

UPCOMINGEVENTS

official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia

JUNE24

1	Suwanee Farmers Market	8:00 am
1	Jazz, Blues & Barbeque	6:00 pm
4	Planning Commission Meeting Canceled	6:30 pm
8	Suwanee Farmers Market	8:00 am
10	Suwanee Fest Planning Meeting	6:00 pm
11	Harvest Farm Managing Board	6:00 pm
12	Public Arts Commission Meeting	6:00 pm
13	City Council Workshop	5:30 pm
13	Public Hearing on Proposed Budget	5:30 pm
14	Suwanee Summer Porch Jam	6:00 pm
15	Suwanee Farmers Market	8:00 am
18	Downtown Development Authority	7:30 am
18	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting Canceled	6:30 pm
19	Juneteenth - City Hall Closed	8:00 am
22	Suwanee Farmers Market	8:00 am
25	City Council Meeting	6:30 pm
25	Public Hearing on Proposed Budget	6:30 pm
29	Suwanee Farmers Market	8:00 am

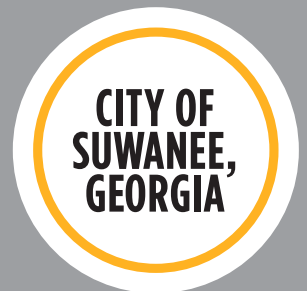
JULY24

2	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 pm
4	Independence Day - City Hall Closed	8:00 am
6	Suwanee Farmers Market	8:00 am
8	Suwanee Fest Planning Meeting	6:00 pm
9	Harvest Farm Managing Board	6:00 pm
10	Public Arts Commission Meeting	6:00 pm
11	City Council Workshop	5:30 pm
13	Suwanee Farmers Market	8:00 am
16	Downtown Development Authority	7:30 am
16	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30 pm
20	Suwanee Farmers Market	8:00 am
23	City Council Meeting	6:30 pm
26	Broadway in the Park	6:00 pm
27	Suwanee Farmers Market	8:00 am
27	Broadway in the Park	6:00 pm

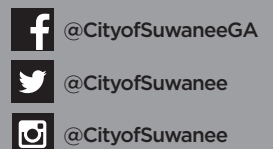
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Unless otherwise noted, City of Suwanee public meetings are at City Hall, 330 Town Center Avenue. Dates subject to change; check suwanee.com for updates.



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Suwanee connects

suwanee.com | June 2024

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Suwanee's 20th
August Concert
Announced!

suwanee summer porch jam 2024

Nothing brings Old Town Suwanee to life like a summer evening of live music. On June 14th, we're turning up the heat with the Suwanee Summer Porch Jam! Local musicians will serenade the front porches of six homes, a music barn, and a pavilion, transforming the streets into a vibrant celebration. Enjoy an unforgettable evening filled with your favorite tunes, delectable bites from food trucks, and warm welcomes from familiar faces. It's the perfect recipe for summer magic!

Bring a chair or blanket and stroll from home to home, enjoying a variety of musicians! From the Mayor's house to Everett's Music Barn, you'll groove to the tunes of over 20 talented artists while indulging in delicious offerings from food trucks and tents. But that's not all - we're adding a touch of Suwanee charm with captivating stories from local storytellers. And, don't forget to swing by Pierce's Corner between sets for some extra fun celebrating Suwanee's 75th year. Dive into family-friendly activities including games, a thrilling scavenger hunt, and a chance to craft your very own musical instrument.

Complimentary shuttles will be provided from Suwanee Town Center. Alternatively, use the pedestrian tunnel under the railroad tracks behind the Suwanee Police Department to Main Street. This city-wide front porch jam promises an unforgettable evening of community spirit and joy!

For more information, visit the Events page at suwanee.com.

SCOUT OUT OUR NEW TABLES!

The City of Suwanee park pavilions have some new and a bit unusual-looking tables, but that's not a mistake you're seeing! Life Scout Katie Brown, a member of Scouts BSA Troop 5109, recently completed four wheelchair-friendly picnic tables as her Eagle Scout project. The tables were specifically constructed with an accessible, longer tabletop so that persons using wheelchairs can more easily enjoy a meal alongside their friends and family.

