



Suwanee connects

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this issue...

suwanee.com | August 2019

Love, Suwanee - from the private collection of Mellow Mushroom/Home Grown Industries, Inc.

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A New Reason to Fall in



with Suwanee

City Sets
FY2020 Budget
at \$13.8M

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City Unveils 6th **Suwanee SCULPTOUR** Exhibit



Slimmed Down
Financials for
the Numerically
Challenged

Fourteen notable new residents have moved into Suwanee! The sixth installment of the city's popular SculpTour temporary sculpture exhibition was installed in Town Center this May.

an integral piece of our city's personality," said Suwanee City Council member Linnea Miller. "It's not enough to simply create a 'place.' That place has to come alive - through art, events, activities, and fun. People need a reason to keep coming back and connecting."

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Since 2011, the award-winning SculpTour program has brought 79+ sculptures to a walkable one mile area of downtown Suwanee, not to mention the 11 out of 18 pieces in the city's permanent collection. With goals to enliven Town Center, attract visitors, and stimulate interest in public art in Suwanee, SculpTour adds to the sense of energy, rhythm, and ritual in the city.

Each round of SculpTour lasts approximately twenty-two months. Over the past eight years, downtown Suwanee has been home to a red dancer caught in mid-leap, a really tall giraffe, a phone booth offering a heavenly connection, three *Friends*, a Humpty Dumpty doppelganger, a Dalmatian family, and a herd of goats, among many, many others.

Quantum National
Bank Commits \$100K
to Public Art

"Art, in the public realm, for the whole of the community, is

Continued on Page 2 & 3

The SculpTour program turbocharged the expansion of the Suwanee’s permanent art collection: to date, SculpTour has resulted in the addition of eleven pieces to the city’s permanent collection through acquisitions or donations. The city has purchased at least one SculpTour piece each cycle, using “People’s Choice” voting as a guideline. In other instances, residents have stepped up to purchase SculpTour pieces and donated them to the city. Today, these pieces have found permanent homes at other Suwanee parks and in front of the public library branch, broadening the experience of public art throughout the community.

“Few suburban cities have a public realm that is as cultivated and central to the identity of the city as Suwanee’s parks and public spaces are,” commented Denise Brinson, Suwanee Assistant City Manager. “This provides Suwanee with a unique opportunity to add public art that is of special significance and endurance.”

For more information on this – and past – SculpTour exhibits, please visit Suwanee.com.



Mel – from the private collection of Mellow Mushroom/Home Grown Industries, Inc.



Metaphysica – Phil Proctor



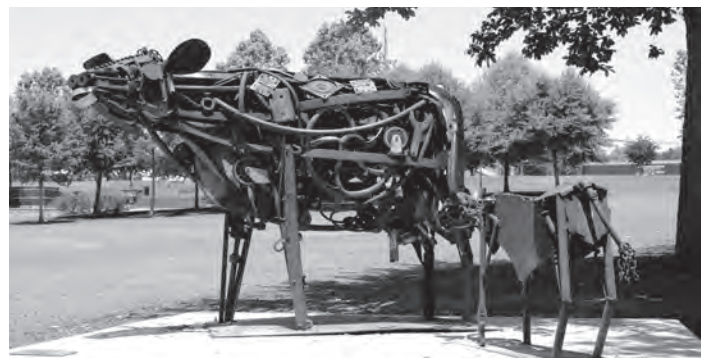
Basin & Range – Todd Frahm



Reach – Marc Moulton



I Love to Sit – from the private collection of Mellow Mushroom/Home Grown Industries, Inc.



Cow & Calf – Jonathan Bowling



Ascending Throne – Breelyn Wilson & Dallas Gillespie



His N Hers – Gregory Johnson



Votive – Gregory Johnson



Apollo's Scorn – Todd Frahm

Mixed Emotions – Davis Andrew Whitfield IV



Nucleus – Gregory Johnson

Kinetic Flower Sculpture – Al Garnto



KIDS!

Stop by City Hall to pick up your very own Parker's Passport – a super fun guide to the SculpTour exhibit, designed just for you!

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Candidate Qualifying Dates Set for Council Posts

Qualifying for city council positions expected to be on the November 5th, 2019 ballot will take place August 19-21, 2019. Potential candidates interested in running for a four-year term as a City Councilmember must first officially qualify at City Hall between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm on the dates specified.

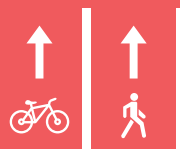

Mayor, City Council Post 1, and City Council Post 2 are up for election this fall. Jimmy Burnette is Mayor, Doug Ireland currently occupies Post 1, and Dick Goodman currently occupies Post 2. All City Council positions are voted on city-wide.

