



# Suwanee connects

suwanee.com | February 2022

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Beer Fest is Back!

## THIS SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF WORK FOR A FREE BANANA

### SUWANEE HALF MARATHON & OLD TOWN 5K

The 8th annual Suwanee Half Marathon and Old Town 5K will run again on Sunday, February 20. Presented by Performance Race Services in conjunction with the City of Suwanee, the half marathon will kick off at 7:30 am in front of City Hall. Old Town 5K runners will begin running at 7:45 am from City Hall.

The 13.1-mile course will bring runners up to and down Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, in and around George Pierce Park, on the greenway to McGinnis Ferry Road and Suwanee Creek Park, and back to a glorious finish at City Hall. This course has a great mix of flat and hills, which will be fun for every type of runner.

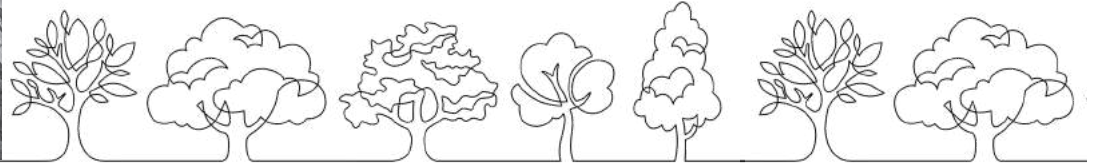
Half marathon finishers will receive a custom medal, custom fleece blanket, and technical blend shirt, as well as compete for overall and age groups awards. Participants in the 5K will also receive technical blend shirts and compete for overall and age group awards. Those who have completed at least five Suwanee half marathons will also win a custom jacket.

For more information, including route, registration, and volunteering, visit [SuwaneeHalf.com](http://SuwaneeHalf.com). Proceeds from the Half Marathon and Old Town 5K benefit the Suwanee Public Art Fund.



# Truck From THE DESK of

**BILL STINEHART**  
CITY OF SUWANEЕ ARBORIST &  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER



If you needed a hip replacement, you wouldn't make an appointment with your dermatologist; nor would you seek out a surgeon who wasn't board certified. It's risky to hire someone without the right credentials to work on anything that you are invested in. The City of Suwanee also felt that way, which is why they hired an International Society of Arboriculture-certified arborist with 30 years of experience to manage the trees within our community. (That's me.)

**Healthy trees serve many purposes – from providing oxygen to reducing erosion and water runoff, reducing energy cost to improving air quality, providing shade, creating wildlife habitats and of course, aesthetically improving the landscape while increasing property values.**

Part of my job at the city is planting and caring for trees so they that they become established for shade, energy savings, beauty, and habitats for local fauna. I oversee the **planting of over 150 trees annually** in various subdivisions and common, public areas to insure adequate shade canopy throughout the city. Besides maintaining new and existing trees, we also remove harmful, non-native plants, helping to further care for and allow our community forest to thrive. Additionally, the arborist team frequently presents educational tree seminars to subdivisions and Homeowner Associations.

We are also working to actively increase the community forest by reserving land around the city in natural, undisturbed areas, preserving habitat and ecosystems at the same time. **The City of Suwanee has increased its parks and greenspace to more than 325 acres since 2001.** Currently within the city limits, there are ten parks, 160 acres of preserved lands, and over 630 acres of protected wetland areas and stream buffers.

Suwanee's various public and private tree enhancement and preservation initiatives are robust and have been in place for a number of years. During property

development for most sites, new developments are required to provide common areas set aside for trees and other vegetation. On some occasions, the city also requires projects to include small pocket parks for both the community and animals to enjoy. We continue to work with builders and developers to **save large specimen trees** by adequate root protection buffers during construction, deep injection fertilizers, and disease and pest control.

The National Arbor Day Foundation has qualified Suwanee as a Tree City USA every year since 1990 for our commitment to the community forest, the laws we have in place to protect and increase our tree population, and for participation in the Arbor Day program.

For the past 32 years, the city has celebrated Arbor Day by planting new trees in different areas around town. In 2021, volunteers planted over 100 trees at the Arbor Day celebration alone. **I encourage individuals, families, scouts, and other groups to join us on Saturday, February 26 at 10 am in Sims Lake Park.** Those interested can contact me at [bstinehart@suwanee.com](mailto:bstinehart@suwanee.com) or 770 904-3381 for more information.

