



Suwanee connects

suwanee.com | April 2022

INSIDE this issue...

2



Upcoming
Spring Events

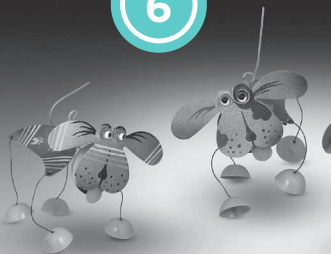
4



SUWANEE YOUTH LEADERS

Suwanee Youth
Leaders Class of
2022

6



Art on a Limb
Returns in May!



GLOW IN THE PARK LIGHTS IT UP WITH THE ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL NIGHT MARKET

EXPERIENCE THE WORLD
WITHOUT EVER LEAVING SUWANEE

The City of Suwanee and the Atlanta International Night Market are collaborating to bring TWO DAYS of fun, food, and entertainment from around the world to Town Center Park!

Friday, April 22 | 5-10 pm

Enjoy food and stage performances highlighting Gwinnett's rich cultural diversity! For the past seven years, the Atlanta International Night Market has woven arts, education, and cuisine into an amazing event that enriches and displays the vibrant multiculturalism that is our community. While you're there, enjoy an Insta-worthy curated selection of illuminated art from Illuminate Georgia!

Saturday, April 23 | 2-10 pm

Atlanta International Night Market and Illuminate Georgia return, along with a favorite community tradition: the Glow in the Park lantern parade and a headliner concert!



So, who gets to
be in the parade?
YOU DO!



This event is a community celebration of creativity; everyone is encouraged to create illuminated costumes, carry their pre-made lanterns, and parade together. This electrical spectacle is family- and pet-friendly, so everyone can join in as we make our beloved park glow in the dark!

Visit Suwanee.com for more information, including lantern classes, concert, and schedules!



The Internet is full of lantern how-tos and ideas, and GeekSpace Gwinnett and the Suwanee Arts Center are hosting lantern building workshops leading up to the event. Visit Facebook.com/GeekspaceGwinnett or SuwaneeArtsCenter.org for more information on classes.

Can't make it to a class?
The Suwanee Arts Center is selling grab-and-go lantern kits!

UPCOMING spring EVENTS

Community Sunrise Service

April 17 | 7 AM

Atlanta International Night Market

April 22 | 5 PM
April 23 | 2 PM

Glow in the Park

April 23 | 2 PM

Make Rare Visible Glow in the Dark Concert

May 7 | 5 PM

Suwanee Arts Festival

May 14 | 10 AM
May 15 | NOON

British Car Show

May 22 | 10 AM

Red, White, Bluegrass, & Bach

May 27 | 7 PM

Food Truck Friday

June 3 | 5:30 PM



Winter Farmers Market

April 9 & 23
9-11 AM

Weekly Farmers Market

Every Saturday | May-September
8 AM - NOON

2 suwanee.com

PART OF THE SUWANEE RUNNING SERIES 22



HappyFeat Happy Hour 5k

April 16 | 2 PM

Race to Cure Sarcoma

April 23 | 8 AM

Tacos & Tequila 5k

May 7 | 11 AM

Max's Moon Run

May 6 | 6:30 PM

Great Strides Atlanta

May 21 | 9 AM



May 14 | 10 am - 5pm
May 15 | Noon - 5pm

SUWANEE TOWN CENTER

Featuring high-quality art of various media, including painting, ceramics, photography, sculpture, wood, jewelry, glass, fiber, & more!

Live artist demonstrations • Stage entertainment • Kids' Animation Academy



suwanee
ARTS CENTER

SUWANEE.COM
SUWANEEARTSCENTER.COM

Suwanee
georgia



From THE DESK of

BOB DEAN
CITY OF SUWANEE
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

TAKE A DEEP DIVE INTO STORMWATER

One of the city's most substantial and fundamental services is largely unseen. As the adage says, *when it rains, it pours*. And when it pours, it collects. And if you don't have a reliable stormwater drainage system, water will collect in areas you would rather it wouldn't.

Every resident of Suwanee knows that when traveling down Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road they can determine how hard it recently rained by simply looking at Suwanee Creek to see if the banks are swollen and covering the adjacent Suwanee Creek Greenway. The water that causes the banks of Suwanee Creek to overflow came from nearby yards, roads, parking lots, buildings, and other areas of the city traveling through a network of inlets, culverts, metal/concrete pipes, detention ponds, ditches and other stormwater features. Every year the city expends significant resources to build, maintain, replace, and rehabilitate this unseen but essential city infrastructure.

