



# City of Norcross

Monthly Newsletter

November 2010

## Gwinnett Public Schools Win Prestigious National Education Award

In an announcement that was televised live nationally from New York, Gwinnett County Public Schools were recently announced the winner of the country's largest education award, "The Broad Prize for Urban Education". Districts do not apply for this award, and according to information sent out by the Gwinnett County Public Schools' Superintendent's Office, to be considered "a district must demonstrate strong student academic performance and improvement, a reduction in income and ethnic achievement gaps, and systemic district policies and practices leading to gains".



The Broad Prize for Urban Education, awarded to Gwinnett County Schools on October 19, 2010

This is the second consecutive year that the Gwinnett system was placed as a finalist in the top five districts nationally; over 100 of the largest urban school districts nationwide are considered for the Broad Prize each year. As the recipient of the 2010 award, Gwinnett County Public Schools will receive \$1 million in college scholarships for high school seniors, funds that are sponsored by the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation.



In an article by the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* dated October 19<sup>th</sup>, Maureen Downey reported that Dr. Alvin Wilbanks, Gwinnett superintendent, gave the real credit for the award to the county's teachers and principals. He called them "heroes" and underlined the fact that it is their focus and their daily dedication to helping students set high standards and achieve them that has "caused a sea change in what we do."

Ms. Downey went on to quote Governor Perdue's reaction: "Gwinnett was the first Georgia system to sign an IE2 contract, and the system is one of 26 participating in the state's Race to the Top program. Gwinnett has consistently embraced innovative education policies, and today's announcement of the Broad Prize award is a direct result of all the hard work put in over the years to raise student performance."

In an October 23rd fundraising dinner hosted by the Norcross Cluster School Partnership (NCSP), District III Gwinnett County Board of Education Representative Dr. Mary Kay Murphy acknowledged the principals attending, also identifying them as the "real heroes" who make the difference in every school child's life. She went on to give the NCSP accolades for its goal of coalescing community families, businesses and schools, describing the NCSP as a "shining example" of how a local community can pull together to make a difference in public education. For more information about the NCSP, visit [www.norcrosscsp.org](http://www.norcrosscsp.org)



### Mayor

Bucky Johnson

### Mayor Pro Tem

Ross Kaul

### City Council

Andrew Hixson  
David McLeroy  
Charlie Riehm  
Craig Newton

### City Manager

Rudolph Smith

### City Clerk

Susan B. Wuerzner

### Deputy City Clerk

Monique Lang

### City Hall

65 Lawrenceville Street  
Norcross, GA 30071  
Mon.—Fri. 8a.m.—5p.m.

**TREES FOR THE CITY:** Norcross was recently awarded a \$6,000 grant for planting trees in the new parking area being created alongside City Hall. For details, go to [www.norcrossga.com](http://www.norcrossga.com)



## Golfing for a Worthy Cause

The Greater Norcross Golfer's Association is hosting their third annual Two-Person Team Scramble Golf Tournament on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Berkeley Hills Country Club. There are lots of really great prizes this year, plus a \$5,000 hole-in-one sponsored by the local Batteries Plus store. Any and all handicaps are welcome – the goal is to have fun and collect toys (bikes are a top-of-the-list gift!) for children who otherwise wouldn't enjoy a Christmas under the tree.

For information, to register, or to volunteer to help the day of the tournament, contact "Santa" Tom McDermott at [tmdermott@eglhholdings.com](mailto:tmdermott@eglhholdings.com) or 404.915.8142.



## City Recycling Just Got Even Easier



Lots of great, environment-friendly activities are going on all the time in Norcross, from curbside recycling to the highly focused efforts of many volunteer projects. According to Sustainable Norcross' energetic chairperson, Connie Weathers, "The city just had the most successful fall recycle event ever, plus we just finished the annual "Rivers Alive Stream Clean Up" with big results. And Recycling and waste reduction earned the city the most points towards our ARC Green Communities certification with 45 of the minimum 175 required for certification. We submitted 8 of 9 possible measures in that category, plus earned all possible innovation points for Events Recycling and the waste reduction by having City Council go paperless."

