

# Suwanee connects

suwanee.com | September 2022

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May the shopping be with you!

*A FESTIVAL COMING SOON IN A PARK REALLY, REALLY NEARBY...*

# THE GREATEST IN THE GALAXY SUWANEE FEST 2022

**SATURDAY**  
**SEP 17**  
**9 AM - 7 PM**

**SUNDAY**  
**SEP 18**  
**NOON - 5 PM**

**THRIVE** ▲  
INITIATIVE | COWORKING



SOUTHEAST  
MEDICAL GROUP

Community. Culture. Lifestyle.  
**Suwanee**  
magazine

**SUWANEEFEST.COM**

# THE GREATEST IN THE GALAXY SUWANEE FEST 2022

## SUWANEE FEST SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 17**

8am - 8pm ★ Free shuttle  
to/from offsite parking

9am ★ Parade

10am - 7pm

Arts & crafts exhibitors, inflatable rides,  
family fun zone, food vendors

10:30am - 7pm

Free on-stage entertainment begins

5:30pm Headliner:  
**REMEMBER WHEN  
ROCK WAS YOUNG**

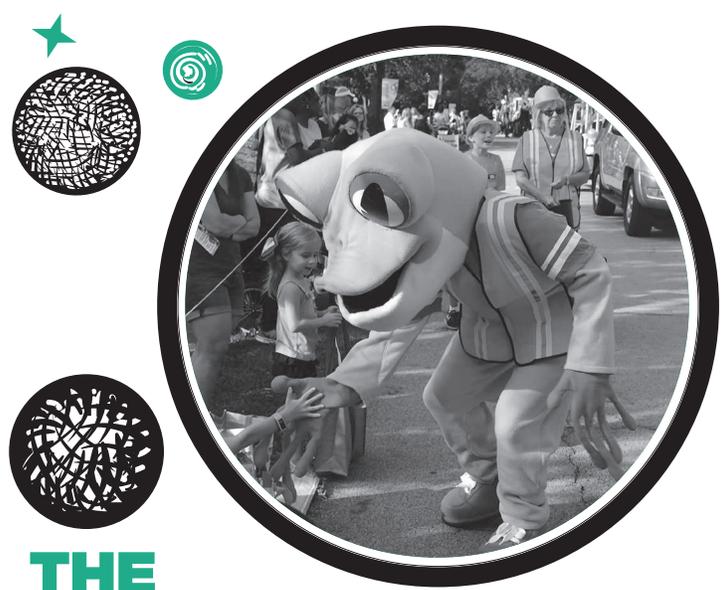
ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE

**SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 18**

11:30am - 7pm ★ Free shuttle  
to/from offsite parking

Noon - 5pm

Arts & crafts exhibitors, inflatable rides,  
family fun zone, food vendors,  
free on-stage entertainment



## THE GREATEST IN THE GALAXY

**IT'S A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION  
OF COSMIC PROPORTIONS! JOIN US  
IN TOWN CENTER PARK SEPTEMBER  
17 AND 18 FOR THE 38TH ANNUAL  
SUWANEE FEST - AN ENTIRE WEEKEND  
OF SHOPPING, ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT,  
FOOD, AND MORE!**

The festival kicks off with an **out-of-this-world-parade** featuring bands, floats, performers, police cars, and more. Prizes are awarded to floats and participants in a variety of categories.

The parade ends in Town Center Park where nearly **200 vendors and exhibitors** offer a variety of hand-crafted items and delicious delights. Festival exhibitors include artists, craftspeople, and yummy food vendors.

Festival goers will also enjoy nearly 12 hours of **performing talent** throughout the weekend! Dance groups, acrobats, solo artists, bands, and other groups with diverse backgrounds will be featured on the Town Center Stage and throughout the park.

Many free activities for children are offered in the **Family Fun Zone**, a.k.a. Mission Control. Young visitors can complete the astronaut training course, knock down aliens, and catch falling stars, among other galactic feats. Rides and inflatables are also available throughout the park.

