



# A PLACE TO IMAGINE

JUNE 2018



## CITY MANAGER, RUDOLPH SMITH CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

The City of Norcross is proud to celebrate 20 years with City Manager Rudolph Smith on June 3rd! Rudolph has been a vital and key component in many business deals, marketing tactics and finance projects over the years. Through his time with the city he has played various roles and in each he excelled greatly, not only accomplishing the city's goals but exceeding their expectations every time. We are honored and proud to have him in our service and on our staff for so long and wish him all the best in his future with Norcross.

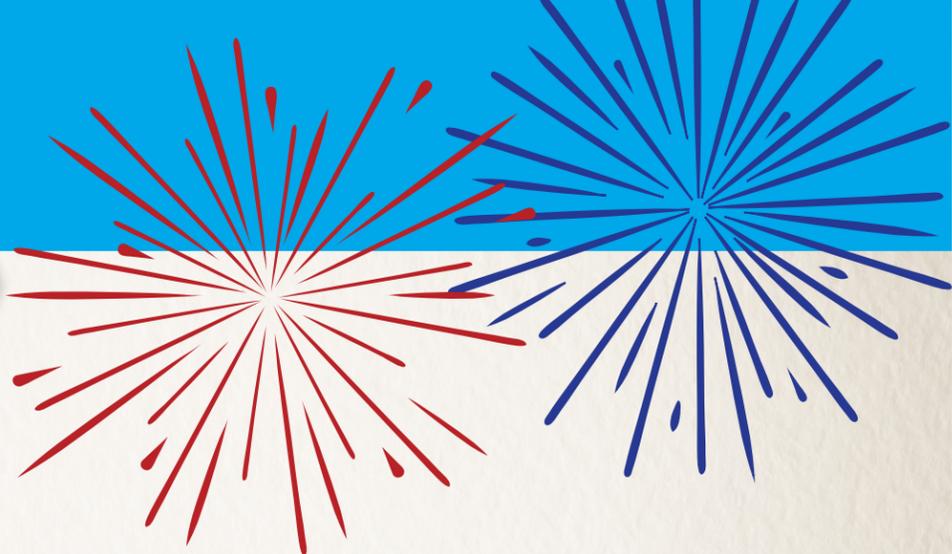
Rudolph Smith first joined the City of Norcross in 1998 and was promoted to the City Manager position in November of 2008. He earned a degree in Accounting and Business Administration from the Abraham Baldwin College in Tifton back in 1980. Rudolph began his governmental career in the City of Alapaha, Georgia where he served for 18 years in different positions including Grant Administrator, City Clerk and City Manager. He has been involved in municipal/county government for over 33 Years.

Prior to being named City Manager, Rudolph distinguished himself as the Norcross General Government Administrative Director/CFO. He also served as Norcross Tax and License Manager, presiding over a department which generates more than 68% of the total revenue for the city. Rudolph holds national and international municipal clerk certifications, and is a Georgia certified finance officer. In 1992, he was given the District II Leadership Award by the Georgia Municipal Association. In 2007, Smith was selected as the Finance Officer of the Year by the Georgia Municipal Clerk/Finance Officers Association. In 2008, he received the Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association which is reviewed by the United States and Canada Government Finance Officers Association. In 2009, he was selected as one of

the 2009 Men of Influence by the Atlanta Business League.

Rudolph also holds title to many other significant accomplishments. Most recently Rudolph received a 30-year service award from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), which is the premier local government leadership and management organization. ICMA Service Awards recognize and celebrate members' dedication to public service and professional management at the local level. Smith was chosen to receive this award for his outstanding work with the city and his professional upbeat attitude in everything he aspires for. Rudolph Smith also stays active in local clubs and organizations. He is an active member in the Norcross/ Peachtree Rotary Club and spends his free time volunteering around Norcross at various public works foundations. Other accolades include: YMCA Board Member, Glance Gwinnett graduate (2017) and a member of the Senior Leadership Class of 2018.

