

# Suwanee connects

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Vendors

suwanee.com | September 2018



SATURDAY  
**SEPT. 15** ★ 9:00a-7:00p

SUNDAY  
**SEPT. 16** ★ noon-5:00p

2018

TOWN  
CENTER  
PARK



*We the People of Suwanee,*

in order to form a more perfect community, establish joy to our citizenry, insure domestic shopping opportunities, provide music and entertainment, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of fun to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Suwanee Fest.

PRESENTED BY

**HEARTIS**  
SENIORS. LIVING.

Suwanee  
magazine

12stone  
CHURCH

GEORGIA PROUD  
**Walton GAS**  
PARADE SPONSOR

SOLIS  
SUWANEE  
TOWN CENTER

★  
**SUWANEEFEST.COM**



OUR ANNUAL TWO-DAY CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY RETURNS TO TOWN CENTER PARK! NEARLY 200 VENDORS AND EXHIBITORS, 15 ENTERTAINMENT ACTS, AND ONE AMAZING PARADE ARE JUST SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS BELOVED FALL TRADITION.

In celebration of the bicentennial anniversary of the founding of Gwinnett County, this year's Suwanee Fest will have a vintage Americana theme. Look for patriotic touches all over park; join us in celebrating our heritage and wishing our beloved community a Happy 200th Birthday!

S A T U R D A Y ★  
**SEPT. 15**

S U N D A Y ★  
**SEPT. 16**

**8 am-8 pm** Free shuttle to/from offsite parking

**9 am** Parade

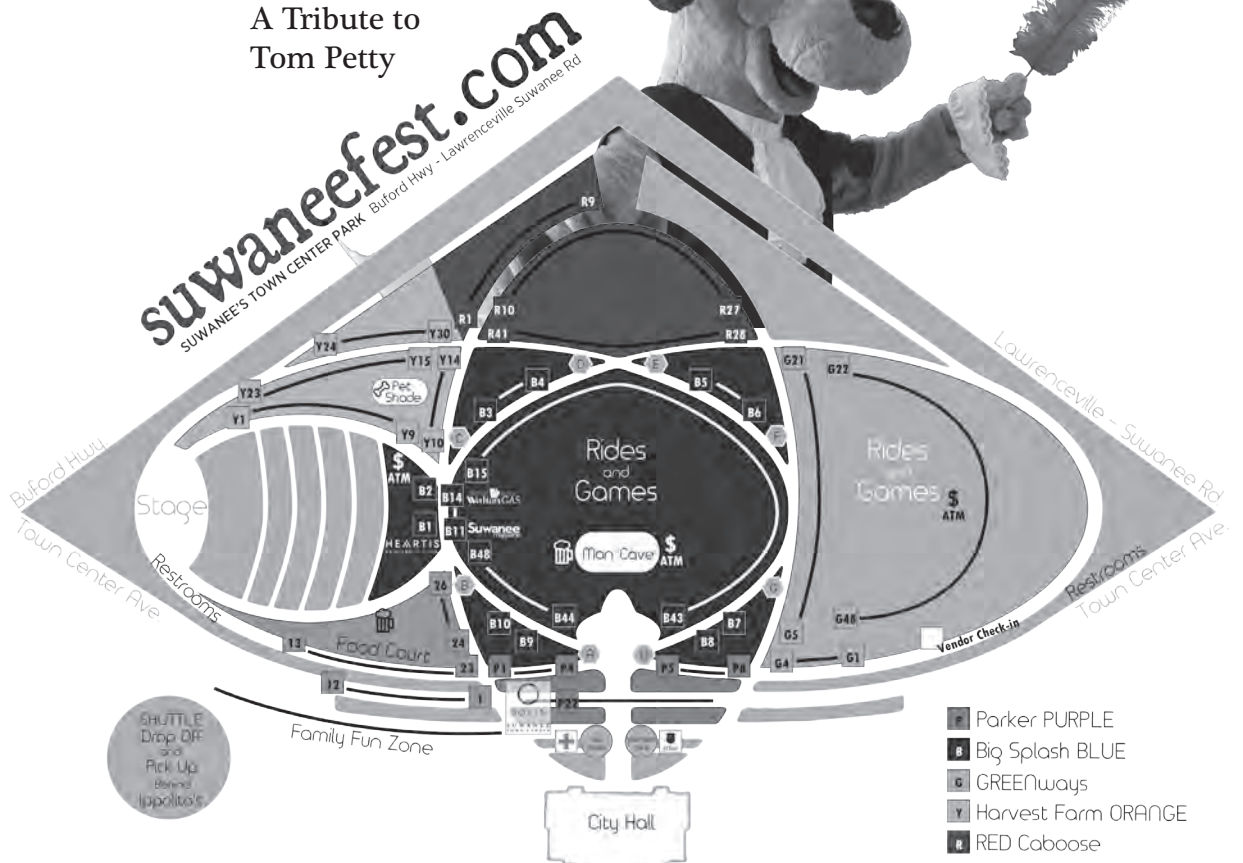
**10 am-7 pm** Arts & crafts exhibitors, inflatable rides, family fun zone, food vendors

