

# Suwanee connects

inside  
this issue...

suwanee.com | april 2015



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**8&9** For the Love of Suwanee & Art on a Limb



**INSIDE** City of Suwanee 2014 Annual Report



“We’re excited to be offering this event, which allows us to really embrace our cheesiness.”

The City of Suwanee is hosting a sharp new event this spring. Suwanee’s Big Cheesy Festival on Saturday, April 18, will feature cooking demos as well as cheese and beverage pairings, on-site cheese sculpting, food trucks and other vendors offering cheese-related products (including grilled cheese doughnuts), an artisan market, human foosball tournament, and live musical performances, including headliner Cole Taylor, presented in cooperation with Kicks 101.5.

This free event is from 2-10 p.m. at Town Center Park.

“We’re excited to be offering this event, which allows us to really embrace our cheesiness,” says Events Manager Amy Doherty. “Who doesn’t love food and music, and the human foosball games are going to be a blast. We hope everyone comes out. We promise it’s going to be a ‘gouda’ time.”

*continued on page 14*



## Citizen survey puts Suwanee at top in many categories

At the end of 2014, the City of Suwanee participated in its fourth National Citizen Survey, a statistically valid survey managed by the National Research Center that gathers resident opinions across a range of community issues. As in previous years, residents’ ratings put the City of Suwanee at or near the top in a variety of areas as compared to other communities across the country.

In fact, residents rated Suwanee higher than other participating communities across the nation in eight areas. Across the 127 categories residents were requested to rate, Suwanee scored in the top 10 in 27 percent of them.



Photo by Tiffany Kelly

**Suwanee was ranked #1 in City-sponsored events, overall built environment, and six other areas.**

### **Citizen survey puts Suwanee at top in many categories** *continued from page 1*

“The National Citizen Survey remains an important tool for us to gauge citizen satisfaction,” says Mayor Jimmy Burnette. “We always learn a little something about ourselves as a community through the survey, and it’s good to know that the City of Suwanee continues to be headed in the right direction.”

#### **The City of Suwanee was ranked #1 compared to other benchmarked communities in the following areas:**

- City-sponsored events
- job Suwanee government does welcoming citizen involvement
- overall built environment
- availability of affordable quality childcare
- overall confidence in local government
- generally acting in the best interest of the community
- being honest
- treating all residents fairly.

**Included in the 26 other areas in which Suwanee was ranked among the top nationally are the categories noted below. Also noted is the rank Suwanee achieved as well as the number of other participating communities who included that particular category among their survey questions:**

- quality of overall natural environment (#5 of 234)
- overall direction Suwanee is taking (#2 of 277)
- preservation of natural areas (#4 of 219)
- economic development (#3 of 240)
- neighborliness (#3 of 81)
- services provided by the City (#7 of 377)
- overall appearance (#10 of 308)
- City parks (#2 of 275)
- vibrant downtown/commercial area (#5 of 79)
- positive impact of economy on household income (#2 of 216).

The impact of the local economy on household income was the category in which Suwanee’s rating increased most

dramatically compared to previous surveys, which the City conducts every two years. Fifty percent of surveyed residents said the economy had a very or somewhat positive impact on their household income; that’s compared to 27% in the 2012 survey.

Suwanee was ranked lower than other benchmarked communities in a seven areas, including bus or transit service, use of public transportation, and citizen participation in volunteer opportunities. Only 9% of surveyed residents said they contacted an elected official to express their opinion, and only 13% reported campaigning or advocating for an issue, cause, or candidate.

#### **Survey results from 2014 continue to indicate that Suwanee residents are highly satisfied with the community’s overall quality of life:**

- 96% rated Suwanee’s quality of life as good or excellent
- 98% said Suwanee was a good or excellent place to live
- 97% found Suwanee a good or excellent place to raise kids
- 96% would recommend living in Suwanee.

When the City asked survey-takers who had moved to Suwanee after January 1, 2009 to score the most important factors in their relocation decision, they rated the following as essential or very important:

- police/public safety (92%)
- Suwanee’s neighborhoods (90%)
- community appearance (88%)
- overall community feel/vibe (86%)
- Suwanee’s park system (83%)
- school system (78%).

Forty-five percent said a recommendation from a Suwanee resident was essential or very important.

