

Suwanee connects

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Help create that vibrant community you want to live in

Two messages that author and bottom-up community development guru Peter Kageyama hammers home in his book *For the Love of Cities* are that little things matter a lot and that creative, innovative, and engaged citizens are essential to producing vibrant, lovable communities. Kageyama will explore these topics and inspire residents to work together to make Suwanee even more loveable when he visits March 23-25.

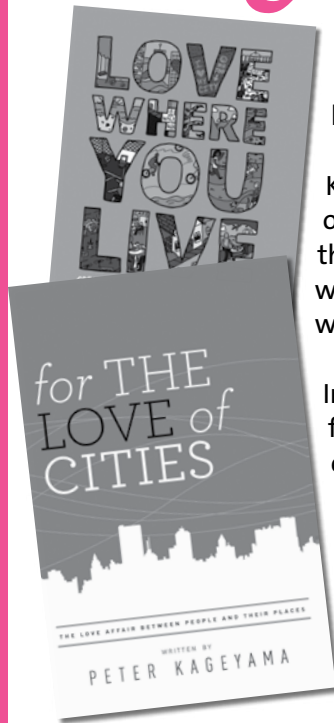
Kageyama will make several presentations to community leaders, City officials, and Suwanee's partners in place-making over the course of his three-day Suwanee visit. On Tuesday, March 24, he will host a community workshop to which all Suwanee residents are invited. This free workshop will be from 2-5 p.m. at the George Pierce Park Community Center.

In addition to discussing what people love about Suwanee and strategies for how to increase citizens' emotional engagement with their community, Kageyama will challenge participants to come up with small, inexpensive ideas that will make Suwanee more lovable.

In his 2011 book, Kageyama outlines a city hierarchy, similar to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, that posits that once a community's "basic" needs of function (e.g., potholes are repaired expeditiously) and safety are met, citizens aspire to live in places that provide social interaction, are interesting and unique, and offer meaningfulness.

Kageyama goes on to say that what citizens hate about where they live are big things (crime, blight, traffic, etc.), but what they love about them tend to be small things, chairs and tables in Times Square or Town Center Park, for example, or shade structures at the playgrounds.

Kageyama notes in *For the Love of Cities*: "Cities are not directly responsible for being fun. Certainly they play a huge role in facilitating fun, but ultimately fun comes from the people who live in the community. The city may be a squelcher of that fun, or it can figure out how to nurture, support, and maybe even amplify the fun being produced by its citizens.... [T]he city is a venue, a stage, a



playground, a canvas, a meeting place, and a market as well as its other more traditional definitions.

“Simply put,” he adds, “government alone cannot create the vibrant cities we want to live in.”

Originally from Akron, Ohio, Kageyama is “a recovering attorney” (with a law degree from Case Western Reserve University), bass guitar player, and founder of a web development firm. His career path took another direction in 2003 when he met Richard Florida, author of *The Creative Class*. Since then, he has travelled the world learning and speaking about issues related to local community development, talent attraction and retention, and creative industries development.

In December, Kageyama published a new book, *Love Where You Live: Creating Emotionally Engaging Places*, which offers practical steps that community leaders, official and unofficial, can use to create that engaging community.

Food, music, & fun highlight City's 2015 event calendar

A total of 46 events, including 19 runs/walks, six Food Truck Fridays, numerous traditional favorites, and several new events are sprinkled throughout the City of Suwanee's 2015 calendar. Each event brings 300-55,000 participants to Town Center Park or other Suwanee locations.

The first new event of the year, the Suwanee Gateway Half Marathon, was completed January 31 and planning for the 2016 13.1-mile run is already underway. Other new events include the Big Cheesy Festival on April 18, Chili Cook-Off on May 2, Melanoma Awareness event on May 31, and Alive! Expo on October 24. The full calendar of new and returning events is available on the What's New/Events page at suwanee.com.

Suwanee's very popular Food Truck Fridays are back the first Friday of the month April-October, with the exception of July. Also back are favorites such as Suwanee Beer Fest on March 14, Woofstock on May 9, Arts in the Park May 16, and Taste of Suwanee October 10.