For those who dare to dream big and imagine the endless possibilities for growth, fun, learning and living, you are in good hands with Norcross City Manager Rudolph Smith. He is at your service working diligently to ensure Norcross maintains its status as an eco-conscious community with a world-class art district, spectacular events and a bustling historic downtown.



## NORCROSS TO CELEBRATE AMERICA WITH RED, WHITE & BOOM! EVENT ON JULY 3

The City of Norcross is 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 2018 edition of Red White and BOOM! The good times start with a bang at 3 p.m. with bounce houses (nominal fee), festive face painting and an assortment of food vendors. Stroll the city sidewalks to find Norcross' eclectic collection of shops and restaurants, dance in the park to tunes by the band Mother's Finest at 7:30 p.m., or snag a spot on the lawn at Lillian Webb Park for a picnic and mingling with friends before the fireworks light up the night sky (right after dusk, typically around 9:40 p.m.). For those looking to continue the fun and celebration, head over to one of Norcross' local hotspots for live music and libations.

Please note: Absolutely no shade structures (tents or umbrellas) are allowed and will have to be dismantled. ADA parking will be available at City Hall (65 Lawrenceville Street). City staff will be available to transport seniors or anyone needing assistance that day via golf carts at each of the respective parking locations. A shuttle will also run continuously from the Norcross First United Methodist Church, 2500 Beaver Run Road. Downtown streets close at 3:00 p.m.

### THE SCOOP:

**Time:** 3 - 11 p.m.  
(fireworks around 9:40 p.m. or a few minutes past dusk)

**Location:** All of downtown Norcross; Kidzone will be on downtown streets, Mother's Finest will be performing in Lillian Webb Park, artists/vendors will be stationed downtown and food trucks can be found at Lillian Webb Park.

### HOW TO MAKE NORCROSS RED, WHITE AND BOOM! A MEMORABLE FOURTH OF JULY:

While it won't be hard to have a good time at Norcross' Red, White & BOOM!, here are a few ways that you can make sure it is a memorable Fourth of July:

1. Snag a spot at Lillian Webb Park for the best view of the fireworks display.
2. Don't miss out on the festivities or show while looking for a parking space. Free parking will be available at two nearby designated churches with a shuttle running continuously to downtown Norcross.
3. Be the life of the party by not committing a party foul. Please be mindful of other guests by not blocking the view. To keep the night sky in perfect view of the fireworks, tents and umbrellas are not allowed.
4. Remember, Norcross is an active railroad crossing location. Train tracks are NOT safe for firework viewing.
5. Take your party with you, but only on foot! Open containers are allowed within barricaded areas only!
6. Raise your glasses high and cheers your fellow neighbors with a Red, White & BOOM! signature drink!
7. Celebrate one of the best things about America—FOOD! Enjoy fried foods, snacks on a stick, sinful sweet treats and the best tasting creations on four wheels—food trucks!

For more information, visit [www.aplacetoimagine.com](http://www.aplacetoimagine.com)



*Pictured left to right: City Manager, Rudolph Smith; Madame Henriette Konan Bedie, the former First Lady of Cote d'Ivoire; Mayor Craig Newton and Director of Economic Development, Chris Moder*

## COTE D'IVOIRE DELEGATION

The City of Norcross was pleased and honored last month to welcome a group of very special guests to our city all the way from the Cote d'Ivoire!! Madame Henriette Konan Bedie, the former First Lady of Cote d'Ivoire, runs a foundation and stays very active in economic development projects and social changes. While Her Excellency was in town for an event held at the Global Forum, Dr. Laurent Bassa of Summerour Middle School thought this would be an excellent opportunity for our city, and so reached out to Mayor Craig Newton and the Economic Development Department to coordinate a meeting! Upon her arrival, those involved were able to discuss topics such as culture, social backgrounds and economic development in hopes of gaining a mutual understanding of life across the world and see areas of cooperation where each party might learn from the other. As a result of the engagement our own Mayor may very well be planning a trip to Cote d'Ivoire as a guest of the Cote d'Ivoire delegation...(well, that's the rumor leastwise!) It is safe to say the meeting was mutually beneficial and created an experience the First Lady says she will cherish.

