



A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NOVEMBER 2016

Make your Holidays MERRY and BRIGHT

Downtown Norcross' Merchant Open House to be Held on November 14

CHECK EVERYONE OFF YOUR LIST AT THE NORCROSS MERCHANT OPEN HOUSE ON NOVEMBER 12

'Tis' the season for shopping and the City of Norcross is ready to help you check everyone off your list with the annual Norcross Merchant Open House on Saturday, November 12. At this special one-day event, the downtown shops of Norcross will be decked and ready with door prizes, special surprises, sales, new merchandise, refreshments and more.

What could be more fun than finding the perfect gift for everyone on your list while supporting local retail shops that help to give Norcross its flair and make it 'a place to imagine'?!
(Not much that I can think of!)

So, come on out and meander through the streets of downtown Norcross where you will find yourself doing more than just "window shopping." Unique shops of one-of-a-kind antiques, boutique apparel, whimsical home and garden accessories, original artwork and custom fine jewelry

will open your heart and wallet to the unique treasures offered by the assortment of merchants in Norcross.

And after all that shopping, you will surely have worked up an appetite for a bite to eat and something to quench your thirst. Luckily, downtown Norcross is home to an array of delectable dining options that are as diverse and distinctive as the people who make up this imaginative place. From authentic Cuban, zesty Italian, classic Americana to traditional English pub fare, Norcross has it all. So, dig in and enjoy every last bite!

While you are out shopping til' you drop, help us to further support our merchants by taking a 'selfie' and posting a message to social media outlets that you #ShopNorcross. Be sure to tag the merchant and @CityofNorcross. And in case you can't fit your entire gift buying into one day, don't forget that Small Business Saturday is November 26. This one-day extravaganza, launched by American Express in 2010, is designed to encourage support of small, local businesses—just like the ones you can find in Norcross. Happy shopping!



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
www.norcrossga.net

SPARKLE!

CELEBRATION

Make your Holidays MERRY and BRIGHT

THE SPARKLE HOLIDAY CELEBRATION ON DECEMBER 2

CITY OF NORCROSS TO MAKE DOWNTOWN 'SPARKLE' FOR HOLIDAY SEASON

It's the most wonderful time of the year! And at the City of Norcross, they make the most of every moment by making everything 'sparkle' during this wondrous time. Each holiday season, the City of Norcross hosts, 'Sparkle! A Celebration of Kids, Creativity and Magic.' This year's celebration on December 2nd will include carriage rides, photos with Santa, a Christmas tree lighting in the park, holiday entertainment and more!

COME SPARKLE WITH US! DON'T MISS THESE THREE EXCITING EVENTS THAT WILL SURELY GET YOU IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT:

1.

PHOTOS WITH SANTA AND CARRIAGE RIDES:

We hope you have been nice this year because Santa himself will be visiting downtown Norcross! Carriage rides will be dashing through Norcross December 2 through December 23 every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in front of Taste of Britain. You can catch Santa in the evenings at The Crossing Restaurant starting on December 2.

2.

HOLIDAY FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT WITH THE RAINMEN:

The Rainmen are a rock 'n' roll combo, specializing in mostly danceable, fun songs from the sixties and early seventies. The band is made up of long-time veterans of the Atlanta music scene. Be there with Christmas bells on and continue the holiday feeling listening to the tunes of the season from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Norcross Cultural Arts and Community Center on December 2.

3.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING:

Join us for the traditional lighting of the Christmas Tree in Thrasher Park and enjoy music from local choir groups. Santa will be busy checking his list in his workshop in the park and will be available for photos with all the good little boys and girls. Enjoy free hot cocoa and cookies (while supplies last) and a holiday movie on the big screen while you wait in line to meet Santa. Join in on the awe and excitement on December 2 at 5:30 p.m. in Thrasher Park.

For more information on the
Sparkle Holiday Celebration, visit
www.aplacetoimagine.com



FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT

November 4

Deb Bowman & the Big Love Band, Presents Broadway Norcross Cultural Arts and Community Center, 7 - 9 p.m.

