

UPCOMINGEVENTS

official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia

NOVEMBER24

2	Suwanee Wine Fest	Noon
5	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 pm
7	Red Cross Blood Drive	10:00 am
7	City Council Workshop	5:30 pm
9	Suwanee Farmers Market	9:00 am
9	Veterans Memorial Dedication	10:00 am
9	Suwanee Chili Cook Off & Music Festival	11:00 am
10	Suwanee Classic Car Show	10:00 am
11	City Hall Closed	8:00 am
12	Harvest Farm Managing Board	6:00 pm
12	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting	6:30 pm
13	Public Arts Commission Meeting	6:00 pm
14	Downtown Development Authority Retreat	9:00 am
19	City Council Meeting	6:30 pm
23	Suwanee Farmers Market	9:00 am
28	City Hall Closed	8:00 am
29	City Hall Closed	8:00 am

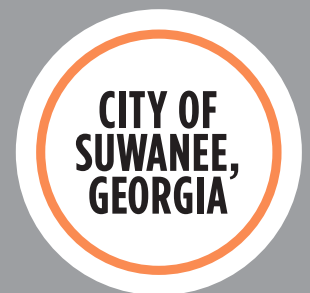
DECEMBER24

3	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 pm
5	City Council Workshop	5:30 pm
6	Jolly Holly Days & Market	5:00 pm
7	HappyFeat Run, Run Rudolph 5K	9:00 am
7	Jolly Holly Days & Market	10:00 am
10	Harvest Farm Managing Board	6:00 pm
10	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30 pm
11	Public Arts Commission Meeting	6:00 pm
14	Suwanee Farmers Market	9:00 am
17	Downtown Development Authority	7:30 am
17	City Council Meeting	6:30 pm
21	Suwanee Farmers Market	9:00 am
24	City Hall Closed	8:00 am
25	City Hall Closed	8:00 am

MAYOR	Jimmy Burnette	770/868-7115
COUNCIL	Pete Charpentier	770/757-3323
	Beth Hilscher	678/546-3388
	Julianna McConnell	770/713-1249
	Linnea Miller	678/592-4150
	Larry Pettiford	678/464-3651

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.

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	Matt Gore	770/904-3373
EDITOR	Bonnie Simmons	770/945-3386



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WANT TO STAY IN THE KNOW?
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Suwanee connects

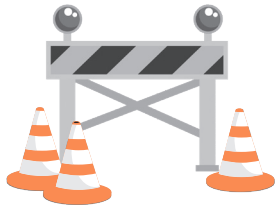
suwanee.com | November 2024

INSIDE this issue...



2

Some gnarly recaps and shout-outs of the like, totally radical Suwanee Fest!



4

Reconstruct the bridge on Martin Farm Road over Suwanee Creek.



5

Mark your Calendars: Holiday Fun and 1/2 Marathon Prep!

SUWANEE UNVEILS VETERANS MEMORIAL



The Veterans Memorial, *Greater Good*, in Suwanee's Town Center on Main is a stunning tribute to honor our nation's veterans. Commissioned by the City of Suwanee, the renowned artist Michael Szabo crafted the 20-foot memorial representing the collective service of veterans. Szabo, a native of the San Francisco Bay area and a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, interviewed numerous veterans before creating the final design. His sculpture features six arcs emerging from water, symbolizing the six branches of the U.S. military. These arcs reach toward the sky, representing how, together, they achieve something far greater than any individual branch or service member could on their own.