**10:15 am-7 pm** Free on-stage entertainment

**5:30 pm** Free Fallin:  
A Tribute to Tom Petty

**11:30 am-7 pm** Free shuttle to/from offsite parking

**Noon-5 pm** Arts & crafts exhibitors, inflatable rides, family fun zone, food vendors, free on-stage entertainment



SHUTTLE  
Drop Off  
and  
Pick Up  
Behind  
Ippolito's

- Parker PURPLE
- Big Splash BLUE
- GREENways
- Harvest Farm ORANGE
- RED Caboose

**SCHEDULE & MAP**

**SATURDAY SEPT. 15 ★ 9 AM**

**MAIN STREET**



The annual Suwanee Fest Parade will roll through the streets of downtown this year on Saturday, September 15! The traditional kick-off to the two-day celebration of community, the parade begins at 9 am on Main Street, then travels along Suwanee Dam to Buford Highway, passing in front of the judges' station at Town Center Park.

This year's parade grand marshal is WSB Channel 2 Action News meteorologist Karen Minton. Minton's television career began in 1981 at KOVR in Sacramento, moving to Atlanta in 1984 to work for the Weather Channel as an on-camera meteorologist.

Minton joined WSB-TV in 1986 as a weekend weather anchor for the noon, 6:00 pm, and 11:00 pm newscasts and the weekday early morning and noon newscasts. In 1993, her duties were expanded to include co-anchoring Channel 2 Action News This Morning. She had the dual role of anchoring the news and forecasting and presenting the weather on Action News This Morning from 5 to 7 am for seven years.

During Minton's tenure at WSB, she has had the privilege to guest host *People to People* and interview celebrities in the Salute to America 4th of July and Children's Health Care of Atlanta parades. Her work was honored in 1988 with the Associated Press Award for Excellence in Weather Reporting and in 2008 received an Emmy for Outstanding Achievement in Team Coverage.

Raised in Lodi, California, Minton graduated from the University of the Pacific in Stockton with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences, and completed the broadcast meteorology program at Mississippi State University. A member of the American Meteorological Society, Minton holds the AMS Broadcast Seal of Approval.



## **...IS THAT MAN DRIVING A GIANT RED WAGON? YES. YES HE IS.**



Unique to the Suwanee Fest Parade this year is Curtis Hutchison of Lakeland, Florida, and his 12 feet by 6 feet custom Radio Flyer red wagon, complete with a 350 Chevrolet engine and 350 turbo transmission. This totally custom, licensed, and street-legal dragster will lead the Red Wagon Brigade in the parade down Main Street and into Town Center Park.

The Red Wagon Brigade is open to anyone who wants to be a part of the parade! Local community members and families are welcome to deck out wagons - as well as bicycles,

unicycles, strollers, wheelchairs, golf carts, etc. - in red, white, and blue Americana finery and be a part of this patriotic celebration!

Those interested in participating can find more information and register at [SuwaneeFest.com/parade](http://SuwaneeFest.com/parade).

**PARADE**



**SATURDAY SEPT. 15** ★  
**TOWN CENTER STAGE**

**ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE**

**10:15-10:35 am | Royal Dance Academy**

This talented group of dancers is a crowd favorite! This year they will perform an Americana-inspired dance medley as a tribute to the bicentennial celebration of Gwinnett County.

**11:00-11:10 am | Gwinnett Majorette Twirl Club**

Gwinnett Majorette Twirl Club is a Christian outreach, baton twirling and parade marching program. 2018 marks GMT's second performance in the Suwanee Fest Parade and first appearance on stage. The goal of the GMT program is to encourage girls to seek out challenges, become dedicated to a sport, and develop an understanding of their enormous opportunities and possibilities.

**11:30-11:45 am | Shae' Elites Dance Line**

Shae' Elites is a parade and performance dance line comprised of 7th-8th graders that are selected through auditions. The goal of Shae' Elites is to learn showmanship, healthy lifestyle choices, and leadership skills, as well as various styles of dance and choreography.

**12:00-12:10 pm | Dancing Belles**

Five women from diverse backgrounds united by their common passion for dance, Dancing Belles are trained in the Indian classical dance form Bharatanatyam. They will be performing classical Indian dance to a medley of western music, demonstrating that dance and music transcends countries, languages, and cultures.

**12:30-12:45 pm | Annandale Village Singers**

Annandale Village provides progressive life assistance to adults with developmental disabilities and acquired brain injuries so that they can maximize their abilities and maintain their independence in the least restrictive environment. Comprised of 30 Villagers, the Annandale Choir has performed all over metro Atlanta since 2014 and are making their Suwanee Fest debut!

