NORCROSS
a place to imagine

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RED WHITE AND BOOM!
SET FOR JULY 3

July 2015

We're throwing a pre-Fourth of July block party, and you're invited! Make your way to the heart of Downtown Historic Norcross on July 3 for food, fun and fireworks during the 2015 edition of Red White and BOOM! The good times roll at 4 PM., with boatloads of bounce houses (nominal fee), festive face painting and a veritable cornucopia of food vendors. Stroll our city sidewalks and pay a visit to our eclectic collection of local shops and restaurants, dance in the streets to tunes spun by our DJ from 5:30-9:30 p.m., or snag a spot on the lawn at Lillian Webb Park for a picnic and some prime people-watching before fireworks light up the night sky. Still haven't had your fill of patriotic merriment? Then head over to one of our local hotspots for live music and libations. After all, the night is young and we are FREE!

Please note: Absolutely no shade structures (tents or umbrellas) are allowed and will have to be dismantled if erected. ADA parking will be available at City Hall (65 Lawrenceville Street) and Bostic Street. City Staff will be available to transport seniors or anyone needing assistance that day, via golf carts at those two locations. A shuttle will also run continuously from the Norcross First United Methodist Church, 2500 Beaver Ruin Rd.

2015 Red White and BOOM! Vendors Include:

Alice & Jacks Rib Shack
Bruster's Ice Cream
Dippin Dots
Express Food- Philly steak, chicken tenders, fish baskets
Granny's Lemonade
K&I Nutt House- boiled peanuts
Lion's Club- snow cones
Mason's - hot dogs
Methodist Church - BBQ
Paw Paws Kettle Corn
Popcorn Palooza
Premier Events- alcoholic beverages
T&C Concessions- funnel cakes & corn dogs
The Crossing - hamburgers
Von Barker - non-alcoholic daiquiris

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

NORCROSS LISTED AMONG TOP 10 CITIES TO START A BUSINESS

While Director Rusty Warner and his Economic Development team might argue that Norcross is the #1 city for starting a business, the financial education and advice website – NerdWallet.com – has listed the City of Norcross at #7 among the Top 10 cities in Georgia to start a business. To make its determinations, NerdWallet analyzed 126 places in Georgia, each with a population of at least 5,000 – taking into account each city's business climate and economic health using data from the U.S. Census Bureau. For business climate, the site studied average revenue, percentage of businesses with paid employees and number of businesses per 100 people. To determine economic health, median annual income, median annual housing costs, and the unemployment rate were also considered.

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In its synopsis of Norcross, NerdWallet stated: "Entrepreneurs eyeing Norcross for their business ventures can take advantage of free mentoring and workshops through Score Atlanta, a nonprofit resource center for small businesses in the Atlanta metro area. Incentives offered for businesses in the state-designated opportunity zone, such as a $3,500 per job tax credit, are also a bonus for business owners. These perks may contribute to the high concentration of businesses in Norcross, which has about 30 businesses per 100 residents." That last statistic marks the highest figure of any other municipality in the Top 10!

Joining Norcross in the Top 10 list of "Best Places to Start a Business in Georgia" are:

1. Alpharetta
2. Doraville
3. Vinings
4. Garden City
5. Dalton
6. Cumming
7. Norcross
8. Jesup
9. Carrollton
10. Waycross

Do you know a company that might make a great fit for the City of Norcross? Share your thoughts with the Economic Development Team by filling out the convenient online contact form at www.norcrossga.net.

City of Norcross Department of Code Enforcement recently took part in a CPR/AED/FIRST RESPONDER certification class and passed with flying colors. The class was facilitated by Doraville Police Department Training Officer, Lt. Jason Deyette. Pictured (L-R) Class Instructor Lt. Deyette, along with City of Norcross' Philomena Robertson/Supervisor, James Lemoine/Officer and Larry Dennis/Officer.

DISCOVERY GARDEN PARK ABOUT TO BLOOM

Over the course of the past year, the first seeds were being planted for Discovery Garden Park. What began under the leadership of community volunteers with a big dream quickly started to grow as Norcross residents shared their aspirations and priorities through public meetings, community forums, Council Policy Work Sessions and focus groups. More than 100 people brought their voices to creation of the Discovery Garden Park and countless more heard about it. Amid major community support during the June 1 City Council Meeting, all five City Council members voted "YES" to the plan for Discovery Garden Park and the room erupted in applause.

