





You'd Better Watch Out You'd Better **Not Cry**



Suwanee Half Marathon Returns



suwanee.com

november2017

Walkability in Suwanee:

What is it Good For?

The City of Suwanee is about to do something fairly extraordinary: They're going to leverage a Georgia DOT transportation project to help enhance and expand their downtown. Instead of simply widening Buford Highway, the city is planning to improve it in a way that focuses on walkability and context-sensitive downtown design thereby continuing the downtown experience started with Suwanee Town Center.

As Edwin Starr might have asked decades ago: "Walkability: What is it Good For?" The answer of course, is **NOT** absolutely nothing. In fact, it's often EVERYTHING.

The City of Suwanee is preparing to enhance Buford Highway from McGinnis Ferry Road to George Pierce Park with a design that creates a multi-modal experience on and along the roadway. Whereas conventional designs often make it uncomfortable for pedestrians to walk along roads like Buford Highway and result in car-centric commercial developments dominated by drive-through windows and expansive circular parking lots—this new design will feature wide sidewalks, bike lanes, street trees, and other features

that will facilitate future shops and homes located directly along the street edge of Buford Highway in a walkable downtown

form.

Previous articles in this series have explored the Buford Highway project from transportation, urban design, and other perspectives. As financial experts, we tend to look at the "dollars and sense" of decisions. Through years of work, what we have discovered is that walkability has enormous positive impacts on a community's financial status, stability, and well-being.

To understand the value of walkability, a Suwanee resident only has to look at Suwanee Town Center, Town Center, a public-private partnership that covers



IS COMING TO TOWN (CENTER)

The man, the myth, the legend is coming to Suwanee to light the Town Center tree, listen to Christmas wishes, and take photos with all the good little girls and boys at the City of Suwanee's annual Jolly Holly Day event on Friday, December 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Santa Claus will magically arrive to meet with children and families, while performances from Royal Dance Academy, local elementary school choruses, North Gwinnett Middle School Drama, and Sounds of Suwanee grace the stage. After lighting the Town Center Christmas tree at the end of the event, Santa will board his sleigh and return to the North Pole to prepare for his Christmas night journey!

Parents, be sure to bring cameras or phones to snap your own photos! Kids: DON'T



City Now Accepting Applications for Suwanee Youth Leaders

CLASS OF 2018

Now in its fifth year, the award-winning Suwanee Youth Leaders (SYL) program is accepting applications for its 2018 class. A nine-month City of Suwanee leadership program for high school sophomores and juniors, SYL is open to students who live in the North Gwinnett, Peachtree Ridge, and Collins Hill clusters, as well as home school and private school students who reside within those clusters.



The 2018 SYL program kicks off with a mandatory twoday retreat in early March. Students will then meet one Saturday each month March through October and also will be expected to volunteer at several community events, which may include the August Concert, two Food Truck Friday events, Suwanee Fest, and Arts in the Park.

Applications are at **suwanee.com** and are due by December 1. For more information about SYL, contact Adam Edge at aedge@suwanee.com or Denise Brinson at denise@suwanee.com.

One of my favorite experiences in SYL was volunteering at Food Truck Friday, which I helped plan! It was so awesome getting to see something I'd put time and effort into come to fruition and be such a wonderful success! SYL has been different from other leadership programs I've participated in because the program affords so much more time and development. At every monthly meeting we discussed the importance of becoming better people and better leaders in order to be a more positive impact on our communities. Everything starts from within; the goal was never to force ourselves to be leaders, but to become leaders.

- Lily Zhang - Junior, North Gwinnett High School

"The partnership with the City of Suwanee and Suwanee Youth Leaders provides an outstanding opportunity for our student leaders to learn about civic engagement. The program that Suwanee has created teaches critical soft skills, teamwork protocols, and ultimately event production that kids do not get to learn in traditional classroom settings. Not only do they get to work with and learn from amazing adults, but they also network with students from other clusters to create a collaborative relationship that makes all of our schools better."

