gwinnett is a broadly diverse community. More than 100 languages are spoken in our schools, over 650 foreign-owned businesses call Gwinnett home, and we are the first minority-majority county in the Southeast - the exact forecast for the rest of the country by the year 2060.

One specific area where the City of Suwanee is getting a jump on the rest of the country is how to handle this diversity within the judicial system. In 2015, nearly 20 percent of Gwinnett's population spoke either Spanish, Korean, or another non-English language. In an effort to ensure the rights of non-English speaking individuals, the City of Suwanee Municipal Court has introduced Language Court.

The Municipal Court and Police Department work together to identify those who may benefit from interpretation assistance during their court session. During court, an online interpreter is on standby to provide services in over 240 languages, ensuring communication is well understood between the defendant, prosecutors, judges, and staff. Additionally, two judges are bilingual (fluent in Spanish and Korean).

"For our customers who don't speak English, this service provides a friendly, accessible environment

and ensures they are comfortable and can comprehend the proceedings in our court," said Suwanee Business Services Director Jessica Roth, who oversees the municipal court. "For the city, this innovative solution has proven to be an efficient and cost-effective alternative to hiring in-person translators."

When a native language is spoken in court, citizens can feel more at ease in the welcoming and accessible setting. Defendants utilizing the interpreter are scheduled for similar times, allowing them to feel more comfortable and confident in asking questions pertaining to their case. Interpretation services have been provided in eight different languages over the past six months.

Language Court has also helped expedite regular arraignment sessions. Due to the language barrier, processing a non-English-speaking defendant takes an average of four to nine minutes, while a native English-speaking arraignment takes approximately two to four minutes per case.

"The communication between the defendant, prosecutor, and judge have improved on both sides," said Court Services Administrator Maritza Abdeljawad. "We are spending more time on the issues in these cases, which means we are able to offer them a fair judicial process. We are making sure we answer all the defendant's questions and concerns."

# Welcome - TO - SUWANEE!

**Hannah Kim** joins the Suwanee Municipal Court as our newest Deputy Court Clerk. Originally from Teaneck, New Jersey, Hannah enjoys reading, playing video games, and the finer things in life, such as visiting museum galleries and taking in a Broadway show or the opera.

## CONGRATULATIONS

The fine folks at Niche.com gave the City of Suwanee an **A+** on its **“Best Places to Live”** in Georgia community report card! They also ranked Suwanee **#6 on the “Best Suburbs to Buy a House”** in Georgia list.



Thank you to local Allstate Insurance Agent Adam Blackwell for the \$1,000 grant for the Suwanee Police! The money will go to good use, funding DUI breath analyzers and safety equipment to help keep our community in good hands (see what we did there?).

## OPEN for BUSINESS

The following companies received new business licenses from the City of Suwanee in March & April:

- 9 Round**  
310 Town Center Ave.
- American Deli**  
145 Satellite Blvd.
- American Painting & Renovations**  
3770 Industrial Ct.
- Athlete's Edge Enterprises**  
302 Satellite Blvd.
- Atlanta Vinyl Binders**  
300 Shawnee North Dr.
- Beauti & Nails**  
3463 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Rd.
- CFC Lighting**  
315 Shawnee North Dr.

- Equip Recycling**  
1008 Industrial Ct.
- Fukulala**  
1039 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.
- @Glamby\_Nikki**  
1500 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.
- Hong & Choi Inc.**  
3700 Burnette Park Dr.
- Ivel Cakes & Desserts**  
80 Horizon Dr.
- Med Way**  
450 Satellite Blvd.
- Only Baseball**  
302 Satellite Blvd.
- Paramount Marketing Group**  
140 Satellite Blvd.
- Peak Power Services**  
450 Satellite Blvd.
- Positive Impact International**  
950 Scales Rd.

- Presentation Binding Solutions**  
300 Shawnee North Dr.
- Quantum Autos**  
4411 Suwanee Dam Rd.
- QUBE Architecture**  
4411 Suwanee Dam Rd.
- QUBE Construction**  
4411 Suwanee Dam Rd.
- Re/Max Regency**  
790 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.
- Sonne Arts**  
1300 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.
- Suwanee Center for Family Dentistry**  
3230 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Rd.
- System4 Georgia**  
3525 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Rd.
- Yummy Ice Cream**  
525 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.



## UPCOMINGEVENTS

official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia

### JUNE 18

<b>1</b>	Food Truck Friday	5:30 pm
<b>2</b>	Farmers Market	8:00 am
<b>2</b>	B at the Movies	7:00 pm
<b>9</b>	Farmers Market	8:00 am
<b>11</b>	Suwanee Fest Planning Committee	6:30 pm
<b>12</b>	Harvest Farm Board Meeting	6:00 pm
<b>14</b>	FY19 Proposed Budget Public Hearing	5:30 pm
<b>14</b>	City Council Workshop	5:30 pm
<b>16</b>	Farmers Market	8:00 am
<b>19</b>	Downtown Development Authority	7:00 am
<b>19</b>	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30 pm
<b>21</b>	Suwanee Summer Porch Jam	6:00 pm
<b>23</b>	Farmers Market	8:00 am
<b>26</b>	FY19 Proposed Budget Public Hearing	6:30 pm
<b>26</b>	City Council Meeting	6:30 pm
<b>27</b>	Public Art Commission	6:00 pm
<b>30</b>	Farmers Market	8:00 am

### JULY 18

<b>4</b>	City Hall CLOSED	
<b>7</b>	Farmers Market	8:00 am
<b>9</b>	Suwanee Fest Planning Committee	6:30 pm
<b>10</b>	Harvest Farm Board Meeting	6:00 pm
<b>10</b>	Planning & Zoning Commission	6:30 pm
<b>12</b>	City Council Workshop	5:30 pm
<b>14</b>	Farmers Market	8:00 am
<b>17</b>	Downtown Development Authority	7:00 am
<b>17</b>	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30 pm
<b>21</b>	Broadway in the Park 5K	7:00 am
<b>21</b>	Farmers Market	8:00 am
<b>21</b>	B at the Movies	7:00 pm
<b>24</b>	City Council Meeting	6:30 pm
<b>27-28</b>	Broadway in the Park	7:00 pm
<b>28</b>	Farmers Market	8:00 am

**CITY OF  
SUWANEE,  
GEORGIA**

**MAYOR** Jimmy Burnette 770/868-7115  
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**EDITOR** Abby Wilkerson 770/945-3386

Unless otherwise noted, City of Suwanee public meetings are at City Hall, 330 Town Center Avenue.  
Dates subject to change; check [suwanee.com](http://suwanee.com) for updates.