



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS!

NEWSLETTER • DECEMBER 2020




SPARKLE!
CELEBRATION

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

CARRIAGE RIDES

**December 1 - 23 on
Tuesdays/Wednesdays/Fridays •
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.**

Located on S. Peachtree St. Please wear a mask (required), and bring your own blanket (if desired).

VIRTUAL STORYTIME WITH SANTA

**December 1 - 22 on
Tuesdays/Wednesdays/Fridays • 7 P.M.**

Tune in on Facebook Live to see and hear Santa read bedtime stories!



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Mayor: Craig Newton • **Mayor Pro Tem:** Josh Bare
City Council: Andrew Hixson, Elaine Puckett, Bruce Gaynor, Matt Myers
City Manager: Eric Johnson • **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: 770.242.0824
www.norcrossga.net

VIRTUAL TREE LIGHTING

December 4 • 6:30 P.M.

Facebook Live

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE MARKET

December 4 • 5 - 8 P.M.

December 5 • 10 A.M. - 8 P.M.

December 6 • 10 A.M. - 6 P.M.

Head to South Peachtree Street for some holiday cheer! Our Heart of Norcross merchants will be pulling out all the stops for this festive weekend. The kids will love seeing and meeting Disney princesses and other favorite characters while mom and dad check off their shopping lists. Featuring merchant specials, street vendors, Dickensian characters and The Atlanta Concert Ringers Christmas Sextet from 3 - 5 p.m. on Saturday! Please wear a mask and remember to social distance.



JOE GRANDSEN HOLIDAY CONCERT

December 5 • 6 P.M.

The Crossing Parking Lot

This is a free, open, outdoor concert. Standing room only. Please wear a mask and social distance. Chairs and blankets will not be permitted. Call 678-421-2048 for more information.



Celebrate the spirit of giving this season with the Mayor's Angel Giving Tree! In the City Hall lobby, you will find a tree with gift tags hanging on it. Each gift tag contains three (3) gift suggestions for a boy or girl 12 years of age and under. By choosing a tag and purchasing a toy or toys, you are helping a local child whose parents are struggling to make ends meet—a child who might otherwise go without this Christmas.

Please bring your new, unwrapped gift back to City Hall on or before December 16. Gift tags should be taped to the gift. Gifts will be delivered to Norcross Sheltering Arms Daycare on Friday, December 18, 2020.

MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY



Missed the Mayor's Virtual Sesquicentennial State of the City? Don't worry! Watch it now at norcrossga.net/sesquicentennial. Mayor Newton will take you on a tour of the city, showcasing changes and accomplishments over the past 150 years, including updates on some highly anticipated developments for 2021.

SUSTAINABILITY



TIP OF THE MONTH

HOW YOU CAN HELP EDUCATE OTHERS?

Spreading awareness and educating others on how to live more sustainable lives is KEY to making lasting change for a better environment. Become nature warriors by following eco-friendly Facebook pages and sharing as much information as you can with your friends and family! Some of the best pages you can start following on Facebook today are Sustainable Norcross, Gwinnett Recycles, Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful, Green Matters, Inhabitat and Tree Hugger. After you start sharing knowledge, lead by example!

Use reusable water bottles and grocery bags, plant a pollinator garden, shop at your neighborhood Farmer's Market (#NorcrossCommunityMarket) and prevent less contamination when recycling!

NEW POLLINATOR GARDENS INSTALLED AT LOCAL SCHOOLS

There's a lot of buzz over at Norcross and Beaver Ridge Elementary, and Summerour Middle schools with their newly installed pollinator gardens! A pollinator garden is planted with specific nectar and pollen producing plants so that it attracts pollinators such as butterflies, moths, hummingbirds and bees, among others. With the gardens, children can see the interaction between animals and plants firsthand as they learn in their science classes. Norcross Elementary also has a new raised flower garden, and recently installed rain barrels to collect water for the gardens. These implementations are an effort to expand youth education on sustainability, raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, and create healthy habitats for pollinators in Norcross as a Bee City USA community.

Special thanks to Sustainable Norcross Commission (SNC), Jacquelyn Morgan (SNC), Glenn Morgan (Summerour Middle School), Lowe's, Pikes Nurseries, Home Depot, Tixie Fowler (Gardens for Growing Communities), Gwinnett County Water Resources, Louise Radloff (Gwinnett County School Board), GCPS Facilities and Operations Division and Mayor Craig Newton for making this mission possible and helping these schools "bee" sustainable.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

HOW TO PREVENT TREE DAMAGE FROM STORMS



Submitted by Charlotte Osborne, Tree Preservation Board Chair

Most of us have seen what kind of chaos can ensue from a powerful storm. Downed power lines, branches through windows, **uprooted trees** and worse. Strong winds are to blame for most of the damage, but rain can be an added stressor, causing **flooding** and **loosening the soil**, especially around tree roots.

The end result is **trees being toppled** by winds as the roots are pulled out of the ground.

This is even more applicable for recently planted trees that haven't yet developed a large root system to stabilize them during unpredictable wind gusts.

Storms also cause **broken branches** and even **snapped tree trunks**, making the trees dangerous to be around after the storm has passed.

Broken branches, in particular, can fall without warning, severely injuring a person or damaging a structure below.

And don't forget the damage done to nearby buildings, wires/cables and satellite dishes from branches that fly about.