Broadway in the Park returns to the Town Center stage July 24 and 25 with performances of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. Suwanee Fest, the community's two-day “celebration of community,” will be September 19 and 20.

Here are a few changes to the 2015 events calendar:

- The Suwanee Farmers Market, which opens May 2, will be Saturdays only this year; there will be no Tuesday afternoon markets. The market will be open 8 am-noon Saturdays through October 3.
- The Memorial Day weekend kick-off event is being reworked and tentatively will be rebranded as Red, White, Bluegrass & Bach.
- All Movies under the Stars presentations – on June 6, July 18, and August 29 – will be double-features this year.
- Repeating changes that were implemented last year, the August concert will include a wing festival component and Suwanee's Jolly Holly-day Celebration will be held in Town Center Park.



Community Workshop

It's a community love fest – and a lot more!

Tuesday, March 24
George Pierce Park
Community Center
Join us @2pm
(We'll end promptly @5)
IT'S FREE!



- Meet and interact with *For the Love of Cities* author Peter Kageyama
- Discuss what makes Suwanee a great place to live
- Think small! Generate realistic and easily implemented ideas that will make Suwanee even better
- Get energized, get engaged, and love where you live!

RSVP by March 17 to
love@suwanee.com

City kicks off 2015 with two major planning efforts

The City of Suwanee started the new year in high gear, kicking off two major planning efforts – an update of the Downtown Master Plan and a new Public Art Master Plan. Both planning efforts could have transformative effects on the Suwanee community.

This is the City's second update to the Downtown Master Plan, which originally was adopted in 2002 and last updated in 2009. The 2002 plan was the first planning effort that called for creation of a town center at Buford Highway and Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road.

This Downtown Master Plan update, which will include a market analysis, design charrette for a yet-to-be-identified target area, and other opportunities for public input, is designed to determine the kinds of development that will be appropriate for downtown and to position the City to be eligible for grant funds related to transportation projects associated with future development.

"The original Downtown Master Plan," says Planning Director Josh Campbell, "was one of the biggest factors in transforming Suwanee into what it is today. Hopefully, this update will have similar transformative effects. As the economy is picking up, we anticipate significant development opportunities over the next several years. Downtown Suwanee is by no means a finished product and we're looking forward to broadly programming additional pedestrian-oriented, mixed uses in the area while respecting the character of what we already have."

In addition to considering specific development opportunities in the downtown area, the plan will focus on transportation, open space, and connectivity. The area in the study covers Town Center and Old Town and includes the entire Downtown Development Authority area, which roughly runs from Suwanee Creek to just southeast of Peachtree Industrial



Photo By Michael Howard

Boulevard and from McGinnis Ferry to Suwanee Dam, extending to Suwanee Estates and up to George Pierce Park.

The City has hired TSW, an Atlanta-based planning and architecture firm who also designed the Suwanee police training center in the Gateway area, as lead consultant for the Downtown Master Plan update. TSW has experience on dozens of similar planning efforts around metro Atlanta.

Suwanee's update is already underway and is expected to be adopted late this year by City Council. There will be several opportunities for public participation and input as the planning effort moves forward; check suwanee.com for updated information.

Efforts related to the Public Art Master Plan are expected to get underway early this spring. This plan will determine how best to take Suwanee's public art initiative to the next level.

"After implementing our public art initiative six years ago," says Assistant City Manager Denise Brinson, "we felt that a master plan was the next logical step in order to move our program to the next level. We'll be creating a 5-10-year plan that focuses on appropriate locations for future displays, funding alternatives, and maintenance of the City's current and future collection."

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Give us your 2¢ and more!

Public Meeting & Visual Preference Survey
Part of the Downtown Master Plan Update
Thursday, March 5
Visit suwanee.com for time and location

The public is encouraged to attend and participate!

Suwanee Principals for a Day get an education

With a day of total immersion – which resulted, we might also add, in total exhaustion – four members of the City of Suwanee team got a real education in November in what it takes to be a principal at a school in one of the nation’s top school districts.

