

a place to . Imagine

August 2015



**GATEWAY INTERNATIONAL
FOOD AND MUSIC FESTIVAL**

GATEWAY INTERNATIONAL FOOD & MUSIC FESTIVAL RETURNS TO NORCROSS

Mark your calendar, neighbors! The Fifth Annual Gateway International Food & Music Festival is set to return Saturday, September 19th. Hosted at Lillian Webb Park in Historic Norcross from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m., this global gala affords attendees a rare chance to go on a worldwide trek without ever leaving the park. Sample from international fare, enjoy cultural music and dancing, and celebrate the diversity that makes our community such a wonderful place to work, live and play. The best part is, admission to this very special annual event is FREE!

Please note: Absolutely no shade structures (including tents or umbrellas) will be allowed at the event and must be dismantled if erected.



**Korean, Indian,
Latin American, Romania,
Irish Heritage and Cultural
Performances**

Entertainment

Kid Zone

International Food Vendors

**Dance and Musical
Performances**

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

NORCROSS IS GROWING A LITTLE GREENER

Well-known for our lush canopy of trees, it's clear that Norcross is dedicated to celebrating our community's natural splendor. In 2015, we mark our 11th year as a Tree City USA community through our on-going relationship with the Arbor Day Foundation, but we also have a number of initiatives in the works that indicate our fair city is growing a little "greener" each day.

In addition to being a Tree City USA community, the City of Norcross has been proud to be a member of the Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC) Green Communities program since 2010. Recent measures on behalf of the city and our Sustainable Norcross Commission include the addition of a charging station at City Hall to make the city electric vehicle-ready and the installation of more bike racks at the city's gathering spaces for the enjoyment of our neighbors. Both are shining examples of the ARC Green Communities program at work right here in Norcross.

Electric car owners will want to note that the charging station is located across from the drive-thru payment window near Betty Mauldin Park.

Not limited to Historic Norcross alone, the Norcross Police Department also recently purchased an electric vehicle - which has resulted in a net savings of over \$800 on fuel cost in the first six months of ownership alone. In addition, the department has purchased V6 as opposed to V8 Dodge Chargers for its patrol officers. Due to this measure, Miles Per Gallon (MPG) has generally increased across the board from 9 to 13 for the NPD fleet.

There is a SMARTCAR among the NPD fleet that is utilized to patrol the town parks and work special events in the city. Do YOU have some great ideas of ways Norcross can grow even greener? Be sure to check out Sustainable Norcross Commission's call for new members in this newsletter or share your ideas via email at sustainablenorcross@gmail.com.

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

NORCROSS FAMILY HISTORY ROOM



The Norcross Welcome Center and History Museum has opened a new room with exhibits focusing on the families that have built our town over its 140+ years of history. Exhibits include photos of their homes and lives, along with the stories that make them memorable. Highlights include:

- Will Tucker “The Rib Man”, who worked as a tanner and butcher, and later in life opened a popular barbeque restaurant on his fishing lake outside town, near the intersection of Spalding and Peachtree Parkway. The lake is still there, in the midst of today’s Technology Park.
- Tom Rainey, who worked on the railroads of the area for over 50 years, made sure that passengers such as President Franklin Roosevelt got to their destinations on time. Come read about his close call with a train near Pumpkin Vine Hill.
- Maybelle “Granny” Cain, who ran a millinery shop in town, also managed the now-demolished Brunswick Hotel. The hotel was built by our town’s founder John Thrasher in 1870 across from the park named for him. The hotel’s well is still next to her home.

Ten panels highlighting different families are currently on display out of the thirty prepared so far. Displays will rotate among different families over time, so we encourage you to visit the History Museum often.



Join the Great Exchange on Transportation the week of August 24

The Great Exchange (#thegr8exchange) is a grassroots effort in Gwinnett bringing people together to discuss one of the most pressing issues facing our community: transportation. For more information on how to join the conversation visit, www.thegr8exchange.com.

