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Ninning ogo captures festiva**I** fun and energy

suwanee.com

august2015

Suwanee begins new fiscal year with

\$14.8 million budget

The City of Suwanee began the new fiscal year July 1 with a \$14.8 million balanced operating budget. This year's budget represents a 9.2% increase over the \$13.6 million adopted budget for the recently ended 2015 fiscal year.

Suwanee's \$14,843,060 FY2016 budget includes \$45,000 in continued funding for the City's downtown and public art master plans; three new positions and two position upgrades; a maximum 4% pay-forperformance salary increase for staff; and just over \$763,000 for capital expenditures that include seven replacement vehicles for the police department and other personnel, two mowers and a chipper, and police dispatch console upgrades and other equipment. Health insurance expenses increased by 11 percent; the Economic Development

Business Services

Capital

City will cover approximately two-thirds of Administrative Services that increase with employees Council & Chief Executive picking up the rest.

> 2016 General Fund **Expenditures**

The new staff positions include a floating administrative assistant, crime analyst, and a

contracted pool of bailiffs to assist with court. One part-time custodian position will become full-time, and a police communication officer position will be upgraded to communication supervisor.

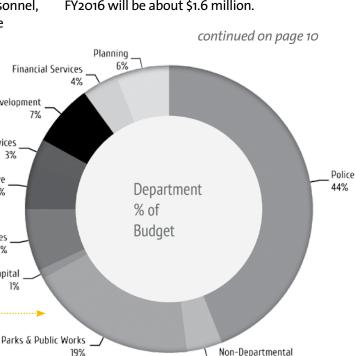
There are

no surprises

in this year's

budget.

The budget also includes Suwanee's annual debt payment for bonds used to construct City Hall and several parks. That payment in FY2016 will be about \$1.6 million.





by Lindsey Carpenter, Intern

This year's Broadway in the Park production is coming in with a bang, bang. Suwanee Performing Arts will

present Ian Fleming's Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, a timeless tale ideal for the whole family, on the Town Center stage Friday and Saturday, July 24 and 25. Performances begin at 7 p.m. each night.

Presented by a mostly high school cast, the story follows the adventures of eccentric inventor Caractacus Potts and his family as they travel about in their spectacular, remodeled old car. The family encounters the evil Baron Bomburst, a child-hating dictator who wants to steal Chitty Chitty Bang Bang for himself.

"Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is a fun story for all ages," says Director and Production Coordinator Patty Etherton. "No matter who you are, you're going to love this show."

A middle school cast will open each evening with The Finish Line, an original one-act musical whose story ends at the 1910

Grand Prix, which is where Chitty Chitty Bang Bang begins.

Admission is free, but reserved premium seating and "sitting room only" seating near the front of stage are available for





Fräbel glass exhibit sparkles at City Hall

Sculptures by Atlanta artist Hans Godo Fräbel, considered one of the founding fathers of modern flame glass art, are on exhibit at Suwanee City Hall through September 1.

The Seven Sins and Virtues exhibit represents the first time that all 14 sculptures in this collection have been publicly displayed simultaneously. The exhibit also features a few additional pieces, including one from Fräbel's Botanical Garden series. The artworks are displayed on both the first and second floors of City Hall and are accessible for public viewing from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The North Gwinnett Arts Association (NGAA) is sponsoring the exhibit and hosted a June 25 public presentation in which the scientific glassblower-turned artist discussed his flamework technique.

David Copeland, former gallery owner and Fräbel Glass representative, describes *The Seven Sins and Virtues* sculptures as "whimsical and dark at times." He adds that the Suwanee display offers the artist an opportunity "to exhibit sculptures

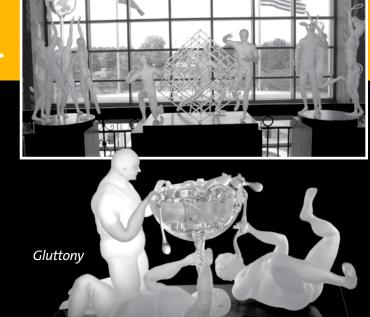
in which he has great pride in completing such a technically difficult series of sculptures."