Hosted by Gwinnett County Schools and the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, the program is designed to acquaint county business and community leaders with the real-world work of principals and provide a glimpse at some of the exciting learning opportunities being provided in Gwinnett schools. Across the county, approximately 130 individuals participated in the 2014 program.

Below is a glimpse into the day – and insights – of the City of Suwanee’s Principals for a Day.



Roberts Elementary School

Principal: Dr. Dion Jones

Principal for a Day: Councilmember Dick Goodman

Emily Dickinson said: “Hope is the thing with feathers.” After my Principal for a Day experience I can say that “hope is our children and our schools.” And when I say schools I don’t mean the bricks and steel of the buildings. I’m talking about the teachers, counselors, staff, and principal. In November, I had the privilege of accompanying Dr. Dion Jones, principal of Roberts Elementary, on what was, except for my trailing along every step of the way, his typical day at school.

And throughout this day, what stood out to me was the joy of learning that I saw in the students’ faces and heard in their voices. I still remember my days in elementary school, but I don’t remember looking or sounding as excited about learning as these kids were. In one third-grade reading class I asked a student what he was reading. He patiently explained the story to me. He was confident and clear about what he’d read and what it meant. And most importantly, he was anxious to get back to it. I moved on.

The day started in Jones’ office reviewing the schedule for the day, which included a tornado drill and lunch with about a dozen fifth-graders. During the meeting, a counselor came in with a fifth-grade girl who wanted to report a problem that she had identified in the girls’ restrooms. She described the problem clearly and concisely and proposed a solution. I listened intently as she did so with a poise and confidence that I wouldn’t have expected of an 11- or 12-year-old. Jones responded by thanking her and agreeing that her solution made sense. He assured her that he would follow through on it and added that it was something that could be applied throughout the Gwinnett County school system. He also took the opportunity to reinforce his message to students that they have the power to fix things they feel needs fixing and that their concerns and needs are important and would be heard.

This idea was further reinforced during our lunch meeting with a dozen or so “peer leaders,” fifth-graders who regularly meet with Jones to discuss issues that are important to students. At this session, they met over pizza to decide as a group what was



North Gwinnett Middle School

Principal: Wanda Law

Principal for a Day: Councilmember Linnea Miller

“Today is your day to be a leader at North Gwinnett Middle School.” With this daily charge, Georgia Principal of the Year Wanda Law sets the standard of excellence for her more than 2,100 students.

When I was informed that I was selected to serve as Principal for a Day at North Gwinnett Middle School, I felt as if I had won the lottery. I have been a huge fan of NGMS since three of my children attended and graduated from this school in recent years. I knew, from a parent’s perspective, how the school’s excellent academics and positive learning environment had prepared my kids well for high school. Today would be a unique opportunity for me to get an “insider” view of this award-winning school that had prepared my kids for success.

I quickly discovered that “leadership” wasn’t just a vague ideal

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Suwanee Elementary School

Principal: Dr. Michele Smith

Principal for a Day: Councilmember Doug Ireland

It's such an honor to participate along with other business professionals and civic leaders throughout the county in such an inspirational event. For the second year now, I've had the privilege as Principal for a Day of visiting one of our Gwinnett County elementary schools. This year at Suwanee Elementary, I was given the opportunity to read to several classes, answer questions from students, and talk with teachers and staff members.

The one word I would use to describe our teachers is "passionate." I can't think of another group of individuals who care more about the outcomes of their jobs than teachers do. It's a pleasure to see the spirit of the folks who are training our children.



As much as I would love to think that I gave something to the children to whom I read and talked to throughout the day, the truth is that they gave me something that is way more valuable: A chance to be part of their lives for a day and a chance to feel the love and excitement that our Gwinnett County teachers exude each day.

Thank you Gwinnett County Public Schools for creating and implementing such a wonderful program! I can't wait to do it again next year.



Lanier High School

Principal: Dr. Reuben Gresham

Principal for a Day: Public Information Officer Lynne DeWilde

As I shadowed Dr. Reuben Gresham in meetings and classrooms and throughout the halls of Lanier High School, topics of conversation included parental concerns, teacher evaluations, the upcoming severe weather drill, and student testing. A few months from now I won't be able to recall any of the details related to those topics, but what will remain with me forever are an insight into and an appreciation for the depth of caring demonstrated by Lanier's teachers and administrators for their students, and not just for their students' grades, but for their overall well-being.