**1:15-1:35 pm | Stone Mountain Chorus**

Established in 1981, the Stone Mountain Chorus is devoted to music education and enjoyment, while promoting the barbershop style of a cappella singing. In addition to entertaining at festivals, the chorus performs the American and Canadian national anthems (most notably at Atlanta Gladiator hockey games) and competes in the Dixie District of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

**2:15-3:00 pm | Engine 209**

Engine 209 takes its namesake from the famous locomotive located in Gainesville, Georgia, which is also where the band calls home. Forged from a genuine love of classic rock and roll, Engine 209 presents itself as "your friendly neighborhood band," striving to recreate each song true to its original form while also adding their own unique flavor.

**3:30-4:30 pm | Few Miles South**

Few Miles South offers a refreshing take on country music: a "touch of the Bakersfield sound," blues and southern rock with influences ranging from Hank Williams to the Allman Brothers. South Georgian Blake English and L.A. native Tori Lund met after playing together in church, began writing and recording together with the intent to shop songs to other artists - and the rest is history.



# HEADLINER

## FREE FALLIN – A TRIBUTE TO TOM PETTY 5:30-7:00PM



Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers was one of the biggest chart toppers in rock history, amassing dozens of hits and performing sold out shows for four decades. Free Fallin has successfully toured the country together for more than 10 years, playing before thousands of fans at festivals, fairs, venues, and major concerts. Along the way they have evolved into a complete and spectacular live music production. Their show features all the best hits of Tom Petty, including instruments and costumes that recreate the authentic experience of a Tom Petty concert. Sprinkled with a few other classic hits that you know and love, this band delivers a professional and entertaining experience that you do not want to miss.

Band members include: Tom Brademeyer on vocals/guitar (as Tom Petty); Mark Larsen on drums (as Stan Lynch); Russ Lund on bass/vocals (as Ron Blair); Karl Swartz on guitar/vocals (as Mike Campbell); Dale Peterson on keyboards/vocals (as Benmont Tench); and Craig Wolke on guitar/keyboards/vocals (as Scott Thurston).

**SUNDAY** **SEPT. 16** ★  
TOWN CENTER STAGE

### 12:00-12:15 pm | Drake School of Irish Dance

Drake Irish Dance was founded in 1990 by Dublin, Ireland native Karl Drake and is one of the most prestigious Irish Dance Schools in the United States. Drake Irish Dancers have a record of competitive achievements, including regional, national, and international championships.

### 12:30-12:50 pm | Alma Mexicana

Alma Mexicana - meaning "Mexican Soul" - is an Atlanta-based dance group that presents traditional Mexican dances. The group has performed dances from several Mexican regions such as Jalisco, Sinaloa, and the Yucatan, among others, for audiences the last eight years.

### 1:30-1:45 pm | 15 Minutes of Fame: Suwanee Elementary School Chorus

The North Gwinnett School Foundation annually auctions a coveted "Fifteen Minutes of Fame" performance slot for Suwanee Fest as part of its annual fundraiser. This year the Suwanee Elementary School Chorus will perform on the stage at Suwanee Fest courtesy of Penelope Williams, who donated her prize to the group.

### 2:30-3:30 pm | VEGA

When VEGA's glitter-encrusted platform shoes hit the stage, you know you are in for something special. This Atlanta band will be getting its groove on with songs from Bill Withers, Al Green, Johnny Cash, Elvis, Blondie, Grand Funk Railroad, and many others.

### 4:00-5:00 pm | Blue Mischief

A rocking electric blues band from Gwinnett County, Blue Mischief brings decades of combined experience to the stage. The band has played many venues and festivals across Georgia and love spreading their music and sharing their fun with everyone they meet. Their self-titled debut album can be found on Spotify and iTunes.

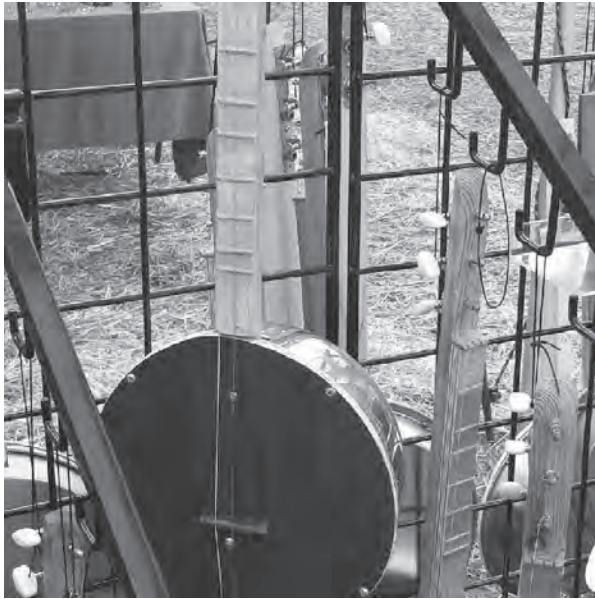




**SATURDAY SEPT. 15 ★ 10 AM-7 PM**  
**SUNDAY SEPT. 16 ★ NOON-5 PM**  
**TOWN CENTER PARK**

**FROM CRAFTS TO FINE ART, WOOD AND METALWORKING TO GOURMET FOOD, SUWANEE FEST HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**

**FEATURED VENDORS**



**Gifts for Hipsters**

★ Have a skinny-jeans and ironic t-shirt wearer in your life? Check out **Coal Mountain Panjo**: legit musical instruments made from cooking pans, inspired by Appalachian instruments made in the 1800s. This small instrument is similar to a dulcimer: it's a three-stringed instrument made of pans, repurposed wood, and guitar strings. Each panjo comes with instructions and music to get you started on your musical journey through time!



