

a place to . Imagine

February 2015

THE STATE OF THE CITY SUCCESSIONS & GOALS

Mayor Bucky Johnson is delighted to announce that he will deliver his 7th State of the City address on Tuesday, February 3 at 7:00PM. This year's speech will take place in the Community Center of the Norcross First United Methodist Church located at 2500 Beaver Run Rd.

The evening will include a history of the past several years and the events that set the City of Norcross on the exciting course to a vibrant future. "Whether you are a lifetime resident, a near native, or a newcomer, there is always a new story or fact to discover about our great City", said Mayor Johnson. "This is always one of my favorite events as it brings so many together to celebrate the past year and look toward our goals for the next few."

The Mayor will also give updates on several City departments and projects, and recognize a few individuals for their outstanding accomplishments in 2014. Following the approximately one hour address, dessert and coffee will be served as residents mingle and chat one-on-one with City officials and the staff. "The State of the City is always a wonderful chance to catch up with your neighbors and meet a new friend or two," added the Mayor.



Chief Summers pictured with Representative Pedro Marin.

CHIEF SUMMERS WINS AWARD

Mundo Hispanico has awarded the Friend of the Hispanic Community honor to Norcross Police Chief Warren Summers. The December ceremony celebrated the Chief's work in bridging the gap between city authorities and the Hispanic community. After discovering the distrust immigrants held against the authorities, he hired bilingual personnel, as well as creating other outreach opportunities to establish a bond with the Latino community to create a mutual understanding and respect.

Congratulations, Chief Summers!





FARMERS MARKET SURVEY SAYS...



Almost 200 responded to the recent Norcross Farmers Market survey... and they seem to know their subject.

- 94% are the primary grocery shopper in their home
- 86% visited the Norcross (Whistlestop) Farmers Market at some time during its five year run, and approximately 41% of respondents attended all five years.
- Comments referenced visits to farmers markets all over the world, with suggestions drawn from those experiences.
- 58% of respondents would visit weekly with the intent to purchase items for onsite or take-home use IF the time and location were convenient to them.

A composite vision of a thriving farmers market emerged. Among these are: locally grown/produced offerings sold by the producer; healthy, fairly priced, and variety; plus basic items needed weekly/often over specialty items. A "Community vibe" (Norcross does this well) is also on the wish list.

Respondents want a market that is on or close to the weekend. Ideally, in the cooler part of the day or in a well-shaded and cool setting, along with convenient and well identified parking.

Clearly much additional effort is needed before a farmers market could be offered again in Norcross. Based on input so far, that investment is desired. Nearly 1/3 of respondents say they would be interested in volunteering to ensure success of a Norcross Farmers Market.

Join volunteers NOW to complete a feasibility study and make recommendations to City leaders. Contact sustainablenorcross@gmail.com or call 404-229-7077 - Please do so by February 5.

NAME THE GARDEN PARK

Five finalists have been selected for the name of the new garden park to be built on the grounds of the Norcross Welcome Center. Now it's time for YOU to vote for your choice!

Over 50 names were received during phase one of the contest, and that is a great sign of community support for the new park.

The Garden Board has narrowed the submissions to five finalists. Please email Deb Harris by February 14 at nonijoharris@att.net to cast your vote. In alphabetical order, the names available for the public vote are:

- Norcross Community Garden**
- Norcross Garden Greenway**
- Norcross Gathering Grove**
- Norcross Garden Park**
- Norcross Kitchen Garden Park**