The qualifying fee for Mayor is \$450. The qualifying fee is \$270 for City Council positions. Qualified candidates must have been a City of Suwanee resident for at least 180 days and a registered voter. Please contact Election Superintendent Elvira Rogers at erogers@suwanee.com or 770-904-3376, or visit Suwanee.com for additional information.

Suwanee Begins New Fiscal Year with \$13.8 Million Budget

The City of Suwanee began the new fiscal year July 1 with a \$13.8 million balanced operating budget. This year's budget represents a 2.2 percent increase over the \$13.4 million adopted budget for the recently ended 2019 fiscal year.

Suwanee's \$13,766,780 FY2020 budget includes:

<p>106 FULL-TIME & 17 PART-TIME POSITIONS including one new position and five position upgrades</p>	 <p>\$20k PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE PLAN UPDATE</p>	<p>\$9,600 PILOT TRASH PROJECT</p>
 <p>\$40k CYBER SECURITY PROGRAM</p>	<p>\$30k new public works equipment</p>	<p>\$17,000 right-of-way permitting</p>
<p>\$181,000 recommended capital funding</p>		
		<p>\$79k replacement police vehicles</p> <hr/> <p>\$72k new police equipment</p>

The FY2020 budget is based upon the assumed millage rate of 4.93 mills, the same rate adopted by the city the past six years. The millage rate for FY2020 will be set at the August 27 City Council meeting after public hearings at City Hall on August 15 at 5:30 pm and August 27 at 12:00 pm and 6:30 pm.

For more information regarding the City of Suwanee's FY2020 budget, please visit Suwanee.com and click on the Open Budget icon at the bottom right side of the page.



City offers slimmed down financials for the numerically challenged

Not a numbers person, but feel like you should do your civic duty and at least try to understand the city's financial documents? Have we got a hero for you: introducing, The Performer®!

Developed, copyrighted, and trademarked in 2001 by governmental accounting experts Crawford & Associates, CPA of Oklahoma City, The Performer® provides a "plain English" evaluation of a government's financial information. Using financial statement ratios, The Performer® provides a rating on a ten-point scale that represents financial health and level of performance, with 10 representing excellent health and zero indicating poor financial health and performance.

"One of the questions that I used to get from City Councils, citizens, and even some governmental employees, was, 'On a scale of 1-10, tell me how we're doing?'" said Frank Crawford, President of Crawford & Associates. "I couldn't really answer that question, due to the lack of a government-wide set of financial statements that were prepared on a single basis of accounting. When the Government Accounting Standards Board standardized the basis for governmental accounting, we took the opportunity to develop a model that we would allow us to analytically determine the answer to that question and apply it from government to government."

The Performer® is not intended as a replacement of the annual financial statements, but as a useful supplement to the statements. This unique financial analysis and rating tool helps measure a government's financial health, while also allowing governments to track themselves consistently over time.

"I wanted to do The Performer® because it gave an independent score of the city's finances, and can show trends over time and how financial decisions can raise or lower the performance score," said City of Suwanee Finance Director Amie Sakmar. "I thought it was an awesome communication tool to explain city finances. Stating that our ending net position is \$85 million is not as meaningful to the average citizen as a numeric score of 8.7 out of 10."

The City of Suwanee publishes multiple financial documents every year, including a Budget Document, Citizens Operating Budget, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR), and The National Citizens Survey every other year, as well as maintaining an open data budget website - all of which can be found at Suwanee.com. These documents are honored annually with awards such as the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association, and the Certificate of Distinction in Performance Management from the International City Managers Association.

"Congrats on being some of the highest three-year scores I've seen, including the first local government to ever break a 9 in one of the three years."

- Frank Crawford

Quantum National Bank Commits \$100,000 to Suwanee's Public Art Program

Quantum National Bank has announced a contribution of \$100,000 to the City of Suwanee's Art for All program. The first major contributor to the public art capital campaign, Quantum Bank president Brad Day made the announcement at the City's Big Artsy celebration on June 15.

Quantum's donation (the largest single donation the bank has ever made) will support three signature public art pieces in the planned Town Center Park Expansion. Construction on the new park is expected to begin in 2020; once completed, it will be one of the largest urban parks in metro Atlanta.

"Suwanee has been our home since our founding over 20 years ago," said Quantum CEO Bryan Cohen. "We've watched the city grow and prosper in that time as our bank has grown too. We appreciate the partnership we have with the city and are happy to be part of this exciting new program."

