



A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NOVEMBER 2018

Merchant Open House

**Check Everyone Off Your Gift List
at the Norcross Merchant Open
House on November 17**

'Tis the season for shopping and the City of Norcross is ready to help you check everyone off your gift list with the annual Norcross Merchant Open House on Saturday, November 17. At this special one-day event, the downtown shops of Norcross will be decked and ready with door prizes, special surprises, sales, new merchandise and refreshments. Santa, elves, the Grinch and holiday music by Justin Monday will also be joining the party!

And after all that shopping, you will surely have worked up an appetite for a bite to eat and something to quench your thirst. Luckily, downtown Norcross is home to an array of delectable dining options that are as diverse and distinctive as the people who make up this imaginative place. From authentic Cuban, zesty Italian, and classic Americana to street style Mexican dishes and traditional English pub fare, Norcross has it all. So, dig in and enjoy every last bite! While you are out shopping 'til you drop, help us to further support our merchants by taking a 'selfie' and posting a message to social media outlets that you #ShopNorcross. Be sure to tag the merchant and @CityofNorcross. Happy shopping!

Merchant Specials

Chase's Grille and Wingery

\$5.00 Margaritas, \$5.00 Chase's
Ice Cream Sandwiches
\$5.00 Two Sliders
Free: PBR's
Free: Lemonade

Glitter G

2 for 20 mix and match
20% off entire store
Jewelry buy two get one free

*** NEW BUSINESS***

Rusty Salvage

10% off total purchase
on event day

Taste of Britain

Offering samples of hot British
meat pies, hot tea and wassail.
Door Prizes and chances to win
a raffle.

Gingham and Eyelet

Card for 10% off future classes

Farmhouse 17

15% off all bottles of wine
\$5 cocktails and house wine
by the glass

Antique Traditions

Holiday Sip and Shop, serving
free Cranberry Mimosas from 10
a.m. - 2 p.m. and warm Mulled
Wine from 2 p.m. - 8 p.m., apple
cider will also be served, along
with delicious holiday bites!
Receive \$10 off your purchase of
\$50 dollars or more and shoppers
who spend \$75 or more can
choose a FREE ornament from
our Christmas Gift Tree!

Carolee's

20% off a purchase of \$100 or more

45 South Cafe

Mimosa's and House Wine \$5/glass
10% off all bottles of wine
10% off Desserts
10% off Breakfast or Lunch entrées

VSOP Taproom

\$5.00 Mimosas
\$5.00 Wine by the glass
15% OFF purchase of \$50.00 or more
in-store tasting of cheese spreads,
olive tapenades and other gourmet
food items

Studio 87 Yoga

Unlimited Classes includes Yoga,
Functional Core and Body Rolling
and Meditation, \$99 for 6 weeks.
Expires 6 weeks from date of purchase
(new students only)



Mayor: Craig Newton • **Mayor Pro Tem:** Andrew Hixson

City Council: Josh Bare, David McLeroy, Dan Watch, Chuck Paul

City Manager: Rudolph Smith • **Assistant City Manager/Director of Public**

Works, Utilities & Parks: Mary Beth Bender • **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: 770.242.082

www.norcrossga.net

SPARKLE!

CELEBRATION

City of Norcross to Make Downtown 'Sparkle' For Holiday Season

The City of Norcross will host its annual holiday celebration, 'Sparkle! A Celebration of Kids, Creativity and Magic', which includes carriage rides, photos with Santa, a Christmas tree lighting in the park, holiday entertainment and more starting on December 4.

"We invite all of our citizens and visitors to share in the spirit of the season through our holiday celebration," said City of Norcross Mayor Craig Newton. "We guarantee you'll experience all the wonder and delight of your every imagination here in Norcross."