You might be tempted to remove trees to minimize damage caused by high winds, rain, snow and ice. But, as various storms have hit, we've seen that **neighborhoods with the most tree cover actually have the least amount of damage and debris.**

The secret is to have healthy, deeply rooted, well-maintained trees.

The best way to minimize the risk of storm damage caused by trees, and protect yourself and your property, is to perform a regular tree inspection.

Take some time to examine your trees. See if you spot any of the following issues, all of which increase the risk of damage from storms.

POTENTIAL TREE DAMAGE RISK FACTORS

- **Dead or damaged branches and/or trees.** Look for deadwood, cracks or splits, hanging branches or any other sort of damage. These are more likely to snap when under pressure from high winds.
- **Diseased or decayed wood.** Trees and branches that aren't healthy are generally weaker and more vulnerable to breakage.
- **Structural problems.** While a tree care professional is best able to identify structural problems that compromise the stability of a tree, there are some things you can see yourself. Look for V-shaped crotches, crossing branches that are rubbing against each other, and top-heavy trees (where the canopy has been excessively "lifted" to provide more clearance underneath).
- **Severely leaning trees.** Just because a tree is leaning doesn't mean that it will fall over. But the more it leans, the greater the risk of failure, especially when rains have saturated the ground.
- **Poor root structure.** A tree that's not firmly anchored is more susceptible to failure during a storm. Things to look out for include girdling roots, cut or damaged roots (such as from nearby construction) and newly planted trees with little root growth.
- **Topped trees.** If a tree has previously been topped, it should be inspected for potential safety issues.
- **Lion-tailed trees.** During a storm, the heavy foliage growth at the end of long, bare branches gets whipped around, breaking the branches.
- **Overly dense canopy.** A tree with a thick canopy of leaves acts as a sail, rather than letting the wind pass through.
- **Improperly pruned trees.** Some trees are mistakenly "thinned" by removing a lot of branches from the interior of the tree, while leaving plenty of foliage around the outside. Unfortunately, this misguided technique makes storm damage more likely.

*Condensed from American Tree Climbers/Managing/Tree Risk & Damage April 21, 2020.
americantreeclimbers.com*



CITY OF NORCROSS

— ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Josh Bare, Arlene Beckles and Andrew Hixson! The certified results are as follows:

COUNCIL
(JOSH BARE'S SEAT)
Bare - 449
Lopez - 294

COUNCIL
(ELAINE PUCKETT'S SEAT)
Beckles - 313

COUNCIL
(ANDREW HIXSON'S SEAT)
Hixson - 325



JOIN OUR TEAM

Looking for a way to better impact your city? Come work for us! Keep an eye on our website for all job opportunities; we have many immediate positions available.

norcrossga.net/Jobs.aspx

THE CITY PROPERTY TAX & STORMWATER BILLS

The City Property Tax and Stormwater bills were mailed out October 27th and are due December 28th (postmark date does not apply - they must be received at City Hall by this date). If you don't receive a bill, you are still responsible for payment.

If you have any questions, please call the General Government Administration Office at 770.448.2122.



SACRED THREADS ART EXHIBIT

HERE THROUGH JANUARY 8 AT THE RECTORY

Themes of these artistic quilts provide thought-provoking insights, encouragement, inspiration and healing responses to grief and human hardships. This interactive quilt exhibit features recordings of the artists explaining their work. The Sacred Threads traveling exhibition has attracted a wide array of visitors across the nation and has proven appropriate for all ages. Following the opening reception, the exhibit will be available through January 8th by calling 678-421-2048 (or 2049/2025) for admittance. Social distancing is in place; masks are required.

Learn more at sacredthreadsquilts.com.



LIONHEART THEATRE PRESENTS

ORPHANS BY LYLE KESSLER
DIRECTED BY CHRISTINE TRENT

January 8 - 17
Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 P.M.
Sundays at 2 P.M.

In an old row house in North Philadelphia, two brothers, Phillip (sensitive, reclusive, never venturing out of his North Philly home) and Treat (a violent pickpocket and thief), kidnap a mysteriously wealthy businessman.

Tickets are on sale now at lionhearttheatre.org; all seats \$12. Reservations are required to allow for social distancing. Limited seating. Masks are required. For more information, call 770-885-0425.

NEED LAST-MINUTE GIFT IDEAS?

**MAKE IT SPECIAL WITH NORCROSS'
150TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORABILIA!**

Commemorative items are available for purchase in the Welcome Center and various downtown merchants celebrating Norcross' 150th Anniversary. Quantities are limited, so get yours today!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 1-23 (TUES/WED/FRI)

Carriage Rides, S. Peachtree St.
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 1-22 (TUES/WED/FRI)

Storytime with Santa, Facebook Live, 7 p.m.

DECEMBER 4

Tree Lighting, Facebook Live, 6:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 4

Heart of Norcross Christmas Village Market,
Downtown Norcross, 5 - 8 p.m.

DECEMBER 5

Heart of Norcross Christmas Village Market,
Downtown Norcross, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

DECEMBER 5

Joe Gransden Holiday Concert,
The Crossing Parking Lot, 6 p.m.
Call 678-421-2048 for more information.

DECEMBER 6

Heart of Norcross Christmas Village Market,
Downtown Norcross, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.



For more event information: aplacetoimagine.com