

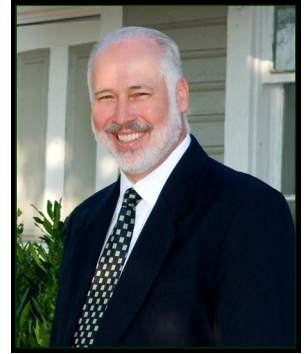
City of Norcross

Monthly Newsletter

March 2011

Save the Date: March 8 Mayor's State of the City Presentation

Tuesday, March 8, at 7pm in the main ballroom of the Community Center, Norcross Mayor Bucky Johnson will speak on the State of the City. This presentation is a reflection on the pertinent issues and achievements of 2010, and the city's goals for 2011. The speech will be accompanied by a video showing the "year in review", debuting the new "Norcross song" and lots of great photos from around our community. After the presentation, Norcross Neighbors is hosting a reception with drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Come mingle with neighbors, City Council members and staff — it will be a social event that is interesting as well as fun!



Mayor Bucky Johnson



Official groundbreaking of FedEx Ground facility in City of Norcross.

FedEx Breaks Ground in the City

On February 18, donned in hard hats bearing the FedEx Ground logo, Governor Nathan Deal, Mayor Bucky Johnson, Commissioner Shirley Lasseter and several other county stakeholders turned over the first shovelfuls of red clay in what will become FedEx Ground's new \$55 million facility here inside city limits. The morning's

groundbreaking ceremony began the ground-up construction of this facility which is slated to open on September 12, with an estimated 240 employees and 75 independent contractors.

"If the stars align, there will eventually be 550 employees," said Nick Masino, Vice President of Economic Development at the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce.

According to Mayor Johnson, "The fact that FedEx chose Gwinnett County and the City of Norcross for its consolidation and expansion is a reflection of strong partnerships. This city, Partnership Gwinnett, the Gwinnett Village Community District and the State Department of Economic Development have worked together to create an exciting and economically sustainable community. Norcross welcomes FedEx and we look forward to a future with them as part of our community."

FedEx Ground is a significant addition to Norcross' growing portfolio of national and international companies. RockTenn, which is headquartered inside city limits, is one of the country's largest containerboard manufacturers with international distribution. Suniva is another growing player on the international scene; also headquartered inside city limits, the company manufactures solar cells and modules.

When asked what he feels Norcross brings to the table for these large companies, Mayor Johnson replied, "For one thing, we make it easy for them to do business on a local level. City staff and officials are accessible and able to support business owners responsively and quickly. In addition, we offer a great community setting. There is a diversity of residential, cultural and community benefits that employers know will attract employees."

The facility, which is being built at 6265 Atlantic Blvd, will be constructed by McShane Construction Company.



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.



Happenings

Lionheart Theatre

"Dearly Departed"

March 4—20

College Street Playhouse

Show times & tickets

www.lionhearttheatre.org

Kudzu Art Zone

"Flora & Fauna" Exhibit

March 4—April 30

Kudzu Art Zone Gallery

116 Carlyle Street

www.kudzuartzone.org

Norcross Welcome Center

New History Exhibit

March 12 Opening

www.aplacetoimagine.com

Norcross Antique Road Show

March 26

1pm—4pm

Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center

For details and schedule info regarding all events, visit www.aplacetoimagine.com

Celebrating Excellence in Gwinnett Schools

US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan was recently in Norcross, at a meeting held at Meadowcreek High School. There he met with state and local officials for a roundtable discussion and to congratulate the Gwinnett County Public School district for their winning of the prestigious **Broad Prize for Urban Excellence**.

The Broad Prize is the country's largest education award honoring school districts. It is an annual award for school districts that demonstrate the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement while reducing learning achievement gaps among poor and minority students. Gwinnett County beat out four other finalist districts: two from Texas and one each in NC and MD.