The City of Norcross is pleased to present the following events to celebrate the holiday season:

Christmas Tree Lighting: Join us for the traditional lighting of the Christmas tree in Thrasher Park and enjoy music from Norcross United Methodist Church. The City of Norcross will once again be honored to have Norcross



resident Steven Howington officially light the Christmas tree. For over 30 years, Howington, who has Down Syndrome, has lit the City of Norcross' Christmas tree. Santa will be busy checking his list in his workshop in the park and will be available for photos with all the good little boys and girls. Enjoy free hot cocoa and cookies (while supplies last) courtesy of the Norcross Masonic Lodge and the Norcross Lions Club, and s'mores courtesy of the City of Norcross. "Polar Express" will be playing on the big screen while you wait in line to meet Santa. A local group of Disney princess performers as well as the one, the only, The Grinch will also be on hand to add to the Christmas magic. They will be available for photos and to visit with families during the event. Join in on the awe and excitement on December 7 at 5:30 p.m. in Thrasher Park.

Holiday First Friday Concert with Joe Gransden: Friday Concert Series brings you a special holiday performance by Joe Gransden on December 7. The concert is in the Ballroom of the Norcross Cultural Arts Center from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. The performance is free, but seating is limited. Make your reservation by calling 678-421-2048. Stop by one of the downtown restaurants and bring your own food and drinks to the show.

Photos with Santa and Carriage Rides: We hope you have been nice this year because Santa himself will be visiting downtown Norcross! Carriage rides will be dashing through Norcross December 4 through December 21 every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in front of Taste of Britain. You can catch Santa at 45 South Cafe on South Peachtree Street (downtown Norcross) starting on December 4.

Marshmallow Roasting, Cocoa and Santa at Discovery Garden: Join Santa in the Garden for marshmallow roasting and hot cocoa around the fire pit on December 16 from 12 – 2 p.m. In the spirit of giving, we will adorn a Wildlife Tree with raisin icicles and birdseed ornaments for our furry friends. Free family fun.



Mayors' Motorcade

The City of Norcross will be holding its annual giving campaign with the Mayors' Motorcade and is asking for your help to make the holiday season special for residents of the state's mental health hospitals. For 59 years, cities across Georgia have brought the joy of the holiday season to patients, many of whom have lived in these hospitals for most of their lives and have little, if any, contact with friends or family. In 1958, the Georgia Municipal Association and Governor Ernest Vandiver created the Mayors' Christmas Motorcade to help these hospital patients celebrate Christmas by providing each with a gift. Without the Mayor's Christmas Motorcade, many patients would go without any type of gift or recognition during the holidays.

The City of Norcross has started its gift collection campaign and we are asking for your help. During this holiday season, please consider providing the gift of sharing and caring. Your donation will make holiday dreams come true! Join the giving campaign by asking your family, friends and co-workers to join us as well. Donations may be delivered to Norcross City Hall at 65 Lawrenceville Street, Downstairs Rotunda. Norcross residents or business owners may call for pick-up of donations no later than December 3rd (gifts will be delivered December 5th). For pick-up of your donation, please contact: Melissa Zeigler at melissa.zeigler@norcrossga.net or Carlton Jeter at Carlton.Jeter@norcrossga.net. You may also call 678.421.2069.

Georgia Regional Hospital: Atlanta (GRHA) is a publicly owned facility of the State of Georgia and operated by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). GRHA is located on 174 acres in DeKalb County. GRHA operates 306 licensed, accredited inpatient beds for three major program areas: 1) Adult Mental Health, 2) Adult Forensic Services, and 3) Developmental Disabilities/Skilled Nursing. GRHA serves a large number of indigent and homeless consumers. No one is refused admission to the hospital because of inability to pay for services.

Gift List Examples (Please remember most patients are adults)

Clothing: (Med-4XL Women; Med – 3XL Men) Jeans/Pants, T-shirts, Sweaters, Shorts, Long sleeve Polo shirts, Gloves, Winter Hats, Baseball Caps (No Metal), Socks/Underwear/Bras (No Underwire) Sport Bras, Pajamas (men & women), Slippers / Shower Shoes

Please note: We are in particular need of men's pants, any size

Personal Care Items: Shampoo/Conditioner, Body Wash, Deodorant (No Aerosol or Spray Cans) Toothpaste, Body Lotion, Shaving Cream, Elastic Hairbands (No Metal Pieces)