As we strolled through the hallways, there wasn't a student, teacher, or staff member that Gresham didn't greet – nor a small piece of trash that he didn't pick up. Sometimes the greeting to students was "Where are you coming from?" or "Why aren't you in class?" and, believe me, Gresham, a former Army ranger, won't accept a shrugging "I don't know" as an answer. At 2:10 p.m. at the end of the students' day, Gresham stood near the school's front doors, making eye contact with individuals among the sea of exiting students and telling them repeatedly: "Have a good one." Then he exited the school and waved as each bus pulled away with "his" kids.

But though Gresham and I had started this day at 6:30 a.m., he, at least, was only about two-thirds of the way through his work day. (Gresham typically works until 6 p.m. and often later than that if there is a meeting or school activity in the evening.) Next up for us was the school's American Education Week reception and recognition of Lanier's Teacher of the Year winner and finalists.

Three teachers were being recognized, and a student as well as a colleague offered comments about each of them before they themselves spoke. Maybe it had been a really long day



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Ride along with one of Suwanee's finest



Behind the badge Meet Richard Pope and several other Suwanee police officers through the upcoming Citizens Police Academy.

Suwanee's Citizens Police Academy allows residents a better understanding of the day-to-day functions of police officers as well as an opportunity to patrol Suwanee's streets alongside an officer. The next academy will be offered Monday evenings March 6-May 11. Classes will be from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Suwanee Police Training Center, 2966 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road.

Applications for the Citizens Police Academy are available at suwanee.com. Notarized applications are due Friday, February 27.

The academy offers classroom training and hands-on experiences in crime scene processing, traffic stops, building searches, crime prevention, and narcotics identification and provides an understanding of the risks and responsibilities of officers. The program is designed to open and maintain communication between citizens and the police department.

Classes are free and open to the public, but space is limited and preference is given to Suwanee residents or those who work in the City of Suwanee. A criminal history and driver history background is required for all applicants. For additional information, contact Theresa Miranda at tmiranda@suwanee.com or 770-904-7669.



Stellar staff service

Several City of Suwanee workers earned top billing for their consistent outstanding service during the City's Employee Recognition Night on December 11. Nominated by their co-workers, six employees were recognized for exemplary service that underscores one of the City's four anchor qualities:

- Court Services Administrator Mariza Abdeljawad – Visionary
- Equipment Operator Calvin Dailey – Unique
- Accounting Analyst Trinity Hsu – Remarkable
- Officer Julian Lee-Foon – Suwanee Quality
- Office Administrator Robyn O'Donnell – Remarkable
- Administrative Services Director Elvira Rogers – Suwanee Quality

Several other employees were recognized for receiving compliments from customers – including citizens and other staff members – and exceeding service expectations:

- Events Manager Amy Doherty
- Deputy Court Clerk Angie Garcia
- Communications Officer Brenda Hardy
- Communications Officer Maggi Harwood
- Communications Officer Maureen Lattimore
- Officer Jonathan Poole
- Communications Officer Michelle Shepard
- Officer Kevin Skinner

The Suwanee Police Department also presented its annual awards. Ofc. Chance Belcher was voted Officer of the Year by his colleagues, and Communications Officer Maggi Harwood was selected as Civilian of the Year. The Chief's Award went to Sgt. Susan Roetzer for her work in revamping the field training program and to Det. Robert Stevens for equipping the criminal investigation division's new crime scene/incident command van, for which he also received a Merit Award. Ofc. Jonathan Poole was the 2014 top gun, scoring highest during annual range testing.

