

# a place to . Imagine

June 2015

## NORCROSS LOVES OUR SCHOOLS!



*City Manager Rudolph Smith*

**School is out for the summer, but April and May were exciting months with participation and interaction in and around our fabulous Norcross schools.**

April 24, the City hosted Norcross Elementary for the 16th annual Georgia Municipal Association Cities Day. Over 1,300 K-5 students enjoyed a day of touring various departments in the City and were treated to goody bags and snacks at the day's closing. The annual event is part of an on-going effort to raise public awareness about the services that cities perform and to educate the public on how city government works.

On April 29, Mayor Bucky Johnson, Norcross City officials and members of the community toured the beautiful new



*Principal Dorothy Jarrett (center) Mayor Johnson and other Community leaders.*

Summerour Middle School that will open its doors for the 2015-2016 school year. This state of the art facility is located on the old Norcross High School site on Price Place. Students are sure to be impressed when they return to school in August.

In May, City Manager Rudolph Smith visited Minor Elementary School in Lilburn for career day. His message was to engage and encourage local youth to create a life and goal plan on career choices. Mr. Smith does this yearly at multiple Gwinnett schools, including Norcross High School.

Successful schools make a strong community, and Norcross is proud to support our educators and interact with our youngest citizens. Happy Summer!

## BLUESBERRY MUSIC FEST 2015!



The Blues will be heating up Historic Downtown on Saturday, June 20! The BluesBerry Music Festival returns this year to Betty Mauldin Park and Jones St. Various beer vendors will also be on hand to help quench your thirst.

This year's lineup begins at 5 p.m. and will have you grooving until 11 p.m.

5 p.m. - Cody Matlock

6:30 p.m. - Dodge City Blues featuring Frankie Lee and Joe Clover

8 p.m. - Mudcat & the Atlanta Horns

9:30 p.m. - The Cazanovas

Don't forget to look for our downtown merchants and restaurants that will be creating signature "BluesBerry" cocktails, desserts, specials, and more! Be sure to bring a chair or blanket, a friend, or meet new ones as this group of great musicians entertains you with their funky vibe.

# NORCROSS LIFELONG COMMUNITY UPDATE



The Norcross Lifelong Communities Steering Committee met on May 11 to hear a presentation from Kathryn Lawler of the Atlanta Regional Commission. Kathryn presented great information on the challenges of creating Life Long Communities and how the Steering Committee could move forward.

The committee is forming sub-committees to work on the following areas: Transportation, Land Use and Healthy Living

In addition, they will be seeking public input on the priorities of the community as we move ahead with the development of a Lifelong Community. The group is asking for community members to become involved and help with this work as it progresses. As an example, the Healthy Living group has held several activities at the Community Garden recently.

As part of its Lifelong Communities initiative, Norcross continues to be a fun and healthy place to live for all ages and abilities. Pictured are senior volunteers Hazel Ringlestein and Carol MacGregor. Local resident Deb Harris also meets in the community garden with residents of Annandale Village for an hour of garden therapy. The Healthy Living group meets every other Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Norcross Community Garden. For more information on participating, contact Deb Harris at [nonijoharris@att.net](mailto:nonijoharris@att.net)

## MEET THE NORCROSS POLICE DEPARTMENT'S SUPERVISOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS:

### SGT. ROBERT WOLFE



Sgt. Robert Wolfe has been with the Norcross Police Department for over 12 years, coming to the City in 2002.

Originally from Americus, a small town in southwest Georgia known for its agriculture and southern hospitality, his family moved to Norcross in 1986. After graduating from Norcross High School in 1990, Sgt. Wolfe joined the United States Marine Corps and was stationed in Hawaii assigned to an Infantry Battalion. He returned to Americus in 1994 after

completing his enlistment and began working at the Sumter County Sheriff's Office, where he worked from 1995 until 2001.

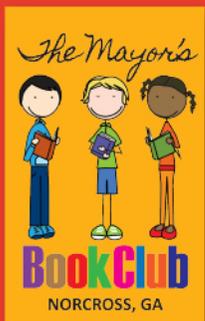
When asked about duties of his position, Sgt. Wolfe explains: "Overall supervision of up to 11 employees and ensuring that the

citizens of Norcross get the best service that we can provide. On any given day, the average citizen may be faced with a dilemma that he or she requires help with, whether it is a simple traffic accident, lost wallet, or a crime. Our mission in Communications is to take their information and send a Police Officer to them in a timely manner. Our mission in Records is to help citizens and government agencies secure the necessary documents they may need in criminal or civil incidents that occurred in our jurisdiction. To accomplish our goal we must stay abreast of the newest innovations in communication equipment and record keeping procedures."

He continues, "I like working with the public and my fellow employees. I know that it sounds like a cliché but knowing that you have helped someone during their crisis is rewarding even if their problem is small. Seeing them walk in the lobby with a look of desperation on their face and leave with a smile makes putting up with the stress of the job worth it!"

Sgt. Wolfe has been married for 9 years and has 3 very active sons, including a 7-year-old and 5-year-old identical twins. Thank you Sgt. Wolfe for being so responsive to our citizens and also for your years of service to our Country!