**Gifts for Suwanabees**

★ You know who they are: your friends from Sugar Hill, Duluth, and Buford who just want to live in Suwanee (we kid!). Show your local pride with swag from **EIM Local**, creator of the amazing shirts, hats, bags, housewares, etc. found at the Suwanee Welcome Center, Mint Juleps, and festivals all over town! These items make fantastic teacher Christmas gifts, AND you'll have knocked something off of your December to-do list in September – a win-win if there ever was one.



**Gifts for Foodies/Someone with a Drinking Problem**

★ It all started because Allison liked to pair fun wines and beers with meals, but is such a lightweight that she could never handle more than a sip before reaching her limit. After experimenting with sugar, wine, and – much to her husband's dismay – beer, **Spiked Jellies** was founded. Each batch is hand-crafted by Allison using only the finest ingredients, resulting in amazing jellies that bring out the true profiles of the alcohols without adding any crazy flavor distractions.





## Gifts for Dudes

★ **Scrap Metal N Such** makes personalized signs, maps, flowers – pretty much anything and everything – from up-cycled vintage license plates from all over the United States. In addition to license plate art, Scrap Metal N Such also works in mosaics and glass. Artist Greg Schlam sums his business up beautifully: “This is the perfect place to find a fun/creative/random/awesome one-of-kind gift that nobody puts on their wedding registry, but wishes they had.”



## Gifts for Fur Babies

★ Does Fido have his Halloween costume yet? What about an outfit for your Christmas card photo? Is he the ring bearer in an upcoming wedding, but has absolutely nothing to wear? You're in luck. From teacup to large, **Stuffy Shirt Dog** has a custom outfit for every occasion, enhanced with embroidery, rhinestones, monogramming, and more. Top off the ensemble with customized accessories, including scarves, rain coats, sun visors, and whatever else your precious pooch needs to shine.



## Gifts for Fashionistas

★ As four little girls growing up in Buffalo, New York, sisters Tammy and Lisa and cousins MaryAnn and Bernadette always had one thing in common – ACCESSORIES! They turned their little girl dreams into a grown women reality with the birth of **LSI - Like Sisters, Inseparable**: a family-owned jewelry retailer specializing in unique natural stone creations. From contemporary to eclectic, timeless to Bohemian, each bead is independent of the other and carefully handcrafted together to inspire a completely original finished product.



## Gifts for People Who Are Hungry

(see what we did there?)

★ **Sweet Chimney Bakery** Chimney Cakes and Cones are delicious traditional Hungarian street food. Soft on the inside and crunchy on the outside, the pastries are made from dough that is baked to perfection in a rotisserie oven on a wooden rod, giving it a hollow shape (and its name). The caramelized sugar on the outside can be flavored with all kinds of goodness, like cinnamon, coconut flakes, sprinkles, nuts, and Nutella (*Nutella....*).





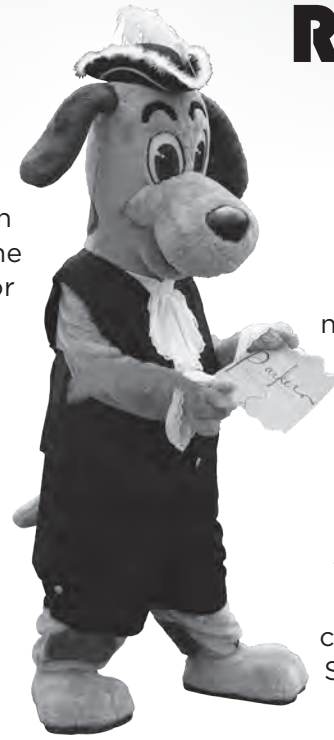
# PARKING & SHUTTLES

**Parking is unavailable at Town Center during Suwanee Fest**, and traffic in the Town Center area can be congested throughout the day. Please plan on taking the free shuttle for a hassle-free Suwanee Fest parking experience. Off-site festival parking and complimentary shuttles are available at three convenient locations:

- ★ **Red Lot** - Shadowbrook Church, 4187 Suwanee Dam Road  
*\*This lot features wheelchair-accessible shuttles*
- ★ **White Lot** - Shawnee North Business Center, 305 Shawnee North Drive at Lawrenceville Suwanee Road
- ★ **Blue Lot** - Southeastern Freight, 3655 Windsor Park off of Buford Highway