**BLAST OFF TO SUWANEE FEST!**

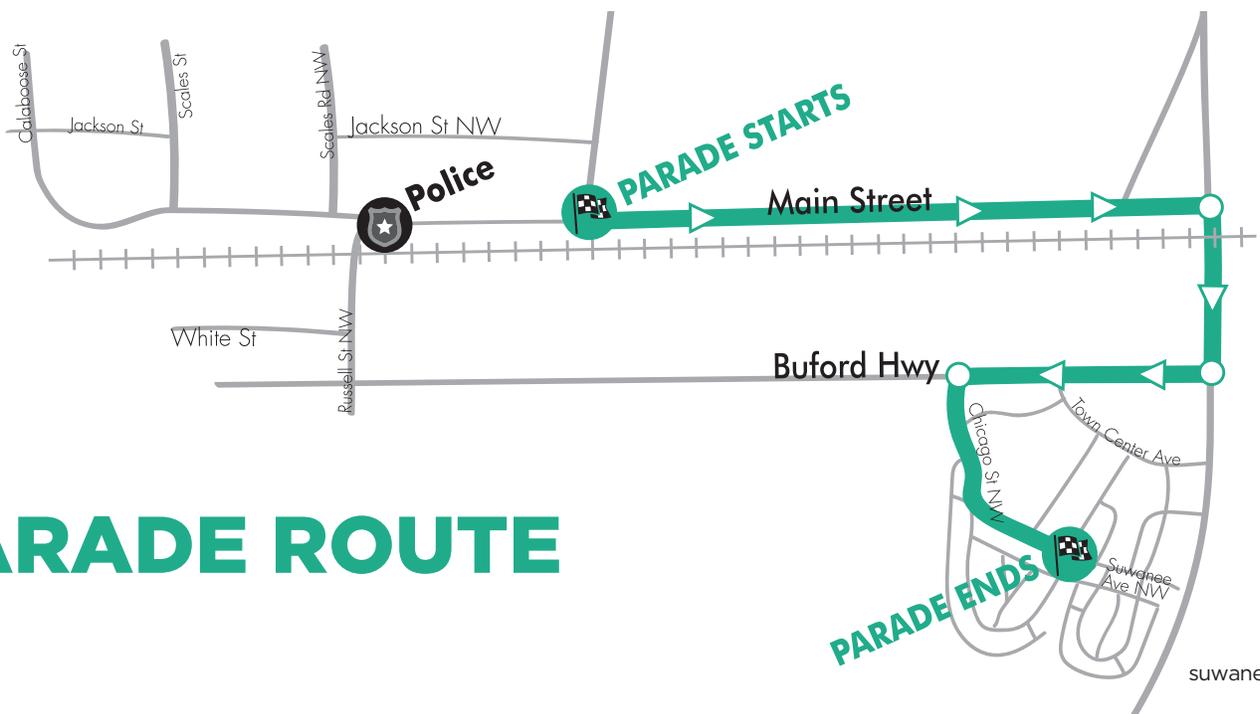


# **BLAST OFF** INTO SUWANEE FEST WEEKEND WITH THE ANNUAL **SUWANEE FEST PARADE!**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> | 9 AM**

The parade rolls down Main Street on Saturday, September 18 at 9:00 am, traveling along Suwanee Dam to Buford Highway, passing in front of the judges' station at Town Center Park.

Have an out-of-this-world idea for a parade entry? Get your group together, decorate a float/boat, dress up, and/or prepare a 60 second performance for your chance to win a prize. Cash prizes are available for best use of theme, most entertaining, best costumes and other categories. Register at [SuwaneeFest.com](http://SuwaneeFest.com)!



## **PARADE ROUTE**



# ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE



## STAYIN' ALIVE CREW

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 | 10:40 AM

Entertaining and inspiring audiences all over Atlanta and the Southeast for the past four years, The Stayin' Alive Crew dance team consists of dancers aged 50 and up. This non-profit group performs all styles of dance (but hip hop is their favorite!) and promises to bring a smile to your face as they demonstrate that age is just a number!

## WORLD CLASS TAEKWONDO

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 | 11:30 AM

The World Class Taekwondo Demonstration Team was founded in 2021 by three world-class, accomplished grandmasters who teach traditional Taekwondo with the sole purpose of sharing Taekwondo with as many people as possible and upholding its values.



## DOMINIK DANDAR

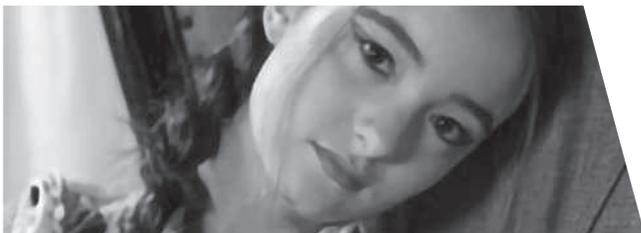
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 | 12:15 PM

An active musician for over half his life, Dominik performs variety of genres from classic rock to modern pop hits on both the guitar and piano. You might remember this Suwanee resident and his high-energy style from Summer Porch Jam in June!

## JASON STEPHENS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 | 1:00 PM

Jason "Stat" Stephens is a multifaceted artist and an 11-time award nominee and a three-time award-winning singer, songwriter, producer, and engineer. Known for his unique ear and sound, Jason has become one of the most sought out audio engineers in the indie market.



## DALBY BIEHL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 | 2:15 PM

Fifteen-year-old Dalby Biehl writes and performs her own music that is equally relatable to your youngest sibling and your favorite grandparent. Dalby's goal is to connect to people through music whether "it's standing up for social justice, connecting to someone in a dark place, or just giving someone a song to scream in the car."

## DISTINCT GRACE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 | 3:30 PM

Suwanee Fest favorite Distinct Grace delivers high-energy rock and roll shows with lots of crowd participation. The band has played their portfolio of cover songs and music from their four studio albums professionally across the Southeast for over ten years.