Two tables are currently accessible at Suwanee Creek Park, and two tables will be available for use at the PlayTown Suwanee pavilion upon its reopening.

“ I really wanted to do this project because it's been a passion of mine since I was little—to better the lives of those with disabilities. This project was a perfect fit because it was about a cause I feel very passionate about! I love seeing the community making improvements to better the lives of all of its residents!
- **Katie,**
Junior at Peachtree Ridge High School.”



SYL GRADS

Students in Suwanee are hitting their stride.

Our Suwanee Youth Leaders have completed a 9-month program including monthly learning sessions, a two-day retreat, guest speakers, field trips, and several hands-on projects, including event planning and a community service initiative. These students discovered (and used!) their interests, unique gifts, and talents to make their mark in our community and beyond.

SYL student Minjoo Kim reflects on her journey in the program, “During the SYL program, I had a chance to make friends beyond my high school and talk to special guests who work in the community. The most impressive lecture for me was from the special guest Mr. Coleman, a former Georgia State Representative. He taught me his Brooks’ Riders Rules (10 rules about how to be a splendid leader)! For me, who had no idea how to begin and improve my leadership, it was like a guideline. As a result, I am a leader in my engineering project right now, although it is a small project (a penny saved is a penny earned)! The SYL program is a fascinating leadership program that taught me not only leadership but also sociability and self-confidence.”



Congratulations

to our 2023/2024 Suwanee Youth Leader graduating class:

Oluwademilayo Akinmade
Sapna Annambhotla
Blen Areda
Arnav Awasthi
Ayo Babatunde
Kayode Badmus
Katherine Bae
Brian Bambach
Jamila Bangura
George Bayouk
Christian Blocker
Yiqi Chen
Joy Choi
Ryan Cole
Holly Davis
John Dickinson
Emma Doherty
Eden Goode
Davis Graham
Arvin Guo
Lily Herman
Inaaya Hirani
Kei Holmes
Vivian Hong
Ella Hui
Jack Hunsaker
Lucy Jenkins
Justin Jiang
Audrey Johnson
Matthew Kim
Minjoo Kim

Skyler Kim
Thomas Kim
Julie Langenderfer
Alexander Lee
Inez Lee
Jace Lee
Joshua Lee
Charlotte Maguire
Andrew Margeanu
Wongi Min
Brodie Mullin
Joshua Mung
Ajla Murtic
London Page
Jake Park
Grace Peng
London Robinson
Dylan Ruff
Thomas Seay
Terran Shen
Srihith Singam
Ethan Son
Rajprian Srinivasan
Lydia Still
Kaitlyn Szanti
Elizabeth Tshiporkin
Adarsh Venkatesh
Brady Williams
Katie Won
Emily Yoo
Emma Young
Jaslene Zamorano

MEET OUR *Market*

Suwanee Farmers Market is held every Saturday from 8 am until noon in Town Center.

Here are a few of the tasty reasons to visit the market:



Appalachian Shroomery
Established in 2022

Steve Thomas and daughter Isabella Thomas harvest mushrooms just before going to markets for peak freshness. Their mushrooms are 100% organic! With no preservatives or chemicals used in the growth cycle, customers can taste the difference compared to store-bought alternatives. They rotate 14 different strains of mushrooms so customers get to try ones they normally wouldn't have the opportunity to buy.

This father daughter duo love every part of mushroom farming. They get to experience the full life cycle, starting with liquid mycelium. You can think of mycelium as the plant and the mushroom as the fruit. They provide a nutritious environment (whole oats, oak sawdust, etc.) for it to colonize. In some parts of the cycle, they let the plants listen to music (mushrooms like Pink Floyd). If they're happy, they produce fruit, the mushroom. But the fun doesn't stop there, Steve and Isabella then get to take their harvest to market and hear all the stories of how much their mushroom-loving customers enjoyed them.