Norcross' City Councilman Craig Newton met with Secretary Duncan, Senator Johnny Isakson, Gwinnett Public School Superintendent J. Alvin Wilbanks and others with whom he shared his views on the area's current needs. He stressed the point to Duncan that parental involvement enhances academic performance. "Academic achievement increases when parents are actively involved in their child's education. The more intensely involved the parent is, the greater the positive impact." Newton noted also that a parent's interest and encouragement in a child's education can affect the child's attitude toward school, classroom conduct, self-esteem, motivation and absenteeism.

Broad Prize scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors in the finalist and winning districts that demonstrate a record of academic improvement during their high school careers, as well as have a financial need. Seniors from the winning and finalist districts are eligible for two- or four-year scholarships of up to \$20,000, depending on the type of higher education institution they choose to attend. An award of one million dollars is being made to Gwinnett County Public schools with the second million being divided among the finalist districts.



Council Member Craig Newton



Valuable Vintage? Find Out at Norcross Antique Roadshow!

Have you ever wondered what that plate of Aunt Sue's you inherited is worth, or if the painting you found at last Saturday's yard sale is your winning lottery ticket? On March 26th, from 1pm – 4pm, bring your valued item to the Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center and let professional appraiser Selma Paul evaluate its worth.

Famous for her role as the appraiser for HGTV's "If Walls Could Talk" series, Ms. Paul puts on a show that is as entertaining as it is informative. Come watch others learn if they've brought real treasures or not; it's a free chance to find out if your own belongings need to be in a museum or left on the mantel. As one fan of Ms. Paul's recently wrote, "I am so glad to finally know something about my mysterious chairs and am in no way disappointed. They do make great accent pieces. And vintage is lovely!" Ms. Paul's impressive list of credentials and sparkling personality make this a fun event for antique lovers and treasure hunters - come for lunch in downtown, then stroll over to the Cultural Arts Center and enjoy the roadshow.

The Norcross Antique Roadshow is sponsored by The Norcross Welcome Center & History Museum. Admission is free – 1 item per person is allowed for appraisal, and appraisals will be done on a first-come-first-serve basis. For more information about the show and other activities at the Norcross Welcome Center, visit www.aplacetoimagine.com, or call 678.421.2049.



Community Celebrates Arbor Day

February 18 was Arbor Day across the country—in Norcross, citizens celebrated by planting a new Pin Oak next to the Norcross Welcome center on Lawrenceville Street. The project was spearheaded by the Tree Preservation Board, a citizen board appointed by the Mayor and Council. According to co-chair Martha Scarbrough, “Trees are a very important part of our city, and the board is excited to be adding another beautiful tree to our town.”

The Kyle family jumped in with shovels and lots of energy, with mom Noel Kyle watching on. Among those present were board members and Norcross residents Dick Bare, Blake Manton, Robert Forro and co-chair Jane Remaley, as well as Norcross’ City Manager Rudolph Smith and Jerome Brown, the Coordinator for the Upper Ocmulgee River RC&D Council. Afterwards, everyone headed over to the Welcome Center to enjoy refreshments and discuss their future plans. The goal of the Tree Preservation Board is to promote the conservation and preservation of the tree canopy throughout the city—many thanks are due to the group of citizens who volunteer their time to keep our city leafy green and beautiful!

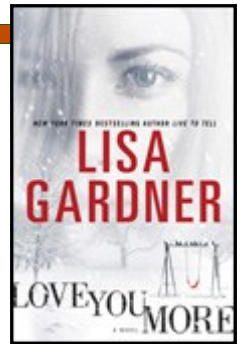


A young Pin Oak finds a new home in Norcross on Arbor Day.



Book Club Alert: Author Lisa Gardner Comes to Norcross

To hear crime novelist Lisa Gardner talk, you would think she was a very normal person; however, her best-selling books are filled with creepy crimes, suspenseful plot twists and characters that make you wonder how she sleeps at night. On March 12th, at 7p.m. in the Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center at 10 College Street, Ms. Gardner will be on hand to promote her latest book, “Love You More”, which is out on shelves beginning March 8th.