Kirsten Baker - Assistant Principal, Leadership Development, North Gwinnett High School "What did I get from the program? Honestly: my voice. When I applied to SYL, I was really shy and timid; I had never done anything like this before. I was afraid to even apply for fear of rejection. Even after being accepted into the program, I was terrified to come to the first meeting. Over time my confidence grew because of this program and the people in it. I was encouraged to do things I would have never done by myself, pushing past my limits and discovering this whole new level of myself that I didn't know of before. My biggest, proudest moment was spontaneously becoming the emcee of the Suwannee Fest Parade. Taking the microphone with no fear made me realize how much I had grown over the past few months."

– Zarah Punjwani – Junior, Peachtree Ridge High School

"One of the most impactful lessons I learned at SYL is, "If not you, then who?" This simply means that if you are not going to make change, then who will? Our leaders talked about the values that they believe made them who they are today, and how we can discover our own values and carry them out as leaders ourselves. Through SYL I have had the chance to grow as a leader, and as a person."

- Grant Kersey - Junior, North Gwinnett High School



- 1. Proceeds from the 4th Annual Suwanee Gateway Half Marathon benefit Suwanee Public Art.
- 2. The route begins at Town Center Park, meanders through Old Town and up Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, winds along the Suwanee Creek Greenway, and takes you up and back Northolt Parkway. You'll finish spectacularly—or maybe just finally—at Suwanee Town Center.
- 3. The race isn't until Sunday, February 11, but registration is open NOW! Early registration is \$50; after December 31, it goes up to \$60, and race day registration is \$70. Registration is open at active.com.
- 4. The race will be capped at 500 runners, so register and start training early!
- 5. The Course is USATF Certified can be used for AJC Peachtree Road Race Qualification! The Suwanee Half will provide pacers from BEAST Pacing to help you meet your AJC Peachtree Road Race Corral qualifying time.
- 6. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers.
- 7. Packet pickup is on Feb. 9 from 1-6 p.m. at Classic City Running in Buford, and at Suwanee City Hall on Feb. 10 from noon-5 p.m. as well as on race day.
- 8. Suwanee seems relatively flat until you run it. The elevation gain throughout the race is 613.5 feet!
- A half marathon distance is challenging, but manageable; training involves commitment, but won't consume your life.

- 10. The half marathon is the fastest growing race distance and unquestionably the most popular.
- 11. The Suwanee Gateway Half Marathon begins at 7:30 a.m. and will take the average runner about two and a half hours to complete. Once you confidently stride across the finish line, you'll receive....
- 12. A cool blanket featuring the goats from The Herd public art sculpture, and...
- 13. A 3D, spinning medal, for all my playas out there runnin'.
- 18.1 (Bet you wondered how we were going to give you a tenth of a fact.) One mile = 100 calories. 13.1 miles = 1,310 calories. 1,310 calories = a lot of tacos.

4TH ANNUAL SUWANEE

Gateway Half Marathon

Sunday, February 11, 2018 Register now at Active.com

Winter FARMERS MARKET RETURNS



Rejoice, localvores — Suwanee is extending the Farmers Market through the winter months! The Farmers Market will continue on the second Saturday of the month, 9-11 a.m. from October through April at Town Center Park. Stop by and enjoy fresh local winter produce, such as lettuces, greens, potatoes, carrots, Brussels sprouts, baked goods, and a variety of other delicious, local flavors.

Annual **Suwanee**Photo Contest

The City of Suwanee is accepting submissions through December 31 for its annual Snap Suwanee photo competition. The annual photography competition provides a means for participants to share images that convey something telling about the Suwanee community, and is open to professional and amateur photographers alike.

The mission of the contest is to celebrate the City of Suwanee; therefore, all photos entered will have ideally be composed of subjects and locations within the Suwanee city limits within the past two years (with the exception of the #TBT category). A panel of judges will select images that best depict Suwanee in each of the following categories:

Uniquely SuwaneePeople experiencing city events, volunteering, and enjoying themselves.

Mv View

Images illustrating your favorite Suwanee view or perspective

Active Suwanee

Snapshots from exploring Suwanee trails and parks

Oops I Arted Photos of Public Art

Suwanee-hee-hee! Humorous/novelty shots

#TBT Historical photos from Suwanee days gone by



An overall Judges' Choice winner will also be named. Winning photographs will be exhibited for an approximately one-year period at City Hall beginning in March. Visit Suwanee.com for more information and to download an entry form.

