



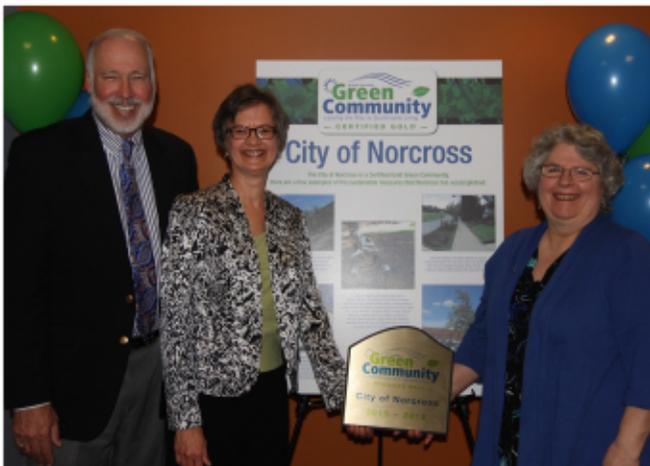
# A PLACE TO IMAGINE

March 2016



## Mayor Bucky Johnson Presents the 2016 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Bucky Johnson's presentation at the 2016 State of the City Address was held on Monday, February 8th at the new Summerour Middle School. The attendees were welcomed by Summerour Middle School Principal Dorothy Jarrett and entertained by the school's talented student jazz band. The Address highlighted the renaissance that has taken place in Norcross since 2001. This rebirth has manifested itself in parks, infrastructure, city buildings, businesses housing and the school system. Mayor Johnson recognized the school system's commitment in Norcross by highlighting the investments that have been made and will be made including a new elementary school and a new high school.



The Mayor recognized 16 individuals that have donated their time and efforts to make Norcross a better place. He also gave special recognition to Sustainable Norcross for helping the city obtain recertification at the Gold level as a Green Community by the Atlanta Regional Commission. The Lionheart Theater was recognized for their contributions to the arts. The Mayor recognized the Gwinnett Village Community Improvement District's

recent efforts, which included the diverging diamond interchange at Jimmy Carter, over \$4 million in landscape improvements and the construction of over 80 miles of sidewalks.

Also discussed, was the resurgence of the local economy noting that in 2015 1,003 new jobs were added and 335 new business licenses were issued along with Norcross being named one of the top 10 places to start a business in Georgia by NerdWallet. Suniva and WestRock were also highlighted for their economic impact in the City.

Looking ahead, Mayor Johnson said that residents can look forward to a new county library and a mixed-use development next to Lillian Webb Park, road and sidewalk improvements on Buford Highway, a new police station on Buford Highway and additional landscaping throughout the City. In addition, 2016 will see the opening of the Norcross Discovery Garden and the completion of Summerour Park.

For more information and to view a video of the Address, visit [norcrossga.net](http://norcrossga.net).

### Neighborhood Clean-up & Recycling Day is Saturday, April 2

Save the  
DATE!

Kick off the spring season with the Norcross Neighborhood Clean-Up & Recycling Day on Saturday, April 2. Residents can help keep Norcross 'clean and beautiful' by bringing in documents to be securely shredded, hauling in non-hazardous bulk items and recycling electronics. During the one-day event, the city of Norcross will also be accepting canned or non-perishable goods donations for the 2016 "Can" Do for Hunger Campaign. For complete information, visit [norcrossga.net](http://norcrossga.net) or contact Sonya Isaac at 678-421-2027.



**Mayor:** Bucky Johnson • **Mayor Pro Tem:** Craig Newton  
**City Council:** Andrew Hixson, David McLeroy, Josh Bare, Pierre Levy  
**City Manager:** Rudolph Smith • **City Clerk:** Monique Lang

**City Hall:** 65 Lawrenceville Street, Norcross, GA  
30071 Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
770.448.2122 | Fax: 770.242.082



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

# ARC Honors City of Norcross for its Commitment to Sustainability

The city of Norcross was one of five local governments to be recognized by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) for leadership in implementing policies and practices that contribute to efficient and sustainable use of resources in metro Atlanta.

Norcross was honored for recertifying at the Gold level in ARC's Green Communities program. ARC also recognized the cities of Atlanta, Peachtree Corners and Woodstock and Rockdale County for certifying or upgrading their certification in ARC's six-year-old Green Communities program.

"Norcross is to be commended for making its community more sustainable," said Kerry Armstrong, ARC board chairman. "The city's effort to conserve energy, reduce waste and protect natural resources set an example for the entire region."

