

# City of Norcross

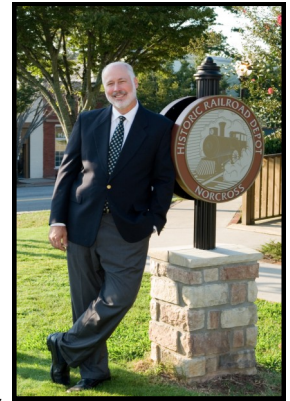
Monthly Newsletter

October 2010



## From the Mayor's Desk

As a community, we are lucky to have a growing number of great corporate neighbors, companies that not only strengthen our local economy, but also contribute to Norcross' quality of life. Rock-Tenn is one of these corporate neighbors. Their slogan, "Delivering Value Every Day", was recently driven home for me when I was honored to participate in the ribbon cutting for the new teen center at the A. Worley Brown Boys & Girls Club. The facility is home to the local chapter of the Boys & Girls Club of Metro Atlanta, and was named after Mr. A. Worley Brown, a former executive at Rock-Tenn Company. Back in 2001, his generous contributions made construction of the facility possible, and with ongoing support by Rock-Tenn, the teen center was recently



*A. Worley Brown Boys & Girls Club at  
5360 Old Norcross Road*

completed, allowing the club to accommodate 300 more students. This club offers after-school tutoring and homework help, as well as programs like soccer, track and field, and martial arts. The goal is to support and empower boys and girls, and the work they do has a strong positive impact on these kids.

Thanks to Rock-Tenn's president, Jim Rubright, the company was also one of the corporate sponsors of our second annual Norcross Police Appreciation Event, which took place in September. The event honored the work of our police with a breakfast and recognition dinner, attended by over 100 police officers and community leaders. In addition, Rock-Tenn employees are working with the Norcross Downtown Manager to organize a 5K race in conjunction with next spring's "Strawberry Stroll", with proceeds going to local charities. Another thing that impressed me is the company's annual holiday gift to employees of a gift certificate for a Honey Baked ham, exemplifying their generosity to their corporate "family" as well as their community.

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Rock-Tenn is a leading North American producer of paperboard, containerboard and consumer and corrugated packaging. They operate more than 90 locations throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Chile, and Argentina. It's a huge operation, with its headquarters tucked along the railroad just a few blocks from downtown Norcross. While many people don't realize we have a Fortune 500 company right here in town, Rock-Tenn's generosity and community spirit are evident – and the tremendous value they deliver on many levels, goes without question.



*Rock -Tenn Corporate  
Headquarters, located at 504  
Thrasher Street*



### 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.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Due to budget constraints, no city calendars will be printed for 2011
- Oct 4th, construction starts on Cemetery Street for new sidewalks and landscaping
- Sign up at [www.Nixle.com](http://www.Nixle.com) for police safety alerts, advisories and more!
- Coming soon—the city will offer passport services! Stay tuned for details
- The Public Works & Utilities Department has moved to 345 Lively Street
- Norcross Police Department's Special Operations division will relocate into the old Public Works building on Wingo Street



## ART FEST 2010

Norcross Art Fest 2010 is taking place on its traditional first weekend of October. Over 170 national and regional artists will be featured, with creative juices that are spilling over the top! Crowds of over 50,000 are expected, bringing visitors from throughout Atlanta to enjoy one of the most exciting art shows in the Southeast. In addition to the displays of fun and colorful artistry, the popular Kidz Zone is also expanding and will fill Thrasher Park while Lillian Webb Park will feature inflatable interactive games. Live entertainment in Thrasher Park will round out the festivities.



The festival proudly supports the charities and programs of the Lions Club with its proceeds. Through the efforts of the Lions Club, "problems get smaller and the communities get better." The Norcross Club provides leader dogs for the blind; eyeglasses for those in financial distress, the local Cooperative Ministry, and many other charities. Each school month, the Lions recognize a Norcross High School student for outstanding performance in academics and community service, awarding their efforts with a gift certificate and \$100 check. Norcross Art Fest provides significant funding for all these Lions activities and more.