Citizens also were asked to rate how much they used various communication resources for obtaining information about the City of Suwanee government. The top two sources were *Connects*, with 89% saying they read the City’s



newsletter as a source of information, and the City website, [suwanee.com](http://suwanee.com) (83%). Brochures, local media, email blasts from the City, and meetings were other sources of information. Forty-one percent reported that they used the City's Facebook page as a source of information.

"The depth and breadth of information that we obtain through the National Citizen Survey is extraordinary," says City Manager Marty Allen. "There's an old saying that if you don't

keep score, you'll never know if you're winning or losing. We appreciate that our citizens took the time to report on their experiences with the City of Suwanee."

The 2014 National Citizen Survey was sent to 1,200 randomly selected City of Suwanee addresses in November. The response rate for surveys was 22%. The National Citizen Survey is endorsed by the International City/County Management Association and the National League of Cities.

## Downtown visioning workshop April 20

The City of Suwanee and TSW design consultants continue to work through the process of creating an update for the Downtown Master Plan.

About 80 people attended the public kick-off for the planning process on March 5. The City shared details about the Buford Highway reconstruction project, which is expected to get underway in 2016. This ongoing downtown project will include bike lanes, wide sidewalks, on-street parking, and installation of a traffic roundabout at Russell Street.

Next, residents are invited to participate in a visioning workshop to be held at City Hall at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 20.

"This workshop," says Planning and Inspections Director Josh Campbell, "offers an opportunity for participants to

consider various land uses and development styles and make suggestions as to what kinds of uses might go where in downtown Suwanee."

After a brief presentation on an analysis of the Suwanee market and demographics, designers with TSW will draw in suggested developments on top of aerial photos of today's downtown Suwanee so that residents – and planners – can better visualize how certain development options will fit with existing uses.

The 2015 update to the Downtown Master Plan is expected to be adopted by City Council this fall.

**"...an opportunity for participants to consider various land uses and development styles..."**





The North Gwinnett Arts Association (NGAA) is making bold, colorful promises about its May 16 Arts in the Park festival.

“It’s going to be a wonderful day for folks to get out and see some things that inspire and educate them,” says NGAA President Vickie Johnson.

Attendance at the annual festival, which will be open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., is free. Arts in the Park will feature the work of about 50 juried artists, showcase onsite artist demos, encourage several create-it-yourself community art projects, and include music and food. Also, the 2015-17 Suwanee SculptTour, a walkable public art encounter, will be officially unveiled at the festival and a public art piece will be created onsite during the festival.

“We’ve been at this now for five years,” says Johnson, “and it’s clear to me that our community values the arts. Today’s society is such a fast-moving one – it seems that we are always in a hurry and don’t take the time to really stop and appreciate what is around us. Arts in the Park gives our community that time to

slow down and take a good look at what people just like them have been able to create.... We have quality artists, fun events, good music, and great food.”

A chalk walk competition, open to elementary, middle, and high school students, will be from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. with winners announced at 4. Registration is available at [suwaneeartsinthepark.com](http://suwaneeartsinthepark.com). In addition, professional street artists will create long-lasting 3D chalk drawings around Town Center Park.

Other community art activities include paint-a-wreck, create a (Jackson) Pollock-like painting, and do-it-yourself tie-dye shirts. All proceeds will benefit the Rosemary Benavides Williams Student Art Scholarship for North Gwinnett High School college-bound students majoring or planning to major in visual arts.

Throughout the day, a DJ from Uptown Entertainment will provide music that fits the Peace, Love & Arts in the Park theme. Clyde’s on Fire, an Asheville-based, female-fronted bluegrass band, will close out the festival with a live performance.

“  
**...quality  
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 ”

For additional details about Arts in the Park, visit [suwaneeartsinthepark.com](http://suwaneeartsinthepark.com).



# More fun May events

Information about a selection of additional spring events is provided below. Check the What's New/Events page at [suwanee.com](http://suwanee.com) for a full listing of upcoming events.

## Food Truck Fridays

Food Truck Fridays returned to Town Center April 3 and will continue the first Friday of the month through October, with the exception of July when there will be no food truck event.

The May 1 event will be the annual Night of Jazz, featuring bands from Collins Hill, Flowery Branch, North Gwinnett, and Peachtree Ridge high schools. Food will be served from 5:30-9:30 p.m. with music beginning at 7. The following Food Truck Friday will be on June 5. Check [suwanee.com](http://suwanee.com) for food truck line-ups and June 5 band information.

## Suwanee Farmers Market

The Farmers Market will open Saturday, May 2. This year, the market will be open from 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays through October 3; there will be no Tuesday market.