ITALIAN CAR FAYRE

November 5

Lillian Webb Park
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

MERCHANT OPEN HOUSE

November 12

Downtown Norcross,
10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

November 26

Downtown Norcross



NORCROSS DISCOVERY GARDEN PARK

There was no better way to have celebrated the opening of Discovery Garden Park than with those who have helped make it possible! The Discovery Garden Park Board hosted a "Sneak Peek" dinner on October 14th to thank the donors, city officials, volunteers and Friends of the Garden who have helped make the vision of a community garden into a reality.

Discovery Garden Park hosted it's official Grand Opening Celebration on Saturday, October 22, since then, the garden has grown with some sun, a little water, good soil and dedicated volunteers.

With a mission to inspire lifelong curiosity, understanding, and appreciation of nature through organic gardening, education and demonstration, Discovery Garden Park will provide a place of beauty for Norcross residents and visitors for years to come.

Garden Chair Deb Harris states, "We are so excited and proud of what this Garden will bring to our community. It will provide nature-based experiences and resources and provide a great place for all to enjoy, celebrate, work and come together."



MAYORS MOTORCADE: BRING THE GIFT OF JOY TO THOSE IN NEED

The City of Norcross will be holding its annual giving campaign and asking for your help to make the holiday season special for residents of the state's mental health hospitals. For a list of requested items, visit www.norcrossga.net.

All donations are greatly appreciated and may be delivered to Norcross City Hall at 65 Lawrenceville Street, 1st floor rotunda. If you are a Norcross resident or business owner, feel free to call for pick-up of your donations no later than November 24th (gifts will be delivered December 2nd).

For pick-up of your donation, please contact: Melissa Zeigler, melissa.zeigler@norcrossga.net and Mike Jones, michael.jones@norcrossga.net

NORCROSS COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

Norcross Cooperative Ministry (NCM) helps families in our community ensure that local children experience the joy of Christmas. In 2015, through NCM's Christmas program over 2,700 children received toys and gifts, hoodies and gloves and families received a gift card allowing them to purchase the makings for a holiday meal.

During this season of giving, here are two ways that community members can support the NCM's Christmas program:

Sponsor a Toy Drive

It's a great way to get people involved. Toys for children from 0 – 18 years old are needed no later than December 7th. Suggested toys or gifts: Educational/Board Games, Legos, Scooters/Skateboards, Action Figures

Warm Hands, Warm Hearts

Many children in our community struggle for basic necessities and keeping warm during an even mild winter is difficult. At Christmas each child is given gloves or mittens and a hoodie or sweatshirt. Support this effort by donating new gloves, mittens, hoodies or sweatshirts. Help children of all ages feel the warmth of our community's love.

A collection bin will be labeled and located in Norcross City Hall lobby. Donate by Friday, December 7th. For more information, please contact, christmas@norcrossco-op.org.



CITY OF NORCROSS PARTNERS WITH ACCELA LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT TO PROVIDE GREATER ACCESS AND TRANSPARENCY FOR RESIDENTS

Live Streaming Available to Norcross Residents

The City of Norcross is excited to announce its new partnership with Accela Legislative Management that will allow the city to more easily manage public meetings and streamline legislative management processes. The city will leverage Accela Agenda and Minutes to automate the preparation of meeting agendas and all related materials distribution. In addition, Accela Civic Streaming will allow the city to offer citizens on-demand, high-definition video streaming and online viewing of public meeting, making it easy for residents to search for recent, historic or corresponding meeting videos and materials online.

The Citizen Web Portal, where citizens can access agenda and minutes documents and the on-demand video library, is currently available at <http://norcrossga.iqm2.com/Citizens/default.aspx> or on the main city website via the 'Agenda's and Minutes' tab, under popular links.

Residents with an iPad can download the Norcross-branded Accela mobile app, WeGovern, in the iTunes Store. The mobile app provides the same functionality as the Citizen Web Portal, and is available directly on your iPad!