"It's no secret. Norcross loves its parks," said Deb Harris, a member of the Norcross Public Arts Commission who would love to see Discovery Garden Park included in the 5-year public art plan – Imagine 2020. "This newest park will be an environmental learning venue and tourist attraction for ages 2 to 102, right in the heart of downtown Norcross at the Welcome Center and Museum. Discovery Garden Park will serve as another glowing example of a community gathering space created for Norcross, by Norcross."

NORCROSS- BUSINESSES WITH CAREER OPPORTUNITIES TO BE MATCHED WITH LABOR DURING CAREERFEST 2015

Are job opportunities available within your business or are you a job seeker?

CareerFest 2015 Job Fair will be held Thursday, July 16th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Norcross First United Methodist Church on Beaver Ruin Road.

This FREE event is open to all job seekers and employers- and is designed to provide job leads, career development workshops, and access to community programs. Local businesses with current job openings are invited to join this event as well. This is a community effort to join forces and help today's job seeker find work.

The event is sponsored by Norcross First United Methodist Church, the Norcross Cooperative Ministry and the Georgia Department of Labor – Gwinnett Career Center Veterans Unit.

Any questions or requests for more information can be directed to Leslie at the Norcross Cooperative Ministry, by phone 770.263.0013, or by email at jobministry@norcrossco-op.org

NORCROSS WELCOME CENTER AND MUSEUM EXCITING UPDATE

The third and final room in the Welcome Center & Museum is completed with a permanent exhibit of Norcross Historic Families.

Local Historian, Gene Ramsay, met with family members to do the research, writing and gathering of family photos. A total of 30 panels have been designed to illustrate Norcross' fascinating history and culture.

The first 10 are installed and feature the Garner, Summerour, Newton, Johnson, Steele, Medlock-Simpson, Ivy, Adams, Tucker and Cain-Verner families. Memorabilia such as the uniform and hat of Colonel Adams and a cover of AJC magazine featuring a young Dodger Deleon are on exhibit.

As one recent tourist stated; "The best Welcome Center we've ever visited." Y'all come see history in your own backyard! Located at 189 Lawrenceville St.

NEW LIBRARY TO SERVE AS A COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACE

Norcross is known as "a place to imagine" and is well known throughout the Atlanta Metro Area for the interesting architecture, entertainment venues and wonderful gathering spaces. The Mayor and Council continue to focus on the creation of more versatile spaces for the public to interact and enjoy.

The decision to relocate the existing library from its current location to the intersection of Britt Ave. and Buford Highway fits into the plan for the expansion and development of new public spaces. The location will give the City the opportunity to connect Lillian Webb Park to the Buford Highway frontage, creating a new "Front Door" to the historic downtown through one of the best public spaces in the area connected to a Lillian Webb Park gateway parking deck.

The use of the new Library as part of an enhanced open space plan for the area is a proven winner for cities. A recent article by the Georgia Municipal Association, titled "Downtown Libraries Serve as Popular Gathering Spaces," shines the spotlight on the renovations of the Lafayette Library in downtown Lafayette and the Carnegie Library in downtown Newnan. Both libraries have witnessed increased usage – thanks in part to innovative programming for a number of diverse groups and spaces designed to foster a positive guest experience, such as meeting places, private study rooms, teen centers, children's areas and more. The City of Norcross is working closely with the award-winning Gwinnett County Library System in the development of the new library.

Did you know that the City has a Fire Station Museum located next to the Welcome Center? We do! It houses a beautifully restored old fire truck and other interesting artifacts, but we need more! If you have items to donate for display, please contact Cate Kitchen at ckitchen@norcrossga.net or call 678.421.2049

Meet the Executive Assistant for the City of Norcross' Department of Public Works – Utilities & Parks:

ANGIE PADILLA

The City of Norcross is proud to shine the spotlight on Angie Padilla. In her role as Executive Assistant for the Department of Public Works, Utilities & Parks – a position she's held for the last 2 ½ years, Angie often has the opportunity to prove herself invaluable to the city. Fully embracing the concept of never a dull moment, her duties include: Project Management; Assisting in Budget Preparation and Management (including monitoring expenditures and Invoice Processing) for the Department of Public Works; RFP Development and Process Management; Project Groundwork, Coordinating Department trainings, staff meetings and help with any Department employee needs; Providing customer service and addressing any City residents' needs & concerns; Working as a liaison between Spanish-speaking Hispanic Norcross citizens and the City; and Providing administrative support to the Department's three Superintendents of Norcross Power, Parks & Public Works.

