



official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia

Suwanee connects

suwanee.com | April 2023

INSIDE
this issue...



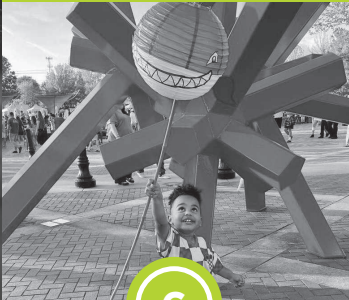
3

Multi-Jurisdictional
Public Safety Training
Academy



5

Quantum Bank
Donates \$100K to
Public Art



6

Glow in the Park +
International Night
Market

VICTORY IS OURS.

Thousands of
trophies earned.

Four truckloads of
awards delivered.

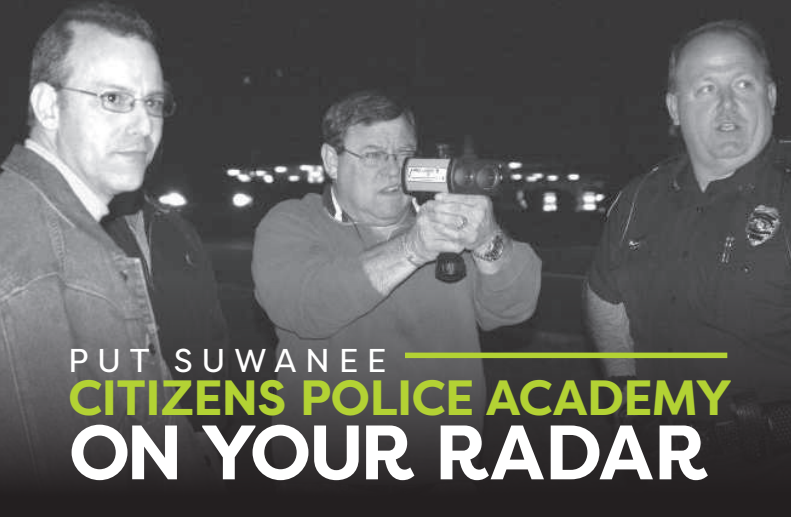
Over 200 hours
of work from
artist Phil Proctor.

**THE TIME
HAS
COME**

The City of Suwanee
**Ultimate
Participation
Trophy**

UNVEILING APRIL 29TH | 1 PM

Join us all weekend at the
Suwanee Arts Festival!
April 29th-30th



PUT SUWANE
CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY
ON YOUR RADAR

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
FOR SPRING 2023 SESSION

Who wants a hands-on learning opportunity to better understand what it's like to be a police officer? Get a glimpse behind the badge through the Suwanee Citizens Police Academy: an eight-week program designed to give the public working knowledge of the risks, responsibilities, and day-to-day functions of the Suwanee Police Department.

The academy offers classroom training and hands-on experiences in crime scene processing, traffic stops, building searches, crime prevention, and narcotics identification, as well as an opportunity to patrol Suwanee alongside an officer.

"I learned more about local government in those eight weeks at the Citizens Police Academy than in my previous 30 years," said a Suwanee Citizens Police Academy graduate. "The academy provided a fascinating look into the problems - and solutions - of police work."

The spring Suwanee Citizens Police Academy session will be offered on Monday evenings, April 3 through May 22, 2023 from 6:30-9:00 pm at the Suwanee Police Substation at 2966 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road. Classes are free to the public, but space is limited and preference is given to Suwanee residents or those who work in the City of Suwanee. A criminal and driver history background is required for all applicants.

Notarized applications will be accepted at the Suwanee Police Station **until March 20, 2023 at 5 pm.** Visit Suwanee.com or scan the QR for an application and more information.



BYRAN COHEN CELEBRATED AS
FRIEND
OF SUWANE

The City of Suwanee honored Bryan Cohen, CEO of Quantum Bank, as a Friend of Suwanee at the January 24 City Council meeting for his history of contributions to our city.

The Friend of Suwanee Award is the highest honor conferred upon an individual or group by the Mayor and Council for the City of Suwanee. The award salutes dedication and commitment to Suwanee and recognizes the recipient for substantial contributions, extraordinary leadership, commitment, and vision.

Cohen spearheaded Quantum's recent donation to the city's Art for All public art campaign. The bank is also a founding sponsor of SculptTour and of multiple city events. Cohen served on the ad-hoc committee that evolved into Suwanee's Public Art Commission and laid the groundwork for the public art initiative.