THE GR8 EXCHANGE
ON TRANSPORTATION

JOIN THE CONVERSATION **AUGUST 24TH - 28TH**

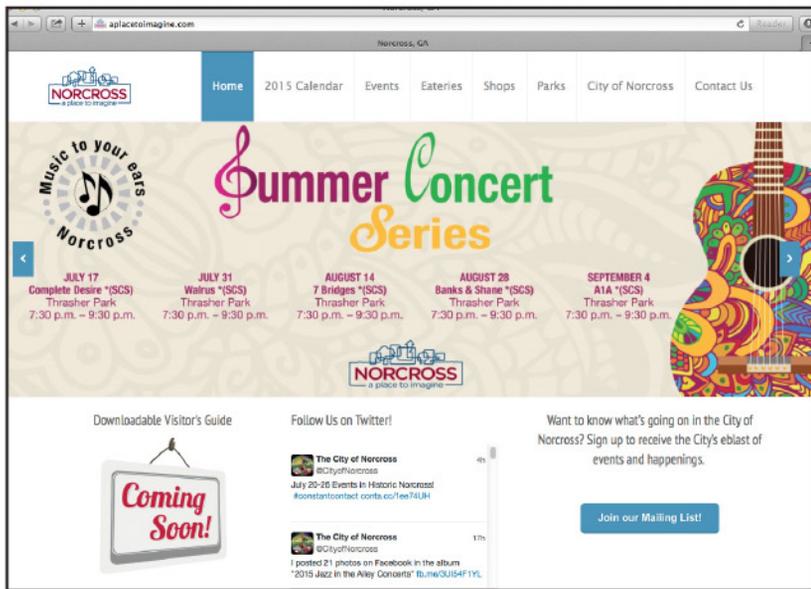
HOW DO YOU WANT TO GET AROUND, GWINNETT?

SUSTAINABLE NORCROSS COMMISSION SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

Sustainable Norcross Commission has issued a call for applicants to join its active five-member city advisory board. The ideal fit for environmentally focused individuals, commission members meet once a month to assist the city in maintaining our prestigious Green Community certification by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and consult on environmental matters and sustainable living practices. The Commission also sponsors service projects and partners with other city boards, commissions and civic groups. Volunteers are regularly needed for committees and short-term projects in the areas of media, bike/pedestrian, Rivers Alive Stream Clean Up and more.

Visit www.norcrossga.net for more information. Simply click on “Boards & Authorities” in the dropdown menu under City Government, then click on “Sustainable Norcross Commission.” You can find the link to an Application for Board or Commission Appointments on the SNC page under “Popular Links.” Apply today! If you have additional questions or wish to volunteer for a subcommittee or service project, please contact sustainablenorcross@gmail.com or call 404-229-7077.

APLACETOIMAGINE.COM JUST BECAME A LITTLE MORE "IMAGINATIVE"



The City of Norcross recently launched a newly re-imagined APlaceToImagine.com! Designed to serve as THE go-to place for all things Norcross for residents and visitors alike, APlaceToImagine.com features upcoming events, local shops and eateries, a directory of parks and more. Be sure to visit APlaceToImagine.com and come back often for the latest information on all of the happenings around town!

GENERAL ELECTION QUALIFICATIONS TO OPEN THIS MONTH

Have you ever considered serving your city in an exciting, hands-on and meaningful way? The office of Mayor and two council seats will be up for election on November 3, 2015. Leading up to the General Election, the City of Norcross will hold a qualifying period for these elected positions from August 31, 2015 through September 4, 2015, between 8:30 am - 4:30 p.m. daily. Incumbent Council Members Craig Newton and Charlie Riehm currently hold the two Council seats, and Bucky Johnson presently holds the title of Mayor. Citizens interested in throwing their hat into the ring as potential candidates should contact City Clerk Monique Lang at 678.421.2035 or mlang@norcrossga.net. Ms. Lang will answer any questions related to general candidate qualifications and more. Qualification fees are \$310.50 for Mayor and \$243.00 for Councilmember. Applications to qualify will be available online at www.norcrossga.net or may be picked up at City Hall.

SPLISH-SPLASH!

For one of the BEST ways for families to chill out in Historic Norcross, be sure to visit the interactive Splash Pad at Lillian Webb Park. Hours are daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD WILL CHANGE THEIR
MEETING TO: THE 3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH**

Meet City of Norcross' Parks & Recreation Superintendent: **MARY BETH BENDER**



The City of Norcross is proud to shine the spotlight on Mary Beth Bender – a dedicated 16-year veteran at City Hall. As Superintendent for the city's Parks & Recreation Department, Mary Beth oversees the management of 14 parks, including four main parks with playgrounds and an interactive fountain system at the heart of the city. She wears many other hats, including Chairperson of the Special Events Committee and coordinator of city-sponsored and private events such as the Summer Concert Series, Jazz in the Alley, Christmas Tree Lighting, Independence Day, Movies in the Park – the list goes on and on. A true "team player," Mary Beth has also served in Project Management, on the Wellness Committee and as Absentee Ballot Clerk in General Elections.