## Star 94 Woofstock

Town Center Park goes to the dogs once again when Star 94 brings Woofstock to Suwanee on Saturday, May 9. This event includes pet rescues and contests, dock diving dogs, hundreds of vendors, inflatables for kids, and frisbee, agility, and high jump demonstrations.

Singer-songwriter Andy Grammer will perform at Woofstock. Hits from his self-titled 2011 debut album include "Keep Your Head Up" and "Fine By Me." His second album, *Magazines or Novels*, was released last year.

The tail-wagging fun starts at noon and continues until 7 p.m.

## Memorial Weekend: Red, White, Bluegrass & Bach

Suwanee's annual Memorial Weekend concert will feature bluegrass and classical performances as well as a musical salute to the troops. The event will open at 7 p.m. with the Silver Wings, the official demonstration parachute team out of Fort Benning, "dropping in" at Town Center Park, weather permitting.

At 7:15 p.m. Main Street Symphony, an adult amateur orchestra associated with Huthmakers Violins, will stage a classical performance. Darin and Brooke Aldridge, a husband-wife duo and their band, will take the stage around 8:30. One of the hottest young acts in acoustic music, the Aldridges have received multiple nominations from the International Bluegrass Music Association.

## Movies Under the Stars Double Feature

As the calendar turns to June, the City will present the first of three double-features being offered this summer. A family movie will be shown beginning at 7 p.m.; a second movie will begin about 8:45. Check [suwanee.com](http://suwanee.com) for more information about movie selections.



# There's 'more' to 2015-17 Suwanee SculpTour

The 2015-17 Suwanee SculpTour, which will officially open in and around Town Center on May 16, during the Arts in the Park festival, is bringing more than ever.

- This, Suwanee's fourth SculpTour exhibit, features more sculptures than ever: 17.
- It includes more local artists: Six of the 15 artists represented are from Georgia; other artists are from Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, and New York City. Eight artists are participating in Suwanee SculpTour for the first time; seven were represented in previous Suwanee exhibits.
- Dancer XX, a 20-foot tall galvanized and powder-coated steel sculpture created by Jack Howard-Potter, is the single heaviest sculpture to ever be included in a SculpTour exhibit. Weighing in at 3,000 pounds, this kinetic sculpture of a male figure who stands on one leg with his arms raised and holding a long piece of fabric, rotates with the wind.

The 2015-17 exhibit is weighty not only in poundage. While several pieces represent the forest canopy and sunflowers or a variety of animals – birds of prey, cows, horses, goats, and birds in flight – several pieces reflect the artists' perception of heavy topics. Some of the topics addressed include the pain of love, looking forward optimistically while absorbing losses of the past, unattainable success, notable attributes of friendship, parent-child relationships, the dichotomy of science and faith, and the concept of awareness.

Decatur artist Phil Proctor describes his sculpture *The Herd*, a collection of eight steel-fabricated, grazing goats: "All too often we find ourselves immersed in work, worry, or just the everyday tasks of life, and our awareness of self and our place is clouded. There is one goat that raises his head up to sense his surroundings. As he does, he sees all the other goats with their heads buried. He experiences the beauty of his surrounding while the others only see what's right in front of their nose.... It's a reminder to look up and remember what's really important in life."

In their proposals, several artists commented on the irony of trying to, as Howard-Potter states, "capture movement in a medium that does not move."

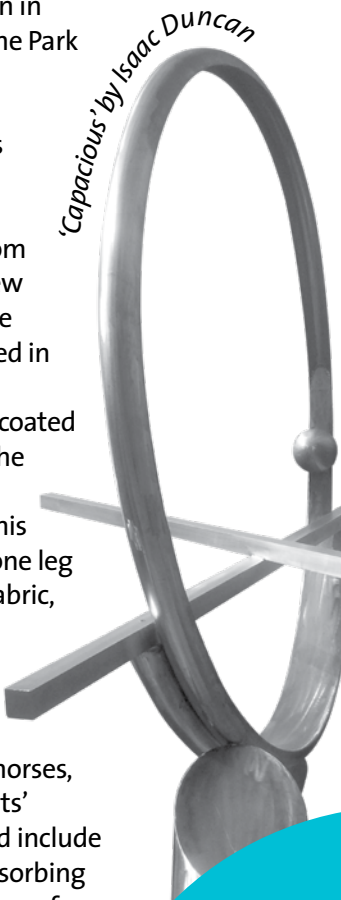
About his piece, *Capacious*, Isaac Duncan of Chattanooga says: "The notion that art is an expression of life is the foundation that I sculpt on. I am constantly creating works...that give the feeling of motion.... The elements of the sphere, curved forms,



'The Herd' by Phil Proctor



'DancerXX' by Jack Howard-Potter



'Capacious' by Isaac Duncan

“The notion that art is an expression of life is the foundation that I sculpt on.”

and grinding patterns emphasize motion, and motion implies life.”