To download the app, search "WeGovern" in the iTunes store. Take the following steps to access meeting content on your iPad:

1. Enter the agency name: Norcrossga
2. Select "Citizen"
3. Create an account or login anonymously
4. Access meeting content

"The City of Norcross is pleased to offer this new tool to our citizens that will allow for greater transparency and efficiency. The use of Accela is just one more way we are working to better serve our citizens and streamline our processes," said Norcross City Manager Rudolph Smith.

For more information, visit www.norcrossga.net.

NORCROSS BEAUTIFICATION

BRINGS CONTINUITY, SENSE OF INCLUSION WITH HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

In an effort to provide continuity and a sense of inclusion for the once detached Welcome Center, several projects have been underway in an area stretching from the Welcome Center to City Hall. For over a year, projects such as the streambed located between the Cotton Gin and Lawrenceville Street have experienced a makeover. Through tax dollars from Norcross residents and a contribution from the Gwinnett County Fire Department, the streambed that was once an eyesore has been transformed into another pleasing element that makes Norcross proud. City staff and designers worked together to create a plan that complied with stream buffer regulations and looks clean and beautiful. “The Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services is appreciative of the landscape work completed around Fire Station 1 in downtown Norcross, as part of the City’s Discovery Garden Park project and Cotton Gin building restoration,” said Captain Tommy Rutledge, Public Information Officer. “The landscape helps to beautify the area and creates an inviting outdoor atmosphere.”

The opening of Discovery Garden Park, located on the grounds of the Norcross Welcome Center and Museum, is another exciting addition to the area. With a mission to inspire lifelong curiosity, sustainable life skills, and understanding and appreciation of nature through education and demonstration, Discovery Garden Park will provide a place of beauty for Norcross residents and visitors for years to come. It will cater to a variety of interests, including organically growing vegetables, understanding garden wildlife, sharpening culinary skills and much more. An interesting feature of the park are the engraved bricks at the main entrance. Many citizens and others purchased bricks to honor the history of Norcross, recognize loved ones, and celebrate the opening of the park.

Additional beautification elements in the area include adding mini-lights in the trees at the Cotton Gin and Discovery Garden Park to enhance the nighttime atmosphere; roof lights on the Cotton Gin to highlight its architectural elements, and the Cotton Gin ‘rain garden’ with the fun and whimsical “Mantis” art piece.

Soon to come is the Grand Opening of a new display at the Fire Museum, located next to the Welcome Center and in front of the Fire Station. The museum was built by Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services, in conjunction with construction of the fire station, to house the restored fire engine. “Norcross had the first fire station and mechanized fire truck in Gwinnett County,” said Cate Kitchen, Welcome Center Manager. “The new displays feature artifacts and storyboards highlighting the history of the Norcross Fire Department and the restoration of the 1942 truck. We are excited to be able to showcase this piece of Norcross history.”

“All of these improvements and beautification efforts helped to bring the Welcome Center area into the mix of Norcross’ vibrant downtown,” said Norcross City Manager Rudolph Smith. “It took everyone coming together—citizens, designers, and city officials and staff—to bring the projects to fruition and help make Norcross ‘a place to imagine.’”





NORCROSS IN THE KNOW



DECK THE WREATHS AT DISCOVERY GARDEN PARK ON DECEMBER 1

Join us for a festive evening of wreath decorating with friends at Discovery Garden Park on December 1 at 6:30 p.m. Attendees are invited to bring refreshments. The class will be led by garden and flower designer, Mary Delia Poynter, owner of Container Gardening of Atlanta. Get in the holiday spirit by transforming a Noble Fir wreath and a variety of garden materials into a unique treasure. The cost is \$65. For more info contact Deb.ndgp@gmail.com



50+ AND FEELING GREAT! WALK FOR BETTER HEALTH ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS

If you are 50 or older and would like to get in better shape while enjoying the fresh air, join this newly formed walking group on Saturday and Sunday at 9 a.m. at the Thrasher Park band shell. The walk lasts approximately one hour and covers just over 2 miles (sometimes more!). Contact Jolyn Barrow at sustainablenorcrossbikeped@gmail.com for more info or if you'd like to start a weekday time slot. Let's get walking!!!