Prior to his 14 years with Quantum, Cohen spent 23 years as president of Touchstone Homes. Cohen was integral in developing much of the commercial space along Satellite Boulevard, creating an important employment center for our community. He also developed Village Grove, which was the first neighborhood to include public art (predating the city's public art initiative!) and initiated Touchstone's donation of land for a significant portion of the Suwanee Creek Greenway.

"Every successful town has an individual who makes an exponential impact on their community," said Allen at the January council meeting. "People will look back and point to Bryan Cohen as someone who helped guide and define Suwanee."



Friends OF SUWANE

- 2002 - WILLIAM R. "BILLY" RAY
- 2009 - SEN. RENEE UNTERMAN
- 2004 - E. WAYNE HILL
- 2011 - REP. DONNA SHELDON
- 2004 - CHARLOTTE NASH
- 2014 - EARL MITCHELL
- 2006 - REP. BROOKS COLEMAN
- 2016 - CONNIE WIGGINS
- 2008 - WAYNE SHACKELFORD
- 2023 - BYRAN COHEN
- 2009 - HARDY DELAY

Take a Load Off

IN SUWANEE'S
PUBLIC PARKLETS

Visitors to Town Center have likely noticed the new outdoor places to sit, eat, and just enjoy! Two new public “parklets” provide more outdoor relaxation spots for all patrons of Suwanee Town Center. One parklet is located in front of Pulse Nail Bar by Brown Bag Deli, with the second near Café Amico and Golden Seven.

Parklets are sidewalk extensions that convert curbside parking spaces into vibrant community spaces. Also known as street seats or curbside seating, these mini gathering spaces provide additional seating and tables to create a relaxing atmosphere for everyone.

Enhanced outdoor seating options are trending, and Town Center Avenue shops previously offered only designated bistro tables that belong to the restaurants; in other words, there was no option for the public to stop and “sit a spell.” Suwanee’s compact parklets were specifically designed to offer more types of seating with an aesthetic that fits with the style and character of Town Center Park.



NEW

MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY

In an effort to streamline the training process for new officers, the Suwanee Police Department has collaborated with other agencies to develop a local police training academy. Housed at the University of North Georgia, the academy is staffed by seasoned officers from participating agencies such as the City of Suwanee and the Forsyth, Hall, and Pickens County Sheriffs’ offices.

This new regional academy provides the traditional 11-week basic training period, as well as an additional six-week training period to have new officers ready to hit the ground running. The first class of officers graduated from the academy on January 20, 2023.

“Scheduling officers into different academies throughout the state for advanced training is a challenge for all agencies,” said Suwanee Police Captain Dwayne Black. “Some of the extra training the new academy offers includes advanced patrol rifle, speed detection, standardized field sobriety, and Taser certification.”

“
This academy has a more family atmosphere of teaching our own. We form a tighter bond.
- Suwanee Police Officer Todd Pacholke
Academy Firearms Instructor
”

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION RECOGNIZES SUWANEE FOR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) upgraded the City of Suwanee to silver certification through the agency’s Green Communities Program for demonstrating leadership in sustainability practices. Suwanee earned certification points for working with Georgia Power to retrofit all existing streetlights with LED lamps, which use 50-75 percent less energy.

“We’ve woven green initiatives into our long-term strategic plans for the city; being responsible environmental stewards is part of the fabric of Suwanee,” said Billqece Naqawe, Assistant to the City Manager. “ARC’s Green Communities Program encourages municipalities to build a more sustainable future.”

ARC developed the Green Communities Program in 2009 to recognize local governments that invest in programs and policies that lead to a more sustainable region. The nationally recognized program showcases the many ways that local governments can reduce their environmental footprint.

“The 2022 Green Communities have played an instrumental role in moving metro Atlanta towards greater sustainability and environmental resilience through innovative and community-informed projects,” said ARC Natural Resources Managing Director Katherine Zitsch. “These communities demonstrate exemplary dedication to building a stronger, greener region.”

In metro Atlanta, 16 local governments — 11 cities and five counties — are currently certified under ARC’s Green Communities Program. This is the first program in the country to promote sustainability through a certification program for local governments.





Local Cultural Assets SUWANE METHODIST CHURCH



Despite the name, the Suwanee Methodist Church was originally home to both the Methodist and Baptist churches. When the building opened in 1879, preachers were limited and services were held sporadically; this arrangement allowed congregants to attend whenever a pastor was available.

The aging structure fell into poor condition until it was completely destroyed during a windstorm in 1909. The board of trustees made the decision to relocate and rebuild, making the move from the west end of Main Street to the hill top

of Scales Road in 1910, where it still sits today. M. Gus Jones was contracted to build the new church for \$2,000. Member Charlie Craft hauled salvaged lumber from the original structure to the new location using an ox team.