A walkable public art encounter, Suwanee SculpTour is a program of the Public Arts Commission. The 2015-17 exhibit will be on display from this May to March 2017. More information about current sculptures and artists will be available at [suwanee.com](http://suwanee.com) in May.

# 2015-17 Suwanee SculpTour

***Ball and the Red Staircase*** by Adam Walls – Hope Mills, NC

***BRD*** by Michael Dillon – Milton, GA

***Capacious*** by Isaac Duncan – Chattanooga, TN

***Carry Forward*** by Joey Manson – Central, SC

***Corey*** by Jonathan Bowling – Greenville, NC

***Cow on a Horse*** by Jim Collins – Signal Mountain, TN

***Dancer XX*** by Jack Howard-Potter – New York, NY

***Faith*** by Adam Walls – Hope Mills, NC

***Father & Son*** by Adam Walls – Hope Mills, NC

***Friends*** by Nnamdi Okonkwo – Fayetteville, GA

***The Herd*** by Phil Proctor – Atlanta, GA

***Love Hurts*** by Lee Benson – Jackson, TN

***Oak Leaf Horizon*** by Jim Gallucci – Greensboro, NC

***Reach*** by Gregory Johnson – Cumming, GA

***Sunflower Gate*** by Andrew T. Crawford – Atlanta, GA

***Taking Flight*** by Jennifer Freeman – Duluth, GA

***Three Muses*** by Hanna Jubran – Grimesland, NC



## City adds two pieces to permanent art collection

Two pieces from the 2013-15 Suwanee SculpTour are being added to the City's permanent public art collection.

The Public Arts Commission, using donated funds, purchased *Iron Canopy* by Phil Proctor as the People's Choice award-winner. The 17-foot-tall steel, stainless steel, and aluminum kinetic sculpture derives its inspiration from the magic of trees and represents the idea that life supports life. The sculpture has stood in Town Center Park near the intersection of Buford Highway and Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road for almost two years. Its permanent location has not yet been determined, but *Iron Canopy* will remain in its current location through the next Suwanee SculpTour exhibit, which concludes in March 2017.

Dick Cunningham with Ippolito's Restaurant is purchasing the *Who Let the Dogs Out?* collection of sculptures by Jim Collins and is donating the piece to the City. This sculpture also will remain in its current location, in Town Center Park along Buford Highway, for the next nearly two years.

These two additions to the City's permanent art collection are among nine that were formerly part of a SculpTour exhibit. These pieces, plus new artwork added in the past few months by private developers, bring the total number of public art pieces on permanent display in Suwanee to more than 20.



*'Friends' by Nnamdi Okonkwo*



# 'Urban Cupid' asks: Where's the fun?

Author and bottom-up economic development guru Peter Kageyama spent three days in Suwanee last month urging area citizens, community leaders, students, and City officials to redefine problems and solutions by asking: "Where's the fun?"

"Fun doesn't cost a lot, and it needs to be considered a legitimate objective," Kageyama said in one of several presentations offered as part of his For the Love of Suwanee tour. Kageyama, the author of *For the Love of Cities* and *Love Where You Live*, has traveled around the country sharing his message of city-love and meeting and encouraging "co-creators" who make awesome things happen in their places.

While fixing potholes may be an important task performed by cities, Kageyama noted that "there's no love for fixing potholes. There's no emotional return on fixing potholes."

Rather, Kageyama told his Suwanee audiences, which totaled about 300, what people love about their communities are small, intimate things that "surprise and delight." Things like dog parks, a pedestrian-friendly Times Square with seating for people-watching, a fundraising dinner on what is normally a

busy highway bridge in Sacramento, and oversized Adirondack lounge chairs in Auckland, New Zealand.

Public art, signature events, and other undertakings that make a community distinctive and delight visitors and citizens alike come at a cost, but Kageyama argues that equally important is the consideration of their value.