MORE **Jpcoming**



Annandale Extra Mile 5K November 4 | 8 am



Suwanee Wine Fest November 4 | noon



Suwanee Classic Car Show November 5 | 10 am



Suwanee Kiwanis All American 5K November 11 | 8 am

Things We're

Roger & Brittany Grant

Suwanee resident and landscape architect Roger Grant enthusiastically brought his vision for a public orchard to life by donating the design and engineering documents for the Orchard at White Street Park. With the support of his employer, Columbia Engineering, Roger spent approximately 200 hours on the design and engineering, an estimated value of \$22,000.

Following construction in the first half of 2017, the orchard was turned over to volunteers - led by Roger and his wife, Brittany - to complete the installation of fruiting trees and plants, trellises, hops teepees, Purple Martin houses, and unique play features, such as living willow huts and tunnels and a hand water pump. Over the next four months, volunteers donated approximately 500 man hours and raised \$8,632 for plant materials.

meeting. The Orchard was once just a glimmer in Roger's eye, and he's spent the past several years bringing it to life from sketches on scraps of paper, putting formal design and engineering drawings together on his own time, beating the pavement to secure donations and volunteer involvement, and now managing the community work days

and the future volunteer committee.

The Georgia Urban

Forest Council has recently

awarded the Orchard at

White Street Park its "2017

Outstanding New Initiative."

The Orchard and its volunteers

will be celebrated at the

community grand opening on

The Grants' commitment to the project never wavered, even as they welcomed two babies; in fact, Roger's dedication strengthened as he knew his two sons would now use the Orchard their father brought to life.

> The Grants' dedication and enthusiasm has inspired the community to come together, plant together, and build together to create a space where they can now fellowship together, bring their children to play in a unique, natural play space, introduce their families to locally grown fruits in a natural setting, and demonstrate the value of preserving natural open spaces.

October 22, and recognized As Nelson Henderson said, "the true meaning more formally by the City of life is to plant trees under whose shade you Council at an upcoming do not expect to sit." This quote completely embodies the efforts of Roger and Brittany Grant and their volunteers in creating a unique, natural, beautiful space in a well-loved City park. The Orchard will nourish the mind, body, and soul of Suwanee generations to come.

City of Suwanee Public Works & **Police Departments**





We can't say enough about these incredibly hard-working groups of men and women. As if the week and weekend of Suwanee Fest aren't hard enough, Mother Nature thought it'd be funny to throw a hurricane on the front end as well. The City of Suwanee Police and Public Works departments went over and above, helping clean up after Irma's rather rude arrival, and then turning around and getting Town Center Park ready for Suwanee Fest, ensuring that the festival went smoothly, and then cleaning it all up and returning the park to normal before the crack of dawn on Monday morning.

Park Ambassadors

The volunteer "eyes and ears" of the Suwanee Police Department, Park Ambassadors serve a variety of functions. Thanks to their extensive knowledge of Suwanee's parks and trails, the Park Ambassadors are able to help the police with investigations, report suspicious activity, and help people in the parks and on the trails, as well as chip in on large city events. "The Park Ambassadors are a vital part of the success of our greenway system and parks," said Officer Richard Pope, who heads up the Park Ambassadors program. "They are a true deterrent to crime due to their constant presence on the trail."

We asked a few of our volunteers about their experiences as Park Ambassadors:

Q1. What made you want to volunteer as a Park Ambassador?

David Sullivan: I frequently use the Suwanee Parks, especially the Suwanee Creek Park, and I want to keep it safe, secure, and clean. I feel being a Park Ambassador is a way to pay forward keeping our parks a fun place to visit and fulfill a civic obligation as a citizen of Suwanee.

Ron Dahlin: Park Ambassadors sounded like a place where I could make a positive contribution to our community. When I was growing up, we could walk anywhere, day or night, and feel safe. I want to help this to happen again.



Q2. What do you like best about being a Park Ambassador?

Sullivan: I am normally in Suwanee Creek Park in the mornings. I enjoy seeing and speaking to many of the same people each day; they have come to expect to see me and comment when I'm not there. Each day is a little different and interesting.