Follow them on Instagram at [@apshroomery](https://www.instagram.com/apshroomery)



Fry Farm
Established in 1994

Known for high-quality, organically grown produce and eggs, Fry Farm aims to grow the healthiest food possible without using chemicals. Owned and operated by Steve, Vicky, and Matt Fry, their love of growing and eating clean food comes across in all of their produce.

Follow them on Instagram and Facebook at [@fryfarm](https://www.instagram.com/fryfarm)



The Aquaponics Lab is a course at North Gwinnett High School that allows senior students to plant and grow herbs, take faculty and staff orders, harvest the items, deliver the orders, balance accounts, and manage inventory!

The goal at NGHS Aquaponics is to deliver the best produce and herbs in the safest and most ecologically conscious way possible. Students are striving to provide affordable, safe, and nutritious foods that do not contain chemicals or persistent pesticides. The students' favorite product is the Genovese basil; it grows quickly, responds to a previous harvest by growing larger leaves during the next growth cycle, and is exciting to see bloom.

Follow them on Instagram at [@nghs.aquaponics](https://www.instagram.com/nghs.aquaponics)



Postern Coffee
Established in 2022

For local coffee aficionados, Postern Coffee is known for drip coffee and roasted coffee beans. As an Asian American-owned coffee company, they

aim to connect their passion for coffee and hospitality with their roots as Asian Americans.

Postern Coffee is able to share its culture with the community while providing high-quality roasted coffee beans and drinks. They recommend the il-cha blend coffee beans because they're versatile and work well for drip, cold brew, and espresso. If you are more adventurous, try the five-spice latte, which uses the syrup they make using Chinese five-spice and brown sugar combined with the il-cha blend and whole milk!

Follow them on Instagram at [@posterncoffee](https://www.instagram.com/posterncoffee)

Striving to improve the health of the community, they recommend their root crops. Potatoes, carrots, beets, etc. all taste better than the ones at grocery stores!

TOWN CENTER ON MAIN: DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PARK



Town Center on Main is rapidly nearing completion and it shows! Scheduled to open in late summer, anticipation is building. We spoke with Emmanuel Mezquita, Project Manager, and Nick Turner, Superintendent of Reeves Young, to provide an update and explain their involvement in the park project. Known for meticulous attention to detail, these two men brought their dedication and expertise to the project.

As the Project Manager, Mezquita handles the project's budgeting, hires all the subcontractors, orders all material to be delivered to the site, required documentation, and works alongside the city and project engineer to achieve a successful project. As the Project Superintendent, Turner oversees the day-to-day construction activities and schedules and organizes all subcontractors on the project grounds.

These two worked together as a team to create a strategic plan for completing the Town Center on Main project quickly and efficiently. They produced the project schedule, planned logistics, and ensured safety measures were in place for both on-site workers and the general public.

Throughout the project, there have been a variety of challenging aspects to the construction process, most notably the closing of the old Main Street and opening up the new Main Street to the public while simultaneously keeping the busiest library branch in Gwinnett County accessible to the public.

"There was a lot of planning and coordination between everyone to allow a smooth transition in opening up a new road for the public," commented Mezquita and Turner. "With little to no major complaint from anyone, we believe we accomplished this task excellently."

BY THE NUMBERS

FUN CONSTRUCTION STATISTICS:



NUMBER OF LIGHTS IN THE PARK:

- 402 LIGHT FEATURES

NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED:

- 368

AMOUNT OF LAWN:

- 180,000 SQUARE FEET OF SOD

NUMBER OF NEW PARKING SPACES:

- 176 SPACES
- 6 HANDICAP

GRAINS OF SAND IN THE VOLLEYBALL COURTS?

- 420 TONS OF SAND
- EQUALS 840,000 POUNDS OF SAND!
- APPROXIMATELY 105,000 TRADITIONAL 2.5-LITER PAILS!

• APPROXIMATELY 38.2 BILLION GRAINS OF SAND (THIS NUMBER IS A ROUGH ESTIMATE AND THE ACTUAL COUNT CAN VARY BASED ON THE EXACT SIZE AND TYPE OF SAND).



VOLUME OF WATER THROUGHOUT THE PARK?