In Suwanee, the stormwater infrastructure system is largely the responsibility of the public works department. State regulatory agencies oversee compliance with state and federal requirements (most notably National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Municipal Separate Storm and Sewer Systems permits). But it is primarily our responsibility to oversee the public system. In the broadest sense, stormwater management involves two key components: **stormwater quantity (how much) and stormwater quality (how clean)**.



With over ten years as a Public Works director in other municipalities, Bob Dean became the Public Works Director of the City of Suwanee in December 2020. He is responsible for the management of all city infrastructure, facilities, and parks.

STORMWATER QUANTITY

Managing stormwater quantity is essentially about managing the amount of water to minimize flooding and other negative impacts to property caused by uncontrolled stormwater. We use a variety of tools including project design, pipes, ponds, and other infrastructure features to contain and control the release of stormwater.

Development regulations are the primary tools used by the city to manage stormwater associated with land development. Our processes require new developments to incorporate appropriate facilities to manage the amount and how water is released. Projects must be designed by professional engineers and constructed to comply with generally accepted engineering standards.

STORMWATER QUALITY

Stormwater quality management is the effort to effectively manage the quality of rainwater that ends up in our creeks and streams. Stormwater runs over yards, roads, and parking lots. As a result, this water can collect undesired pollutants such as litter, sediment, oil and grease, pesticides, and other elements. The city's regulations also require that new developments incorporate various structural features to help reduce pollutants and sediment in the water before it is conveyed to streams and rivers.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

In order to maintain stormwater effectively, the city is responsible for many miles of pipes and over one thousand drainage structures. As infrastructure inevitably deteriorates over time, regular inspections and proactive maintenance is necessary for the system to continue to function. Delayed maintenance results in more costly repairs, damage to private property, and other inconveniences such as roads closures. Over the last five years, the city has spent over \$5 million maintaining and repairing the system and complying with applicable rules and regulations.

STORMWATER PLAN

Over the last 30 years, the city's stormwater infrastructure system has grown considerably. The city, with the assistance of professional stormwater consultants, is currently preparing a multi-year program to proactively replace or rehabilitate several thousand linear feet throughout Suwanee. Concurrently, the city is working with a Citizen's Committee to study needs, service levels, and funding approaches to help ensure all of the city's aging systems are properly maintained and functional for years to come.

While not as visible as roads and sidewalks, and not quite as sexy as parks, I hope you can agree that stormwater management is just as important in many respects.

PEACHTREE RIDGE
SENIOR NAMED
2022 GWINNETT COUNTY
STAR ★
STUDENT ○

Congratulations to the
**2022 STAR STUDENTS
& TEACHERS**
from Suwanee area high schools:

The Professional Association of Georgia Educators Foundation named **Chungin “Roy” Lee**, a senior at Peachtree Ridge High School, Gwinnett’s 2022 STAR Student. STAR Students are the seniors in the top percent of their class with the highest SAT score. Lee bested 44 students from 31 Gwinnett schools, both public and private, and will now compete at the regional and state levels.

Lee chose to honor **Adam Sherman** as his STAR Teacher. Each STAR Student selects a teacher to recognize as the educator with a strong influence on their academic career.

Collins Hill High School
STAR Student: Irene Park
STAR Teacher: Danielle Wilcher

Peachtree Ridge High School
STAR Student: Roy Lee
STAR Teacher: Adam Sherman

North Gwinnett High School
STAR Student: Annie Dang
STAR Teacher: Rebecca Carlisle

STAR Student: Albert Doan
STAR Teacher: Katie Massey

STAR Student: Madeline Dodson
STAR Teacher: John Rhilinger

STAR Student: Isaac J. Kim
STAR Teacher: Zachary Luna



The City of Suwanee recently named the members of its seventh Suwanee Youth Leaders (SYL) class. These students were chosen based on a combination of the strength of application, recommendations from teachers and school administrators, and extracurricular resume.

SYL is an eight-month leadership program for high school sophomores and juniors living within the North Gwinnett, Peachtree Ridge, or Collins Hills clusters. Participants gain exposure to local initiatives and community and civic leaders, while also allowing the city to engage with youth. This year, the class will be involved in planning a city-wide event, as well as planning and implementing a community service project.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE



CLASS OF
2022

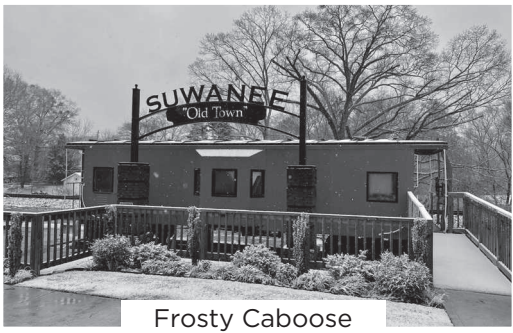
SUWANEE YOUTH LEADERS

Nathan Allen
Rudra Amin
Mae Anderson
Andrew Bababtunde
Karla Becerra
Ava Belflower
Beau Blackburn
Utkarsh Borikar
Claire Brautigian
Amarì Carter
Hailey Chappel
Shane Chen
Aryan Chokshi
Jillian Daniels
Emma Davis
Sanjna Desai
Sean Fisher
Savannah Fulks
Dominique Goodman
Jaida Guarnieri

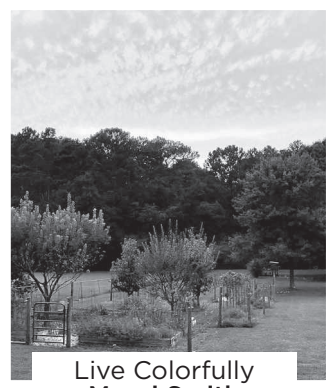
Kailey Hanks
Isabel Hernandez
Lena Ho
Chanel Holguin
Nafisa Jumabaeva
Iliyan Kajani
John Kantor
Christopher Kibwana
Hannah Lee
Kyle Lee
Carter Lipe
Jiali Liu
Purnima Magar
Siddharth Mehta
Disha Mishra
Nolan Morris
Ishika Narsingani
Jason Onwumere
Rahul Pandit
Isabella Park

Krupa Patel
Ziyada Rakhimova
Sri Ravela
Kelden Robinson
Saajan Shah
Ashlee Tam
Brandon Tang
Lena Towne
Zora Tucker
Josephine Vasilco
Christian Vasquez
Lauryn Vasquez
Aditi Venkatesh
Jala Wells
Micah Woods
Jonah Yonathan
Justin Yoon





Frosty Caboose
Marni Smith



Live Colorfully
Marni Smith



Sunrise in Sunset
Amy Doherty



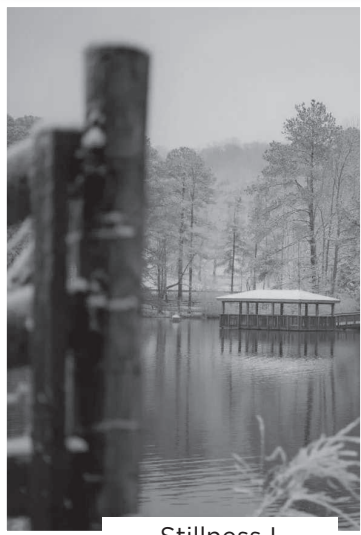
Snowy Sunset
Amy Doherty



Jubilation
Kate Durden
Judges' Choice Winner



Catching Up Over Coffee
Keith Costley



Stillness I
Koyya Russell



Fountain Fun Dip
Traci Dickson



Harmony at Amphitheatre
Keith Costley



Fountain Surprise
Mary King



Sponsored by Suwanee's Public Arts Commission, the annual Snap Suwanee community photo competition provides an opportunity for participants to share images that illustrate the Suwanee community in a unique and beautiful way. The winning photographs will be on display at City Hall through February 2023.

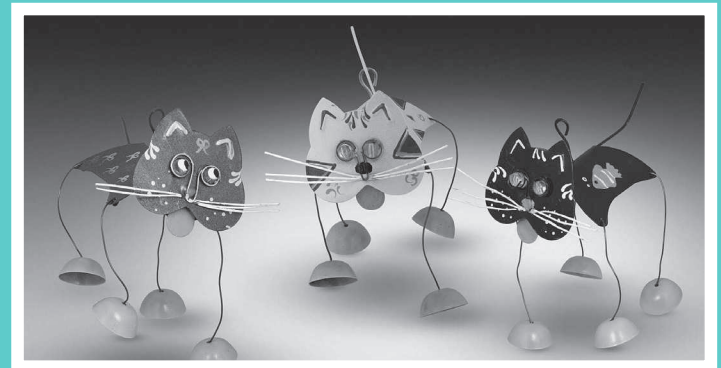
Art on a Limb IS BACK

Longtime Suwanee residents know to keep an eye on the tree branches in the spring – not just to enjoy the dogwood blossoms, but to search for pieces from the City of Suwanee’s annual Art on a Limb program. Through Art on a Limb, two pieces of art are hidden daily along one of the greenways or within city parks throughout the month of May. Those who find the art pieces get to keep them!

