

Mayor
Bucky Johnson

Mayor Pro Tem
Craig Newton

City Council
Andrew Hixson
Ross Kaul
David McLeroy
Charlie Riehm

City Manager
Rudolph Smith

City Clerk
Susan B. Wuerzner

Deputy City Clerk
Monique Lang

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First Floor City Hall
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Fax: 770-242-0824



SPECIAL ISSUE
July 2009
Volume 4, Issue 7
www.norcrossga.net



CITY OF NORCROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



July 3 celebration will be the first official event in the new Lillian Webb Park. Above: Mayor Bucky Johnson watches as water flows from the stairway fountain for the first time.

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New Park premieres July 3rd with a day of festivities and a fireworks show

The July 3 ribbon cutting for Lillian Webb Park marks the culmination of a construction project that broke ground a year ago. In addition to an expansive lawn, walking trails and decorative seating, the new park will have an "Interactive Water Fountain" in which people can walk and play among jets of water. Also on July 3, the park will welcome hundreds of citizens and visitors for the City's Independence Day celebration which begins at 2 pm. The day's events encompass all downtown streets and include street vendors selling food and crafts, rides and inflatable amusements for children, face painting, street entertainers and more. Popular regional band the *Skin Alley Kats* will provide musical entertainment. For information, please call Rip Robertson 678-421-2027.

Norcross awarded grant to study parking in the downtown area



The City of Norcross was recently awarded a \$35,000 grant from the Atlanta Regional Commission to study parking capacity in downtown. The study supplements an earlier study to address the growth that has been achieved during the last several years. Since 2001 the City has seen increased development and the amount of activities downtown. The average attendance at Norcross events has increased from 20,000 visitors to over 60,000 in the last few years. With the new facilities at Lillian Webb Park and the opening of the Community Center *Grant - Continued on back*

Happenings

Every Tuesday
4pm - 8pm
Farmer's Market
near Thrasher Park
website: thewhistlestopfarmersmarket.com

Concerts In the Park
July 3
SKIN ALLEY KATS
One of the local favorites

July 17
Elvis Tribute Show
Jeff Brewer tribute to the King

July 31
Jamie Pelfry Band
A rising country music star

July 5
Taste of Haiti
11am - 7pm
Best Friends Park
6224 Jimmy Carter Blvd
678-362-2807

July 16-19
Lionheart Theatre
Treasure Island
lionhearttheatre.org

July 11 - Aug 22
Latin American Association
Spanish Classes (ongoing)
404-248-2207
pchiodi@thelaa.org

See Meeting & Court
Calendar - Page 3

From the desk of
Mayor
Bucky Johnson



Community cooperation
pays off!

I was fortunate to participate in the reopening of Thrasher Park and look forward to the opening of Lillian Webb Community Park. It is remarkable what amazing things can happen when people work together. You, as citizens, approved another round of SPLOST Funding which allowed Norcross the financial ability to fund these two projects. In the case of Thrasher, the Parks and Greenspace Committee worked closely with citizens, the Mayor and Council, staff and Public Works and Utilities Director Craig Mims, Sean Murphy, with Southern Engineering and Astra Construction to produce a result that is amazing. Along with the park opening, there was an ice cream social sponsored by the Norcross Neighbors and the Whistle Stop Farmers Market, an event put together by over 30 volunteers headed up by Tixie Fowler.

We now prepare for the opening of Lillian Webb Community Park. This is another team effort by the Mayor and Council, Jeff Mueller the City Engineer, other City staff, and the Downtown Development Authority. Skip Nau played an important role as the Chair of the DDA when this project was conceived. There was a great deal of community input and discussion as this project developed.

Thanks to everyone for their input, support and participation in these two beautiful parks. Bravo!