Come hear this engaging and down-to-earth author talk about where she gets ideas for her scary plots, and what the process has been for writing the 25 top sellers she has published to date. Sponsored by the Gwinnett County Library, Ms. Gardner’s appearance in Norcross is the perfect opportunity for book clubs and crime-novel enthusiasts to come to the historic downtown and enjoy dinner before walking over to the Community Center to meet the author. For more information about Lisa Gardner visit ww.lisagardner.com.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- The city utilities department is now offering the opportunity to receive monthly utility invoices via email. A signed letter with the name on the account, the account number, correct email and a daytime phone number is required. Please submit this information to the first floor receptionist in City Hall during regular business hours (8a.m.—5p.m. Monday through Friday).
- The council’s proposal to annex several areas to the east of Buford Highway was voted in at the February Council meeting. The approved plan now goes before the governor, and if signed, it will come back for public vote in November, 2011. Citizens inside the existing city limits are by law not allowed to vote on the referendum—it will be decided by voters living in the proposed annexation areas.
- A new phone number has been established as the “Inclement Weather Hotline” at City Hall. Citizens concerned about the impact of any exceptional weather conditions on City Hall’s administrative hours may call this line for updated information. Please be assured that in *all* unusual weather conditions, City public works and public safety crews are on high alert and will be serving the community’s emergency needs, even if City Hall administrative offices are closed. The “Inclement Weather Hotline” number is (678) 966-0159.
- Yard debris service will continue as usual on the bi-weekly schedule (March’s collection schedule is on the 14th and 28th). Please continue to place yard debris at curbside by 6.00 a.m. Monday morning. For the Public Works calendar, visit www.norcrossga.net, under Municipal, then Public Works & Utilities.



City implements new “Inclement Weather Hotline”.



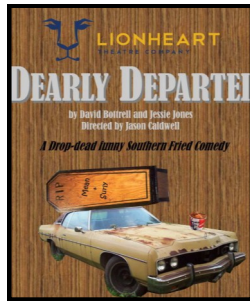
The Arts in March

KUDZU ART ZONE

March 4 Kudzu Art Zone in Norcross is heralding Spring's arrival with an exciting new exhibit called Flora and Fauna. The member show opens Friday, March 4 through Saturday, April 30 with a reception on Friday, March 11 at 7 PM. The artists created works featuring flora and fauna of any type. The final day of the exhibit, April 30, coincides with Norcross Blossoms Festival, when local garden tours, plant sales and other gardening-related activities are scheduled throughout downtown Norcross. Come celebrate spring!



"Yosemite Giant" in acrylic by Lucy Brady, is one of many fabulous works on exhibit beginning March 4 at Kudzu Art Zone on Carlyle Street.



Beginning March 4, **Lionheart Theatre Company** is presenting "Dearly Departed", written by David Bottrell and Jessie Jones, and directed by Jason Caldwell. Touted as a "drop dead funny southern-fried comedy", the show promises to be yet another sell-out for the award-winning dessert-theatre group that calls Norcross' College Street Playhouse home. For show times, ticket information and reservations, visit their website, www.lionhearttheatre.org

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

REMINDER: Free Help is Available During Tax Season



Now through April 10th, 2011, the Gwinnett Village Community Alliance Financial Services Center is offering a program called "VITA" (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) to help people with low- to moderate-incomes get their taxes filed properly and at no cost.

VITA is a national initiative of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that offers FREE tax preparation to individuals and families making \$48,000 and below for Tax Year 2010. For anyone who cannot prepare their own tax returns, this is an exciting opportunity to get highly qualified help! IRS certified and trained volunteers, sponsored by various organizations, help prepare basic tax returns and help working families receive special tax credits such as Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Credit for the Elderly for which they may qualify. All VITA sites offer free electronic filing.



Have you signed up for.....

- Nixle, Norcross' public safety alert system. Get text and email messages about any safety issues, traffic conditions and weather alerts in the Norcross area. This is a free, easy service that is designed to help you stay on top of what's happening! Go to www.nixle.com.
- City of Norcross Face Book wants you to be a fan! Or sign up for weekly emails about events. Go to www.aplacetoimagine.com to sign up for both and get details on monthly happenings.
- Online utility bill payments....save a tree and go green with the city at www.norcrossga.net.