## INTERVIEW WITH GWINNETT SPORTS HALL OF FAME AND NORCROSS RESIDENT, JOYCE PIERCE

Gwinnett County Sports Hall of Famer and Norcross High alum-turned-coach-turned-math-teacher Joyce Pierce reveals all! Learn more at [gcps-foundation.org/hall\\_of\\_fame](http://gcps-foundation.org/hall_of_fame).

**1. How does it feel to be a Gwinnett celeb?** I don't feel like a celebrity, however, I do feel honored knowing that I have represented my family and community in a way that has made many people proud. My goal has always been to pay it forward to other young people. I grew up wanting to see someone who looked like me as a role model I could emulate and know that one day I too could aspire to accomplish unimaginable things—now I am in a position to be that person for someone else.

**2. What do your students think about it?** Well until recently, most of my students were unaware of my prior accomplishments. It has been over 25 years since I played basketball. Now that the cat is out of the bag, the students are aware of a completely new dimension of me, Coach Pierce. They now frequently ask me about my playing days as well as my accomplishments. They really get a kick out of seeing my name and picture in articles on the internet.

**3. Which do you prefer, coaching or playing? (or option C - teaching math!)** I definitely prefer to play! I loved playing basketball! My brother, a few other guys from the neighborhood and I would travel from court to court in Gwinnett to conquer any challengers. We could play ball all day long, only leaving when it was too dark to see. Playing the game I acquired skills that continue to help me navigate through life as I know it today—hard-work, perseverance, integrity, attitude and a never-give-up spirit. Basketball has always been my passion, and now that my playing days are behind me, I love coaching and sharing my expertise with the young aspiring athletes I get the opportunity to coach.

**4. Summer is here! What advice do you have for our area students, without the school day to keep them busy?** My advice for students over the summer is to aspire to enrich their mind, body and souls over the summer. Read, read, read! I tell my students that reading is push-ups for the brain. Exercise! Go to the park, play basketball, swim, run, walk...just move it or you lose it. Last but not least, listen to your parents!

**5. And last, we must ask: what is your favorite thing to do in Norcross?** I love to take a car full of kids to one of the many parks around Norcross. We still shoot hoops...swim, play on the playground and at the Lillian Webb fountains and cookout. We love to go to the movies. I am a frequent flyer at the local libraries. I'm looking forward to catching a local play. Norcross has really changed since I was a kid living here. I am proud to be able show my city off to friends who come to town and know that I am an intricate part of the rich history of Norcross!



*Gwinnett Sports Hall of Fame inductee Joyce Pierce and Mayor Craig Newton*

## MITCHELL ROAD MOSAIC WALL

The City of Norcross is excited to announce the completion of the Mitchell Road Mosaic Mural! First presented to Norcross City Council in February of 2014, this project is the first of its kind in Gwinnett and set out to cultivate community awareness and strengthen relationships while developing civic pride and beautifying an otherwise bland, unremarkable wall.

In what began as a spark of creativity for local artist and Norcross Elementary teacher Bobbie Adamczyk, the Mitchell Mosaic quickly became a movement that goes far beyond art and cultural awareness, embracing ideas of community and togetherness.

“Although the lessons in art are important, the mural represents a great deal more for the Norcross community,” commented Adamczyk. “This project has enabled a segment of the community to feel grounded, brought parents into the classroom and provided a connection point for students and the community.” Over 125 mosaic disks are now installed on 5 panels stretching 130 feet long, thanks to the contribution of over 1000 Norcross area students, art educators, teachers, parents and grandparents as well as volunteers from both Discovery Garden Park and the Norcross Garden Club. Workshops were held at the Greene Family Center, Norcross Community Center, and even the High Museum of Art. Each piece is a celebration of nature, with depictions of seasonal colors, wildlife and plants.

At the May 7<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, Mayor Newton and the rest of the City Council recognized all of those who have contributed countless hours and support into bringing the Mitchell Road Mosaic Wall to life!