This annual event is an exciting time for the community to come together, with over 260 volunteers teaming to ensure things run smoothly. For more information about the event, including how you can volunteer, visit [www.splashfestivals.com](http://www.splashfestivals.com)

## Four-in-One Recycling Event: October 9th

**One day, FOUR GREAT EVENTS!** The City of Norcross will again host a Community Clean-up Day, Shred Day, Electronics Recycling and a Canned Food Drive. **Clean-up Day** is a great reason to clean out your garage or attic – throw out anything that's not a hazardous material (open to City of Norcross residents only). **Electronics Recycling** means pack rats can get rid of old cell phones, computers, keyboards, TV's and more without guilt! For a complete list of what can and can't be recycled, visit the City website and look on the flyer (open to the public). The **Shredding Event** is open to the public—organize your office and have old files destroyed and recycled. The **Canned Food Drive** is for local food banks! Bring non-perishable food items and donate to our local food banks. For complete information on these four events and what materials will be allowed at each event, please visit [www.norcrossga.net](http://www.norcrossga.net) and view the informational flyers, or contact Philomena Robertson at 770-448-7327 or [probertson@norcrossga.net](mailto:probertson@norcrossga.net).

## Happenings

### ART FEST

October 2-3  
Downtown Historic  
Norcross

### RECYCLING EVENT

October 9th  
City Hall

### WHISTLE STOP FARMER'S MARKET

Every Tues. thru Oct.  
*Voted one of Top 5  
Markets in Georgia!*

Thrasher Park  
4pm—8pm

### HARVEST FESTIVAL

October 23  
Celebrate Norcross'  
140th Birthday!  
Begins at 11am  
Downtown Historic  
Norcross

For a reminder about upcoming events, sign up for the City email list And join us on Facebook



## Mega "Harvest Festival" Coming!

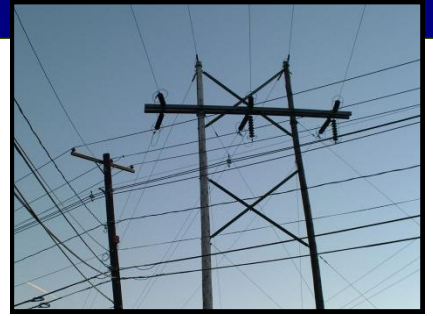
Join the fun Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 11a.m. into the evening, in a community-wide celebration of the town's 140th birthday! Although the town is old (strike that, we prefer "vintage"), there's nothing stuffy about this party – arts, crafts, kids, music, ghosts, grown-up fun and history-with-a-twist make this a trendy way to celebrate! Norcross' award-winning Lionheart Theatre will be performing special vignettes in the old chapel-turned-playhouse. Learn about "Baseball, Bootleggers, Millionaires & More" during entertaining tours of the old city cemetery. There are ghost tours throughout downtown, a "geo-caching" tour for kids, plus pumpkin painting, kids' crafts, and trick or treating. There's a flea market at Hopewell Baptist Church, and free birthday cake and balloons at the new Norcross Welcome Center. To get you from point "A" to point "Z" throughout the day, an old-fashioned trolley will provide convenient shuttle service, with local tour guides sharing interesting insight into Norcross' rich history, and its exciting revitalization. All proceeds from the trolley, cemetery tours, and the Harvest Ball benefit the Norcross School Cluster Partnership (NCSP), which you can learn about at [www.nscp.com](http://www.nscp.com)

For details about the event, visit [www.aplacetoimagine.com](http://www.aplacetoimagine.com). For ticket sales for trolley/tours/theatre, and the Harvest Ball, purchase tickets in the downtown retail shops, or pay online at the NSCP website, [www.nscp.org](http://www.nscp.org)

## PAYING BILLS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### Utility Cut-Off

- All payments are due in the office by 5pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> (if the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday or Sunday, then payment is due by 5pm on that Monday) or 10% penalty and \$5 notice fees will be added to the outstanding balance.
- Payment postmarked by the 15<sup>th</sup> or dropping payment in the night drop box after 5pm on the due date does not count as being received by the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Those that use their bank's online bill payment system should request that payment be to us by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, because the checks are mailed from Ohio or Arizona, and because of possible postal service delays, the City cannot be responsible for late payment arrival.
- Cut-off notices are mailed out the day after the payment is due, at which time 48 hours is given to take care of the outstanding balance. If not paid in 48 hours, then utility services are disconnected on the 21<sup>st</sup> and a reconnect fee of \$50 is automatically added to the account. If services are requested to be reconnected after 5pm, then there is a charge of \$75.
- **Rereads:** Dispute of bill should be made by the 9<sup>th</sup> of the month.
- Online payments can be made anytime at [www.norcrossga.net](http://www.norcrossga.net) (locate the "Pay Online" button at the bottom of the home page). If this is the first time you are signing up, then you must have your last payment amount to do so (new accounts with no payment history will use zero as their amount).