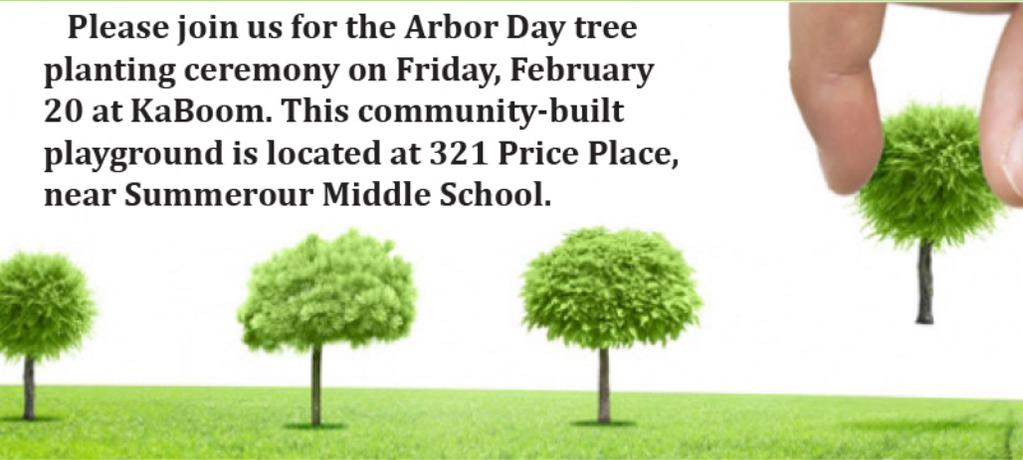
VALENTINE'S DAY IN NORCROSS!

The City is excited to offer an evening fit for Cupid himself! Just outside Taste of Britain, take your sweetie (or anyone) on a free Carriage ride from 6:00-8PM. Married? Vow renewals will begin around 6:00PM near 45 South Coffee Shop (free as well). There will also be a barbershop quartet strolling thru Downtown and popping in and out of the restaurants where you will surely want to dine.

If art and the theatre are more to your liking, Kudzu Art Zone's Crazy Canvas/Valentine's Edition will take place in 45 South (crazycanvasart@gmail.com for more details). And, Lionheart Theatre performs Independence Day at Happy Meadows, 7:30PM (reservations@lionhearttheatre.org).

ARBOR DAY IN NORCROSS

Please join us for the Arbor Day tree planting ceremony on Friday, February 20 at KaBoom. This community-built playground is located at 321 Price Place, near Summerour Middle School.



Two large lacebark elms are being planted to provide much needed shade for the new playground.

The ceremony will begin at 9:20AM with the Summerour Junior Leadership Corp. performing the flag ceremony. The Summerour Green Team and Art Club will also lend their creativity to the event.

Following the tree planting, a reception will be held at the Norcross Welcome Center located at 189 Lawrenceville Street from 10-11AM. The winning artwork by Norcross Elementary Students in the Arbor Day Poster contest will be displayed. Light refreshments will be served and a Gwinnett County Master Gardener will be on hand to answer questions regarding proper tree planting and the benefits of trees to our environment.

You may also celebrate Arbor Day (and all year long) by planting a free tree! The Tree Preservation Board is gifting free oak and maple trees to Norcross residents. The three-gallon container-grown hardwoods are available to the first 30 residents that email Julie Foster at juliefoster07@comcast.net Reserve your tree today!

FREE GARDENING CLASS AT THE NORCROSS COMMUNITY CENTER



Whether you are an experienced gardener or a novice, raised beds are a gardener's dream come true. Planting, weeding, growing perfect vegetables and harvesting are easier with raised bed gardening.

The Norcross Community Garden will host a class on Raised Bed Gardening, March 3, 2015 from 6:30 - 8:30PM at

the Cultural Arts & Community Center in Historic Downtown Norcross, 10 College Street.

Tim Daly, of the Gwinnett County Extension Office, will provide us with helpful tips on soil amending, selection of seeds and plants, organic fertilizing, organic gardening methods for high yields and much more.

JOSH BARE NEWEST COUNCIL MEMBER



Last month at the January Council meeting, Josh Bare was sworn in for his second time as a Norcross City Council Member and was elected Mayor Pro Tem by his colleagues.

He is a 36 year resident of Norcross and was the youngest council member to ever be elected. During his last tenure (2004- 2005), Josh was involved with all facets of government, including personnel, zoning, policy issues, and re-appointments.

Josh frequently meets with Norcross City constituents while continuing his service as the president of the Historic Norcross Preservation Alliance and member of the Norcross Garden Club. "I know hard work, diligence, communication and collaboration are the foundation of any success. The same works with government," Bare explains.

With an extensive background in horticulture and agronomy (growing crops profitably and sustainably), along with a University of Georgia degree in Management Information Systems, Josh has attained admiration within his field before joining the family lawn care business, Arbor-Nomics Turf, Inc., and he retains the title of CIO. Arbor-Nomics Turf is a Norcross-based business that was started in 1980.

