



THE NEST NORCROSS ARTS CENTER



A Fledgling Vision takes Wing

What is multi-colored, multi-dimensional, speaks and sings, teaches and inspires? It's the new Norcross Arts Center (NAC) also known as "The Nest", which opened its doors for business on September 24, 2011.

Located across from City Hall, the 1906 Victorian cottage was originally a parsonage. Its nearby chapel is now the College Street Playhouse, home to Lionheart Theatre, and additions to that structure now house Norcross' thriving community center. The old parsonage was purchased by the city in 2006 and after a recent face lift is now a beautiful and historic arts venue.

According to Lori Sturgess, The Nest's director and a member of the Norcross Arts Alliance (NAA), plans are to build an interactive, multi-dimensional experience in the center. "Artists that rent space here will not only have an affordable place to exhibit, they will also gain valuable experience on how to run a retail business," explains Sturgess. "In addition to selling art, we'll be organizing workshops on marketing, practical finance and computer software, all the "right brain" parts of running a successful art-based business."

Since other galleries in town feature photography and fine 2-D art, The Nest will complement them by focusing more on textile, mixed-media, pottery and sculpture. In addition to the retail aspect, there are plans to showcase live music, black box theatre, independent films, workshops and receptions. "I see the NAC as a place where creative people connect on many different and exciting levels," says Sturgess. Besides adding to the arts scene in Norcross, The

Nest will benefit the city with both sustainability and economic aspects. Lori's art features 3-D renditions that make use of "repurposed" or discarded materials that would otherwise end up in a landfill—a very different and creative way of "going green". The NAC will also be involved in sustainability projects with local partners such as the Community Garden. And as the city's Economic Development Manager Rusty Warner observed, the NAC will be a destination for art lovers,

bringing business to our downtown area. Realizing the vision has been a community project from the start. The Downtown Development Authority helped by providing a low-interest loan to get the business started, recognizing its potential for increasing traffic into the downtown area. Community Service workers, a number of Lori's friends, and many generous volunteers from the Norcross church "Iglesia Pentecostal Bethel De Atlanta" helped clean, plaster and paint the building into presentable shape. The old glass windows are once again spotless, the airy rooms filled with color and light. Soon there will be music and

the voices of people who come here not only to see the work on exhibit, but also to participate in the creative experience. Whether they are artists using the space to showcase their work, visitors coming for a class or to enjoy an exhibit, the new energy is a welcome addition to Norcross' already bustling downtown arts scene.

For more information including center hours and a calendar of activities, please visit www.norcrossartsalliance.org, or visit the center at 17 College Street.



Pieces like Lori Sturgess' recycled sculptures (a centerpiece using teacups and leftover bits of ribbon and rebar is shown here) will be a featured part of The Nest's retail offering.

Mayor

Bucky Johnson

Mayor Pro Tem

Ross Kaul

City Council

Andrew Hixson

David McLeroy

Craig Newton

Charlie Riehm

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

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Life After the Parent's Home

By: Jennifer Linke

School has officially been back in session and we are back into that old routine. However, this school year might of been more monumental than the past few years for many. This year, parents packed up rooms and waved good-bye to their not-so-little children as they stepped into the new chapter of life: college.

While you stare longingly at your telephone for that call from your long lost child, you wonder "what 'college life' are they actually living?" As a junior at the University of Georgia, I have experienced that lifestyle. Honestly and partially sadly, I have to say many of those college stereotypes are true.

First of all, parents can forget about the consumption of a balanced diet. When it comes to our diets, pizza, take-out food and the dollar menu are the top picks. Cooking our own meals just does not come out the same way as our parents did. When we actually do muster up the energy to fix an actual meal, the simple things like noodles and rice are where our skills start and end.

Even though your child is off on their own schedule now, that sleep schedule that you always complain about has not changed. Classes before 10 a.m. are considered early and have less likelihood of actually being attended. They become even more difficult especially when we hit that week where all our tests seem to fall. Of course, procrastination is still a problem yet to be solved and we still wait the night before to hit the books.

Lastly, the idea of being on that "college student budget" does not become reality until we realize we actually have to purchase that \$300 set of chemistry books. Suddenly, our wallets are a lot lighter and do not fit the lifestyles we used to live.

Parents, change has walked through your lives. For college students, the word "home" has changed to "my parent's house". However old we may get, we still will come back carrying a basket full of laundry to the place that we called home.

Jennifer is a junior studying public relations at the University of Georgia. Her Journalism professor asked the class to write an article for a newspaper, magazine, or newsletter in attempt to be published; they were encouraged to reach out to their hometowns, which for Jennifer is Norcross. Ms. Linke selected the topic and this is her story, unedited. We thank her for reaching out and making this delightful contribution!

Burn Ban Update

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) imposes an annual ban on outdoor burning in Gwinnett County from May 1 to September 30. That ban is lifted on October 1st; however, the burning restrictions can change on a daily basis, making it necessary to call the burn information line BEFORE you start to burn.