Miscellaneous Gifts: Drawing pads/Composition Books (No Wire Bound), Stationary, Radios (No antennas, no hanging straps) Playing Cards, Calling Cards, Puzzles, Word Search/Crossword books, Watches (No Metal) Wallets (men & women – no metal zippers)

Unit/Programming Items: Movies (DVD; G, PG only), Compact Discs (No Parental Advisory) Paperback Books (No Romance Themes. Multicultural books welcome), Board games (No travel games, no games with dice) Crayons/Markers (Thick markers only, No colored pencils), Wii Games (No violence or Parental Advisory) Manicure items – nail polish, nail art pens, polish remover (No acetone)

Giftwrapping Items: Gift Bags, Gift tissue paper, Christmas Cards, Christmas Bows, Christmas Ribbon (No wrapping paper)



Holcomb Bridge Road Railroad Crossing Improvement Project

Important Information for Norcross Residents

With special consideration to busy retail seasons, the Holcomb Bridge Road Roadway Improvement Project is set to begin on February 18 with a projected end date of May 19. As a City of Norcross resident, we want to help you prepare as much as possible for the roadway improvement project.

This project will involve road improvements at the intersection of Holcomb Bridge and Thrasher St. in order to provide a safer vehicular crossing over the railroad tracks. Approximate construction limits will extend from 57 Holcomb Bridge Road to the railroad tracks, and from 71 Thrasher Street to 168 Thrasher Street. The Thrasher Street/Holcomb Bridge intersection will be raised about 5' to provide a more moderate grade transition over the railroad tracks while improving visibility for drivers. No work is proposed on the South Peachtree side of the tracks. This project is being led by Gwinnett County in coordination with the City.

Norcross residents and visitors may experience minor traffic inconveniences due to the construction and the subsequent detour. During the construction period, the intersection of Thrasher St. and Holcomb Bridge Road will be closed. After construction is completed, residents will benefit from improved vehicular travel over railroad tracks and improved driver sight at the intersection.

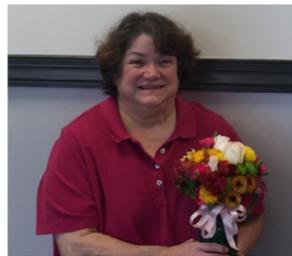
During the construction process, drivers are advised to be patient, cautious, informed and aware. All construction work and estimated timelines are weather permitting.

Picture Perfect Pocket Park

We now have the perfect selfie spot in Downtown Norcross! With the installation of "Greetings from Norcross", Mayor and Council have approved a "pop-up park" for Wingo Street. The temporary "parklet" consists of planters and seats (co-sponsored by Lowes) in one of the parallel spaces in front of the new mural, and will be up for a few months so you will have plenty of time to get your selfies' worth! Use the #nocrosspocketpark and post to the city's Facebook page!



Congratulations is in order...



Serving Norcross for 30 years

Happy 30th Anniversary to Terri Welch, Public Works, Utilities & Parks Receptionist! We appreciate your service to the City of Norcross!



Certified Local Government Finance Officer

Congratulations to City Projects Specialist Sonya Isaac for successfully completing her Level II financial management project and becoming a Certified Local Government Finance Officer!



ECG - Jeff Cook Safety Award

Norcross Power received the Electric Cities of Georgia Jeff Cook Safety Award, Platinum, for practicing outstanding safety measures. Thank you for keeping our community safe!

NORCROSS SPOTLIGHT



• **Future Development Map:** The Future Development Map will illustrate how the overall vision applies to each part of the city. The map will show the different character areas within Norcross and tie to narratives describing the desired land uses, design and initiatives for each one. This map helps making future rezoning decisions, allowing staff and officials to make sure requested rezonings fit with the community's stated desires for the development of the surrounding area.

• **Community Work Program:** Recommended projects to address the community's goals will be identified in the community work program. It will include relevant projects recommended by previous plans, as well as new ones added to fill in the gaps.