"We need to realize that solutions to our problems may not look like any solutions we've ever seen before," he said during a presentation to City staff members.

**"Fun doesn't cost a lot, and it needs to be considered a legitimate objective."**

At an interactive community workshop held at George Pierce Park March 24, participants discussed with Kageyama what they love about the Suwanee community, created Suwanee t-shirts, and came up with small ideas that they could implement for \$500 or less, ideas that would make the community more loveable. Workshop participants voted on the ideas, and \$500 from the Suwanee Fest planning committee was pledged to implement the winning idea, which was to incorporate bubbles (the kind you blow with a wand) into a Town Center event or public art piece.

"Citizens wanting to do something special for the community is a very, very precious thing," Kageyama said. "We need to not squash that."





## Art on a Limb For the love of Suwanee and art



The pieces featured in this year's Art on a Limb program were selected last year, but they fit perfectly with this year's "For the Love of Suwanee" theme, which the City adopted for its Peter Kageyama presentations last month and Suwanee Fest has adopted as its 2015 parade theme.

Created by Suwanee area resident Tina Waltke, red clay hearts with warm, fuzzy Suwanee statements will be hidden daily (two pieces at a time) along the Suwanee Creek Greenway and at Sims Lake Park and White Street Park throughout the month of May. Suwanee's Art on a Limb program is an annual celebration of art and nature that allows those who find the trail treasures to keep them.

After finding an Art on a Limb piece last year at Sims Lake Park, Karen Newell, academic coordinator with the Emory University School of Medicine, posted on her Facebook page: "So how cool is this????? I found this piece of art and a note on a bench in the park this morning while walking my dog. At first, I thought just leave whatever that is, someone lost it and will come back to get it, but decided to get closer and read the note. What a great idea and way to start the day as a recipient of a random act of kindness, makes me want to put gifts out for others to find."

It was through an art abandonment group on Facebook that Waltke began creating hearts that are similar to those featured in Art on a Limb. Attracted by the idea of making something and leaving it for strangers to find, Waltke, on her own, began leaving hearts in metro Atlanta on Fridays. "It's a nice thing to do for a stranger," she says.

When she came across a posting seeking artists for Art on a Limb on Facebook, Waltke thought: "I kind of already do this. I never expected to be chosen."



A sign language interpreter by day, Waltke is a chronic – dare we say, compulsive – craft-maker who doesn't like going to movie theaters because she can't work on crafts there. "I feel like I just have to do it," she says. "It's not a choice.

"If you know me long enough you'll definitely have something that I've made whether you want it or not," adds this maker of pottery, stained glass, and needle-felting creatures.

"I love the idea of Art on Limb," Waltke says. "It's a sweet and giving concept, to give people something while also encouraging them to explore Suwanee's trails and parks."

An annual  
celebration of  
art and nature  
that allows those  
who find the trail  
treasures to  
keep them.

Be part of  
Suwanee's  
multi-award-  
winning  
festival



The 2014 Suwanee Fest recently earned four Kaleidoscope Awards from the Southeast Festivals and Events Association (SFEA), including Best Festival. With exhibitor and entertainment applications now being accepted for the 2015 Suwanee Fest, artists and performance groups are invited to apply to be part of this multi-award-winning community festival.

Suwanee Fest will take place September 19 & 20 at Town Center Park. Exhibitor and entertainment applications are available at [suwaneefest.com](http://suwaneefest.com). The deadline for applications is June 1.

“Suwanee is a great festival because...you’re going to get the really heavy traffic,” said 2014 exhibitor Julie Wettlaufer of Designs by Jewel. “I just love the atmosphere of Suwanee Fest. It brings a really nice crowd.”

In addition to naming Suwanee Fest the Best Festival in the “budget over \$75,000” category, SFEA also awarded the festival for:

- Best Volunteer – in recognition of Chair Janis Beavin’s multiple years of service and for leading the festival as it transitioned from a one-day to two-day event.
- Best Creative Idea – for hosting a Blast a Storm Trooper activity in place of what would have been an unused sponsor booth.
- Best t-shirt – the Suwanee Fest t-shirt won a silver award in this category.

The awards were presented February 17 in Chattanooga during the Southeast Festivals and Events Association’s annual conference. More than 100 entries were received from organizations in five states.