Married and blessed with three children, Josh and his wife Amanda both graduated from UGA and enjoy the walkability of Norcross as well as the festivals and concerts. His favorite and most relaxing moments are when he and his family can dine al fresco, while enjoying the activity within the downtown historic district. Welcome back, Councilman Bare!

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES ALERT!

The wildly popular Norcross Summer Concert Series table sales will take place on Monday, March 2. The eight concert series in Thrasher Park opens on May 22 and goes thru September 4. Remember, even if you do not purchase a reserved table, anyone can attend and enjoy every concert. Check back to aplacetoimagine.com for more details later in February.



REMINDERS:

SPRING RECYCLE DAY - SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendar! The City's Recycle and Clean-up Events will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2015. This is always an extremely popular and successful service that you won't want to miss. Start clearing that clutter now and watch for more details in the March newsletter.

LILLIAN WEBB PARK WATER FOUNTAIN AND SPLASH PAD

Work to repair the water feature at Lillian Webb Park is proceeding on schedule. The design phase of the project is nearly complete, which includes pumps, control equipment and a new above-ground equipment building. Physical work is expected to commence by the end of January, starting with removal of the damaged equipment.

To ensure safety of the public, the splash pad and immediate surrounding areas will be blocked off for the duration of construction. We ask for your cooperation in observing the restricted areas and hope you will continue to enjoy the areas of the park that are still open.

Every effort is being made to complete the construction as quickly as possible. As work progresses, we will provide updates, including the date for reopening the splash pad. Our target date for completion of construction is April 15, 2015. Like you, we can't wait to have our fountain flowing once again! For questions, please contact the Department of Public Works, Utilities & Parks at 678-421-2069.



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
- 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

The Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center

10 COLLEGE STREET, NORCROSS, GA

presents

FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT



Bringing you Bluegrass with a Modern Twist in the Norcross Community Center Ballroom

February 6 • 7-9 p.m.

ARRIVE EARLY, SEATING IS LIMITED!
RESERVATIONS SUGGESTED.

FREE - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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!

For further information
call Cate Kitchen at 678-421-2049.

NORCROSS WELCOMES NORCROSS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OPERATIONS MANAGER: SUSAN WARNER

The Downtown Development Authority started its New Year with a new with a newly-created position. Susan Warner officially stepped into her role as the Development Authority Operations Manager on January 1.

Ms. Warner comes to us with a real estate background primarily focused on property value analysis, but also brings strong analytical skills from both the retail and manufacturing markets. She has a true understanding of business "behind the scenes."

"I have been assisting the Department of Economic Development over the course of a few years, while running my own business," said Warner. "It seemed a natural progression to put my full concentration into the wonderful city of Norcross, in particular, the Development Authority. "I am opening my year by concentrating on the Lillian Webb Park Redevelopment Project, assisting both the Development Authority and the Department of Economic Development. My second priority will be a redefinition of the Development Authority's parameters.

"My role also encompasses businesses outside the downtown historic district, and I will act as their liaison. I am so looking forward to assisting with their development."

UPCOMING EVENTS



Feb. 3 – Norcross State of the City, Free, 7PM, Norcross First United Methodist Church, 2500 Beaver Ruin Rd.

Feb. 4-6 – Intuitive Design Through Texture, Kudzu Art Zone, 9:00AM-4:00PM

Feb. 6 – First Friday Concert, Deja Blue, 7:00-9:00PM, Community Center

Feb. 9 – Movie Monday, What If, 1:30 & 6:30PM, Community Center

Feb. 12-15 – Independence Day at Happy Meadows, Lionheart Theatre

Feb. 14 – Downtown Norcross Valentine's Day Celebration, 6:00PM, just outside Taste of Britain, 45 South, and more (see inside for details)

Feb. 14 – Kudzu Art Zone presents Crazy Canvas/Valentine's Edition, 45 South

Feb. 20 – Arbor Day Celebration, KaBoom playground, 9:20AM, reception to follow at The Welcome Center, 10:00AM

Feb. 23 – Movie Monday, The Giver, 1:30 & 6:30PM, 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