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

Our Comprehensive Plan paints a picture of what the community wants Norcross to evolve into over the next 20 years and outlines a strategy to get there. It serves as a policy guide for capital investment decisions, rezoning properties, and day-to-day decisions for city staff and elected officials, making sure the city is moving in a direction that fits with the community's vision.

Core Components

A comprehensive plan focuses on issues related to land use, transportation, housing, economic development and other quality of life issues. It has five core pieces designed to set the direction for the city:

• **Existing Conditions Report:** To make sure the new Comprehensive Plan addresses the community's true needs and context, we'll start out with an assessment of the current conditions and plans that are already in place.

• **Community Vision and Goals:** We'll set our sights to 2040 and imagine what we want Norcross to be known for. Then, considering our current needs and opportunities, we'll identify key goals we need to accomplish to get there. The goals from our current plan are:

1. Continue to define Norcross' sense of place.
2. Strengthen Norcross as a livable/safe environment.
3. Increase opportunity for travel via different modes.
4. Maintain a vibrant economy and facilitate job growth.
5. Further strong leadership and a high level of quality services.

• **Guiding Policies:** A set of policies related to each topic area will help city staff and elected officials make future decisions that align with the community's desires.

Building on Our Current Plans

We're thinking fresh, but we're not starting from scratch! The City already has a plan in place, last updated in 2014. We're updating it to reflect current desires and trends and to meet state requirements, which require us to have an updated version in place by February 2019 to maintain Qualified Local Government Status. Through the community engagement process, we'll be checking in to see if the current vision still fits, what may need to change, and what items should be prioritized for the new work program.

The Comprehensive Plan will also incorporate content from other topic area or location-specific plans drafted by the City, Gwinnett County, and other partners to show a holistic picture of what's happening in Norcross and identify gaps in planning that need to be addressed.

Related plans include:

- Norcross Sustainability Plan (2017)
- Beaver Run Greenway LCI Concept Plan (2017)
- Parks Master Plan (2011)
- Downtown Parking Study (2010)

Open House

Thursday, November 15th
6 - 8 p.m. Summerour Middle School
Cafeteria, 321 Price Pl NW, Norcross, GA 30071

Come share your thoughts on our future as we review draft material for the updated Comprehensive Plan, including the vision, big goals, guiding policies and key projects for the next five years.



NORCROSS IN THE KNOW



City of Norcross General Municipal Election November 6, 2018

A general municipal election will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2018, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. at Norcross City Hall, 65 Lawrenceville Street, 2nd Floor Community Room, Norcross, Georgia, to determine the expired terms of Councilmember, held by David McLeroy, Andrew Hixson, and Josh Bare.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2 - THE GRAINS OF SAND

Norcross Community Center • 7 - 9 p.m.

RSVP to reserve your seat! No Meet Up groups for this event.
Call 678.421.2048 or 678.421.2049
Table reservations will be held until 7:15 p.m.



The Gwinnett 200 Torch Run is Coming to Norcross!

November 15, 2018 • City Hall • 3 - 5 p.m.
Mayor Craig Newton will run the final leg of the race followed by a brief welcome at City Hall.

The Gwinnett County Bicentennial Torch Relay represents goodwill, the connection between communities and Gwinnett County's journey from 1818 to today, where it transformed from a largely agrarian community to one of the fastest growing, most diverse counties in the Southeast. Members from Gwinnett Public High School cross country and track teams will serve as torchbearers in this yearlong torch relay that will cover approximately 200 miles. Runners will carry the torch to historic sites, public facilities and cities in Gwinnett throughout 2018, the bicentennial celebration year.

Come out and show your city and county pride for this historic occasion!

Learn more about the county's bicentennial celebrations at gwinnett200.com



Lionheart Theatre rounds out its 2018 season with these wonderful events!

TONY N' TINA'S WEDDING: NOVEMBER 7-10, 2018

Created by Nancy Cassaro and Artificial Intelligence, Directed by Matt Easter

In this longest running Off Broadway hit, audience members are guests at an outrageous Italian-American wedding and reception, complete with an Italian buffet dinner (catered by Chef Nona of Sizzling Peach), wedding cake, champagne toasts, dancing, and more! Tickets are \$45 in advance for this Lionheart Theatre fundraising event.