During the months that burning is allowed, there are several safety practices that apply to the County's burn ordinance. For instance, there is no burning on Sunday, no burning when winds exceed 15 miles per hour, and no burning within 15 feet of any structure. Burning household garbage or rubbish is not allowed, and any fire must have a water source available nearby. Remember, there is a penalty for illegal outdoor burning.

The Gwinnett County Burn Information Line is 678-518-4980, option 3. This line is updated daily by 9:00 am. For tips on how to legally and safely burn your yard debris, please visit the city website, www.norcrossga.net and look for information under Code Enforcement.

Raking it in this Fall



With the change of the seasons comes an increase in yard work for most home owners. The city's Public Works Department works hard to make getting rid of yard debris convenient, especially in the fall. The bi-weekly collection service continues, with residents asked to continue placing debris curbside by 6:00 a.m. Monday mornings. This service includes collecting small tree limbs and vegetation; however, trees, bushes, or other vegetation from commercial tree trimmers, landscapers, or building contractors will not be picked up by the city.

In addition, the city's annual leaf vacuum service will resume on Nov. 1st, 2011 and run thru Jan. 31st, 2012. Each street will be vacuumed every 7 to 10 business days. Proof of Norcross' great "green mentality" is the fact that all the debris collected by these services is mulched and re-used, not just dumped into landfills as is often the practice in other areas.

Requests for missed pick-ups reported to Public Works after the scheduled pick-up date will be processed the next scheduled pick-up day. Please do not hesitate to contact the Public Works office at 678-421-2069 if you have any questions or concerns. Regular and holiday pick-up dates are on the municipal website, www.norcrossga.net.

Neighborhood Clean-Up Recycling Events

October 15, 2011 is our next Clean-up, and Recycling Events and our "CAN" Do for Hunger Food Drive. Clean-up Day is the perfect time to throw out anything that's not a hazardous material. Electronics Recycling means pack rats can get rid of old cell phones, computers and keyboards without guilt! The Shredding Event is a great way to go green and be secure! Paint Recycling is a great way to get rid of those cans that still have that paint you no longer have a use for. And the 2011 "CAN" Do for Hunger Campaign is a collection of canned and non-perishable goods for our local food banks. Bring canned or non-perishable goods and we'll make sure they get to the local food bank.

For complete information on these five events including the times, any associated fees or restrictions including what materials are allowed, visit www.norcrossga.net, and on the Code Enforcement page under "resources" view the informational flyers. Or you can call 770-448-7327 or email probertson@norcrossga.net.



Norcross Art Fest – Catch it!

180 whimsical and colorful artisans are showcasing their work at this year's Norcross Art Fest. Set in Downtown Historic Norcross, over 50,000 visitors attended last year, and weather permitting, this year's event promises nothing less. Collectors and first-timers will find imaginative folk art, jewelry, painting, photography, pottery, glasswork, and metal sculpture. The Lions will be collecting "gently used" eyeglasses, hearing aids and cell phones. There will be a box at Volunteer Check-in to collect non-perishable food items for the "CAN" DO food drive benefitting the Norcross

Cooperative Ministries. The "Chairs for Charity" project will showcase chairs, mail boxes and special surprises decorated by school kids, and new this year are performing arts showcased in Heritage Park. Thrasher Park will be jumping with continuous live music, and the Kidz Zone will feature the famous free arts pavilion, sand art, face painting and great rides. Tasty food and fun snacks await guests, and the local downtown restaurants will be serving up their great eats as well. The Norcross Art Fest is Saturday, October 1 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Sunday, October 2 from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

For more information visit www.NorcrossArtFest.com or [www.Facebook.com/NorcrossArtFest](https://www.facebook.com/NorcrossArtFest) and [twitter.com/Splash Festivals](https://twitter.com/SplashFestivals)

Strengthening a 'greener' community...

In a 5-0 vote of approval at their September meeting, Norcross' City Council approved initiatives that further strengthen the community's ongoing "green" sustainability efforts. Earlier this year, the city was certified at the prestigious silver award level in the Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC) Green Communities Program. Only three local governments have achieved the Silver level: the City of Norcross, Cobb County and the City of Roswell.

The council's vote approved funds for two stand-alone solar powered speed advisory signs, as well as adoption of a WaterSense Homes Incentive Policy. The solar powered signs will be placed randomly along streets to show the drivers the speed at which they are traveling compared to the posted speed limit. These signs are voluntary on the part of the Norcross Police Department (NPD) and according to NPD Chief Dallas Stidd, are meant to assist the drivers to heed the speed limit with no punitive results such as tickets and fines.

By using solar powered signs, the city's goal is also to save energy and reduce local air pollution. Previously, this type of sign was powered by small gas generators; using newer solar technology reduces the impact on natural resources (gasoline). In addition, they are reportedly popular with commuters as a

gentle reminder to slow down in this day of busy, hurry up and get there.

By adopting a WaterSense Homes Incentive Policy, The City of Norcross is encouraging development of a sustainable community that will survive water shortages, droughts, and other natural strains on local resources. City planners hope that new home builders will take advantage of WaterSense certified technology and will reward their use with expedited site plan review and next-day site and building inspections.

