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GEORGIA PROUD Walton GAS



Photo courtesy Buckhead Pizza Co.

WALTON GAS CUSTOMERS SERVE UP PIES YOU SHOULD TRY

Pizza is the nation's favorite food. The average American eats 46 slices each year. It's no wonder then that there's an entire month — October — designated to recognize this favored food.

Natural gas-fueled ovens typically play an important role in the pizza-making process, so Walton Gas counts many Georgia pizzamakers among our customers. Let's meet three of them.

AJ's Pizza Pub, Cornelia

Spotlighted on YouTube's "America's Best Restaurants Roadshow" in 2025, AJ's New York-style, hand-tossed pizza features fresh ingredients atop a thinner, crispier crust.

"Everything is fresh, nothing frozen or out of a can," said owner Andri Demus. Dough and sauces are made in-house. Toppings are cut fresh and meat is seasoned and prepared in the AJ's kitchen to ensure "an explosion of flavors with every bite."

The Godfather is a menu favorite. Described as "like an Italian sub," it's made with Italian cured meats and mozzarella cheese that are baked and then topped with lettuce, diced tomatoes and olive oil.

Buckhead Pizza Co., Atlanta

Chef Sam Abdullah and his daughter Isabella operate this urban New York-style pizzeria located in Atlanta's tony Buckhead neighborhood. Reviewers declare the restaurant serves "Atlanta's best brick oven pizza."

Fresh ingredients and a natural gas-fired oven — pizza "done the right way" — are the keys, Abdullah said.

"We get a great stone-baked quality because our massive oven has six inches of brick and a double-sided open fire, which gives us a consistent temperature for an even cook on the top and bottom," he said. Buckhead pizzas are placed directly on stone to create a crispy crust.

Hearth Pizza Tavern, Sandy Springs

This suburban spot puts its own spin on New Haven apizza (pronounced ah-BEETZ), a trending style known for its thin, crisp-yet-chewy crust, charred edges and simple approach that lets high-quality ingredients shine.

"Our dough is made fresh daily, hand-stretched to order, and cooked directly on the stone in an open-fire deck oven, creating that signature char and depth of flavor," manager Kim Griffin said.

The Simply Red is a customer favorite. It's a classic combination of red sauce, garlic oil, Hearth's cheese blend, Parmesan and fresh herbs."It's simple, flavorful and a great introduction to our signature crust," Griffin said.

Celebrate National Pizza Month with a handcrafted, fire-kissed pie from your favorite pizzeria. It's a great way to get in your share of slices for the year.

Read more about these pizzamakers in this month's Walton Wise.

LET'S GO birding!

GRAB SOME BINOCULARS AND HEAD OUT TO WATCH THE FALL MIGRATION



With fall migration in full swing, October is an exceptional time to take up birdwatching, or birding, in Georgia. Millions of birds are flying south by routes running through the Blue Ridge mountains and along the Atlantic coastline.

Try a trail

2026 is officially the Year of the Georgia Birding Trail in celebration of Bird's Georgia centennial, making fall the perfect time to explore the:

- **Georgia Birding Trail**, a brand-new statewide network of over 400 bird viewing destinations — from mountain forests to coastal marshes.
- **Colonial Coast Birding Trail**, which offers 17 sites across 122 miles of the Georgia coast. Some 300 species of birds — about 75% of those seen in Georgia — have been spotted at the venues.
- **Southern Rivers Birding Trail**, a collection of 29 sites grouped into four sub-trails, winds from the piedmont region down through the coastal plain to end at the Okefenokee Swamp.



Pick a park

Some of the top destinations for October birdwatching are in easily accessible public parks and wildlife sanctuaries. Check park event schedules for ranger-led birdwatching walks.

INLAND LOCATIONS:

- **Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park**, Kennesaw, is one of the most productive sites for migrant birds.
- **Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge**, Hillsboro, is ideal for spotting rare red-cockaded woodpeckers.
- **Sweetwater Creek State Park**, Lithia Springs, provides shaded streams and lake access points where ospreys and kinglets show.

COASTAL SPOTS:

- **Jekyll Island** is famous for peregrine falcons and abundant shorebirds.
- **Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge**, Townsend, features wood stork populations.
- **Cumberland Island National Seashore** is a stopover on the Atlantic Flyway for raptors and shorebirds.

Take advantage of this month's cooler weather, changing foliage and active feeding to more easily find feathered friends — and potentially discover a new hobby in birdwatching.

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Want to keep up with what's happening at Walton Gas? Follow us on social media!

From community events and sponsorships to helpful tips, company updates and a behind-the-scenes look at our team, our social media pages are a great way to stay connected throughout the year.

Find and follow Walton Gas on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn so you don't miss what's happening!

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Toll Free **866-936-2427** or **770-267-2505**

Front Counter Hours
Weekdays, 8 AM to 5 PM

Call Center Hours
Weekdays, 7 AM to 7 PM

Monroe
842 US Hwy. 78 NW

Snellville
3645 Lenora Church Rd.

Watkinsville
2061-D Hog Mountain Rd.

Jim Bottone
Senior VP, Walton Energy & External Affairs

Ashlie Franklin
Commercial Accounts
afranklin@waltongas.com

Sara Beddington
Marketing Representative

Call Atlanta Gas Light to report gas leaks or emergencies anytime.

Inside Metro Atlanta
770-907-4231

Outside Metro Atlanta
877-427-4321

waltongas.com