LIONHEART COMING SOON!

Lionheart Theatre Company presents the socially poignant play "A Raisin in the Sun," Nov. 4-20. The award winning play debuted on Broadway in 1959. It was written by Lorraine Hansberry, based on the Langston Hughes poem "Harlem." Tickets are available at www.lionhearttheatre.org and include dessert. For inquiries only, call 678-938-8518.



SACRED THREADS EXHIBIT OPENING ON NOVEMBER 18

The Sacred Threads Exhibit, a major traveling exhibition consisting of 40 quilts, is coming to Norcross at The Rectory, 10 College Street. The opening for the exhibit will be held on November 18 from 6 – 8 p.m. with light hors d'oeuvres and the music of harpist, Catherine Rogers. The exhibit will continue through December 16. Born out of a small group of women with a vision of a "new" type of quilt exhibit that touched at both the spiritual and personal levels, the exhibit is a positive influence on the human spirit, giving joy as well as addressing concerns of the soul and mind.

For admittance throughout the exhibit's run, call the Welcome Center or Cultural Arts & Community Center at 678.421.2048, 678.421.2049 or 678.421.2025. For more information about the exhibit, visit the Sacred Threads website at www.sacredthreadsquilts.com.



LILLIAN WEBB PARK SPLASH PAD CLOSING FOR SEASON

The City of Norcross will be closing the Lillian Webb Park interactive splash pad on October 24th for repairs, maintenance and winterizing. The city will also be draining the cascading waterfall during this time for maintenance. The splash pad will be closed until March 2017, but the cascading waterfall will be operational again after routine repairs and maintenance.

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT



Norcross TREE PRESERVATION BOARD

Norcross Tree Preservation Board Wins State Recognition for Stewardship Efforts

When Norcross resident Linda Gepfer joined the city's Tree Preservation Board, she expected to help plant a few trees around town. What she didn't anticipate was earning state recognition for the work she and fellow board members are doing.

Norcross' Tree Preservation Board actively promotes tree stewardship, with efforts that recently earned the group top recognition with the 2016 Grand Award for Outstanding Civic Organization by the Georgia Urban Forest Council (GUFC). According to Rick Barnes, an arborist with Downey Trees, Inc. and the city's tree consultant, Norcross' Tree Preservation Board is an "exemplary advocate" for the preservation of the urban forest.

"Utilizing their own resources and through their outreach to local businesses, the Board has built bridges to both the city government with its tree ordinance and to community residents through tree replacement programs," says Barnes. "Discounted tree planting initiatives, Arbor Day tree plantings and celebrations, and Earth Day educational opportunities in local schools are effective ways by which the Board preserves the urban forest of Norcross."

According to the GUFC, the term "urban forest" includes all the trees, vegetation, watersheds and wildlife in a developed community. Urban Forestry is the management of all these urban forest resources, which often falls to some degree into laps of local volunteers. Groups like the Norcross' Tree Preservation Board are working across the metro area to preserve and conserve the region's natural resources, realizing how they benefit the environmental, social, and economic health of each community. Being selected from this prestigious and dedicated group of environmental stewards is no small honor.

One of the ways Norcross' most dedicated tree stewards reach out is by educating local youth. At Summerour Middle School last Spring, students planted a school orchard with fruit trees donated by the board. They also learned about the economic value of trees through a grant that tree board volunteers applied for and shared with both Summerour and Norcross elementary students. 6th and 7th graders learned to identify trees on the Summerour campus, measured the circumference of each trunk and then entered that data into an app to calculate the tree's economic benefits. They discovered the percentage of carbon dioxide that each kind of tree will remove from the air depending on its size, and how that helps reduce local air pollution. They saw how much storm-water runoff is saved, reducing expensive erosion and water contamination concerns. In addition, the app calculated exactly how many dollars a similar tree of that size would contribute to their home's property value.