This married mom of two – and proud grandmother to a brand new grandbaby – holds an associate degree from Madison College along with a slew of certifications that comprise: CAP-OM (Certified Administrative Professional, Organizational Management), CYSA (Certified Youth Sports Administrator) and Carl Vinson Institute of Management (Certificate of Public Works Management).

"I love working with a talented and dedicated staff who shares my philosophy of providing safe, clean and fun parks, paired with excellent customer service for this community," said Mary Beth. "We take tremendous pride in the cleanliness of these parks, which is challenging after hosting large events with anywhere from 2000 to 40,000 attendees. I appreciate the historic charm of the City with the possibility of greater things to come. I am grateful for the opportunities afforded employees who are willing to work hard and develop their skills through education and training."

Thank you, Mary Beth, for your tireless devotion to the City of Norcross!

SNIPPETS...

BILL CONSOLIDATION NEWS

Beginning next month, property owners will be responsible for paying their Sanitation fee on a one time annual basis. Mayor and Council may elect to adjust the amount during the budgeting process. This fee will be included on the same bill with Property Tax and Storm Water fees.

This consolidation 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 fee on their monthly utility bills. Only commercial utility accounts will receive Sanitation fees on their monthly bills. This mainstreaming and consolidation is a common practice in other municipalities and a very effective cost-saving measure to benefit our taxpayers.

Save the date AND your stuff!

It's time to clean out those basements, garages, attics and closets, Norcross! The City's next Mega Recycle & Clean-Up Event is set for Saturday, September 26! We'll have stations set up throughout Historic Norcross for four separate events: to collect canned goods for the 2015 "CAN DO" for Hunger Campaign, electronics for recycling, documents for shredding and unwanted items for discard/recycling including bulky items such as old appliances, furniture and any other accumulated trash. We're sorry, but solvent or hazardous material (such as batteries, paint, large car parts, motor, tires, oil, antifreeze, concrete, household chemicals and similar items) WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.



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

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP & RECYCLING DAY

Saturday September 26, 2015



4 AWESOME EVENTS!

Shredding Event

Clean-up Day

Electronics Recycling

2015 "CAN" Do for
Hunger Campaign

KEEP NORCROSS BEAUTIFUL

TWO CONVENIENT NEW WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILLS

Citizens of Norcross now have two paper-free ways to pay their utility bills: online and by phone. Simply visit the Help Center at www.norcrossga.net and click on "Pay." In addition to paying your utility bills, you can also pay citations and taxes (coming soon!) through this convenient online system. We are also pleased to announce that our IVR (Interactive Voice Response) is up and running for residents who prefer to pay by phone. Simply call 1-844-598-3636 to access the IVR system or – when dialing into the city's main number at 770-448-2122 – you can select option #2 to be transferred into the system to make your utility payment via credit card. Now that the IVR system is functional, customer service officers will no longer take payments over the phone. Still have questions? Be sure to visit the FAQs page in the dropdown menu under City Government at www.norcrossga.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS



- AUGUST 4 - Real Estate Continuing Education, Brand Identity, 9:30 a.m. -12: 30 p.m., Norcross Community Center
 - AUGUST 7 - Summer Concert Series, 7 Bridges, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Thrasher Park
 - AUGUST 10 - Movie Monday, Black or White, 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center
 - AUGUST 15 - The Power of Hypnosis- Hypnotist Tanya Oskey, 7:30 p.m., Lionheart Theater
 - AUGUST 18 - Real Estate Continuing Education, Georgia Landlord Tenant Laws, 9:30 a.m. - 12: 30 p.m., Norcross Community Center
 - AUGUST 24 - Movie Monday, Big Eyes, 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center
 - AUGUST 28 - Summer Concert Series, Banks & Shane, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Thrasher Park
 - AUGUST 29 - Jazz in the Alley, Eric Thomas & Elevate the Quest, 7 p.m.- 9 p.m., Skin Alley
- 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 August from 5:30p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Lillian Webb Park

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