Pictured left to right: Dan Watch, Norcross City Council; Josh Bare, Norcross City Council; Craig Newton, Norcross Mayor; Lynette Howard, Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners; Andrew Hixson, Norcross City Council



## EXPLORE BOOK MOBILE

The Gwinnett County Public Schools' Explore Book Mobile has come to Norcross! This is the second 'book mobile' that GCPS has established, and we are so excited to have it serve our community this summer!!!

About the Explore Book Mobile:

- The GCPS Book Mobile promotes literacy at schools and in our community as a mobile library bringing books to children in Norcross.
- This summer, the new Explore Book Mobile will travel a 35-stop route in the Norcross Cluster each week, checking out school library books to students who may not have easy access to the public library.
- During the school year, the Book Mobile visits schools across Gwinnett County giving free books to students helping them to build their own personal libraries. It will be stocked with new books purchased with donations or provided by sponsors.

The goal of the GCPS Book Mobile is to promote the love of reading for all!



# NORCROSS SPOTLIGHT

## CODE ENFORCEMENT: A DIVISION OF THE NORCROSS POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Committed to the Health, Safety and Welfare of All*

It takes a village and everyone working together to keep Norcross 'a place to imagine.' Part of that village is the Code Enforcement Division of the Norcross Police Department. The mission of the Code Enforcement Division is to enforce the codes of the city in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community and, where violations occur, to work with the citizens of Norcross to achieve compliance through an efficient and fair process.

*The goals of the Code Enforcement Division are to:*

- Maintain an attractive, safe and healthy environment in order to provide a high quality of life for our residents and visitors
- Improve both the appearance and value of residential and business property
- Provide prompt, courteous and professional service to the citizens of the City of Norcross
- Encourage responsible property maintenance
- Seek voluntary compliance with the provisions of the City Code
- Maintain open communications and continuing education with the community

While these goals may sound simple, cooperation and support from businesses, property owners and residents are necessary to make them attainable.

Here are a few simple reminders and helpful tips from the Code Enforcement Division:

**TRASH CAN STORAGE:** Refuse bins and carts must be stored or placed only in the rear yard or inside enclosed structures where they are not visible from the street, with the exception of the regularly scheduled pick-up day hours permitted.

**HOME MAINTENANCE:** Homeowners are responsible for providing regular maintenance of home's exterior and landscaping. Front and back yards should be well maintained, mowed regularly and free from trash, weeds and overgrown vegetation.

**ANIMAL SAFETY:** When in public, dogs must be on a leash. Animal waste must be picked up and disposed of properly.



**LEAF BAGGING:** Starts February 1 - October 31. From November 1 - January 31, leaves can be left at end of each property in bundles.

**RESIDENTIAL PARKING MANAGEMENT:** No more than four vehicles (including trailers) per home shall be parked, stopped, standing or stored. Parking of any vehicle on grass or dirt is prohibited.

**KEEP VEHICLES CURRENT AND OPERATING:** All vehicles MUST have a current valid license plate and decal properly attached to the vehicle.

**TREE CUTTING:** If you are planning to cut a tree six inches or larger in diameter within the City of Norcross, you must first obtain a tree permit from the Community Development Department at City Hall.

**BUILDING PERMITS:** Most repair or renovation on buildings and houses in the city require a permit. If you plan to enlarge, alter, repair, demolish or change a building or house, contact Community Development at 678-421-2027 before you start the job. This includes roof repairs.

**YARDS:** Front and back yards should be well maintained, mowed regularly and free from trash, weeds and overgrown vegetation.

For more information on code violations, visit [municode.com](http://municode.com).

# NORCROSS IN THE KNOW



## HIGH ON WALKING AND RIDING?

Sustainable Norcross Bike/Ped committee will, once again, provide high top tables on Jones Street during Jazz in the Alley and Bluesberry Festival. We can't wait to see you there!