On May 28, the Suwanee City Council recognized Dr. Narasimhulu Neelagaru, Quantum's founder and Chairman of the Board, for Quantum's commitment to the city and its residents. Dr. Neelagaru was presented with a proclamation from the city recognizing the relationship of over 20 years.

"Suwanee believes public art is a key component of a vibrant community and what is so remarkable about our city's art program is that it has been accomplished primarily with private funding from residents and businesses like Quantum National Bank," said Suwanee Assistant City Manager Denise Brinson.

"Quantum's donation is the first major (and, to date, largest) contribution to our capital campaign. The bank has been a key part of our community since its founding in 1995. We appreciate this latest indication of their dedication and commitment to their hometown of Suwanee."



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CITY CALLS "FOUL!" ON FOUL FOWL

The Canadian geese at Sims Lake Park must have heard about Suwanee being one of the country's best places to live. As it turns out, though, the geese aren't very good citizens: they're messy, rude, noisy, and, at times, aggressive. (Don't be like the geese.)

"Over time, the goose population at Sims Lake Park has grown, as has the mess they create," said Suwanee Public Works Director James Miller. "The birds are prolific poopers, often leaving their waste on paved trails and the stone streamscape. Waste from the geese raised aesthetic, safety, health, and lake water quality concerns."

In an effort to humanely evict the geese from Sims Lake Park, the City of Suwanee contracts the use of border collies through Geese Police of North Georgia. The geese perceive border collies as predators, convincing the foul fowl to relocate. Trainers study the behaviors and breeding habits of Canadian geese, and the dogs are trained to never touch or harm a goose. Ducks at the park are not impacted by the program.

The Geese Police techniques for Canadian goose control are approved by the USDA Wildlife Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service. In addition, the Humane Society and PETA recommend the use of border collies for goose control.

Take a GANDER at these fun facts:

Geese have a life span of
24 YEARS
and mate for life.

Each goose consumes
3-4 POUNDS OF GRASS PER DAY
and deposits 1.5 pounds of excrement per day.



Lexi the border collie, hard at work in Sims Lake Park.



Upcoming Suwanee Events

at Town Center Park



August 2 • 5:30 pm
Food Truck Friday

Hosted by the Suwanee Youth Leaders.



August 3 • 8:00 am Love Rolls Walk

This event supports Love Rolls, a nonprofit focused on collecting toilet paper for the homeless, founded by former Suwanee Youth Leader Kendall Robinson.



August 3 • 7:00 pm
B at the Movies

7 pm - The Lego Movie 2 • 8:45 pm - Captain Marvel

B at the Movies is back with more free family movies under the stars in Town Center Park! Movie nights feature films appropriate for young children on a digital board at 7 pm and movie selections for slightly older audiences on a big screen beginning around 8:45 pm. The movies are 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.



Saturdays
8:00 am - Noon
Farmers Market



August 24 • 9:00 am
Suwanee Health & Fitness Festival

This brand-new event features a 5K walk/run, wheel chair 5K, kids fun run, "Certified Tough" Obstacles Adventure, and the Dirty Paw Challenge for dogs!

For more information on these and other Suwanee events, visit Suwanee.com.

FREE!

AUGUST
CONCERT

AND

WING

**SATURDAY,
AUGUST
10TH**

**TOWN
CENTER
PARK**

**5:30 PM
MUSIC BEGINS**

**7:30 PM
WING EATING
CONTEST**

**8:15 PM
THE
SMITHEREENS**

*All times are approximate.

Festival

★ ★ ★
SUWANEE, GEORGIA

**HEADLINED BY
THE SMITHEREENS**

Shuttles and off-site transportation are available.
Visit **Suwanee.com** for more information.



City of Suwanee Breaks Ground on Courthouse Renovations and Expansion

The City of Suwanee hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of its municipal court building on Thursday, July 11. Renovations to the almost 60-year-old building – Suwanee’s original city hall – will significantly improve the court customer experience and create more space for court and police employees.

Remarks were given at the groundbreaking by Suwanee Mayor Jimmy Burnette, Scott Gordan of Clark Patterson Lee, Paul Hogan of Hogan Construction, and Suwanee Chief Judge Norman Cuadra.

“Our goal in Suwanee is to provide quality customer service when it comes to city amenities. By expanding our court facilities, we will be able to create an efficient, comfortable, and productive environment that will allow our court

participants to easily navigate their business with the Municipal Court,” said Judge Cuadra. “For those attending court for the first time, the expansion will help ease the anxiety that comes with the stress of court proceedings, by use of space, accessibility and technology.”