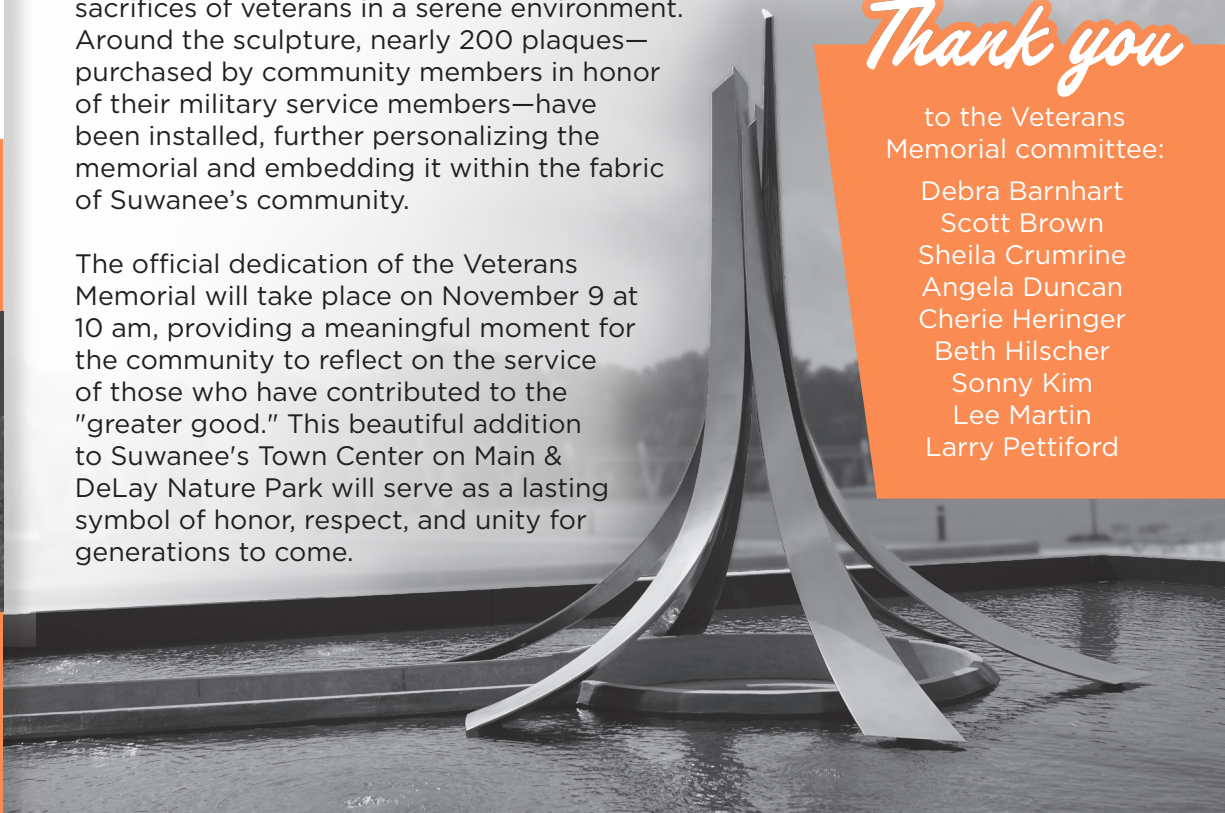
Szabo's work, predominately in steel and bronze, often invites dialogue between the art, its space, and the people who experience it. The *Greater Good* sculpture is no different, as it stands as a focal point within a tranquil water feature, encouraging visitors to reflect upon the sacrifices of veterans in a serene environment. Around the sculpture, nearly 200 plaques—purchased by community members in honor of their military service members—have been installed, further personalizing the memorial and embedding it within the fabric of Suwanee's community.

The official dedication of the Veterans Memorial will take place on November 9 at 10 am, providing a meaningful moment for the community to reflect on the service of those who have contributed to the "greater good." This beautiful addition to Suwanee's Town Center on Main & DeLay Nature Park will serve as a lasting symbol of honor, respect, and unity for generations to come.

Thank you

to the Veterans Memorial committee:

- Debra Barnhart
- Scott Brown
- Sheila Crumrine
- Angela Duncan
- Cherie Heringer
- Beth Hilscher
- Sonny Kim
- Lee Martin
- Larry Pettiford





SUWANEE FEST

EST. 1984



*2024 Suwanee Fest
Committee & City Staff*

Major shoutout to the 2024 Suwanee Fest Committee and our city staff for making it all happen. Without them, this festival isn't possible! These amazing dudes & dudettes handled the planning, coordination, execution, and clean up of this totally tubular event without missing a beat!

Suwanee Fest was, like, really amazing! From the radical entertainment and vibrant parade to the 80's block party and delicious food vendors, we had a blast celebrating our 40th anniversary with everyone!

Major props to everybody that came out to party like it was 1984 that weekend! Who else is already counting down to next year?



We gave out some wicked awesome awards to three totally tubular booths!

Parker's Choice: The Exercise Coach

Mayor's Choice: By Lady Belle

Best of Show: PNG Custom Gifts



CONGRATULATIONS

to the excellent winners of the
SUWANEЕ FEST PARADE!

These groups went all out and truly captured the spirit of the festival!