- 39,000 CUBIC FEET FOR ALL 3 WATER FEATURES
- APPROXIMATELY 2,210,450 TYPICAL 16.9-OUNCE WATER BOTTLES COULD BE FILLED



AMOUNT OF CONCRETE USED FOR THE BRIDGE, SIDEWALKS, CURBING FOR MAIN STREET, AND 3 PLAZAS?

- 1,050 TRUCKS OF CONCRETE
- ROUGHLY 9,000 CUBIC YARDS
- COMPARABLE TO SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES: ON AVERAGE,

THE FOUNDATION SLAB OF A SINGLE-FAMILY HOME MIGHT USE AROUND 10 TO 15 CUBIC YARDS OF CONCRETE. THUS, 9,000 CUBIC YARDS COULD LAY THE FOUNDATIONS FOR APPROXIMATELY 600 TO 900 HOMES, DEPENDING ON THE SIZE AND TYPE OF FOUNDATION.

LINEAR FEET OF SIDEWALKS?

- 5,100 LINEAR FEET

SIZE/SQUARE FEET OF HILLTOP?

- 19,000 SQUARE FEET

WEIGHT OF STEEL USED? WEIGHT OF ONE OF THE BRIDGE SUPPORTS?

- 1 BRIDGE STEEL SUPPORT: 12,000 LBS ROUGHLY
- COMBINED BRIDGE STEEL SUPPORTS: 288,000 LBS
- COMPARABLE TO LARGE AIRPLANES: THE EMPTY WEIGHT OF MEDIUM-SIZED COMMERCIAL JET AIRLINERS, SUCH AS THE BOEING 737, CAN BE AROUND 90,000 TO 100,000 LBS, BUT WHEN FULLY LOADED WITH PASSENGERS, FUEL, AND CARGO, THEY CAN WEIGH CLOSE TO 288,000 LBS, ESPECIALLY FOR LONGER-RANGE OR LARGER MODELS.



HEIGHT OF THE SPIRES AT THE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL?

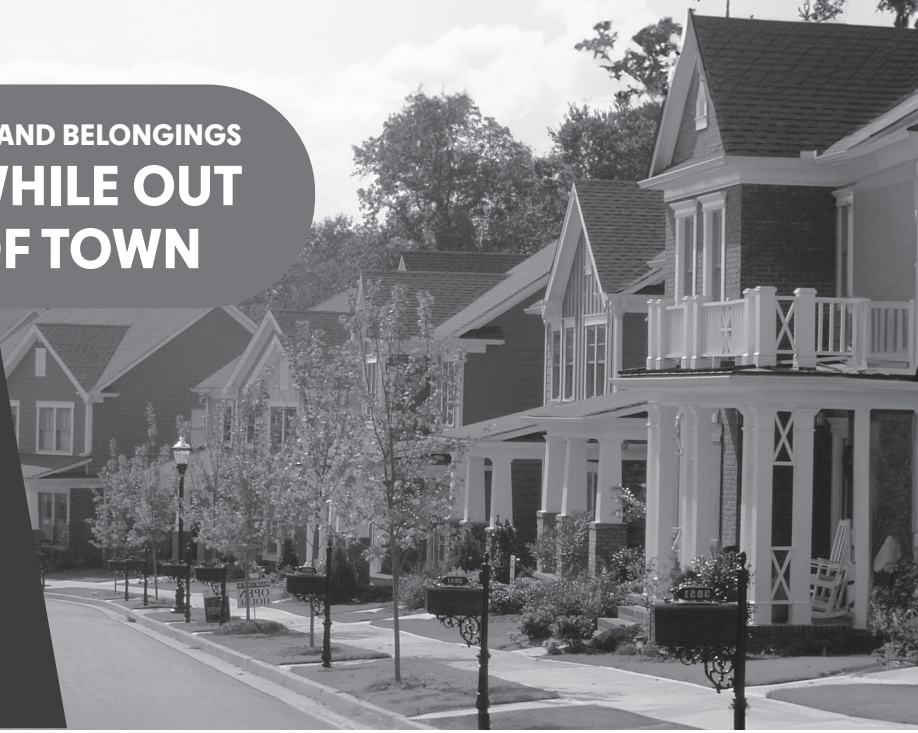
- 21 FEET & 8 INCHES
- COMPARABLE TO GIRAFFES: ADULT GIRAFFES ARE AMONG THE TALLEST ANIMALS ON EARTH, AND THEIR HEIGHTS CAN REACH UP TO 16 FEET FOR FEMALES AND UP TO 18 FEET FOR MALES.