"Homes with these WaterSense water conservation appliances, shower heads, faucets, commodes, tankless or other hot water heaters that save water will save valuable natural resources and cost the homeowner less money over the long run," commented Mayor Bucky Johnson.

The city is actively working to maintain the foundation defined during its ARC "Green Community" certification. This ongoing initiative is often spearheaded by the Sustainable Norcross Commission, a citizen advisory panel appointed by the Mayor and Council to advise the city on environmental topics. For more information on the commission, certification activity and how to become involved in local sustainable efforts, visit sustainablenorcrossinc.blogspot.com or www.norcrossga.net.

Downtown Goes Up Town, Italian Style...

On Saturday, October 8th from 10am – 3pm, Italian Car Day celebrates 15 years of showcasing Italian automotive style, exhibiting private collections of the finest exotic Italian cars and motorcycles in metro Atlanta. To date, over 110 cars are expected to appear; think "Lamborghini, Maserati, Alfa Romeo, Ferrari, Fiat, Lancia and Pantera"....plus an open invitation to anyone who wants to show off their Italian cycle. This exciting event, held for the first time in Downtown Historic Norcross, includes the car show, marque awards, a raffle and silent auction. New dealer cars and merchandise will be on display, and visitors will get a chance to vote for their favorite car. Live music and a fabulous downtown venue round out the day – for directions and a list of places to dine and shop in Historic Norcross, visit www.aplacetoimagine.com. **To enjoy photos from previous Italian Car Days, visit www.theshuttergroup.com/blog and www.panteraplace.com/page31.htm.**




May The Best Holiday Yards Win!!

Calling all festive fanatics – let's make Norcross shine this year for the winter holidays! For Christmas and Chanukah, a holiday panel will jury the best and most creative front yards, looking for angels, stars and wonderous lights. Categories are Best Overall, Most Creative, Best Religious, and Best Traditional. Set your stage for a beautiful holiday – the judges will be out on December 10th. Prizes go to the winners in each category, so pull the stops, hit the decor aisles – let's make outdoor Norcross a holiday place to imagine!



Sign up today for the 4th Annual Toys for Tots Golf Tournament

November 14th 
at the  **Berkeley Lakes Country Club**

This tournament is the kickoff for the Marine's annual holiday drive in Gwinnett County – last year, the Gwinnett drive collected over 715,000 toys, handing them out to needy families and supporting organizations throughout the metro area. **To sign up for this year's tournament and your chance to support a gratifying cause, email tommcdermott@bellsouth.net**

Community Bulletins: This year's tax bills and storm water fees were mailed out to the community on September 15, 2011. The payment due date is November 15, 2011 by 5:00pm (postmark date does not apply - they must be received at City Hall by this date). Even if you do not receive a bill, you are responsible for payment, so please be sure to call the city administration offices at 770.448.2122 if you don't have the bills, or have any questions.

Election Update: Bucky Johnson, Mayor (incumbent) – unopposed; Charlie Riehm, Councilmember (incumbent) – unopposed; Craig Newton, Councilmember (incumbent) – opposed by Greg McFarland. Early Voting: An elector may cast an absentee ballot in person in the second floor community room of the City of Norcross, Georgia from October 17 - November 4th between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. each week day for early voting. To receive an absentee ballot, an application must first be filled out and the completed application 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, or download the form from www.norcrossga.net (under City Clerk) and fax to (770-242-0824) or mail it in to City of Norcross, Attn: Elections Division, 65 Lawrenceville Street, Norcross, GA 30071

Save the Date, October 15th RIVERS ALIVE IN NORCROSS

Help clean up our Norcross streams on October 15th at 9:00am. We will meet on Everglades Trail and start with the stream that flows by the city's pole yard and then by the old composting station. Everglades Trail is off Mitchell Road in front of the Shell gas station. If we have time we will also do the part of the stream at Buford Highway and Cemetery that flows by Cemetery Field. Join with your neighbors, friends and family and with thousands of other Georgians across the state to help protect our most precious resource, water. Last year 24,700 volunteers picked up 1,103,772 pounds of trash from Georgia's streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and beaches. **Rivers Alive is part of the Adopt A Stream projects supported by Sustainable Norcross. To sign up or for more information email riversalivenorcross@hotmail.com. Hope to see you October 15th!! Please sign up!!**

Happenings

October 1 & 2

Norcross Art Fest, Downtown
Historic Norcross

October 4 & 11

Whistle Stop Farmer's Market
Thrasher Park

**REMEMBER: October 11th
is the season finale!**

October 8

Hopewell 5K & 10K Race,
7:30am Hopewell Missionary

Baptist Church

October 8

Italian Car Day, 10am – 3pm,
Downtown Historic Norcross

October 8

Vibroplex Returns to Norcross,
Welcome Center, 10am – 4pm

October 15

Recycling Day – 5 Great Events!
9am – 1pm

October 29

Date Night Downtown, "All Spirits
Night" 7pm

October 31

Halloween – Community
Trick-or-Treating

**For event details, visit
www.aplacetoimagine.com**



CITY NUMBERS

Business Licenses 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