Norcross first earned Gold certification in 2011. Steps the city took to become recertified include:

- Ensuring that all residents of the city live within a half-mile of a publicly accessible park or greenspace.
- Maintaining the character of its historic downtown by purchasing and rehabilitating several vacant or abandoned buildings. The city's Cotton Gin building was constructed 145 years ago and was converted from a vacant warehouse into a mixed-use facility.
- Utilizing innovative measures to capture excess stormwater, including the construction of a large rain garden beside City Hall. Bioswales have been installed along Thrasher Street, adding a natural buffer between the road and residences.

- Creatively reusing materials for artistic purposes through initiatives such as the ReImagine! exhibition, which provides artists an opportunity to install outdoor sculptures constructed of at least 75 percent reused material in public spaces for a 2-year period.
- Establishing an ordinance that requires parking spaces be located no further than 40 feet from a tree and at least one "canopy tree" for every seven parking spaces. The ordinance has been implemented in several locations, including a FedEx Ground Distribution Center employee parking lot.

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 ways in which local governments are helping transform the region by reducing their environmental footprint.

Since 2009, 20 jurisdictions in the 10-county region have been certified. Cities and counties earn Green Communities certification by implementing practices and policies in 10 categories, ranging from energy efficiency and green building to transportation and water efficiency. ARC's Green Communities program was the first program in the country seeking to transform a region by promoting sustainability through a "green" certification program for local governments.

Complete information about ARC's Green Communities Certification Program, including the measures each community has implemented, is available on the agency's website at [www.atlantaregional.com/greencommunities](http://www.atlantaregional.com/greencommunities).

## Atlanta Collage Society Opening Reception Exhibit to be Held on March 18

The city of Norcross is pleased to host an exhibit for the Atlanta Collage Society (ACS). The opening reception will be held at The Rectory on March 18 at 6:30 p.m. The ACS was formed in 2006 to foster appreciation, interest, and understanding about the medium of collage; to advance the stature of collage as a contemporary art medium; to support the professional development of ACS membership; and to promote collage within the general community. With an annual membership of approximately 75 collage artists, the ACS roster includes assemblage artists and mixed media artists who incorporate collage into their work. ACS is affiliated with the National Collage Society and partners locally with the Atlanta Artist Center for meeting space and joint workshops. For more information, visit [norcrossga.net](http://norcrossga.net).



### Wide Open

A JURIED ART SHOW BY THE  
Atlanta Collage Society  
CONSISTING OF 60-70 PIECES

Exhibit Opening March 18 with Music and Light Hors d'oeuvres  
6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Runs from March 18 thru April 8 - Open upon request whenever staff is on duty, Monday - Sunday  
Call 678-423-2048, 678-423-2049 or 678-423-2025 for information or admissions.

THE RECTORY • 17 COLLEGE STREET • NORCROSS GA 30071



## Welcome to Downtown Norcross: VSOP Olive Oil & Vinegar Taproom

Located at 81 South Peachtree Street, VSOP specializes in the finest extra virgin olive oils, balsamic vinegars and specialty oils and vinegars from around the world. VSOP offers the largest selection of gourmet bulk EVOOs, balsamic and specialty oils and vinegars available anywhere. Since the product is bought in bulk, and bottled fresh for the customer, VSOP is able to pass along the savings to the customer. It is an ultra fresh, ultra premium product at an everyday price. The customer is able to taste the quality in the store so there are never any “surprises” when you get the product home. For more information, visit [vsoptaproom.com](http://vsoptaproom.com).

## Arbor Day Foundation Names Norcross Tree City USA

Norcross, Ga was recently named a 2015 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, its partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

Norcross achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program’s four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

“Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has in a community first hand,” said Dan Lambe, President of the Arbor Day Foundation. “Additionally, recognition brings residents together and creates a sense of community pride, whether it’s through volunteer engagement or public education.”

Trees provide multiple benefits to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove all pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

More information on the program is available at [arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](http://arborday.org/TreeCityUSA).

## Celebrate Spring in Downtown Norcross with an Easter Egg Hunt on March 26



The Easter Bunny is hopping his way to downtown Norcross for an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26 at 10 a.m. As long as there is no peeking, the Easter Bunny will be hiding all of his eggs in Rossie Brundage

Park, 350 Autry Street. So bring your Easter baskets and celebrate the renewal of spring in Norcross with a FREE Easter Egg Hunt that is sure to be fun for all! Children will also have the opportunity to visit with the Easter Bunny where parents are encouraged to take photos to capture the excitement. The city of Norcross wants to ensure that everyone enjoys the hunt and kindly requests those participating to be considerate, respectful, and most of all, have fun! For more information, please visit [aplacetoimagine.com](http://aplacetoimagine.com).