## REMEMBER WHEN ROCK WAS YOUNG THE ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE STARRING CRAIG MEYER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 | 5:30 PM

Craig Meyer has traversed all four corners of the entertainment industry, making strong impressions in theatre, film, television and music. With a striking resemblance and uncanny ability to sound like the rock and roll legend, Meyer was persuaded to expand his repertoire and began impersonating Sir Elton John. Today, he is considered to be the best Elton John tribute artist in the market. This spectacular musical journey celebrates the decades of chart-topping hits by the Rocket Man, including Benny and the Jets, Philadelphia Freedom, Crocodile Rock, Goodbye Yellow Brick Road, and Candle in the Wind. A celebration of the character, costumes, and charisma of the famed pianist and singer, Meyer's fully produced show has captivated audiences throughout the world



## MOKSHA DANCE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 | 12:10 PM

Moksha is an Indian Fusion dance troupe that mixes a variety of styles into their performances, including Bollywood, folk, classical, and hip hop, as they aim to represent the various sub-cultures and regions of India.

## DANCE ARTS CENTRE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 | 1:00 PM

Suwanee dance studio Dance Arts Centre is home to a prestigious competitive program with numerous national titles. Their competitive dancers train in various styles of dance, such as jazz, contemporary, lyrical, open, musical theatre, acrobatics, tap, and hip hop.



## ATLANTA CHINESE DANCE COMPANY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 | 2:00 PM

At nearly 100 dancers strong, the Atlanta Chinese Dance Company educates and entertains audiences about Chinese dance, history, and culture. The dance company helped showcase Atlanta to the world when it performed in the opening and closing ceremonies of the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games.

## FUTURE FAILURE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 | 3:00 PM

The guys of Future Failure aren't rock stars, but on any given Thursday, you can find them pretending to be. Born out of a desire for some post-pandemic fun, the guys got together and started banging out cover tunes that simply made them happy.



## NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 | 4:00 PM

Nicholas Williams is a multi-instrumentalist and storyteller dedicated to "playing it forward" by preserving the songs and styles that have shaped our country: ragtime, Piedmont blues, traditional folk, old time, and early country. He has spent the last 15 years touring the US, the UK, Western Europe and Australia, blending the roots music spectrum in his own style.

# FEATURED VENDORS

From crafts to fine art, wood and metalworking to gourmet food, Suwanee Fest has something for everyone! Explore over 200 artisans throughout Town Center Park.

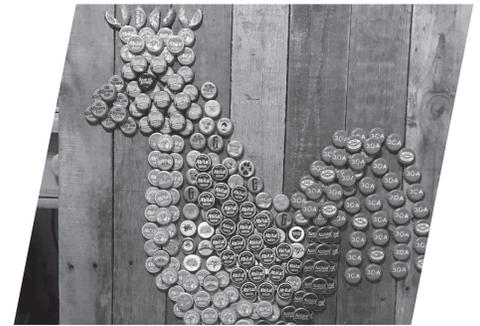


## **AFRICAN LADY FOODS • Booth B29**

African Lady Foods creates authentic Liberian-inspired bread mixes, spicy hot pepper sauces, and seasonings from fresh, all-natural ingredients. Spice up your weeknight favorite with Spicy Hot & Smoked Herring Seasoning Salts, go for something exotic with Banana Rice Bread mix, or try their famous mouthwatering caramelized Shortbread Biscuit mix (perfect for breakfast, lunch, or dinner!). Not sure how to use these fabulous foreign products? Check out the recipes at [AfricanLadyFoods.com](http://AfricanLadyFoods.com).

## **ARNIE'S BEER CAP ART • Booth R35**

Who knew a bunch of discarded beer caps and reclaimed wood could create such amazing art? Arnie's Beer Cap Art began on a whim in 2016 and has since grown into a life of its own. Unbottling his own creativity, the artist strives to create new works while still keeping up with his classic designs, as well as completing custom pieces. Stop by Arnie's booth at Suwanee Fest and say hi, maybe bring him a beer.



## **BLUE RIDGE NURSERY • Booth R13**

Succulents, violets, and cacti, oh my! Blue Ridge Nursery is dedicated to the propagation and growth of an assortment of interesting and often rare or exotic plants. Flora is hand-potted with care and love to make certain plants live a healthy and fruitful life. Blue Ridge Nursery also offers handmade macramés, concrete pots, and wood crafts.

## **HONG.WARE • Booth P08**

In 1999, Minna Hong sustained a spinal cord injury from a car accident that left her a widow and a wheelchair-bound single mother. Refusing to be slowed, she began working at Shepherd Center, where she was awarded Hospital Hero by the Georgia Healthcare Association for her work as a Peer Support Manager. Minna then retired to pursue her passions: disability advocacy and creating art. Her goal is to infuse the two in various mediums of artistic expressions. A self-described "serious curious dabbler," Minna creates beautiful handmade pottery with a whimsical twist.