Dahlin: The people and wildlife in the park system. Every time I am in the park with my wife, we see or experience something new. In addition, it is great to be outdoors; it refreshes the soul and helps keep us fit.

Sandra Harrison: Walking keeps us fit and Officer Pope keeps us motivated; he lets us know we make a difference. When we are walking, we are approached and thanked for being present.

HAPPY 1ST BIRTHDAY to the Suwanee Bike Share Program!

In late 2016 the City of Suwanee, with sponsorship dollars from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and CIGNA Healthcare, partnered with Zagster to implement a bike sharing program in Suwanee. Comprised of ten bikes and two bike stations (at Suwanee Town Center Park and Suwanee Creek Park), the bike share program officially went public at its grand opening ceremony on October 22, 2016. Since its inception the Suwanee bike share has continued to experience a warm embrace by the community at large. There are programs with as many as 21 bikes, three stations, and triple our residential population across the Southeastern U.S. who have yet to experience the success we've had in Suwanee.



Total Trips: **3,592**



Active Members: 1741



Trips Per Week:



Trips Per Day:

Trips Per Month:



Number of Minutes Ridden per Bike: **31.419**

(more than minutes ridden in the comparable cities of Smyrna, GA, Gainesville, FL, and Macon, GA combined)





Average Number of Riders per Bike:

96

(more riders than the comparable cities of Smyrna, GA, Gainesville, FL, and Macon, GA combined)

Thank you to our Bike Share Program Sponsors!





Note: The Comparative Analysis contains data from 1/1/17-6/30/17. The User info above is overall usage from 10/22/17-8/3/17

Thank You From Suwanee Fest!



Suwanee Fest continues to grow and exceed expectations every year thanks in large measure to the generous community-minded businesses and organizations who sponsor the festival. Our sincere appreciation to these businesses who are our awesome Suwanee Fest 2017 sponsors.

Presenting Sponsor



Platinum Sponsors







Gold Sponsors

Quantum National Bank **Road Atlanta Suwanee Dental Care**

Silver Sponsors

Aquaguard Foundation Solutions Atlanta Gladiators BrandBank Costco **District at Duluth** Food Should Taste Good Free Chapel **Freedom Family Chiropractic Gwinnett Medical Center Gwinnett Urgent Care Hoemcraft Gutter Protection Imagix Dental of Suwanee Infinity Financial** Larabar LeafFilter of North Georgia, LLC **Liberte Yogurt**

Mitsubishi Electric **North Atlanta Primary Care** Overlook at Huntcrest **PeachSkinSheets** Power Home Remodeling

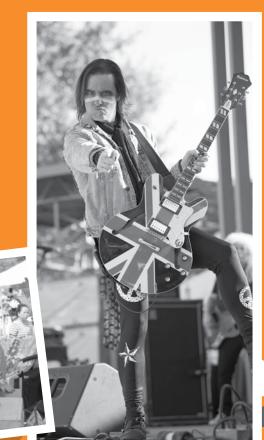
> **Pre-Press 2 Printing** Renewal by Andersen Sandbox Marketing

> > Sprint

State Farm Suwanee Sports Academy Taylor Construction Tiger Tails Animal Hospital & Cat Clinic **Travel Resorts of America** True Source Family Chiropractic Whitney Orthodontics

Friends of the Festival

Clark Patterson Lee





VINNETS KK







BEST OF SHOW: ALL STARS

RUNNER UP: North Gwinnett High School Bulldog Marching Band



1ST PLACE: National Art Honor Society
2ND PLACE: Oak Meadow Montessori School
3RD PLACE: Collins Hill Dance Company

Honorable Mention: Suwanee First United Methodist Church Honorable Mention: Peachtree Ridge High School Robotics

Best Reflection of Theme "Community at Work"