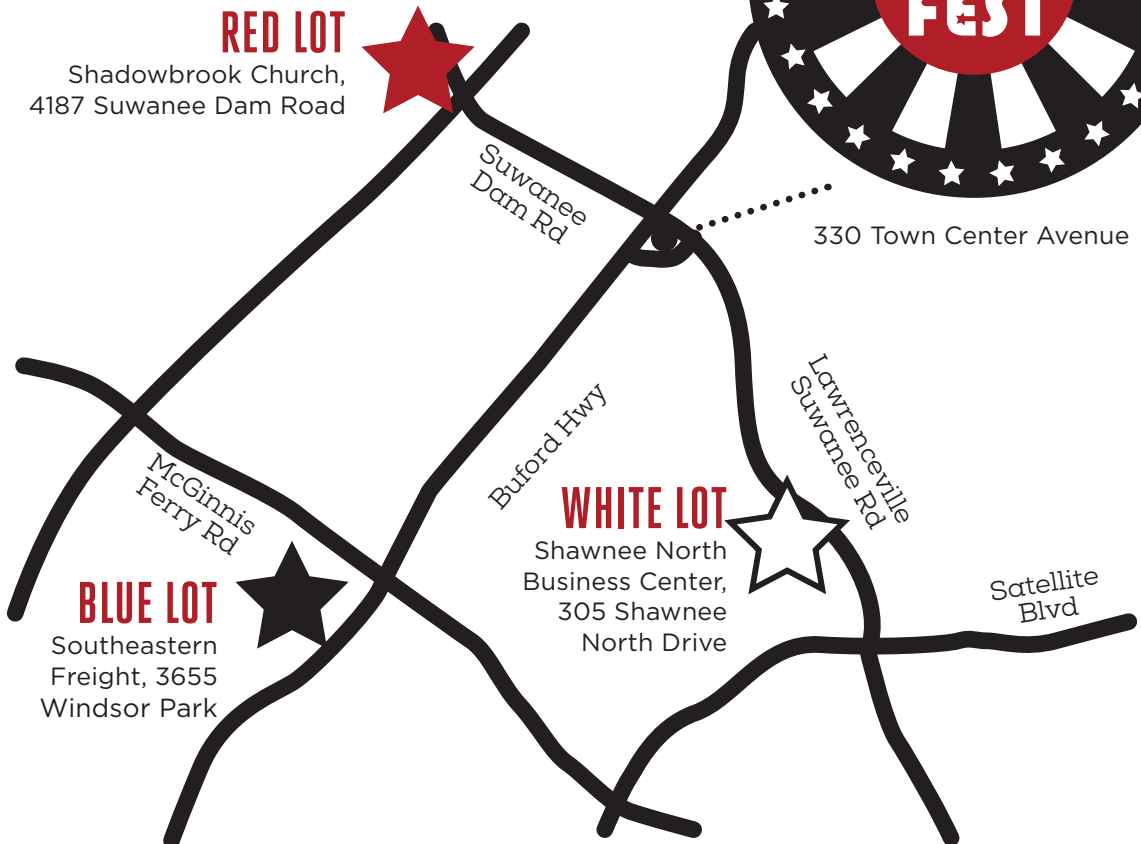
The air-conditioned shuttles will run from 8am-8pm on Saturday, and from 11:30 am-7 pm on Sunday. Please note that bus service will be very limited during the parade, from 8:45 am to approximately 10:30 am on Saturday.

**Dogs are welcome on the shuttles!**



# RIDES & GAMES

Suwanee Fest also features a massive rides and games area, providing non-stop fun for kids of all ages, not to mention child-free shopping for mom and dad! Tickets will be available for purchase on-site for inflatables, small rides, and carnival-style games. Saturday ticket sales will end at 6:30 pm and rides will close at 7:00 pm; Sunday tickets sales end at 4:30 pm and rides close at 5:00 pm.



CHILDREN'S AREA. PARKING & SHUTTLES



# CHILDREN'S AREA

**SATURDAY SEPT. 15 ★ 10 AM-7 PM**  
**SUNDAY SEPT. 16 ★ NOON-5 PM**  
**TOWN CENTER PARK**

**CHILDREN ATTENDING SUWANEЕ FEST THIS YEAR WILL HAVE THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL BACK IN TIME TO WHEN GWINNETT COUNTY WAS FOUNDED, THANKS TO THE FINE FOLKS FROM CAMP FLINTLOCK.**

Kids won't just hear about history - they'll live it! Camp Flintlock's hands-on colonial activities are designed to promote a historical perspective while building character and having fun. Young Suwanee Fest attendees will have the opportunity to:

- ★ Learn how to write with authentic quill and ink
- ★ Throw a tomahawk
- ★ Play games that colonial era children would have enjoyed
- ★ Hear fife and drum musicians
- ★ Visit a Revolutionary War infantry tent
- ★ Shop in the colonial store

Founded by the Langdon family of Four Oaks, North Carolina, Camp Flintlock originally operated as a summer camp. Today the business is a collection of several Colonial American programs including field trips (Level Creek students know them well!), overnight encampments, and fife and drum music as well as partnerships with Colonial American historic sites.