## MAYOR'S BOOK CLUB - INSTILLING A LOVE OF READING



Mayor Bucky Johnson along with Norcross First United Methodist Church and the Norcross Cluster Schools Partnership are presenting the Mayor's Book Club Summer Reading Program at the Bella apartment complex at 2445 Beaver Run Road. This is a large complex with 318 units with an estimated 400 kids living in the complex.

Mayor Johnson will host a kickoff event at 3:00 PM on June 10. Additional summer reading programs will be held on June 24, July 8, July 22 and August 5.

We are looking for people in the community to volunteer or help out with this important program, and you can make a difference in several ways: Volunteering to read, assist in activities with the kids, or help serve snacks at the programs. Donations of cookies, juice, etc. are greatly appreciated.

You may also donate school supplies and other prizes to reward the children participating in the Mayor's Book Club at the August 5 event.

If you would like to help, please contact Regina Gilbert at Heaven & Associates 770-849-0078 or [rgilbert@heavencpa.com](mailto:rgilbert@heavencpa.com)

# Kudzu Art Zone Opening Reception & Awards

June 5, 2015 | 7:00 - 9:00 PM

116 CARLYLE STREET, NORCROSS

Kudzu Art Zone's (KAZ) 2015 Open Juried Exhibition received an unprecedented amount of artwork this year, as they had nearly 100 artists submit over 230 entries. Because this event was open to all artists in Georgia and includes all subject matter, the entries represent a wide range of artistic media and artistic perceptions.

KAZ will be hosting an opening reception on June 5 that will be an evening of conversation, celebration and awards presentation. The first prize of \$1,000 will be awarded as well as other prizes.

## NEW CAR CHARGING STATION



The City of Norcross's Department of Public Works, Utilities & Parks researched, procured and installed an electric charging station at 65 Lawrenceville Street. The station is meant to serve the residential community of Norcross and the growing population of electric vehicle users in the City. This is an exciting opportunity for the City to help enhance and support the environment. The station can charge one vehicle at a time, with two parking spaces available for a vehicle to be in queue for the next available charge. The City will monitor the usage of the station over the next 12 months to evaluate whether it is a good value for our residents. After the evaluation period is complete, the Department would like to move forward with installing a second charging station location at one of our City parks.

# WEDNESDAY WIND DOWN



**FOOD TRUCKS**  
**EVERY WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3 - OCTOBER 7**  
**5.30 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

Lillian Webb Park, 5 College Street, Norcross, GA 30071

Trucks located on Bostic Street

Food • Music • Volleyball • Swings • Splash Pad!

FOOD TRUCKS OFFERING A VARIETY OF CUISINES IN ROTATION WITH MUSIC AND FUN AT THE PARK



Every effort will be made to not duplicate cuisines offered by the Downtown restaurants.

# SNIPPETS...

## BILL CONSOLIDATION NEWS

In September, property owners will be responsible for paying their sanitation fee on a one time annual basis. This fee is \$133.32 a year.

Storm Water fees will also be included on the same bill with the Property Tax and Sanitation Fee.

This will affect those who are currently receiving separate Property Tax and Storm Water bills. Tenants of rental properties would no longer be responsible for paying the sanitation on their monthly utility bills. Only commercial utility accounts will receive their sanitation fees on their monthly bills.

This mainstreaming and consolidation is a common practice in other municipalities and very effective in cost savings for our taxpayers. Please watch for additional information in upcoming newsletters.

## NORCROSS COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE A GREAT SUCCESS!

The City hosted an American Red Cross Community Blood Drive on May 5. The event collected 25 pints, 3 pints above the goal of 22. Even more donors graciously scheduled, but for various reasons (low iron, travel, etc.) could not give. Those 25 pints of blood will go a long way by saving up to 75 lives! A sincere thank you to all who participated!



### 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

# HIGHBEAMS

## LIVE AT



## LIONHEART THEATRE COMPANY

### 10 COLLEGE ST NORCROSS, GA



FOR TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS  
 CALL 770-885-0425 OR VISIT  
[WWW.LIONHEARTTHEATRE.ORG](http://WWW.LIONHEARTTHEATRE.ORG)  
 JUNE 27 • \$10 • DOORS AT 7:00

# UPCOMING EVENTS



- June 5 – Summer Concert Series – GLOW, Thrasher Park, 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
- June 5 – Kudzu Art Zone Open Juried Exhibition Opening Reception – 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- June 8 – Movie Monday - Into the Woods, Community Center, 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- June 13 – Jazz in the Alley -The Tree of Love, Skin Alley, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- June 19 – Summer Concert Series - AMERICAN FLYERS, Thrasher Park, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
- June 20 - BluesBerry Music Festival, Downtown Historic Norcross, 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.
- June 22 – Movie Monday - Boyhood, Community Center, 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- JUNE 27 – HIGHBEAMS at Lionheart Theatre, 7 p.m.



**SIGN UP FOR EVENT REMINDERS!**  
 Regístrese 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)