## JUNE MOVIE MONDAYS

**JUNE 11**

Movie Monday: *All the Money in the World*

**JUNE 25**

Movie Monday: *Coco*

Free movie showing at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Norcross Community Center.

Free popcorn and drinks.



## WEEKLY WALKING GROUP

Weekend walking group meets at Thrasher Park Pavilion for an hour long walk around historic Norcross on Saturdays and Sundays. Starts promptly at 8 a.m.

## NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK



Norcross Garden Club celebrates National Garden Week on June 4th at City Hall by creating an on-the-spot floral arrangement.

Come join us at 10:30 a.m. at the City Hall atrium.



NORCROSS  
DISCOVERY GARDEN  
PARK

## Neighbors' NIGHT OUT

HAPPY HOUR IN THE GARDEN  
THURSDAY, JUNE 21 AT 6:30 P.M.

Grab your partners and friends and head to the Discovery Garden to tour the garden and mingle with friends old & new. Please bring an adult beverage or an appetizer to share. Free community fun!

Discovery Garden Park, 189 Lawrenceville St.  
Free - RSVP to Deb at deb.ndgp@gmail.com.

## NORCROSS COMMUNITY MARKET

is an open air, producer-only farmers' market held every summer Saturday at Lillian Webb Park, 5 College St. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The 2018 season is June 2 through August 25. City of Norcross, non-profit Sustainable Norcross Inc. and other sponsors and volunteers make this amenity possible as part of the City's Green Communities and Sustainability Plan initiatives.

**SATURDAY JUNE 2** – Ring in Season Three – Norcross Community Market returns at 9 a.m. with over 20 vendors and several community organizations. Codey Bearden brings the tunes, Kaiser Permanente and Lionheart Theater provide complimentary activities for the kiddos. Sustainable Norcross will accept worn out flags for recycling/respectful retirement. SNAP accepted and doubled.

**SATURDAY JUNE 9** – Farm fresh food is front and center. Shop to the music of Will Jackson. Gwinnett Recycles and Gwinnett Transit will be on hand. Drop off clean fabric scraps, sewing notions, yarn and old blue jeans for future upcycling. Use your EBT for half price purchases on qualifying items.

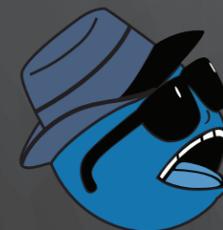
**SATURDAY JUNE 16** – Buy local food while Charles Absher makes music. Treat Dad to the Bat Education, Conservation and Mosquito Control workshop offered 10 a.m. – noon by Norcross Garden Club. Reserve a bat house kit now for only \$60, presentation is free. Sizzling Peach offers a Chef Demo and complimentary samples. SNAP buys \$2 of qualifying food for every \$1 swiped. Used eyeglasses and hearing aids accepted.

**SATURDAY JUNE 23** – Join our first Juneteenth Celebration. Lots of surprises. Locally and sustainably grown food for purchase. EBT welcomed at our market. Drop off books in good condition for distribution by Sustainable Norcross.

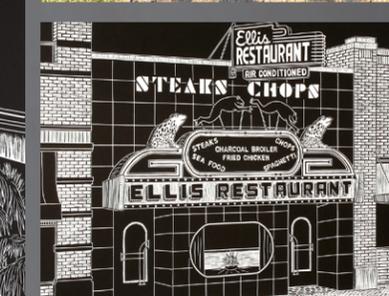
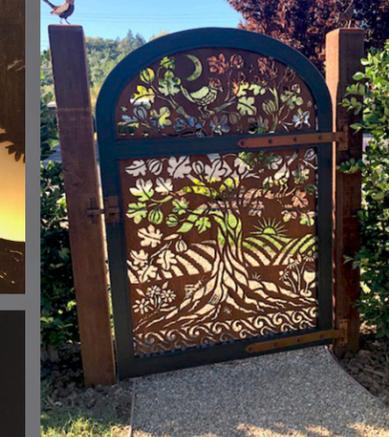
**SATURDAY JUNE 30** – Join this lead-in to Independence Day with our 'Many Cultures, One Community' focus. Local blogger Mrs. Island Breeze aka Leanna Jordan Pierre, is in Cook's Corner and she will offer free samples. Use your SNAP benefits for healthy food buys. Drop off these items for recycling: flags, clean fabric scraps, sewing notions, yarn, old blue jeans, used eyeglasses, hearing aids and books.