## Put your 'designs' on Suwanee Fest – by May 1

The deadline for the Suwanee Fest design competition is May 1. Professional and amateur designers of all ages are invited to submit logos that illustrate this year's "For the Love of Suwanee" theme. The winning logo will be used on festival t-shirts and promotional materials, and the winning designer will receive \$500. Guidelines and entry forms are available at [suwaneefest.com](http://suwaneefest.com).



## Suwanee Fest: Southeast Festivals and Events Association's Best Festival 2014



## Fast-charging station for electric vehicles coming to Town Center

With assistance through the Charge Georgia Rebate Program, the City of Suwanee is working to install an electric vehicle fast-charge station at Town Center for public use. This will be the first fast-charge station to be installed by a municipality in Gwinnett County.

The dual-head, level-three charging station, expected to be installed by this summer, will be available 24/7 and capable of providing an 80 percent charge to most electric vehicles in less than 30 minutes. (By comparison, level two stations, such as are available in Buford and Peachtree Corners, require approximately four hours to provide a full charge, and level one stations take up to eight hours or more.)

The City of Suwanee will work with EnviroSpark Energy Solutions of Atlanta to install the EV Fast Charger system. Two parking spots at the back corner of City Hall on Savannah Square Street will be reserved for electric vehicles using the station, which will have two connectors, one which will serve SAE J1772-enabled vehicles while the other connects to CHAdeMO-enabled vehicles.

The City is still working to determine rates as well as whether the station will be available on a first come-first served or reservation system.

The cost for purchasing and installing the system is expected to be approximately \$50,000 with 50 percent, up to \$28,422, reimbursed to the City through the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority's Charge Georgia program.

"It's really exciting to be able to offer an environmentally sensitive service such as this," says Public Works Director James Miller. "This effort continues the City's commitment to sustaining our environment, as signaled previously by LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] certification for City Hall as well as certification as a Green Community through the Atlanta Regional Commission. But the electric vehicle station also serves to give folks another reason to come to Town Center and further promotes downtown Suwanee."

# Police employ rolling 'Swiss army knife' for crime-scene processing

The City of Suwanee has a new tool in its crime-scene processing toolbox: It's a 2014 Dodge Ram ProMaster cargo van fully equipped to process any kind of crime scene and also designed to serve as a mobile incident command post.



"It's our Swiss army knife," says Det. Robert Stevens. "We can use it for just about anything. Whatever we need is in the van."

He's not kidding. An incomplete list of the van's equipment includes two generators, a dual-monitor computer system, cameras, lenses, finger- and footprint processing tools, booties, Tyvek suits, respirators, evidence bags, chemicals and lights for fluid processing, spray paints, measuring devices, and items for shooting reconstruction, blood collection, and DNA processing.

The van and equipment, which were purchased with drug forfeiture funds for approximately \$90,000 last fall, allow the Suwanee Police Department to manage its own crime scenes rather than rely on other law enforcement agencies. Stevens has participated in two months of specialized crime-scene training in order to manage the van and its equipment.



*'Four Ladies in Hats at the Lake' by Carla Hoff*



*'Little Smokie - Pig in the Park' by Connie White*

## Winning Snap Suwanee photos on exhibit at City Hall

Suwanee appears fun, outdoorsy, artsy, and snowy in the dozen winning photographs that comprise the 2015 Snap Suwanee exhibit currently on display at City Hall.

Sixty entries were received for this year's annual community photo competition. The winning photographs will be on display until February 2016.

"Snap Suwanee has become one of the City's favorite community engagement projects," says Public Information Officer Lynne DeWilde. "It's always fun to see what strikes our photographers as noteworthy from year to year. This year's winning photos capture moments one doesn't see every day in Suwanee – from a hot air balloon in Town Center to snow to a paddleboarder on the Chattahoochee. They also capture those moments that are more ubiquitous, including folks interacting with public art and utilizing Suwanee parks as backdrops."

Open

# for business

The following businesses received new business licenses from the City of Suwanee in January and February.

