



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS!

NEWSLETTER JULY 2020

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR NEWTON: “WHAT’S GOING ON?”

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This year has so far played out one of the most challenging years that many of us have faced in a lifetime. In the coming year, the results we set in motion now will define the country for a generation. These are perilous times—and what is at stake is democracy. Civility. Truth.

Science and reason are in a battle with conjecture and instinct to determine public policy in this time of a pandemic. Partisanship and economic interests are playing their part, too. Meanwhile, misinformation and falsehoods are routine. At a time like this, our fight for data over dogma, and fact over fake, is not just optional, it is essential. But above all, what we need most in my opinion is the ability to listen without preconceived notions of right or wrong, good or bad and black or white. This takes courage. This takes strength. This takes compassion.

In 1971, soul singer Marvin Gaye wrote a song entitled, “What’s Going On?”, a song written in response to America in a state of turmoil as protests against the Vietnam War in addition to civil injustices resulted in widespread violence and police brutality. Almost 30 years later these two topics are again at the forefront of our news cycle, after our nation’s lens has focused on the senseless death of George Floyd and so many other people of color. While our police department and its management is exceptional and to be commended—we are fortunate to have them risking their lives for us daily—some see us as an exception.

I have and will always say that violence begets violence. I strongly condemn the rioting and the looting from protests that we have recently seen. These acts are socially destructive and self-defeating, and must be condemned by all. But at the same time, it is necessary to condemn the weapons of oppression, social injustice and inequality that has plagued our nation and has fueled protests in our great nation for years. Many believe that we can simply wish the problem away, but that has not and will not happen. Change is possible if we ensure quality education, jobs, and adequate access to healthcare along with equal treatment throughout all our judicial systems across this nation.

“A riot is the language of the unheard,” Martin Luther King Jr. said in a 1967 speech that is currently reverberating through social media for obvious reasons. “So what is it that we have failed to hear?”

We’ve failed to hear that the promises of “freedom and justice for all” have not been fully realized. We must find ways to bring us all to the table, air our differences and then find common ground in moving forward as a nation. The words originally written by Francis Bellamy along with President Eisenhower certainly give us a goal and objective to achieve. It serves as a promissory note in pledging our country to become “one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all.” It is my belief that our political, religious and community leaders can all agree that this “promissory note” is certainly past due. To conclude with words from Marvin Gaye’s “What Going On?”:

*We don’t need to escalate
You see, war is not the answer
For only love can conquer hate.*



STAY UP TO DATE!

Visit [NORCROSSGA.NET/COVID19](https://www.norcrossga.net/covid19)
for the latest resources,
information & to sign up for alerts!

Mayor: Craig Newton • **Mayor Pro Tem:** Josh Bare
City Council: Andrew Hixson, Elaine Puckett, Bruce Gaynor, Matt Myers
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
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WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS... OF LIP SYNC!!

Back in May, the City of Sugar Hill challenged our city to a little friendly competition in the world of lip sync. The final showdown occurred May 22nd, and the results were announced that following Friday—presenting yours truly as the reigning champ! Of course, it was all just in the name of smiles and good natured fun in this time of uncertainty, but there's something to be said about bragging rights... Watch the final video if you haven't already seen it now at facebook.com/cityofnorcrossga! (Tip: Head to the Video Library to avoid scrolling through recent posts.)

P.S. Thank you to all who participated! It was a true collaboration of residents, businesses, staff departments and city boards, and we appreciate all of your efforts to help our city shine!!

REMINDER

NEW RECYCLING CHARGE EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2020

On January 1, 2020, our solid waste provider began charging the City of Norcross a recycling fee for recycling services. This is due in part to multiple factors: 1) an increase in the processing charge for residential single-stream curbside recycling due to contamination, 2) recycling commodity markets are down on a global basis, and 3) China has a new policy in which they will no longer accept recyclables from the United States. Faced with this issue, a lot of municipalities have elected to eliminate a recycling service to their community all together. The City of Norcross, however, as a Platinum-rated Green Community, is invested in providing sustainable services to its residents. To help share the burden of this new expense, all residents will be charged \$0.72 per month for this service on the resident's tax bill, effective in September 2020.