Register to volunteer at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f44a9aa22a3fb6-dayoffarmers>  
Follow Norcross Community Market on Facebook for updates.

## Bluesberry & Beer FESTIVAL



**SATURDAY, JUNE 16**  
Betty Mauldin Park  
3-10 p.m.



## INK, PAINT AND STEEL ART EXHIBIT

ART EXHIBIT OPENING ON  
JUNE 8 FROM 6 - 8 P.M.  
AT THE RECTORY.

The exhibit is open until July 13. Please call 678.421.2049 or 404.862.7223 to schedule an appointment.

## DON'T MISS THE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES AND JAZZ IN THE ALLEY!

**JUNE 8**  
Summer Concert Series: **Voltage Brothers**

**JUNE 22**  
Summer Concert Series: **Mike Veal Band**

**THRASHER PARK • 7:30-9:30 P.M.**

Jazz in the Alley: **Jae Franklin & Shameia Crawford**

**BETTY MAULDIN PARKING LOT**  
7:30-9:30 P.M.

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIP

For this month's Emergency Tip, the focus is on thunderstorms. Thunderstorms? But they happen all the time! True, which is why Georgians (and Metro-Atlantians in particular) should pay attention to warnings about flash floods and strong winds.

It only takes a foot of water to carry a car away and just 6 inches of swirling currents to knock you off your feet. Flash floods occur quickly and seemingly unexpectedly, so just because a prediction may not have resulted in an emergency in the past doesn't mean it won't today. Stick to high ground and stay off the roads if at all possible. If you MUST venture out, drive slowly with a firm grip on the wheel, anticipating gusts and detouring around flood zones.

Source: [ready.gov](http://ready.gov)

## WATCH VS WARNING

*A watch means there is potential to exist, while a warning requires immediate action.*

## THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR HELPING US CELEBRATE NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK!

The week of May 20-26, Public Works departments nationwide were honored for their essential service to their communities. Public Works is very important to our daily lives—they plan, build, manage and operate at the heart of our community to improve the everyday quality of life for each and every citizen. Thank you, Public Works!



## NEW HANDS-FREE GEORGIA LAW

The new hands-free law will go in effect on July 1 that prohibits the use of mobile devices while "operating" your motor vehicle.

# 2018 EVENT CALENDAR

## JUNE

**6/2** Norcross Community Market, Lillian Webb Park, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**6/8** Summer Concert Series- **Voltage Brothers**  
Thrasher Park, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

**6/8** Art Exhibit Opening - Ink, Paint and Steel Art Exhibit, The Rectory, 6 - 8 p.m.

**6/9** Norcross Community Market, Lillian Webb Park, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**6/14** Discovery Garden Chef Series,  
Discovery Garden Park, 6:30 p.m.

**6/16** Norcross Community Market, Lillian Webb Park, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**6/16** BluesBerry Beer and Music Festival  
Betty Mauldin Park, 3 - 10 p.m.

**6/16** Bat Education Workshop, Norcross Community Market, To register for the bat workshop go to [www.norcrossgardenclub.org/events/](http://www.norcrossgardenclub.org/events/)

**6/21** Neighbors Night Out, Discovery Garden, 6:30 p.m.

**6/22** Summer Concert Series- **Mike Veal Band**, Thrasher Park, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

**6/23** Norcross Community Market, Lillian Webb Park, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**6/30** Norcross Community Market, Lillian Webb Park, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**6/30** Jazz in the Alley, Jae Franklin & Shameia Crawford, Betty Mauldin Parking Lot, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

For more event information: [www.aplacetoimagine.com](http://www.aplacetoimagine.com)