Copeland explains that Fräbel's specialty is in creating hollow figurative forms without the use of casts or molds. The artist uses a desk-mounted special blowtorch and carbon-based tools to work with borosilicate glass, a hard glass that requires much more heat to soften and shape. "His expertise makes it look easy," Copeland says, "but ask another flameworking artist about creating a hollow human form in borosilicate glass."

Frabel's specialty is in creating hollow figurative forms without the use of casts or molds.

Fräbel began his glass career as a scientific glassblower with Jena Glaswerke in Mainz, Germany. In 1965, he took a position in the glassblowing laboratory at Georgia Tech. He studied art at both Emory University and Georgia State University and established the Fräbel Glass Art Studio in Atlanta in 1968.

Fräbel art pieces can be found in public and private collections in more than 80 countries worldwide. Two of Fräbel's most



famous works are *Hammer and Nails*, which was first exhibited in 1979 at the New Glass Art Exhibition at the Corning Museum of Glass in upstate New York and has since been displayed at major museums throughout the

> world, and the playful, cavorting clowns that were part of the Absolut Vodka advertising campaign in the late 1980s and early 1990s.





You don't have to be as fast as the Flash to participate in the 15th annual Suwanee Fest Superhero 5K & 10K Classic on Saturday, September 12. Presented by Georgia Fitness to benefit Cure Childhood Cancer, the annual Suwanee Fest races, including a children's 1K fun run, begin and finish at Town Center Park. Superhero costumes are strongly encouraged.

Registration is now available at active.com. Course maps for the 5K, which meanders through historic (and hilly) Old Town, and the 1oK, which is an out-and-back route primarily on the Suwanee Creek Greenway, are available at runsuwanee.com. All participants who register before September 1 will receive a finisher's medal, race shirt, and goodie bag.

Last year, more than 900 runners participated in these races. Those interested may sign up to run both the 5K and 10K. Race start times are:

- 7:30 a.m. 5K
- 8:30 a.m. 10K
- 8:35 am Fun Run

Prizes will be awarded for overall winners as well as best costumes.

Early packet pick-up will be available from noon-6 p.m. September 9 and 10 at Classic City Running at 3480 Financial Center Way near the Mall of Georgia and from 4:30-7 p.m. September 11 at Suwanee City Hall, 330 Town Center Avenue. Race-day registration and packet pick-up will begin at 6:30 a.m. at Town Center Park.

Candidate qualifying dates set for Council posts



Qualifying for City Council positions expected to be on the ballot in November will take place August 31-September 2. Anyone interested in being elected to a four-year term as mayor or a City Councilmember must first officially qualify at City Hall between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on the dates specified.

The mayor's position and City Council posts #1 and #2 are up for election this fall. Jimmy Burnette currently serves as Suwanee's Mayor; Doug Ireland and Dick Goodman serve in posts 1 and 2, respectively. All City Council positions are voted on Citywide.

The qualifying fee is \$270 for City Council positions and \$450 for mayor.

Qualified candidates must have been a City of Suwanee resident for at least 180 days and a registered voter.

For more information, contact Election Supervisor Elvira Rogers at erogers@suwanee.com or 770-945-8996.

One more 'Movies Under the Stars'

The films being screened in Suwanee's final 2015 Movies Under the Stars double-feature presentation on August 29 showcase a Peruvian bear with a passion for all things British and a ragtag team of space heroes who barely manage to save the galaxy.

Paddington will be shown on a digital screen at Town Center Park beginning at 7 p.m. Based on the beloved novels by Michael Bond, Paddington follows the misadventures of a young Peruvian bear who travels to London in search of a home. The movie is rated PG for mild action and humor.

"Paddington is absolutely, positively delightful," said Bilge Ebiri with New York magazine, one of the critics whose review gave the film a 98 percent fresh rating on the Rotten Tomatoes website. "Sweet, charming, amusing, and classy," said Scott Weinberg with Nerdist. "The sort of movie kids will still love when they're old and cynical."

The film stars Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins, Julie Walters, and Nicole Kidman with the character of Paddington voiced by Collin Firth.