Bucky Johnson, Mayor
bucky@norcrossga.net
cell: 678-361-7108

Thrasher reopens as cleaner, greener park

The City of Norcross and The Parks and Greenspace Commission, in conjunction with Southeast Engineering, Inc (SEI), took a "sustainable attitude" in planning the latest renovations for Thrasher Park. SEI's Landscape Architect, Sean Murphy notes, "We made a conscious decision to implement the latest green technologies." The renovations corrected erosion and storm water management, improved drainage, and included a device to remove pollutants before releasing water downstream. Recycled materials are used in the playground and in park furnishings, which were chosen for durability and low maintenance. Other measures include skylights in the new picnic pavilion, timed locks on the bathrooms to avoid wasted power, and special materials on floors, walls and plumbing to reduce vandalism, save on maintenance and conserve water. There are also motion-activated lights to save energy.

All the landscaping uses well water in lieu of treated City water. The Bermuda grass was replaced with Zeon Zoysia, which is known for excellent drought, shade and traffic tolerance, and is less aggressive so it will not require frequent edging. The turf areas were also adjusted to ensure they receive the requisite 6 hours of sun light with large beds of organic hardwood mulch substituted in shady areas. Plants and trees selected can endure drought conditions while still providing color and seasonal interest. Some trees were relocated so that in the future they will provide optimal shade on the playground and increase the life of the equipment. Finally, true to Norcross' Tree City USA designation and its "no net tree loss policy", more than fifty trees were planted. Often times, these kinds of measures go unnoticed, but these extra efforts will make Thrasher Park more environmentally healthy.
Submitted by Connie Weathers and Kathy Nau



Park renovation team: Public Works Director, Craig Mims (far right) and Project Manager Sean Murphy (2nd from left), with volunteers (from left) Meryl Wilkerson, Kathy Nau and Ken Hixson

City celebrates renovated park and new farmer's market

By [Tianna Faulkner](#) -- Mayor Bucky Johnson, members of City Council, and Norcross volunteers welcomed scores of people to the June grand opening of the newly-renovated Thrasher Park. "I am very proud to be here today for this special opening," said Mayor Johnson. "This is a park for everybody and a great way to preserve the earth." The evening kicked off with Mayor Johnson performing live jazz music along with several other exciting activities for citizens, their families and the larger community to enjoy. "This is a great way for us to generate traffic in the downtown area during the week to get people in downtown restaurants and to get people shopping in town to utilize the merchant stores, states Tixie Fowler, Norcross' Downtown Manager. The farmer's market, which features fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, crafts and more, takes place every Tuesday evening throughout the summer. "We are just excited about tonight's events," Fowler said. Mayor Johnson thanked the citizens for the SPLOST money used to pay for upgrades in the century-old park. The event kicked off with an old-fashioned ice cream social followed by a ribbon cutting in celebration of the unveiling of Thrasher Park. "This is a great day in Norcross," Mayor Johnson said.

(l-r) Ice Cream Social volunteers, Farmers Market, Downtown Manger, Tixie Fowler greets camp children.



Officials present Summerour with check from Corners 2 Crossing race

Mayor Bucky Johnson joined civic leader Pat Eidt to present Dorothy Parker-Jarrett, Principal of Summerour Middle School with a \$1300 donation. The money was from proceeds of the annual Corners to Crossing 10K Race. The school will use the funds for academic activities. Each year the race benefits various non-profits. Other 2009 recipients are Pinckneyville Middle School, the YMCA and Norcross Cooperative Ministries.



Pat Eidt, Dorothy Parker-Jarrett, Mayor Bucky Johnson

Senior Citizen Tax Abatement

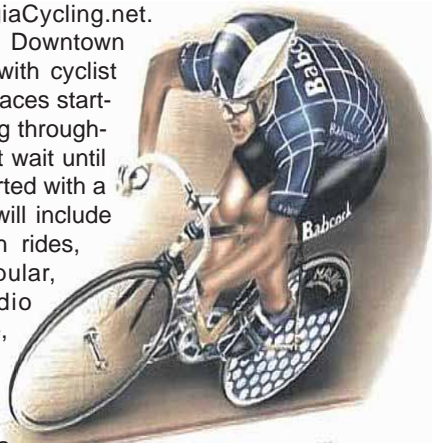
A tax abatement is available for Senior Citizens whose total gross income is less than 3.5 times the Federal Poverty Guideline established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (to see income limits, please refer to our April or May newsletter or call the number below). **The City recently changed qualifying rules, so if you were approved for an abatement in 2008, you do not have to reapply unless there has been a change in your property deed, income, or number of household residents.** Applicant must be Head of Household and 62 years of age or older and must be receiving homestead exemption on the property. Applicant must have been residing in the home for 18 months and own the property. New applicants must provide previous year's tax statements showing gross income. The City of Norcross protects the privacy of our customers. We keep all tax information secured in locked storage areas and limit access to employees who need to view or process that information in order to do their jobs. **For more information on the tax abatement please call City Hall at 770-448-2122. The deadline to apply for tax abatement has been extended to August 1, 2009.**