- **AB Stone & Landscaping Supplies**

700 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard

- **Angela Griffin Makeup & Hair**

3725 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road

- **Azure Motor Group**

4411 Suwanee Dam Road

- **Bill Baraban's Academy ForeGolf**

3690 Burnette Park Drive

- **Cartridge World of Suwanee**

3320 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road

- **Checkers**

2930 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road

- **Dunkin' Donuts**

3154 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road

- **French Touch Boutique**

425 Buford Highway

- **High Tech Associates**

4581 Tench Road

- **Jen Breithaupt at Halo Salon**

3725 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road

- **Jilly's Cupcakery**

320 Town Center Avenue

- **Kids Up**

2870 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road

- **Kitchen & Bath Design Group**

1275 Buford Highway

- **Mathnasium of Suwanee**

991 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard

- **Mega Package Store**

2820 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road

- **Mobile X USA**

3641 McGinnis Park Drive

- **New Directions for Old Collections**

593 Main Street

- **Outback Guttervac of Duluth**

1008 Namasco Court

- **Reeves Young**

4000 Smithtown Road

- **Saints Health and Wellness**

3461 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road

- **SK Health**

3655 Burnette Park Drive

- **State Farm –  
D'Angelo Insurance Agency**

4411 Suwanee Dam Road

- **Suwanee Business Holdings**

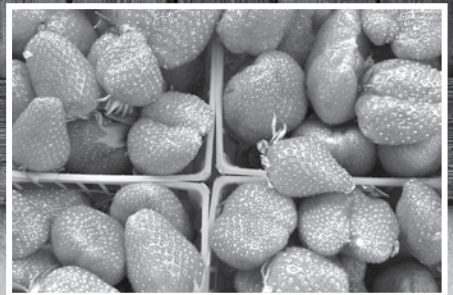
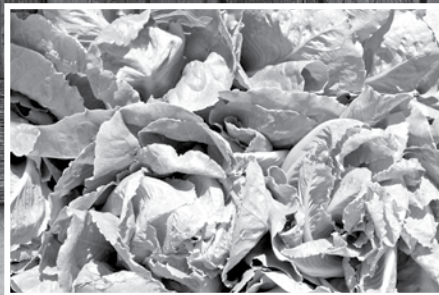
3154 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road

- **Taco Bell**

50 Celebration Drive

- **Taco Bell/Long John Silvers**

455 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard



**GET FRESH** AT THE SUWANEE FARMERS MARKET  
8AM-NOON SATURDAYS  
(MAY 2-OCTOBER 3)

**TOWN CENTER PARK**





**Suwanee's Big Cheesy Festival**  
*continued from page 1*

Sarah Kaufmann, aka the Cheese Lady, will be on hand creating an oversized cheese carving. Kaufmann earned a Guinness World Record for creating the world's largest cheese carving at the 2011 Wisconsin State Fair – a 925-pound cheese roller coaster. She'll educate the audience about cheese and, perhaps best of all, share edible samples from her carving. In addition, Choices to You will sponsor do-it-yourself cheese sculpting opportunities.

The human foosball tournament will have teams of six players (with up to two alternates allowed per team) vying for the title of "Big Cheese." Up to 16 teams may compete, and prizes will be awarded for first and second place as well as best costume/uniform and team name. Youth ages 8-17 as well as adults may play. More information and registration forms are available at [suwanee.com](http://suwanee.com); the registration fee is \$25/team. The deadline for registering was April 10, but additional teams will be accepted through the day of the festival providing that there is enough space.

# Welcome to City Hall

The City of Suwanee has welcomed several new employees recently.

**Tanesha Graham** is the most recent addition, having joined the City in April as human resources manager. A Lawrenceville resident, Graham has worked in human resources for 11 years, most recently at the Gwinnett Children's Shelter. She has a master's degree in human resource management from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale.

Suwanee resident **Dawn Hudson**, a professional with IBM, Suwanee Fest volunteer, and former City event staff member, will manage the Suwanee Farmers Market when it opens May 2.

North Gwinnett High School senior **Griffin O'Donnell**, who plans to attend Southern Poly Tech in the fall, and Suwanee resident **David Ouimet**, field manager and driver for psLIVE and Suwanee Fest volunteer, have joined the special events staff. Ouimet has a business degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

**Kim Towne** is assisting with event planning on a part-time basis in the economic and community development department. Towne has extensive nonprofit experience as well as a bachelor's degree in marketing management and a master's degree in education from Ohio University. She and her family live in the greater Suwanee area.

**Dawn Zaenglein**, of Dacula, has joined the Suwanee Police Department. Zaenglein was previously a corrections officer with the Gwinnett County Department of Corrections. She has an associate degree in criminal justice from Virginia College Online.



*Cole Taylor*

*Colby Dee*

Musical performances will kick off at 5 p.m. with Georgia-raised Colby Dee (yes, Colby is really her first name). Dee has been identified as "one to watch" by CM Chat, Got Country, and Country Rise. Georgia native Travis Denning, who has performed in Nashville several times this spring, and Loganville resident and Broken Bow recording artist Jordan Rager, who appeared on season two of *The Voice*, also will perform.