Several officers also received Merit Awards:

- Sgt. Robert Thompson and Det. Michael Troutman for their work on entering auto cases in June.
- Sgt. Robert Thompson and Capt. Cass Mooney for obtaining technological tools that allow the criminal investigation division to conduct cyber investigations.
- Ofc. Elton Hassell issued more than 2,300 citations and made 25 misdemeanor arrests in 2014.
- Cpl. Kevin Skinner, Ofc. Cindy Watts, and Sgt. Susan Roetzer made an arrest related to making meth and heroin and seized \$1,298 in cash.
- Cpl. Simon Byun, Sgt. Dwayne Black, Cpl. Sam Lauricella, and Ofc. Wes Edwards helped find missing children off of Burnette Road in July.
- Ofc. Keith Kerr, Ofc. Clint Latham, Ofc. Gabriel Bunch, Sgt. Nick Jacobs, and Sgt. Susan Roetzer were recognized for their work during an incident in which a suspect barricaded himself in a hotel room.



Farmers wanted

The season of fresh produce, lovely flowers, and yummy baked goods returns to Suwanee when the City's Farmers Market opens on Saturday, May 2. The market is in search of farmers, herb and flower growers, butchers, bakers, jams and soap makers, and others to participate in its 11th season. Vendor applications are due March 30.

"The Suwanee Farmers Market has a loyal customer and farmer base," notes Suwanee Events Manager Amy Doherty. "Our market is almost as much a social event as it is an opportunity to access locally grown produce and a variety of other items, such as salsa, honey, eggs and meat, and baked goods."

The Suwanee Farmers Market does not accept arts and crafts, non-licensed products, or produce re-sold from other markets. Visit suwanee.com for additional guidelines and an application.

Vendors who have been part of the Suwanee Farmers Market for less than two years are required to attend the annual Farmers Market meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, March 30, at Suwanee City Hall, 330 Town Center Avenue. In addition, all farmers may be subject to facility inspections by the market manager.

The Suwanee Farmers Market will be open from 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays, May 2-October 3, at Town Center Park. The City of Suwanee will not host Tuesday markets this year.

Your creativity + Suwanee Fest could = \$500!

The winning creator of the 2015 Suwanee Fest theme logo, which will be used on official festival t-shirts and marketing posters, will receive \$500. The theme for the 2015 festival, to be celebrated September 19 and 20, is "For the love of Suwanee."

The competition is open to professional and amateur designers of all ages. Designs may be hand-drawn or computer-generated. Entries should be submitted in printed and electronic format. The deadline for submission is May 1. See suwanee.com or suwanee.com for additional guidelines and an entry form.

“
The Suwanee
Farmers Market has a
loyal
customer
and farmer base.
”

Suwanee Fest is the community's annual two-day fall celebration. The award-winning festival includes arts and crafts exhibitors, children's rides and activities, and on-stage entertainment. Last year, approximately 55,000 people attended the festival at Town Center Park. For more information, visit suwanee.com.



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Follow us, engage with us & get the latest news. Look for City of Suwanee Government on Facebook and @CityofSuwanee on Twitter and Instagram.



City kicks off 2015 with two major planning efforts continued from page 3

Public input through the 20/20 Vision strategic plan, adopted two years ago, indicated support for Suwanee's public art initiative. This Public Art Master Plan will focus on how to most effectively, efficiently, and creatively implement public art efforts in the community.



Council is expected to consider adoption of the Public Art Master Plan sometime this fall.

In developing this plan the City will work with Todd Bressi, a Philadelphia-based urban designer, and Meridith McKinley, a public art planning and programming professional in St. Louis.

Public input opportunities will be available as the planning process moves forward. City

Suwanee Principals for a Day get an education North Gwinnett Middle School Principal: Wanda Law Principal for a Day: Councilmember Linnea Miller continued from page 4

at NGMS, but rather an ethic, a core value, that started with Principal Law's morning charge.

Our day began with those morning announcements, which were very different from the muffled PA system that I recall from when I was in school. I joined Law in a full-fledged student-operated studio, where 12- and 13-year-olds were operating cameras and production equipment as well as the programming both on and off camera.



This was their day to be a leader...

Following our leadership charge, Ms. Law whisked me off to meet with an inspiring group of student leaders. These bright student council officers had just returned from a trip to the state Capitol, and they eagerly shared their experiences with me and asked intelligent and informed questions about my government role with the City of Suwanee.

