

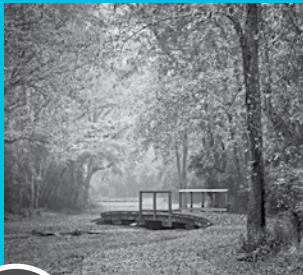
Suwanee connects

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The Earth Without Art is Just "Eh"

Now that the weather has warmed and the flowers are blooming, it's time to get outside and get art-y!

The North Gwinnett Arts Association's (NGAA) annual Arts in the Park festival is just around the corner! On May 14 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., Town Center Park will be filled with the work of about 60 juried artists, onsite artist demos, and several create-it-yourself community art projects, as well as music and food trucks.

"This is such a wonderful opportunity for local artists to showcase their skills and abilities and share their art with the community," said NGAA President Vickie Johnson.

Community art activities include paint-a-wreck, create (Jackson) Pollock-like artwork, and DIY tie-dye shirts. All proceeds will benefit the Rosemary Benavides Williams Student Art Scholarship for North Gwinnett High School college-bound students majoring or planning to major in visual arts. There is no cost to attend Arts in the Park.

The event features about ten professional street artists – some traveling from as far as Florida – who will create temporary 3D chalk drawings around Town Center Park. In addition, there is a chalk art competition, open to elementary, middle, and high school students, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Registration is available at suwaneeartsinthepark.com.

"In one word, I would describe this event as 'inspiring,'" said Johnson. "Arts in the Park features lots of different activities for people who are creative, as well as for people who didn't know they were creative. There is truly something for everyone."



"Arts in the Park features lots of different activities for people who are creative, as well as for people who didn't know they were creative. There is truly something for everyone."

- Vickie Johnson, President
- North Gwinnett Arts Association

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DON'T BOOK 'EM, DANO

Suwanee Youth Court Gives a Second Chance to Minor Offenders

“Hope Court gave my daughter a chance to see what type of future she does not want and a chance to re-evaluate her priorities.”

– Parent of a Hope Court Participant

Everyone remembers his first speeding ticket – being terrified that you’re going to be hauled off to jail, the dread of returning home to angry parents instead. Some lucky teenagers got off with just a warning, but most of us had to face consequences of some sort. These days, fear of grounding is the least of their worries.

In 2015, a Georgia law was changed to allow offenders under the age of 17 to potentially appear in front of a jury, rather than a judge in a municipal court as the law stated prior. Suwanee Chief Judge Norman Cuadra thought that this type of trial would be detrimental to a youth with a minor violation, and set out creating a way to retain jurisdiction over these cases – and the City of Suwanee’s Hope Court was born.

“It doesn’t take much for a young driver to have his license suspended,” said Judge Cuadra. “And a single drug charge leads to the loss of the HOPE Scholarship. We want to help these kids who have made mistakes – like most teenagers do – and not have them face potentially life-altering consequences on a first time minor offense.”

The first of its kind in Gwinnett County, Hope Court provides a second chance for offenders under the age of 21 who have committed lesser crimes such as speeding, texting while driving, open container, shoplifting, and drugs. These first time offenders can plead guilty and receive a modified sentence – usually a small fine, community service, and/or attending the Teen Victim Impact Panel class at the Gwinnett County court – and have the incident wiped from their records.

Approximately 60 teenagers, along with their parents, attend the monthly Hope Court sessions. Participants must first watch a video detailing the negative effects of impaired driving. They are also provided with a booklet comprised of impactful and heart-wrenching stories of Gwinnett County teenagers who were killed in automobile accidents. After viewing the video, offenders then meet with prosecutor and receive their sentences. After completing their community service and paying their fine, they go before the judge.

“We wanted an opportunity to educate these teenagers, and hopefully not see them again,” said Judge Cuadra. “Instead of suspending their licenses or driving their parents’ insurance up with points, Hope Court offers the chance to impact their lives and have greater consequences in the long run.”

Since the program began in October 2015, survey results from the teenage offenders and their parents have been overwhelmingly positive. High marks have been given to the video, as well as the opportunity to learn from the experience.

“We don’t want them to just pay the ticket and be done with it,” said Court Services Administrator Mariza Abdeljawad. “We want to see corrected behavior.”

The Suwanee court staff has been equally impressed with the seriousness to which these teenagers take coming to court. In addition to a greater understanding of the consequences of their actions, participants learn how to dress for and act respectfully in court.