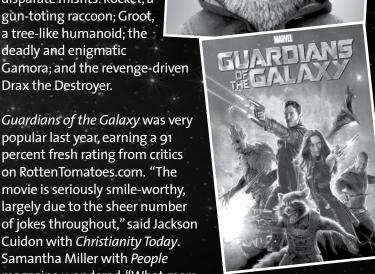
At about 8:45, Guardians of the Galaxy, starring Chris Pratt, will be shown on a large inflatable screen. Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of sci-fi violence and action and some language, the movie is an action-packed space adventure from Marvel that tells the story of Peter Quill and his quest to

save the galaxy from villainous Ronan the Accuser. To save the galaxy, Quill makes an uneasy alliance with a quartet of disparate misfits: Rocket, a gun-toting raccoon; Groot, a tree-like humanoid; the deadly and enigmatic Gamora; and the revenge-driven Drax the Destroyer.

popular last year, earning a 91 percent fresh rating from critics on RottenTomatoes.com. "The movie is seriously smile-worthy, largely due to the sheer number of jokes throughout," said Jackson Cuidon with Christianity Today. Samantha Miller with People magazine wondered: "What more

could a kid – or grown-up who's seen too many overly serious superhero movies - ask for?"

Movies Under the Stars is free and open to the public. Bring chairs, blankets, and snacks. No alcohol may be brought into the park, but food and beverages, including beer and wine, may be purchased from Town Center merchants.



PADDÎNGTO

MOREUPCOMINGEVENTS



Braves Game on the Green

Atlanta Braves vs. Philadelphia Phillies

AUGUST 1 • 5 PM

Town Center Park

Activities start @ 5 pm; first pitch scheduled @ 7 pm



Food Truck Friday

AUGUST 7 • 5:30-9:30PM

Town Center Park

Anticipated food truck line-up: Blaxican, Bollywood Zing, Five Finger Philly, Freckled and Blue, Hail Caesar, King of Pops, Mac the Cheese, Rey's Cuban Café, Tracy's Tasties, Viet-Nomie's, and Wow!

Musical line-up: Brent Daniel and Cody Marlowe & the Dead Flowers

Food Truck Friday

SEPTEMBER 4 • 5:30-9:30PM

Town Center Park

Anticipated food truck line-up: Atlanta Burger Truck, Blaxican, Bustin' Butts, Chay J's New Orleans Candies, Down the Bayou Cajun Cuisine, Fry Guy, King of Pops, Nana G's Chicken and Waffles, Pressed for Time, SnoBayou, Tasting Maine, and Yumbii.

Musical line-up: The Alatrio and The Dirty Souls

'For the Love of Suwanee' essay excerpts guaranteed to make you

The City of Suwanee has embraced "For the Love of Suwanee" as its unofficial motto for 2015. The theme was first used when For the Love of Cities author Peter Kageyama visited in March and hosted community-empowering workshops. In May, the theme was part of Art on a Limb. The thing is, you can never get too much mileage out of a good theme. So...the Suwanee Fest planning committee is carrying "For the Love of Suwanee" forward as the theme for this year's festival parade.

The committee recently invited area middle schoolers to muse on the topic via an essay contest. The highly coveted prize at stake? The opportunity to be one of this year's parade grand marshals.

Three winners were selected from among the 21 essays received, of which six were from Hull Middle School, one from a homeschooler, and the rest from North Gwinnett Middle School.

Connects thought that you'd enjoy reading excerpts from some of the essays. We dare you not to smile as you read these!



Here's what the winners had to say on the topic of "For the Love of Suwanee":

"We are so big for such a small community....
Suwanee is a place you can trust, a place that is reliable and somewhere that the unexpected happens in the best way.... Being a member of this community is like being on a nonstop roller-coaster ride in a big amusement park...and you will never want to get off this ride!"

- Iman Poyan, rising 8th grader, NGMS

"Going to festivals and watching parades was something I had never done before. Playing in the parks especially the one created by the community (my sister and I always called it the cow park) made me see how everyone is a friend to everyone else here.... Suwanee Town Center will always be one of my favorite things about Suwanee. The long paths that you can walk around and around on for hours, the water fountain, the stage, and all of the tiny shops surrounding it make up a place that has filled me with memories."