As Suwanee grew, the church grew. By 1952, three additional classrooms had been constructed just to teach religious studies; by 1960, the church had reached 70 members. In 1974, the church hired its first full-time pastor. The Suwanee Methodist Church bells still ring on Sunday mornings.

SUWANE HISTORIC DOWNTOWN PRESERVATION INITIATIVE

As her Girl Scout Gold Award Project, Ashlee Tam spent several months identifying Suwanee's local cultural assets, researching and writing about them, and interviewing the "local legends" who impacted the people and places (and some place names) in Suwanee.

Visit Suwanee.com or scan the QR code to read more and view the videos. You might see a few familiar faces, and learn something too!



NORTH GWINNETT SENIOR AND SUWANE YOUTH LEADER NAMED 2023 GWINNETT COUNTY STAR STUDENT



The Professional Association of Georgia Educators Foundation announced Aditi Venkatesh, a senior at North Gwinnett High School, as Gwinnett's 2023 STAR Student. STAR Students are the seniors in the top percent of their class with the highest SAT score. Venkatesh bested 75 students across 32 Gwinnett schools, both public and private, and will now compete at the regional and state levels.



Venkatesh chose to honor social studies teacher Ms. Katie Massey as STAR Teacher. Each STAR Student selects a teacher to recognize as the educator with a strong influence on their academic career. Venkatesh was also part of the Suwanee Youth Leaders Class of 2022.

CONGRATULATIONS

to the 2023 STAR students & teachers from Suwanee area high schools:

Collins Hill High School

STAR Student: Sara Amou
STAR Teacher: Mrs. Danielle Wilcher

North Gwinnett High School

STAR Student: Aditi Venkatesh
STAR Teacher: Ms. Katie Massey

Peachtree Ridge High School

STAR Student: Katharine Wang
STAR Teacher: Mr. Michael Crawford



QUANTUM NATIONAL BANK DONATES

\$100,000

TO SUWANEE'S PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

Representatives from Quantum National Bank presented a check for \$100,000 to the City of Suwanee's Art for All campaign at the Suwanee City Council meeting on January 24, 2023.

The first major pledge to the public art campaign, Quantum's donation will support three signature public art pieces in Town Center on Main, Suwanee's newest park that is currently under construction.

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

Quantum President Brad Day and Chief Deposit Officer Tyler Phillips joined Cohen to present the check to the City Council. Suwanee Mayor Jimmy Burnette presented the representatives with a proclamation recognizing the relationship of over 20 years, proclaiming Friday, January 27, 2023 as 'Quantum Bank Day' in the City of Suwanee.

"What is so remarkable about our city's thriving art program is that it has been accomplished primarily with private funding from residents and businesses like Quantum National Bank," said Suwanee Assistant City Manager Denise Brinson. "Quantum has been a key part of our community since its founding in 1995. We appreciate this latest demonstration of their dedication and commitment to their hometown."

Suwanee Spirit Stones Spotted in Suwanee Parks & Trails

The dogwoods have bloomed. The azaleas have peaked. And any day now, art pieces will be popping up along the city greenway, trails, and parks as Suwanee celebrates its annual finders-keepers 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!

This year's art is the Suwanee Spirit Stone, created by Ray and Jeannie Terhune of Crafty Creations. The Spirit Stones are an actual stone, covered with polymer clay and embellished with small crystals. Each piece of art takes approximately one hour to create.

"I began working with polymer clay over ten years ago. I began with dimensional jewelry forms; the "critters" were a natural progression," said Jeannie. "All of my creations are molded by hand from a non-toxic sculpting material made of PVC resin. Once cured, the pieces are water- and fade-resistant; they are somewhat fragile, so should be handled with care."

The Peachtree Corners-based handcrafted sculpture and jewelry business has been a Suwanee Fest regular since 2018. Suwanee Event & Outreach Manager Amy Doherty spotted the original stones - psychedelic, tie-dyed 'Pot Rocks' - at the festival in 2022 and asked Jeannie to create a specific stone for Art of a Limb. Each Spirit Stone features a Suwanee 'S' and a polymer clay "limb." Found Spirit Stones can be displayed anywhere, but are designed to be "guardians" for plants in pots or in the garden.


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! **#artonalimb2023**



**ART FOR ALL
CAMPAIGN**



Experience the world without ever leaving Suwanee!