“Hope Court is also an opportunity to put our best foot forward,” commented Judge Cuadra. “This is the first court experience for most of our participants. A bad experience would taint their views of the court system for the rest of their lives. Hope Court offers a second chance while also creating respect for the system.”



Did You Know?

28.5%

of high school students admit to

RIDING WITH AN IMPAIRED DRIVER

Your eyes are off the road

40% more

WHEN TEXTING WHILE DRIVING

CAR CRASHES

are the **#1** killer of
16-20
year olds

60%

of teen crashes are attributed to
DISTRACTION

TEENS ARE

4x

more likely to be involved in a wreck than mature drivers

Suwanee Police Attain Georgia Law Enforcement Re-Certification

The Suwanee Police Department is proud to announce that it has once again achieved State of Georgia Law Enforcement Certification. The State Certification Program, administered by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, establishes professional standards for which each certified agency must demonstrate compliance.

“Certification status represents a significant professional achievement and is confirmation that Suwanee Police practices are consistent with professional standards,” said Suwanee Police Chief Mike Jones. “This certification should instill confidence in our citizens that the standards we hold our personnel to adhere to the highest standards for law enforcement in Georgia.”

Experienced law enforcement professionals from outside agencies inspected the Suwanee Police facilities, examined policies and procedures, and audited files built for each of the 129 certification standards to verify compliance.

“In order to meet certification standards, which cover a wide array of subject matter, the department analyzed in detail both internal and external operations,” said Lieutenant Dan Clark, who serves as the certification/ accreditation manager for the Suwanee Police. “Meeting all 129 standards enables the department to provide the highest professional service to community.”

Chief Jones believed the state certification to be important, and began pursuing the distinction upon taking office in 1999; Suwanee received the endorsement for the first time on January 9, 2000. Certified agencies must file annual reports attesting to their continuing compliance and identify any instances of significant non-compliance, as well as go through a reassessment process every three years.

The Suwanee PD is also accredited by the national Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).



City of Jefferson Chief Joseph Wirthman presents Suwanee Chief Mike Jones with a plaque upon the department's successful Georgia Law Enforcement recertification.

Suwanee Festivals are **THE BEST** – But We Already Knew That

Suwanee's Big Cheesy and Suwanee Fest Win 2016 Kaleidoscope Awards

The City of Suwanee's newest event, Big Cheesy, and one of its oldest events, Suwanee Fest, each took home prestigious Kaleidoscope Awards from the Southeast Festivals & Events Association's Annual Conference in Charleston, SC on January 26. Top festivals and events throughout the southeast were recognized for their outstanding contribution to the events industry.

Suwanee's Big Cheesy took home the top prize in the 'Best New Event' category, as well as a bronze award for 'Best T-Shirt.' The Suwanee Fest Volunteer Planning Committee won the silver award for 'Best Volunteer,' and the festival won a bronze award for 'Best Children's Program.'

"The quality of submissions continues to increase each year, making it more difficult for the judges to select the winners," noted Brenda Pierce, executive director of the Southeast Festivals & Events Association. "Of course, to 'win gold' becomes all the sweeter when there is additional competition, and the recognition a festival receives for winning is priceless."

The Southeast Festivals & Events Association is a membership based organization comprised of festival and event planners, venues, and industry service providers. A panel of experts in

event planning, marketing and tourism spent an entire day reviewing the entries from five states. The judges looked for originality, creativity, media impact, volunteer programs, and the overall impact to the community.

After winning the best festival last year for Suwanee Fest, we knew Suwanee's Big Cheesy had what it took to be the best new event," said Suwanee Events Coordinator Amy Doherty. "I'm so proud of our staff and volunteers for continuing to make our events award-winning experiences."



WANTED: **2016 Suwanee Fest Logo**

The City of Suwanee is looking for designers, artists, and creative people in general to submit logo designs for the 2016 Suwanee Fest. The designer of the winning logo will see his or her design on official festival t-shirts and marketing posters, as well as receive a \$500 prize.

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 submissions is April 29. See suwaneefest.com for additional guidelines and an entry form.

The theme for the 2016 festival, to be celebrated September 17 and 18, is "Super City, Super People."

Suwanee Fest is the City of Suwanee'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 suwaneefest.com.

Get Outside It's Spring!