Check-in at 6:15pm | Event starts at 7pm

AWKWARD SELFIES IMPROV COMEDY: NOVEMBER 17, 2018

Experience an interactive night of comedy based on YOUR audience suggestions.

Event starts at 7:30pm | Tickets \$10 each

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET: DECEMBER 6-16, 2018

Directed by Christine Trent

Adapted by Mountain Community Theater from the novel by Valentine Davies

Thursdays-Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. | Tickets \$15 adults and \$12 seniors/students/military ID

For tickets and information on these events and more, please visit www.lionhearttheatre.org.



NORCROSS DISCOVERY GARDEN PARK

Deck the Wreaths

December 2 • 5 - 6 p.m.
Norcross Community Center

Join us for a festive afternoon of wreath-making with your creative neighbors. Participants are invited to bring their own refreshments, including wine. You will be provided with Noble Fir wreaths, along with a variety of garden materials including holly berries, herbs, pine cones, magnolia pods, boxwood, other greens and bows. The class will be led by local Garden and Flower Designer, Mary Delia Poynter, owner of Container Gardening of Atlanta, LLC.

Fee: \$65 includes all materials
Location: Norcross Community Center
RSVP to Deb at deb.ndgp@gmail.com

Weekend Walking Group New Time

Weekend walking group will start at 9 a.m. in Thrasher Park every Saturday and Sunday!



Engaging Millennials

By Mayor Craig Newton

We hear the word “millennials” used a lot these days, so what does it mean? Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, provides the definition as: Millennials, also known as Generation Y or Gen Y. Though called by various descriptive names—“Generation Y, Echo Boomers, Generation Next,” and others—a poll revealed that most preferred to be called “Millennials.”

Theirs is the first generation to grow up surrounded by the modern, “instant gratification” technology of digital media. They have no memory of a world without cellphones, digital cameras, email, text-messaging, instant messaging, personal digital assistants, mp3 players, handheld video game devices, blogs, do-it-yourself Internet videos, online virtual worlds, web browsing—you name it. I’m reminded of this daily by my four millennials.

Millennials are sometimes referred to as “echo boomers” due to a major surge in birth rates in the 1980s and 1900s, and because millennials are often the children of baby boomers. Although millennial characteristics vary by region, depending on social and economic conditions, they are smart, resourceful, talented, highly educated, team-oriented and well-traveled. Millennials are experts at multitasking and possess an extraordinary degree of technical savvy in today’s fast-paced, gadget-filled society.

Millennials are expected to make up approximately half of the U.S. workforce by 2020 and are the most highly educated and culturally diverse group of all generations. This simple fact puts engaging millennials at the top of my list as the Mayor of Norcross. Millennials are “our” future and as a community, we need to strive to include them as much as possible in our visioning processes. As city leaders, we can engage millennials in municipal government through informing and including them in the vital role cities play in their everyday lives.

This generation’s enthusiasm and optimism will benefit Norcross today and into the future, as they become the municipal leaders of tomorrow.



2018 EVENT CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

11/2 First Friday Concert:
The Grains of Sand,
Norcross Community Center, 7 -9 p.m.

11/7 - 11/10 Lionheart’s Fundraiser,
Tony and Tina’s Wedding by Nancy Cassaro

11/12 Movie Monday: **Pacific Rim Uprising**
Norcross Community Center, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m.

11/17 Merchant Open House, Downtown
Norcross, All Day

11/26 Movie Monday: **Despicable Me 3**, Norcross Community Center,
1:30 & 6:30 p.m.

DECEMBER

12/2 Discovery Garden Park Deck the Wreaths,
Norcross Community Center, 5 - 6 p.m.

12/7 Sparkle! Christmas Tree Lighting, Thrasher Park,
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

12/7 First Friday Concert: Joe Gransden, Norcross
Community Center, 7 -9 p.m.



For more event information: www.aplacetoimagine.com