## **MARVELOUS MOOSEY ADVENTURES • Booth G18**

Have you ever had blue hoof moments in your life? Those times when you feel different from everyone else? Meet Marvelous Moosey: a moose with blue hooves. Other moose made fun of his hooves, but his friend, Winston the Owl, teaches Marvelous Moosey to be himself and proud of his uniqueness. You can meet a soft, plush Marvelous Moose – along with his creators, Dawn and Steve – at Suwanee Fest, where they will also be selling his children’s book and other marvelous accessories.

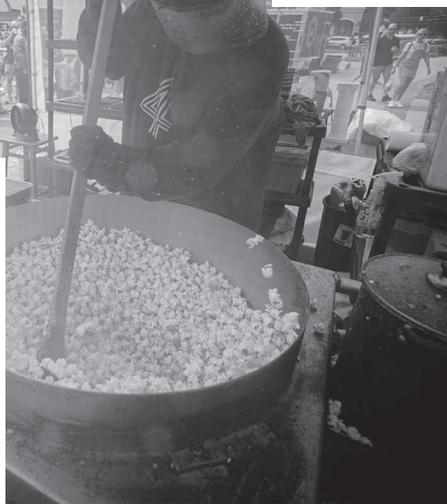
## **McKINNON'S COCKTAILS • Booth R15**

Do you ever find yourself tailgating, camping, on a boat, or some other activity where it was just easier to grab something boring in a can – when what you really wanted was a cocktail? Enter McKinnon’s Cocktails: all the necessary ingredients to make an infused craft cocktail in a mason jar. Just add your favorite spirit to the dehydrated ingredients in the jar and chill in the fridge for three days. Each batch makes up to eight drinks to help you either be the most popular person at the tailgate/campsite/cove, or the funnest.



## **RAILHOOKZ • Booth G19**

Accessorize your deck sides! Railhookz is an innovative line of patented universal, adjustable clamps that will allow users to attach umbrellas, bird feeders, hanging baskets, etc. to wood, metal or solid plastic decks, balconies, docks – whatever outdoor living space you want to enhance! Each metal hook is cut, bent, and welded in-house. Come see Railhookz at Suwanee Fest for the best quality selection of clamp-on deck hangers and accessories.





# MISSION CONTROL, DO YOU READ ME?

**Saturday, September 17**  
10 am – 7 pm  
..  
**Sunday, September 18**  
noon – 5 pm

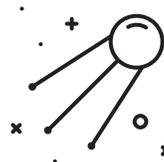
We're searching the universe for kiddos who want to explore the final frontier! Young Suwanee Fest visitors can complete the Astronaut Training Course at Mission Control, located on the west side of Town Center Avenue. Try a series of obstacles that will challenge you to boldly go where no kid has gone before:



**MOON WALK**



**OUTER SPACE  
OBSTACLE  
COURSE**



**FLYING  
SAUCER TOSS**



**ALIEN  
BLASTER**

Those who successfully complete the challenges will receive a certificate of completion, a prize, and might find themselves recruited for adventure light years away!

The Family Fun Zone area is dedicated to our younger Suwanee Fest visitors; all activities are complimentary. Galactic fun includes a photo booth, caricature artists, a balloon artist, roaming performers, and a living statue!

# PARKING & SHUTTLES

Parking is unavailable at Town Center during Suwanee Fest, and traffic in the Town Center area can be congested throughout the festival weekend. Please plan on utilizing the free shuttles for a hassle-free Suwanee Fest parking experience. Off-site festival parking and complimentary shuttles are available at three convenient locations:

## BLUE STAR LOT

Shadowbrook Church, 4187 Suwanee Dam Road  
\*This lot features wheelchair-accessible shuttles.

## RED ROCKET LOT

Shawnee North Business Center, 305 Shawnee North Drive at Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road

## GREEN ASTRONAUT LOT

Southeastern Freight, 3655 Windsor Park off of Buford Highway



The air conditioned shuttles will run from 8 am-8pm on Saturday, and from 11:30 am-7 pm on Sunday. Please note that bus service will be very limited during the parade, from 8:45 am-approximately 10:30 am on Saturday. **Dogs are welcome on the shuttles!**

# Cheers! Project

The Suwanee Youth Leaders (SYL) Class of 2022 is embarking on their Cheers Project – and need the community’s help!

SYL is a ten-month leadership program centering on civic involvement, leadership skills, and volunteer opportunities for high school sophomores and juniors. Each class selects and completes a Cheers Project to better our community.

**The Cheers Project is in memory of Adam Edge**, a former city employee and co-founder of the SYL program. This year’s project is a ‘Cheers Spot’ hangout space, located on the lawn area behind City Hall. Dedicated to youth and the community, Adam always had time to “hang” with his SYLiens; the Class of 2022 envisions a space for youth and adults alike to continue to gather and spread positivity. The area will include an Adirondack chair seating area, two swing table dining areas, and A Little Library.