### Storm Water Fee Notices/Property Tax Bills



- Storm Water and Property Tax bills were sent out in separate envelopes on September 15th. Both are due by November 15<sup>th</sup>. The property taxes must be paid by November 15<sup>th</sup>, or there will be a 10% penalty and 1% interest applied to outstanding bills. Storm Water bills are currently not assessed a penalty and interest charge, but they are subject to collections if not paid when due.
- Property Tax bills left unpaid will receive a delinquent notice stating the amount due, and if not paid within 30 days of the date of the notice, then a lien will be placed on the property.
- The Storm Water fee is not part of your mortgage escrow account. Therefore, the bank will not pay this fee, unless it's some type of arrangement that the property owner has set up with the lender.
- Storm Water fees are billed based on the impervious square feet of the property, which is calculated by an engineering company that's contracted with the City to provide such service. The rate is currently \$1.25/per sq ft. The fees collected for the Storm Water utility are used for the upkeep and maintenance of the roads within Norcross city limits.

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR CREDIT CARD USERS

- Beginning January 1, 2011, a \$5.00 convenience fee will be added to ALL credit card transactions. This convenience fee will be added to all transactions paid for with a credit/debit card no matter what the payment is for (utilities, property taxes, storm water fees, building permits, traffic citations, background checks, etc.)
- The \$5.00 convenience fee will be added to online payments and call-in credit cards as well.
- For those not wanting to pay the \$5.00 convenience fee, there are other options, such as Utility Draft (must qualify for this option), check, money order, online banking (must submit payment to the bank in time for the check to reach City Hall by 5pm on the 15<sup>th</sup>), or in person at City Hall.
- For those preferring Utility Draft, we will offer two different draft dates for those that qualify (currently 5<sup>th</sup> of the month, and a new option for the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month).





### “Imagine Norcross” & Tuskegee Airmen!

Two terrific and quite diverse exhibits are now open at the Norcross Welcome Center. Explore Norcross through the eyes of local journalist, Charles Harbin, in his photo essay “Imagine Norcross”.



The Tuskegee Airmen earned the Congressional Gold Medal



Norcross Welcome Center, located at 189 Lawrenceville Street

“The Tuskegee Airmen: The Segregated Skies of World War II” is a traveling exhibit that explores the history and heroism of the first African-American pilots to fly in combat during World War II. The exhibit tells the exciting story of what drove these men to prove themselves in war, and how they impacted generations of Americans.

For more information on the exhibits and schedules, and to share your historical photos and memories of Norcross for the pictorial history book, contact the Welcome Center Coordinator, Cate Kitchen, at [ckitchen@norcrossga.net](mailto:ckitchen@norcrossga.net), 678.421.2049

### MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS & VOTING UPDATE



All incumbents (Ross Kaul, Andrew Hixson and David McLeroy) are running unopposed; thus, they will be serving another 2-year term. **The City of Norcross will have elections** because there are two referendum questions:

- **Referendum #1:** Shall the Act be approved which provides new terms for the mayor and city council members, and staggers such terms?
- **Referendum #2:** Shall the Act be approved which provides that the mayor and city council members shall be elected by a plurality?

Each of these requires a simple “yes” or “no” answer. Voter registration ends on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Voting will be held in City Hall on the second floor in the Community Room, on November 2nd, from 7a.m. - 7p.m. Advanced voting is October 11 – 29, 8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m., Monday through Friday. Absentee voting forms can be accessed on the City’s website ([www.norcrossga.net](http://www.norcrossga.net)) or the Georgia Secretary of State website.

#### 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



### Annual Toys for Tots Golf Tournament!

From left to right, Lance Corporal Justin White joins Tom McDermott, “Toys for Tots” Golf Tournament Coordinator, Bucky Johnson, Mayor of Norcross, and Firefighter Captain Stephen Cahn at Berkeley Hills Country Club, the site of this year’s third annual “Toys for Tots” Golf Tournament held Monday, November 15th. **All golfers – handicapped from one to infinity – are welcome.** For information, contact Tom at [tmcdermott@eglholdings.com](mailto:tmcdermott@eglholdings.com).

### Norcross Green Spaces Sparkle!

The renovation of several city parks is almost complete, with exciting results! In Rossie Brundage Park, ADA ramps have been installed, and a performance pavilion completed. In Betty Mauldin Park, the old fountain was completely rehabbed, sod and lighting installed, and raised plantings added beneath the oldest American Elm in Georgia. Heritage Park, located between City Hall and the community center, got new hardscapes as well as plantings. The old city maintenance shed was demolished, making room for public parking. This new space will be enhanced with trees and lighting, designed to complement the lovely new landscapes throughout our community. Park renovations were paid for from the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds, allocated for this purpose in prior years. Kudos to the Public Works & Utility Department and the Parks & Greenspace committee for an excellent job!



Heritage Park