Headliner Cole Taylor, another Georgian, from Cuthbert, and an up-and-coming country artist, will take the stage at about 8:30 p.m. Taylor, a singer/songwriter who signed with Universal Music Publishing Group after being in Nashville just nine months, has a new extended play release, featuring "Break That Lonely" and penned Florida-Georgia Line's single "Sippin' on Fire."

# Second Suwanee Youth Leaders class is underway

Nearly 60 high school sophomores and juniors are participating in the second offering of the Suwanee Youth Leaders (SYL) program. Begun last year, the program, offered by the City of Suwanee, provides students with hands-on leadership development opportunities beyond the classroom.

The 2015 program kicked off in March with a weekend retreat that included get-to-know-you exercises, presentations from community leaders, and hands-on and wacky leadership development activities.

The group will continue to meet monthly through September and students will assist with a variety of upcoming events, including Arts in the Park, August Food Truck Friday, Suwanee Fest, and Trek or Treat. Last year, SYL students provided more than 700 hours of volunteer time to the City of Suwanee and community.



# Show your Suwanee pride more colorfully



We have to admit that as we noticed cars around the community showing off their Suwanee pride with the City's colorful S magnets, many staff members were feeling anything but prideful. Over the past year or so, the magnets have faded noticeably due to a quality issue with the materials used in manufacturing.

But that issue has been addressed and now new and improved – full-color – magnets are available for free at City Hall and upcoming community events. Show off your Suwanee pride colorfully again – stop in to pick up your free magnet.

# Middle school essay contest winners to serve as Suwanee Fest grand marshals

The theme for the 2015 Suwanee Fest parade is “For the Love of Suwanee.” And the grand marshals for this year’s parade will be up to three (possibly more) middle-schoolers who are declared winners of the festival’s “For the Love of Suwanee” essay contest. The contest is being offered to students through Collins Hill, Hull, and North Gwinnett middle schools.

If your middle-schooler is home-schooled or attends a private school and would like to participate, contact Kim Towne at [ktowne@suwanee.com](mailto:ktowne@suwanee.com) to obtain guidelines and an entry form. All entries are due no later than May 15.

## upcoming events

official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia

### A April

13	Harvest Farm Managing Board	4:30pm
13	Suwanee Fest Planning Committee	6:30pm
14	Planning & Zoning Commission	6:30pm
16	City Council Workshop	5:30pm
18	Suwanee's Big Cheesy Festival (TCP)	2-10pm
20	Downtown Master Plan Visioning Workshop	6:30pm
21	Downtown Development Authority	7:30am
21	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30pm
25	March of Dimes – March for Babies (TCP)	9am
28	City Council Meeting	6:30pm

### M May

1	Food Truck Friday/Night of Jazz (TCP)	5:30pm
2	Suwanee Farmers Market (TCP)	8am-noon
2	Peach State Chili Cookoff (TCP)	11am-5pm
5	Planning & Zoning Commission	6:30pm
6	Public Arts Commission	6pm
9	Suwanee Farmers Market (TCP)	8am-noon
9	Star 94 Woofstock (TCP)	noon-7pm
11	Harvest Farm Managing Board	4:30pm

11	Suwanee Fest Planning Committee	6:30pm
14	City Council Workshop	5:30pm
16	Suwanee Farmers Market (TCP)	8am-noon
16	Arts in the Park (TCP)	10am-5pm
19	Downtown Development Authority	7:30am
19	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30pm
22	Red, White, Bluegrass & Bach (TCP)	7pm
23	Suwanee Farmers Market (TCP)	8am-noon
25	Holiday: City Hall	Closed
26	City Council Meeting	6:30pm
30	Suwanee Farmers Market (TCP)	8am-noon
30	Melanoma Awareness Event (TCP)	1-5pm

### J June

2	Planning & Zoning Commission	6:30pm
3	Public Arts Commission	6pm
5	Food Truck Friday (TCP)	5:30pm
6	Suwanee Farmers Market (TCP)	8am-noon
6	Movies Under the Stars Double Feature (TCP)	7pm
8	Harvest Farm Managing Board	4:30pm
8	Suwanee Fest Planning Committee	6:30pm
11	City Council Workshop	5:30pm
16	Suwanee Farmers Market (TCP)	8am-noon

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.

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