To make it even easier for residents to do their part in keeping Norcross "green", Advanced Disposal recently announced they are expanding the number of recyclable items. Pick-up is still once a week on regular trash pick-up day; however, now Norcross residents may recycle 33 categories of items, from newspapers and inserts, to glass, telephone books, old calendars and school papers. For a complete list, visit the city website or call Advanced Disposal at 770.887.6063

November 15<sup>th</sup> is "America Recycles Day", the only nationally recognized day dedicated to the promotion of recycling programs. To learn more about Advanced Disposal, additional recycling tips and fun recycling video games, visit [www.AdvancedDisposal.com/Garbage101](http://www.AdvancedDisposal.com/Garbage101).

## Happenings

### SPARKLE!

November 20—Dec 22  
Month long celebration of the holidays. Begins Nov 20 with a Merchant's Open House Downtown Historic Norcross

### MAYOR'S MOTORCADE

Thru November 29th  
Collection Box at City Hall

### PUBLIC MEETING

November 11, 7p.m.  
Update on the Parks Master Planning Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center (NCACC)

### TOYS FOR TOTS

Golf Tournament  
November 15th  
8a.m.  
Berkeley Hills Country Club  
Donations also accepted in City Hall

### LIONHEART THEATRE

November 5—21  
"Strange Snow"  
[www.lionhearttheatre.org](http://www.lionhearttheatre.org)

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

## RESULTS OF THE OCTOBER CITY RECYCLING DRIVE

Four events in one busy day...and how much "stuff" got collected and recycled?

- Shredded and recycled 8,860 pounds of paper. The amount of material shredded and recycled will result in 75 trees saved.
- Electronics items recycled total weight was 15,131 lbs. Among the many electronic recycled there were: PC's 118 / Monitors 86
- Twenty-three boxes of canned goods and non-perishables for the local food bank, Norcross Co-op Ministries.

Thanks to Norcross Code Enforcement Supervisor, Philomena Robertson, for organizing this great opportunity for the city to "go green"!

## Annual Mayor's Motorcade: Be A Santa in November

For 52 years, cities across Georgia have brought the joy of the holiday season to patients at Georgia's seven regional mental health and retardation hospitals through the Mayors' Motorcade. The program, begun by the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) in cooperation with Governor Ernest Vandiver, relies on citizen participation in each city. For many of these patients, the donation of gifts and goodies is often the only recognition of them during the holidays. According to hospital staff, many of the people at these hospitals have lived there most of their lives and have little, if any, support from friends and family.

The City of Norcross has started its 2010 gift collection campaign. We are asking you to join us in the holiday spirit by giving personal care items such as toothbrushes, combs and brushes, new clothing, PG or G-rated videos, board games, and other similar items. A full list of suggestions is available by going to the city website and looking under "Community Events". Your generous donation will make holiday dreams come true! Please give new and unwrapped gifts, and remember that most of these patients are adults. Donations of wrapping paper, ribbons and bows are also needed. All donations are greatly appreciated and should be delivered to the lobby in Norcross City Hall, 65 Lawrenceville Street **no later than November 29th**. (There will be a decorated labeled box for all donations.) If you live in Norcross, you can schedule a time for the city to come pick up your donation.

Donated items from the City of Norcross will be delivered to the Georgia Regional Hospital in Atlanta on December 1, 2010. Civic organizations, businesses, churches, schools, scout troops and individual citizens are encouraged to help with the collection of gifts for the Mayors' Christmas Motorcade. For more on how groups can participate, contact Philomena Robertson at 770-448-7327 or [probertson@norcrossga.net](mailto:probertson@norcrossga.net)



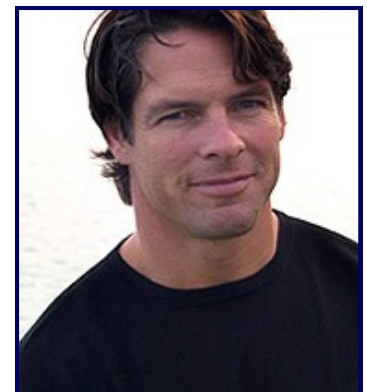
## Downtown Will SPARKLE! Thru the Holidays