Gwinnett Bike Fest in downtown Norcross July 25

City event includes a parade, games, and giveaways

The Gwinnett Bike Fest is back, bigger, better and longer. From July 22nd through July 26th, cyclists will have the opportunity to compete in six races. From the world renowned race track, Road Atlanta, to historic downtown Norcross, the 2009 Gwinnett Bike Fest will be one of, if not the biggest race in the Southeast. Two charities will benefit from this year's Bike Fest event: the American Cancer Society and the Foster Children's Foundation. This year's Gwinnett Bike Fest is a part of the newly formed Georgia Cycling Gran Prix, Georgia's new cycling points series with 12 events over 25 weekends produced by four different promoters. For race listings and other information, please go to www.GeorgiaCycling.net.

On Saturday the 25th, Downtown Norcross will be packed with cyclist of all ages, with criterium races starting at 2:00 p.m. and lasting throughout the evening. But don't wait until 2:00 pm. The day gets started with a parade at 9:15 a.m. and will include a full day of family fun, with rides, including the always popular, Tiara's in Twilight, Radio Disney. Mickey will be here, along with a bike stunt show and all of your favorite government officials will be riding as well. For a complete schedule of events, call Rip Robertson at 678-421-2025.



Stormwater Utility bill coming this Fall

Norcross has an ongoing maintenance program to manage the stormwater that comes off house roofs, driveways, sidewalks and roads when it rains. This includes repairing ditches, replacing small pipes and culverts with larger ones, cleaning pipes and ditches, and adding pipes where needed. Last year the City established a stormwater user fee of \$2.17 per 100 square feet of impervious area. This year the City reduced the fee to \$1.25 per 100 square feet of impervious area. The stormwater fee, to be billed annually, will appear on a separate statement that you will receive about the same time as your City tax bill. Both statements will be mailed in September 2009. **For information please call the Department of Utilities and Public Works at 678-421-2069**

City meeting & court calendar

July 1
Arraignments 8:30 AM
Arraignments 4:30 PM
Arraignments 6:00 PM

July 15
Arraignments 8:30 AM
Arraignments 4:30 PM
Arraignments 6:00 PM

July 8
Arraignments 4:30 PM
Arraignments 6:00 PM

July 16
Bench Trials 4:30 PM
Bench Trials 6:00 PM

City Council meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall. Meetings are open to the public. See updated calendar on-line: <http://norcrossga.net/city-calendar.php>

School Update Norcross Elementary building new 3-story wing By Linda Schroeder

Norcross Elementary School is currently undergoing a major expansion to replace one of its single-story wings with a new three-story wing. "We are very excited about all of the upcoming renovations and think they are very timely because of the increasing population in the area which is bringing more enrollment to our school," said Dr. Dora Hill, Principal of Norcross Elementary. "By renovating, we will also have the opportunity to expand our programs." The renovations, slated to finish in the spring of 2011, are being done in phases. The project began with the evacuation of classrooms from the current building. Forty-two well-appointed trailers will house classes until renovation work is finished. The demolition of a current building will allow for the construction of a new three-story building in its place. Currently, retrofitting is taking place in an existing building to allow for updated computer technology and improved networking capabilities. Renovations in the gym will add space and enable partitioning so different activities can take place in the gym simultaneously. The cafeteria will be upgraded and hallways will get new flooring that will not require the heavy buffing process previously needed. Another benefit of the renovations is more parking.



Question of the Month

What changes do you imagine for Norcross in the next five years?



