

City of Norcross

Monthly Newsletter

June 2011



RockTenn Faces Decision

For decades, Norcross has been home to the Rock-Tenn Corporation, 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. Over the years, RockTenn has grown, and so has the positive impact of their relationship with the Norcross community. Norcross' A. Worley Brown Boys & Girls Club is the result of the vision and generosity of Mr. A. Worley Brown, a former executive at RockTenn Company. The club offers our kids after-school tutoring and homework help, as well as sports programs. The goal is to empower boys and girls, and the work they do has a strong positive impact on many young lives.



Thanks to RockTenn's president, Jim Rubright, the company has also played a vital role in honoring our police department as a sponsor of the annual Norcross Police Appreciation Event. RockTenn employees conduct educational programs for schools, collect food and clothing for neighbors in need, and as part of the RockTenn team, recently organized a 5K race in conjunction with Norcross' annual Strawberry Stroll. 100% of the proceeds from this run/walk went to Kingdom's Kids, a charity that grants the wishes of local children with special needs. The employees are an integral part of the Norcross culture, supporting our businesses and our events, with many calling Norcross home.

In late 2010, RockTenn acquired one of its competitors, Smurfit-Stone, catapulting it into its new status as a Fortune 200 company and one of the top 2 biggest paperboard packagers in the world. As a result, over 500 new jobs are being brought into headquarters, adding to the 500+ that already exist here. The challenge now is to find a facility that

accommodates this huge increase. The current facility alone is not enough to house those numbers; therefore, an evaluation of options is on the table.

According to Norcross Mayor Bucky Johnson, "We absolutely hope that RockTenn can

stay here as part of our community. Officials in the city and county that can be involved in this decision is involved; every opportunity is being explored and every effort is being made to support RockTenn. This issue has risen completely out of the need for a space to accommodate the acquisition – the relationship between Norcross and RockTenn remains positive and strong."

Once a decision has been reached, Norcross' citizens and businesses will be notified of the solution. This is not a decision that will be made lightly or quickly as it affects so many people's lives; therefore, the best interests of all parties are being carefully considered and weighed.

To voice your support of keeping
RockTenn in Norcross, email
communityvoice@norcrossga.net



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.
770.448.2122

The **Summer Concert Series** keeps Norcross on its dancing toes in June. On the 10th, "Hotel California" takes the stage with a fabulous salute to the Eagles and on the 24th, the fabulous **Natalie Stovall** fiddles her way into Norcross for a country and rock show you won't want to miss. In between the great music dates is the **Gwinnett Braves Norcross Night** on **June 2**. Game time is 7:05pm. Discounted tickets for Norcross citizens and businesses will be available. Then

June 18 is Movie Night, the first of several free movies shown outdoors throughout the summer. Come spread a blanket in Lillian Webb Park and enjoy "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs". For details on these and all June events, visit www.aplacetoimagine.com.





Community Choice Awards

Norcross' Community Development Department got a huge leg up recently when the City was awarded a prestigious Community Choices Grant from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). The Community Choices Program provides select communities with professional, pro bono technical assistance. The goal is to assist local governments with making good, long-term decisions about where, when and how they should grow in order to achieve the unique and individual vision of each community.

In the past, the grant has helped cities and counties throughout metro Atlanta by working with local stakeholders to do everything from reviewing sign ordinances to drafting compatible use overlay districts.

"Specifically, we are asking ARC to help us research, develop and write a strategy for incentivizing and implementing the city's redevelopment goals," explained Norcross City Planner and Community Development Director, Chris McCrary. "This help will include a comprehensive review and assessment of Norcross' existing business incentives, and also identify practices that have worked well in other communities."

Rusty Warner, Norcross' Economic Development Manager explained further, "In this economy especially, a lot of individual business owners and companies are looking for incentives that can help out their bottom line. This study will allow us to gain a broader view of what all is available and we can then tailor those incentives to fit Norcross. This will create an even more compelling package to bring in new businesses and retain existing ones."

"ARC is proud to offer these services to our local government partners," said Kellie Brownlow, Chief of ARC's Governmental Services Division. "The Community Choices program affords us the chance to play a small role in improving local communities each year. Collectively, over time, these local improvements make for a better regional community."

