



# a place to Imagine

October 2015



## BASKING IN THE GLOW

### Suniva to Invest \$96 Million and Add 500 Jobs to City of Norcross

Suniva, Inc., a U.S. manufacturer of high-efficiency crystalline silicon solar cells and modules, announced in August that it has initiated expansion of its U.S. manufacturing capacity, a move that will bring millions of dollars and hundreds of jobs to the City of Norcross. According to a recent press release, Suniva's continued growth further strengthens its position as the leading American solar manufacturer. As a U.S.-born, U.S.-operated company, Suniva prides itself on its role of American job creation. Suniva employs the highest percentage of American workers among all other major solar module manufacturers.

"On behalf of the City of Norcross, I am pleased to welcome Suniva, Inc. and its employees as the newest members of our thriving corporate community," said Mayor Bucky Johnson. "We are both humbled and honored

that this widely respected and rapidly rising manufacturer of high-efficiency solar products chose Norcross in which to base its latest expansion. As a community that is devoted to celebrating our natural splendor through our parks, tree canopies, outdoor events, and proud standings as a Tree City USA and member of the Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC) Green Communities program, a clean energy company like Suniva proves an ideal fit for our city."

With headquarters, research & development lab and production lines located near Technology Park at 5765 and 5775 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, expansion of Suniva's manufacturing capabilities will increase the company's U.S. manufacturing capacity to an astounding 400MW.

## HAVE A BLAST AT NORCROSS ART SPLASH

**Norcross Art Splash 2015** – formerly known as Norcross Art Fest – presents a colorful palette of fun the first weekend of October for the start of the harvest season. Expected to draw 50,000 festivalgoers, Art Splash festivities will fill the streets of Historic Norcross to overflowing on October 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and October 4 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. The festival will include an artist market – showcasing folk art, ceramics, paintings, photography, mixed media, fiber art, metalwork, and jewelry, as well as a Kidz Zone with face painting, sand art, inflatables and rides. Live entertainment on the Thrasher Park stage will feature a variety of music styles, such as oldies, blues, jazz and more. And what would a festival BE without fantastic festival food? For more information, visit [www.norcrossartsplash.com](http://www.norcrossartsplash.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



# BOOFEST 2015

# AND ALL NEW LAWLESS SPIRITS TOUR PROMISE FRIGHTFUL FUN FOR ALL

Boys and ghouls of all ages are invited to meet up at Lillian Webb Park at 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 24 as the City of Norcross conjures up a Halloween-themed event that's so fun... it's scary! The afternoon's festivities include a costume parade through Norcross' historic downtown. Children will line up according to age group before the march down Jones Street to Thrasher Park. The spooky spectacle culminates in a costume contest for kids and their "pet" rifying pooches, hot dog feast and more.

their calendars for October 29-31 when Lionheart Theatre Company presents the inaugural season of the Lawless Spirits Tour. Featuring two performances each night at 6:30-7:30 p.m. and 8-9 p.m., the tour features a spirited stroll through Historic Norcross as guests explore some local lore. Don't be surprised if you happen upon a friendly phantom or two along the way. For more details about both of these haunted happenings, be sure to visit [aplacetoimagine.com](http://aplacetoimagine.com)!

Our more mature local monsters will want to mark

## NORCROSS CITY CEMETERY RESTORATION



The Utilities & Parks Division of the Department of Public Works has led the campaign to restore the Norcross City Cemetery. The long list of tasks thus far have included the repair of broken and fallen headstones, training and implementation of proper cleaning and maintenance of existing headstones, and installation of a steel fence around the entire Cemetery - complete with driving and walking gates to keep the Cemetery safe and protect the cemetery's residents from vandalism. Future plans for the Cemetery include: continued cleaning and maintenance of headstones by Public Works and Community Service workers, placement of a new roof on the pavilion, survey of all headstones for placement of information in a secure database, and submission of the City Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Cemeteries. Plans are underway for an educational tour led by

local historian, Gene Ramsay that will focus on our City's rich history, as well as the push to restore and maintain our Cemetery. This event will take the place of the annual Cemetery lighting.

