



DON'T FORGET TO

Pack a Book

Whether your idea of relaxation is lounging under a beach umbrella, kicking back in an Adirondack chair at a mountain cabin or simply hitting the hammock in your backyard, vacation time is an opportunity to crack open a good book. From classics to current bestsellers, Walton employees have recommendations to help you find the right read. Pick up one of these page-turners:

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. The 2022 bestseller is a favorite of Jennifer Broun, community and youth representative. The witty, sharp novel explores themes of feminism and science set against a backdrop of 1960s California and a fictitious TV cooking show.

Blackbird Beach series by Maggie Miller. Kathy Ivie, community and youth specialist, recommends this eight-book contemporary romance/women's fiction series set at the fictional Sea Glass Inn in Florida. These quick and easy reads are ideal for vacation. Published by Amazon, the stories are available in paperback from the online retailer or via its audio book format, Audible.

Stuck in Space: An Astronaut's Hope Through the Unexpected by Butch Wilmore. Jeff Paul, member services director, suggests this "hot-off-the-presses" memoir. Written by one of the two NASA astronauts stranded in space for more than nine months, it details the drama of the spacecraft failure alongside a biography of Wilmore's life and his thoughts on faith.

All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot. Fans of the current PBS series will enjoy the 1972 memoir — one of eight books in the series — detailing real-life country veterinarian Alf Wight's stories about the people and animals of the Yorkshire Dales in the 1930s. "This series has been my go-to vacation read for years, and now my children are reading the books too," says Savannah Chandler, manager of communications.

The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave. "I could not put this down!" says Sara Beddington, marketing representative. The 2021 mystery thriller is about a woman whose husband disappears, leaving a cryptic note for her to protect his teenage daughter. "I loved watching their relationship develop and how much they grew to love each other," Beddington adds. She also likes the sequel book, **The First Time I Saw Him**, which debuted this year, noting "it wraps up the story nicely."

Wherever you roam for relaxation this summer, don't forget to pack the pages along with the sunscreen and flip flops.





'Backyarding' trends feature natural gas-fueled amenities

The pandemic is history, but the trend of “backyarding” — using outdoor green spaces as an extension of indoor living areas — continues in Georgia. These natural gas-fueled trends can increase enjoyment of your backyard while also improving property value.

FIRE FEATURES: Gas fireplaces and fire pit tables are replacing traditional wood-burning options as no-hassle — no smoke or ashes — patio features. Vertical, narrow, tall fireplaces are trending this year. New models feature electronic ignition and app control, allowing users to control flames from their smartphones.

PRO-STYLE GRILLING: Top-tier natural gas grills feature stainless steel cooking grids and infrared rear burners for restaurant-quality searing. Integrated Wi-Fi and Bluetooth allow remote monitoring of food.

OUTDOOR KITCHENS: Georgia builders are incorporating fixed natural gas lines for L-shaped kitchen islands that include high-performance grills, side burners and pizza ovens.

PATIO HEATING: New radiant gas heaters use slow-release ceramic burners for improved energy efficiency, reducing gas consumption while increasing heat distribution. Some new models have a wind resistant design that can be installed in tight spaces.

HEATED POOLS AND SPAS: A natural gas heater is ideal for rapid, on-demand warming of pool or spa water, regardless of weather or temperature. It can raise pool temperatures 1°F per hour.

BUG-FREE LIGHTING: Gas-powered lights are trending for their warm yellow glow that can add extra ambiance and security to outdoor living spaces, landscapes and walkways. An important bonus: These lights rarely attract insects.

Turn on the gas in your Georgia backyard to increase home value, extend patio season and provide a comfortable place to relax.

SUMMER SOUNDS IN

Snellville

Walton Gas is excited to serve as the presenting sponsor of Experience Snellville's Live on the Lawn concert series, and the 2026 lineup is packed with can't-miss shows.


05 23 DEPARTURE: The Journey Tribute

08 22 LANDSLIDE: Fleetwood Mac Tribute

07 18 FOREVER ROD: The Ultimate Rod Stewart Tribute

09 19 Latin Explosion

Grab a chair, bring your friends and enjoy great music all summer. Visit experiencesnellville.com/calendar for more details.



YOUR VOTE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

There's still time to make an impact. May is the final month to vote in the 2025–2026 Champions for Charity program. Cast your vote for Annandale Village, Atlanta Ronald McDonald House Charities or Camp Twin Lakes and help support organizations making a difference across Georgia.

Place your vote! Scan the QR code or visit walgongas.com/uga



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