

a place to Imagine

April 2015

SECOND MEETING OF THE CITY CENTER EAST REDEVELOPMENT PLAN AND TAX ALLOCATION DISTRICT

The City of Norcross held the first of two public meetings to educate and receive comment from its residents on the City's first Tax Allocation District on March 5. The second will take place at City Hall on Monday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the first floor.

Norcross has invested substantial funds and effort to create a shared vision for its future, committing significant planning and other resources toward the revitalization of its historic downtown. That effort has included construction of Lillian Webb Park, building a new municipal complex and assembling multiple parcels for eventual redevelopment. The City's future challenge is to leverage those already completed improvements to attract new private investment and create a density of population and economic activity that is necessary

to support a commercially successful downtown.

The City's vision for the Livable Centers Initiative Study Area calls for the introduction of a mix of land uses and development densities which do not exist in the area today. TAD #1 will help to leverage higher property tax collections within an area that is substantially under-performing in terms of current value and generation of tax revenues. The housing, retail and commercial redevelopment proposed for the tax allocation district will substantially increase the existing property tax digest. This revenue increase will be captured through the TAD mechanism to incentivize redevelopment and help finance parking decks, stormwater detention and possibly other needed infrastructure improvements.

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT ON FUTURE SUSTAINABLE LIVING AND EDUCATIONAL PARK **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22**



Celebrate Earth Day, join your neighbors and be inspired with plans for a groundbreaking sustainable living and educational park in the heart of downtown Norcross.

Norcross continues to lead the way in sustainable initiatives by planning to green its WelcomeCenter and Museum with the addition of a sustainable living and educational park. Through nature-based education outreach programs, city-wide green living classes, community garden plots, and events throughout the year, the City is strengthening its sustainability program to have a positive impact on the community.

The concept plan will be presented at a public input meeting Wednesday, April 22, 7:00 p.m. at the Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center, 10 College St. This is the formal presentation of the concept plan developed by citizens

partnering with Norcross Parks and Recreation staff and Sean Murphy with B+C Studios.

We invite you to talk with the team, see the concept plan, provide feedback and be inspired to become a little (or a lot) involved with this groundbreaking project. Hope to see you all there!

Mayor: Bucky Johnson • **Mayor Pro Tem:** Josh Bare
City Council: Andrew Hixson, David McLeroy, Craig Newton, Charlie Riehm
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: 770.242.0824

Easter Egg Hunt
Rossie Brundage Park
April 4 - 10-11 a.m.



ARC AWARDS GRANT TO NORCROSS



The Atlanta Regional Commission is giving two Gwinnett County cities grant funding, and Norcross is the proud recipient of one of them.

The City will receive \$48,000 to conduct a greenway trail feasibility study. Community Development Director Jon Davis said he and other City officials were pleased to receive the grant. The trail is planned to go in along a Georgia Power

easement and Beaver Ruin Road.

Mayor Johnson described the trail as a “win-win” for not only the City, but the county as well because the various projects will help give residents in the area options to walk and ride their bikes if they want an alternative to taking the bus or driving their cars. If it is built, he said it will tie into other nearby greenspace projects.

“It’s about connectivity,” Johnson said. “We want to give people options between driving their cars, taking the bus and walking or riding their bikes.”

NORCROSS CITIZEN’S POLICE ACADEMY

The Norcross Police Department is hosting a 9 week Citizens Police Academy (CPA) that will focus on the understanding of police department operations and enhance partnerships within Norcross. The CPA will explain and explore how the police department operates and why police do what they do.

Topics will include: Crime prevention, patrol operations, investigations/drugs, administration, internal affairs/complaints, CPR/first aid, legal process, HERO unit/traffic stops, and more.

The CPA begins on April 2 and will meet every Thursday evening through May 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Community Room on the second floor of City Hall. The class is limited to 20 participants, so enroll early. For an application or to request further information, please contact the Norcross Police Department 770.448.2111 ext 2341 or email Detective Arelis Rivera at arelis.rivera@norcrosspd.com.



TAKE A FREE GARDENING CLASS

VEGETABLE GARDENING WITH ROBERT GREENWOOD

Join Master Gardener Robert Greenwood and learn to choose the right plants, deal with problem pests, and properly care for your vegetables with emphasis on growing delicious tomatoes.

When: Saturday, April 25 at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Norcross Community Center Ballroom, 10 College Street

Register by April 22: sustainablenorcross@gmail.com

Deb Wilson Harris 770-298-4559



MARCH 27 - APRIL 30

MORE stories TO TELL



collaborative piece

Operating primarily as a critique group, the Shadowline Artist Group supports and encourages the growth of Atlanta's arts community. Since its inception over ten years ago, the group meets periodically to review work and exchange ideas. The members show individually, but also enjoy bringing their works together for group show.

A series of collaborative works completed in 2014 involved individuals in the group working on a piece and passing it along to another artist until it had made its way through the group. Some of these completed pieces will be on view, for the first time, at The Rectory.



sine function, mixed media by Lance Carlson

"More Stories to Tell" is a continuation of "what artists do." Whether a representational piece or abstract image, the work of each artist elicits a response from the viewer, either reading the artist's story or creating their own. Shadowline has participated in shows at such venues as the Seen Gallery in Decatur and the Limelight Gallery at Binders Art Store in Buckhead.