"SPARKLE!", Norcross' annual celebration of kids, creativity and Christmas magic, begins on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> and kicks off a whole month of holiday festivities. The city has lots planned through December, from kids' crafts and caroling along the downtown sidewalks, to carriage rides, tree lightings, photo opportunities with Santa and more. And the child in every grown-up will love the shops filled with exciting discounts and great gift selections, and the restaurants'

delicious chef specials. Support your local merchants by shopping locally this holiday season, and book your private gatherings and office parties in our downtown restaurants. *Imagine a place* where you and your kids can *play together*, a place where the holidays simply "Sparkle!" For details, visit [www.a.placetoimagine.com](http://www.a.placetoimagine.com)

## SAVE THE DATE FOR TIM GREEN!

Former Falcons linebacker/defensive end, Tim Green, has another career now...writing best-selling books! On **December 3rd**, at 7p.m. at the Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center, Mr. Green will be signing his latest book, "False Convictions". His adult books are noted for being exciting mystery thrillers with a strong sports theme (is that a surprise?). What might come as a real surprise is that he also writes best-selling books for children, with stories set in a world of sports taken from his own experiences. In fact, Mr. Green has spoken to kids at hundreds of schools across the country advocating the benefits of going to school and reading. So bring the family to enjoy an opportunity provided by the Gwinnett Public Library to meet Tim Green!



Visiting author, Tim Green



### CITY NUMBERS

#### **Business License**

678.421.2061

#### **Community Center**

678.421.2025

#### **Courts & Tickets**

770.448.2173

#### **Economic Development**

678.421.2023

#### **Yard Debris Pick-up**

678.421.2057

#### **Permits & 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

#### **Utilities Service**

770.448.2122

#### **PR/Downtown Manager**

678.421.2033

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS



- Beginning January 1st, 2011, a \$5 credit card convenience fee will be added to your utility bill if you pay with a credit card. This is effective for both on-line payments and those made in person at City Hall.
- Notice: As of September 1, 2010 trash services went up by 2.2% from \$10.87 to \$11.11 for all residential (Commercial rates also went up by 2.2%)
- Water/Sewer Rates went up in accordance with what Gwinnett County charges the city for the water that's purchased from the county. The amount equates to \$0.02 per 1,000 gallons.
- Reminder: Storm water bills and property taxes are due November 16th.
- For a competitive rate on your gas utility, remember you can sign up and save with an account through Gas South. The City of Norcross and Gas South have teamed together to offer residents below-retail deals on gas prices. Gas South has been a proud sponsor of many Norcross events since this partnership began, including support of the Whistle Stop Farmer's Market, the Norcross Cluster Schools Partnership, and the Harvest Festival.



- Keep Norcross Clean.....please pick up after your pets! It's understandably tempting to ignore this unglamorous aspect of doggie-ownership, but think how you'd feel if you or your child stepped in the resi"do"als of someone else's pooch! Let's work together to keep our community sidewalks and parks clean for everyone to enjoy.

- The holidays are coming up....schedule the Norcross Police Dept for a **Vacation Security Watch** over your residence or business while you are out of town. This is a community service offered for your better peace of mind!

- Interested in participating in the next Norcross Police Department's "Citizen Academy"? Sign up today and as soon as there are enough students registered, the new Academy schedule will be confirmed. January might be the perfect time to enjoy this interesting and educational opportunity!



- Just a reminder that the City-contracted company, ImageScapes, will be picking up yard debris and tree limbs each Monday on a bi-weekly basis through December 20<sup>th</sup>. In November, the pick up dates will be November 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>. For details, visit the city website under "Public Works & Utilities".

- Construction along Cemetery Street has commenced as Norcross begins the beautification of this gateway entrance. New, wider sidewalks are being installed, along with islands of trees and lighting. The goal is to create a more inviting view from Buford Highway, to encourage visitors into town..

- City Hall will be closed on November 15th to observe Veterans' Day, and November 25th and 26th for Thanksgiving.