SUSTAINABILITY TIP OF THE MONTH: STORMWATER DRAIN RUNOFF

Storm Drains (found on the street curbs) DO NOT go to wastewater treatment plants! Water that flows through the storm drains go directly into streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, bays and oceans. Since stormwater is not treated, it can carry numerous pollutants into our waterways. Sediment (disturbed soil) is the number one stormwater pollutant in the country. Other pollutants include fertilizers, antifreeze and oil from cars, pet waste and yard debris. Maintaining stream buffers is a great way to reduce water pollution by ensuring the foliage and habitat of the areas around our streams stay clean and safe. Please protect our waterways by not dumping into the storm drains!

DON'T FORGET!

YOU CAN ORDER ONLINE FROM THE NORCROSS COMMUNITY MARKET!

Each week this summer, you can place an order online at norcrosscommunitymarket.com between 9 a.m. Sunday and 5 p.m. Thursday. Those who have placed orders will then receive instructions on how to pick up their purchases via a socially distant drive-through at City Hall that Saturday! Payment is taken by credit card online, though NCM does also accept SNAP (and doubles buying power on qualified food purchases). SNAP shoppers must pay in person upon arrival for order pick-up according to USDA requirements. Contact manager@norcrosscommunitymarket.com or 404-229-7077 for more SNAP info.

When you are picking up your order, please stay in your vehicle and a market volunteer will bring your order to you. Please wear a mask if possible and observe safe distancing. NCM is following CDC guidelines to make your shopping experience as safe as possible.



2020 CENSUS: GET COUNTED!

Respond now to the 2020 Census online, by phone or by mail. Ten minutes will impact the next TEN years! The census is 100% safe—your data is protected and it's confidential. Federal law protects your responses, which cannot be shared with law enforcement, immigration agencies or housing authorities.

Getting an accurate count of Norcross' population and demographics is extremely important—each person who responds to the 2020 Census helps their community secure its fair share of over \$675 billion dollars in federal funding for roads, schools, healthcare services and more.

So please, help us help you! Respond now at my2020census.gov.



GRADUATION PARADE

Congratulations, Class of 2020! Thank you to all who participated in our Graduation Parade last month. A full album of photos is available on our Facebook page!



RETURN TO NORMAL OPERATIONS

Remember, even as businesses are returning to work and we are seeing more and more people out and about in the community, that this does not mean the pandemic is no longer a concern nor that you may relax your vigilance in wearing masks, washing your hands and practicing social distance. In point of fact, the Governor's State of Emergency has been extended through July 12th. We in turn have made updates to our "Return to Operations" plan, and will continue to evaluate conditions to see if further modifications and closure extensions need to be made. So as not to print dates which may no longer be accurate by the time you are reading this newsletter, please visit norcrossga.net/COVID19 and click on "News & Updates" to view the most recent document.



**WASH
HANDS**



**SOCIAL
DISTANCE**



**AVOID
TOUCHING FACE**



**COVER
COUGH/SNEEZE**

150th Anniversary MEMORABILIA ON SALE NOW!

New commemorative items are now available celebrating Norcross' 150th Anniversary! All items available for purchase in the Welcome Center. Totes, tea towels and license plates are also available at Carolees, Taste of Britain and Antique Traditions, while Anna Balkan carries the boat tote and Norcross Community Market has tea towels on offer in their online order/drive-through pick-up store. Limited quantities are available, so get yours today!

TOTE BAG
\$24.99

BOOK & DVD PACKAGE
\$30.00

HISTORIC BOOK
\$20.00

HISTORY DVD
\$20.00

KEY RING
\$10.00

TEA TOWELS
\$14.99

LICENSE PLATE
\$10.00