**Bill Stinehart is an ISA-certified arborist and horticulturist with 30 years of horticultural and irrigation management experience.** *Bill designs and maintains the shrub-tree health and annual flower-color program throughout the City of Suwanee. His favorite tree is the American fringe (*chionanthus virginicus*).*



# GET YOUR *Fit* TOGETHER

Did you know that 17 different runs will take place in Town Center Park and on the Suwanee Greenway this year, giving runners the opportunity to run nearly 66 miles without ever leaving the City of Suwanee? Hardcore runners (or walkers – we don't judge!) now have the opportunity to wear their love for Suwanee running on their sleeve (literally) with the all-new Suwanee Running Series, created by the City of Suwanee and Big Peach Running Co.

The Suwanee Running Series will highlight those who have participated in at least five Town Center races within one calendar year. Participants will receive a limited edition t-shirt declaring their allegiance to running in Suwanee, and be celebrated in the newsletter and on city social media.

Proof of participation may include a photo of a racing bib, screenshot of a receipt, finishing times, or any other documentation that includes a name and date. More information can be found at [Suwanee.com](http://Suwanee.com).



## Interested in getting in great running shape?

Big Peach Running Co. hosts a social running club in Town Center Park on **Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 pm!** Each run offers various distances and welcomes runners and walkers of all paces and abilities. Big Peach also has free training plans on their website for the DIYers.



# 2022 SUWANEE RUNNING SERIES

SUWANEE SWEETHEART SPRINT	FEBRUARY 12
SUWANEE HALF MARATHON & OLD TOWN 5K	FEBRUARY 20
SUWANEE BEER CHASER	MARCH 6
CARE FOR COPS 5K	MARCH 12
KIWANIS SHAMROCK 5K	MARCH 19
RUN 4 HOPE	MARCH 26
HAPPYFEAT HAPPY HOUR 5K	APRIL 16
RACE TO CURE SARCOMA ATLANTA	APRIL 23
MAX'S MOON RUN	MAY 6
TACOS AND TEQUILA 5K	MAY 7
GREAT STRIDES ATLANTA	MAY 21
BUTTON DOWN DASH 5K	AUGUST 6
ANNANDALE VILLAGE EXTRA MILE	AUGUST 27
CARE FOR COPS 5K	SEPTEMBER 10
WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S	NOVEMBER 12
RUN RUN RUDOLPH 5K	DECEMBER 3



# RETURNS TO TOWN CENTER!



BECAUSE  
**NO GREAT STORY**  
EVER STARTED  
WITH A SALAD

After an unexpected sabbatical in 2020, followed by a postponement to a summertime date and new theme in 2021, Suwanee's favorite craft beer festival returns to Town Center Park on March 19 to reclaim its title as the biggest St. Patrick's Day party in Gwinnett!

“  
**We not only bring a large number of local breweries to the event, but the owners and brewers as well. It provides attendees a chance to actually meet and chat with the people behind some of the best brews in Georgia.**  
”

*Tiffany Bellflower - Suwanee Beer Fest's event coordinator*

“We are excited to leave the heat of summer behind and to paint Town Center green again this year,” said Tiffany Bellflower, Suwanee Beer Fest's event coordinator. “In 2021, we expanded our Georgia beer section by bringing in more local breweries than in past events. Our goal is to top those numbers again this year.”

Named one of the '10 Best Beer Festivals in the U.S.' by USA Today, Suwanee Beer Fest offers a selection of more than 350 craft beers from around the country. Guests will also enjoy the Georgia Beer Garden featuring breweries from the Peach State, as well as seltzers, wines, ready-to-drink cocktails, and a selection of liquors from Sugar Hill Distillery.

General admission tickets (21+ only!) start at \$55 and include unlimited samples of 350+ craft beers, live music from Journey tribute band Departure, festival games such as cornhole, giant Jenga, giant beer pong, and mobile axe throwing, food trucks, local artists and vendors. Tickets and more information are available at [SuwaneeBeerFest.com](http://SuwaneeBeerFest.com).



A portion of Beer Fest proceeds will benefit **Cooper's Crew**, a local nonprofit dedicated to raising funds and awareness to cure childhood cancer and providing scholarships to students who have overcome unique hardships or adversities.

COMING  
**SOON**  
TO A MAILBOX  
NEAR YOU

CITY OF  
SUWANEЕ  
PARTICIPATING IN  
SIXTH NATIONAL  
**COMMUNITY  
SURVEY**

The City of Suwanee has questions and it's turning to its residents for the answers. A random selection of 2,700 City of Suwanee households will receive a mailed invitation to participate in the 2022 National Community Survey, which measures ten aspects of community livability.