**SPONSORS NEEDED!**

**SYL IS SEEKING MONETARY AND IN-KIND SPONSORS TO OFFSET THE COSTS OF THE PROJECT.**

THOSE INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING OR MORE INFORMATION SHOULD CALL BILLQEECE NAQAWA AT

**770-945-8996**

Those interested in contributing to or would like more information regarding the Cheers Project should email **SYL.07.2022@gmail.com.**

## UPCOMINGEVENTS

official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia

### SEPTEMBER22

<b>3</b>	Farmers Market	8:00 am
<b>5</b>	City Hall CLOSED	
<b>6</b>	Planning Commission	6:30 pm
<b>7</b>	Parade Participants Meeting	6:00 pm
<b>10</b>	Farmers Market	8:00 am
<b>10</b>	Care for Cops 5K	8:00 am
<b>10</b>	Suwanee’s Got Talent	5:00 pm
<b>12</b>	Suwanee Fest Committee Meeting	6:30 pm
<b>14</b>	Public Art Commission	6:00 pm
<b>15</b>	City Council Workshop	5:30 pm
<b>17</b>	Suwanee Fest	9:00 am
<b>18</b>	Suwanee Fest	Noon
<b>20</b>	Downtown Development Authority	7:30 am
<b>20</b>	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30 pm
<b>24</b>	Farmers Market	8:00 am
<b>27</b>	City Council Meeting	6:30 pm

### OCTOBER22

<b>4</b>	Planning Commission	6:30 pm
<b>8</b>	Farmers Market	9:00 am
<b>8</b>	Taste of BBQ	10:00 am
<b>12</b>	Public Art Commission	6:00 pm
<b>13</b>	City Council Workshop	5:30 pm
<b>15</b>	Spooky Spirits 5K	11:00 am
<b>18</b>	Downtown Development Authority	7:30 am
<b>18</b>	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30 pm
<b>22</b>	Farmers Market	9:00 am
<b>25</b>	City Council Meeting	6:30 pm
<b>29</b>	Dinner & a BOOvie	6:00 pm



**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 EDITOR** Bob Dean 770/904-3373  
 Abby Wilkerson 770/945-3386

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

- @CityofSuwaneeGA
- @CityofSuwanee
- @CityofSuwanee

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.



**DISCatcher**  
Disc Golf Target  
www.innovadiscs.com

# Oh, **THROW**

## DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT SET TO TAKE PLACE AT SUWANEE CREEK PARK COURSE

Join disc golf enthusiasts at the Suwanee Creek Park disc golf course for the "Beauty and the Beast, a Suwanee Creek Disc Golf Story" tournament on October 15!

On round one, registered players will attempt to slay the Beast: the most challenging of the Suwanee Creek layout, all par 3s and par 4s. After the lunch break, the Belle course will provide a technical challenge utilizing the classic layout and a more serene setting.

**SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER.**

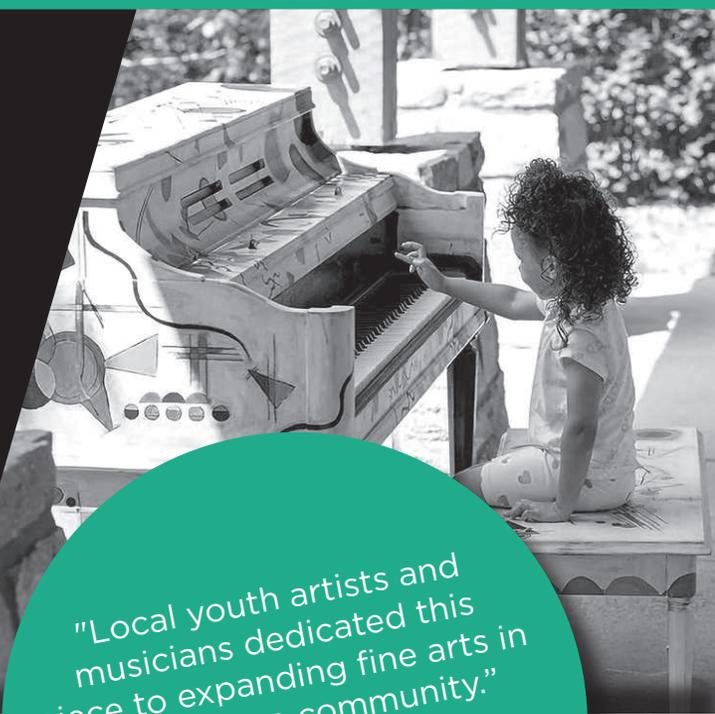


Disc golf is played much like golf, using a flying disc and targets (metal baskets) instead of a ball and holes. The object is to complete each hole in the fewest strokes (or, in the case of disc golf, fewest throws).

## LET'S MAKE *Beautiful Music* TOGETHER

As part of its public art program, the City of Suwanee has installed a street piano at Sims Lake Park. The temporary interactive public art experience is located under the pavilion near the playground.