Artist Anna Fleckenstein created this year’s Art on a Limb piece – more specifically, Anna’s daughters. As a single parent, Anna did not have the ability to contribute to her daughters’ college tuition. Instead, she challenged her daughters to create art of their own, which she would then take to arts and crafts shows. After some trial and error, the girls landed on yard ornaments created from scrap galvanized metal, welded into unique critters and hand painted with a folk art design.

“I challenge people to try NOT to smile when viewing our whimsical garden critters!” said Anna. “We hope that they really brighten the art seeker’s day.”

If you’re one of the lucky ones to find an Art on a Limb piece in one of the parks or on the trails during the month of May, be sure to share a photo with us on social media! **#artonalimb2022**



MOOving On

It’s time to bid a fond farewell to the 2019-22 SculpTour exhibit. Most of the sculptures that make up the sixth exhibit will be leaving in March, making way for the seventh exhibit installation in late spring!

HIDDEN SUWANEE: RHODES HOTEL

If you think Suwanee is a happening place now you should've seen it in 80s - the 1880s, that is! Suwanee was THE place to be for traveling salesmen, doctors, teachers, and other railroad passengers.

Like many Gwinnett towns, the City of Suwanee dates back to when the railroad was constructed. In 1871, the Georgia Air Line Railroad was completed from Charlotte to Atlanta, with a stop and depot on Main Street. Soon after, businesses, homes, and churches were erected, including the Rhodes Hotel.

One of the finest hotels on the line, guests were hosted by Henry Rhodes, head of the Suwanee school board and the railroad depot agent, and his wife Lillie, known for her famous dinners. The couple also offered Sunday afternoon carriage rides around town.

Built in 1876, the restored stately Victorian frame house is 4,002 square feet and features eight fireplaces, tall ceilings, a carriage house, and its signature wrap-around porches on both the main and second floors, as well as the largest magnolia tree in the state.

The Rhodes Hotel is now the home of Huthmaker Violins, a world-renowned violin shop offering repairs, instruments, bows, appraisals, rentals, and accessories for fine string instruments.

The Rhodes Hotel served as a respite for travelers, particularly local teachers, who would reside in the hotel during the week and take the train home to Atlanta on the weekends. *Gone with the Wind* author Margaret Mitchell was a frequent guest, using Suwanee as an escape from the Atlanta society gossip.



Congratulations TO OUR OWN SERGEANT CHANCE BELCHER

who was named the Gwinnett County District Attorney's **Investigator of the Quarter** for a successful prosecution of a homicide.



UPCOMINGEVENTS

official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia

APRIL 22

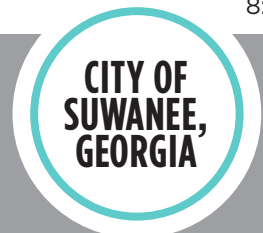
5	Planning Commission	6:30 pm
9	Winter Farmers Market	9:00 am
11	Suwanee Fest Committee Meeting	6:30 pm
11	Citizens Police Academy	6:30 pm
13	Public Art Commission	6:00 pm
14	City Council Workshop	5:30 pm
16	HappyFeat Happy Hour 5K	2:00 pm
17	Community Sunrise Service	7:00 am
18	Citizens Police Academy	6:30 pm
19	Downtown Development Authority	7:30 am
19	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30 pm
22	Atlanta International Night Market	5:00 pm
23	Race to Cure Sarcoma Atlanta	8:00 am
23	Winter Farmers Market	9:00 am
23	Glow in the Park	2:00 pm
25	Citizens Police Academy	6:30 pm
26	City Council Meeting	6:30 pm
28	Proposed FY2023 Budget Special Workshop	5:30 pm

MAY 22

2	Citizens Police Academy	6:30 pm
3	Planning Commission	6:30 pm
4	Proposed FY2023 Budget Special Workshop	5:30 pm
6	Max's Moon Run	6:30 pm
7	Farmers Market	8:00 am
7	Tacos & Tequila 5K	11:00 am
7	Make Rare Visible Glow in the Dark Concert	5:00 pm
9	Suwanee Fest Committee Meeting	6:30 pm
9	Citizens Police Academy	6:30 pm
11	Public Art Commission	6:00 pm
12	City Council Workshop	5:30 pm
14	Farmers Market	8:00 am
14	Suwanee Arts Festival	10:00 am
15	Suwanee Arts Festival	Noon
16	Citizens Police Academy	6:30 pm
17	Downtown Development Authority	7:30 am
17	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30 pm
21	Farmers Market	8:00 am
21	Great Strides Atlanta	9:00 am
22	British Car Show	10:00 am
23	Citizens Police Academy	6:30 pm
24	City Council Meeting	6:30 pm
27	Red, White, Bluegrass, & Bach	7:00 pm
28	Farmers Market	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



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 for updates.