Later, as Law and I walked through the schools hallways, it was obvious that she had a good rapport with her students. She would pause and shake their hands, look them in the eyes, and speak to them by name. They were eager to share with her about a current project, an assignment they were working on, or what they had done over the past weekend. What struck me most was that many of these encounters were student initiated. Dozens of young people came up to us throughout the day, confident and with an extended hand, to welcome me to their school with pride. This was their day to be a leader, and they took that charge seriously.

The highlight of my day had to be visiting several of the self-contained special education classrooms where I met with caring teachers and was surprised to encounter peer leaders working and playing alongside students with disabilities. The genuine friendship and camaraderie was inspiring.

North Gwinnett Middle students proved themselves throughout the day to be intelligent and capable young people who, I am confident, will be quality leaders of tomorrow. But leadership doesn't wait for tomorrow at North Gwinnett Middle School. It begins today.

Help keep Suwanee artsy

The 2013-15 Suwanee SculpTour exhibit is going away at the end of March, but that doesn't mean that some of the pieces can't stay in the community, adding to Suwanee's colorful and cultural landscape. At least one piece will be purchased by the Public Arts Commission. Other current SculpTour pieces are available for sale; purchasers might install a piece of art at their business or donate it back to the City for display on public property.



The 2015-17 SculpTour exhibit, Suwanee's walkable art encounter in and around Town Center, will open as part of the Arts in the Park festival on May 16. SculpTour is funded through private funds and donations. Sponsorship offers a unique way to get one's business noticed while also supporting the community.

If you're interested in keeping a favorite piece of SculpTour art permanently in Suwanee or helping to bring new pieces to Suwanee as a sponsor of the 2015-17 exhibit, contact Assistant City Manager Denise Brinson at denise@suwanee.com or 770-945-8996.

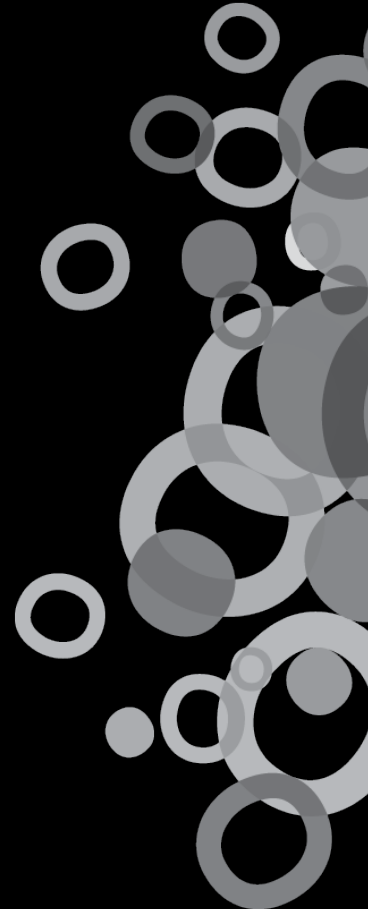


Open for business

The following businesses received new licenses from the City of Suwanee during the last quarter of 2014.

- **Art Academy**
80 Horizon Drive
- **Autoworx**
4411 Suwanee Dam Road
- **Beauty by Bre**
3725 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- **Bremen Autowerks**
910 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
- **Cellairis**
3245 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- **Cheers 2 U**
80 Horizon Drive
- **Country Financial**
315 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
- **Cross RF Solutions**
3695 Burnette Park Drive
- **The Curry Pot**
3370 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- **Down the Bayou Cajun Cuisine***
3635 Burnette Park Drive
- **Dr. Jennifer McCoy, DDS**
3930 Charleston Market Street
- **Esther Beauty Salon**
45 Satellite Boulevard
- **Flava**
3103 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- **Georgia Fitness of Suwanee**
3131 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- **Guardian Healthcare**
3477 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- **Healthy Body & Soul**
3461 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- **Kick Start Gym**
50 Satellite Boulevard
- **Love That Jerk***
3635 Burnette Park Drive
- **MetroPCS**
3255 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- **Misook Design**
3580 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- **Motorsports Auto Group**
4411 Suwanee Dam Road
- **Nail Gallery**
45 Old Peachtree Road
- **Rose Acupuncture and Herbs**
530 Highland Station Drive
- **Shercan Remodeling Group**
970 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
- **The Spice Rack Atlanta***
3635 Burnette Park Drive
- **Sunrise of Hopes**
3681 Burnette Road
- **Suwanee Park Tavern**
340 Town Center Avenue
- **Swift**
715 Sable Crossing
- **Vida City**
401 Main Street
- **Weedman**
1019 Industrial Court
- **Wuri**
3630 Burnette Park Drive