The upright piano was donated by Fine Arts for All (FAFA), an entirely student-led nonprofit dedicated to art- and music-based community service. The organization raised money for the project at a concert held in Town Center Park in September 2021. The painting of the piano is inspired by the work of Wassily Kandinsky and was completed by the North Gwinnett High School Arts Honor Society.



"Local youth artists and musicians dedicated this piece to expanding fine arts in the Suwanee community."

-FAFA PRESIDENT  
*Daniel Kim*

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FINE ARTS FOR ALL, VISIT

**FineArtsforAll.com.**





# HOMESTEAD DEFERRAL PROGRAM

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR FIXED-INCOME SENIORS

In an effort to aid certain fixed-income senior citizens who need assistance paying the property taxes due on their homes, the Suwanee City Council unanimously voted to adopt a Senior Homestead Tax Deferral Program. Based on the applicant's income, senior taxpayers within the city limits may possibly defer a portion of their property taxes if they qualify for the program. This program is in addition to other existing city and county tax deferral programs.

Qualifying seniors are 65 or older and have a household income not exceeding 130 percent of the federal poverty level for household size. For a qualified applicant, the City of Suwanee will pay the property tax, attaching a lien to the property. The property tax deferral will be treated as a loan with an interest rate of five percent. When the property is sold or transferred, or no longer qualifies as a homestead, the deferred taxes plus interest will be due to the city. Visit [Suwanee.com](http://Suwanee.com) for more information.

## UPCOMING

## SUWANEE EVENTS

**CARE FOR COPS 5K**  
PART OF THE SUWANEE RUNNING SERIES!  
SEPTEMBER 10 | 8 AM

**SUWANEE'S GOT TALENT!**  
SEPTEMBER 10 | 4 PM

**SUWANEE FEST**  
SEPTEMBER 17 | 9 AM • SEPTEMBER 18 | NOON

**TASTE OF BBQ & MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
OCTOBER 8 | 10 AM

**SPOOKY SPIRITS 5K**  
PART OF THE SUWANEE RUNNING SERIES!  
OCTOBER 15 | 11 AM

**DINNER AND A BOOVIE**  
OCTOBER 29 | 6 PM

Hocus Pocus - 7 pm  
Ghostbusters: Afterlife - 8:45 pm



**CHECK SUWANEE.COM FOR MORE DETAILS AND UP-TO-THE-MINUTE INFORMATION.**





# From THE DESK of

**ADITI VENKATESH**  
SUWANEE YOUTH LEADERS

## IT IS A MISTY, CLOUDY SATURDAY MORNING IN SUWANEE, GEORGIA. FORTY GROGGY-EYED YOUTH SIT IN SUWANEE CITY HALL. BUT THIS LANGUID PEACE DOES NOT LAST.

The cry of bagpipes pierces through the drowsy morning, growing louder and closer with each passing moment. Slowly, the teens wake up, one by one, attentive to the figure that appears before them. Gwinnett County Judge Shawn Bratton stands, in a kilt, puffing at a set of bagpipes. They watch in awe as he strides to the front of the room, filling it with the sound of Irish music. They feel it reverberate off the walls and through their bones, and finally, as he takes a bow, they begin to cheer.



**A**s a fifteen-year-old high school junior year, I applied to the Suwanee Youth Leaders program in December of 2021, hoping to take part in a program recognized for the leadership experience and community relationships it imparts to its cohort. But as a newly accepted member, I did not expect that I would be sitting in City Hall on a Saturday morning listening to a judge play the bagpipes, or that I would thoroughly enjoy it.

Later that Saturday, Judge Bratton, joined by colleagues, gave the SYL Class of 2022 an introduction to mock trials. Overcome by a conviction to push myself out of my comfort zone and participate – despite my reservations about my abilities – I raised my hand and was chosen to serve as an attorney on the prosecution team.

Immediately, my body filled with adrenaline from fear and excitement from my spontaneous decision to be visible in front of the class. What had I signed up for? I felt insecure while discussing the trial with my fellow prosecuting attorney and our mentor, who were throwing around mock trial lingo as I sat there, numbly nodding in agreement. During our preparation for the trial, the team charged me with delivering the prosecutor’s opening statement, which produced more anxiety. Minutes later, with a dry throat and hefty burden of the microphone in my hand, I stood to deliver the prosecution’s opening statement.

Feeling the weight of my peers’ eyes on me, I decided at that moment to shed my intrusive thoughts and simply deliver.

At the time, I made that decision for my pride, to save myself from the embarrassment of stumbling in front of my peers. The sudden strength and courage I experienced as I began my statement surprised me.

Now, I recognize that I made an important decision to let myself be open, vulnerable, and free. I made a decision to trust myself, my peers, and my mentors.