**"An opportunity to do, rather than watch, living history."  
- Washington Post**



## UPCOMINGEVENTS

official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia

### SEPTEMBER18

1	Farmers Market	8:00am
4	Planning & Zoning Commission	6:30pm
5	Public Art Commission	6:00pm
6	Suwanee Fest Parade Meeting	6:30pm
7	Food Truck Friday	5:30pm
8	The Extra Mile Run/Walk 5K	8:00am
8	Farmers Market	8:00am
10	Suwanee Fest Planning Committee	6:30pm
11	Harvest Farm Board Meeting	5:00pm
13	City Council Workshop	5:30pm
15-16	Suwanee Fest	9:00am
18	Downtown Development Authority	7:00am
18	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30pm
22	Farmers Market	8:00am
25	City Council Meeting	6:30pm
29	Farmers Market	8:00am
29	Happy Feat's Happy Carnival	2:00pm

### OCTOBER18

2	Planning & Zoning Commission	6:30pm
3	Public Art Commission	6:00pm
9	Harvest Farm Board Meeting	5:00pm
11	City Council Workshop	5:30pm
13	Winter Farmers Market	9:00am
13	Suwanee Jazz Fest	6:00pm
16	Downtown Development Authority	7:00am
16	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30pm
20	Alive! Festival	10:00am
23	City Council Meeting	6:30pm
27	Jonny & Xena "Spread the Words" 5K Walk/Run/Fun Run	9:00am
28	Trek or Treat Sims Lake Park	2:00pm

**CITY OF  
SUWANEЕ,  
GEORGIA**

**MAYOR** Jimmy Burnette 770/868-7115  
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 Dick Goodman 678/446-7520  
 Beth Hilscher 678/546-3388  
 Doug Ireland 770/265-0880  
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**CITY MANAGER** Marty Allen 770/945-8996  
**POLICE CHIEF** Mike Jones 770/945-8995  
**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.

# CITY OF SUWANEE WINS DOWNTOWN EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The City of Suwanee won Downtown Excellence Awards in the Volunteer and Organization categories at the 2018 Georgia Downtown Association Conference at Chateau Elan on August 15, 2018.



Janis and Paul Beavin and Robin and David Sullivan were named **Volunteers of the Year** for their work on the Suwanee Fest Planning Committee.

staffing a welcome center for the city. This strategic partnership allows visitors and locals alike to be welcomed to Suwanee with a high-energy, beautiful, art-filled space in Suwanee Town Center.

“The joint welcome and arts center allows the city to have a presence that extends beyond the normal business hours,” said Marty Allen, Suwanee City Manager. “City Hall is closed on weekends, which is when a large percentage of visitors are in Town Center. A welcome center affords us the opportunity to serve as ambassadors to visitors and leveraging a collaboration with the NGAA provides a welcoming presence.”

Located at 3930 Charleston Market Street in Suwanee Town Center, the city’s annual contract with NGAA to host the welcome center in the art gallery is funded out of the hotel/motel tax fund, which is intended to go towards such programs. The 2,297 square-foot facility features art classes, workshops, and a gallery.

The Downtown Excellence Awards recognizes and promotes the outstanding achievements of Georgia’s local downtown development and revitalizing organizations in Georgia’s communities. The Beavins, Sullivans, and NGAA representatives were honored at a reception and ceremony at Chateau Elan in Braselton, GA during the 2018 Georgia Downtown Association.

The Beavins and Sullivans have led a 20-member Suwanee Fest volunteer committee for the past ten and five years, respectively. The committee meets January through October and includes sub-committees who oversee entertainment, transportation, children’s activities, vendor selection, logistics, and festival volunteers. By September, these volunteers have already given the City of Suwanee countless hours of dedicated and focused volunteer service, including close to 40 hours on the actual weekend of Suwanee Fest.

“I honestly don’t know of a more deserving set of people to receive an award for volunteerism,” said Suwanee Events & Outreach Manager Amy Doherty. “Janis, Paul, Robin, and David are the embodiment of exceptional volunteer service. We put a ton of city time, resources, energy, and effort into Suwanee Fest, but it wouldn’t be possible without these four super hero volunteers.”

The Suwanee Welcome Center partnership was selected as the **Organization category winner**.

In a joint venture, the City of Suwanee and North Gwinnett Arts Association (NGAA) entered into a partnership in 2016 that allows the NGAA to have much-needed gallery and class space in Suwanee Town Center, while also creating and



# Welcome - TO - SUWANEE

City Hall welcomes its new facilities technician, **Darryl Gunter**! Formerly with C&W Contracting Services and Gunter's Construction, Darryl was born in Norcross but now calls Flowery Branch home. His favorite hobbies include doing anything with his grandchildren (including Six Flags and putt-putt!) and taking his lovely wife DeAnna to the beach.