Food Truck Fridays

Food Truck Fridays return to Town Center April 1 (no joke!) from 5:30-9:30 p.m. and will continue the first Friday of the month through September, with the exception of July. Check suwaneecom.com for food truck line-ups and music information.

Suwanee Farmers Market

The Farmers Market will open every Saturday from May 7 through October 1 from 8 a.m. until noon.

Suwanee Has the Runs!

Longer days and warmer weather create that undeniable call to go OUTSIDE! Suwanee's line-up of runs gives you the perfect excuse:

Apr 23: Spring into Color Dash

Apr 30: March of Dimes March for Babies

Star 94 Woofstock

Town Center Park goes to the dogs once again at Star 94's Woofstock on Saturday, May 7. Activities include pet rescues and contests, dock diving competitions, hundreds of vendors, inflatables for kids, and Frisbee, agility, and high jump demonstrations. The tail-wagging fun starts at noon and continues until 7 p.m.



Arts in the Park

Join us on April 14 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. for this free annual festival featuring the work of about 50 juried artists, onsite artist demos, several create-it-yourself community art projects, music, and food.

Red, White, Bluegrass & Bach

Suwanee's annual Memorial Weekend concert on May 27 features bluegrass and classical performances as well as a musical salute to the troops. The event will open at 7 p.m. at Town Center Park.

Movies Under the Stars Double Feature

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

Check the [What's New/Events page at \[suwaneecom.com\]\(http://suwaneecom.com\)](#) for a full listing of upcoming events.



Snap Suwanee Photo Contest Winners



From getting back to nature to experiencing public art; enjoying the fresh air at a festival to taking photos from high in the air (via drone), the 2016 Snap Suwanee submissions illustrate the Suwanee community in a unique and beautiful way.

Sponsored by Suwanee's Public Arts Commission, the Snap Suwanee competition provides an opportunity for participants to share images that communicate something telling about the Suwanee community.

Over 70 entries were received for this year's annual community photo competition. The winning photographs will be on display at Suwanee City Hall through February 2017.

"Snap Suwanee is a fantastic opportunity to see the various aspects of our community through the eyes of our citizens and visitors," said Suwanee Public Information Officer Abby Wilkerson. "The photos submitted for this year's contest capture everything we love about Suwanee, including quite a few from unique perspectives that we've never seen before."

For the first time, a Judges' Choice Award was given, as well as a People's Choice Award, which was chosen via voting on the City of Suwanee's Facebook page.

JUDGES' CHOICE WINNER

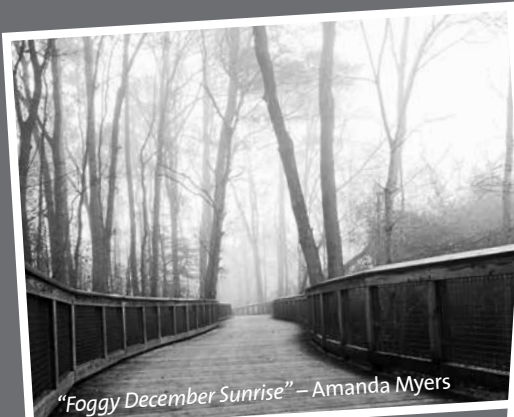
"Rainy October Morning" – Glen Sharpe



PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINNER

"Snow Unicorn" – Andea Smith





"Foggy December Sunrise" – Amanda Myers



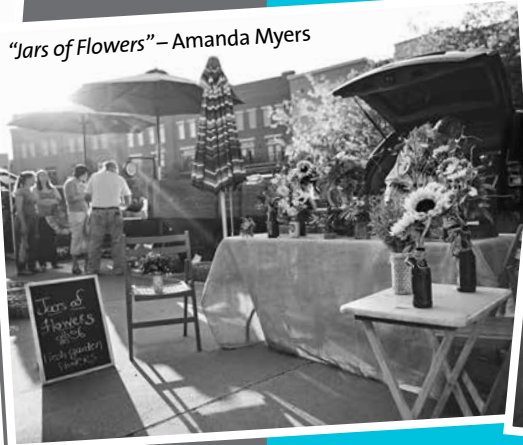
"Ice Castle" – Dick Goodman



"Stairs" – Tiffany Kelly



"Can I Have a Bite" – Amanda Myers



"Jars of Flowers" – Amanda Myers



"The Drone" – Ananda Vyas



"Let's Play" – Amanda Myers



"Rock-n-Roll" – Terri Lynn Bealle



"Tower in the Sky" – Joseph Ader



"Art in the Park" – Steve White



"Sims Lake Bench" – Tiffany Kelly

Suwanee Youth Leaders Program Wins Top Regional Award

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) recently awarded Suwanee Youth Leaders – a community-based program of the City of Suwanee – a 2016 CREATE Community Award in the category of Educational Excellence. City Assistant Manager Denise Brinson and Downtown & Business Development Manager Adam Edge, along with Suwanee Youth Leader alumni, were on hand at the March 23 ARC board meeting to accept the award.

