



A PLACE TO IMAGINE

NEWSLETTER • JUNE 2021



The City of Norcross is once again throwing a pre-Fourth of July block party and you're invited! Make your way to the heart of downtown historic Norcross on July 3rd for food, fun and fireworks during the 2021 edition of Red White and BOOM! The good times start at 5 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 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 (after sunset, 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!

THE SCOOP

Time: 5 - 10 p.m.
Fireworks around 9:40 p.m., a bit after sunset when it is dark
Downtown streets close at 3:00 p.m.
DJ performs from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

LOCATION

All of downtown Norcross. Kidzone will be in Thrasher Park; DJ will be on stage in Lillian Webb Park, which is also the best place to watch the fireworks; and vendors will be stationed throughout downtown (Jones, College, Skin Alley and S. Peachtree Streets).

PARKING

Parking will be available at two nearby designated churches (One Heart & Norcross First United Methodist) with a shuttle running continuously to dropoff points at Thrasher and Lillian Webb Parks. Parking costs \$5; the shuttle is free. ADA parking will be available at City Hall (65 Lawrenceville Street), and city staff will be available to transport seniors or anyone needing assistance that day via golf carts.

SAFETY MEASURES

The event will be following CDC guidelines. Most vendors will be offering touchless payment, order and pickup service. Vendors will be spaced more than 6' apart. Sanitation stations will be available throughout the event area.

MAKE NOTE

- 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.
- Remember, Norcross is an active railroad crossing location. Train tracks are NOT safe for firework viewing.
- If you choose to park on the other side of Buford Highway and walk across to the park, please make sure to only cross at the crosswalks at Mitchell and Holcomb Bridge for your safety and that of passing traffic.
- Open containers are allowed within barricaded areas only.
- Please, no glass.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

NEW FACES IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



LOUISA TOVAR

Senior Planner

As a senior planner, Louisa is responsible for providing support to the development community, ensuring compliance with the requirements specified in the Unified Development Code and Comprehensive Plan policies. She provides support to the Planning and Zoning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and the Architectural Review Board by processing rezoning and variance applications and submitting recommendations. Previously having worked as a city planner for the cities of Sandy Springs and Johns Creek, Louisa says she is “excited to be part of the implementation of the city’s vision for future development, to be part of the continued growth that the city has experienced in the past years, and to contribute to the Community Development Team!”



LILY DABBS

Planner

As a planner in Community Development, Lily’s role is to provide GIS support to the city and act as a partner to the Sustainable Norcross Commission and Historic Preservation Commission. Prior to this role, she was a GIS Technician for Southern Company Gas following her graduation from the University of Georgia in 2020. Lily has a bachelor’s degree in Geography with a certificate in Urban and Metropolitan Studies. When asked what she is most excited about her new position in Norcross, she replied, “I am most excited about jumping into the city’s current sustainability projects including our recertification as a Platinum level Green Community through the ARC. Additionally, I am excited to learn from our experienced commission members and city officials, as well as actively engage with our residents to weave sustainability into Norcross’ ever-growing community.”



RECYCLING GUIDANCE

COMING TO A CURB NEAR YOU

Ever been uncertain whether something you're ready to throw away is recyclable? Do you roll your recycling cart to the curb full of those question marks, hoping you're doing your part?

Recycling right can be confusing, but help is on the way!

The City of Norcross, in conjunction with the Sustainable Norcross Commission and Waste Management (formerly Advanced Disposal), is preparing to launch a project designed to help us all become the best recyclers we can be. Dubbed **"Feet on the Street,"** the project will involve a team hitting the pavement in the early morning before the recycling trucks run their routes. After checking your recycling bin or cart, we'll leave a tag indicating if there is anything that doesn't belong in the city's single-stream recycling program. The tag will specify exactly what those

items are and give you the chance to remove the items before the truck returns the following week to collect your recyclables.

The four-week project is made possible by a generous grant from The Recycling Partnership (TRP), a nonprofit dedicated to helping municipalities improve their recycling programs. When TRP worked with the City of Atlanta to do the same project, contamination dropped by 57%. This matters because trash in the recycling stream can be a safety hazard to workers, damage otherwise recyclable items and threaten the long-term viability of the recycling system.

Before our feet hit your street, we'll provide an info card and new sticker for your bin or cart detailing exactly what belongs. See you soon!



PAY UTILITY BILLS ONLINE

Don't forget, online bill pay is an easy way to pay utility bills and other fees without having to make a trip to City Hall! Simply head to www.norcrossga.net and click the blue "Online Payments" tile under the big header image. You also have the option to go paperless, which is a great way to help the environment!