- Sarah Larkin, rising 8th grader, NGMS

"The City of Suwanee is the wonderful place I get to call home. This is where I was born and this is where I hope my children will grow up....

So, yes, we might be a small town, but our hearts make up for it. We come together to do amazing things and are proud to continue to strengthen this family and community."

- Ramey Salyer, rising 8th grader, NGMS

And here are a few priceless reflections from some of the other essays received:

"...[P]eople also love Suwanee because it's fun! Suwanee always has something to do in our many parks. One of my favorite spots is Town Center.... The fountain is like a magnet to kids of all ages. If you go to Suwanee Town Center, planning to just walk by the fountain, sometimes you still will get wet. I know, it's happened to me!"

- Sophia Sanders, rising 7th grader, NGMS



"From the glimmering sun reflecting off the impeccable grass at Town Center Park to the countless books to explore in everyone's beloved library, Suwanee is the perfect place for anyone to call home.... Every summer, I spend hours and hours in the Suwanee library enjoying a captivating book in a quiet nook. (There is no corner in my house that is quiet, I've tried everywhere.)"

- Maya Chande, rising 8th grader, NGMS

"Though outsiders may see our city as just another typical suburban town, I see it as a tightly knit neighborhood full of friends and family.... I could travel the world and find thousands of towns with parks and fountains and fancy buildings, but not one of them would have a community quite like ours, quite as close and familiar."

- Alexandra Ames, rising 8th grader, NGMS

"Suwanee welcomed us with open arms when we first moved here two years ago. Astoundingly, it wasn't even 24 hours since we got the keys to our new house when our neighbor asked us if we wanted to have dinner at her house since we had few supplies in our new house. That was our first taste of Suwanee's hospitality and warmth.... Suwanee brings together the best of urban buzz and rural peace, resulting in uniquely beautiful surroundings."

- Khushi Mehta, rising 8th grader, NGMS



"Now I can start this essay about all the interesting and fascinating things in Suwanee such as the wild concerts and getting an excellent education or I can talk about the meaningful things. When we moved to Suwanee [in 2006], it felt as if I fell into a parallel universe. Every day we were very happy to wake up and smell the fresh air with the bees buzzing in the air hopping from flower to flower. Everything was very calm, no more fights, no more arguing, just peaceful conversation.... We had never ever been this close to each other but when we found Suwanee it was like the glue that held us together."

- Sahir Hamirani, rising 7th grader, Hull Middle

"I love the geyser-like fountains at the park. I love the smell looming through my nostrils with a mix of wet grass, dogs, and the grease from Mellow Mushroom."

- Connor Simmons, rising 7th grader, Hull Middle

"Ah! Suwanee is a place of true beauty. With World Class schools and an entire Town Center devoted purely to having fun, it's not hard to see why.... This kind of goldilocks perfection doesn't happen everywhere, but it sure does happen here."

- Tejas Shah, rising 7th grader, Hull Middle



Help kick off Suwanee Fest: March (or roll) in the parade

Calling bands, orchestras, school groups, and community organizations: Sign up online by September 9 to participate in this year's Suwanee Fest parade, the traditional kick-off to Suwanee's annual two-day celebration of community.

Applications are available at **suwaneefest.com**. Please be aware that registration may close earlier than September 9 should the parade become full.

This year, the parade is moving back to an earlier start time, kicking festivities off at 9 a.m. Saturday, September 19. The theme for the parade is "For the Love of Suwanee," and middle school essay contest winners, who waxed eloquent on that theme, will serve as grand marshals. North Gwinnett Middle School students Sarah Larkin, Iman Poyan, and Ramey Salyer were selected as winners and will ride at the head of this year's parade.

Please note that a mandatory meeting will be held for all parade participants at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 17, at City Hall. Additional information and parade guidelines are available at suwaneefest.com.

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.



Photo by Scott Quady



The approximately one-mile parade route starts out heading north along Main Street, then travels along Suwanee Dam to Buford Highway, ending at Town Center Park.



Winning logo captures festival fun and energy

As principal of her own graphic design firm, Alexis Sullivan specializes in brand development and corporate identity. So when the opportunity to participate in the 2015 Suwanee Fest logo competition came about, she knew her design needed to evoke the creativity, fun, and energy of the festival itself.