“ **SUWANEE YOUTH LEADERS HAD GIVEN ME THE COURAGE TO BE VISIBLE IN A CROWD AND HAVE COMFORT IN THAT VISIBILITY** ”

I sat back down after delivering the statement, I knowing I had not done exceptionally well. I doubt I even met the criteria for a mock trial competition. Nevertheless, I felt transformed as an individual and as a leader. I was proud of myself for looking into the eyes of my audience and letting the words flow, for allowing my peers to see me in front of them, mistakes and all.

I soaked in this new sensation, the feeling of knowing that I was being watched by my peers but not feeling the weight of expectations (theirs or mine) hinder me from performing in that moment. Even as a musician with experience performing for sizable audiences, the April SYL meeting was the first time I felt satisfied with my performance as I sat down afterward. I achieved something magnificent: Suwanee Youth Leaders had given me the courage to be visible in a crowd and have comfort in that visibility.

SYL will always remind me of the growth I can achieve if I accept my flaws as a leader and choose to lead despite them. I cherish my experiences - like listening to bagpipes at nine in the morning - and will always hold a special place in my heart for the people I have met. Suwanee Youth Leaders opened my eyes to the growth I can experience if I choose to push through my reservations, trust in my peers, and most of all, believe that I am capable of continually improving as a leader.

*Aditi Venkatesh has been a part of the Suwanee community their entire life and is currently a senior at North Gwinnett High School. Apart from engaging with the Suwanee Youth Leadership team, they are involved in the Active Minds and NG DECA student organizations. Aditi hopes to employ the leadership and networking skills they have gained through their experience at SYL to pursue a career as a physics and mathematics research professor.*





**Gwinnett County’s current Special Use Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) program expires in March 2023. On November 8, 2022, Gwinnett County voters will be asked to reauthorize a countywide SPLOST for an additional six years. SPLOST proceeds provide revenue to fund county and city capital projects. Below is more information about past programs and the proposed 2023 SPLOST program.**

SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) is a voter-approved one percent sales tax that provides significant funding for a variety of capital projects including roads, sidewalks, parks, stormwater management, public safety facilities and equipment, administrative buildings, and other forms of local infrastructure allowed by state law.

SPLOST programs require voter approval. They provide money for projects which might otherwise be funded through property taxes, debt, or other means. SPLOST programs generate funds not only from local residents and businesses but also visitors and other non-residents that use city facilities and infrastructure.

SPLOST programs are designed to last for predetermined lengths of time (usually three to six years). Unlike some other optional sale taxes, SPLOST proceeds may only be used for authorized capital projects and not operations. Upon expiration of a SPLOST program, voters must approve another SPLOST program for the tax to be continued. On November 8, 2022, Gwinnett County voters will be asked to consider approval of a 6-year program running from 2023 to 2029.

## GWINNETT COUNTY SPLOSTs

**Gwinnett voters have approved a series SPLOST programs since 1985. Over the years SPLOST raised about \$2.9 billion for a variety of county-wide projects. Notable Gwinnett County SPLOST projects in-and-around and/or serving Suwanee community include:**

### TRANSPORTATION

- **McGinnis Ferry Road:** Satellite Blvd to Lawrenceville-Suwanee Rd extension I-85 bridge interchange, Chattahoochee River bridge replacement
- **Peachtree Industrial Boulevard:** pedestrian and intersection improvements at McGinnis Ferry, Suwanee Dam Road intersection improvements, widening and intersection improvements from McGinnis Ferry Road to Moore Road
- **Suwanee Dam Road:** turning lanes at North Gwinnett High School, 3,300’ multi-use path

between Peachtree Industrial Boulevard and Buford Highway, intersection improvements and sidewalks at West Price

- **Tench Road:** sidewalks from Peachtree Industrial Boulevard to Level Creek Elementary Parks & Recreation

### PARKS AND RECREATION

- **George Pierce Park:** artificial turf fields, walking trails, playground, senior center, and other improvements
- **Peachtree Ridge Park and Settles Bridge Parks:** multi-use park facilities Building Construction

### OTHER

- Suwanee Library
- Fire Station #13
- Animal Control

# PROPOSED 2023 PROGRAM

Projected revenues: \$30 million

Proposed project categories (specific projects within each category to be determined):

## TRANSPORTATION \$10M (33%)

- Street resurfacing
- Stormwater improvements

## PARKS AND RECREATION \$3M (5%)

- Existing park enhancements

## PUBLIC SAFETY \$17M (63%)

- Expanded police administrative facilities



PUBLIC SAFETY



GREENWAY



BIG SPLASH FOUNTAIN



FIRE STATION 13

THIS IS AN OVERVIEW OF THE MORE NOTABLE SPLOST PROJECTS. SCAN FOR A FULL AND COMPREHENSIVE LIST.



PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE



GWINNETT SPLOST



SUWANEE SPLOST

# VOTE

NOVEMBER 8

Gwinnett's municipalities began receiving a portion of the SPLOST for local projects in the early 2000s. The City of Suwanee has received approximately \$50 million from SPLOST for numerous capital projects since 2001. Notable Suwanee projects fully or partially funded using SPLOST include:

### PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Suwanee Police Department:** building expansion and renovation, dispatch/communications systems, substation/training center
- **Suwanee Municipal Court:** building renovations

### TRANSPORTATION

- Approximately \$9 million in street resurfacing annually, as well as road, sidewalk, and safety improvements, and construction
- Buford Highway reconstruction
- Pedestrian bridge over Suwanee Creek connecting Town Center to Suwanee Creek Greenway
- Pedestrian tunnel from Main Street to police station

## CITY OF SUWANEE SPLOSTs

- I-85 bridge fence replacement

### PARKS & RECREATION

- Capital enhancements to existing parks
- Big Splash Fountain
- White Street Park construction and expansion
- Sims Lake Park playground structures and park enhancements
- Suwanee Creek Greenway rehabilitation from Martin Farm Road to Suwanee Elementary
- Brushy Creek Greenway multi-use trail construction
- Martin Farm Road Park restroom facilities

### OTHER FACILITIES

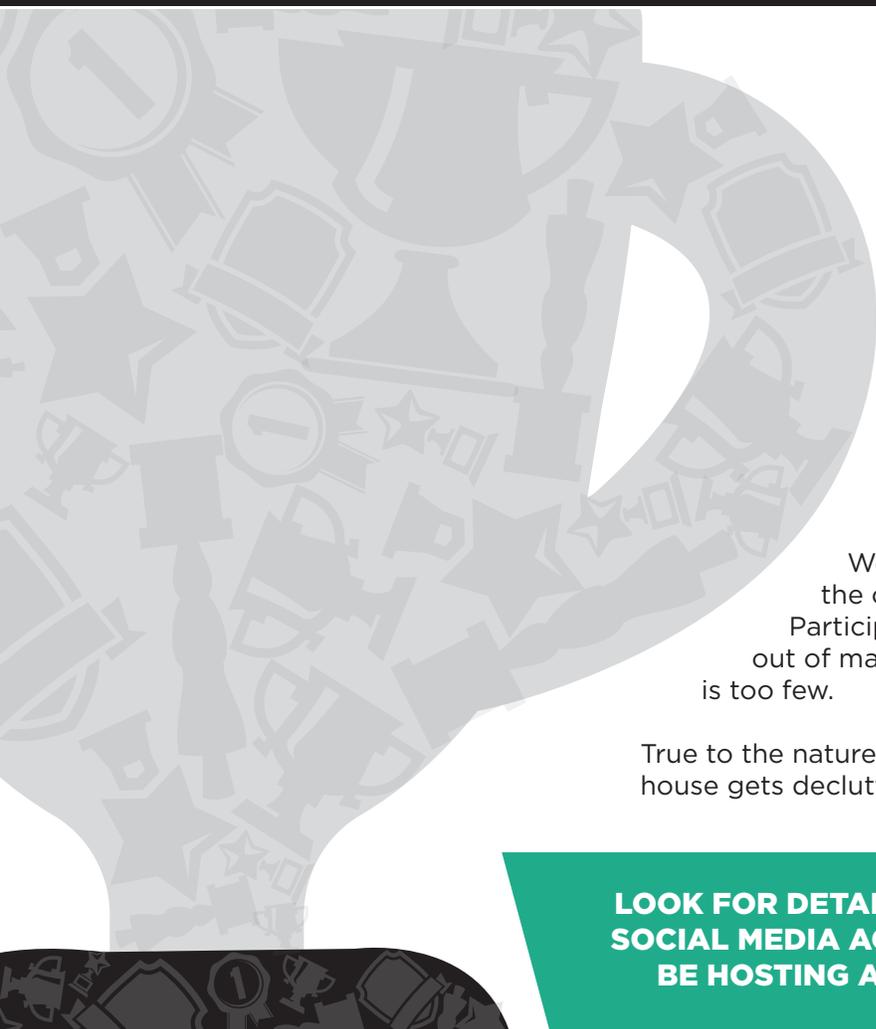
- 150 space parking deck at Town Center
- Public Works facility



• official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia

# suwanee connects

suwanee.com September 2022



THE CITY OF SUWANEE IS CREATING...

## THE **ULTIMATE** PARTICIPATION TROPHY

Looking at your kids' many plastic trophies may stir happy memories...but do they really spark joy? If you're ready to Marie Kondo the clutter, we've got the perfect opportunity to do something meaningful with those items that you just can't throw out.

We need old trophies, medals, and plaques for the city's latest community art project: The Ultimate Participation Trophy! We're building one giant trophy out of many. No trophy is too small, no amount of trophies is too few.

True to the nature of the participation trophy, everyone wins - your house gets decluttered and we get a new piece of public art!

**LOOK FOR DETAILS IN THE COMING WEEKS ON THE CITY'S SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS AND AT SUWANEE.COM - WE'LL BE HOSTING A TROPHY DROP-OFF EVENT THIS FALL!**

330 Town Center Avenue  
Suwanee, GA 30024  
Georgia



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