LOCAL SCHOOL POLLINATOR GARDENS

Sustainable Norcross member Jacquelyn Morgan has been hard at work building and tending the Pollinator Gardens at Norcross Elementary School, Beaver Ridge Elementary School and Summerour Middle School. Driven by the noticed decline in pollinator-friendly gardens in her community, Ms. Morgan has partnered with Lowe's, Ferry Morris Seeds, UGA Extension, and Victory World Church Gardening Group to reverse the trend. Together with these partners, Ms. Morgan developed a sustainable garden program that seeks to mitigate habitat loss and other threats that endanger native pollinators. In addition to supporting our local ecosystem, the garden program offers invaluable opportunities for children to engage with their environment hands-on and observe the interactions between themselves and the world.

Building new beds, selecting plants that support native pollinators, and resourcing rain barrels from Gwinnett Water Resources are only part of the project. Ms. Morgan has coordinated with several seed manufacturers to provide seed donations for the students to start their own at-home gardens. This initiative extends the positive effects of the school garden program within the community by promoting healthier environments and creating more opportunities for education. These gardens are an encouraging example of how families and individuals can help restore our environment and become more involved in the growing sustainability movement in the Norcross community.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KNOW

Missed Sanitation Pickup: 678-495-0058

Back in September, Waste Management (the city's sanitation vendor, formerly Advanced Disposal), established a call center for common service requests. All requests for missed pickups or to schedule large bulk item pickups or cart replacements should be made directly to them at 678-495-0058. All requests for new businesses, to cancel a service, service increases or decreases, to start a new residential service, or to cancel a

residential service should still be made to the city via gga@norcrossga.net or norcrossga.net/requesttracker.aspx.

Power Outages: 678-421-2069

As of December, all calls for Norcross Power should be directed to our new 24-hour number, 678-421-2069. After 5:00 p.m., calls will automatically transfer to Interactive Utility Communications (IUC) who are equipped to manage these calls (outages, cut-offs, interruptions of service). At 8:00 a.m., the calls will transfer back to the Public Works, Utilities & Parks Department. For power outages or other issues, please do NOT call Norcross Police, as has been the custom in the past—instead, please call the 678-421-2069 number.



GATEWAY85 CID BENEFITS THE CITY OF NORCROSS

The City of Norcross benefits from our location within the boundaries of the Gateway85 Community Improvement District. Why? Read on!

What are Community Improvement Districts?

Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) are public-private partnerships funded by commercial property owners who advance needed infrastructure and transit projects as well as improve an area's appearance and safety to enhance property values and the community.

Gateway85 Community Improvement District (GW85 CID) represents more than 550 owners,

accounting for more than \$1 billion in commercial property value. Three thousand businesses employ more than 30,000 workers, making it and the City of Norcross one of metro Atlanta's most important employment centers.

Gateway85 CID is one of the largest CIDs in Georgia and the only CID in Gwinnett County with both Federal and State Opportunity Zones, providing massive tax benefits to property owners and businesses in the district.

"As a member of the Gateway85 CID board, I am honored to represent the interests of Norcross's business and property owners within the district. My goal is to ensure that the projects and studies undertaken by the CID will fully benefit my Norcross constituents and help to improve mobility and accessibility," said Andrew Hixson, Norcross City Councilmember and Gateway85 CID Treasurer. "In addition, the CID helps to fund added security throughout the district, with the goal of reducing crime. I couldn't ask for a better partner for the city," Hixson added.

"It's incredible to have Andrew on our board as he is so plugged into the needs and happenings in Norcross, which comprises the largest portion of our 14-square-mile district. I know our property owners feel well represented and I look forward to many more years of continuing the partnership between the CID and City of Norcross," added Emory Morsberger, Gateway85 CID Executive Director.

STATE OF GEORGIA RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The U.S. Treasury has given the State of Georgia half a billion dollars to distribute in the form of direct payments to landlords and utility providers on behalf of tenants who have fallen behind on payments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The

Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) will begin accepting applications for aid in March, and the program can provide between 12 and 15 months of unpaid utilities.

Renters and landlords will be able to utilize an online portal to provide documentation. However, the utility provider will need to email grafinanceservices@dca.ga.gov and provide a W-9 and the completed ACH form (<https://www.norcrossga.net/DocumentCenter/View/4528/ACH-Authorization-Form>)

Eligibility Requirements:

- Qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19
- Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability
- Has a household income at or below 80 percent of the area median income with priority given to households below 50 percent of the area median income

For more information, visit georgiarentalassistance.ga.gov, call 833-827-7368 or email grafinanceservices@dca.ga.gov.