This marks the sixth time that the City of Suwanee will participate in the survey, which is administered by the National Research Center and International City/County Management Association (ICMA) on behalf of local jurisdictions.

Residents' anonymous responses are tabulated and benchmarked with more than 500 other local jurisdictions around the country, as well as with a subset of similarly sized communities. The survey measures citizen satisfaction in ten areas:

- Economy
- Mobility
- Community design
- Utilities
- Safety
- Natural environment
- Parks and recreation
- Health and wellness
- Education, arts, and culture
- Inclusivity and engagement

Surveys will begin arriving in mailboxes in early February. **Results assist the city with community planning, resource allocation, program improvement, goal-setting, and policy-making.**

## 2017 National Community Survey Results Overview

- 1st**
  - Welcoming citizen involvement
  - Government acting in the best interest of the community
  - City-sponsored special events
- 2nd**
  - Land use, planning, and zoning.
  - City parks
- 3rd**
  - Public information services
  - Opportunities to participate in social events
- 4th**
  - Opportunities to participate in community matters
  - Confidence in Suwanee government
  - Direction the Suwanee is taking
- 5th**
  - Acceptance towards people of diverse backgrounds
- 7th**
  - Quality of new development
- 8th**
  - Services provided by the city
- 9th**
  - Preservation of natural areas and open spaces
- 10th**
  - Overall image and reputation

On My Honor, I Will Try:  
**TO SERVE**



March 12 is National Girl Scout Day! The City of Suwanee has been the proud recipient of multiple Scout projects throughout the years. Here are two of our most recent:

Audrey Johnson, Julie Langenderfer, and Tessa White of Girl Scout Troop 2440 added new native and non-native plant species, and researched and constructed informative signage about indigenous flora and fauna along the Suwanee Greenway as part of their Silver project.

Claire Brautigan installed a Free Little Library at Sims Lake Park – as well as a website explaining the importance of reading 20 minutes each day – as her Girl Scout Gold Award project. At the dedication on December 11, 2021, children made bookmarks, enjoyed a story read by Suwanee Councilwoman Linnea Miller, and filled the library with children's books!

If your scout is interested in doing a project within the City of Suwanee limits, he or she should contact Environmental Services Manager Bill Stinehart at [bstinehart@suwanee.com](mailto:bstinehart@suwanee.com) or **770 904-3381**. To view some of Suwanee's past Scout projects (and be inspired!), check out the photo albums on our Facebook page at @CityofSuwanee.



# AND THE AWARD GOES TO...



The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) recognized the City of Suwanee for the 13th consecutive year for its commitment to data-driven government management and reporting with a Certificate of Excellence in Performance Management.

The Certificate of Excellence – the highest certification level – was awarded to just 31 governments across the country. **Suwanee was the only jurisdiction in Georgia recognized by ICMA in 2021 for performance management at any level.**

Certificates of Excellence are awarded to governments providing comparative and benchmarking information to the public, using performance data in strategic planning and operational decision-making, and sharing their knowledge with other local governments through presentations, site visits, and other networking activities.

“Performance management is a bedrock principle of professional local government management,” ICMA Executive Director Marc A. Ott said. “As the impact of COVID-19 on our communities lingers on, we hope that by recognizing these leaders, we are encouraging others to measure how well their organization is performing, and making a commitment to collect and analyze data, report it transparently, and use it to continuously engage their communities and improve their organizations during these unprecedented times.”

## OTHER RECENT CITY OF SUWANEE AWARDS

**Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting** | Government Finance Officers Association

**Best Leadership & Best Represented** | Suwanee Police Department, Georgia Advocates for Crime Prevention

**Gold Award - Illustrations** | 2020 Annual Report, ARC Awards International

**Silver Award - Non-Profit Category** | 2020 Annual Report, ARC Awards International

**Honors - Written Text** | 2020 Annual Report, ARC Awards International

**Best Cities to Live in the South #32** | 24/7 Wall Street



Scan to be impressed by the City of Suwanee Trophy case!



## HIDDEN SUWANEE:

# Yoyo Ferro



Did you know that the Siena Town Center mixed-used development is home to a mural by a renowned muralist? Atlanta-based artist Yoyo Ferro was commissioned to create the passageway mural that connects the parking in the rear of the building to the street level retail spaces on Buford Highway.