**Business rents kitchen by the hour.*



Buford Highway resurfacing

The Georgia Department of Transportation is expected to resurface **Buford Highway** through Suwanee sometime this spring. Check the City of Suwanee website, suwanee.com, or the City's Facebook page for information related to any associated lane closures or delays.

Welcome to City Hall

Building Inspector **Wendell Mosley** joined the City of Suwanee in November. Mosley was employed for 15 years with the City of St. Louis as building inspector/code enforcement officer. He also served four years in the U.S. Navy. Mosley and his family currently live in Buford.



Moving on up

Denise Brinson, who has served as Suwanee's economic and community development director since 2008 and has worn many hats during her 17 years with the City of Suwanee, was promoted to assistant

city manager in December. Brinson will continue to oversee economic and community development efforts while also undertaking new and additional jobs citywide.

Brinson is a recognized regional leader, who has provided passionate, creative, and dedicated service to the City, says City Manager Marty Allen. "Denise's relentless drive and energy help keep Suwanee moving ahead and continually focusing on what can be done to make Suwanee better," he says. "Throughout the years, she and her team have played vital roles in creating, cultivating, and spreading Suwanee's culture and identity."

Before joining the City of Suwanee, Brinson worked for Florida Power Corporation in St. Petersburg. She has a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of South Florida and a master's degree in business administration from Florida Institute of Technology.



Get your hands dirty

Go ahead and get your hands dirty at the **Harvest Farm Community Garden**. A limited number of plots are still available for the 2015 growing season. The annual cost varies depending on the size of the plot; City of Suwanee residents/taxpayers receive a 25 percent discount on plot fees. To register, visit the Plots page at harvestfarmsuwanee.com.

Harvest Farm gardeners will have their annual meeting at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 7; this meeting, which includes a training session on preparing soil for planting, is open to the public. The class and meeting are free and will be held in the Crossroads/Municipal Court building at 323 Buford Highway.

In addition:

- Whole Foods Market on State Bridge Road hosted Community Giving Day on January 14 and is donating 5 percent of the day's sales to the garden. The donation will help support installation of a future orchard.
- Over the holiday season, Harvest Farm gardeners donated more than 300 cans of food to the Quinn House in Lawrenceville.

Computer classes for adults 50+

The **Gwinnett Senior Learning Center** will offer computer classes related to email, the Internet, photo editing, spreadsheets, and word processing to adults 50 and older at the George Pierce Park Community Center, 55 Buford Highway, this spring. Registration is available at gsrlc.org or in person from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday, March 18, at the community center. For more information, call 770-564-4699.

Foundation presents grants to six local schools

The **North Gwinnett Schools Foundation** has awarded \$30,000 in educational grants to fund 21 projects at schools in the North Gwinnett cluster. Projects funded will support photography classes, help expand the Java Dawg Café at the high school, promote creative writing, provide music stands for students in the middle school guitar ensemble, enrich the elementary science curriculum by providing for dissection exercises, and more.

Teachers who received grants through the foundation, a non-profit education booster club, are at North Gwinnett high and middle schools as well as Level Creek, Riverside, Roberts, and Suwanee elementary schools. The grants are a result of the foundation's annual Big T' Do fund-raising event, held in October.