THE
INTERNATIONAL
Night Market
glow IN THE **park**
Suwanee Town Center Park

Glow in the Park lights it up with the Atlanta International Night Market

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

Friday, April 21 · 5-10 pm

Enjoy food and stage performances highlighting Gwinnett's rich cultural diversity! For the past eight years, the Atlanta International Night Market has woven arts, education, and cuisine into one amazing event that both 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 22 · 2-10 pm

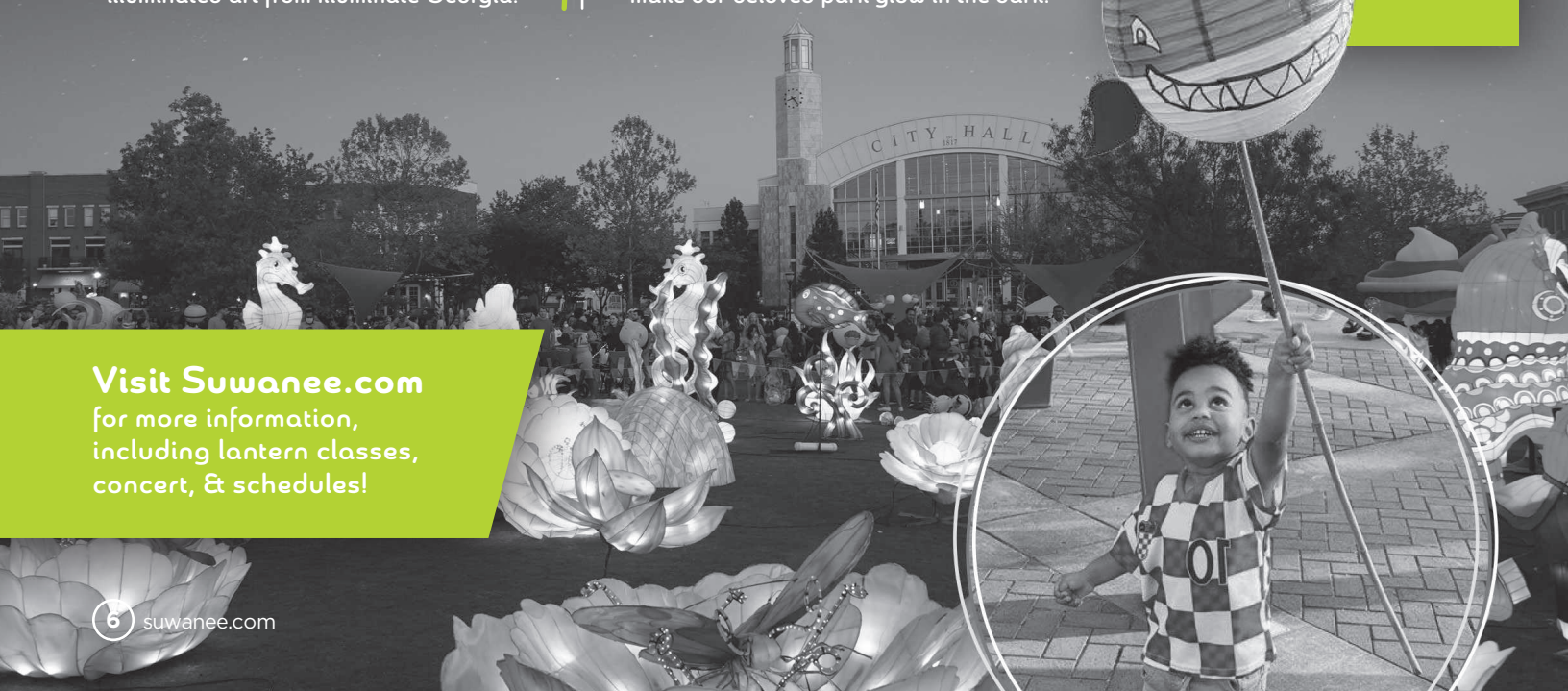
Atlanta International Night Market and Illuminate Georgia return, along with a favorite community tradition: the Glow in the Park lantern parade and a headliner concert! Everyone is strongly encouraged to create illuminated costumes and carry their pre-made lanterns to parade together! This electrical spectacle is family- and pet-friendly, so everyone can join in as we make our beloved park glow in the dark.

Suwanee Art Center
**LANTERN
WORKSHOPS**
\$30

Registration includes:
1 paper lantern, 1 bamboo
stick, 1 LED light,
decorating supplies

DIY lantern kits are
also available
for purchase at
the Suwanee
Art Center!