Elena Gonzales and children ▲ (Norcross visitors) **From what I'm seeing, I think it will continue to be a great place for families. That's why I bring my children here.**



▲ **Hannah Morgan** (Norcross visitor) **I think it will have a really strong sense of community. There is a close-knit community in the City that comes together for common causes.**



Reggie B. ► (Norcross resident) **I hope it will become a more culturally diverse place where you can see the influences of all the people that live here.**

Norcross Cooperative Ministries is gathering school supplies for kids

Norcross Cooperative Ministry (NCM) is helping children prepare for the school year by collecting supplies to fill 950 book bags by July 14. "Last year, generous donations filled 700 book bags, and generated an equal number of smiles, thanks to the generosity of our community" says Shirley Cabe, NCM Executive Director. "The ministry is serving more families this year than last and more book bags will be needed to meet the increased need."

Good Samaritan Health Center of Gwinnett will distribute the school supplies on July 29, August 5, August 6 during health screening events. Children will be given ear/eye exams and vaccinations. On August 8, NCM will host its own event, Book Bag Bonanza, to distribute book bags at the ministry, located at 2275 Mitchell Street. To see a list of needed supplies visit the website listed below or stop by our table in downtown Norcross during the July 3 Fireworks to donate \$1, and NCM will buy all the necessary supplies.

Norcross Cooperative Ministry meets the immediate needs of the local community by providing a food pantry, clothes closet, household items, as well as job search counseling, financial assistance, and more. Donations are greatly appreciated and volunteers are warmly welcomed! To learn more, please visit www.Norcrossco-op.org or call 770-263-0013.

Grant - Continued from front

in 2008 the number of visitors is expected to increase. Parking during these events is now limited. The new park sits only one block away from Buford Highway and the City seeks to spread the success of the Downtown to jumpstart redevelopment of this corridor. Since the first grant the City has added approximately 3,000 citizens and almost 400 new residences. The original 2001 study called for the creation of 2,400 parking spaces in the 5-year plan in order to meet the current and future requirements. "In order to follow through on the 2001 LCI and to take advantage of the money the City has put aside for the creation of parking, a plan is needed to encourage the proper redevelopment of the remaining land in the downtown and to meet future needs," said Steven Bush, Norcross' Economic Development Manager. He said the City's current actions can ensure that future growth is not restricted by the lack of parking in the downtown. This study will allow the City to move forward with its creation of a new urban environment that will create a lasting sustainable legacy. For more information call 678-421-2027

REMINDER: Please keep trash cans out of sight

We would like to remind everyone that the following code applies to your trash carts and recycle bins: "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. Do not place at the curb any earlier than 12 hours before the day of collection and leave them out no longer than 12 hours after the day of collection." Thanks for helping to keep our neighborhoods clean.



Philomena Robertson, Code Enforcement Supervisor, probertson@norcrossga.net

City Hall Contact Numbers

Business License	678-421-2061
Community Center	678-421-2025
Courts and Tickets	770-448-2173
Economic Development	678-421-2027
Leaves Pick-up	678-421-2057
Permits and Signs	770-449-4062
Police Non-Emergency	770-448-2111
Property Tax	678-421-2061
Street Lights	678-421-2000
Streets & Paving	678-421-2018
Trash Pick-up	770-448-3447
Utility Billing	770-448-3447
Utilities Customer Svc.	770-448-2122



Mayor Bucky Johnson visited Norcross Elementary to present an award to Ulysses Echevarria, the fourth grade student who submitted the winning drawing for Cities in Government Day. Students were asked to depict the theme "A Story to Tell – A Place to Imagine – How I See My City." The winning piece was a pencil sketch showing a future Norcross with new development.

City native debuts book on Norcross history

Longtime Norcross resident Sally Toole has published a book on the history of Norcross. Entitled, **Remembering Norcross: Nuggets of Nostalgia** the book explores the days when the railroad was first placed atop old Indian trails and Atlanta residents escaped by train to their favorite summer resort of Norcross. Ms. Toole is a free-lance writer for Georgia Backroads, Woman's World, Mature Living, Norcross Weekly and is on staff at Inside Gwinnett magazine. For information, visit: <http://www.sallytoole.com>