Now in its third year, Suwanee Youth Leaders (SYL) is an eight-month leadership program for high school sophomores and juniors who attend public, private, or home-based schools and live within three Gwinnett County Public School districts. The program centers on civic involvement, leadership skills, and volunteer opportunities. Participants gain genuine exposure to local initiatives and community and civic leaders, while also allowing the City to engage with youth, providing a strong voice and active role in planning the City's success. Meetings, led by local leaders, include subjects such as leadership principles and practices, ethics in society, law and justice, and community involvement. The program culminates with hands-on service opportunities at Suwanee Fest, serving alongside adult volunteers from the community.

Thanks to SYL, says Brinson, "We now have a group of young people who have more knowledge of their community and how local government works and the work that goes into building community. The City wanted to develop a real connection with our schools and find a way to meaningfully encourage youth involvement as prescribed in our strategic plan – not just checking a box, but building sincere, authentic relationships."

"The Suwanee Youth Leaders program allows the City to make a genuine commitment to the youth in our community," said Edge. "While it's an honor to win a CREATE Community Award, it's an even greater reward to see kids becoming invested in their community through this initiative."

– Adam Edge

Congratulations to the Suwanee Youth Leaders Class of 2016

Samantha Allison | Sophomore, Peachtree Ridge
Djenabou Barry | Sophomore, Collins Hill
Jordyn Blake | Junior, Collin Hill
Anett Castro | Junior, North Gwinnett
Lea Cha | Junior, Collins Hill
Jun Chen | Junior, Peachtree Ridge
Dana Chen | Junior, Peachtree Ridge
Esther Choi | Sophomore, North Gwinnett
Andrew Collins | Sophomore, Collins Hill
Kaitlyn Crumrine | Junior, North Gwinnett
Shannon Davis | Sophomore, Peachtree Ridge
Cortlin De Maine | Sophomore, North Gwinnett
Ashley Duong | Sophomore, North Gwinnett
Alyssa Featherston | Sophomore, Peachtree Ridge
Reed Fernandez | Sophomore, North Gwinnett
Medha Gaddamanugu | Sophomore, North Gwinnett
Sara Hart | Junior, Collins Hill
Emily Hilscher | Sophomore, North Gwinnett
Ryan Hoffman | Sophomore, Collins Hill
Ethan James | Sophomore, North Gwinnett
Wesley James | Sophomore, North Gwinnett
Enaara Jariwalla | Sophomore, Collins Hill
Rajan Jayasankar | Junior, North Gwinnett
Sarah Jeon | Junior, Peachtree Ridge
Ibaad Khan | Junior, Collins Hill
Myra Khushbakht | Junior, Gwinnett School of Math, Science, & Technology
Jayden Kim | Junior, North Gwinnett
Sydney Kohne | Junior, Peachtree Ridge
Jack Kronenberger | Sophomore, Collins Hill
Regina Kyei | Sophomore, Collins Hill
Adrienne Latham | Sophomore, North Gwinnett
Amy Lee | Sophomore, Collins Hill
Madison Luney | Sophomore, North Gwinnett
Jillian Manners | Sophomore, North Gwinnett
Noah MacDonald | Sophomore, North Gwinnett
Demarcus McFadden | Sophomore, Peachtree Ridge
Xander McIntosh | Junior, Peachtree Ridge
Natalie Merizalde | Junior, Peachtree Ridge
Najib Muhammad | Junior, North Gwinnett
Jeremiah Munvengango | Junior, Collins Hill
Jonny Park | Junior, North Gwinnett
Binisha Patel | Sophomore, Collins Hill
Jenny Pham | Junior, Collins Hill
Dorothea Popa | Junior, Peachtree Ridge
Mckenna Raker | Junior, Peachtree Ridge
Kendall Robinson | Sophomore, Greater Atlanta Christian
Lauren Seroyer | Sophomore, Peachtree Ridge
Connor Shea | Sophomore, North Gwinnett
Dongju Son | Junior, Peachtree Ridge
Medha Suthar | Junior, North Gwinnett
Palvee Taludker | Sophomore, North Gwinnett
Hannah Taylor | Sophomore, Peachtree Ridge
Oliver Thigpen | Junior, North Gwinnett
Divine Uwagerikpe | Sophomore, North Gwinnett
Sandeep Veludhandi | Junior, North Gwinnett
Molly White | Junior, Peachtree Ridge
Maya Wiley | Junior, North Gwinnett
Eric Yan | Junior, Peachtree Ridge
Asmarah Yaqoob | Junior, North Gwinnett
Richard Yoo | Sophomore, North Gwinnett