Ferro relocated to the United States from his native Brazil for his job with a food ingredients company. Inspired by the Atlanta local arts scene, he decided to turn his hobby into a part-time second career. His art can be found on the sides of many Atlanta buildings, plus a few interiors.

Ferro defines his style as “**very colorful, abstract designs with lots of continuous lines.**” Visit [YoyoFerro.com/murals](http://YoyoFerro.com/murals) to see more of the artist’s work, and check out the Public Art link at [Suwanee.com](http://Suwanee.com) to discover more art around



# Welcome to Suwanee CITY HALL



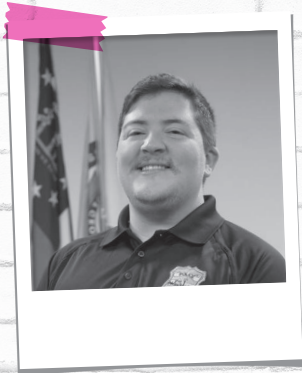
KYLE DARLING  
PUBLIC WORKS



CHRIS WINGATE  
PUBLIC WORKS



ALEX LOSQUARDO  
POLICE



DENIS PEREZ  
PUBLIC WORKS



BRITTANY HALL  
BUSINESS SERVICES  
SPECIALIST



SHANNON BON  
HUMAN RESOURCES  
GENERALIST

JONAH CASPER  
BUILDING INSPECTOR



**LAST  
CHANCE**

to view the  
sixth exhibit of

Suwanee  
**SCULPTOUR**

Existing public art  
will be leaving in March.

**BRAND  
NEW**

exhibit will debut

**May 14-15**

at the Suwanee Arts Festival!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia

### FEBRUARY 22

1	Downtown Development Authority	7:30 am
1	Planning Commission	6:30 pm
8	Harvest Farm Board Meeting	5:00 pm
9	Public Art Commission	6:00 pm
10	City Council Workshop	5:30 pm
11	Red Cross Blood Drive	10:00 am
12	Winter Farmers Market	9:00 am
12	Suwanee's Sweetheart Sprint	9:00 am
15	Suwanee Fest Committee Meeting	6:30 pm
15	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30 pm
20	Suwanee Half Marathon & Old Town 5k	7:30 am
22	City Council Meeting	6:30 pm
26	Winter Farmers Market	9:00 am
26	Arbor Day Planting	10:00 am

### MARCH 22

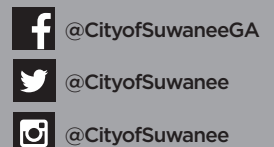
1	Planning Commission	6:30 pm
5	Suwanee Beer Chaser 5k	11:00 am
8	Harvest Farm Board Meeting	5:00 pm
9	Public Art Commission	6:00 pm
10	City Council Workshop	5:30 pm
12	Care for Cops 5k	8:00 am
12	Winter Farmers Market	9:00 am
14	Suwanee Fest Committee Meeting	6:30 pm
15	Downtown Development Authority	7:30 am
15	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30 pm
19	Suwanee Kiwanis Shamrock 5k	8:00 am
19	Suwanee American Craft Beer Fest	Noon
22	City Council Meeting	6:30 pm
26	Winter Farmers Market	9:00 am
26	Run 4 Hope 5k	8:00 am

**MAYOR** Jimmy Burnette 770/868-7115  
**COUNCIL** Pete Charpentier 770/757-3323  
Heather Hall 410/979-7905  
Beth Hilscher 678/546-3388  
Linnea Miller 678/592-4150  
Larry Pettiford 678/464-3651

**CITY MANAGER** Marty Allen 770/945-8996  
**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER** Denise Brinson 770/904-3385  
**CITY CLERK** Robyn O'Donnell 770/904-2790  
**FINANCIAL SERVICES** Amie Sakmar 770/904-2797  
**PLANNING & INSPECTIONS** Josh Campbell 770/904-3372  
**POLICE CHIEF** Cass Mooney 770/904-7610  
**PUBLIC WORKS** Bob Dean 770/904-3373  
**EDITOR** Abby Wilkerson 770/945-3386

**CITY OF  
SUWANEE,  
GEORGIA**

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



Unless otherwise noted, City of Suwanee public meetings are at City Hall, 330 Town Center Avenue. Dates subject to change; check [suwanee.com](http://suwanee.com) for updates.