"My favorite part of working for the City is being able to work on progressive projects that help to grow the City and address the Residents' diverse needs," explains Angie. "My work family at the City of Norcross has truly made me feel at home."

This mother of two young sons will receive her Associate's Degree from Georgia Perimeter College at the end of the summer. She is also currently working on her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration at Kennesaw State University. Thank you Angie for your ambitious and always helpful attitude!

Arts Survey

Imagine what the future of arts, culture and creativity in Norcross will look like. You can help us shape the future of public art in Norcross by answering this brief survey. The input received will help guide the recommendations developed for the IMAGINE 2020, a Five Year Public Art Plan. Thank you for participating in the planning process.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FVPPTWF

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 saving to our taxpayers. Please watch for additional information in upcoming newsletters.

The City has several advisory boards and commissions with current openings for citizens. They include Parks and Greenspace Commission, Sustainable Norcross Commission, Housing Authority and Lifelong Communities Committee. Others may have future vacancies. Contact City Clerk Monique Lang mlang@norcrossga.net to submit your application to serve on one of these important citizen advisory groups.

Please note: Norcross City Hall will be closed Friday, July 3 in observance of the 4th of July Holiday.

SAVE YOUR STUFF!

The City's next Mega Recycle & Clean-up Event is just two months away – Saturday, September 26. For details, contact City of Norcross Code Enforcement at 770.448.7327 or probertson@norcrossga.net.

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
PR/Marketing 678.421.2033

HELP NORCROSS BECOME A WALK AND BIKE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Over the last several years the City of Norcross has really stepped up its efforts to make its streets more accessible and safer for users of all types and abilities. Gaps in sidewalks have been identified and closed, upgrades in crosswalks and medians are evident, streets have been resurfaced and potholes repaired. A Complete Streets Policy has been adopted and is being implemented to meet the needs of all ages and abilities, and all modes of transportation are considered when new streets are created and existing ones are maintained. Studies have been conducted, master plans created, and recommendations are becoming reality.

A recent grant from Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) will assist in creating a master plan for a greenway trail along Beaver Ruin Creek and Mitchell Road that will include innovative stormwater control features. The greenway, the city's first, was originally proposed in the city wide Parks Master Plan and was included in Livable Centers Initiatives (LCI) studies. The greenway plan will connect various points of interest within the city limits and be coordinated with County and CID trail plans that include multiple mode users. SPLOST funds help pay for transportation and recreation projects such as these.

Each project has a public input component. The newly formed Lifelong Communities advisory group for the City wants the continuity of an ongoing committee to ensure all these projects and entities work together to achieve the benefits of becoming a Walk Friendly and Bicycle Friendly Community. That's where YOU come in. To be a part of this new group, or to find out more about it, contact sustainablenorcross@gmail.com.

Creating a Wildlife Habitat with Native Plants

Join us for a fascinating presentation by Gail Woody, Carroll County Master Gardener, member of the Georgia Native Plant Society, and contributing writer for the Times Georgian Newspaper and the West Georgia Living magazine.

Learn how to create your own pollinator garden and wildlife habitat with native plants to attract butterflies, bees & birds. Gail's habitat is a Monarch Way Station and Monarch pollinator garden with the Environmental Education Alliance of GA, and it is a registered wildlife habitat.

Light refreshments and door prizes for the lucky!

When: Saturday, July 25th from 10am to 11:30am

Where: Norcross Community Center Ballroom, 10 College Street

Register for this free class by July 23rd at sustainablenorcross@gmail.com
Jointly hosted by: Norcross Discovery Garden Park and Norcross Garden Club

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 3- Red, White & Boom Independence Day Celebration, 4 p.m.- 10 p.m., Downtown Norcross
JULY 13-Movie Monday, Annie, 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center
July 16- CareerFest 2015/Job Fair,10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Norcross First United Methodist Church on Beaver Ruin Road
JULY 17-Summer Concert Series, Complete Desire, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Thrasher Park
JULY 18-Jazz in the Alley, Gabbie McGee, 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m., Skin Alley
July 25- Creating a Wildlife Habitat with Native Plants Class, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Norcross Community Center
JULY 27- Movie Monday, Paddington, 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center
July 23, 24, 25, 26- 100 Dress Play, Lionheart Theatre (check website for daily showtimes)
Many classes offered this Summer at Kudzu Art Zone! Please visit kudzuartzone.com or call 770.840.9844.
Wednesday Wind Down and Food Trucks every Wednesday in July from 5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

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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