For more about the Community Choices program, visit www.atlantaregional.com/communitychoices.



Happenings

NORCROSS NIGHT with the GWINNETT BRAVES

Discounted tickets
June 2, 7:05pm

DATE NIGHT DOWNTOWN

June 4, 6pm - 9pm
Live Music & Theatre
Downtown Historic Norcross

WELCOME CENTER

Exhibit Opening:
Photographer Terry Scopelliti
"The Road Home"
June 9, 6:30p.m.

FARMER'S MARKET

Every Tuesday, 4pm - 8pm
Thrasher Park

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

"Hotel California" June 10
"Natalie Stovall" June 24
Thrasher Park, 7:30p.m.

MOVIE NIGHT

"Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs"
Lillian Webb Park, at dusk

Events details at
aplacetoimage.com



CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY



MUST Ministries is excited to partner with the Norcross Cooperative Ministry and the United Way to bring its Summer Lunch Program to Gwinnett County. The Summer Lunch Program targets kids in the community who are affected by hunger during the summer as a result of losing breakfast and lunch provided by the Free and Reduced Lunch Program during the school year. Our goal is to feed at least 400 children a day for ten weeks of summer, Monday through Friday. We are looking to the community to help achieve our mission and reach the children in need.

This is a "Meals on Wheels" program for children, and all types of volunteers are needed. We are looking to generous community organizations to help us fill our feeding calendar by pledging complete lunches. We also are looking for individuals, families, civic clubs, social clubs, organizations and businesses to donate time by volunteering to check and pack lunches, or to drive and distribute lunches to the children in the community. Norcross First United Methodist will be the host church where donations are received and the lunches will be prepared for delivery.

If you or your business/organization/group are interested in volunteering, please contact MUST Ministries Summer Lunch Coordinator, Carol Love Karpf at 770-773-5565 or gwinnettsummerlunch@mustministries.org.



Make it a Date Night Downtown!

No one has to be bored this summer, as *this* town is on the *go*! New to the annual events line-up this year is "Date Night Downtown", a series of downtown cultural events that are just for grown-ups. Each month we'll host a different theme - on June 4th, from 6pm - 9pm, **enjoy live music by the Cazanovas, a super hot blues duo** noted for their innovative sound. Bring a chair and pull up on the sidewalk to listen, or stroll through downtown with your favorite libation and enjoy the music, shopping and local restaurants. **Theatre buffs can walk over to the College Street Playhouse** and check out, "Life is Short", a collection of short plays by Atlanta playwrights that remind us "life is GOOD!". Show a receipt dated June 4th from any downtown business, and get \$5 off your ticket. For

more info on Date Night Downtown, visit Norcross' events website, aplacetoimagine.com.

VISIT APLACETOIMAGINE.COM FOR SUMMER CONCERT SERIES LINE-UP, FARMER'S MARKET EVENTS & MUCH MORE!

No More Bats in the Belfry: A City Icon Enjoys a Renovation

Over time, the elements and pests can do some serious damage. Even with regular maintenance unseen damage can be stacking up, and after 100 years the time had come to restore the steeples of the old Methodist church that is now the College Street Playhouse, part of the Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center and home to Lionheart Theatre. There was extensive age and weather damage to each of the steeples, damage caused not only by water getting into the interior but also from animals and birds that accessed the steeples through various openings. In addition, the wear and tear of a century had taken an inevitable toll on the façade; it was time for a facelift.

According to Norcross Superintendent Rip Robertson, "The interior of the chapel needs renovating as well, but until the steeple damage could be controlled, it would have been a waste of money."

The church was originally completed in 1875 and has been home to several congregations. It has seen many changes; steeples and stained glass windows added, two expansions and aluminum siding added at one point. The siding is thought to have been added sometime in the 60's or 70's, a change which actually removed many of the architectural features of its original construction.



"What we have found in the original church portion of the Center is the structural aspects are extremely sound (solid and very little if any rot). This has helped in keeping the costs down and allowed us to do more than we had originally planned. As the steeples were being completely renovated, the degraded condition of the siding became even more apparent and the decision was made to change it as well," explained Robertson. He went on to say that the goal is to renovate the structure as closely as possible to its original style, using "like" materials wherever possible. A few modern concerns are being addressed however, by adding elements that will make the historic landmark a more comfortable place.