Tic Tac Toe No Mo

A beloved public art installation in Suwanee Town Center has gone away – but that’s not necessarily a bad thing.

Hundreds of Suwanee citizens have sat, climbed, and had their photos taken on the infamous Tic Tac Toe City Bench. On any given day, the bench could be found covered in children, along with their iPhone-wielding parents, attempting to preserve the memories.

“The Tic Tac Toe City Bench was one of the entries in our SculpTour program,” said Suwanee Assistant City Manager Denise Brinson. “Another sculpture by the artist, Love Hurts, stands in Town Center Park as part of the 2015-2017 SculpTour series.”

Created by brothers Aaron and Zac Benson out of 180 2 x 4 wood building studs, the Tic Tac Toe City Bench stood proudly in front of City Hall for 11 months. Rather than fill up a dumpster with the used materials, the former art installation has found new life, helping give a worthy family a new home at the same time. Habitat for Humanity will be using the wood from the Tic Tac Toe City Bench in one of their next Gwinnett County home builds.

“Each time we have created a wooden sculpture, we have worked with Habitat for Humanity to repurpose the wood,” said Betty Benson of Benson Sculpture. “A screw was placed in the ends of each board and attached to the one below



to make the piece secure, and also more usable for Habitat for Humanity.”

Benson Sculpture has created wood sculptures in Key West, Indianapolis, Washington, DC, and Sydney, Australia, among other locations. The sculptures are different in form and style and created for public interaction.

Suwanee launched its public art initiative in 2008 with the creation of the Public Arts Commission, adopting a policy of encouraging developers to include public art in their projects, while the city pledged to do the same. Since then, the city has commissioned and acquired numerous artworks for City Hall and major parks, welcomed more than a half-dozen installations placed by developers on their properties, and organized several rounds of SculpTour: a walkable outdoor exhibit of more than 25 temporary and permanent art pieces displayed throughout downtown.

“Our Public Art Master Plan allows for a constant rotation of fresh, new pieces, specifically during our event season, allowing Town Center Park to be dynamic and ever-changing as well,” said Brinson. “The Tic Tac Toe City Bench was designed to be one of these temporary installations.”

GOING BACK TO SCHOOL



Mayor Jimmy Burnette, Mayor Pro Tem Linnea Miller, some council members, and a handful of staff at Suwanee City Hall have had the opportunity to impact the lives of local middle schoolers, teaching them valuable lessons that are applicable for a lifetime at the new Junior Achievement BizTown and Finance Park.

Collectively known as the JA Discovery Centers, BizTown and Finance Park are located on the campus of Discovery High School in Lawrenceville. Over 25,000 middle school students from Gwinnett County Public Schools are expected to take part, providing students with an immersive learning experience and allowing a glimpse of what their futures can entail.

Budgeting tools, credit scores, applying for loans, and unexpected expenditures are just some of the scenarios students are exposed to at the Discovery Centers. Students also learn how to operate various businesses, conduct transactions – basically, how to be an adult.

Sixth graders participate in BizTown, where they learn the ins and outs of being a Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, or other professional position. Eighth graders attending Finance Park are given a life profile that includes a job, annual income, marriage or single status, and asked to manage that profile when purchasing items and growing a family. A nod to the City of Suwanee, the design of Finance Park is a replica of Town Center Park.

“The partnership between between GCPS and JA allows eighth graders an engaging opportunity to see how their education and financial decisions will really impact their quality of life,” said Miller, after spending a day volunteering at Finance Park. “It was a neat opportunity to interact with these young teens, and watch their perspectives broaden. They had to budget for needs like taxes, savings, housing, transportation and insurance, while balancing opportunities for things they wanted like clothes and vacations.”