HOW TO KEEP YOUR HOME AND BELONGINGS **SAFE** WHILE OUT OF TOWN

The summer season often spells vacations and weekend escapades, providing a much-needed break from our daily routines. However, as we pack our bags and head out to unwind, the safety of our homes and possessions cannot be ignored. The Suwanee Police Department shares vital advice to ensure peace of mind during your travels, keeping your treasured belongings—and your home—secure.



1

Sign Up for House Checks

One of the standout services offered by the Suwanee Police Department is routine house checks. Before you leave town, take a moment to sign up at Suwanee.com and secure your dates. This service ensures your home is periodically checked by police officers, adding an extra layer of security and deterring potential intruders.

2

Lock Your Doors

It might seem obvious, but don't forget to lock all doors and windows in your home and vehicles while you rush to pack and plan. An unlocked door is one of the easiest entries for someone looking to steal, so double-check the locks before you depart.

3

Keep Valuables Out of Sight

Visibility invites opportunity. Keep your valuables out of sight, both in your vehicle and at home. Avoid leaving items like electronics, jewelry, or important documents in plain view inside your car or near windows at home. Similarly, items left outside, such as bikes or tools, should be secured or stored out of sight.

4

Prevent Snatch & Grab Incidents

Online shopping doesn't pause when you travel, and unattended packages are prime targets for thieves. Arrange to have packages delivered only when someone is home, or ask a trusted neighbor or friend to collect them for you. This simple step can prevent theft and save you from a lot of headaches.

5

Invest in Security Cameras

With advancements in technology, security cameras have become more accessible and affordable. Consider installing cameras at key points around your property. Not only do they act as a deterrent, but they also provide real-time surveillance and can be linked to your smartphone, keeping you connected to your home no matter where you are in the world.

These precautionary measures let you enjoy your time away, knowing you've left your home as secure as possible. Remember, preparation today can prevent the headaches of tomorrow. Safe travels!



UNDERSTANDING THE STORMWATER UTILITY IN THE CITY OF SUWANEЕ

The City of Suwanee recently launched a significant initiative to address aging stormwater infrastructure. Developed primarily in the 1990s, Suwanee's stormwater systems now necessitate comprehensive measures to prevent costly failures and ensure community safety.

The Genesis of a Stormwater Utility

Suwanee city officials adopted the adage that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," which led to a proactive examination of the city's stormwater management needs and the eventual establishment of a dedicated stormwater utility in fiscal year 2023. The decision to establish a stormwater utility was the result of a comprehensive stormwater system assessment and a recommendation from a citizen's study committee.

How the Stormwater Utility Operates

The stormwater utility fee is on the property tax bills and calculated based on each property's impervious surface area, which contributes to runoff. This assessment method ensures equitable cost, reflecting each property's impact on the stormwater system. On average, homeowners pay about \$89, while townhouse owners pay approximately \$35. Properties with larger amounts of water-resistant surface area, including commercial properties, are assessed at a higher rate, reflecting their typically larger impervious surfaces.

Advanced Diagnostic Tools and Future Planning

Suwanee employs advanced diagnostic tools such as CCTV inspections to identify and prioritize necessary repairs, revealing around 300 projects. The city also performs visual inspections to comply with its MS4 permit, ensuring that 20% of stormwater pipes are inspected annually.

The Importance of the Stormwater Utility

Stormwater management is out of sight due to its underground nature, but it must not remain out of mind. Failed stormwater systems can lead to severe problems, such as sinkholes, which threaten property and public safety.