"I just wanted to create something vibrant and colorful so that people would be attracted to the event and inquire more about it," says Sullivan, winner of the 2015 Suwanee Fest design competition. Sullivan's design will be featured in Suwanee Fest marketing materials and on t-shirts worn by volunteers throughout the September 19 and 20 festival. The logoed shirts also will be available for purchase at Suwanee Fest.

Sullivan's winning design, one of three she submitted, was selected from among the 51 entries received in the annual design competition, which this year is promoting a theme of "For the Love of Suwanee."

A Pittsburgh native and daughter of two artists, Sullivan moved to the Atlanta area with her family as a 5-year-old. She received a bachelor's degree in communication design from Atlanta College of Art. She spent several years working for in-town advertising and design agencies before opening her own business, Base A Design (baseadesign.com), in 2004.

She moved to Suwanee in 2005. "I love living in Suwanee," she says. "It's definitely changed my expectations of being in the suburbs. It's opened my eyes as far as that there can be diversity and culture outside of the big city."

Sullivan says that she's never really had the time to participate in the Suwanee Fest design competition previously, but this year she had a free weekend and decided to take a shot. "I wanted to capture the energy of the whole festival weekend," she says.

Sullivan received \$500 as winner of the contest and will ride in the Suwanee Fest parade along with her 6- and 9-year-old.

I just wanted to create something vibrant and colorful so that people would be attracted to the event and inquire more about it.

"



for the love of suwanee



Open for business

The following businesses received new licenses from the City of Suwanee in May and June:

- Beautiful Cleaner 3320 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- Caffebene 3131 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- Cloud7 Vapor 315 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
- Durkin Electric 300 Shawnee North Drive
- Flaunt Photography 1495 Buford Highway
- GPS Services
 145 Satellite Boulevard
- Great Western Textile 1008 Industrial Court
- Haven Design Works 300 Shawnee North Drive
- International Concepts 470 Satellite Boulevard
- Liberty Mutual Insurance Company 3011 Sutton Gate Drive
- Metalubs Americas Corp 3635 Burnette Park Drive
- Residences at McGinnis Ferry 4021 McGinnis Ferry Road
- Peachtree Pediatric Urgent Care 1120 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
- Prospect Mortgage 3725 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- Salon Ava
 3675 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- SkinnyLabb
 530 Highland Station Drive
- ST Solutions
 3725 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- System Connections 470 Satellite Boulevard
- Tang USA 3645 Burnette Park Drive
- Two Maids & A Mop 530 Highland Station Drive
- Welch Auto 4411 Suwanee Dam Road

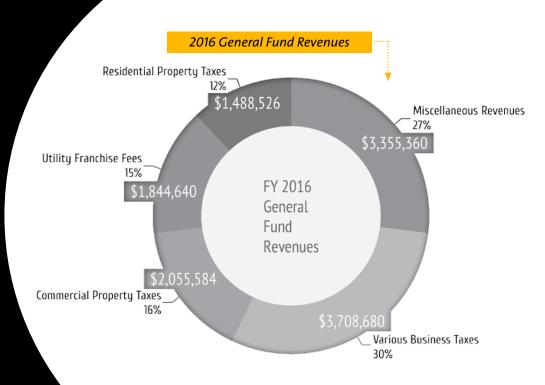


Budget: Suwanee begins new fiscal year... continued from page 1

"There are no surprises in this year's budget," says Financial Services Director Amie Sakmar. "When we look over our projections, we find that our revenues are coming in pretty much as predicted and our spending has been well planned also. There's not been any unexpected growth in expenditures."

As part of a fourth-quarter adjustment to the FY2015 budget, City Council also approved at its June 24 meeting a \$1.5 million transfer to capital project funds. This transfer, says Sakmar, is part of Suwanee's pay-as-you-go financing for future capital projects.

In addition, Council adopted a \$34.9 million five-year Capital Improvement Plan. Transportation projects, including redevelopment of Buford Highway, road resurfacing, and additional sidewalks, account for 60 percent, or about \$21 million, of the anticipated expenditures for these long-term capital projects.