**Cinnamon Wright** recently moved from the HR department to assume the position of Business Services Specialist within the business services department. Cinnamon previously worked in the Hall County elections department for nine years before coming to Suwanee. A resident of Auburn, she is mom to a six-year-old son and enjoys traveling, reading, crafts, and anything that enhances her cultural diversity or exposes her to new things, new foods, and new experiences!

**OPEN**  
*for*  
**BUSINESS**

The following companies received new business licenses from the City of Suwanee in July:

**593 Main Street Suwanee, LLC**  
593 Main Street

**Atlanta Men's Clinic**  
4411 Suwanee Dam Road

**Cardiovascular Clinic of North Georgia**  
1300 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard

**Carpe Diem Skin and Nails, Inc.**  
1120 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard

**Express Beauty Services**  
1049 Industrial Court

**Freezing Rolls, Inc.**  
991 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard

**J & S Accounting Services**  
530 Highland Station

**Roma Music Academy**  
960 Scales Road

## CONGRATULATIONS



Former Suwanee Youth Leader **Lauren Seroyer**, who was recently named a Stephen J. Brady Stop Hunger Scholar for CARE Closet, a non-profit she started at Peachtree Ridge High School. The honor awarded her \$5,000 for her charity and an additional \$5,000 for a scholarship. CARE Closets has expanded to high schools throughout Gwinnett to Shiloh and Berkmar high schools. Currently, 15 high schools in Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, West Virginia and New Jersey have a CARE Closet.



Winner, winner, chicken (wing) dinner! Congratulations to North Gwinnett Boys Soccer Coach **Chris Leone**, our 2018 August Concert & Wing Fest wing-eating contest winner! New business **Spice Wing** was named 'Best Wings in Suwanee' winner by voting attendees.

# SUWANEЕ FALL EVENTS

Check [Suwanee.com](http://Suwanee.com) for more details and up-to-the-minute information.

## SEP 7 Food Truck Friday

#FlashbackFriday, hosted by the Suwanee Youth Leaders.

## SEP 8 Annandale Extra Mile walk/Run

Celebrating individuals and families living with and affected by developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injury.

## SEP 15 & 16 Suwanee Fest

Named Best Festival in 2015 by the Southeast Festival and Events Association, Suwanee Fest is our annual two-day celebration of community!

## SEP 29 Happy Feat's Happy Carnival



Fun for all ages! Carnival games and rides, Suwanee's Got Talent Gong Show, Concert, and food trucks! Purchase ride wristbands and register to participate at [HappyFeat.org](http://HappyFeat.org).

## OCT 13 Suwanee Jazz Fest

Featuring five of the area's smoothest and most electric solo and group jazz artists, together for an evening of sounds, tastes, and experiences under the stars!



## OCT 20 Alive! Festival

Annual festival benefiting Project Green, designed to promote "all things natural, organic, and green."

## OCT 27 Jonny & Xena "Spread the Words" 5K

Xena the Warrior Puppy and her human, Jonny, are committed to "Spread the Words" and make a difference within our community. Proceeds directly support autism programs and animal rescue.

## OCT 28 Trek or Treat



An afternoon of free spook-tacular events and festivities for children, who are strongly encouraged to dress up in their favorite costume! Featuring fall-themed games, contests, music, and inflatables – a ghoulishly good time!

## NOV 3 Suwanee Wine Fest



Featuring over 100 premium, hand-selected wines from around the world, plus live entertainment, delicious food, and a variety of vendors.

# BERLIN WALL PUBLIC ART PIECE RETURNS TO TOWN CENTER

An authenticated piece of the Berlin Wall that once separated West Berlin and East Germany has returned to Suwanee Town Center for good.

The 12-foot-tall, 7,000 pound section of the wall was donated to the city by Friends Suwanee Grill proprietors Ray Stanjevich and Suzanne Cartwright, who purchased the piece in 2013 at an auction on the Town Center Stage.

“I was born in a communist country, and Suzanne’s mother immigrated from Germany after World War II,” said Stanjevich, a Serbian immigrant. “We think it’s important to remember the past and not forget that many still live without the basic freedoms that we enjoy in the United States.”

Stanjevich displayed the piece outside of his Suwanee restaurant, and recently decided to donate it to the city as a public art piece. The Suwanee City Council voted at their June meeting to accept the relic, and it is now on display in Town Center Park.

Originally discovered in an East Berlin work camp, the once-western-facing now section features graffiti depicting an American flag, a silhouetted figure, and three buildings. The side that once faced East Berlin is mostly devoid of graffiti. The wall piece has a certificate of authenticity after tests on the concrete and rebar confirmed its materials consistent with those used in Germany in the early 1960s.

The wall section spent several months on display in front of Suwanee City Hall and the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in 2013 while awaiting auction after it was seized by federal officials to provide some restitution for victims of a Ponzi scheme.

“We’re thrilled to be able to exhibit this section of the Berlin Wall,” says Suwanee’s Assistant City Manager Denise Brinson. “It’s a cool way to bring an important piece of art and history to area residents. This display fits in well with Suwanee’s goal of making art accessible.”