Establishing the stormwater utility is a testament to the city's commitment to sustainable and proactive infrastructure management. Suwanee aims to prevent failures that can lead to expensive repairs and disruptive emergencies.

Looking Ahead

The city plans to supplement its robust inspection and maintenance program by expanding its repair and upgrade projects. Future funding will ensure that stormwater infrastructure remains functional and safe for years to come. The stormwater utility represents a practical approach to planning and a critical investment in the city's resilience.



MEET MATT GORE
Director of Public Works

Matt Gore, our Director of Public Works, brings a wealth of experience to the team, having spent several years in Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) and local government. While residing just outside city limits, Matt's dedication to Suwanee's well-being is unwavering, earning him playful nicknames like "Suwannabe" from his colleagues. A proud graduate of the University of Georgia, his allegiance to the Dawgs is steadfast, though he shares his home with a Gator fan – a dynamic that keeps things interesting.

Professionally, Matt is excited about the opportunity to contribute to a city renowned for its exceptional amenities and unique, quirky charm. Leading the Public Works Department allows him to ensure that Suwanee maintains the Suwanee Quality that residents and visitors have come to expect from the city.

When he's not hard at work, Matt enjoys spending time with his wife and two children, cheering on their favorite sports teams, and exploring the vibrant community of Suwanee. With his dedication and enthusiasm, Matt is committed to enhancing the quality of life for Suwanee residents and visitors alike.



Scan for more
information on
stormwater
utility

THESE ARE THE DAYS, SUWANEE! THE NIGHT BELONGS TO YOU!



Suwanee's annual August Concert is back and BIGGER than ever for its monumental 20th anniversary! Get ready to rock on **Saturday, August 10**, in Town Center Park with crowd favorite **Drivin N Cryin** and the iconic **10,000 Maniacs**.

To kick off our night of electric performances, Drivin N Cryin will retake the stage two decades after headlining the inaugural August Concert. With a gold record, 9 full-length albums, and a handful of EPs to their credit, the band gained attention for their blistering live shows and amassed a rabid fanbase in the fertile soil of the late-1980s Southeast music scene.

Gracing stages for more than four decades, headliner 10,000 Maniacs remains one of America's most beloved independent bands. The group streamlined its sound during the '80s, kicking off a string of beautifully crafted singles including "Like the Weather," "What's the Matter Here?," "Trouble Me," "These Are Days," and "Candy Everybody Wants."

A great beer, wine, and food selection will be available from Town Center merchants and on-site vendors. As always, no BYOB. Off-site parking and shuttles are available and encouraged for your convenience. For more information, visit the Events page at suwanee.com.

Shooby Doo

BROADWAY

IN TOWN CENTER

Disney BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Jr.

Get ready for a night of pure entertainment and laughter as Suwanee Performing Arts brings all the pageantry of Broadway to Town Center! On **July 26 and 27**, expect an enchanted evening showcasing our local talent, starting with Shooby-Doo, a hilarious spoof of the classic cartoon that's sure to tickle your funny bone. And that's not all! End the night with a bang with everyone's favorite, Disney's Beauty & the Beast Jr.

What is the standout feature of this year's performances? Patty from Suwanee Performing Arts enthusiastically declared, "Belle takes center stage! Everyone adores her story, and she'll be counting on plenty of audience participation, too!"

Broadway in the Park is the signature summer production for Suwanee Performing Arts, held in Town Center Park each July. Including the amazing casts, crew, directors, choreographers, designers, and volunteers, well over 100 community members

are involved in putting together the organization's largest annual community event. By turning the Town Center amphitheater into a Broadway-style stage with professional lighting, sound, costumes, and sets, the community's talented high school, middle school, and homeschooled students can experience local stardom as they perform for the masses. Since 2007, this event has been known to draw crowds into the thousands, delighting business owners, audience members, cast, and crew alike.

Reserved seating and VIP tables are available for purchase, as well as sponsorship opportunities. Open seating outside the restricted presale area will be on a first-come, first-served basis (BYO chairs). Food vendors will be onsite, and Town Center merchants will offer to-go options.



For more info and to purchase tickets, please scan the QR code.