Discover Centers also provide the opportunity to bring together leaders from the business and education communities, united by the belief that when students understand how academic lessons apply to the real world they are more motivated in the classroom and ultimately achieve higher academic and professional success.

“I was involved in the exercise of making ends meet and balancing a budget,” said Mayor Burnette. “These kids were well-prepared and took the lesson seriously. It’s a very authentic experience.”

“After the initial shock wore off from the difference between net income and gross income, they really took to heart the connection between earning potential and education level.”



“After the initial shock wore off from the difference between net income and gross income, they really took to heart the connection between earning potential and education level.”

– Suwanee Mayor Jimmy Burnette

Tree Huggers Unite

Suwanee Recognized as One of Georgia's "Tree Cities" for 25th Consecutive Year

The City of Suwanee was among 25 Georgia communities designated as a "Tree City USA," recognizing the city for its commitment to caring for and managing their public trees during the 2016 State Arbor Day celebration at Trees Atlanta.

Tree City USA provides the framework for community forestry management for cities and towns across the country. With the help of volunteers, the City planted elm and oak trees at the municipal court/Crossroads Center in March of 2015, which helped it meet the standards necessary to be a Tree City USA for its 25th consecutive year.

"Trees clean our air, filter our water, spur economic growth, and provide countless opportunities to enjoy recreation, contributing to a better quality of life," said Robert Farris, Director of the Georgia Forestry Commission. "The citizens of Suwanee can take pride in their community leaders' commitment to trees and forested land."



As part of its ongoing commitment to being a Tree City USA and in celebration of Arbor Day, volunteers planted trees along the new Brushy Creek Trail on Saturday, March 26.

"While planting an oak or elm tree might sound arduous, planting these trees really is not back-breaking work," said Dan Robinson, City of Suwanee City Planner and coordinator for the Tree City program. "Just about anyone can do it, and it's a great way to give back to the environment and to make an impact on the community for many years to come."



It's On Like Ping Pong

Visitors to Sims Lake Park may have noticed a new addition to the park in the form of a concrete ping pong table. Sixteen-year-old Boy Scout and Suwanee resident Andrew Winton recently completed the project to earn his Eagle Scout badge.

"A lot of my friends built benches for their projects. I was looking for a unique idea that I was interested in," said Winton.

"Originally I was going to build checker tables out of wood, but I came across this idea on while researching the wooden checker tables."

The actual construction of the table took approximately four days to complete, including the mixing of 78 bags of cement – at 80 pound a piece – that went into the creation of the table.

Suwanee Cocktail Party Celebrates Public Art Initiative

Swanky, well-dressed art lovers descended upon Suwanee City Hall Saturday night, March 5, to celebrate the arts in Suwanee. A black-and-white, black-tie optional event, 'Guess Who's Coming to Cocktails,' served as a fund- and awareness-raiser for the City's lauded public arts initiative.

Nearly 300 guests were welcomed to the event by a literal fiddler on the roof: violinist Daniel Butman played on the City Hall awning, to the delight of attendees as well as patrons of Town Center Park. Horse-drawn carriage rides around the park showed off several pieces of public art, both permanent and temporary, as part of the 2015-2017 SculptTour program.



"This was just such a great event, and we are so honored to have been a part of it," said Keith Nabb, Lead Educator at Affordable Medicare Solutions, a sponsor of the event.

Photographer: Julie Perdue



Photographer: Karl Lamb

Upon entering City Hall, guests mingled with multiple artists, including Phil Proctor – creator of the popular goat herd at the corner of Buford Highway and Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road – former NFL player and sculptor George Nock, actor Zane Stephens, filmmakers Scott and Sharon Sowers and Bruce Downs, glass artist Hans Fräbel, authors Lee Martin and Harmon Snipes, and Aurora Theatre artistic director Anthony Rodriguez.

Pop-up performances were given by violinist Roland Huthmaker, ballerina Christina Leamon, performing artists Patty Etherton and Bernie Davis, and the Royal Dance Academy. The event also featured an Iron Chef-style cooking competition that included former "Hell's Kitchen" contestant Chef T Gregoire.

Guests could follow a painted path down the street to tour the North Gwinnett Arts Association's new gallery and Suwanee Welcome Center and enjoy desserts, music, and observe artists at work in their new space. The culmination of the evening was the unveiling of Suwanee's newest piece of art: a piece of the former infamous 'Success Lives Here' water tower. The LIVES portion of the tower is a 7-foot tall, 19-foot long piece of steel weighing just under 2,000 pounds.