Computer classes for seniors

Fall registration for **Gwinnett SenioR Learning Center computer classes** will be available from 10-11 a.m. Thursday, September 16, at the George Pierce Park Community Center, 55 Buford Highway. Most classes are slated to begin the following week. Registration is available online as well at **gsrlc.org**, where you can also find a schedule of classes and workshops. For more information, call 770-564-4699.

Councilmember earns certificate of achievement

Councilmember **Doug Ireland** received a Certificate of Achievement from the Georgia Municipal Training Institute at the Georgia Municipal Association's (GMA) annual convention in Savannah June 29. The Certificate of Achievement is awarded to city officials who complete a minimum of 72 credits. The training institute is a cooperative effort of GMA and the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government.



connections of

Trees make good neighbors

A Village Grove resident reports that during a recent visit to Suwanee her out-of-state sister commented several times about how much she appreciated the sidewalks and street trees, neither of which exists in her North Carolina neighborhood. These amenities, which make neighborhoods more attractive and safer for pedestrians, are an integral part of the City of Suwanee's neighborhood development philosophy.

Since 2000, the City has required that developers of new neighborhoods include sidewalks on both sides of the roadway as well as street trees planted in City rights-of-way. More than 3,200 street trees are now providing shade and subliminally encouraging drivers to slow down in a dozen Suwanee neighborhoods. Studies indicate that the trees not only look nice, they also enhance home values.

The City of Suwanee relies on the cooperation and assistance of citizens and homeowner associations to maintain the street tree program. No trees in City right-of-way areas (the area between the sidewalk and street in neighborhoods) may be removed without permission from the City of Suwanee. To do so is actually considered destruction of government property, a felony.

If a street tree in front of your house is dead, dying, or appears to be diseased, contact the City Planner Dan Robinson at drobinson@suwanee.com or 770-945-8996.







upcoming events

official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia

A August

1	Suwanee Farmers Market (TCP)	8am-noon
1	Game on the Green:	
	Braves vs. Phillies (TCP)	5pm
4	Planning & Zoning Commission	6:30pm
5	Public Arts Commission	6pm
7	Food Truck Friday (TCP)	5:30pm
8	Suwanee Farmers Market (TCP)	8am-noon
8	August Concert & Wing Fest (TCP)	5-10pm
10	Harvest Farm Managing Board	5pm
10	Suwanee Fest Planning Committee	6:30pm
13	City Council Workshop	5:30pm
15	Gwinnett Road Race & Skylar's Run (TCP)	8am
15	Suwanee Farmers Market (TCP)	8am-noon
18	Downtown Development Authority	7:30am
18	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30pm
22	Thin Mint Sprint 5K/1M (TCP)	8am
22	Suwanee Farmers Market (TCP)	8am-noon
25	City Council Meeting	6:30pm
29	Suwanee Farmers Market (TCP)	8am-noon
29	Movies Under the Stars	

September

	_	
1	Planning & Zoning Commission	6:30pm
2	Public Arts Commission	6pm
4	Food Truck Friday (TCP)	5:30pm
5	Suwanee Farmers Market (TCP)	8am-noon
7	Holiday: City Hall Closed	
10	City Council Workshop	5:30pm
10	Suwanee Fest Parade Meeting	6:30pm
12	Suwanee Fest Classic 5K & 10K (TCP)	8am
12	Suwanee Farmers Market (TCP)	8am-noon
14	Harvest Farm Managing Board	5pm
14	Suwanee Fest Planning Committee	6:30pm
15	Downtown Development Authority	7:30am
15	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30pm
19	Suwanee Fest (TCP)	9am-7pm
20	Suwanee Fest (TCP)	12-5pm
22	City Council Meeting	6:30pm
26	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 for updates.

City of Suwanee Georgia

Double Feature (TCP)

MAYOR Jimmy Burnette
COUNCIL Dan Foster
Dick Goodman
Beth Hilscher
Doug Ireland
Linnea Miller

770/945-3492 678/404-9641 678/446-7520 678/546-3388 770/265-0880 678/592-4150

7pm

CITY MANAGER Marty Allen 770/945-8996
POLICE CHIEF Mike Jones 770/945-8995
EDITOR Lynne Bohlman DeWilde 770/945-8996