NORCROSS COMMUNITY MARKET

It's time! Beginning in June, the Norcross Community Market will open IN PERSON!

Come out every week this summer to enjoy our Power of Produce Children's Activities, lots of local fruits and vegetables, live music and more.

In addition to the in-person market, NCM will continue to offer online ordering and drive-through pickup. You can shop the online store here: www.NCMonlinestore.com.

Whether online or in-person, SNAP/EBT is accepted (and doubled!) on qualifying purchases. Follow Norcross Community Market on Facebook for more details, including specific dates and location, as we get ready for our reopening!



SUSTAINABILITY



TIP OF THE MONTH

POLLINATOR WEEK IS JUNE 21-27!

When you're outside, you may not notice hummingbirds, bees, butterflies and flies carrying pollen from one plant to another as they collect nectar. But, these hard-working animals help pollinate more than 75% of the world's flowering plants, and nearly 75% of our crops.

Pollination results when the pollen from the stamen is moved to the stigma and fertilizes it, resulting in the production of fruits and seeds. Some flowers rely on the wind to move pollen, while others rely on animals to move pollen. Pollinators visit flowers in search of food and sometimes even mates, shelter and nest-building materials. Some animals, such as many bees, intentionally collect pollen, while others, such

as many butterflies and birds, move pollen incidentally because the pollen sticks on their body while they are collecting nectar from the flowers.

Pollinators play a crucial role in flowering plant reproduction and in the production of most fruits and vegetables. Examples of crops that are pollinated include apples, squash and almonds.

A recent study of the status of pollinators in North America found that populations of honey bees and some wild pollinators are declining. Declines in wild pollinators may be a result of habitat loss and degradation, while declines in managed bees is linked to disease (introduced parasites and pathogens).

Pollinators need your help! Download a variety of resources about pollinators, pollinator week, and what you can do to help pollinators at: www.pollinator.org. Pollinator Week will be celebrated in Norcross and around the U. S. June 21-27 this year.

Adapted from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service website on Pollinators



IN THE KNOW



SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Thrasher Park | 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

June 11
Creativity

June 25
Rupert's Orchestra

Don't Forget! Each event in the Summer Concert Series will serve as a collection site for the CAN Do food drive, a county-wide effort to fill the shelves of local food pantries. Donations of canned food and non-perishable items can be dropped off in bins during each concert.

LIONHEART THEATRE PRESENTS

Summer Drama Camps

Lionheart is offering summer drama camps for ages 5-12, from June 7-18, 2021. Camps include Shakespeare, stage combat, improv, performance and more. Visit lionhearttheatre.org for a full schedule and registration information.

"Once Upon a Time at Lionheart" Youth Festival

Lionheart's youth play festival features a collection of fun, fractured fairy tales that are acted, directed and produced by kids. Admission includes cookies and lemonade with the cast. All tickets \$12. For more information, visit lionhearttheatre.org.



JAZZ IN THE ALLEY

Betty Mauldin Park | 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 26

Nubia Soul Goddess & Groove Centric

COOKOUT WITH COUNCIL

Thrasher Park Pavilion | 3 P.M.

Saturday, June 5

Join Norcross Mayor & Council for a cookout at the Thrasher Park Pavilion! Contact ahixson@norcrossga.net with questions.



Every Saturday

Norcross Community Market
norcrosscommunitymarket.com

June 5

Cookout with Council, 3 p.m., Thrasher Park Pavilion

June 11

Summer Concert Series: Creativity, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Thrasher Park

June 25

Summer Concert Series: Rupert's Orchestra, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Thrasher Park

June 26

Jazz in the Alley: Nubia Soul Goddess & Groove Centric, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Betty Mauldin Park

July 3

Red, White & Boom!, 5 - 10 p.m., Lillian Webb Park/Downtown

July 9

Summer Concert Series: No Limits, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Thrasher Park

July 17

Jazz in the Alley: Canelita Sabrosa, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Betty Mauldin Park

July 23

Summer Concert Series: Electric Avenue, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Thrasher Park

August 6

Summer Concert Series: A1A, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Thrasher Park

August 14

Jazz in the Alley, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Betty Mauldin Park

August 20

Summer Concert Series: The Bee Gees Gold Tribute, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Thrasher Park

August 21

Indie Green Festival & Carry-Your-Own-Water Walk, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Thrasher Park

August 21

Bluesberry Beer & Music Festival, 3 - 10 p.m., Betty Mauldin Park

September 3

Summer Concert Series: The Downtown Band, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Thrasher Park

September 11

Atlanta British Car Fayre, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Downtown Norcross

September 25

Jazz in the Alley, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Betty Mauldin Park