1ST PLACE: Suwanee Magazine 2ND PLACE: Cub Scout Pack 518

3RD PLACE: Girls Scouts – Lanier Service Unit

Honorable Mention: Legacy Academy Suwanee Dam

Most Entertaining

1ST PLACE: Collins Hills Junior ROTC

2ND PLACE: North Gwinnett Middle School Bulldog Orchestra

3RD PLACE: Dance North, North Gwinnett High School

Honorable Mention: Jazzercise Sugar Hill -

Suwanee Dam Fitness Center



2017
Suwanee Fest
BEST IN SHOW
Vendors

Artemis Blue
Fine Woodworking LLC
Georgia Thrombosis Forum
Maddox WoodDesign
Nectar of the Vine
Whitney Orthodontics
Yuki Takahashi

Walkability in Suwanee: What is it Good For? continuted from page 1

more than 60 acres and opened in December 2003, helped transform Suwanee into one of metro Atlanta's most desirable residential locations. The features and benefits of Town Center are well-known: Town Center Park is a vibrant place that serves as Suwanee's primary gathering spot and includes an interactive fountain, large open areas, and a performance stage with a 1,000-seat amphitheater, all within a pleasant walk of hundreds of homes, offices, and shops.

The benefits of this development style are rooted in its compact form, diverse tax base, and walkability. To wit: in just under nine acres of land, Suwanee Town Center's commercial district has 46 land parcels, 41 residential condominium units, several professional offices, and numerous restaurants and shops which, by our estimates, employ over 500 people. All of this helps create energy, value, and a market for small business.

Compared to other multi-use developments nearby, such as the Galleria at Sugarloaf, Suwanee Town Center is small in acreage, but tremendously more valuable on a per acre basis.

PROPERTIES	ACREAGE	TAX VALUE/ ACRE
Suwanee Town Center	9	\$1,508,391.00
Average suburban retail center	28	\$612,123.86

The spatial/financial efficiency of Suwanee Town Center's walkable design is overwhelmingly apparent: on a per acre basis, Suwanee Town Center is worth nearly a million dollars more in property value than competing suburban centers. More value, or local wealth, is created in less area. More value, or local wealth, is created in less area. In fact, when the economic consulting firm Urban3 studied this topic in detail a few years ago, it found that Suwanee Town Center had the highest land value per acre of any development in Gwinnett County.

This type of value is not just specific to Suwanee Town Center, but is found in many walkable areas; we have found that higher land value is an intrinsic, fundamental feature of walkability because of how diverse land uses are stacked within an area.

By stacking land uses, as Suwanee Town Center does with

condos and offices over stores, the design builds a base of regular customers and clients for the commercial district. The unique "sense of place" created by highly walkable locations attracts people. The diversity of uses combined in walkable areas means that more people can do more things in less space.

There's a reason why 53 percent of Millennials, 45 percent of Generation X, and 49 percent of Boomers name walkability as a high priority when searching for a place to live: more walkable, mixed-use communities - such as Suwanee Town Center - provide more opportunities for social activity and more community interaction. With walkability in mind, a place can become a location where a community comes together and grows.

By working with the Georgia Department of Transportation to adjust Buford Highway to give pedestrians the same consideration as automobiles, over time more people will be able to drive less to get where they're going. In fact, by designing the city so that more people use non-automotive ways to get around, the City's investments in multiple mobility options will make Suwanee an even greater place to live. By incorporating these features, the planned Buford Highway design will allow Town Center to grow organically along Buford Highway, expanding this walkable downtown form and strengthening the city for years to come.

Things We are Grateful for continuted from page 9

Q3. What can citizens do to help keep the parks and greenways enjoyable to all?

Harrison: Be courteous; move over when you see others coming. We don't drive on the left side of the road, so please walk on the right side of the path. If you're on a bike, alert people of your approach and slow down for crowds.

Dahlin: Speak to those you pass. Treat others the way you want to be treated. If you take food or drink in with you, take the wrapping and the container out with you. Please don't litter. Also, pick up after your dog.

Sullivan: Throw trash and pet waste into the city provided trashcans, not onto the ground. If you see litter, please pick it up – don't just walk by.

Welcome to City Hall

Suwanee welcomes **Kylie Adams** as our Senior Planner! Kylie joins us from CH2M, where she has been for the last two years. Originally from Louisville, Kentucky, Kylie is a graduate of the University of Alabama and an avid Bama football fan. She enjoys running, reading thrillers, and girls' nights that include romantic comedies.