MOST ENTERTAINING:

First Place:

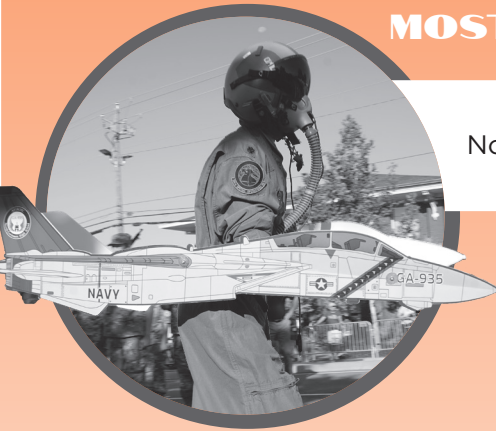
North Gwinnett High School
Air Force J-ROTC

Second Place:

Korean Cultural Center

Third Place:

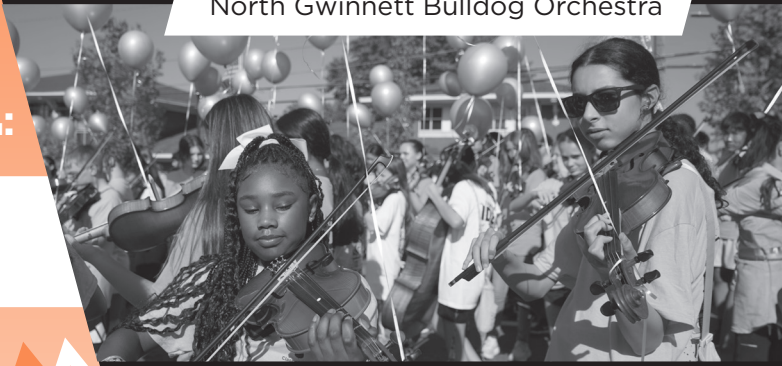
HTH, Inc.



OVERALL BEST OF SHOW:

First Place:

North Gwinnett Bulldog Orchestra



Second Place:

All Stars Performing Arts

Third Place:

North Gwinnett Department of Dance

BEST REFLECTION OF THEME:

First Place:

Peachtree Ridge
Youth Athletic Association
Cheerleading

Second Place:

Girl Scouts Lanier
Service Unit

Third Place:

North Gwinnett
Bulldog Marching
Band



BEST FLOAT:

First Place:

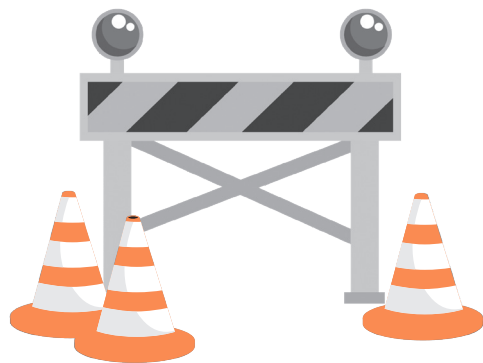
Cub Scout Pack 518

Second Place:

Peachtree Ridge High School
Robotics Team



MARTIN FARM ROAD BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION



Georgia Department of Transportation has entered into a contract with FS Scarbrough to reconstruct the bridge on Martin Farm Road that crosses over Suwanee Creek. Preliminary work to relocate utilities off of the bridge is expected to start in the fall, with the bridge demolition scheduled for early March.

Once the demolition begins, the bridge will be closed for an extended period. The contract requires that the contractor provide a minimum of 4 weeks advance notice before closing the bridge. As we get closer to the closure date, the City will post the closure information on our website and social media.

The construction will raise the new bridge's height, allowing more water to flow under the bridge and reducing upstream flooding. The construction will also require closing sections of the Suwanee Creek Greenway at times. Per the contract, the contractor can close the Greenway twice for up to two weeks each time, but they must provide two weeks of advance notice before they do so. The City will communicate when we are aware of proposed Greenway closures on our website and social media.

For more information
about the project,
please go to



Suwanee Farmers Market is *Mooving*

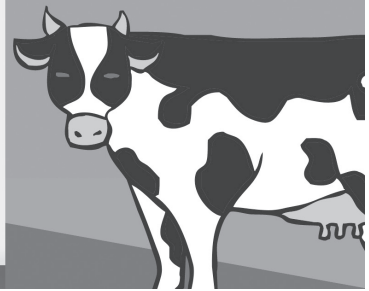
Find us in our new location at
Town Center on Main
(near the library)

Winter Market Dates

November 9 & 23
December 14 & 21
January 11 & 25
February 8 & 22
March 8 & 22
April 12 & 26



9:00 -
11:00 a.m.



Discover Exciting *Fall Activities* & *Exhibits*

at Suwanee Welcome Center
& Art Center

As the fall season approaches, Suwanee Welcome Center & Art Center has an array of activities and exhibits to inspire and engage the community.