“This was just such a great event, and we are so honored to have been a part of it,” said Keith Nabb, Lead Educator at Affordable Medicare Solutions, a sponsor of the event. “One of the things that makes the City of Suwanee so unique is that it is a welcome center for creativity and diversity. Being a long-time resident of Suwanee has allowed me to witness that first hand. I’m thrilled to help support this initiative, as well as the great work that the North Gwinnett Arts Association is doing for our community. The past president of the NGAA is Vickie Johnson, a prominent art educator. Her decade-long vision has been achieved and her enthusiasm and leadership is a main inspiration for our involvement.”

Suwanee created its Public Arts Commission in 2008 with the goal of encouraging developers to incorporate artwork into their projects. At the same time, the city began its own public arts programs, including commissioned pieces for city hall and city parks.

Suwanee’s first Public Art Master Plan, adopted by City Council in August 2015 meeting, calls not for placing public art everywhere, but rather for putting art where it matters most. The plan suggests that Suwanee focus its efforts on public art that is “engaging, fun, memorable, and distinctive;” helps strengthen community connections; and that, in many cases, is temporary.

“There are numerous events, art festivals, and talent here that need to be not only celebrated, but supported and preserved. Making the decision to become a patron of the public art initiative is going to do great things for our company’s area and foundation. I am a raving fan and cannot wait to see what the next ten years hold,” said Nabb.



We Got Game

George Pierce Park will soon be getting its own 18,212-square-foot gymnasium, which will be built as an extension of the park's existing Community Recreation Center.

The new gym will include a full-sized basketball court and an elevated indoor track - the second of its kind in the county, joining a similar facility at Lucky Shoals Park in Norcross. Other amenities at the 304-acre park include a football field, five soccer fields, nine baseball and softball fields, and over three miles of trails.

"This project is a great use of the voter-approved SPLOST and supports the recreational needs of our community, particularly seniors who are looking forward to using the elevated indoor walking track," Commission Chairwoman Charlotte Nash said in a statement.

Gwinnett County Commissioners approved a \$3.2 million contract with Headley Construction Company in early February.



City of Suwanee Recognized as an American Heart Association Fit-Friendly Worksite



The City of Suwanee has been designated a Gold Fit-Friendly Worksite by the American Heart Association for helping employees eat better and move more. The Fit-Friendly Worksites program is a catalyst for positive change in the American workforce, helping to make employee health and well-being a priority.

"The goal of Suwanee's Wellness Program is to educate, support, and empower employees to improve and maintain their physical and mental well-being through healthy lifestyle choices, as well as to create a culture of wellness and maximize professional productivity citywide," said Elvira Rogers, the City of Suwanee's Director of Administrative Services. "This is accomplished by providing wellness opportunities, not only physical, but through educational lunch and learns impacting physical, mental, and financial health."

SWELL – Suwanee's employee-managed wellness program – earned recognition for, among other things, installing a treadmill desk, publishing wellness information in the employee newsletter, providing physical activity classes and general nutrition education, and offering annual health-risk assessments.

The American Heart Association recognizes employers who go above and beyond when it comes to their employees' health, awarding organizations for their progressive leadership and concern for staff. The Gold Level is awarded to worksites that fulfill criteria such as offering employees physical activity support, increasing healthy eating options at work, and promoting a wellness culture.

This will be the second year that Suwanee has received this recognition; the American Heart Association Fit-Friendly Award was received by the City for the first time last year for the accomplishments by the SWELL Team in 2014.

The Earth Without Art is Just "Eh"
continued from page 1

Another beloved Suwanee tradition, Suwanee's annual finders-keepers, month-long Art on a Limb program will bloom along the Suwanee Creek Greenway as well as Sims Lake and White Street parks throughout the month of May. Designed to bring attention to Suwanee's arts efforts as well as its parks, two pieces of original artwork are hidden each day; those who find a piece of art along one of Suwanee's trails get to keep it.



This year's Art on a Limb pieces are a treat for both the eyes and the ears: Johns Creek artist Judy Isaak – creator of the clay birds and tiles featured in the 2013 Art on a Limb program – fashioned clay double bell wind chimes as this year's winning entry. The wind chimes are stamped with various nature motifs, as well as the Suwanee "S" and the year.