The courthouse lobby will be expanded to accommodate court session crowds, court clerk work space will more than double, and new space will be constructed for the police Special Enforcement Unit. Renovations are expected to be completed in early 2020.

The municipal court has temporarily moved across Town Center Park to City Hall during the construction process. Court sessions take place upstairs in the council chambers; day-to-day court functions are handled at the Suwanee Police Station.



Welcome - TO - CITY HALL

The City of Suwanee recently welcomed **Naasir Harris** to the Public Works crew. Born, raised, and still residing in Snellville, Naasir enjoys playing video games when he's not working in Suwanee.

Lawrenceville native **Jacob Hill** joined the Suwanee Police Department from the Gwinnett County PD. Jacob enjoys Braves baseball, Atlanta Falcons and Alabama football, and playing golf.

Allen Parker has also joined the Suwanee Police force. Formerly a mechanic in Buford, Allen enjoys playing golf, hunting and fishing, and college football.

Alandas Mayes of Buford is the Public Works department's newest Equipment Operator. When not keeping Suwanee beautiful, Alandas enjoys working out and playing sports.

Formerly employed by the Gwinnett Stripers, **Jack Mraz** has recently joined the City of Suwanee Public Works department as an Equipment Operator. Jack was born and raised in Suwanee, and his hobbies include running, wakeboarding, and playing baseball.

Congratulations!

Mayor **Jimmy Burnette** received the prestigious Certificate of Dedication award from the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute during the Georgia Municipal Association's Annual Convention in Savannah on June 21. The Certificate of Dedication requires 276 hours of training, along with nine hours of continuing education each year to maintain the certificate. Mayor Burnette was one of ten city officials to receive the Certificate of Dedication at the conference.



OPEN for BUSINESS

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

DKS Esthetics
4411 Suwanee Dam Road

Building Automation Solutions, LLC
441 Sawmill Court

JV Barber Lounge Shop
1500 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard

Makeovers by Lisa Salon
1500 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard

Mong Mong
3131 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road

Next Level Computer, Inc.
3465 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road

Plus Chiropractic & Acupuncture
530 Highland Station Drive

Pro Source Painting
3641 McGinnis Park Drive

The Room Hair Salon
1500 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard

Tres Chic Hair Salon
1500 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard

Volcanica Coffee Enterprises, LLC
4110 Tench Road

Y McCarty's Barber and Beauty Shop
1500 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard

UPCOMINGEVENTS

official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia

AUGUST19

2	Food Truck Friday	5:30 pm
3	Love Rolls	8:00 am
3	Farmers Market	8:00 am
3	Movies Under the Stars	7:00 pm
7	Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan Update Open House	4:00 pm
10	Farmers Market	8:00 am
10	August Concert & Wing Festival	5:00 pm
12	Suwanee Fest Planning Committee	6:30 pm
14	Public Art Commission	6:00 pm
15	Millage Rate Public Hearing	5:30 pm
15	City Council Workshop	5:30 pm
17	Farmers Market	8:00 am
20	Downtown Development Authority	7:30 am
20	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30 pm
24	Farmers Market	8:00 am
24	Suwanee Health & Fitness Festival	9:00 am
27	Millage Rate Public Hearing	noon
27	Millage Rate Public Hearing	6:30 pm
27	City Council Meeting	6:30 pm
31	Farmers Market	8:00 am

SEPTEMBER19

2	CITY HALL CLOSED	
6	Food Truck Friday	5:30 pm
7	Farmers Market	8:00 am
7	The Extra Mile Run/Walk 5K	8:00 am
7	Movies Under the Stars	7:00 pm
9	Suwanee Fest Planning Committee	6:30 pm
10	Planning Commission	6:30 pm
11	Public Art Commission	6:00 pm
12	City Council Workshop	5:30 pm
14	Farmers Market	8:00 am
17	Downtown Development Authority	7:30 am
17	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30 pm
21	Suwanee Fest	9:00 am
22	Suwanee Fest	12:00 pm
24	City Council Meeting	6:30 pm
28	Farmers Market	8:00 am

MAYOR Jimmy Burnette 770/868-7115
COUNCIL Dan Foster 678/404-9641
 Dick Goodman 678/446-7520
 Beth Hilscher 678/546-3388
 Doug Ireland 770/265-0880
 Linnea Miller 678/592-4150

CITY MANAGER Marty Allen 770/945-8996
POLICE CHIEF Mike Jones 770/945-8995
EDITOR Abby Wilkerson 770/945-3386

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

**CITY OF
SUWANEE,
GEORGIA**