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. WITH LIGHT REFRESHMENTS & MUSIC • FREE ADMISSION

Exhibit continues through April 30 and can be seen by appointment Monday through Friday.

Call 678-421-2048 or 2049 for admittance and info.

THE RECTORY, 17 COLLEGE STREET, NORCROSS, GA 30071



These fine gentlemen were part of an informational forum concerning immigrant issues, which was held at Norcross City Hall Community Room on Saturday March 14, 2015.

Pictured from left to right: 2013 Hispanic Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Pedro Martinez, Officer Juan Perez, Officer Victor Pinero, Officer Isidro Yanez and 2014 Hispanic Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Ruben Villada.



LILLIAN WEBB PARK UPDATE

We are all very excited to see progress being made on the fountain at our fabulous park. Although we have experienced significant rain and overall weather delays over the past month, the City is expecting everything to be fully functional sometime in May. Just in time for warmer weather!

MEET THE NORCROSS HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER: KIMBERLY TURPIN



Kimberly began working with the City in August of 2014 on a contract basis and was such a natural, she was hired permanently in February. Coming from a background as the Human Resource Generalist and Employee Relations Analyst for a large wireless firm, she has been prepared well for her new duties.

Her overall responsibilities include Selection and Recruitment, Compensation and Benefits, Employee Relations, and Training and Development as well as Policy Review. When asked what her favorite part of her new position is, Kimberly explains, "Each person employed with the City of Norcross as well as its residents are my customers. It is an honor to provide them with stellar customer service. It makes it easy to do so when you are part of an organization that is a proponent of excellent customer service".

When not taking care of employees and citizens of Norcross, Kimberly enjoys time with her precocious toddler. "The greatest joy in life".

THE FOOD TRUCKS ARE COMING!!

Wednesdays are about to get a little "tastier" in Norcross. Beginning May 6, a variety of food trucks with various offerings will be parked each Wednesday along Bostic Street from 5:30-7:30 p.m. This growing and very popular trend in other cities has been proven to enhance an overall experience for its residents and visitors. Look for more details in the May newsletter.



REMINDERS

Please remember if you would like to have leaves and pine straw picked up, they must be bagged in paper yard waste bags and placed at the curb for pick up. They will not be picked up if they are in plastic trash/yard bags. Thank you!

NEW HOURS

Beginning in April, the City of Norcross will stay open until 6 p.m. on the due date of utility bills. In May, the closing time on those days will be 5 p.m. Due to many options for making payments, the later hours have not been widely utilized and the City is always looking for ways to be more efficient with your tax dollars. Please make a note of it.

SELF-SERVE KIOSK IN CITY HALL!

The City is putting technology to work with a self-service kiosk that accepts payment for city utility bills. You still have access to "real people" in City Hall, but if all you want to do is pay and go, the kiosk means shorter lines, resulting in faster service. The kiosk "speaks" both English and Spanish, a feature the billing department says has met with "rave reviews." This customer service tool now gives citizens several options for bill paying: online, at the drive-through, inside City Hall with a staff person and at the kiosk.



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

Montana Skies

Cello guitar fusion — a duo with the full spectrum of an orchestra and the energy of a rock band.

April 3 @ 7-9 p.m.

ARRIVE EARLY, SEATING IS LIMITED!

FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Order your dinner-to-go from one of the Downtown Norcross restaurants, bring your favorite beverage and enjoy a front row seat! Reserve your table! Call Cate Kitchen at 678-421-2049.



KUDZU ART ZONE'S

OPEN JURIED EXHIBITION

Kudzu Art Zone invites all Georgia artists 18 years of age and older working in two- and three-dimensional media to participate in our 2015 Open Juried Exhibition.

The exhibition opens June 5 and closes July 17. First prize will be awarded \$1,000! For information on how to enter, visit our website at <http://www.kudzuartzone.org/classes/call-for-entries-open-juried-exhibition-2015/> to download the prospectus and entry form. Deadline to receive entries is April 30, 2015.

Our Juror is Diana Toma, an award-winning European visual artist currently teaching and creating in Atlanta, Georgia. Deeply influenced by the European culture and enriched with American flavor, her style arrived at a unique cross between the elegance of classics and the spontaneity of street art. Blending traditional techniques in a contemporary approach, Diana's work brings a sense of wonder and engages the viewer at an emotional level.

All are welcome to visit the Kudzu gallery during the exhibition Thursday, Friday, or Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. You are also welcome to attend the reception on June 5 during which awards will be presented.

Questions? Contact Karen at submissions@kudzuartzone.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Apr 3 – First Friday Concert: Montana Skies (Cello, guitar fusion), Cultural Arts and Community Center, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Apr 4 – Easter Egg Hunt: Rossie Brundage Park, 10-11 a.m.

Apr 13 – Movie Monday: Get On Up, Cultural Arts and Community Center, 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Apr 18 – Singleton 5K: Thrasher Park, 8-11 a.m.

Apr 20 – Movie Monday: Foxcatcher, Cultural Arts and Community Center, 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Apr 25th – Vegetable Gardening Class, Cultural Arts and Community Center, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.



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