"There was no insulation, backing or wrap of any kind beneath the old siding," said Robertson. "By adding those to the renovation, the city will cut energy costs as well as make the Playhouse a much more comfortable and quieter experience for performance goers."

The entire project will cost \$130,000 and is paid for through 2009 Parks and Recreation SPLOST funds. This special-purpose local-option sales tax (SPLOST) is self-imposed in a referendum passed by residents, and is levied for the sole purpose of funding the building and maintenance of parks, schools, roads, and other public facilities. As a result of this available funding and the city's renovation efforts, the old chapel will have a new outlook and hopefully continue its dynamic role in the community for yet another hundred years.



An extensive renovation of the steeples yields "like new" results





Gwinnett Village Community Alliance Presents
ANNUAL SPRING CAREER & JOB FAIR



The Gwinnett Village Community Alliance is hosting its 2nd annual Spring Job Fair on June 21st, from 9a.m. until 3p.m. Job seekers will have the opportunity to network with approximately 30 interested employers and recruiters from local businesses such as the Gwinnett Medical Center, Primerica, AARP, BB&T, RockTenn, Fed Ex, Bank of America and many more. Industry experts from partner organizations will offer career and financial workshops on the following subjects: Unemployment and Credit; Unemployment and Finances; Building Your Resume; and Job Search Skills. Additionally, it will provide local businesses with a qualified pool of potential employees who can adopt their company goals and meet the needs of new and expanding demographic demands within the community. Presenting Sponsors for the event are AT&T, BB&T and Victory World Church; Silver-level Sponsors are AARP, Victory World Church, Georgia Campus-PCOM. The event is free and will be held at Victory World Church, 5905 Brook Hollow Parkway in Norcross. For more information, contact eminton@gwinnettvilleage.com, 770-449-6515.

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



Notice is hereby given for a municipal general election to be held at the Norcross City Hall, 65 Lawrenceville Street, Norcross, Georgia, on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 to elect a Mayor and two council seats. The poll will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the second floor Community Room at City Hall.

QUALIFYING FOR OFFICE: Qualifying for office will begin August 29th, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. and end Friday, September 2nd at 4:30 p.m. Prospective candidates should pick up a qualifying packet from the Office of the City Clerk anytime during that week. Qualifying fees are set at \$207.00 for the office of Mayor and \$162.00 for a council seat. Incumbents who's seat expire this year are Mayor Bucky Johnson and Councilmembers Charlie Riehm and Craig Newton. All officials are elected at large for a two year term. To run for office, you must be at least 18 years of age and have been a resident of Norcross for at least one year.

EARLY VOTING: An elector may cast an absentee ballot in person in the second floor community room of the City of Norcross, Georgia during the period of October 15 - 28. City Hall will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each weekday for this early voting.

HOW TO RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT: A completed application must first be received before an absentee ballot is issued. Please call the City Clerk's office at 770-448-7086 and request that an application be mailed to you, or download the form and fax (770-242-0824) or mail it in to this office at City of Norcross, Attn: Elections Division 65 Lawrenceville St, Norcross, GA 30071.

City of Norcross - Senior Citizens Tax Abatement

The city council voted on and agreed to a Tax Abatement for senior citizens 62 (sixty-two) years old and older. Applicant must meet the following guidelines in order to qualify for the Tax Abatement.

Applicant must be:

- 62 (sixty-two) years old or older
- Head of Household
- Presently receiving Homestead Exemption
- Own and have resided in home for 18 (eighteen) months and can show proof they reside at that address
- Have a total household gross income less than three and a half times The Health & Human Services (HHS) poverty guideline
- Provide a copy of the previous year tax statement showing total household gross income

Applications may be obtained from City of Norcross City Hall located at 65 Lawrenceville Street in Norcross, 8a.m. – 5p,m, Monday – Friday or at www.norcrossga.net. The City of Norcross accepts completed, notarized forms from May 1st to deadline July 31st yearly. For more information, please contact the Tax Department at 770-448-2122.