"Associating a tree with real life data makes the value of an oak or a pecan tree tangible. We really want people to understand that preserving Norcross' tree canopy isn't a political 'tree hugger' thing, it's a very real economic concern for those of us who have invested in this town," says Gepfer. "The central symbol of Norcross is one of the State's Champion American Elm trees, and we're proud to have so many beautiful parks as well as a nature preserve inside our city limits. These are focal examples of the city's tree preservation efforts, and they attract people to Norcross – our trees are economic and social assets, and we need to make sure they thrive."

Annually, as part of its mission to sustain Georgia's green legacy by helping communities grow healthy trees, GUFC rewards individuals, organizations, businesses, municipalities, and counties for outstanding work in protecting and enhancing urban and suburban forests. GUFC's goal is to give back to those who have been concerned about a healthy urban forest and also raise community awareness of the importance of these projects.

"We're excited Rick (Barnes) nominated us for this award and that we won it," adds Gepfer. "Not because we want the recognition, but because it means that what we are doing is seen as meaningful by people who have formal experience managing urban forests. It's encouraging, and we look forward to continuing to learn and sharing what we learn with others. The more of us who are taking care of our trees, the better chance we have of preserving a canopy that will last for many generations."

City BEAT

A LITTLE BIT GOES A LONG WAY



Water Conservation Reminders

Recently, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Environmental Protection Division issued a Level 1 Drought Response for 53 counties in Georgia. "North Georgia has had a hot, dry summer and the fall season is historically a dry time of the year," said State Climatologist Bill Murphey. "Current drought conditions are likely to continue through the fall season, although tropical activity and rain-producing systems can provide beneficial rainfall."

It's important to note that dry periods are part of the normal weather cycle. The length of the drought is unknown, so it's important that we all do our part to conserve.

HERE ARE A FEW WAYS NORCROSS RESIDENTS CAN SAVE WATER:

- Reduce your shower by 2 minutes and you can save 5 gallons per shower.
- Turn off the water while you shave or brush your teeth and you can save at least 100 gallons a week.
- Water lawns and outdoor plants only between 4 p.m. and 10 a.m.
- Do FULL loads of laundry. Cutting back one load of laundry can save up to 45 gallons per load.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.

Find more conservation tips at My Drop Counts (<http://www.mydropcounts.org>)

REMINDER: The leaf truck will start vacuuming November 1, 2016 thru January 31, 2017



NOVEMBER 14 – Movie Monday, I'LL SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS, Norcross Community Center, 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 18 – Sacred Threads Opening Reception, Exhibition of Quilts Expressing Life's Journeys, The Rectory, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

NOVEMBER 28 – Movie Monday, MOTHER'S DAY, Norcross Community Center, 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 2 – First Friday Concert, The Holiday Concert with The Rainmen, Norcross Community Center, 7 – 9 p.m.

DECEMBER 2 – Sparkle Celebration and Christmas Tree Lighting, Thrasher Park, 5:30 – 8 p.m.

DECEMBER 8-18 – Lionheart Production, A Charlie Brown Christmas, Lionheart Theatre

DECEMBER 12 – Movie Monday, THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS, Norcross Community Center, 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 17 – DGP Winter Solstice with Santa, Discovery Garden Park, 1 p.m.

DECEMBER 27 – Movie Monday, FINDING DORY, Norcross Community Center, 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

DECEMBER ALL MONTH LONG!
Holiday Carriage Rides – Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evening, December 2-23, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in front of Taste of Britain



NOVEMBER 4 – First Friday Concert, Deb Bowman & the Big Love Band, Norcross Community Center, 7 – 9 p.m.

NOVEMBER 4-20 – Lionheart Production, A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry, Lionheart Theatre

NOVEMBER 5 – Italian Car Fayre, Lillian Webb Park, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

NOVEMBER 12 – Merchant Open House, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Event Information: www.aplacetoimagine.com