# GET TO KNOW City of Norcross

Parks and Recreation Program  
Coordinator Michael Jones



The city of Norcross is home to beautiful parks set among winding sidewalks, gorgeous landscapes and spectacular trees—1,123 to be exact. Offering a wide array of amenities, services and events, there is fun to be had by all in Norcross. As the coordinator for the city of Norcross Parks and Recreation Program, Michael Jones works diligently behind the scenes ensuring that the citizens and guests of Norcross, simply put, have fun.

### Q. What does your position entail and how do you help the City?

As the parks and recreation program coordinator, I am responsible in aiding with the customer service operation of the Department of Public Works, Utilities, and Parks. I assist in the planning, monitoring, implementing, supervising and evaluating of all office procedures, registration and customer service operations pertaining to the parks and recreation system. My duties also include scheduling and maintaining group usage of facilities including parks, pavilions, performance venues and athletic fields.

### Q. What is your favorite aspect of your job?

By far my favorite aspect of the job is engaging with the community during city events. From the concert series to the car shows, 4th of July celebration and all of the many hometown events—interacting with the people of Norcross makes it all worthwhile.

### Q. What drew you to Norcross?

What I love about the city of Norcross is that the people are very nice and welcoming. Once you have toured around the City, you can really see that Norcross is “a place to Imagine.”

## NORCROSS ANNOUNCES EASY PAY PROGRAM FOR ELECTRICITY PAYMENTS

Norcross Easy Pay is a prepay electricity billing program that allows residential customers to 'pay-as-you-go' for electricity services. Program benefits include no late fees, disconnect fees or reconnect fees. Residents will have the opportunity to learn how and why this program works on Tuesday, March 15 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Tuesday, March 22 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Norcross City Hall, 1st floor. For more information, visit [www.norcrossga.net/easypay](http://www.norcrossga.net/easypay).

## PUBLIC INPUT MEETING TO BE HELD ON MARCH 16

The first public input meeting for the Parks Master Plan Revision will be held on Wednesday, March 16, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., at the Norcross Cultural Arts and Community Center banquet room.



## CITY NUMBERS

Business Licenses 770.448.2122  
Community Center 678.421.2024  
Court Services 770.448.2173  
Economic Development 678.421.2023  
Yard Debris Pick-up 678.421.2069  
Norcross Code Enforment 770.448.7327  
Parks 678.421.2010  
Permits & Signs 678.421.2027  
Police 770.448.2111  
Property Tax 770.448.2122  
Street Lights 678.421.2069  
Streets & Paving 678.421.2069  
Trash/Recycling Pick-up 770.448.2122  
Utilities Billing 770.448.2122  
Downtown Manager 678.421.2049  
PR/Marketing 678.421.2033



## RON HIPPI WITH CAROL STATELLA IN OUT OF THE RAIN

### FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT

**MARCH 4 • COMMUNITY CENTER  
10 COLLEGE STREET • NORCROSS, GA • 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.**

Pick up your dinner-to-go from one of the Downtown Norcross restaurants, bring your favorite beverage and enjoy a front row seat dinner theater style!

ARRIVE EARLY,  
SEATING IS LIMITED!  
Reservations are suggested

To reserve a table, contact Cate Kitchen at  
678.421.2049

To learn more about event details, visit  
[www.aplacetoimagine.com](http://www.aplacetoimagine.com)



- MARCH 4** – First Friday Concert, Out of the Rain, 7-9 p.m., Norcross Community Center
- MARCH 4** – First Impressions Art Exhibit Opening Reception, 6-8 p.m., Kudzu Art Zone
- MARCH 7** – City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Council Chambers
- MARCH 4-13** – Love, Loss, and What I Wore, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m., Lionheart Theatre
- MARCH 11** – Farm and Food Film Festival Fundraiser, 7 p.m., Norcross Community Center

**MARCH 14** – Movie Monday, Antman, 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center

**MARCH 16** – Parks Master Plan Revisions Public Input Meeting, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center

**MARCH 18** – Wide Open Atlanta Collage Society Exhibit Opening Reception, 6:30 p.m., The Rectory

**MARCH 21** – Policy Work Session, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

**MARCH 26** – Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m., Rossie Brundage Park

**MARCH 28** – Movie Monday, Mission Impossible, Rogue Nation, 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center

## Sign up for EVENT REMINDERS!

Regístrate para obtener información sobre los eventos locales!

Most events are free and open to the public; for more event info,

visit [www.aplacetoimagine.com](http://www.aplacetoimagine.com)