# POLICE CHIEF MIKE JONES NAMED OUTSTANDING CHIEF OF THE YEAR

City of Suwanee Police Chief Mike Jones was named Outstanding Chief of the Year by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP) at the GACP Summer Training Conference in Savannah on July 24. The GACP is the largest professional association for law enforcement administrators in Georgia, and one of the largest in the country.

Chief Jones began his career in law enforcement as a dispatcher with the City of Rome Police Department in 1974, working his way through the ranks all the way to Major (Bureau Commander). He accepted the position of Chief of Police with the City of Suwanee and was sworn in on January 1, 1999, after 24 years of service in Rome.

During his tenure as Chief of Police, the Suwanee Police Department has more than doubled in size. The department became CALEA accredited in 2010 – one of just 56 in Georgia – and was reaccredited in 2013 and in 2016 with Excellence. The agency received state certification in 1999 and state recertification in 2004, 2009, 2013, and 2016. In 2016 the department was awarded the Phyllis Goodwin Agency of the Year by the Georgia Chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates.

A leader throughout the state, Chief Jones was elected to serve as vice president of the GACP in 2005 and served as president of the association from 2008-2009. Chief Jones continues to serve on multiple GACP committees and sits on the

Reinhardt College Police Academy Board, Gwinnett Technical College Advisory Board, and holds a position on the 911 Committee. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy #155 and a graduate of the Georgia Command College #14. Chief Jones has been teaching all levels of law enforcement since the 1980s, sharing his extensive experience and knowledge with his fellow officers.

Chief Jones is a strong proponent of the community policing philosophy and emphasizes the importance of positive relationships with the community he proudly serves. He established a P.A.C.T. (Police And Citizens Together) program in 2001 as a tool used to build trust within the community and to enhance its community watch program. Due to the success of the P.A.C.T. program, it has been implemented by other agencies in metro Atlanta and around the world, garnishing multiple national and international awards.

In addition to the successful residential P.A.C.T. program, the department hosts a Citizens Police Academy twice a year, has an active Explorers program, utilizes citizen volunteers in the Park Ambassador program, and staffs C.O.P.S. (Caring Officers Providing Support) in the local elementary schools. Most recently, Chief Jones has begun working closely with the Korean-American Council, a group of Korean-American business owners and stakeholders to build bridges between the Korean community and the police.



*"I have had the pleasure to work for Chief Jones for the past eleven years. During my swearing in as an officer, Chief Jones told me to remember three important things, in this order: God, family, and work. I have heard Chief Jones state those words to every officer that has worked for the department since then. Chief Jones doesn't just say those words, he lives them. I have seen the chief go out of his way on multiple occasions to help officers in need. Chief Jones is a true leader, always looking out for the officers, their families, and the community."*

**- Sergeant Robert Thompson**

*"Chief always seeks to forge relationships between the department and the community. He believes that a community where police and citizens interact builds the best city possible."*

**- Dispatcher Nathan Deans**

*"Because of the example he provides, Chief Jones is able to demand that his department remain ethical, knowledgeable, and professional [the Suwanee PD motto] each and every shift. Chief Jones takes every opportunity to share his expectations and remind his officers that his door is always open. His genuine concern is a hallmark that continues to foster loyalty to him and his expectations, which provides the City of Suwanee a police department that benefits the entire community."*

**- Officer Jeff Covert**

*"Michael Jones is the best chief I have worked for here at Suwanee Police over the past 31 years. Chief Jones rarely raises his voice but he also does not have to ask twice. He is greatly respected, highly knowledgeable and very professional leader. Mike Jones is not just a boss but also a very caring, compassionate person I call a friend. He has held my hand, gave me a hug when needed and prayed with me through some challenging times."*

**- Lieutenant Matt Scott**

# AUGUST CONCERT AND WING Festival 15 YEARS ★ 2018 ★ SUWANEE, GEORGIA



• official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia



# Suwanee connects

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## CITY OF SUWANEE RECOGNIZED FOR SUPERIOR MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

The City of Suwanee has once again been recognized by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) for superior data-driven management and reporting efforts with a Certificate of Distinction. Suwanee is among 13 jurisdictions receiving the Certificate of Distinction, and one of 57 recognized overall. This is the ninth year that Suwanee has been recognized for its accomplishments since the certificates were first awarded in 2002.

“Performance management is a bedrock principle of professional local government management,” ICMA Executive Director Marc A. Ott said. “By recognizing these leaders, ICMA hopes to encourage others to make a commitment to collect and analyze data, report it transparently, and use it to continuously engage their communities and improve their organizations.”

Certificates of Distinction are awarded to those who also provide comparative and benchmarking information to the public, use performance data in strategic planning and operational decision-making, and share their knowledge with other local governments through presentations, site visits, and other networking activities.

According to ICMA, the certificate program assesses a local government’s performance management program and encourages analysis of results by comparing to peers and gauging performance over time. Performance management aids in cost reduction, program prioritization, and quality improvement while encouraging accountability and transparency.



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