Welcome to City Hall

Chenelle Kuntz started on January 4 as the new Administrative Secretary in Municipal Court. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Virgin Islands. Chenelle Kuntz comes to us from the City of Dunwoody, where she was a Police Service Representative.

Donna Copeletti is the new Officer Administrator for the Suwanee Police Department as of December 21. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Philadelphia University. Donna is a resident of Suwanee and a frequent Suwanee Fest volunteer.

Willie Jones joined the City of Suwanee in February to serve in the custodial department. Willie has his associate of science degree in culinary arts and loves to cook (which is great, because we love to eat around here). He previously worked as a security officer for many years.

connections

Open

for business

The following companies received new business licenses from the City of Suwanee in January and February:

- **ABEO**
780 Buford Highway
- **Annandale Village**
3500 Annandale Lane
- **Atlanta Treadmill & Fitness Repair**
1008 Industrial Court
- **Atlanta Physical Therapy Centers**
1120 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
- **Argus-Hazco**
140 Satellite Boulevard
- **Be Well Professional Massage Therapy**
315 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
- **Bella Beauty Boutique Inc**
145 Satellite Boulevard
- **Bella Vita Spa**
3370 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- **Bionew USA Corp**
485 Horizon Drive
- **Bolder Construction**
1009 Industrial Court
- **Bombay Shack**
80 Horizon Drive
- **Carepoint Pharmacy**
80 Horizon Drive
- **Cielo Nail Spa, Inc.**
425 Buford Highway
- **Decision Fitness & Nutrition**
4325 Suwanee Dam Road
- **Foresight USA, Inc**
470 Satellite Boulevard
- **EZ Auto Sales and Rental LLC**
4411 Suwanee Dam Road
- **Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation**
4411 Suwanee Dam Road
- **Go Grill**
1500 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
- **Horizon Insurance Agency, Inc**
3131 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- **Lauren Greenway LPC LLC**
3465 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- **Lice Ladies Atlanta**
3465 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- **Macon Gastroenterology Anesthesia**
970 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
- **Monzon Auto Sales**
4411 Suwanee Dam Road
- **Nail City**
3320 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- **Protaxing LLC**
530 Highland Station Drive
- **Ruby Beauty Center**
80 Horizon Drive
- **Style Exchange**
3463 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road
- **Vanity Hair Salon**
3675 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road

upcoming events

official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia

A April

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|------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 Food Truck Friday | 5:30p.m. | 9 Suwanee Fest Planning Committee | 6:30p.m. |
| 11 Suwanee Fest Planning Committee | 6:30p.m. | 12 City Council Workshop | 5:30p.m. |
| 12 Planning Commission | 6:30p.m. | 14 Arts in the Park | 10:00a.m. |
| 13 Public Arts Commission | 6:00p.m. | 17 Downtown Development Authority | 7:30a.m. |
| 14 City Council Workshop | 5:30p.m. | 17 Zoning Board of Appeals | 6:30p.m. |
| 16 Suwanee's Big Cheesy | 4:00p.m. | 24 City Council Meeting | 6:30p.m. |
| 19 Downtown Development Authority | 7:30a.m. | 27 Red, White, Bluegrass, & Bach | 7:00p.m. |
| 19 Zoning Board of Appeals | 6:30p.m. | | |
| 23 Spring into Color 5K Dash | 9:00a.m. | | |
| 26 City Council Meeting | 6:30p.m. | | |
| 30 March of Dimes March for Babies | 9:00a.m. | | |

M May

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 3 Planning Commission | 6:30p.m. |
| 4 Public Arts Commission Meeting | 6:00p.m. |
| 6 Food Truck Friday (Night of Jazz) | 5:30p.m. |
| 7 Star 94's Woofstock | 12:00p.m. |

J June

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|------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 Public Arts Commission Meeting | 6:00p.m. |
| 3 Food Truck Friday | 5:30p.m. |
| 4 Movies Under the Stars | 7:00p.m. |
| 7 Planning Commission | 6:30p.m. |
| 9 City Council Workshop | 5:30p.m. |
| 13 Suwanee Fest Planning Committee | 6:30p.m. |
| 21 Zoning Board of Appeals | 6:30p.m. |
| 21 Downtown Development Authority | 7:30a.m. |
| 21 City Council Meeting | 6:30p.m. |

City of
Suwanee
Georgia

MAYOR Jimmy Burnette 770/945-3492
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.