Appointed to serve

At its December 16 meeting, City Council appointed resident **Michelle Budd** to a two-year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals and **Tim O'Brien** to a two-year term on the Public Arts Commission. In addition, several individuals were re-appointed to two-year terms in board positions in which they had previously served:

- **Stephen Kenney and Sara Kleinfeld to the Harvest Farm Managing Board**
- **Pete Charpentier and Anthony Manners to the Planning Commission**
- **Vickie Johnson, Berney Kirkland, and Lisa Winton to the Public Arts Commission**
- **Scott Auer to the Zoning Board of Appeals**
- **Alex Stone and Jerry Little to the Urban Redevelopment Authority**

It's in the bag

The City is offering new **Suwanee reusable bags** for residents. The bags, which feature the City of Suwanee logo and green sides and handles, are available for free at City Hall. The bags also will be handed out during many of the City's events this year.



connections

Roberts Elementary School

Principal: Dr. Dion Jones

*Principal for a Day: Councilmember Dick Goodman
continued from page 4*

good about Roberts, what needed fixing, and what they would like to leave behind as their legacy when they go on to North Gwinnett Middle. Again, the kids applied personal empowerment to address important matters that affected them. They all seemed wise beyond their years, even asking for more order and quiet in the cafeteria.

In addition to the enthusiasm for learning and experiences of empowerment, I saw how the school and its staff radiated an air of high expectations. Logos of colleges and universities bedecked the walls and ceilings of hallways and classrooms. And the school's colors, black and red, adorned its familiar mascot—a bulldog. All this together with classroom signs that identified each teacher's college or university sent a clear and not so subtle message...you're beginning a long educational journey here at Roberts Elementary. Down the road is college and a world of opportunity.

Lanier High School

Principal: Dr. Reuben Gresham

*Principal for a Day: Public Information Officer Lynne DeWilde
continued from page 5*

already, but something said about or by each of the teachers choked me up. It was so powerful to hear about their love and dedication for their students and their passion for their profession.

Among those being recognized was a Center for Design and Technology teacher who had shared with me earlier in the day that two of his students were pursuing patents for things they had created in his lab-classroom. What?! Another



teacher being recognized spoke about her misery as a student and how she had entered the teaching profession as "an act of defiance." I had spent about five minutes in her history class earlier in the day – plenty of time to realize that she was a truly engaging teacher.

I was completely exhausted and totally exhilarated by my Principal for a Day experience. I can assure you that if the commitment to learning and to students at all Gwinnett County schools is comparable to that of administrators and teachers at Lanier High School our children are indeed in good hands.

upcoming events

official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia

F February

- 3** Planning & Zoning Commission 6:30pm
- 4** Public Arts Commission 6pm
- 9** Harvest Farm Managing Board 4:30pm
- 9** Suwanee Fest Planning Committee 6:30pm
- 12** City Council Workshop 5:30pm
- 14** Suwanee Sweetheart Sprint (TCP) 9am
- 17** Downtown Development Authority 7:30am
- 17** Zoning Board of Appeals 6:30pm
- 24** City Council Meeting 6:30pm

M March

- 24** City Council Meeting 6:30pm
- 24** Peter Kageyama: For the Love of Suwanee (George Pierce Park Community Center) 2-5pm
- 28** Georgia SPCA Run for the Rescues 5K & Festival (TCP) 7am-4pm
- 30** Farmers Market Annual Meeting 7pm

M March

- 3** Planning & Zoning Commission 6:30pm
- 4** Public Arts Commission 6pm
- 7** Harvest Farm Annual Meeting 9-10:30am
- 9** Harvest Farm Managing Board 4:30pm
- 9** Suwanee Fest Planning Committee 6:30pm
- 12** City Council Workshop 5:30pm
- 14** Kiwanis Shamrock 5K (TCP) 7:30pm
- 14** Suwanee American Craft Beer Fest (TCP) 12-5pm
- 17** Downtown Development Authority 7:30am
- 17** Zoning Board of Appeals 6:30pm

A April

- 1** Public Arts Commission 6pm
- 3** Food Truck Friday (TCP) 5:30-9:30pm
- 4** Spring into Color Dash (TCP) 9am
- 5** Community Sunrise Service (TCP) 6:30am
- 11** SheMoves Atlanta Suwanee 5K (TCP) 8am
- 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

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**

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