**REMINDER: Rivers Alive Clean Up on November 14th at the creek next to Cemetery Field, 211 Cemetery Street, in Norcross from 9AM to 12 noon. For more information and to RSVP please contact [RiversAlive@sustainablenorcross.net](mailto:RiversAlive@sustainablenorcross.net).**

## CITY OF NORCROSS 2015 QUALIFYING RESULTS ARE IN!

**For the Office of Mayor:** Incumbent Bucky Johnson is opposed by Gordon Tomlinson  
**For a Seat on City Council:** Incumbent Craig Newton is unopposed and Incumbent Charlie Riehm is opposed by Pierre Levy

Candidates elected to office in the November election take office in the month of January of the following year. They will be sworn in at the first Council meeting of the year. Mark your calendar for the following important dates:

- 10/5/15: Voter Registration Deadline
- 10/12/15: Advanced Voting Begins
- 10/14/15: Mayoral Debate (6:30 p.m., Community Center)
- 10/20/15: City Council Debate (6:30 p.m., Community Center)



**11/3/2015: General Elections**

# ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE: SPOTLIGHT ON NORTH METRO ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS



Since first opening its doors last year, Norcross's charter school – North Metro Academy of Performing Arts – has become critically acclaimed... particularly among the children and families it serves. Currently serving grades K-7 with an enrollment of just 462 students, the school plans to expand its program to include 8th graders next year.

"Every area of performing arts is integrated into our core curriculum," explained L.A. Bonds, Director of Public Relations and Marketing for the Academy. "While we still follow key standards set by the Gwinnett County Public School System, we go about measuring our scholars' success a little differently. Rather than having a class take part in a written exam, a teacher may opt to include some sort of performance for a grade. For example, my six-year-old son – who attends the Academy – can recite the entire Declaration of Independence, because he had to set it to music and recite it before the class. Every instructor at the school not only has performing arts experience, but many are still active in the entertainment industry."

In addition to classes such as Guitar, Chorus and Theater, the school infuses elements of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) to enhance the learning experience. Students can participate in special clubs like Lego Robotics or spend time in the Google lab, learning about building apps and writing code.

To catch a peek at the talent that is coming out of North Metro Academy of Performing Arts, Norcross neighbors are invited to attend the upcoming Winter Wonderland Music Review at Norcross High School on December 17. The production will feature a compilation of scenes from Broadway musicals including Matilda, Lion King, Seussical - The Musical and more. Tickets will be available for purchase beginning the first week in November at the school – located at 182 Hunter Street NW in Norcross – and on the Academy's website at [www.northmetroacademy.com](http://www.northmetroacademy.com).

## CITY OF NORCROSS TAKES PART IN 9/11 SALUTE



Members of the Norcross Police and Gwinnett County Fire Departments stood alongside City of Norcross employees and Public Utilities representatives at the Betty Mauldin Bell on September 11 to honor the victims of the 9/11 attacks. A city employee – who happens to be a veteran – rang the bell 21 times to symbolize a 21-gun salute.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO NORCROSS MERCHANT THE SHOPS OF ANTIQUE TRADITIONS FOR 20 YEARS OF BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF NORCROSS!!**

## ARELIS RIVERA TAKES THE HELM AT CITY OF NORCROSS CODE ENFORCEMENT TEAM



Meet Your New Code Enforcement Officers – Pictured (left to right) Officer James Lemoine, Sergeant Arelis Rivera and Officer Larry Dennis.

Having recently traded her "Detective" status for "Sergeant", Arelis Rivera is the new lead for Norcross' Code Enforcement Team. She is joined by Civilian Officers James Lemoine and Larry Dennis. Last month, the City of Norcross elected to transition the role of code enforcement from our Community Development team to the Norcross Police Department. This positive new measure will provide our officers with the ability to take immediate action when a criminal offense corresponds with a code violation – thereby ensuring a more efficient and effective way to keep our citizens safe. Civilian officers assigned to code enforcement will all be Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) certified. GCIC-certified officers can access information on wanted persons and vehicle data with an immediate response. This transition also allows for 24 hr surveillance and weekend enforcement. In addition, a tracking system accessible by Norcross PD will make it possible to monitor repeat violations.

Sgt. Rivera is a four-year veteran of the Norcross PD. In 2013, Chief of Police Warren Summers appointed her to launch the NPD's Community Outreach Program. She was uniquely qualified for that role as former teacher and City of Chicago police officer. In that capacity, she made numerous appearances on TV and radio, and was most recently involved in the planning and implementation of the Gateway International Festival. She is excited to tackle this new, broader role in code enforcement, which involves the prevention, detection, investigation and enforcement of violations of statutes or ordinances regulating public health, safety, public works, business activities, consumer protection, building standards, land-use, municipal affairs and more.

"My work with the City of Norcross – both with Community Outreach and now in code enforcement – has not just been a job, but a vision to bring together our city as one," said Sgt. Rivera. "I have met some wonderful people in and around our beautiful city that share that same vision as we all work together toward the same goal of making Norcross a wonderful place to live, work, play and imagine."