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



UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS



APRIL

Community Sunrise Service
April 9 | 7AM

Atlanta International Night Market
April 21 | 5PM

Glow in the Park
lantern parade & concert
Atlanta International Night market
April 22 | 2PM

Suwanee Arts Festival
April 29 | 10AM
April 30 | NOON

MAY

Atlanta British Motorcar Day
May 7 | 10AM

Relay 4 Life Gwinnett
May 13 | 6PM

AAPI Heritage Month Celebration
May 19 | NOON

Threaded from Heaven:
Fashion to Runway Fashion show
May 21 | 2PM

Make Rare Visible
Glow in the Dark Concert
May 7 | 5PM

Red, White, Bluegrass, & Bach
May 26 | 7PM

June 2 | 5:30PM

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY

T-shirts & Mugs & Stickers

OH MY!

Suwanee swag drop in our beautiful
new watercolor design by local artist

Vickie McCrary

3930 Charleston
Market Street |
Town Center

AVAILABLE
EXCLUSIVELY
AT THE
SUWANEE
WELCOME
CENTER

All events are rain or shine and at Town Center Park unless otherwise noted.
Changes happen - check Suwanee.com for up-to-the-minute information.

PART OF THE SUWANEE RUNNING SERIES 23

Race to Cure Sarcoma 5k
April 15 | 8AM

HappyFeat Happy Hour 5k
April 15 | 2PM

Max's Moon Run
May 5 | 6:30PM

Tacos & Tequila 5k
May 6 | 11AM

Go Gray for a Cure 5k
May 13 | 9AM

Great Strides Atlanta
May 20 | 9AM



SUWANEE
Farmers
market

Winter Farmers Market

April 8 & 22 | 9-11AM

Farmers Market

Every Saturday in May
8AM-NOON

suwanee.com **7**

UPCOMINGEVENTS

official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia

APRIL 23

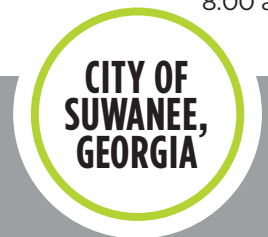
| | | |
|----|------------------------------------|----------|
| 4 | Planning Commission | 6:30 pm |
| 8 | Winter Farmers Market | 9:00 am |
| 9 | Community Sunrise Service | 7:00 am |
| 10 | Suwanee Fest Planning Committee | 6:00 pm |
| 11 | Harvest Farm Managing Board | 6:00 pm |
| 12 | Public Arts Commission | 6:00 pm |
| 13 | City Council Workshop | 5:30 pm |
| 15 | Race to Cure Sarcoma | 8:00 am |
| 15 | HappyFeat Happy Hour 5K | 3:00 pm |
| 17 | Budget Workshop | 5:30 pm |
| 18 | Downtown Development Authority | 7:30 am |
| 18 | Zoning Board of Appeals | 6:30 pm |
| 21 | Atlanta International Night Market | 5:00 pm |
| 22 | Glow in the Park + Night Market | 2:00 pm |
| 22 | Winter Farmers Market | 9:00 am |
| 25 | City Council Meeting | 6:30 pm |
| 29 | Suwanee Arts Festival | 10:00 am |
| 30 | Suwanee Arts Festival | Noon |

MAY 23

| | | |
|----|--|----------|
| 2 | Planning Commission | 6:30 pm |
| 2 | Budget Workshop | 5:30 pm |
| 5 | Max's Moon Run & Concert | 6:30 pm |
| 6 | Farmers Market | 8:00 am |
| 6 | Tacos & Tequila 5K & Concert | 11:00 am |
| 7 | Atlanta British Motorcar Day | 10:00 am |
| 8 | Suwanee Fest Planning Committee | 6:00 pm |
| 9 | Harvest Farm Managing Board | 6:00 pm |
| 10 | Public Arts Commission | 6:00 pm |
| 11 | City Council Workshop | 5:30 pm |
| 12 | Red Cross Blood Drive | 10:00 am |
| 13 | Farmers Market | 8:00 am |
| 13 | Go Gray for a Cure 5K | 9:00 am |
| 13 | Relay 4 Life Gwinnett | 6:00 pm |
| 16 | Downtown Development Authority | 7:30 am |
| 16 | Zoning Board of Appeals | 6:30 pm |
| 19 | AAPI Heritage Month Celebration | Noon |
| 20 | Farmers Market | 8:00 am |
| 20 | Great Strides Atlanta | 9:00 am |
| 21 | Threaded from Heaven: Cruella Fashion to Runway | 2:00 pm |
| 23 | City Council Meeting | 6:30 pm |
| 26 | Red, White, Bluegrass, & Bach | 7:00 pm |
| 27 | Farmers Market | 8:00 am |
| 29 | City Hall CLOSED | |

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
Robyn O'Donnell 770/904-2790
CITY CLERK
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.