- **Photography Exhibit**
- **Small Works Exhibit**
- **Hand-Building Pottery Classes**
- **Bob Ross Painting Series**
- **Tuesday Tea**



Visit the Suwanee Art Center website for more information on exhibits, classes, and community events.
suwaneeartscenter.org

Finish the Year Strong

The City of Suwanee is wrapping up the 2024 event season with festive celebrations designed to get everyone into the holiday spirit! From twinkling lights to chili tastings, Suwanee's end-of-year events promise plenty of fun for all ages. Whether you're strolling through Town Center Park for holiday music and treats or enjoying these seasonal events with family and friends, the city's calendar is packed with activities to make this holiday season merry and bright.

November

- 2 Suwanee Wine Fest
- 9 Suwanee Chili Cookoff & Music Fest
- 10 Suwanee Classic Car Show

December

- 6&7 Jolly Holly Days Market
- 7 HappyFeat Run, Run Rudolph 5k



SOLE-FUL FUN!

As we celebrate the close of 2024, it's also time to look forward to 2025—starting with the Suwanee Half Marathon! The marathon is scheduled for February 16, and now is the perfect time to begin training. Preparing for a half marathon may seem daunting, but with a few simple tips, you can make the journey to race day manageable and rewarding. Start by building a consistent running routine, gradually increasing your distance each week. Include cross-training like cycling or swimming to strengthen your muscles and avoid injury, and don't forget to rest, recover, and hydrate!

Kick off the new year focusing on health and fitness, and set the tone for a strong, active 2025. Whether you're a seasoned runner or tackling your first race, the Suwanee Half Marathon is a great way to challenge yourself and embrace that "new year, new you" mindset. Lace up your running shoes, hit the trail,

and let's make 2025 your
BEST year yet!

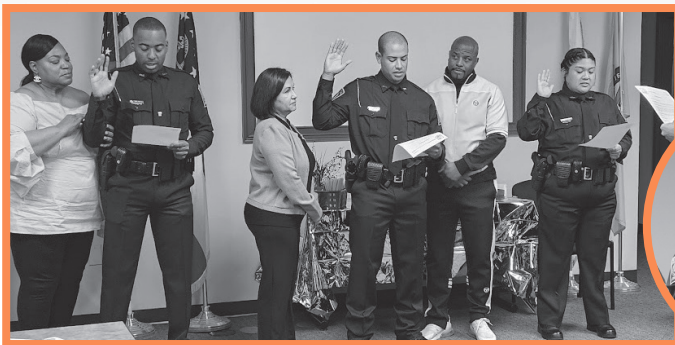


Rising Stars:

Celebrating Suwanee's Standout Employees

Suwanee is more than just our city—it's driven by a dedicated team of passionate individuals who continually strive for excellence. The City of Suwanee is proud to showcase employees on the move—team members who embody the spirit of growth and innovation, recently achieving new milestones, earning certifications, completing training programs, or receiving well-deserved recognitions. Join in celebrating their accomplishments as they continue to contribute to the success and vitality of the community.

On the Move



Officers Jessica Escamilla, Brandon Guerrier, Richard Major, and Shannon Wilson were sworn in to the Suwanee Police Department.



Taranta Anderson,
promoted to Business Services Division Director



Joaquin Lopez Salas,
promoted to Field Services Manager



Robert Davis,
promoted to Public Works Superintendent



Trinity Hsu,
promoted to Accounting Division Director



Kevin Contreras-Martinez,
promoted to Police Corporal



Kim Towne,
promoted to Special Projects Manager



Wilson Baughman
promoted to Crew Leader

Award Winning TEAM



In September, **Robyn O'Donnell** completed UGA's Carl Vinson Institute's Masters Education Management Development Program, a 2.5-year program consisting of 10 courses totaling 60 hours.



Chris Hardin was accepted to the 39th Leadership Gwinnett Class. Leadership Gwinnett has been at the forefront of cultivating influential and dedicated leaders equipped to drive positive change in Gwinnett County and beyond.



The 2022 Annual Report, themed "The Office," was a 2024 Savvy Award winner in the Printed Publications category. The Savvy Awards, part of 3CMA's Annual Conference, honor exceptional local government achievements in communications, public-sector marketing, and fostering relationships between residents and government.



The city honored Randy Redner with the Friend of Suwanee Award! Throughout Randy's career, he has played key leadership roles with Habitat for Humanity, the American Cancer Society, the United Methodist Children's Home, and Rainbow Village, always giving back to those in need. Randy's dedication and commitment to our community have been remarkable. When Suwanee embarked on the creation of a new park, Randy led efforts to raise \$1.2 million for public art, bringing his unique blend of leadership, determination, and creativity to the project.



Billqece Naqawe was nominated for Gwinnett Young Profession's annual selection of the most influential young professionals in Gwinnett. Our community's 35 influential young professionals are disruptors, innovators, and change-makers in their fields.