The Suwanee Police department welcomes its newest member, Officer Cale Mathis. Officer Mathis previously worked at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and most recently at a family construction firm. Mathis calls Buford home, and we're thrilled to have him in Suwanee!

Congratulations!

Suwanee City Hall was recently recognized as a **Bronze Workplace Health Achievement** organization by the American Heart Association (AHA) for taking significant steps to build a culture of health in the workplace. The AHA's Workplace Health Achievement Index allows companies to measure the effectiveness of their workplace health programs, as well as the overall heart health of their employees.

Remember that super cool event idea you had? Suwanee Now Accepting Applications for 2018 Event Calendar

The City of Suwanee is currently accepting event applications for community events to be hosted at City of Suwanee parks during 2018. The deadline for applications is November 30. Once the City's event schedule is approved after the first of the year, no additional events may be added.

Each year, the City of Suwanee hosts – primarily at Town Center Park – more than 40 city and privately planned events, including concerts, festivals, races, food truck events, and more.

"Events are an important part of community-building in Suwanee," said Events & Outreach Manager Amy Doherty. "Each year, we love partnering with community organizations to bring great music, fun events, and unique engagement opportunities to our residents and others."

Applications and guidelines are available on the What's New/Events page at suwanee.com. Application submission does not constitute event approval.

connections •

for business

The following companies received new business licenses from the City of Suwanee in August & September:

- A & D Construction Group 3650 Burnette Park Drive
- Applied Information, Inc. 4411 Suwanee Dam Road
- Baro Chiropractic 8o Horizon Drive
- Decision Fitness & Nutrition 525 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
- Hair FX Salon 1500 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
- Happy Nails Spa 960 Scales Road
- Into the Woods Flooring LLC
 325 Sharon Industrial Way
- Juhan Corporate Resources Inc. 950 Scales Road
- Luna's Coffee & Cookie 2870 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- Naegele & Mears, CPAs
 335 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
- Norman's Electronics & Appliance Service 3641 McGinnis Park Drive
- PDW Discount Fabrics LLC 3750 Industrial Court
- Poke Bar 3186 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- Reposado Residential LLC 3703 Memphis Drive
- Revision Bodywork 1500 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
- Sage Dental 3429 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- Suwanee Acupuncture 530 Highland Station Drive
- Vida Massage/Suwanee Spine & Wellness 3449 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- Young Interior LLC
 3750 Industrial Court





upcoming events

official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia

November

24 City Hall Closed

1	Public Arts Commission	6:00P
4	Annandale's Extra Mile Run/Walk 5K	8:00A
4	Suwanee Wine Fest	12:00P
5	Suwanee Classic Car Show	10:00A
7	Election Day	
9	City Council Workshop	5:30P
11	All American 5K	7:30A
11	Winter Farmers Market	9:00A
14	Harvest Farm Board Meeting	5:00p
14	City Council Meeting	6:30p
21	Downtown Development Authority	7:30A
21	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30P
23	City Hall Closed	

December

1	Jolly Holly Day	6:30P
5	Planning Commission	6:30A
6	Public Arts Commission	6:00P
7	City Council Workshop	5:30P
9	Winter Farmers Market	9:00A
12	Harvest Farm Board Meeting	5:00P
12	City Council Meeting	6:30P
19	Downtown Development Authority	7:30A
19	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30P
22	City Hall Closed	
25	City Hall Closed	

January

1	City Hall Closed	
2	Planning Commission	6:30P
3	Public Arts Commission	6:00P
9	Harvest Farm Board Meeting	5:00P
11	City Council Workshop	5:30P
13	Winter Farmers Market	9:00A
15	City Hall Closed	
16	Downtown Development Authority	7:30A
16	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30P
23	City Council Meeting	6:30P

City of Suwanee Georgia MAYOR Jimmy Burnette
COUNCIL Dan Foster
Dick Goodman
Beth Hilscher
Doug Ireland
Linnea Miller

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 EDITOR
 Abby Wilkerson
 770/945-3386

Unless otherwise noted, City of Suwanee public meetings are at City Hall, 330 Town Center Avenue. Dates subject to change; check **suwanee.com** for updates.