To report a possible code violation, please call 770-448-2111 ext.2341.

# SNIPPETS...

## “LEAVE” IT ALL TO US!

Yard waste collected in Norcross is turned into mulch for beneficial uses throughout our community. This move reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills. From November 1-January 31, residents may place their leaves and clippings at the curb for pickup via vacuum trucks. The vacuum leaf pick-up service will make its way around the city in 7-10 day cycles. Residents should keep limbs and leaves separated. Up until November 1 and after January 31, residents are required to place yard, clippings and leaves in brown paper leaf bags, and return to following the bi-weekly yard waste pickup schedule.

## HISTORIC NORCROSS TAKES THE CONCEPT OF VALET PARKING FOR A “SPIN”

City of Norcross will be hosting a trial period for valet parking downtown over the course of the next three months to see if this will be a viable option for visitors and residents in the future. It is always our goal to provide a sense of community and memorable experience to all of our guests of the downtown area. Needless to say, for those who prefer to park their own car – this option will always be available. A few public parking lots will be closed to accommodate valet vehicles. These include the parking lot near Betty Mauldin Park, a portion of The Crossing parking lot and the parking lot behind Paizanos, Zapatas and Iron Horse Tavern. Be on the lookout for our valets near the Crossing, Dominick’s and Paizanos on Fridays and near the Crossing and Paizanos on Saturdays. Valet service will run from 4:30 p.m. until the last keys are returned.



### 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

# DID YOU KNOW? THERE ARE NOW 7 WAYS TO PAY YOUR UTILITY BILLS



The City of Norcross is pleased to bring its residents not one, not four, but SEVEN convenient ways to pay utility bills:

- Through the U.S. Postal Service – Simply make your payment the old-fashioned way by mailing it to us along with your payment stub
- In Person at City Hall during normal hours of operation via cash, check or major credit cards
- Automatic Bank Draft drawn from your checking account on the 7th of each month
- Online Bill Pay through your banking provider
- Online Payments through the City of Norcross website via e-check or major credit card (e-check option involves nominal third party convenience fee of \$2.50)\*
- Automated Phone Payments by calling toll-free 1-844-598-3636 (this option involves a nominal third party convenience fee of 3%)\*
- Self-service Kiosk on the first floor of City Hall

For more information, visit the Utility Billing page under the Help Center at [www.norcrossga.net](http://www.norcrossga.net).

\* The 3% convenience fee (with a \$2.50 minimum) when paying online or by phone, means payments are posted instantly – allowing a customer who may be paying on their due date to post their payment on time and not incur late fees and penalties, which is 10% of the account balance plus \$5. These payment options also allow a person the convenience of paying 24/7 from anywhere with Internet and/or phone service.

## FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT SERIES

Time: 7 p.m.- 9 p.m. at the Norcross Community Center

Guests are invited to bring their favorite beverages and bites to satisfy their appetite. Seating is limited. RSVP to reserve your seat by calling Cate at 678-421-2049.

October 2nd – The DejaBlue Grass Band

November 6th – The Xavier Gordon Trio

December 4th – The Gentlemen of Swing / Musical Holiday Celebration

January 8th – John Burke and Lindsay Drake

**SUSTAINABLE NORCROSS COMMISSION Vacant Board Positions:**  
To learn more contact [info@sustainablenorcross.net](mailto:info@sustainablenorcross.net).

# UPCOMING EVENTS



- OCT. 2 - First Friday Concert, DejaBlues Grass Band, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Norcross Community Center
- OCT. 3 - Art Splash Festival, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Downtown Historic Norcross
- OCT. 3 - Atlanta Korean Festival, 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Korean Association of Greater Atlanta
- OCT. 4- Art Splash Festival, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Downtown Historic Norcross
- OCT. 4- 40 Years of Vietnamese-Americans in Georgia, 3 p.m., Gwinnett County Public Library, Norcross Branch
- OCT. 7- Final Wind Down Wednesday Food Truck Night of the Year, 5:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m., Skin Alley
- OCT. 12 - Movie Monday, Age of Adaline, 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center
- OCT. 18 - Meet Homer Hickam, Author of the Rocket Boys/October Sky, 3 p.m., Norcross Community Center
- OCT. 24- BooFest Costume Contest and Parade, 3 p.m., Lillian Webb Park to Thrasher Park
- OCT. 26 - Movie Monday, Danny Collins, 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center
- OCT. 29-31- Lawless Spirits Tour, 6:30 p.m. & 8 p.m., Lionheart Theatre

## 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](http://www.aplacetoimagine.com)

